

EAST BERGHOLT PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

England & Wales · Charity number 1190273

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2020-07-07

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

Contact

Address St. Marys
Gandish Road
East Bergholt
Colchester
CO7 6UR

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Website www.constablecountrychurches.co.uk

Activities

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

Activities: The church is open to anyone wishing to visit the building or worship within. There are activities such as toddler groups and service is given to the village of East Bergholt as a whole.

Classification

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

Geography

- Suffolk

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£261,847	£224,209	-	-
2024-12-31	£109,132	£107,047	-	-
2023-12-31	£102,572	£115,540	-	-
2022-12-31	£163,690	£172,093	-	-
2021-12-31	£111,565	£111,435	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Fiona Jane Trott	Chair	2020-06-30
Christopher George Dudley Rushen		2020-06-30
Ewan Darby		2024-10-09
Geoffrey Douglas Potter		2020-06-30
Glen Thomas Rowson		2020-06-30
Howard Phillip Holdsworth		2020-10-28
Jacqueline Sally-Anne Reeves		2020-06-30
Lesley Cherry G.MUS		2020-06-30
Lisa Jane Darby		2024-10-09
Marian Joan Godwin		2024-04-07
Rev Christopher David Willis		2024-03-05
Sarah Elizabeth Southgate		2020-06-30
Saruyah Christain Jacob		2020-06-30
Victoria Alana Rothwell		2020-10-28

Accounts

St Mary the Virgin, East Bergholt Annual Report for 2025

**Annual Meeting held
on Sunday, 12th April 2026
immediately after Morning Service**



St Mary the Virgin, East Bergholt

Incumbent:

Rev Chris Willis
The Rectory, Rectory Lane, Brantham, CO11 1PZ
revchris@constablebenefice.org / 07566 871270

Bank:

Barclays Bank
1 Princes Street
Ipswich
IP1 1PN

Register of Charities with the Registered Charity Number 1190273

Independent Examiner

Mrs B Evans
Rookery Cottage
Gaston Street
East Bergholt
Colchester
CO7 6SF

Website: [Home | Constable Country Churches](#)

Or via A Church near You: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/2067/>

Find us on Facebook: [facebook.com/stmaryseastbergholt](https://www.facebook.com/stmaryseastbergholt)

St Mary's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@stmaryseastbergholt2137>

THE DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION PRIVACY NOTICE

The information we hold about you in our Church records is only disclosed to those who need to see it for Church purposes. We will send you information related to the Benefice, the Church, the ministry and activities. If you wish to unsubscribe from all or any communications, please let the Benefice Administrator know at michelle@constablebenefice.org

Contents

St Mary the Virgin - East Bergholt PCC 2025-2026.....	4
Rector's Report	5
Electoral Roll	8
Proceedings of the East Bergholt PCC	8
Take a Break coffee mornings ('knit and knatter')	9
Treasurer's Report for the Year ended 31st December 2025	9
Safeguarding	12
Samford Deanery Synod & Group Council	12
Churchwardens	13
Mothers' Union	14
Bell Ringers.....	15
Flower Arrangers.....	16
Foundation Governors	16
East Bergholt Parish Magazine	17
Open the Book	17
Toddlers Group	18
Family@church	19
Statement of Responsibilities of the Members of the Parochial Church Council	20
St Marys East Bergholt 2025 Accounts and Examiners Report	21

St Mary the Virgin - East Bergholt PCC 2025-2026

EX-OFFICIO	Rev Chris Willis	Rector
	Fiona Trott	Churchwarden
	Jackie Reeves	Churchwarden
	Sarah Southgate	Deanery Synod Rep
	Chris Jacob	Deanery Synod Rep
	Koshy Jacob	Deanery Synod Rep

ELECTED

TO SEEK RE-ELECTION IN 2026	TO SEEK RE-ELECTION IN 2027	TO SEEK RE-ELECTION IN 2028
Lesley Cherry	Howard Holdsworth	Glen Rowson
Reuben Rushen	Marian Godwin	Geoff Potter
Victoria Rothwell	Vacancy	Ewan Darby
Vacancy	Vacancy	Lisa Darby

PCC Chair	Fiona Trott
PCC Vice Chair	Jackie Reeves
Minutes Secretary	Vacant
PCC Secretary	Michelle Jowers
Hon Treasurer	Lesley Cherry
Deputy Churchwardens	Lesley Cherry
	Chris Jacob
	Sarah Southgate
	Reuben Rushen
	Geoff Potter
	Howard Holdsworth
Electoral Roll Officer	Fiona Trott
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Howard Holdsworth
Standing Committee (Chair)	Rev Chris Willis
Standing Committee (Minute Sec)	Vacant
Standing Committee (Treasurer)	Lesley Cherry
Standing Committee (Wardens)	Fiona Trott
	Jackie Reeves
Standing Committee	Reuben Rushen
Health and Safety	Sarah Southgate
Lettice Dykes	Simon Rothwell
	Reuben Rushen
	Gill Rattray
Preservation Society	Fiona Trott
	Sarah Southgate
Foundation Governor	Simon Rothwell
Magazine Committee	John Gamlin
	Geoff Potter
	Lesley Cherry
Ecumenical Committee	Dorothy Brundell
	Chris Jacob
Captain of Bells	Terry Eagle

Rector's Report

The Scope and purpose of this Rectors report:

To provide an overview of the key areas of developmental activity in the Rector's ministry over the last year and to provide an indication of areas of ministry, which may be the focus of the following year.

This report does not cover occasional offices, services, ongoing pastoral provision or other areas of ministry which are already routinely embedded in the life of the church and responsibilities of the Rector, unless there is a new developmental aspect.

The backdrop of the report keeps the Diocesan missional initiative called '**Growing in God**' in mind. Growing in God has four main objectives – that we as a church should be:

- ❖ Growing in Depth
 - ❖ Growing in influence
 - ❖ Growing in number
 - ❖ Growing younger
-

Introduction:

I write this report as we finally become **Constable Country Benefice**, which came into being on Sunday, 1st March this year, and I feel very privileged to be the first Rector of this new Benefice.

I am mindful, with the likelihood that this will be my first and only incumbency, that being the first Rector of the new Benefice places me in a time of transition and adjustment for all, with a particular responsibility to help prepare us for the future and looking beyond my time as Rector.

Therefore, it is my hope and very much my ongoing prayer that my time serving you will be marked by a sense of our preparedness for the future, with the longing to see each parish thrive in its own right, whilst embracing all the benefits of working together as a Benefice; pooling our resources and giftings as appropriate, and blessing each other with the unique giftings which each parish has to offer to the other three.

This report does not mention by name the many who in all four parishes serve selflessly and with incredible generosity of time, enthusiasm and commitment. They are indeed many, and I am deeply grateful to all who contribute so much in so many varying ways. Indeed, for me the highlights of this last year have been the continued commitment to working in unity between the four parishes, the collegiality of the Wardens and wider Ministry Team, including Lay Elders, Clergy and Readers, and the many others who give so much of their time, some seen, and some who silently serve faithfully behind the scenes.

I have said before and think it worth repeating, that the 'Profile' I read during the previous vacancy which invited applications to become Rector, the post to which I was appointed, was true to itself in every way. This really is a Benefice which is committed to unity and working in partnership, which has been a massive blessing to both Rachel and I as we have grown in relationship with you all, and something I thank God for, praying for its continuation.

So, this report concludes with a look to the future. But I begin with a reflection on our corporate worship.

Worship:

Having reached this two-year milestone (since joining you), I think it may be a timely moment to assure you all of my continued commitment to see each Parish thrive. I believe that aspiration is best realised by having a span of worship styles, varying between the Book of Common Prayer, to liturgical services with sung liturgy, through to more contemporary worship, and the growing imperative to make church accessible to children, youth and families.

I genuinely believe that it is vital that whatever we do, whether it be robed liturgical services, contemporary worship, more traditional organ accompanied chorally led worship, or a music group with guitars and drums; what really matters is that Jesus is the very centre and focus.

I have so appreciated the commitment of so many to meeting together as a Benefice. Firstly, at our monthly Connect Services, and more recently at our fifth Sunday Benefice Communion services. The first being a mix of liturgical and contemporary, and the other traditional. I praise God that we can do both and warmly encourage everyone to join for both forms of worship. What is key, is that we are in unity – and loving each other even when the style may not be our personal preference.

But there have been two primary developments in the last year where I have felt led to focus additional time. Firstly, the ongoing development of the twice monthly **'Gathering'** – a contemporary evening service, which although begun just prior to the previous APCM, has been largely developed in the last year. This service offers the opportunity to worship using a more relaxed musical feel, with modern worship songs and traditional hymns delivered by a music group, vocally led, with solid bible teaching, prayer and fellowship in an informal setting. **The Gathering** has proven to be very popular with many.

At the other end of the worship spectrum, I am delighted that we have begun and continue to slowly develop the 'fifth Sunday' Benefice Communion services, being a more traditional liturgical and robed service. I hope this shall become chorally led, as the new **Benefice Choir**, which I am so pleased we now have, hopefully leads our sung worship. I am also very much looking forward to the introduction of some beautiful sung liturgy from David Thorne's 'The Mass of St. Thomas' in these services.

Pastoral care:

With four parishes and one Rector, it is inevitably a challenge to provide a good level of pastoral care to all without having a clear plan of action in place.

Historically, it is not so long ago that there were four full-time clergy - one for each parish. Just three years ago, Brantham and East Bergholt had one Rector between them. Now with four Parishes, there is a need to adapt and find new ways of doing things, and the provision of pastoral care is very much one of those areas.

I continue to provide pastoral care and visits, including to hospital, but it is honest to acknowledge that with four parishes it is not possible to be 'the one person' who provides all visits - as much as I would love to be able to achieve that. But my ongoing determination is that all in the church family, in whichever parish, will remain loved and cared for in our changing circumstances.

I am immensely grateful therefore to all those who provide care and love and support for the church family in so many ways. Indeed, such love is not, nor should be the exclusive domain of the minister. But I am particularly grateful to others who, being part of the ongoing development of a 'pastoral care team', are offering organised home visits, home communion and care to those who either cannot any longer attend church services, or who may benefit from assistance to do so. This is very much an ongoing and developing team, and I think vital to ensuring all in our church family are loved and supported.

Schools:

I have the wonderful privilege of being able to spend time in every school in the Benefice. Three of our primary schools – Bentley, Tattingstone and East Bergholt – are Church of England Voluntary Controlled schools and I have the joy of leading faith assemblies in each at least once a month, using what I call a 'tell it - show it - sing it' model. Normally this means telling a Bible story, using pictures on a screen as I tell the narrative, or an illustration to help children grasp the key point. Then we sing a song, either using a video or normally me playing the guitar. These are wonderful occasions and the enthusiasm and engagement from the children is such a joy to experience.

We also have a good relationship with Brooklands School, Brantham and I am able to lead an assembly or church service several times a year for the school – both are such a privilege.

And then there is the East Bergholt High School. It was incredible to be invited, for the second year, to take a week of assemblies for the school before Christmas – helping the pupils and staff think about Christmas through the eyes of Mary – the mother of Jesus. Again, I used a 'tell it, show it, sing it' approach. Yes, you read right! I sang with the guitar to each assembly to teenagers! wonderfully aided by Len Smith, who had put together a storyboard of projected images to reflect the lyrics of the song. The response from staff and pupils was highly positive, and again what a massive privilege that was.

Youth:

Continuing in the theme of young people – the small but committed group of half a dozen teenagers – ‘**Connect Youth Group**’ - continue to meet weekly at the Rectory, now led by Rachel and myself, releasing Len & Izzy Smith to focus their attention on the forming of a new group for 10–12-year-olds – called the ‘**Moving up Club**’. At this time, seven young people are in that group, and it is my heart that we shall develop this work further providing continuous age focused youth provision from age 10-18 years – and student support beyond that. This is very much a work in progress and a key element of focus for the future of the Benefice.

Alpha:

Alpha is in my view a brilliantly compiled course, using high quality videos, with real human stories grappling with real human questions of life, death, suffering, faith and whether there is a God, and if so, what is God like?

In the last year we have concluded three Alpha Courses, with 17 people completing the course to date. It is hoped to run another course over the summer.

Month of Prayer:

In January we had a month of Prayer – with opportunities to meet for prayer with others, Monday to Saturday for four weeks – with Wednesday nights taking the form of a prayer workshop – looking at different methods and aspects of prayer, encouraging us to be a prayerful people, believing that without such prayer our mission to reach those whom do not have a Christian faith with the good news of Jesus will be restricted. We hope to repeat this month of prayer – but following review and reflection it is likely to be in May rather than January next year.

Safeguarding:

Safeguarding is and shall remain a top priority for us as Benefice. Caring for and protecting each other, especially the young and vulnerable, shall always be a priority, and a direct demonstration of Christlike love for one another.

The devastation that abuse can create in lives, can be so catastrophic for those abused and those close to them, that the response to those previously hurt is to ensure they are loved and can find a place of safety and healing. The prevention of such hurt to others needs to be, and must always remain, central in our culture and church life.

To support this, each Parish has a Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO), who take the lead at a parish level in ensuring our training is up to date for key people; providing a first point of confidential contact for any safeguarding concerns and the responsibility for ensuring any safeguarding concern is appropriately referred where appropriate. They also act as a watchdog – to ensure all we do at a parish level has safeguarding at the core.

As Rector, ultimately responsible for safeguarding in the Benefice, I have in the last year begun a termly meeting with the PSO's and we have together begun to streamline the processes for managing the administration of safeguarding training needs, allowing the PSO's to be more focused on prevention, rather than administration.

Future:

Recently the Wardens from all four parishes and I met at a ‘half day away’ and prayerfully considered a ‘**Growing in God**’ five-year plan, seeking to identify ‘**three main priorities**’ which we as a Benefice can focus upon.

The next year will be key to begin to develop a detailed plan around each of these broad ‘Priorities’. They were agreed as:

1. **To make our services welcoming and inviting to all – but particularly young families** – recognising the need to grow younger and provide a way into the church for a significant group in our communities.
2. **Develop a quality Benefice Website** – conscious that many will access a website before walking through the church door – and wanting that website to also be a resource for the church family and beyond.
3. **Increase our service leadership** – in order that we are ready for the changing future, and mindful that none of us are getting any younger!

Whilst these are the 'Main Themes', there will be more specific strands of action developed in the coming months, a process which I fully hope every church member, Wardens, PCC's, and all regular worshippers shall have an opportunity to contribute towards.

May I leave you with a prayer which certainly reflects my heart as Rector, and I invite you to make this your prayer too.

Prayer for the future:

**'Lord, guide us all to spend our time and energy on the things which are important to you.
Deliver us from our own good ideas and instead show us your plans.
Give us the wisdom to know the difference, and the grace to walk in them'.
Amen**

God bless you all

*Rev. Chris Willis
Rector, Constable Country Benefice*

Electoral Roll

Precise details of numbers on this year's Electoral Roll were shared at the APCM.



*Fiona Trott
Electoral Roll Officer*

Proceedings of the East Bergholt PCC

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) met six times in 2025. Topics covered during the meetings included service planning and feedback, patterns of worship and sorting the problems with servicing the boiler. The fabric of the church was addressed by organising repairs to the Lady Chapel and north Chancel roof, and of course the Lottery building project dominated a lot of the proceedings. Special workshops were held with the Lottery Interpretation and Activity Planner and two Lottery PCC subgroups were formed – Buildings and Activities. Emma Browne, the Project Coordinator, attended several meetings to update members on progress. Broadband access to the church was upgraded to assure stable internet connection within St Mary's.

There are still vacancies for a Minutes Secretary and three members/trustees on the PCC (two for one year, and one for three). It is important to try and fill all these vacancies so that PCC can operate fully and there are enough members to support the work of the church, the wardens and Rev Chris. Please pray that these spaces can be filled in the coming year and if you feel called to serve, speak to a warden.

Jackie Reeves and Fiona Trott

Take a Break coffee mornings ('knit and knatter')

Take a Break Coffee Mornings (also known as Knit and Knatter) continues to run on the first Wednesday of the month, apart from August, supported by a small team of volunteers.

People attending the communion service prior to the coffee morning tend to come along afterwards for a coffee and chat with a few members of the community also coming, as well as passers by who see the 'coffee morning' signs outside the church.

Next year we hope to increase the footfall and encourage more visitors by regular publicity and offering board games and puzzles. Please help us spread the word amongst your friends and neighbours.

Sue Basted

Treasurer's Report for the Year ended 31st December 2025

Overall Financial Position

The PCC recorded **total incoming resources of £361,913** during the year (2024: £109,862), with **total expenditure of £227,377** (2024: £105,047), resulting in a **net surplus of £134,536** (2024: £4,815).

This significant increase in income reflects major grant funding and donations received in relation to the church's building projects, particularly our roof project works. Expenditure has also increased correspondingly as project activity progressed during the year.

Due to the impact of these increases in income, we are no longer permitted to prepare our accounts on a receipts and payments basis as our income exceeds the £250,000 threshold. This year the accounts are prepared on an accruals basis as required by the Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS102) and a reconciliation note for the translation of previous year's figures to this basis is included within the notes to the accounts.

At 31 December 2025, the PCC held **total funds of £467,887** (2024: £333,351), comprising of restricted funds £153,360 (2024: £18,500), endowment funds £267,480 (2024: £272,649) and unrestricted funds £47,047 (2024: £42,202). Of these unrestricted funds, £5,022 (2024: 9,716) are held as general funds available for use by the charity for its general purposes.

Income

Total income increased substantially by £252,051 to £361,913, driven primarily by significant grant funding for the both the repairs works needed to the building during the year including being awarded a grant for our Securing the Future of St Marys: Roof Project by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

We were successful in our application for a £199,460 grant to fund the development stage of our roof repair and re-ordering project. This phase will occur throughout 2025 – 2027 and we are grateful to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for supporting us throughout this developmental work. We received the first instalment of £99,730 at the start of the project in early 2025 and the balance is recognised as accrued income in accordance with SORP requirements. We are extremely grateful to Lisa Darby for taking responsibility for recording and the financial reporting of this fund. Whilst the money is still administered by me, Lisa has control of the budget, cashflow and payroll.

St Marys Preservation Society donated funds towards the major repair work to the Lady Chapel and Chancel roof, which was completed in 2025. This support continues to be invaluable to keep out beautiful grade 1 listed church in good repair. The PCC is extremely grateful for this support. This is a separate charity and is not connected to or run by East Bergholt PCC.

East Bergholt Parish Council donated a sum of money towards supporting families in the village suffering hardship in the current economic climate. The new Hardship fund is given out in the form of Co-op vouchers, as that is the local shop, and administered by the Head of the primary school, who can see firsthand who needs support in this way. This also protects the privacy of the families concerned.

The church also received congregational donations during the year to specifically fund repairs to the boiler and to resource the equipment in use in our regular services.

Expenditure

Total expenditure rose by £122,331 to £227,377, reflecting the significant project expenditure of on the Roof Fund Development phase and on the Chancel Roof and boiler repair. The parish share continues to be our largest single regular operational outgoing, which was reduced this year as a result of the timing of the urgent boiler repair costs which impacted last few months of 2025.

Magazine

Within the income and expenditure figures are the operational turnover and costs of the Parish Magazine which is managed through a designated fund with a separate bank account. The magazine has turned a profit once again this year which resulted in a total of £2,000 being transferred to the General Fund. The PCC is extremely grateful for all the hard work undertaken by the Magazine Committee. The year-end balance of just under £2,000 was slightly down on 2024, mainly due to timings on receipts for advertising costs. The number of copies circulated has been increased due to the new housing in the village which has resulted in slightly increased printing costs. The committee is facing issues over finding new people willing to deliver the magazines and are looking to recruit, especially from the new houses, so the expanding village can be accommodated by deliveries of the parish magazine. No monies are transferred to the General Fund without consulting the Magazine Committee.

Fund Movements

Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted funds increased from £42,202 to £47,047. However, general (free) reserves reduced to £5,022 (2024: £9,716), reflecting transfers to designated funds and support for project activity.

Restricted Funds

Restricted funds increased significantly from £18,500 to £153,360, largely due to:

- The Roof Project grant funding and donations
- Funds held for specific parish purposes such as hardship support, foodbank, and mission activities

These funds are not available for general use and will be applied in accordance with donor restrictions.

Endowment Funds

Endowment funds decreased slightly from £272,649 to £267,480, reflecting market value reductions. These funds remain invested and are held as capital in accordance with donor intentions.

Assets and Liabilities

Net assets increased to £467,887, comprising:

- Investments of £296,886
- Bank balances of £71,271
- Debtors of £99,730 (primarily accrued grant income)

The increase in debtors reflects SORP-compliant recognition of grant income earned but not yet received.

Reserves Policy

The PCC aims to maintain sufficient unrestricted reserves to ensure continuity of ministry and to manage unforeseen expenditure. The PCC reserve policy is to keep £5,000 in the account at all times free from restrictions. This year we ended the year slightly over this figure despite the costs on the Chancel Roof repair and Boiler so close to the year end. After considering all designated and restricted funds, the monies that are free for use in the general fund stand at £5,022 (2024: £5,700).

Going Concern

The PCC has considered its financial position for at least twelve months from the date of approval of the accounts.

The PCC is satisfied that:

- Adequate funding is in place for ongoing projects
- The charity remains financially viable

Accordingly, the accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Financial Outlook

The financial results for 2025 reflect a year of significant transition, with the PCC managing substantial grant-funded capital projects and urgent repair works, alongside ongoing ministry.

Key considerations for the forthcoming year include:

- Continued management of the Roof Project cashflow and progression to the delivery stage application
- Careful monitoring of unrestricted reserves
- Maintaining sustainable income streams to support core church activities
- Aiming to contribute more to the parish share request in 2026 (£34,330)

Conclusion

Once again, this year as treasurer, has not been without its challenges. I would like to offer my sincere and grateful thanks to Fiona Trott and Jackie Reeves, who have been unfailing in their help and support. Also, to the PCC, who have taken difficult decisions during another problematic year for church finances.

Lesley Cherry

Hon Treasurer

East Bergholt Parochial Church Council

Safeguarding

There have been no instances of Safeguarding issues reported in the last 12 months at St. Mary's. Sadly, a Basic Awareness course scheduled for September at St. Mary's had to be cancelled due to a lack of numbers. This was disappointing. On the positive side a large number of folk have enhanced their standing by taking advanced courses, including 4 people taking the Domestic Abuse course, which, although quite harrowing, has been beneficial. 7 people have become fully compliant by retaking different levels online and an additional 6 people have had their DBS updated. I have to offer my sincere thanks to Fiona here for aiding me by helping folk to complete some of these as I was unavailable.

Although Safeguarding should be at the forefront of our thinking in anything that we do, it was pleasing to have the opportunity to share some thoughts and prayers on the National Safeguarding Sunday in November.

In September 2026, no fewer than 19 folk will have to retake their Foundation course as you only remain compliant for three years. Following the resignation of Rick Peat, one of the pair of Suffolk training leaders in October, no candidates have come forward to replace him. The result of this is that the number of face-to-face courses has been drastically reduced and the Diocese is only able to show plans for a three-month period rather than having a structure in place for the ensuing twelve months. The likelihood of us having the chance to host a Foundation course for invited churches and us is therefore somewhat remote. Although this is not insurmountable, it will cause many headaches later in the year.

I shall close by saying that Rev Chris has asked for the 4 Benefice Safeguarding Officers to assist in collating their information so that we have a single Benefice spreadsheet for easier reference. It is hoped that this will be completed by the end of April.

Howard Holdsworth
Parish Safeguarding Officer

Samford Deanery Synod & Group Council

St Michael's is represented by Julie Fermor and Gill Forsyth.

Jenny Seggar is our Rural Dean and Sally Letman Assistant Rural Dean. Jeanette Appleton is the Deanery's Lay representative on General Synod and provides in person or written reports of relevant General Synod gatherings as appropriate.

13th March 2025, All Saints Church, Holbrook - The speaker at this evening's meeting was Sally Letman, telling us of her recent trip to India to see the work of New Dawn India, a charity established by trustees in Capel St Mary. New Dawn supplies fund for Vidiyal (Tamil for 'a New Dawn') which works with street and slum children and their families. The charity operates a child sponsorship programme which has wider benefits for the sponsored child's family and community. Sally was able to meet her sponsored child and her family. More information about the charity is at www.newdawnindia.org.

The business part of the meeting included an update from Jenny Seggar, Rural Dean, on the need to update the deanery plan. This was important as it would feed into discussions should there be any future archdeaconry reorganisation, to spread the workload more evenly between Hadleigh, Ipswich and Samford deaneries. The annual wedding preparation event was held on Saturday 1st February and, as ever, was well received and appreciated by the couples attending.

18th June 2025 at St Mary's, Capel St Mary - The Speakers at this evening's meeting were Katie de Bourcier, Diocesan Mission Enabler and Revd Natalie West, Suffolk Archdeaconry Mission Enabler.

Natalie sees her role within the deanery as including:

- Assisting in thinking about your Plan for Growth or review your plan for growth

- Helping to plan and lead Vision Days and Away Days
- Putting us in contact with other people who have run similar or different missional activities
- Signposting Diocesan Support/Funding
- Chairing discussions with PCC & Ministry Teams about clergy and volunteer well-being
- How to talk about grief, loss and death well...

Archdeacon's Visitation - This service took place on 23 June at Holbrook Church including Revd Sally Letman's licensing as Assistant Rural Dean.

7th October 2025 at St Michael's, Woolverstone - At this meeting we heard updates from around the Deanery. It was encouraging and informative to hear of the challenges and opportunities within each benefice. Rev Chris gave the update on behalf of Constable Country Benefice.

Gill Forsyth and Julie Fermor - St Michael's Brantham Deanery reps

Churchwardens

Another year full of action, drama and plate spinning! Not many dull moments as regular church activities were juggled with keeping the Lottery project on track.

2025 was the year for celebrating 500 years since building the church tower stopped. Tower 500 was launched in April and involved the school walking the inaugural sponsored walk 500 times around the churchyard after their Easter service. In June, the churchyard was transformed into a Fayre with Tudor visitors and historical dancers; our bellringers embraced the spirit by ringing 500 rounds over two sessions. Inside, the church was richly decorated with floral tributes to our Tudor ancestors. On the Friday evening East Bergholt Dramatic Society entertained us with a Tudor drama. 500-piece jigsaws were available to borrow, and the Primary School pupils had a drawing competition to imagine what the church tower would look like finished. In December we held the inaugural Towering Tree Festival and had a church stall at the village Christmas market. Lots of individuals and organisations imaginatively decorated Christmas trees on display in church and there were plenty of activities for visitors to engage with.

Fellowship is always best served with food – and this year has been no exception. The men's breakfasts every other month have attracted a steady number of people who have been entertained by a variety of great speakers. Soup was served during Lent at weekly lunches with seasonal reflections. Cake has also featured heavily after services, at house groups and at Lottery meetings – we have gained quite a reputation!

In addition to Tower 500 events, St Mary's has also hosted the Orwell Singers and Joanna Eden jazz quartet during the year. Both evenings were well attended and very much enjoyed.

In terms of our own church music, after 10 years as Director of Music, we said goodbye to Martin Huggett in November. Martin led our church choir and played the organ at countless Sunday services; he conducted regular special services at Christmas and Easter and latterly he played Music for Reflection. He also supported the church by giving several fundraising concerts and we were very grateful to him for his musical contribution to the life of the church. Whilst we take time to reflect on what the future of choral musical tradition of St Mary's looks like, we are extremely grateful to those organists who have stepped in to play at our Sunday services and in particular Julian Merson who led the choir at the Carol Service in December.

2025 has also been a significant year in the major roof repair and internal reordering project. Having been successful in obtaining a preliminary Heritage Fund grant, at the end of 2024, we started the year employing specialist consultants as required by the Lottery. Our first appointment was the all-important and vital post of Project Coordinator. Emma Browne has worked diligently all year on our behalf. Her attention to detail and tenacity to get things done has been incredible and we could not have managed to achieve what we have done this year without her. Michael Garber, our church architect, has also been appointed as the project architect and he has assembled a design team of mechanical and structural engineers, quantity surveyors and conservation experts. We have also been blessed with a very enthusiastic activity consultant, Alix Slater, who has been into both village schools, with Emma, and spoken to many residents and local organisations. These

posts have all been funded by the initial Lottery grant. We have had to produce copious documents and budgets for the Lottery and also the Diocese, who must approve our plans too. A public consultation was held in September and in October we met with all the public consultees, like the Churches Building Council, Victorian Society and Historic England. There will be two crucial meetings in February 2026 when we hope to have given the Diocese enough information for them to approve the required Faculty permission for the work to be done, and we also meet with the Lottery investment managers who will hopefully approve our plans and invite us to bid in May for the big delivery phase grant during which time the actual building work will be undertaken. There are no guarantees, so please pray that all the hard work plays off. God has definitely had a hand in this project, guiding the right people to come forward at the appropriate time – we feel very blessed.

Outside of the Lottery scope, during the year, we have also applied for a minor building grant from the National Church to repair the north Chancel roof, and we have been very grateful to St Mary's East Bergholt Preservation Society for providing financial support for repairs to the Lady Chapel. As you are all aware the saga of the boiler has rumbled on, and at the year end, it is still not functioning entirely properly but is a lot healthier than at the start. Hopefully it will be fully fixed before the spring. In the meantime, space heaters, lovingly known as the Dragons, have been used to boost the temperature ahead of services and events.

Whilst legally still not a benefice of four parishes, we have continued to work extremely well with our fellow churchwardens in the other churches. We support one another and collaborate well as a team to support Chris in his ministry. Church life is always about teamwork, and the support from the dedicated deputy churchwardens and plenty of others behind the scenes during the year has made the church run as best as it can and we are truly grateful!

Jackie Reeves and Fiona Trott
Churchwardens.

Mothers' Union

Mothers' Union is about supporting marriage and family life and being part of a worldwide fellowship of over 4 million members. In 2025 we welcomed three new MU branch Friends and two new MU branch Members. Our branch has now grown to 30 people. This is a great achievement as the branch had only 18 members just eight years ago.

Through a range of activities and outreach programmes members of our branch have reached out and made a positive difference in the lives of over 902 people, here in our parishes as well as across the diocese. Whether it was by the various craft activities we undertook, including the very successful Christmas card workshop making Christmas cards for prisoners in HMP Highpoint; or the items we donated to the Women's refuge in Ipswich, Hadleigh care home, Ipswich hospital and the Seafarer's mission.

We had ten monthly meetings in 2025 when we enjoyed fellowship, worship and learnt much from those who came to speak to us. We also had fund raising events including our Lent Lunch and Afternoon tea, which enabled us to send funds to support overseas projects such as the Literacy project.

Mothers' Union members are also people of prayer and joined with members across the diocese on Lady Day for a service in St Edmunds cathedral. We join our worldwide members during our daily midday prayers and in the month of July for our Wave of Prayer.

2026 will be the 150th anniversary of the founding of Mothers' Union, a time to celebrate all that has been achieved so far and to look forward to another 150 years of providing Christian care to families.

Janet Bull, Jenny Chapman, Chris Jacobs, Wendy Withers Grace Wallis
East Bergholt and Brantham Mothers' Union

Bell Ringers

This report covers 12 months from January to December 2025. It contains the information as specified in the Ringers' handbook.



Named ringers

Ringer	Attendances	Ringer	Attendances
Terry Eagle (Captain)	80	Martin Digby	40
Julia Smith (Vice Captain)	82	George Harris	33
Thomas Bryant	31	Rachel Lewis	73
Neil Culham	68	Steve Feeney	66
Alison Ruffell	10*		

*Noted that this is below the minimum number of rings per year for insurance purposes. Alison has been reminded that she needs to attend at least 12 times per year.

Approved Learners

Ringer	Attendances	Notes
Keith Durrant	14	Left in June 2025
Kate Stannett	59	

Ringling has been consistent through the year with the majority of ringers having a number of years' experience now. The new ringer, Keith Durrant left in June 2025 due to health reasons but Kate Stannett is a new learner and is progressing well. She managed to get to ring with the full set of bells before practice finished and now rings in between the two main rings on a Sunday to keep in practice. Sadly, our youngest but one of the more experienced ringers, Thomas Bryant, has moved away but will still be covered for ringing next year when he comes back to visit.

There were no changes to the handbook in this year.

We have a regular band of eight ringers so have managed to complete the majority of rings this year with all five bells, which we are very pleased about. We also started teaching the newer ringers to do '1 round' and hope to progress to a '2 round' in 2026. We have space for another new learner or two.

During the current year, we have rung for two weddings; two demonstrations for the village Tower 500 event where we did two sets of 250 rounds; the 80th anniversary of VE-Day; a half-muffled ring for Remembrance and the usual rings at Christmas and New Year.

Issues dealt with in 2025

1. Pigeons nested inside the roof again. Nests were removed. This requires ongoing monitoring.
2. Tiles on the roof were replaced as some broken ones have fallen off
3. Door lock sometimes stiff in wet weather – this is ongoing

Issues outstanding

1. Bulb to be replaced in the spotlight above no 3 bell.
2. Gutters to be cleared, especially at the back of the cage bordering the allotments
3. Louvre to be repaired.
4. Lock to be removed, cleaned and repositioned.
5. General clean and tidy of the bell cage.

Terry Eagle

Flower Arrangers

2025 started out with planning for the Tower 500 festival in June which was to be the focus of the year for the flower arrangers. Considerable time and effort were expended in preparation for the Tudor themed flower festival in June. There were a wide variety of displays produced representing various aspects of life in Tudor times including jousting, Tudor costume, food and drink and the textile industry. In spite of extremely hot weather the flowers held up well and were enjoyed by many visitors both during the festival and on subsequent days. The Patronal day followed closely at the beginning of July; arrangements for this were minimal given that the ladies had spent so much time on the Tudor 500 celebrations, but the entire Church was decorated for Easter, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas as is usual. Once again, the ladies made wreaths to take home when we decorated for Advent.

The Tudor 500 festival was a bit early in the year for the allotment to have produced usable flowers, but we were able to source some locally grown blooms from Ardleigh and will continue to use this grower for future festivals. The allotment plot is partly shaded which is not ideal for flower production; we are on the waiting list for a plot with better aspect which will enable us to grow more/wider range of flowers. The shrubs that we planted on our existing plot are maturing well and provide foliage to supplement what the arrangers can gather from their gardens.

We have been interested in the Sustainable Church Flowers movement www.suschurchflowers.com which was boosted, in February 2026, by the General Synod encouraging Churches and Cathedrals to explore ways of arranging flowers that are both beautiful and environmentally responsible. Whilst we have made good progress towards this, we can do more and will continue to encourage the use of traditional mechanics instead of floral foam. Locally produced/garden flowers are encouraged in preference to supermarket flowers (grown not flown) and we continue to make good use of our stock of artificial flowers which can be very effective. Further improvement for 2026 can be achieved by developing the allotment and facilitating the composting of our degradable flower waste

The main focus of 2026 will be the Constable 250 celebrations, and we propose to mark his birthday in June by decorating the church using garden/hedgerow flowers and sustainable mechanics. There will also be 'Constable' artwork produced by a variety of East Bergholt organisations representing the entire village from the youngest to the oldest!

Finally, 2025 was the year that one of our longest standing flower arrangers decided to step down. We miss Jean who was very adept and produced fantastic arrangements – the parish chest will also miss her!

Rachael Lewis

On behalf of the Flower arrangers

Foundation Governors

'I have come that they might have life and have it to the full.' John 10:10

East Bergholt CEVC Primary School continues to live out its Christian vision of enabling every child to flourish and 'live life in all its fullness.' The vision is not simply a statement, but the driving force behind decision-making, relationships and curriculum development across the school.

Our strong partnership with St Mary the Virgin Church remains central to our identity as a Church of England school. Reverend Chris plays an important role in the spiritual life of the school, leading worship in church and in school, and supporting key services including Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas. Ruth Bull and Nick Pavitt also contribute regularly to collective worship, strengthening the relationship between church and school.

Ruth brings in a dedicated Open the Book team who lead engaging, interactive assemblies. Through storytelling and drama, pupils encounter Bible narratives in accessible and memorable ways. These sessions support pupils' growing understanding of Christian teachings and help them reflect on how biblical values such as compassion, forgiveness and justice shape daily life. Collective worship continues to provide invitational opportunities for prayer, reflection and spiritual development.

The school's Christian vision underpins its inclusive culture. Leaders are intentional in ensuring that every child is known, valued and treated with dignity. Through values-led learning and programmes such as No Outsiders, pupils are supported to understand difference, challenge injustice and develop respect for all. This reflects the school's commitment to enabling pupils to become thoughtful, courageous and compassionate members of society.

A broad and enriching curriculum further supports pupils' flourishing. Opportunities in sport, music, leadership and community events develop confidence, responsibility and joy in learning. Governors continue to monitor how effectively the vision shapes policy, provision and outcomes, ensuring that Christian distinctiveness remains at the heart of school improvement.

We give thanks for the dedication of staff, the support of families and the partnership with the church community as the school continues to grow as a nurturing and aspirational Church school.

Report compiled by Clare Sampson (Headteacher)

East Bergholt Parish Magazine

The monthly parish magazine continues to provide a wide picture of East Bergholt life for all residents - long-established or new, churchgoers or not. As well as news from St. Mary's and other local churches, and a calendar of benefice services for the month, it includes updates from local sporting, cultural, community and government organisations, and local information listings. During 2025 we welcomed several new contributors, some regular and some one-off; we also increased our use of pictures. We will be looking at further enhancements to the magazine's content during 2026.

Production is funded by advertising; printing is by far the biggest cost. Both costs and revenues remain essentially stable, and we were able to transfer £2,000 to St. Mary's general funds in 2025.

Also during 2025, there were important changes in magazine distribution. Jilly Girdwood joined us as our new distribution manager, taking over from Marion Ralph the vital task of coordinating the many volunteers who deliver the magazine to letterboxes. Our thanks to Marion for her years of service in this demanding role. We also increased the total number of copies distributed each month by about 100 to a new total of around 1,400. This reflects the growth in village households because of the new developments, and the number is likely to increase further.

Barnaby Page – Editor

Open the Book

The Open the Book team took a number of stories into the Primary School in East Bergholt this year where we were welcomed by Clare Sampson and her staff.

The team currently comprises 9 regulars with the current churchwardens standing in the wings if needed, making a total of 11.

We know this is a popular assembly with the children who seem to get a lot of enjoyment from our acting skills and our (amazing) costumes. The children also really enjoy joining in when the story lends itself to them acting in it as well. We start with the Open the Book song which is played through the audio system. Children join in with this as they enter the hall. The story is read directly out of the book and acted with as much vim and vigour as we can manage. At the end of the story there is a scripted reflection and prayer which the pupils are invited to make their own by saying 'Amen' at the end.



During 2025, we told the stories of:

Tabernacle and Spies (story 19) – Joshua and Caleb suss out the land of milk and honey

Arrest and trial (story 76) – Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane

Jonah – (story 38)

Esther (story 45)

Pentecost (story 82)

The Widow's mite (story 73)

David and Goliath – (story 29)

Rebellion – (Story 2) – Adam and Eve eat from the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil – pictured here!

If you are good at making props or handy with a sewing machine and would like to be involved with costumes etc – please let us know!



Ruth Bull (Team leader), Dianne Willett, Wendy Withers, Richard Appleton, Chris Jacob, Susan Shepherd, Rev Roy Seden, Rev Chris Willis, Angela Edwards

Toddlers Group

We have enjoyed another successful year with the group being regularly offered on a weekly basis. We have welcomed many new families to the group and some of these families have found the group a great way to make new friends, especially if they have been new to the area. We are very grateful to the East Bergholt Parish Council for their continued financial support, which has been used to help with heating and running costs, and to help with the cost of our 3 annual events, the Easter Egg hunt, the Teddy Bear's picnic, and the Christmas Party.

This year our Teddy Bear's picnic was on location in the Rectory Garden. We had a beautifully sunny day, and it was very well attended. We are grateful to Chris and Rachel for allowing us to use their garden. The children enjoyed a treasure hunt, a picnic and we finished with songs accompanied by Rev Chris and his guitar. The Christmas party was also well attended, and we are grateful to all those who helped with the delicious party food and of course to Mother Christmas (aka Chris Jacob) who handed out small gifts to the children at the end of the party.

This year we welcomed 2 new helpers Angela and John Edwards. Gill, Gina and myself are still regular helpers, and Sarah Southgate has stepped in to help when needed. Rev Chris has regularly attended the group, and the children have enjoyed singing and dancing to the songs Chris has played on his guitar. The music has been a great addition to our group, and we are grateful to Chris for supporting us in this way.

I would like to thank all helpers at the Group. We try to have 3 helpers at each session, but this has sometimes not been possible. Gina has kindly offered her services each week and Gill and I alternate weeks with Angela and John joining a few of our sessions too, initially to learn the ropes. We hope they will be helping at a few more sessions in 2026. We are a great team, and I am very grateful for all the support that has been given and look forward to working with everyone in 2026.

As our village grows, the baby and toddler group will hopefully grow with it and will continue to offer a safe and friendly environment for children to play, and carers to meet. We all feel this is a very important part of our

Church ministry, and hope that anyone who visits the group will leave feeling the love of God, and they are very much a part of our church life.

Liz Digby - Leader

Family@church



The continuing growth and development of this important mission is a great blessing. However it still needs to be prayed about, to ensure that we are offering appropriate ways for families to worship – both in terms of format and time – and to welcome those moving into the village on the new housing developments.

Our numbers have remained fairly constant. We have made more use of the West End meeting room this year, and now meet each month and enjoyed the flexible seating of being able to sit in a round. We have welcomed new families moving into the village but have ‘lost’ some of the families who have regularly been coming for a number of years but whose children are now older. We are pleased that the Moving Up club is starting in the new year and hope that we will become a feeder group for them. We are very grateful for the core families who come regularly – despite the increasing calls on family time at the weekend. We encourage the children to write their own or read a prayer, and there are a core of children who like to do this regularly. There have been the usual blend of singing, activities, stories and prayers, which includes our family@church sorry song. Each service we finish with a scrummy tea.

None of these services would be possible without a lot of support from a wonderful team of helpers. We are very grateful to everyone who has lent a hand this year: Gill, Gina and Karen who have given invaluable help setting up for services, welcoming our families and helping with activities and storytelling. We have continued to give the children booklets at Easter and Christmas, together with the eggs and advent calendars and we are grateful to Rev Chris for playing his guitar and teaching us new songs! Thank you!



Liz Digby and Fiona Trott

In planning the activities the PCC have applied the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

Statement of Responsibilities of the Members of the Parochial Church Council

Charity law requires the PCC to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charity as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the financial year. In preparing these financial statements, the PCC are required to:

1. select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
2. observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
3. make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
4. state whether the applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
5. prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The PCC is responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approval

This report was approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf by:

Fiona Trott

Fiona Trott (Chair)

Date: 24th March 2026

St Marys East Bergholt 2025 Accounts and Examiners Report

EAST BERGHOLT PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Report and Accounts

year ended 31st December 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE EAST BERGHOLT PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
('the Charity')

I report to the members of the PCC (who are also the charity's trustees) on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2025 on the following pages, which have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies set out in the notes section.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Accounting Technicians, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

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

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

Britt Evans

Mrs B Evans (AAT)
Association of Accounting Technicians
Rookery Cottage
Gaston Street
East Bergholt
Colchester
CO7 6SF

Date: 20th March 2026

EAST BERGHOLT PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:						
Donations and legacies	3	61,691	255,053	-	316,744	60,129
Charitable activities	4	14,590	7,460	-	22,050	12,350
Other trading activities	5	18,416	-	-	18,416	22,324
Investments	6	4,703	-	-	4,703	15,059
Other income	0	-	-	-	-	-
Total income and endowments		99,400	262,513	-	361,913	109,862
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Charitable activities	7	(89,335)	(132,873)	(5,169)	(227,377)	(105,047)
		-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure		(89,335)	(132,873)	(5,169)	(227,377)	(105,047)
Net income/(expenditure)		10,065	129,640	(5,169)	134,536	4,815
Transfers between funds	12	(5,220)	5,220	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		4,845	134,860	(5,169)	134,536	4,815
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		42,202	18,500	272,649	333,351	328,536
Total funds carried forward	12	47,047	153,360	267,480	467,887	333,351

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

All income and expenditure derive from continuing operation

Rounding differences of £1 may appear in these accounts.

The notes on the following pages form part of these accounts.

EAST BERGHOLT PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
FIXED ASSETS						
Fixed Asset Investments	9	29,406		267,480	296,886	300,093
		<u>29,406</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>267,480</u>	<u>296,886</u>	<u>300,093</u>
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors	10	-	99,730	-	99,730	-
Cash at bank and in hand	11	17,641	53,630	-	71,271	33,258
		17,641	153,360	-	171,001	33,258
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>47,047</u>	<u>153,360</u>	<u>267,480</u>	<u>467,887</u>	<u>333,351</u>
FUND BALANCES						
Unrestricted Funds	12					
General funds		5,022	-	-	5,022	9,716
Designated funds		42,025	-	-	42,025	32,486
		<u>47,047</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>47,047</u>	<u>42,202</u>
Restricted Funds		-	153,360	-	153,360	18,500
Endowment Funds		-	-	267,480	267,480	272,649
		<u>47,047</u>	<u>153,360</u>	<u>267,480</u>	<u>467,887</u>	<u>333,351</u>

Rounding differences of £1 may appear in these accounts.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and were signed on its behalf by:

Fiona Trott

24th March 2026

Fiona Trott (Chair of Trustees)

Date

Charity number: 1190273

The notes on the following pages form part of these accounts.

EAST BERGHOLT PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025

1 Statutory Information

The East Bergholt Parochial Church Council is a charity registered with the Charity Commission in England & Wales. The charity's registered number and principal address can be found on the Charity Information page.

2 Accounting Policies

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention. The financial statements include all activities for which the PCC is legally responsible; the activities of informal gatherings of church members and groups that owe their main affiliation to another body and are excluded.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with The Church Accounting Regulations 2006, the 'Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)' ('the Charities SORP'), with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102") and with the Charities Act 2011. The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as set out in FRS 102.

The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 (the '2008 Regulations') requires charities to prepare their accounts in accordance with 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005' but this accounting standard has since been withdrawn and has been replaced by the Charities SORP mentioned in the preceding paragraph. The charity has prepared these financial statements in accordance with the new Charities SORP; this departure from the 2008 Regulations is believed to be necessary for these financial statements to give a 'true and fair view'.

In the previous year the charity prepared its accounts using the receipts and payments basis; in the current year the charity's income exceeded £250,000 and so it is now obliged to use the accruals basis for the preparation of its accounts. The comparatives presented in these accounts have been re-stated using the accruals basis and a reconciliation with the reserves and results reported in note 14.

