

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, GODMANCHESTER

England & Wales - Charity number 1194684

Details

Other names ST MARY THE VIRGIN GODMANCHESTER PCC

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2021-06-04

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

Contact

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Activities

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

Activities: Church of England Parish

Classification

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

Geography

- Cambridgeshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£237,293	£193,234	-	-
2023-12-31	£124,058	£139,372	-	-
2022-12-31	£126,392	£110,827	-	-
2021-12-31	£119,835	£107,395	-	-

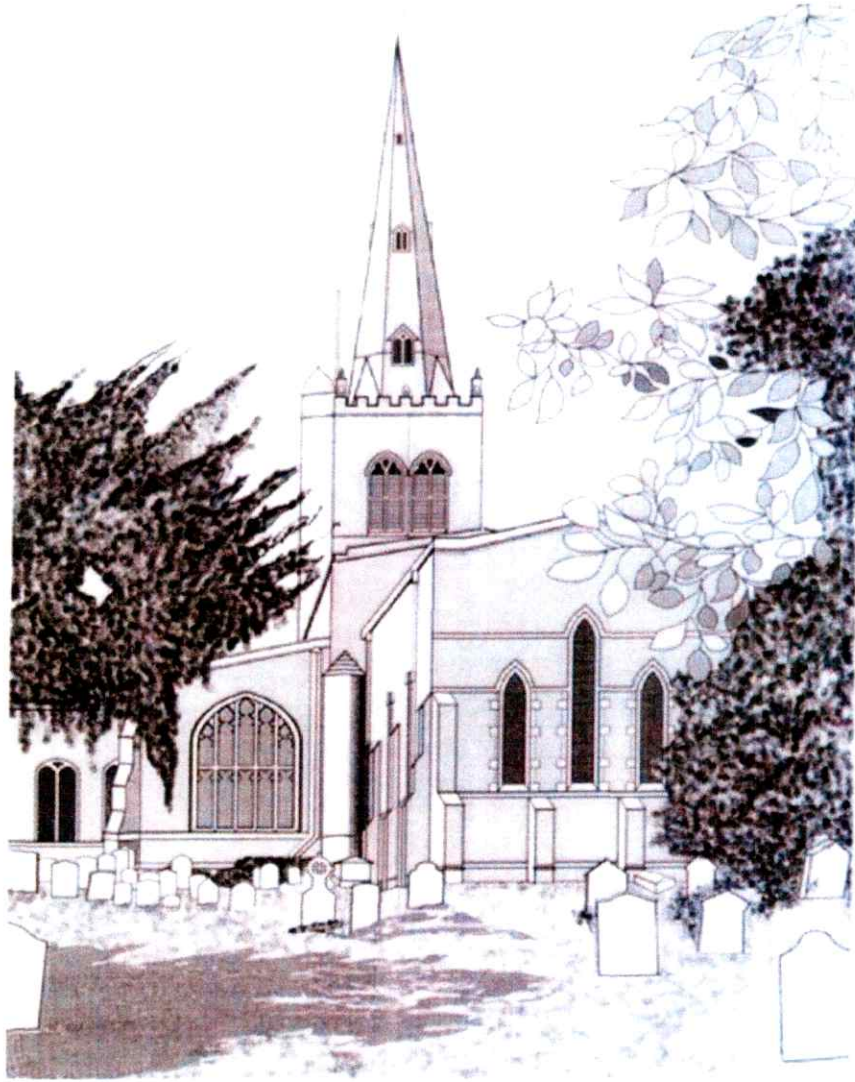
Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev David Westley Busk	Chair	2006-04-09
Adrian Sington		2017-04-24
Alfred Nicholas Hardstaff Leigh Smith		2007-04-29
Canon JONATHAN PRIESTLAND YOUNG		2019-12-05
Colin Thirlwall OBE		2005-04-24
Dr Simon Andrew Prince		2006-04-29
Lucilia Martins Azevedo		2017-04-24
Mike Westcott Rudd MA Cantab		2023-04-30
Robert Keith Hurd		1997-04-27
Ruth Ekblom		2023-10-01

Accounts



The Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin Godmanchester



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

2024 Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of St. Mary the Virgin, Godmanchester

Vicar's Introduction

It is of course impossible to sum up adequately, or even fairly, all that goes on in the life of the church over the course of a year. What follows are a few brief reflections on some parts of that life that strike me as particularly worth mentioning, but I am aware that my list is not so much incomplete as limited to the point of doing an injustice to everything I have left out. There is no aspect of church life that is not worthy of mention; I thank God, and everyone involved, equally for what I have not found room for here.

The worship of any church is sometimes called its shop window, as it can provide the most attractive introduction to the life of faith, and at St Mary's we are blessed with a rich pattern of worship. The Christmas Carol Service, always a highlight, was of an exceptional quality this year, with many people expressing their gratitude for it. In a very different vein, Worship in Park on the Gala Weekend, shared with the Baptist Church and the Quakers, had a special quality of stillness and beauty that again many appreciated. A particular joy to me, and I know to many others, has been the birth of Music Group – something I have long wanted to see at St Mary's – under the direction of Jacky Kirby. We also enjoyed a particularly lively Civic Service, with the enthusiastic participation of St Anne's School Choir. Leading an action song in front of civic dignitaries while wearing a very heavy embroidered cope was never something I expected to find myself doing. Our annual Christmas bazaar was particularly busy, and we have as usual enjoyed a great variety of concerts and other events, many promoted and supported by the tireless Friends of St Mary's. The Christmas Tree Festival was a roaring success and brought many into the church. It was a great joy that many from St Mary's were able to attend the ordination of Kevin Parks in Ely Cathedral, but a sadness to us that it meant saying farewell to him as he moved on to his curacy at Girton and Madingley. Less prominent to the wider congregation, but equally a source of blessing, was the Confirmation of Garry Sibley-Gough, also in Ely Cathedral, and the wedding of Paul Sibley and Karen Greenaway.

As in every year, we had to entrust to the Lord, among others from the wider community, members of the church: Sandra Ferrelly, Revd Christopher Leffler, and most tragically Kate Robinson. May they rest in peace and rise in glory, and may God grant strength and hope to those who mourn for them.

My sincere thanks to everyone who contributes in any way to the life of St Mary's. My deepest thanks go to Anja for all her love and support – without her I would be a shadow of myself. And to God be all thanks and praise, now and for ever.

David Busk

Aims and Purposes

St. Mary the Virgin's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend David Busk, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral - *to look after individual people*; evangelistic - *to tell the people the Good News and to invite them to accept it*; social - *to help the poorer members of society, and those suffering from racial, economic and other forms of injustice*; and ecumenical - *to encourage good relations with other Christian denominations*. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church Hall in Chadley Lane.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St. Mary the Virgin. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St. Mary the Virgin and the adjacent Church Hall.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

The PCC is committed to providing a wide and varied range of services throughout the year to engage with as many in the community as possible. Our regular Sunday services are 8.00 am Holy Communion, 9.30 am Sung Eucharist (with healing once a month) and monthly Parish Communion involving the Children's Church more fully, monthly Sung Evensong (with Evening Prayer on other Sundays) and an occasional Taizé service. There is also a Holy Communion on a Thursday morning.

The popularity of Zoom services (especially amongst those who find it difficult to attend church) meant that we continued with a Holy Communion via Zoom at 2.00pm on a Wednesday and a regular 6.30pm Evening Prayer every day except Saturday and Sunday. We also held a Bible Study Group on Zoom each Friday throughout the year.

We welcome everyone to our services and normally enjoy a well-attended Children's Church. There are currently 112 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll and our Sunday attendance figures average about 65. The church remained open each day for private prayer and visitors.

Our church affords the community a chance to give thanks to God for those special moments throughout life when we gather to celebrate baptism, marriage or the life of a departed loved one. This year we were able to celebrate two weddings and five baptisms in the church. There were 12 funerals and 7 burials of ashes.

Financial Review

The income for 2024 for General funds was £91,471 against expenditure of £99,610 giving a shortfall of £8,139. Our 'Trading Activities' income (£30,643) comprising the hall and Church rental, the churchyard grass cutting contract and the sales and advertising in our Parish News go a long way to support our activities and we are grateful to those volunteers who give their time and support. In terms of receipts, planned giving was down very slightly (£41,490 from £41,629). We are extremely grateful to those who

donate regularly, particularly those who donate through Parish Giving, allowing us to plan at least some of our income and expenditure for the year. Collections at all services were down slightly (£7,645 from £7,923) 'other donations' for General Funds were up on the 2023 totals (from £5,690 to £8,142). Our investment income was up slightly (£4,587 from £3,810) reflecting the slight rise in interest rates over the year. Once again, we are indebted to the Friends of St Mary's for their support in the form of grants totalling £8,778 towards the cost of maintaining the fabric of our church. We are still suffering from the massive increase in utility costs which remain at around £8,380 for 2024, an increase in general running costs and our Parish Share which has increased from £70,186 in 2023 to £72,992 in 2024. Overall, we are still reasonably secure, but at a cost to the resources available to the various funds that constitute the life of our church.

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to maintain reserves which equate to at least three months general expenditure. It is held to smooth out cash flow and meet emergency payments. For St Mary's Church this is around £25,000. On 31 December 2024, our reserves totalled £43,794.

Colin Thirlwall (Hon. Treasurer)

Deanery Synod

Our church is represented on the Deanery Synod by three members of the congregation who also sit on the PCC. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

The Church and Church Hall

We envision our church building becoming the focal point for a greater number of community activities in the future and have a Transformation Project in progress that will see the removal of the fixed pews to create space and the introduction of kitchen and toilet facilities as well as a mezzanine floor with room to house the local museum securely.

The south door to the church is opened every day for visitors and private prayer. Our visitors Book recorded 165 entries from individuals, families and groups over the year, including overseas visitors from Australia, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Egypt, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Malasia, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, USA, and of course from all over the UK.

Disabled access is currently available via the north door only for services and other major events. The building is already a venue for talks, concerts, the Summer Fete (when the weather is inclement), the Christmas Bazaar and Flower and other church festivals. The church is used for music concerts, displays, film shows and historical presentations to the community. There are also regular educational visits from the local schools.

The church hall, a wooden building purchased by the PCC, in 1938 is in reasonably good structural order, adequately maintained and well equipped. The cost of running and maintaining the hall is met by the income from a contract with a day nursery which uses the facilities every weekday from 8am to 6.30pm and several external organisations that hire the building in evenings and at the weekend. The rental income provides a welcome addition to church funds.

Pastoral Care

Reaching out to those housebound, in hospital or care homes and ensuring them that their St. Mary's family cares for them, and is praying for them, has been an important part of our pastoral care.

We are blessed to have a number of people in the congregation who like carrying out visiting. At the same time, Jonathan Young works tirelessly to ensure that anyone at home may receive the sacraments. Members of the team do shopping, give lifts to church and help the housebound as necessary. We find that people are most appreciative of visits, and it is frequently a joyous experience, as much for the visitor as for the visited. If any members of the congregation are aware of anyone in need of help, please do not be afraid to ask. Alternatively, if you would like to join us on the team that would be wonderful too.

We have a Prayer Circle, administered by Jim Heeley, which consists of a group of people who have undertaken to pray daily for anyone who asks for it. Those requesting prayer can give as much or as little information as they wish or remain anonymous to all except the first point of contact, who can pass the information on to Jim Heeley. Jim can, of course, be contacted directly on 01480 412264 or jskc@btinternet.com. For all pastoral matters, please contact David Busk on 01480 436400 or dwbusk@hotmail.com in the first instance.

Mission and Evangelism

We believe that the Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Godmanchester, exists to build up the individual and corporate spiritual life of our Church and to spread the love of Christ through word and deed, by enabling those who live and work within our town to come into contact with God's love and come to faith in Christ.

Group for Evangelism & Outreach (GEO) is responsible for reviewing and recommending the development of evangelism and outreach in the mission of the church, including changes to the Mission Action Plan to incorporate the new Diocesan Vision. Members have also visited some of the newest housing on the Romans Edge estate.

Safeguarding

This year there have been no significant safeguarding issues to report in the life of our church. The PCC has been busy through the year keeping track of all those who are active in our church who need renewals of their DBS Check certificates and training, ensuring that these are done. This is a never-ending task as we are blessed to have so many people giving their time and effort in so many ways to our church. Thank you all. Given the high profile failures in safeguarding in the news recently, it is more important than ever that we all properly engage in, and are seen to engage in, the safeguarding process. After all, what is more important than the safety of our children and vulnerable brothers and sisters? As Parish Safeguarding Officer, I therefore thank everyone for helping ensure another safe year in our church.

Simon Prince (Parish Safeguarding Officer)

Ecumenical Relationships

The incumbent priest is also responsible for St. Mary's Church, Hilton and we normally join them twice a year in a shared service. Members from the Hilton congregation often join those in Godmanchester for weekly worship and special services.

We have joined for events and services each year with Godmanchester Baptist Church and the Quakers, such as the churches' tea tent and Worship in the Park during Gala Weekend, the Civic Service, and the Act of Remembrance in November.

St Anne's School and other schools

The link between St Mary's Church and St Anne's School is very strong, dating from the foundation of the school in 1999. A majority of the Governors are appointed through the church, ensuring the Christian ethos of the school, and the position of Chair of Governors is currently shared jointly between Vicki Wienand from St Mary's and Jo Gilbert, a St Anne's parent. There are regular visits to the church from various classes, as well as the annual Harvest Festival in church for the whole school, and a termly whole-school Eucharist, which alternates between the church and the school. In addition, the Vicar takes Collective Worship in St Anne's nearly every Wednesday in term time, with two being taken by Daniel Beckett, the Lead Pastor of Godmanchester Baptist Church. The Vicar also occasionally visits classes to take part in RE lessons, and joins in occasional Prayer Space activities and the leavers' workshops (for all three Godmanchester schools) with the Baptist Church. This year we said farewell to Ms Ruth Moor as Headteacher after 6 years, who moved on with our gratitude for her dedication and hard work. It has been a joy to welcome Mr Mark Farell as the new Headteacher, and to witness the energy and positive impact he has brought to the school.

The two other Godmanchester schools, Godmanchester Community Academy and the Bridge Academy, also occasionally visit the church and invite the Vicar to hold Christingle events in the schools.

Church Groups and Activities

Bellringers

There is now a total of ten ringers who ring whenever they can so that we have had enough (four or more) to ring for the Sunday morning service (including the Civic Service) on 42 occasions in the last year. On nine of these occasions, we had eight or more ringers, eight being the number of bells available to ring. We also had these numbers for the three Christmas services for which we rang – Carol Service, Midnight Mass and Christmas Morning. We also rang for the All Souls Service, the evening service on Remembrance Day, the Advent Carol Service and one wedding.

A quarter peal has been rung for evensong once a month, excluding December. These occasions attract ringers from a wider area, allowing some regular service ringing of a high quality.

This year we revived the practice of ringing out the old year and ringing in the new, but we have been unable to ring the curfew on any occasion. The Tower Captain and the Steeple Keeper have shared the work of raising and lowering the flag on the tower on specified days of national and ecclesiastical significance.

Every Tuesday (excepting over Christmas and during Holy Week) is now a practice night, so long as there are sufficient ringers, and we have had 42 practices over the past year. We are relying heavily on the expertise of two ringers from other churches to run these practices. The practices have been well supported by ringers from a wide area which gives our own ringers the opportunity to develop their ringing within a more able team. Numbers at practices have often been close to, and on one occasion reached, twenty.

The bells are checked on a weekly basis, but the only maintenance required has been the re-splicing of one rope and the replacement of the stay on the treble bell. Recently, lighting has been installed in the bell chamber which is essential when work is being done on the bells. The new lights are of an exterior standard, because they are exposed to weather through the openings in the steeple. We have installed a rope warmer in the ringing chamber to prevent the ropes from becoming damp and stiff in cold weather.

We held an Open Day at the Tower on the first day of the Godmanchester Open Gardens Weekend, with exhibits at the bottom of the Tower, tours of the ringing chamber and the bells, and the Diocese's Mobile Bell outside the West Door. On Godmanchester Gala Day, we again used the Mobile Bell at our stall.

We participated in the Church's fundraising by providing a hamper for the grand draw at the Christmas Bazaar, and the ringers' fund provided sponsorship for the Knitted Bible Exhibition.

Charles Looker (Tower Captain)

Bible Study

The weekly Bible Study, including people from both Hilton and Godmanchester, takes place most Fridays at 10.00 am, usually on Zoom, but on the first Friday of the month often at Andrew Fawcett's house, to whom we are all grateful for his generous hospitality. We normally look at the readings for the coming Sunday's Eucharist, which is a great help to the Vicar in his sermon preparation but is not the purpose of the meeting! We would always be delighted to welcome anyone who cares to join us.

David Busk

Children's Church

Children's Church has once again grown during the year and currently consists of approximately fourteen families who regularly attend, with other children and adults who join us on occasions. The sessions, run during the 9.30am Communion Service, are shared by a team of ten leaders and 2 young leaders.

In the last year Children's Church has continued to become more involved during the Parish Communion Service, both with leading prayers, taking part in the collection, taking the elements up to the altar and reading or sometimes dramatizing the Gospel. The music group run by Jacky Kirby has many adults and children from Children's Church taking part, and they are often accompanied with more of our children on the percussion parts as well!

We were very busy once again on Christmas Eve running the Nativity at 4pm, with many of our families being able to take part - a high point of our year and one we all take great pride in. Thank you to Simon Williams for stepping in to lead the service.

Children's Church have taken part in helping to raise money for the church by running stalls and games at both the Summer Fair and the Christmas Bazaar. We also made our mark on the Knitted Bible and Craft exhibition in March by making a banner where many of us are illustrated sitting alongside Jesus accompanying with the verse from Matthew

19:14. We are hoping this banner will be permanently on display in the new children's area in church we hope to develop in the coming months.

A big thank you to all the parents, grandparents and family members who help out every week and make my job of organising Children's Church a pleasure.

Paula Williams (Children's Church Co-ordinator)

Fabric Committee

Expenditure for the year 2024.

Februaryy. P T S G Lightning Conductor Test and Report.	£170 .40
March Re-run electrical supply to Nave Platform Column.	£345.60
March Install Lightning Conductor Test Point.	£586. 55
March Boiler Repair.	£108.00
May Electrical Surge Limiter.	£376.80
May Repair wiring ring cct	£84.00
July. Repair Parapets and Repointing.	£4023.60
August. Boiler Repair.	£251.57
August. Painting Previously Painted Gutters& Pipes.	£1,962.00
September. Roof Alarm Warranty.	£294. 00
October. Roof Alarm Service.	£477.60
November .. Roof Alarm Subscription..	£618.00
November Replace Socket St Anne's Pillar.	£1,150.80
December. Repair Boiler.	£620.95
Total.	£11,069.62

In addition we have regular weeding around the Church including using weed killer.

When necessary, routine servicing of boiler, fire extinguishers, roof alarm and replacement of lamps adding up to£1801.13, making the total expenditure for the year £12,253.00.

We are most grateful to the Friends of St. Mary's for contributing to the Fabric Committee's outgoings, without which our ability to fund the maintenance of the Church would be much restricted.

Malcolm Harris

Flower Guild

Despite being fewer in numbers Flower Guild members have again maintained their ambition to provide arrangements to enhance the church throughout the year. During the austere periods of Lent and Advent only greenery is used. Lent is then followed by Spring

flowers at Easter including beautiful lilies donated in memory of loved ones. Harvest is a celebration of lovely Autumn colours and the solemnity of Advent gives way to the brightness of Christmas flowers and decorations.

A highlight of 2024 was the Christmas wreath making workshop organised and expertly led by Debbie Watts. Debbie provided all the materials and delicious refreshments. This was a most enjoyable event thoroughly appreciated by all who took part so an enormous thank you to Debbie.

As always we are extremely grateful to Sharon and Wendy and their team at Thelma's Flowers. They support Flower Guild with excellent advice, provision, and delivery of flowers and floral contributions. We appreciate their help very much.

We would welcome new members to join us. No flower arranging experience is necessary, just willing hands. If interested, please make contact.

Barbara Thirlwall (secretary)

The Friends of St. Mary's Godmanchester

We had a number of successful events: A wonderful Valentine's Day film night on February 10th, Ticket to Paradise taking a record £1,482. In addition to the ticket sales themselves there are 3 additional components that go into making these evenings so successful – the abundance of home made hearty cooked food which Jan Tilden produces so brilliantly, the raffle which Sue and Brian Worthington run like a well-oiled machine and the bar which leads to another kind of well-oiled activity! So thanks to them all. We had another successful science talk by Rod Arnold who is a member of the Antarctic mission on 18th May which took sales of nearly £1,000.

This year's Jazz on the Island on 20th July was blessed with wonderful weather which explains the record bar takings of £485 bringing in a total revenue of £3,218.

On 30th November we had a wonderful film night Hidden Figures which took £1,386.

Donations – for which we are so grateful: a cheque for £1,270 from Club 800.

Over the course of the year the Committee of the Friends met 9 times, had revenue of nearly £9,000, donated £9,309 towards the cost of the church roof, organ, audio visual equipment and various electric work and £10,000 of restricted funds earmarked for the Transformation Fund.

So I would like to end by thanking the Trustees of The Friends Colin Thirlwall, Joy Leney, Sue Worthington, Nick Leigh-Smith, Anja Busk, and our esteemed treasurer and secretary David Bowers and Kate Sington for their work in keeping the show on the road with diligence and immense enthusiasm.

Adrian Sington (Chair of the Friends)

Lesson Readings

Most Sundays, lessons from the Old and New Testaments are read by members of the congregation. A team of four people organises the readers, with each of us doing a 2-month 'tour of duty' before handing over to the next team member.

At present there are about 40 readers on the readers list, and we thank each of them for their service. New readers are always welcome. If you would like to become a reader, please contact one of us: Anne Francis, Bill Templeton, David Bowers (07757 804747), or Lauren Hurst, who will gladly add your name to the list.

David Bowers (Lead Organiser)

Music

Our organist and choir continue to support our worship with choral music at our weekly Sung Eucharist, Evensong on the fourth Sunday of each month and at special services such as Easter and Christmas. We are delighted to see the development of the Music Group under the expert direction of Jacky Kirby and their increasing involvement in our Parish Communion service on the third Sunday of each month. Our choir consists of 16 regular members and a group of around 11 augmenters who support the choir for special services. We welcomed one new member in 2024 but would be delighted to see more singers, either as regular choristers or augmenters. Once again, I am particularly grateful for the continuing help of Ken Diffey in sharing the duties of organist and choirmaster.

In May 2024 six members of our choir attended the Ely Choirs Festival in the Cathedral and on 15 June we provided a wide range of music with the aid of the Music Group to celebrate Music Sunday.

The Christmas and Easter services were highlights of 2024 and the augmented choir of around 25 singers led the large congregations in memorable acts of worship. The Children's Church once again provided an action account of the nativity story on Christmas Eve which was attended by an enthusiastic congregation.

In addition to our music at our services, St Mary's continues to host a series of choral and instrumental concerts which attract significant number of visitors to our church and also helps to fund the maintenance of our Grade 1 building. The music events organised to support the 2024 Cambridge Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride resulted in the magnificent sum of £590 being donated to our church from the event.

Colin Thirlwall (Choirmaster and Head Organist)

Music Group

The Music Group was 'born' last Spring from within Children's Church, in response to the call, " who plays a musical instrument, or likes singing ? "... 4 recorders, 2 flutes, 2 clarinets, 1 double bass, 1 bass clarinet + several junior percussionists and singers later, we enthusiastically played for two hymns at the service on Music Sunday last June, and at Harvest Festival in the Autumn. Enhanced by visiting instrumentalists, and most recently joined by a viola, we have continued to rehearse before/after, and play during each Parish Communion service to date. Open house, dust down that instrument and come and join in the fun!

