

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

ANNUAL PARISH REPORT

2021



**St. Mary's PCC, Wivenhoe
Registered Charity Number 1165660**

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**The Annual Parochial Church meeting will take place
on Sunday 15th May 2022 at 12 noon in church**

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for absence**
- 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd May 2021**
- 3. Election of members to the Parochial Church Council**
- 4. Election of Churchwardens**
- 5. The Annual Report**
- 6. Report on the changes to the Roll since the last annual Parochial Church Council meeting and the numbers entered on the Roll.**
- 7. Annual Report on the fabric and goods and ornaments of the church**
- 8. A report of the proceedings of the deanery synod**
- 9. Acceptance of the accounts**
- 10. Appointment of an Independent Examiner**
- 11. Any Other Business**

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St. Mary the Virgin, Wivenhoe
Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Via zoom on Saturday 22nd May 2021 at 10.30 a.m.

The Meeting opened at 10.30 a.m. Erwin gave a short address about the difficulties during 2020. On 1 March 2020 two weeks before lockdown we didn't realise what would hit us: 84 people attended church that Sunday of which 10 children – it was All Together Sunday – and all seemed fine. Two weeks later the church doors closed. From June until the end of December there were sessions for private prayer and communion under Covid restrictions. Erwin stated that we now have to look to the future and build the church congregation. Although there were opportunities to have services within the church at some points during the year there was an overriding concern about safety during the pandemic. The decision was taken to close the church to protect others and to comply with the government guidance. The church has however been visible online with virtual services on Sunday mornings and for Mid-Week reflection on Wednesdays. Erwin thanked Marika Footring who has worked tirelessly to provide the online services for over a year and her generosity of time has been exceptional. During the past twelve months some have stepped into roles and others decided to step back and Erwin understood their reasons for doing so but those stepping down hopefully will reconsider that decision and return. It has not always been doom and gloom; the new virtual way of communicating has made us consider other options for the future. The building of the annexe and the reordering of the nave has proceeded during lockdown and is nearly finished. Revd. Dr. Sara Batts-Neale and Revd. Dr. Elisabeth Ring have joined the ministry team during the year. Erwin read the prayer of renewal of the covenant before asking PCC Vice Chair Peter Terry to conduct the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence: Greg Butler and Revd. Dr. E. Ring

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 17th October 2020

Graeme Martin proposed, Margaret Bigwood seconded and the meeting agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 17th October 2020 were a true record.

3. Election of members to the Parochial Church Council

Erwin thanked Deirdre Gill, Angelique Basson and Eleanor Newman for their time and commitment as members of the PCC.

The following candidates were put forward for election to the PCC –

- Graham Wadley was proposed by John Williams and seconded by Maureen Reynolds this was approved unanimously.
- Suzanne Jones was proposed by Ann Hanagan and seconded by Barry Smith this was approved unanimously.
- Under the Church Representation Rules Section M15(1h) it was proposed by Peter Terry and seconded by Bonnie Hill that Reader Glyn Stanway be appointed to the PCC and this was approved unanimously.

4. Election of Churchwardens

Peter thanked Margaret Bigwood and Douglas McCormick for their work during the year. Both Douglas and Margaret were prepared to continue.

Margaret Ann Bigwood was proposed by Sandra Osborne and seconded by Katy Osborne and this was approved unanimously.

Douglas McCormick was proposed Peter Terry and seconded by Rick Cawley and this was approved unanimously.

5. The Annual Report

Erwin reviewed the annual report, highlighting and thanking people for their contribution to the life and work of the parish. He mentioned each of the groups many of whom were still reporting into the PCC regularly on their activities during lockdown. Erwin thanked the Churchwardens and the Standing Committee members for their commitment during the past year. Groups had continued to meet either outside when permitted, using email or via zoom. The Transformation Project had involved many different groups during the year, all working

towards the same aim - the completion of the annexe and reordering of the nave. Despite the cancellation of events last year many of the groups were already planning activities in the autumn of 2021. As he went through the report Erwin specifically thanked all the team leaders for their leadership and their time given during 2020.

Peter Terry thanked Erwin for his ministry in Wivenhoe during a very difficult year. He had maintained contact via various means where he was able to; he had mastered how to deliver online services and through his dedication had ensured that we were able to worship together on a weekly basis.

6. Report on the changes to the Roll since the last annual Parochial Church Council meeting and the numbers entered on the Roll.

Peter referred those present to page 6 of the Annual Report. 117 names were on the 2020 electoral roll. Some members of the congregation had sadly passed or moved away. Thanks were given to Vivien Eborn, St. Mary's Electoral Roll Officer.

7. Annual Report on the fabric and goods and ornaments of the church

Peter referred those present to page 6 of the Annual Report. There were no questions. Peter thanked Margaret Bigwood and Douglas McCormick for their report.

8. A report of the proceedings of the deanery synod

Peter referred those present to page 5 of the Annual Report. There were no questions. Peter thanked our three Deanery Synod Representatives for their report

9. Acceptance of accounts

In presenting St Mary's accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020 for acceptance, Treasurer Bill Eborn asked if there were any questions about the accounts and there were none.

The accounts had been prepared in accordance with the Charity Commission and the Church of England requirements.

The acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Bill Eborn; this was seconded by Douglas McCormick and unanimously agreed.

10. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Peyton Tyler Mears, having agreed to act as Independent Examiners were proposed by Bill Eborn, seconded by Graeme Martin and unanimously agreed that they be appointed for 2021/2022 by the meeting.

Peter thanked Bill Eborn and Vivien Eborn for their work during a challenging year.

Marika Footring spoke about the fact that Peyton Tyler Mears had been appointed for several years and wondered if fresh eyes should examine the accounts. Bill said that there had been discussion in the press about some companies not pushing organisations to be absolutely accurate. Bill suggested that we didn't change until after the Appeal had finished on 31st December. If there was a change it may result in a higher charge as they would need to read into the accounts which would take time. Marika confirmed that it was a good idea to stay where we were for the examination of the 2021 accounts but consideration should be given to who would be recommended for appointment at the next annual meeting.

11. Other matters

There were no other matters.

The annual meeting closed at 11.05 a.m.

Deanery Synod

The Colchester Deanery Synod

Area Dean, Revd Canon Revd Paul Norrington

Assistant Area Dean, Revd Erwin Lammens,

Lay Chair, Canon Roger Ennals, Christ Church

Talk by Revd. Beverley Vincent, Area Advocate for **Living in Love and Faith**. Beverley's talk was followed by discussions using the breakout rooms function of Zoom and then a Q&A session.

We have a new Bishop, a new Finance Director, a new CEO and a new Director of Mission. This is really important as a new team will bring new perspectives and a new sense of listening. It will also bring a new desire to communicate, especially from the parishes upwards. Adrian Jones, was duly elected to serve on the Deanery Standing and Pastoral Committee, (Highwoods and St. Luke's).

Deanery Vision Plan update – Revd Canon Paul Norrington, Revd Erwin Lammens and Canon Roger Ennals have met with the Bishop Guli and Archdeacon Ruth looking at the future of our Deanery Vision Plan. Information from this will be shared.

Revd. John Chandler has produced a very good **Deanery Financial Strategy**. This details some really important issues that the DSPC is dealing with on behalf of the Deanery. There is a new financial strategy that has been adopted, and the hope is that we can build confidence into the life of the diocese. We have tremendous energy and respect because we have pioneered many things. This will give us confidence and the financial strategy will give us this knowledge.

Where things are regarding **COVID/Post-COVID** – Revd. Canon Paul Norrington praised and congratulated all in the Deanery for doing what we are doing and in particular the vibrancy of ministry that has continued throughout the last year. Revd. John Chandler will be producing a document that will share how well we have done during the last year of the pandemic. That being said there are also some challenges. It is not just simply about paying our share but also raising money to run our churches. The challenge that we face for the rest of this year will go on into 2022 and beyond. There will be a lot of reorganisation and rethinking about how we move forward.

Mary Durlacher shared some highlights about **General Synod**, the synod is the third legislative body behind the House of Commons and the House of Lords, so there is a lot of legislation to get through which is important. There is a sense of a turning point with regards to what shape that the church, emerging from the times of the pandemic, is going to be. There is lots of opportunity up for grabs such as transforming effectiveness. Don't lose heart and please pray for all those involved.

