

Annual Report

**St Mary's Burwell
St Etheldreda's Reach**



Loving God, Loving People

Prepared for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, April 2024

INTRODUCTION TO THE PARISH AND TO THE REPORT

Who are we? What has God called us to do?
Loving God, Loving People

Our Mission Statement

As the parish churches of Burwell & Reach we gather as people of all ages seeking to grow together in faith, hope and love, sharing the good news of God's love through:-

- Our prayer and worship
- Our daily lives
- Our service in our communities and in the world
- Our buildings being warm and welcoming centres of prayer and community life

A SUMMARY OF THE LIFE AND WORK OF OUR CHURCHES IN 2022 Prepared for Annual Meeting – April 2023

This Annual Report includes the reports which are required by the rules, and a few others. Please also see our website, which includes an introduction to the different groups and activities in our church community.

For **information** about the parish, visit: <http://www.stmarysburwell.org.uk/>

The **Parish** of Burwell with Reach is in the Deanery of Fordham and Quy and the Archdeaconry of Cambridge in the Diocese of Ely.

The full, formal, **name of the parish** is: The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Burwell with St Etheldreda and the Holy Trinity, Reach.
Registered charity number: 1129567

Correspondence should be addressed to the Vicar, Revd Canon Dr Eleanor Williams:
22 Isaacson Road, Burwell, CB25 0AF Telephone: 01638 741262
email: vicar@stmarysburwell.org.uk

CentrePeace, our parish outreach centre run entirely by volunteers, is at:
38a The Causeway, Burwell, CB25 0DU Telephone: 07542 828801
Opening times 10.00am–12.30pm on Tues, Thurs, Frid, Sat; 2.00pm-4.00pm on Weds, Thurs.

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LETTER FROM THE VICAR

It's a great joy to be able to look back over the year, and give thanks for God's faithfulness and generous grace over the course of a busy and fruitful year. Some highlights for me have been the re-opening of St Etheldreda's, with the beautifully finished refurbishment, and a very special dedication service with Bishop Dagmar in July. Earlier in the year, Jo Proctor led an online Alpha course, leading to two adults being baptised and confirmed at a very moving Easter Eve vigil service in Ely Cathedral. June saw the welcome return of St Mary's Church Fête, then in July Revd Virginia Moggridge was ordained as deacon, joining us as full-time curate. Over the year, we've also had the joy of seeing growth from seeds sown over the last few years. Refresh Café has grown, with new families and children coming along, usually finding out about the Café by word of mouth, and some families have been joining us for Café Church on the first Sunday of the month. Partnerships that began during the pandemic have developed, and in April, after several months of discussion and planning, we started running a weekly Pop-Up Pantry at Burwell Day Centre, distributing short-life food items, toiletries, and cupboard basics bought with voluntary donations. This operates with a locally recruited team, alongside Ely Foodbank, with Citizens Advice support. On Sunday mornings, David Poulter continued to support us playing the organ at the start of services, until taking up a new post in September, and since then we've got to know several other local organists. Simon Ogilvie has played saxophone most Sundays, and we've had several opportunities for the choir to gather again, supported by Becky Wilkes and Peter Hall.

I am deeply grateful to those who serve alongside me in the mission and ministry of this parish, for their dedication, commitment and friendship. Thank you to our ministry team for all you have brought to our Sunday services, Refresh Café, Messy Church, and so many other areas of church life: Revd Paula Spalding, LLM Jo Proctor, curate Revd Virginia Moggridge, ordinand Peter Rajeevan Amirthalingam, to Simon Ogilvie and Rob Proctor, for the music and the tech, to Kevin Powell for stepping in at times to support the AV. Thank you to our churchwardens for making sure things run smoothly, and the buildings are warm, comfortable and safe: to Wendy Smith and to Steve Martin, who has completed six years as churchwarden. Steve is stepping down, but has agreed to continue for a while as a Churchwarden's Assistant – a big thank you to Steve for all he has done over the last six years, so willingly and cheerfully.

Thank you to our eco warriors – to Kathy and Simon Ogilvie and Caroline Smith, in helping us attain Silver Eco Church awards, and continue working towards a Silver Churchyard Conservation Award. Thank you to the Refresh team, for all the weeks of putting out toys, playing with babies and toddlers, and getting alongside families, and to Sue Evans and our Pastoral team for praying, visiting, supporting those in need of a little extra support. Thank you to the bell-ringers, flower ministry, Mothers' Union and refreshment helpers, who enrich our life together, and to Christine Fleming and Dee Smith, who have worked hard behind the scenes as our Safeguarding team. Christine is stepping down as Parish Safeguarding Officer, and we are very grateful for all she has been able to do since taking on the role. Thank you to the PCC and to our deanery synod reps, to Hazel Williams and the CentrePeace volunteers, and Val Badcock for compiling the pew sheet each week.

This is also an opportunity to say thank you to so many who give of themselves to the mission and ministry of our parish, often behind the scenes - and to those who contribute financially, faithfully giving to support our mission and ministry, without which it would be very difficult to continue - thank you! This year, we were very grateful to receive a legacy from the estate of James Faircliffe and remember him with great fondness. We also give

thanks for the life of Don Kyte, who died in early 2024, for his dedicated service to St Mary's, the Feoffees and St Mary's Preservation Trust for over 40 years.

Finally, I am sure that you will join me in thanking Pat and Terry Chalmers, who are stepping down from their roles as administrator and treasurer, for all that they have contributed to the smooth, safe and financially sound running of this parish. I am deeply grateful for their personal support, encouragement and friendship, and for just being there when I have needed them. I will miss them very much. Pat and Terry have spent a lot of time preparing others to take on their roles, and we pray for God's blessing on them in this new phase of their lives.

In all our daily lives, our relationships, our work, our service, our worship, and in our times of gathering together, may we know the grace, mercy and peace of God, as we seek to be open to where God is at work, and ready to join in.

Eleanor Williams

Vicar of Burwell with Reach

DIOCESE OF ELY VISION – PEOPLE FULLY ALIVE

ely2025

We pray to be generous and visible people of Jesus Christ

Believing that God calls us to discover together his transforming presence in our lives and in every community, in Jesus Christ we pray:

- To **engage** fully and courageously with the needs of our communities, locally and globally
- To **grow** God's church by finding disciples and nurturing leaders
- To **deepen** our commitment to God through word, worship and prayer

STRATEGY – FIVE LEVERS FOR CHANGE

1. Nurture a confident people of God
2. Develop healthy churches and leaders
3. Serve the community
4. Re-imagine our buildings
5. Target resources to key areas

DIOCESAN STRATEGY PRAYER

We praise and thank you, God of the journey, for all your gifts to us in the past.

We look to you as fellow-traveller and faithful companion on the way ahead.

