

# **St Mary the Virgin, East Bergholt Annual Report for 2022**

**Annual Meeting to be held  
on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> 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

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## St Mary the Virgin - East Bergholt PCC 2022-2023

<b>EX-OFFICIO</b>	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
<b>CO-OPTED</b>	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**

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

1. Welcome and Prayers
2. Minutes of the APCM 20<sup>th</sup> 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:**

26<sup>th</sup> March (APCM after church); 11<sup>th</sup> May; 20<sup>th</sup> July; 14<sup>th</sup> September; 16<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	£	£
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	
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>163690.46</b>	<b>95636.02</b>
<b>Total unrestricted income</b>	<b>£61,164.00</b>	<b>£53,156.00</b>

	2022	2021
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
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
<b>TOTAL COSTS</b>	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
<b>Paskell Fund</b>					
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
<b>Malschinger Investments (DBF)</b>					
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
			<b>Total</b>	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
<b>Total</b>						<b>£279,076.00</b>	<b>£309,452.00</b>

## 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	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£19,996.24</b>	<b>£18,929.50</b>	

**EXPENSES**

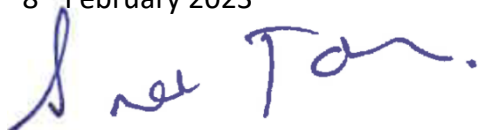
Transfer to General Fund	£5,000.00	£2,000.00	
Compiler Honoraria	£1,825.20	£1,736.00	
Admin	£0.00	£0.00	
Advertising Commission	£1,324.56	£1,476.41	
printing	£9,895.00	£10,660.00	
General fund monies as bank closed	£567.24	£485.00	incorrect amount paid so, refunded
	£0.00		
	£0.00		
<b>TOTAL COSTS</b>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

**Monetary assets 31/12/22**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>£151,574</b>	<b>£156.618</b>

\*Ipswich Building Society new name

Approved by the Parochial Church Council

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> 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 Parvaise 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, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022 immediately after the 10.30am Service**

<p><b>In attendance:</b> 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</p> <p><b>Apologies were received from:</b> 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</p>	
<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Welcome and prayers</b></p> <p>Fiona Trott opened the meeting with the Lent sonnet “All the kingdoms of the world” by Malcolm Guite and a prayer.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Minutes of APCM 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021</b> - These were approved by all.</p>
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Receive the Rector’s Report</b> - This report was approved by all.</p> <p>Grateful thanks were extended by all to Rev Steph for her leadership.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Electoral Roll Report</b></p> <p>This year there were three new members; four moved out of the area and six have died. The current total of 126 was reported.</p> <p>The report was approved by all.</p>
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Report on the proceedings of the PCC</b> - This report was approved by all.</p>
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>Approve the Treasurer’s report and accounts</b> - This report was approved by all. Proposed by Peter Sutton and seconded by Howard Holdsworth.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>Report on the proceedings of Deanery Synod</b> - This report was approved by all.</p>
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>Safeguarding report</b> - The report was approved by all.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>9.</b>	<p><b>Election of Churchwardens</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Thanks were given to the wardens for their outstanding work and support.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>10.</b>	<p><b>Deanery Synod elections</b></p> <p>Sarah Southgate and Chris Jacob were elected for three years in November 2020. However, one vacancy still remains.</p>

<b>11. PCC</b>	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.
<b>12. Appoint an Independent Examiner</b>	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.
<b>13. Receive all other reports</b>	- All other reports were approved unanimously.
<b>14. MINUTES OF THE PCC MEETING FOLLOWING THE APCM</b>	attended by Fiona Trott (Chair); Michelle Jowers (Minutes), Chris Jacob, Barry Blomfield, Howard Holdsworth
<b>Election of PCC Officers</b>	
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	
<b>15. A.O.B</b>	<p>FT apologized that the Livestreaming Policy was not prepared to pass as promised but would be ready for the May meeting.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>FT closed the meeting at 11:30.</p>
<b>16. Date of Next Meeting:</b>	<p><b>Rev Steph away:</b> Oberammergau 18-22 May inclusive; 20 June – 4 July inclusive</p> <p><b>Dates of East Bergholt PCC meetings for 2022 (Thursdays):</b></p> <p>26<sup>th</sup> May, 7<sup>th</sup> July, 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 17<sup>th</sup> November</p> <p>9<sup>th</sup> June Archdeacon visitation for swearing in of Wardens, 19:30 at Holbrook</p>



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 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Our audited accounts and minutes of our previous AGM, held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021 were approved. Copies are available by emailing [ebchurchpres@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:debbie.tuppen@gmail.com) Tel: 07821 141473

# **St Mary the Virgin, East Bergholt Annual Report for 2022**

**Annual Meeting to be held  
on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:constablecountrychurches@outlook.com)

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## St Mary the Virgin - East Bergholt PCC 2022-2023

<b>EX-OFFICIO</b>	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
<b>CO-OPTED</b>	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**