Bibles for Tools With A Mission (TWAM) – Richard Chadbourn. TWAM renovates tools and sends them to Africa for use. They are now after Bibles to also send. If anybody can help then please contact Richard directly via his email address which is dchadborn@yahoo.co.uk

Rev James Gilder, Diocesan Environment Officer gave a talk about the possibility of **Churches coming to Zero Carbon by 2030**. Most Churches where possible are working on their Gardens around their Churches and some have obtained their Bronze and Silver awards. Chelmsford Cathedral has obtained a Gold Award. Every effort even by one person helps. Ideas: Planting only native species, Bug Hotels, Lawn Planting, Plant exchanges, A June picnic for everyone. Service in Church at Harvest. Eco Churches on the rise, some churches buy utilities like Gas/Electric together. Currently the demand is greater than the supply. Monitor what you use first. Get local advice, ask him. Pray. Energy each church uses per Metre Squared. Green suppliers of energy. However it has to be more than just about the gardening, more than how well you insulate your church. Think about your community – get them involved. Be prepared that not everyone will want to be involved. Try to create a Zero plan for 2030, every idea that works makes a difference to your church and your community.

Proposed plans for 2022 which may be of interest. June 5th **Pentecost Celebration in Leisure World** (Charter Hall) Colchester 10.30am with Patrick Regan. On the 24th September the **Free Family Fun Festival**, 11-4pm.

Heather Edwards, Rick Cawley, Nick Gustard

Electoral Roll

On 31 December 2021 there were 115 names on St Mary's Electoral Roll. During the previous year two members moved away, one sadly died and we enrolled one new member of the congregation.

Having your name on the Electoral Roll entitles you to attend and vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and to hear about all that has happened in the last year.

A list of the names on the Electoral Roll can be found at the back of Church.

Vivien Eborn , Electoral Roll Officer

Fabric & Transformation Project Report

The Transformation Project was substantially completed in 2021. The new Annexe and transformed Nave are in active use. There remain some snagging items and the wall, railings and gates to East Street are to be completed. None of these are hindering the use of the new facilities.

The construction of a path around the Annexe, linking the gable double doors to the Carolin Garden, is being investigated with quotation being sought and subsequent clarification on permissions required from the Diocese.

Internally in the Annexe, related to the live streaming project discussed below, a flat screen TV connected to the data network and the connection of the hearing loop to the sound system are all outstanding with measures in hand to undertake these works subject to approval from the Diocese.

The stained glass window is complete but not installed and finding a glazier with the correct skills to fit this is a work in progress. We were very delighted to be loaned a model yacht from The Nottage and this adds an interesting feature above the kitchenette.

Outside, the flood lights have been replaced with modern LED lights and side panels have been fitted to the lights to reduce glare and light pollution.

The entrance to the Tower requires a handrail to be installed. This is in early stages of being investigated.

The notice board at the North gate to the Churchyard has been refurbished with new timbers where required.

The North roof and North Porch roof were damaged in storms with falling masonry from the tower. The roofs have been repaired and the corner stone from the North West string course replaced as an insurance claim in the period.

In the Nave, current projects include the introduction of live streaming equipment and the extension of the fire alarm system from the Annexe, both subject to appropriate outstanding permissions from the Diocese.

Redecoration of the Church is in consideration but there is concern over the state of the plaster and the likelihood of significant expense over and above the cost of the redecoration. Agreeing the correct specification for the paint is proving difficult with a number of different paints having been applied in various areas over the years. Permission from the Diocese is in discussion but affordability remains an issue.

The Choir Vestry floor is to be repaired, with rotten joists and floor boards to be replaced. This is being investigated and appropriate permissions will be required from the Diocese in due course.

The brasses in the Chancel currently pose a trip hazard and solutions to reduce this risk are being investigated.

The steps to the Chancel have been repaired as part of the transformation of the Nave and offer an easier going for those with difficulty managing high steps.

Much has been achieved in 2021 and thanks are due to the many people who have given of their time and skills for which we are very grateful. There is much more to do in 2022 as we continue to develop opportunity in the heart of the community with good facilities that complement the ongoing ministry of St Mary's.

Douglas McCormick, Churchwarden

Health & Safety

James Peters has continued in the Health & Safety Officer role since being appointed in April 2019.

All risk assessments and health and safety documentation remain up to date, having last been fully reviewed in August 2021 as the building works were coming to an end. The next review will be in March 2022.

Due to new formal advice released by the HSE in November 2021 in respect to organisations which are largely dependent on volunteers, some of the requirements in terms of Health and Safety will no longer apply to St Mary's. This will lessen the burden in terms of the Health and Safety Management Systems and records which are required to be kept up to date.

As part of the review, the below will be rechecked, and non-required sections removed.

1. Health & Safety Management and Premises Audit Report
2. Fire Risk Assessment and Audit Report
3. Health & Safety Policy Statement (adopted by the PCC on 09/09/2019) – **this document will require signing again in April 2022.**
4. Integrated Health and Safety Policy
5. Risk assessments for all areas of activity.

There have been no significant issues reported in terms of the health, safety or welfare of any staff, volunteers or visitors to the church premises during the year.

Any future issues should be reported directly to the Health & Safety Officer, either in person or by email (details are available in the church or from the Secretary).

Rectors Report

Re-building the church, community and our confidence

A YEAR OF TWO HALVES

January-June: Church closure

2021 can be divided in two halves: from the beginning of the year until the end of June the church remained closed, first because of the nation's Covid lockdown, and after Easter because of the works to the floor in the nave.

July-December: A fresh start

From July we welcomed our congregation back into church; in the first instance under restrictions but from September the numeric limitation at services was lifted. From then we saw a gradual increase in church attendance until the first weekend in December when the omicron variant took over and caused a steep surge in Covid cases. We were allowed to carry on with services over Christmas but numbers went down again.

Since the re-opening of the church for services in June we have welcomed seven new members who regularly attend. Several new young members joined the Sunday Club.

STATISTICS

In 2020 it was impossible to keep accurate statistics as attendance was restricted, church closures were required and for long spells we were not able to run weekly services. This year we are able to share figures from mid-June until the end of December. It is clear that attendance hasn't picked up to the level before Covid but numbers are moving in the right direction.

Sunday and Wednesday services

2021 figures from June (reopening of the church) until the end of December

There were no Evensong or Holy Ground services.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
8am/9am	10	11	11	12	14	12	10	11	11		10
10.30am: under 16	7	7	7	6	6	5	6	5	8		6
10.30 am: adults	77	79	79	76	76	72	72	62	67		51
Evensong	17	16	16	17	17	14	16	12	11		N/A
7 past 7	10	11	11	11	12	11	12	8	8		6
Taizé	18	12	25	34	28	18	27	26	21		16
Holy Ground							9	12	12		N/A

Pastoral and initiation services

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Baptisms	15	18	30	20	27	14	21	18	18	9	4	6
Confirmations	0	4	8	0	6	8	0	6	0	8	0	0
Weddings	7	12	19	13	6	10	15	8	6	5	3	5
Renewal of vows	0	0	0	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	0	0
Funerals	-	21	20	18	20	20	10	14	6	10	10	8
Cremation services	-	8	13	9	8	4	15	10	9	16	17	9

THE TRANSFORMATION PROJECT

While the economy in the country and the entire world suffered, we managed with only a few delays to build the annexe with meeting room, kitchen, toilets, and lobby with levelled entrance and to lay a new floor and introduce flexible, comfortable seating. This was an immense achievement given the crisis. On Sunday 26 September Bishop Roger of Colchester officially opened the premises and blessed the annexe and a newly made altar for use at communion in the annexe. This was one of the highlights of a successful weekend of outreach at our church.

HIRING THE CHURCH

From August onwards the church and annexe were available for use by the church and the community. Groups, organisations, families, individuals, charities or commercial organisations have hired the annexe and/or nave for a variety of events. In addition to the voluntary cleaning team, the cleaner for the kitchen and facilities, we appointed a paid caretaker and a voluntary bookings administrator.

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

We said farewell to Revd Elisabeth Ring who continues her training in the Parish where she lives with her family. She had received a warm welcome during the year she was with us and left her mark as a compassionate and friendly deacon and priest, loyal colleague and excellent preacher and teacher.