Jacky Kirby

Charities

Our fundraising activities continued in 2024, and £6,500 was raised by the Church and the Charities Committee through various events and activities.

During the year we have continued to fundraise for Thrive, a charity established by the Diocese which provides support, counselling and mentoring of young people in the Huntingdon area. £2,290 was raised via a Quiz Evening in April, a Frugal Lunch during Lent, Coffee & Croissants events after the 9.30 service on Sundays, a Coffee Morning, and half of the proceeds from the Christmas Tree Festival in December. The other half of the proceeds of the Christmas Tree Festival, £750, went to HCCN, Hunts Community Cancer Network.

Our usual BBQ in July raised £1,000 for the Mashambanzou Care Trust in Zimbabwe, which supports children orphaned as the result of HIV/AIDS.

The Ride & Stride event in September raised £310 for Cambs Historic Churches Trust and £770 was raised for the Friends of North Kigesi in Uganda via different events.

Two other Coffee & Croissants events and a coffee morning raised over £300 for Service Charities, which was topped up to £400 from church funds.

To support our usual Christmas Charities, we sent the proceeds from our Christmas Service collections, with a contribution from church funds, to Jimmy's Cambridge - £350; Cruse Bereavement Care - £150; East Anglia Children's Hospice - £150, and The Children's Society - £100.

We held our second Christmas Tree Festival which brought many new faces into the church. Over 30 local companies and organisations sponsored Christmas trees, and there were lively musical contributions from various children's groups. The event raised £1,500

In addition to the members of the Charities Committee, many other people in the congregation helped with fundraising events during the year, and I would like to thank them, and all who supported us over the year.

Robert Francis (Chair of Charities Committee)

Churchyard Grass Cutters

The maintenance of the churchyard is the responsibility of the Town Council, and St Mary's has a three-year contract from the Council to cut the grass, which provides useful income to the church. I am pleased to report that our contract with the Council was renewed for another three years in April 2024.

Our intrepid team of grass cutters kept the churchyard looking tidy throughout the year. The churchyard covers about two acres, which is divided into 15 plots, and we have 11 volunteers, including four ladies, who look after this area.

The system is very flexible: volunteers cut their patch at a time to suit themselves, and mowers, kept in tip-top condition by Gordon Peacock, and fuel are provided. Some of the team would like to retire, so we are very keen to recruit some more volunteers. If you are interested in helping please contact me.

Robert Francis (Organiser)

Parish News

The Parish News continues as before with prices remaining after changes in recent years. It was reviewed before the PCC this year. The Bathurst-Hoiles have retired from the prayer insert, which is now completed by the editor. We extend our thanks to them for their contribution over the years.

Anna Page (Editor)

Sidespersons

The eleven people who have been doing duty at the main Sunday morning services in 2024 were Joan Adams, Lynn Batchelor, Liz Callaghan, Daphne Dobson, Malcolm & Rita Harris, Mariam Makin, Karen Molloy, John Newton, Jean Nicholls and Gordon Peacock.

Our core team of Sidespersons has remained the same as in 2023; however, we would be keen to add another person to the team. They would normally be on duty once every six weeks so if interested please make contact with me.

Peter Morgan (Lead Sidesperson)

Transformation Project

Having been forced to split the project into three phases by the massive increase in costs over the COVID period, work has gone on over 2024 to complete the detailed assessment and design for each of the phases. This has included archaeological and geological surveys to provide detail for the structure design, work by our architect in refining the detail, mechanical and engineering assessment and design to provide a basis for the phases and overall design of the three phases. That should be completed early in 2025 with some additional work required for revised building regulations requirements. We also received grants from Cambridgeshire County Council and the Friends of St Mary's to cover the cost of an Audio-Visual display which will provide information for our congregation and visitors on many aspects of our church life. This should be in place in 2025.

During 2024, the Transformation Project received grants of £90,000 plus conditional pledges of £35,000 thanks to the efforts of our fundraisers (Chell Perkins). We did receive a few rejections with some suggestion that we try again with a different, community biased approach. We intend to re-apply to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a major grant. Additional local fundraising by the Friends of St Mary's and members of our congregation, Gift Aid and reclaimed VAT totalled £29,634.85. Income to date for the project is £240,861 with expenditure of £155,144. The cost of the design work is likely to be completely covered by local fundraising leaving the grants for the main construction work.

Colin Thirlwall

Website

2024 VIEWS												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
632	822	961	852	640	656	799	488	931	780	931	1,443	9,935

	VIEWS	VISITORS
2019	10,633	3,055
2020	6,445	2,162
2021	7,573	2,760
2022	8,715	2,953
2023	10,236	3,032
2024	9,935	3,410

TOP 2024	POSTS	2023
In-person services	3,348	3,379
Calendar	1,622	1,666
Contact	456	430
Newsletter	287	631
Buildings + Facilities	347	300
Transformation Project	323	248
Church Matters	276	251
Vicar's Mailings	585	699

The most dynamic parts of the website are the Calendar and the Vicar's Mailings which change every week. The Calendar has details of all the services as well as other meetings about Church life. Any suggestions as to how the website can be improved are gratefully received. And can all heads of department keep me informed as to any changes to their regular meetings etc.

Adrian Sington

Wives Group

We continue to meet once a month in each other's homes, enjoying food, fun and friendship.

We have finalised the closing of our bank account, and thanks to Colin Thirlwall, the money has been transferred to the Church Account until we send it to our two chosen charities, EACH and Riding for the Disabled. We also sponsored a tableau from The Knitted Bible (Abraham and Sarah)

We manned the cake stall at the Christmas Bazaar and have visited a local garden centre for tea and cake (and we might have purchased a few sundries for our gardens.)

We hope to visit a session of the RFTD and, although small in number, we value our meetings enormously and hope to continue for a long time.

Olwyn Hurd

Worship Group

The Worship Group meets every two months to review recent services, look ahead to forthcoming ones, and make recommendations to the PCC for any significant changes to the current pattern of worship. I am very grateful to those who give up their time for this important work, and would be delighted to hear from anyone who feels they might like to join us.

David Busk

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules 2020 (Revised Reprint 2021). The membership of the PCC for St. Mary the Virgin comprises the incumbent, churchwardens, the reader and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services

/ members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

The full PCC met in person nine times during the year, with an average level of attendance of 74%. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has 10 sub-committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life.

These sub-committees, comprising worship, evangelism and outreach, pastoral care, finance, charities, fabric, church hall, transformation, magazine and Fete & Bazaar, are all responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly with minutes of their decisions being received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary.

Administrative Information

St. Mary the Virgin is situated at the end of Chadley Lane, Godmanchester. It is part of the Diocese of Ely within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, 59 Post Street, Godmanchester, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE29 2AQ. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission (Charity no 1194684).

Members of the PCC are Trustees of the Charity. The PCC is required by law to prepare an annual report identifying the activities of the Church to further its charitable purposes for the public benefit, including a statement of accounts verified by an Independent Examiner.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2024 until the date of this report was approved are:

Ex Officio members:

- Incumbent: The Reverend David Busk (Chairman)
- Honorary Curate: The Reverend Canon Jonathan Young
- Church Warden: Bill Templeton
- Church Warden: Ruth Ekblom (to February 2025)
- Representatives of the Laity on the Deanery Synod: Peter Morgan, Margaret Quaife

Elected members:

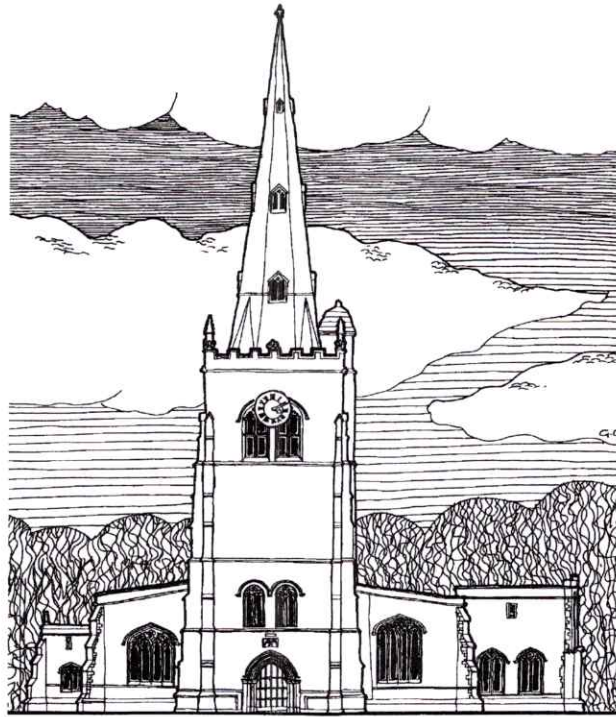
- Andrew Wright — PCC Secretary (from September 2024)
- Kate Robinson – PCC Secretary (to August 2024)
- Lucilia Azevedo
- Robert Francis (to April 2024)
- Nicholas Leigh Smith
- Simon Prince
- Adrian Sington
- Colin Thirlwall
- Mike Westcott-Rudd
- Bob Hurd
- David Moger
- Kevin Parks (to June 2024)

Approved by the PCC on 22 April 2025 and signed on their behalf by the Reverend David Busk (PCC chairman)



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Church of St Mary the Virgin Godmanchester PCC



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ending

31ST December 2024

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Section A Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity's Name
CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN GODMANCHESTER

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 DECEMBER 2024

**Charity no
(if any)**

1194684

Set out on pages

1-1

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

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

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

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date:

26/03/2025

Name:

GARY JOHN FORDHAM

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

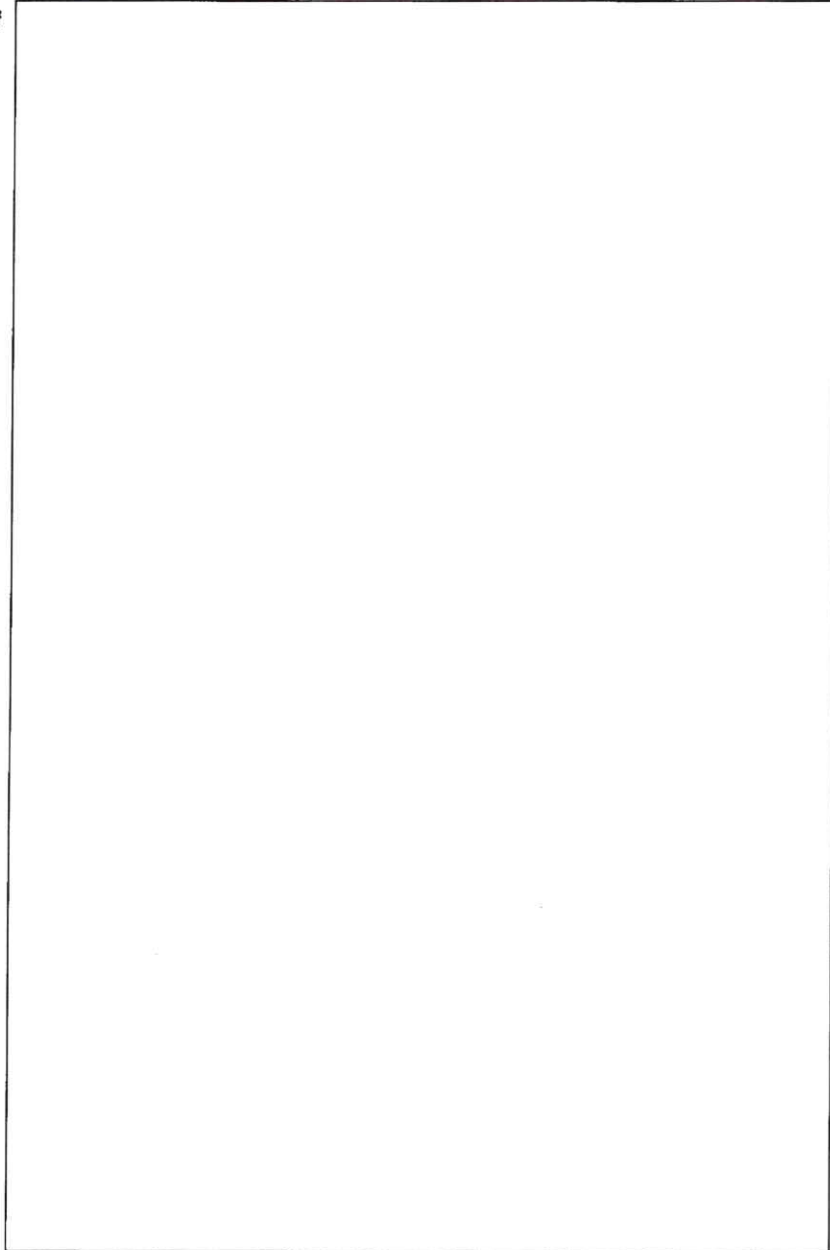
**INSTITUTE OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTANTS/.FEDERATION OF TAX
ADVISERS
MEMBERSHIP NUMBER 11621**

Address:

**7 TITHE CLOSE
HILTON
HUNTINGDON, PE28 9NR**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.



ST MARY THE VIRGIN GODMANCHESTER PCC

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2024 Total	2023 Total
RECEIPTS							
Voluntary receipts							
Planned Giving	a	41,490				41,490	41,629
Collections at services	b	7,645				7,645	7,923
All other giving/voluntary receipts	c	8,020	1,807	13,030		22,857	8,077
Gift Aid recovered		12,252		2,055		14,306	12,049
Legacies						0	0
Grants (recurring and one-off inc VAT)	d	637	9,472	20,641	75,000	105,750	8,662
Activities for generating fund							
Church fundraising activities	e	5,524				5,524	4,939
Investment income							
Investment income	f	2,472		2,115		4,587	3,801
Church activities							
Fees retained		2,732				2,732	5,033
Trading activities	g	3,593	27,050			30,643	28,932
Other receipts/income							
Rebates	h					0	1,173
Receipts for church organisations				1,759		1,759	1,839
TOTAL RECEIPTS		84,364	38,328	39,601	75,000	237,293	124,058
PAYMENTS							
Cost of generating funds							
Cost of fundraising activities	i	800				800	491
Church activities							
Mission & Charity Giving	j	441				441	1,337
Parish Share		72,992				72,992	70,186
Staff Expenses		254				254	370
Church expenses							
Mission and Evangelism	k	335				335	662
Church Running Expenses	l	24,010				24,010	23,140
Church & Hall insurance		9,120				9,120	8,446
Church utility bills		8,386				8,386	8,276
Church hall expenses			12,935			12,935	10,587
Cost of trading	m	3,054				3,054	765
Major capital expenditure							
Major Repairs to the church building	n					0	0
Major repairs to the church hall	o					0	0
New building work to church property	p			60,138		60,138	13,234
Other payments/expenditure							
Payments for church organisations	q			768		768	1,877
TOTAL PAYMENTS		119,392	12,935	60,906	0	193,234	139,372
NET RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS		(35,028)	25,393	(21,306)	75,000	44,059	(15,314)
REVALUATIONS							
Unrealised gain / (loss)							
CBF Fixed Interest Acc		301				301	527
Dorothy Allen Trust		2,186				2,186	7,567
CBF Sunday School Account		0		0		0	0
TOTAL REVALUATIONS		2,487	0	0	0	2,487	8,094
NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS/REVALUATIONS		(32,541)	25,393	(21,306)	75,000	46,547	(7,220)

**ST MARY THE VIRGIN GODMANCHESTER PCC
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2024**


ASSETS

	31 DEC 2024	31 DEC 2023	± in 2024
Cash Funds			
Petty Cash	85	213	(127)
Santander Bank (Current Account)	27,498	26,168	1,330
Plus cheques deposited but not cleared	181	0	181
Less cheques issued but not presented	(1,726)	(1,930)	204
	<u>25,953</u>	<u>24,238</u>	<u>1,715</u>
Charity Aid Foundation Bank (Transformation Fund)	81,188	22,514	58,673
C of E Central Board of Finance Deposit Accounts			
CBF Contingency a/c CB3025094-001	7,679	22,475	(14,797)
CBF Development a/c CB3025096-001	11,568	10,985	583
	<u>19,247</u>	<u>33,461</u>	<u>(14,214)</u>
Total Bank accounts/cash	<u><u>126,473</u></u>	<u><u>80,426</u></u>	<u><u>46,047</u></u>
Trust Funds			
Dorothy Allen Trust Fund	94,300	92,114	2,186
Sunday School Trust Funds			
CBF114001/702D	940	940	0
CBF114001/103D	2,000	2,000	0
CBF Fixed Interest Securities a/c CB3025095-001	10,277	9,976	301
	<u>107,518</u>	<u>105,030</u>	<u>2,488</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>233,991</u></u>	<u><u>185,456</u></u>	<u><u>48,535</u></u>
LIABILITIES			
Fees owing to Ely DBF	645	903	(258)
Agency payment funerals	290		
	<u>935.00</u>		
NET ASSETS/LIABILITIES	<u><u>233,056</u></u>	<u><u>184,553</u></u>	<u><u>48,503</u></u>
FIXED ASSETS RETAINED FOR CHURCH USE			
Church hall and fittings	93,000	93,000	0
Storage shed & Church Hall shed	1,730	2,306	(576)
Piano	5,000	5,000	0
Set of handbells	3,000	3,000	0
Lawnmowing equipment	2,043	768	1,275
Video projection equipment	1,423	1,898	(475)
	<u>106,196</u>	<u>105,972</u>	<u>224</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 22 April 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Revd DW Busk
Vicar and PCC Chairman

Signature



Date

22/4/25

The notes on page 3 to 6 form part of this statement

**ST MARY THE VIRGIN GODMANCHESTER PCC
OPERATING FUNDS 2024**

	b/f from 2023	Receipts	Payments	c/f to 2025	± in 2024
Assets available (From Assets & Liabilities)					
Petty cash	213	2,686	2,813	85	(127)
Santander (net)	24,238	163,093	161,378	25,953	1,715
CBF Development Acc	10,985	583	0	11,568	583
CAF Transformation Acc	22,514	118,811	60,138	81,188	58,673
CBF Contingency Acc	22,475	1,203	16,000	7,679	(14,797)
TOTAL	80,426	286,376	240,329	126,473	46,047
Operating funds					
General Fund	25,382	91,471	99,610	17,243	(8,139)
Bellringers	2,199	479	160	2,518	319
Children's Church	38	153	177	14	(24)
Church Fabric	7,253	13,245	12,253	8,246	993
Church Hall	1,245	22,050	20,735	2,560	1,315
Organ Fund	0	3,750	5,064	(1,314)	(1,314)
Churchyard & Mowers	929	5,000	5,204	725	(204)
Decorating Fund	9,011	0	9,000	11	(9,000)
Flower Guild	622	562	608	575	(47)
Friday at 5.15	1	225	109	117	116
Transformation Project	34,637	138,778	78,697	94,717	60,080
Agency Funds ⁽¹⁾	(892)	10,664	8,711	1,062	1,953
TOTAL	80,426	286,376	240,329	126,473	46,047

Operating Funds have both income and expenditure during the year and individual balances are carried forward to the start of the next year. When necessary, transfers are made between operating funds during the year.

Note (1) Agency Funds are funds that are handled by the church but are not part of the church income and expenditure and are not included in the church annual accounts. Examples are diocesan fees, fees for organists, vergers or choir at weddings and funerals and collections at funerals for a nominated charity.

**ST MARY THE VIRGIN GODMANCHESTER PCC
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2024**

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with both the Charities Act 2011, on the Receipts and Payments Basis, and the Church of England accounting regulations

2 ANALYSIS OF FUND MOVEMENT FOR THE YEAR

(i) UNRESTRICTED FUNDS may be used by the PCC for any of its ordinary purposes. The movements in the fund are shown in the Receipts and Payments Account

FUND NAME	FUND PURPOSE	Bal 1 Jan	Receipts	Payments	Bal 31 Dec
General funds	Gereal use by PCC	25,382	91,471	99,610	17,243

(ii) DESIGNATED FUNDS represent funds set aside, out of ordinary unrestricted funds, for specific designated purposes, but they can be transferred back into general funds at any time

FUND NAME	FUND PURPOSE	Bal 1 Jan	Receipts	Payments	Bal 31 Dec
Church Hall	Maintain hall	1,245	22,050	20,735	2,560
Fabric Fund	Church Fabric	7,253	13,245	12,253	8,246
Decorating fund	Church redecoration	9,011	0	9,000	11
Churchyard & Mowers	Maintain church surrounds	929	5,000	5,204	725
Organ Fund	Maintain the pipe organ	0	3,750	5,064	(1,314)
Friday at 5.15	Mission and Evangelism	1	225	109	117
		18,440	44,270	52,364	10,345

(iii) RESTRICTED FUNDS represent either income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those retriected objectives provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, or donations or grants received or invited for a specific purpose. The funds may only be spent on the specific purpose for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent must be carried forward as a balance on that fund and cannot be absorbed into general funds.

FUND NAME	FUND PURPOSE	Bal 1 Jan	Receipts	Payments	Bal 31 Dec
Transformation Fund	Church Transformation Project	34,637	138,778	78,697	94,717
Sunday School	Fund Children's Church	38	153	177	14
		34,675	138,930	78,874	94,731

(iv) ENDOWMENT FUNDS are funds whose capital must be maintained: only income arising from the investment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending on the purpose for which the endowment was established

FUND NAME	FUND PURPOSE	Bal 1 Jan	Receipts	Payments	Bal 31 Dec
Dorothy Allen Trust	50% fabric, remainder unrestricted	0	2,536	2,536	0
Sunday School Invest	Religious education	0	152	152	0
		0	2,689	2,688	0

(v) FUNDS LODGED IN THE CHURCH ACCOUNTS are funds belonging to church organisations that are lodged in the church accounts.

FUND NAME	FUND PURPOSE	Bal 1 Jan	Receipts	Payments	Bal 31 Dec
Bell Ringers Fund	Tower maintenance	2,199	479	160	2,518
Flower Guild Fund	Church flowers	622	562	608	575
		2,821	1,040	768	3,093

3 TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

From	To	Amount
Church Hall	Gen Funds	7,800
Churchyard & Mowers	Fabric Fund	2,500
Decorating Fund	Transformation Fund	9,000

NB: Decorating Fund transferred to Transformation Fund as redecoration is included in the project.