Shelter and protect us from all harm and anxiety;

give us grace to let go of all that holds us back;

and grant us courage to meet the new life you have promised us

in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN 2023

The table below summarises progress towards achieving our aims and more details are given in separate reports elsewhere in this document.

Aim	Objectives	Progress
Continue Partnership of Missional Church process	To prayerfully discern God's priorities for us while participating in the PMC process	We have worked with other organisations from the village and beyond to set up and run the Pop-Up Pantry. A new pattern of services is gradually being introduced and Café church is proving popular.
Progress development and reordering of both church buildings	Move forward with plans for reordering of Reach church and St Mary's	The work on Reach church building was completed and landscaping of the garden for biodiversity is underway. Further research into ways of reducing our carbon footprint in Burwell has been carried out and new energy contracts were set up.
Review resources, support and nurture for all in leadership roles	Monitor workloads, ways of working together and support	This year we were pleased to welcome a curate and an ordinand to our team, and both have made valuable contributions to our work. Towards the end of the year some long-term members of the team announced their retirement and it is pleasing that a number of people have offered to take on new responsibilities.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Attendance at services in general has grown this year, particularly at special services like Christmas and Easter and also at both of our midweek events, Wednesday Communion and Refresh Café.

In cooperation with other organisations in the village, as well as the Foodbank and Citizens' Advice, we set up a Pop-Up Pantry, which distributes excess food from the local supermarket as well as garden produce and donated items. This is highly successful, providing valuable support to people in need.

Our work to further biodiversity in both of our churchyards continues and both achieved Silver Eco Church awards in recognition of the progress made through the management of the areas to encourage wildlife and create a variety of habitats.

One of the highlights of the year was the re-dedication St Etheldreda's Church, Reach, following its extensive re-development. Bishop Dagmar officiated at the service, which was well attended by many people from both Reach and Burwell. This has enabled us to

increase the number of services held there and also to use the building for events such as Quiet Days and to contribute to the annual Reach Fair by serving cream teas.

CHURCHWARDENS' FABRIC REPORT 2023

During the year 2023- 24 expected work on both the church sites in the parish has been completed, while some unscheduled events have also demanded immediate attention: at Burwell, as well as regular maintenance tasks and inspections we have had some intrusive emergency repairs, while the re-ordering work at Reach has been completed.

At St Mary's, the glazing works left over from the 2017 inspection were completed in the spring with great improvement in their appearance and function. Notwithstanding the quinquennial inspection carried out in 2022 finding the building in generally good order, during the summer a wooden boss fell unexpectedly from the roof of the south aisle, closely followed by fragments of stone falling from the stone window surrounds both in the clerestory and from the stained-glass window at the front of the south aisle. Consequently, all the bosses in the south aisle were examined and appropriate restorative work done: the stonework in the other two locations was examined and repairs and precautionary work executed, with the scaffolding which had dominated the nave for much of the autumn being removed in time for Christmas. After the disruption and dust arising from these works, a deep clean of the building, including the heating ducting, has been undertaken.

The tower clock has been performing well since the latest repair and now keeps very good time due to excellent volunteer efforts.

The lightning conductor was inspected and upgraded to modern standards. The heating system is now functioning correctly after the pressure cleansing procedure reported last year. A number of blankets have been provided for the comfort of those who feel the cold on the coldest of days when the heating system can only just manage.

The heating planning group has continued to consider the issues around the current set-up and the church's goal for net-zero by 2030; a consultant's report has been obtained on this complex matter, the detail of which is still being pursued.

The oil-filled candles seen during services have been renewed.

The major repair works at the Guildhall have given no further issues. Recurrent damp and mould in the toilet area have been ameliorated by up-rating the extract fan installation. Some minor electrical work has been done, of which the most significant is the replacement of all the kitchen lights with LED units following recurrent earthing issues with the former, time-expired units.

At St Etheldreda's, the reordering is complete and regular services are now being held. The loft ladder originally fitted in the lobby proved hazardous in operation and has been replaced. Work is well under way with the grounds to create a fitting surrounding for the newly-renovated church.

We must acknowledge the great debt of gratitude we all owe to Eleanor for her leadership and inspiration: the many forms of progress we have seen in our church community come with a substantial workload, the extent of which we might only guess. As a parish we must thank Paula and Jo for their ministry and support to our Lord's work while acknowledging the contributions and fellowship of Peter and Virginia. From all of us 'Thank you'.

As I approach the end of my term of appointment as Churchwarden, I would like to thank everyone, clergy, administrator, my partner wardens and congregation for their friendship, support and sharing in the many tasks seen and unseen.

Steve Martin

ECO PLANS

Both St Mary's Burwell and St Etheldreda's Reach were awarded the Eco Church Award at Silver level in November 2023. These Awards encourage churches to consider five areas: worship and teaching, management of church buildings, management of church land, community and global engagement, and lifestyle.

I have continued to put articles in Contact with suggestions for how to live more sustainably, and why this is particularly important for Christians. Displays were produced for the Church fete in June 2023 (which took the national 'The Great Big Green Week' for its theme), and for the Open Day in September 2023, and are now used in the entrance area of St Mary's. An Eco Networking Lunch was held in St Mary's in July 2023, with five participants from this parish, and one from elsewhere in the Diocese.

The PCC agreed to turn off the floodlighting around St Mary's overnight, rather than leaving it on until dawn the next day. This saves energy and means that wildlife is no longer disturbed by the excess lighting.

An initial official survey of heating options for St Mary's was carried out in September 2023 and the PCC continues to look into the options available.

Kathy Ogilvie (PCC Member)

ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD

St Mary's, Burwell: We have continued to build on the good practice which gained us the Bronze Churchyard Conservation Award in 2021, working towards the Silver Award. You may be aware that, since the 1930's, 97% of UK wildflower meadows have been lost; this clearly has knock-on effects for our wider biodiversity, including vital pollinators. Churchyards provide an important opportunity to redress this imbalance in a small way: careful management can maximise the number and quality of habitats, for the benefit of wildlife.

In particular, a variety of mowing regimes is encouraged; alongside more regularly cut areas, there are uncut areas (suitable for small mammals), spring flower areas (to be cut late May, July and October/ November) and summer meadow areas (to be cut in March and then not again until October/ November). In these latter two cases, it is important to remove and compost mowings; this reduces soil fertility and thus encourages wildflowers, by holding back the coarser grasses which would, otherwise, outcompete them.

In May, the Big Help Out Day, part of the Coronation long weekend, was an opportunity to muster additional help with churchyard maintenance – a total of 10 of us weeded some sections of the gravel pathways, to avoid the need for harmful herbicides. Then, June 2023 marked the (very welcome) return of the Church Fete. In September, our Heritage Day provided an opportunity to highlight the ways in which we are seeking to improve our churchyard for wildlife, as well as to show visitors some interesting features, particularly the Barn Fire memorial and our Listed headstones. Our Easter and Christmas Trails have continued to be popular, particularly with families. And lastly, in December the churchyard provided a very suitable venue in which to celebrate our 'Community Angels'.