Around the time Elisabeth moved on, we welcomed Helena Hughes who had worked as a youth minister in the church of Sweden for three years. It was good to welcome her back among us. Her permission as authorised local preacher was renewed. We enjoy her sermons and Bible Study sessions.

LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH

A course exploring human relationships and sexuality 'Living in Love and Faith' has been publicised by the Church of England and churches were encouraged to run the course. At St Mary's the course was run for two groups by the Revds Dr Sara Batts-Neale and Dr Elisabeth Ring. Participants have been encouraged to take part in a survey in anticipation of the General Synod in the summer of 2022.

ZOOM OR IN PERSON MEETINGS

For services in addition to the ones taking place in the church we continued to use YouTube or Facebook. From July services were in person at the church but every Sunday and midweek an online service and reflection has been made available. We hope that by May 2022 we will be able to live stream services from church. In the autumn and winter PCC and other meetings are generally by Zoom.

PASTORAL

Because not everyone has been able to return to church we have continued to keep in touch with parishioners by posting Tidings, a monthly letter by the rector, regular phone calls by a phone buddy, online services twice a week and distributing Harvest posies. In collaboration with the churches in the Mission and Ministry Partnership (MMP) social gatherings were organised and lifts offered. People who attended enjoyed meeting after a spell of isolation. Also The Friendly Club is a welcoming initiative for people who have missed the social contact with others. If you are or know of someone who is not on our contact list please do speak to Erwin.

CHURCHES TOGETHER AND MMP

We never interrupted the regular contact and strong relationships with other Christian churches in Wivenhoe and our Church of England partners in Greenstead and St John's Colchester. We have continued to meet and pray together mostly over Zoom. The planning of our cooperation for the near and distant future is in place.

AND YOU

St Mary's is run by more than a hundred volunteers and a leadership team of about a dozen people, lay and ordained. Without these people we would be unable to serve the community in diverse ways. For my report I won't construct a long list of names of those who build our Parish church in Wivenhoe. We all know who they are. And I hope these people experience how grateful we are to them.

The shock of the Covid crisis has caused uncertainty among many and some could no longer contribute to the life of the church. Those who continued to serve in these difficult circumstances took more upon themselves to cover the work that was left undone. As we hope for an end to the pandemic, we also hope for people stepping up by offering to serve.

We trust that in 2022 the rebuilding of our church, community and our confidence will continue and that we will be able to organise several events. As an example the Friendly Club was flourishing until their gatherings were suspended at the end of 2021. But there are signs that

when activities will resume they will attract even more people. There is a need to rebuild our community and relationships with confidence. Let us achieve this together.

We are not people of despair but of hope, not of darkness but of light, not of distrust but of trust in God.

Revd Erwin Lammens

Safeguarding Report

Much of the year has continued with restrictions around church services and as a result, the role of safeguarding has been less active than in years before the pandemic. Now that the brilliant annexe has been built and as St Mary's reaches out to the community, appropriate safeguarding will be vital to ensure all involved can enjoy the church activities in a safe environment.

St Mary's has a dedicated safeguarding email address which is monitored by the Safeguarding Officer. There have been no concerns or queries raised through this, and indeed no other complaints or worries to report over this period.

It will be important as we look towards the next year that we ensure that DBS checks are up to date for all church officers with direct involvement with children or vulnerable adults, alongside keeping up to date with safeguarding training. The diocese offers online training at a basic level and face to face more advanced training for those in positions where they might be leading groups or have individual responsibilities.

El Newman, Safeguarding Officer

Secretary to the PCC Report

The PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission. The PCC (Powers Measure 1956) states that "the PCC is to co-operate with the Minister in promoting in the Parish the whole Mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical." The PCC is responsible for the maintenance and repair of the church building of St Mary the Virgin, and for the "movables" in the church.

Due to the Covid19 pandemic the Annual Parish Meeting was not held in person on 22nd May 2021 but held virtually that day via zoom.

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio, co-opted, appointed or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the 2020 Church Representation Rules. The following have served as members of the PCC during 2021

Incumbent	The Revd. Erwin Lammens	Chairman
Licensed Clergy	Revd. Dr. Sara Batts-Neale	
Licensed Clergy	Revd. Dr. Elisabeth Ring	reassigned Sept. 2021
Reader	Emeritus Professor Dr. Glyn Stanway	
Churchwardens	Margaret Bigwood	
	Douglas McCormick	
Treasurer	Bill Eborn	
Secretary	Bonnie Hill	
Deanery Synod Representatives	Rick Cawley	
	Dr. Nick Gustard	
	Heather Edwards	
Elected Members		
	Peter Terry	resigned Sept. 2021
	Greg Butler	
	Jane Taylor	
	Eric Jakens	
	Sandra Osborne	
	Jennifer Heaps	resigned Oct. 2021
	Graeme Martin	resigned Sept. 2021
	Graham Wadley	
	Sue Jones	

The PCC members above have worked together to ensure that St Marys Church offered both spiritual and practical support as and where it was possible to do so in what has been another difficult year for everyone.

During 2021 the PCC met on seven occasions. Due to the pandemic the PCC only meet in person twice and all other meetings were conducted via zoom. The Standing Committee continued to communicate and met virtually throughout the year. The PCC meeting minutes can be accessed from the St. Mary's Church website.

There have been a number of resignations during the latter half of the year and all have been due to a change in personal circumstances which has led to those decisions being made. The PCC do however go forward with confidence and optimism.

Bonnie Hill, PCC Secretary

Communication

COMMUNICATIONS

The church website [<https://stmaryswivenhoe.org>] and Facebook page [<https://www.facebook.com/St-Marys-Church-Wivenhoe-816444805403094/>] remain the primary online platforms to communicate with internet users. Both platforms get good numbers of visitors but the Facebook page attracts the largest number of non-St Mary's viewers.

Revd Dr. Sara Batts-Neale is co-editor on the FB page.

The church website is hosted by Wordpress; the annual £100 subscription is donated.

St Mary's Youtube channel is our third online platform. It is mainly used as a repository for videos that are linked to from the other two platforms, but can be accessed independently at [<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeSmLhBMzRU59DBfZ4ZVrKw/videos>]. Sara can also co-manage on this platform.

Lastly there is St Mary's Twitter account @WivStMarys. Tweets are used to call attention to online services and other events of note that are happening at or in connection with the church. The e-newsletter was discontinued in August 2021.

New Microsoft software has been installed on the church computer which means that Powerpoint Presentations can now be run on it.

GDPR

St Mary's Privacy Policy has been updated to reflect post-Brexit amendments. It is available online

LICENSING

CCLI and OneLicense cover remains in place for the church's music and film use both on site and on line.

Marika Footring, Communications Officer

TIDINGS 2022

In 2021 our pattern of remote editorial meetings became the norm apart from one or two held at the Rectory in early autumn. We became accustomed to working around Covid restrictions and virtual events, so last-minute amendments became fewer. Fortunately, as restrictions eased, large events such as the opening of the annexe could be celebrated in a big way.

Fisher Jones Greenwood became a new advertiser for the year and this will continue in 2022.

The four-page content continued, with Erwin's monthly letter and individual flyers containing any surplus news included in the mailing envelope.

We also continued to produce ten, rather than 12, issues per year to enable the rector, editor and designer to take annual leave. There is usually a limited amount of news around Christmas and summer holidays so it seems sensible to take a break at these times.

The printing of Tidings still incurs no charge to St Mary's as the print cost is paid for by the advertising revenue, and the print fulfilled by an online print company.

Tidings continued to be mailed out by PCC secretary Bonnie Hill and this will be the distribution system for the foreseeable future.

As always, a huge personal thank you also goes to everyone who willingly helps out with photos and contributions, which makes my job as Tidings editor as straightforward as possible, and Tidings a popular publication within St Mary's and Wivenhoe in general.

Sue Clement, Editor

Treasurer

REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

I am pleased to be able to report that, thanks to everyone's continuing generosity, our Parish Share and all our bills were paid in full for 2021.

The bulk of our regular income comes from monthly standing orders; committed giving envelopes; and loose collections. This is much appreciated. Where applicable we can claim Gift Aid on most of these donations.