The principles adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below.

a) Going concern

The PCC have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The PCC have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the financial statements. In particular the PCC have considered the charity's forecasts and projections and the possible implications should projected income and / or expenditure vary unexpectedly. The PCC have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue to operate for the foreseeable future. The charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

b) Income

Income (which includes planned giving, grants, collections and other donations) is recognised in the period in which the charity becomes entitled to receipt, the amount receivable can be measured with reasonable certainty, and receipt is probable. For the most part income is generally recognised when it is received by, or on behalf of, the PCC. Income is only deferred when the charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or where the donor has specified that the income is to be expended in a future period.

Income from donations and legacies includes recoverable gift aid, which is recognised when the related donation is received. Gift aid that has not been recovered by the balance sheet date is included as a debtor.

The charity relies on volunteers to carry out many of its activities. However, in accordance with the SORP, the value of these services has not been included in these financial statements as they cannot be reliably measured.

Income from charitable activities represents income receivable from goods, services and facilities supplied in furtherance of the charity's charitable objects.

2 Accounting Policies continued

Income from other trading activities represents income receivable from activities undertaken to generate funds for the charity.

Investment income represents income generated by the charity's assets such as dividends as well as increases in market value. It also includes income from bank interest.

EAST BERGHOLT PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025

2 Accounting Policies continued

The charity has taken the view that it has only one charitable activity, namely the advancement of the Christian faith, and all income from donations, legacies and charitable activities is in respect of this one activity.

c) Expenditure

Expenditure, including irrecoverable VAT, is recognised when it is incurred or, if earlier, when a legal or constructive obligation for a payment arises provided that it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Contributions in respect of the diocesan parish share are included in the Statement of Financial Activities for all amounts agreed to being payable for the financial year.

The cost of raising funds is not significant and has not been separately disclosed.

Governance costs, which are included in expenditure on charitable activities but are identified separately in the notes to the accounts, includes costs associated with the independent examination of the financial statements, compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements and any other expenditure incurred on the strategic management of the charity.

d) Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the PCC in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the PCC for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects. Endowment funds are donations that are retained as capital in accordance with the donor's wishes. The nature of the restriction determines whether the endowments represent permanent endowments or expendable endowments.

e) Tangible fixed assets

Consecrated and beneficed property is not included in these financial statements by virtue of s.10(2) of the Charities Act 2011. All expenditure on consecrated or beneficed buildings is written off in the year in which it is incurred.

Movable church furnishings held by the incumbent and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are capitalised in accordance with the policy set out below. These items are regarded as inalienable property and are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected at any reasonable time. Inalienable property acquired prior to 2023 has not been capitalised as there is insufficient cost information available and estimated current net book value would be immaterial to these accounts.

Items purchased or donated for the charity's own use are capitalised when the cost of the individual purchased items, or the fair value of donated items, is more than £2,000 and the item is expected to benefit the charity over more than one accounting period. Depreciation is charged on a straight line basis so as to write down the value of each asset to its estimated residual value (if any) over its expected useful economic life. To achieve this objective the following rates of depreciation are charged:

Equipment	Over 3 to 7 years
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The carrying values of tangible fixed assets are reviewed for impairment in periods when events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable.

EAST BERGHOLT PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025

2 Accounting Policies continued

f) Investments

Fixed asset investments are held to generate income and / or for their investment potential. They are valued in these accounts at Market Value at the balance sheet date, with any improvement or reduction in value being recognised as income or expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.

g) Stocks

Stocks held at the year end of either goods purchased for re-sale on our bookstall or donated items held for distribution to beneficiaries via our Pantry in the Porch project are not considered material to these accounts and have not been included.

h) Pension scheme arrangements

The charity operates defined contribution pension schemes for its employee (NEST). Obligations for contributions to these schemes are recognised as an expense when the liability arises. The assets of these schemes are held separately from those of the charity in independently administered funds.

i) Taxation

The charity has taken advantage of the various reliefs from taxation available to charities and no tax is payable on the charity's income.

j) Exemption from preparing a cashflow statement

The charity has taken advantage of an exemption conferred by the Charities SORP and has not prepared a cash flow statement.

k) Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

The members of the PCC do not consider that there are any material sources of estimation or uncertainty at the balance sheet date that could result in a material adjustment to the carrying values of assets and liabilities in the next reporting period.

3 Donations and legacies

	2025	2024
	£	£
Grants and Donations relating to the New Roof Fund	214,850	1,414
Church Donations and Grants	90,855	49,897
Income tax recoverable	11,039	8,818
	<u>316,744</u>	<u>60,129</u>

EAST BERGHOLT PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025

4 Income from charitable activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Church Operations and activities	14,591	12,350
Roof Fundraising Activities	7,460	-
	<u>22,050</u>	<u>12,350</u>

5 Income from other trading activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Magazine	16,945	19,349
Bookstall/Calendars	<u>1,471</u>	<u>2,975</u>
	<u>18,416</u>	<u>22,324</u>

6 Investment income

	2025	2024
	£	£
Increase in Market Value of Investments (see note 9)	1,962	12,278
Interest Income	<u>2,741</u>	<u>2,781</u>
	<u>4,703</u>	<u>15,059</u>

EAST BERGHOLT PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025

7 Charitable expenditure

	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£
a Church Activities		
Parish share	24,150	31,300
Music Expenses (including Organist Fees)	5,540	5,965
Church Utilities	6,699	7,602
Church Repairs and Maintenance (including cleaning)	6,758	9,517
Insurance	4,898	4,788
Fundraising activities	1,867	579
Diocesan Fees	1,689	1,516
Equipment Purchased	8,900	-
Miscellaneous expenses	5,251	5,781
Decrease in Market Value of Investments (see note 9)	5,169	-
Magazine Trading costs	18,032	18,536
Bookstall Trading costs	3,296	1,993
Roof Fund Project Expenditure (including salaries)	87,999	5,768
Chancel Roof repair	34,272	-
	<u>214,521</u>	<u>93,343</u>
b Costs incurred on support & administration		
Governance costs	-	-
Parish office costs (including administrator fee)	12,857	11,703
	<u>12,857</u>	<u>11,703</u>
Total expenditure	<u><u>227,377</u></u>	<u><u>105,047</u></u>

EAST BERGHOLT PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025

8 Analysis of staff costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Gross wages and salaries	17,738	-
Social security	-	-
Pension costs	113	-
	<u>17,851</u>	<u>-</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was 1 (2024:0). Most of the charity's activities are carried out by volunteers.

No staff received salaries at a rate of more than £60,000 per annum.

No members of the PCC received employment benefits in either the current or preceding year.

9 Fixed Asset Investments

	Endowment Malschinger Investment	Endowment CCLA Investment	Designated BlackRock Investment	2025 £	2024 £
Market Value of Investment Bfwd	249,295	23,354	27,444	300,093	297,815
Disposals during the year				-	(10,000)
Increase in Market Value of Investment (note 6)			1,962	1,962	-
Decrease in Market value of Investment (note 7)	(4,273)	(896)		(5,169)	12,278
Market Value at end of the Year	<u>245,022</u>	<u>22,458</u>	<u>29,406</u>	<u>296,886</u>	<u>300,093</u>

During 2024, £10,000 was transferred from the Malschinger Investment Fund to the new Roof Fund.

10 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Falling due within one year:		
Accrued grant income	99,730	-
	<u>99,730</u>	<u>-</u>

During the year the National Lottery Heritage Fund awarded a Development Stage grant of £199,460 for the Securing the Future of St Marys Project. An initial instalment of £99,730 was made in February 2025 as the project commenced, and the remainder is being claimed during 2026 as the funds are spent on approved purposes in line with the grants terms. The full grant of income of £199,460 is recognised in this years accounts in line with SORP, with the remaining instalments recognised as an accrued income asse which is due within one year.

11 Cash at Bank and in Hand

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash at bank (including deposits with no notice period)	71,271	33,258
	<u>71,271</u>	<u>33,258</u>

EAST BERGHOLT PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025

12 Funds

During the year the movements in the charity's funds were as follows:

	Opening balance 2025 £	Incoming resources 2025 £	Outgoing resources 2025 £	Transfers in the year 2025 £	Closing balance 2025 £
Designated Funds					
Magazine	5,042	16,945	(18,032)	(2,000)	1,954
Boiler Repair Fund	-	-	-	5,332	5,332
Bookstall Fund	-	-	-	1,200	1,200
Unknown Receipt	-	4,133	-	-	4,133
BlackRock Fund	27,444	1,962	-	-	29,406
	<u>32,486</u>	<u>23,040</u>	<u>(18,032)</u>	<u>4,532</u>	<u>42,025</u>
General Unrestricted Funds	<u>9,716</u>	<u>76,361</u>	<u>(71,303)</u>	<u>(9,752)</u>	<u>5,022</u>
Total Unrestricted Funds	<u>42,202</u>	<u>99,401</u>	<u>(89,335)</u>	<u>(5,220)</u>	<u>47,047</u>
Restricted Funds					
Flower Fund	1,003	-	-	-	1,003
Roof Fund - New	16,997	222,310	(87,999)	(1,250)	150,058
Chancel Roof Fund		27,802	(34,272)	6,470	0
Restricted Appeals Fund	-	9,441	(9,441)	-	-
Hardship Fund		1500	(550)	-	950
Benefice PA		900	(382)	-	518
Pantry in the Porch		410	(229)	-	181
Sum Up Fund		80	-	-	80
Foodbank fund		70	-	-	70
Mission Hall Fund	500	-	-	-	500
	<u>18,500</u>	<u>262,513</u>	<u>(132,873)</u>	<u>5,220</u>	<u>153,360</u>
Endowment Fund					
Malschinger Fund	249,295	-	(4,273)	-	245,022
Paskell Fund	23,354	-	(896)	-	22,458
Total Endowment Fund	<u>272,649</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(5,169)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>267,480</u>
Aggregate of funds	<u>333,351</u>	<u>361,914</u>	<u>(227,378)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>467,887</u>

EAST BERGHOLT PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025

The transfers referred to above were made for the following reasons:

- a) £1,250 of funds received into the Roof Fund in 2024, was later identified as relating specifically to the Chancel Roof. Therefore a separate fund was created in 2025 and the monies transferred to the new fund.
- b) the Chancel Roof fund expenditure was in excess of the funds raised, and therefore a transfer from general funds was made to cover the deficit.
- c) The Magazine Fund made a transfer of £2,000 of its surplus to the General Fund to support the Church. Ministry.
- d) The PCC transfer funds from the general fund to designated funds during the year to set aside monies for set purposes. The transfer were for the following: future boiler repairs (£5,332) and the Bookstall stock replenishment plan (£1,200)

12 Funds continued

Purposes of the various funds:

Designated funds

- a) The **Magazine Fund** represents the operations of the Magazine Team for both income and expenditure during the year.
- b) The **Boiler Repair Fund** is a designated fund set up to set aside funds for this purpose in 2026.
- c) The **Bookstall Funds** represents funds set aside for a deposit to be paid in 2026 for new stock for the bookstall.
- d) The **Unknown Receipt Fund** holds an amount of monies that was received into the bank account during 2025 which the church does not know the origins of. As a precaution, we have set this money aside for future repayment if the donor/payee can be identified.
- e) The **BlackRock Fund** represents funds held in a BlackRock Investment portfolio, which is not restricted monies however is kept separately from General Funds as an investment.

Restricted Funds

- a) The **Flower Fund** hold funds specifically donated to the church for the purchase of flowers, plants and relevant equipment for displays within the church and its grounds.
- b) The **New Roof Fund** was created by a PCC in 2024 for the purposes of managing the Roof Project which is in collaboration with the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The Development Grant Awarded was £199,460, which is paid in tranches throughout 2025 - 2026. The first tranche was paid in February 2025 of £99,730. The remaining award is treated as an accrued income asset in these accounts. The project is currently in the Development Stage and will be proceeding to an application for Delivery Stage in 2026.
- c) The **Chancel Roof Fund** was created to hold donations and grants specifically for the Chancel Roof repair project which took place during 2025. Expenses related to the project were charged to this fund, and the resulting deficit was covered by a transfer from the General Fund.
- d) The **Restricted Appeals Fund** hold monies raised within the church for particular ad hoc projects or equipment needs. The funds are all spent on the specific expenditure within the year.
- e) The **Hardship Fund** relates to a donation received from the Parish Council for use to relieve financial hardship through the provision of shopping vouchers for families in need.
- f) The **Benefice PA Fund** was created from donations received to support the improvement of the sounds systems, music equipment and microphones within the benefice.
- g) The **Pantry in the Porch Fund** represents income received specifically to support this food pantry project operated in the porch of St Marys East Bergholt.
- h) The **Sum Up Fund** represents income received specifically for the Sum Up machine costs.
- i) The **Foodbank Fund** represents income received specifically to support local Foodbank projects.
- j) The **Mission Hall Fund** represents income received specifically to support Youth and Children's work in East Bergholt.

Endowment Funds

- a) The **Malschinger Trust Fund** holds legacy funds bequeathed to the church for investment. The original legacy was a permanent capital endowment of £92,742 and remaining balance of the fund is the increase in market value since it was received.
- b) The **Paskell Fund** was gifted to the church for investment.

EAST BERGHOLT PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025

12 Funds continued

Analysis of net assets by fund

The assets and liabilities of the various funds were as follows:

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>				
	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	
	funds	funds	funds	funds	2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Asset Investment	-	29,406	-	267,480	296,886
Debtors	-	-	99,730	-	99,730
Cash at bank and in hand	5,022	12,619	53,630	-	71,271
Creditors falling due within one year	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>5,022</u>	<u>42,025</u>	<u>153,360</u>	<u>267,480</u>	<u>467,887</u>

In the previous year the movements in the charity's funds were as follows:

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Closing
	balance	resources	resources	in the year	balance
	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated Funds					
Altar Fund	10,000	-	-	(10,000)	-
Magazine	6,229	19,349	(18,536)	(2,000)	5,042
BlackRock Fund	26,698	746	-	-	27,444
	<u>42,927</u>	<u>20,095</u>	<u>(18,536)</u>	<u>(12,000)</u>	<u>32,486</u>
General Unrestricted Funds	6,496	72,027	(70,807)	2,000	9,716
Total Unrestricted Funds	<u>49,423</u>	<u>92,122</u>	<u>(89,343)</u>	<u>(10,000)</u>	<u>42,202</u>
Restricted Funds					
Flower Fund	1,163	-	(160)	-	1,003
Roof Fund - Old	6,803	2,587	(8,039)	(1,351)	-
Roof Fund - New	-	1,414	(5,768)	21,351	16,997
Restricted Appeals Fund	-	1,707	(1,707)	-	-
Mission Hall Fund	-	500	-	-	500
Toddlers Fund	30	-	(30)	-	-
	<u>7,996</u>	<u>6,208</u>	<u>(15,704)</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>18,500</u>
Endowment Fund					
Malschinger Fund	248,286	11,009	-	(10,000)	249,295
Paskell Fund	22,831	523	-	-	23,354
Total Endowment Fund	<u>271,117</u>	<u>11,532</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(10,000)</u>	<u>272,649</u>
Aggregate of funds	<u>328,536</u>	<u>109,862</u>	<u>(105,047)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>333,351</u>

EAST BERGHOLT PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025

12 Funds continued

Analysis of net assets by fund

In the previous year, the assets and liabilities of the various funds were as follows:

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		Restricted	Endowment	2024
	General	Designated			
	funds	funds	funds	funds	£
	£	£	£	£	
Fixed Asset Investments	-	27,444	-	272,649	300,093
Cash at bank and in hand	9,716	5,042	18,500	-	33,258
Creditors falling due within one year	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>9,716</u>	<u>32,486</u>	<u>18,500</u>	<u>272,649</u>	<u>333,351</u>

13 Transactions with related parties

During the year the charity:

- a) received donations (excluding Gift aid) totalling £26,130 (2024: £14,599) from related parties which includes members of the PCC and anyone closely connected to them.

Except for the reimbursement of expenses incurred when acting as agent for the charity, or incurred when serving as clergy or as employees, no expenses with a profit element were paid to (or for) the members of the PCC.

The East Bergholt Mission Hall Trust is a separately registered charity (Reg No: 254538) of which the East Bergholt Parochial Church Council is the sole trustee. The assets of the trust are held by the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocesan Board of Finance as Custodian Trustee and total £2,079 at the year end (2024: £2,166). During the previous year, a donation was received from the Trust for £500 towards children's work which was recorded as Mission Hall Trust Restricted income in that year. No donations have been received during 2025.

14 Reconciliation with previously reported funds

In the previous year the charity prepared its accounts using the receipts and payments basis; in the current year the charity's income exceeded £250,000 and so it is now obliged to use the accruals basis for the preparation of its accounts. The comparatives presented in these accounts have been re-stated using the accruals basis and a reconciliation with the reserves and results reported previously follows:

Reconciliation of reserves

	2024	2023
	£	£
Previously reported reserves, at 31 December	141,527	138,991
Adjustments arising from use of accruals basis:		
Inclusion of Investments at Market Value	191,824	189,545
Inclusion of previously excluded fixed assets	-	-
Inclusion of previously excluded debtors	-	-
Inclusion of previously excluded creditors	-	-
Re-stated reserves, at 31 December	<u>333,351</u>	<u>328,536</u>

The accounts have been adjusted for any material debtors or creditors in existence at the year end. (2024: NIL/2023: NIL)

EAST BERGHOLT PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES WITH COMPARATIVES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025

	Note	<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					<u>Unrestricted funds</u>				
		General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total
		2025	2025	2025	2025	2025	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:											
Donations and legacies	3	57,558	4,133	255,053	-	316,744	53,921	-	6,208	-	60,129
Charitable activities	4	14,590		7,460	-	22,050	12,350	-	-	-	12,350
Other trading activities	5	1,471	16,945	-	-	18,416	2,975	19,349	-	-	22,324
Income from Investments	6	2,741	1,962	-	-	4,703	2,781	746	-	11,532	15,059
Total income and endowments		<u>76,360</u>	<u>23,040</u>	<u>262,513</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>361,913</u>	<u>72,027</u>	<u>20,095</u>	<u>6,208</u>	<u>11,532</u>	<u>109,862</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:											
Charitable Activities	7	(71,303)	(18,032)	(132,873)	(5,169)	(227,377)	(70,807)	(18,536)	(15,704)	-	(105,047)
Total Expenditure		<u>(71,303)</u>	<u>(18,032)</u>	<u>(132,873)</u>	<u>(5,169)</u>	<u>(227,377)</u>	<u>(70,807)</u>	<u>(18,536)</u>	<u>(15,704)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(105,047)</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		<u>5,057</u>	<u>5,008</u>	<u>129,640</u>	<u>(5,169)</u>	<u>134,536</u>	<u>1,220</u>	<u>1,559</u>	<u>(9,496)</u>	<u>11,532</u>	<u>4,815</u>
Transfers between funds	12	(9,752)	4,532	5,220	-	-	2,000	(12,000)	20,000	(10,000)	-
Net movement in funds		<u>(4,695)</u>	<u>9,540</u>	<u>134,860</u>	<u>(5,169)</u>	<u>134,536</u>	<u>3,220</u>	<u>(10,441)</u>	<u>10,504</u>	<u>1,532</u>	<u>4,815</u>
Reconciliation of funds:											
Total funds brought forward		9,716	32,486	18,500	272,649	333,351	6,496	42,927	7,996	271,117	328,536
Total funds carried forward	12	<u>5,021</u>	<u>42,026</u>	<u>153,360</u>	<u>267,480</u>	<u>467,887</u>	<u>9,716</u>	<u>32,486</u>	<u>18,500</u>	<u>272,649</u>	<u>333,351</u>

Rounding differences of £1 may occur

Accounts

St Mary the Virgin, East Bergholt Annual Report for 2024

**Annual Meeting to be held
on Sunday 13th April 2025
immediately after Morning Service**



**Annual Parochial Church Meeting of
St Mary the Virgin, East Bergholt**

St Mary the Virgin, East Bergholt

Incumbent:

Rev Chris Willis
The Rectory, Rectory Lane, Brantham, CO11 1PZ
revchris@constablebenefice.org / 07566 871270

Bank:

Barclays Bank
1 Princes Street
Ipswich
IP1 1PN

Register of Charities with the Registered Charity Number 1190273

Independent Examiner

Mrs B Evans
Rookery Cottage
Gaston Street
East Bergholt
Colchester
CO7 6SF

Website: [Home | Constable Country Churches](#)

Or via A Church near You: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/2067/>

Find us on Facebook: [facebook.com/stmaryseastbergholt](https://www.facebook.com/stmaryseastbergholt)

St Mary's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@stmaryseastbergholt2137>

THE DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION PRIVACY NOTICE

The information we hold about you in our Church records is only disclosed to those who need to see it for Church purposes. We will send you information related to the Benefice, the Church, the ministry and activities. If you wish to unsubscribe from all or any communications, please let the Benefice Administrator know at michelle@constablebenefice.org

Contents

St Mary the Virgin - East Bergholt PCC 2024-2025	4
Agenda for APCM.....	5
Rector's Report	6
Electoral Roll	12
Proceedings of the East Bergholt PCC.....	12
Take a Break coffee mornings ("knit and knatter")	13
Treasurer's Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2024	13
East Bergholt PCC Accounts	15
Independent Examiner's report.....	21
Safeguarding	22
Samford Deanery Synod & Group Council	22
Churchwardens	23
Mothers' Union	25
Bell Ringers.....	26
Flower Arrangers.....	27
Foundation Governors	27
East Bergholt Parish Magazine.....	29
Open the Book	29
Toddlers Group	30
Family@church	31

St Mary the Virgin - East Bergholt PCC 2024-2025

EX-OFFICIO	Rev Chris Willis	Rector	07955 329341
	Fiona Trott	Churchwarden	07791 294744
	Jackie Reeves	Churchwarden	07407 538450
	Sarah Southgate	Deanery Synod Rep	07742 620695
	Chris Jacob	Deanery Synod Rep	298552
	Koshy Jacob	Deanery Synod Rep	298552

ELECTED

TO SEEK RE-ELECTION IN 2025		TO SEEK RE-ELECTION IN 2026		TO SEEK RE-ELECTION IN 2027	
Glen Rowson	299109	Lesley Cherry	07543 644318	Howard Holdsworth	07970 416249
Geoff Potter	07745 536728	Reuben Rushen	299303	Marian Godwin	07745 117191
Vacancy		Victoria Rothwell	299980	Vacancy	
Vacancy		Vacancy		Vacancy	

PCC Chair	Fiona Trott	07791 294744
PCC Vice Chair	Jackie Reeves	07407 538450
Minutes Secretary	Steve Newman	07850 505713
PCC Secretary	Michelle Jowers	07955 329341
Hon Treasurer	Lesley Cherry	07543 644318
Deputy Churchwardens	Lesley Cherry	07543 644318
	Chris Jacob	298552
	Sarah Southgate	07742 620695
	Reuben Rushen	299303
	Geoff Potter	07745 536728
	Howard Holdsworth	07970416249
Electoral Roll Officer	Fiona Trott	07791 294744
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Howard Holdsworth	07970 416249
Standing Committee (Chair)	Rev Chris Willis	07955 329341
Standing Committee (Minute Sec)	Steve Newman	07850 505713
Standing Committee (Treasurer)	Lesley Cherry	07543 644318
Standing Committee (Wardens)	Fiona Trott	07791 294744
	Jackie Reeves	07407 538450
Health and Safety	Sarah Southgate	07742 620695
Lettice Dykes	Simon Rothwell	299980
	Reuben Rushen	299303
	Gill Rattray	298380
Preservation Society	Fiona Trott	07791 294744
	Sarah Southgate	07742 620695
Foundation Governor	Simon Rothwell	299980
Magazine Committee	John Gamlin	
	Geoff Potter	07745 536728
	Lesley Cherry	07543 644318
Ecumenical Committee	Dorothy Brundell	298607
	Chris Jacob	298552
Captain of Bells	Terry Eagle	07578 002974

Agenda for APCM

13th April 2025 at St. Mary the Virgin, East Bergholt
Held after the 10:00 service

1. Welcome and Prayer
2. Minutes of the APCM 24th April 2024
3. Electoral Roll report
4. Report on the proceedings of the PCC
5. Approve the Treasurer's report and accounts
6. Report on the proceedings of Deanery Synod
7. Safeguarding report
8. Elections:
9. Churchwardens
10. Deanery Synod: Three representatives for three years
11. PCC: Four representatives for three years, one for two years and one for one year
12. Appoint an Independent Examiner – Mrs Britt Evans has indicated her willingness to continue
13. Receive all other reports

The PCC will convene at the close of the APCM to elect Officers and deal with any urgent business.

AGENDA FOR PCC MEETING TO FOLLOW THE APCM

Election of PCC Officers

- Chair and Vice Chair
- Minutes Secretary
- PCC Secretary
- Brantham PCC representative
- Hon Treasurer
- Deputy Churchwardens
- Electoral Roll Officer
- Benefice Safeguarding Officer
- Health and Safety
- Standing Committee ((Rector, Vice Chair, Wardens, Health and Safety, and Treasurer)
- Lettice Dykes
- Preservation Society
- Foundation Governors
- Magazine Committee: currently Barnaby Page, Lesley Cherry, Alison Jones, Marion Ralph, John Gamlin and Geoff Potter
- Ecumenical Committee Representatives

Dates of East Bergholt PCC meetings for 2025:

Rector's Report

Rector's Report for Constable Country Benefice Churches of Bentley, Brantham, East Bergholt and Tattingstone.

The following report is framed within the broader Diocesan vision called '**Growing in God**':

- ❖ Growing in Depth
- ❖ Growing in influence
- ❖ Growing in number
- ❖ Growing younger

This is also a reflection on my first year of ministry in the Benefice, and the emphasis is on what has happened, rather than aspirations and vision for the future. That future focus will be covered in a subsequent '**Plan for Growth**', to be prayerfully developed in consultation with the wider ministry team and four PCCs, and indeed, the whole congregation.

Looking back over the last year:

The first and most important thing to highlight, is what a privilege it has been to join you [the four parishes]. You have made Rachel and I incredibly welcome. You have included us and embraced us in fellowship and friendship. You have been and are the people who were so poignantly described in the Parish Profile, which encouraged us to discern with you whether we were being called to ministry here at Constable Country Benefice.

We are very pleased we have been called here. I say we, as whilst I [Chris] am the minister, Rachel finds herself in one of those strange roles, where she also personally has invested in the obedience to answer the call to move home, support me, bear with the moments of difficulty and pain which inevitably occur in and around church ministry and have that ever odd title 'the Rector's wife'! (we're still working out what that actually means along with every other ministry couple!)

Our first year has been spent trying to prayerfully look, understand, see what is valued, what works (realising that is very subjective) and what doesn't (the same applies).

We have grieved deeply at the loss of some dear people, not least Peter Day, and I find it incredible how much I miss him and his gifting even though I knew him such a short time.

The tragic attack and murder of Anita Rose hit Rachel and I, and indeed Isobelle very hard, living so close to the location of her attack and finding ourselves in the centre of the media interest. In one terrible moment, in kind with the rest of the community, what had been an idyllic place to live, ceased to be so for a long time. but of course, we recognise that our shock and the impact the event had, so close to the Rectory, and therefore our home, is nothing compared to that of Anita's lovely family, who I have had the privilege to get to know a little, and support as much as has been possible.

Managing the media interest, liaising with the police, trying to be pastoral to the community came very soon after we arrived. As tragic as this is, I could see how God uses the threads of our lives and our previous experiences for good when evil occurs, with my insight into policing, and previous professional experiences placing me in a peculiarly prepared place to respond as well as is possible.

But this year has also been a year of joys, some of which I share with you below. This Rector's report does not major on the regular acts of worship, instead looking more to what has been new, but I must highlight also how incredibly grateful I am for all who contribute in so many ways to the daily lives of our four parishes and our weekly worship. I am reticent to name individuals. The list would be long, but I fear inevitably missing someone and causing unintended offence. So please rest assured, whether you are a licensed member of clergy, Lay Elder, Warden, Administrator or that particular person who quietly, almost unnoticed, faithfully serves every month – thank you. You are amazing!

So, the rest of this report focusses upon what has happened, particularly what has been new to the Benefice. It is intended to be missional in its presentation – looking at how what we do relates to 'Growing in God'. So, at the end of each section, I ask the question 'how does this relate to Growing in God' and offer an answer to that question.

So here goes.....

Occasional Offices: Naturally, there are many tasks and responsibilities which the Incumbent carries out. In the last year I have taken over thirty funerals or interments, and in many cases continued to offer ongoing pastoral care to families and bereaved. I have married three couples, spending time with them prior to their wedding in preparation, not just for the wedding service, but also their future married lives, and currently am doing the same with eight other couples who are due to marry in 2025/26. There have also been a number of infant baptisms and I have had a number of enquiries which are being progressed.

How does this relate to Growing in God? - growing in influence

Rotas: One of the earliest opportunities presented to help us be more efficient - was to move from a repeated planning process, which meant starting rotas from scratch month by month to a regular pre-planned model. The aim has been to reduce administration, with the aspiration to free up time which could then be spent on mission.

The principle followed is best presented as 'trellis and vine'. The idea being that very easily we [the church] can spend a lot of time on administrative and practical tasks (represented by the Trellis) which leaves little time for the nurturing of the vine. The vine of course is where the fruit eventually comes from, and the trellis is simply a vital, but non-living framework.

So, the new rotational rota was produced in consultation with all those who lead services and the PCCs. It means that the rota is pre-populated with who is leading, and any gaps arising – e.g. someone going on holiday - are then addressed, rather than creating a new rota month by month, which has proved a huge time saving for Michelle (Administrator), myself, and indeed all those involved.

The new rota is not without its weaknesses. One being that I [Chris] never get to be in a service led by other ordained clergy from the ministry team. But overall, with a few procedural tweaks – not least recognising the needed for lay-led service leaders to have better clarity as to when they are leading – which has been addressed - it has proven to be a great time saving and efficient model. I also suspect that those on the rota have often prioritised their particular dates, which in turn has kept changes to a minimum. A massive thank you is deserved to all those who regularly lead our services, both lay and ordained clergy. Thank you!

How does this relate to Growing in God? - this change is preparatory, affording us more time to focus on mission, rather than function. The vine, rather than the trellis.

Communion: when I first arrived, I noticed that some people were abstaining from one or both elements of the communion. There was clearly a remaining anxiety following the Covid pandemic.

A period of consultation followed where all those in the benefice were invited to share their preference and/or concerns.

What followed was a change to the way we share communion at both Brantham and East Bergholt* - with communion being served by both intinction (dipping of the wafer into the wine by the minister), and also the shared cup. These happen side by side, so the essence of sharing communion together is preserved.

This has afforded everyone the opportunity to fully share in the communion, which is so central to our expression of faith.

*Note – Tattingstone and Bentley had already begun using intinction only – and that has remained unchanged subject to any request being made locally for a shared cup.

How does this relate to Growing in God? - this change is foundational to being a welcoming and loving faith community - ready to welcome others to grow in faith/grow in number.

Pastoral Care: in an ideal world, the ordained minister will have capacity to conduct most pastoral visiting. With four parishes, that is clearly a significant demand, especially with an aging congregation.

Whilst I do make numerous pastoral home visits, including to hospitals, hospices and care homes, and also meet regularly with others exploring their own vocation, it was clear that pastoral care could not be (and indeed had not been before my arrival) the sole responsibility of the incumbent.

I am delighted that Sarah Southgate has taken on the new role of 'Pastoral Care Co-ordinator', not to be 'the' pastoral visitor (although she does make many pastoral visits), but to have an overview of the pastoral needs across the Benefice, to ensure that no-one is neglected, and supporting those who do make pastoral visits.

This is about loving those who may no longer find it easy to attend church services, who may therefore:

- a) need a lift to church
- b) home communion
- c) the delivery of a Pew sheet, or
- d) just a caring visit.

Much of this loving relational support happens naturally and is quietly provided by many in the Benefice - but having Sarah in this role, means that we can do our very best, working with myself and others, to make sure that all in our church, particularly those who may be less visible, are cared for and loved.

I am very grateful also to all those who provide this level of care and love to those in our four parishes.

How does this relate to Growing in God? - Growing in Influence and Growing Deeper

Schools: it has been a real joy to have such good relationships with the local schools. I am so grateful for all those who invest time as school governors. Three of our primary schools (Tattingstone, Bentley and East Bergholt) are Voluntary Controlled Church of England Schools, whilst Brantham is an academy, but not formally affiliated to the church.

It has been a privilege to go into each of the voluntary controlled schools – most term months, to lead faith assemblies, sing and teach songs using my guitar, and tell animated stories helping children to reflect on their half-termly chosen *value*. I love nothing more than to help the children reflect upon the *values* using bible stories and a song linked to that story.

Prior to my arrival there had been limited opportunity to visit Brantham Primary school to take an assembly, but I am delighted to have been invited once a term, and hope that our relationship of trust with the school will grow and grow.

Last year I took part in the career's day at the High School in East Bergholt. It was great to spend time encourage the pupils as they consider their possible career path.

It has been such a privilege to be so welcomed into the High School, and I look forward to taking five assemblies in one week for all year groups before Easter.

Chaplain – one of the highlights of the last year has been the introduction of a Chaplain (Philip Morphy) to the High School. This followed prayer and fund raising led by a multi-denominational group which I had been kindly invited to join prior to my licensing (once the group knew I was on the way!)

Open the Book – is a wonderful tool to take the bible into the schools, and the OTB team, led by Ruth Bull has gone from strength to strength, with dramatized bite size illustrations of bible stories. Thank you to the team who commit to OTB, and for those looking to provide OTB to the other schools.

How does this relate to Growing in God? - Growing in influence/Growing younger.

Connect: connect has been a real highlight for me personally – not least as it has been so warmly received by so many.

Connect – designed and named as we seek to 'connect with each other, God and the community', provides a place where together we can explore and demonstrate different ways of worshipping, with the aim of blending the best of new and modern styles of worship, and in doing so to make inviting people to church an easier task.

Connect does not replace our week by week more traditional liturgical worship but provides a wonderful opportunity to gather as one Benefice. A key benefit of Connect for me [Rev Chris] is how much more I get to see everyone – almost doubling those opportunities each month. Before Connect I did feel like a repeated visitor to four parishes, now I feel fully connected too!

A lot of work goes into making Connect happen - and the small Connect Planning Team, representing each parish, have been amazingly committed and done so much to make this monthly service a success, and the wonderful welcome and hosting, and service of those involved in so many ways has been a joy to be part of.

How does this relate to Growing in God? - Growing Deeper/Growing in number (and I hope as we develop Connect – ‘growing younger’)

Youth Group: one of the absolute highlights of the year has been the forming of a Benefice Youth Group, for 13-15yr olds (ish). After a number of young people came to our summer taster evening, we have settled as a small group of six young people, both boys and girls, and whilst having capacity for more to join, the small group have got to know each other, enjoying fun games, snacks, finding out something each week about the Bible, with discussions and activities - and also, a trip to 10-pin bowling! We look forward to the lighter and warmer evenings – so we can be outside. I must make a particular mention and express huge thanks to Len & Issy Smith who have led the group – which is available to youth across the Benefice - and put so much energy into planning evenings and events.

How does this relate to Growing in God? - Growing Younger

Alpha: Alpha is a course known internationally, based upon an 11-week series using good quality thought provoking videos followed by open conversation. Alpha is intended particularly to be suitable for those either with no current faith, or new to faith, but is also excellent for those of us who have been in the church for a while and want to ask the big questions in life in a Christian context.

We have two groups running at the time of writing – Tuesday mornings and Wednesday evenings, with fifteen people meeting over the two separate sessions.

How does this relate to Growing in God? - Growing Deeper (in faith/understanding) and Growing in Number (although it needs to be stressed that Alpha does not presume that those attending must change their view of or adhere to any faith as a result. That clearly is the choice of the individual).

Morning prayer: this has been an absolute joy for me, as each Thursday morning, a small, but faithful core group, regularly added to by others, gather together to pray for one hour at the rectory – always with a tea or coffee served – and even sometimes pastries!

Using the CofE Morning prayer, we pray together, share scripture readings, and in a freer time of open prayer – pray for each other (*in the room* prayer) and then for mission (*out of the room*).

I am also mindful that a small but faithful group also meet each Saturday morning at St. Michaels Brantham to pray for half an hour and have sought God’s will to be done.

The truth is, that without prayer, nothing else we do is likely to be fruitful, or indeed to ‘grow’. For some reason God invites us into relational interaction and to join him in seeking his Kingdom to come through prayer. This [Thursday] group is therefore a real joy – and I am so very grateful for all who give up this hour each week, and indeed the folk who met to pray each Saturday morning.

How does this relate to Growing in God? - everything – nothing – growing deeper, younger, in influence or number is likely without prayer.

Safeguarding: I am very grateful to all four parish safeguarding Officers for their willingness to take on this incredibly vital and central role.

The national church has sadly found itself in some deeply sad and tragic circumstances over recent years, and we must all do all we can to protect everyone in the church and those who we have any contact with from abuse or harm, especially the most vulnerable amongst us, including children.

To support this vital work, I am now meeting with the four safeguarding offices termly as a group, so that together we can share good practice, enhance our individual and corporate understanding of safeguarding and ultimately do all we can to protect all those we are called to love from harm.

How does this relate to Growing in God? - 'growing in influence' – by ensuring that our churches are the safest places we can achieve. In fact, safeguarding is foundational to every part of our Growing in God and ministry.

Growth Group: this year we also established our first growth group; a group of people meeting once a week in a home setting, for fellowship, laughter, supporting one another in prayer and practically, and having time to study the Bible together.

It is my hope that more Growth Groups will be formed as we journey ahead together, so that we can grow deeper in faith and fellowship as a benefice.

How does this relate to Growing in God? - 'growing deeper'.

The Gathering: well, this one is a bit of a *stop press* entry; as the first 'Gathering' was only this month. The Gathering is simply a time of some gifted musicians from the East Bergholt congregation, joined by Rachel and me, leading a time of sung worship played in a contemporary style.

On the first occasion 20 folk gathered, enjoying the sung worship, a short address/reflection in a more conversational style, and fellowship with tea & cake.

Based at the West End, St. Mary's, East Bergholt, and facilitated and led by the East Bergholt musicians, this is offered as a Benefice opportunity to worship; particularly, but not exclusively, with the young [*at heart*] in mind, or indeed those who prefer contemporary styles of worshipping.

How does this relate to Growing in God? - Growing in number/growing deeper/growing younger

Media and communication: for the last six months I have been preparing a weekly blog (most weeks) which is circulated to all those who receive the weekly Pew Sheet. My hope has been to encourage and inform, to highlight some of the things which are happening and to share biblically based reflections. In addition, I have been actively seeking to provide a regular article to all four parish magazines.

How does this relate to Growing in God? - growing in influence/growing deeper.

Working towards Benefice: several supporting decisions have been actioned in the last year to reflect our formation into a new four parish benefice. The first is that the 'wider ministry team' meet bi-monthly to discuss ministry matters. This team comprised of Lay Elders, Wardens, Readers and Clergy. And on the alternate months the Wardens meet with me as an interim *Benefice Council**. Naturally the PCCs in each parish still conduct much of the day to day running of the parish churches, and much vital work.

*The formation of a Benefice Council is in preparation to the formal and legal formation of the Benefice, which is yet to be concluded.

I reach the end of this report very mindful that it is impossible to reflect fully everything which the last year has held, either for the Benefice, individual Parishes, or Rachel and myself. I hope you can see that I have sought to present an *overview* of the key aspects of the work I have personally been

involved in as Rector, rather than prepare a report covering the whole life of the church – others will be preparing specific topical reports too, and whilst I have not sought to embrace everything that happens in the benefice which I have not had a personal involvement in, for instance: lunches, Men's breakfasts, Lent Groups, major fundraising initiatives such as the Lottery bid at East Bergholt (Fiona and Jackie what energy you have invested – thank you so much!!), concerts and shows, Easter bonnet competitions, teddy bear parachute jumps, walk and chalk, wonderful Pioneer/family at church joint services in the Rectory garden. The list goes on and on – and the more I allow time to write, the more I am amazed at how much we together are doing and achieving – and please forgive me for the many, many, activities and acts of service I have not mentioned specifically – but please know, I really value what you each do – seen and unseen.

So, thank you. I hope this, my first Rector's report at Constable Country Benefice, provides a suitable overview, and specifically highlights some of what is new, which will hopefully either prepare us, or already be helping us to 'Grow in God' together in the years to come – God willing.

God bless you all

Rev. Chris Willis – Rector

Electoral Roll

Every six years we are legally expected to completely revise the electoral roll. 2025 is such a year. Thank you to everyone who has completed a form again. Precise details of numbers on this year's Electoral Roll will be shared at the APCM.



*Fiona Trott
Electoral Roll Officer*

Proceedings of the East Bergholt PCC

During 2024 the EB PCC held a total of nine meetings including the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (two of which were held virtually). On average, there were 10 members present at each of these meetings. The items discussed at the meetings covered a wide variety of areas which included: supporting Chris in his new ministry and reviewing the new service patterns and services; obtaining funds from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for roof repairs; reviewing the church policies; applying for various national church funding opportunities such as Give to Go Green and the minor building repairs grant; keeping the church in a sound financial position; and a wealth of issues covering the upkeep of the fabric of the church.

Discussions at the PCC meetings continued to be carried out in a friendly, constructive, diligent and supportive manner, and there was a genuine spirit of cooperation and a wish to do the best for the benefice.

We would like to send our thanks to Steve for all his dedicated work as minute secretary.

On behalf of the PCC Minutes Secretary

Take a Break coffee mornings (“knit and knatter”)

Take a Break coffee mornings (incorporating “Knit and Knatter”) continue to run on the first Wednesday of the month from 10.00-12.00 am. This was changed from the last Wednesday in the month to follow on from communion, enabling people to stay on for a coffee if they wish.

Numbers usually range from 6-12 people with both men and women attending. Several people bring their knitting to do during the morning. Occasionally coaches/people holidaying in the area visit the church and come in for coffee and cake.

Sue Basted

Treasurer’s Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

General Fund

The General Fund income has recovered a little after last year’s fall to the lowest since I have been treasurer. It is still about 10% lower than pre covid levels.

- Due to a reduction in the number of services one off giving and collections are down.
- Donations have recovered slightly.
- Income from the bookstall has once again seen a marginal increase.
- The PCC continues to cut costs wherever possible.
- Largest expense continues to be the Parish Share, although we are benefitting from a significant reduction since joining with Bentley and Tattingstone.

We prepare our accounts on a receipts and payments basis, which means that accruals and adjustments are not required. However, this can result in timing differences and affects areas such as utility bills, oil, printing costs, special collections etc.

New Benefice

This is continuing to work well, with agreement easily reached on joint costs such as Secretary, printing and office costs. For the Parish Share allocation, the benefice has started to use a new system to calculate each churches share, Initial drop for East Bergholt was from £53,000 to just over £38,600 for 2024. This has continued to drop and will be £36,500 for 2025. By 2026 we will have fully migrated onto the new system.

Magazine

The magazine account has turned a profit once again this year. This resulted in a total of £2,000 being transferred to the General Fund during this financial year. The PCC is extremely grateful for all the hard work undertaken by the Magazine Committee. There are currently outstanding costs of one month’s commission and after allowing for this cost the balance is just over £5,000. Very similar to 2023. The cost of advertising was increased after staying steady for 5 years, this has had a limited effect on the total number of adverts being placed. The committee is facing issues over finding new people willing to deliver the magazines and are looking to recruit, especially from the new houses, so the expanding village can be accommodated by deliveries of the parish magazine. No monies are transferred to the General Fund without consulting the Magazine Committee.

Roof Fund

This fund was started in July 2019 and the first expenses were paid out in December 2019. Charity Fundraising Ltd is the company who provided the invaluable expertise and support for us to be successful in our Lottery Bid. The Malschinger Endowment is held by the Diocese, and they allowed the PCC to draw £100,000 to the Roof Fund, and so far, £10,000 has been drawn down. This will have an impact on investment income for the General fund going forward. The decision was taken to restart the record for the Roof Fund from June 2024, for clarity. You will see both records on page 6 of the accounts but going forward only the new record will be reported.

Bell Cage

Bell cage donations appear up, partly due to some generous donations from visiting towers. Thank you to the ringers for agreeing to pay their own Bell Ringers Guild Subscriptions. The Bell cage monitor continues to be used regularly by visitors.

Parish Share

This is our largest single annual expense. This year, there continued to be little flexibility in our finance. Although after careful finance management, we were able to pay £31,300 of the requested £38,126 (2023 we paid £30,250 of £53,067). The Diocese has continued to be kept informed. The PCC also continue to look at reducing outgoings and making savings wherever possible. The new system as detailed above will help East Bergholt pay a larger percentage of its share going forward. The request for 2025 is £36,500.

Preservation Society

Once again, the Preservation Society has been on hand to help with minor works, and this support continues to be invaluable to keep out beautiful grade 1 listed church in good repair. This is a separate charity and is not connected to or run by the PCC.

Various

Investments are included at cost, but their market value remains in significant excess of cost. They provide a crucial regular income stream throughout the year.

Assets are stated as £141,527 (2023: £138,991) but would be higher if the market value of investments were shown. After taking into account all designated and restricted funds, and all known liabilities, the monies that are free for use stand at £5,700 (2023: £5,050).

We were able to draw down £500 from the East End Mission Hall charity to keep for the youth group. This is a separate charity for which East Bergholt PCC are the trustees. Investment income only, is available to spend on youth work within East Bergholt. This fund is held by the Diocese.

Close

Once again, this year as treasurer, has not been without its challenges. I would like to offer my sincere and grateful thanks to Fiona Trott, Sarah Southgate and now Jackie Reeves, who have been unfailing in their help and support. Also, to the PCC, who have taken difficult decisions and approved my recommendations during another problematic year for church finances.

