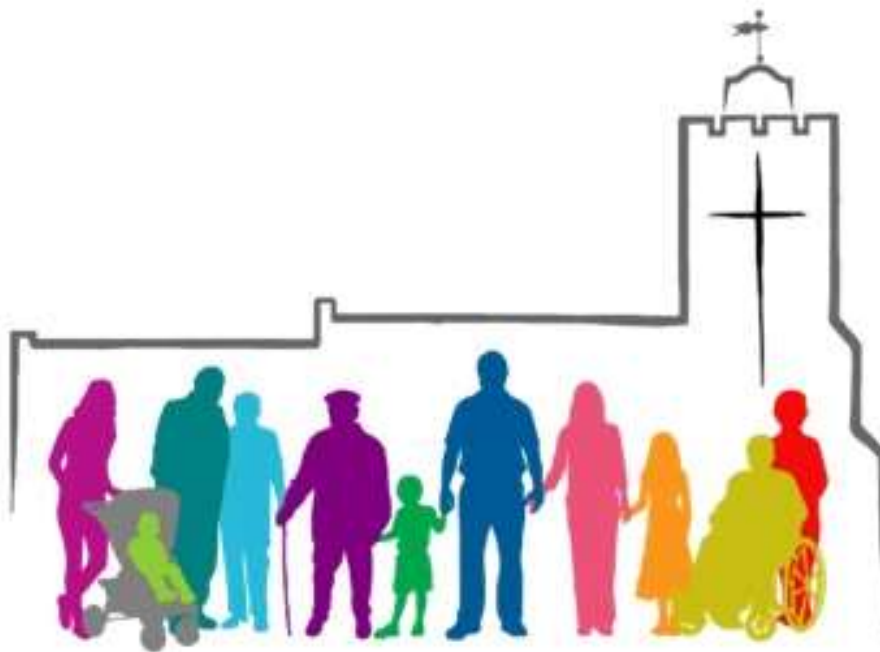


ST. MARY'S CHURCH

ANNUAL PARISH REPORT 2022



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

**The Annual Parochial Church meeting will take place on
Sunday 14th May 2023 at 12 noon in church.**

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for absence**
- 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2022**
- 3. Election of members to the Parochial Church Council**
- 4. Election of Deanery Synod Members**
- 5. Election of Churchwardens**
- 6. The Annual Report**
- 7. Report on the changes to the Electoral Roll since the last annual
Parochial Church Council meeting and the numbers entered on the Roll.**
- 8. Annual Report on the fabric and goods and ornaments of the church**
- 9. A report of the proceedings of the Deanery Synod**
- 10. Acceptance of the accounts**
- 11. Appointment of an Independent Examiner**
- 12. Any Other Business**

Index to Contents

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, 15 th May 2022 .	Page...4
Deanery Synod Report	Page...5
Electoral Roll Officers Report	Page...6
Fabric Report	Page...6
Health & Safety Report	Page...7
Rectors Report	Page...7
Safeguarding Report	Page..10
Secretary to PCC Report	Page..10
Communications Report	Page..11
Treasurers' Report and Annual Accounts	Page..12
All Together Worship	Page..19
Bellringers Report	Page..19
Bible Study Report	Page..20
Café Chill	Page..20
Catering Report	Page..20
Cleaning Team Report	Page..20
Churches Together Report	Page..21
Flower Report	Page..21
Friendly Club	Page..21
Friends of St Mary's Report	Page..22
Fundraising Report	Page..22
Lectio Divina Report	Page..23
Music at St Marys Report	Page..23
Pastoral Care Report	Page..24
St Mary's Link with Uganda	Page..24
St Mary's Music Society	Page..25
Sunday Club Report	Page..25
The Way	Page..26
Wivenhoe Baby & Toddler Group Report	Page..26
Worship Group Report	Page..27

St. Mary the Virgin, Wivenhoe
Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
on Saturday 15th May 2022 at 12 noon

The Meeting opened at 12.00 noon with a reading from Johns Gospel and a prayer by the Revd. Erwin Lammens. Revd. Erwin Lammens in the chair welcomed the 33 people present.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Suzanne Jones; Barry & Lyn Smith; Peter Hill; Graeme & Carolyn Martin; Eric & Mary Jakens
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd May 2021** shown on page 3 of the annual report
Heather Edwards, proposed, Beryl Harvey seconded and the meeting unanimously agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd May 2021 were a true record.
3. **Election of members to the Parochial Church Council**
Erwin thanked Revd. Dr. Elisabeth Ring, Peter Terry, Jennifer Heaps and Graeme Martin for their time and commitment as members of the PCC.
The following candidates were put forward for election to the PCC –
 - Claudia Alsdorf was proposed by Suzanne Jones and seconded by Kerry-Anne Rooke
 - Greg Butler was proposed by Mary Jakens and seconded by Eric Jakens
 - Eric Jakens was proposed by Carolyn Martin and seconded by Graeme Martin
 - Jane Taylor was proposed by Douglas McCormick and seconded by Bonnie Hill
 - Margaret Allison was proposed by Jennifer Heaps and seconded by Bonnie HillThere being no other nominations they were confirmed by those present in that role.
4. **Election of Churchwardens**
Erwin thanked Margaret Bigwood, Douglas McCormick, Sue Jones and Eric Jakens for their work during the year. Although Douglas had stepped out of the churchwarden role for a short time, he was prepared to stand for election again. Margaret Bigwood had moved to Scotland and Suzanne Jones and Eric Jakens had recently stepped in to fill the roles.

The following candidates were put forward for election as Churchwardens -
Douglas McCormick was proposed by Bonnie Hill and seconded by Eric Jakens
Suzanne Jones was proposed by Barry Smith and seconded by Lyn Smith
There being no other nominations they were confirmed in that role.
5. **The Annual Report**
Erwin reviewed the annual report, highlighting and thanking people for their contribution to the life and work of the parish. Erwin commented on the difficulties at the start of the year but despite that there had been a significant amount of activities and outreach within the church and wider community. The statistics for the service attendances had been included within the report. There were a considerable number of zoom meetings during the year for various teams and Tidings had been sent out by mail monthly to keep people in touch. Erwin thanked various people for their work which enabled the work of the church to continue. Their contribution to church life was greatly appreciated by many. Erwin spoke about the various opportunities to get involved – all are welcome to join any of the teams and committees the fundraising team in particular. The transformation team had successfully completed the project and the final element – the stained glass window was installed in the Spring of 2022.
6. **Report on the changes to the Roll since the last annual Parochial Church Council meeting and the numbers entered on the Roll.**
Erwin referred those present to page 6 of the Annual Report. 115 names were on the 2021 electoral roll. Some members of the congregation had sadly passed away or moved away. Vivien Eborn was thanked for her work in keeping the roll up to date.

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

Erwin referred those present to page 6 of the Annual Report. Erwin thanked the Fabric team for their work throughout the year and undertaking the various projects. The trip hazard in the chancel mentioned in the annual report was asked about, remedial work had been undertaken and it is hoped it will be sufficient.

8. A report of the proceedings of the deanery synod

Erwin referred those present to page 4 of the Annual Report. Erwin thanked the Deanery Synod representatives for their work in this area.

9. Acceptance of accounts

Douglas McCormick as Treasurer presented the accounts to those present. An opportunity was given to those present to ask questions or ask for clarification. Douglas thanked Bill and Vivien Eborn for the huge amount of work that they had undertaken over the years and their ongoing help is also greatly appreciated. The accounts are in good shape and we have managed extremely well during the pandemic. Thanks were also extended to Ian Dimmock who prepares the accounts.