2021 has been a trying year for everyone, however, in Wivenhoe, many donors have found ways to continue to support St Mary's general fund raising which has enabled the Church to continue to function.

As the formal Appeal for the Transformation ended on 31 December 2021, it might be of interest to parishioners in the future to know how St Mary's managed to finance such a huge project especially in the middle of the Corona pandemic. There were two very large legacies, from Ivan Newton and Barbara Patterson; an appeal to the whole of Wivenhoe which brought in donations and monthly standing orders; and many other donations both large and small.

As Treasurer these donations must remain confidential but I can assure you that many people have worked very hard to raise money.

I retired as Treasurer of St Mary's at the end of December after six years. Douglas McCormick, having previously been a Church Warden, became St Mary's Treasurer from 1st January 2022. I am very pleased to be handing over to such a safe pair of hands.

Once again I should like to record my sincere thanks to Ian Dimmock, of the Diocesan Parish Accounts Service, who takes all our raw data and prepares it for the Diocese and to Vivien who counts and banks all the money and records the Gift Aid for the Inland Revenue.

The full Accounts, which appear on pages 14 to 22 have been prepared in accordance with the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practice and have been Independently Examined by Peyton Tyler Mears, Chartered Accountants. Their certificate appears on Page 13.

Bill Eborn, Treasurer

St Mary's PCC Wivenhoe

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of St Mary's PCC Wivenhoe

Year Ended 31st December 2021

I report on the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2021.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of Chartered Association of Certified Accountants.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the 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 you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

Independent Examiner's Statement

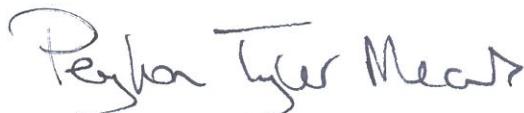
In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act, or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a "true and fair" view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

PEYTON TYLER MEARS
Chartered accountant

Middleborough House
16 Middleborough
Colchester
Essex
CO1 1QT



28th February 2022.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY'S WIVENHOE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUND 2021 £	TOTAL FUND 2020 £
Incoming resources					
Voluntary income	2a	100,732.90	37,067.18	137,800.08	276,532.02
Activities for generating funds	2b	5,283.59	2,890.29	8,173.88	2,179.87
Income from investments	2c	45.47	423.99	469.46	2,117.39
Church activities	2d	14,476.95	1,290.00	15,766.95	7,845.00
Total incoming resources		120,538.91	41,671.46	162,210.37	288,674.28
Resources expended					
Church activities	3a	95,097.28	545,452.42	640,549.70	111,018.45
Costs of generating voluntary income	3b	524.71	1,055.89	1,580.60	1,270.32
Governance Costs	3c	1,464.00		1,464.00	1,380.00
Total resources expended		97,085.99	546,508.31	643,594.30	113,668.77
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		23,452.92	(504,836.85)	(481,383.93)	175,005.51
Gross transfers between funds		(956.05)	956.05		
		22,496.87	(503,880.80)	(481,383.93)	175,005.51
Other recognised gains/losses					
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	6				
Net movement in funds		22,496.87	(503,880.80)	(481,383.93)	175,005.51
Total funds brought forward at 1 January 2021		62,394.55	608,517.02	670,911.57	495,906.06
Total funds carried forward at 31 December 2021		84,891.42	104,636.22	189,527.64	670,911.57

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY'S WIVENHOE

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	2021	2020
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	5		
Investments	6		
Total fixed assets			
Current assets			
Investments			
Debtors	7	19,000.00	33,875.00
Short term deposits		53,664.85	453,664.85
Transformation Appeal deposit account		5,256.56	2,967.98
FOSM current account		2,270.00	1,945.00
Transformation Appeal account		15,638.29	90,508.05
PCC Current account		126,666.90	89,450.69
	9	222,496.60	672,411.57
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(32,968.96)	(1,500.00)
Net current assets		189,527.64	670,911.57
Total assets less current liabilities		189,527.64	670,911.57
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	9		
NET ASSETS		189,527.64	670,911.57
Parish Funds	7		
Unrestricted funds	11	84,891.42	62,394.55
Restricted funds	11	104,636.22	608,517.02
		189,527.64	670,911.57

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on
(PCC chairman) and (Churchwarden)

and signed on its behalf by Revd E Lammens
(Churchwarden)

The accompanying notes on pages 16 to 22 form a part of these accounts

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY'S WIVENHOE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

1. Accounting policies

Basis of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards (FRS102) and the current Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2019)

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those which are informal gatherings of church members. The Friends of St Mary's and Wivenhoe St. Mary's Music Society have agreed with the PCC that they produce separate financial statements.

Fund accounting

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from trusts or endowments which is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year is carried forward as a balance on that fund.

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the PCC's general purposes.

Designated funds are general funds set aside by the PCC for use in the future. Funds designated as invested in fixed assets for the PCC's own use, abated in line with assets' annual depreciation charges in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA). Designated funds remain unrestricted and the PCC may move any surplus to other general funds.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is entitled to use of the resources, their ultimate receipts are considered reasonably certain and the amounts due are reliably quantifiable. Dividends are accounted for when declared receivable, interest as and when accrued by the payer. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The Diocesan Parish Share expected to be paid over is accounted for when due.

All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY'S WIVENHOE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

2 Incoming resources

		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2021 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2020 £
a Voluntary income					
Planned giving	Gift Aid donations	43,432.50	11,285.00	54,717.50	83,044.72
	Income tax recoverable	17,502.89	1,020.57	18,523.46	37,632.58
	Other	480.00		480.00	80.00
Collections at all services	Open plate	3,047.44		3,047.44	1,791.91
Gift days					
Grants			3,909.63	3,909.63	9,864.86
Sundry donations and appeals		30,270.07	20,836.21	51,106.28	26,273.50
Legacies		6,000.00	15.77	6,015.77	117,844.45
		100,732.90	37,067.18	137,800.08	276,532.02
b Activities for generating funds					
Parish Magazine (advertising)		600.00		600.00	240.00
September & December markets		3,884.58		3,884.58	
Fundraising		799.01	2,890.29	3,689.30	1,939.87
		5,283.59	2,890.29	8,173.88	2,179.87
c Income from investments					
Dividends on CBF Investment Fund					
Bank and CBF Deposit fund interest		45.47	423.99	469.46	2,117.39
		45.47	423.99	469.46	2,117.39
d Income from Church Activities					
Fees from weddings and funerals		9,322.00		9,322.00	7,845.00
Parish magazine (sales)					
Church lettings local community use		1,588.15		1,588.15	
Insurance Claims		1,371.80		1,371.80	
Sale of Fixed Assets		2,195.00	1,290.00	3,485.00	
		14,476.95	1,290.00	15,766.95	7,845.00
Total incoming resources		120,538.91	41,671.46	162,210.37	288,674.28

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY'S WIVENHOE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

3 Resources expended

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2021 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2020 £
a Church Activities				
Missionary and charitable giving:				
Overseas:				
Relief & Development Agencies	1,020.00		1,020.00	949.66
Home Mission	850.57		850.57	125.00
Secular charities	1,366.45		1,366.45	1,184.82
	3,237.02		3,237.02	2,259.48
Ministry costs: Diocesan Parish Share	65,279.64		65,279.64	66,317.16
Other ministry costs	2,281.09		2,281.09	2,011.09
Church maintenance	1,825.12	356.64	2,181.76	2,644.33
Church running expenses	6,730.67		6,730.67	5,802.23
Upkeep of services	3,187.30		3,187.30	1,121.31
Organ & Organists	1,607.00	110.00	1,717.00	737.00
New electric Piano	2,078.00		2,078.00	
Vergers	523.00		523.00	420.00
Transformation (Note 10)		544,985.78	544,985.78	22,276.45
Major Repairs - Structural renewal	3,408.60		3,408.60	1,533.34
Parish training				116.00
Parish magazine costs	1,575.36		1,575.36	1,477.47
Assigned fees to Diocese	2,492.00		2,492.00	3,570.00
Administration	323.88		323.88	242.94
Bank charges	548.60		548.60	489.65
	91,860.26	545,452.42	637,312.68	108,758.97
b Generation of voluntary income				
Fundraising costs	524.71	1,055.89	1,580.60	1,270.32
	524.71	1,055.89	1,580.60	1,270.32
c Governance costs				
Inc. Independent Examiners remuneration	1,464.00		1,464.00	1,380.00
	1,464.00		1,464.00	1,380.00
Total resources expended	97,085.99	546,508.31	643,594.30	113,668.77

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY'S WIVENHOE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

4a Staff costs

The expenses paid to clergy may include a small immaterial proportion relating to their function as PCC members.