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

1. Welcome and Prayers
2. Minutes of the APCM 20<sup>th</sup> 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:**

26<sup>th</sup> March (APCM after church); 11<sup>th</sup> May; 20<sup>th</sup> July; 14<sup>th</sup> September; 16<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	£	£
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	
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>163690.46</b>	<b>95636.02</b>
<b>Total unrestricted income</b>	<b>£61,164.00</b>	<b>£53,156.00</b>

	2022	2021
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
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
<b>TOTAL COSTS</b>	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
<b>Paskell Fund</b>					
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
<b>Malschinger Investments (DBF)</b>					
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
			<b>Total</b>	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
<b>Total</b>						<b>£279,076.00</b>	<b>£309,452.00</b>

## 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		
	<b>£111,158.84</b>		<b>£101,237.60</b>
		<b>Balance as at 31/12/2022</b>	<b>£9,921.24</b>

**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	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£19,996.24</b>	<b>£18,929.50</b>	

**EXPENSES**

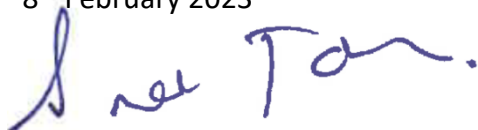
Transfer to General Fund	£5,000.00	£2,000.00	
Compiler Honoraria	£1,825.20	£1,736.00	
Admin	£0.00	£0.00	
Advertising Commission	£1,324.56	£1,476.41	
printing	£9,895.00	£10,660.00	
General fund monies as bank closed	£567.24	£485.00	incorrect amount paid so, refunded
	£0.00		
	£0.00		
<b>TOTAL COSTS</b>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

**Monetary assets 31/12/22**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>£151,574</b>	<b>£156.618</b>

\*Ipswich Building Society new name

Approved by the Parochial Church Council

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> 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!

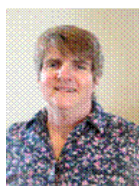
Unfortunately, due to lack of time and volunteers, little fundraising has taken place this year. A Trianon concert in November had to be postponed but thankfully the Christmas Parade and Market took place for the third year running and we are extremely grateful to the village committee who worked extremely 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 Parvaise 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, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022 immediately after the 10.30am Service**

<p><b>In attendance:</b> 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</p> <p><b>Apologies were received from:</b> 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</p>	
<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Welcome and prayers</b></p> <p>Fiona Trott opened the meeting with the Lent sonnet “All the kingdoms of the world” by Malcolm Guite and a prayer.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Minutes of APCM 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021</b> - These were approved by all.</p>
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Receive the Rector’s Report</b> - This report was approved by all.</p> <p>Grateful thanks were extended by all to Rev Steph for her leadership.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Electoral Roll Report</b></p> <p>This year there were three new members; four moved out of the area and six have died. The current total of 126 was reported.</p> <p>The report was approved by all.</p>
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Report on the proceedings of the PCC</b> - This report was approved by all.</p>
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>Approve the Treasurer’s report and accounts</b> - This report was approved by all. Proposed by Peter Sutton and seconded by Howard Holdsworth.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>Report on the proceedings of Deanery Synod</b> - This report was approved by all.</p>
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>Safeguarding report</b> - The report was approved by all.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>9.</b>	<p><b>Election of Churchwardens</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Thanks were given to the wardens for their outstanding work and support.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>10.</b>	<p><b>Deanery Synod elections</b></p> <p>Sarah Southgate and Chris Jacob were elected for three years in November 2020. However, one vacancy still remains.</p>

<b>11. PCC</b>	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.
<b>12. Appoint an Independent Examiner</b>	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.
<b>13. Receive all other reports</b>	- All other reports were approved unanimously.
<b>14. MINUTES OF THE PCC MEETING FOLLOWING THE APCM</b>	attended by Fiona Trott (Chair); Michelle Jowers (Minutes), Chris Jacob, Barry Blomfield, Howard Holdsworth
<b>Election of PCC Officers</b>	
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	
<b>15. A.O.B</b>	<p>FT apologized that the Livestreaming Policy was not prepared to pass as promised but would be ready for the May meeting.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>FT closed the meeting at 11:30.</p>
<b>16. Date of Next Meeting:</b>	<p><b>Rev Steph away:</b> Oberammergau 18-22 May inclusive; 20 June – 4 July inclusive</p> <p><b>Dates of East Bergholt PCC meetings for 2022 (Thursdays):</b></p> <p>26<sup>th</sup> May, 7<sup>th</sup> July, 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 17<sup>th</sup> November</p> <p>9<sup>th</sup> June Archdeacon visitation for swearing in of Wardens, 19:30 at Holbrook</p>



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 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Our audited accounts and minutes of our previous AGM, held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021 were approved. Copies are available by emailing [ebchurchpres@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## **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:

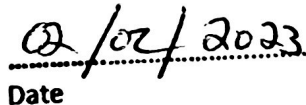
- a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
  - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have 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