Rosemary Murchie asked about the Transformation Fund - there is still a balance in the fund - the redecoration of the church is still to be done and it will cost a huge amount of money. As always priorities have to shift and there are other more important matters to address first. Jennifer Heaps asked about heating and the expenditure – she thought that the heating was on when it shouldn't be – could this be reviewed. Sometimes if the temperature drops below 15 degrees the heating will automatically come on and this may make it appear that it the heating is operating via the timer. At the moment £300 per month is spent on heat and light but this will increase. Douglas asked that he be informed if changes to the programme are required. In some instances there may be residual heat when people enter the building due to a hired session. The annexe heating is on a different system with a separate boiler.

The acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Douglas McCormick, seconded by Maureen Reynolds and unanimously agreed.

10. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Douglas explained that as a new treasurer he would like to remain with the current independent examiners as it is difficult to find companies that are suitable to undertake the task for a charity of our size. This matter will be reviewed again next year.

Peyton Tyler Mears, having agreed to act as Independent Examiners were proposed by Douglas McCormick, seconded by Rosemary Murchie and it was unanimously agreed that they be appointed for 2022/2023 by the meeting

11. Other matters

Erwin thanked Revd. Dr. Sara Batts-Neale; Dr. Glyn Stanway, Helena Hughes, Revd. John and Revd. Janet Driver who had assisted with services during the year. They are a very important part of the spiritual life of St. Mary's.

Erwin closed the meeting at 12.49 and before they departed invited those present to join together in saying The Grace.

Deanery Synod

Lay representatives plus clergy from all the Colchester Anglican churches meet three times a year, to hear what's going on in the Diocese and nationally, and to discuss and share ideas about how we can work together more effectively across Colchester.

• 16th June March 2022 –

There was no Deanery Synod meeting held in March this year as we were observing the lent sabbatical as requested by The Bishop of Chelmsford, Rt. Revd. Dr. Guli Francis-Dehqani.

- **15th June 2022** – *At St. John's Church, St. John's Close, Colchester, CO4 0HP*
Synod was visited by The Bishop of Chelmsford, Rt. Revd. Dr. Guli Francis-Dehqani. She started off by offering thanks to Revd. Canon Paul Norrington for his service as Area Dean for the last 8 years. She also offered thanks to all clergy and lay people who serve in the deanery of Colchester. Bishop Guli then proceeded to tell us about her background and life. She vividly described the dramatic experiences she and her family suffered, her father being the Anglican Bishop of Iran, during the danger and chaos of the Islamic Revolution in 1979 in Iran. The bishops talk was followed with a brief Q&A session with questions posed from the floor.
- **12th October 2022** – *At John Owen Barn, Fordham Hall, Church Road, Fordham CO6 3NL*
This Synod started at the slightly earlier time of 7:00pm, in order to facilitate the commissioning of our new Area Dean, Revd Erwin Lammens appointing of Assistant Area Dean, Revd Hannah Cooper, presided by The Venerable Ruth Patten, Archdeacon of Colchester.
Synod was then addressed by Michaela Southworth, CEO, Diocese of Chelmsford. Her talk was partly about strategy and partly about the new Parish Share scheme. This was followed with a Q&A Session with questions posed from the floor. At the end of the meeting Revd. John Chandler presented the PCC's offers for the 2023 Parish Share, and explained about the next steps.

Heather Edwards, Rick Cawley, Nick Gustard

Electoral Roll

On 31 December 2022 there were 118 names on St Mary's Electoral Roll.

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 Report

Maintenance work within the church has continued in various areas of the church to ensure that the building is kept in good order. The Fabric Team has met regularly to review and inform the PCC of what is required for repairs and application for Faculty has been required.

Roof – it had been discovered that there were a number of holes in the chancel roof where tiles had slipped. Fortunately, they were accessible from a gully and repair work was undertaken without the need for scaffolding and a full repair was achieved quickly. Unfortunately, that was not the case for the apex of the nave roof where three ridge tiles had slipped due to storm damage and scaffolding had to be erected to make the repair. Tiles which were loose along the ridgeline were also secured.

Choir Vestry – the choir vestry floor was in a dangerous state and had to be replaced. Everything was cleared and stored elsewhere in church which was not ideal. All items were sorted through before they were either replaced in the choir vestry, stored in the storage area in the chancel or placed on a newly sorted mezzanine floor in the rectors vestry.

Churchyard Noticeboard – Karl Douzier kindly donated his skills. He removed the frame, replaced the Perspex, repaired and revarnished the frame itself and then replaced it.

Fire alarms – a fire alarm has been installed in the annexe.

Church Shed - the position of the new shed was causing a difficulty for neighbours so a plan was put in place to move it. The original shed was dismantled and disposed of and the new one was literally picked up by several strong volunteers and placed in a new position. Time had been spent prior to the move sorting and disposing of unwanted items.

Pulpit – a small piece of carpet has been placed on the pulpit steps to help with stone step hazards.

Hand rail within the Tower was improved.

Inspections - PAT testing on all relevant electrical items took place on 10th June 2022. The Quinquennial inspection was undertaken by Church Architect Simon Marks on 18th July 2022. The Fabric Team are actively working on the recommendations.

Sue Jones & Douglas McCormick, Churchwardens

Health & Safety

Update on Issues Arising

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

Recommended Changes to Health and Safety Arrangements

Due to new formal advice released by the HSE in November 2021 in respect to organisations which are largely dependent on volunteers, many of the requirements in terms of Health and Safety no longer apply to St Mary's. This lessens 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, it is strongly recommended that the following documents be retired and replaced with the 'St Mary's Health and Safety Overview' document.

1. Health & Safety Management and Premises Audit Report
2. Health & Safety Policy Statement (adopted by the PCC on 09/09/2019)
3. Integrated Health and Safety Policy
4. Risk assessments for all areas of activity.

There remains a requirement for a Fire Risk Assessment, and it is proposed that this be updated in line with the latest guidance during February 2023, during which time it will also be simplified.

As explained in the proposed Health and Safety Overview document, the management of H&S in a church where there are no employees is greatly reduced. Risk Assessments for activities run by the PCC can be informal as this is not a workplace. Additionally, the Insurance Company provide advice on H&S matters on their website, and there is also access to the Risk Advice Line and Church Operations team to provide any additional assistance required.

Given this is the case, it is also recommended that the role of Health and Safety Officer be retired.

Future Issues Arising

Any future issues arising should be reported by email or telephone to the Churchwardens and/or Secretary to be recorded / discussed / actioned in a proportionate and sensible way.

James Peters, Health & Safety Officer

Rectors Report

Difficult start

We started the year 2022 with a recurrence of Covid, this time due to the Omicron variant. Needless to say that this has had an impact on church attendance and events of which many were cancelled or postponed. Most meetings were still held via Zoom. In light of this difficult start the annual figures of attendance have been affected. Later in the year numbers grew gradually and reached a high at the end of the year during Advent and Christmas. Other good news is that attendance of families with children increased significantly.

Services seemed to recover after Covid except Sunday evening services which struggled to attract worshippers. Just as an example: the last Evensong before lockdown in 2020 was attended by 21 worshippers (the combination with communion seemed to be successful). The average attendance at Evensong in 2022 was 5 (including the minister, organist and sidesperson); there was a similar attendance at Holy Ground. But Taizé services still brought a good number of people together from the wider area including Colchester, Alresford and Brightlingsea.