I would like to thank the volunteers who have helped in our management programme so far. This includes members of our church family and of Wild Burwell. Extra help is always appreciated; if you would like to spend more time in these tranquil surroundings, please let us know!

St Etheldreda's, Reach: Once the builders finished work, we were able to turn our attention to the church garden. The intention here is in keeping with the rest of the reordering: to retain and enhance what is already present, in order to develop an attractive space suitable for quiet reflection, by church members and the wider community alike. In addition, we are mindful of our duty as stewards of this place, to enhance its biodiversity. Indeed, as part of the planning application, we were required to complete a Scheme of Biodiversity Improvement, and it is this which we have been working to implement.

We have, so far, concentrated on setting up the new garden area behind the church. Much of the hard physical work has now been done - dealing with brambles in borders, ivy on walls and nettles near neighbours. We have repurposed the old pulpit, to form a raised alpine bed in front of the arch, and set up an herbaceous border in the south-east corner – in both, selecting plants attractive to pollinators. The next step will be to sow locally collected wildflower seeds, to enhance the meadow areas.

We would very much like this to be a project by and for Reach. Robert Keutgen will be carrying out routine maintenance, as before, but we would very much welcome the involvement of other members of the village community in all other aspects of this project.

Caroline Smith

(Assistant to the Churchwardens with particular responsibility for the churchyard)

ST ETHELDREDA'S CHURCH, REACH

2023 will be remembered as the year we were able to make full use of the church again after the extensive works carried out as a result of the generous bequest from Maisie Whitehead.

The church is now fully accessible with the completion of the curved path direct from the pavement outside. Inside, the digital piano and the chairs arrived. The servery was equipped, the new altar rail installed and the plaque to commemorate Maisie Whitehead put in place.

Early services felt a little like 'camping out', or perhaps that should be 'glamping out', as we began using the wonderful new facilities while those final works were completed and deliveries made. With the final push to clear the storage container used over the period of the works, it finally felt that we were able to come home to St Etheldreda's. There continue to be feelings of wonder and delight each time we arrive there, and these have been echoed many times by residents and visitors alike. We are very blessed.

Spring brought the opportunity to begin to work on the Biodiversity Plan, thinking about the landscaping of the grounds around the church, planting, adding bird and bat boxes, habitat piles and a mowing plan to allow natural wildflowers to set seed and become established. This work continues and will be followed up with the plan to register with the Quiet Gardens movement.

Bishop Dagmar joined us to lead the celebratory service in July, an especially joyful event during the year celebrating 1350 years of Ely Cathedral's foundation. We were delighted to be joined by so many tradesmen, professionals and supporters who had worked hard to

bring the church to this point, and to share conversation with them over refreshments afterwards.

It's good to note that St Etheldreda's has already been used for more services than in the year prior to the Covid 19 pandemic, and bookings for quiet, reflective days have been, and continue to be, made.

Our very grateful thanks go to all who have been involved in this development in any way over the past few years. We have been greatly blessed by the devotion and generosity of Maisie Whitehead.

Rev'd Paula Spalding
Associate Priest
on behalf of the Reach Development Group

FORDHAM AND QUY DEANERY SYNOD

Three meetings were held over the past year:

At each meeting benefices have been encouraged to share stories. They ranged from building work being completed, new incumbents appointed, to various activities with children and families. A toddler group in Cheveley had become so successful that numbers had to be capped. Fulbourn Parish, after securing a charity grant, had appointed a Director of Music (David Poulter)

Work continued and was finalised on the Deanery Development Plan. It has now been submitted to the Diocese.

We had a presentation on the REACH Ely Project: Reimagining Churches as Community Assets for the Common Good'. When the Diocese published its strategy Ely 2025, one of the 5 levers of change addressed church buildings and their place in the mission of the church in the 21st century. The aims of the project had been to connect churches to their communities through better use of historic buildings and to promote long-term sustainability of church buildings and missional objectives of church itself. Each Church was asked to complete an audit and the Diocese along with the Judge Business School put together some case studies of how buildings were being used. There is more information about this at REACH ELY – Diocese of Ely (elydiocese.org).

A Deanery Vision Morning was held at St. Mary's, Woodditton on Saturday 28th October. People from across the Benefice shared presentations and progress on topics such as Community Engagement, Eco and Conservation progress. Eleanor also brought a large map of the deanery showing schools and churches. She invited people to mark the schools and write in the margin the sort of church involvement in those schools.

A new Diocesan Synod Representative was appointed following the retirement of Steve Mashford.

The Deanery is still looking for a treasurer following the retirement of David Swanney. There has been an increase to Parish Shares of 4% for 2024.

Christine Fleming and Jo Proctor (Deanery Synod Representatives)

CENTREPEACE

Centre Peace continues to be popular with those who come to buy books, deliver books and drop in for coffee. Although trade continues to increase it has not returned to pre-Covid levels. This together with for instance, the increase in electricity prices, has produced a loss on our trading statement in 2023. Rather than turn to the PCC to subsidise the shop, we would much prefer to be able sell more books or jigsaws or receive donations towards running costs, to ensure long-term viability.

As well as selling really good quality 'pre-loved' fiction books there are superb reference books either from the present era of cooking and autobiographies or from specific interests such as gardening, crafts and wildlife. Anyone who has young children in the family can save themselves a fortune in book buying too, as my grandchildren can testify by their groaning shelves. I complete few jigsaws myself but I know now many people who do – and very quickly.

Does this all sound like an advert for the shop? That is exactly what it is. We want more people to call in for a cup of coffee or tea and a biscuit. We cannot compete with other businesses in the village because we make instant (with no froth), but it is free. Few people leave without having found something to read (that they may not have known they wanted) and the added bonus is that it is still cost effective, and you get to spend time chatting to whoever is there.

Our volunteers do a great job and are happy to welcome anyone who just wants a conversation or maybe needs to have a rest on their way home with the shopping. So, my appeal is that you find a bit of time to come and see us, and you may not only enjoy it but, unusually when you go shopping spend less than you thought. Whatever you do spend will be going to help others who maybe need our time and company to help them enjoy their day.

Hazel Williams (Chair of Management Group)

MOTHERS' UNION (MU)

The Mothers' Union is a Christian charity, operating in parallel with the church, putting the care of people in straightened circumstances, wherever they are in the world, at the top of their agenda.

Locally Mothers' Union provides support, companionship and prayer for members and anyone in need equally. We support local initiatives such as women's refuges, prisoners and their families, whilst also keeping up with the national and international work of the movement. We also support diocesan objectives such as aiding families in crisis, sending the most under-privileged families on seaside holidays (many of the children are amazed as they have never seen the sea!) and being ever-vigilant for indicators of modern slavery and any form of abuse, be it gender-based or domestic or both. We support international campaigns and work by responding to appeals and lending our voices wherever their added weight might make them heard. With over 4 million members worldwide, governments take notice when we express our views through a campaign!