ST MARY THE VIRGIN GODMANCHESTER PCC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2023

4. ANALYSIS OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ITEMS

RECEIPTS		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2024 Total	2023 Total
Notes							
a)	Planned giving						
	BACS donations (regular)	1,740	-	-	-	1,740	1,620
	Free-will envelopes	2,324	-	-	-	2,324	2,894
	Parish giving	27,296	-	-	-	27,296	26,955
	Standing orders/DDs	10,130	-	-	-	10,130	10,160
		<u>41,490</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>41,490</u>	<u>41,629</u>
b)	Collections at services						
	Baptisms	206	-	-	-	206	352
	Funerals	62	-	-	-	62	334
	House communion	216	-	-	-	216	147
	Regular Sunday services	5,097	-	-	-	5,097	4,968
	Special Services	1,850	-	-	-	1,850	1,878
	Weddings	214	-	-	-	214	244
		<u>7,645</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,645</u>	<u>7,923</u>
c)	All other giving/voluntary receipts						
	Donations	6,305	1,807	13,030	-	21,142	5,690
	Goodbox Reader	53	-	-	-	53	0
	Gift day	1,662	-	-	-	1,662	2,387
		<u>8,020</u>	<u>1,807</u>	<u>13,030</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,857</u>	<u>8,077</u>
d)	Grants (recurring and one-off)						
	VAT Recovered	637	694	5,641	-	6,972	3,662
	External Grants	-	-	2,500	75,000	77,500	0
	Friends of St Mary's	-	8,778	12,500	-	21,278	5,000
		<u>637</u>	<u>9,472</u>	<u>20,641</u>	<u>75,000</u>	<u>105,750</u>	<u>8,662</u>
e)	Fundraising activities						
	Summer fete	2,130	-	-	-	2,130	2,117
	Concerts	704	-	-	-	704	360
	Christmas bazaar	2,690	-	-	-	2,690	2,463
		<u>5,524</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,524</u>	<u>4,939</u>
f)	Investment income						
	CBF Contingency acc	719	-	-	-	719	619
	CBF Fixed interest acc	484	-	-	-	484	215
	CBF Development acc	583	-	-	-	583	341
	CAF Bank Interest	112	-	-	-	112	58
	Dorothy Allen Trust	1,268	-	1,268	-	2,536	2,456
	Sunday School Investments	153	-	-	-	153	112
		<u>3,319</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,268</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,587</u>	<u>3,801</u>
g)	Trading activities						
	Church hire	1,165	-	-	-	1,165	640
	Hall letting	-	21,324	-	-	21,324	19,930
	Literature sales	-	-	0	0	0	20
	Magazine sales & advertising	2,394	-	-	-	2,394	2,778
	Sunday Coffee	-	726	-	-	726	729
	Book sales	34	-	-	-	34	191
	Grasscutting contract	-	5,000	-	-	5,000	4,644
		<u>3,593</u>	<u>27,050</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30,643</u>	<u>28,932</u>
h)	Other receipts/income						
	Utility rebate	-	-	-	-	0	1,143
	Data Dev Online accounts rebate	-	-	-	-	0	30
	Bellringers	-	-	473	-	473	1,480
	Wive's Group	-	-	725	-	725	
	Flower Guild	-	-	562	-	562	359
		<u>0</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,759</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,759</u>	<u>3,012</u>

ST MARY THE VIRGIN GODMANCHESTER PCC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2023

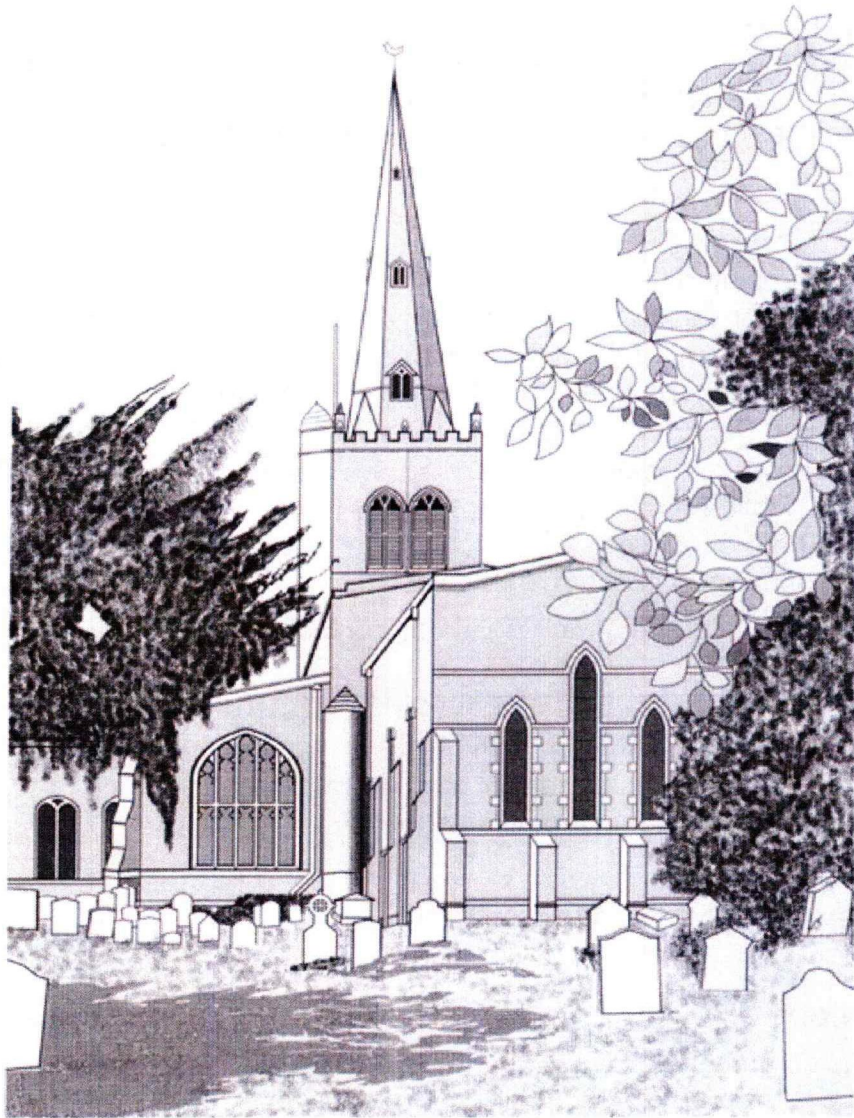
4. ANALYSIS OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ITEMS

PAYMENTS	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2024 Total	2023 Total
i) Cost of fundraising activities						
Fete & bazaar	350	-	-	-	350	420
Donation envelopes		-	-	-	0	71
	<u>350</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>350</u>	<u>491</u>
j) Mission & charity giving (Gen funds)						
Christmas charities	0	-	-	-	0	900
Service charities	15	-	-	-	15	77
Mayor of Godmanchester's Charity	184	-	-	-	0	0
Other charities		-	-	-	0	360
	<u>199</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>199</u>	<u>1,337</u>
NB Christmas charities paid in 2025						
j1) Charities funded by specific events (Agency Funds)			5,621		5,621	4,459
k) Mission & evangelism						
Children's church		-	177	-	177	272
Friday @ 5.15		109	-	-	109	389
Othe donations	49	-	-	-	49	0
	<u>49</u>	<u>109</u>	<u>177</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>335</u>	<u>662</u>
l) Church running expenses						
Admin	5,074	-	-	-	5,074	4,649
Altar requirements	651	-	-	-	651	380
Auditor fee	255	-	-	-	255	255
Maintenance	12,253	-	-	-	12,253	16,903
Choir	270	-	-	-	270	559
Organ	5,064	-	-	-	5,064	
Misc	444	-	-	-	444	394
	<u>24,010</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,010</u>	<u>23,140</u>
m) Cost of trading						
Mower expenses		2,704	-	-	2,704	765
Cost of goods	0	-	-	-	0	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>2,704</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,704</u>	<u>765</u>
n) Major repairs to church building						
Church fabric					0	0
o) Major repairs to church hall	-	-	-	-	-	-
p) New building work to church property						
Transformation project	-	-	60,138	-	60,138	13,234
q) Other payments and expenditure						
Bellringers	-	-	160	-	160	1,260
Flower Guild	-	-	608	-	608	617
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>768</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>768</u>	<u>1,877</u>

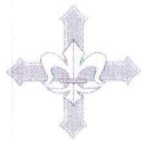
Accounts



The Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin Godmanchester



2023 ANNUAL REPORT



2023 Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of St. Mary the Virgin, Godmanchester

Aims and Purposes

St. Mary the Virgin's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend David Busk, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral - *to look after individual people*; evangelistic - *to tell the people the Good News and to invite them to accept it*; social - *to help the poorer members of society, and those suffering from racial, economic and other forms of injustice*; and ecumenical - *to encourage good relations with other Christian denominations*. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church Hall in Chadley Lane.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St. Mary the Virgin. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St. Mary the Virgin and the adjacent Church Hall.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

The PCC is committed to providing a wide and varied range of services throughout the year to engage with as many in the community as possible. Our regular Sunday services of Holy Communion or Morning Prayer, Sung Eucharist (with healing once a month) and Evensong or Evening Prayer, are occasionally supplemented by Parish Communion or a Taizé service. There is also a Holy Communion on a Thursday morning.

The popularity of Zoom services (especially amongst those who find it difficult to attend church) meant that we continued with a Holy Communion via Zoom at 2.30pm on a

Wednesday and a regular 6.30pm Evening Prayer every day except Saturday and Sunday. We also held a Bible Study Group on Zoom each Friday throughout the year.

We welcome everyone to our services and normally enjoy a well-attended Children's Church, although our youth group is currently in abeyance. There are currently 110 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll and our Sunday attendance figures have yet to fully recover post-COVID. The church remained open each day for private prayer and visitors.

Normally our church affords the community a chance to give thanks to God for those special moments throughout life when we gather to celebrate baptism, marriage or the life of a departed loved one. This year we were able to celebrate seven weddings, one renewal of wedding vows and eight baptisms in the church. There were 17 funerals and 10 burials of ashes.

Deanery Synod

Our church is represented on the Deanery Synod by three members of the congregation who also sit on the PCC. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

The Church and Church Hall

We envision our church building becoming the focal point for a greater number of community activities in the future and have a Transformation Project in progress that will see the removal of the fixed pews to create space and the introduction of kitchen and toilet facilities as well as a mezzanine floor with room to house the local museum securely.

The south door to the church is opened every day for visitors and private prayer. Our visitors Book recorded 167 entries from individuals, families and groups over the year, including overseas visitors from Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines, Poland, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland and the USA.

Disabled access is currently available via the north door only for services and other major events. The building is already a venue for talks, concerts, the Summer Fete (when the weather is inclement), the Christmas Bazaar and Flower and other church festivals. The church is used for music concerts, displays, film shows and historical presentations to the community. There are also regular educational visits from the local schools.

The church hall, a wooden building purchased by the PCC, in 1938 is in reasonably good structural order, adequately maintained and well equipped. The cost of running and maintaining the hall is met by the income from a contract with a day nursery which uses the facilities every weekday from 8am to 6.30pm and several external organisations that hire the building in evenings and at the weekend. The rental income provides a welcome addition to church funds.

Pastoral Care

Reaching out to those housebound, in hospital or care homes and ensuring them that their St. Mary's family cares for them, and is praying for them, has been an important part of our pastoral care.

We are blessed to have a number of people in the congregation who like carrying out visiting. At the same time, Jonathan Young works tirelessly to ensure that anyone at home

may receive the sacraments. Members of the team do shopping, give lifts to church and help the housebound as necessary. We find that people are most appreciative of visits, and it is frequently a joyous experience, as much for the visitor as for the visited. If any members of the congregation are aware of anyone in need of help, please do not be afraid to ask. Alternatively, if you would like to join us on the team that would be wonderful too. We thank Liz Irving for carrying out the task of Pastoral Care Co-ordinator for several years and would be delighted to hear of anyone who wishes to take this on.

We have a Prayer Circle, administered by Jim Heeley, which consists of a group of people who have undertaken to pray daily for anyone who asks for it. Those requesting prayer can give as much or as little information as they wish or remain anonymous to all except the first point of contact, who can pass the information on to Jim Heeley. Jim can, of course, be contacted directly on 01480 412264 or jssc@btinternet.com. For all pastoral matters, please contact David Busk on 01480 436400 or dwbusk@hotmail.com in the first instance.

Mission and Evangelism

We believe that the Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Godmanchester, exists to build up the individual and corporate spiritual life of our Church and to spread the love of Christ through word and deed, by enabling those who live and work within our town to come into contact with God's love and come to faith in Christ.

Group for Evangelism & Outreach (GEO) is responsible for reviewing and recommending the development of evangelism and outreach in the mission of the church, including changes to the Mission Action Plan to incorporate the new Diocesan Vision. Our latest outreach to the community has focused on bringing families together once a month for 'Friday @ 5.15' which is proving to be a popular event.

Ecumenical Relationships

The incumbent priest is also responsible for St. Mary's Church, Hilton and we normally join them twice a year in a shared service. Members from the Hilton congregation often join those in Godmanchester for weekly worship and special services.

The church is a member of 'Churches Together in Huntingdon and Godmanchester' and we have joined for events and services each year, such as Worship in the Park during Gala Weekend and the Act of Remembrance in November. All Godmanchester churches also join together in publicising our Christmas services.

Financial Review

Excluding Agency Funds, which are funds handled through the Church accounts for other agencies such as fees paid for weddings and funerals and specific charity events, the overall income for 2023 was £124,058 against expenditure of £139,372. The majority of the shortfall of £15,314 comprised payments from the Transformation Fund for the design work during the year.

The General Fund, which represents the running expenses and related income of the Church, ended 2023 with a small surplus of £1,616. To ensure that the fund remained in credit we transferred £15,800 from the Church Hall Fund which receives income from the hall rental. Our 'Trading Activities' income (£28,932) comprising the hall and Church rental, the churchyard grass cutting contract and the sales and advertising in our Parish News go a long way to support our activities and we are grateful to those volunteers who give their time and support.

In terms of receipts, planned giving was up slightly (£41,629 from £40,898) and we are extremely grateful to those who donate regularly, particularly those who donate through Parish Giving, allowing us to plan at least some of our income and expenditure for the year. Collections at all services were up slightly (£7,932 from £7,308) but other donations were well down on the 2022 totals ((£5,871 from £7,505). Our investment income was up slightly (£3,801 from £3,111) reflecting the slight rise in interest rates over the year. Once again, we are indebted to the Friends of St Mary's for their support in the form of a grant of £5,000 towards the £13,000 cost of the repairs to the rainwater soakaways around the Church.

The increase in expenditure from the General Fund (£123,496 up from £99,739) reflects the massive increase in utility costs (£8,276 up from £3,977), increase in general running costs (£23,140 up from £16,938) and our Parish Share which has increased from £67,447 in 2022 to £70,186. Overall, our general finances are positive but at a cost to the funds available to the Church Hall Committee to make any significant improvements to the facilities. Colin Thirlwall (Hon Treasurer)

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to maintain reserves which equate to at least three months general expenditure. It is held to smooth out cash flow and meet emergency payments. For St Mary's Church this is around £31,000. The reserves held in a Church of England Central Board of Finance (CBF) Contingency Deposit Account (£22,457) and a CBF Fixed Interest Deposit Account (£9,976) provide reserves of £32,433. This does not include unrestricted and designated funds held in the current account.

Optional Information

Volunteers

We are indebted to the many people and groups who support St. Mary the Virgin throughout the year in so many ways. The following reports in alphabetical order cover just some of the many activities that have been achieved during 2023. If your group supporting church life would like to have its achievements included in the 2024 edition of the Annual PCC Report, please contact Kate Robinson on klrobinson80@gmail.com by 31 December 2024.

Bell Ringers

Godmanchester bells played their part in celebrating the Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles and Queen Camilla this year. A group of ringers from our own and other teams rang until the start of the Coronation service. Members of the same group had been ringing the bells of both the Huntingdon churches earlier that morning. The next day, a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples was rung following the "Come and Sing" concert the following evening.

The year 2023 was the 400th anniversary of the re-building of the tower and steeple, so we celebrated this with an open day and a peal attempt on 18 November. For the Open Day, we set up some display boards and provided handbells for people to try. In the morning, we took tours up to the ringing room and the bell chamber and in the afternoon, visitors could watch a live feed showing the bells ringing during the peal attempt. We had hoped to recruit some new ringers from this exercise, but so far there has only been one who started learning but had to give up because of an injury (not incurred during bell ringing). Unfortunately, the peal attempt failed, but a quarter peal was rung instead.

In addition to Sunday morning services, we have rung for special services on Remembrance Sunday and at Christmas, for six weddings and two funerals, notably that of Jean Morgan.

There are only five Godmanchester ringers, but we co-operate very closely with the Huntingdon ringers - typically, a few Huntingdon ringers will ring at Godmanchester for the 9.30am service and then a few Godmanchester ringers will ring for Huntingdon's 10.30am service. In this way, we have had all eight bells ringing on several Sunday mornings and, especially, for the Christmas Eve Carol Service. Our two newest ringers have been the most regular attenders at Huntingdon.

There are many ringers in the district who are more skilled than any of us and we rely on some of them for peals, quarter peals, weddings and funerals.

The co-operation with Huntingdon extends to practices; we hold these at Godmanchester on the 2nd and 5th Tuesdays of the month and on all other Tuesdays at All Saints, Huntingdon. The practices at Godmanchester have been well attended with up to twenty ringers present. Godmanchester's well-tuned, heavy eight bells (the largest weighs more than a metric tonne) are popular with advanced ringers, while the light six bells at All Saints are better for training less advanced ringers.

This January, we hosted the Annual Meeting of the Huntingdon District within the Ely Diocesan Association of Bell Ringers. The programme was an hour and a half of ringing open to all members before a service conducted by David Busk, followed by a tea provided by the Godmanchester team, and then a business meeting.

The bellringers have played their part in fund-raising for the church by providing hampers for the grand draws at the Summer Fete and Christmas Bazaar. Charles Looker.

Charities

Our fundraising activities continued in 2023, and £5,500 was raised by the Church and the Charities Committee through various events and activities.

During the year we have been fundraising for Thrive, a charity established by the Diocese which provides support, counselling and mentoring of young people in the Huntingdon area. Over £1,600 was raised via a very enjoyable Quiz Evening in May, a Frugal Lunch during Lent, several Coffee & Croissants events after the 9.30 service on Sundays and a Ladies' Breakfast in November.

The Coronation "Come and Sing" in May raised £360 for the GMC Foodbank and the Huntingdonshire Society for the Blind.

Our usual BBQ in July also raised £650 for the Mashambanzou Care Trust in Zimbabwe, which supports children orphaned as the result of HIV/AIDS.

The Ride & Stride event in September raised £230 for Cambs Historic Churches Trust and £535 was raised for the Friends of North Kigesi in Uganda via different events.

Several other Coffee & Croissants and Bacon Butties events were held after the 9.30am service, raising over £300 for Service Charities, which was topped up to £400 from church funds.

To support our usual Christmas Charities, we sent the proceeds from our Christmas Service collections, with a contribution from church funds, to Jimmy's Cambridge - £450; Cruse Bereavement Care - £200; East Anglia Children's Hospice - £250, and The Children's Society - £165.

Another initiative was the Crib Festival, where over 80 cribs of various sizes from members of the congregation were displayed in the church over the Christmas period. The official opening was on Sunday 18th December when the church was full of people who enjoyed looking at the cribs over a glass of mulled wine. £300 was raised, which was donated to Hunts Community Cancer Network.

In addition to the members of the Charities Committee, many other people in the congregation helped with fundraising events during the year, and I would like to thank them, and all who supported us over the year. Robert Francis.

Children's Church

Children's Church currently consists of around 12 families who regularly attend, with other children and adults who join us on occasions. The sessions, run during the 9.30am Communion Service, are shared by a team of 10 leaders and 1 young leader.

In the last year Children's Church has continued to become more involved during the Parish Communion Service, both with leading prayers, taking part in the collection, taking the elements up to the altar and reading or sometimes dramatising the Gospel. We again were very busy on Christmas Eve running the Nativity Service at 4pm, with many of our families being able to take part - a high point of our year and one we all take great pride in.

As well as running stalls at both the Summer Fair and Christmas Bazaar to raise money for the church, in July we started our Sponsored Move 2023 with a target to move 9,909km, the distance between St Mary's and the Bucence Children's Centre in Uganda. In January we completed the distance and at the time of writing, we are hoping to raise lots of money for the Children's Centre.

A big thank you to all the parents, grandparents and family members who help out every week and make my job of organising Children's Church a pleasure. Paula Williams

Church Hall

The church hall remains an important part of our parish life as well as being a valuable social amenity for the town. At present the Clarence House Pre-School Nursery uses the hall daily and it's interesting to note that that it has provided a base for nursery care for over 30 years, i.e. a whole generation of parents and children! Other groups using the hall include the Godmanchester Garden Club, the Women's Institute (WI), the Godmanchester Camera Club and Dean Carrick's Wing Chun martial arts class. We also take bookings for children's parties and other one-off events, many of which support the Friends of St Mary's. The annual Film Night and Supper is one of these and may be the only occasion during the year when people from the wider community come into the hall. More bookings would be welcome, of course!

On Sundays the Children's Church meets in the hall, and it is a joyful place to be for parents and children to learn about the Christian faith. Miraculously the paint, drawings and glitter are all cleared away in time for coffee to be served to the congregation after the 9.30 Sung Eucharist.

This year funds have allowed us to buy a beautiful garden bench for the area outside the hall and this is much appreciated by nursery staff and Children's Church families.

The hall is managed by a small committee, and if you are interested in becoming a member please get in touch. Liz and Peter Irving (01480 382144)

Churchyard Grass Cutters

The maintenance of the churchyard is the responsibility of the Town Council, and St Mary's has a three-yearly contract from the Council to cut the grass, which provides useful income to the church.

Our intrepid team of grass cutters kept the churchyard looking tidy throughout the year. The churchyard covers about two acres, which is divided into 15 plots, and we have 11 volunteers, including four ladies, who look after this area.

The system is very flexible: volunteers cut their patch at a time to suit themselves, and mowers, kept in tip-top condition by Gordon Peacock, and fuel are provided. We are always on the lookout for more volunteers, so if you are interested in helping, please contact me. Robert Francis (Organiser).

Fabric Committee

The following is a list of work completed in 2023, in addition to routine work, to maintain the fabric of the church and its surrounds:

Item	Cost £
Regular weed and ivy removal from church surrounds roof and tower	628
Repair to chancel heating grille	120
Repairs to three church notice boards	465
Replacement radio mic	678
Ladder brackets	46
Soakaway repairs and replacement	13,006
Replace iron nails on South Door	138
TOTAL NON-ROUTINE EXPENDITURE	15,081

The above figures include VAT which is reclaimable under the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme.

We received grants totalling £5,070 from the Friends of St Marys towards the cost of the work on the soakaways.

We had the original lock on the west door repaired and Jacowe Joinery procured two replica keys. We are grateful to Paul Wells for the splendid display case which allows us to show one of the massive keys in the Tower vestry.

We are also grateful for the voluntary work which replaced some of the pointing between the paving stones in the south cross-aisle.

The Decorating Fund that was established to re-decorate the Church at regular intervals stands at £9,000. Malcolm Harris

Flower Guild

St Mary's Flower Guild members provide floral arrangements for the church throughout the year and especially for the major festivals and other events.

At Eastertide we invite donations of lilies in memory of loved ones to enhance our white and cream theme, then at Harvest we use autumnal colours and at Christmas add some sparkle to our chosen colour. In 2023 it was red and silver.

King Charles' Coronation in May provided the opportunity to create a colourful display of red, white and blue. A fantastic floral crown by Debbie Watts was the centre piece and was much appreciated and admired. Also in May, we were delighted to arrange flowers for a wedding - our only wedding request for 2023.

We are extremely grateful to all our willing members for their continuing support and dedication and would welcome anyone interested to join us. Barbara Thirlwall (Secretary)

Lesson Readers

Most Sundays, one or two lessons from the Old and New Testaments are read by members of the congregation. A team of four people organises the readers: each member of the team does a 2-month 'tour of duty', before handing over to the next team member.

At present there are about 40 readers on the readers list, and we thank them all for their service. New readers are always welcome. If you would like to become a reader, please contact one of the organisers: Anne Francis, Bill Templeton, David Bowers (07757 804747), or Lauren Hurst, who will gladly add your name to the list. David Bowers (Lead Organiser).

Magazine

The changes to the Parish Magazine were welcomed. The format has remained and our regular contributors kindly continue to provide interesting articles. I thank Christopher Leffler for his series on the Eucharist and its history last year. I also thank Robert Francis for his sterling work with the advertising, and to Anne Francis and her wonderful team for distributing the magazine each month and for collecting subscriptions.