Sunday and Wednesday services

We don't have 2020 figures as there were only a limited number of services held because of lockdown. 2021 figures from June when the church reopened. No Sunday evening services in 2021. 2022 figures as normal.

Sunday and Wednesday services

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
8am/9am	10	11	11	12	14	12	10	11	11		10	9
10.30am: under 16	7	7	7	6	6	5	6	5	8		6	11
10.30 am: adults	77	79	79	76	76	72	72	62	67		51	52
Evensong	17	16	16	17	17	14	16	12	11		N/A	5
7 past 7	10	11	11	11	12	11	12	8	8		6	7
Taizé	18	12	25	34	28	18	27	26	21		16	15
Holy Ground							9	12	12		N/A	5

Pastoral and initiation services

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Baptisms	15	18	30	20	27	14	21	18	18	9	4	6	2
Confirmation	0	4	8	0	6	8	0	6	0	8	0	0	5
Weddings	7	12	19	13	6	10	15	8	6	5	3	5	7
Renewal of wedding vows	0	0	0	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	0	0	0
Funerals in church	-	21	20	18	20	20	10	14	6	10	10	8	15
Cremation services	-	8	13	9	8	4	15	10	9	16	17	9	6

Ministry Team

It is a blessing to be part of a great team with Revd Dr Sara Batts-Neale, associate priest, Dr Glyn Stanway, Reader, Helena Hughes, authorised local preacher, Revds John and Janet Driver, priests with permission to officiate, and pastoral assistant Deirdre Gill. At the end of the year the team was reduced through the illness of Deirdre, Helena, John and Janet. We thank Deirdre and Helena for years of commitment to God's church in the community of Wivenhoe and pray that John and Janet may be able to resume their much appreciated ministry among us when they are fully recovered.

Our team could not function without the support of many volunteers; churchwardens Sue Jones and Douglas McCormick (who is also PCC treasurer), assistant churchwarden Greg Butler,

PCC secretary Bonnie Hill, PCC members, administrator Lynne Horner, members of the several hard-working groups and committees, the many who often unnoticed carry out all kind of essential jobs and those who pray for the life of our church family.

Worship and music

The heartbeat of our church is felt when we gather for worship: praying and praising, preaching and teaching, celebrating and reflecting, singing, listening to music and finding God in tranquillity. Many thanks to Graham Wadley, director of music, for whom it has been a difficult year due to illness. We wish him continuing recovery. Many thanks to John Dowden and Hilary Cook who have covered for Graham during his absence. I would like to thank our loyal Sunday choir members Hilary Cook, Lucy Crocker, Andrew Treacher, and young members Isla and Josephine, and St Mary's singers, director, soloists and organist. At weddings, funerals and baptisms I and families highly appreciate the work of vergers Mary Jakens. Carolyn Martin kindly helps at baptisms.

The rotas of readers and intercessors are put together by John Williams and Rosemary Murchie. The audio-visual at services are competently overseen by Marika Footring, Rick Cawley and Edward Cole at All Together services. The flower team coordinated by Carol Mitchell work marvels.

Children's and youth ministry

Growth at St Mary's is seen in the work with children, youth and families. The Sunday Club and The Way leaders' team are coordinated by Teresa Warren. Thank you, Teresa and all leaders, for running the weekly gatherings and events such as Easter activities for children, Nativity Play, Christmas party, and participating in the Free Family Fun Festival. Subteams organise All Together Sunday and the successful annual St Nicholas' visit.

Heather Edwards started her two-year training as children's and youth minister.

Welcoming

In 2022 we opened the church more often for events at which we welcome everyone to enjoy good company, refreshments, a warm church, and entertainment. Good examples of this are Café Chill, the Friendly Club, concerts, Open Heritage Day etc. It is encouraging to see the annexe and nave being used by various community groups.

Pastoral

Our pastoral visitors team is back on track after a frustrating time during the several lockdowns when only phone and email contact was possible. Gill Strudwick kindly agreed to coordinate the group. Our team works with the pastoral teams of Greenstead and St John's in organising pastoral events for those who lack and long for social contact.

To those who wish I offer visits with or without communion throughout the year but in particular in the weeks leading up to Christmas and Easter. Monthly house communion are organised and are open to all. The housebound receive a posy with best wishes at Harvest.

Safeguarding is in the capable hands of Gill Black and DBS is overseen by recruiter Lyn Smith. Thank you to Gill and Lyn.

Teaching

St Mary's is a great place for teaching. In 2022 Bible Study sessions were led by Helena Hughes and Lectio Divina by Ann Evershed. Participants appreciate these sessions greatly. Preaching in our church is based on the Bible, which is studied in its historical context, and seeks to understand the text in light of contemporary culture. We develop an ethos of inclusiveness.

Communication

The regularly updated website remains a popular means of communications. Likewise Facebook, Twitter, and regular e-mailing are successful. We also offer printed communication ten times a year with the publication of Tidings, our magazine in the style of a newsletter. We continue to send Tidings to 210 free subscribers and copies are available in the church and the High Street Post Office. Marika Footring and St Mary's Facebook agents cover our digital communications; Sue Clement and Bob Newell share their valued expertise as editor and designer of Tidings and Bonnie Hill organises the mailing. Huge thanks to them.

Charitable giving

In the accounts you will find how much it costs for the upkeep of our grade 2* historic building, to reach out to the community, and to maintain a full-time stipendiary incumbent. This is only possible with the support of those who have set up planned giving, make donations, leave legacies, pay fees, and raise funds. The Fundraising team coordinated by Heather Edwards has organised several events and has more plans for the new year. At the Gift Day in October people were asked to review their financial support in light of the church's higher running costs. However, we don't want to be inward-looking and therefore remain committed to support those who are less fortunate by donating to St Andrew's Parish in Namalemba in Uganda through a group of Christian Women, Beacon House, The Children's Society and other charities.

Revd Erwin Lammens

Safeguarding Report

- I agreed to be PSO (Parish Safeguarding Officer) late last summer but not until I was fully trained (October 22) did I feel confident to undertake the role. The training empowered me with its knowledge, content and the support offered by the Diocese. This support is by phone or email. I also completed my Basic Awareness and Foundation Safeguarding Training prior to that.
- Although I am the Safeguarding Governor for Broomgrove Infants and had completed the school Safeguarding Training, I needed to attend the Diocese training.
- I have met formally with Erwin twice, and have had many phone and email conversations with him. I have also spoken to Lyn Smith, Lead Recruiter and am about to have a meeting to discuss new Diocese DBS initiatives. Bonnie has also been a great source of support.
- Safeguarding posters are about to be displayed in Church and the Church toilets.
- A Safeguarding Folder will be kept in the Vestry containing the policy, templates and Safeguarding Recording Sheets.
- Erwin and I have discussed Safeguarding training in great detail, as certain roles within the church need to have certain levels of training.
- Currently I have had one individual contacting me in my PSO role. I offered the advice and the names and contact details of organisations who could support them.
- I look forward to developing my role, as all organisations that use our Church and buildings who are involved with children and vulnerable adults need to have Safeguarding policies in place.

Gill Black, 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.

