

Ardleigh and Dedham Parishes

# ***Annual Reports***

***Year End December 2022***



## ***Annual Parochial Church Meetings***

**Dedham Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 11.00am**

**Ardleigh Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 at 10.45am**

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# St Mary's Ardleigh

## 2022 Annual Report and Accounts

For the Parochial Church Council of St Mary the Virgin, Ardleigh

The draft accounts within this report were approved by the PCC at its meeting on  
6 February 2023

### 1. Aim and purposes

St Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has responsibility for promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St Mary's Church.

### 2. Objectives and activities

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

When planning our activities for the year, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- a. Regular public worship, open to all
- b. The provision of sacred space for worship, personal prayer and contemplation
- c. Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved
- d. The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups
- e. The taking of religious assemblies in schools and pastoral and evangelist work with children and families
- f. Working with ecumenical partners in the village

### 3. Achievements and performance

#### a. Regular public worship for all

##### Sunday Services

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping. We have celebrated 3 weddings and held 5 funerals in our church this year, but no baptisms sadly.

##### Church Membership

The Electoral Roll has been revised in 2022. Currently there are 26 on the roll, 20 are residents and 6 are non-residents.

##### Bellringing

St Mary's bells are long overdue for some serious maintenance, the last being in 1957. The project to have this work done and to improve our training facilities at the same time, is still ongoing. The faculty application is in progress, and as soon as this is granted, we then have the major task of raising the money to cover the cost. We continue to ring for the 11am services, when we can muster enough ringers on the first and third Sundays of the month, and hold our weekly practice sessions on Tuesday evenings ably led by our local ART (Association of Ringing Teachers) member. Unfortunately of our three local learners mentioned in last years report, one has left to go to university and the two others no longer come.

We desperately need more ringers at Ardleigh so if you are interested in learning to ring please get in contact with me or a churchwarden. It is a very sociable activity using both brain and body. Become part of our team and do your bit to stop this ancient art disappearing from our churches.  
*David Culham*

### **Flowers in Church**

It was nice to have completed a full year of flower arrangements in the church: Easter, Harvest, Remembrance, Advent Ring and Christmas; also for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee we did red, white and blue flowers in June, then in September we put white flowers for Queen Elizabeth II's funeral.

Rita had a family wedding in the Church in April; we enjoyed doing the wedding flowers. We ensure that the flowers are well-presented and are watered every week. Thank you to Rita Randall and Pat Newton for all their commitment throughout the year.  
*Sue Hulbert*

### **b. The provision of sacred space for worship, personal prayer and contemplation**

An important part of the PCCs responsibility is to maintain the fabric of the church so that it is open to all for public worship and private prayer.

### **c. Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved**

The Benefice Pastoral Team continues to meet regularly.

The core of our pastoral work is the Friendship Group, and many thanks are due to Pat Newton who organises and runs it, as well as providing delicious refreshments aided by her helpers. Several people who have been bereaved have joined this group and, from that beginning, renewed their faith by taking part in services at the church. The Friendship Group now meets every second and fourth Tuesday.

### **d. The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups**

Our local ministers (Phillip and Merv) and Authorised Lay Preachers (Susan and Richard) have enabled us to grow in our faith through regular preaching and teaching from the Bible, which has largely followed the Common Worship Lectionary. Although there were no small groups this year, plans are afoot to establish one next year. Various groups meet throughout the year for fellowship either around prayer (Living Stones) or outreach (Little Steps) and good progress is being made building bridges with our village. We hope to continue to offer seeker-friendly courses such as Alpha and Christianity Explored in the years ahead to enable those less familiar with the Christian faith to explore and discuss it in an open and supportive environment.

### **e. Taking of religious assemblies and work with children and families.**

#### **Children & Families Ardleigh**

In 2022, a small group of parishioners in Ardleigh began praying that the church would renew this ministry and reach to children and young families in the village. Birthed in prayer, a vision began to emerge. We began to consider what child-friendly spaces and family friendly services might look like. In Spring 2022, we held a 'Make your own Easter Garden' event. It was well attended and received. It fuelled our motivation.

Getting the necessary safeguarding processes and regulations in place meant we lost a little momentum, delaying the launch of 'Little Steps' in Ardleigh to the Autumn. It has been a slow start, but families are coming, they enjoy it and are always encouraging. We are using the slow start to grow as a team, resource the space, discern which days & times are best and know where to publicise them. A monthly pattern of events is beginning to emerge. This is fluid... we are still trialling different days & times.

By having mid-week activities, we hope that young families begin to *feel* welcome in church and begin to join us in worship on Sundays. This means having resources and activities that children can access easily whenever they come to church. With all that we have done so far, we are confident to invite families to somewhere (church) and something (services) which are well resourced for their children.

And finally....

We are grateful to all who have worked over the years to build links between church and school.

We are grateful to the PCC for facilitating these changes.

Thank you to all who pray for and support this ministry (past & present).

Why not pop in to the church where you will see our Hepzibah?

And please let anyone you know who are involved with the care of young children about these events. We'd love to welcome them. Please also let us know if you'd like to be involved in any way. It's FUN!

*Caroline Allen*

## **f. Working with ecumenical partners**

### **Deanery Synod**

The full Deanery Synod met 3 times in 2022 and in addition the Standing Committee, a subset of the full Synod, met an additional three times. I am a member of the full Synod and attend Deanery Synod with David Druitt and Liz Reed from Dedham Church. David is also a member of the Standing Committee, so our Benefice has been represented at all meetings held.

In addition, Churchwardens from all Parishes within the Deanery were invited to the full Synod meetings and the Bishop & Archdeacon of Colchester also attended some of the meetings.

The main focus of many of the meetings was the recruitment of the 2 Rural Missioners who were going to look after the 9 rural Parishes within the Deanery and following the first round of advertising, it was very pleasing that the Revd Phillip Young was appointed as one of the Missioners. The second post continues to be advertised and it is hoped that an appointment will be made in 2023.

During the year, several other topics were discussed and progressed where appropriate and these were as follows:

- Deanery 5-year plan
- EcoChurch (our Benefice is currently at Bronze Award level)
- New allocation mechanism for the 2023 and subsequent years' Parish Share (many thanks to John Reed, the Dedham Treasurer, for his considerable involvement in this always contentious subject)
- Lessons learnt from dealing with the Covid pandemic and especially new patterns of worship with the live streaming of services and Parish Helplines etc.