Despite my operation in January 2023 I was able to continue to put the magazine together and was grateful to have something I was able to do when unable to work and get out and about. As a result, the editorial committee has not met as often as we perhaps should have, but email has proved useful. We sadly lost Jean Morgan from the committee last year, but I hope that Bill Templeton will be joining us when we next meet. Anna Page (Editor)

Music

Our organists and choir continued to provide quality choral music at Sung Eucharist and Sung Evensong on the fourth Sunday of the month and at special services such as Easter and Christmas throughout the year. The Choir has 14 regular members and around 12 augmenters available for special occasions. I am particularly grateful to Ken Diffey for agreeing to share the task of accompanying services and running choir practices, significantly lightening the workload.

In addition to the regular services the choir provided choral music for two weddings and three funerals/memorial services in 2023. We were saddened by the loss of two of our altos, Jean Morgan and Daphne Meats who both died in 2023. However, we welcomed Lydia Williams as a new soprano and Katheryn Ayres who, having been a stalwart alto augments, joined us as a permanent member.

As ever, the Nativity Service and the festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve attracted two of the largest congregations of the year. The Children's Church provided a lively account of the Nativity story with enthusiastic singing of the well-known carols. The augmented choir provided a very strong lead for the Nine Lessons and Carols with many positive comments after the service.

A few of the choir members attended the 2023 Ely Area Choir Festival Evensong in the magnificent surroundings of King's College Chapel in Cambridge following a rehearsal in the equally splendid chapel of Queens' College.

Recruiting choristers is becoming more difficult and the choir always welcomes new members. If you would like to come and sing with us regularly or augment on special occasions, please speak to our organists, Colin Thirlwall and Ken Diffey or one of the choir members.

In addition to our own choral music, St Mary's hosted a concert by the Somersham Town Band (who also provided music for our Christmas Bazaar) and a choral concert by the Hunts Phil. The Thrapston Town Band provided some very enjoyable music for our Summer Fete. We also organised a musical event of organ music and hymns to support Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride 2023. Colin Thirlwall

Safeguarding

There have been no incidents of a safeguarding nature to report in the last year. All new members of the PCC have been successfully DBS checked, and a large portion of the remaining members will need to have this renewed to ensure, as always, that we are a safe church for everyone - young and old. Simon Prince (Parish Safeguarding Officer).

Sidespersons

After very many years' service as a Sidesperson, Arthur West decided it was time to step down in February. As a result, our regular team for 2023 reduced to 14 people. In addition, John Thackray helped out on special occasions, including the Civic Service.

The 14 people who have been doing duty at the 9.30am Sunday Services in 2023 were Joan Adams, Cathy Barr, Lynn Batchelor, Liz Callaghan, Daphne Dobson, Malcolm & Rita Harris, Marian Makin, Karen Molloy, Peter & Jennie Morgan, John Newton, Jean Nicholls and Gordon Peacock.

Anyone interested in joining the Sidesperson Team? You would normally be on duty once every six weeks. Please contact Peter Morgan – Lead Sidesperson.

Street Prayer Mission

We continue our Street Prayer Mission through our intercessions in church at a Sunday Eucharist. A list of streets to be prayed for appears monthly in our Parish Magazine and weekly in the Newsletter. We also include a street each week from our sister parish of Hilton and additional streets from new developments in Godmanchester are included as residents move in.

Summer Fête & Christmas Bazaar

Our Summer Fête was held on 17 June among the trees in the churchyard. We were able to socialise and enjoy the music of the Thrapston Town Band while supporting the church life through the many stalls. The Christmas Bazaar on 2 December raised a significant amount of money for church funds through the usual stalls and the ever-popular Grand Draw for which church organisations provided Christmas Hampers. Christmas music was provided by a contingent from Somersham Town Band.

The Friends of St. Mary's Godmanchester

We had a number of successful events: A wonderful Valentine's Day film night, *Falling in Love* taking a record £1,287, helped I'm sure, by Jan Tilden's delicious and plentiful Cottage Pie followed by Chocolate Trifle.

Despite appalling weather necessitating a last-minute move into the Church, Jazz on the Island on 5 August raised £2,200.

On 7 October we had a wonderful film night *Dream Horse* which took £1,100.

On 18 November David Starkey delivered a lecture on *Henry VIII – the Jekyll & Hyde King* which was sold out, taking record sales of just under £6,000.

Donations – for which we are so grateful: a Goodliff grant of £850 to buy stands to display museum/local history material for our heritage project in the north aisle; a cheque for £1,200 from the Godmanchester 800 Club and £600 cash from the Thompsons, this being the proceeds from the sale of bacon sandwiches and coffee to the queue outside the butcher's on Christmas Eve.

Over the course of the year the Committee of the Friends met eight times, had revenue of nearly £16,000, donated £5,000 towards the cost of the soakaways in the churchyard and £11,000 of restricted funds earmarked for the Transformation Fund.

We had some sad news during the year: Christopher Vane Percy resigned as a Trustee of the Friends and I would like to record our thanks for everything that Christopher has done in the service of the Friends – and beyond - for so many years. His experience, wisdom and knowledge will be sorely missed. Happily, Joy Leney has agreed to join as a Trustee.

I would like to end by thanking the Trustees of the Friends: Colin Thirlwall, Joy Leney, Sue Worthington, Nick Leigh-Smith, Anja Busk, and our esteemed Treasurer and Secretary David Bowers and Kate Sington for their work in keeping the show on the road with diligence and immense enthusiasm. Adrian Sington

The Upper Room

During the financial year of 2023/2024 a total of £859.43 was raised from which £798.33 have been paid into the Church funds for the Transformation Project. This includes money raised selling items donated, the selling of greeting cards in the Church, Refreshments donations on Thursday mornings and from now on, 10% of any paid job I carry on.

As expected, due to health issues (more mental than physical) I had a long period with no courage to do anything, which cause an accumulation of items donated. As of today, 20th February, I have some events lined up, plus waiting for the car boot markets season to carry on the work I loved to do.

I repeat the appeal from last year: If there is anyone crazy like me who wants to be my partner on the market, you would be very welcome. I promise there is nothing boring in it. We not only raise money; also, as I have a sign saying that the Upper Room is connected to our Church, people feel free to approach me and talk about faith and their relationship with the Church and the Lord. Isn't it amazing?

Thank you all for your kind donations throughout the year and remember: if you have any furniture, you don't need any more and can hold it until it is sold, I will do my best to sell it for our cause. Also, if you have greeting cards in a drawer, you think you will not use or if you are a card maker, please consider replenishing our stand in the Church. Your help in any way is very much appreciated. God bless. Lucilia Azevedo.

Transformation Project

Because of change in Heritage Lottery Fund criteria, and the difficulty in funding the project as a single entity, the PCC agreed - in consultation with our architect - to divide it into three separate phases, although this is likely to cost more overall. We were given the option to focus the various phases on either the congregational aspects (pews, under-floor heating), the operations (office etc) or the museum.

It was decided that as we currently have a parish office, we can manage for a while longer without a meeting space/chapel or tea station - we have a good kitchen in the hall - and the main congregational aspect (the provision of toilets) was included in all options, we should bias work towards the installation of the museum in the upper tower room.

The heritage/community aspect are fundamental to our bids. We have received revised costings for the three phases and the design stage although our architect is trying to revise these downwards. The phases are:

Phase 1 – Completes the work in the tower area:

- Provision of additional utilities to meet the additional demands of the project namely water supply, drainage and possibly electricity.
- Provide a WC plus an accessible WC/baby changing unit.
- Provide a sink and storage for the flower guild.
- Update the electrical supply cupboard.
- Install the floor to then upper tower room with a temporary balustrade and provide initial access through the re-instated door from the tower staircase plus trapdoor access for the removal of the bells. This would give the Godmanchester Museum some initial storage space if required.

The provisional cost for this phase is around £600,000 ex VAT – which we can reclaim.

Phase 2 – Furnish and complete the work in the upper tower room and:

- Clear all the remaining rear pews.
- Lift paving and install services.
- Establish Services for tea point.
- Erect structure for the gallery.
- Prepare footings for partitions and lay floor finishes.
- Install lift.
- Complete work on upper gallery.
- Install stairs.

The provisional cost for this phase is £1,124,139 ex VAT.

Phase 3 – Complete the work under the gallery:

- Fit/furnish the parish office.
- Fit and furnish the tea point.
- Fit and furnish the storage area behind the tea point.
- Fit and furnish the ground floor meeting space/chapel.
- Erect and complete the choir vestry.

- Clear remaining pews from the nave.
- Lift paving and install under-floor heating in nave area.
- Provide new flexible moveable furniture.

The provisional cost for this phase is £660,000 ex VAT.

Before we can start on phase 1, we need to complete the detailed design and preparatory work – Stage 4 in the RIBA schedule. The approximate cost of this phase is £65,000 to £70,000. We already have just over £55,000 in the bank towards this cost, so we are very close to the amount required. With the agreement of the PCC, we are starting the Stage 4 design work in February, but the extent of the work will be limited by the cash-in-hand. This is expected to take up to four months.

To raise the funds for the project we propose a three-pronged assault:

- Our professional fundraisers, Chell Perkins, have 24 applications ready for the larger funding organisations.
- The Chair of the Friends of St Mary’s is managing donations from local organisations and individuals who may be willing to support the scheme.
- We are planning to run a local fundraising group to manage the traditional church fundraising such as coffee mornings, quiz evenings, parish lunches, etc and we have a volunteer to manage this.

Our priorities are to raise the balance of funds for the Stage 4 design work as soon as possible and to start generating funds for the construction work for, initially, Phase 1.

Colin Thirlwall

Website

2023 VIEWS													
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL	
519	676	732	947	957	584	557	719	706	1,020	1,229	1,590	10,236	

	VIEWS	VISITORS
2019	10,633	3,055
2020	6,445	2,162
2021	7,573	2,760
2022	8,715	2,953
2023	10,236	3,032

TOP POSTS	2023	2022
In-person services	3,379	3,146
Calendar	1,666	1,338
Contact	430	391
Newsletter	631	602
Buildings + Facilities	300	276
Transformation Project	248	n/a
Church Matters	251	247
Vicar’s Mailings	699	463

The most dynamic parts of the website are the Calendar, the Vicar’s Mailings and the Newsletter/Diary, all of which change every week. The Calendar has details of all the services as well as other meetings about Church life. Any suggestions as to how the website can be improved are gratefully received and it would be appreciated if all heads of

department keep me informed as to any changes to their regular meetings, etc. Thank you.
Adrian Sington

Weekly Newsletter

The Weekly Newsletter continued to be produced throughout 2023 by a small team of volunteers; namely Jim Heeley, Adrian Sington and Lucilia Azevedo. The Newsletter provides details for Sunday services on the front cover, a weekly diary on the rear page and notices relevant to the church and local events inside.

We are actively seeking willing volunteers to help and each member does a two-month stint before handing on to the next person. The more team members we have, the longer the rest periods between stints.

If you would like to help, please get in touch with any member of the team or David Busk.

Wives' Group

The Wives' Group have been meeting in members' homes. Our first speaker since Covid was Alison Woolard, a podiatrist who works locally and helps several of our members with foot problems. She gave us lots of tips and advice to keep our feet in working order!

We had two Christmas meetings, and started the new year at a member's home.

We provided the teas at the Fete in June and the Bazaar in December. This was our swan song as the Wives Group have decided to hang up their pinnies and pass them on to unknown ladies (and gentlemen).

We made the difficult decision to close our bank account, as our meetings no longer produce revenue. Two charities have been chosen to benefit, East Anglian Childrens Hospice at Milton and Riding for the Disabled, which runs out of a stable in Offord. This process is, at the time of writing, being actioned.

This does not mean the Wives Group are closing, we will continue our friendship, fun and a little (!) natter each month. As Chairman, may I thank all members for offering hospitality.
Olwyn Hurd (Chairman)

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules 2020 (Revised Reprint 2021). The membership of the PCC for St. Mary the Virgin comprises the incumbent, churchwardens, the reader and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

The full PCC met in person nine times during the year, with an average level of attendance of 74%. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has 10 sub-committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life.

These sub-committees, comprising worship, evangelism and outreach, pastoral care, finance, charities, fabric, church hall, transformation, magazine and Fete & Bazaar, are all responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly with minutes of their decisions being received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary.

Administrative Information

St. Mary the Virgin is situated at the end of Chadley Lane, Godmanchester. It is part of the Diocese of Ely within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, 59 Post Street, Godmanchester, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE29 2AQ. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission (Charity no 1194684).

Members of the PCC are Trustees of the Charity. The PCC is required by law to prepare an annual report identifying the activities of the Church to further its charitable purposes for the public benefit, including a statement of accounts verified by an Independent Examiner. PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2023 until the date of this report was approved are:

Ex Officio members:

- Incumbent: The Reverend David Busk (Chairman)
- Honorary Curate: The Reverend Canon Jonathan Young
- Authorised Lay Minister and Church Warden: Jean Morgan (deceased Aug 2023)
- Church Warden (to October): Robert Hurd
- Church Warden (from October): Bill Templeton
- Church Warden (from October): Ruth Ekblom
- Representatives of the Laity on the Deanery Synod: Peter Morgan, Margaret Quaife

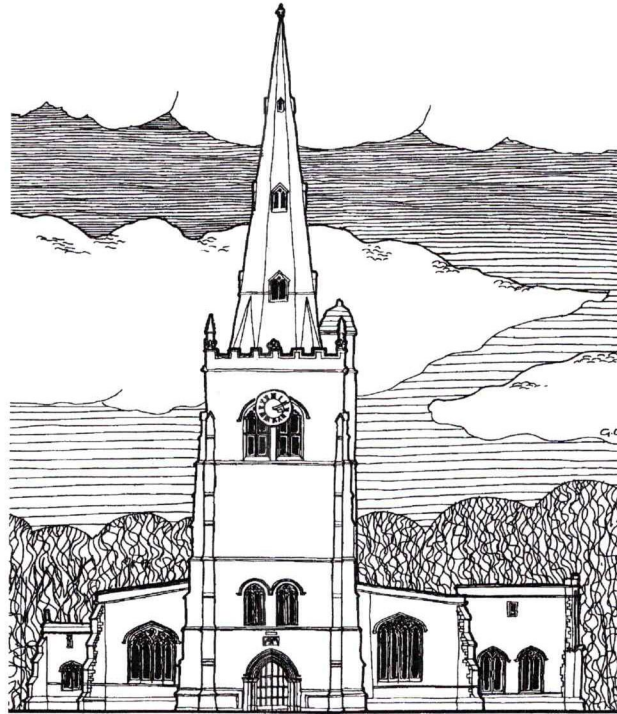
Elected members:

- Kate Robinson – PCC Secretary
- Lucilia Azevedo
- Robert Francis
- Nicholas Leigh Smith
- Kevin Parks
- Simon Prince
- Adrian Sington
- Colin Thirlwall
- Mike Westcott-Rudd

Approved by the PCC on 18 March 2024 and signed on their behalf by the Reverend David Busk (PCC chairman).



Church of St Mary the Virgin Godmanchester PCC



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ending

31ST December 2023



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN GODMANCHESTER

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 DECEMBER 2023

**Charity no
(if any)**

1194684

Set out on pages

1 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

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

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

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date: 15/03/2024

Name: GARY JOHN FORDHAM

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

INSTITUTE OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTANTS/FEDERATION OF TAX ADVISERS
MEMBERSHIP NUMBER 11621

Address:

7 TITHE CLOSE
HILTON
HUNTINGDON, PE28 9NR

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

ST MARY THE VIRGIN GODMANCHESTER PCC

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2023 Total	2022 Total
RECEIPTS							
Voluntary receipts							
Planned Giving	a	41,629				41,629	40,898
Collections at services	b	7,923				7,923	7,308
All other giving/voluntary receipts	c	5,871		359	1,847	8,077	20,619
Gift Aid recovered		12,049				12,049	14,559
Legacies		0				0	0
Grants (recurring and one-off inc VAT)	d	8,662				8,662	4,254
Activities for generating fund							
Church fundraising activities	e	4,939				4,939	4,412
Investment income							
Investment income	f	2,461		1,340		3,801	3,111
Church activities							
Fees retained		5,033				5,033	3,482
Trading activities	g	4,358	24,574			28,932	25,990
Other receipts/income							
Rebates	h	1,173				1,173	
Receipts for church organisations				1,839		1,839	1,759
TOTAL RECEIPTS		94,099	24,574	3,538	1,847	124,058	126,392
PAYMENTS							
Cost of generating funds							
Cost of fundraising activities	i	491	-	-	-	491	568
Church activities							
Mission & Charity Giving	j	1,337				1,337	2,778
Parish Share		70,186				70,186	67,447
Staff Expenses		370				370	289
Church expenses							
Mission and Evangelism	k	662				662	112
Church Running Expenses	l	23,140				23,140	16,938
Church insurance		8,446				8,446	7,679
Church utility bills		8,276				8,276	3,977
Church hall expenses		10,587				10,587	6,522
Cost of trading	m		765			765	205
Major capital expenditure							
Major Repairs to the church building	n	-	-	-	-	0	0
Major repairs to the church hall	o	-	-	-	-	0	0
New building work to church property	p	-	-	13,234		13,234	2,766
Other payments/expenditure							
Payments for church organisations	q	-	-	1,877	-	1,877	1,546
TOTAL PAYMENTS		123,496	765	15,110	0	139,372	110,828
NET RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS		(29,398)	23,809	(11,572)	1,847	(15,314)	15,564
REVALUATIONS							
Unrealised gain / (loss)							
CBF Fixed Interest Acc		527				527	(1,465)
Dorothy Allen Trust					7,567	7,567	(11,499)
CBF Sunday School Account				0		0	10
TOTAL REVALUATIONS		527	0	0	7,567	8,094	(12,954)
NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS/REVALUATIONS		(28,870)	23,809	(11,572)	9,414	(7,220)	2,610


**ST MARY THE VIRGIN GODMANCHESTER PCC
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2023**

ASSETS

	31 DEC 2023	31 DEC 2022	± in 2023
Cash Funds			
Petty Cash	213	72	141
Santander Bank (Current Account)	26,168	43,617	(17,449)
Plus cheques deposited but not cleared	0	526	
Less cheques issued but not presented	(1,930)	(3,303)	
	24,238	40,841	
Charity Aid Foundation Bank (Transformation Fund)	22,514	33,026	(10,512)
C of E Central Board of Finance Deposit Accounts			
CBF Contingency a/c CB3025094-001	22,475	11,641	10,834
CBF Development a/c CB3025096-001	10,985	10,644	341
	33,461	22,286	11,175
Total Bank accounts/cash	80,426	96,225	(15,799)
Trust Funds			
Dorothy Allen Trust Fund	92,114	84,547	7,567
Sunday School Trust Funds			
CBF114001/702D	940	940	0
CBF Fixed Interest Securities a/c CB3025095-001	9,976	9,449	527
CBF114001/103D	2,000	2,000	0
	105,030	96,936	8,094
TOTAL ASSETS	185,456	193,161	(7,705)
LIABILITIES			
Fees owing to Ely DBF	119.00	583.00	
Cheques issued but not presented	1,930	3,303	
Less cheques deposited but not cleared	0	(526)	
	2,049	3,360	(1,311)
NET ASSETS/LIABILITIES	183,407	189,801	(6,394)
FIXED ASSETS RETAINED FOR CHURCH USE			
Church hall and fittings	93,000	93,000	0
Storage shed & Church Hall shed	2,306	3,075	(769)
Piano	5,000	5,000	0
Set of handbells	3,000	3,000	0
Four lawnmowers, three strimmers one leaf blower	768	492	276
Video projection equipment	1,898	2,531	(633)
	105,972	107,098	(1,126)

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on March 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Revd DW Busk
Vicar and PCC Chairman

Signature 
Date 18/3/24

The notes on page 3 to 6 form part of this statement

**ST MARY THE VIRGIN GODMANCHESTER PCC
OPERATING FUNDS 2023**

	b/f from 2022	Receipts	Payments	Reval'n	c/f to 2024	± in 2023
Assets available (From Assets & Liabilities)						
Petty cash	72	2,994	2,854		213	141
Santander (net)	40,841	131,689	148,292		24,238	(16,603)
CBF Development Acc	10,644	341	0		10,985	341
CAF Transformation Acc	33,026	2,722	13,234		22,514	(10,512)
CBF Contingency Acc	11,641	10,834	0		22,475	10,834
TOTAL	96,225	148,580	164,379		80,426	(15,799)
Operating funds						
General Fund	23,640	91,535	89,919		25,256	1,616
Bellringers	1,979	1,480	1,260		2,199	220
Children's Church	98	212	272		38	(60)
Church Fabric	8,032	12,704	13,356		7,379	(653)
Church Hall	8,703	19,930	27,387		1,245	(7,457)
Churchyard & Mowers	1,050	4,644	4,765		929	(121)
Decorating Fund	8,011	1,000	0		9,011	1,000
Flower Guild	879	359	617		622	(257)
Friday at 5.15	32	359	389		1	(31)
Transformation Project	44,207	4,910	14,480		34,637	(9,570)
Agency Funds ⁽¹⁾	(407)	11,448	11,932		(892)	(485)
TOTAL	96,225	148,580	164,379	0	80,426	(15,799)

Operating Funds have both income and expenditure during the year and individual balances are carried forward to the start of the next year. When necessary, transfers are made between operating funds during the year.

Note (1) Agency Funds are funds that are handled by the church but are not part of the church income and expenditure and are not included in the church annual accounts. Examples are diocesan fees, fees for organists, verger or choir at weddings and funerals and collections at funerals for a nominated charity.

ST MARY THE VIRGIN GODMANCHESTER PCC
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2023

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with both the Charities Act 2011, on the Receipts and Payments Basis, and the Church of England accounting regulations

2 ANALYSIS OF FUND MOVEMENT FOR THE YEAR

(i) **UNRESTRICTED FUNDS** may be used by the PCC for any of its ordinary purposes. The movements in the fund are shown in the Receipts and Payments Account

FUND NAME	FUND PURPOSE	Bal 1 Jan	Receipts	Payments	Bal 31 Dec
General funds	Gereal use by PCC	23,640	91,709	99,508	25,256
		23,640	91,535	89,919	25,256

(ii) **DESIGNATED FUNDS** represent funds set aside, out of ordinary unrestricted funds, for specific designated purposes, but they can be transferred back into general funds at any time

FUND NAME	FUND PURPOSE	Bal 1 Jan	Receipts	Payments	Bal 31 Dec
Church Hall	Maintain hall	8,703	19,930	27,387	1,245
Decorating fund	Church redecoration	8,011	1,000	0	9,011
Churchyard & Mowers	Maintain church surrounds	1,050	4,644	4,765	929
Friday at 5.15	Mission and Evangelism	32	359	389	1
		17,796	25,933	32,542	11,186

(iii) **RESTRICTED FUNDS** represent either income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objectives provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, or donations or grants received or invited for a specific purpose. The funds may only be spent on the specific purpose for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent must be carried forward as a balance on that fund and cannot be absorbed into general funds.

FUND NAME	FUND PURPOSE	Bal 1 Jan	Receipts	Payments	Bal 31 Dec
Transformation Fund	Church Transformation Project	44,207	4,910	14,480	34,637
Sunday School	Fund Children's Church	98	212	272	38
		44,306	5,122	14,752	34,675

(iv) **ENDOWMENT FUNDS** are funds whose capital must be maintained: only income arising from the investment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending on the purpose for which the endowment was established

FUND NAME	FUND PURPOSE	Bal 1 Jan	Receipts	Payments	Bal 31 Dec
Dorothy Allen Trust	50% fabric, remainder unrestricted	0	2,469	2,469	0
Sunday School Invest	Religious education	0	20	20	0
		0	2,489	2,489	0

(v) **FUNDS LODGED IN THE CHURCH ACCOUNTS** are funds belonging to church organisations that are lodged in the church accounts.