During the year the PCC employed organists and vergers including 2 PCC members.

b Payments to PCC members

No payments or expenses were paid to any PCC members (other than noted in a) above) or persons closely connected to them, or other related parties except for the reimbursement of approved expenses..

5 Tangible fixed assets (all unrestricted)

	Church equipment	TOTAL
	£	£
Actual/deemed cost		
At 1 January 2021		0
Disposals		0
Additions		0
Revaluation		0
At 31 December 2021	0	0
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2021		0
Withdrawn on disposals		0
Provided in the year		0
At 31 December 2021	0	0
Net book amounts		
At 31 December 2021	0	0
At 31 December 2021	0	0

6 Investments

	CBIFS	ABC Plc	Total £
Market value 1 January 2021			0
Disposals at carrying value			0
Purchases at cost			0
Net gains and revaluation			0
Market value 31 December 2021	0	0	0

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY'S WIVENHOE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

7 CURRENT ASSETS

a Investments	£			
Market value 1st January 2021				
Purchases at cost				
Gain on revaluation				
Market value 31st December 2021			<u>0</u>	
b Debtors less than one year	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	2020
Tax recoverable	16,500		16,500	32,375
Tax recoverable - Transformation Project		2,500	2,500	0
Prepayments and accrued interest			0	0
	<u>16,500</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>19,000</u>	<u>32,375</u>

8 LIABILITIES

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	2020
Creditors falling dues in less than one year				
Accruals for utilities and other cost	1,500	0	1,500	1,500
Transformation costs		31,469	31,469	0
	<u>1,500</u>	<u>31,469</u>	<u>32,969</u>	<u>1,500</u>

Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Other creditors	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u><u>0</u></u>	<u><u>0</u></u>

9 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets				0.00
Investment fixed assets				0.00
Current assets	86,391.42	136,105.18		222,496.60
Liabilities	(1,500.00)	(31,468.96)		(32,968.96)
Amounts falling due in one year				0.00
Amounts falling due after one year				0.00
(See Note 11)	<u>84,891.42</u>	<u>104,636.22</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>189,527.64</u>

10 TRANSFORMATION PROJECT

The Transformation Project costs incurred during 2021 total £544,985.78 as shown in note 3a.

This total includes £31,468.96 approved by PCC but not paid at the year end, This sum is included in Liabilities (Note 8)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY'S WIVENHOE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

11 Statement of funds

	Bal b/fwd. 1 Jan 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers,	Bal c/fwd. 31 Dec 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Fund					
General	61,650.64	120,506.91	(96,989.52)	(7,756.05)	77,411.98
Fabric Legacies (Designated)	0.00			6,500.00	6,500.00
Sunday Club (Designated)	743.91	32.00	(96.47)	300.00	979.44
	<u>62,394.55</u>	<u>120,538.91</u>	<u>(97,085.99)</u>	<u>(956.05)</u>	<u>84,891.42</u>
Restricted Fund					
Bell	11,553.85	10.82	0.00	350.00	11,914.67
Carolin	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Choir	1,235.27	0.00	(110.00)	0.00	1,125.27
Friends of St Mary's	6,113.76	1,544.20	0.00	(100.00)	7,557.96
Fabric General	3,322.37	276.00	(356.64)	0.00	3,241.73
Fabric Langley-Bale	1,797.19	0.00	0.00	(1,797.19)	0.00
Fabric Newton	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fabric Newton - South Porch	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fabric Ashton	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00
Flower	423.62	600.00	0.00	0.00	1,023.62
Cory Maintenance	1,875.00	0.00	0.00	240.00	2,115.00
Emergency Appeal & Annex	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Emerg.Appeal & Annex Legacy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transformation Main	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transformation Project	570,997.51	37,124.20	(544,985.78)	2,461.69	65,597.62
Wivenhoe St. Mary's Music Soc.	1,198.45	2,116.24	(1,055.89)	(198.45)	2,060.35
	<u>608,517.02</u>	<u>41,671.46</u>	<u>(546,508.31)</u>	<u>956.05</u>	<u>104,636.22</u>
Total funds	670,911.57	162,210.37	(643,594.30)	0.00	<u>189,527.64</u>
Note 1					
				£	
				65,597.62	
				(2,500.00)	
				<u>63,097.62</u>	

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY'S WIVENHOE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

12 Comparative Fund Analysis for 2020 (PREVIOUS YEAR) Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2020 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2019 £
Incoming Resources				
Voluntary income	82,797.95	193,734.07	276,532.02	123,017.72
Activities for generating funds	972.37	1,207.50	2,179.87	13,978.26
Income from investments	28.07	2,089.32	2,117.39	2,499.37
Church activities	7,845.00		7,845.00	12,007.10
Total incoming resources	91,643.39	197,030.89	288,674.28	151,502.45
Resources expended				
Church activities	86,300.66	24,717.79	111,018.45	141,835.14
Costs of generating voluntary income	85.96	1,184.36	1,270.32	2,398.21
Governance costs	1,380.00		1,380.00	1,320.00
	87,766.62	25,902.15	113,668.77	145,553.35
Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers	3,876.77	171,128.74	175,005.51	5,949.10
Gross transfers between funds	(670.00)	670.00	0.00	0.00
	3,206.77	171,798.74	175,005.51	5,949.10
Other recognised gains/losses				
Gains/(losses) on investment assets				
Net movement in funds	3,206.77	171,798.74	175,005.51	5,949.10
Total funds brought forward at 1 January 2020	59,187.78	436,718.28	495,906.06	489,956.96
Total funds carried forward at 31 December 2020	62,394.55	608,517.02	670,911.57	495,906.06

All Together Worship

This report are fairly short as the church was closed until the end of June due to the Lockdown. This was until Easter and then there were works going on until the end of June. The core team consists of Teresa Warren, Rev. Erwin Lammens, Sue Jones and Hannah Cole. Other ministers help out if it is their turn on the day of the All Together service, such as John and Janet Driver, Glyn Stanway and Helena Hughes. Ordinarily we have shared out tasks, leading talks and demonstrations. We usually receive great comments and support/encouragement from the congregation. We still hope for larger numbers of attendees. Due to the pandemic and the restrictions and closures of the church we only managed to carry out 3 All Together worships. They were on the first Sundays in the month in October, November and December. The themes were-

October- Harvest

November- The story of Jonah

December- Make way for the coming of the Lord.

Unfortunately, no further services took place. We hope that we can start them again in our previous more interactive ways soon in 2022. We will continue to work on trying to make these services as enjoyable, and as inclusive as possible.

Bellringers Report

The early part of the year in some respects was a continuation of the previous year, owing to the constraints imposed by the Covid pandemic, with the bells having to remain silent and the ringers keeping in touch with Zoom meetings. However we were determined that as soon as we could legitimately ring, then the bells of Wivenhoe would sound out again.

During the period of "silence" we were specifically requested to toll the tenor to mark the death of Prince Philip in April 2021, on two occasions, the first a few days after his death we tolled the bell 99 times, and again on the day of his funeral, the tenor was rung muffled.

Restrictions were eased sufficiently for us to start ringing in mid June and we were delighted that we were able to ring for the first wedding held at St Mary's the same month. The feedback we received from members of the community was that they had missed hearing the bells almost as much as we had missed not being able to ring them. Since June we have continued ringing for Sunday service, and of course held our Wednesday practise evenings. In September we took part in the North East District Essex Association of Change Ringers Call Change Striking competition, held at Great Bromley church and we were jubilant to win the competition and were presented with the Dickie Fuminger Trophy for our efforts.

The church tower celebrated its 500th Birthday in October so we rang a quarter peal to mark this occasion, and of course, had to have fizz and birthday cake too!

On a happier note, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee will be marked on several occasions. We have already been requested by Wivenhoe Town Council to ring on Thursday 2 June at the time the beacon is lit in the evening.