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 2022

Incumbent	The Revd. Erwin Lammens	Chairman
Licensed Clergy	Revd. Dr. Sara Batts-Neale	
Reader	Emeritus Professor Dr. Glyn Stanway	
Churchwardens	Sue Jones	elected May 2022
	Douglas McCormick	re-elected May 2022
Treasurer	Douglas McCormick	appointed May 2022
Secretary	Bonnie Hill	re-appointed May 2022
Deanery Synod Representatives	Rick Cawley	re-elected October 2020
	Dr. Nick Gustard	re-elected October 2020
	Heather Edwards	re-elected October 2020

Elected Members

Greg Butler	elected April 2019
Jane Taylor	elected April 2019
Eric Jakens	elected October 2020
Sandra Osborne	elected October 2020
Graham Wadley	elected May 2021
Claudia Alsdorf	elected May 2022
Margaret Allison	elected May 2022

Since the last Annual Meeting the PCC have met on 10 occasions. The PCC members above have worked together to ensure that St Marys Church continues to develop and grow both spiritually and within the local community and very much represent all those involved with church life.

The PCC receive monthly reports from not only the Treasurer, but also the Churchwardens, Fundraising Team, Catering Team, Fabric Group, Worship and Vision Group and our Colchester Deanery Synod representatives, Wivenhoe Churches Together, Health & Safety, Safeguarding, FOSM and information on the Children's Ministry, youth work and young adults. This gives an excellent view of what is current, what needs to be addressed and promotes discussion. Having transformed the interior of the church and added the annexe our community engagement has flourished and the PCC are regularly informed of the bookings and events taking place.

The Standing Committee meetings continue on a monthly basis to prepare for the PCC meeting.

The PCC meeting minutes are available at the back of the Church, in a folder, or can be accessed from the St. Mary's Church website, if there are issues arising from the Minutes, or other matters, please do speak to a council member.

Bonnie Hill, PCC Secretary

Communication

Website

total viewing figures for 2022 were 19,248, a drop of about 4000 compared to the previous year which was an all-time high, being the second lockdown year. 2022 figures were however still roughly 4000 higher than in 2019.

The most popular viewing time remains Sunday at 5pm. This is something to bear in mind if we intend to grow our audience.

Following the website are 74; other social media (Twitter) 338.

Each new website post automatically goes to Twitter.

The website is free to the church, the annual subscription is donated.

Facebook

Teresa Warren has joined the editorial team and her input is significant and effective. Lucy Crocker also makes occasional posts and between the two of them they have increased the reach of our Facebook page.

Page has 305 followers. Just under 50% of our audience is located in Wivenhoe.

General data protection regulations

Nothing much has been done about this in the past year.

The plan is to provide general instructions that can be issued to new PCC members and others who would need to be aware of the regulations.

Licencing

St Mary's continues with the same licences as has been the case since 2019.

These cover the use of hymn and chant texts and music, copying of music, streaming videos on social media, and showing films in church.

The providers of these licences are CCLI and Onelicense.

A review of some of the currently held licences is underway at the time of writing this report, the outcome of which will hopefully be available at the time of the APCM.

Marika Footring, Communications Officer

Tidings

In 2022 our pattern of remote editorial meetings has continued to be the norm, mainly due to time constraints. However, Erwin and I are hoping to make time for face-to-face editorial meetings in 2023, which are always beneficial for fresh ideas and suggestions.

As the Annexe's popularity has grown we have been able to advertise, and report on, the events taking place there.

At the time of writing our 2022 advertisers remain the same for 2023, the revenue for which covers all printing costs. The four-page content has continued; however, the number of flyers included in the mailing envelope with Erwin's letter is increasing, which is an indication of Tidings' popularity. We almost always have more than enough copy to exceed four pages, but not enough for eight. An increase in pages would entail more work and an increase in costs, neither of which is currently viable.

We have 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.

In 2022 Tidings has continued to be mailed out by PCC secretary Bonnie Hill and this will be the distribution system for the foreseeable future.

Looking forward, I will be playing a greater part in sending out article requests to ease Erwin's demands on his time. I would be grateful if contributors could reply to me with the same enthusiasm as they do to Erwin!

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.

We must not forget our designer, Bob Newell, in our list of thanks, as without him there would be no Tidings. His patience and expertise are invaluable, for which we are extremely grateful.

Sue Clement, Editor

Treasurer

REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

I am pleased to be able to report that, thanks to the generosity of many, our Parish Share and all our bills were paid in full for 2022.

The majority of our regular income comes from monthly standing orders; committed giving envelopes; and loose collections. This is gratefully acknowledged and where we are able gift aid is claimed. In 2022 gift aid was worth more than £20,000.

The Transformation Project has been operational now for around 17 months (at the time of writing) and the objective to create space for the community has been realised with many groups using the facilities throughout the week as well as the activities of the Church. The revenue this generates covers the costs and adds to our financial viability.

Fundraising events such as the June and December markets, the concerts held by Wivenhoe Music Society, to mention just a few also contribute to our funds and we are grateful to all who expend great efforts to make these occasions successful.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Bill and Vivien Eborn who, despite Bill retiring as Treasurer at the end of 2021, together collect, count and bank all the monies received and dual authorise our bank payments. I would also like to thank Ian Dimmock for his contribution and to Rev John Chandler for his help, involvement and advice in preparing this year's accounts.

The full accounts, which appear on pages 14 to 18 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.

Douglas McCormick, Treasurer

St Mary's PCC Wivenhoe

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

Year Ended 31st December 2022

I report on the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2022.

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 – matter of concern identified

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which give 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;

However, the accounts prepared for the Church are not fully compliant with the accounting requirements of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. The accounts produced do not include sufficient notes to detail the accounting policies adopted by the church. The accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis but there is no information regarding debtors or creditors included in the financial statements.

I confirm that there are 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



14th March 2023

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary the Virgin, Wivenhoe

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2022

Statement of Funds						Net movement in year
	Bal b/fwd 01/01/2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Bal c/fwd 31/12/2022	
	£	£	£	£	£	
Unrestricted Fund						
General	77,412	157,161	(133,819)	(6,735)	94,019	16,607
Designated Funds						
Sheila Carrick Legacy	500				500	
Hugh Brogan Legacy	5,000				5,000	
Janet Richardson Legacy	1,000				1,000	
Sunday Club	979			550	1,529	550
	7,479	0	0	550	8,029	550
Restricted Funds						
Bell	11,915			120	12,035	120
Choir	755			45	800	45
Fabric - General	3,242			1,614	4,856	1,614
Fabric Ashton Legacy	10,000				10,000	0
Jane Cole Legacy		10,000			10,000	10,000
Delia Schafle Legacy		22,500			22,500	22,500
Flower	1,024			(304)	719	(304)
FOSM	7,558			1,128	8,686	1,128
Maintenance (Cory)	2,115			300	2,415	300
Transformation Project	65,598		(11,676)	4,309	58,231	(7,367)
Organ	370				370	0
Wiv St Mary's Music Soc	2,060			(1,027)	1,033	(1,027)
	104,636	32,500	(11,676)	6,185	131,645	27,009
Total Funds	189,528	189,661	(145,495)	0	233,694	44,166