FUND NAME	FUND PURPOSE	Bal 1 Jan	Receipts	Payments	Bal 31 Dec
Bell Ringers Fund	Tower maintenance	1,979	1,480	1,260	2,199
Flower Guild Fund	Church flowers	879	359	617	622
		2,858	1,839	1,877	2,821

3 TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

From	To	Amount
Church Hall	Gen Funds	15,800
Church hall	Decorating Fund	1,000
Churchyard & Mowers	Fabric Fund	4,000

ST MARY THE VIRGIN GODMANCHESTER PCC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2023

4. ANALYSIS OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ITEMS

RECEIPTS	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2023 Total	2022 Total
Notes						
a) Planned giving						
BACS donations (regular)	1,620	-	-	-	1,620.00	1,823
Free-will envelopes	2,894	-	-	-	2,894.16	3,008
Parish giving	26,955	-	-	-	26,954.77	24,498
Standing orders/DDs	10,160	-	-	-	10,160.00	11,570
	41,629	-	-	-	41,628.93	40,898
b) Collections at services						
Baptisms	352	-	-	-	352.10	298
Funerals	334	-	-	-	334.00	324
House communion	147	-	-	-	147.30	172
Regular Sunday services	4,968	-	-	-	4,968.22	4,581
Special Services	1,878	-	-	-	1,877.58	1,790
Weddings	244	-	-	-	244.03	142
	7,923	-	-	-	7,923.23	7,308
c) All other giving/voluntary receipts						
Donations	3,484	-	2,206	-	5,690.00	16,864
Gift day	2,387	-	-	-	2,387.00	3,755
	5,871	-	2,206	-	8,077.00	20,619
d) Grants (recurring and one-off)						
VAT Recovered	3,662	-	-	-	3,661.59	1,306
External Grants	-	-	-	-	0.00	600
Friends of St Mary's	-	5,000	-	-	5,000.00	2,348
	3,662	5,000	0	-	8,661.59	4,254
e) Fundraising activities						
Summer fete	2,117	-	-	-	2,116.65	2,324
Come and Sing	360	-	-	-	359.50	0
Christmas bazaar	2,463	-	-	-	2,463.00	2,088
	4,939	-	-	-	4,939.15	4,412
f) Investment income						
CBF Contingency acc	619	-	-	-	619.03	150
CBF Fixed interest acc	215	-	-	-	215.02	272
CBF Development acc	-	-	341	-	341.15	138
CAF Bank Interest	-	-	58	-	58.08	27
Dorothy Allen Trust	1,228	-	1,228	-	2,456.09	2,504
Sunday School Investments	-	-	112	-	112.09	20
	2,062	0	1,739	-	3,801.46	3,111
g) Trading activities						
Church hire	640	-	-	-	640.00	1,525
Hall letting	-	19,930	-	-	19,930.00	17,120
Literature sales	20	-	0	0	20.00	0
Magazine sales & advertising	2,778	-	-	-	2,778.00	1,829
Sunday Coffee	729	-	-	-	729.33	533
Book sales	191	-	-	-	190.85	526
Grasscutting contract	-	4,644	-	-	4,644.00	4,457
	4,358	24,574	-	-	28,932.18	25,990
h) Other receipts/income						
Utility rebate	1,143	-	-	-	1,142.81	
Data Dev Online accounts rebate	30	-	-	-	30.00	
Bellringers	-	-	1,480	-	1,480.00	1,168
Flower Guild	-	-	359	-	359.30	591
	1,173	-	1,839	-	3,012.11	1,759

ST MARY THE VIRGIN GODMANCHESTER PCC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2023

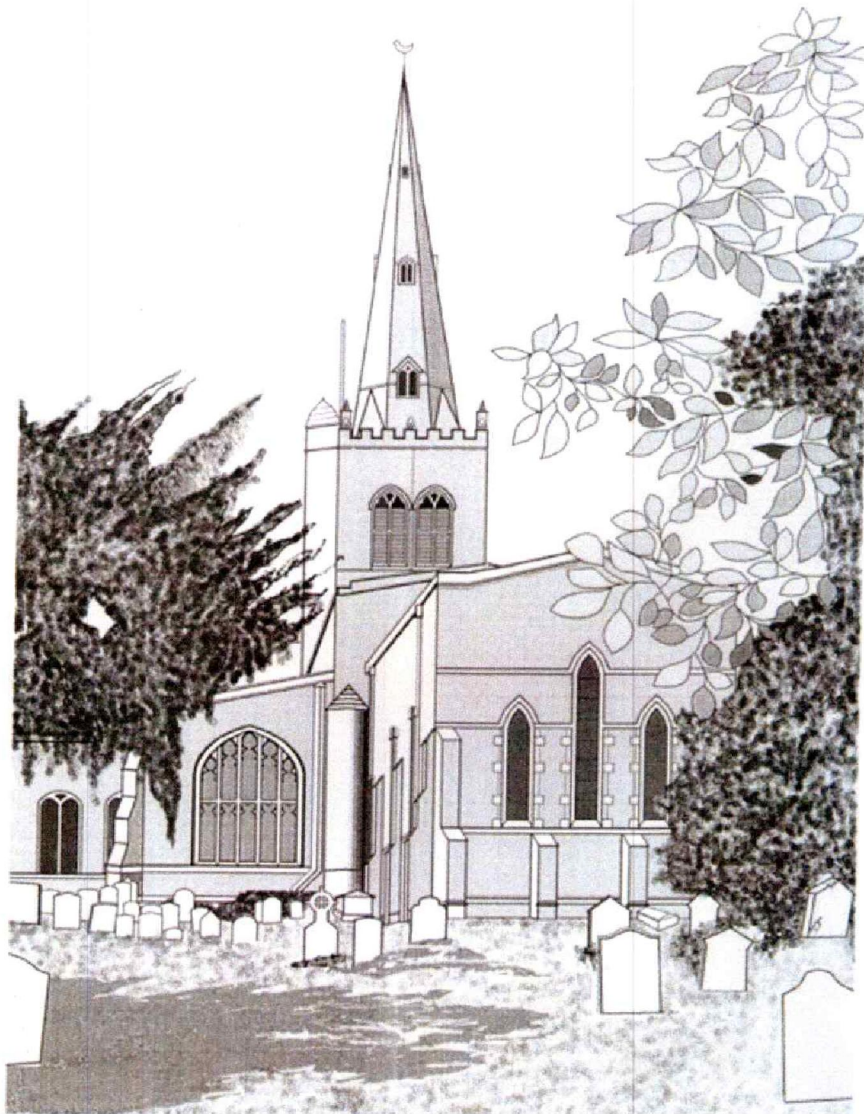
4. ANALYSIS OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ITEMS

PAYMENTS	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2023 Total	2022 Total
i) Cost of fundraising activities						
Fete & bazaar	420	-	-	-	420.00	444
Donation envelopes	71	-	-	-	71.20	124
	<u>491</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>491.20</u>	<u>568</u>
j) Mission & charity giving						
Christmas charities	900	-	-	-	900.00	1,344
Service charities	77	-	-	-	76.55	177
Mayor of Godma					-	169
Other charities	360	-	-	-	360.00	1,088
	<u>1,337</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,336.55</u>	<u>2,778</u>
k) Mission & evangelism						
Children's church	272	-	-	-	272.47	143
Grub, Games and God			389		389.38	(32)
Othe donations			-		-	169
	<u>272</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>389</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>661.85</u>	<u>281</u>
l) Church running expenses						
Admin	4,649	-	-	-	4,648.89	5,052
Altar requirements	380	-	-	-	380.32	240
Auditor fee	255	-	-	-	255.00	240
Maintenance	16,903	-	-	-	16,903.20	8,506
Organ & choir	559	-	-	-	559.00	2,504
Misc	394	-	-	-	394.03	396
	<u>23,140</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23,140.44</u>	<u>16,938</u>
m) Cost of trading						
Mower expenses		765	-	-	765.25	117
Cost of goods (Coffee)	0	-	-	-	-	88
	<u>0</u>	<u>765</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>765.25</u>	<u>205</u>
n) Major repairs to church building						
Church fabric					-	0
o) Major repairs to church hall	-	-	-	-	-	
p) New building work to church property						
Transformation project	-	-	13,234	-	13,233.62	2,766
q) Other payments and expenditure						
Bellringers	-	-	1,260	-	1,260.00	855
Flower Guild	-	-	617	-	616.74	691
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,877</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,876.74</u>	<u>1,546</u>

Accounts



The Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin Godmanchester



2022 ANNUAL REPORT



2022 Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of St. Mary the Virgin, Godmanchester

Aims and Purposes

St. Mary the Virgin's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend David Busk, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral - *to look after individual people*; evangelistic - *to tell the people the Good News and to invite them to accept it*; social - *to help the poorer members of society, and those suffering from racial, economic and other forms of injustice*; and ecumenical - *to encourage good relations with other Christian denominations*. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church Hall in Chadley Lane.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St. Mary the Virgin. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St. Mary the Virgin and the adjacent Church Hall.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

The PCC is committed to providing a wide and varied range of services throughout the year to engage with as many in the community as possible. Our regular Sunday services of Holy Communion or Morning Prayer, Sung Eucharist (with healing once monthly) and Evensong or Evening Prayer, are occasionally supplemented by a Family Eucharist, Parish Praise or a Taizé service. There is also a Holy Communion on a Thursday morning.

For 2022 we thankfully found ourselves able to hold our services in church following the countrywide reduction in COVID-19 virus cases. The popularity of Zoom services (especially amongst those who find it difficult to attend church) meant that we continued with

a Holy Communion via Zoom at 2.30pm on a Wednesday and a regular 6.30pm Compline every day except Sunday. We also held a bible study group on Zoom each Friday throughout the year.

We welcome everyone to our services and normally enjoy a well-attended Children's Church, although our youth group is currently in abeyance. There are currently 104 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll and our Sunday attendance figures have yet to fully recover post-COVID. Communion was available in one kind only this year. The church remained open each day for private prayer and visitors.

Normally our church affords the community a chance to give thanks to God for those special moments throughout life when we gather to celebrate baptism, marriage or the life of a departed loved one. This year we were able to celebrate 4 weddings and 6 baptisms in the church. There were 16 funerals, one memorial Eucharist and 7 burial of ashes.

Deanery Synod

Our church is represented on the Deanery Synod by three members of the congregation who also sit on the PCC. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

The Church and Church Hall

We envision our church building becoming the focal point for a greater number of community activities in the future and have a Transformation Project in progress that will see the removal of the fixed pews to create space and the introduction of kitchen and toilet facilities as well as a mezzanine floor with room to house the local museum securely.

The south door to the church is opened every day for visitors and private prayer. Our visitors Book (removed during COVID) returned in April and recorded 134 entries from individuals, families and groups over 8 months. Many overseas visitors from Australia, Canada, Croatia, France, New Zealand, Philippines, Poland, South Africa and USA were recorded.

For one week in September the church hosted a Book of Condolence following the death of her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. During that week 188 people signed the Book of Condolence and 12 entries with 20 names also appeared in our visitor book.

Disabled access is currently available via the north door only for services and other major events. The building is already a venue for talks, concerts, the Summer Fete (when the weather is inclement), the Christmas Bazaar and Flower and other church festivals. The church is used for music concerts, displays, film shows and historical presentations to the community and has hosted the GMC Town Show. There are also regular educational visits from the local schools.

The church hall, a wooden building purchased by the PCC, in 1938 is in reasonably good structural order, adequately maintained and well equipped. The cost of running and maintaining the hall is met by the income from a contract with a day nursery which uses the facilities every weekday from 8am to 6.30pm and several external organisations that hire the building in evenings and at the weekend. The rental income provides a welcome addition to church funds.

Pastoral Care

Reaching out to those housebound, in hospital or care homes and ensuring them that their St. Mary's family cares for them, and is praying for them, has been an important part of our pastoral care.

We are blessed to have a number of people in the congregation who like carrying out visiting. At the same time, Jonathan Young and Jean Morgan work tirelessly to ensure that anyone at home may receive the sacraments. Members of the team do shopping, give lifts to church and help the housebound as necessary. We find that people are most appreciative of visits, and it is frequently a joyous experience, as much for the visitor as for the visited. If any members of the congregation are aware of anyone in need of help please do not be afraid to ask. Alternatively, if you would like to join us on the team that would be wonderful too. Liz Irving 01480 382144 (Pastoral Care Co-ordinator).

Mission and Evangelism

We believe that the Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Godmanchester, exists to build up the individual and corporate spiritual life of our Church and to spread the love of Christ through word and deed, by enabling those who live and work within our town to come into contact with God's love and come to faith in Christ.

Group for Evangelism & Outreach (GEO) is responsible for reviewing and recommending the development of evangelism and outreach in the mission of the church, including changes to the Mission Action Plan to incorporate the new Diocesan Vision. Our latest outreach to the community has focussed on bringing families together once a month on a Friday at 5.15pm for 'Games, Grub and God' which is proving to be a popular event.

Ecumenical Relationships

The incumbent priest is also responsible for St. Mary's Church, Hilton and we normally join them twice a year in a shared service. Members from the Hilton congregation often join those in Godmanchester for weekly worship and special services.

The church is a member of 'Churches Together in Huntingdon and Godmanchester' and we have joined for events and services each year, such as Worship in the Park during Gala Weekend and the Act of Remembrance in November. All Godmanchester churches also join together in publicising our Christmas services.

Financial Review

Although the effects of COVID were still present during 2022 we ended the year with a shortfall of just £23 in our General Fund. This was due in no small part to the support of those who donate through regular, planned giving (£40,896 during 2022), the generosity of our congregation on Gift Day (£3,755) and our fête and bazaar which raised over £2,000 each. Grants totalling £2,348 from the Friends of St Mary's towards the cost of fabric maintenance and £600 from Ely Diocese towards the massive increase in utility costs all helped to keep the account on an even keel. Our 'Trading Activities', which include the hire of the church hall, magazine sales and advertisements and our grass cutting contract, raised £25,990 towards our church funds. The £17,120 raised from hire of the church hall made it self-sufficient in terms of utilities, repairs and maintenance and also provided £7,800 for General Funds and £1,000 for the Decorating Fund. We now have 38 members of our

congregation donating through the Parish Giving scheme which collects the direct debits for each parish, claims the Gift Aid and pays the total into our bank account. It also gives the option of increasing donations to match annual inflation. I would encourage anyone who wishes to donate regularly to use this scheme. Please contact the treasurer for details. Colin Thirlwall (Hon Treasurer).

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to maintain reserves which equates to at least three months expenditure. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergency payments. For St Mary's this is around £28,000. The reserves held in unrestricted and designated funds less liabilities at year end was £59,287, well in excess of the minimum required. This included designated funds of £25,796 held in the Church Hall, Church Fabric, Churchyard and Mowers and Decorating Fund and £10,913 in unrestricted funds held in a Central Board of Finance fixed interest account.

Unrestricted funds can be used by the PCC for any purpose. Designated Funds are nominated by the PCC for a specific purpose e.g. Church Hall, Fabric, Decoration, but can be returned to the General Fund at the discretion of the PCC.

Optional Information

Volunteers

We are indebted to the many people and groups who support St. Mary the Virgin throughout the year in so many ways. The following reports in alphabetical order cover just some of the many activities that have been achieved during 2022 in spite of the adverse conditions that we have again had to endure.

If your group supporting church life would like to have its achievements included in the 2023 edition of the Annual PCC Report, please contact Jim Heeley on jskc@btinternet.com by Sunday 7th January 2024.

Bell Ringers

Godmanchester bells played their part in celebrating the Platinum Jubilee of Her Late Majesty the Queen and in marking her death. A quarter peal was rung on the first morning of the Jubilee Weekend (2nd June), the funeral bell was rung the day after Her Late Majesty's death and leading up to her funeral. The bells were rung fully muffled during the mourning period, in particular for the Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving.

Technically, there are only five Godmanchester ringers, but we are co-operating very closely with the Huntingdon ringers – typically, a few Huntingdon ringers will ring at Godmanchester for the 9.30am service and then a few Godmanchester ringers will ring for Huntingdon's 10.30am service. In this way, there have been very few occasions when Sunday morning ringing has had to be cancelled. Problems arise, however, on important occasions, such as Christmas Eve when services clash, and we were only able to ring at Godmanchester for the 6pm Carol Service. Similarly, we could only ring five bells for the Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for her Late Majesty.

Although during the year, one of our ringers moved out of the area and another went to university, we have maintained our number by recruiting and training two new ringers. Again, Huntingdon have helped by playing a large part in their training. In November, we changed our practice times so that we could practice jointly with Huntingdon – practices at Godmanchester are now on the second Tuesday of the month, other Tuesday practices being held in Huntingdon. Formerly, Godmanchester and Hemingford Grey were holding joint practices alternating between the two towers. However, by convention, bell ringers from any tower are welcome at any practice and, at our practices we now benefit from the help of a number of experienced ringers from around the district.

During the past year, we have rung for three weddings and two funerals, notably that of Dai Morgan. We have hosted a quarter peal, rung for February's evensong service, and a district-wide advanced practice, held on a Saturday morning. The treble bell suffered both its clapper falling out and a broken stay. The tenor rope was discovered to have been too frayed to ring an in memoriam peal for Her Late Majesty. All of these have been repaired.

The bell ringers participated in the Church's fundraising by providing a hamper for the grand draw at the Christmas Bazaar. Charles Looker.

Charities

Our fundraising activities returned to normal in 2022, and over £6,300 was raised by the Church and the Charities Committee through various events and activities.

In April we held a quiz night for Maya Parish in Uganda which raised over £600, and a collection at Christmas raised £160 for food hampers for Maya. A BBQ in July also raised over £600 for the Mashambanzou Care Trust in Zimbabwe, which supports children orphaned as the result of HIV/AIDS.

Several Coffee & Croissants and Bacon Butties events were held after the 9.30am service, raising over £300 for Service Charities, which was topped up to £400 from church funds, and £200 for Thrive, a charity established by the Diocese, which provides support, counselling and mentoring of young people in the Huntingdon area.

To support our usual Christmas Charities, we sent the proceeds from our Christmas Service collections, with a contribution from church funds, to Jimmy's Cambridge - £400; Cruse Bereavement Care - £200; East Anglia Children's Hospice - £150, and The Children's Society - £100.

A retiring collection in March and the Jubilee Concert in June raised nearly £1,950 for Ukraine, with some members of the congregation making donations directly to take advantage of Gift Aid.

A new initiative was the Christmas Tree Festival, where about 25 local organisations and businesses bought and decorated Christmas Trees. The trees were displayed in the church over the Christmas period, starting with the official opening on Sunday 18th December when the church was full of people who enjoyed the trees, entertainment provided by local children and mulled wine. £1,600 was raised, which was divided equally between Thrive and the GMC Food Bank.

In conclusion I would like to thank the members of the Charities Committee for their hard work during the year and also for coming up with new ideas for fundraising, which in the case of the Christmas Tree Festival really caught the imagination of the community. Robert Francis.

Children's Church

Children's Church currently consists of 12 families who regularly attend, with other children and adults who join us on occasions. The sessions, run during the 9.30am Communion Service, are shared by a team of 9 leaders and 1 young leader.

In the last year Children's Church has continued to become more involved during the Parish Communion Service, both with leading prayers, taking part in the collection, taking the elements up to the altar and reading or sometimes dramatizing the Gospel! We again were very busy on Christmas Eve running the Nativity Service at 4pm, with all our families taking part including the debut performance of our youngest member playing Baby Jesus! We have also run stalls at both the Christmas Bazaar and summer fête helping to raise funds for church.

A big thank you to all the parents, grandparents and family members who help out every week and make my job of organising Children's Church a pleasure. Paula Williams.

Church Hall

Throughout the year the hall remained busy, and the income it derives from Clarence House Pre-School Nursery continues to be an important part of our church income. Casual bookings have been buoyant, and the WI monthly booking on a Wednesday evening is another long stay commitment alongside those from the Godmanchester Garden and Camera clubs. It is pleasing to note that well-established organisations in the town are happy with our facilities when there is so much competition from elsewhere. Word has got around that the hall is a good venue for children's parties – why have noise and mess at home when you can have it elsewhere? – and the special rates we offer families with youngsters in the Children's Church make the hall an even more attractive proposition.

During the year the kitchen was painted and decorated and the wooden floor in the hall given its annual coat of varnish during the nursery's Christmas closure. A welcome surprise during the year has been the increase in the number of parishioners staying on in the hall for coffee after the 9.30am Eucharist. Thank you to all the volunteers on the coffee rota who make this possible, and to the ladies on the Charities Committee who provide croissants or bacon butties at various times throughout the year.

Looking ahead, a concern for the Treasurer will be paying the hall's rising heating bills during the energy crisis, but we are managing so far. Liz and Peter Irving.

Churchyard Grass Cutters

The maintenance of the churchyard is the responsibility of the Town Council, and St Mary's has a contract from the Council to cut the grass, which provides useful income to the church.

Our intrepid team of grass cutters kept the churchyard looking tidy throughout the year. The churchyard covers about two acres, which is divided into 15 plots, and we have 11 volunteers, including four ladies, who look after this area.

The system is very flexible: volunteers cut their patch at a time to suit themselves, and mowers, kept in tip-top condition by Gordon Peacock, and fuel are provided. We are always on the lookout for more volunteers, so if you are interested in helping please contact me. Robert Francis (Organiser).

Fabric Committee

The following is a list of work completed in 2022 to maintain the fabric of the church and its surrounds in addition to routine annual maintenance:

- Repairs to the external security lights and, where possible, replacement of lamps with more eco-friendly LED versions. (£378)
- Replacement of the sump-pump in the boiler room. (£468 – funded by a grant from the Friends of St Mary's)
- Replacement radio mike and lead (£144)
- Re-oiling, repairs and improvements to the south and west doors including new locks on the west door as recommended by our architect. (£3,706)
- Bearing replacement and re-winding of the organ blower motor. (£1,770 – funded by a grant from the Friends of St Mary's)
- A survey of the soakaway system in the churchyard to determine work required to reinstate the fresh-water drainage from the church roof (this was mentioned in the 2021 report). Anglian drainage produced a comprehensive report that indicated significant damage and blockages to the system caused by tree roots and silt. This was particularly evident near the leaning conifer tree. Subsequently, our tree surgeon recommended that the tree be removed because of its danger to individuals and property and also the extent of root damage to the soakaways. (This work will be processed through Ely Diocese for a faculty and Godmanchester Town Council who manage the churchyard).
- Grass and weed removal from the land adjacent to the church building completed in spring and autumn. (£123.50)
- Repairs to the lamps over the churchyard gates. (£148 – repaid by GMC Town council)
- The quinquennial inspection was completed by our newly appointed Inspecting Architect. This was a second inspection as the report from the previous inspection in 2019 was not received by our church or diocese. The cost of these inspection is borne by Ely Diocese.
- Five yearly mandatory electrical survey of the church and church hall (£318)

The total spent on routine maintenance and other work in 2022 was £10,275. This was reduced by over £2,000 with the grants from the Friends of St Mary's.

The above figures include VAT which is reclaimable under the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme.

The Fabric Committee also maintains a decorating fund with the aim of building enough reserves to re-decorate the church every 25 years or so. This currently stands at £8,010 (31 Dec 2022). (Fabric Committee)

Facebook

The Facebook page has been used to advertise key events in the church diary throughout the year.

The Facebook page is mostly used for enquiries relating to having baptisms and weddings in church, but also genealogical searches from as far-a-field as Australia. This is because

I can receive private messages via the page and some people prefer to communicate through Facebook rather than any other means.

Please, if there is anything happening in connection with the church - and especially if there is a poster for it - can the information/poster be forwarded to me so that I can place it on Facebook? Please email Facebook content to thefool1981@hotmail.com. Katie Keightley (Facebook Manager).