Wivenhoe has been extremely fortunate as no-one from our team of ringers has decided not to come back to ringing. Many other towers have lost ringers and are not able to ring regularly without assistance from other towers. We have been fortunate to have had three learners come up the tower and all are now progressing well. We were also joined by Tim, an experienced ringer. We will have to say a sad goodbye to two ringers, Fred and Simon, who are moving to the USA in April this year.

The bells are still maintained in good condition and are checked regularly for wear and tear. At the moment there is no cause for concern for any significant maintenance costs.

Adrienne Wood, Tower Captain



Bible Study Report

September - December 2021

The Bible Study Group reconvened in September 2021 and we were fortunate enough to be able to use the new Annexe. This proved to be a warm and inviting place to meet. We met fortnightly on Mondays at 7pm for coffee and biscuits and started the study time at 7.30pm. We aimed to finish and clear away by 9pm. We usually numbered 10 people in the group.

We met five times in the autumn term and our study was centred on the Gospel according to Mark. The overall themes for the study were "Who is Jesus?" and "What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus?" The last session was taken up with discussion of what we had learned and our response, as Christians in Wivenhoe, to the basic ideals of discipleship as explained by Jesus in Mark chapter 3: spirituality, hospitality, evangelism and acting with confidence and authority.

Helena Hughes

The Tuesday Bible Study Group led by Dr. Glyn Stanway did not meet during 2021.

Catering Report

Catering is slowly returning to St Mary's. Our first event in September 2021 was the celebration weekend. The new kitchen was used and although small we were able to have three people working in there together. Many cakes were made and sold. Filled rolls served with/without a packet of crisps proved popular at lunchtime

Unfortunately due to personal circumstances and high cases of Covid I had to cancel a soup event planned for November.

The next event is the quiz where homemade cakes will be served during the break.

I am very grateful to all my helpers who are always willing to help. Cakes not only have to be baked but set up and served and of course there is always a mountain of washing up to be done!

Mary Jakens

Cleaning Team Report

Cleaning at St Mary's was disrupted not only by Covid but also by the Transformation project. The cleaning team were able to resume their duties at the beginning of August 2021. A caretaker was also appointed and a new Henry vacuum cleaner was purchased. We still have Judy who does a sterling job looking after the kitchen and toilet areas.

As always I am very grateful to our caretaker Linda, Judy, and the volunteers who all help to keep our Church clean and tidy.

In January I handed over the coordinator role to Sandra Osborne.

Mary Jakens

Churches Together Report

Another fragmented year but the Walk of Witness went ahead on Good Friday, with no service afterwards.

A collection for Christian Aid was held outside the Co-op.

Meetings were held in September and October to organise the end of year events. A new Christmas card had been designed and the Scouts and Guides were asked to deliver, which they did.

A short meeting in November got the last details organised, and Carols on the Quay went ahead and had over 200 people turn up and raised £450.00

Our churches had resumed some services from September so things are looking up. A meeting in January decided that there would be no Lent course but we shall try showing a film prior to Good Friday. The Walk of Witness and a service should be held on Good Friday.

Rick Cawley

Flower Report

Due to the pandemic and the reordering of the nave the church did not open for services until the end of June. In September Carol Mitchell kindly took over the leadership of the flower team and during the remainder of the year they have provided a profusion of flowers appropriate for every occasion. This was especially evident at the Blessing of the reordered nave and new annexe on the 25th September by the Bishop of Colchester. Autumn, winter and Christmas arrangements followed. Thank you to Carol and her team for using their considerable talents in bringing nature inside our church for us all to enjoy.

Friendly Club

The Friendly Club & Café was launched in August 2021 by the Wivenhoe Dementia Support Group in partnership with St Mary's Church.

The Club has been regularly getting over 50 people to its sessions on a Thursday afternoon. We always succeed in having something going on there, particularly music, to make sure the session is fun.

We have a big team of volunteers who provide unlimited cups of tea or coffee, as well as biscuits, and whose role is to make sure everyone is made welcome and gets chatting to someone.

Alison has established a knitting table for people who want to knit, and chat, which has been proving popular. And George, the black Labrador, a petting dog, brings his owner, Janice down too; he enjoys being made a fuss of.

We have had many visiting people to entertain us as The Hoolies who sing sea shanties - Angela Dennis who has led a couple of Singing for the Brain sessions - Sarah McCaskey who gave us a Tibetan afternoon with singing and playing a harmonium and a seated relaxation session - the Time Travellers came along twice now to get us up and dancing; there was twisting, jiving, cha cha cha and much more. Joe from the Wivenhoe Microgym has been a couple of times to get everyone to do chair-based exercises, and will now come every month by popular demand.

We did temporarily suspend meetings over Christmas and in January because of the spread of Omicron variant but, given the fall in cases, we agreed we would restart our weekly sessions from 3rd February.

Also, we can now offer people living in Wivenhoe a lift to and from the Club with Wivenhoe's Community mini-bus, with thanks to Morag Willis and Ann Hanagan.

Sessions are every Thursday and are held in St Mary's Church from 2.30pm to 4.30pm. Everybody is welcome. Just £2 at the door for unlimited tea and coffee (and biscuits). Half of this £2 goes to St Mary's Church. This has meant that in the period from August to 31st December St Mary's Church received £454.65 as their share of the takings.

Peter Hill, Chairman, Wivenhoe Dementia Support Group



Friends of St Mary's Report

Faced with closure in the Summer of 2021 due to the lack of a Chair and a Secretary, Vivien and Bill Eborn offered to fill these roles.

We were able to hold an AGM in the Annexe on Saturday 9th October where Vivien was elected Chair and Bill Secretary. The Committee Members remained unchanged.

We were able to have a stall at the Town Fayre on the KGV playing field, St Mary's Celebration Market and the Christmas Market. FOSM goods sold well and our thanks to Wyvern Stores and the Book Shop for also selling these.

Our hope is to continue to raise money to maintain the fabric of St Mary's Church.

Vivien Eborn, Chair.

Fundraising Report

The opportunities to fundraise during 2021 were extremely limited due to the pandemic and at the beginning of the year there were only a few people on the fundraising team itself. Having no team leader was a difficulty as Tricia Bray had stepped down – thank you Tricia for the time and effort that you devoted to the team during your tenure. As the completion of the reordering of the nave and building the annexe approached the team could no longer be inactive and I volunteered to take on the additional role until the end of July 2022.

Erwin wished to celebrate the completion of the Transformation Project and it was decided that on the 25th September a community event be organised in the form of a market with stalls in aid of the church, plus local organisations and businesses. The uptake for stalls was amazing and the attendance on the day was heart warming as opportunities to come together as a community had been very rare for some eighteen months. St Mary's raised approximately £2,500 which was a great total. We then moved on to the December Market and used our experience from the September event to lay out the inside and outside stalls together with the annexe which transformed into Santa's Grotto which was incredibly popular with extensive queues of small people wishing to visit. The event raised approximately £1350.

Finally, a word of thanks to the fundraising team members for their loyalty, optimism and support and without whom things would not have happened. I really appreciate all those who helped with a stall, catering or in another capacity – the church family came together, worked together and delivered two events which we can all be proud of – you were brilliant. As we move into 2022 events are in the diary but a new team leader and additional team members are needed in order to continue organising events during 2022 and beyond. If you know of anyone interested please do ask them to get in touch.

Bonnie Hill

Lectio Divina Report

Lectio Divina meets on the last Wednesday in the month at my home at 7.30pm (after mid-week reflection). It is a small group with Erwin attending occasionally. A passage of Scripture is chosen each month, in turn, and we meditate upon it, discuss how it is applicable to our lives and then pray for one another and other concerns. During the past year we have met in the garden or in the house depending on Covid restrictions. We communicate regularly: sometimes it's just a wave through the window!!

Please let me know if you would like to join us.

Ann Evershed

Music at St Marys Report

The Covid pandemic has decimated choirs everywhere with singing in churches not permitted from March 2020 until about mid-year 2021. Therefore it was not possible for either the Church Choir or St Mary's Singers to meet for a very long time.

Until mid 2021 members of both groups took part in a Thursday Sing-a-long where they received a selection of music by email with YouTube links which they sing along to at home. Some singing resumed in July with choir members taking part in the Sunday morning services from early September exercising Covid caution with social distancing. The music is limited to 5 hymns only and we have still not resumed the full sung Eucharist service. It is encouraging that some young singers have joined with their parents.