At this year's APCM, elections to the Deanery Synod for the next 3 years will need to be held. Ardleigh will elect one member of Deanery Synod as before.

*Christina Volkmann*

### **Benefice Prayers**

Michel Green wrote the book 'Thank God it's Monday'. It's a great read! I too 'thank God it's Monday' because every Monday at 5 o'clock, a few of us find our tablets or laptops and take 40 minutes out of our schedules to connect (with God and each other) through Zoom. *Together* we pray for our benefice as well as wider issues. What a privilege!

*Together* we simply pray in God's Kingdom.

*Together* we name and bring whatever He has laid on our heart to the Throne-room of Grace.

When we do this *together*, we know our prayers can be effective.

David Watson sorts out the electronics (thank you, David!) Others rotate to lead us each week.

And then we simply pray however we are prompted. Some quietly, some aloud. They are all precious, Holy moments.

Do consider joining us. If the time does not work for you, or you're just tentatively curious, just let us know. We're nothing special; just a few of God's children taking a little time out each week to pray over our benefice and a hurting world - *together*.

*Caroline Allen*

### **Ardleigh Churchwardens Report**

As can be seen from the reports we have been busy in 2022. We are grateful to all our volunteers, seen and unseen, who have kept the church open, clean, safe, generally warm but always welcoming. Thank you to everyone who has helped, we really couldn't manage without you.

The Church was reopened for public worship in January and our Sunday services have continued throughout the year with an 8 o'clock BCP communion service on alternate Sundays and a service at 11 o'clock either Holy Communion or Morning Prayer led by Anne-Marie Partrick, Susan Carne or Richard Hopkins, while officiants at Holy Communion have included Bishop Roger (twice), the Archdeacon, Ruth Patten (twice), Merv McKinney (regularly) and following his appointment as Rural Missioner, Revd Phillip Young.

We had a service including foot-washing on Maundy Thursday, and celebrated Easter. Our Act of Remembrance service outdoors in November was well attended while Advent saw a carol service for bellringers, a service of carols for Guide Dogs for the Blind, and a carol service for young people and families arranged by Susan Carne, who also took the Christingle activities service on Christmas Eve while Midnight Mass took place later at 11pm.

Ardleigh school attended an Easter service and supported our Act of Remembrance. Following the death of HM Queen Elizabeth in September we provided a Book of Condolence. Many visitors came in to sign it, and record their thanks for her life of service, the church was open for prayer.

Geoffrey Boyle has played the organ regularly for us at Sunday services and he kindly arranged for the distinguished organist Peter Crompton to give a recital in church of organ favourites. This was to commemorate Michael Simmonds, our organist from 1962-2014. Fortunately, we had the organ serviced beforehand but in consequence we couldn't put the heating on as the ambient temperature surrounding the organ was required to be cold!

Our Reach Out PCC sub-committee has arranged activities which have stimulated continuing interest in the church from our village. We are seeing more families involved with church life and our intention is to build on this, offering where possible a different pattern of worship with services at suitable times. And we welcome help from anyone here who would like to become involved.  
*Susan Carne and Martin West – Churchwardens*

### **Ardleigh Fabric Report**

During the year, drainage works were completed and St Mary's now has a fully functioning and easily maintainable rainwater disposal system which will prevent the silting up of underground pipes and brick cisterns. The high-capacity yard gullies and silt buckets capture roof debris flowing out of the downpipes; as we have discovered, blocked gullies led to damp issues inside the Church. The contractors for the work were Keystone and the funding provided with a grant from the GCG Trust. The instigator for this project was Sue Browne and we are most grateful for her untiring efforts to see it through.

Whilst Priority Repairs highlighted in the 2020 Quinquennial Report have been completed, there are roof repairs for which we await quotations before we can look at grant opportunities. This will be a very expensive project to replace roof tiles and to make tower repairs.

Other tasks during the year were repairs made to the Tower clock which now keeps good time, while the clock chamber was given a comprehensive clean, not before time as anyone who has been up there knows.

The Garden of Remembrance was tidied up and pea shingle laid down by John and Richard Culley.

The West end of the church has been transformed and is now a welcoming social area with tables permanently laid out, seating available and the kitchen nearby. The children's area is furnished with a sofa, tables and chairs and bookcases.

*Martin West and Richard Culley, Fabric Committee*

### **Ardleigh Friendship Group**

The group continues to do well and is much appreciated with numbers improving, usually about 15 plus. We did have some Tuesdays outside on sunny days which was pleasant and warm times in church in the winter.

In February we had pancakes. We had a Christmas meal at Acorn Village which was enjoyed by 16 people. We often now have 4 dogs too.

I regularly attend the pastoral meetings in Dedham. It is good to be able to tell them what we do in Ardleigh and to hear how things are going there.

*Pat Newton*

### **Friends of Ardleigh Church**

This was a project Revd Antony Wilson asked me to have a look at, and I have chipped away at for some time now. Gradually it is coming into being. We have now got a website [www.friendsofardleighchurch.co.uk](http://www.friendsofardleighchurch.co.uk) so please have a look at it and, even more important, sign up to be a member either online or on the yellow membership forms you will find in the church. Our bank account is open for contributions and we are registered at HMRC for Gift Aid. We still have to gather some Trustees in order to register as a charity. If anyone would like to help, please let me know.

*Susan Carne*

### **Reach Out Projects**

It is wonderful to be part of a group of people who are enthusiastic about reaching out to our village. Through setting up Ardleigh's Heritage Café, we have been able to welcome many people into the church for such events as charity coffee mornings and table sales. We now have a regular Craft Group twice a month. As well as our own crafts, we have made a constant supply of premature baby hats for Colchester Hospital, knee blankets for Blackbrook House, hats for the The Felixstowe Seafarers Centre and various charities in Colchester helping the homeless. We have supplied Barbie dolls and clothing to a special needs teacher in a local school as well as twizzlers for restless fingers. We are very grateful to Sue McKinney who has helped us with supplies of wool from TWAM and to other people who have donated wool for our charity knitting. We welcome any crafter and non-crafter alike! We have helped rekindle old skills and are always willing to teach people who want to start. We are just as happy for people to pop in for a bit of company and a cuppa!