Lesley Cherry
Hon Treasurer

East Bergholt PCC Accounts

East Bergholt PCC accounts	For the Year End	
	2024	2023
INCOME		
Restricted P S Donations	£0.00 *	£1,653.58
Planned giving/PGS	£24,006.61	£24,439.04
Gift Aid	£8,817.90	£9,896.83
Collections	£3,936.36	£4,320.05
Donations	£8,069.37	£5,181.38
Restricted Donations	£1,706.86	£3,064.99
Matt/Calendars	£1,252.27	£1,006.27
Take a break	£596.34	£80.40
Fundraising Roof	£144.13	£50.00
Ed/Train	£0.00	£0.00
Toddlers	£182.75	£167.10
Choir	£0.00	£0.00
Shared Benefice exp	£5,696.30	£5,282.39 **
Bookstall	£1,722.91	£1,558.25
Bell Cage	£196.94	£147.46
Diocesan Fees	£431.20	£869.00
PCC fees	£1,476.00	£2,170.00
Non-Stat Fees	£2,295.00	£2,166.60
Refreshments	£682.22	£196.60
Heating	£775.00	£665.00
Investment Income/Dividends	£2,329.40	£2,442.86
Roof Donations	£15,036.29	£2,196.33
Mission Hall	£500.00	£5,000.00 ***
Flower Fund	£0.00	£0.00
Special Collections	£247.90	£765.50
Transfer from Magazine A/C	£2,000.00	£2,000.00
Misc	£222.00	£14.00
Misc Restricted	£1,180.15	£6,977.41
Easy Fundraising/ Amazon	£213.57	£229.80
Fundraising other bodies	£1,400.00	£1,802.74
jazz concert	£214.75	£1,217.13
G2GG	£4,450.77	£0.00
50/50	£0.00	£572.00
Total Income	£89,782.99	£86,132.71

*Monies generously donated from Preservation Society have all gone into the Roof account

**Also includes Honoraria

*** In 2023 this was spent on Coronation celebrations at East End. In 2024 the monies are being held for youth work.

East Bergholt PCC accounts	For the Year End	
	2024	2024
EXPENDITURE		
Parish Share	£31,300.00	£30,250.00
Deanery Levy	£0.00	£0.00
Clergy exp	£284.91	£999.89
Church run costs	£7,601.61	£8,665.48
Cost of services	£378.32	£281.98
Admin costs	£1,838.06	£1,494.45
Administrator Honoraria	£9,102.26	£7,460.91
Cleaning honoraria	£1,477.50	£1,295.00
Organ	£0.00	£186.00
Director of Music/non stat	£5,965.00	£4,784.00
Toddlers/Youth work	£30.00	£142.00
Fundraising and 50/50	£578.73	£828.40
Maintenance/Repairs	£570.83	£5,733.56
Bookstall	£192.61	£393.76
Tea/coffee kitchen	£204.21	£172.94
Mission Hall	£0.00	£5,026.04
Diocesan fees	£441.00	£734.00
Non stat fees	£1,075.00	£906.60
Donations	£0.00	£0.00
Special collections sent	£302.90	£630.50
Flower fund	£159.95	£281.85
Split costs Benefice	£763.15	£2,527.12
Misc	£1,941.74	£9,256.88
Bell cage	£228.00	£428.00
Insurance	£4,788.02	£4,148.08
Roof	£13,787.61	£7,642.95
Loan repayment	£1,800.00	£1,800.00
G2GG	£739.50	
Xmas Market	£960.00	
Total Expenditure	£86,510.91	£96,070.39

*Now we have a Priest in Charge, the sundry expenses have reduced, however with four churches and the increase in the hourly rate, Administrator costs have increased.

**This was larger in 2023 as the account received a lot of money towards Steph leaving present etc.

East Bergholt PCC Magazine Account

	For the year end 2024	2023
INCOME		
Adverts	£17,723.70	£16,439.00
error payment	£1,625.00	£0.00
TOTAL INCOME	£19,348.70	£16,439.00
EXPENDITURE		
Transfer to General Fund	£2,000.00	£2,000.00
Compiler Honoraria	£1,862.70	£1,832.10
Admin	£28.25	£0.00
Advertising Commission	£1,784.95	£1,483.92
printing	£13,235.00	£14,154.00
Error payment refund	£1,625.00	£0.00
Total Expenditure	£20,535.90	£19,470.02

East Bergholt Parochial Church Council

Monitory Assets 31st December 2024

	2024	2023
General Fund Barclays	£13,800.00	£10,528.00
Suffolk Building Society	£14,416.00	£13,964.00
Magazine Account	£5,041.00	£6,229.00
Malschinger at cost	£92,742.00	£92,742.00
CBF/Black Rock at cost	£15,528.00	£15,528.00
TOTAL	£141,527.00	£138,991.00

Approved by the Parochial Church Council

Date 23/1/25

Signed on behalf
by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Trott', written over a horizontal line.

Fiona Trott
PCC Chairman

Investments	number of shares held	Cost per share	Total cost £	market value	
				2024 £	2023 £
Paskell Fund					
CBF Investment Fund (CCLA)	1010	6.54	6606	23354	22831
Charishares BlackRock Malschinger Investments (DBF)	3665	2.09	7660	27444	26698
Account 133001323S	2517	13.01	32742	48132	56894
Account 133001002J	3205	18.72	60000	201163	191392
			Total	300093	297815

Mission Hall Trust (DBF) *			1262	2166	2600
*Separate charity for youth work in East Bergholt only					

Statement of Designated and Restricted Funds

Name of Fund	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds		Endowment	Total	
		Designated	Undesignated		2024	2023
Flower	£1,003.00				£1,003.00	£1,163.00
Roof	£16,997.00				£16,997.00	£6,803.00
Paskell				£23,354.00	£23,354.00	£22,831.00
Malschinger *				£249,295.00	£249,295.00	£248,286.00
Altar		£0.00			£0.00	£10,000.00
Toddlers	£0.00				£0.00	£30.00
Black Rock			£27,444.00		£27,444.00	£26,698.00
Mission Hall	£500.00				£500.00	£0.00
				Total	£318,593.00	£315,811.00

* Monies held by Diocese and can only be used under strict Criteria, drawn £10,000 of the £100,000 allowance towards the roof

** This money has been redesignated to the roof account to be spent on a specific project.

ROOF Account year end 2024

Income from July 2019

Roof Tiles	£492.50
Fundraising	£10,117.61
Donations	£12,526.93
Cake Sales	£130.50
Parish giving	£70.54
Garden Tours	£499.00
Grants	£7,250.00
Preservations	
Society	£65,301.16
Matt Sales	£4,422.98
Funeral Collections	£341.81
DCMS Vat reclaims	£14,272.84
Gift aid	£2,481.79

Total Income

£117,907.66

Expenditure from Dec 2019

Charity Fund Ltd	£19,444.80
Architect Fees	£21,865.18
Lead Repair	£1,368.00
Bat Surveys	£4,435.80
Quantity Surveyor	£600.00
Scaffold Sensors and Insurance	£2,423.31
Universal Stone	£62,684.17
Matt Costs	£2,082.45
Solicitor Fees	£264.00
Lottery Bid Architect	£1,388.89

Total Expenditure

£116,556.60

Balance to take forward to new account

£1,351.06

New LOTTERY ROOF Account

Total Income

B/F	£1,351.06
Malschinger	£10,000.00
Donations	£10,436.69
VAT reclaim	£958.00

*

Total

£22,745.75

Total Expenditure

Press and Starkey	£600.00
Architect fees	£5,148.68

Total

£5,748.68

Balance 31/12/24 £16,997.07

*Includes the £10,000 redesignated from the Altar.

Independent Examiner's report

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY'S, EAST BERGHOLT

I report on the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 as set out on pages 1 to 6.

This report is made solely to members of the Parochial Church Council as a body, in accordance with the section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Parochial Church Council those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Church and the Church's members as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the Parochial Church Council and Independent Examiner

The Parochial Church Council are responsible for the preparation of financial statements. The Parochial Church Council consider that an audit is not required for the year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

- a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
- b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.


Britt Evans AAT
Rookery Cottage, Gaston Street,
East Bergholt, Colchester

.....13/01/2025.....
Date

Safeguarding

With the reorganisation of the Benefice in 2024 amongst the many changes was the idea that each church within the Benefice should have its own Parish Safeguarding Office, so the Brantham post was created and has been filled by Issy Smith, leaving me to focus on East Bergholt matters.

The main thrust in recent months has been to begin the process of updating the records for St Mary's both in terms of Safeguarding training and in seeking clarity of those with DBS checks. This rather laborious process has not yet been completed but should be done by the end of May. A Safeguarding training session is booked for September and will be held in the West End. Also, time will be set aside in an upcoming PCC meeting to spotlight recent developments and opportunities for further training.

In January the first quarterly meeting of the four Parish Safeguarding Officers took place in the rectory. All who were present found a degree of benefit from this new initiative of Rev Chris. It was certainly good to share views and experiences. The next session is scheduled for the end of April.

In conclusion I am pleased to report that no Safeguarding issues have been brought to my attention in the past twelve months. I should add that this might prove to be very different in the next five years as we will all need to be aware that with the many comings and goings in the church the profile of Safeguarding will become a much broader issue.

Howard Holdsworth
Parish Safeguarding Officer

Samford Deanery Synod & Group Council

Our synod reps are Sarah Southgate, Chris and Koshy Jacob. Rev Jenny Seggar is our Rural Dean. Jeanette Appleton is the Deanery's Lay representative on General Synod and provides in person or written reports of relevant General Synod gatherings as appropriate.

28 February, St Mary's, Capel St Mary

Guest speakers for this meeting were Edward Creasey, Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance and Gary Peverley, Diocesan Secretary, who spoke about their roles within the Diocese.

Pastoral Reorganisation

At this meeting Rev Chris' appointment had been confirmed and Jenny Seggar gave a brief update on this and the current position on the North Samford vacancy, for which our on-going prayers were requested. The meeting endorsed Jenny's heartfelt thanks to our retired clergy for all their hard work during the vacancies.

Wedding Preparation Day

This annual Deanery event took place on Saturday 3 February at Capel St Mary. This was a morning event, followed by lunch and a chance to talk with clergy members. Once again, the feedback was very positive.

The Archdeacon's Visitation took place on 13 June at St Andrew's, Chelmondiston.

9 July, St Peter's, Copdock

Presentation and discussion on Wellbeing in Ministry - "The Church of England Covenant for the Care and Well-being of Clergy" - This item was led by Jenny and the following were among specific points noted during the group discussions:

- 1) Clergy burnout – lack of awareness?
- 2) Challenges experienced by single parish priests
- 3) Lone working – appropriate policies to be followed for pastoral visits etc
- 4) Difficulties in taking proper time-off
- 5) Abusive emails, rudeness
- 6) Applies to ordained and lay ministers

Jenny concluded by asking Synod representative to include this matter on their PCC agendas.

Pastoral Reorganisation

Revd Natalie West's appointment as Priest-in-Charge for North Samford and Mission Enabler will be confirmed at the end of September. The required Pastoral Measure will be enacted in due course.

9 October, St Mary's East Bergholt

At this meeting we heard updates from around the Deanery. It was interesting and informative to hear of the challenges and opportunities within each benefice. Rev Chris gave the update on behalf of Constable Country Benefice.

Parish levy

After a three-year break from contributing to the Deanery budget it was agreed that a £15 levy would be requested from each parish towards the ongoing costs of the Deanery.

Gill Forsyth and Julie Fermor - St Michael's Brantham Deanery reps

Churchwardens

2024 was a year of change. A change in churchwarden; a change in Rector and changes in service patterns. Lots of exciting new developments too to keep us on our toes and keep us from twiddling our thumbs!

It has been a great blessing throughout the year to continue working so harmoniously with the other three churches in the benefice. There was obviously a lot of praying, planning and overseeing for all the changes necessary to welcome Chris (and Rachel) as our new Rector in March. The first part of the year was organising the licensing service; then subsequently carefully and prayerfully making the changes that were needed in the ways the four parishes worshipped, made decisions and supported Chris in his new ministry among us. Change can sometimes be unsettling, so we have tried to support those who have found the transition more difficult and ensure that everyone realises the implications of having four churches not two – not just within St Mary's but also in the community at large. Chris was very supportive in initially observing what was "normal" at St Mary's before presenting ideas as to how we might consider "doing" things differently.

Change can present the opportunity to try different things. One of the main changes this year has been to introduce a new service (called Connect) on the first Sunday of the month, when all four church communities meet to worship together. A new service format was planned that was used across all four churches, aimed at mixing the traditional with new ways to worship. St Mary's has hosted two of these Connect services which have been very well received. A new regular service pattern was also developed for each Sunday in the month, offering a range of communion and family worship.

Some things of course do not change! We celebrated all the seasonal festivals throughout the year in the usual way. There were slight changes to the Christmas Eve schedule of services which in the main went well. Christmas is always a great time to welcome the village into St Mary's, be it to the range of our church services, the nursery nativities, the High School carol service, the WI and Mothers Union. We took the opportunity to post welcome cards with the Christmas service times to the newly occupied houses on the new developments. We hope to do more welcoming in the new year.

Another major change that will affect our church for at least three years was the Lottery project. After four years of preparing, delays thanks to COVID and changes to the Lottery funding criteria, we finally submitted our bid in May and heard in October that we had been unanimously successful. We are very excited and very daunted in equal measure as it will involve a lot of work to ensure that we get through the development phase successfully before applying to embark on the actual building work.

Not content with the extensive lottery workload, we also applied successfully to the national church for funds – one for environmental projects and the other for minor repairs to prevent further building decay. The Give to Go Green initiative in September ensured that after many years of wanting to but not having the necessary funds, money was raised to hang draft excluding curtains in the porch and West End to help prevent drafts. (They are already making a huge difference!) We organised seven concerts in six weeks to qualify for match funding – which we achieved! The minor repairs grant will allow us to make necessary repairs to the north chancel roof in the new year. We also had a heating survey done of the church which will hopefully shape decisions once the lottery project design gets started.

One spin off from the Give to Go Green events was the men's breakfast. This provided a great opportunity for fellowship and was so successful that it is now a regular church event every alternate month, with guest speakers organised well into 2025. Another successful series was the Advent lunches – soup and a roll with a seasonal reflection. An appreciated chance to spend getting to know each other better, which will be repeated during Lent.

We continued to work closely with the local schools – for example giving a talk to the Year 5s about the church architecture; the Parish Council, who maintain the churchyard; the Preservation Society to whom we are so grateful for their financial support in fabric repair costs; liaising with SVAM for hosting their concerts in church; local tour guides who have brought countless visitors during the year to see our beautiful church. We ensured that the church was represented at school and village events, such as the successful Summer Fair. Sadly, the weather put pay to the Christmas Parade and Market, so our infamous float will have to wait another year! Such a shame after all the hard work that had been done by the organisers.

So much time freely given by so many volunteers! We would like to finish our report by thanking and paying tribute to all the hours that have been spent over the last 12 months by an amazing team of people. They quietly get on with their duties and responsibilities in order that the church operates like clockwork – well for most of the time! St Mary's would not survive without them, and we would like to thank them all, but in particular our diligent team of Deputy Church Wardens who have supported us throughout. Here's to doing it all again next year – but with the added "fun" of the Lottery!

Fiona Trott and Jackie Reeves
Churchwardens

Mothers' Union

Mothers' Union is about supporting marriage and family life, through being part of a worldwide fellowship of over 4 million members. Our branch has members from both the parishes of St Mary's East Bergholt and St Michael Brantham.

Mothers' Union members live out the verses of Matthew 25 v 36-40 through several activities and by the gifts they have given, which has in the past year enabled us to reach over 1,000 people, here in our parishes as well as across the diocese. Whether it was by the various craft activities we undertook, including the very successful Christmas card workshop making cards for the prisoners of HMP Highpoint. Baby clothing and tiny pillowcases made and given to the Ipswich neonatal unit. So pleased are the hospital with the quality of our work and for the knowledge that our members have who have worked in similar neonatal units, that we are now consulted when they find themselves unable to source textile items for the neonatal unit. We also donate wash bags for the adult wards and make drain bag covers for the oncology unit.

We have raised funds to support various diocesan and overseas projects and used our funds to buy gifts of faith themed books for the children in our churches, baptism cards, wedding cards and a gift of our 'For Better For worse' book for those getting married in our benefice. Members of our branch are part of the Open the Book team that visits East Bergholt Primary School and they also help at the Manningtree Foodbank.

We have had ten monthly meetings each year where we have enjoyed fellowship and worship and learnt much from those who came to speak to us. We have welcome new members again this year and now have the opportunity to welcome Friends of Mothers' Union as a new way of joining Mothers' Union.

A number of our branch have attended various diocesan events and services and supported diocesan fund-raising events including the Ipswich Area coffee morning, held at St Michael's Martlesham.

Our treasurer Rob Shackleton has taken on an extra role as Diocesan bookkeeper for Mothers' Union and we are very grateful for the way he looks after our branch accounts. Jeanette is standing down from the branch committee as she has taken on the role of Diocesan President for the next three years.

In 2025 we look forward to welcoming members from Tattingstone and Bentley parishes to add to our growing branch which will then better reflect the new benefice of Constable Churches.

Jeanette Appleton, Janet Ball,
Jenny Chapman and Chris Jacob
East Bergholt and Brantham Mothers' Union

Bell Ringers

This report covers 12 months from January to December 2024. It contains the information as specified in the Ringers' handbook.



Named ringers

Ringer	Attendances	Ringer	Attendances
Terry Eagle (Captain)	78	Martin Digby	45
Julia Smith (Vice Captain)	78	George Harris	8*
Thomas Bryant	43	Rachel Lewis	79
Neil Culham	70	Steve Feeney	72

*Noted that this is below the minimum number of rings per year for insurance purposes. George has been reminded that he needs to attend at least 12 times per year.

Approved Learners

Ringer	Attendances
Keith Durrant	10

Ringling has been consistent through the year with Steve Feeney being signed off as a full ringer in August. Alison Ruffell (nee Reeves) did not return to continue ringing. A new ringer, Keith Durrant joined us in August, and we managed to get to the point of pushing a bell over with the clapper tied before practice finished. This has enabled Keith to continue to 'practice' ringing no 3 bell with the clapper tied in between the Sunday rings to keep his hand in over the winter.

There were no changes to the handbook in this year.

We have a regular band of eight ringers so have managed to complete the majority of rings this year with all five bells, which we are very pleased about. We also started teaching the newer ringers to do '1 round' and hope to progress to a '2 round' during 2025. We have space for another new learner or two.

During the current year, we have rung for one wedding; three demonstrations; two funerals; the licensing of the new vicar; the 80th anniversary of D-Day; a half-muffled ring for Remembrance and the usual rings at Christmas and New Year.

Issues dealt with in 2024

1. Pigeons nested twice inside the roof again. Nests were removed on both occasions. This requires ongoing monitoring.
2. Tiles on the roof were replaced as some broken ones have fallen off
3. Door lock sometimes stiff in wet weather – this is ongoing
4. New bulb replaced in the spotlight above no 3 bell

Issues outstanding

1. Gutters to be cleared especially at the back of the cage bordering the allotments

Terry Eagle
Captain of Bells

Flower Arrangers

2024 was a business-as-usual year which is not to belittle the considerable amount of time and commitment put in by the Flower Arranging Team. There were arrangements throughout the year, with the exception of Lent and we observed Easter, the Patronal Festival, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas by decorating the entire church.

The allotment continues to develop with another bed being brought into action in which we grew some annuals in addition to the dahlias which did very well. The plot that we have is almost completely cleared; it has been a challenging task since there is a lot of rubbish, including broken glass, under a mass of weeds.

We have also set up a dedicated flower Gmail account stmarysebflowers@gmail.com to facilitate floral communication meaning that Sophie and I can both access and attend to mail.

Sophie and Rachel met with Caryl Smith at the end of the year to discuss plans for the Tower 500 Festival planned for 2025. We replicated the wreath making session at the end of the year which was a productive social activity and a fitting end to 2024.

Rachael Lewis

On behalf of the Flower arrangers

Foundation Governors

“I have come that they might have life, and have it to the full,” John 10:10

East Bergholt CEVC Primary School continues to be a vibrant and nurturing community where children are encouraged to learn, grow and thrive in a safe, happy and inclusive environment. The school is deeply committed to its Christian ethos, ensuring every child feels valued and supported as part of a caring community.

The school enjoys a strong and meaningful relationship with St. Mary the Virgin Church, with several memorable events enhancing the spiritual life of the school community. The Harvest Festival, celebrated at the church and led by Reverend Chris, was a joyful occasion of song and thanksgiving. The Christingle service, held at school with contributions from Reverend Chris, Ruth Bull and Nick Pavitt, was a magical moment, with the children’s Christingles lighting up the hall. Remembrance Day was marked with a thoughtful service led by Nick Pavitt, helping children reflect on the importance of remembrance and peace.

In December, the whole school came together for a beautiful Carol Concert at St. Mary’s, led by Reverend Chris, the School Ambassadors and Faith Councillors. The church was filled with music and celebration, creating a true sense of community. Nativity performances at school were equally special, with children bringing the Christmas story to life for their families.

This year’s inclusion assemblies have played a key role in reinforcing the school’s Christian values, particularly in promoting the importance of understanding and celebrating differences. One notable assembly featured a Paralympic Power Lifting silver medallist, who shared her powerful story of resilience and achievement, inspiring and motivating pupils. Through these assemblies, the school encourages pupils to embrace diversity, fostering a sense of belonging and community. The school’s

commitment to these values is further reflected in staff training on the 'No Outsiders' programme, which nurtures tolerance and equips children with the skills to live as active, compassionate citizens in modern Britain.

This year has been filled with enriching opportunities that reflect the school's Christian vision, "I have come that they might have life and live it to the full" (John 10:10). Rock Steady band lessons have inspired pupils to perform for peers and parents, while October's Curriculum WOW Day saw classrooms transform into different countries, allowing pupils to explore global cultures. A visit from Little City gave younger pupils the chance to role-play in a child-sized city, fostering creativity and teamwork. Year 5 pupils also delighted families with a ukulele performance, showcasing the joy of music and learning. These opportunities help pupils live life to the full, nurturing their talents and imagination.

Family assemblies allowed parents to witness their children's achievements firsthand, while the Beauty and the Beast pantomime, funded by the PFA, brought joy and laughter to all. Events like Anti-Bullying Week, Diabetes Day, and Children in Need taught pupils the importance of compassion and community responsibility, nurturing their sense of empathy. Sport, a cornerstone of school life, has provided pupils with opportunities for participation and enjoyment in activities such as football, cross country, bowling, dodgeball, and the festive Christmas Cracker event. The inclusive approach to these activities ensures every child is encouraged to take part, celebrate their achievements, and build teamwork and confidence, helping them to live life to the full.

The PFA has played a vital role in enriching school life, organising events like cake sales, a Winter Disco, and a Christmas Market, all of which reflect our Christian values of community and generosity. Children enjoyed visiting Santa Claus in his teepee, and the funds raised continue to enhance educational opportunities, helping pupils live life to the full.

A recent online safety event supported families in navigating the challenges of children being online, fostering a spirit of care and responsibility. Parents' Evenings ensured that families remain informed about their children's learning, and Afternoon Tea in November deepened the school's bond with parents.

Governors, inspired by the school's Christian ethos, remain actively engaged in the life of the school, attending training sessions and participating in a Governor Open Day, where they observed classroom activities and shared lunch with pupils. Their involvement strengthens the link between the school and the church community.

The recent Ofsted inspection affirmed the school's 'Good' rating, a testament to the hard work of staff and leadership, all grounded in Christian principles. The school's commitment to its Christian values is also evident through collaboration with local schools in the SLIN network and a wellbeing committee supporting staff. As we look ahead to the possible SIAMS inspection in 2025/26, the school continues to thrive as a beacon of learning, community, and joy, with Christ at the centre of all it does.

For more updates and news, please visit the school website: <https://www.eastbergholt-pri.suffolk.sch.uk/>.

Report compiled by Clare Sampson (Headteacher)

East Bergholt Parish Magazine

The monthly parish magazine continues to provide all residents of East Bergholt with useful information and entertaining reads. It includes not only church-related content (such as news from St. Mary's and local churches of other denominations, as well as a calendar of the month's Church of England services) but also updates from numerous local organisations (sporting, cultural, community, and government); articles of general interest from members of the community; and local information listings. Advertising, meanwhile, not only pays to produce the magazine and makes a net contribution to church funds but is also valuable to readers in itself. In the last year we have slightly increased the advertising rates, for the first time in five years, with very little loss of advertisers as a result. We have also started distributing the magazine to the residents of the new homes recently built in the village, and for many it will be one of their first sources of insight into East Bergholt life. The magazine is also an important vehicle for communicating the progress of current initiatives at St. Mary's, such as Tower 500 and the Lottery funding.

Barnaby Page – Editor

Open the Book

The Open the Book team has gone from strength to strength this year. We managed to recruit Rev Chris – who was unaware of what he was letting himself in for! We have also been joined recently by Angela Edwards who volunteered herself - which is great. The team now comprises 9 regulars with the current churchwardens standing in the wings if needed, making a total of 11. This means that we can cope when one or two are not able to attend.

We have been going into school roughly once a month and impressing the children and staff with our acting skills! Well, maybe not, but they all seem to enjoy our stories and our first century costumes. Talking of which, if anyone is handy with a sewing machine and would like to knock up some children or adult tabards from old sheets (or other) – then we would be delighted to hear from you! The costumes really help to bring a story to life and the children love dressing up and taking part.

If you would like to join in with this important ministry, please just let one of the team know and we can explain how it all works – it would be good to welcome a couple more men to balance up our numbers. Also, you can join in with this important ministry by praying for all the children and staff in the school.



There is now a generation of children growing up who will not hear the bible being read and will not hear any bible stories unless it is through the school.

Please note the wonderful beards!



Thank you to Jeanette Appleton for knitting these.

Ruth Bull (Team leader), Dianne Willett, Wendy Withers, Richard Appleton, Chris Jacob, Susan Shepherd, Roy Seden, Rev Chris and Angela Edwards

Toddlers Group

Our group has continued to flourish this year, and we welcomed many new families to both our group and the village. We meet fortnightly on a Friday morning, and we finished each term with a special event, an Easter Egg hunt in Spring, our Teddy Bear's picnic in the summer and our Christmas party in December. We are very grateful to the Mother's Union who have continued to financially support these events.

The Easter Egg hunt was enjoyed by a number of little ones. Chocolate eggs and fluffy toy chicks had been hidden in the church, and it was an opportunity for many of them to explore our beautiful church. We hope they found them all, but I am sure if not, members of the congregation would have been pleased to find something chocolatey during the Sunday service!

Sadly, our Teddy Bear's picnic had to be moved indoors due to a very cold July day. However, we did manage to join hands for our Toddler Group Prayer outside and at the same time welcome Rev Chris to our group. The children had fun finding football related clothes hidden in the church for Large Marge (Liz's enormous teddy), who was packing her case for the Euros. She soon had a full case and an England shirt to wear and a football to kick around. After all the games, the children enjoyed their picnic. We all had a wonderful time, even though we were unable to sit outside.

Our Christmas party was very well attended, and each child was given a small gift from Mother Christmas on their way home. It was lovely to see so many excited faces enjoying themselves.

2025 brings a few changes to the group. The Parish Council have been keen for us to run our group on a weekly basis. We are the only baby and toddler group in East Bergholt, and with the new houses being completed, it was felt important to offer something more for the under 5's. The Parish Council have also gladly helped us with the extra cost of heating. We have agreed to trial this until Easter, and we are hoping this weekly group will be a success. Rev Chris will also be regularly joining us just after our snack time to play his guitar and sing some songs with the children, which will be great fun. We are all very excited about these new changes to the group.

Liz Digby, Gill Rattray, Gina Bruce
St Mary's Toddler Group

Family@church



The continuing growth and development of this important mission is a great blessing. However it still needs to be prayed about, to ensure that we are offering appropriate ways for families to worship – both in terms of format and time – and to welcome those moving into the village on the new housing developments.

Our numbers have remained fairly constant, and it is encouraging to sometimes have a similar number at our afternoon services as in the mornings. We have welcomed new families, some from outside the village, and are grateful for the core families who come regularly – despite the increasing calls on family time at the weekend. There have been no special occasions to celebrate this year, so we have been in church each month, with the usual blend of singing, activities, stories and prayers, which includes our family@church sorry song. Each service we finish with a scrummy tea.

None of these services would be possible without a lot of support from a wonderful team of helpers. We are very grateful to everyone who has lent a hand this year: Karen, Gill and Gina who have given invaluable help setting up for services, welcoming our families and helping with activities and storytelling. We have continued to give the children booklets at Easter and Christmas, together with the eggs and advent calendars and we are grateful to Rev Chris for playing his guitar and teaching us new songs!

Thank you!



Liz Digby and Fiona Trott

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2024

St Mary the Virgin, East Bergholt

Sunday, 24th April 2024 immediately after the 10.30am Service

In Attendance: Rev Chris Willis, Fiona Trott (FT) (Chair), Gill Rattray (Minutes Secretary) Jeanette and Richard Appleton, Jean Camp, Lesley Cherry (LC), John Gamlin, Howard (HH) and Marji Holdsworth, Koshy and Chris Jacob, Pat Kemsley, Haven Moss, Geoff Potter, Archie Rattray, Jackie Reeves, Victoria Rothwell, Glen Rowson, Reuben Rushen, Hazel Sinclair, Sarah Southgate, Julie Taylor, Wendy Withers Apologies from Steve Newman, Derek and Joyce Fox, Bridget Hutton, Dorothy Brundell and Martin Huggett	
1	Welcome and Prayers Rev Chris welcomed everyone and opened with a prayer. He then handed over the meeting to FT
2	Minutes of the APCM of 26th March 2023 These were approved by those present.
3	Electoral Roll Report Six members have been removed from the roll this year – two had died, two had moved and two others were no longer worshipping at St Mary's, due to ill health. There have been four new members, giving a current total of 120, which was approved by all present.
4	Report on the proceedings of the PCC FT reported that this has been a particularly busy year for the PCC with an interregnum, changes to the Benefice, appointment of Rev Chris and applying to the Lottery for the roof funding among other challenges. The report was approved by all present.
5	Approve the Treasurer's report and Accounts. FT asked those present if they were happy with the report and whether anyone had any questions for LC. With no questions asked, John Gamlin proposed the adoption of the accounts, which was seconded by Geoff Potter and approved by all present. FT thanked LC for the completion of these in another difficult financial year.
6	Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod This was approved by all present.
7	Safeguarding Report HH reported that 22 people had participated in safeguarding training in September 2023 and received their certificates for this. He also reported that no safeguarding issues had been reported. Rev Chris emphasised the vital importance of this training, as he had experience of the devastating effects of abuse on victims.
8	Election of Churchwardens Fiona Trott (proposed by Derek Fox and Jeanette Appleton) and Jackie Reeves (proposed by Fiona Trott and Erica Donnellan) were elected unanimously as Churchwardens for 2024.
9	Deanery Synod Representatives Koshy Jacob, Chris Jacob and Sarah Southgate were all proposed by Victoria Rothwell and seconded by Lesley Cherry and unanimously elected for the next three years.

10	PCC There were four vacancies for three years, two for two years (now that Jackie Reeves was ex officio) and one for one year. Howard Holdsworth (proposed by Lesley Cherry and Fiona Trott) standing for re-election and Marian Godwin (proposed by Jackie Reeves and Sarah Southgate) were both elected unanimously for three years but still leaving two vacancies for this year. FT stressed the importance of trying to fill these vacancies.
11	Appoint an Independent Examiner Britt Evans has agreed to continue, and her reappointment was approved by all those present.
12	Receive all other reports FT thanked all the group leaders and those involved in the work of the church. All reports were approved and accepted by those present. Rev Chris also thanked all those involved in the Ministry of St Mary's. FT then gave an update on the Lottery funding for the roof repairs. Last November the principles for Lottery funding changed, proving helpful as it now encompasses 'Saving Heritage' as well as community benefits. The bid for the Development Phase has to be submitted by the end of May. There being no further questions, Rev Chris closed the meeting at 11.50 with a brief prayer for the future of our Ministry working together with the other three churches in the Benefice.

Accounts

**St Mary the Virgin, East Bergholt
Annual Report for 2023**

**Annual Meeting to be held
on Sunday 7th April 2024
immediately after Morning Service**



**Annual Parochial Church Meeting of
St Mary the Virgin, East Bergholt
(Benefice of East Bergholt and Brantham)**

St Mary the Virgin, East Bergholt

Incumbent:

Rev Canon Stephne van der Toorn and Guide Dog Canon Coco (Jan - April)
The Rectory
Brantham

May onwards in interregnum

Bank:

Barclays Bank
4 High Street
Manningtree
CO11 1AF

Register of Charities with the Registered Charity Number 1190273

Independent Examiner

Mrs B Evans
Rookery Cottage
Gaston Street
East Bergholt
Colchester
CO7 6SF

Website: [Home | Constable Country Churches](#)

Or via A Church near You: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/2067/>

Find us on Facebook: [facebook.com/stmaryseastbergholt](https://www.facebook.com/stmaryseastbergholt)

St Mary's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@stmaryseastbergholt2137>

THE DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION PRIVACY NOTICE

The information we hold about you in our Church records is only disclosed to those who need to see it for Church purposes. We will send you information related to the Benefice, the Church, the ministry and activities. If you wish to unsubscribe from all or any communications, please let the

Benefice Administrator know at constablecountrychurches@outlook.com

Contents

St Mary the Virgin - East Bergholt PCC 2023-2024	4
Agenda for APCM	5
Electoral Roll	6
Proceedings of the East Bergholt PCC.....	6
Treasurer's Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2023	7
Independent Examiner's	14
Safeguarding	15
Samford Deanery Synod & Group Council	15
Churchwardens	16
Mothers' Union	18
Bell Ringers.....	18
Flower Arrangers.....	19
Foundation Governors	19
East Bergholt Parish Magazine.....	21
Open the Book	21
Toddlers Group	22
Family@church	22
Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2023	23
St. Mary's Church East Bergholt Preservation Society Review of 2023.....	26

St Mary the Virgin - East Bergholt PCC 2024-2025

EX-OFFICIO			
	Fiona Trott	Churchwarden	298205
	Sarah Southgate	Churchwarden	299729
	Sarah Southgate	Deanery Synod Rep	299729
	Chris Jacob	Deanery Synod Rep	298552
	Koshy Jacob	Deanery Synod Rep	285552

ELECTED

TO SEEK RE-ELECTION IN 2024		TO SEEK RE-ELECTION IN 2025		TO SEEK RE-ELECTION IN 2026	
Barry Blomfield	298449	Jackie Reeves	07407 538450	Lesley Cherry	07543 644318
Howard Holdsworth	07970 416249	Glen Rowson	299109	Reuben Rushen	299303
Vacancy		Geoff Potter	07745 536728	Victoria Rothwell	299980
Vacancy		Vacancy		Vacancy	

PCC Chair	Fiona Trott (during interregnum)	298205
PCC Vice Chair	Sarah Southgate (during interregnum)	299729
Minutes Secretary	Steve Newman	07850 505713
PCC Secretary	Michelle Jowers	
Hon Treasurer	Lesley Cherry	07543 644318
Deputy Churchwardens	Lesley Cherry	07543 644318
	Chris Jacob	298552
	Reuben Rushen	299303
	Geoff Potter	07745 536728
	Howard Holdsworth	07970416249
Electoral Roll Officer	Fiona Trott	298205
Benefice Safeguarding Officer	Howard Holdsworth (from July)	07970 416249
Standing Committee (Chair)	Fiona Trott	298205
Standing Committee	Steve Newman (Minutes Secretary)	07850 505713
Standing Committee (Treasurer)	Lesley Cherry	07543 644318
Standing Committee (H&S)	Sarah Southgate	299729
Standing Committee (Wardens)	Fiona Trott	298205
	Sarah Southgate	299729
Lettice Dykes	Simon Rothwell (during interregnum)	299980
	Reuben Rushen	299303
	Ted Wheatley	298102
	Gill Rattray	298380
Preservation Society	Fiona Trott	298205
Foundation Governors	Simon Rothwell	299980
Magazine Committee	John Gamlin	
	Lesley Cherry	07543 644318
Ecumenical Committee	Chris Jacob	298552
Captain of Bells	Terry Eagle	07578 002974

Agenda for APCM

7th April 2024 at St. Mary the Virgin, East Bergholt
Held after the 10:00 service

1. Welcome and Prayers
2. Minutes of the APCM 23rd March 2023
3. Electoral Roll report
4. Report on the proceedings of the PCC
5. Approve the Treasurer's report and accounts
6. Report on the proceedings of Deanery Synod
7. Safeguarding report
8. Elections:
9. Churchwardens
10. Deanery Synod: Three representatives for three years
11. PCC: Four representatives for three years, one for two years and one for one year
12. Appoint an Independent Examiner – Mrs Britt Evans has indicated her willingness to continue
13. Receive all other reports

The PCC will convene at the close of the APCM to elect Officers and deal with any urgent business.

AGENDA FOR PCC MEETING TO FOLLOW THE APCM

Election of PCC Officers

- Chair and Vice Chair
- Minutes Secretary
- PCC Secretary
- Brantham PCC representative
- Hon Treasurer
- Deputy Churchwardens
- Electoral Roll Officer
- Benefice Safeguarding Officer
- Health and Safety
- Standing Committee ((Rector, Vice Chair, Wardens, Health and Safety, and Treasurer)
- Lettice Dykes
- Preservation Society
- Foundation Governors
- Magazine Committee: currently Barnaby Page, Lesley Cherry, Alison Jones, Marion Ralph, John Gamlin
- Ecumenical Committee Representatives

Dates of East Bergholt PCC meetings for 2024: 16th May; 18th July; 19th September; 21st November

Electoral Roll

Precise details of numbers on this year's Electoral Roll will be shared at the APCM, as at the time of writing this report the figures are not known.



Fiona Trott
Electoral Roll Officer

Proceedings of the East Bergholt PCC

2023 has certainly been a year of change in the Benefice: the boundaries of the Benefice have been redefined to now include Tattingstone and Bentley, and renamed the Constable Country Benefice; Rev Canon Stephne van der Toorn has retired which means we have entered an interregnum period; the Parishes of East Bergholt, Brantham, Tattingstone and Bentley have been working together in a friendly and constructive manner to ease the burdens during the interregnum; a new Rector Designate, Reverend Christopher David Willis, has been appointed and will be taking up his position during the first quarter of 2024. We have continued to use the technology, despite some 'challenges', in driving forward the Parish business by using the ZOOM social media platform for PCC meetings on dark, cold winter evenings and the WiFi in the church is now much more stable than it has been.

During 2023 the EB PCC held a total of 8 meetings (1 being the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), 1 joint meeting with Brantham PCC, and 1 held via ZOOM). On average, there were 10 members present at each of these meetings. The items discussed at the meetings covered a wide variety of areas which included: moving the Benefice Office into the church; the form and function of the new Benefice and activities during the interregnum; obtaining funds from the National Lottery for roof repairs; updating various Policies (H&S, Social media, Safeguarding etc.); improving the social media presence of St Mary's; the family@church Coronation weekend at Fields; keeping the church in a sound financial position; the storing of Parish records electronically rather than on paper; and a wealth of issues covering the upkeep of the fabric of the church.

The PCC meetings/discussions continued to be carried out in a friendly, constructive, diligent and supportive manner, and there was a genuine spirit of cooperation and a wish to do the best for the benefice.



Steve Newman
Minutes Secretary

Treasurer's Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

General Fund

The General Fund income is significantly down from 2022, even when you allow for the 50k donations from the preservation society in 2022. This is clearly a significant worry.

- Planned giving has remained stable as are collections.
- Huge drop in donations restricted or otherwise.
- Fundraising has been increased for the general fund to try and offset these drops.
- Income from the bookstall has once again seen a marginal increase.
- The PCC continues to cut costs where ever possible.
- Main costs that have increased, include Wi-Fi, electricity, oil and insurance.

We prepare our accounts on a receipts and payments basis, which means that accruals and adjustments are not required. However, this can result in timing differences and affects areas such as utility bills, oil, printing costs, special collections etc.

New Benefice

This has started well, with agreement easily reached on joint costs such as Secretary, printing and office costs. Parish Share costs were a little more complex, and a new much fairer system has been agreed based on population of each village. This is common practice around the diocese. Initial drop for East Bergholt is from 53k to just over 38K per year. This will continue to reduce as Brantham's share increases to bring the benefice gradually in line with this new system.

Magazine

The magazine account has turned a profit once again this year. This resulted in a total of £2,000 being transferred to the General Fund during this financial year. The PCC is extremely grateful for all the hard work undertaken by the Magazine committee. There are currently outstanding costs of one month's printing invoices and two months of commission and after allowing for these costs the balance is just under £5,000. After 5 years the decision has recently been made to increase the charges to customers for advertising. The printing cost will rise as there is a need for more copies to be printed to cover the new houses being currently built around the village. No monies are transferred to the General Fund without consulting the Magazine Committee.

Roof Fund

This fund was started in July 2019 and the first expenses were paid out in December 2019. Charity Fundraising Ltd is the company providing the invaluable expertise and support for us to hopefully submit a successful Lottery application. We are very grateful for the large donations from the Christmas parade this year for this fund. It has been agreed to draw £100,000 from the Malschinger endowment to this fund. This will impact on investment income for the general fund going forward.

Bell Cage

Bell cage donations appear up. Thank you to the ringers for agreeing to pay their own Bell Ringers Guild Subscriptions for this and future years, thus helping the church with its dwindling income. The Bell cage monitor continues to be used regularly by visitors.

Parish Share

This is our largest single annual expense. This year, there continued to be little flexibility in our finance. Although after careful finance management, we were able to pay £30,250 (2022: £37,600) of the full £53,067 due. The Diocese has continued to be kept informed. The PCC also continue to look at reducing outgoings and making savings wherever possible. The new system as detailed above will help East Bergholt pay a larger percentage of its share going forward.

Preservation Society

Once again, the Preservation Society has been on hand to help with minor repairs, and this support continues to be invaluable. This is a separate charity and is not run by the PCC.

Various

The Jenny Lane fund is for work with children, and this has now been completely spent.

Investments are included at cost, but their market value remains in significant excess of cost. They provide a crucial regular income stream throughout the year.

Assets are stated as £138,991 (2022: £151,574) but would be higher if market value of investments was shown. After taking into account all designated and restricted funds, and known liabilities, the monies that are free for use stand at £5,050 (2022: £9,525).

We were able to draw down £5,000 from the East End Mission Hall charity to spend on three acts of worship during the year at Fields Farmshop and Cafe, including the Coronation celebrations. This is a separate charity with 2 trustees from the PCC. Investment income is available to spend on ministry at East End area only.

Close

Once again, this year as treasurer, has not been without its challenges. I would like to offer my sincere and grateful thanks to Fiona Trott and Sarah Southgate, who have been unfailing in their help and support. Also, to the PCC, who have taken difficult decisions and approved my recommendations during another extremely problematic year for church finances.

Lesley Cherry

Hon Treasurer

East Bergholt Parochial Church Council

East Bergholt PCC Accounts**FOR THE YEAR END 2023**

	2023	2022
INCOME	£	£
Restricted P S Donations	1653.58	50280.73
Planned giving/PGS	24439.04	24246.17
Gift Aid	9896.83	10432.20
Planned Giving Non-Gift Aid	0.00	0.00
Collections	4320.05	4057.69
Donations	5181.38	7588.13
Restricted		
Donations	3064.99	9275.50
Matt/Calendars	1006.27	1501.43
Min of Wel	80.40	0.00
Fundraising Roof	50.00	866.50
Ed/Train	0.00	0.00
Toddlers	167.10	172.18
Choir	0.00	0.00
Shared Benefice exp incl Honoraria	5282.39	2999.02
Bookstall	1558.25	1194.35
Bell Cage	147.46	53.26
Diocesan Fees	869.00	1165.00
PCC fees	2170.00	3406.98
Non-Stat Fees	2166.60	4755.58
Refreshments	196.60	176.00
Heating	665.00	545.00
Investment Income/Dividends	2442.86	2455.00
50/50	572.00	300.00
Roof Donations	2196.33	25188.52
Mission Hall Coronation	5000.00	0.00
Flower Fund	0.00	0.00
Special Collections	765.50	1433.10
Transfers from Magazine	2000.00	5000.00
Misc	14.00	480.00
Misc Restricted	6977.41	5118.27
Easy Fundraising/ Amazon	229.80	304.85
Fundraising other bodies	1802.74	695.00
Jazz concert	1217.13	0.00
INCOME	£ 86,132.71	£ 163,690.46

East Bergholt PCC Accounts**FOR THE YEAR END 2023**

EXPENSES	2023	2022
	£	£
Parish Share	30250.00	37600.00
Deanery Levy	0.00	0.00
Clergy exp	999.89	1895.44
Church run costs	8665.48	5588.48
Cost of services	281.98	1577.49
Admin costs	1494.45	1772.47
Administrator Honoraria	7460.91	5835.44
Cleaning honoraria	1295.00	1437.50
Organ	186.00	586.00
Director of Music/non stat	4784.00	5978.00
Toddlers/Youth work	142.00	115.20
Fundraising and 50/50	828.40	462.00
Maintenance/Repairs	5733.56	1065.46
Bookstall	393.76	79.60
Tea/Coffee kitchen	172.94	46.86
Mission Hall East End acts of Worship	5026.04	2511.13 (jubilee)
Diocesan fees	734.00	1163.00
Non stat fees	906.60	1847.84
Donations	0.00	0.00
Special collections sent	630.50	2292.50
Flower fund	281.85	519.29
Split costs Benefice	2527.12	0.00
Misc	9256.88	3502.83
Bell cage	428.00	228.00
Insurance	4148.08	4054.99
New Bells monitor etc	0.00	12869.56
Roof	7642.95	76064.04
Loan repayment	1800.00	3000.00
TOTAL COSTS	£96,070.39	£172,093.12

EAST BERGHOLT PCC
MAGAZINE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 2023

	2023	2022
INCOME	£	£
Adverts	16439.00	19,429.00
General fund monies as bank closed	0.00	567.24
TOTAL INCOME	£16,439.00	£19,996.24
EXPENSES	£	
Transfer to General Fund	2000.00	5000.00
Compiler Honoraria	1832.10	1825.20
Advertising Commission	1483.92	1324.56
printing	14154.00	9895.00
General fund monies as bank closed	0.00	567.24
TOTAL COSTS	£19,470.02	£18,612.00

Investments

	number of shares held	Cost per share	Total cost £	Market Value	
				2023 £	2022 £
Paskell Fund					
CBF Investment Fund (CCLA)	1010	6.54	6606	22831	20852
Charishares BlackRock	3665	2.09	7660	26698	25303
Malschinger Investments (DBF)					
Account 133001323S	2517	13.01	32742	56894	51963
Account 133001002J	3205	18.72	60000	191392	169900
Suffolk Building Society				13964	13580
			Total	311779	281598
Mission Hall Trust (DBF) *	508	2.48	1262	2600	7171

* Separate charity for East End, East Bergholt only.