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary the Virgin, Wivenhoe

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
		£	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources						
Voluntary Income	2a	127,037	0	32,500	159,537	137,800
Activities for generating funds	2b	12,192	0	0	12,192	8,174
Income from Investments	2c	482	0	0	482	469
Church activities	2d	17,450	0	0	17,450	15,767
Total Incoming Resources		157,161	0	32,500	189,661	162,210
Resources Expended						
Church activities	3a	129,421	0	11,676	141,097	640,550
Costs of generating voluntary income	3b	3,678	0	0	3,678	1,581
Governance costs	3c	720	0	0	720	1,464
Total Resources Expended		133,819	0	11,676	145,495	643,595
Net Incoming (outgoing) resources before transfers		23,342	0	20,824	44,166	(481,385)
Sunday Club		(550)	550		0	
Bell		(120)		120	0	
Choir		(45)		45	0	
Fabric- General		(1,614)		1,614	0	
Flower		304		(304)	0	
FOSM		(1,128)		1,128	0	
Maintenance (Cory)		(300)		300	0	
Transformation Project		(4,309)		4,309	0	
Wiv St Mary's Music Soc		1,027		(1,027)	0	
Transfers between Funds		(6,735)	550	6,185	0	0
Gains (losses) on investment assets	6				0	
Net movement in funds		16,607	550	27,009	44,166	(481,385)
Total funds brought forward 1st January 2022		77,412	7,479	104,636	189,528	670,912
Total funds carried forward 31st December 2022		94,019	8,029	131,645	233,694	189,528

**Parochial Church Council of St. Mary the Virgin,
Wivenhoe
Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2022**

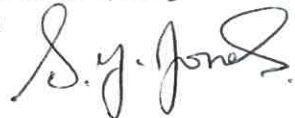
		2022 £	2021 £	
Fixed Assets				
Tangible Fixed Assets	5		-	
Investments	6		-	
			-	
Total Fixed Assets		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	
Current Assets				Change
Investments				
Debtors	7	21,000	19,000	2,000
Short Term Deposits		53,665	53,665	(0)
Transformation Appeal Deposit Account		10,010	5,257	4,753
FOSM Current Account		8,686	2,270	6,416
Transormation Appeal Account		16,469	15,638	831
PCC Current Account		137,193	126,667	10,526
Total Current Assets		<u>247,024</u>	<u>222,497</u>	<u>24,527</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		(13,330)	(32,969)	19,639
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		<u>233,694</u>	<u>189,528</u>	<u>44,166</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year				
NET ASSETS		<u>233,694</u>	<u>189,528</u>	<u>44,166</u>
PARISH FUNDS	7			
Unrestricted Funds	11	94,019	83,912	10,107
Designated Funds	11	8,029	979	7,050
Restricted Funds	11	131,645	104,636	27,009
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>233,694</u>	<u>189,527</u>	<u>44,167</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on (date) and signed on its behalf by:

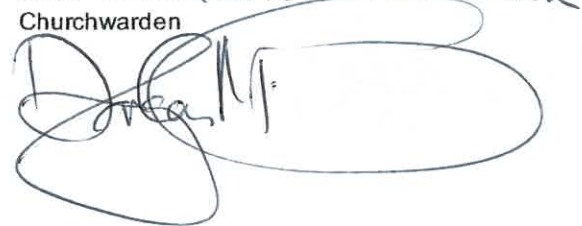
Revd Erwin Lammens
Chairman



Name SUE JONES
Churchwarden



Name DOUGLAS MCCORMICK
Churchwarden



The accompanying notes on pages (4 to 5) form a part of these accounts.

**Parochial Church Council of St. Mary the Virgin,
Wivenhoe**
Notes to the Financial Statements
(continued)

for the year ended 31st December 2022

2 Incoming Resources

	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
a Voluntary Income					
Planned Giving:					
Gift Aid donations	88,247			88,247	54,718
Income Tax Recoverable	21,339			21,339	18,523
Other	239			239	480
Collections at all services	8,663			8,663	3,047
Gift Days	0			0	0
Grants	0			0	3,910
Sundry donations and appeals	3,967			3,967	51,106
Legacies	4,582		32,500	37,082	6,016
Total Voluntary Income	127,037	0	32,500	159,537	137,800
b Activities for generating Funds					
Parish Magazine (advertising)	1,295			1,295	600
September and December markets	2,951			2,951	3,885
Fundraising	7,946			7,946	3,689
Total Activities for generating Funds	12,192	0	0	12,192	8,174
c Income from Investments					
Dividends on CBF Investment Fund	322			322	0
Bank and CBF Deposit Fund Interest	160			160	469
Total Income from Investments	482	0	0	482	469
d Income from Church activities					
Fees from weddings and funerals	12,844			12,844	9,322
Parish Magazine (sales)	847			847	1,588
Church lettings: local community use	3,629			3,629	1,372
Insurance claims	130			130	3,485
Sale of fixed assets	0			0	0
Total Income from Church activities	17,450	0	0	17,450	15,767
Total Incoming Resources	157,161	0	32,500	189,661	162,210

**Parochial Church Council of St. Mary the Virgin,
Wivenhoe**

**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
for the year ended 31st December 2022**

3 Resources Expended		Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
		£	£	£	£	£
a	Church Activities					
	Missionary and charitable giving:					
	Overseas:					
	Relief and Development Agencies	7,476			7,476	1,020
	Home Missions	462			462	851
	Secular Charities	1,531			1,531	1,366
		9,469	0	0	9,469	3,237
	Ministry Costs: Diocesan Parish Share	69,758			69,758	65,280
	Other ministry costs	2,689			2,689	2,281
	Church maintenance	5,022			5,022	2,182
	Church running expenses	8,280			8,280	6,731
	Upkeep of services	1,102			1,102	3,187
	Organ and organists	3,714			3,714	1,717
	New electric piano	0			0	2,078
	Vergers	750			750	523
	Transformation Project			11,676	11,676	544,986
	Major repairs: structural renewal	19,221			19,221	3,409
	Parish training	0			0	0
	Parish Magazine costs	1,118			1,118	1,575
	Assigned fees to the Diocese	4,762			4,762	2,492
	Administration	2,964			2,964	324
	Bank Charges	571			571	549
	Total Church Activities	119,951	0	11,676	131,627	637,314
b	Generation of Voluntary Income					
	Fundraising costs	3,678			3,678	1,581
					0	
		3,678	0	0	3,678	1,581
c	Governance costs					
	Including Independent Examiner's remuneration	720			720	1,464
		720	0	0	720	1,464
	Total Resources Expended	133,819	0	11,676	145,495	643,594

All Together Worship

The core team consists of Teresa Warren, Rev. Erwin Lammens, Sue Jones and Hannah Cole. 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. Numbers of children attending on these services are less than days when Sunday club is running. However, we do have good attendance in general and the less complicated and inclusive themes seem to be enjoyed.

In July we had first communion for three of our younger members (age 7 and older) and in November we spoke about the Parable of the mustard seed. Everyone attending received a few small seeds with the request to plant them. It reminded everyone that a mustard seed is like God's Kingdom. It is small and nearly unnoticeable but when it grows under God's love and people's care it becomes a large shrub. Harvest was also an especially good service. The theme was 'Jesus is the bread of life'. We used the story of 'The Little Red Hen' and had an acted out fun story telling with the use of visuals and props. Erwin was the dog, Teresa the red hen, Hannah the cat and Sue the duck! A message about helping one another and understanding. There were also thoughts to those in need.

We will continue to work on trying to make these services as enjoyable, and as inclusive as possible.

Teresa Warren

Bellringers Report

The past year has been more like a normal year for us since the end of the constraints imposed by the Covid pandemic. We have rung for Sunday services and held our Wednesday practice evenings consistently each week. Wivenhoe is one of the few towers in the area that has been able to ring regularly, many towers have not recovered from the closure during the pandemic, and struggle to ring for Sunday services and to hold a practice evening without combining with ringers from several towers.