A Taize service was held in November with thanks to instrumentalists Hilary Cook and Nina Greenwood. A simplified Civic Service was held in October.

Singers rehearsed from September onwards and presented a nice Carol Service mid December accompanied by John Dowden. It had been intended to sing over the Christmas period but caution over the Omicron variant led several singers to withdraw and in the end it was not possible to have a choir for those services.

Carols on The Quay took place again with a smaller band and fewer people attending, probably due to the increase of the Omnicom variant at that time. I had to withdraw from conducting the event for medical reasons and thanks to Pam Garland for arranging the music and conducting (from the Tuba) on the night.

We have purchased a Yamaha Clavinova digital piano to replace the very old upright piano. This new instrument will be a very valuable asset for services and concerts. There was a much appreciated donation towards the cost of the new piano. Additionally we received a donation of a small Yamaha keyboard which is used by the Friendly Club and is available for use in the Annexe.

This has really been a difficult period but hopefully we are now emerging from the Covid related issues. For me personally medical issues have made it difficult particularly with extreme Covid caution and eyesight problems.

Graham Wadley, Director of Music

Pastoral Care Report

St Mary's pastoral team reaching out in a time of restrictions

It has been another difficult year to deploy our pastoral ministry in person because of the Covid restrictions. Members of our pastoral team were prevented to visit people at their homes during most of the year but alternative ways to reach out were implemented.

The pastoral team kept in touch with those on their contact list by phone. And a separate team of phone buddies that was founded in 2020 during the first lockdown had continued to contact people who were housebound or self-isolating.

St Mary's also invested in reaching out by posting the Parish magazine Tidings to 220 addresses. The rector added a monthly letter for each home. Also other announcements of events were included in the mailing. In this way we kept our church family informed of activities in a time that members were dispersed because of being unable to meet in person. Also those who had an internet connection benefitted from weekly online services and other digital communications.

At Harvest the flower team prepared little posies that were brought by members of St Mary's to 20 homes in Wivenhoe as a token that we were thinking of those who hadn't been able to join the Festival in church.

In partnership with the pastoral teams in Greenstead and at St John's three social functions were organised at different locations in our MMP: annexe@stmarys (with the help of the catering team), St Anne's and St John's church. Lifts were organised and those able to participate enjoyed the refreshments, sing-along, raffle and quiz. These pastoral events will continue in 2022.

Elsewhere you will read about the weekly Friendly Club that makes use of the church.

In 2020 and 2021 Easter Sunday fell during a lockdown and therefore Erwin was unable to bring Easter communion to those who had to stay in at Easter. He is confident that in 2022 Easter home communions will resume. Also the monthly home communions may be organised again when the worst of the pandemic will be over.

A couple of pastoral team members have resigned; so any help with reaching out to members of our community is welcome. Despite health issues pastoral assistant Deirdre Gill remains an inspiration for our pastoral team. We are grateful for her longstanding commitment.

Revd Erwin Lammens, on behalf of the pastoral team

Spirituality Steering Group Report

This seems a very difficult year on which to report, as the Covid 19 Pandemic and its Lockdown Regulations meant we were unable to meet together as a group.

With the church having to remain closed until Easter [except for funerals] because of Covid regulations, then closure being continued until 27th June for the installation of new flooring and chairs, this felt in many ways like a 'lost' [empty] time for the congregation, except that a lot was going on behind the scenes: there was a continual on-line presence with regular Sunday services via the website, and as previously mentioned, the builders were able to continue their work on the new Annexe. From the end of June we hosted five weddings and a communion service on Sundays.

By September the Annexe and church refurbishment were completed and Bishop Roger was invited to lead the opening celebrations, blessing the renewed church and the new Annexe, giving St Mary's a whole new beginning as the pandemic began to die down, and we began thinking about a 'new normal' in the run up to all the Christmastide events and worship.

From the end of September we had a more normal pattern of worship with the introduction of a 9.00 am Communion, a Eucharist with hymns and the 7past 7 meditative reflections, continuing our on-line presence for the main Sunday services together with the 7 - 7 meditations

We ended this unprecedeted year with people either continuing to follow on-line, or returning to discover a much more spacious church interior, with the new subtle archway lighting and chairs enhancing the ambience that enables them to calm down for prayer: more than one person has echoed this comment: " I feel at peace now, as soon as I sit down in here...", and there is delight in seeing the space re-arranged appropriately for different forms of worship.

The Annexe is also beginning to work really well for a variety of smaller groups, and is becoming an excellent space for the 9am Eucharist, just beginning to gain popularity.

Briefly, this report, which began with some dejection, is ending on a note of great hope for the future which should begin to bear fruit during the next year and on into generations to come who find a welcoming spiritual home in St Mary's.

Revd. Janet Driver

St Mary's Link with Uganda

Because of the pandemic there has been little activity in our link with the Christian women of St Andrew's Church, Namalemba, Uganda. We have sent emails at Easter and Christmas and occasionally through the year, but have had little news. Rachel and Livingstone, through whom we have the link, are currently living in Kenya and are unable to get to Uganda because the border is closed. They would normally channel news to us from time to time, especially about the Christmas parcels of blessings that the women distribute to the needy in the village, and send us photographs. We have continued to raise money for this purpose and at Christmas 2021 £220 was donated through our Christmas charity collection. In addition this year half the proceeds of the sale of Nativity Christmas cards was also sent to Namalemba, making a total of £346.50

We understand that availability of vaccines and PPE are practically non-existent and the plight of the people must be grim. Because of the pandemic we have been unable to send any more baby clothes for the maternity clinic, and in any case because of the restrictions in force here people have not been donating them. Currently we have just two small bags of vests and baby hats. However, we continue to remember Namalemba in the Intercessions in Church and hope for better things in 2022.

As this report was being compiled we received this email from Namalemba:-

"Our friends in Wivenhoe, we send our greetings from the Christian women of St Andrew's Church, Namalemba with much hope that you had a merry Christmas and you joined a peaceful new 2022. God has continued to protect us from the adverse effects of the pandemic and we believe He will continue to do so.

We apologise the delay to reply. Here things were a bit better since the Churches had just been opened. Thanks be to God that the Christians have embraced the word of God. However we are saddened by the exit of two of our elders who passed during the Covid 19 pandemic. We continue to pray for you and request that you pray for us to go through this experience.

Our Rev. John Mugaya was happy when he received a message from you informing us about your status. Send our sincere greetings to our friends in Wivenhoe and now we have a new committee member, Jane as head of Christian Women Fellowship. God bless you. Charles, Jane and Betty"

Rosemary Murchie

St Mary's Music Society

We managed two concerts last year in the newly re-furbished church building. We were lucky that the church, with its new wooden floor and free-standing chairs, became ready just as the level of the Covid-19 virus had fallen sufficiently low at that time for many people to become confident about attending events.

So, on 3rd September 2021 the Church was filled with the rich sounds of sea shanties as well as lots of people. The evening with the Wivenhoe Orchestra with the Clarion Quartet was also a sell-out.

The result of these two concerts was a surplus of £1,014.53 which we have given to the Transformation Appeal.

We are planning 6 concerts this coming year, which will be our 4th year of operation. It will be very good to hold all 6 concerts to suit different tastes in music as in each of the last two years our programme was cut short because of the Covid pandemic. In 2018, when we started, we started in mid-year. Profits from concerts in the future will be given to the St Mary's Fabric Fund.

Peter Hill, Chairman, Wivenhoe St Mary's Music Society



Sunday Club Report

The Sunday club is supported and run by a team of 8 volunteers.

Teresa Warren

Sue Jones

Heather Edwards

Cora Dai

An Verhofstadt

Alison Kent

Hannah Cole

Fran Bailey

Our usual activities and Sunday club sessions continued to be difficult at the beginning of the year. Teresa, Erwin, Sue, Heather and Cora hosted a stall outside church on Easter Saturday and handed out activity bags to children which included a copy of the Easter story and of course chocolate eggs and colouring activities. These were appreciated and we were able to hand out all bags, approximately 30.