In many countries the Mothers' Union operates as an unofficial health service, being everything from first responders to a situation to being the team that resolves the problem. They are helped in this not by being given money but by being trained in methods of working which builds sustainable solutions for the local communities. They are greatly lifted in the knowledge that our prayers and love are with them in this vital work.

So, how do we do all this and remain sane? We meet monthly when we pray, share news, enjoy food together and pray some more. We also do “nice” things like visit local garden centres. We have managed to meet every month this past year, generally at my home, Mill Bungalow, on the last Wednesday of the month in the afternoon. I would like to start an evening group for those who work and are unable to join in our afternoon gatherings, but need a few more members who would like to attend that in order for it to work.

Membership of Mothers' Union is open to anyone, male or female, who agrees with the principles of the movement: support of families and family life in a Christian environment. If you are a Christian I am sure you do, so if you are not currently a member, why not? I am very willing to discuss membership, our beliefs or our work with anyone who is interested. Our meetings are lively, engaging and always good-natured. A wonderful way to spend an afternoon with the added bonus of doing something good for humanity in praise of God.

Philip Baker (Burwell Branch Leader)

ST MARY'S BURWELL BELLRINGERS ANNUAL REPORT

Ringling for all the Christmas Services and events was a 'Grand Finale' to an exciting year for St Mary's, Burwell, Bellringers. It also showed our new bellringers (who were recruited from the Ring for the King Campaign in May) just what it means to be a bellringer.

On 6th May 2023, the belfry was decorated, a grand spread of cakes and nibbles was laid out and Burwell ringers joined bellringers from across the world to ring for the Coronation of King Charles III.

Since then, our ringers have continued to make excellent progress, by passing their Level 1 Bellringing certificate and joining in all the activities Burwell Bellringers undertake, throughout the year. They have been ably supported by the more experienced bellringers and our band is now up to 14 members.

The bellringers all enjoyed running the Book Stall at the Church Fete and the Tower Open Day in September. It was lovely to have so many positive comments from Burwell inhabitants about how our church bells are appreciated and enjoyed.

2024 will bring more events and challenges for Burwell Bellringers. These include ringing Quarter Peals, visit other towers on our Annual Outing as well as ringing for Weddings and other Church Services.

Dee F Smith

Tower Captain St Mary's Burwell Bellringers

“VILLAGE GREEN PRAY-ERS”

The staff at Village Green continue to welcome us on a Saturday morning at 9am and they have named us “the holy hooligans”! We average about 7-9 people each week and our tables are ready for us when we arrive. We share in fellowship, support, and prayers within this busy hub of the community. We are praying through a small book of Julian Of Norwich at the moment and each week there is something apt in her words for us.

We continue to forge friendships with other regular Saturday morning customers who sometimes share things for prayer with us. The staff team has a new regular Saturday member, Colby, who replaces Lauren. On the Saturday between Christmas and New Year it

was the “3 Wise Men” on duty. We named them Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar - they loved their new names! The team know that we pray for them (as they navigate our different orders and foibles!) as well as many different situations - personal, local, national, and international.

This is an open group, and we would love it if you came to join us - all are welcome. This time together sets us up for the day and sometimes even the week ahead. We meet at 9am for about 45 mins; some stay on after we've prayed, for a further cuppa and more chat. It would be lovely to see you too.



Village Green Angels – Advent 2023

Janine Stewart

THE PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT

The PCC Secretary role is currently split between 2 people. Kathy Ogilvie takes the minutes at each PCC Meeting and Jo Proctor's role is to ensure that each PCC member has the relevant documents for discussion at each meeting.

The PCC comprises a total of 14 members: 7 elected members and 7 ex-officio (3 members of the clergy, 2 churchwardens and 2 Deanery Synod Representatives)

Since the APCM in April 2023, at the time of writing there have been 9 PCC Meetings with a month off in August and a welcome return of the Christmas social in December hosted by Eleanor at the Vicarage. One more meeting will be held in March before the APCM. PCC meetings have been well attended over the year with an average attendance of 70%, meaning that a quorum has been easily reached at every meeting.

Each PCC Meeting follows a set pattern, beginning with prayer. Items for discussion as listed in the Agenda with an opportunity to discuss any other business under either “Matters Arising” from previous minutes or “AOB”. Financial reports are made regularly by the Treasurer and matters relating to the maintenance of each of the churches is given in a fabric report prepared by the churchwardens. There is also time set aside to review past events and to plan for future ones. Other items discussed have included policies and

updates. Work continues to ensure that all our policies are kept up to date and that all voluntary staff have gone through the safer recruiting process to ensure we provide a safe environment for all that walk through the Church doors.

Much of the Church activity in the past year is given in the individual reports and the PCC is indebted to everyone for their services to the Church and enabling it to be a vibrant place to come and worship.

29th February 2024

Jo Proctor (PCC Secretary) and Kathy Ogilvie (PCC member)

ST MARY'S PRESERVATION TRUST

Registered Charity No 277633

The Trust has been busy this year (our financial year runs April to March so differs from the PCC) and a number of repairs, some of them urgent, have been carried out. The activity for the year ending 31st March 2024 is summarised as follows: (note that the current year totals are forecasts)

Work funded by the Trust on the fabric of St Mary's:	£37,766	(£2,311 in 2022/3)
Other expenses	£0	(£0 in 2022/3)
Regular income (total)	£2,184	£2,244 in 2022/3)
Other income (interest, donations, recoveries etc)	£6,668	(£2,025 in 2022/3)
Total reserves (forecast at 31 st March 2024)	£161,563	(£190,477 in 2022/3)

As you will note, the outgoings this financial year are considerably higher than last, whilst our regular income has declined and is very much less than our outgoings. We have no control over our outgoings, what needs doing must be done, but we can do something about our income and we hope to enrol more donors during the coming year.

The purpose of the Trust is to take care of the fabric of the church building of St Mary's, so as to relieve the PCC of this financial burden and thereby allowing it to concentrate on serving its Christian purpose in the Community of Burwell and Reach, and beyond. It was always the intention that the Trust would draw on the resources in the wider community, as it would clearly be a huge task for the church community to care adequately for the building, and a distraction from its more urgent functions. This principle has slipped somewhat in recent times and some form of remedial action will be needed to restore the balance.

The Trustees are grateful to all who have helped the Trust and assure all who help that their support is greatly appreciated. Anyone who would like to consider adding their support can find out more by contacting us; you would be most welcome.