We had to say a sad farewell to two of our ringers, Fred and Simon. In April 2022 they moved to Boulder Colorado USA, where Fred took up an appointment for a three year research project with the University of Boulder. They promised they would return to Wivenhoe at the end of their trip to the USA.

In January this year a message was received from a lapsed ringer, who wanted to know if Wivenhoe bells were still ringing, and to our delight Eileen has taken up her rope again, after bringing up two children, now teenagers. She is a very welcome addition to our team. She proved that once you have learnt to handle a bell, it's a bit like riding a bicycle, you never forget.

Wivenhoe bells have been rung for several special events during the past year. We marked the Queen's Platinum Jubilee by ringing the bells as the beacon was lit by the Mayor in the King George Playing Fields. The bells were also rung fully muffled as a mark of respect for Queen Elizabeth, the day after her death, and also on the day of her funeral. We followed the protocol issued by the Royal Household as to when the bells should be rung. We also commemorated the Proclamation of the Accession of King Charles III to the throne by ringing the bells "open" (unmuffled). An article in the December 2022 edition of Wivenhoe News gave further details. Various articles have also appeared in recent editions of Tidings.

The bells will of course ring out for King Charles III's Coronation on 6 May, again following the protocol issued by the Royal Household.

It is 25 years since the bells were restored, and there is some work that will need to be undertaken, the paintwork on the metal parts is starting to deteriorate and will need to be refreshed in the not too distant future. The bells themselves are not painted and are in good condition, and are checked regularly for wear and tear.

Adrienne Wood, Tower Captain

Bible Study

During the Spring and Autumn terms the Bible study group met in the Annexe on a fortnightly basis. Between 6 and 8 people attended regularly. The topic for the Autumn term was the second part of the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter 42 onwards. After placing the book in its historical and cultural context, we found that God's message to the children of Israel, through the prophet, could be summed up in the following way: This is who I am; this is what I have already done for you; I love you; and this is what I am *going* to do. We then discovered that this same message was reflected in the teachings of Jesus in the New Testament.

During the Autumn term we studied the book of the prophet Amos. This time the historical and geographical context was particularly important in order to gain an understanding of the book, and, as it was quite complex, we used a book of maps of the Old Testament to help us. We found that, far from being an outdated, dry and dusty book of the Old Testament, it held a message of social justice that was completely relevant today.

Helena Hughes

Café Chill

In September Teresa and Mike started up 'Café Chill' in the Annexe. This is a once-a-month community café run from the annexe. The intention is to welcome members of the community into the annexe and provide a calm, friendly and affordable place for people to come on a Sunday afternoon. There is a book lending table with Christian themed books and CDs but also a selection of novels and books of other interests. Music plays in the background and there are games provided for those who wish to play, such as scrabble, Uno and chess.

Hot drinks and cakes and biscuits are for sale at great prices such as £1.50 and £1 with free refills of hot drinks!

The Wi-Fi is available and the annexe is lovely and warm when people may be struggling with the rising costs at home. The café is currently taking place usually on the third Sunday of the month and from 1pm – 3.30pm. From January 2023 it will begin straight after church so that the congregation can experience the set up at coffee time. The prices come into it at 1pm!

All charges are a donation and no one will be turned away if they have forgotten their money or haven't quite got enough.

On average usually about 22 people come and go, even dogs have been in to visit- dog biscuits also on the menu! In 2023 from April onwards we intend to stay open a little longer to 4.30pm. Donations of cakes are always welcome, see Teresa.

Teresa Warren

Catering Report

The Catering Team have supported events throughout the year from June Market refreshments to assisting with smaller and varied events throughout the year. Those who bake for various events work behind the scenes and don't make themselves known but their generosity of time and often ingredients has brought an extra dimension to the events they have supported.

The new kitchen has proved itself over the last twelve months. It is a little cosy at times when catering for a large number but it has been a real asset.

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

In January 2022 coordination of the Church cleaning was taken over by Sandra Osborne, and the volunteers on the rota have remained largely unchanged. Judy Cowell's role ceased on 26 August 2022, some flowers and a thank you card were sent to her. Judy's duties have been taken over by the caretaker, Linda Panton. The weekly volunteers have continued their sterling work, and our grateful thanks goes out them.

Sandra Osborne

Churches Together Wivenhoe

In January 2022 Linda Canham approached the CTW group with the idea of us hosting a presentation of Biblical Art that she was to be involved in. This met with a positive response as something for the next years Lent course.

In February we proposed showing a film for Lent, Brother Sun and Sister Moon was chosen.

At our meeting in March Elizabeth Slater joined us to speak about the Biblical Art project. Gill Black would be stepping down as our Christian Aid organiser.

The Good Friday events were in place, there would be no Whitsun events because of the Queen's Jubilee and June market clashes.

Mary Williamson would be leaving in the autumn so a replacement must be found.

In May Erwin announced that a prayer group 'Praying With Poetry' would be starting in June at St. Mary the Virgin with support by CTW.

At the October meeting the Remembrance Day events. Christmas Cards, Carols on the Quay, 2023 Lent series, Good Friday and Pentecost Tea in the Garden events were discussed.

4 stained glass panels were being donated by Catherine and Friends to the Congregational Church which would be sited in an area set aside for quiet contemplation and prayer for anyone that wished to use it.

A Warm Places timetable was to be published.

At the December 2023 meeting details of Carols on the Quay, Lent and Good Friday were confirmed to be in place.

February 2023 Tom of the Community Church is taking on the role of secretary.

Erwin proposed the Annex as venue for Pentecost celebration.

An Alpha series was proposed for the year ahead.

Rick Cawley

Flower Report

The Flower Fairies had a happy year, we let the flowers to speak for us .

A kind donation of some artificial flowers meant we were able to have a variety of arrangements during the very hot summer holidays and saved money on fresh flowers. There was some generous anonymous funding plus some after funeral flowers for which we are very grateful.

We welcome requests for arrangements to commemorate special people or events, suggestions and new Fairies.

Friendly Club & Café

Apart from having to miss the first few Thursdays in January 2022 because of the Covid virus, we have organised a session every week since then excepting one in December because of the December Market in Church. This is thanks to a wonderful team of many helpers who run the reception, make and serve unlimited tea and coffee, put lots of biscuits on the tables we set up as well as sit at those tables to ensure everyone gets involved in good conversation.

In the early part of the year, Morag Willis and Ann Hanagan volunteered to drive the Community Mini-bus each week to ensure those people with mobility problems can come to the weekly sessions.

Alison Ling runs a regular knitting table where up to 6 people manage to both knit and natter.

We always have some entertainment of one sort or other. We are very fortunate in having so many people willing to come to our Thursday afternoons to entertain us. Wivenhoe does have some amazing talent and we are fortunate that these people are willing to share their talent with us.

We have had two special meetings in the year. One was on 4th August, the first anniversary of our formation in 2021. Apart from dressing up the Nave to create a party like atmosphere, we bought everyone, including the helpers, an ice-cream. We arranged for an ice-cream van to pull into Falcon Yard so that everyone could safely queue up outside. 70 ice-creams later.....

And in December we held a Christmas Party with special guests, the Harmony Choir. We had more people than ever come to that event with lots of mince pies, cake and gifts of Ann

Barrowman's special shortbread for everyone. There must have been more than 70 people in St Mary's that day.