*Susan Carne*

## **4. Financial review**

### **Treasurers Report for the year ending 31 December 2022.**

#### **Overview**

The closing balance of all Funds as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 amounts to £193,416, a decrease of £3,943 on prior year.

This includes the General fund balance of £32,775 as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022, a year on year deficit of £757.

#### **General fund Income**

##### **Donations**

Voluntary giving during the year amounted to £18,382 (2021: £22,256). The amount given through standing orders has remained stable. Gift aid envelope giving and cash offertories though, have decreased by 20% and 29%, respectively.

##### **Income from charitable activities**

There have been 3 weddings (2021 :3) and 8 funerals or interment (2021: 5), with the income belonging to the church amounting to £1,859 (2021: £1,455).

##### **Income/ Interest from Investments**

Interest for the year amounted to £1,543, a huge increase from last year at £222 and dividend income amounted to a further £886.

## **Grants**

Total grants received of £9,866 came mainly from the GCG Environmental Trust for the guttering works £9,217, with the remainder coming from the Listed Place of Worship VAT grant scheme.

## **General fund Expenses**

The cost of people went up due to an increase in hours for the parish secretary during the year (38%) and resources were also over budget by 19%, but this was negated by services upkeep being underbudget by 7%.

## **Parish Share**

The Parish share paid for the year to 31 December 2022 was the same as 2021, at £7,140.

## **Agency Account**

### **Fees**

The statutory fees collected (from weddings and funerals) for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 and passed to the Chelmsford Board of Finance (CBoF) amounted to £673 (2021: £725).

### **Charitable Giving**

During the year we collected £143 for the Royal British Legion, £200 for comic relief and the carol service raised £109 for the Children's Society.

### **Fabric Fund**

Work was carried out on the gully traps and drains during the year, for which a grant was received for the full cost of the works.

The fabric fund also holds shares with the CCLA which made a loss on revaluation in the year of £3,384, reducing the value of the shareholding to £59,264.

### **Friendship Group**

Pat Newton and her team continue to run friendship group and have achieved a healthy fund balance of £800 as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

### **Heritage Café Fund**

During the year the PCC agreed to set up a designated fund to raise money for outreach projects such as Little Steps and Craft group. This has been a great success and has a fund balance of £482 as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

### **Conclusion**

Yet again, will need to maintain a tight control on expenditure in the coming year, particularly in light of the energy crisis and in view of the planned Quinquennial works. We need to source the further funding required for the roof repairs highlighted in the Quinquennial.

*Sara Marshall , Financial Administrator*

**A copy of the Full Accounts can be found on the website or by emailing the Parishes Office.**

## Ardleigh Parochial Church Council

### Summary Receipts & Payments Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2022 Total Funds	2021 Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>					
Donations & Legacies	28,338	621	0	28,959	49,232
Receipts from charitable activities	2,337	0	0	2,337	1,615
Other trading activities	1,536	0	0	1,536	120
Investments	2,428	0	0	2,428	222
Sale of Investments	0	0	0	0	68,953
Other receipts	0	0	0	0	195
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>34,639</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>35,260</b>	<b>120,337</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
Raising funds	803	0	0	803	0
Charitable activities	33,624	1,371	0	34,995	66,131
Purchase of Investments	0	62,650	0	62,650	0
Other payments	0	0	0	0	195
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>34,427</b>	<b>64,021</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>98,448</b>	<b>66,326</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>(63,400)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(63,188)</b>	<b>54,011</b>
Transfers between funds in	0	0	0	0	99,081
Transfers between funds out	0	0	0	0	-99,081
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>(63,400)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(63,188)</b>	<b>54,011</b>
<b>Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>33,846</b>	<b>163,514</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>197,360</b>	<b>143,349</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>34,058</b>	<b>100,114</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>134,172</b>	<b>197,360</b>

## Ardleigh Parochial Church Council

### Statement of Assets & Liabilities

As at: 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2022 Total Funds	2021 Funds
<b>Investments</b>					
Fabric Fund	0	59,264	0	59,264	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>59,264</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>59,264</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Cash funds held</b>					
Barclays	13,572	8,835	0	22,407	25,496
CCLA	20,486	91,279	0	111,765	172,007
	<u>34,058</u>	<u>100,114</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>134,172</u>	<u>197,503</u>
<b>Other monetary assets</b>					
Gift aid due	0	0	0	0	0
Diocese fees overpaid	0	0	0	0	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Agency Account	20	0	0	20	143
Outstanding payment	0	0	0	0	0
	<u>20</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>143</u>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<u>34,038</u>	<u>159,379</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>193,416</u>	<u>197,360</u>

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**  
**for the financial year ended 31st December 2022**

**Report to Ardleigh Parish Church - Parochial Church Council [PCC]**

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set on pages 2 to 5 of the Full Annual Accounts.

**Respective responsibilities of PCC and Examiner:**

The PCC is responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The PCC considers that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that only an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

**Basis of the 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 PCC 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 statement below.

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

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

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act, have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name of Independent Financial Examiner:  
Date:



Philip Strangward  
6 March 2023

## 5. Risk management

### Health and Safety

A Health and Safety meeting is held twice a year. At these meetings, our lists of contractors who perform safety checks is updated. Between meetings, Deb Turner, in our Parishes Office arranges site visits for contractors. Annually, the church is checked for any health hazards and any issues addressed and noted on the risk assessment. First Aid boxes are checked annually.

Instructions for completing the Accident Book are in the First Aid box, as is the book. A risk assessment is made before any out of the ordinary activity or service prior to this taking place. A fire extinguisher check was carried out in May.

### **Safeguarding**

The Diocese of Chelmsford is committed, as part of the Christian Church living in the spirit of the Gospel, to protect and care for everyone and we aim to be a beacon of best practice in safeguarding. Looking the other way is not an option.

Safeguarding in our Church is everyone's concern. Our safeguarding procedures have been under review given that for part of the year we have had no Safeguarding Officer. We are grateful to both Richard Hopkins and Amanda Watts for previously filling this important role. The documentation of DBS checks for those who are advised to have them has passed to Deb Turner in our Parishes Office who has now taken on the administration for this. In addition, courses on Safeguarding are available on the Chelmsford Diocese website and Deb is also keeping a record of those who have completed them.