Statement of Designated and Restricted Funds 2023

Name of Fund	Restricted Funds	Designated	Unrestricted Funds Undesignated	Endowment	Total 2023	2022
Suffolk Building Society			£13,964.00		£13,964.00	£13,580.00
Flower	£1,163.00				£1,163.00	£1,445.00
Jenny Lane		£-00			£-00	£153.00
Roof	£6,803.00				£6,803.00	£9,921.00
Paskell				£22,831.00	£22,831.00	£20,852.00
Malschinger *				£248,286.00	£248,286.00	£221,863.00
Altar		£10,000.00			£10,000.00	£10,000.00
Toddlers	£30.00				£30.00	£-00
				Total	£303,077.00	£277,814.00

* Only able to use this money under strict criteria, drawing £100k for roof during 2024

Roof Account Summary as at 31/12/2023

Account Ongoing

Income from July 2019

Roof Tiles	£492.50
Fundraising	£8,416.86
Donations	£11,640.43
Cake Sales	£130.50
Parish giving	£70.54
Garden Tours	£499.00
Grants	£7,250.00
Preservations Society	£65,301.16
Matt Sales	£4,422.98
Funeral Collections	£341.81
DCMS Vat reclaims	£14,272.84
Gift aid	£2,481.79
Total Income	£115,320.41

Expenditure from Dec 2019

Charity Fund Ltd	£11,488.32
Architect Fees	£21,865.18
Lead Repair	£1,368.00
Bat Surveys	£4,435.80
Quantity Surveyor	£600.00
Scaffold Sensors and Insurance	£2,423.31
Universal Stone	£62,684.17
Matt Costs	£2,000.00
Solicitor Fees	£264.00
Lottery Bid Architect	£1,388.89
Total Expenditure	£108,517.67

Monetary assets 31/12/23

	2023	2022
Barclays bank account	£ 10,528	£ 22,465
Suffolk Building Society	£ 13,964	£ 13,580
Malschinger at cost	£ 92,742	£ 92,742
CBF/Black Rock at cost	£ 15,528	£ 15,528
Magazine account	£ 6,229	£ 7,875
Total	£138,991	£152,190

Approved by the Parochial Church Council

Date 18th January 2024

Signed on behalf by



Fiona Trott

PCC Chairman

Independent Examiner's

I report on the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 as set out on pages 1 to 6.

This report is made solely to members of the Parochial Church Council as a body, in accordance with the section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Parochial Church Council those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Church and the Church's members as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the Parochial Church Council and Independent Examiner

The Parochial Church Council are responsible for the preparation of financial statements. The Parochial Church Council consider that an audit is not required for the year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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

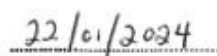
Independent Examiner's Statement

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

- a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
- b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



Britt Evans AAT
Rookery Cottage, Gaston Street,
East Bergholt, Colchester



Date

Safeguarding

There have been no significant safeguarding issues reported in 2023 outside of the cost-of-living crisis (which has not resulted in any specific reports to church, but the Pantry in the Porch is evidence that hardship exists).

A face-to-face training session finally took place during the year entitling 21 people to pass their Foundation level course. Eleven others have updated their training online. All DBS updates are now completed automatically. The Diocese have reduced the number of years from five to three for people to update their qualifications.

Howard Holdsworth

Benefice Safeguarding Officer (from June 2023)

Samford Deanery Synod & Group Council

Jenny Seggar is our Rural Dean. We also welcomed Revd Richard Henderson as new Archdeacon.

The early part of the year was dominated by the pastoral changes and deanery reorganisation that will be required this year. These discussions got underway on Tuesday 10th January 2023, at an EGM at which Archdeacon Jeanette Gosney outlined two Options for consideration and maps were circulated showing the effect of the proposals.

At its meeting on 7th March the Synod confirmed its preference for Option 2, with a few alternations leading to the planned creation of the new Constable Country Churches benefice. Various updates were provided during the following months as to the benefice profile and interview process.

Julie Podd, Parish Resources Manager also gave a presentation at the meeting on 7th March and grateful thanks were expressed to Stephne and Joop for their support for the Deanery and the Diocese and best wishes to Stephne on her retirement, and to Joop, stepping down as lay representative on Diocesan Synod.

The Wedding Preparation Day took place via Zoom and was much appreciated by the 19 couples who participated.

14th June - Royal Hospital School, Holbrook at East Bergholt - Revd Laura Mumford, RHS Chaplain Laura told us about the origins of the school, the make-up of its pupils, her background and her role as Chaplain. She emphasised the place of the school in the wider worshipping community and the importance of building that relationship and local connections. Anyone was welcome to attend the services held on Tuesdays and Thursdays and there would be a confirmation service open to the whole Deanery.

28th June - The Archdeacon's Visitation took place at Capel St Mary.

12th July - A packed church celebrated Sally Letman's Licencing service at Capel St Mary.

12th October - St Andrew's, Chelmondiston - Rob Collett – Eco Church (A Rocha UK) Award Scheme Rob, a Deanery Environment Champion, outlined some aspects of the Eco Church Project, including a run-through of the criteria to be taken into account for Churches wishing to engage with the Project, which will contribute to the Diocesan target of net zero by 2030. www.arocha.org.uk

Rob gave some examples of the different ways in which people could get involved in initiatives led by the Church, including improved biodiversity – bird boxes, moth-friendly areas – repair cafés, use of environmentally-friendly cleaners, grey water and heating systems, making good use of compost bins,

together with actions and life-style changes we can undertake as individuals. He referred to the outreach aspect of telling people not directly involved with the Church about its engagement with nature and net zero – through conversations with, and by, those working in the Churchyard.

Rob emphasised that although not every Church could tick every box, it was still worth using the spreadsheet to assess what we are already doing and where we could do more, and showing the local community how the Church was working to reduce its carbon footprint was also important. Rob is happy to give further support and contacts can be found on the Diocesan website.

<https://www.cofesuffolk.org/for-parishes/your-church-and-the-environment/eco-church/become-an-eco-church>

Gill Forsyth and Julie Fermor.

Churchwardens

Being a churchwarden is never dull. There is always something to exercise the mind and another task waiting to be done. 2023 has been no exception.

From a fabric point of view, we had our five-yearly architectural survey – the Quinquennial Inspection Report (QIR) which the Diocese formally require our church architect to undertake. Over 50 pages of detailed assessment about the church inside and out; the internal and external features and what improvements and repairs need doing within a scaled time frame of urgent up to within the next 10 years. This is what we base the maintenance programme on, as apart from the leaking roof, there are plenty of other repairs that need completing on a building as old as ours. The latest problem is in the Lady Chapel, and this will need addressing urgently in 2024. We have already spoken to the Preservation Society (PS) and they have kindly agreed to help fund the work, which will probably need scaffolding again! We are extremely grateful to the PS Trustees for their continued financial support in maintaining the fabric of the church. It was thanks to them that we were able to complete the re-tiling of the Chancel Roof successfully during the year, repair the north parapet and treat the few areas in church where asbestos had been discovered during a specialist survey.

In terms of the Lottery Bid, we submitted our Expressions of Interest, which is the first stage of applying for a grant, and were delighted to be accepted to go to the next stage. However, as the submission deadline loomed in November, the Lottery decided to change their funding criteria and introduced four new investment principles, one of which was saving heritage – a box we can tick with great ease. So, it was agreed, together with our allocated Lottery Engagement Officer, that we should delay until 2024 when the new framework was embedded and hopefully then there will be some progress. We have been busy making contact with other organisations within the village, ensuring that this will be a village project not just a church one, and that internal reordering can support the building becoming a sustainable community asset and thus protect its future. We were also very grateful to Alan Ryan and Marian Godwin for volunteering their support to assist coordinating the project – their expertise and experience will be very much appreciated.

Sadly, due to an increase in break ins across the Deanery, and after several attempts by folk to raid our donations boxes, PCC took the difficult decision to install CCTV cameras at the back of church and in the Rector's Vestry. Thankfully, since they have been installed, we have had no cause to look at the footage – early exploratory views showed only bats and moths! Long may that be the case. We have continued to livestream or record the majority of our services, which has been of benefit to those unable to attend St Mary's, either from being housebound or at another place of worship! It has also been a source of comfort for funeral families when loved ones have been unable to attend the service in person. We have experienced problems with the church's WiFi which has been very frustrating, when trying to stream

services, but we are always able to record and upload the services as videos. Hopefully next year, these frustrations will be a thing of the past.

On the social media front, we have posted regularly on our church Facebook page www.facebook.com/stmaryseastbergholt and on the village pages as well. Our church website links to our “A Church Near You” page with lots of useful information about the service and events <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/2067/> with links to the electronic version of the parish magazine and details for wedding couples and people researching their family trees.

The bellcage monitor is used regularly by visitors in church to listen to the bells ring, and watch the short documentaries about the history and the unique technique of ringing. These documentaries are also available via our website www.constablecountrychurches.co.uk/bells-and-bell-cage.

In terms of fundraising, it has not been possible to organise many events over the past 12 months. We had a wonderfully vibrant live jazz evening in November and all the proceeds of the village Christmas Parade and Market were very generously given to the building project roof fund. Elsewhere in this Annual report you will have seen that the church is struggling financially. Stewarding a beautiful building like ours comes with lots of responsibilities and the costs of opening our church are mounting – utilities and insurance to name but two. This will continue to be a challenge in 2024 and we need to be mindful of our parish giving in difficult economic circumstances.

With the increasing numbers of people experiencing cost of living problems, our village is sadly not immune. The decision to restart the Pantry in the Porch initiative was taken and has been operating from the church porch again and is in demand. Meetings have been held with the Parish Council about coordinating support, and cooperation with other local organisations.

This year has been somewhat different from most other years, as in April, after 16 years, Steph retired. A wonderful service was held to thank Steph – and Joop – for her years of dedication among us. The large number who attended demonstrated the widespread affection we all had for her and were thankful for the years of mission she gave to our village and far beyond. At the same time, there has been a Deanery reorganisation, and the churches in East Bergholt and at Brantham were joined by those in Bentley and Tattingstone. The lengthy legal process of changing the benefice is still ongoing, but the wardens, treasurers and joint ministry teams have worked extremely well together. Much of the time has of course been spent in planning for, praying about and interviewing our new rector having initially discussed and agreed on our new benefice profile. The future looks bright!

Obviously during the interregnum, after Steph retired, there has been extra responsibilities. We would not have been able to manage without the help of PCC members and in particular our loyal team of Deputy Churchwardens. Sadly, the number of people available to help seems to be dwindling so we are extremely grateful for all their help, together with spouses and other supporters. We have really demonstrated how effective teamwork can be!

2024 sees the beginning of a new chapter in the long life of St Mary’s. With God’s love and guidance, we go forward with positive energy, excitement and anticipation.



*Fiona Trott
on behalf of the Churchwardens*

Mothers' Union

This year has been another year where our Mothers' Union members have reached out to support families, here in our benefice and in our diocese, as well as supporting worldwide projects and campaigns. Whether this was through outreach projects such as giving Bags of Love, knitting "fiddlemuffs" for a local Nursing home, making Christmas cards for prisoners at HMP Highpoint or supporting the "RISE UP" campaign raising awareness of the issue of domestic abuse. In this way we have reached out and touch the lives of over 900 people in 2023.

We have grown in numbers this year but at the same time lost a much loved and valued member when Edith Searle died. She had been a very active member of the branch for some 38 years, serving as a branch leader for many years and always supporting every aspect of branch life. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Jeanette Appleton, Janet Ball, Jenny Chapman and Chris Jacob
East Bergholt and Brantham Mothers' Union

Bell Ringers

This report covers 12 months from January to December 2023. It contains the information as specified in the Ringers' handbook.



Named ringers

Ringer	Attendances	Ringer	Attendances
Terry Eagle (Captain)	77	Martin Digby	50
Julia Smith (Vice Captain)	81	George Harris	18
Thomas Bryant	54	Rachel Lewis	74
Neil Culham	56	Hugh Smith	1

Approved Learners

Ringer	Attendances
Steve Feeney	59
Alison Ruffell	7

Ringling has been consistent through the year with Neil Culham being signed off as a full ringer in September. Alison Ruffell (nee Reeves) started practicing with us again after a number of years but had to break again due to an injury (not bells related). Sadly, Hugh Smith made the difficult decision to finally retire from East Bergholt bells in April after more than 20 years of ringing. Hugh has been steadfast in giving his support to all ringers, especially on practice evenings, and is already missed.

As mentioned last year, we have made a number of changes to the handbook for ringers and have amended our teaching process so that now we teach learners to start ringing with the clapper tied so that we can talk to them whilst learning and set the bell earlier, also with the clapper tied. We believe this is much safer and has worked well in practice.

We have a regular band of seven ringers so have managed to complete the majority of rings this year with all five bells, which we are very pleased about. This spring we will be teaching the newer ringers to do "1 round" and hope to progress to a "2 round" before practice finishes in the autumn. We have space for two new learners and will actively try to recruit through the year.

During the current year, we have rung for three weddings; one demonstration; at the start of open gardens, a half-muffled ring for Remembrance and the usual rings at Christmas and New Year. We also had the honour of ringing for the Coronation of King Charles III.

Issues dealt with in 2023

1. Pigeons nested twice inside the roof again. Nests were removed on both occasions. This requires ongoing monitoring.
2. Tiles on the roof were replaced as some broken ones have fallen off
3. Door lock sometimes stiff in wet weather – this is ongoing
4. No 2 bell had a new wooden wedge as difficult to lock

Issues outstanding

1. Tiles on the roof to be replaced – ongoing and replaced as necessary
2. Door lock sometimes stiff in wet weather – ongoing and eased as necessary
3. New bulb needed in the spotlight above bell 3

*Terry Eagle
Captain of Bells*

Flower Arrangers

2023 was a busy year for the Flower Arrangers, for in addition to the usual occasions when we decorate the entire church, namely Easter, Patronal Festival, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas, we also marked a number of other events as follows;

April 2023: the church was decorated for Rev Steph's farewell service.

Coronation of King Charles: in addition to the usual floral arrangements the primary school helped make paper flowers representing the four nations (rose, daffodil, thistle and shamrock) which were used to decorate a large crown in the font.

Open Gardens; the Church porch was decorated with floral arrangements using flowers that were either gathered from East Bergholt gardens or grown locally in an effort to support the "grown not flown" movement.

Rachel visited Sue Cockram, who organizes the flower team at St Edmundsbury Cathedral, to find out about their efforts to reduce the use of oasis. She came away with lots of information, ideas and contacts to further our efforts in this direction.

The first flowers from the allotment were produced this year. We had some dahlia tubers kindly donated by Tessa Nutting and purchased dahlia and chrysanthemums from the East Bergholt Horticultural sale at the Lambe school. This year we will focus on clearing ground elder from the rest of the allotment, growing some annuals and expanding the range of perennials.

After we decorated the church in December, we marked the end of the year by making door wreaths to take home after. This was a good social event in the West End which we will repeat in 2024.

*Rachael Lewis
On behalf of the Flower arrangers*

Foundation Governors

"I have come that they might have life, and have it to the full," John 10:10

The school has been pleased to welcome both a new Headteacher, Mrs Clare Sampson, and a Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Laura Tuttlebee in September. They have been busy meeting staff, pupils, parents and governors. The new leadership team have simplified the school rules to just three: be kind, be safe and be respectful. These have ensured that the school community is kind, considerate and caring in their relationships – making the school a happy and safe place for everyone to learn and grow.

The first half of the school year has been an exciting one. At Christmas time the school's youngest pupils delivered two nativity productions to parents, relatives and members of the church community. This was both a rewarding and enjoyable experience for the school's young children as well as a fantastic opportunity for the school to incorporate Christian teachings. The school's oldest pupils visited St. Mary's Church to sing carols in conjunction with students from East Bergholt High School, against a backdrop of bible readings – a great way to supplement the Christian and community ethos at the school. The school also had a hugely enjoyable "Wow Day", based on diversity. This helped pupils, parents and governors gain a new perspective on the lives of others around them as well as other cultures across the world.

The children have taken part in various sporting events locally and at county level with some very laudable results. The school believes that sport is for all and all pupils are encouraged to join in on the sporting fun and learn new skills.

The Parents and Friends Association (PFA) have been busy planning and delivering many fund-raising events, e.g. Christmas fayre, discos, Wacky Wardrobe Days, etc., generating finances for the benefit of the pupils and school.

Ruth Bull and Nick Pavitt have been visiting the school weekly, delivering assemblies with a Christian focus and message. The school is very grateful to them both for the wonderful work that they do at the school. Ruth Bull and her "Open the Book" team have also visited to share Bible stories with the children in an accessible and enjoyable way that enables them to engage imaginatively with the story. These are very well received by the children.

There have been a number of new staff arrivals over the past year and valeté required, not least to outgoing Headteachers Gill Mitchell and Sarah Baker, and the SENCO Sarah Bowman who all departed at the end of the summer term. More recently we have had to say "adieu" to Neil Jackson, impresario extraordinaire, responsible for the majority of the school's performing arts productions over recent years (not least the wonderful adaptation of "Oliver!" performed post-SATS last summer), whose enthusiasm and talents will be sorely missed – that said, rumour has it, he will be returning briefly this coming summer to direct the Yr 6 end of year musical.

The school now also has a new Chair of Governors, Chris Burns, who has been a long-term governor for the school and has an extensive background in education, meaning that we have a very strong team at the top to guide the school forwards. The Governing Body continues to have several vacancies; whilst staff and parent governor representation is replete, the remaining stakeholder contingents remain limited in size, although it is hoped that the vacant ex-officio Foundation Governor post will be filled by the Reverend Chris Willis once he has had time to settle in to his new role.

Building work has been a fairly constant companion since the summer term, the most obvious large-scale project having been the replacement of the school roof – something for which we have been very grateful over these last months. A very positive (but unintentional) consequence of the removal of the old roof was that the roof space had recently been inspected; there had been no sign of reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) meaning that the new school year and winter term had an uninterrupted start – confidently so from a safety perspective – and on time: a situation not shared by several surrounding schools.

Governors play an active role in the life of the school, constructively challenging and supporting the Headteacher and her staff in their work. Recently, Governors undertook SIAMS training delivered by the Diocesan Education Team resulting in fruitful discussions about the ethos and values of the school taking place, reminding us all of the importance of our mission statement. A SIAMS inspection of the school during the remainder of the 2023/24 academic year is thought unlikely, but one during the 2024/25 year is a very high probability.

The school is looking forward to the rest of the academic year and all of the adventures to come. Should you wish to view news and information regarding the school, the website address is: <https://www.eastbergholt-pri.suffolk.sch.uk/>



Report compiled by Clare Sampson (Headteacher), Chris Burns (Chair of Governors), Simon Rothwell (Foundation Governor).

East Bergholt Parish Magazine

The parish magazine continues to reflect a very broad and varied picture of East Bergholt life both in its advertising and in its editorial content. We have recently gained several new regular contributors, including representatives of the parish and district councils, the local police officer, and the bowls club – and we are receiving an increasing number of contributions from individual residents for the “issues and opinions” section, too. We have also overhauled the local information listings on the insides of the covers in an effort to make them more comprehensive and easily usable. The magazine remains profitable and indeed makes periodic contributions to church funds. In 2024 and 2025, the likely dramatic expansion of the village’s population may pose some challenges for distribution, but will also offer an opportunity for the parish magazine to play a valuable role in welcoming new residents.

Barnaby Page – Editor

Open the Book

The Open the Book team has undergone a few changes following Steph’s retirement in April. Sadly, losing Steph also meant that we lost Joop too as he moved away. We have also reluctantly lost Carole and Ted Wheatley, who decided the time had come for them to stand down. We thank them all profusely for all that they have done over the years and for the enjoyment and pleasure they brought to so many children and staff at the primary school.



The team currently comprises 7 regulars with the current churchwardens standing in the wings if needed, making a total of 9. We have been going into school roughly once a month and impressing the children and staff with our acting skills! Well, maybe not, but they all seem to enjoy our stories and our first century costumes. Some of the youngest children were a bit baffled at first with one of them known to comment to her mum: “Abbie’s grandma was in assembly wearing a tea-towel on her head, and I have no idea why” - hopefully we are starting to make more sense as the time has progressed!

If you would like to join in with this important ministry, please just let one of the team know and we can explain how it all works!

Ruth Bull (Team leader), Dianne Willett, Wendy Withers, Richard Appleton, Chris Jacob, Susan Shepherd and Roy Seden.

Toddlers Group

It's been another successful year for the group. We welcomed many new mums, grandparents and carers to the group with their little ones which has helped to keep us flourishing. It's been a great place for new families in the village to meet and make friends, and we've received many comments regarding our warm and friendly welcome. The relaxed environment with toys for the children to play with and coffee and tea for the adults seems a winning combination. The children also enjoy a healthy snack during the session.

During our year we enjoyed an Easter egg hunt, teddy bear's picnic and a wonderful Christmas party. We are very grateful to Mothers' Union members who financially supported our Christmas party with some funds left for this year's Easter egg hunt. As always, I am very grateful to my regular helpers Gill and Gina without whom many sessions would not have been possible, and to all those too who have helped out occasionally over the year.

The Group is an established part of our church life and a strong link with the wider community. It has also been wonderful to welcome so many of our toddler group families to our family@church services. We are hopeful that this link will help grow the number of younger people and families in our church family in coming years.

Liz Digby - Leader, St Mary's Toddler Group

Family@church

During 2023, family@church has continued to flourish. We have been 'on the road' three times this year to Fields Farmshop and Café. In the summer we celebrated King Charles' coronation in style with an Events Under Canvas tipi, a right royal picnic provided by Abby and her team, serenaded by Brass and Ivories (Tia and Joel) and party games enjoyed by everyone. In October we visited again for our Harvest service, and were taught traditional country dances by Marji and at Christmas we had a party and enjoyed a visit from You Know Who! Each occasion was much enjoyed by all our families and guests. As required by the end of the calendar year, we have spent all the Mission Hall monies that were extremely tightly restricted to fund worship in the East End.



We are delighted that this special mission has continued to grow this year and we have new families coming along on the first Sunday in every month, quite often following on from baptism services.

None of these services would be possible however without a lot of support from a wonderful team of helpers. We are very grateful to everyone who has lent a hand this year: Karen, Gill, Hannah, Gina and Arabella who have given invaluable help setting up for services, welcoming our families and helping with activities and storytelling; our generous benefactor who enables us to give the children booklets at Easter and Christmas, plus eggs and advent calendars.

Sadly we also said goodbye to Rev Steph and Coco. We would like place on record our sincere thanks for her wonderful support and for trusting us with this important mission!



Liz Digby and Fiona Trott

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2023
St Mary the Virgin, East Bergholt
Sunday, 20th March 2022 immediately after the 10.30am Service

In attendance: Fiona Trott; (Chair); Stephne van der Toorn; Michelle Jowers (Minutes Secretary) Sarah Southgate; Lesley Cherry; Gill and Archie Rattray; Chris and Koshy Jacob; John Gamlin; Howard Holdsworth; Martin Huggett; Victoria Rothwell; Margaret Wheatley; Bridget Hutton; Pat Kelmsley; Ted and Carole Wheatley; Reuben Rushen

Apologies from: Steve Newman; Dorothy Brundell; Geoff Potter; Jackie Reeves; Jane Pavitt

1. Welcome and prayers	Rev Steph opened the meeting with a prayer and then handed over the meeting to FT.
2. Minutes of APCM 20th March 2022	- These were approved by all present.
3. Electoral Roll Report	This year there was one new member; four have sadly died. The current total of 122 was reported, which was approved by all.
4. Report on the proceedings of the PCC	- This report was approved by all present.
5. Approve the Treasurer's report and accounts	- This report was approved by all. Proposed by Reuben Rushen and seconded by Sarah Southgate. FT thanked LC for all her hard work over the last year. The finances are very difficult at the moment and LC is working tirelessly to cut costs wherever possible. Everyone expressed their thanks.
6. Report on the proceedings of Deanery Synod	- This report was approved by all present.
7. Safeguarding report	- The report was approved by all. FT has been standing in for Glen Rowson for the whole year while he had other commitments. This is not sustainable, so she is very grateful to HH for offering to take over from June and is happy to remain the Benefice Safeguarding Office until then. There will almost certainly be changes in the future with the reorganised Benefice so final decisions will need to wait until the new situation becomes clearer. CW raised the issue of face to face training sessions and FT reassured her that arrangements were being made to help those not able to do it online.
8. Election of Churchwardens	Fiona Trott (proposed by Howard Holdsworth and Victoria Rothwell) and Sarah Southgate (proposed by Howard Holdsworth and Lesley Cherry) were elected unanimously as the Churchwardens. Steph recorded her thanks to the wardens, including Liz Digby, for all their hard work and support. Thanks were also recorded to the deputy church wardens for all their support behind the scenes.
9. Deanery Synod elections	Sarah Southgate and Chris Jacob were elected for three years in November 2020. Koshy Jacob agreed to fill the remaining vacancy. His offer was unanimously accepted by all those present.
10. PCC	Three of the PCC members due for re-election this year are prepared to stand again: Reuben Rushen; Victoria Rothwell; Lesley Cherry. All were re-elected. The one current vacancy remains unfilled and there are also three other vacancies still on the PCC. It is important to try and fill these posts so that there is a full quota of members to help with the workload, and also to try and introduce new blood.

11. Appoint an Independent Examiner	
Britt Evans has indicated her willingness to continue, so she was reappointed as Independent Examiner, proposed by Lesley Cherry and Ted Wheatley. Sincere thanks were extended to her for all the support she gives to Lesley.	
12. Receive all other reports	All other reports were approved unanimously by those present. FT commented that these reports reflect how much goes on in the parish during the course of the year and that this should be a bonus in attracting a new incumbent.
Steph closed the APCM at 11.15 with the Grace. A basket of flowers was presented to her and sincere thanks were given for her amazing 16 years of ministry at St Mary's. Everyone wished her well in her retirement.	
13. MINUTES OF THE PCC MEETING FOLLOWING THE APCM	attended by Fiona Trott (Chair); Michelle Jowers (Minutes Secretary), Stephne van der Toorn; Chris and Koshy Jacob, Howard Holdsworth, Victoria Rothwell, Sarah Southgate, Lesley Cherry, Reuben Rushen
Election of PCC Officers	
Chair	Fiona Trott (during Interregnum)
Vice Chair	Sarah Southgate (during Interregnum)
Minutes Secretary	Steve Newman
PCC Secretary	Michelle Jowers
Hon Treasurer	Lesley Cherry
Deputy Churchwardens	Lesley Cherry; Chris Jacob; Ruben Rushen; Geoff Potter; Howard Holdsworth
Electoral Roll Officer	Fiona Trott
Benefice Safeguarding Officer	Fiona Trott (till June); Howard Holdsworth (from June)
Health and Safety	Sarah Southgate
Standing Committee	Chair, Vice Chair, Wardens, Health and Safety, Treasurer, Minutes Secretary
Lettice Dykes	Simon Rothwell (will chair during Interregnum) Reuben Rushen; Ted Wheatley; Gill Rattray
Preservation Society	Fiona Trott
Foundation Governors	Simon Rothwell
Magazine Committee	Barnaby Page, Lesley Cherry, Louise Kemp, Alison Jones, Marion Ralph, John Gamlin
Captain of Bells	Terry Eagle
Ecumenical Committee Representative	Chris Jacob

14.	A.O.B It was suggested that additional people were added as Deputy Church wardens – in Brantham, a group of ‘welcomers’ had been elected, not just PCC members. Simon Rothwell is to be encouraged to canvas parents at school to fill the Foundation Governor vacancy and another representative will be needed to join the Preservation Society committee.
	FT explained the papers circulated prior to the meeting. The 2007 profile was sent by way of example, given the information was out of date. The questions had been drafted by Len Smith to guide all four parishes to prepare for the parish profiles. FT explained that the bullet points were merely a guide to final content. Suggestions were made to add to the draft. FT also explained that the recent meeting with all the wardens and the Archdeacon had been encouraging and exciting. In addition to the joint PCCs meeting preparing the parish profiles, there will also be meetings with the wardens regarding communications, ministry teams to draw up service rotas and treasurers to discuss finances. FT closed the meeting at 11:55
15.	Dates of East Bergholt PCC meetings for 2023 (Thursdays) starting at 19:00: 11th May; 20th July; 14th September; 16th November IMPORTANT COMBINED PCC MEETINGS REGARDING NEW BENEFICE AND APPOINTMENT OF NEW INCUMBENT: 28th March (combined PCCs meeting with Bentley, Brantham and Tattingstone) with The Revd Phil Dykes at Bentley Church at 19:00 3rd May Section 11 meeting with Rural Dean (combined PCCs meeting with Bentley, Brantham and Tattingstone) at Brantham church at 19:30 15th May Section 12 meeting with Bishop, Archdeacon, Patrons (combined PCCs meeting with Bentley, Brantham and Tattingstone)



REGISTERED CHARITY No: 1063444

PATRON: OLIVER ELEY

Famous for its bell cage and unfinished tower, St. Mary's present building dates from about 1350. Built of brick, flint and stone (probably from an earlier building), it houses a Font inscribed to the memory of Abram Constable (1783-1862) the artist's younger brother. The church chest, possibly as old as any part of the church fabric, has triple locks added by Elizabethan injunction. A three leaved lily emblem of St. Mary's adorns the north side brick-work. The five-pointed star or mullet emblem of the De Veres, Earl of Oxford and Lords of the Manor of Old Hall decorates the north turret.

The purpose of our society is to raise funds to help preserve this vital part of village heritage for the benefit of future generations. Since the inauguration on 17th June 1997, with the considerable support of many local residents, the Society has raised more than £200,000. It has established the biannual East Bergholt Gardens Open Day, an event enjoyed by many which attracts visitors from far afield.

Currently, we have many problems with the church roof and desperately need to raise funds to assist with repairs. Help us to assist with the preservation of this unique structure and become a member of the Preservation Society. Your support and donations, large or small will go to achieve this aim.

St. Mary's Church East Bergholt Preservation Society Review of 2023

Our Annual General Meeting was held in the West End of St. Mary's Church on Wednesday 15th November. We were pleased to welcome members and share light refreshments.

The trustees presented the audited accounts and minutes of the previous AGM, held on 16th November 2022. These were approved by the members present. Our thanks to treasurer Roy Thorneycroft for preparing the accounts and to Nigel Thomas for auditing same.

Our Charity Trustees sought re-election which was approved. Unfortunately, we are still looking to appoint a new member to assist with marketing and social media plus a new member to assist with electronic ticket sales.



Sunday 4th June saw another East Bergholt Gardens Open Day with glorious sunshine greeting the many visitors. With both new and previously opened gardens contributing to the day, further interest was provided by beautiful floral displays at the church, a bellringing demonstration, try your hand at a bowls competition thanks to East Bergholt Bowls Club, games and of course, wonderful teas at various venues around the village.

Our sincere thanks to those involved including our sponsors Grier & Sons, East Bergholt Parish Council, the support given by Place for Plants and of course the garden owners, in particular Paul & Birte Kelly not forgetting all our cake bakers all help to make this a special village event. In a service at St. Mary's church on 8th October, our new noticeboard commemorating our founders Oliver Eley and Terry Marshall was blessed. Our thanks to Martin Huggett for all his assistance with the production of this item in finest oak. An evening of Carols and Mince Pies was held on Wednesday 13th December 6.30pm-8.00pm in St Mary's Church. Whilst splendid singing competed with the organ to be heard, the evening also provided an opportunity to admire the beauty of this magnificent building. Whilst your support for these events enables the funding of work to preserve the fabric of our historic village landmark, it is great to have fun at the same time.



who

With kindest regards and many thanks for your support

Debbie Tuppen
Chairperson of the Preservation Society



REGISTERED CHARITY No: 1063444

PATRON: OLIVER ELEY

**ST MARY'S CHURCH
EAST BERGHOLT PRESERVATION SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM**

The aim of the Society is to preserve this historic building for future generations by attracting support from anyone who cares about our heritage. Your donations, large or small, will be gratefully received. All funds raised will be used solely for the preservation of St. Mary's Church and its Bell Cage.

Title: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other

Forenames

Surname

Address

Post code

Telephone

Mobile

Email

Annual membership

£ 10.00

Donation

£ .

I enclose cash / Cheque (payable to St Mary's Church EBPS)

£ .

In order to maintain your membership of the society, we would recommend that you complete a Banker's Standing Order, a pro forma of which is attached.

To make the most of your membership subscription and donation we would ask you to complete a Gift Aid declaration, which will give the Society the benefit of the income tax that you have paid on your income.

Debbie Tuppen

Delvyns

Gaston Street

East Bergholt

CO7 6SD

email: debbie.tuppen@gmail.com

Tel: 078 21141473



BANKERS STANDING ORDER FORM

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1063444

PATRON: OLIVER ELEY

PATRON: OLIVER ELEY

To the Manager

(Insert Bank name)

Bank address

Post code

Please pay Barclays Bank PLC, 9 High Street, Colchester CO1 1DD, Sort Code 20-22-67, for the credit of St Mary's Church, East Bergholt Preservation Society, Account number 30604151, on receipt of this instruction and then on 1 September 2023, and then on the same date each year thereafter, until further notice.

The amount of £ pounds
(amount in numbers) (amount in words)

From my Account Number

Sort Code

Signed

Address

Post code

Date

giftaid it

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
PRESERVATION SOCIETY
EAST BERGHOLT

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1063444

PATRON: OLIVER ELEY

GIFT AID DECLARATION

For past, present & future donations

St. Mary's Church, East Bergholt, Preservation Society

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made

today ☐ in the past 4 years ☐ in the future ☐

Please tick all boxes you wish to apply.

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 28p of tax on every £1 that I gave up to 5 April 2008 and will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2008.

Donor's details

Title ----- First name or initial(s) -----

Surname -----

Full home address -----

Postcode -----

Date -----

Signature -----

Please notify the charity or CASC if you:

- *Want to cancel this declaration*
- *Change your name or home address*
- *No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.*

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Please return completed form to:

Debbie Tuppen
Delvyns
Gaston Street
East Bergholt
CO7 6SD

Email: debbie.tuppen@gmail.com Tel: 07821 141473

Accounts

St Mary the Virgin, East Bergholt Annual Report for 2022

**Annual Meeting to be held
on Sunday 26th March 2023
immediately after Morning Service**



**Annual Parochial Church Meeting of
St Mary the Virgin, East Bergholt
(Benefice of East Bergholt and Brantham)**

St Mary the Virgin, East Bergholt

Incumbent:

Rev Canon Stephne van der Toorn (assisted by Guide Dog (Canon) Coco)
The Rectory
Rectory Lane
Brantham
Manningtree
CO11 1PZ
01206 392646
revstephvd@gmail.com

Bank:

Barclays Bank
4 High Street
Manningtree
CO11 1AF

Register of Charities with the Registered Charity Number 1190273

Independent Examiner

Mrs B Evans
Rookery Cottage
Gaston Street
East Bergholt
Colchester
CO7 6SF

Website: via A Church near You: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/2067/>

Find us on Facebook: [facebook.com/stmaryseastbergholt](https://www.facebook.com/stmaryseastbergholt)

Constable Country Churches YouTube: select the video tab and/or select channel for services particular to St. Mary's

THE DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION PRIVACY NOTICE

The information we hold about you in our Church records is only disclosed to those who need to see it for Church purposes. We will send you information related to the Benefice, the Church, the ministry and activities. If you wish to unsubscribe from all or any communications, please let the

Benefice Administrator know at constablecountrychurches@outlook.com

Contents

St Mary the Virgin - East Bergholt PCC 2022-2023	4
Agenda for APCM	5
Rector's Report:.....	6
Curate's Report.....	11
Electoral Roll.....	11
Proceedings of the East Bergholt PCC	11
Safeguarding.....	12
Treasurer's Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2022	13
Samford Deanery Synod & Group Council	19
Churchwardens.....	20
Bell Ringers	22
Flower Arrangers	23
Foundation Governors' Report.....	24
East Bergholt Parish Magazine	26
Toddlers Group.....	26
Family@church.....	27
Mothers' Union	28
Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2022	29
St. Mary's Church East Bergholt Preservation Society Review of 2022	31

St Mary the Virgin - East Bergholt PCC 2022-2023

EX-OFFICIO	Canon Stephne van der Toorn	Rector	392646
	Fiona Trott	Churchwarden	298205
	Sarah Southgate	Churchwarden	299729
	Sarah Southgate	Deanery Synod Rep	299729
	Chris Jacob	Deanery Synod Rep	298552
CO-OPTED	Jane Pavitt	Representative from Brantham PCC	01473 328512

ELECTED

TO SEEK RE-ELECTION IN 2023		TO SEEK RE-ELECTION IN 2024		TO SEEK RE-ELECTION IN 2025	
Lesley Cherry	07543 644318	Barry Blomfield	298449	Jackie Reeves	298323
Ruben Rushen	299303	Howard Holdsworth	07970 416249	Glen Rowson	299109
Victoria Rothwell	299980	Vacancy		Geoff Potter	07745 536728
Vacancy		Vacancy		Vacancy	

PCC Vice Chairman	Fiona Trott	298205
Minutes Secretary	Steve Newman	07850 505713
PCC Secretary		
Representative to Brantham PCC	Ruben Rushen	299303
Hon Treasurer	Lesley Cherry	07543 644318
Deputy Churchwardens	Barry Blomfield	298449
	Lesley Cherry	07543 644318
	Chris Jacob	298552
	Ruben Rushen	299303
	Geoff Potter	07745 536728
	Glen Rowson	299109
	Howard Holdsworth	07970416249
Electoral Roll Officer	Fiona Trott	298205
Benefice Safeguarding Officer	Fiona Trott (Interim)	298205
	Glen Rowson	299109
Standing Committee (Chair)	Rev Canon Stephne van der Toorn	392646
Standing Committee	Steve Newman (Minutes Secretary)	07850 505713
Standing Committee (Treasurer)	Lesley Cherry	07543 644318
Standing Committee (H&S)	Barry Blomfield/Glen Rowson	298449/299109
Standing Committee (Wardens)	Fiona Trott	298205
	Sarah Southgate	299729
Lettice Dykes	Rev Canon Stephne van der Toorn	392646
	Ruben Rushen	299303
	Ted Wheatley	298102
	Gill Rattray	298380
Preservation Society	Rev Canon Stephne van der Toorn	392646
	Fiona Trott	298205
	Lesley Cherry	07543 644318
Foundation Governors	Rev Canon Stephne van der Toorn	392646
	Simon Rothwell	299980
Magazine Committee	Rev Canon Stephne van der Toorn	392646
	Lesley Cherry	07543 644318
Ecumenical Committee	Barry Blomfield	298449
	Chris Jacob	298552
Captain of Bells	Terry Eagle	07578 002974

Agenda for APCM

26th March 2023 at St. Mary the Virgin, East Bergholt
Held after the 10:00 service

1. Welcome and Prayers
2. Minutes of the APCM 20th March 2022
3. Electoral Roll report
4. Report on the proceedings of the PCC
5. Approve the Treasurer's report and accounts
6. Report on the proceedings of Deanery Synod
7. Safeguarding report
8. Elections:
9. Churchwardens
10. Deanery Synod: Three representatives for 3 years
11. PCC: Four representatives for 3 years, two for two years and one for 1 year
12. Appoint an Independent Examiner – Mrs Britt Evans has indicated her willingness to continue
13. Receive all other reports

The PCC will convene at the close of the APCM to elect Officers and deal with any urgent business.

AGENDA FOR PCC MEETING TO FOLLOW THE APCM

Election of PCC Officers

- Vice Chair
- Minutes Secretary
- PCC Secretary
- Brantham PCC representative
- Hon Treasurer
- Deputy Churchwardens
- Electoral Roll Officer
- Benefice Safeguarding Officer
- Health and Safety
- Standing Committee ((Rector, Vice Chair, Wardens, Health and Safety, and Treasurer)
- Lettice Dykes
- Preservation Society
- Foundation Governors
- Magazine Committee: currently Rev Steph, Lesley Cherry, Alison Jones, Marion Ralph, John Gamlin
- Ecumenical Committee Representative

Dates of meetings for 2023:

26th March (APCM after church); 11th May; 20th July; 14th September; 16th November

Rector's Report:

Another busy and challenging year within the grace of God who has sustained us.

Len Smith and Nick Pavitt led the Mini Alpha Course at the Dickie Pub during January and February. The Dickie generously offered simple suppers to the group which quickly became a safe place for fellowship. Sadly, I was not able to take part as I was isolating for eye surgery which was twice delayed and eventually took place two days before Putin invaded Ukraine. I joyfully returned to work after the necessary recuperation and then developed Covid so was out of action again. 2022 in many ways was the Year of the Missing Rector. Planned surgery to the other eye in August required lengthy recovery and then emergency surgery in November rounded it off. It was truly encouraging that everything carried on without me as the Ministry Team coped in their usual efficient way. Proof that you will be in good hands during the inevitable interregnum which will begin after my retirement at the end of April 2023.

We reduced the frequency of the full newsletter to once a month. Hand deliveries are too labour intensive to continue as we had done during the lockdowns. We did email the pew sheet out on Fridays to everyone who wanted it including news items and many warnings about the scams that proliferated. Keeping those with no access to email informed and included was something we were very concerned about. Thank you to Joop and Fiona for their hard work and others who helped with deliveries when there was a need. The APCM reports were emailed to everyone who has an email address thereby cutting costs and many days of printing.

In February we stopped alternating services and joyfully returned to services in each church every Sunday. Attendance at services has not been high possibly because people have formed new habits, become accustomed to watching online or been too frightened to return because of the possibility of infection. This is a problem being experienced across the country and in various denominations.

By March masks were no longer mandatory in church and it was a great relief to be able abandon them. Some masks fitted better than others, and sore ears were common! We continued to be very careful and urged respect and safe distancing for those who continued to wear them. Sanitisers now an established liturgical item and the first time I shook hands with someone I politely tried find the bottle without appearing rude. Levels of infection have fluctuated in the villages. We are so grateful for the privilege of effective vaccinations. During the year I wrote to an American mega-church Pastor who had forbidden his congregation to have vaccinations. I pointed out that the number of funerals I was conducting had dropped dramatically since my people had begun to be vaccinated. I wished him every blessing in his ministry. For some reason I never received a reply! We have had funerals, of course, but not nearly as many related to Covid.

Consultation with the congregations showed that many were unhappy at the thought of receiving the chalice so we have been receiving the bread only which is still full communion. In other churches wine is offered to those who wish it, or the priest dips the wafer into the wine for the communicant, or the priest receives on behalf of the people. I have never felt comfortable about receiving wine when my people do not. The new incumbent will no doubt address this issue.

The Worship and Support WhatsApp group has continued since the first lockdown and been a source of encouragement to many. I have continued Rev Eric's project of posting Compline on our YouTube channel from Tuesday to Saturdays when possible. Joop has spent a great deal of time editing these and inserting music from St Martin's in the Fields, whose musical ministry has been a gift to the church over the Covid years. Compline has been viewed on occasion by 3 people and sometimes by 50 plus with the normal participation being about 23. During Lent, Ted and Carole Wheatley read a poem for us each evening during the service. We have viewers from all over the country and

sometimes from the USA and Canada as well. On Saturday evenings I use the BCP service and we include the sung Ukrainian Kyrie. Our wonderful flower arrangers have maintained an arrangement of sunflowers placed beside the Prayer for Ukraine throughout the year. A group of us studied a very thought-provoking book called "Embracing Justice" during Lent.

In March we had more people attend the ecumenical World Day of Prayer service in St Mary's than we have had in many years. I think people wanted to come and pray for an end to the ghastly war in Ukraine. Each church held a special service for Ukraine and a considerable amount of money was raised for humanitarian relief in that country.

Our ecumenical links are strong and though the Week of Christian Unity service did not take place because of lockdown; we did celebrate Harvest together at St Michael's. The clergy met together regularly for lunch and prayer. We bade farewell to Fathers Paul and Bineesh of the Catholic church and have welcomed Father Luke.

From the beginning of March each church has had an informal or family service alternating with communion. This was a deliberate move to try and help people not accustomed to coming to church to feel at home. It is a constant challenge to cater for everyone bearing in mind our communion congregations, and the younger families who attend the flourishing family@church, the Toddler group at St Mary's and the Family at Church initiative which began at St Michael's in October.

St Mary's helped to sponsor the iSingPOP project at East Bergholt Primary School again and the church was full for two sessions when the school performed their new songs for their proud parents and grandparents. A very enthusiastic young man taught them the moves to these praise songs and singing at assembly has improved hugely as a result. One of the lovely things is that the whole family learns the songs as they are practised intensely for several weeks beforehand. A musical form of evangelism.

Both churches had cameras installed to enable us to simply livestream services (depending on the Wi-Fi) and record for later viewing. This has been a ministry considerably appreciated by the housebound. It is also very helpful for funerals as large numbers of people have watched them. I have been mortified to hear myself "singing." You know I cannot keep a tune of any sort and am now regularly reminded by my wonderful wardens to turn my microphone off. I appreciate this very much indeed. The only snag about the cameras is that if I make an idiot of myself in a service it goes out for the world to see. Keeps me humble.

I led a group of 32 pilgrims to Oberammergau for the Passion Play in May. We offered a short communion every evening and were blessed with a happy group who got on well and enjoyed the very hot weather which made sightseeing a pleasure if not a challenge. Angela Merkel attended the same performance we did - but not in the cheap seats like us! The day we left the weather broke and they had torrential rain which affected many flights but our logistics worked perfectly thanks to Michelle's amazing organisational skills in the office and negotiations with the coach company. The script had changed from the one we experienced in 2010 in an effort to tone down what some felt to be the anti-semitic overtones. The singing was beautiful and the sheer scale of it overwhelming. Very moving indeed. I always find the fire lighting and light sharing representation of the resurrection special.

In June we celebrated the Jubilee in music and service and picnic - in rain as per the English tradition! In August I had offered to organise the garage sale for St Mary's but had to step back because of eye surgery and leave it to Hannah Cuthbertson to take on which she did very efficiently and I am most grateful to her.

Michelle resigned from the benefice office in August to return to her full-time post in London as maternity cover. I bumbled along until a replacement was found, but she decided after two half days that the job was not what she thought it would be and sensibly resigned. We then offered the post to the next candidate on our shortlist. Amanda has been flourishing in the office but is now on extended sick leave. We wish her well. Very fortunately for us Michelle is again able to assist until such time as Amanda returns.

My extended period of recovery came to an end with the sudden death of Queen Elizabeth II and I catapulted back to work rather too soon, but was privileged to be able to preside at the service the day before her funeral. The Deputy Lord Lieutenant was present and we had the "*incident of the wrong Roger*". I escorted a "Roger" to the front pew much to his alarm and told him how to use the mic from which he would speak only to discover that he was not Roger Finbow who arrived shortly afterwards. It all ended happily. These excitements will happen when you have a blind Rector.

The Guide Dog service took place in October and Coco was very pleased to see her colleagues again, particularly Bowler from Capel. Our new Elders began their training in October and will be licenced by Archdeacon Jeanette on 19th February at Brantham during the benefice service at 10.30.

Our Remembrance services are always special. St Michael's held theirs outside again. Keeping the service short and succinct is a sensible way of coping with the huge numbers of people who attend, particularly the young in the uniformed organisations. In St Mary's the RBL members are sadly frail, but doggedly turn up to the Act of Remembrance on Armistice Day and the main service itself. Mark Ashmore has provided a historical personal reflection on a local soldier in each village for many years which is a privilege to read out. I also share these with local schools. For the second year in a row, we managed the silence at exactly 11:00 and I was well pleased. We took great care of the poppy collection tin in East Bergholt this year and did not leave it out between services after the theft last year. A shame that this had to be done.

We lost a number of our dearly loved parishioners this year, all of whom in their own way had contributed much to our life together. We give thanks for them all. May they rest in peace and rise in glory. Ruth Bull and Nick Pavitt have conducted funerals now and between us in 2022 we have done 11 funerals in Brantham, 20 at EB and 5 at the crematorium.