Flower Guild

The aim of Flower Guild members is to enhance the church with floral arrangements throughout the year and especially for the major church festivals of Easter, Harvest, and Christmas. This we achieved in 2022 with the addition of colourful displays in red, white and blue plants and flowers to celebrate the special occasion of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Other events included the provision of bunches of daffodils for Mothering Sunday and in July arrangements for a wedding.

Our current membership is 23 and we always welcome new members, no previous experience of flower arranging is required. Barbara Thirlwall (Secretary) and Debbie Watts (Wedding co-ordinator).

Lesson Readers

On most Sundays of the year one or two set lessons from the Old and New Testaments are read in church by members of the congregation.

A team of four people organise the readers each week: each member of the team does a 2-month 'tour of duty', before handing over to the next team member.

At present there are about 40 readers on the readers list, and we thank them all for their service. New readers are always welcome. If you would like to join the list, please contact one of the organisers: Anne Francis, Bill Templeton, David Bowers (07757 804747), or Lauren Hurst, who will gladly add your name to the list. David Bowers (Lead Organiser).

Magazine

For the 10th year in a row our Parish News magazine continued to be published at the cover price of 50p. In the autumn the committee met in person and welcomed Peter Morgan to join us. As the production costs have increased the decision was made to increase the cover price of the magazine to 75p per issue from January 2023. This will be a significant increase, however, it was felt that in comparison to other similar publications we were charging considerably less.

In conjunction with next year's price increase the layout will be changed to include an additional puzzle page. The advertising prices will also increase following discussion with Robert Francis. This included after consultation with David Busk to use the back page of the magazine for a colour advert.

Thanks to the committee, Anne Francis and the distributors, Robert Francis for the advertising and Gill Bathurst-Hoile for the Prayer Calendar, and to all of the contributors. Anna Page (Editor).

Music

This was another difficult year for church music with the ongoing effects of COVID restricting attendance for several of our choir and augmenters, so choir attendance at some services was limited. Nevertheless, we provided a strong choir for one wedding, two funerals/memorial services, including the memorial service for our own Dai Morgan, one of

our long-serving tenors, and also our festival services. The support of our regular augmenters for these major events was particularly appreciated. We do encourage anyone with an interest in church music to join our choir, either as a regular singer or augments to support the choir for special services. Please speak to Colin or Ken if you are interested.

In addition to our regular church music St Mary's hosted concerts by the Huntingdonshire Philharmonic Choir, Somersham Town Band, Harmonia Singers with Junior Prime Brass and the 60th Anniversary concert of Huntingdon Male Voices, supported by 'Military Wives Choirs' Wyton & Brampton, Riverport Singers and Westfield Junior School Choir. Colin Thirlwall (Organist & Choirmaster).

Safeguarding

There have been no reported safeguarding incidents involving St Mary's Church, which continues to regard the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults as paramount in all of its activities. During the last year, a large proportion of the PCC and some other members of the church family involved with child activities or with vulnerable adults, were revalidated with new DBS certificates, which are now valid for a 3 year period. Online training courses continue to be available for free for anyone interested to find out how the Church protects its community. Anyone with any questions can contact me, Simon Prince (Parish Safeguarding Officer).

Sidespersons

The number of Sidespersons increased to fifteen during the year; however, after very many years' service John & Bizz decided to step down although they still help out at special events. We were strengthened with Marian, Cathy and John joining the team.

The fifteen people who have been doing duty at the 9.30 Services in 2022 are Joan Adams, Cathy Barr, Lynn Batchelor, Liz Callaghan, Daphne Dobson, Malcolm & Rita Harris, Marian Makin, Karen Molloy, Peter & Jennie Morgan, John Newton, Jean Nicholls, Gordon Peacock and Arthur West.

Anyone wishing to join the Sidesperson Team, where you would normally be on duty once every seven weeks, please contact Peter Morgan – Lead Sidesperson.

Street Prayer Mission

We continue our Street Prayer Mission through our intercessions in church at a Sunday Eucharist. A list of streets to be prayed for appears monthly in our Parish Magazine and weekly in the Newsletter. We also include a street each week from our sister parish of Hilton and additional streets from new developments in Godmanchester are included as residents move in.

Summer Fête & Christmas Bazaar

Our Summer Fête was held on Saturday 25 June among the trees in the churchyard. With the relaxing of Covid restrictions we were able to socialise and enjoy the music of the Thrapston Town Band while supporting the church life through the many stalls. The Christmas Bazaar on 26 November raise a significant amount of money for church funds through the usual stalls and the ever-popular Grand Draw for which church organisations provided Christmas Hampers. Christmas music was provided by a contingent from Somersham town Band.

The Friends of St. Mary's Godmanchester

The mandate of the Friends is to raise money by putting on events to help maintain the fabric of the church and to raise money for the Transformation Project.

Over the course of the year the Committee of the Friends met 10 times and we had a number of successful events:

A wonderful Valentine's Day film night, this time in the church where we showed the ironic romantic comedy 'Singing in the Rain' to a great reception helped I'm sure by Jan Tilden's delicious and plentiful Shepherd's Pie and Sticky Toffee Pudding. Washed down by our house red and white wines. A record £1,117 was raised.

I would also like to put on record our thanks to Sir Mark Prescott for his donation of £500 to the Transformation Fund following an event at The Godmanchester Museum which featured Lady Mayors of Godmanchester – one of which was Sir Mark's Great Aunt.

With the kind permission of Grace and Christopher Vane Percy we were able to repeat the successful Jazz on the Island on 6th August and by any measure it exceeded the previous one, raising the astonishing sum of £3,233 – and oh what fun we had!

On 22nd October we had our most successful film night ever where we showed *Operation Mincemeat* starring Colin Firth which raised £1,259.

So over the course of the year we raised nearly £7,000 donated £6,206 to the Transformation Project, paid £1,770 for the Organ Blower overhaul and £390 for a new sump pump

And I would like to end by thanking the Trustees of The Friends Colin Thirlwall, Christopher Vane Percy, Sue Worthington, Nick Leigh-Smith, Anja Busk, and our esteemed treasurer and secretary David Bowers and Kate Sington for their work in keeping the show on the road with diligence and immense enthusiasm. It really is a pleasure to chair such a fantastic group of people. Adrian Sington (Chairman).

The Upper Room

During the financial year of 2022/2023 a total of £1,386.06 was raised from which £1,308.22 have been paid into the Church funds for the Transformation Project. The remaining £72.38 is kept, as a float for future events.

As my health issues are increasing, I am looking into more suitable ways to keep raising funds for our so much needed project. This includes keeping a stall at the church a few days per week to attract possible buyers. I also plan to return to car boot markets, as soon as possible. However, probably not so often.

If there is anyone crazy like me who wants to be my partner on the market, you would be very welcome. I promise there is nothing boring in it. Also, I would like you to know that the items I am not able to sell have been donated to Wood Green, as this is a Charity from our Town. In the meantime, I would like to say thank you to all of you who continue donating items to the Upper room. Without your help I would not be able to do what I do. Thank you and God bless. Lucilia Azevedo.

Transformation Project

Having had our application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) rejected in 2021, the majority of 2022 was spent trying to determine the HLF's latest criteria and adjust our bid accordingly as they seemed to have moved the goalposts since our original application. The emphasis was now on repairs to historic buildings and community-based projects. Places of worship seemed to be out of fashion. It was suggested by our funding advisors that to improve our

chances of a grant we should reduce our bid to the HLF to nearer £800K rather than the full cost of the project and we continued work on that basis with a requirement for more funding from local and smaller grantors. To reduce ongoing costs we put our contract with our Funding Consultants on hold.

Several events in 2022 slowed work down:

- The massive increase in the cost of raw materials and labour made our original Budget Estimate from 2018 invalid and our quantity surveyors were invited, through our architect, to revise their estimate.
- Our architect left Caroe Architecture to join Thomas Ford & Partners. We agreed to retain her as our architect so the contract was re-negotiated with the new company.
- Communication remained difficult because of the effects of COVID, with many organisations working from home and individuals not available for discussion. The use of Zoom provided some useful meetings.

The revised budget estimate gave a project cost of around £1.4M against the previous £1.25M. This compounded our problems with any HLF application and, although we had rejected the idea earlier, we decided to revisit the possibility of splitting the project into two phases. Phase 1 would be the west end, including the toilets, offices and space for the Godmanchester museum in the upper room in the tower with Phase 2 being the removal of the main nave pews, fitting underfloor heating with a level stone floor and, ideally, replace the boiler with a greener alternative. We therefore asked our architect to examine this proposal, but the estimated cost of Phase 1 was just over £1M and nowhere near our £800K target. Work will continue through 2023 to develop alternative options to spread the fundraising task even more while achieving the same objective. Colin Thirlwall (Project Lead).

Website

The most dynamic parts of the website are the Calendar, the Vicar's Mailings and the Newsletter/Diary all of which change every week. The Calendar has details of all the services as well as other meetings about Church life.

2022 VIEWS												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
432	440	551	727	781	767	445	525	914	703	1,050	1,380	8,715

	VIEWS	VISITORS
2019	10,633	3,055
2020	6,445	2,162
2021	7,573	2,760
2022	8,715	2,953

2022 TOP POSTS		2021
In-person services	3,146	2,997
Calendar	1,338	966
Contact	391	440
Newsletter	602	396
Buildings + Facilities	276	298
Zoom Services & Meetings	0	297
Church Matters	247	250
Vicar's Mailings	463	173

Any suggestions as to how the website can be improved are gratefully received. Also can all heads of department keep me informed as to any changes to their regular meetings etc. Adrian Sington.

Wives' Group

We continue to meet although not in the same format; as our numbers are small we are now meeting at members' homes in the afternoon during winter and will return to evening meetings when the nights are lighter.

We served teas at the Fête in the summer and the Christmas Bazaar in November; helped by members of the congregation who made cakes etc.

Speakers for the group have been put on hold as Covid- although better, still was about. We hope to welcome speakers to our meetings next summer. Olwyn Hurd (Chairman).

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules 2020 (Revised Reprint 2021). The membership of the PCC for St. Mary the Virgin comprises the incumbent, churchwardens, the reader and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

The full PCC met nine times during the year, four in person and all others via Zoom, with an average level of attendance of 84%. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has 10 sub-committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life.

These sub-committees, comprising worship, evangelism and outreach, pastoral care, finance, charities, fabric, church hall, transformation, magazine and Fete & Bazaar, are all responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly with minutes of their decisions being received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary.

Administrative Information

St. Mary the Virgin is situated at the end of Chadley Lane, Godmanchester. It is part of the Diocese of Ely within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, 59 Post Street, Godmanchester, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE29 2AQ. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission (Charity no 1194684).

Members of the PCC are Trustees of the Charity. The PCC is required by law to prepare an annual report identifying the activities of the Church to further its charitable purposes for the public benefit, including a statement of accounts verified by an Independent Examiner.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2022 until the date of this report was approved are:

Ex Officio members:

- Incumbent: The Reverend David Busk (Chairman)
- Honorary Curate: The Reverend Canon Jonathan Young
- Authorised Lay Minister and Church Warden: Jean Morgan
- Authorised Lay Minister: Gillian Bathurst Hoile
- Church Warden: Robert Hurd
- Representatives of the Laity on the Deanery Synod: Peter Morgan, Margaret Quaife

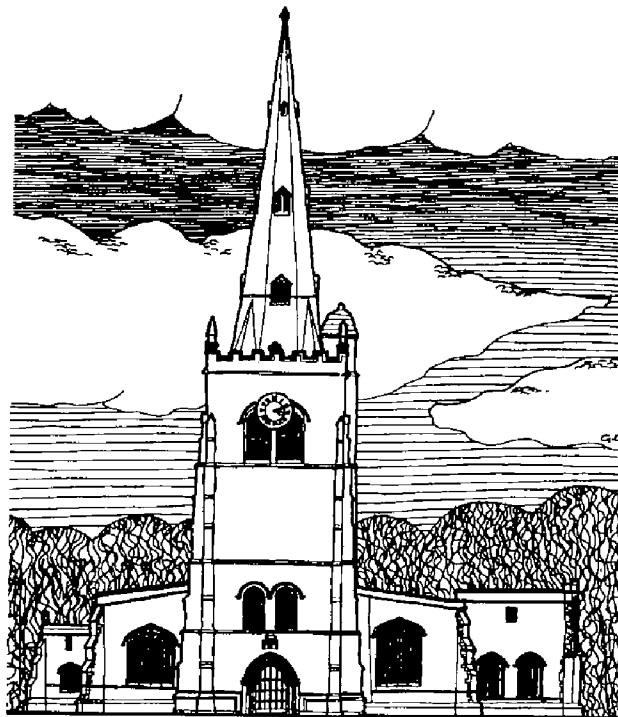
Elected members:

- Kate Robinson – PCC Secretary
- Adrian Sington
- Simon Prince
- Lucilia Azevedo
- Lauren Hurst
- Nicholas Leigh Smith
- Robert Francis
- Kevin Parks
- Colin Thirlwall

Approved by the PCC on 27 April 2023 and signed on their behalf by the Reverend David Busk (PCC chairman).



**Church of St Mary the Virgin
Godmanchester PCC**



**FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS**

For the year ending

31ST December 2022



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN GODMANCHESTER

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 DECEMBER 2022

**Charity no
(if any)**

1194684

Set out on pages

1

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2022

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

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

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

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date:

16/02/2023

Name:

GARY JOHN FORDHAM

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

INSTITUTE OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTANTS/FEDERATION OF TAX ADVISERS.
MEMBERSHIP NO. 11621

Address:

7 TITHE CLOSE

HILTON

HUNTINGDON, PE28 9NR

ST MARY THE VIRGIN GODMANCHESTER PCC

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2022

RECEIPTS	Notes	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2022 Total	2021 Total
Voluntary receipts							
Planned Giving	a	40,898				40,898	39,866
Collections at services	b	7,308				7,308	6,499
All other giving/voluntary receipts	c	7,505		13,114		20,619	19,246
Gift Aid recovered		13,309		1,250		14,559	11,483
Legacies		0				0	0
Grants (recurring and one-off inc VAT)	d	4,254				4,254	6,042
Activities for generating fund							
Church fundraising activities	e	4,412				4,412	4,987
Investment income							
Investment income	f	1,674		1,437		3,111	2,794
Church activities							
Fees retained		3,482				3,482	5,604
Trading activities	g	4,413	21,577			25,990	22,627
Other receipts/income							
Receipts for church organisations	h			1,759		1,759	687
TOTAL RECEIPTS		87,255	21,577	17,560	0	126,392	119,835
PAYMENTS							
Cost of generating funds							
Cost of fundraising activities	i	568	-	-	-	568	306
Church activities							
Mission & Charity Giving	j	2,609		169	-	2,778	380
Parish Share		67,447		-	-	67,447	66,425
Staff Expenses		289		-	-	289	330
Church expenses							
Mission and Evangelism	k	143		(32)	-	112	300
Church Running Expenses	l	16,938		-	-	16,938	7,190
Church insurance		7,679		-	-	7,679	7,488
Church utility bills		3,977		-	-	3,977	2,975
Church hall expenses			6,522	-	-	6,522	6,385
Cost of trading	m	88	117	-	-	205	160
Major capital expenditure							
Major Repairs to the church building	n	-	-	-	-	0	0
Major repairs to the church hall	o	-	-	-	-	0	0
New building work to church property	p	-	-	2,766	-	2,766	15,456
Other payments/expenditure							
Payments for church organisations	q	-	-	1,546	-	1,546	
TOTAL PAYMENTS		99,739	6,639	4,449	0	110,827	107,395
NET RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS		(12,485)	14,938	13,111	0	15,564	12,440
REVALUATIONS							
Unrealised gain / (loss)							
CBF Fixed Interest Acc		(1,465)				(1,465)	398
Dorothy Allen Trust					(11,499)	(11,499)	5,175
CBF Sunday School Account				10		10	10
TOTAL REVALUATIONS		(1,465)	0	10	(11,499)	(12,953)	5,583
NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS/REVALUATIONS		(13,949)	14,938	13,121	(11,499)	2,611	18,024


ST MARY THE VIRGIN GODMANCHESTER PCC

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>31 DEC 2022</u>	<u>31 DEC 2021</u>	<u>± in 2022</u>
Petty Cash	72	49	23
Santander Bank (Current Account)	43,617	39,360	4,258
Plus cheques deposited but not cleared	526	484	
Less cheques issued but not presented	<u>(3,303)</u>	<u>(1,221)</u>	
	40,841	38,623	2,218
Charity Aid Foundation Bank (Transformation Fund)	33,026	20,389	12,637
Other Assets			
C of E Central Board of Finance Deposit Accounts			
CBF Contingency a/c	11,641	11,220	422
CBF Development a/c (Transformation Fund)	<u>10,644</u>	<u>10,506</u>	<u>138</u>
	22,286	21,726	560
Total Bank accounts/cash	<u>96,225</u>	<u>80,787</u>	<u>15,438</u>
Trust Funds and Fixed Interest Securities			
CBF Fixed Interest Securities a/c	9,449	10,913	(1,465)
Dorothy Allen Trust Fund	84,547	96,046	(11,499)
Sunday School Trust Funds			
CBF114001/103D	940	940	0
CBF114001/702D	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>0</u>
	96,936	109,899	(12,964)
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>193,161</u>	<u>190,686</u>	2,474
LIABILITIES			
Fees owing to Ely DBF	(583)	(801)	
NET ASSETS/LIABILITIES	<u>192,578</u>	<u>189,885</u>	<u>2,692</u>
FIXED ASSETS RETAINED FOR CHURCH USE			
Church hall and fittings	93,000	93,000	
Storage shed & Church Hall shed	3,075	4,100	
Piano	5,000	5,000	
Set of handbells	3,000	3,000	
Four lawnmowers, three strimmers one leaf blower	492	656	
Video projection equipment	<u>2,531</u>	<u>3,375</u>	
	107,098	109,131	
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>299,676</u>	<u>299,016</u>	<u>660</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 20 March 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Revd DW Busk
Vicar and PCC Chairman

Signature 
Date 20/3/23

The notes on page 3 to 6 form part of this statement

**ST MARY THE VIRGIN GODMANCHESTER PCC
OPERATING FUNDS 2022**

	b/f from 2021	Receipts	Payments	Reval'n	c/f to 2023	± in 2022
Assets available (From Assets & Liabilities)						
Petty cash	49	1,430	1,407		72	23
Santander (net)	38,623	131,013	128,795		40,841	2,218
CBF Development Acc	10,506	138	0		10,644	138
CAF Transformation Acc	20,389	15,403	2,766		33,026	12,637
CBF Contingency Acc	11,220	422			11,641	422
TOTAL	80,787	148,406	132,968		96,225	15,438
Operating funds						
General Fund	24,265	83,558	83,581		24,242	(23)
Bellringers	1,666	1,168	855		1,979	313
Children's Church	44	54	0		98	54
Church Fabric	8,346	5,841	6,155		8,032	(314)
Church Hall	6,905	17,120	15,322		8,703	1,798
Churchyard & Mowers	710	4,509	4,169		1,050	340
Decorating Fund	7,011	1,000	0		8,011	1,000
Flower Guild	979	591	691		879	(100)
Grub, Games & God	0	109	77		32	32
Transformation Project	30,938	22,790	10,122		43,606	12,668
Youth Group	34	0	34		0	(34)
Agency Funds ⁽¹⁾	(112)	11,667	11,962		(407)	(295)
TOTAL	80,787	148,406	132,968	0.00	96,225	15,438

Operating Funds have both income and expenditure during the year and individual balances are carried forward to the start of the next year. When necessary, transfers are made between operating funds during the year.

Note (1) Agency Funds are funds that are handled by the church but are not part of the church income and expenditure and are not included in the church annual accounts. Examples are fees for organists, vergers or choir at weddings and funerals and collections at funerals for a nominated charity.

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ST MARY THE VIRGIN GODMANCHESTER PCC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2022

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with both the Charities Act 2011, on the Receipts and Payments Basis, and the Church of England accounting regulations

2 ANALYSIS OF FUND MOVEMENT FOR THE YEAR

(i) **UNRESTRICTED FUNDS** may be used by the PCC for any of its ordinary purposes. The movements in the fund are shown in the Receipts and Payments Account

FUND NAME	FUND PURPOSE	Bal 1 Jan	Receipts	Payments	Bal 31 Dec
General funds	Gereal use by PCC	24,265	83,680	83,581	24,242
		24,265	83,558	83,581	24,242

(ii) **DESIGNATED FUNDS** represent funds set aside, out of ordinary unrestricted funds, for specific designated purposes, but they can be transferred back into general funds at any time

FUND NAME	FUND PURPOSE	Bal 1 Jan	Receipts	Payments	Bal 31 Dec
Church Hall	Maintain hall	6,905	17,120	15,322	8,703
Decorating fund	Church redecoration	7,011	1,000	0	8,011
Churchyard & Mowers	Maintain church surrounds	710	4,509	4,169	1,050
Grub, Games & God	Mission and Evangelism	0	109	77	32
		14,626	22,737	19,567	17,796

(iii) **RESTRICTED FUNDS** represent either income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objectives provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, or donations or grants received or invited for a specific purpose. The funds may only be spent on the specific purpose for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent must be carried forward as a balance on that fund and cannot be absorbed into general funds.

FUND NAME	FUND PURPOSE	Bal 1 Jan	Receipts	Payments	Bal 31 Dec
Transformation Fund	Church Transformation Project	30,938	22,790	10,122	43,606
Sunday School	Fund Children's Church	44	54	0	98
Youth Group	Fund Youth Work	34	0	34	0
		31,017	22,844	10,156	43,704

(iv) **ENDOWMENT FUNDS** are funds whose capital must be maintained: only income arising from the investment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending on the purpose for which the endowment was established

FUND NAME	FUND PURPOSE	Bal 1 Jan	Receipts	Payments	Bal 31 Dec
Dorothy Allen Trust	50% fabric, remainder unrestricted	0	2,469	2,469	0
Sunday School Invest	Religious education	0	20	20	0
		0	2,489	2,489	0

(v) **FUNDS LODGED IN THE CHURCH ACCOUNTS** are funds belonging to church organisations that are lodged in the church accounts.