Chairman: Rob Harwood

Honorary Treasurer: Philip Baker

Report prepared by Philip Baker 12th February 2024

TREASURER'S REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN BURWELL WITH ST ETHELDREDA AND THE HOLY TRINITY REACH

Trustees Report for the year ended 31st December 2023

Vicarage Address: The Vicarage
22 Isaacson Road
Burwell
Cambridge
CB25 0AF

Registered Charity Number: 1129567

Independent Examiner: Mr Simon Rogers

Bankers: Barclays Bank plc
Leicester
LE87 2BB
CCLA Investment Management Ltd
CBF Church of England Funds
1 Angel Lane
London
EC4R 3AB

The parish church of St Mary the Virgin stands in a prominent position in High Street, Burwell, Cambs, CB25 0HB. It is in the Parish of Burwell with Reach, within the Fordham and Quy Deanery. St Mary's is a very fine Perpendicular building and is Grade 1 listed. It also forms part of a conservation area. St Mary's Church stands on a site previously occupied by an Anglo Saxon church in a conservation area at the south-western end of the village. It is part of a complex of ancient buildings including (the remains of) Burwell Castle, built by King Stephen in the C12th and itself on the site of a substantial Roman building, adjacent to a spring.

The Church of St Etheldreda and The Holy Trinity, Fair Green, Reach, Cambridgeshire CB25 0JD is a Grade II listed Victorian church. It occupies a prominent position on the east side of the green in the centre of the village, alongside the Village Centre and the village pub. Its Victorian architecture is completely in keeping with the overall ambience of the village.

The parishes of Burwell and Reach were combined in April 2004 to form the benefice of Burwell with Reach.

THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN BURWELL WITH ST ETHELDREDA AND THE HOLY TRINITY REACH

Trustees Report for the year ended 31st December 2023

Structure Governance and Management

The PCC confirm that the annual report and examined accounts comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities SORP 2015.

Governing Document

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England and the PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure.

Recruitment and Appointment of PCC

The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules.

Risk Management

The PCC has carried out a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. Where appropriate policies have been established to mitigate the risks the charity faces. These policies are periodically reviewed to ensure they continue to meet the needs of the charity.

Organisational Structure

In order to carry out its aims and objectives, the PCC sets up sub-committees, which may include other church members. Among these are groups to manage the church shop and the Guildhall.

Related Parties

St Mary's Preservation Trust

The Preservation Trust is an independent charity, set up by the PCC in 1979 with the sole responsibility of conserving the fabric of the building of the church for the benefit of future generations. It is non-denominational and draws funds from both regular supporters and grant-making bodies.

Feoffees

Burwell Church Lands Charity dates back to the 16th century when land was donated for the benefit of the Poor and the maintenance of the Parish Church. It now makes modest grants to assist children and young people living in Burwell to pursue their educational needs, and supports the upkeep of the Guildhall and grants the Church use of the building.

THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN BURWELL WITH ST ETHELDREDA AND THE HOLY TRINITY REACH

Trustees Report for the year ended 31st December 2023

Objectives and Aims

In accordance with The PCC Powers Measure of 1956, the PCC aims to co-operate with the Vicar in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Mission Statement, Achievements and Performance

Our mission statement and the achievements and performance of the parish this year may be found elsewhere in this document.

Financial Review

Unrestricted incoming resources were appreciably higher than last year at £125,263. The bulk of this income derives from the generous giving of Church members, but also benefited from a legacy from the late James Faircliffe. Resources expended of £117,762 showed a considerable increase mainly due to higher energy costs with low price electricity contracts finishing mid-year. The PCC policy of making charitable grants of ten per cent of unrestricted income was confined to regularly supported charities, and £6,375 was transferred to the restricted Mission Giving fund to support this. The net surplus on unrestricted funds was £7,126 compared to the previous year's deficit of £2,578. Unrestricted reserves stood at £120,333 at the end of the year.

Restricted funds recorded total incoming resources including transfers of £5,849. Expenditures on the Reach re-ordering project continued during the early part of the year amounting to £52,498. Full advantage has been taken of the VAT recovery available from the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme. Mission giving grants were £7,274. Due to the improved economic situation, investment gains were recorded of £42,637 resulting in closing restricted reserves of £663,483.

Work on St Etheldreda's was essentially finished during the year, and the Church has been used for regular services, demonstrating the large benefits of a warm, light and well insulated building together with new kitchen and toilet facilities all made possible by the funds provided from the generous Whitehead legacy.

In summary, although reserves are strong, it is becoming a challenge to maintain Church income at a level that does not deplete these reserves year on year. This is particularly so now that energy costs are high and we have moved into new fixed price contracts at inflated price levels.

**THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN BURWELL
WITH ST ETHELDREDA AND THE HOLY TRINITY REACH**

Trustees Report for the year ended 31st December 2023

Safeguarding Statement

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults), as amended by The Safeguarding (Code of Practice) Measure 2021 (Commencement and Transitional Provision) Order 2022.

Principal Funding Sources

The major regular source of income is charitable donations from a generous and committed congregation. Useful additional income is derived from restricted fund dividends and income from Guildhall lettings. The church shop is merely self-supporting.

Investment Policy

The PCC reserves and restricted funds are invested with the CBF Church of England Funds, and in appropriate deposit accounts which are reviewed regularly.

Reserves Policy

The PCC aims to maintain unrestricted reserves at a level of between six months and eighteen months average expenditure. At the end of 2023 unrestricted cash reserves were approximately £120,000, with annual unrestricted expenditure of £118,000.

Approved at the Parochial Church Council meeting on 20th March 2024

Signed:

Rev Canon Dr Eleanor Williams
(Vicar)

THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN BURWELL WITH ST ETHELDREDA AND THE HOLY TRINITY REACH

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011, and that an independent examination is needed.

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023 is in respect of an examination carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011, following procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. The report will state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act, and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

b) to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed and dated:

Mr Simon Rogers
1 Pound Close
Burwell, Cambridge, CB25 0EP

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources						
Incoming resources from generated funds						
Voluntary income	75,483	—	2,603	—	78,087	76,205
Activities for generating funds	2,910	—	—	—	2,910	1,646
Investment income	11,936	8,650	1,550	—	22,137	16,569
Other voluntary income	10,285	—	1,319	—	11,605	1,199
Incoming resources from charitable activities	15,865	—	—	—	15,865	17,684
Other incoming resources	131	—	—	—	131	131
Total income	116,612	8,650	5,473	—	130,736	113,436
Resources used						
Grants	(99)	—	7,273	—	7,174	9,186
Charitable activities	116,138	—	55,016	—	171,154	457,574
Charitable activities - support costs	1,676	—	—	—	1,676	2,178
Costs of generating funds	46	—	102	—	148	128
Total expenditure	117,762	—	62,391	—	180,154	469,068
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	42,636	—	42,636	(66,585)
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(1,149)	8,650	(14,281)	—	(6,780)	(422,217)
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	22,000	—	6,375	—	28,375	32,235
Gross transfers between funds - out	(12,375)	(10,000)	(6,000)	—	(28,375)	(32,235)
Other recognised gains / losses						
Net movement in funds	8,475	(1,349)	(13,906)	—	(6,780)	(422,217)
Total funds brought forward	87,703	25,504	677,388	—	790,596	1,212,814
Total funds carried forward	96,178	24,155	663,482	—	783,815	790,596
Represented by						
Unrestricted						
General fund	52,195	—	—	—	52,195	53,621
Reach Legacy Fund	43,982	—	—	—	43,982	34,081
Designated						
Capital Expenditure Fund	—	24,155	—	—	24,155	25,504
Restricted						
Bridgeman Trust Fund	—	—	1,446	—	1,446	1,322
Building Work Fund	—	—	48,673	—	48,673	47,083
Burwell Sunday School Fund	—	—	3,756	—	3,756	3,756
Reach Legacy Fund	—	—	289,846	—	289,846	333,046
St Andrew's Church Fund	—	—	316,474	—	316,474	289,259
Youth Work and Sunday School F	—	—	3,284	—	3,284	2,919

Balance sheet

Class and code	Description	This year	Last year
Fixed assets			
	Audio visual equipment	260	520
	Kitchen equipment	240	360
	Reach Legacy Inc	177,896	162,598
	St Andrew's mission church	316,474	289,259
	Bridgeman trust	1,446	1,322
	Burwell Sunday school	3,756	3,756
	Total Fixed assets	500,074	457,817
Current assets			
	Barclays current account	56,186	111,788
	Barclays deposit account	23,847	22,618
	CBF deposit account	154,086	143,728
	Barclays current account - Bldg	17,415	17,169
	Floats	260	260
	CBF deposit account - Bldg	31,156	29,789
	Gift aid tax recoverable	3,000	3,616
	Stock - CentrePeace	200	200
	Accounts Receivable	205	5,656
	Total Current assets	286,356	334,826
Liabilities			
	Accounts Payable	2,615	2,047
	Total Liabilities	2,615	2,047
	Net Asset surplus(deficit)	783,815	790,596
Reserves			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	(49,417)	(355,631)
	Starting balances	790,596	1,212,814
	Other gains/(losses)	42,636	(66,585)
	Total Reserves	783,815	790,596
	Represented by funds		
	Unrestricted	96,178	87,703
	Designated	24,155	25,504
	Restricted	663,482	677,388
	Total	783,815	790,596

Analysis of income and expenditure

year					Total	
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Incoming resources from generated funds - Voluntary income						
Bank giving – Bldg	—	—	1,400	—	1,400	2,570
Bank giving	40,533	—	—	—	40,533	40,412
Envelope giving	4,789	—	—	—	4,789	4,432
Other planned giving	1,270	—	—	—	1,270	1,110
Plate collections	5,351	—	898	—	6,249	3,875
Gift aid tax recoverable – Bldg	—	—	305	—	305	552
Gift aid tax recoverable	11,451	—	—	—	11,451	11,853
WeddingFuneral collections	231	—	—	—	231	169
Gift day donations	—	—	—	—	—	3,530
Donations	11,857	—	—	—	11,857	7,699
Total	75,483	—	2,603	—	78,087	76,205
Incoming resources from generated funds - Activities for generating funds						
Fete proceeds	1,605	—	—	—	1,605	—
Other fund raising events	1,305	—	—	—	1,305	1,646
Total	2,910	—	—	—	2,910	1,646
Incoming resources from generated funds - Investment income						
Dividends	4,862	8,650	—	—	13,513	13,438
Dividends - Sunday School	—	—	183	—	183	64
Bank deposit interest – Bldg	—	—	1,367	—	1,367	386
Bank deposit interest	7,073	—	—	—	7,073	2,679
Total	11,936	8,650	1,550	—	22,137	16,569
Incoming resources from generated funds - Other voluntary income						
Youth work and outreach income	—	—	1,319	—	1,319	1,102
Legacies	10,056	—	—	—	10,056	—
Wall safe	228	—	—	—	228	97
Total	10,285	—	1,319	—	11,605	1,199
Incoming resources from charitable activities						
CentrePeace takings	3,485	—	—	—	3,485	3,214
Guildhall lettings	8,170	—	—	—	8,170	8,056
WeddingFuneral fees	4,209	—	—	—	4,209	6,413
Total	15,865	—	—	—	15,865	17,684
Other incoming resources						
Other income	131	—	—	—	131	131
Total	131	—	—	—	131	131
INCOME TOTAL	116,612	8,650	5,473	—	130,736	113,436

EXPENDITURE

Grants

Overseas missions	—	—	1,560	—	1,560	1,500
Overseas relief agencies	—	—	2,138	—	2,138	2,055
Home missions and Societies	352	—	3,575	—	3,927	5,127
Social Support	(451)	—	—	—	(451)	504
Total	(99)	—	7,273	—	7,174	9,186

Charitable activities

Ministry Share	60,428	—	—	—	60,428	58,021
Clergy expenses	2,367	—	—	—	2,367	2,183
Verger and services costs	1,433	—	—	—	1,433	916
Choir and organ costs	1,886	—	—	—	1,886	1,213
Electricity	10,616	—	—	—	10,616	2,634
Electricity – CentrePeace	1,705	—	—	—	1,705	714
Electricity – Guildhall	2,354	—	—	—	2,354	1,810
Fuel oil and gas	5,389	—	—	—	5,389	1,035
Gas – Guildhall	3,578	—	—	—	3,578	1,605
Water – CentrePeace	162	—	—	—	162	178
Water – Guildhall	448	—	—	—	448	426
Rent – CentrePeace	4,160	—	—	—	4,160	4,160
General rates – CentrePeace	91	—	—	—	91	162
Insurance	5,697	—	—	—	5,697	4,941
Insurance – Guildhall	900	—	—	—	900	900
Maintenance and cleaning	3,080	—	—	—	3,080	3,366
Maintenance – CentrePeace	224	—	—	—	224	4,395
Cleaning – Guildhall	664	—	—	—	664	922
Repairs and renewals	7,184	—	—	—	7,184	3,158
Maintenance – Guildhall	1,434	—	—	—	1,434	5,270
Building to serve project – Bldg	—	—	1,380	—	1,380	—
Reach Church Re-ordering	—	—	52,498	—	52,498	356,469
Depreciation	380	—	—	—	380	380
Teaching materials	—	—	114	—	114	—
Youth work and outreach expenses	—	—	1,024	—	1,024	657
Stock purchases – CentrePeace	269	—	—	—	269	151
Miscellaneous expenses	1,680	—	—	—	1,680	1,444
Sundry expenses - CentrePeace	—	—	—	—	—	36
Sundry expenses – Guildhall	—	—	—	—	—	420
Total	116,138	—	55,016	—	171,154	457,574