The Wedding Preparation Day took place via the internet Zoom platform once again under Rev Jenny Seggar's leadership. The Benefice Office has also handed over all the administration of this to another Benefice Secretary. We felt we had done our bit! It was a joy to be able to officiate at a wedding which had been postponed twice because of Covid. We had 3 weddings at Brantham, a blessing in another chapel of a wedding that had taken place under strict Covid regulations and 4 weddings and a blessing at East Bergholt.

There has been a demand for baptisms and particularly leading up to the time I leave as my wedding couples hear that I am retiring. We have done 6 baptisms at Brantham and 7 at East Bergholt since January 2022. Nick baptised twins in East Bergholt as I was unavailable. The Bishop was persuaded that this was an urgent case and allowed him to do it. In 2023 by end of January we have already had 12 baptisms booked. One young man felt awkward about coming up to the font recently so I threw water at him in a liturgical Anglican way. Someone suggested I should invest in a water pistol!

School assemblies have been an invigorating part of my work and the contact with the children and staff is something I will miss very much. As Rector of East Bergholt, I have been a Trustee of the Lambe School, chaired the Lettice Dykes Foundation (which will now be chaired by Simon Rothwell until the new Incumbent is appointed,) been a trustee of the East Bergholt United Charities and chaired the Board of Constable Country Childcare which has settings in East Bergholt, Brooklands

School, the Institute in Brantham and in Stutton. Jane Pavitt will take on this responsibility until the new incumbent is appointed. I also chaired the East Bergholt Parish Magazine Committee which is now in the capable hands of Barnaby Page, organised the Fraternal meetings and helped to run the ecumenical services.

Christmas returned to normal after years of Covid interference. St Michael's decided to try a new thing. The Christingle service we had offered for years is very labour intensive and wasteful of God's good provision of fruit. Nick led a Family Candlelight Christmas Story service which went well. The collection went to the Children's Society as usual. St Mary's had two Family Candlelit services as well as an 08:00 BCP communion. Midnight Mass was at St Michael's. When I called Coco out of her basket for the midnight service, she gave me a look as though to say "What? Again!" The Christmas Day service was at St Mary's. We calculated that over the various Christmas services including school nativities and assemblies, we had well over 1000 people through our combined doors. Where, I ask myself, are they the rest of the year!!

The flower arrangers have done wonders this year. Thank you! The music in our churches is in good hands. David McLachlan plays the temperamental organ twice a month at Brantham and Martin Huggett plays when it is a benefice service that David is not available for. The Music Group works hard at Family and Informal services, and Brantham Community Choir has sung at All Souls' and the Carol Service. The St Mary's choir has doggedly continued producing memorable items at communion services, funerals and particularly the Carol service all under Martin's direction. Thank you all very much indeed.

During the year the Rectory has been approached for more practical help by families within the community than ever before. Thanks to the generosity of parishioners: toys, clothes, shoes, linen, a washing machine, a cot, and other items have been provided as well as food. We now have a close link with the Manningtree Foodbank and both churches have a Pantry in the Porch. We have purchased Coop vouchers using money donated for the Food project which are available to be used for fresh produce and meat but not alcohol, lottery tickets or tobacco products. Several families have been referred to us by Social Services but others arrive on the doorstep.

I am immensely grateful to everyone who has helped in any way. Help ranges from polishing the brass, helping set up for services, decorating and putting out the bins. Your gifts are many and varied. I can't name you all. You know who you are. Thank you!

A cause of concern is our declining number of volunteers, and the new service pattern is having to take account of the realities of our situation. There will definitely be changes in the future as we adapt for the interregnum and beyond.

Changes in the Deanery are afoot. We have been unable to pay our full parish share for several years now. St Michael's has to raise £20,000 for the repair of their tower and St Mary's has to raise vast sums for the repair of our badly leaking roof. We get no money for this from the Church Commissioners. Too often I hear that the Church of England is very wealthy. Sadly, our bit of it is not and we are utterly dependent on the generosity of the villagers and Trustees of various organisations that make grants available. Added to these huge expenses we are still expected to pay our parish share. The Diocese has made clear that they cannot replace me with a full-time priest unless we pay our way. With Rev Annette who was in North Samford benefice leaving the Diocese in August, my impending retirement and Rev Sally being signed off as a Curate, changes have to be made. The proposal is that our benefice will become the Benefice of East Bergholt, Brantham and Bentley thereby making it possible to advertise for a full-time priest. Tattingstone might be added to Two Rivers Benefice and a part-time priest appointed to North Samford, with Rev Sally remaining at Capel St Mary and Little and Great Wenham but working with North Samford. At the time of

writing (end January) these proposals are still under discussion and fluid but it is hoped that our vacancy will be able to be advertised after Easter with the new incumbent in post by Christmas. Please pray for the right decisions and the right people to be appointed.

Both parishes have been wonderfully blessed with dedicated, capable, and hard-working Wardens during my years in post. I have been so grateful to have their support and wisdom in the many difficult decisions and situations we have faced together.

My huge thanks to the secretaries who have graced the Benefice Office over the years and helped to lessen the administrative burden, trying faithfully to keep me sane and not antagonise the parrot: Jo, Julia, Julie, Janet, Annie, Michelle and Amanda. You have powered through shedloads of work without complaint. All have commented in amazement that a priest doesn't only work on Sundays and had had no idea that so much work is involved in the profession.

Joop has offered me constant support during my ministry, acted as my chauffeur without complaint and made considerable sacrifices in his own life to make my ministry possible. Thank you!

Coco has transformed my life since she came into it 7 years ago. Truly God's gift to me and to the benefice. She has comforted the grieving, snored through the sermons, provided many a laugh as she leopard crawled across the carpet in St Michael's following the sun, and made everyone feel welcome and loved, warming their feet at the same time. Thank you, Coco!

I wish to thank you all for the 16 happy years I have spent in the Benefice. It has been a huge privilege to worship with you, pray with you, minister to you, alongside you and learn with you. Thank you for your patience with me and your immense kindness as my sight has deteriorated. Please forgive me for the times I have offended you. Disagreeing well is fundamentally important in the Gospel. I would like us to part as friends agreeing to disagree where that may be necessary.

At the time of writing, we have no idea where we will move to and have been informed it will not be before September and may even be Christmas! After my farewell service on 30th April 2023, Joop and I will stop worshipping with you as there needs to be a clean break. We will miss you very much. While we are squatting in the Rectory, I hope you will visit us!

The Lord be with you.



Rev Steph and Coco

Curate's Report

I have been so blessed to have Rev Steph as my supervisor this year. Her wisdom, humour and compassion shine through and she has guided and supported me at all times. It was wonderful to go to Oberammergau and to meet and become friends with many of you, and much laughter and joy was had by all.

It has been a strange experience being Rev Steph's curate at a distance because of my responsibilities in Capel St Mary and the Wenhams. It has meant I haven't got to know your congregations as well as I would have like to, but I know you have been supportive and prayerful for me.

I look forward to being signed off curacy in 2023 and to living a priestly life with Rev Stephne as a wonderful mentor and role model.



Rev Sally - Curate in charge of Capel St Mary with Little and Great Wenham.

Electoral Roll

Precise details of numbers on this year's Electoral Roll will be shared at the APCM, as at the time of writing this report the figures are not known.



*Fiona Trott
Electoral Roll Officer*

Proceedings of the East Bergholt PCC

2022 has been a year of 'getting back to normal' following all the upheavals caused by the COVID pandemic during 2021. The acceptance and use of technology to facilitate PCC meetings has meant that rather than venturing out on a cold and frosty evening in winter it was possible to sit in the virtual ZOOM room and carry out business as usual. The majority of the meetings this year have been 'real' meetings, but a few have been carried out via ZOOM and there was even a 'mixed media' meeting where we were able to 'patch in' PCC members to a physical meeting via the ZOOM application.

During 2022 the EB PCC held a total of nine meetings (two via ZOOM and one mixed media), including the APCM and emergency meetings, and on average, there were 10 members present at each of the meetings. The items discussed at the meetings covered a wide variety of areas which

included: keeping all Policies up to date; ensuring the camera and WiFi infrastructure was in place to enable livestreaming of services; addressing the Chancel Roof and Parapet repairs; sorting out the trees in the churchyard, including the removal of the large Yew tree; the celebrations for Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations at Fields Farm Café on Park Road; establishing and submitting a 'Condolences book' following the death of Her Majesty the Queen; providing input into the Deanery reorganisation discussions; progressing the Lottery bid for the Roof Project; arranging the Christmas Parade and celebrations; looking for Office space for the Benefice Administrator following Rev Stephne's retirement; and not least, regular financial reports and updates from the Treasurer who has kept us on an even keel thanks to her fiscal prudence during difficult times.

The PCC meetings/discussions were all carried out in a friendly, constructive, and supportive manner and there was a genuine spirit of cooperation and the wish to do the best for the benefice.



Steve Newman
Minutes Secretary

Safeguarding

There have been no major safeguarding issues in the Benefice to report in the last year. However, with the cost of living crisis, there are now vulnerable people needing help and support within both parishes and each church has offered food and vital supplies via Pantry in the Porch. Rev Steph has also liaised with local foodbanks and social services to ensure those in need are supported. St Mary's is represented on a community support group in East Bergholt.

Whilst acting as temporary BSO, I have only been able to reactively update safeguarding requirements rather than proactively ensure everyone is up to date, due to other calls on my church time. DBS certificates have automatically been kept up to date but the various safeguarding levels have not. A lot of updating will need to be done in the new year, and we are trying to facilitate face to face sessions for those not comfortable with online options. Some of the Diocesan and CofE safeguarding requirements for different posts within our churches have expectations above and beyond what is reasonably feasible. Concern has been recorded.

Fiona Trott
Acting Benefice Safeguarding Officer

Treasurer's Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

General Fund

The Church is now regularly open and services are provided on a regular basis. The General fund has increased slightly on last year after taking into consideration the generous help from the Preservation Society.

- Planned giving has risen significantly for the first time in four years while donations have dropped slightly.
- Fundraising has been concentrated on the roof with the exception of the 50/50 club.
- Income from the bookstall has once again seen a marginal increase.
- The PCC continues to cut costs where ever possible.
- The fixed electricity rate comes to an end this year, but we have benefited from a low rate through the winter.
- Total income looks up on last year, but if we take off the amounts that just pass through the Church Account, such as Restricted Preservation Society donations, restricted donations, Diocesan fees, non-statutory fees, roof donations, special collections and restricted miscellaneous, we are left with £66,345 as opposed to last year of £65,171. Staying stable.

We prepare our accounts on a receipts and payments basis, which means that accruals and adjustments are not required. However, this can result in timing differences and affects areas such as utility bills, oil, printing costs, special collections etc

Magazine

The magazine account has turned a profit once again this year. This resulted in a total of £5,000 being transferred to the General Fund during this financial year. The PCC is extremely grateful for all the hard work undertaken by the Magazine committee. There are currently outstanding costs of three months printing invoices and two months of commission and after allowing for these costs the balance is £5,840. No monies are transferred to the General Fund without consulting the Magazine Committee.

Roof Fund

This fund was started in July 2019 and the first expenses were paid out in December 2019. Charity Fundraising Ltd is the company providing the invaluable expertise and support for us to hopefully submit a successful Lottery application. We are very grateful for the large donations from the Garage Sale and Christmas parade this year for this fund.

Bell Cage

Bell cage donations are similar to last year, when allowing for a one off donation which inflated 2021. Thank you to the ringers for agreeing to pay their own Bell Ringers Guild Subscriptions for this and future years, thus helping the church with its dwindling income. A grant was successfully sought for a new monitor to permanently display a documentary about the bell cage. The PCC released some funds to support this venture.

Streaming Services

The church received generous donations to install new cameras and streaming computer. All regular church services are now available on YouTube.

Parish Share

This is our largest single annual expense. This year, there continued to be little flexibility in our finances, partly due to no money being available from the Hetherington Fund. Although after careful finance management, we were able to pay £37,600 (2021: £38,600) of the full £53,000 due. The Diocese has continued to be kept informed. The PCC also continue to look at reducing outgoings and making savings wherever possible.

Preservation Society

It would be extremely remiss of me not to mention the valuable part the Preservation Society has played this year in the chancel roof works. They have helped to pay for the bat surveys, the total costs of the roof works and made a substantial contribution to the architects' fees. It is clear from this report that without the help of this charity we would not have been able to undertake these works.

Various

The Jenny Lane fund is for work with children, and continues to be used whenever appropriate costs arise.

Investments are included at cost, but their market value remains in significant excess of cost. They provide a crucial regular income stream throughout the year.

Assets are stated as £151,574 (2021: £156,618) but would be higher if market value of investments was shown. After taking into account all designated and restricted funds, and known liabilities, the monies that are free for use stand at £9,525 (2021: £14,000). Having taken the decision that the shareholdings form the back up (£15,000) we were able to contribute a further £5,000 to the parish share in December.

We were able to draw down £3,500 from the East End Mission Hall monies to spend on the Jubilee celebrations at Fields Farm.

50/50 club raised over £400 but will not be continued in 2023.

Close

Once again, this year as treasurer, has not been without its challenges. I would like to offer my sincere and grateful thanks to Fiona Trott, Liz Digby and Sarah Southgate, who have been unfailing in their help and support. Also, to the PCC, who have taken difficult decisions and approved my recommendations during another extremely problematic year for church finances.

Lesley Cherry
Hon Treasurer

FOR THE YEAR END**2022**

	2022	2021
INCOME	£	£
Restricted P S Donations	50280.73	8448.66
Planned giving/PGS	24246.17	18991.92
Gift Aid	10432.20	7833.54
Planned Giving Non-Gift Aid	0.00	56.30
Collections	4057.69	3018.68
Donations	7588.13	11952.87
Restricted Donations	9275.50	8580.00
Matt/Calendars	1501.43	2143.20
Ministry of Welcome	0.00	0.00
Fundraising Roof	866.50	7187.81
Ed/Train	0.00	0.00
Toddlers	172.18	194.50
Choir	0.00	0.00
Brantham PCC various/honoraria	2999.02	3481.45
Bookstall	1194.35	1042.43
Bell Cage	53.26	119.97
Diocesan Fees	1165.00	1083.00
PCC fees	3406.98	3100.00
Non-Stat Fees	4755.58	2961.11
Refreshments	176.00	0.00
Heating	545.00	490.00
Investment Income/Dividends	2455.00	2400.94
50/50	300.00	744.00
Roof Donations	25188.52	4778.92
Flower Fund	0.00	0.00
Special Collections	1433.10	1236.62
Bran PCC	0.00	0.00
Transfers from Magazine	5000.00	2000.00
Misc.	480.00	76.23
Misc. Restricted	5118.27	3379.75
Easy Fundraising/ Amazon	304.85	334.12
Fundraising other bodies	695.00	
INCOME	163690.46	95636.02
Total unrestricted income	£61,164.00	£53,156.00

	2022	2021
EXPENSES		
Parish Share	37,600.00	38,600.00
Deanery Levy	0.00	0.00
Clergy exp	1,895.44	2,056.51
Church run costs	5,588.48	3,758.69
Cost of services	1,577.49	1,773.91
Admin costs	1,772.47	2,563.27
Administrator Honoraria	5,835.44	6,472.51
Cleaning honoraria	1,437.50	1,137.50
ORGAN	586.00	2,526.00
Director of Music/non stat	5,978.00	3,267.00
Toddlers/Youth work	115.20	244.05
Fundraising	20.00	5,405.33
maintenance/repairs	1,065.46	2,005.94
Bookstall	79.60	255.49
Tea/coffee kitchen	46.86	28.59
Jubilee	2,511.13	0.00
Diocesan fees	1,163.00	1,083.00
Non stat fees	1,847.84	1,217.50
Donations	0.00	500.00
Special collections sent	2,292.50	1,486.62
Flower fund	519.29	211.57
50/50	442.00	0.00
Misc.	3,502.83	4,219.70
Bell cage	228.00	14.44
Insurance	4,054.99	2,152.32
New Bells monitor etc	12,869.56	0.00
Roof	76064.04	12897.90
Loan repayment	3000.00	1,200.00
	0.00	0.00
TOTAL COSTS	17,2093.12	9,5077.84
	-8402.66	558.18

Note The insurance had been paid in one lump sum yearly. The new monthly instalments started partway through 2021. Overall saving using the new company £1,500 per year.

Investments

	Number of shares held	Cost per share	Total cost £	Market Value	
				2022	2021
Paskell Fund					
CBF Investment Fund (CCLA)	1,010.00	6.54	6,606.00	20,852.00	23,620.00
Charishares BlackRock	3,665.00	2.09	7,660.00	25,303.00	25,789.00
Mission Hall Trust (DBF)	508.00	2.48	1,262.00	7,171.00	* 11,880.00
Malschinger Investments (DBF)					
Account133001323S	2,517.00	13.01	2,742.00	51,963.00	58,861.00
Account133001002J	3,205.00	8.72	60,000.00	169,900.00	186,935.00
Suffolk Building Society				13,580.00	13,447.00
			Total	288,769.00	320,532.00

*£3,500 taken from this fund to pay towards the Jubilee celebrations Drop of over £28,000 this year

Statement of Designated and Restricted Funds 2022

Name of Fund	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds Designated	Unrestricted Funds Undesignated	Endowment Funds	Total	2022	2021
Hetherington			£13,580.00			£13,580.00	£13,447.00
Flower	£1,445.00					£1,445.00	£1,814.00
Jenny Lane		£153.00				£153.00	£602.00
Roof	£9,921.00					£9,921.00	£7,761.00
Paskell				£20,852.00		£20,852.00	£23,620.00
East End Mission	£1,262.00					£1,262.00	£1,262.00
Malschinger				£221,863.00		£221,863.00	£245,796.00
Altar		£10,000.00				£10,000.00	£10,000.00
Wi-Fi/Recording		£0.00				£0.00	£5,150.00
Total						£279,076.00	£309,452.00

ROOF ACCOUNT SUMMARY 2022

Account ON-GOING

INCOME		From 07/2019	Expenditure		From 12/2019
Roof tile sales		£492.50	Charity Fund Ltd		£8,204.16
Fundraising		£6,614.12	Architect		£21,185.26
Donations		£11,549.00	Lead Repair		£1,008.00
Cake Sales		£130.50	Bat Surveys		£4,435.80
Parish Giving		£70.54	Quantity Surveyor		£600.00
Garden Tours		£499.00	Scaffold sensors/ Insurance		£2,423.31
Grants		£7,250.00	Universal stone		£61,117.07
Preservation Society		£63,995.24	Matt Costs		£2,000.00
Matt Sales		£4,422.98	Solicitor		£264.00
Funeral Collection		£98.81			
DCMS VAT reclaims		£13,666.86			
Gift Aid income		£2,369.29			
		£111,158.84			£101,237.60
			Balance as at 31/12/2022		£9,921.24

MAGAZINE ACCOUNT**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31/12/2022****2022****2021****INCOME**

Adverts	£19,429.00	£18,444.50	
General fund monies as bank closed	£567.24	£485.00	Paid into gen by advertiser in error
	£0.00	£0.00	
TOTAL INCOME	£19,996.24	£18,929.50	

EXPENSES

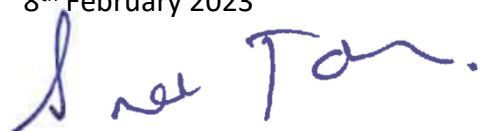
Transfer to General Fund	£5,000.00	£2,000.00	
Compiler Honoraria	£1,825.20	£1,736.00	
Admin	£0.00	£0.00	
Advertising Commission	£1,324.56	£1,476.41	
printing	£9,895.00	£10,660.00	
General fund monies as bank closed	£567.24	£485.00	incorrect amount paid so, refunded
	£0.00		
	£0.00		
TOTAL COSTS	£18,612.00	£16,357.41	
	£1,384.24	£2,572.09	

Monetary assets 31/12/22

	2022	2021
Barclays Bank account	£ 20,465	£ 27,026
Suffolk Building Society*	£ 13,580	£ 13,447
Malschinger at cost	£ 92,742	£ 92,742
CBF/Black Rock at cost	£ 15,528	£ 15,528
Magazine account	£ 9,259	£ 7,875
Total	£151,574	£156.618

*Ipswich Building Society new name

Approved by the Parochial Church Council

Date: 8th February 2023

Signed on behalf by Rev Canon S van der Toorn
Rector / PCC Chairman-----
Lesley Cherry
Hon Treasurer PCC East Bergholt

Samford Deanery Synod & Group Council

There were three meetings this year:

16 February at Capel St Mary: The appointment of Annette Shannon as the Rural Dean took place at this meeting. Archdeacon Jeanette was not able to be present at the meeting so she licensed Annette online as Rural Dean. Annette referred to the need to build a strong, objective team on the Pastoral Committee who know their parishes well to consider how we go forward as a deanery and address the financial and other challenges.

A presentation was made to Liesbeth Oosterhof with thanks for her contribution as Rural Dean.

Brian Rogerson was elected as Lay Chair of Samford Deanery Synod.

In January the Deanery Giving Group had met with Jonathan de Bernhardt Wood, National Advisor for Giving and Income Generation. Annette Shannon reported on the meeting – “we were all feeling rather dispirited by the necessary restrictions on Christmas services due to Covid, and recognising the challenges ahead. Jonathan in his wise and gentle way was able to help us reframe the situation. The main point that I took away was that we so often work from the principle of having to convince people to support us when in reality most villagers recognise our value, see the positive evidence of what we do and who we are but that we do not make it easy for them to support us. Most people now do not carry cash but Churches are often dependent on cash donations at services and events. Jonathan has lots of useful resources to help parishes to enable electronic payments.”

Wedding Preparation Day took place on the morning of 29 January (via Zoom reluctantly). Jenny Seggar reported that around 30 couples joined for sessions which included the legal aspects of marriage by Oliver Greville of Birketts Solicitors and one on music led by Jane Gould, together with information about the service itself and sound advice about practicalities. Although the event was shorter than when held in Bentley Village Hall, the sessions were well-received.

12 May at East Bergholt: Speaker from Ipswich FIND (Maureen Reynel): Maureen Reynel MBE, founder of FIND, gave an inspiring and enlightening talk about the setting up and operation of this registered charity, now in its 32nd year. She referred to the support from various people and local businesses to help her get the project started, particularly in the first three years, which has now grown to have 60 agencies referring people for help with food, clothing, bedding, transport to medical and other appointments, household items including white goods, nursery equipment, personal care items, accommodation, collecting (and paying for) prescriptions and other areas where help is required. Maureen referred to the number of food parcels delivered (over 7,000 in 2021) and the growing number of individuals needing help, illustrating the massive scale of the operation and the future demands on it. As well as contacting FIND directly, Maureen suggested that we could encourage awareness in our communities, through e.g. schools and GP surgeries. <https://www.findipswich.org.uk/>.

The Archdeacon's Visitation took place on Thursday 9 June at Holbrook Church.

18 October at Woolverstone: Samford Deanery Vocation Roadshow: Revd Stuart Batten, Diocesan Director of Ordinands, the contact for vocations and ordinations, introduced Matt Levett, Diocesan Youth and Young Adults Officer, the contact for Youth Ministry training. Matt gave his testimony of being called to be a youth worker in various denominations and settings, and how he had been encouraged by others who had received similar encouragement.

Some key thoughts from the presentations by Stuart and Matt included

- Take what you love to what the world needs
- Everything is a way to serve God
- Ephesians 4 11-16
- Encouragement to explore your vocation, including lay ministry – there are 450 lay elders in our Diocese, making an important contribution
- Links to Growing in God

Stuart asked us to think about how he and his team can support us in exploring our vocation – how we can use our gifts to serve God and others in the name of Christ.

Ken Felgate, deanery organiser and treasurer, reported that Samford Deanery at the end of September had paid 49.52% of the requested parish share for 2022. Compared against the other 15 Deaneries in the Diocese, our contributions are over 10% lower than what has been achieved by the other Deaneries. There is likely to be a deficit in the Parish Share at 31 December 2022 of around £600,000.

On behalf of Brantham and East Bergholt, Rev Steph had raised a question about the possibility of separate cups being used as an alternative to the Common Cup, following concerns expressed in the light of the recent Covid situation. Currently canon law precludes this alternative to the Common Cup but it would be helpful to obtain further information to allow a more informed discussion at a future Synod meeting.

Gill Forsyth, Julie Fermor, Sarah Southgate and Chris Jacob

Churchwardens

Yet another action-packed year in the life of a churchwarden at St Mary's! This year has seen three churchwardens in post, and I write on behalf of us all. Liz, after many years, had to step back from her role at the beginning of April and I am extremely grateful to Sarah for stepping up and taking her place – one dream team replaced by another – continuing to support one another in the wide range of duties that befall churchwardens these days.

The year started with positive progress on the repair of the Chancel Roof, thanks in no small part to the Preservation Society who financially assisted us with this project. During the early part of the year Universal Stone contractors replaced the tiles on the south side of the roof and made it watertight. The project was not without its challenges and a minor repair to the north aisle parapet at the same time, turned out to be a major one and therefore the total amount of project time was extended over and beyond the usual delays of supplies being delivered.

One of the more exciting projects was the installation in January of two cameras with appropriate hardware and software which meant we could livestream our services. This enabled us to reach “congregations” far and wide, and some across the seas! It was particularly useful for funerals when family and friends were unable to attend in person.

Our YouTube channel [Youtube.com@stmaryseastbergholt](https://www.youtube.com/stmaryseastbergholt) increased its number of subscribers and number of views, and new skills were acquired to successfully film the services. Thank you to all those who learnt which buttons to press correctly and so enabling us to load our Sunday services onto our website as well: [Achurchnearyou.com/church/2067](https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/2067).

Staying with modern technology, the new monitor (purchased from a grant in 2021 from the AONB Sustainable Development Fund) was finally loaded with a new ten-minute documentary about our unique bell cage, with smaller two-minute excerpts about the history, the bellringing technique and a demonstration ring. This is now available to all visitors at any time and is also accessible via a link to our website: [Constablecountrychurches.co.uk/bells-and-bell-cage](https://constablecountrychurches.co.uk/bells-and-bell-cage). It has been viewed by a staggering number of people and not just visiting from within the UK but also viewed remotely from abroad.

The clock saga continued into 2022! After a thorough overhaul by Cumbria Clocks, the clock was reinstalled and worked better for a while but then the mechanism faltered; the clock lost time and stopped chiming. A power supply monitor was fitted, an engineer visited and after some further remote instructions, everything seems to be working properly. Our thanks to Adrian and Sarah for making several trips up to the cupola to adjust cogs and pendulums during the year. We pray that the clock will function properly now!

Unfortunately, due to lack of time and volunteers, little fundraising has taken place this year. A Trianon concert in November had to be postponed but thankfully the Christmas Parade and Market took place for the third year running and we are extremely grateful to the village committee who worked extremely hard to organise another amazing event. Over £2000 was raised for the church roof appeal! We will need to up the ante in 2023 as any Lottery grant will require match funding. If you have any bright ideas to raise money, please see a warden!

Spending so much time in church, means that one gets the opportunity to meet interested people in our wonderful church building. Visitors come from all over the world and last year, Liz had a chance meeting with an American descendant of the Hankey family who once owned Old Hall. The Hankey family donated silver to the church including a chalice. Steve came back again this year on a planned visit with his sister, and it was wonderful to meet them both; show them the chalice and the memorials to their ancestors which are in the rector's vestry. Steve kindly wrote a fascinating article for the parish magazine. Not long after their visit, another American 'cousin' visited East Bergholt in his quest for information and research about a village boy called Isaac Allerton. David Furlow came back again in December and gave a most fascinating talk in the Lambe School about Isaac's life once he left on the Mayflower for the New World. Accompanied by his wife Lisa and colleague Lea – both descendants of Isaac – David explained the background history of the day surrounding that period and the phenomenal entrepreneurial and constitutional prowess of the boy from East Bergholt who ended up living on Wall Street! The evening raised £500 for the roof appeal.

Unfortunately, not a lot of progress has been made on the main project of the aisle roof repairs. Lots of discussion has taken place with various organisations and local councils. A meeting was held in September with village groups and societies, as this needs to be a village project, not just the church and Preservation Society. Hopefully in 2023 we will have more to show for our labours. One success to report is that after years of trying to appeal to the Charity Commissioners, we have managed to release capital from an inheritance legacy tied up in investments. Our thanks to James Hall, the Diocesan Registrar for his help in getting this longstanding request 'over the line'.

Being a churchwarden is a privilege and honour but comes with immense responsibilities. St Mary's is lucky to have a great team of people that supports the wardens and I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to those who have worked throughout the year to make sure the church is heated and lit up at Christmas, the bills are paid, the pennies are saved, all the church services are supported and the odd jobs are done. However, my biggest thanks go to my two 'partners in crime'; Liz for her many years of service to St Mary's and Sarah, for stepping up to support me in an hour of need.

Finally, I would also like to thank Steph for her amazing ministry amongst us, from the current wardens as well as all those who have gone before – it has been a total pleasure to support her over the final years of her incumbency at St Mary's. As this will be her last APCM, I take the opportunity to wish her all the very very best in her well-deserved retirement. We are going to miss her!



*Fiona Trott
on behalf of the Churchwardens*

Bell Ringers

This report covers 12 months from January to December 2022. It contains the information as specified in the Ringers' handbook.



Named ringers

Ringer	Attendances	Ringer	Attendances
Terry Eagle (Captain)	54	George Harris*	7
Julia Smith (Vice Captain)	56	Paul Ireland	30
Thomas Bryant	31	Rachel Lewis	41
Martin Digby	19	Hugh Smith	16

*Handbook states a minimum of 12 rings per year.

Approved Learners

Ringer	Attendances
Steve Feeney	32
Neil Culham	6

Ringling has been consistent through the year with Rachel Lewis being signed off on Christmas Day 2021 and a new ringer, Neil Culham, starting late in the season. Neil is an experienced tower bell ringer and regularly rings at Ardleigh tower. His father, David Culham, used to ring at East Bergholt so we have high hopes that he will do well with our unusual set up. Indeed, we spent some additional evenings getting a head start for next year. We will also be welcoming back Alison Ruffell (nee Reeves) in spring when we start practice again. Paul Ireland has moved to Shepton Mallett and Hugh Smith is taking a temporary break so our current experienced ringer pool is somewhat depleted but looking better for the coming year. We would like to thank both Paul and Hugh for their commitment to East Bergholt bells and especially to the training of new ringers.

In light of the changes made to the handbook during the pandemic, we will be reviewing the whole teaching schedule to see if we can improve it by making some of the temporary changes into permanent ones.

During the current year, we have rung for one funeral; four weddings; one demonstration; a half-muffled ring for Remembrance and the usual rings at Christmas and New Year. We also had the honour of ringing to commemorate the passing of the late Queen on the announcement of her

death and for the funeral, as well as the King's Proclamation. The latter was a half-muffled ring and we managed to do an hour-long ring with five experienced ringers doing 2 x 6-minute stints each and changing over whilst the bell was still ringing. We think it may have been a record for East Bergholt bells! Our other special rings were for the Queen's Jubilee and the start of the war in Ukraine.

Issues dealt with in 2022

1. Pigeons nested twice inside the roof again. Nests were removed on both occasions. This requires ongoing monitoring.
2. Emergency lighting and uplights were replaced/renewed

Issues outstanding

1. Tiles on the roof to be replaced – some broken ones have fallen off
2. Door lock sometimes stiff in wet weather
3. No 2 bell need new wooden wedge as difficult to lock

*Terry Eagle
Captain of Bells*

Flower Arrangers

Whilst 2021 flower activities had still been impacted by Covid restrictions 2022 saw us return to more normal practice; at last, we could gather en masse to decorate the Church for the various festivals and have been able to break for refreshments and a catch up in the West End. In addition to arrangements for Easter, Patronal Festival, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas the Church was decorated to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The ladies worked hard over the summer to keep their arrangements looking good since the extensive heatwave made it particularly challenging. Laura Harris has made wonderful photo montages of the various festivals and posted them on social media; the montage for the Jubilee was 'shared' on Facebook by both the Stanway and East of England branches of The National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies with a recommendation that we were worth a visit.

The death of the Queen was marked by a small arrangement to go with the book of condolence.

Sophie and I have been liaising with Ruben and Fiona to sort out the storage of flower arranging material both in the Parvise and the shed. This included the purchase of storage boxes for the artificial flowers that are used for the various festivals. We have also purchased some more artificial flowers, most specifically for the Patronal festival since it is often difficult for the ladies to source real flowers of the requisite colour.

As part of this process the flower pedestals have been renovated; Adrian Cherry has done a fantastic job mending and painting them. We have identified a few that are surplus to our requirements and the intention is that they can be sold to free up space and generate some funds.

In addition to the purchase of artificial flowers we have acquired an allotment next to the church where we can grow flowers for use by the flower arrangers. The intention is that any surplus can be sold to cover the cost of flower production and hopefully generate a profit for the benefit of the Church. To date we have cleared the allotment with help from George Collis who has volunteered as part of his Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award. We have planted shrubs for foliage, many of which

were kindly donated by Sara Eley. As the season progresses, we will start stocking/planting a mix of annuals and perennials for cutting.

Plans for 2023 include decorating the Church so that it can be included as part of the Open Gardens event at the beginning of June.

We also intend to research and put into practice methods of flower arranging that do not involve the use of Oasis/flower foam. The oasis that we use currently is supposedly biodegradable but it still has an adverse environmental impact and it would be better (and cheaper) not to use it at all.

Susan Shepherd has had to step down due to other commitments but will stay in touch and may come to help out at the various festivals. Helen Duncan has joined us and comes with previous flower arranging experience volunteering at St Helena's hospice.

Rachael Lewis

Foundation Governors' Report

Report on East Bergholt Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School

"I have come that they might have life, and have it to the full," John 10:10

As we thankfully leave the disruption of COVID behind us, school leaders and teachers have improved our curriculum offer to ensure a broad, rich and deep curriculum that is accessible to all learners, including those with SEND. The introduction of the Curriculum with Unity Schools Partnership (CUSP) has led to increased coherence and better progression through subjects across the school. Assessment has been strengthened in the foundation subjects enabling subject leaders to measure impact and effect change to ensure pupils are making rapid progress across the curriculum.

To support behaviour and attitudes that equip learners to be respectful citizens, value diversity, and support their personal development, pupil wellbeing continues to be developed through the use of My Happy Mind. Parents have access to the App at home which support the use of the strategies taught at school to be used at home.

Leadership and management have embedded the promotion of equality of opportunity through refining our school vision, so our school is a place

- Which provides a broad and cohesive education in a Christian setting developing knowledge and skills for children to take to the next phase of education and life
- Which has a dedicated and hard-working staff, working in partnership with parents to provide an environment where children of all abilities grow and have a thirst for their learning
- Where children enjoy a rich and exciting curriculum with a wide range of additional artistic, musical, and sporting activities for all ages resulting in the accumulation of cultural capital and knowledge
- Where all feel valued and where all are learning to care for one another
- Where children are enthusiastic about continuing to learn and take responsibility for themselves and their own learning

- Where children accept their share in the responsibility of all for the world and society
- Where children embrace Christian values which will enable them to live with respect, generosity, integrity and care
- Where children are able to embrace change whilst holding to their core values.

Written by Jan Plumstead, Chair of Governors

With the final restrictions of the pandemic having finally been lifted during this reporting year we have returned to the 'old normal', with school life having settled back into that routine which the current Reception to Year 2 classes had not previously experienced. Church services and celebrations, nativity plays, parents' evenings, 'Wow days', sports days and the Year 6 end of year musical production of 'Oliver!' (amongst many other successful events) happened with no restrictions on attendance, no requirement for face-masks and no requirement for full ventilation of the school buildings no matter the weather outside. It would be remiss at this point not to recognise the huge amount of time and effort invested in these activities by the school's staff body, invariably outside of their working hours, in order to facilitate these events which have been enjoyed by both the children and parents alike. It would be similarly negligent to fail to mention the hard work and dedication of the school's Parents and Friends Association (PFA) who are behind the planning and delivery of the many fund-raising events held throughout the year; during the pandemic they were severely constrained as to what they could achieve but are now back to generating finances for the benefit of the pupils and school, for which we are most appreciative.

In November the details of the new 2023 Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Framework was published. For those wishing to view the full documentation, the website address is: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/education-and-schools/church-schools-and-academies/siams-inspections>.

SIAMS inspections are a key element of the life of all Church of England schools in England and it was decided following the resumption of school inspections in September 2021 that such inspections would take place within 8 years of the date of the previous inspection, and thereafter approximately every 5 years. In brief the current Evaluation Schedule 2018 asks one central question: "How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?", which is explored through seven further strands/avenues of questioning. This core question has not markedly changed in the new Framework but the manner in which it is to be assessed and answered by schools has.

The 2023 Framework does not reimagine what it means to be a Church school but the inspectors' approach will no longer focus on lists of inspection criteria but explore with school leaders whether and how, through its theologically rooted Christian vision, the school is living up to its foundation as a Church school, enabling pupils and adults to flourish. To do this (for our school) they will utilise 6 Inspection Questions that focus primarily on impact and outcomes. This change of emphasis in the inspection process is reflected in the overall inspection decision where the current grading system (Excellent/Good/Requires Improvement/Ineffective) is to be replaced by 2 possible Inspection Judgements of either (a) J1: through its vision and practice the school is living up to its foundation as a Church school, or (b) J2: the school's vision and practice is not enabling it to fully live up to its foundation as a Church school.

The current Evaluation Schedule 2018 will remain in force until September 2023; as East Bergholt CEVC Primary School is not listed for an inspection before that date our next inspection will be subject to these new Framework processes.

There have been a number of departures and arrivals of staff members over the last twelve months and we both thank those that have left for their hard work and wish them well for future endeavours, and also welcome those having started with us. These good wishes are equally true for those who have stepped down from the Board of Governors and to welcome Laveena Kerr, the most recent appointee as a Parent Governor. There is, of course, one individual who will be stepping down as a Foundation Governor in the coming months who will be a huge loss to the school community and to the Board. (Inevitably this will mean a vacancy during the interregnum: any volunteer to hold this post for the months that it is vacant would be most warmly welcomed.) For many Rev Steph (not forgetting Canon Coco!) has been synonymous with our school, an ever popular and welcoming presence and an expert at spreading the Christian message by making it accessible to young minds. To end this report, it is felt appropriate that the last word is about Rev Steph's dedication to the school and is written by the Headteachers:

"The school is particularly sad that Rev Steph is leaving us in April. Rev Steph has been guiding the school spiritually for many years and has been invaluable in unsettling times such as during the recent pandemic. Rev Steph has always fully involved herself in school life, attending our performances and leading church services and church experiences which have enriched the lives of both the children and staff. More recently the school has developed a church council which is made up of Year 6 pupils and who lead assemblies in school and play a full part in school church services. Rev Steph meets with the council and in February the council will welcome Bishop Mike to our school. Everyone at school wishes Rev Steph well for her future, she will be sorely missed."



*Report compiled by Rev Canon Stephne van der Toorn and Simon Rothwell, Foundation Governors
Written by Gill Mitchell and Sarah Baker, co-Headteachers*

East Bergholt Parish Magazine

Strong support from advertisers means that the parish magazine continues to more than pay its own way, and the sterling work of our distribution team means that it genuinely reaches the whole community. In the last year we have also improved its accessibility to readers by launching a large-print edition, and widened the variety of content by introducing a new section focusing on local issues and opinions. We continue to be enthusiastically supported by the many local organisations which contribute content - including sports, cultural, and social groups as well as the churches - and we are confident that in 2023 the parish magazine will remain a valuable resource for all.

*Barnaby Page
Editor*

Toddlers Group

The Toddler Group continues to go from strength to strength. After diminishing numbers in the spring, we welcomed many new faces during the summer and this continued into the autumn and winter months. It has been wonderful to see the West End full of children having lots of fun.

Gina Bruce joined us as a regular helper which was a great help to Gill when I took some time out during the summer. We are always keen to have more help, and if you are interested in joining us, please don't hesitate to contact either Gill or myself. There are a few forms to complete, but we can help with these.

This year the toddler group Christmas party was a joint one with family@church. It was well attended and enjoyed by all of us and we hope to repeat this in 2023.

We are proud our church toddler group has become so popular and remains an important link with the wider community.

Liz Digby
Leader, St Mary's Toddler Group

Family@church



The highlight of 2022 has to be the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June. Nearly 100 people of all ages sheltered in a tipi at Field's Farm shop and Café in Park Road. Despite the persistent drizzle a great time was had by all. The children enjoyed a wide range of activities from making crowns and bookmarks to pinning the crown on the queen! We sang, prayed, Rev Steph told a South African story and then everyone enjoyed a fabulous picnic tea provided by Abby and her amazing team at Fields. We were able to fund all this from a very restricted part of the church finances relating to worship in East End, so we made our Treasurer happy too!

Another highlight was a joint Christmas party with the Toddler Group in December. I am sure this will become an annual event. We made snowmen out of socks, stars to hang on the Christmas tree and decorated ginger biscuits. We then had a visit from Father Christmas, taking a break from his festive preparations, to hand out presents to all the children.

With continuing COVID restrictions, family@church was not able to fully 'operate' as we normally would, with curtailed activities and no communal high tea. However, we have continued to do as much as possible and are grateful to all the families who have supported us throughout the year.

None of these services would be possible without a lot of support from a wonderful team of helpers. I am very grateful to everyone who has lent a hand this year: Karen, Gill and Gina who have given invaluable help setting up for services, welcoming our families and helping with activities and storytelling; our generous benefactor who enables us to give the children booklets at Easter and Christmas, plus eggs and advent calendars; and of course, Rev Steph for her wonderful support of this important mission and my creative partner, Liz! Thank you!

Fiona Trott

Mothers' Union

Each year, across the world, Mothers' Union members work tirelessly to improve the quality of life for those around them. They do this as part of their personal commitment to show their faith in action. The embedded nature of members in communities means Mothers' Union is uniquely placed to reach people which others (NGOs or government agencies) struggle to reach.

Mothers' Union groups identify community needs at local level and form projects to address these. In a number of countries, the work of members is supported and nurtured by professional workers. These are known as Community Development Coordinators and their training and direction is facilitated by the central charity.

Local projects are necessarily diverse, so that they may respond to differing local needs. However, there are some common themes which are important to the membership. These include maintaining a worldwide Christian fellowship, promoting favourable conditions in society for stable family life, and helping those families who have met with adversity.

Here in East Bergholt and Brantham we have been involved in making craft items including fiddle muffs, drain bags and seafarer's hats and made Christmas cards for prisoners in Highpoint Prison. We have donated wash bags and underwear to Ipswich hospital and participated in a national campaign to end gender-based violence and an international programme to support women in leadership roles. We have a phone a friend outreach whereby members keep in weekly contact with members of the community living on their own. Couples getting married in the benefice have all been given copies of our book 'For Better, For Worse'. Bags of Love have been given to people who need support, whether through sickness, loneliness or sadness.

Members of our branch have attended diocesan services on Lady Day and Mary Sumner day as well as a Wholeness and Healing service in October. Our Wave of Prayer service was incorporated into the Sunday communion service as it fell on this day in 2022. Prayer is central to everything we do; our daily prayer diary and daily midday prayers form a pattern for our prayer life.

Funds to support all our work have been raised through a summer sponsored walk, raffles and thanks to many generous donations. Our monthly meetings are divided between themes of faith, fun and fellowship. Non-members are very welcome to join in our meetings and our projects.

You don't have to wait to be asked to join Mothers' Union. We welcome anyone, irrespective of gender, age, marital status, parent or not.

Jeanette Appleton, Janet Ball, Jenny Chapman and Chris Jacob
East Bergholt and Brantham Mothers' Union

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2022
St Mary the Virgin, East Bergholt
Sunday, 20th March 2022 immediately after the 10.30am Service

In attendance: Fiona Trott; (Chair); Michelle Jowers (Minutes); Archie Rattray; Gill Rattray; Barry Blomfield; Mary Nottingham; Chris Jacob; Koshy Jacob; Janet Seden; Roy Seden; John Gamlin; Howard Holdsworth; Stuart Stone; Peter Sutton Apologies were received from: Don and Pam Robinson; Steve Newman; Marian Godwin; Lesley Cherry; Dorothy Brundell; Liz Digby; Stephne and Joop van Der Toorn; Martin Huggett; Sarah Southgate; Reuben Rushen; Glen Rowson; Geoff Potter; Shirley Bruce; Michael and Tricia Fitzpatrick; Joyce and Derek Fox	
1.	Welcome and prayers Fiona Trott opened the meeting with the Lent sonnet “All the kingdoms of the world” by Malcolm Guite and a prayer. Rev Steph would like to record her thanks to her wonderful wardens and all the PCC for all their hard work and the support given to her.
2.	Minutes of APCM 25th April 2021 - These were approved by all.
3.	Receive the Rector’s Report - This report was approved by all. Grateful thanks were extended by all to Rev Steph for her leadership.
4.	Electoral Roll Report This year there were three new members; four moved out of the area and six have died. The current total of 126 was reported. The report was approved by all.
5.	Report on the proceedings of the PCC - This report was approved by all.
6.	Approve the Treasurer’s report and accounts - This report was approved by all. Proposed by Peter Sutton and seconded by Howard Holdsworth. Sincere thanks to Lesley Cherry were recorded for her incredible hard work. The finances are very difficult at the moment and Lesley is working tirelessly to cut costs wherever possible. Currently payments to the parish share are down and last year it was not possible to pay the full allocation due to lack of income/donations.
7.	Report on the proceedings of Deanery Synod - This report was approved by all.
8.	Safeguarding report - The report was approved by all. Fiona is currently standing in for Glen while he has other commitments. The training of trainers for face to face sessions is being addressed but predominately can be done on-line.
9.	Election of Churchwardens Fiona Trott (proposed by Liz Digby and Peter Sutton) and Liz Digby (proposed by Sarah Southgate and Fiona Trott) - were elected unanimously as the Churchwardens. Thanks were given to the wardens for their outstanding work and support. Fiona and Liz would like to record thanks to the deputy church wardens for all their support, but regarded it a privilege to serve the church and Steph at this particular time.
10.	Deanery Synod elections Sarah Southgate and Chris Jacob were elected for three years in November 2020. However, one vacancy still remains.