Some people come every week, whilst others dip in and out. Some people have been diagnosed with dementia; some come with their carers whilst some carers drop their charge off with us knowing that we know the identity of everyone who comes and we have the telephone number of the carer if needed. This arrangement works well and gives the carer a break from their arduous responsibilities. Many of the people who come do so because it gets them out of their house and meeting other people. We get great feedback from everyone who comes.

The Friendly Club was created in August 2021 by a partnership between the Wivenhoe Dementia Support Group and St Mary's PCC. Of the £2 we charge visitors; we give half to the Church. This means the Church gets over £200 every two months. The other £1 we keep towards our costs. It has proved to be a very successful venture and clearly fulfils a need in our community.

Peter Hill, Chairman, Wivenhoe Dementia Support Group

Friends of St Mary's Report

The sale of FOSM goods was exceptionally good last year.

We took the stall to the June Market; the Regatta; and the Christmas Market. Thank you to Wyvern Stores who carry a selection of goods throughout the year. The new wicker basket in Church is proving popular.

We held an enjoyable coffee morning in June where the committee and members were able to exchange ideas.

The new year began with the very sad loss of Elisabeth who had done so much for FOSM over many years.

Our hope is to continue to raise money towards the maintenance of St Mary's Church.

Vivien Eborn, Chair

Fundraising Report

The popular Jubilee June Market An excellent £1,734.93 was raised with our Jubilee June Market. The weather played its part with a little sunshine but very strong winds. Thankfully, No Gazebo's took flight, although some tried! Only one was damaged though and that has now been sorted. Sadly, the Council also ran a similar event on the KGV Field; Understandable as everyone wanted to do something for the Queen Jubilee. This clashed with our event and affected some stalls. The date has been booked for the June Market for 2023 and it is hoped there will not be a clash this year.

A New event on 25th June 2022. Bonnie Hill discovered through her contacts that Chris Gibson and his wife Jude have settled in Wivenhoe. They are Wildlife experts on plants and insects. A Wildlife exploration for families was set up in St Mary's grounds. Three tours were arranged, with a mixed group of adults and children exploring the grounds around St Mary's. Chris was very pleased indeed with the results as it was "A million times better than before" a few children had some magnifying glasses for children, we shall look into getting hold of some of these for another time perhaps. One rare find was a leaf mite on the Black Walnut tree! Only the 12th Sighting of this creature in the UK. We raised about £70.00 which included the fee and the refreshments plus a donation of £10.00 and £3.00 raised by selling small packets of Bird Seeds. Chris has asked if we would run another event next year. Yes, We certainly will. The children asked to do drawings next time and so we will add that as well and expand the event. Next year we are looking at the end of July to run this event and Chris has already been booked. We need some Magnifying glasses and we shall look into getting these.

Sadly, the **Lammas Day BBQ and Curry lunch on the 9th July** had to be cancelled due to Covid. But the good news is that in 2023 we have earmarked the 15th July for this popular event. It is hoped that we can expand it to include the families of the Sunday Club and the New Youth Group called The WAY (Wivenhoe Affable Youth)

After the summer break. **August 27th. We ran a family fun film Walt Disney's The Jungle Book** along with a picnic for families. The cost was set at £5.00 per adult and £12.00 per

family. Booking had to be made in advance so that we knew how many to cater for, for drinks and biscuits. Animal masks were given to all the children to colour and wear, with some children dressed up as animals, which was great fun. Oddly very little singing went on! We also made a great contact during this event through Andrew Foster who is part of the Parents Network for young families, he will happily publicise such events on the Whats App Group. We raised £44.00 after a few expenses were paid. Next year we shall run a similar event, but no plans made just yet.

On the 25th of November we showed the film 'NATIVITY' for the families, as the local schools had teacher strikes. This was run as a free family event with 41 adults attending with their children. The donations bowl took £54.20 in donations, an unexpected windfall. Again, we provided drinks and biscuits and some families provided their own snack's. Christmas colouring pictures were available and the Parachute and button cushions plus a few bean bags were put out for the small children.

The 1st December, we ran the Christmas Market in the evening and managed to raise £1,386. Which is an amazing amount of money taken in just two hours. More stalls were needed outside but some had pulled out due to the minus temperatures outside (Snow on the ground the week beforehand). The Madrigal singers were a hit and they will be asked back for next years event. The New style of Raffle worked much faster and was welcomed. The possibility of using the big double gazebo for outside stalls is being considered. More helpers will be needed the following day to help Linda our lovely cleaner with doing a big clean up and wash of the floor in both the church and the annex as glitter and muddy floors told their own tale.

Planning is as always well underway for the 2023 events.

Heather Edwards – Fundraising Team Co-ordinator

Lectio Divina Report

It's been another enjoyable year for Lectio Divina. We meet on the last Wednesday of each month and as we read God's word together, a passage chosen by each of us in turn, it's fascinating to discuss how it relates to our lives.

The 5 of us who meet continue to build relationships and learn from one another's experiences, praying for each other when prompted by the Holy Spirit.

Erwin joins us when he can.

Over the years we have met it's been a joy to study God's word together and see many prayers answered.

Ann Evershed

Music at St Mary's Report

2022 was a strange year and, after an encouraging start, I was unable to take part in St Mary's music from early June until late autumn due to a severe covid infection with long lasting effects. We had re-introduced hymn singing in late 2021 and for the early part of 2022 did not sing parts of the eucharist service, continuing to observe various covid measures. This continued through the summer in my absence with John Dowden undertaking the majority of the Sunday and occasional service organ playing with Hilary Cook playing piano for the All Together Service. Geoff Osborne also assisted on occasions. We are grateful to them for keeping the music going during this difficult period.

The sung parts of the Eucharist service were re-introduced in September and it was good that the Gloria was remembered after over 2 years since it was last sung!!

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

St Mary's Singers started again in the spring and presented a very moving and high standard programme of music for Good Friday, largely using material which we had started to rehearse but unable to perform, in 2020. John Dowden accompanied the rehearsals and Hilary Cook; Lucy and Barnaby Crocker were the soloists. John Rippin as always accompanied on the night

and added some organ pieces to the programme including an interesting set of variations by Sweelinck.

This is now a small chamber choir group of about 12 to 15 singers working to a very high standard. It is encouraging that a few experienced singers have recently joined the group. In November a programme of reflective music for Remembrance was presented by the same team with a bias on music by Vaughan Williams, marking the 125th anniversary of his birth. After that we moved on to the Carol Service with traditional carols and choir carols by Bob Chilcott and Philip Stopford.

Carols on The Quay took place in church due to the weather conditions. Pam Garland arranged the music and conducted the small band as I was unable to do so due to mobility issues. About 200 people attended.

The new Yamaha Clavinova digital piano has proved its worth, being used for services, concerts and the Friendly Club. The castors have proved suitable for moving the piano on the new floor, but external users need to take additional care when moving it and also learn to use the floor mounted power points properly.

Hopefully we are now progressing towards some sort of normality, although covid caution still needs to be followed. It is hoped that we can build on the existing church choir for the future and would welcome new members who may like to join us.

Graham Wadley, Director of Music

Pastoral Report

The pastoral visitors team resumed their in-person visits after an interruption at the beginning of 2022 because of the omicron variant of Covid. In the summer Gill Strudwick kindly offered her help as coordinator of the team. Regular meetings are taking place to discuss the visits and to review the list of people we visit. Everyone can let Gill or Erwin know if they would like to receive a regular visit from someone of the team.