Charitable activities - Charitable activities - support costs

Printing and stationery	1,632	—	—	—	1,632	1,566
Books and publications	43	—	—	—	43	611
Total	1,676	—	—	—	1,676	2,178

Costs of generating funds

Costs of fund raising events	46	—	—	—	46	26
Other fund raising costs – Bldg	—	—	102	—	102	85
Other fund raising costs	—	—	—	—	—	17
Total	46	—	102	—	148	128

EXPENDITURE TOTAL	117,762	—	62,391	—	180,154	469,068
GRAND TOTAL	(1,149)	8,650	(56,918)	—	(49,417)	(355,631)

REFERENCE SECTION

Mission Giving Report for APCM 2024

The PCC agreed to continue our usual practice of donating 10% of voluntary income to charity this year, but for practical purposes changed the schedule by which payments are made. The previous practice was to make all donations at the end of December, when a fairly accurate estimate of the total income for the year, and thus the total available for donation, was available. This was a significant administrative task at a busy time of year and also meant that charities did not receive the donations in time for any potential use in the Christmas period. The PCC therefore decided to make some donations in October to those charities supported regularly, based on the estimated final income total for the year. Those charities chosen annually for one-off or short-term donations would be paid early the following year, based on the actual year-end total income.

The total sum to be donated this year was £8,650, distributed as follows:

Charities supported every year – October payment

Charity	Sum donated
Parish Nursing	£365
Cof E pensions	£365
Ridley Hall	£420
BRF Messy Church	£190
ERMC	£470
Westcott House	£420
Ely Foodbank	£365
Livability	£520
Bible Society	£520
CMS	£520
SGM Lifewords	£520
Embrace the Middle East	£420
Christian Aid	£1280
Total	£6375

Additional Charities - supported for shorter periods - Payment early 2024

Charity	Sum donated
Burwell Print Centre	£370
Newmarket Open Door	£425
Yeldall Manor	£370
Smile Train	£370
EACH	£370
Wildlife Trust BCN	£370
Total	£2275

The composition of the Mission Giving Group, which proposes charities for support, has changed this year and now consists of: Ros Benwell, Jo Jones, Rob Harwood, Jo Proctor and Pat Chalmers.

Pat Chalmers, on behalf of the Mission Giving Group

Feb 2024

CHURCH ATTENDANCE STATISTICS FOR 2023

For the last few years, the Church Statistics have been affected by the COVID pandemic and so it is pleasing to see that the numbers attending most services have improved compared with last year. Also, whereas in 2022, about 20 people were still engaging via Zoom, the number now watching the live stream on Facebook is about 4 or 5. More details are given in the table below.

At St Mary's, the average attendance for Café Church is generally higher than attendance at Holy Communion. The attendance at Refresh Café varies from week to week and the figures shown are an average of the 4 Sundays in October, which is what the church of England uses as a 'typical' month.

Last year, attendance at Easter, Advent and Christmas services was lower than usual, mainly because of concerns about a surge in COVID cases locally at those times and also severe weather in December. This year, however all the seasonal services were very well attended, particularly at Easter and the Carol Service.

	2022	2023
Electoral Roll Burwell	112	111
Sunday attendance Café Church adults/children	48/6	70/12
Sunday attendance at 10.00am communion	46/1	56/3
Sunday attendance at 8.30am communion	8	9
Refresh Café – October average adults/children	20/17	18/21
Attendance at Midweek communion Burwell	11	12
Attendance at Midweek communion Reach	7	9
Baptisms Burwell/Reach	11	8/2
Thanksgivings	0	1
Confirmations (under 16)	0	0
Confirmations (over 16)	0	2
Children not confirmed admitted to Holy Communion	0	1
Weddings Burwell/Reach	8/0	2/1
Church Funerals Burwell/Reach	20/1	15/1
Memorial Services	1	0
Entire services at Crematorium or Cemetery	10	7

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

We are very grateful to our Safeguarding team, for their hard work over the last year. Christine Fleming has been the Parish Safeguarding Officer for the second year, and has overseen the Safer Recruitment process, conducting short interviews with all those who have volunteered for various named roles in our church and CentrePeace. Dee Smith has taken on admin tasks, specifically in arranging for 7 DBS checks since the last APCM. Dee has also run two C0 Basis Awareness sessions, for a total of 23 people who preferred to do their training in-person, rather than online. Revd Virginia Moggridge has joined the team and has helped with admin support, and conducted one in-person training course for four people.

In line with diocesan policy, the parish has been registered with the Safeguarding Dashboard for several years, which prompts review of policies and procedures, and that relevant training is up to date. We are moving to use the Safeguarding Hub, which will send automatic individual reminders for renewal of training and DBS checks.

One safeguarding concern was raised, which was dealt with informally, according to the parish's safeguarding policies and protocols.

There has been a report to the PCC at each meeting this year. The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults), as amended by The Safeguarding (Code of Practice) Measure 2021 (Commencement and Transitional Provision) Order 2022.

Parish of St. Mary's Burwell and St. Etheldreda's Reach

PCC MEMBERSHIP 2023/24

Ex-Officio:

Vicar	Revd Canon Dr Eleanor Williams
Associate Priest	Revd Paula Spalding
Curate	Revd Virginia Moggridge
Licensed Lay Minister (and PCC Secretary)	Joanna Proctor
Churchwardens	Stephen Martin (<i>1st elected 2018 1 year terms max 6 years</i>) Wendy Smith (<i>1st elected 2022 1 year terms max 6 years</i>)
Deanery Synod Representatives	Joanna Proctor (<i>Elected 2023 for 3 years</i>) Christine Fleming (<i>Elected 2023 for 3 years</i>)

Total ex-officio – 7

Elected Members:

2021	Kathy Ogilvie	
	Simon Ogilvie	
2022	Rob Proctor	
2023	Susan Reynolds	
	Caroline Smith	(<i>Churchwarden's Assistant</i>)
	Sally Swann	
	Terry Chalmers	(<i>Treasurer</i>)

Minutes Secretary: Kathy Ogilvie,

Total elected – 7

TOTAL OF 14 EX-OFFICIO and ELECTED MEMBERS.

STANDING COMMITTEE:

Vicar (chair)	Revd Canon Dr Eleanor Williams
Secretary	Secretary or Minute Secretary
Churchwardens	Two Churchwardens (if possible) or one Churchwarden and one Churchwardens' Assistant
Treasurer	Terry Chalmers
PCC member	(<i>any 1 elected member</i>)

Total of 6 members

ANNUAL MEETING 2023

MINUTES FOR ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS held on SUNDAY 16 APRIL 2023 at 11.25 am in ST MARY'S CHURCH, BURWELL

The full Annual Report document had been distributed two weeks before the meeting, comprising all reports mentioned below.

The Vicar welcomed attendees and opened the meeting in prayer.

There were 12 PCC members and 22 congregation attendees in church, totalling 34 attendees.