11. PCC	Three of the four PCC members due for re-election this year are prepared to stand again: Jackie Reeves; Glen Rowson; Geoff Potter. All were re-elected. Shirley Bruce is not standing again which leaves four vacancies - one for three years; one for one year and two vacancies for two years.
12. Appoint an Independent Examiner	Britt Evans has indicated her willingness to continue, so she was reappointed as Independent Examiner. Sincere thanks were extended to her for all the support she gives to Lesley.
13. Receive all other reports	- All other reports were approved unanimously.
14. MINUTES OF THE PCC MEETING FOLLOWING THE APCM	attended by Fiona Trott (Chair); Michelle Jowers (Minutes), Chris Jacob, Barry Blomfield, Howard Holdsworth
Election of PCC Officers	
Vice Chairman	Fiona Trott
Minutes Secretary	Steve Newman
PCC Secretary	Michelle Jowers
Brantham PCC representative	Jane Pavitt (for initial meeting only; then TBA)
Hon Treasurer	Lesley Cherry
Deputy Churchwardens	Barry Blomfield; Lesley Cherry; Chris Jacob; Ruben Rushen; Geoff Potter; Glen Rowson; Sarah Southgate; Howard Holdsworth
Electoral Roll Officer	Fiona Trott
Benefice Safeguarding Officer	Glen Rowson (interim - Fiona Trott)
Health and Safety	Glen Rowson (interim - Liz Digby)
Standing Committee	Rector, Vice Chair, Wardens, Health and Safety and Treasurer
Lettice Dykes	Rev Canon Stephne van der Toorn; Ruben Rushen; Ted Wheatley; Gill Rattray
Preservation Society	Rev Steph; Liz Digby; Lesley Cherry
Foundation Governors	Rev Steph and Simon Rothwell
Magazine Committee	Rev Steph, Lesley Cherry, Michelle Jowers, Alison Jones, Marion Ralph, John Gamlin
Captain of Bells	Terry Eagle
Ecumenical Committee	Chris Jacob and Barry Blomfield
Representatives	
15. A.O.B	FT apologized that the Livestreaming Policy was not prepared to pass as promised but would be ready for the May meeting. HH raised the point that in his opinion having two services again each Sunday with the high Covid rates is overstretching resources and costs. Now that attendance has reduced substantially again, maybe a return to having a single benefice service alternating between the churches should be considered. FT closed the meeting at 11:30.
16. Date of Next Meeting:	Rev Steph away: Oberammergau 18-22 May inclusive; 20 June – 4 July inclusive Dates of East Bergholt PCC meetings for 2022 (Thursdays): 26th May, 7th July, 22nd September, 17th November 9th June Archdeacon visitation for swearing in of Wardens, 19:30 at Holbrook



REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1063444

PATRON: OLIVER ELEY

Famous for its bell cage and unfinished tower, St. Mary's present building dates from about 1350. Built of brick, flint and stone (probably from an earlier building), it houses a Font inscribed to the memory of Abram Constable (1783-1862) the artist's younger brother. The church chest, possibly as old as any part of the church fabric, has triple locks added by Elizabethan injunction. A three leaved lily emblem of St. Mary's adorns the north side brick-work. The five-pointed star or mullet emblem of the De Veres, Earl of Oxford and Lords of the Manor of Old Hall decorates the north turret.

The purpose of our society is to raise funds to help preserve this vital part of village heritage for the benefit of future generations. Since the inauguration on 17th June 1997, with the considerable support of many local residents, the Society has raised more than £200,000. It has established the biannual East Bergholt Gardens Open Day, an event enjoyed by many which attracts visitors from far afield.

Currently, we have many problems with the church roof and desperately need to raise funds to assist with repairs. Help us to assist with the preservation of this unique structure and become a member of the Preservation Society. Your support and donations, large or small will go to achieve this aim.

St. Mary's Church East Bergholt Preservation Society Review of 2022

The Annual General Meeting was held in the West End of St. Mary's Church on Wednesday 16th November 2022. Our audited accounts and minutes of our previous AGM, held on 17th November 2021 were approved. Copies are available by emailing ebchurchpres@gmail.com. We are very pleased to welcome Mr Roy Thornycroft as our new treasurer who was also elected as a Trustee.

Unfortunately, we were unable to hold our Carols and Mince Pie event in December, as in previous years. However, a wonderful summers evening in June saw relaxed members and guests enjoying the beautiful gardens of Warren House, Straight Road. Our warmest thanks to Henry and Anstice Harrison-Topham for their fantastic hospitality and all their hard work in preparing the garden for our event. Many thanks to our amazing band of volunteer caterers for the wonderful canapes and drinks service.

Whilst the focus for the evening was the magnificent garden, reports summarising the progress of repairs to the Chancel Roof and Northern Parapet were available for reference. You may recall urgent work was needed for the south Chancel roof and this formal process commenced in the beginning of 2021. Before this work was put out to tender, it was necessary to consider other factors such as the presence of bats. Surveys were once again required. During this time, it became apparent that the stonework on the Northern parapet was unstable and further, various pin holes had appeared in the lead roofing which also needed repair

There is much preparation needed behind the scenes to enable such work to take place and we must express our thanks to the Church Wardens, Fiona Trott and Liz Digby for all their hard work. In addition to the congregation, the church has many users during any week and co-ordinating all their needs with those of the builders whilst ensuring the security of the building itself is a very considerable task. Add to this, complications arising from the ongoing Covid infection problem and supply chain issues, it was very pleasing to finally see the removal of the scaffolding. With strong financial reserves, we are not only able to fund direct work preserving the building but it enables support to be given in the form of match funding: when funding is paid in proportion to funding being paid from other sources. This is clearly important when sources of funding such as grant applications are pursued. With the major Church Roof Refurbishment Project, it is of particular importance. The Society will keenly support The Parochial Church Council in all matters relating to

the fabric of the building. We would stress, The Preservation Society is only concerned with the fabric of our historic church building. It is worth noting that since The Preservation Society was formed in 1997, it has contributed approx. £239,000.00 to maintaining this ancient structure. Whilst the Chancel roof and Northern Parapet project was very much needed, our reserves have taken a significant hit. Our fundraising activities are a very important source of income, but it is worth noting that our financial position has been much strengthened of late through legacy giving. Such gifts are a wonderful way to help protect our cherished village landmark for residents, visitors and future generations and may even offer significant tax benefits. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss further, either by phone 07821141473, email ebchurchpres@gmail.com or in writing to Delvyns, Gaston Street, East Bergholt CO7 6SD.

With kindest regards and many thanks for your generous, continued support

Debbie Tuppen

On behalf of the Society, Debbie Tuppen, Chairperson



ST. MARY'S CHURCH

PRESERVATION SOCIETY

EAST BERGHOLT

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1063444

PATRON: OLIVER ELEY

ST MARY'S CHURCH EAST BERGHOLT PRESERVATION SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

The aim of the Society is to preserve this historic building for future generations by attracting support from anyone who cares about our heritage. Your donations, large or small, will be gratefully received. All funds raised will be used solely for the preservation of St. Mary's Church and its Bell Cage.

Title: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other

Forenames

Surname

Address

Post code

Telephone

Mobile

Email

Annual membership

£ 10.00

Donation

£ .

I enclose cash / Cheque (payable to St Mary's Church EBPS)

£ .

In order to maintain your membership of the society, we would recommend that you complete a Banker's Standing Order, a pro forma of which is attached.

To make the most of your membership subscription and donation we would ask you to complete a Gift Aid declaration, which will give the Society the benefit of the income tax that you have paid on your income.

Debbie Tuppen

Delvyns

Gaston Street

East Bergholt

CO7 6SD

email: debbie.tuppen@gmail.com

Tel: 078 21141473

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

PRESERVATION SOCIETY

EAST BERGHOLT

BANKERS STANDING ORDER FORM

To the Manager

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1063444

PATRON: OLIVER ELEY

(Insert Bank name)

Bank address

Post code

Please pay Barclays Bank PLC, 9 High Street, Colchester CO1 1DD, Sort Code 20-22-67, for the credit of St Mary's Church, East Bergholt Preservation Society, Account number 30604151, on receipt of this instruction and then on 1 September 2023, and then on the same date each year thereafter, until further notice.

The amount of £ pounds
(amount in numbers) (amount in words)

From my Account Number

Sort Code

Signed

Address

Post code

Date

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ST. MARY'S CHURCH
PRESERVATION SOCIETY
EAST BERGHOLT

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1063444

PATRON: OLIVER ELEY

GIFT AID DECLARATION

For past, present & future donations

St. Mary's Church, East Bergholt, Preservation Society

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made

today ☐ in the past 4 years ☐ in the future ☐

Please tick all boxes you wish to apply.

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 28p of tax on every £1 that I gave up to 5 April 2008 and will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2008.

Donor's details

Title ----- First name or initial(s) -----

Surname -----

Full home address -----

Postcode -----

Date -----

Signature -----

Please notify the charity or CASC if you:

- *Want to cancel this declaration*
- *Change your name or home address*
- *No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.*

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Please return completed form to:

Debbie Tuppen
Delvyns
Gaston Street
East Bergholt
CO7 6SD

Email: debbie.tuppen@gmail.com Tel: 07821 141473

St Mary the Virgin, East Bergholt Annual Report for 2022

**Annual Meeting to be held
on Sunday 26th March 2023
immediately after Morning Service**



**Annual Parochial Church Meeting of
St Mary the Virgin, East Bergholt
(Benefice of East Bergholt and Brantham)**

St Mary the Virgin, East Bergholt

Incumbent:

Rev Canon Stephne van der Toorn (assisted by Guide Dog (Canon) Coco)
The Rectory
Rectory Lane
Brantham
Manningtree
CO11 1PZ
01206 392646
revstephvd@gmail.com

Bank:

Barclays Bank
4 High Street
Manningtree
CO11 1AF

Register of Charities with the Registered Charity Number 1190273

Independent Examiner

Mrs B Evans
Rookery Cottage
Gaston Street
East Bergholt
Colchester
CO7 6SF

Website: via A Church near You: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/2067/>

Find us on Facebook: [facebook.com/stmaryseastbergholt](https://www.facebook.com/stmaryseastbergholt)

Constable Country Churches YouTube: select the video tab and/or select channel for services particular to St. Mary's

THE DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION PRIVACY NOTICE

The information we hold about you in our Church records is only disclosed to those who need to see it for Church purposes. We will send you information related to the Benefice, the Church, the ministry and activities. If you wish to unsubscribe from all or any communications, please let the

Benefice Administrator know at constablecountrychurches@outlook.com

Contents

St Mary the Virgin - East Bergholt PCC 2022-2023	4
Agenda for APCM	5
Rector's Report:.....	6
Curate's Report.....	11
Electoral Roll.....	11
Proceedings of the East Bergholt PCC	11
Safeguarding.....	12
Treasurer's Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2022	13
Samford Deanery Synod & Group Council	19
Churchwardens.....	20
Bell Ringers	22
Flower Arrangers	23
Foundation Governors' Report.....	24
East Bergholt Parish Magazine	26
Toddlers Group.....	26
Family@church.....	27
Mothers' Union	28
Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2022	29
St. Mary's Church East Bergholt Preservation Society Review of 2022	31

St Mary the Virgin - East Bergholt PCC 2022-2023

EX-OFFICIO	Canon Stephne van der Toorn	Rector	392646
	Fiona Trott	Churchwarden	298205
	Sarah Southgate	Churchwarden	299729
	Sarah Southgate	Deanery Synod Rep	299729
	Chris Jacob	Deanery Synod Rep	298552
CO-OPTED	Jane Pavitt	Representative from Brantham PCC	01473 328512

ELECTED

TO SEEK RE-ELECTION IN 2023		TO SEEK RE-ELECTION IN 2024		TO SEEK RE-ELECTION IN 2025	
Lesley Cherry	07543 644318	Barry Blomfield	298449	Jackie Reeves	298323
Ruben Rushen	299303	Howard Holdsworth	07970 416249	Glen Rowson	299109
Victoria Rothwell	299980	Vacancy		Geoff Potter	07745 536728
Vacancy		Vacancy		Vacancy	

PCC Vice Chairman	Fiona Trott	298205
Minutes Secretary	Steve Newman	07850 505713
PCC Secretary		
Representative to Brantham PCC	Ruben Rushen	299303
Hon Treasurer	Lesley Cherry	07543 644318
Deputy Churchwardens	Barry Blomfield	298449
	Lesley Cherry	07543 644318
	Chris Jacob	298552
	Ruben Rushen	299303
	Geoff Potter	07745 536728
	Glen Rowson	299109
	Howard Holdsworth	07970416249
Electoral Roll Officer	Fiona Trott	298205
Benefice Safeguarding Officer	Fiona Trott (Interim)	298205
	Glen Rowson	299109
Standing Committee (Chair)	Rev Canon Stephne van der Toorn	392646
Standing Committee	Steve Newman (Minutes Secretary)	07850 505713
Standing Committee (Treasurer)	Lesley Cherry	07543 644318
Standing Committee (H&S)	Barry Blomfield/Glen Rowson	298449/299109
Standing Committee (Wardens)	Fiona Trott	298205
	Sarah Southgate	299729
Lettice Dykes	Rev Canon Stephne van der Toorn	392646
	Ruben Rushen	299303
	Ted Wheatley	298102
	Gill Rattray	298380
Preservation Society	Rev Canon Stephne van der Toorn	392646
	Fiona Trott	298205
	Lesley Cherry	07543 644318
Foundation Governors	Rev Canon Stephne van der Toorn	392646
	Simon Rothwell	299980
Magazine Committee	Rev Canon Stephne van der Toorn	392646
	Lesley Cherry	07543 644318
Ecumenical Committee	Barry Blomfield	298449
	Chris Jacob	298552
Captain of Bells	Terry Eagle	07578 002974

Agenda for APCM

26th March 2023 at St. Mary the Virgin, East Bergholt
Held after the 10:00 service

1. Welcome and Prayers
2. Minutes of the APCM 20th March 2022
3. Electoral Roll report
4. Report on the proceedings of the PCC
5. Approve the Treasurer's report and accounts
6. Report on the proceedings of Deanery Synod
7. Safeguarding report
8. Elections:
9. Churchwardens
10. Deanery Synod: Three representatives for 3 years
11. PCC: Four representatives for 3 years, two for two years and one for 1 year
12. Appoint an Independent Examiner – Mrs Britt Evans has indicated her willingness to continue
13. Receive all other reports

The PCC will convene at the close of the APCM to elect Officers and deal with any urgent business.

AGENDA FOR PCC MEETING TO FOLLOW THE APCM

Election of PCC Officers

- Vice Chair
- Minutes Secretary
- PCC Secretary
- Brantham PCC representative
- Hon Treasurer
- Deputy Churchwardens
- Electoral Roll Officer
- Benefice Safeguarding Officer
- Health and Safety
- Standing Committee ((Rector, Vice Chair, Wardens, Health and Safety, and Treasurer)
- Lettice Dykes
- Preservation Society
- Foundation Governors
- Magazine Committee: currently Rev Steph, Lesley Cherry, Alison Jones, Marion Ralph, John Gamlin
- Ecumenical Committee Representative

Dates of meetings for 2023:

26th March (APCM after church); 11th May; 20th July; 14th September; 16th November

Rector's Report:

Another busy and challenging year within the grace of God who has sustained us.

Len Smith and Nick Pavitt led the Mini Alpha Course at the Dickie Pub during January and February. The Dickie generously offered simple suppers to the group which quickly became a safe place for fellowship. Sadly, I was not able to take part as I was isolating for eye surgery which was twice delayed and eventually took place two days before Putin invaded Ukraine. I joyfully returned to work after the necessary recuperation and then developed Covid so was out of action again. 2022 in many ways was the Year of the Missing Rector. Planned surgery to the other eye in August required lengthy recovery and then emergency surgery in November rounded it off. It was truly encouraging that everything carried on without me as the Ministry Team coped in their usual efficient way. Proof that you will be in good hands during the inevitable interregnum which will begin after my retirement at the end of April 2023.

We reduced the frequency of the full newsletter to once a month. Hand deliveries are too labour intensive to continue as we had done during the lockdowns. We did email the pew sheet out on Fridays to everyone who wanted it including news items and many warnings about the scams that proliferated. Keeping those with no access to email informed and included was something we were very concerned about. Thank you to Joop and Fiona for their hard work and others who helped with deliveries when there was a need. The APCM reports were emailed to everyone who has an email address thereby cutting costs and many days of printing.

In February we stopped alternating services and joyfully returned to services in each church every Sunday. Attendance at services has not been high possibly because people have formed new habits, become accustomed to watching online or been too frightened to return because of the possibility of infection. This is a problem being experienced across the country and in various denominations.

By March masks were no longer mandatory in church and it was a great relief to be able abandon them. Some masks fitted better than others, and sore ears were common! We continued to be very careful and urged respect and safe distancing for those who continued to wear them. Sanitisers now an established liturgical item and the first time I shook hands with someone I politely tried find the bottle without appearing rude. Levels of infection have fluctuated in the villages. We are so grateful for the privilege of effective vaccinations. During the year I wrote to an American mega-church Pastor who had forbidden his congregation to have vaccinations. I pointed out that the number of funerals I was conducting had dropped dramatically since my people had begun to be vaccinated. I wished him every blessing in his ministry. For some reason I never received a reply! We have had funerals, of course, but not nearly as many related to Covid.

Consultation with the congregations showed that many were unhappy at the thought of receiving the chalice so we have been receiving the bread only which is still full communion. In other churches wine is offered to those who wish it, or the priest dips the wafer into the wine for the communicant, or the priest receives on behalf of the people. I have never felt comfortable about receiving wine when my people do not. The new incumbent will no doubt address this issue.

The Worship and Support WhatsApp group has continued since the first lockdown and been a source of encouragement to many. I have continued Rev Eric's project of posting Compline on our YouTube channel from Tuesday to Saturdays when possible. Joop has spent a great deal of time editing these and inserting music from St Martin's in the Fields, whose musical ministry has been a gift to the church over the Covid years. Compline has been viewed on occasion by 3 people and sometimes by 50 plus with the normal participation being about 23. During Lent, Ted and Carole Wheatley read a poem for us each evening during the service. We have viewers from all over the country and

sometimes from the USA and Canada as well. On Saturday evenings I use the BCP service and we include the sung Ukrainian Kyrie. Our wonderful flower arrangers have maintained an arrangement of sunflowers placed beside the Prayer for Ukraine throughout the year. A group of us studied a very thought-provoking book called "Embracing Justice" during Lent.

In March we had more people attend the ecumenical World Day of Prayer service in St Mary's than we have had in many years. I think people wanted to come and pray for an end to the ghastly war in Ukraine. Each church held a special service for Ukraine and a considerable amount of money was raised for humanitarian relief in that country.

Our ecumenical links are strong and though the Week of Christian Unity service did not take place because of lockdown; we did celebrate Harvest together at St Michael's. The clergy met together regularly for lunch and prayer. We bade farewell to Fathers Paul and Bineesh of the Catholic church and have welcomed Father Luke.

From the beginning of March each church has had an informal or family service alternating with communion. This was a deliberate move to try and help people not accustomed to coming to church to feel at home. It is a constant challenge to cater for everyone bearing in mind our communion congregations, and the younger families who attend the flourishing family@church, the Toddler group at St Mary's and the Family at Church initiative which began at St Michael's in October.

St Mary's helped to sponsor the iSingPOP project at East Bergholt Primary School again and the church was full for two sessions when the school performed their new songs for their proud parents and grandparents. A very enthusiastic young man taught them the moves to these praise songs and singing at assembly has improved hugely as a result. One of the lovely things is that the whole family learns the songs as they are practised intensely for several weeks beforehand. A musical form of evangelism.

Both churches had cameras installed to enable us to simply livestream services (depending on the Wi-Fi) and record for later viewing. This has been a ministry considerably appreciated by the housebound. It is also very helpful for funerals as large numbers of people have watched them. I have been mortified to hear myself "singing." You know I cannot keep a tune of any sort and am now regularly reminded by my wonderful wardens to turn my microphone off. I appreciate this very much indeed. The only snag about the cameras is that if I make an idiot of myself in a service it goes out for the world to see. Keeps me humble.

I led a group of 32 pilgrims to Oberammergau for the Passion Play in May. We offered a short communion every evening and were blessed with a happy group who got on well and enjoyed the very hot weather which made sightseeing a pleasure if not a challenge. Angela Merkel attended the same performance we did - but not in the cheap seats like us! The day we left the weather broke and they had torrential rain which affected many flights but our logistics worked perfectly thanks to Michelle's amazing organisational skills in the office and negotiations with the coach company. The script had changed from the one we experienced in 2010 in an effort to tone down what some felt to be the anti-semitic overtones. The singing was beautiful and the sheer scale of it overwhelming. Very moving indeed. I always find the fire lighting and light sharing representation of the resurrection special.

In June we celebrated the Jubilee in music and service and picnic - in rain as per the English tradition! In August I had offered to organise the garage sale for St Mary's but had to step back because of eye surgery and leave it to Hannah Cuthbertson to take on which she did very efficiently and I am most grateful to her.

Michelle resigned from the benefice office in August to return to her full-time post in London as maternity cover. I bumbled along until a replacement was found, but she decided after two half days that the job was not what she thought it would be and sensibly resigned. We then offered the post to the next candidate on our shortlist. Amanda has been flourishing in the office but is now on extended sick leave. We wish her well. Very fortunately for us Michelle is again able to assist until such time as Amanda returns.

My extended period of recovery came to an end with the sudden death of Queen Elizabeth II and I catapulted back to work rather too soon, but was privileged to be able to preside at the service the day before her funeral. The Deputy Lord Lieutenant was present and we had the "*incident of the wrong Roger*". I escorted a "Roger" to the front pew much to his alarm and told him how to use the mic from which he would speak only to discover that he was not Roger Finbow who arrived shortly afterwards. It all ended happily. These excitements will happen when you have a blind Rector.

The Guide Dog service took place in October and Coco was very pleased to see her colleagues again, particularly Bowler from Capel. Our new Elders began their training in October and will be licenced by Archdeacon Jeanette on 19th February at Brantham during the benefice service at 10.30.

Our Remembrance services are always special. St Michael's held theirs outside again. Keeping the service short and succinct is a sensible way of coping with the huge numbers of people who attend, particularly the young in the uniformed organisations. In St Mary's the RBL members are sadly frail, but doggedly turn up to the Act of Remembrance on Armistice Day and the main service itself. Mark Ashmore has provided a historical personal reflection on a local soldier in each village for many years which is a privilege to read out. I also share these with local schools. For the second year in a row, we managed the silence at exactly 11:00 and I was well pleased. We took great care of the poppy collection tin in East Bergholt this year and did not leave it out between services after the theft last year. A shame that this had to be done.

We lost a number of our dearly loved parishioners this year, all of whom in their own way had contributed much to our life together. We give thanks for them all. May they rest in peace and rise in glory. Ruth Bull and Nick Pavitt have conducted funerals now and between us in 2022 we have done 11 funerals in Brantham, 20 at EB and 5 at the crematorium.

The Wedding Preparation Day took place via the internet Zoom platform once again under Rev Jenny Seggar's leadership. The Benefice Office has also handed over all the administration of this to another Benefice Secretary. We felt we had done our bit! It was a joy to be able to officiate at a wedding which had been postponed twice because of Covid. We had 3 weddings at Brantham, a blessing in another chapel of a wedding that had taken place under strict Covid regulations and 4 weddings and a blessing at East Bergholt.

There has been a demand for baptisms and particularly leading up to the time I leave as my wedding couples hear that I am retiring. We have done 6 baptisms at Brantham and 7 at East Bergholt since January 2022. Nick baptised twins in East Bergholt as I was unavailable. The Bishop was persuaded that this was an urgent case and allowed him to do it. In 2023 by end of January we have already had 12 baptisms booked. One young man felt awkward about coming up to the font recently so I threw water at him in a liturgical Anglican way. Someone suggested I should invest in a water pistol!

School assemblies have been an invigorating part of my work and the contact with the children and staff is something I will miss very much. As Rector of East Bergholt, I have been a Trustee of the Lambe School, chaired the Lettice Dykes Foundation (which will now be chaired by Simon Rothwell until the new Incumbent is appointed,) been a trustee of the East Bergholt United Charities and chaired the Board of Constable Country Childcare which has settings in East Bergholt, Brooklands

School, the Institute in Brantham and in Stutton. Jane Pavitt will take on this responsibility until the new incumbent is appointed. I also chaired the East Bergholt Parish Magazine Committee which is now in the capable hands of Barnaby Page, organised the Fraternal meetings and helped to run the ecumenical services.

Christmas returned to normal after years of Covid interference. St Michael's decided to try a new thing. The Christingle service we had offered for years is very labour intensive and wasteful of God's good provision of fruit. Nick led a Family Candlelight Christmas Story service which went well. The collection went to the Children's Society as usual. St Mary's had two Family Candlelit services as well as an 08:00 BCP communion. Midnight Mass was at St Michael's. When I called Coco out of her basket for the midnight service, she gave me a look as though to say "What? Again!" The Christmas Day service was at St Mary's. We calculated that over the various Christmas services including school nativities and assemblies, we had well over 1000 people through our combined doors. Where, I ask myself, are they the rest of the year!!

The flower arrangers have done wonders this year. Thank you! The music in our churches is in good hands. David McLachlan plays the temperamental organ twice a month at Brantham and Martin Huggett plays when it is a benefice service that David is not available for. The Music Group works hard at Family and Informal services, and Brantham Community Choir has sung at All Souls' and the Carol Service. The St Mary's choir has doggedly continued producing memorable items at communion services, funerals and particularly the Carol service all under Martin's direction. Thank you all very much indeed.

During the year the Rectory has been approached for more practical help by families within the community than ever before. Thanks to the generosity of parishioners: toys, clothes, shoes, linen, a washing machine, a cot, and other items have been provided as well as food. We now have a close link with the Manningtree Foodbank and both churches have a Pantry in the Porch. We have purchased Coop vouchers using money donated for the Food project which are available to be used for fresh produce and meat but not alcohol, lottery tickets or tobacco products. Several families have been referred to us by Social Services but others arrive on the doorstep.

I am immensely grateful to everyone who has helped in any way. Help ranges from polishing the brass, helping set up for services, decorating and putting out the bins. Your gifts are many and varied. I can't name you all. You know who you are. Thank you!

A cause of concern is our declining number of volunteers, and the new service pattern is having to take account of the realities of our situation. There will definitely be changes in the future as we adapt for the interregnum and beyond.

Changes in the Deanery are afoot. We have been unable to pay our full parish share for several years now. St Michael's has to raise £20,000 for the repair of their tower and St Mary's has to raise vast sums for the repair of our badly leaking roof. We get no money for this from the Church Commissioners. Too often I hear that the Church of England is very wealthy. Sadly, our bit of it is not and we are utterly dependent on the generosity of the villagers and Trustees of various organisations that make grants available. Added to these huge expenses we are still expected to pay our parish share. The Diocese has made clear that they cannot replace me with a full-time priest unless we pay our way. With Rev Annette who was in North Samford benefice leaving the Diocese in August, my impending retirement and Rev Sally being signed off as a Curate, changes have to be made. The proposal is that our benefice will become the Benefice of East Bergholt, Brantham and Bentley thereby making it possible to advertise for a full-time priest. Tattingstone might be added to Two Rivers Benefice and a part-time priest appointed to North Samford, with Rev Sally remaining at Capel St Mary and Little and Great Wenham but working with North Samford. At the time of

writing (end January) these proposals are still under discussion and fluid but it is hoped that our vacancy will be able to be advertised after Easter with the new incumbent in post by Christmas. Please pray for the right decisions and the right people to be appointed.

Both parishes have been wonderfully blessed with dedicated, capable, and hard-working Wardens during my years in post. I have been so grateful to have their support and wisdom in the many difficult decisions and situations we have faced together.

My huge thanks to the secretaries who have graced the Benefice Office over the years and helped to lessen the administrative burden, trying faithfully to keep me sane and not antagonise the parrot: Jo, Julia, Julie, Janet, Annie, Michelle and Amanda. You have powered through shedloads of work without complaint. All have commented in amazement that a priest doesn't only work on Sundays and had had no idea that so much work is involved in the profession.

Joop has offered me constant support during my ministry, acted as my chauffeur without complaint and made considerable sacrifices in his own life to make my ministry possible. Thank you!

Coco has transformed my life since she came into it 7 years ago. Truly God's gift to me and to the benefice. She has comforted the grieving, snored through the sermons, provided many a laugh as she leopard crawled across the carpet in St Michael's following the sun, and made everyone feel welcome and loved, warming their feet at the same time. Thank you, Coco!

I wish to thank you all for the 16 happy years I have spent in the Benefice. It has been a huge privilege to worship with you, pray with you, minister to you, alongside you and learn with you. Thank you for your patience with me and your immense kindness as my sight has deteriorated. Please forgive me for the times I have offended you. Disagreeing well is fundamentally important in the Gospel. I would like us to part as friends agreeing to disagree where that may be necessary.

At the time of writing, we have no idea where we will move to and have been informed it will not be before September and may even be Christmas! After my farewell service on 30th April 2023, Joop and I will stop worshipping with you as there needs to be a clean break. We will miss you very much. While we are squatting in the Rectory, I hope you will visit us!

The Lord be with you.



Rev Steph and Coco

Curate's Report

I have been so blessed to have Rev Steph as my supervisor this year. Her wisdom, humour and compassion shine through and she has guided and supported me at all times. It was wonderful to go to Oberammergau and to meet and become friends with many of you, and much laughter and joy was had by all.

It has been a strange experience being Rev Steph's curate at a distance because of my responsibilities in Capel St Mary and the Wenhams. It has meant I haven't got to know your congregations as well as I would have like to, but I know you have been supportive and prayerful for me.

I look forward to being signed off curacy in 2023 and to living a priestly life with Rev Stephne as a wonderful mentor and role model.



Rev Sally - Curate in charge of Capel St Mary with Little and Great Wenham.

Electoral Roll

Precise details of numbers on this year's Electoral Roll will be shared at the APCM, as at the time of writing this report the figures are not known.



*Fiona Trott
Electoral Roll Officer*

Proceedings of the East Bergholt PCC

2022 has been a year of 'getting back to normal' following all the upheavals caused by the COVID pandemic during 2021. The acceptance and use of technology to facilitate PCC meetings has meant that rather than venturing out on a cold and frosty evening in winter it was possible to sit in the virtual ZOOM room and carry out business as usual. The majority of the meetings this year have been 'real' meetings, but a few have been carried out via ZOOM and there was even a 'mixed media' meeting where we were able to 'patch in' PCC members to a physical meeting via the ZOOM application.

During 2022 the EB PCC held a total of nine meetings (two via ZOOM and one mixed media), including the APCM and emergency meetings, and on average, there were 10 members present at each of the meetings. The items discussed at the meetings covered a wide variety of areas which

included: keeping all Policies up to date; ensuring the camera and WiFi infrastructure was in place to enable livestreaming of services; addressing the Chancel Roof and Parapet repairs; sorting out the trees in the churchyard, including the removal of the large Yew tree; the celebrations for Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations at Fields Farm Café on Park Road; establishing and submitting a 'Condolences book' following the death of Her Majesty the Queen; providing input into the Deanery reorganisation discussions; progressing the Lottery bid for the Roof Project; arranging the Christmas Parade and celebrations; looking for Office space for the Benefice Administrator following Rev Stephne's retirement; and not least, regular financial reports and updates from the Treasurer who has kept us on an even keel thanks to her fiscal prudence during difficult times.

The PCC meetings/discussions were all carried out in a friendly, constructive, and supportive manner and there was a genuine spirit of cooperation and the wish to do the best for the benefice.



Steve Newman
Minutes Secretary

Safeguarding

There have been no major safeguarding issues in the Benefice to report in the last year. However, with the cost of living crisis, there are now vulnerable people needing help and support within both parishes and each church has offered food and vital supplies via Pantry in the Porch. Rev Steph has also liaised with local foodbanks and social services to ensure those in need are supported. St Mary's is represented on a community support group in East Bergholt.

Whilst acting as temporary BSO, I have only been able to reactively update safeguarding requirements rather than proactively ensure everyone is up to date, due to other calls on my church time. DBS certificates have automatically been kept up to date but the various safeguarding levels have not. A lot of updating will need to be done in the new year, and we are trying to facilitate face to face sessions for those not comfortable with online options. Some of the Diocesan and CofE safeguarding requirements for different posts within our churches have expectations above and beyond what is reasonably feasible. Concern has been recorded.

Fiona Trott
Acting Benefice Safeguarding Officer

Treasurer's Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

General Fund

The Church is now regularly open and services are provided on a regular basis. The General fund has increased slightly on last year after taking into consideration the generous help from the Preservation Society.

- Planned giving has risen significantly for the first time in four years while donations have dropped slightly.
- Fundraising has been concentrated on the roof with the exception of the 50/50 club.
- Income from the bookstall has once again seen a marginal increase.
- The PCC continues to cut costs where ever possible.
- The fixed electricity rate comes to an end this year, but we have benefited from a low rate through the winter.
- Total income looks up on last year, but if we take off the amounts that just pass through the Church Account, such as Restricted Preservation Society donations, restricted donations, Diocesan fees, non-statutory fees, roof donations, special collections and restricted miscellaneous, we are left with £66,345 as opposed to last year of £65,171. Staying stable.

We prepare our accounts on a receipts and payments basis, which means that accruals and adjustments are not required. However, this can result in timing differences and affects areas such as utility bills, oil, printing costs, special collections etc

Magazine

The magazine account has turned a profit once again this year. This resulted in a total of £5,000 being transferred to the General Fund during this financial year. The PCC is extremely grateful for all the hard work undertaken by the Magazine committee. There are currently outstanding costs of three months printing invoices and two months of commission and after allowing for these costs the balance is £5,840. No monies are transferred to the General Fund without consulting the Magazine Committee.

Roof Fund

This fund was started in July 2019 and the first expenses were paid out in December 2019. Charity Fundraising Ltd is the company providing the invaluable expertise and support for us to hopefully submit a successful Lottery application. We are very grateful for the large donations from the Garage Sale and Christmas parade this year for this fund.

Bell Cage

Bell cage donations are similar to last year, when allowing for a one off donation which inflated 2021. Thank you to the ringers for agreeing to pay their own Bell Ringers Guild Subscriptions for this and future years, thus helping the church with its dwindling income. A grant was successfully sought for a new monitor to permanently display a documentary about the bell cage. The PCC released some funds to support this venture.

Streaming Services

The church received generous donations to install new cameras and streaming computer. All regular church services are now available on YouTube.

Parish Share

This is our largest single annual expense. This year, there continued to be little flexibility in our finances, partly due to no money being available from the Hetherington Fund. Although after careful finance management, we were able to pay £37,600 (2021: £38,600) of the full £53,000 due. The Diocese has continued to be kept informed. The PCC also continue to look at reducing outgoings and making savings wherever possible.

Preservation Society

It would be extremely remiss of me not to mention the valuable part the Preservation Society has played this year in the chancel roof works. They have helped to pay for the bat surveys, the total costs of the roof works and made a substantial contribution to the architects' fees. It is clear from this report that without the help of this charity we would not have been able to undertake these works.

Various

The Jenny Lane fund is for work with children, and continues to be used whenever appropriate costs arise.

Investments are included at cost, but their market value remains in significant excess of cost. They provide a crucial regular income stream throughout the year.

Assets are stated as £151,574 (2021: £156,618) but would be higher if market value of investments was shown. After taking into account all designated and restricted funds, and known liabilities, the monies that are free for use stand at £9,525 (2021: £14,000). Having taken the decision that the shareholdings form the back up (£15,000) we were able to contribute a further £5,000 to the parish share in December.

We were able to draw down £3,500 from the East End Mission Hall monies to spend on the Jubilee celebrations at Fields Farm.

50/50 club raised over £400 but will not be continued in 2023.

Close

Once again, this year as treasurer, has not been without its challenges. I would like to offer my sincere and grateful thanks to Fiona Trott, Liz Digby and Sarah Southgate, who have been unfailing in their help and support. Also, to the PCC, who have taken difficult decisions and approved my recommendations during another extremely problematic year for church finances.

Lesley Cherry
Hon Treasurer

FOR THE YEAR END**2022**

	2022	2021
INCOME	£	£
Restricted P S Donations	50280.73	8448.66
Planned giving/PGS	24246.17	18991.92
Gift Aid	10432.20	7833.54
Planned Giving Non-Gift Aid	0.00	56.30
Collections	4057.69	3018.68
Donations	7588.13	11952.87
Restricted Donations	9275.50	8580.00
Matt/Calendars	1501.43	2143.20
Ministry of Welcome	0.00	0.00
Fundraising Roof	866.50	7187.81
Ed/Train	0.00	0.00
Toddlers	172.18	194.50
Choir	0.00	0.00
Brantham PCC various/honoraria	2999.02	3481.45
Bookstall	1194.35	1042.43
Bell Cage	53.26	119.97
Diocesan Fees	1165.00	1083.00
PCC fees	3406.98	3100.00
Non-Stat Fees	4755.58	2961.11
Refreshments	176.00	0.00
Heating	545.00	490.00
Investment Income/Dividends	2455.00	2400.94
50/50	300.00	744.00
Roof Donations	25188.52	4778.92
Flower Fund	0.00	0.00
Special Collections	1433.10	1236.62
Bran PCC	0.00	0.00
Transfers from Magazine	5000.00	2000.00
Misc.	480.00	76.23
Misc. Restricted	5118.27	3379.75
Easy Fundraising/ Amazon	304.85	334.12
Fundraising other bodies	695.00	
INCOME	163690.46	95636.02

Total unrestricted income**£61,164.00****£53,156.00**

	2022	2021
EXPENSES		
Parish Share	37,600.00	38,600.00
Deanery Levy	0.00	0.00
Clergy exp	1,895.44	2,056.51
Church run costs	5,588.48	3,758.69
Cost of services	1,577.49	1,773.91
Admin costs	1,772.47	2,563.27
Administrator Honoraria	5,835.44	6,472.51
Cleaning honoraria	1,437.50	1,137.50
ORGAN	586.00	2,526.00
Director of Music/non stat	5,978.00	3,267.00
Toddlers/Youth work	115.20	244.05
Fundraising	20.00	5,405.33
maintenance/repairs	1,065.46	2,005.94
Bookstall	79.60	255.49
Tea/coffee kitchen	46.86	28.59
Jubilee	2,511.13	0.00
Diocesan fees	1,163.00	1,083.00
Non stat fees	1,847.84	1,217.50
Donations	0.00	500.00
Special collections sent	2,292.50	1,486.62
Flower fund	519.29	211.57
50/50	442.00	0.00
Misc.	3,502.83	4,219.70
Bell cage	228.00	14.44
Insurance	4,054.99	2,152.32
New Bells monitor etc	12,869.56	0.00
Roof	76064.04	12897.90
Loan repayment	3000.00	1,200.00
	0.00	0.00
TOTAL COSTS	17,2093.12	9,5077.84
	-8402.66	558.18

Note The insurance had been paid in one lump sum yearly. The new monthly instalments started partway through 2021. Overall saving using the new company £1,500 per year.

Investments

	Number of shares held	Cost per share	Total cost £	Market Value	
				2022	2021
Paskell Fund					
CBF Investment Fund (CCLA)	1,010.00	6.54	6,606.00	20,852.00	23,620.00
Charishares BlackRock	3,665.00	2.09	7,660.00	25,303.00	25,789.00
Mission Hall Trust (DBF)	508.00	2.48	1,262.00	7,171.00	* 11,880.00
Malschinger Investments (DBF)					
Account133001323S	2,517.00	13.01	2,742.00	51,963.00	58,861.00
Account133001002J	3,205.00	8.72	60,000.00	169,900.00	186,935.00
Suffolk Building Society				13,580.00	13,447.00
			Total	288,769.00	320,532.00

*£3,500 taken from this fund to pay towards the Jubilee celebrations Drop of over £28,000 this year

Statement of Designated and Restricted Funds 2022

Name of Fund	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds Designated	Unrestricted Funds Undesignated	Endowment Funds	Total	2022	2021
Hetherington			£13,580.00			£13,580.00	£13,447.00
Flower	£1,445.00					£1,445.00	£1,814.00
Jenny Lane		£153.00				£153.00	£602.00
Roof	£9,921.00					£9,921.00	£7,761.00
Paskell				£20,852.00		£20,852.00	£23,620.00
East End Mission	£1,262.00					£1,262.00	£1,262.00
Malschinger				£221,863.00		£221,863.00	£245,796.00
Altar		£10,000.00				£10,000.00	£10,000.00
Wi-Fi/Recording		£0.00				£0.00	£5,150.00
Total						£279,076.00	£309,452.00

ROOF ACCOUNT SUMMARY 2022

Account ON-GOING

INCOME	From 07/2019	Expenditure	From 12/2019
Roof tile sales	£492.50	Charity Fund Ltd	£8,204.16
Fundraising	£6,614.12	Architect	£21,185.26
Donations	£11,549.00	Lead Repair	£1,008.00
Cake Sales	£130.50	Bat Surveys	£4,435.80
Parish Giving	£70.54	Quantity Surveyor	£600.00
Garden Tours	£499.00	Scaffold sensors/ Insurance	£2,423.31
Grants	£7,250.00	Universal stone	£61,117.07
Preservation Society	£63,995.24	Matt Costs	£2,000.00
Matt Sales	£4,422.98	Solicitor	£264.00
Funeral Collection	£98.81		
DCMS VAT reclaims	£13,666.86		
Gift Aid income	£2,369.29		
	£111,158.84		£101,237.60
		Balance as at 31/12/2022	£9,921.24

MAGAZINE ACCOUNT**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31/12/2022****2022****2021****INCOME**

Adverts	£19,429.00	£18,444.50	
General fund monies as bank closed	£567.24	£485.00	Paid into gen by advertiser in error
	£0.00	£0.00	
TOTAL INCOME	£19,996.24	£18,929.50	

EXPENSES

Transfer to General Fund	£5,000.00	£2,000.00	
Compiler Honoraria	£1,825.20	£1,736.00	
Admin	£0.00	£0.00	
Advertising Commission	£1,324.56	£1,476.41	
printing	£9,895.00	£10,660.00	
General fund monies as bank closed	£567.24	£485.00	incorrect amount paid so, refunded
	£0.00		
	£0.00		
TOTAL COSTS	£18,612.00	£16,357.41	

£1,384.24

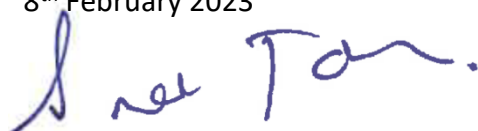
£2,572.09

Monetary assets 31/12/22

	2022	2021
Barclays Bank account	£ 20,465	£ 27,026
Suffolk Building Society*	£ 13,580	£ 13,447
Malschinger at cost	£ 92,742	£ 92,742
CBF/Black Rock at cost	£ 15,528	£ 15,528
Magazine account	£ 9,259	£ 7,875
Total	£151,574	£156.618

*Ipswich Building Society new name

Approved by the Parochial Church Council

Date: 8th February 2023

Signed on behalf by Rev Canon S van der Toorn
Rector / PCC Chairman-----
Lesley Cherry
Hon Treasurer PCC East Bergholt

Samford Deanery Synod & Group Council

There were three meetings this year:

16 February at Capel St Mary: The appointment of Annette Shannon as the Rural Dean took place at this meeting. Archdeacon Jeanette was not able to be present at the meeting so she licensed Annette online as Rural Dean. Annette referred to the need to build a strong, objective team on the Pastoral Committee who know their parishes well to consider how we go forward as a deanery and address the financial and other challenges.

A presentation was made to Liesbeth Oosterhof with thanks for her contribution as Rural Dean.

Brian Rogerson was elected as Lay Chair of Samford Deanery Synod.

In January the Deanery Giving Group had met with Jonathan de Bernhardt Wood, National Advisor for Giving and Income Generation. Annette Shannon reported on the meeting – “we were all feeling rather dispirited by the necessary restrictions on Christmas services due to Covid, and recognising the challenges ahead. Jonathan in his wise and gentle way was able to help us reframe the situation. The main point that I took away was that we so often work from the principle of having to convince people to support us when in reality most villagers recognise our value, see the positive evidence of what we do and who we are but that we do not make it easy for them to support us. Most people now do not carry cash but Churches are often dependent on cash donations at services and events. Jonathan has lots of useful resources to help parishes to enable electronic payments.”

Wedding Preparation Day took place on the morning of 29 January (via Zoom reluctantly). Jenny Seggar reported that around 30 couples joined for sessions which included the legal aspects of marriage by Oliver Greville of Birketts Solicitors and one on music led by Jane Gould, together with information about the service itself and sound advice about practicalities. Although the event was shorter than when held in Bentley Village Hall, the sessions were well-received.

12 May at East Bergholt: Speaker from Ipswich FIND (Maureen Reynel): Maureen Reynel MBE, founder of FIND, gave an inspiring and enlightening talk about the setting up and operation of this registered charity, now in its 32nd year. She referred to the support from various people and local businesses to help her get the project started, particularly in the first three years, which has now grown to have 60 agencies referring people for help with food, clothing, bedding, transport to medical and other appointments, household items including white goods, nursery equipment, personal care items, accommodation, collecting (and paying for) prescriptions and other areas where help is required. Maureen referred to the number of food parcels delivered (over 7,000 in 2021) and the growing number of individuals needing help, illustrating the massive scale of the operation and the future demands on it. As well as contacting FIND directly, Maureen suggested that we could encourage awareness in our communities, through e.g. schools and GP surgeries. <https://www.findipswich.org.uk/>.

The Archdeacon's Visitation took place on Thursday 9 June at Holbrook Church.

18 October at Woolverstone: Samford Deanery Vocation Roadshow: Revd Stuart Batten, Diocesan Director of Ordinands, the contact for vocations and ordinations, introduced Matt Levett, Diocesan Youth and Young Adults Officer, the contact for Youth Ministry training. Matt gave his testimony of being called to be a youth worker in various denominations and settings, and how he had been encouraged by others who had received similar encouragement.

Some key thoughts from the presentations by Stuart and Matt included

- Take what you love to what the world needs
- Everything is a way to serve God
- Ephesians 4 11-16
- Encouragement to explore your vocation, including lay ministry – there are 450 lay elders in our Diocese, making an important contribution
- Links to Growing in God

Stuart asked us to think about how he and his team can support us in exploring our vocation – how we can use our gifts to serve God and others in the name of Christ.

Ken Felgate, deanery organiser and treasurer, reported that Samford Deanery at the end of September had paid 49.52% of the requested parish share for 2022. Compared against the other 15 Deaneries in the Diocese, our contributions are over 10% lower than what has been achieved by the other Deaneries. There is likely to be a deficit in the Parish Share at 31 December 2022 of around £600,000.

On behalf of Brantham and East Bergholt, Rev Steph had raised a question about the possibility of separate cups being used as an alternative to the Common Cup, following concerns expressed in the light of the recent Covid situation. Currently canon law precludes this alternative to the Common Cup but it would be helpful to obtain further information to allow a more informed discussion at a future Synod meeting.

Gill Forsyth, Julie Fermor, Sarah Southgate and Chris Jacob

Churchwardens

Yet another action-packed year in the life of a churchwarden at St Mary's! This year has seen three churchwardens in post, and I write on behalf of us all. Liz, after many years, had to step back from her role at the beginning of April and I am extremely grateful to Sarah for stepping up and taking her place – one dream team replaced by another – continuing to support one another in the wide range of duties that befall churchwardens these days.