*Vee Druitt*

### **6. Structure, governance and management**

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

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Mary's the membership of the PCC consists of the churchwardens elected by the Parish together with members elected by those who are on the electoral roll of the church. All who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

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

#### **Ardleigh PCC Report**

During the year the PCC has met 7 times with 1 meeting following the APCM to confirm the appointments of lay chair and electoral roll officer. The roles of secretary and treasurer are currently vacant.

Sara Marshall is responsible for our finances as Finance Administrator and our finances are recorded on Data Development software. Sara is helped by David Wright and Susan Carne.

We began the year with 6 PCC members During the year Sue Browne and Amanda Watts sadly decided to step down from the PCC, they will both be much missed. Our PCC therefore consists of 5 members including our 2 church wardens (Susan Carne was elected church warden at the APCM).

Our main discussions/ activities during the year were:

- Compilation of a benefice parish profile with Dedham PCC preceding interviews and final appointment of our parishes' missionary Revd. Phillip Young.
- Hosting interview day lunch for candidates for missionary posts plus accompanying clergy and members of all nine parishes involved in the selection process
- Continuing discussion with Dedham and the deanery over our contribution to the parish share and our agreement to increase our payments in order to assist our colleagues across the group of nine parishes where they are struggling to meet the deanery expectations.
- Foundation School governor post filled by a churchwarden (Susan Carne)
- Fresh expressions of church moving on with development of activities such as Ardleigh heritage café, little steps, mothers' prayers, craft group and charity knitting. Our launch of the café saw us providing re-

- freshment for a group of over 30 cyclists over the Jubilee weekend
- Finalising completion of the drains project to secure the fabric of the church building.
- Beginning to talk through our current service pattern and how to make services more welcoming and meaningful to all in the parish especially families and children.
- Ongoing discussions throughout the year over issues of organization of, responsibility for and administration of, parishes' safeguarding
- Establishment of a Friends of Ardleigh Church

*Susan Carne and Martin West, Churchwardens*

## **PCC Membership**

### **Churchwardens**

Martin West (elected APCM 2021)

Susan Carne (elected APCM 2022)

### **Elected members** and date of election

Richard Culley APCM 2021

Amanda Watts APCM 2021 (resigned October 2022)

Christina Volkmann APCM 2020

Rosemary Kleingeld APCM 2021

**Electoral Roll:** numbers on Roll 26 at APCM 2022

## **Administrative information**

St Mary's Church is situated in The Street, Ardleigh, CO7 7LD. It is part of the Diocese of Chelmsford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is:

*The Parishes Office, The Assembly Rooms, Dedham CO7 6HJ.*

## **Parishes Office**

2022 was a busy year in the Parishes office. The office is regularly open on a Tuesday and Thursday each week from 10am-12pm. As Parishes Administrator and Volunteers Coordinator, I continue to oversee the office management and administration for both Dedham and Ardleigh churches. I have been fully supported by the wonderful churchwardens, Revd Merv McKinney and many others. The arrival of Revd Phillip Young from October was very welcome. Thanks as always to Sara Marshall for her outstanding finance management support.

*Deb Turner*

## **Communications**

**Church Chimes** is our in-house newsheet produced every other week.

**Facebook** – we have our own Facebook @dedhamandardleigh – please follow us!

**Ardleigh Advertiser** Monthly information is sent to advertise services and events.

**YouTube** – our YouTube channel is accessible via our church website and currently has over 200 subscribers

## **Website**

The church website, [dedham-and-ardleigh-parishes.org.uk](http://dedham-and-ardleigh-parishes.org.uk), continued to provide a useful focal point for the church community during 2022.

In 2022, the total number of page requests from users on the website was 230,148 a slight fall from the previous year's figure of 265,746. Page Requests are the number of web pages requested by visitors to the web site. The average monthly figure was over 19,179 which compares favourably with the pre-pandemic figure of 15,000 in 2019. The month with the highest number of requests was March 2022, with over 28,500 requests.

The breakdown of the Page requests by website area shows that Articles on the site received 88,712 requests (2021 – 77,941), Pages (Groups) - 58,649 (2021 – 118,057), Media - 47,680 (2021 – 47,139) and Calendar - 10,798 (2021 – 12,803).

*John Goldsbrough*

## ***Ardleigh and Dedham Parishes Benefice***

### **Minutes of The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Ardleigh** **Annual Meeting of Parishioners**

**Sunday 24th April 2022 held in St Mary the Virgin Church, Ardleigh**

Agenda Item	Minutes																					
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	<p>NB Meeting started at 0945hrs following a breakfast get-together of attendees. Breakfast consisted of croissants, butter, jam, chocolate spread, coffee and tea.</p> <p>Towards the end of the breakfast session Susan Carne introduced Caroline Allen, a new member of our church, who spoke to all about being a Welcoming Church and explained her background of both faith, and work, and joining us as a church. She reassured everyone there were no criticisms but explained the challenges experienced by all when both entering, and joining, a new church. Caroline suggested further sessions, and these were eagerly accepted by those present.</p>																					
1	<p><b>Minutes of Annual Meeting of Parishioners 2021</b></p> <p>The Minutes of last year's meeting were displayed on the screen in church, following distribution to all electronically via the Parishes Office</p> <p>Martin West requested comments regarding accuracy and content. None were raised</p> <p>The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate meeting held via Zoom on Sunday 18th April 2021</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">Proposed:</td> <td>Susan Carne</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Seconded:</td> <td>John Culley</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vote:</td> <td>Unanimous</td> </tr> </table>	Proposed:	Susan Carne	Seconded:	John Culley	Vote:	Unanimous															
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2	<p><b>Elections of Churchwardens for the Ecclesiastical Parish</b></p> <p>Martin West informed the meeting that two formal nomination forms had been received following notice - and voting was required</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Firstly MARTIN WEST</td> <td style="width: 10%;">Proposed:</td> <td>Richard Culley</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Seconded:</td> <td>Sue Browne</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Vote:</td> <td>Unanimous</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Secondly SUSAN CARNE</td> <td>Proposed:</td> <td>Amanda Watts</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Seconded:</td> <td>Sue Browne</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Vote:</td> <td>Unanimous</td> </tr> </table> <p>The Revd Merv prayed for the two new Churchwardens and the parish</p>	Firstly MARTIN WEST	Proposed:	Richard Culley		Seconded:	Sue Browne		Vote:	Unanimous				Secondly SUSAN CARNE	Proposed:	Amanda Watts		Seconded:	Sue Browne		Vote:	Unanimous
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3	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p>The Chair asked if there was any other business of general parish concern, or items those attending may wish to refer to the PCC. No points were raised to either request</p>																					
	<p><b>Meeting closed</b> at 1000hrs</p>																					