It was a wonderful moment when we were able to begin Sunday club again in September, and in our beautiful new Annexe. We have welcomed some new children into Sunday club and our numbers each week have definitely increased. We have a core group that tend to come fairly consistently. This is of approximately 10 regular children. At the Celebration event as part of the grand opening weekend on 25th September, Sunday club hosted a stall that was a Free Raffle game. It caused lots of interest and happy children taking away a gift. There were some games to play and Fran carried out some face painting. We received approximately £30 of donations which was lovely as we were not charging for anything.

For the first time ever Sue Jones led us into delivering our Nativity play from a central position with seats positioned in a circular shape. It felt lovely and open and welcoming. We had a good attendance considering the pandemic situation at Christmas time became quite difficult again. We were very pleased with how it all turned out and after the service we were able to use the annexe for the party games and a proper Christmas lunch/snack party at the tables with festive cloths and decorations. Gift bags were handed out as the children left.

There is an email address for Sunday club and this is monitored by Teresa. wivstmaryssundayclub@gmail.com

We are really hopeful that we can now continue to build on our Sunday club and maintain our positive start with us using the annexe and hope that more children will join us in 2022.

Teresa Warren

Stained Glass Window Report

The wonderful stained glass window for the east gable end of the Annexe has moved ahead significantly during the last year following the granting of planning permission and faculty. It now awaits installation during April 2022.

We have the window through the great generosity and enthusiasm of James Dodds for the design and the skills of Andy Brooke for the manufacture. During 2021 the manufacture of the 10 stained glass panels was completed by Andy Brooke in his workshop in Dumfries with assistance from Pascale Penfold. This followed a lot of preparatory work by James Dodds producing templates, a full size 'cartoon' and a large painting of the window design which Andy used as the basis of his work.

In October James gave a very interesting talk about the development of the window design. This was well attended and generated much interest. We produced a Greetings Card of the painting of the window and the sales of the card have assisted the funding for the window.

The painting itself was displayed at an exhibition of James' works at a London art gallery. James kindly donated the proceeds of the sale of this painting towards the cost of the window and we are grateful to the purchasers of the painting. Similarly there have been other generous donations towards the cost of the window.

All of the glass panels have been transported from Scotland and are now in the studio of James Dodds. awaiting installation into the Annexe, planned for April 2022

Graham Wadley

Transformation Appeal Team Report

When we established a Project Committee late in 2016 to lead an Appeal to raise a likely sum required of £500,000, we all had hopes that church-friendly grant-making trusts including the National Heritage Lottery Fund would be willing to support the Appeal. First though we needed to get the Appeal underway and show local support for it. By early 2018 we had agreed the key messaging for the Appeal and designed 3 key leaflets to describe it, with various other documents and web pages in support.

We formally launched the Appeal in May 2018 with a letter and leaflet which we hand-delivered to every house in Wivenhoe. We got a lot of favourable publicity as well as many donations, including a £5,000 grant from the Wivenhoe Community Trust to kick-start the Appeal.

By the time we were able to pursue grants from trusts which required a fully-costed scheme as part of the application, the Covid-19 pandemic had started and such bodies as the Heritage Lottery Fund had closed their doors to us in order to concentrate their financial support on organisations which were directly helping people adversely affected by the pandemic.

St Mary's Church has been very fortunate to have received two substantial legacies in recent years, one in 2019 from Barbara Patterson and the other a little earlier from Ivan Newton.

Other, smaller legacies have been received by St Mary's and these too have been utilised in finding the necessary money to complete the building work in 2020, taking advantage of the fact that the Church building had been closed for ordinary worship due to the pandemic. However, we were very fortunate to have two successful bids. We were awarded grants of: £7,500 from the All Churches Trust; and, £5,000 from The Beatrice Laing Trust. Friends of St Mary's had given a generous grant early on; a great many people gave individual donations of varying amounts, and supported sponsored walks as the Rector's Pilgrimage to Canterbury Cathedral and Terry Vanner's cycling adventures, or bought a ticket to win a framed picture by renowned local artist Annie Bielecka. Lots of people helped too by paying a sum of money into the Appeal Fund each month by standing order. All of this money added up to enough so that Baker's of Danbury, the building firm which had won the tender in 2020, could begin work in January 2021. During 2021, people began to gradually see the Annexe take shape until it was eventually finished in early September 2021.

The visit by the Bishop of Colchester to a special Service in St Mary's Church on Sunday 26th September 2021 to bless the new facilities was a perfect way to mark the hard work of so many people in different roles and committees during these last 5 years, including that of raising and finding of £500,000 necessary to turn the overall vision of '*Enabling St Mary's to fulfil a greater role in Wivenhoe*' into a reality.

The Church building, without the fixed pews in the Nave but the Chancel continuing to look as it has for a long time, and the new wooden floor and the lightweight wooden chairs have certainly transformed the building into something which is much more light and airy. The meeting room in the Annexe with its modern kitchen and new entrance lobby from the south side of the Church, featuring two modern toilets, including one for people with disabilities, and leading to an outside courtyard area, all complements the atmosphere of the Nave. A great many people have made lots of favourable comments about what has been achieved. I should like to thank the members of the Transformation Project Appeal team for their help, support and commitment from the outset of our meetings each month from late 2016. They were: Alan Charnock, Carol Connell, Lucy Crocker, Philippa Hawley, Lynne Horner, Ann Jones, Sue Jones, Robert Needham, Graham Wadley, and the Rev Erwin Lammens who attended all of the monthly meetings (until lockdown when they had to cease). Ann Jones took the notes at each of the meetings and Lynne Horner wrote to everyone who sent in a donation. Lucy Crocker created many 3-dimensional images for the Project which were extremely useful in helping people to visualize what the Project was about, as well as the Logo for the Appeal.

I feel sure everyone feels huge satisfaction at what has been achieved.

Peter Hill, Chairman

Wivenhoe Baby & Toddler Group Report

After over a year off for Covid we finally started meeting again in July by holding informal gatherings on the King George playing field. Unfortunately, the weather was not kind to us so we only managed to meet a couple of times.

From September we were back to our usual Tuesday mornings in the Scout & Guide Hall. Sadly, for us, a lot of our previous children had now moved on to school, but many new babies and toddlers have joined us, and the group continues to thrive.

We still follow the same format each session, with role play, construction, craft, book corner and a designated baby area. Snack time is at 10.40 when the children come together for a healthy snack and drink and the session ends with singing time.

Covid put paid to our summer party, but we did hold a Christmas party in the hall. We had a change of format from previous years and had a children's entertainer come along, who basically ran the whole party. It was a great success!

Our leadership team still need more helpers to volunteer especially as at present our Church ladies who do the refreshments for us, feel they are unable to help due to Covid, which we

quite understand but this does mean one of our team has to take on this role, leaving us short in the main hall.

The group has been very fortunate in receiving donations from both the Wivenhoe News magazine and Councillor Michelle Burrows. This money was used to buy a large gate to use across the main room double door, lidded cups for the adult drinks and various new toys. This gate has increased the security of the hall for the little ones.

The group is always on the lookout for new volunteers and continues to welcome new babies and toddlers with their adult.

Vanessa Reed

Worship Group Report

The Worship Group was dormant for the early part of the year as Covid restrictions prevented the normal worship pattern taking place. As the year progressed the details of restrictions were closely monitored and services gradually opened but with the year end again attracting some hesitancy as the Omicron variant became prevalent.

The Group met in March and May by Zoom and managed an in-person meeting in the Annexe in October. Margaret Bigwood left the group at the end of the year, with Helena Hughes joining us again.

For the early part of the year we followed the legal requirements and the guidance issued by the Church of England covering the Covid measures. This led to some severe restrictions which coincided with the closure of the church for the building works. The Rector will elaborate on the pattern of worship and on-line services in his report but there were no Sunday services in church from the beginning of the year until 27th June.

From that date said services were held but socially distanced and with no singing as this was still restricted. At the end of July some hymns were introduced and a relatively normal pattern of worship in church re-commenced but still being Covid cautious.

This continued through the autumn and the usual round of services planned including the Civic Service, Memorial Crosses, Taize, Carol Service and the Dedication of the new church facilities in September.

The normal Christmas services were planned but by that time there was increased nervousness about the Omicron variant of Covid and, whilst the services were held, attendances were much reduced over the Christmas period.

Graham Wadley