The year started with positive progress on the repair of the Chancel Roof, thanks in no small part to the Preservation Society who financially assisted us with this project. During the early part of the year Universal Stone contractors replaced the tiles on the south side of the roof and made it watertight. The project was not without its challenges and a minor repair to the north aisle parapet at the same time, turned out to be a major one and therefore the total amount of project time was extended over and beyond the usual delays of supplies being delivered.

One of the more exciting projects was the installation in January of two cameras with appropriate hardware and software which meant we could livestream our services. This enabled us to reach “congregations” far and wide, and some across the seas! It was particularly useful for funerals when family and friends were unable to attend in person.

Our YouTube channel [Youtube.com@stmaryseastbergholt](https://www.youtube.com/stmaryseastbergholt) increased its number of subscribers and number of views, and new skills were acquired to successfully film the services. Thank you to all those who learnt which buttons to press correctly and so enabling us to load our Sunday services onto our website as well: [Achurchnearyou.com/church/2067](https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/2067).

Staying with modern technology, the new monitor (purchased from a grant in 2021 from the AONB Sustainable Development Fund) was finally loaded with a new ten-minute documentary about our unique bell cage, with smaller two-minute excerpts about the history, the bellringing technique and a demonstration ring. This is now available to all visitors at any time and is also accessible via a link to our website: [Constablecountrychurches.co.uk/bells-and-bell-cage](https://constablecountrychurches.co.uk/bells-and-bell-cage). It has been viewed by a staggering number of people and not just visiting from within the UK but also viewed remotely from abroad.

The clock saga continued into 2022! After a thorough overhaul by Cumbria Clocks, the clock was reinstalled and worked better for a while but then the mechanism faltered; the clock lost time and stopped chiming. A power supply monitor was fitted, an engineer visited and after some further remote instructions, everything seems to be working properly. Our thanks to Adrian and Sarah for making several trips up to the cupola to adjust cogs and pendulums during the year. We pray that the clock will function properly now!

Unfortunately, due to lack of time and volunteers, little fundraising has taken place this year. A Trianon concert in November had to be postponed but thankfully the Christmas Parade and Market took place for the third year running and we are extremely grateful to the village committee who worked extremely hard to organise another amazing event. Over £2000 was raised for the church roof appeal! We will need to up the ante in 2023 as any Lottery grant will require match funding. If you have any bright ideas to raise money, please see a warden!

Spending so much time in church, means that one gets the opportunity to meet interested people in our wonderful church building. Visitors come from all over the world and last year, Liz had a chance meeting with an American descendant of the Hankey family who once owned Old Hall. The Hankey family donated silver to the church including a chalice. Steve came back again this year on a planned visit with his sister, and it was wonderful to meet them both; show them the chalice and the memorials to their ancestors which are in the rector's vestry. Steve kindly wrote a fascinating article for the parish magazine. Not long after their visit, another American 'cousin' visited East Bergholt in his quest for information and research about a village boy called Isaac Allerton. David Furlow came back again in December and gave a most fascinating talk in the Lambe School about Isaac's life once he left on the Mayflower for the New World. Accompanied by his wife Lisa and colleague Lea – both descendants of Isaac – David explained the background history of the day surrounding that period and the phenomenal entrepreneurial and constitutional prowess of the boy from East Bergholt who ended up living on Wall Street! The evening raised £500 for the roof appeal.

Unfortunately, not a lot of progress has been made on the main project of the aisle roof repairs. Lots of discussion has taken place with various organisations and local councils. A meeting was held in September with village groups and societies, as this needs to be a village project, not just the church and Preservation Society. Hopefully in 2023 we will have more to show for our labours. One success to report is that after years of trying to appeal to the Charity Commissioners, we have managed to release capital from an inheritance legacy tied up in investments. Our thanks to James Hall, the Diocesan Registrar for his help in getting this longstanding request 'over the line'.

Being a churchwarden is a privilege and honour but comes with immense responsibilities. St Mary's is lucky to have a great team of people that supports the wardens and I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to those who have worked throughout the year to make sure the church is heated and lit up at Christmas, the bills are paid, the pennies are saved, all the church services are supported and the odd jobs are done. However, my biggest thanks go to my two 'partners in crime'; Liz for her many years of service to St Mary's and Sarah, for stepping up to support me in an hour of need.

Finally, I would also like to thank Steph for her amazing ministry amongst us, from the current wardens as well as all those who have gone before – it has been a total pleasure to support her over the final years of her incumbency at St Mary's. As this will be her last APCM, I take the opportunity to wish her all the very very best in her well-deserved retirement. We are going to miss her!



*Fiona Trott
on behalf of the Churchwardens*

Bell Ringers

This report covers 12 months from January to December 2022. It contains the information as specified in the Ringers' handbook.



Named ringers

Ringer	Attendances	Ringer	Attendances
Terry Eagle (Captain)	54	George Harris*	7
Julia Smith (Vice Captain)	56	Paul Ireland	30
Thomas Bryant	31	Rachel Lewis	41
Martin Digby	19	Hugh Smith	16

*Handbook states a minimum of 12 rings per year.

Approved Learners

Ringer	Attendances
Steve Feeney	32
Neil Culham	6

Ringling has been consistent through the year with Rachel Lewis being signed off on Christmas Day 2021 and a new ringer, Neil Culham, starting late in the season. Neil is an experienced tower bell ringer and regularly rings at Ardleigh tower. His father, David Culham, used to ring at East Bergholt so we have high hopes that he will do well with our unusual set up. Indeed, we spent some additional evenings getting a head start for next year. We will also be welcoming back Alison Ruffell (nee Reeves) in spring when we start practice again. Paul Ireland has moved to Shepton Mallett and Hugh Smith is taking a temporary break so our current experienced ringer pool is somewhat depleted but looking better for the coming year. We would like to thank both Paul and Hugh for their commitment to East Bergholt bells and especially to the training of new ringers.

In light of the changes made to the handbook during the pandemic, we will be reviewing the whole teaching schedule to see if we can improve it by making some of the temporary changes into permanent ones.

During the current year, we have rung for one funeral; four weddings; one demonstration; a half-muffled ring for Remembrance and the usual rings at Christmas and New Year. We also had the honour of ringing to commemorate the passing of the late Queen on the announcement of her

death and for the funeral, as well as the King's Proclamation. The latter was a half-muffled ring and we managed to do an hour-long ring with five experienced ringers doing 2 x 6-minute stints each and changing over whilst the bell was still ringing. We think it may have been a record for East Bergholt bells! Our other special rings were for the Queen's Jubilee and the start of the war in Ukraine.

Issues dealt with in 2022

1. Pigeons nested twice inside the roof again. Nests were removed on both occasions. This requires ongoing monitoring.
2. Emergency lighting and uplights were replaced/renewed

Issues outstanding

1. Tiles on the roof to be replaced – some broken ones have fallen off
2. Door lock sometimes stiff in wet weather
3. No 2 bell need new wooden wedge as difficult to lock

*Terry Eagle
Captain of Bells*

Flower Arrangers

Whilst 2021 flower activities had still been impacted by Covid restrictions 2022 saw us return to more normal practice; at last, we could gather en masse to decorate the Church for the various festivals and have been able to break for refreshments and a catch up in the West End. In addition to arrangements for Easter, Patronal Festival, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas the Church was decorated to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The ladies worked hard over the summer to keep their arrangements looking good since the extensive heatwave made it particularly challenging. Laura Harris has made wonderful photo montages of the various festivals and posted them on social media; the montage for the Jubilee was 'shared' on Facebook by both the Stanway and East of England branches of The National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies with a recommendation that we were worth a visit.

The death of the Queen was marked by a small arrangement to go with the book of condolence.

Sophie and I have been liaising with Ruben and Fiona to sort out the storage of flower arranging material both in the Parvise and the shed. This included the purchase of storage boxes for the artificial flowers that are used for the various festivals. We have also purchased some more artificial flowers, most specifically for the Patronal festival since it is often difficult for the ladies to source real flowers of the requisite colour.

As part of this process the flower pedestals have been renovated; Adrian Cherry has done a fantastic job mending and painting them. We have identified a few that are surplus to our requirements and the intention is that they can be sold to free up space and generate some funds.

In addition to the purchase of artificial flowers we have acquired an allotment next to the church where we can grow flowers for use by the flower arrangers. The intention is that any surplus can be sold to cover the cost of flower production and hopefully generate a profit for the benefit of the Church. To date we have cleared the allotment with help from George Collis who has volunteered as part of his Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award. We have planted shrubs for foliage, many of which

were kindly donated by Sara Eley. As the season progresses, we will start stocking/planting a mix of annuals and perennials for cutting.

Plans for 2023 include decorating the Church so that it can be included as part of the Open Gardens event at the beginning of June.

We also intend to research and put into practice methods of flower arranging that do not involve the use of Oasis/flower foam. The oasis that we use currently is supposedly biodegradable but it still has an adverse environmental impact and it would be better (and cheaper) not to use it at all.

Susan Shepherd has had to step down due to other commitments but will stay in touch and may come to help out at the various festivals. Helen Duncan has joined us and comes with previous flower arranging experience volunteering at St Helena's hospice.

Rachael Lewis

Foundation Governors' Report

Report on East Bergholt Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School

"I have come that they might have life, and have it to the full," John 10:10

As we thankfully leave the disruption of COVID behind us, school leaders and teachers have improved our curriculum offer to ensure a broad, rich and deep curriculum that is accessible to all learners, including those with SEND. The introduction of the Curriculum with Unity Schools Partnership (CUSP) has led to increased coherence and better progression through subjects across the school. Assessment has been strengthened in the foundation subjects enabling subject leaders to measure impact and effect change to ensure pupils are making rapid progress across the curriculum.

To support behaviour and attitudes that equip learners to be respectful citizens, value diversity, and support their personal development, pupil wellbeing continues to be developed through the use of My Happy Mind. Parents have access to the App at home which support the use of the strategies taught at school to be used at home.

Leadership and management have embedded the promotion of equality of opportunity through refining our school vision, so our school is a place

- Which provides a broad and cohesive education in a Christian setting developing knowledge and skills for children to take to the next phase of education and life
- Which has a dedicated and hard-working staff, working in partnership with parents to provide an environment where children of all abilities grow and have a thirst for their learning
- Where children enjoy a rich and exciting curriculum with a wide range of additional artistic, musical, and sporting activities for all ages resulting in the accumulation of cultural capital and knowledge
- Where all feel valued and where all are learning to care for one another
- Where children are enthusiastic about continuing to learn and take responsibility for themselves and their own learning

- Where children accept their share in the responsibility of all for the world and society
- Where children embrace Christian values which will enable them to live with respect, generosity, integrity and care
- Where children are able to embrace change whilst holding to their core values.

Written by Jan Plumstead, Chair of Governors

With the final restrictions of the pandemic having finally been lifted during this reporting year we have returned to the 'old normal', with school life having settled back into that routine which the current Reception to Year 2 classes had not previously experienced. Church services and celebrations, nativity plays, parents' evenings, 'Wow days', sports days and the Year 6 end of year musical production of 'Oliver!' (amongst many other successful events) happened with no restrictions on attendance, no requirement for face-masks and no requirement for full ventilation of the school buildings no matter the weather outside. It would be remiss at this point not to recognise the huge amount of time and effort invested in these activities by the school's staff body, invariably outside of their working hours, in order to facilitate these events which have been enjoyed by both the children and parents alike. It would be similarly negligent to fail to mention the hard work and dedication of the school's Parents and Friends Association (PFA) who are behind the planning and delivery of the many fund-raising events held throughout the year; during the pandemic they were severely constrained as to what they could achieve but are now back to generating finances for the benefit of the pupils and school, for which we are most appreciative.

In November the details of the new 2023 Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Framework was published. For those wishing to view the full documentation, the website address is: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/education-and-schools/church-schools-and-academies/siams-inspections>.

SIAMS inspections are a key element of the life of all Church of England schools in England and it was decided following the resumption of school inspections in September 2021 that such inspections would take place within 8 years of the date of the previous inspection, and thereafter approximately every 5 years. In brief the current Evaluation Schedule 2018 asks one central question: "How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?", which is explored through seven further strands/avenues of questioning. This core question has not markedly changed in the new Framework but the manner in which it is to be assessed and answered by schools has.

The 2023 Framework does not reimagine what it means to be a Church school but the inspectors' approach will no longer focus on lists of inspection criteria but explore with school leaders whether and how, through its theologically rooted Christian vision, the school is living up to its foundation as a Church school, enabling pupils and adults to flourish. To do this (for our school) they will utilise 6 Inspection Questions that focus primarily on impact and outcomes. This change of emphasis in the inspection process is reflected in the overall inspection decision where the current grading system (Excellent/Good/Requires Improvement/Ineffective) is to be replaced by 2 possible Inspection Judgements of either (a) J1: through its vision and practice the school is living up to its foundation as a Church school, or (b) J2: the school's vision and practice is not enabling it to fully live up to its foundation as a Church school.

The current Evaluation Schedule 2018 will remain in force until September 2023; as East Bergholt CEVC Primary School is not listed for an inspection before that date our next inspection will be subject to these new Framework processes.

There have been a number of departures and arrivals of staff members over the last twelve months and we both thank those that have left for their hard work and wish them well for future endeavours, and also welcome those having started with us. These good wishes are equally true for those who have stepped down from the Board of Governors and to welcome Laveena Kerr, the most recent appointee as a Parent Governor. There is, of course, one individual who will be stepping down as a Foundation Governor in the coming months who will be a huge loss to the school community and to the Board. (Inevitably this will mean a vacancy during the interregnum: any volunteer to hold this post for the months that it is vacant would be most warmly welcomed.) For many Rev Steph (not forgetting Canon Coco!) has been synonymous with our school, an ever popular and welcoming presence and an expert at spreading the Christian message by making it accessible to young minds. To end this report, it is felt appropriate that the last word is about Rev Steph's dedication to the school and is written by the Headteachers:

"The school is particularly sad that Rev Steph is leaving us in April. Rev Steph has been guiding the school spiritually for many years and has been invaluable in unsettling times such as during the recent pandemic. Rev Steph has always fully involved herself in school life, attending our performances and leading church services and church experiences which have enriched the lives of both the children and staff. More recently the school has developed a church council which is made up of Year 6 pupils and who lead assemblies in school and play a full part in school church services. Rev Steph meets with the council and in February the council will welcome Bishop Mike to our school. Everyone at school wishes Rev Steph well for her future, she will be sorely missed."



*Report compiled by Rev Canon Stephne van der Toorn and Simon Rothwell, Foundation Governors
Written by Gill Mitchell and Sarah Baker, co-Headteachers*

East Bergholt Parish Magazine

Strong support from advertisers means that the parish magazine continues to more than pay its own way, and the sterling work of our distribution team means that it genuinely reaches the whole community. In the last year we have also improved its accessibility to readers by launching a large-print edition, and widened the variety of content by introducing a new section focusing on local issues and opinions. We continue to be enthusiastically supported by the many local organisations which contribute content - including sports, cultural, and social groups as well as the churches - and we are confident that in 2023 the parish magazine will remain a valuable resource for all.

*Barnaby Page
Editor*

Toddlers Group

The Toddler Group continues to go from strength to strength. After diminishing numbers in the spring, we welcomed many new faces during the summer and this continued into the autumn and winter months. It has been wonderful to see the West End full of children having lots of fun.

Gina Bruce joined us as a regular helper which was a great help to Gill when I took some time out during the summer. We are always keen to have more help, and if you are interested in joining us, please don't hesitate to contact either Gill or myself. There are a few forms to complete, but we can help with these.

This year the toddler group Christmas party was a joint one with family@church. It was well attended and enjoyed by all of us and we hope to repeat this in 2023.

We are proud our church toddler group has become so popular and remains an important link with the wider community.

Liz Digby
Leader, St Mary's Toddler Group

Family@church



The highlight of 2022 has to be the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June. Nearly 100 people of all ages sheltered in a tipi at Field's Farm shop and Café in Park Road. Despite the persistent drizzle a great time was had by all. The children enjoyed a wide range of activities from making crowns and bookmarks to pinning the crown on the queen! We sang, prayed, Rev Steph told a South African story and then everyone enjoyed a fabulous picnic tea provided by Abby and her amazing team at Fields. We were able to fund all this from a very restricted part of the church finances relating to worship in East End, so we made our Treasurer happy too!

Another highlight was a joint Christmas party with the Toddler Group in December. I am sure this will become an annual event. We made snowmen out of socks, stars to hang on the Christmas tree and decorated ginger biscuits. We then had a visit from Father Christmas, taking a break from his festive preparations, to hand out presents to all the children.

With continuing COVID restrictions, family@church was not able to fully 'operate' as we normally would, with curtailed activities and no communal high tea. However, we have continued to do as much as possible and are grateful to all the families who have supported us throughout the year.

None of these services would be possible without a lot of support from a wonderful team of helpers. I am very grateful to everyone who has lent a hand this year: Karen, Gill and Gina who have given invaluable help setting up for services, welcoming our families and helping with activities and storytelling; our generous benefactor who enables us to give the children booklets at Easter and Christmas, plus eggs and advent calendars; and of course, Rev Steph for her wonderful support of this important mission and my creative partner, Liz! Thank you!

Fiona Trott

Mothers' Union

Each year, across the world, Mothers' Union members work tirelessly to improve the quality of life for those around them. They do this as part of their personal commitment to show their faith in action. The embedded nature of members in communities means Mothers' Union is uniquely placed to reach people which others (NGOs or government agencies) struggle to reach.

Mothers' Union groups identify community needs at local level and form projects to address these. In a number of countries, the work of members is supported and nurtured by professional workers. These are known as Community Development Coordinators and their training and direction is facilitated by the central charity.

Local projects are necessarily diverse, so that they may respond to differing local needs. However, there are some common themes which are important to the membership. These include maintaining a worldwide Christian fellowship, promoting favourable conditions in society for stable family life, and helping those families who have met with adversity.

Here in East Bergholt and Brantham we have been involved in making craft items including fiddle muffs, drain bags and seafarer's hats and made Christmas cards for prisoners in Highpoint Prison. We have donated wash bags and underwear to Ipswich hospital and participated in a national campaign to end gender-based violence and an international programme to support women in leadership roles. We have a phone a friend outreach whereby members keep in weekly contact with members of the community living on their own. Couples getting married in the benefice have all been given copies of our book 'For Better, For Worse'. Bags of Love have been given to people who need support, whether through sickness, loneliness or sadness.

Members of our branch have attended diocesan services on Lady Day and Mary Sumner day as well as a Wholeness and Healing service in October. Our Wave of Prayer service was incorporated into the Sunday communion service as it fell on this day in 2022. Prayer is central to everything we do; our daily prayer diary and daily midday prayers form a pattern for our prayer life.

Funds to support all our work have been raised through a summer sponsored walk, raffles and thanks to many generous donations. Our monthly meetings are divided between themes of faith, fun and fellowship. Non-members are very welcome to join in our meetings and our projects.

You don't have to wait to be asked to join Mothers' Union. We welcome anyone, irrespective of gender, age, marital status, parent or not.

Jeanette Appleton, Janet Ball, Jenny Chapman and Chris Jacob
East Bergholt and Brantham Mothers' Union

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2022
St Mary the Virgin, East Bergholt
Sunday, 20th March 2022 immediately after the 10.30am Service

In attendance: Fiona Trott; (Chair); Michelle Jowers (Minutes); Archie Rattray; Gill Rattray; Barry Blomfield; Mary Nottingham; Chris Jacob; Koshy Jacob; Janet Seden; Roy Seden; John Gamlin; Howard Holdsworth; Stuart Stone; Peter Sutton Apologies were received from: Don and Pam Robinson; Steve Newman; Marian Godwin; Lesley Cherry; Dorothy Brundell; Liz Digby; Stephne and Joop van Der Toorn; Martin Huggett; Sarah Southgate; Reuben Rushen; Glen Rowson; Geoff Potter; Shirley Bruce; Michael and Tricia Fitzpatrick; Joyce and Derek Fox	
1.	Welcome and prayers Fiona Trott opened the meeting with the Lent sonnet “All the kingdoms of the world” by Malcolm Guite and a prayer. Rev Steph would like to record her thanks to her wonderful wardens and all the PCC for all their hard work and the support given to her.
2.	Minutes of APCM 25th April 2021 - These were approved by all.
3.	Receive the Rector’s Report - This report was approved by all. Grateful thanks were extended by all to Rev Steph for her leadership.
4.	Electoral Roll Report This year there were three new members; four moved out of the area and six have died. The current total of 126 was reported. The report was approved by all.
5.	Report on the proceedings of the PCC - This report was approved by all.
6.	Approve the Treasurer’s report and accounts - This report was approved by all. Proposed by Peter Sutton and seconded by Howard Holdsworth. Sincere thanks to Lesley Cherry were recorded for her incredible hard work. The finances are very difficult at the moment and Lesley is working tirelessly to cut costs wherever possible. Currently payments to the parish share are down and last year it was not possible to pay the full allocation due to lack of income/donations.
7.	Report on the proceedings of Deanery Synod - This report was approved by all.
8.	Safeguarding report - The report was approved by all. Fiona is currently standing in for Glen while he has other commitments. The training of trainers for face to face sessions is being addressed but predominately can be done on-line.
9.	Election of Churchwardens Fiona Trott (proposed by Liz Digby and Peter Sutton) and Liz Digby (proposed by Sarah Southgate and Fiona Trott) - were elected unanimously as the Churchwardens. Thanks were given to the wardens for their outstanding work and support. Fiona and Liz would like to record thanks to the deputy church wardens for all their support, but regarded it a privilege to serve the church and Steph at this particular time.
10.	Deanery Synod elections Sarah Southgate and Chris Jacob were elected for three years in November 2020. However, one vacancy still remains.

11. PCC	Three of the four PCC members due for re-election this year are prepared to stand again: Jackie Reeves; Glen Rowson; Geoff Potter. All were re-elected. Shirley Bruce is not standing again which leaves four vacancies - one for three years; one for one year and two vacancies for two years.
12. Appoint an Independent Examiner	Britt Evans has indicated her willingness to continue, so she was reappointed as Independent Examiner. Sincere thanks were extended to her for all the support she gives to Lesley.
13. Receive all other reports	- All other reports were approved unanimously.
14. MINUTES OF THE PCC MEETING FOLLOWING THE APCM	attended by Fiona Trott (Chair); Michelle Jowers (Minutes), Chris Jacob, Barry Blomfield, Howard Holdsworth
Election of PCC Officers	
Vice Chairman	Fiona Trott
Minutes Secretary	Steve Newman
PCC Secretary	Michelle Jowers
Brantham PCC representative	Jane Pavitt (for initial meeting only; then TBA)
Hon Treasurer	Lesley Cherry
Deputy Churchwardens	Barry Blomfield; Lesley Cherry; Chris Jacob; Ruben Rushen; Geoff Potter; Glen Rowson; Sarah Southgate; Howard Holdsworth
Electoral Roll Officer	Fiona Trott
Benefice Safeguarding Officer	Glen Rowson (interim - Fiona Trott)
Health and Safety	Glen Rowson (interim - Liz Digby)
Standing Committee	Rector, Vice Chair, Wardens, Health and Safety and Treasurer
Lettice Dykes	Rev Canon Stephne van der Toorn; Ruben Rushen; Ted Wheatley; Gill Rattray
Preservation Society	Rev Steph; Liz Digby; Lesley Cherry
Foundation Governors	Rev Steph and Simon Rothwell
Magazine Committee	Rev Steph, Lesley Cherry, Michelle Jowers, Alison Jones, Marion Ralph, John Gamlin
Captain of Bells	Terry Eagle
Ecumenical Committee	Chris Jacob and Barry Blomfield
Representatives	
15. A.O.B	FT apologized that the Livestreaming Policy was not prepared to pass as promised but would be ready for the May meeting. HH raised the point that in his opinion having two services again each Sunday with the high Covid rates is overstretching resources and costs. Now that attendance has reduced substantially again, maybe a return to having a single benefice service alternating between the churches should be considered. FT closed the meeting at 11:30.
16. Date of Next Meeting:	Rev Steph away: Oberammergau 18-22 May inclusive; 20 June – 4 July inclusive Dates of East Bergholt PCC meetings for 2022 (Thursdays): 26th May, 7th July, 22nd September, 17th November 9th June Archdeacon visitation for swearing in of Wardens, 19:30 at Holbrook



REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1063444

PATRON: OLIVER ELEY

Famous for its bell cage and unfinished tower, St. Mary's present building dates from about 1350. Built of brick, flint and stone (probably from an earlier building), it houses a Font inscribed to the memory of Abram Constable (1783-1862) the artist's younger brother. The church chest, possibly as old as any part of the church fabric, has triple locks added by Elizabethan injunction. A three leaved lily emblem of St. Mary's adorns the north side brick-work. The five-pointed star or mullet emblem of the De Veres, Earl of Oxford and Lords of the Manor of Old Hall decorates the north turret.

The purpose of our society is to raise funds to help preserve this vital part of village heritage for the benefit of future generations. Since the inauguration on 17th June 1997, with the considerable support of many local residents, the Society has raised more than £200,000. It has established the biannual East Bergholt Gardens Open Day, an event enjoyed by many which attracts visitors from far afield.

Currently, we have many problems with the church roof and desperately need to raise funds to assist with repairs. Help us to assist with the preservation of this unique structure and become a member of the Preservation Society. Your support and donations, large or small will go to achieve this aim.

St. Mary's Church East Bergholt Preservation Society Review of 2022

The Annual General Meeting was held in the West End of St. Mary's Church on Wednesday 16th November 2022. Our audited accounts and minutes of our previous AGM, held on 17th November 2021 were approved. Copies are available by emailing ebchurchpres@gmail.com. We are very pleased to welcome Mr Roy Thornycroft as our new treasurer who was also elected as a Trustee.

Unfortunately, we were unable to hold our Carols and Mince Pie event in December, as in previous years. However, a wonderful summers evening in June saw relaxed members and guests enjoying the beautiful gardens of Warren House, Straight Road. Our warmest thanks to Henry and Anstice Harrison-Topham for their fantastic hospitality and all their hard work in preparing the garden for our event. Many thanks to our amazing band of volunteer caterers for the wonderful canapes and drinks service.

Whilst the focus for the evening was the magnificent garden, reports summarising the progress of repairs to the Chancel Roof and Northern Parapet were available for reference. You may recall urgent work was needed for the south Chancel roof and this formal process commenced in the beginning of 2021. Before this work was put out to tender, it was necessary to consider other factors such as the presence of bats. Surveys were once again required. During this time, it became apparent that the stonework on the Northern parapet was unstable and further, various pin holes had appeared in the lead roofing which also needed repair

There is much preparation needed behind the scenes to enable such work to take place and we must express our thanks to the Church Wardens, Fiona Trott and Liz Digby for all their hard work. In addition to the congregation, the church has many users during any week and co-ordinating all their needs with those of the builders whilst ensuring the security of the building itself is a very considerable task. Add to this, complications arising from the ongoing Covid infection problem and supply chain issues, it was very pleasing to finally see the removal of the scaffolding. With strong financial reserves, we are not only able to fund direct work preserving the building but it enables support to be given in the form of match funding: when funding is paid in proportion to funding being paid from other sources. This is clearly important when sources of funding such as grant applications are pursued. With the major Church Roof Refurbishment Project, it is of particular importance. The Society will keenly support The Parochial Church Council in all matters relating to

the fabric of the building. We would stress, The Preservation Society is only concerned with the fabric of our historic church building. It is worth noting that since The Preservation Society was formed in 1997, it has contributed approx. £239,000.00 to maintaining this ancient structure. Whilst the Chancel roof and Northern Parapet project was very much needed, our reserves have taken a significant hit. Our fundraising activities are a very important source of income, but it is worth noting that our financial position has been much strengthened of late through legacy giving. Such gifts are a wonderful way to help protect our cherished village landmark for residents, visitors and future generations and may even offer significant tax benefits. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss further, either by phone 07821141473, email ebchurchpres@gmail.com or in writing to Delvyns, Gaston Street, East Bergholt CO7 6SD.

With kindest regards and many thanks for your generous, continued support

Debbie Tuppen

On behalf of the Society, Debbie Tuppen, Chairperson



ST. MARY'S CHURCH

PRESERVATION SOCIETY

EAST BERGHOLT

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1063444

PATRON: OLIVER ELEY

ST MARY'S CHURCH EAST BERGHOLT PRESERVATION SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

The aim of the Society is to preserve this historic building for future generations by attracting support from anyone who cares about our heritage. Your donations, large or small, will be gratefully received. All funds raised will be used solely for the preservation of St. Mary's Church and its Bell Cage.

Title: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other

Forenames

Surname

Address

Post code

Telephone

Mobile

Email

Annual membership

Donation

I enclose cash / Cheque (payable to St Mary's Church EBPS)

£ 10.00

£ .

£ .

In order to maintain your membership of the society, we would recommend that you complete a Banker's Standing Order, a pro forma of which is attached.

To make the most of your membership subscription and donation we would ask you to complete a Gift Aid declaration, which will give the Society the benefit of the income tax that you have paid on your income.

Debbie Tuppen

Delvyns

Gaston Street

East Bergholt

CO7 6SD

email: debbie.tuppen@gmail.com

Tel: 078 21141473

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

PRESERVATION SOCIETY

EAST BERGHOLT

BANKERS STANDING ORDER FORM

To the Manager

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1063444

PATRON: OLIVER ELEY

(Insert Bank name)

Bank address

Post code

Please pay Barclays Bank PLC, 9 High Street, Colchester CO1 1DD, Sort Code 20-22-67, for the credit of St Mary's Church, East Bergholt Preservation Society, Account number 30604151, on receipt of this instruction and then on 1 September 2023, and then on the same date each year thereafter, until further notice.

The amount of £ pounds
(amount in numbers) (amount in words)

From my Account Number

Sort Code

Signed

Address

Post code

Date

giftaid it

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
PRESERVATION SOCIETY
EAST BERGHOLT

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1063444

PATRON: OLIVER ELEY

GIFT AID DECLARATION

For past, present & future donations

St. Mary's Church, East Bergholt, Preservation Society

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made

today ☐ in the past 4 years ☐ in the future ☐

Please tick all boxes you wish to apply.

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 28p of tax on every £1 that I gave up to 5 April 2008 and will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2008.

Donor's details

Title ----- First name or initial(s) -----

Surname -----

Full home address -----

Postcode -----

Date -----

Signature -----

Please notify the charity or CASC if you:

- *Want to cancel this declaration*
- *Change your name or home address*
- *No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.*

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Please return completed form to:

Debbie Tuppen
Delvyns
Gaston Street
East Bergholt
CO7 6SD

Email: debbie.tuppen@gmail.com Tel: 07821 141473

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY'S, EAST BERGHOLT

I report on the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 as set out on pages 1 to 6.

This report is made solely to members of the Parochial Church Council as a body, in accordance with the section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Parochial Church Council those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Church and the Church's members as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

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It is my responsibility to:

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

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

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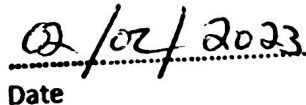
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 - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

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- b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



Britt Evans AAT
Rookery Cottage, Gaston Street,
East Bergholt, Colchester


Date

Accounts

St Mary the Virgin, East Bergholt Annual Report for 2021

**Annual Meeting to be held
on Sunday 20th March 2022
immediately after Morning Service**



**Annual Parochial Church Meeting
of
St Mary the Virgin, East Bergholt**

(Benefice of East Bergholt and Brantham)

St Mary the Virgin, East Bergholt

Incumbent:

Rev Canon Stephne van der Toorn (assisted by Guide Dog (Canon) Coco)
The Rectory
Rectory Lane
Brantham
Manningtree
CO11 1PZ
01206 392646
revstephvd@googlemail.com

Bank:

Barclays Bank
4 High Street
Manningtree
CO11 1AF

Register of Charities with the Registered Charity Number 1190273

Independent Examiner

Mrs B Evans
Rookery Cottage
Gaston Street
East Bergholt
Colchester
CO7 6SF

Website: [via A Church near You:](https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/2067/)

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/2067/>

Find us on Facebook: facebook.com/stmaryseastbergholt
Constable Country Churches YouTube: select the video tab and/or select channel for services particular to St. Mary's

THE DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION PRIVACY NOTICE

The information we hold about you in our Church records is only disclosed to those who need to see it for Church purposes. We will send you information related to the Benefice, the Church, the ministry and activities. If you wish to

unsubscribe from all or any communications, please let Michelle Jowers know at constablecountrychurches@outlook.com

Contents

St Mary the Virgin - East Bergholt PCC 2021-2022.....	4
Agenda for APCM.....	5
Rector's Report:.....	6
Curate's Report.....	8
Electoral Roll.....	8
Proceedings of the East Bergholt PCC.....	9
Safeguarding.....	9
Treasurer's Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2021.....	10
Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts.....	12
East Bergholt PCC Accounts Year Ending 31/12/2021.....	13
Samford Deanery Synod & Group Council.....	18
Churchwardens.....	19
Bell Ringers.....	21
Flower Arrangers.....	22
Foundation Governors' Report.....	23
East Bergholt Parish Magazine.....	24
Toddlers Group.....	24
Family@church.....	25
Mothers' Union.....	25
Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2021.....	26
St. Mary's Church East Bergholt Preservation Society Review of 2021.....	28

Due to Covid there are less reports than previous years. We are very hopeful that next year we'll be back to full activity reporting.

St Mary the Virgin - East Bergholt PCC 2021-2022

EX-OFFICIO	Canon Stephne van der Toorn	Rector	392646
	Liz Digby	Churchwarden	01473 312281
	Fiona Trott	Churchwarden	298205
	Roy Stephenson resigned June 21	Deanery Synod Rep	07910 509715
	Chris Jacob	Deanery Synod Rep	298552
	Sarah Southgate	Deanery Synod Rep	299729
CO-OPTED	Lauraine Johnson	Brantham Representative PCC	299005

ELECTED

TO SEEK RE-ELECTION IN 2022		TO SEEK RE-ELECTION IN 2023		TO SEEK RE-ELECTION IN 2024	
Jackie Reeves	298323	Lesley Cherry	393500	Barry Blomfield	298449
Glen Rowson	299109	Ruben Rushen	299303	Howard Holdsworth	07970416249
Geoff Potter	298595	Victoria Rothwell	299980	Vacancy	
Shirley Bruce	01473 780084	Ruth Hamilton Bryant resigned October 21	299881	Vacancy	

PCC Vice Chairman	Fiona Trott	298205
Minutes Secretary	Steve Newman	07850 505713
PCC Secretary	Michelle Jowers	390332
Brantham representative	Lauraine Johnson	299005
Hon Treasurer	Lesley Cherry	393500
Deputy Churchwardens	Barry Blomfield	298449
	Lesley Cherry	393500
	Chris Jacob	298552
	Ruben Rushen	299303
	Geoff Potter	298595
	Glen Rowson	299109
	Shirley Bruce	01473 780084
Electoral Roll Officer	Fiona Trott	298205
Benefice Safeguarding Officer	Glen Rowson	299109
Standing Committee (Chair)	Rev Canon Stephne van der Toorn	392646
Standing Committee (Minutes Secretary)	Steve Newman	07850 505713
Standing Committee (Treasurer)	Lesley Cherry	393500
Standing Committee (Health & Safety)	Barry Blomfield/Glen Rowson	298449/299109
Standing Committee (Wardens)	Fiona Trott	298205
	Liz Digby	01473 312281

Lettice Dykes	Rev Canon Stephne van der Toorn	392646
	Ruben Rushen	299303
	Ted Wheatley	298102
	Gill Rattray	298380
Preservation Society	Rev Canon Stephne van der Toorn	392646
	Liz Digby	01473 312281
	Lesley Cherry	393500
Foundation Governors	Rev Canon Stephne van der Toorn	392646
	Simon Rothwell	299980
Magazine Committee	Rev Canon Stephne van der Toorn	392646
	Lesley Cherry	393500
Ecumenical Committee	Barry Blomfield	298449
	Chris Jacob	298552
Captain of Bells	Terry Eagle	07578 002974

Agenda for APCM

20 March 2022 at St. Mary the Virgin, East Bergholt
In the light of Covid, meeting to be as short as possible.

1. Welcome and Prayers
2. Minutes of the APCM 25th April 2021
3. Receive the Rector's report
4. Electoral Roll report
5. Report on the proceedings of the PCC
6. Approve the Treasurer's report and accounts
7. Report on the proceedings of Deanery Synod
8. Safeguarding report
9. Elections:
10. Churchwardens
11. Deanery Synod: 1 Vacancy. (Roy Stepheson, Sarah Southgate and Chris Jacob were elected for 3 years from November 2020. Roy Stephenson resigned in June when he moved to the USA.)
12. PCC: 4 representatives for 3 years, and 2 for two years and 1 for 1 year
13. Appoint an Independent Examiner - Mrs Britt Evans has indicated her willingness to continue
14. Receive all other reports

The PCC will convene at the close of the APCM to elect Officers and deal with any urgent business.

AGENDA FOR PCC MEETING TO FOLLOW THE APCM

Election of PCC Officers

- Vice Chair
- Minutes Secretary
- PCC Secretary
- Brantham PCC representative
- Hon Treasurer
- Deputy Churchwardens
- Electoral Roll Officer
- Benefice Safeguarding Officer - Glen Rowson from June 22, Fiona Trott standing in
- Health and Safety - Liz Digby standing in until June
- Standing Committee ((Rector, Vice Chair, Wardens, Health and Safety, and Treasurer)
- Lettice Dykes
- Preservation Society
- Foundation Governors: Rev Steph and Simon Rothwell
- Magazine Committee: currently Rev Steph, Lesley Cherry, Michelle Jowers, Alison Jones, Marion Ralph, John Gamlin
- Ecumenical Committee Representative

Dates of Further meetings:

26th May, 7th July, 22nd September, 17th November
Archdeacon visitation on 9th June, 19:30 at Holbrook

Rector's Report:

2021 – another year with God, doing our best to faithfully share his love in a world dealing with pandemic, fear, death, isolation, loneliness and despair.

Our churches were in lockdown until Palm Sunday, so we filmed our morning services and the ancient service of Compline which Rev Eric faithfully posted to YouTube and other platforms. We heard from people all around the country and indeed abroad who shared in worship with us. Funerals were filmed in the church, the cemetery and churchyard to help folk, unable to be present for whatever reason, to participate and feel included.

Those involved in the filming and work on the internet platforms (Rev Eric, Joop, Fiona, Nick and Len) spent hours trouble shooting, wrestling with computers and learning new skills, and we are most grateful to them all. I learnt that I do not have “a best side” to show to the camera, that I look alarmingly like Professor Snape on a bad day when my cloak billows in the wind, and that the telephone will inevitably ring or the dogs/Kabouter the parrot become vocal just as I begin recording. Coco would also rise to report for duty when I pronounced the blessing just as she does in church. A very astute dog with sound liturgical instincts.

We said a sad farewell to Rev Eric Falla on Palm Sunday and presented him with a beautiful bespoke silk stole and a cheque which helped him to buy a lawnmower for his new garden. Our benefice benefited enormously from his faithful ministry amongst us.

Once we were back in our beautiful buildings, we alternated services between our churches, and the 8.00 BCP communion at East Bergholt resumed later in the year. Communion continued to be in one kind only and we observed the Covid protocols, strictly mindful that we are responsible for each other's welfare. I had nightmares about being a super spreader.

Both PCCs agreed that at Christmas without a Curate we could no longer staff the level of services we have offered in previous years. (This had been decided before Rev Eric came to us.) When he arrived we were able to delay implementation, but it came into force in 2021. Christmas Midnight was at East Bergholt and Christmas Day in Brantham. Safety concerns caused the St Michael's Christingle to be cancelled as we could not socially distance the huge numbers that attend and enforcing booking was not an option. Turning away an excited child arriving without having booked was too awful to contemplate. This inevitably led to unhappiness and the feeling that St Michael's was being short- changed at Christmas because both Christmas Eve family services at St Mary's went ahead as usual. I am sorry if you were disappointed. I did the best I could under the circumstances officiating at 4 services on Christmas Eve day. Without extra help in 2022 the Midnight service will be at St Michael's and the Christmas day service at St Mary's. We can but hope that the pandemic will have vanished, and Christingle will be able to take place again.

During the year I have continued as a Training Incumbent and supervising Rev Sally Letman who is the Curate in Charge at Capel St Mary and Great Wenham. It was a joy to be worshipping with them once a month-something made possible by the alternating pattern of services and our hard-working ministry team. We are indebted to our retired priests Rev Peter Ball and Rev Roy Seden who was granted permission to officiate during the latter part of the year. Both

wonderfully assist us at Eucharistic services. I am mindful that they are retired and do my best not to abuse their generosity.

I kept doing assemblies at East Bergholt Primary School-either on YouTube, or via Zoom from the head teacher's office depending on the circumstances. Joop and I did a few Open the Book assemblies, but the teams have not been able to go in for far too long. Such a shame.

Brooklands School Years 5 and 6 came into St Michael's for their annual Christmas Church assembly - we were not able to have the whole school as the church is not big enough to maintain the social distancing that was required at that point. East Bergholt Primary divided their assemblies into two sessions and were able to come. I have been in regular contact with our local head teachers assuring them of our prayers at all times in what has been for them another horrendous year. They have been immensely appreciative of our prayers.

The church newsletter was either emailed or hand delivered, to parishioners without internet access, as we made a great effort to help everyone feel included and loved. This was very labour intensive and it became a weekly newsletter rather than twice a week from the middle of the year. Into each envelope went a copy of the seasonal order of service and the pew sheet. We did our best to provide useful information against scams which were rife, suppliers prepared to deliver to the home and uplifting stories to encourage and produce a smile. I hope we succeeded.

During the year I conducted 35 funerals, 7 weddings and 5 baptisms. The funerals seemed to come in groups which was emotionally draining, especially as we lost dearly loved members of our congregations. At one point I found myself weeping into my keyboard when someone sent me a kind email. Mentioned this to a very senior colleague, and quite by chance I am sure, had a call from the archdeacon asking how I am and was instructed to take a week off. Some wedding couples had postponed their big day from the previous year, and when more restrictions came in, postponed yet again to 2022. The wedding preparation day was held via Zoom and will be again in 2022. I have successfully with a sense of relief, handed organisation of the day over to my Deanery Colleagues. Michelle my administrator still does the production of the wedding packs and co-ordinates the logistics.

Attendance at church services was down when we were able to meet together again as folk were being very careful. Groups met online via Zoom which meant that those without the technology were excluded from the discussions and fellowship. Family@church and Toddlers continued to flourish within the parameters imposed on us by Covid and were a lifeline to many families especially young mums. Church lunches and coffee mornings were not possible.

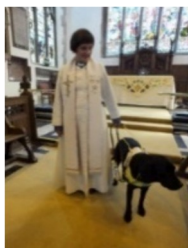
Fundraising was severely affected, and we missed the weekly collections and income from special events. Both churches took a good look at their expenses and cut down as much as possible. Thank you to so much for continuing to give regularly. The church still needs to pay its bills! The East Bergholt Wardens will cover the roofing project in their report.

Remembrance Sunday at East Bergholt was held inside the church, and in the fresh air at Brantham. After the limited attendance of the precious year it was very good to be able to come together to remember.

The ecumenical fraternal met regularly throughout the year and is a very supportive group. Thank you very much indeed to everyone who helps in any way at church. You know who you are!

I am now in my final year with you and beginning to think about retirement. What a prospect! We continue to trust God as we journey together on our life of faith. May you know his peace, no matter what.

The Lord be with you.



Rev Steph and Coco

Curate's Report

I continued my Deacon's year during the season of Covid, guided and supported by Rev Steph with her usual, calm, compassionate and caring tutelage. It is so much easier to learn through not feeling intimidated. I know so little and we have roared with laughter at many of my mistakes. Usually these are covered with a smile, so don't watch out for them!

We continued to record many services and reflections for the YouTube channel and my first experiences of funerals were with very small and intimate gatherings. It was a joy to finally open our churches on Palm Sunday and have small but more normal Easter services, singing Thine Be the Glory in the church yard.



I have many training days and a regular meeting day with other curates, they were on Zoom but we did manage a walk together when the rules allowed.

I have felt worried at times at the amount of time Rev Stephne has to give to me as my supervisor but as the year went on as a Curate in charge at Capel St Mary and the Wenhams she has enabled me to learn and then do myself.

In July I was Ordained a Priest in a wonderful service at the Cathedral; Rev Steph accompanied me to the Bishop's chair and it was a remarkable and wonderful day. Gradually my supervision had a lighter touch, although we do meet weekly for reflection and for her to listen to my worries.

It is a strange land of curacy; a land of learning and of formation into the priest God wants me to be. It has been a time of learning and reflection and I feel sad that I have not met many of you in person.

I continue to work at being the best I can be, although so often we don't manage it but we keep on trying; with prayer, companionship and by being steered by the best training incumbent a girl can have!

Thank you Steph, and thank you all for allowing her to steer and guide me with the grace of God.

Rev Sally - Curate in charge of Chapel St Mary with little and Great Wenham.

Electoral Roll

At the time of writing, there are 127 people on the Roll.



*Fiona Trott
Electoral Roll Officer*

Proceedings of the East Bergholt PCC

Once again 2021 has not been as good a year as it could have been with the Omicron variant of Covid causing a number of difficulties and not enabling us to have the freedoms we would have wished for. But, with the use of technology and the commitment and good will of all PCC members we have been able to continue our business. The majority of meeting in 2021 have been in the "ZOOM room" but we were able to carry out a number of "physical" meetings as long as we observed social distancing and masks were used, which does not make taking the minutes very easy.

During 2021 the EB PCC held a total of 10 meetings, including a number of emergency meetings, and on average, there were 12 members present at each of the meetings. The items discussed at the meetings covered a wide variety of areas which included: updating the Bellringers Handbook; carrying out Health and Safety and Covid risk assessments; managing the workload without Rev Eric; repairs carried out by Cumbria Clocks; roof repairs and fundraising activities; filming of services and Wi-Fi in the church; a change of Safeguarding Officer for the Benefice - Glen Rowson has now taken over this position; the form/format/pattern of Services during lockdown and restrictions; the new marriage registration process; the Bat Survey; the progress of the Family@Church initiative and the Toddler Group; the Church Insurance; the Alpha course; the Christmas parade; and not least, regular financial reports and updates from the Treasurer in these difficult times;

Despite the need for social distancing and the wearing of face masks, the discussions at the meetings were very friendly, constructive, and supportive and there was a genuine spirit of cooperation and the wish to do the best for the benefice.



Steve Newman
Minutes Secretary

Safeguarding

We have had two potential safeguarding referrals across East Bergholt and Brantham in the last year. Both have been investigated and dealt with.

Safeguarding Training has been an issue and whilst some people have been able to do basic training online, there are a number of people who are not able to do so.

The Diocesan safeguarding team has been working on delivering the ability for face-to-face training and it is hoped to get trained up in order that we can do our own face-to-face training during the coming year.

Glen is stepping back from the role of parish safeguarding officer for a while and Fiona Trott has agreed to cover this in his absence. Please contact her with any concerns.