## ***Ardleigh and Dedham Parishes Benefice***

### **Minutes of The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Ardleigh** **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**Sunday 24 April 2022 held in St Mary the Virgin Church, Ardleigh**

Agenda Item	Minutes																
	<p><b>Present:</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Caroline Allen</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Rosina Harman</td> </tr> <tr> <td>David Barnard</td> <td>Revd Merv McKinney</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sue Browne</td> <td>Pat Newton</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Susan Carne</td> <td>Christina Volkmann</td> </tr> <tr> <td>David Culham</td> <td>Amanda Watts</td> </tr> <tr> <td>John Culley.</td> <td>Martin West – <b>Chair (MW)</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Richard Culley</td> <td>David Wright</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Helen Fontaine</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Caroline Allen	Rosina Harman	David Barnard	Revd Merv McKinney	Sue Browne	Pat Newton	Susan Carne	Christina Volkmann	David Culham	Amanda Watts	John Culley.	Martin West – <b>Chair (MW)</b>	Richard Culley	David Wright	Helen Fontaine	
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	NB Meeting started at 1000hrs following the Annual Meeting of Parishioners																
1	<b>Prayers and Bible Reflection</b> Meeting began with prayer																
2	<b>Apologies for absence</b> Rosemary Kleingeld Christine Mingay Rita Randall																
3	<b>Appointment of Tellers</b> No elections were to take place so MW informed meeting Tellers should not be required																
4	<b>Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2021</b> The Minutes of last year's meeting were displayed on the screen in church, following distribution to all electronically via the Parishes Office. MW made 6 paper copies available to the meeting for those riding to have a copy.																
5	<b>Amendments and Adoption of those Minutes as a true and accurate record</b> MW requested comments regarding accuracy and content. None were raised  The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate meeting held via Zoom on Sunday 18th April 2021  <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">Proposed:</td> <td>Susan Carne</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Seconded:</td> <td>David Barnard</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vote:</td> <td>Unanimous</td> </tr> </table>	Proposed:	Susan Carne	Seconded:	David Barnard	Vote:	Unanimous										
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6	<b>Matter Arising</b> MW asked if there were any issues to be raised, not on the meeting's Agenda There were no matters raised																
7	<b>Electoral Roll Report</b> MW reported that there were 26 on roll in 2021. Richard Culley is Electoral Roll officer but there have been a few issues gathering the information and MW only received it last week -hence him reporting.																
8	<b>PCC Annual Report</b> MW highlighted areas from the report received by all including:																

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the sizeable list of volunteers</li> <li>- The church has been open daily throughout the pandemic after the lockdowns</li> <li>- Services have continued in person and on-line</li> </ul>
8 contd	<p><b>PCC Annual Report contd</b></p> <p>MW informed the meeting that during the year, the PCC met once on Zoom, and twice in St Mary's - our church. Jointly with Dedham PCC we had three meetings on Zoom, one of these included a talk by the Rev Phil Ritchie, Colchester Area Mission and Ministry Advisor. MW also said the PCC had also had a joint meeting with Dedham PCC, in the Vicarage garden in July 2021</p> <p>He informed the meeting that the usual format of Meetings follows:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The 5 Marks of Mission</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tell Teach Tend Transform Treasure</p> <p>He reported that Susan Carne supported Sara Marshall, Accounts Administrator, with the PCC's accounts and pointed out key features such as the decrease in income (4%), and that we pay approx 14% of the Benefice Parish Share - that being the percentage of Ardleigh's Electoral roll numbers in relation to Dedham's much larger number.</p> <p>MW reported upon the major rainwater drains project which is nearing completion and thanked Sue Browne for leading on this.</p> <p>MW shared his appreciation of the wonderful peal of bells last week and asked Tower Captain David Culham whether there had been any objections from locals. David said there had been one or two comments on social media but his (David's) wife had, as a consequence, posted an explanation that the peal was in memory of a much loved former Tower Captain and resident of the village - Barbara Hollis. This had, subsequently, turned the criticism to praise.</p> <p>MW also informed the group that, very pleasingly, Ardleigh is now the hub for teaching new ringers the necessary skills. David Culham queried the start time of the meeting and Sue Browne apologised to all as she had, inadvertently, entered the wrong time on Church Chimes.</p> <p>MW explained Christina Volkmann had been elected to be the Ardleigh Deanery Synod rep on 20th September 2021.</p>
9	<p><b>Financial Report</b></p> <p><b>a) Report of the Financial Affairs of the Parish</b> These were displayed on the screen and MW spoke to them</p> <p><b>b) The presentation of the examined accounts</b> Again MW spoke to them</p> <p><b>c) Proposal for the formal adoption of the accounts</b> MW explained the accounts had been formally approved by the PCC on 10th March 2021 and they are seeking adoption by the meeting today</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Proposed: Christina Volkmann Seconded: David Wright Vote: Unanimous</p> <p><b>d) Appointment of Philip Strangward, Auditor for the coming year (for examination)</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Proposed: Sue Browne Seconded: Richard Culley Vote: Unanimous</p>
10	<p><b>Churchwardens' Report</b></p> <p>MW referred all to the relevant report in the Benefice Annual Reports booklet, and also explained the overall role of being a Churchwarden.</p> <p>Sue added that over and above usual Churchwardening activity Churchwardens need to manage all the Health and Safety concerns within national legislation and manage risk according to the law of the land. She is attempting, because we are so savvy re H&amp;S and risk management, to negotiate a reduction in future insurance premiums.</p> <p>Christina Volkmann suggested that the Churchwardens tell the church during/after services those things they are working upon, meetings they are attending, challenges etc in order they can be prayed for and assisted by all. MW, and everyone, thanked her.</p> <p>MW reported that in the absence of an Incumbent we need to take responsibility for us and our</p>