FUND NAME	FUND PURPOSE	Bal 1 Jan	Receipts	Payments	Bal 31 Dec
Bell Ringers Fund	Tower maintenance	1,666	1,168	855	1,979
Flower Guild Fund	Church flowers	979	591	691	879
		2,645	1,759	1,546	2,858

3 TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

From	To	Amount
Church Hall	Gen Funds	7,800
Church hall	Decorating Fund	1,000
Churchyard & Mowers	Fabric Fund	4,000

ST MARY THE VIRGIN GODMANCHESTER PCC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2022

4. ANALYSIS OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ITEMS

RECEIPTS		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2022 Total	2021 Total
Notes							
a)	Planned giving						
	BACS donations (regular)	1,823	-	-	-	1,823	1,438
	Free-will envelopes	3,008	-	-	-	3,008	3,609
	Parish giving	24,498	-	-	-	24,498	20,249
	Standing orders/DDs	11,570	-	-	-	11,570	14,570
		<u>40,898</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>40,898</u>	<u>39,866</u>
b)	Collections at services						
	Baptisms	298	-	-	-	298	531
	Funerals	324	-	-	-	324	920
	House communion	172	-	-	-	172	63
	Regular Sunday services	4,581	-	-	-	4,581	3,308
	Special Services	1,790	-	-	-	1,790	1,024
	Weddings	142	-	-	-	142	654
		<u>7,308</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,308</u>	<u>6,499</u>
c)	All other giving/voluntary receipts						
	Donations	3,750	-	13,114	-	16,864	17,160
	Gift day	3,755	-	-	-	3,755	2,086
		<u>7,505</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,114</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,619</u>	<u>19,246</u>
d)	Grants (recurring and one-off)						
	VAT Recovered	1,306	-	-	-	1,306	0
	External Grants	600	-	-	-	600	6,000
	Friends of St Mary's	2,348	-	-	-	2,348	42
		<u>4,254</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,254</u>	<u>6,042</u>
e)	Fundraising activities						
	Summer fete	2,324	-	-	-	2,324	0
	Christmas bazaar	2,088	-	-	-	2,088	1,555
		<u>4,412</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,412</u>	<u>1,555</u>
f)	Investment income						
	CBF Contingency acc	150	-	-	-	150	111
	CBF Fixed interest acc	272	-	-	-	272	310
	CBF Development acc	-	-	138	-	138	87
	CAF Bank Interest	-	-	27	-	27	0
	Dorothy Allen Trust	1,252	-	1,252	-	2,504	2,477
	Sunday School Investments	-	-	20	-	20	16
		<u>1,674</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,437</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,111</u>	<u>3,001</u>
g)	Trading activities						
	Church hire	1,525	-	-	-	1,525	410
	Hall letting	-	17,120	-	-	17,120	14,730
	Magazine sales & advertising	1,829	-	-	-	1,829	2,648
	Sunday Coffee	533	-	-	-	533	43
	Book sales	526	-	-	-	526	0
	Grasscutting contract	-	4,457	-	-	4,457	4,250
		<u>4,413</u>	<u>21,577</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,990</u>	<u>22,080</u>
h)	Other receipts/income						
	Bellringers	-	-	1,168	-	1,168	1,425
	Flower Guild	-	-	591	-	591	828
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,759</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,759</u>	<u>2,253</u>

ST MARY THE VIRGIN GODMANCHESTER PCC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2022

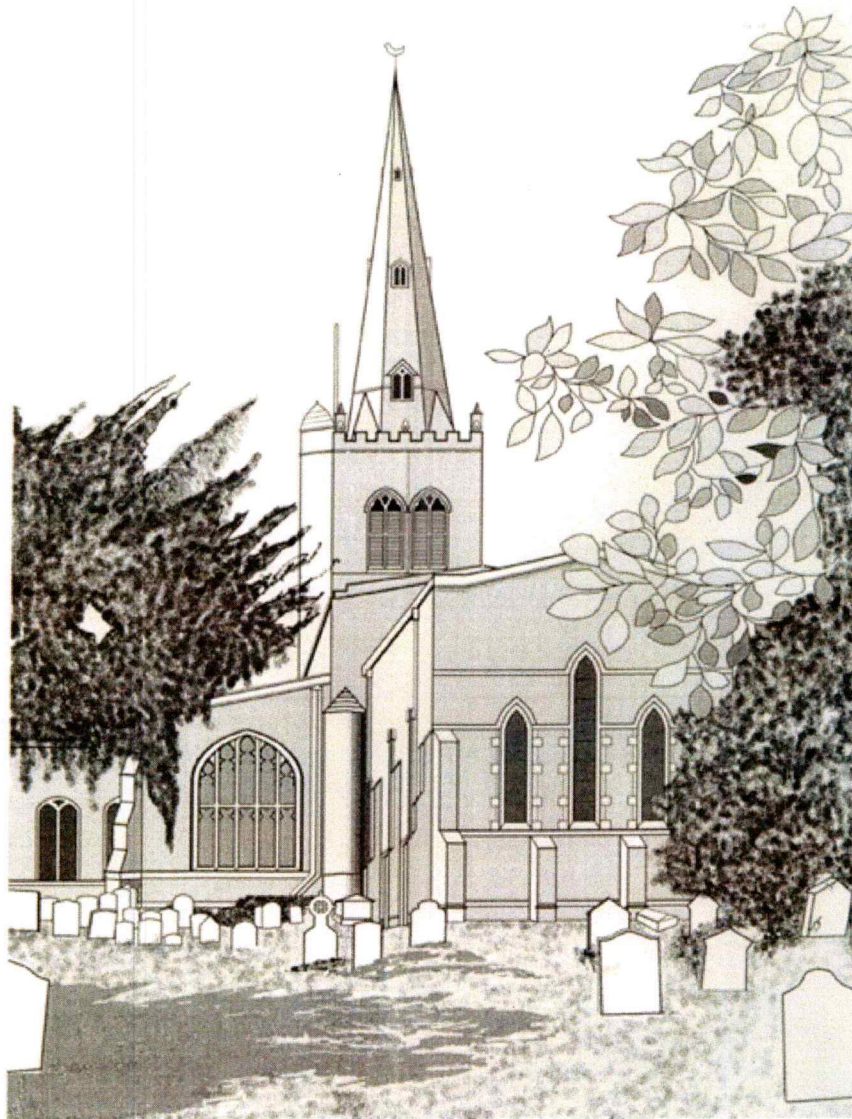
4. ANALYSIS OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ITEMS

PAYMENTS	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2022 Total	2021 Total
i) Cost of fundraising activities						
Fete & bazaar	444	-	-	-	444	183
Donation envelopes	124	-	-	-	124	122
	<u>568</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>568</u>	<u>306</u>
j) Mission & charity giving						
Christmas charities	1,344	-	-	-	1,344	100
Service charities	177	-	-	-	177	218
Mayor of Godmanchester's Charity	-	-	169	-	169	0
Other charities	1,088	-	-	-	1,088	0
	<u>2,609</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>169</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,778</u>	<u>318</u>
k) Mission & evangelism						
Children's church	143	-	-	-	143	62
Grub, Games and God	-	-	(32)	-	(32)	-
Othe donations	-	-	-	-	0	0
	<u>143</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(32)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>112</u>	<u>62</u>
l) Church running expenses						
Admin	5,052	-	-	-	5,052	4,740
Altar requirements	240	-	-	-	240	207
Auditor fee	240	-	-	-	240	240
Maintenance	8,506	-	-	-	8,506	8,409
Organ & choir	2,504	-	-	-	2,504	407
Misc	396	-	-	-	396	2,208
	<u>16,938</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,938</u>	<u>16,211</u>
m) Cost of trading						
Mower expenses	-	117	-	-	117	168
Cost of goods (Coffee)	88	-	-	-	88	13
	<u>88</u>	<u>117</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>205</u>	<u>181</u>
n) Major repairs to church building						
Church fabric	-	-	-	-	0	0
o) Major repairs to church hall	-	-	-	-	-	-
p) New building work to church property						
Transformation project	-	-	2,766	-	2,766	7,920
q) Other payments and expenditure						
Bellringers	-	-	855	-	855	1,300
Flower Guild	-	-	691	-	691	266
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,546</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,546</u>	<u>1,566</u>

Accounts



The Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin Godmanchester



2021 ANNUAL REPORT



2021 Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of St. Mary the Virgin, Godmanchester

Aims and Purposes

St. Mary the Virgin's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend David Busk, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral - *to look after individual people*; evangelistic - *to tell the people the Good News and to invite them to accept it*; social - *to help the poorer members of society, and those suffering from racial, economic and other forms of injustice*; and ecumenical - *to encourage good relations with other Christian denominations*. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church Hall in Chadley Lane.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St. Mary the Virgin. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St. Mary the Virgin and the adjacent Church Hall.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

The PCC is committed to providing a wide and varied range of services throughout the year to engage with as many in the community as possible. Our regular Sunday services of Holy Communion or Morning Prayer, Sung Eucharist (with healing once monthly) and Evensong or Evening Prayer, are occasionally supplemented by a Family Eucharist, Parish Praise or a Taizé service. There is also a Holy Communion on a Thursday morning.

For a second year we were challenged by the COVID-19 virus preventing group worship during lockdown and so once more we moved online with Zoom services. The popularity of Zoom services (especially amongst those who find it difficult to attend church) has seen the addition of a Holy Communion via Zoom at 2.30pm on a Wednesday and a regular 6.30pm Compline every day except Sunday.

We welcome everyone to our services and normally enjoy a well-attended Children's Church, although our youth group is currently in abeyance. There are currently 114 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll and our Sunday attendance figures (which had averaged around 100, with 70-80 at the main service, before lockdowns took effect) have yet to recover. The church has remained open for private prayer and visitors whenever virus restrictions allowed, although our visitor book remained locked away.

Normally our church affords the community a chance to give thanks to God for those special moments throughout life when we gather to celebrate baptism, marriage or the life of a departed loved one. This year we were able to celebrate 3 weddings, a marriage blessing and 9 baptisms in the church; a small improvement on 2020. There were 21 funerals, a memorial service and 15 burial of ashes.

Deanery Synod

Two members of the PCC sit on the deanery synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

The Church and Church Hall

We envision our church building becoming the focal point for a greater number of community activities in the future and have a Transformation Project in progress that will see the removal of the fixed pews to create space and the introduction of kitchen and toilet facilities as well as a mezzanine floor with room to house the local museum securely.

The south door to the church is opened every day for visitors and private prayer. Disabled access is currently available via the north door only for services and other major events. The building is already a venue for talks, concerts, the Summer Fete (when the weather is inclement), the Christmas Bazaar and Flower and other church festivals. The church is used for music concerts, displays, film shows and historical presentations to the community and has hosted the GMC Town Show. There are also regular educational visits from the local schools.

The church hall is a wooden building purchased by the PCC, who are still the trustees, in 1938. Considering its age and regular daily use, the hall is in reasonably good structural order, adequately maintained and well equipped. The costs of running and maintaining the hall are met by the income from a contract with a day nursery which uses the facilities every weekday from 8am to 6.30pm.

Pastoral Care

Reaching out to those housebound, in hospital or care homes and ensuring them that their St. Mary's family care for them, and are praying for them, has been an important part of our pastoral care. Visits were again sadly curtailed by COVID-19 and limited to a few words on the doorstep or phone calls for much of the year. Many parishioners joined in maintaining contacts, doing shopping and other kindly deeds that really helped.

Thanks go to all who donated food to the Food Bank for delivery to those in need; a vital part of our care. Once all are vaccinated and lockdown eased we aim to expand our care. If anyone would like to join us please contact Liz Irving (Pastoral Care Co-ordinator).

Mission and Evangelism

We believe that the Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Godmanchester, exists to build up the individual and corporate spiritual life of our Church and to spread the love of Christ through word and deed, by enabling those who live and work within our town to come into contact with God's love and come to faith in Christ.

Group for Evangelism & Outreach (GEO) is responsible for reviewing and recommending the development of evangelism and outreach in the mission of the church, including changes to the Mission Action Plan to incorporate the new Diocesan Vision. Sadly the GEO did not meet in 2021.

Ecumenical Relationships

The incumbent priest is also responsible for St. Mary's Church, Hilton and we would normally join them twice a year in a shared service. This year members of both congregations have come together on a Sunday during any periods of lockdown for the Zoom services which again proved very popular.

The church is a member of 'Churches Together in Huntingdon and Godmanchester' and we have joined for events and services each year, such as the Walk of Witness on Good Friday, Worship in the Park during Gala Weekend and the Act of Remembrance in November. All Godmanchester churches also join together in publicising our Christmas services.

Financial Review

With the possibility of more COVID related restrictions on church activities during the year we were prepared for a possible shortfall for the year. However, a number of positive events resulted in a surplus of around £9,000 in our General Funds. Some of the events were:

- A total of £39,866 from regular, 'planned giving' through the Envelope Scheme, BACS donations, standing orders and 'Parish Giving'. At the end of 2021 thirty-five members of our congregation were registered with Parish Giving which provides a convenient and efficient method of donating including the automatic re-claiming of Gift Aid.
- A generous grant of £6,000 from Huntingdonshire District Council to offset losses resulting from the effect of COVID and related restrictions on fundraising.
- The sum of £2,689 raised at the Summer Fete, held in the churchyard for the first time, and £2,298 raised at the Christmas Bazaar.
- The generous total of £2,086 donated on Gift Day.

The continuing rental of the church hall by the Pre-school and other local organisations allowed us to transfer £6,500 from the Hall Fund to the General Fund and £2,000 to the Church Decorating Fund. The grass cutting contract with Godmanchester Town Council provided a total of £4,000 for the Fabric Fund which, along with grants from the Friends of St Mary's, is used to maintain the church fabric and facilities. Colin Thirlwall (Treasurer).

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted and designated funds which equates to at least three months unrestricted payments. For St Mary's this is equivalent to around £27,000 in a normal (non-COVID) year. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergency payments. The reserves held in unrestricted and designated funds less liabilities at year end was £56,396, well in excess of the minimum required. This included designated funds of £22,972 held in the Church Hall, Church Fabric, Churchyard and Mowers and Decorating Fund. £11,149 of the unrestricted funds is held in a Central Board of Finance fixed interest account.

Unrestricted funds can be used by the PCC for any purpose. Designated Funds are nominated by the PCC for a specific purpose e.g Church Hall, Fabric, Decoration, but can be returned to the General Fund at the discretion of the PCC.

Optional Information

Volunteers

We are indebted to the many people and groups who support St. Mary the Virgin throughout the year in so many ways. The following reports in alphabetical order cover just some of the many activities that have been achieved during 2021 in spite of the adverse conditions that we have again had to endure.

If your group supporting church life would like to have its achievements included in the 2022 edition of the Annual PCC Report, please contact Jim Heeley on jskc@btinternet.com by Sunday 8th January 2023.

Bellringers

We originally planned to resume ringing during Step 3 of the Government's Roadmap out of Covid-19 Lockdown; we had a trial practice on 19th May, we rang for the 9.30am service on 23rd May and held a further practice on 26th May. The Covid-19 situation meant that ringers were not happy about continuing to ring, so, except for weddings on 29th May and 26th June at which the numbers of ringers was limited, there was no more ringing until the end of July when we rang for another wedding.

From autumn until year's end, there were not always sufficient ringers available to ring for the 9.30am service, although we did ring for four weddings in September. During December, we rang for two memorial services, and then for the Christmas Eve Carol Service and the Christmas Morning Service.

Inspection and routine maintenance of the bells was carried out by the Ely Diocesan Church Bell Restorers on 20th July.

We have fewer ringers than we have bells, but we co-operate with the Huntingdon ringers to keep numbers up in both towns. This is only possible, of course, while the churches have different service times. Despite this co-operation, it is rare for all eight bells to be rung on a Sunday. We co-operate with the Hemingford ringers by having joint practices on alternate Wednesdays, but some of these have had to be cancelled due to lack of support.

We played our part in the Church's fundraising by providing hampers for the grand draws at the Summer Fete and the Christmas Bazaar. Charles Looker.

Charities

Our fundraising activities were again curtailed in 2021, but we did hold some events towards the end of the year.

In October we held an appeal for Maya Parish in Uganda, to help with providing a roof for a school which they are building, and for Mashambanzou Care Trust, to provide support for children orphaned by HIV/AIDS in Zimbabwe. £800 was raised, which was split 50/50.

Two coffee mornings were held in October and December which raised a total of £358.40 in support of Thrive, a charity established by the Diocese, which provides support, counselling and mentoring of young people in the Huntingdon area.

Coffee & Croissants and Bacon Butties returned, raising £165 for Service Charities.

We made donations of £100 each to the three Service Charities we support in November, part of this money coming from church funds.

To support our usual Christmas Charities, we sent the proceeds from our Christmas Service collections, with a contribution from church funds, to East Anglia Children's Hospice - £250, and £200 each to Cruse Bereavement and The Children's Society.

Instead of a cash donation to Jimmy's Night Shelter, which provides support to homeless people in Cambridge, we organized "Jumpers for Jimmy's", an appeal to collect warm clothing, blankets and sleeping bags. This resulted in one van and two carloads being delivered before Christmas. Donations were received from the Church, St Anne's School and the wider Godmanchester community, and included 20 brand new thermal sleeping bags donated by a local company. Robert Francis.

Children's Church

Since September 2021 we have been back face to face instead of being a virtual Children's Church. We have 8 leaders/teams of leaders who run sessions for us and 12 families who regularly attend, with a few other children and adults who join us occasionally. Children's Church have enjoyed being back with the church congregation and there are always willing volunteers to take part in the Parish Communion services on the 3rd Sunday of each month. We now boast a number of young children who are very happy to read, including to a (nearly) full church on Christmas Eve when we ran the 4pm Nativity service.

A big thank you to all the parents and grandparents who help out each week and make my job organising Children's Church so much easier! Paula Williams.

Churchyard Grass Cutters

The maintenance of the churchyard is the responsibility of the Town Council, and St Mary's has a contract from the Council to cut the grass, which provides useful income to the church.

Our intrepid team of grass cutters kept the churchyard looking tidy throughout the year. The churchyard covers about two acres, which is divided into 15 plots, and we have 11 volunteers, including four ladies, to look after this area, plus one reserve.

The system is very flexible: volunteers cut their patch at a time to suit themselves, and mowers, kept in tip-top condition by Gordon Peacock, and fuel are provided. We are always on the lookout for more volunteers, so if you are interested in helping please contact me. Robert Francis (Organiser).

Fabric Committee

The following items were actioned by the Fabric Committee during 2021:

- Purchase of anti – COVID mist sprayer and fluid to sanitise church between services - £214
- Minor repairs to the vestry door to prevent bolts sticking - £30
- Repairs to the lights at the churchyard entrances – £209 - paid for by GMC Council
- Assessment and interim repairs to the organ blower - £550 – paid with a grant from the Friends of St Mary's (problems with motor bearings identified requiring further work for 2022)
- Repair leak on boiler oil supply - £189 (unserviceable sump pump also identified – replacement ordered).
- Repair to roof alarm system - £63 (call-out fee. Balance covered by insurance)
- A contract let to repair and restore the south and west doors including the fitting of new secure locks on the west door – approx. £3,669. (NB. Faculty granted Feb 22)

In addition:

Several of the soakaways that take the rainwater from the church roof are not working and was initiated to see if we could make an insurance claim for tree root damage or, if not, get an estimate for the work required. (in hand for 2022)

The church roof has been leaking in various places for some time and our architect recommended a complete survey which was completed at no cost. The surveyor identified several cases where the work on the lead roof did not conform to the latest practices but rectifying this would be a major project and we are in consultation with our architect to devise a plan that would provide a solution for the next 10 years or so. (Fabric Committee).

Facebook

In 'normal times' the Facebook page has been used to advertise key events, such as our Christmas and Summer Fairs, Parish Praise at the school, Christmas Service times, other fundraising events, etc. With the lack of events during the pandemic, there has been less to post.

The Facebook page is mostly used for enquiries relating to having baptisms and weddings in church, but also genealogical searches from as far-a-field as Australia. This is because I can receive private messages via the page and some people prefer to communicate through Facebook rather than any other means.

There were 336 people following our church Facebook page, which is a lot of outreach. It is really important that church members are aware of Facebook as an outlet for advertising events and services etc. Please, if there is anything happening in connection with the church - and especially if there is poster for it - can the information/poster be forwarded to me so that I can post it on Facebook? Please email Facebook content to thefool1981@hotmail.com. Katie Keightley (Facebook Manager).

Flower Guild

During the last year members of Flower Guild have been able to return to a near normal rota of flower arranging for church festivals and weddings. We were delighted to have bookings for 6 weddings and were able to accommodate all the brides' requirements and dates. We aim to be as flexible as we can and were able to liaise with 2 brides who 'shared' their

flowers. We recognise that we need to work within each bride's budget and for example used smaller (less expensive) arrangements for one bride with a small budget who then was able to take her arrangements to the reception for her table decorations. We also had the opportunity to arrange the wedding flowers on almost a 'high society' scale for one bride. This was organised by Jane Nichols and the church looked amazing. Providing wedding flowers gives the Flower Guild members the opportunity to meet people who don't normally come to our church, and we have received some lovely feedback from all the brides. This all couldn't be done without our skilled members who provide their own greenery.

If anyone would like to join our team please let us know. Barbara Thirlwall (Secretary) and Debbie Watts (Wedding co-ordinator).

Lesson Readers

On most Sundays, one or two set lessons from the Old and New Testaments are read by members of the congregation, in church when we have been able to attend, otherwise on Zoom.

A team of four people organise the readers each week: each member of the team does a 2-month 'tour of duty', before handing over to the next team member. Until he retired at the end of September 2021, John Hoile had led the organisers' team for more than 20 years! Thank you, John, for your long and devoted service. We thank also Sandra Ferrelly, who retired from the team in September.

At present there are about 40 readers on the readers list, and we thank them all for their service. New readers are always welcome. If you would like to join the list, please contact one of the organisers: Anne Francis, Bill Templeton, David Bowers (07757 804747), or Lauren Hurst, who will gladly add your name to the list. David Bowers (Lead Organiser).

Magazine

This last year continued to place restrictions on our lives; therefore the editorial committee has not met, but I have continued to produce the magazine each month. Welcome contributions have continued to be submitted, with particular thanks to Josephine who provides her gardening article bi-monthly and Sue Worthington for her monthly Town Council report. Anne Francis and her team have continued to deliver the magazines and collect the annual subscription. Robert Francis ensured we had advertisers which helps towards the running costs. Thanks to both of them for their continued support. As the Covid restrictions have now eased I am looking towards re-establishing the editorial committee to meet on a more regular basis. Anna Page (Editor).

Music

Having been allowed to sing for our Christmas 2020 services, albeit suitably masked and spaced, we expected things to return to normal for 2021, but that was not to be. Both our singing and social events were severely curtailed during the first few months of 2021 and we did not start singing as a choir until mid-way through the year. Since that date we have provided a choir for three weddings, a wedding blessing and three funeral/memorial services as well as providing a choir for the Godmanchester Civic Service. Fortunately, the relaxing of restrictions meant that we could provide a full choir for the Christmas Services aided as ever by our regular band of augmenters. Our choir numbers have reduced over the years and we welcome new members either as regular singers or augmenters who are prepared to

support us for special occasions. Sopranos and tenors particularly welcome! Colin Thirlwall (Organist & Choirmaster).

Safeguarding

There are no safeguarding issues to report this year. However, the year has been a challenging one to keep our church compliant with the important Safeguarding regulations that keep us all safe. The Diocese changed the period of validity for the DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) Check, which everyone who holds a responsible post in the church must have, from 5 years to 3. This meant that almost the entire Parish Council and many others had to immediately renew their certificates. Everyone affected was notified and I'm pleased to say that 15 of these 17 people now have valid certificates, and the two remaining people are in the process of gaining theirs. Simon Prince (Parish Safeguarding Officer).

Sidespersons

Once the restrictions imposed on our Church Services as a result of the pandemic were relaxed the PCC asked the Sidespersons to resume their duties for the 9.30 services from last October.

Sadly four members had stood down last year including Peter Hartwell who had been the Co-ordinator for 18 years. The fourteen people who have been doing Sidesperson's duty since October are Joan Adams, Lynn Batchelor, Liz Callaghan, Daphne Dobson, Malcolm & Rita Harris, Karen Molloy, Peter & Jennie Morgan, Jean Nicholls, Gordon Peacock, John & Bizz Thackray and Arthur West.

Anyone wishing to join the Sidespersons Team, where you would be on duty approximately once every seven weeks, please contact Peter Morgan – Lead Sidesperson.

Street Prayer Mission

Due to COVID-19 restrictions Street Prayer Mission cards have not been prepared and delivered this year, but we were able to continue our Street Prayer Mission through our intercessions during our online and church Sunday Eucharist. A monthly list appears in our Parish Magazine and additional streets from the growing Romans Edge development and our sister parish of Hilton are included.

Summer Fête & Christmas Bazaar

What a joy it was to be able to hold our Summer Fête under brilliant blue skies and among the trees of the churchyard on 26th June. Heartfelt thanks to all who made it happen and to all who came. The tremendous profits made for the work of the church are an additional bonus, but what many people mentioned was the simple pleasure of being able to socialise once again. The Christmas Bazaar also returned and took place in the church on 4th December. The usual provision of home-made hampers, supplied by various groups within the church, went to the lucky winners of our annual Grand Draw. There were many other attractions including the teas & cakes, bottle tombola, craft stalls, second-hand books and the wonderful music of the Somersham Town Band.