Present in church: Val Badcock, Philip Baker, Ann Briggs, Lorraine Carlton, Pat Chalmers, Terry Chalmers, Tom Elton, Sue Evans, Christine Fleming, Ann Gilbert, Dawn Hurrell, Ken Hurrell, Ysanne Leadon, Myrna Leech, Pauline Miller, Kathy Ogilvie, Steve Martin, Anne Perkins, Avril Plume, Joanna Proctor, Rob Proctor, Sue Reynolds, Simon Rogers, Caroline Smith, Dee Smith, Jonathan Smith, Wendy Smith, Paula Spalding, Sally Swann, Jackie Thacker, Tony Thacker, Eleanor Williams, Hazel Williams, Sarah Wingate.

Apologies for absence received from:

Angela Bellis, Simon Ogilvie, Janine Stewart.

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS – MINUTES

1 The Minutes of the last Meeting of Parishioners (24 April 2022) as printed in the Annual Report were approved and signed as an accurate record.

Proposed: D Hurrell Seconded: V Badcock

The minutes were accepted unanimously by those in attendance at the meeting.

2 Election of Church Wardens

Churchwardens

Stephen Martin Proposed: S Wingate Seconded: K Hurrell

Wendy Smith Proposed: T Thacker Seconded: P Chalmers

There being no other nominations the candidates were declared elected unopposed.

Election of Churchwardens' Assistant to follow at inaugural meeting of PCC.

The Meeting of Parishioners closed at 11.29am

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING – MINUTES

1 The minutes of the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting (24 April 2022) as printed in the Annual Report were accepted, approved and signed as an accurate record.

Proposed: P Chalmers Seconded: A Plume

2 Elections

Deanery Synod Representatives

The following members were nominated as Deanery Synod Representatives

Joanna Proctor Proposed: W Smith Seconded: D Hurrell

Christine Fleming Proposed: V Badcock Seconded: T Elton

The proposals were agreed unanimously by all in attendance at the meeting.

Parochial Church Council

The following members were nominated:

Caroline Smith Proposed: A Bellis Seconded: V Badcock

Sally Swann Proposed: K Hurrell Seconded: A Plume

Sue Reynolds Proposed: R Powell Seconded: J Morgan

Terence Chalmers Proposed: P Chalmers Seconded: S Martin

The proposals were agreed unanimously by all in attendance at the meeting.

3 Electoral Roll Officer's Report

The number on the Electoral Roll at the 2022 APCM was 2 for St Etheldreda's and 110 for St Mary's. Sadly, 3 of those on the roll for St Mary's have died. Following the recent revision, two names have been added to St Mary's. The final published Roll is now 2 for St Etheldreda's and 109 for St Mary's.

The Vicar added that several other members of St Mary's congregation had also died in the year.

4 PCC Secretary's Report

V Badcock confirmed that all the factual information required to be reported at the APCM was reported in the Annual Report Document for the meeting. Questions were invited but none were asked. The Vicar expressed her thanks to the PCC Secretaries, V Badcock and J Stewart, who were stepping down.

5 PCC Treasurer's Report and Adoption of Accounts

The Treasurer delivered the Finance Report to the APCM and expressed his thanks for the financial support given. The PCC accounts for 2022 are set out in the Annual Report; these along with the reports and charity information are provided in the full Trustees' report as is required. These duly examined accounts were signed following approval at the March PCC meeting. The Treasurer invited questions (none were asked) after which he asked that the meeting adopt the accounts.

Proposed: T Chalmers Seconded: S Evans

The Accounts were adopted unanimously by those in attendance at the meeting.

Appointment of Independent Examiner

The Treasurer expressed his thanks on behalf of the APCM to Simon Rogers for completing the 2022 examination of the accounts. S Rogers had expressed his

willingness to continue and therefore the Treasurer proposed his re-appointment as Independent Examiner.

Proposed: R Proctor Seconded: S Martin

This appointment was unanimously accepted by those in attendance at the meeting.

6 Church Warden's Fabric Report

The Church Warden's Report was detailed in the distributed Annual Report. S Martin reported that work on the windows in the north aisle is almost completed, work on the church clock continues, the Guildhall is still standing, the environmental impact of the heating is being looked at, and the piano is now in place at St Etheldreda's. The Vicar added that the PCC was grateful to St Mary's Preservation Trust for paying for work on the windows. Questions were invited, but there were none.

7 Deanery Synod Report

J Proctor advised that the information from the Deanery Synod was shown in the Annual Report. Questions were invited, but there were none. Thanks were expressed to C Fleming and J Proctor for agreeing to continue as Deanery Synod representatives.

8 Vicar's Report

The Vicar's letter is in the Annual Report document, along with reports of the activities of the parish. Questions on these reports were invited, but none made. The Vicar thanked and gave gifts to the following who were now stepping down from their roles: S Evans for her work as Lay Pastor, J Stewart and V Badcock for their 5 years as PCC Secretaries, and T Elton for being churchwardens' assistant. The Vicar thanked S Martin and W Smith (church wardens), D Smith (bellringing), C Fleming and D Smith (safeguarding roles), T Chalmers (accounts), P Chalmers (everything), C Smith (churchyard), J Proctor (LLM), R Proctor (tech), K & S Ogilvie (eco matters), the Flower Team, the Refresh Team, P Baker and the Mothers' Union, and P Spalding (support of parish).

The Vicar pointed out that a year ago we were only just coming out of the pandemic and its restrictions, and now life seems much freer and we can experiment with activities. On a slightly more negative note, she had seen a comment in the Visitors' Book which said that the building looked a mess, so she explained that St Mary's is not a museum, but a place for people to be.

9 Safeguarding Statement

C Fleming reported that the PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

No safeguarding concerns have been raised during the year.

10 Any other matters of parochial or general church interest

P Miller asked about Safeguarding and the training required.

The Vicar explained that the Church of England had been deficient in this in the past, and there is a need to raise the level of awareness of safeguarding issues.

The church needs to be a place where everyone feels safe but some people will take advantage of the 'open door' of the church. In the past, there have been issues regarding safeguarding, although it is not possible to share these. This parish has to and wishes to comply with the rules. When someone takes on a visible role at church, they are seen as being part of a trusted group, which some people may exploit. As a GP, the Vicar has seen those affected by domestic abuse. There are also issues with coercive and financial control of others. People need to know how to support those affected.

Training is part of raising awareness of these issues. D Smith said that she has previously run an in-person, rather than on-line, version of the training course, plans to run another course for CP and other volunteers, and offered to hold further C0 and C1 courses. The courses are to raise awareness and give an idea where to go for help when confronted by a situation. She recommended the courses to everyone. P Miller thanked the Vicar for this explanation.

11 The meeting finished at 12 noon and attendees shared the grace together. J Proctor thanked the Vicar for her leadership.