	<p>services and develop fresh expressions of church here in Ardleigh.  He acknowledged the amazing support we receive from retired clergy, most notably the Revd Merv McKinney, who was with us for the meeting, and the meeting broke into a lively spontaneous applause of thanks to Merv, before MW could thank him formally and also say he realises Merv will wish to actually retire at some point.</p>
11	<p><b>Other Verbal Reports</b>  None given</p>
12	<p><b>Deanery Synod Report</b>  MW explained the Annual Deanery Synod Report had been written for the Benefice this year by Dedham PCCs Liz Read and David Druitt. Ardleigh PCCs rep, Christine Mingay, had retired mid-year, and Christina Volkmann had been elected during September last.</p>
13	<p><b>Elections form those entered on the Electoral Roll of the Ecclesiastical Parish</b>  <b>a) Deanery Synod Representative</b>  MW informed the group that Christina had been elected on 20-09-21 and will remain in post.  <b>b) PCC Representatives</b>  MW reported there were no nominations, and that more members were needed to join the PCC. There are currently 2 Churchwardens and 4 members of the PCC. He said that members can be co-opted within year and asked people to consider joining them.  He stated it would be beneficial to have both a Treasurer and a Secretary, and someone to head up a Fabric Subgroup. He informed the meeting that a subgroup of the PCC has been created - Reach Out, consisting of Susan Carne, Martin West, Amanda Watts, Sue Browne and a member from our school, and a member from the Parish Council</p>
14	<p><b>Vicar's report to the Benefice</b>  MW reported that as we currently have no Incumbent in post, there is no Vicar's report. He informed meeting that the Parish Profile has been prepared for the benefit of possible applicants for the posts of two Deanery missioners, due to be advertised shortly. These posts will be to cover the 9 rural parishes of our Deanery. MW explained that the Profiles of all nine parishes make very interesting reading - he will circulate once they're finalised.</p>
15	<p><b>Any other business</b>  The Chair asked if there was any other business of general parish concern, or items those attending may wish to refer to the PCC.   No points were raised to either request</p>
	<p><b>Meeting closed</b> at 1045hrs</p>
	<p><b>Martin, on behalf of the church presented Sue Browne, outgoing churchwarden, with gifts and a card from the church. Sue thanked all.</b></p>

## St Mary's Church, Ardleigh

**Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023**

### **AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

*The Annual General Meeting consists of two meetings.*

1. The Annual Meeting of Parishioners is open to all persons resident in the ecclesiastical parish of the church, and is for the purpose of electing the Churchwardens of the parish. All residents of the parish whose names are entered on the civil Electoral Roll are entitled to vote.

2. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) is open to all persons resident in the ecclesiastical parish and those on its electoral roll. Only those whose names are entered on the Electoral Roll of the parish church may speak or vote. This meeting hears reports on the church's maintenance and work over the past year, receives the examined or audited accounts, and elects an Electoral Roll member to serve as the parish representative on the Deanery Synod, and other members to the Parochial Church Council.

The meetings may be chaired by the elected Lay Chair or in absentia by the Lay-chair of the PCC.

#### **(1) ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS AGENDA**

1. Minutes of last year's Annual Meeting of Parishioners.

2. Elections of Churchwardens for the ecclesiastical parish.

Note: The Representation Rules state that nominations for this election must have been received by the Rector before the start of the meeting

3. Any other business of general parish concern, or items those attending may wish to be referred to the PCC.

#### **(2) ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING AGENDA**

1. Opening prayer.

2. Apologies for absence received. (Not assumed apologies for those noticed to be absent)

3. Appointment of Tellers to count the votes of any elections during the meeting if so required.

4. Minutes of last year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

5. Amendments and Adoption of those Minutes as an accurate record.

6. Matters Arising.

7. Electoral Roll report on numbers, additions, deletions. *Electoral Roll Officer*

8. PCC Annual report. Number of meetings, main items of business etc. *Churchwarden*

9. Financial report including: a) report on the financial affairs of the parish church/PCC.

b) the presentation of the examined or audited accounts.

c) proposal for the formal adoption of the accounts, including vote from all eligible

d) appointment of auditor for the coming year.

10. Churchwardens report to include review of the church fabric and goods.

*Churchwardens*

11. Other verbal reports

12. Deanery Synod report on the past year. *Deanery Synod Representative*

13. Elections from those entered on the Electoral Roll of the ecclesiastical parish

a) Deanery Synod representative

b) PCC representatives

14. Any other business of general parish concern, or items those attending may wish to be referred to the PCC. (please notify Chairman before the meeting)

**PCC MEETING** The AGM is followed by a short meeting of the PCC to elect:

a) Lay-chair

b) Secretary

c) Treasurer

d) Electoral Roll Officer

e) Standing Committee

e) Any co-opted appointments

*The meeting may also consider any urgent business that cannot wait until the next full PCC meeting.*

# St Mary's Dedham

## 2022 Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

for the Parochial Church Council of St Mary the Virgin, Dedham

Registered charity number 1130860.

The draft accounts within this report were approved by the PCC at its meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023

### 1. Aim and purposes

St Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has responsibility for promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St Mary's Church and the Duchy Barn (*through oversight of its Management Committee*)

### 2. Objectives and activities

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

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

- a. Regular public worship, open to all
- b. The provision of sacred space for worship, personal prayer and contemplation
- c. Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved
- d. The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups
- e. The taking of religious assemblies in schools

*To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St Mary's and the Duchy Barn*

### 3. Achievements and performance

#### a. Regular public worship for all Sunday Services

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services during the month and throughout the seasons of the church year that enable us to connect with and feed both regular parishioners and visitors to St. Mary's. We constantly monitor our service patterns to ensure they have both audiences in mind.

Thanks to the brilliant work of our AV Team, we have been able to continue to use technology to reach people both locally and abroad through live-streaming of services on our YouTube channel.

As lockdowns ceased, we have been able to resume many of the services that a broader audience have enjoyed, including Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas (including Carol and Crib Services).

We have also resumed hosting our school children for end-of-term assemblies.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world. We have celebrated 5 baptisms, 13 weddings and 2 wedding blessings and held 9 funerals in our church this year.

We are grateful to all those who help to run our services, including Revd. Merv McKinney not only for his preaching, but his help and invaluable advice throughout the year, our lay preachers Richard Hopkins and Anne Marie Partrick, our Director of Music, Antony Watson, the choir, our vergers Gabbie Watson and service wardens Be Burleigh, Suzanne Woods, Sarah Oakley, Linda Redlich and David Drutt.