Erwin occasionally visited housebound and ill people, by request or around Christmas and Easter with communion if required. Also, Sara and Glyn are available for those who want to meet someone from St Mary's ministry team. Monthly house communions are organised courtesy of five generous hosts. These gatherings with communion are open to all.

There is a prayer list and anyone can ask to be added. This list is updated every week for the Sunday Service sheet.

In 2022 there was only one pastoral MMP event but there are plans to run an event at St Mary's in 2023 for those who would like to meet for a cup of coffee or tea and some entertainment. It is a joint initiative by the pastoral teams in Greenstead, at St John's and St Mary's.

Revd. Erwin Lammens

St Mary's Link with Uganda

Activity with our link with the Women's group in St Andrew's Church, Namalemba, Uganda continues though we have yet to see it return to pre- Pandemic levels. Rachel Butterfield remains in Kenya for the present and it has not been possible for anyone to visit so that we have not been able to send any more baby clothes for the maternity clinic. We have a few baby hats and vests in hand, thanks to the kind donations of a couple of our faithful knitters, but not enough to be worth sending at the moment.

We exchange occasional emails with the community there, especially at special times in the Church's year; and when we had some candidates for Confirmation, we asked the Church there to join with our prayers for them, which they acknowledged and sent their good wishes.

As usual, one of St Mary's Christmas Charities raised money to enable the Women's group to organise Christmas parcels of blessings for the needy people in the village. A sum of around £800 was sent in time for them purchase gifts of food and other essentials. This enabled them to make 33 separate donations and we have received a large number of photos of the people who were helped. A further sum of £ 152.42 was sent after Christmas and this will be used to purchase goats etc when the season is right.

It would be good if we could increase the level of activity, and I am wondering if it would be possible to arrange some kind of contact through a younger age group, e.g., the Sunday Club or The Way? I am happy to go on being the correspondent but at nearly 88 I feel it is time someone younger is involved.

Rosemary Murchie.

St Mary's Music Society

The Society organised 6 concerts in 2022 which were all very successful with 4 of them selling out. They each made a profit. We achieved our aim of having 6 different genres of music and in consequence having a broad appeal across the Wivenhoe community.

The other benefit from organising these concerts as well as running a wine bar for two other concerts was a net contribution to the St Mary's Church Fabric Fund of £2,608.80

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

Sunday Club Report

The Sunday club is supported and run by a team of volunteers. This included the following-

Teresa Warren

Sue Jones

Heather Edwards

Cora Dai

An Verhofstadt

Ceri Law

Hannah Cole

Fran Bailey

The Sunday club is doing very well and we continue to have a core group of children that attend on and off most weeks. We are all getting to know each other very well.

We were thrilled to be able to have our Easter workshop back up and running on Easter Saturday. We had plenty of volunteers on the day and lots of families attended. The afternoon started with a mini film showing the Easter story then there was free time for the children to take part in one of the craft activities, or help create the Easter Garden, or listen to John and Janet's story time, complete with Visuals. We also had an Easter egg picture hunt in the church yard and the annexe was turned into an Easter café! The children were able to go in there and help themselves to a drink and some tasty treats. Everyone left with their bag of crafts they had made, as well as an Easter comic and of course a Belgian chocolate egg.....handed out by the Belgian Easter bunny himself! Erwin!

In September we attended the 'Free Family Fun Festival' in Colchester Castle Park. This was our second time and it was an excellent event. We had a stall and it was led by Teresa, Erwin, Heather and Sue. We handed out information about our children's and families services and events at St Marys. We also had a Free raffle with books and toys as prizes. This was hugely popular with the biggest queues at our stall! Next year we will need more prize donations! We also had a ping pong game where points were scored and sweets were won!

November saw the very first 'Disco' in the Annexe. We had two timed sessions on a Saturday evening and served drinks and snacks, including pizzas! Unfortunately, we had no children turn up for the younger session, but about 12 turned up for the 2nd session. It was fun with glow sticks and disco lights. The leaders enjoyed a dance and it gave us ideas for a 'volunteers party!'. Jonas was the DJ and he did a fantastic job.

We did a Nativity play slightly different this year. It was done in reverse so we started with the tableau all set up and worked backwards to find out how that came to be. Hilary and Sue put together a great script and production. Again, it was delivered 'in the round', as the chairs were positioned to create a warm set up and everyone was sat around the children.

We even had a real new born baby as 'Jesus'. This made it all extra special.

Afterwards there was a party in the annexe for all the children. Heather led games which included pass the parcel. Then they all sat for a lunch/treats party with Christmas music playing. 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 2023.

Teresa Warren

The Way Report

In May we started up our new youth club called 'The Way'. It stands for Wivenhoe Affable Youth. The Way is carried out in The Annexe. It is intended to be a friendly group for 11–16-year-olds, where activities, fun and laughter can be shared. The sessions are twice a month on a Tuesday evening from 7-8.30pm and the teenagers bring a voluntary donation of £1 per session.

The Way is run by volunteers which include- Teresa and Mike Warren, Fran Bailey, Heather Edwards and Sue Jones. It has been very well attended since we began with on average between 15 and 20 turning up each time. There is always a theme for each session and the group begins with free time to chat and play board games, table tennis and have some refreshments from the 'Tuck shop'. Two snacks and one special drink, with plenty of extra water or squash as required. We have the main optional activity or learning experience at about 7.30pm after some ice breaker games. Themes carried out during 2022 included- cooking pizzas, pumpkin soup, music session, shadow puppets, team games, lots of art and craft techniques, drama games and a Christmas party. At the end of the summer term, we also had a cinema night in the main church with the large screen and plenty of popcorn! Just before we finish, we all gather in a circle and have a discussion using some 'Affirmations cards'. This is a time to share thoughts and feelings.

As previously mentioned in the Sunday club report, we had a disco in November and 12 young people from this age group attended. 4 of them were not currently attending The Way, so it proved that we are also managing to attract others.

We are really pleased with the attendance and look forward to an exciting 2023.

Teresa Warren

Wivenhoe Baby & Toddler Group Report

We have had another successful year at Toddler Group. Our numbers attending each week average 20 to 25 little ones.

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.

Once a month the group hire a local soft play company to bring along their equipment, which is always great fun.

In June, when Wivenhoe Town Council offered the use of the William Loveless Hall to local organisations for free as part of their community project, we were fortunate to be selected and we held a very successful Messy Play session.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our annual summer party, which we hold in the Rectory Garden, due to the extremely hot weather as it was deemed unsafe for the little ones.

However, we pulled all the stops out for our Christmas party and hired the William Loveless Hall for full on celebration which included a large inflatable play structure and a soft play area. Father Christmas even managed to visit despite his busy schedule.

During the last few months, we have not had as many new babies join us but hopefully, when the better weather comes new Mums will venture out.

Our leadership team still need more helpers to volunteer especially as we now only have four Church ladies to help, on a rota, with the refreshments. This does mean one of our team has to take on this role, leaving us short in the main hall.

Vanessa Reed

Worship Group Report

The Worship Group met by Zoom in February and in person in April and largely kept track of allowed practices after the various lockdowns. Further meetings were not held after Graham was out of action for many months from June due to covid.

Through 2022 the main morning services followed the normal pattern and singing hymns and other parts of the services were gradually re-introduced. We were generally covid cautious but participation with the chalice was also re-introduced later in the year.

A few evening services were held at the beginning of the year, but with very low attendances.

The future of these services and Holy Ground continues to be discussed and considered.

Further details of attendances at various services are covered in the Rector's report.

Graham Wadley