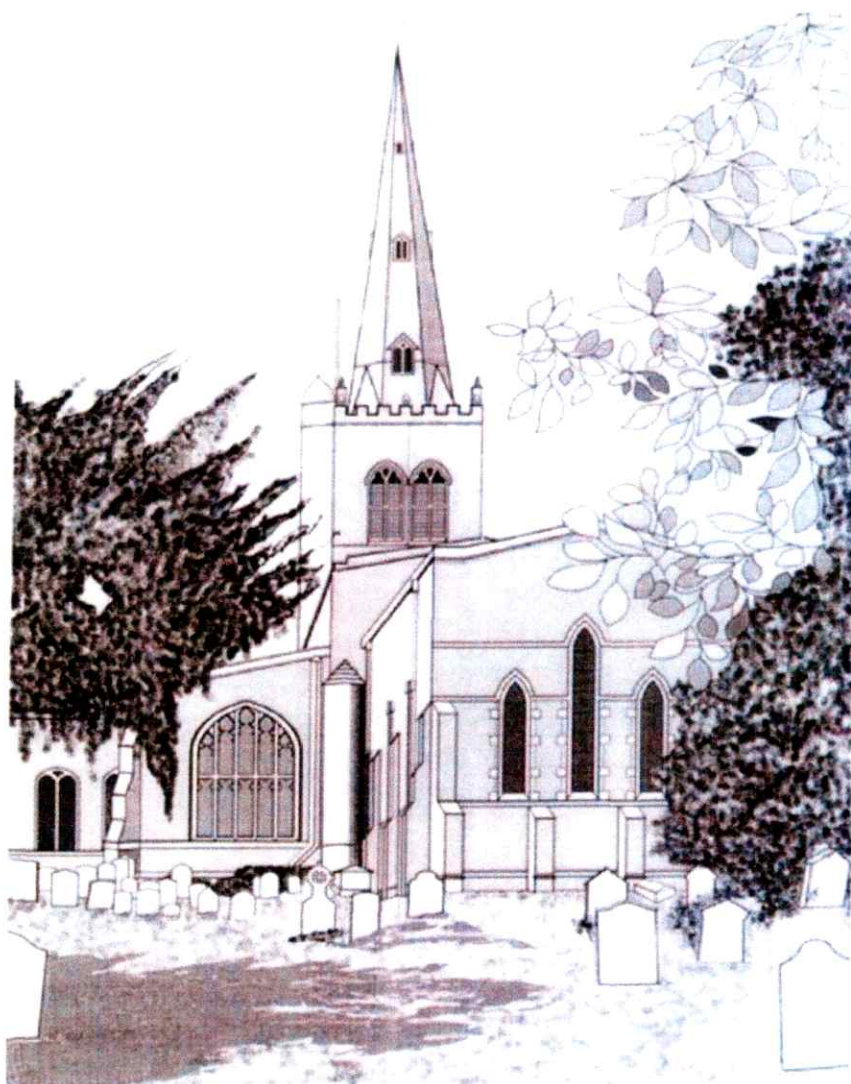




The Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin Godmanchester



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, Malaysia, 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.

February.	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:

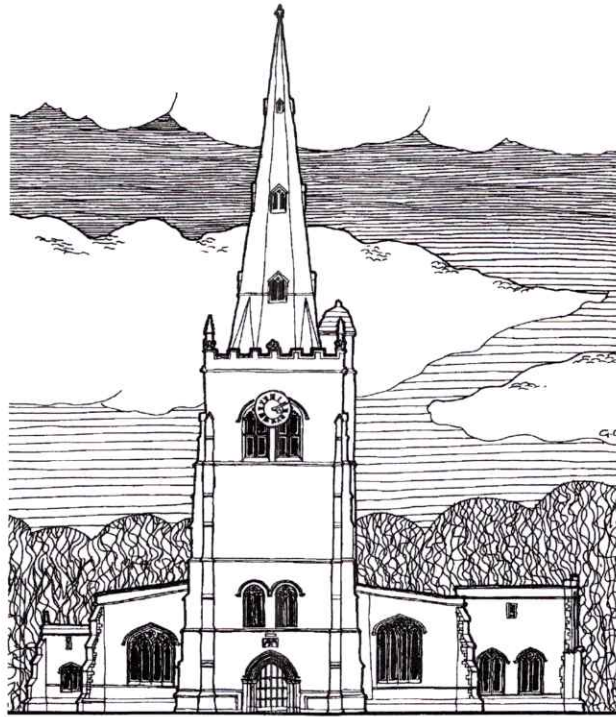
- Andrew Wright — PCC Secretary (from September 2024)
- Kate Robinson – PCC Secretary (to August 2024)
- Lucilia Azevedo
- Robert Francis (to April 2024)
- Nicholas Leigh Smith
- Simon Prince
- Adrian Sington
- Colin Thirlwall
- Mike Westcott-Rudd
- Bob Hurd
- David Moger
- Kevin Parks (to June 2024)

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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**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's
report on the accounts**

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 2024

**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:

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

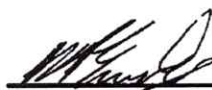
ASSETS

	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
	25,953	24,238	1,715
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
	19,247	33,461	(14,214)
Total Bank accounts/cash	126,473	80,426	46,047
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
	107,518	105,030	2,488
TOTAL ASSETS	233,991	185,456	48,535
<u>LIABILITIES</u>			
Fees owing to Ely DBF	645	903	(258)
Agency payment funerals	290		
	935.00		
<u>NET ASSETS/LIABILITIES</u>	233,056	184,553	48,503
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)
	106,196	105,972	224

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

Rev'd 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, 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 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

		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2024 Total	2023 Total
RECEIPTS							
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
	350	-	-	-	350	491
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
	199	-	0	-	199	1,337
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
	49	109	177	-	335	662
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
	24,010	-	-	-	24,010	23,140
m) Cost of trading						
Mower expenses		2,704	-		2,704	765
Cost of goods	0	-	-	-	0	0
	0	2,704	-	-	2,704	765
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
	-	-	768	-	768	1,877