### **Church Membership**

The Electoral Roll has been reviewed in 2022. Currently there are 77 on the Electoral Roll, of whom 74 are residents and 3 non-residents.

### **Choir and Music Report**

This report comes as I reflect on an extremely busy, challenging and exciting time in the musical life of St Mary's Dedham. The headline news is the massive progress we have made in securing resolutions, permissions (faculty) and ultimately fundraising for our long-awaited Binns pipe Organ Project. To start the fundraising process, a concert was offered to us by The Kelvedon Singers during which an incredibly generous sum of money was donated anonymously, and this gave immense impetus to getting the fundraising up and running. Within a few months, that figure had doubled, thanks to pledges which were followed up, and at the time of writing, we are over 80% of the way to our total of £300,000. Contracts have been signed with organ builders Nicholson & Co, Malvern, with an *estimated* completion date of 'summer 2025'. We are working hard to complete our fundraising task, with various grants and funds being explored. Many thanks to all who have shared this vision both in discerning, planning, advising, and in giving of time and finances. We very much look forward to 2025.

The Choir continues to meet faithfully on Friday evenings. Huge thanks go to all who give so faithfully of their time in this ministry. Revive@5 has continued to be blessed by the musical leadership of Misha Bennett, as well as welcoming worship leaders from our brothers and sisters from other churches. It is wonderful to see so many musical styles being offered under one roof.

In August 2022, 17 organists from around the UK converged on Dedham to take part in a 24 hour 'Organathon'. £4500 was raised, with all the organists agreeing that our organ really is on its last legs. In January 2023, we welcomed the Gainsborough Consort, again coming to bring us a concert to fundraise for the Organ Project. A wonderful evening of Scottish themed music (it being close to Burns Night) gave the audience much pleasure, with over £2,000 raised. With the new instrument in place, we very much look forward to the concert and recital opportunities this will open up. Watch this space.

*Antony Watson*

### **Bell Ringing**

2022 was my first year as Bell Captain. After a small article in the Parish Magazine about Bell Ringing, I had 7 new ringers. The year has gone well, we have managed to provide a team most Sundays. We had a busy summer with about 15 Weddings, which kept us all busy. A few more ringers would be helpful, but we are coping.

*Lou Davison*

### **Flower Team**

The past year has been a very positive one with the 'Creation' Flower Festival taking place in October. It was particularly uplifting, as a result of the numbers of different groups that agreed to take part, these being the Dedham Allotment Association, Dedham Horticultural Society and Dedham Primary School. The art workshops in calligraphy, watercolour and clay were well received too and it was a lovely opportunity for people to try a new art form.

The Festival provided a great opportunity for people to be welcomed into the church and feedback was very positive by those who visited and also those who took part. The festival raised in the region of £3000. Many thanks go to all who supported it, whether financially, by arranging flowers, stewarding, or making and serving refreshments. Thanks also go to the team of arrangers who give their time throughout the year to help keep the church feel welcoming and cared for.

*Helen Sims*

## Stewards

During the past year we are grateful to the Stewards who have given their time to welcome people to church on the Sundays, receive the offertory and clear up after the service. The following are proposed as stewards for the forthcoming year:

Adrian Beckingsale Deidre Beckingsale Amanda Brebner Be Burleigh David Druitt Vee Druitt Sally Gotelee Akshay John Ritika John Maria Johnston Andrew McLaughlin Leonie McLaughlin	Liz Nickerson Sarah Oakley Linda Redlich John Reed Liz Reed Jill Strangward  The number of stewards is dwindling, so please speak to Be Burleigh if you would like join the group
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## Guided Church and Tower Tours

A few Tower Tours took place in 2022, including a large group of National Trust volunteers. It is now quite difficult to organise Tower Tours due to there being hardly any volunteers available to take the tours.

*Deb Turner*

## b. The provision of sacred space for worship, personal prayer and contemplation

### Dedham Church Wardens Report

1. Our primary aim and objective over the past year has been to ensure the smooth running of the church during the period of the interregnum and since the appointment of Phillip as one of the Missioners. This has involved ensuring that the services have been able to continue regularly and that the church land and building have been properly maintained.
2. With regard to the services, we are hugely indebted to Merv for all the work he has done in preparing the rotas and also for the ministry work he has undertaken along with Richard and Anne- Marie.
3. As church wardens, we have met weekly with Merv and Phillip and the two church wardens from Ardleigh to coordinate the activities across the benefice: we have also met regularly with the church wardens of the other 7 parishes in our deanery grouping, as well as with the Bishop and Archdeacon to discuss the best way forward for the ministry in our areas.
4. The PCC has met 8 times during the year to discuss the ongoing business of running the church and how to maximise our reach into the community. The attendance of the twelve members has been excellent; there is an agenda circulated for each meeting and any member can raise any topic for discussion. Key issues have been:
  - The appointment of the two missioners
  - The financing of the church and its various activities
  - The need to provide teaching for young children
  - The form and timing of services
  - The quinquennial and maintenance of the church property
  - The installation of the new boiler
  - The new organ and its funding
  - Easter and Christmas celebrations
  - Providing food parcels at Christmas and a foodbank in the church porch
  - Safeguarding
  - Links with the church school
  - Health and safety

5. We have also been active as trustees of Little Garth Cottages/Elton House Apartment, Dedham Lectureship Trust and the Assembly Rooms

### **Fabric Report, Church Cleaning and Churchyard Maintenance**

The major expenditure during the past year was the replacement of the very old boiler located in the cellar of the vicarage, with a new gas boiler now located in the old toilet block. The controller for the boiler is located in the vestry and can be worked manually or via an App which can be operated remotely from a phone.

The trees in the churchyard were surveyed and the recommendations regarding the pruning of the trees were implemented.

Regular maintenance and cleaning of the church, as well as opening and closing of the building, was undertaken by our caretaker Andrew Hodson, and we thank him for his continued work in these areas. We would also like to thank all the church members who help with cleaning and other such activities throughout the year and when Andrew is absent for any reason.