The Friends of St. Mary's Godmanchester

The Friends' Fundraising efforts were focussed on raising money for the Transformation project [Restricted funds] as well as ensuring there are sufficient funds [Unrestricted funds]

to help maintain the fabric of the church. We had a slow start to the year with no events permitted at all in the first half of the year, but in July we had a bonanza – we received from Alan Hooker with huge gratitude £1,040 from the Godmanchester 800 Club (2020: £940); and we hosted 'Jazz on the Island' - a wonderful evening of jazz at Island Hall which Christopher and Grace Vane Percy so generously enabled us to use. Our biggest jazz crowd ever descended on its beautiful grounds – many people escaping for the first time in months to eat – and drink – their picnics and the wonderful evening made £2,622. We then had a series of events in the church which included a Come & Sing the Messiah which raised £768.07; this was larger than expected because Lee Dunleavy the excellent conductor is a great supporter of the Transformation project and elected to give his services for free which was exceptionally generous of him. Roger Leivers gave a well-attended and interesting lecture based around his *Godmanchester at War* book which raised £1,866 for the Friends. Our autumn lecture on Queen Catherine Howard given by David Starkey was very successful raising as it did £3,724 which was down on Dr Starkey's 2018 lecture because of COVID; and Roger Leivers Vase Auction raised a further £867 for the Friends. This enabled us to transfer £6,630 into the Transformation fund and pay £550 for a survey of the Organ Blower. Our funds now stand at £10,150 of which £5,456 is restricted and will shortly be transferred into the Transformation Fund and of the balance £1,400-£1,800 has been earmarked for the Organ Blower overhaul and £1,513 for the replacement of the Boiler Room sump pump.

But I would like to end by thanking the Trustees of The Friends Colin Thirlwall, Christopher Vane Percy, Sue Worthington, Nick Leigh-Smith, Anja Busk, and our esteemed treasurer and secretary David Bowers and Kate Sington for their work in keeping the show on the road while under lockdown with diligence and immense enthusiasm and then bringing things back so robustly when we were able to in July this year with the amazing Jazz on the Island that really was an Elysian vision - god knows we needed it. Adrian Sington (Chairman).

The Upper Room

During the financial year of 2021/2022 a total of £2403.75 was raised through the Upper Room towards the Transformation Project funds.

I have been quiet for about 3 months, as I had a job to do at my home, which I needed to concentrate all my strength. If weather permits and the soil is hard enough, I will be returning to the car boot markets in April. In the meantime I will be listing stuff at my usual places: Facebook Market, Vinted and Ebay. Thank you to all who helped me by donating their unwanted stuff. Lucilia Azevedo.

Transformation Project

After considerable delays cause by COVID we eventually had a Zoom meeting with the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) in mid-January to discuss the project. They raised queries on the protection of the memorial on the west wall adjacent to the proposed lift shaft (our architect has this in hand), whether we had completed a spatial analysis to show the furniture layout in the parish office (yes), whether the space round the font would be sufficient for families (same as at present), whether we could shorten and reuse the existing pews (difficult and heavy). These queries were answered in a paper to the DAC which include a diagram of the proposed parish office and the area round the font and included several suggestions for retaining significant parts of the pews. There then followed a delay while we waited for a response from the Victorian Society and comments from the Church Building Council (CBC) from who the DAC sought comments. The CBC raised a query over the going 'Greener' with our heating and the Victorian Society again raised concerns over the pews.

In our response we agreed to a further study of our heating requirements and provided some suggestion for the retention of parts of the pews. At the end of May the DAC recommended our proposal for approval and advised us to proceed to public consultation when the plans are displayed for public comment. At the PCC meeting on 15 July 21 the PCC voted to proceed with the faculty application and the application was duly submitted to the Diocesan Registrar who approved the faculty with four specific conditions relating to the pews, the choice of chairs, the treatment of the memorial on the west wall and the final proposal for the heating system. These will be addressed in RIBA stage 4, the detailed design. During the year we have been working with our professional funders to prepare submissions to various funding bodies including the heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). Our funders submitted an 'Expression of Interest' application to the HLF in October and in November we were advised that we would not be invited to make a funding application as they had queries over the relocation of the Godmanchester Museum, and they also required greater clarity on how the project would reach a wider range of people. We are in the process of re-working our 'Expression of Interest' paper to better meet their latest requirements. We can re-submit it in the New Year.

As an update to the costings produced some time ago by our architect showed that the estimated cost of RIBA Stage 4 had increase from around £75,000 to around £90,000. This will require some detailed consideration. During 2021 we raised around £10,000 thanks to the efforts of the Upper Room, the Friends of St Mary's and individual donations. Our expenditure for the year was £15,456 mainly on architect's fees and fees to our fundraising professionals. Fundraising proposals and help are always welcome.

Website

2021 VIEWS													
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL	
479	326	501	392	491	677	462	440	707	885	1,157	1,056	7,573	

	VIEWS	VISITORS
2019	10,633	3,055
2020	6,445	2,162
2021	7,573	2,760

2021 TOP POSTS	
In-person services	2,997
Calendar	966
Contact	440
Newsletter	396
Buildings + Facilities	298
Zoom Services & Meetings	297
Church Matters	250
Vicar's Mailings	173

The most dynamic parts of the website are the Calendar, the Vicar's Mailings and the Newsletter/Diary all of which change every week. The Calendar has details of all the services as well as other meetings about Church life. Any suggestions as to how the website can be improved are gratefully received. And can all heads of department keep me informed as to any changes to their regular meetings etc. Adrian Sington.

Wives' Group

Sadly our meetings were again curtailed by Covid restrictions and our first meet of the year was in September. We also managed a meeting in October, when a representative from our chosen charity E>A>C>H> (East Anglian Children's Hospital) came to talk to us. We were able to send contributions of clothes etc. for the charity shops which support E>A>C>H>.

In November we had a Quiz night, but unfortunately our party in December had to be cancelled due to Covid worries.

We have no joining fee; pay £2 when you come and you will be sure of a warm welcome. Please feel free to contact me on 01480 458700 or olwyn.hurd@ntlworld.com. Olwyn Hurd (Chairman).

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules 2020 (Revised Reprint 2021). The membership of the PCC for St. Mary the Virgin comprises the incumbent, churchwardens, the reader and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

The full PCC met nine times during the year, four in person and all others via Zoom, with an average level of attendance of 84%. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has 10 sub-committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life.

These sub-committees, comprising worship, evangelism and outreach, pastoral care, finance, charities, fabric, church hall, transformation, magazine and Fete & Bazaar, are all responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly with minutes of their decisions being received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary.

Administrative Information

St. Mary the Virgin is situated at the end of Chadley Lane, Godmanchester. It is part of the Diocese of Ely within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, 59 Post Street, Godmanchester, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE29 2AQ. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity currently excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

Members of the PCC are Trustees of the Charity. The PCC is required by law to prepare an annual report identifying the activities of the Church to further its charitable purposes for the public benefit, including a statement of accounts verified by an Independent Examiner.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2021 until the date of this report was approved are:

Ex Officio members:

- Incumbent: The Reverend David Busk (Chairman)

- Honorary Curate: The Reverend Canon Jonathan Young
- Authorised Lay Minister: Jean Morgan
- Authorised Lay Minister: Gillian Bathurst Hoile
- Church Warden: Robert Hurd
- Representative of the Laity on the Deanery Synod: Peter Morgan

Elected members:

- Kate Robinson – PCC Secretary
- Adrian Sington
- Simon Prince
- Lucilia Azevedo
- Carole Olsen (resigned August 2021)
- Nicholas Leigh Smith
- Robert Francis
- Gilly Young
- Kevin Parks
- Colin Thirlwall

Approved by the PCC on 25 April 2022 and signed on their behalf by the Reverend David Busk (PCC chairman).

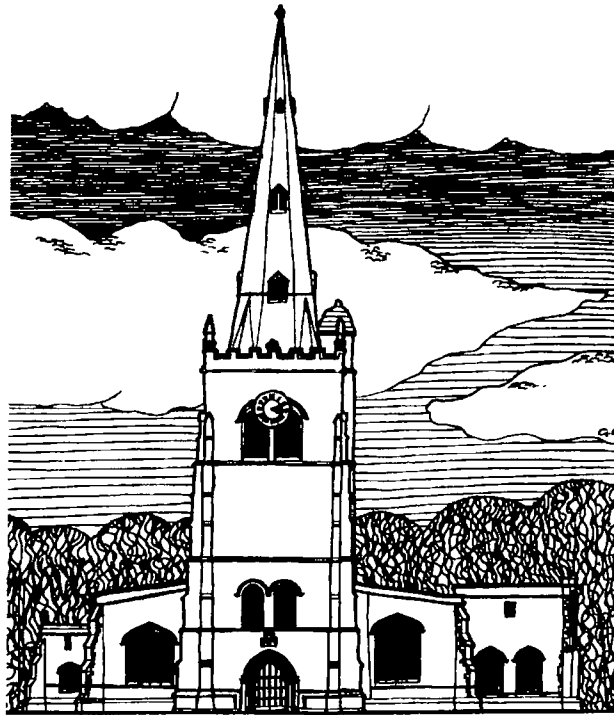
CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN GODMANCHESTER

MISSIONARY AND CHARITABLE GIVING 2021

Charity	Fundraising Events	General funds	Total Donated
Service Charities			
RAF Benevolent Fund	100		100
Seafarers UK	82	18	100
ABF Soldiers Charity		100	100
Christmas Charities			
Children's Society (includes Christingle Service)	90	110	200
Other Charities			
THRIVE Youth work	281		281
Friends N Kigezi Diocese	400		400
Friends of Mashambanzou	410		410
TOTAL	1,363	228	1,591

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**Church of St Mary the Virgin
Godmanchester PCC**



**FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS**

For the year ending

31ST December 2021



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN GODMANCHESTER

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 DECEMBER 2021

**Charity no
(if any)**

1194684

Set out on pages

1

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

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

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

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

21/02/2022

Name:

GARY JOHN FORDHAM

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

INSTITUTE OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTANTS/FEDERATION OF TAX
ADVISERS.
MEMBERSHIP NO. 11621

Address:

7 TITHE CLOSE

HILTON

HUNTINGDON, PE28 9NR

ST MARY THE VIRGIN GODMANCHESTER PCC

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2021

RECEIPTS	Notes	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2021 Total	2020 Total
Voluntary receipts							
Planned Giving	a	39,866				39,866	36,687
Collections at services	b	6,499				6,499	4,256
All other giving/voluntary receipts	c	8,668		10,578		19,246	27,019
Gift Aid recovered		11,426		57		11,483	12,809
Legacies		0				0	1,000
Grants (recurring and one-off)	d	6,042				6,042	5,129
Activities for generating fund							
Church fundraising activities	e	4,987				4,987	1,555
Investment income							
Investment income	f	1,547		1,247		2,794	3,074
Church activities							
Fees retained		5,604				5,604	2,933
Trading activities	g	2,310	20,317			22,627	22,080
Other receipts/income							
Receipts for church organisations (net)	h			687		687	200
Insurance claim						0	2,548
TOTAL RECEIPTS		86,949	20,317	12,569	0	119,835	119,289
PAYMENTS							
Cost of generating funds							
Cost of fundraising activities	i	306	-	-	-	306	0
Church activities							
Mission & Charity Giving	j	380	-	-	-	380	377
Parish Share		66,425	-	-	-	66,425	66,467
Staff Expenses		330	-	-	-	330	666
Church expenses							
Mission and Evangelism	k	300	-	-	-	300	62
Church Running Expenses	l	7,190	-	-	-	7,190	16,397
Church insurance		7,488	-	-	-	7,488	7,563
Church utility bills		2,975	-	-	-	2,975	5,247
Church hall expenses			6,385	-	-	6,385	7,511
Cost of trading	m		160	-	-	160	181
Major capital expenditure							
Major Repairs to the church building	n	-	-	-	-	0	0
Major repairs to the church hall	o	-	-	-	-	0	0
New building work to church property	p	-	-	15,456	-	15,456	7,920
Other payments/expenditure							
Payments for church organisations (net)	q	-	-	-	-	-	329
TOTAL PAYMENTS		85,394	6,545	15,456	0	107,395	112,721
NET RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS		1,555	13,772	(2,887)	0	12,440	6,568
REVALUATIONS							
Unrealised gain / (loss)							
CBF Fixed Interest Acc		(777)				(777)	398
Dorothy Allen Trust					9,724	9,724	5,175
CBF Sunday School Account				10		10	10
TOTAL REVALUATIONS		(777)	0	10	9,724	8,958	5,583
NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS/REVALUATIONS		779	13,772	(2,877)	9,724	21,398	12,151

ST MARY THE VIRGIN GODMANCHESTER PCC

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

ASSETS

	31 DEC 2021	31 DEC 2020	± in 2021
Petty Cash	49	67	(18)
Santander Bank (Current Account)	39,360	21,937	
Plus Checked deposited but not cleared	484		
Less cheques issued but not presented	<u>(1,221)</u>	<u>(351)</u>	
	38,623	21,586	17,037
Nationwide building Society	0.00	0.48	(0)
Charity Aid Foundation Bank (Transformation Fund)	20,389	16,223	4,166
Other Assets			
C of E Central Board of Finance Deposit Accounts			
CBF Contingency a/c	11,220	10,907	312
CBF Development a/c (Transformation Fund)	<u>10,506</u>	<u>20,497</u>	(9,991)
	21,726	31,404	
Total Bank accounts/cash	<u>80,787</u>	<u>69,281</u>	<u>11,506</u>
Trust Funds and Fixed Interest Securities			
CBF Fixed Interest Securities a/c	10,913	11,690	(777)
Dorothy Allen Trust Fund	96,046	86,322	9,724
Sunday School Trust Funds			
CBF114001/103D	940	930	10
CBF114001/702D	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>0</u>
	109,899	100,942	8,958
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>190,686</u>	<u>170,222</u>	<u>20,464</u>
LIABILITIES			
Fees owing to Ely DBF	(801)	(1,330)	
NET ASSETS/LIABILITIES	<u>189,885</u>	<u>168,892</u>	<u>20,993</u>
FIXED ASSETS RETAINED FOR CHURCH USE			
Church hall and fittings	93,000	93,000	
Storage shed & Church Hall shed	4,100	5,500	
Piano	5,000		
Set of handbells	3,000	3,000	
Four lawnmowers, three strimmers one leaf blower	656	875	
Video projection equipment	<u>3,375</u>	<u>4,500</u>	
	109,131	106,875	
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>299,016</u>	<u>275,767</u>	<u>23,249</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 21 March 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Revd DW Busk
Vicar and PCC Chairman

Signature



Date

21/3/22

The notes on page 3 to 6 form part of this statement

ST MARY THE VIRGIN GODMANCHESTER PCC

OPERATING FUNDS 2021

	b/f from 2020	Receipts	Payments	Reval'n	c/f to 2022	± in 2021
Assets available (From Assets & Liabilities)						
Petty cash	67	3,355	3,373		49	(18)
Santander (net)	21,586	118,931	101,895		38,623	17,037
N'wide Acc - Decoration	0	0	0		0	
CBF Development Acc	20,497	9	10,000		10,506	(9,991)
CAF Transformation Acc	16,223	19,622	15,456		20,389	4,166
CBF Contingency Acc	10,907	312			11,220	312
TOTAL	69,281	142,231	130,725		80,787	11,506
Operating funds						
General Fund	14,858	71,526	62,120		24,265	9,407
Bellringers	1,541	1,425	1,300		1,666	125
Children's Church	42	3	0		44	3
Church Fabric	3,142	5,235	30		8,346	5,205
Church Hall	5,850	15,940	14,885		6,905	1,055
Churchyard & Mowers	492	4,378	4,160		710	218
Decorating Fund	5,011	2,000	0		7,011	2,000
Transformation Project	36,749	30,336	36,147		30,938	(5,811)
Flower Guild	418	828	266		979	562
Youth Group	334	0	300		34	(300)
Agency Funds	844	10,561	11,517		(112)	(956)
TOTAL	69,281	142,231	130,725	0	80,787	11,506

The General Fund which comprises the Santander Current Account, Petty Cash Account and the CBF Contingency account has sub accounts that are either income or expenditure. The income in some sub accounts is designated for specific expenditure, e.g. the Dorothy Allen Trust. These are shown in the restricted column. All other income in the unrestricted column, is used as a common pot to meet expenditure in any sub account.

Operating Funds have both income and expenditure during the year and individual balances are carried forward to the start of the next year. When necessary, transfers are made between operating funds during the year.

Agency Funds are funds that are handled by the church but are not part of the church income and expenditure. Examples are fees for organists, vergers or choir at weddings and funerals and collections at funerals for a specific charity.

ST MARY THE VIRGIN GODMANCHESTER PCC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2021

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with both the Charities Act 2011, on the Receipts and Payments Basis, and the Church of England accounting regulations

2 ANALYSIS OF FUND MOVEMENT FOR THE YEAR

(i) **UNRESTRICTED FUNDS** may be used by the PCC for any of its ordinary purposes. The movements in the fund are shown in the Receipts and Payments Account

FUND NAME	FUND PURPOSE	Bal 1 Jan	Receipts	Payments	Bal 31 Dec
Church Hall	Maintain hall	5,850	15,940	14,885	6,905
		5,850	15,940	14,885	6,905

(ii) **DESIGNATED FUNDS** represent funds set aside, out of ordinary unrestricted funds, for specific designated purposes, but they can be transferred back into general funds at any time

FUND NAME	FUND PURPOSE	Bal 1 Jan	Receipts	Payments	Bal 31 Dec
Decorating fund	Church redecoration	5,011	2,000	0	7,011
Churchyard & Mowers	Maintain church surrounds	492	4,378	4,160	710
		5,503	6,378	4,160	7,721

(iii) **RESTRICTED FUNDS** represent either income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objectives provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, or donations or grants received or invited for a specific purpose. The funds may only be spent on the specific purpose for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent must be carried forward as a balance on that fund and cannot be absorbed into general funds.

FUND NAME	FUND PURPOSE	Bal 1 Jan	Receipts	Payments	Bal 31 Dec
Transformation Fund	Church Transformation Project	36,749	30,336	36,147	30,938
Sunday School	Fund Children's Church	42	3	0	44
Youth Group	Fund Youth Work	334	0	300	34
		37,125	30,339	36,447	31,017

(iv) **ENDOWMENT FUNDS** are funds whose capital must be maintained: only income arising from the investment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending on the purpose for which the endowment was established

FUND NAME	FUND PURPOSE	Bal 1 Jan	Receipts	Payments	Bal 31 Dec
Dorothy Allen Trust	50% fabric, remainder unrestricted	0	2,469	2,469	0
Sunday School Invest	Religious education	0	3	3	0
		0	2,472	2,472	0

(v) **FUNDS LODGED IN THE CHURCH ACCOUNTS** are funds belonging to church organisations that do not appear in the Statement of Receipts and Payments

FUND NAME	FUND PURPOSE	Bal 1 Jan	Receipts	Payments	Bal 31 Dec
Bell Ringers Fund	Tower maintenance	1,541	1,425	1,300	1,666
Flower Guild Fund	Church flowers	418	828	266	979
		1,959	2,253	1,566	2,645

3 TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

From	To	Amount
Church Hall	Gen Funds	6,500
Church hall	Decorating Fund	2,000
Churchyard & Mowers	Fabric Fund	4,000

ST MARY THE VIRGIN GODMANCHESTER PCC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2021

4. ANALYSIS OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ITEMS

RECEIPTS	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2021 Total	2020 Total
Notes						
a) Planned giving						
BACS donations (regular)	1,438	-	-	-	1,438	1,490
Free-will envelopes	3,609	-	-	-	3,609	4,663
Parish giving	20,249	-	-	-	20,249	15,510
Standing orders/DDs	14,570	-	-	-	14,570	15,024
	39,866	-	-	-	39,866	36,687
b) Collections at services						
Baptisms	531	-	-	-	531	72
Funerals	920	-	-	-	920	200
House communion	63	-	-	-	63	62
Regular Sunday services	3,308	-	-	-	3,308	3,491
Special Services	1,024	-	-	-	1,024	381
Weddings	654	-	-	-	654	50
	6,499	-	-	-	6,499	4,256
c) All other giving/voluntary receipts						
Donations	6,582	-	10,578	-	17,160	22,332
Gift day	2,086	-	-	-	2,086	4,687
	8,668	-	10,578	-	19,246	27,019
d) Grants (recurring and one-off)						
VAT Recovered	-	-	-	-	0	2,379
hdc Covid Grant	6,000	-	-	-	6,000	1,652
Friends of St Mary's	42	-	-	-	42	535
	6,042	0	0	-	6,042	4,566
e) Fundraising activities						
Summer fete	2,689	-	-	-	2,689	0
Christmas bazaar	2,298	-	-	-	2,298	1,555
	4,987	-	-	-	4,987	1,555
f) Investment income						
CBF Contingency acc	312	-	-	-	312	111
CBF Development acc	-	-	9	-	9	87
Dorothy Allen Trust	1,235	-	1,235	-	2,469	2,477
Sunday School Investments	-	-	3	-	3	16
	1,547	0	1,247	-	2,794	2,691
g) Trading activities						
Church hire	370	-	-	-	370	410
Hall letting	-	15,940	-	-	15,940	14,730
Magazine sales & advertising	1,780	-	-	-	1,780	2,648
Sunday & thur coffee	159	-	-	-	159	43
Grasscutting contract	-	4,378	-	-	4,378	4,250
	2,310	20,318	-	-	22,627	22,080
h) Other receipts/income						
Insurance claim	-	-	-	-	0	2,548
Bellringers (net)	-	-	125	-	125	100
Flower guild (net)	-	-	562	-	562	100
	-	-	687	-	687	2,748

ST MARY THE VIRGIN GODMANCHESTER PCC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2021

4. ANALYSIS OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ITEMS

PAYMENTS	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowmnet	2021 Total	2020 Total
i) Cost of fundraising activities						
Fete & bazaar	183	-	-	-	183	0
Donation envelopes	122	-	-	-	122	249
	<u>306</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>306</u>	<u>249</u>
j) Mission & charity giving						
Christmas charities	100	-	-	-	100	930
Service charities	218	-	-	-	218	278
Mayor of Godmanchester's Charity	-	-	-	-	0	234
Other charities	-	-	-	-	0	71
	<u>318</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>318</u>	<u>1,513</u>
NB. 2021 Christmas charities were paid in Jan 2022						
k) Mission & evangelism						
Children's church	62	-	-	-	62	309
Othe donations	-	-	-	-	0	200
	<u>62</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>509</u>
l) Church running expenses						
Admin	4,740	-	-	-	4,740	5,584
Altar requirements	207	-	-	-	207	551
Auditor fee	240	-	-	-	240	0
Maintenance	8,409	-	-	-	8,409	7,435
Organ & choir	407	-	-	-	407	661
Misc	2,208	-	-	-	2,208	7,202
Farewell gifts	0	-	-	-	0	20
	<u>16,211</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,211</u>	<u>21,453</u>
m) Cost of trading						
Mower expenses	-	168	-	-	168	631
Literature	-	-	-	-	0	114
Cost of goods (Coffee)	13	-	-	-	13	0
	<u>13</u>	<u>168</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>181</u>	<u>745</u>
n) Major repairs to church building						
Church fabric	-	-	-	-	0	515
o) Major repairs to church hall	-	-	-	-	-	-
p) New building work to church property						
Transformation project	-	-	7,920	-	7,920	12,328
q) Other payments and expenditure						
Bellringers (net)	-	-	-	-	0	0
Flower guild (net)	-	-	-	-	0	635
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>635</u>