Glen Rowson
Benefice Safeguarding Officer

Treasurer's Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

General Fund

General Fund receipts have recovered a little on last year. Although some areas are continuing to fall, the church has been regularly open, with donations and collections at services improving on the previous year.

- Planned giving has fallen slightly for the fourth year in a row. This has been offset by some generous extra donations from parishioners.
- Fundraising has been concentrated on the Roof.
- Income from the bookstall has seen a marginal increase.
- Church running costs/costs of services have been reduced, and savings made across all areas, this is due to Covid affecting the number and frequency of services. A significant saving on Insurance was made this year resulting in a refund from the existing Bell Cage policy. This made a total saving this year of £2,000 and over the next 2 years a further £3,000. This is building on the savings made in the last 2 years on other areas such as utility bills.
- Total income looks up on last year, but if we take off the amounts that just pass through the Church Account, such as Restricted Preservation Society donations, restricted donations, Diocesan fees, non-statutory fees, roof donations, special collections and restricted miscellaneous, we are left with £65,171 as opposed to last year of £67,170. (The legacy in 2020 was unrestricted and therefore inflates the figures on last year's list. See 2020 donations)

We prepare our accounts on a receipts and payments basis, which means that accruals and adjustments are not required. However this can result in timing differences and affects areas such as Utility bills, oil, printing costs, special collections etc

Magazine

The magazine account has turned a profit once again this year. This resulted in a total of £2,000 being transferred to the General Fund during this financial year. There is one month's printing outstanding and one month of commission. After allowing for these costs the balance would be £6,675. We will be looking to transfer some more across shortly after allowing for outstanding and projected expenses. No monies are transferred to the Church General Fund without consulting the Magazine Committee.

Roof Fund

This fund was started in July 2019 and the first expenses were paid out in December 2019. Fundraising events this year included a concert, a music quiz and the Art Exhibition weekend, which all raised valuable funds. Charity Fundraising Ltd is the company providing the invaluable expertise and support for us to hopefully submit a successful Lottery application.

Bell Cage

Bell cage donations have increased a little due to more tourism taking place during the financial year and a generous donation. Thank you to the ringers for agreeing to pay their own Bell Ringers Guild Subscriptions for this and future years, thus helping the church with its dwindling income.

Parish Share

This is our largest single annual expense. This year, there continued to be little flexibility in our finances, partly due to no money being available from the Hetherington Fund, and partly the much-reduced income. Although after cutting costs once again, we were able to pay £38,600 (2020 : £22,500) of the full £51,786 due. The Diocese has continued to be kept informed and Liz Digby and I attended a meeting with an advisor during the year. The PCC also continue to look at reducing outgoings and making savings wherever possible.

Preservation Society

It would be extremely remiss of me not to mention the valuable part the Preservation Society has played this year in the roof project and also the organ repair. They have helped to pay for the bat surveys, lead repair and made a substantial contribution to the architects' fees. It is clear from this report that without the help of this charity we would not have been able to undertake these works.

Various

The Jenny Lane fund is for work with children, and continues to be used whenever appropriate costs arise.

Investments are included at cost, but their market value remains in significant excess of cost. They provide a crucial regular income stream throughout the year.

Assets are stated as £156,618 (2020: £153,408) but would be higher if market value of investments was shown. After considering all designated and restricted funds, and known liabilities, the monies that are free for use stand at £14,000 (2020: £15,480). Slightly down, but around the target of £15,000.

Close

Once again, this year as treasurer, has not been without its challenges. I would like to offer my sincere and grateful thanks to Fiona Trott and Liz Digby, who have been unfailing in their help and support. Also to the PCC, who have taken difficult decisions and approved my recommendations during another extremely problematic year for church finances.

Lesley Cherry
Hon Treasurer PCC East Bergholt

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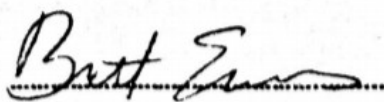
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- b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.


Britt Evans AAT
Rookery Cottage, Gaston Street,
East Bergholt, Colchester

8/2/2022
Date

East Bergholt PCC Accounts Year Ending 31/12/2021

			2021		2020			
INCOME			£		£			
Preservation Soc Restrictd Donatns			8448.66		85.00			
Planned giving/PGS			18991.92		21370.52			
Gift Aid			7833.54		9047.53			
Non Gift Aid planned giving			56.30		210.10			
Collections			3018.68		2230.66			
Donations			11952.87		9730.32			
Restrctd Donations			8580.00		11500.00	(includes 10k legacy)		
Matt/ Calendars			2143.20		4365.89			
Min of Wel			0.00		37.10			
Fundraising Roof			7187.81		18.00			
Ed/Train			0.00		0.00			
Toddlers			194.50		135.50			
Choir			0.00		160.00			
Brantham share of Honararia			3481.45		3086.50			
Bookstall			1042.43		314.68			
Bell Cage			119.97		81.51			
Diocesan Fees			1083.00		27.00			
PCC fees			3100.00		1713.00			
Non Stat Fees			2961.11		1433.23			
Refreshments			0.00		73.45	(tours)		
Heating			490.00		660.00			
Investment Income/Dividends			2400.94		2845.90			
50/50			744.00		0.00			
winter welcme			0.00		359.26			
Roof Donations			4778.92		11986.26			
Flower Fund			0.00		0.00			
Special Collections			1236.62		85.00			
Bran PCC			0.00		379.01			
Transfers from Magazine			2000.00		0.00			
Misc			76.23		70.00			
Misc Restricted			3379.75		10496.36	(includes £9654 loan)		
Easy Fundraising/ Amazon			334.12		281.08			
TOTAL INCOME			95636.02		92782.86			

East Bergholt PCC Accounts						
Year End	2021					
			2021		2020	
EXPENSES						
Parish Share			38600.00		22500.00	
Deanery Levy			0.00		60.00	
clergy exp			2056.51		3134.63	
church run costs			3758.69		5299.82	

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Ad

Administrator Honoraria			6472.51		6388.59	
cleaning honoraria			1137.50		656.25	
organ			2526.00		172.00	
Director of Music/ non stat			3267.00		2150.00	
Toddlers/Youth work			244.05		480.52	
Fundraising			5405.33		9914.84	
maintenance/repairs			2005.94		2962.96	

EAST BERGHOLT PCC			255.49		502.39	
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tea/coff kitchen			28.59		148.30	
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MAGAZINE ACCOUNT			0.00		71.00	
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/12/2021	2021		1083.00		0.00	
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Diocesan fees			1217.50	2021	710.00	2020
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non stat fees			£500.00		25.00	£
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INCOME Donations			1404.50		0.00	15754.50
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Adverts special collections sent			211.59		29.90	195.00
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Transfer from General Fund			0.00		0.00	website costs
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flower fund			0.00		0.00	
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xfer			4219.70		1520.45	
------	--	--	---------	--	---------	--

misc			14.44		490.99	
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bell cage			2152.32	18929.50	5508.32	15949.50
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INCOME Insurance			0.00		0.00	
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winter warmer exp			12897.90		9955.98	
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TOTAL INCOME			1200.00		0.00	
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EXPENSES			2,000.00		0.00	
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Transfer to General Fund			1736.00		1923.00	
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Compiler Honoraria			0.00		0.00	
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Admin			0.00	95077.84	75763.20	
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Advertising Commission			1476.41		1505.48	
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printing			10660.00		9223.00	
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Misc			485.00	incorrect amount paid	33.00	
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Various fees are mentioned in the accounts. Statutory fees are fees to the PCC/Diocese for weddings and funerals etc. Non statutory fees are set by PCC and are invoiced/paid to have bells, heating, choir, organist and flowers at weddings/funerals.

TOTAL COSTS			16357.41		12684.48	
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18

2572.09

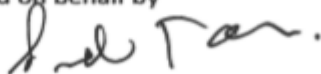
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Monetary assets 31/12/21

	2021	2020	
Barclays bank account	£27,026	£ 26,468	
Suffolk Building Society* new name	£13,447	£ 13,367	*Ipswich Building Society
Malschinger at cost	£ 92,742	£ 92,742	
CBF/Black Rock at cost	£ 15,528	£ 15,528	
Magazine account	<u>£ 7,875</u>	<u>£ 5,303</u>	
Total	£156,618	£153,408	

Approved by the Parochial Church Council

Signed on behalf by



Rev Canon S van der Toorn

Rector / PCC Chairman

Investment S

				Market Value	
	Number of Shares Held	Cost per Share	Total cost £	2021 £	2020 £
Paskell Fund CBF Investment Fund (CCLA)	1010	6.54	6,606	23,620	20,549
Charishares BlackRock	3,665	2.09	7,660	25,789	23,657
Mission Hall Trust(DBF)	508	2.48	1262	11,880	10,386
Malschinger Investments (DBF)					
Account 133001323S	2,517	13.01	32,742	58,861	51,461
Account 133001002J	3,205	18.72	60,000	186,935	159,039
Miss Hetherington Legacy (Suffolk Building Society Account)				13,447	13,367
			Total	£320,532.00	£278,459.00

Bell cage

Income

	£	
Donations box	120.00	£ 81.00
Preservation Society		

Expenditure

	£	£
Repairs	£ 14.00	491.00
	£	£
Insurance*	300.00	1,512.00
	-£	-£
Total	194.00	1,922.00

* Insurance now included with main Church insurance, so this is an estimated figure

Statement of Designated and Restricted Funds 2021

Name of Fund	Restrict ed Funds	Unrestricted Funds Designat ed	Undesignat ed	Endowm ent Funds	Total 2021	2020
Hetherington			£13,447.00		£13,447.00	£13,367.00
Flower	£1,814.00				£1,814.00	£2,026.00
Jenny Lane		£602.00			£602.00	£789.00
Roof	£7,761.00				£7,761.00	£8,672.00
Paskell				£23,620.00	£23,620.00	£20,549.00
East End Mission	£1,262.00				£1,262.00	£1,262.00
Malschinger				£245,796.00	£245,796.00	£210,500.00
		£10,000.00			£10,000.00	£10,000.00
Altar						
Wifi/Recording		£5,150.00			£5,150.00	£0.00
					£309,452.00	£267,165.00

ROOF ACCOUNT SUMMARY 2021

Account ON-GOING			
INCOME	From 07/2019	Expenditure	From 12/2019
Roof tile sales	£492.50	Charity Fund Ltd	£5,832.96
Fundraising	£3,857.11	Architect	£15,376.92
Donations	£7,034.65	Lead Repair	£1,008.00
Cake Sales	£130.50	Bat Surveys	£1,980.00
Parish Giving	£70.54		

Garden Tours	£499.00			
Grants	£7,250.00			
Preservation Society	£5,578.66			
Matt Sales	£4,422.98			
Funeral Collection	£98.81			
DCMS VAT reclaims	£1,176.71			
Gift Aid income	£1,347.46			
		£31,958.92		£24,197.88
			Balance as at 31/12/2021	£7,761.04

Samford Deanery Synod & Group Council

There were three meetings this year:

March 2021, via Zoom - Jonathan de Bernhardt Wood - National Giving Adviser

Jonathan has recently moved to Holbrook. Synod members were invited to question Jonathan and regarding his work. He was based in Westminster, was involved in the Parish buying scheme, with a recent focus on resources needed during the pandemic. He gave a brief summary of his background and experience which included working with Oxfam, Community and Youth Centres, Hospices and the Church Army. He has an MA in Applied Theology. In response to questions about which areas were experiencing greatest difficulty, Jonathan said that in general, the areas with high numbers of regular givers and suburban locations were the most successful, while the rural areas and those further east had the most difficulty. An established culture of giving such as through tithing, usually in larger Churches, is helpful.

Building confidence between Parishes and their respective Diocese was seen as important, together with making it easy for people to give - the Parish Giving Scheme has worked well alongside the review of regular giving and as part of a wider exploration. Other resources for Parishes include webinars and training, and, locally, a recent Diocesan appointment of someone to give support for grant applications to various funding bodies. Converting existing Standing Orders to inflation-linked Direct Debits is easy but needs to be handled with tact and sensitivity to ensure that the giver is comfortable, and the amount involved is at the right level. Although lotteries / One Hundred Clubs have worked well for Hospices and other charities, they might be less suited to Churches. Asking the wider community for a small annual donation to help ensure the Church remains able to function is an approach which has also been successful for retaining other community facilities such as a rural Post Office.

Wednesday 8 September, Brantham Church - A business meeting with opening worship led by the Rural Dean to mark the new Triennium.

Thursday 23 November, Bentley Church - Lightwave Community - Presentation by Archdeacon Sally Gaze

Sally referred to her role as Archdeacon for Rural Mission and the 5-year project, which runs until 2024 and is funded by the national church to develop sustainable investment in work which will help address the challenges of rural mission.

Sally distributed leaflets on the following aspects:-

- God's Light shines in Suffolk - How can the Lightwave Community help your rural benefice to reach out?
- Ministry in the Lightwave Community - a supportive community of small missional groups across the whole of Suffolk
- LoveRural - an initiative which seeks to make Jesus visible through loving action.

Sally referred to the aim of making new disciples and reaching those who are in under-represented groups. She gave examples from Workstream 1 which included an Iona style group / partnership with local pub / 24-hour lifeline for farmers / pop up shops / hubs at Red Lodge, Bungay and Playford / Otley. Workstream 2 was about prayer – to support, discern and listen and was a crucial element. Small communities in particular could be helped through the ‘critical mass’ which could be achieved through hubs.

It was important to make steps on the pathway to God easy and realistic – for example, getting a number of people to take part in a project such as rewilding a Churchyard would not lead to everyone wanting to attend Church services but could be a starting point for some who might wish to find out more.

Wedding preparation day 6 February 2021 - A shortened programme via zoom attended by 25 couples. A successful even which was well received by the couples who attended although all missed the social aspect which is so important for the full day, it was not possible to cover some of the less serious subjects.

Archdeacon’s Visitation 2021 - Held on Thursday 1 July at 7.30pm via Zoom, for churchwardens, incumbents and lay chairs only.

Deanery Planning Document -The main purpose of the Planning Document was to bring together the aims of ‘Growing in God’ to develop a common approach across all Benefices. A standing group met via Zoom in November to consider the draft compiled by Liesbeth and was presented to Synod at the November meeting. The draft Plan will be taken forward to the Archdeaconary Mission and Pastoral Committee and the Bishop's Council.

Parish levy – no levy would be charged for 2021.

Diocesan Deanery Reps

Joop van der Toorn is one of three Samford Deanery Synod representatives on Diocesan Synod for the three-year period to 2024.

Liesbeth Oosterhof has resigned as Rural Dean with effect from January 2022. Assistant Rural Dean, Revd Canon Annette Shannon will hold the fort until Bishop Martin decides on a permanent new Rural Dean.

Julie Fermor on behalf of the other Deanery Reps

Churchwardens

We moved into 2021 with hope that life would once again return to normal after the horrors of the pandemic in 2020. Although we have continued to experience restrictions throughout 2021, it is fair to say that church life has been easier, and it has certainly been a very busy and fruitful year for St Mary’s.

The roof replacement project is firmly underway and as we approach the APCM, you will (hopefully) see that work on the South Chancel Roof has started. Our thanks to the Preservation Society (PS) for funding this project, along with

some remedial work on the North Aisle parapets which were showing signs of corrosion.

The cost of the replacement roofs for the two side aisles and nave roof requires the need to apply for a National Lottery grant. Unfortunately, the Lottery was closed to applications during the pandemic, so we have been unable to do this during 2021. As this grant will be in excess of £500,000, we have taken time this year to put in place everything we will need to ensure we have the best chance of a successful bid. With the help of a local consultancy firm (Charity Fundraising Ltd), we will be putting in our “expression of interest” application to the National Lottery in March 2022. If this is successful, we will then be submitting further applications that will hopefully secure most, if not all, the funding we need to proceed with the project. This has been a lengthy and time-consuming process for us, but we feel confident we have put St Mary’s in the best position to secure the grant we need. In the meantime, remedial lead work repairs have been undertaken on the worst areas and a roof committee has been set up to oversee the project, made up of the wardens, the architect and representatives of the PS, PCC and parishioners. Three ecology surveys also took place over the summer to study the bat activity.

As significant reordering of the church will be needed to secure Lottery funding as well as evidence of collaboration, we have held meetings with local tourist guides and preliminary discussions with the Parish Council, East Bergholt Society and the tourism sub-committee looking at the Neighbourhood Plan about the potential of a small Constable Museum within a dedicated area of the church. We feel that this would be a fantastic opportunity to keep St Mary’s at the heart of the village and make it a “must visit” on all visitor’s itineraries. We have also received a grant from the Area of Natural Beauty (Dedham) Sustainability Development Fund to purchase a dedicated interactive digital screen to provide 24/7 access for our visitors to watch a new documentary about our unique bells. This will replace the antiquated television and DVD!

Alongside preparations for the Lottery bid, we have also been fundraising. This year we have hosted a music quiz, a concert and a hugely successful Art Exhibition. We have received many compliments about all these events, but the Art Exhibition really did capture the hearts of many of our villagers, and it was extremely well supported. We hope, with more help, to be able to organise another one in the future! We have been overwhelmed by the amazing support and generosity given to us by local businesses and organisations, in addition to our own wonderful parishioners, of course!

We were also heavily involved with the extremely successful Christmas Parade & Market. After the success of last year’s Christmas Parade, there was much call from the village to do another one. The Parade Committee were also keen, and felt that a Christmas Market held on Constable Fields would be a wonderful addition to the parade this year. It proved a huge success, and was a great way for St Mary’s to be actively involved with the community. There are plans for this to become a regular event in the village, and we are both committed to continue our involvement on your behalf.

Cumbria Clocks came and dismantled our ailing clock to take back to the workshop for a good clean and repairs to the mechanism. We hope it will be back soon in fine working order! We have also had WiFi installed in the church in preparation for livestreaming services in the new year. We are very grateful

to Joop (and Rev Eric when he was here) for the inordinate amount of time filming and editing services for our YouTube channel; a much-appreciated part of the church's mission for those still not able to attend church in person. We have worked closely with the bellringers too to ensure the bell cage is kept in good shape both in terms of the structure and to keep the ringers safe.

In the midst of this, our feet are always kept firmly on the ground, as we are aware we have a busy church to keep in good working order, services to run, and pastoral commitments too. All of which are of paramount importance. We have a great team of Deputy Wardens, and we are very grateful for their support to help relieve us of some of the burden, especially Sunday Service warden duties. We have actively helped at all the many funerals, baptisms and weddings, and we thank all of our funeral and wedding helpers – you certainly make those occasions so much easier. We are always present (either both or one of us) at special services such as Remembrance, Christmas and Easter and special school and nursery services too. We are keen to remember that the “roof” is not our only commitment at the church, and we are mindful to ensure all other duties are fulfilled too.

Most importantly, we strive to be the best of support to Steph, and hope that she has felt loved and supported this year. We are aware that she has had an increasing workload with reduced ministry help this year, as we said goodbye to Rev Eric. Steph never ceases to amaze us with her ability to “get it done”, and always with a smile and with a service performed with love. If we ever wondered why we are wardens, this would be the reason. Steph has sustained us throughout these difficult times. Thank you, Steph, and thanks be to God for your ministry with us.

We look forward to being your wardens in the coming year. We hope 2022 will bring us good news as far as our lottery bid is concerned, and once secured we will at last be able to make progress with making our beautiful church watertight. Please continue to pray for St Mary's as we progress with this enormous project.



Liz Digby and Fiona Trott

Bell Ringers

This report covers 12 months from January to December 2021.

It contains the information as specified in the Ringers' handbook.



Named ringers

Ringer	Attendances	Ringer	Attendances
Terry Eagle (Captain)	66	George Harris	9*
Julia Smith (Vice	76	Paul Ireland	44

Captain)			
Thomas Bryant	35	Hugh Smith	43
Martin Digby	33		

*Handbook states a minimum of 12 rings per year, but this has been achieved on average over the nine months we were able to ring.

Approved Learners

Ringer	Attendances
Steve Feeney	24
Rachel Lewis	40

Due to the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic, ringing has been reduced again this year. Whilst the country was in full lockdown there was no ringing. When restrictions have been in place, a risk assessment has been done and amended as the restrictions changed to ensure the safety of both ringers and public bystanders. Ringing did not start until 28th March 2021 and practice sessions restarted 14th April 2021.

The following changes were made:

- Our learner training schedule was altered to teach learners how to “set” the bell independently earlier on in their training. This meant that there was no potential transfer of infection with a change of ringer on the same bell without being able to disinfect in between.
- Masks continue to be worn in and around the bellcage but are not mandatory whilst ringing as this poses a greater health and safety risk with fogged glasses and a reduced seal on ear defenders.
- Where possible, ringers will only ring one bell each session with no swapping, unless between family members.
- All ringers are able to decline to ring if they personally feel anxious about the pandemic.

Our two learners from 2019 managed to restart their training in the spring and one was signed off as a “Named Ringer” on Christmas Day. We hope that the other will progress to the same stage in 2022 but would welcome any new, committed, ringers. We would like to acknowledge the ongoing commitment of ringers in helping with training learners though the pandemic, which was challenging for a number of reasons.

Despite the Covid restrictions, we have managed to ring for three funerals, one of which was a half-muffled ring for HRH The Duke of Edinburgh; four weddings; one demonstration; two sessions of filming for the new video in Church; a 10-minute ring for the start of COP26; a half-muffled ring for Remembrance and the usual rings at Christmas and New Year.

Issues reported in 2020 that still need to be addressed

1. Tiles have fallen from the roof and have been placed inside the bell cage – still to be replaced

Issues dealt with in 2021

1. Pigeons nested twice inside the roof. Nests were removed on both occasions. This requires ongoing monitoring.

Terry Eagle

Flower Arrangers

Having entered Tier 4 over the Christmas period, 2021 started with full Covid restrictions. To limit the number of people going into the Church clearing the festive arrangements was carried out by only two people. All activities at the Church were suspended until Easter when we gladly decorated the church, albeit without the usual refreshments and socialising. The inability to get together en masse over the course of the year has prevented us doing anything out of the ordinary. We therefore kept to providing arrangements on a fortnightly basis with all the flower ladies being involved for the occasions when we decorate the entire Church namely Easter, Patronal Festival, Remembrance Day, Harvest Festival and Christmas. We are particularly grateful to Laura Harris who has compiled some wonderful montages of the flower arrangements to post on social media. This has enabled people who are housebound/shielding to see how lovely the Church looks and serves to highlight the work that the flower arrangers put in.

We sadly said goodbye to five ladies who have stepped down over the course of the year and wish to thank them for all their time and hard work since they have all been involved for many years. In addition, two further flower arrangers have taken a break from arranging. We look forward to welcoming them back hopefully soon.

It has been a challenging time in which to take over from Caryl Smith but made all the easier because she handed over a slick operation. We have collected the last of the flower arranging equipment that Caryl had stored at her home and a task for 2022 is to sort through everything and find somewhere suitable to keep what is required. We are also grateful to the flower ladies who have all been patient and very helpful whilst we get to grips with what is required.

We look forward to 2022 when we hope to be able to do more as a group, and plan to recruit more flower arrangers; hopefully this will be a bit easier with less stringent Covid restrictions.

Rachael Lewis

Foundation Governors' Report

Report on East Bergholt Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School

At the beginning of the year the school entered the second national lockdown with a day's notice to organise provision for key workers and vulnerable children, as well as home learning for all other year groups. Having done this before the school responded quickly and a smooth transition to the new arrangements went ahead. The senior leadership made sure vulnerable children still at home were visited at least once a week and food parcels were handed out. The church provided support to school leaders which was much appreciated, and I was able to lead assemblies remotely so kept in touch with the children that way.

As we moved towards the end of the Spring term the children returned to school with new measures to mitigate the risk of Covid infection, however we were able to hold sport in school and held a Sports Day for the children on the field which was enjoyed by all. The school is lucky to have a talented music lead so we were able to put on a school production for year 6, this was Peter Pan. Parents had the opportunity to see it via a professional film taking on the day. The Leaver's Service for year 6 on the field was a special occasion, I was able to attend and pray with children, parents and staff which was an essential part of the Service.

Autumn began with some measures still in place but it was gratifying to see children learning with their peers in a relatively normal environment. Harvest Festival and the Christmas Service took place in church with the children in key stage groups, parents also attended and it was fantastic to see everyone back in church again as we hadn't been able to hold a Service in church for around 2 years.

Written by Gill Mitchell co-Headteacher

The Foundation Governors are delighted that the church has so much contact with the school and impressed by the dedication of the staff in difficult circumstances. As well as the services that took place in St Mary's it was also heart-warming that key in-school Christmas activities such as the KS1 and YR nativity play, the Christingle service and end-of-term carols in the playground could take place and that parents could attend, albeit in a limited capacity. Rev Steph continued to go into school wherever possible to lead assemblies and we as governors have done our best to support the school as much as possible by attending governing body meetings, asking questions and making suggestions. The church is pleased to be supporting the iSingPOP project again in 2022. From a training and development perspective the Diocese kindly produced a bespoke SIAMS tutorial for all governors and, whilst the school is not due an inspection in the near future, it was an informative and useful update as regards changes to the inspection framework and tool to measure progress since our last inspection – as well as a great introduction to the process for new governors. Finally we bade farewell to the school's lead for RE, Miss Liddle, at the end of the autumn term and thank her all her hard work in this role; in the interim responsibility for the subject has been taken on by Mrs Mitchell.



Simon Rothwell and Rev Steph

East Bergholt Parish Magazine

January to June report

The first half of 2021 was all about getting folks vaccinated, getting out of lockdown, and avoiding a stricter one. The church reopened and we were allowed to attend services - that was huge! As far as distribution of the magazine was concerned, I was resolved the magazine would not suffer another "on-line" only period as it had for 2 months back in 2020. We only survived that because our advertisers were given a couple months of free advertising. Our "delivery folk" rose to the occasion and the magazine not only appeared to survive all the lockdowns, but was once again thriving - I believe it still is. So well done!! In short, first half of 2021 was all about keeping things going, keeping advertisers advertising, and helping support the groups trying to get back on their feet.

Sharon Stephenson, Editor until June 2021

Michelle Jowers took over the editing of the magazine from July onwards. The magazine continues to receive great reviews with readers saying how interesting and informative it is.

Rev. Steph, Marion and Peter Ralph (Distribution), John Gamlin, Barry Blomfield, Lesley Cherry, (Treasurer), Louise Kemp (Advertising Manager), and Alison Jones (Collator).

Toddlers Group

I am so pleased to report that despite a difficult year of varying rules and restrictions due to the pandemic, the St Mary's Toddler Group has managed to meet for nearly all our planned group meetings. We have welcomed new families, and managed to remain safe throughout. Bookings were essential and my thanks to Gill Rattray for taking this on and organising the groups fairly so that everyone had a chance to come along at some point and enjoy the mornings.

During the summer we held our annual Teddy Bear's picnic, and this year we combined it with a family@church style service in memory of our dear friend Carrie Hinton. We decided to make it a fundraising event for MSA Trust, the charity that helped Carrie during her illness. The Mother's Union ran a magnificent cake stall for us - thank you MU. We also had a small raffle, and each person paid £5 for their picnic, which was enjoyed in the churchyard. We raised an amazing £500 for the charity. Anyone entering the church afterwards who looked upwards, would have seen the big, pink star balloon that we released in memory of Carrie. I am happy to say it remained in place for several weeks.

We were hoping that by September restrictions would have eased, but unfortunately, we needed to keep the booking system in place. However, we did manage to have our Christmas Party on Friday 10th December. We moved tables and chairs into the main church as this had better ventilation and the children really enjoyed having the freedom of St Mary's. Fiona read them the traditional nativity story, whilst the children placed beautifully knitted nativity characters into the stable at the appropriate time - or not!!! They each had their Christmas box of food, and at the end Mother Christmas (*aka Chris Jacob*) had a parcel for them to take home. It was a wonderful morning and despite all

adults having to wear face masks, it was clear we were all smiling with the children and enjoying ourselves. My thanks to Gill, Chris and Fiona for helping to make this happen.

Although we are constantly praying for things to return to “normal” very soon, we have proved that with determination and thoughtful planning, we are able to run a safe group, that has been a lifeline to many of the mums/carers during the pandemic. It must be so hard to have a baby or small child at a time when you are unable to socialise, and we feel proud that we have been able to offer at least a small window of normality once a fortnight to those people.

Finally, I am very grateful to Gill Rattray without whom many of the groups would not have taken place at all this year. Thank you Gill and I look forward to working with you again next year.



*Liz Digby
Leader, St Mary's Toddler Group*

Family@church

Unfortunately we started the year in lockdown so the first three services were emailed to our families to use at home. Thankfully we were able to start being physically together again to celebrate Easter although the activity parts of the service had to be curtailed and we were not able to have tea together. However, we did manage a few outdoor picnics and singing outside!

Service themes this year have included why we pray; saying thank you; Jesus being the Light of the World and the benefits of good teamwork.

I am very grateful to Ruth Bull, who has led several services for me during the year; my creative partner, Liz, without whose support I would be totally lost; Karen and Gill who have given invaluable help setting up for services and welcoming our families; our generous benefactor who enables us to give the children booklets at Easter and Christmas, plus eggs and advent calendars; and of course Rev Steph for her total support of this important mission and giving me a free hand!

Fiona Trott and Liz Digby

Mothers' Union

During 2021 our branch supported Ipswich hospital with donations of wash bags, underwear, Fiddle muffs and catheter bags. Our Bags of Love were handed out round the benefice comforting the sick or bereaved and sustaining those who had a caring role. Our branch meeting in February “For Better, for Worse” evolved into a paperback and eBook publication, which we hope will be used as a resource for marriage preparation sessions across the diocese.

We walked 145 kilometres as a group effort to raise funds for the Summer of Hope appeal and prayed for couples whose weddings had been postponed, children coming to baptism and for the Ipswich Night Shelter. Our members who sew or knit, made over 400 Christmas tree star decorations which were given to the 400 pupils at East Bergholt CFVC primary school and Brooklands

Primary school in Brantham during the last week of term. At the service in Brantham the preceding Sunday the stars were blessed and we prayed that this symbol of God's love would take the true message of Christmas into the homes of all the children who had received them. A thank you letter from one head teacher spoke of the joy our small gift had given to the children.

We have welcomed many guests to our monthly branch meetings which have focused on providing fellowship and support. The theme for 2022 is Transformation now! as Mothers' Union adapts to new challenges with new ideas, new ways of being, and a renewed commitment to promote marriage and support families.

*Jeanette Appleton, Janet Ball, Jean Camp Jenny Chapman.
East Bergholt and Brantham Mothers' Union*

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2021

St Mary the Virgin, East Bergholt

Sunday, 25th April 2021 immediately after the 10.30am Service

In attendance:

Rev Stephne van Der Toorn (Chair); John Gamlin; Shirley Bruce; Lauraine Johnson; Barry Blomfield;
Courtney and Dianne Willett; Chris Jacob; Koshy Jacob; Gill Rattray; Archie Rattray; Rube Rushen; Hazel Sinclair; Jean Camp; Margaret Wheatley; Glen Rowson; Dorothy Brundell; Marian Godwin; Lesley Cherry; Janet Ball; Jeanette Appleton; Simon Rothwell; Victoria Rothwell; Fiona Cranston; Sharon Stephenson; Roy Seden; Jackie Reeves; Roy Stephenson; Richard Appleton; Tricia Fitzpatrick; Michael Fitzpatrick; Howard Holdsworth; Fiona Trott; Liz Digby; Michelle Jowers (Minutes)

Apologies were received from: Don and Pam Robinson; Rodney Brundell; June Firmin; Stuart Stone; Joop van der Toorn; Steve Newman; Peter Ball; Derek and Joyce Fox, Mary Nottingham.

1.	Welcome and prayers - Steph opened the meeting
2.	Minutes of APCM 27 th September 2020 - These were approved by all.
3.	Receive the Rector's Report - This report was approved by all.
4.	Electoral Roll Report - Fiona Trott reported that since October changes to the ER are seven deaths; one person moved out and one moved in, making a total of 134 currently on the roll. The report was approved by all.
5.	Report on the proceedings of the PCC - This report was approved by all.
6.	Approve the Treasurer's report and accounts - A big thanks goes to Lesley Cherry for working so hard and getting accounts in such a good shape. We greatly appreciate all that Lesley does for us. There were no questions in relation to the accounts report. Approval was proposed by Roy Stevenson, Dorothy Brundell seconded and the accounts were approved by all. John Gamlin asked if any money had gone to charity this year? Lesley responded that we have given small amount to the night shelter but that is it this year. In previous years we collected through funeral donations but now this happens directly through the funeral directors. We haven't been able to donate to charity this year due to only just being able to pay our way. John and Lesley to discuss further after meeting.
7.	Report on the proceedings of Deanery Synod - This report was approved by all.
8.	Safeguarding report - Fiona Trott resigned from this role and Glen Rowson has taken on the position as Benefice Safeguarding Officer. Our thanks go to Fiona for her previous hard work in this position and to Glen for taking on the role. This report was approved by all. Glen mentioned that training will be required throughout the year and he will be reaching out as necessary. The Rural Dean has reported that there is a general feeling that the amount of training demanded of people within the church is unrealistic (eg flower ladies)
9.	Elections - Churchwardens - Liz Digby and Fiona Trott were elected unanimously. Rev ST thanked them all for the incredibly hard work they undertake, especially with the ongoing roof project. They do amazingly well with always with smiles! They will need all our support on the coming year.

10.	Deanery Synod elections - Roy Stepheson, Sarah Southgate and Chris Jacob were elected for 3 years from November 2020
11.	PCC - 4 representatives for 3 years, and 2 for two years - Geoff Potter has withdrawn his resignation as his circumstances have changed. Barry Blomfield and Howard Holdsworth are standing for two years. Shirley is staying on for one year. One vacancy still remains and volunteers were asked for. All were in favour of the re-election of the three existing representatives.
12.	Appoint an Independent Examiner - Britt Evans has indicated her willingness to continue. We are very grateful to her.
13.	Receive all other reports - All other reports were approved unanimously.
14.	Roof Project - All members would have received the report from Fiona and Liz. Only a few responses had been received and pleased to say that no negative responses so far. The roofs have about 5 years left and all three do need replacing. If we don't do something now more water will be getting in. We need a lottery grant as well as some other source of income. A feasibility study has been done with architect and all very positive.
15.	MINUTES OF THE PCC MEETING FOLLOWING THE APCM Confirmation of Officers PCC Vice Chairman - Fiona Trott Minutes Secretary - Steve Newman PCC Secretary - Michelle Jowers Brantham representative - Lauraine Johnson Hon Treasurer - Lesley Cherry Deputy Churchwardens - Barry Blomfield, Lesley Cherry, Chris Jacob, Ruben Rushen; Geoff Potter, Roy Stephenson, Glen Rowson, Shirley Bruce Electoral Roll Officer - Fiona Trott Benefice Safeguarding Officer - Glen Rowson Standing Committee (Chair) - Rev Canon Stephne van der Toorn Standing Committee (Minutes Secretary) - Steve Newman Standing Committee (Treasurer) - Lesley Cherry Standing Committee (Health & Safety) - Barry Blomfield/Glen Rowson Standing Committee (Wardens) - Fiona Trott, Liz Digby Lettice Dykes - Rev Canon Stephne van der Toorn, Ruben Rushen, Ted Wheatley, Gill Rattray Preservation Society - Rev Canon Stephne van der Toorn, Liz Digby, Lesley Cherry Foundation Governors - Rev Canon Stephne van der Toorn, Simon Rothwell Magazine Committee - Rev Canon Stephne van der Toorn, Lesley Cherry Ecumenical Committee - Barry Blomfield, Chris Jacob Captain of Bells - Terry Eagle_
16.	A.O.B Our grateful thanks go to Barry Blomfield for his many years of service on the Magazine Committee. Fiona mentioned that the PCC resolutions may need to be reviewed in relation to filming and livestreaming of services. The cost would be in the region of £6,000 which one of the legacies we have received could be applied. After a meeting with our sound engineer, a quote has been received and we are consulting the Diocese on what permissions are required. An additional PCC meeting may be needed to pass this resolution before the June meeting. Fiona to send through details. Volunteers were called for to assist the Wardens at the pop-up-shop this Saturday outside the Lion. Steph closed the meeting.

17.	Date of Next Meeting: Rev Steph away: 2 weeks: 10 th – 21 st May; August retreat and holiday 23 rd August – 4 th September Dates of East Bergholt PCC meetings: 3 rd June; 23 rd September and 18 th November
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REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1063444

PATRON: OLIVER ELEY

mullet emblem of the De Veres, Earl of Oxford and Lords of the Manor of Old Hall decorates the north turret.

Famous for its bell cage and unfinished tower, St. Mary's present building dates from about 1350. Built of brick, flint and stone (probably from an earlier building), it houses a Font inscribed to the memory of Abram Constable (1783-1862) the artist's younger brother. The church chest, possibly as old as any part of the church fabric, has triple locks added by Elizabethan injunction. A three leaved lily emblem of St. Mary's adorns the north side brick-work. The five-pointed star or

The purpose of our society is to raise funds to help preserve this vital part of village heritage for the benefit of future generations. Since the inauguration on 17th June 1997, with the considerable support of many local residents, the Society has raised more than £200,000. It has established the biannual East Bergholt Gardens Open Day, an event enjoyed by many which attracts visitors from far afield.

Currently, we have many problems with the church roof and desperately need to raise funds to assist with repairs. Help us to assist with the preservation of this unique structure and become a member of the Preservation Society. Your support and donations, large or small will go to achieve this aim.

St. Mary's Church East Bergholt Preservation Society Review of 2021

In November 2021, the Annual General Meeting of St. Mary's Church East Bergholt Preservation Society was held. 2021 had seen much time spent in lockdown with activities restricted but in the spring our Trustees had met to consider whether our biennial event, Gardens Open Day could safely be held within the current regulations. Happily, 6th June 2021 saw a beautiful, sunny day. With wonderful support and enthusiasm from all our stakeholders, a very successful Gardens Open Day was held. Social media was used by many to express their thanks for an enjoyable day which raised much needed funds.

It has been decided that the next East Bergholt Gardens Open Day will be 4th June 2023 – save the date! In the meantime, there will be a Summer's Evening Garden party on Thursday 9th June 2022. Further information available from ebchurchpres@gmail.com.

Regrettably the remedial work to be funded by the Society for the Chancel roof and the Northern Parapet had not happened despite the best efforts of the PCC and the roof committee. All being well, this work should finally commence in Spring 2022. Happily, we were able to finance lead repairs to critical areas of the roof as well as much needed repairs to the organ.

At the time of writing, plans are in hand for a new Preservation Society noticeboard to be housed in St. Mary's, in memory of our founding patron, Oliver John Maxwell Eley 6th April 1933 -10th November 2020 including a tribute to our founding Chair Dr Walter (Terry) Marshall 4th April 1930 - 23rd November 2020. Much work has been possible as a result of all their efforts.

Sadly, the annual members' Carols & Mince Pies December event 2021 was once again cancelled. With the loss of yet another fundraising event, we are very grateful that our financial position has been supported of late through legacy giving. After loved ones are cared for, such gifts are a memorable way for a person to help preserve the fabric of our historic village landmark together with the associated specialist skills involved.

As we look forward to the commencement of work on the Chancel roof and northern parapet in 2022, we wish to thank all our members and supporters for their terrific efforts. It is very much appreciated and truly makes a difference to the wellbeing of our beautiful church building.

Debbie Tuppen

On behalf of the Society, Debbie Tuppen, Chairperson



PATRON: OLIVER ELEY

The aim of the Society is to preserve this historic building for future generations by attracting support from anyone who cares about our heritage. Your donations, large or small, will be gratefully received. All funds raised will be used solely for the preservation of St. Mary's Church and its Bell Cage.

£ .

BANKERS STANDING ORDER FORM

To the Manager

(insert Bank name)

Bank address

Post code

Please pay Barclays Bank PLC, 9 High Street, Colchester CO1 1DD, Sort Code 20-22-67, for the credit of St Mary's Church, East Bergholt Preservation Society, Account number 30604151, on receipt of this instruction and then on 1 September 2019, and then on the same date each year thereafter, until further notice,

The amount of £
pounds
 (amount in numbers) (amount in words)

From my Account Number

Sort Code

Signed

Address

Post code

Date



GIFT AID DECLARATION

For past, present & future donations

St. Mary's Church, East Bergholt, Preservation Society

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made

today ☐ in the past 4 years ☐ in the future ☐

Please tick all boxes you wish to apply.

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 28p of tax on every £1 that I gave up to 5 April 2008 and will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2008.

Donor's details

Title ----- First name or initial(s) -----

Surname -----

Full home address -----

Postcode -----

Date -----

Signature -----

Please notify the charity or CASC if you:

- *Want to cancel this declaration*
- *Change your name or home address*
- *No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.*

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Please return completed form to:

Debbie Tuppen email: debbie.tuppen@gmail.com Tel: 078 21141473
Delvyns
Gaston Street
East Bergholt
CO7 6SD

EAST BERGHOLT PCC ACCOUNTS								
FOR THE YEAR END		2021						
			2021		2020			
INCOME			£		£			
Preservation Soc Restrict'd Donatns			8448.66		85.00			
Planned giving/PGS			18891.92		21370.52			
Gift Aid			7833.54		9047.53			
Non Gift Aid planned giving			56.30		210.10			
Collections			3018.68		2230.66			
Donations			11952.87		9730.32			
Restricted Donations			8580.00		11500.00	(includes 10k legacy)		
Matt/Calendars			2143.20		4365.89			
Min of Wel			0.00		37.10			
Fundraising Roof			7187.81		18.00			
Ed/Train			0.00		0.00			
Toddlers			194.50		135.50			
Choir			0.00		160.00			
Brantham share of Honararia			3481.45		3086.50			
Bookstall			1042.43		314.68			
Bell Cage			119.97		81.51			
Diocesan Fees			1083.00		27.00			
PCC fees			3100.00		1713.00			
Non Stat Fees			2961.11		1433.23			
Refreshments			0.00		73.45	(tours)		
Heating			490.00		660.00			
Investment Income/Dividends			2400.94		2845.90			
50/50			744.00		0.00			
winter welcome			0.00		359.26			
Roof Donations			4778.92		11986.26			
Flower Fund			0.00		0.00			
Special Collections			1236.62		85.00			
Bran PCC			0.00		379.01			
Transfers from Magazine			2000.00		0.00			
Misc			76.23		70.00			
Misc Restrict'd			3379.75		10496.36	(includes £9654 loan)		
Easy Fundraising/ Amazon			334.12		281.08			
TOTAL INCOME			95636.02		92782.86			

East Bergholt PCC Accounts							
Year End	2021						
			2021		2020		
EXPENSES							
Parish Share			38600.00		22500.00		
Deanery Levy			0.00		60.00		
clergy exp			2056.51		3134.63		
church run costs			3758.69		5299.82		
cost of services			1773.91		458.99		
Admin costs			2563.27		2622.27		
Administrator Honoraria			6472.51		6388.59		
deanery honoraria			1137.50		656.25		
organ			2526.00		172.00		
Director of Music/non stat			3267.00		2150.00		
Toddlers/Youth work			244.05		480.52		
Fundraising			5405.33		9914.84		
maintenance/repairs			2005.94		2962.96		
bookstall			255.49		502.39		
tea/coffee kitchen			28.59		148.30		
magazine			0.00		71.00		
Diocesan fees			1083.00		0.00		
non stat fees			1217.50		710.00		
donations			500.00		25.00		
special collections sent			1486.62		0.00		
flower fund			211.57		29.90		
xfer			0.00		0.00		
misc			4219.70		1520.45		
bell cage			14.44		490.99		
Insurance			2152.32		5508.32		
winter warmer exp			0.00		0.00		
roof			12897.90		9955.98		
loan repayment			1200.00		0.00		
			0.00				
TOTAL COSTS				95077.84		75763.20	

Various fees are mentioned in the accounts. Statutory fees are fees to the PCC/Diocese for weddings and funerals etc. Non statutory fees are set by PCC and are invoiced/paid to have bells, heating, choir, organist and flowers at weddings/funerals.

[illegible]

Monetary assets 31/ 12/ 21

	2021	2020
Bardays bank account	£ 27,026	£ 26,468
Suffolk Building Society*	£13,447	£ 13,367
Malschinger at cost	£ 92,742	£ 92,742
CBF/Black Rock at cost	£ 15,528	£ 15,528
Magazine account	£ 7,875	£ 5,303
Total	£156,618	£153,408

*Ipswich Building Society new name

Approved by the Parochial Church Council

Date

Signed on behalf by

Rev Canon Svan der Toorn

Rector / PCC Chairman

[illegible]

Statement of Designated and Restricted Funds 2021								
		Restricted	Unrestricted Funds		Endowment	Total		
Name of Fund		Funds	Designated	Undesignated	Funds		2021	2020
Hetherington				£13,447.00			£13,447.00	£13,367.00
Flower		£1,814.00					£1,814.00	£2,026.00
Jenny Lane			£602.00				£602.00	£789.00
Roof		£7,761.00					£7,761.00	£8,672.00
Paskell					£23,620.00		£23,620.00	£20,549.00
East End Mission		£1,262.00					£1,262.00	£1,262.00
Malschinger					£245,796.00		£245,796.00	£210,500.00
Altar			£10,000.00				£10,000.00	£10,000.00
Wifi/Recording			£5,150.00				£5,150.00	£0.00
							£309,452.00	£267,165.00
ROOF ACCOUNT SUMMARY 2021								
		Account ON-GOING						
INCOME		From 07/2019				Expenditure	From 12/2019	
Roof tile sales		£492.50				Charity Fund Ltd	£5,832.96	
Fundraising		£3,857.11				Architect	£15,376.92	
Donations		£7,034.65				Lead Repair	£1,008.00	
Cake Sales		£130.50				Bat Surveys	£1,980.00	
Parish Giving		£70.54						
Garden Tours		£499.00						
Grants		£7,250.00						
Preservation Society		£5,578.66						
Matt Sales		£4,422.98						
Funeral Collection		£98.81						
DCMS VAT redaims		£1,176.71						
Gift Aid income		£1,347.46						
			£31,958.92					£24,197.88
					Balance as at 31/12/2021	£7,761.04		

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY'S, EAST BERGHOLT

I report on the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021 as set out on pages 1 to 6.

This report is made solely to members of the Parochial Church Council as a body, in accordance with the section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Parochial Church Council those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Church and the Church's members as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the Parochial Church Council and Independent Examiner

The Parochial Church Council are responsible for the preparation of financial statements. The Parochial Church Council consider that an audit is not required for the year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

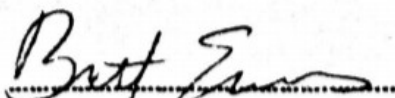
Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

- a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
- b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



Britt Evans AAT

Rookery Cottage, Gaston Street,
East Bergholt, Colchester

8/2/2022
Date