Towards the end of last year, we received from the church architect the Quinquennial report on which states that "the church is in a reasonable condition and the interior is in an exceptionally good order." There are a number of recommendations made for work which can be carried out over the next 5 year period. The fabric committee have proposed to the PCC, who have agreed, that we should this year address any issues which could lead to water ingress from gutter and pipe blockages and broken masonry. The stained glass windows are need of restoration to varying degrees with approximately 8 in need of more serious work. It has been agreed that this work will form a major project in 2024 with contractors being consulted this year to determine costs and approval of a preferred contractor, we envisage that an appeal will be needed to help fund this work.

Finally I am sure you have all seen that the wall along the main road has been repaired by the diocese, and the contractor has I believe done a very good job  
*Peter Wilson, on behalf of Fabric Committee*

### **Resource Centre**

The number of visitors has doubled during the last year and sales in the Resource Centre have increased accordingly. The income from the sales of books, cards and other items bring in a steady contribution towards church funds. Should anyone have any suggestions for additional items to enhance the shelves please speak to Be Burleigh or Lou Davison, who will endeavour to purchase these.

*Be Burleigh*

### **Muniment Library**

Thanks go to Paula for continuing to ensure that the dehumidifier is emptied regularly.

The 3-year binding of Parish Magazines is with Colin Brown. Several bound copies of the Parish Magazines have 'disappeared' from the Muniment Room and we would be most grateful for their return.

Theoretically nothing should ever be removed from the Room but this is impossible to oversee so the plea is that, should anything really need to be taken, a note of the borrower and the date borrowed be made in the book on the desk. All the records in the Muniment Room are priceless and, if better care is not taken of them it will be necessary to have them removed to a safe depository - perhaps to Chelmsford or London.

It is becoming a matter of importance that we find someone who will undertake to curate this collection.

*Suzanne Woods*

### **c. Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved**

The Pastoral team met 3 times in 2022. The group includes Ruth Higginson (Mission fundraising, Bereavement and pastoral visitor), Ann Shaw (Bereavement Team Member and Monthly lunch

club), Revd Merv McKinney (Pastoral visitor), Lou Davison (Monthly Walk and Talk), John Reed and Liz Reed (First steps) and Vee Druitt (Bereavement and pastoral visitor) as well as Pat Newton and Susan Carne from Ardleigh Church.

We welcomed Rural Missioner Revd Phillip Young at our November meeting.

Topics discussed during the year included:

Praying at Morning Prayer on Tuesdays for all those who had made requests for prayer on our prayer board

The Duchy Barn's availability as a warm space with warm drinks

Offering support to the refugees staying at the Holiday Inn and support for Ukrainian refugees hosted in our area

The need to be compliant with Church of England Safeguarding guidance at all times

The Ardleigh Friendship group,

"Buddying" those who remained vulnerable after the withdrawal of the helpline established when the Covid pandemic began

Welcomers for visitors to our church.

Thank you to all the team who have given so generously of their time to the aims of this group.

### **Walk & Talk Group**

This little group is still meeting up. We manage a walk most months with those who are able, and then follow on with a coffee & chat for about one hour.

After our meeting in December we went on to Oranges & Lemons for lunch.

We had 2 new ladies join us during the year, unfortunately one regular moved.

I know we are a small group, 9/10 if we all make it, but I believe it's worthwhile.

*Lou Davison*

### **Benefice Prayers**

Michel Green wrote the book 'Thank God it's Monday'. It's a great read! I too 'thank God it's Monday' because every Monday at 5 o'clock, a few of us find our tablets or laptops and take 40 minutes out of our schedules to connect (with God and each other) through Zoom. *Together* we pray for our benefice as well as wider issues. What a privilege!

*Together* we simply pray in God's Kingdom.

*Together* we name and bring whatever He has laid on our heart to the Throne-room of Grace.

When we do this *together*, we know our prayers can be effective.

David Watson sorts out the electronics (thank you, David!) Others rotate to lead us each week.

And then we simply pray however we are prompted. Some quietly, some aloud. They are all precious, Holy moments.

Do consider joining us. If the time does not work for you, or you're just tentatively curious, just let us know. We're nothing special; just a few of God's children taking a little time out each week to pray over our benefice and a hurting world - *together*.

*Caroline Allen*

### **d. The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups**

Our local ministers (Phillip and Merv), Authorised Lay Preachers (Richard and Anne Marie) and outside ministers and speakers have enabled us to grow in our faith through regular preaching and teaching from the Bible, which has largely followed the Common Worship Lectionary. There are many small groups that meet during the week in term time for fellowship, encouragement from the Bible and prayer support. We continue to offer seeker-friendly courses such as Alpha and Christianity Explored ahead to enable those less familiar with the Christian faith to explore and discuss it in an open and supportive environment. We run a Marriage Preparation Day for all the couples getting married across the benefice that year and more bespoke instruction for families preparing for baptism and confirmation.

## **Mission Fundraising**

### **Members**

Lynne Al Sad, Ruth Higginson, Liz Reed, Caro McShane, Linda Redlich

### **Activities**

Our activities started in March with a cake, bric a brac and gifts stall for the Ukrainian Appeal. We raised an amazing amount of £1,050 which was given to the charity D.E.C (Disasters Emergencies Committee) which supports 15 UK charities that are helping the people of Ukraine. In May we shared the space outside the church with the Horticultural Society. We then had a stall every month until the end of October. At the August Bank Holiday sale, we raised £568 - £500 of which was given to the Organ Fund. The Christmas Fair was held at the school, but it is hoped this year that the Fair will be held in the High Street again.

### **Distribution**

The amount we have raised during the year, £1,985.34 (this does not include the Ukraine or Organ Fund appeals), will be split between Korban, a homeless charity in Colchester dealing with young people aged between 16-25, and Beacon House also a homeless charity. If you wish to know more about Korban, their website is [www.korban.org.uk](http://www.korban.org.uk) and Beacon House, whose website is [www.beaconhouseministries.org.uk](http://www.beaconhouseministries.org.uk).

The website for Beacon House gives an updated list of what they need. They continue to do a necessary job of finding accommodation and giving support and encouragement to those in need. If anyone is interested in volunteering or just visiting to see the work that is done please contact Julie on 01206 761960. We are no longer supporting the Van de Ruit missionary family as they are at present working in Holland and do not need our support. They have thanked us for our support over many years.

**Thank you** to all who have supported and helped with Mission this year, especially the cake bakers. We are always looking for volunteers to help on the stalls during the year and also cake makers.

*Ruth Higginson/Lynne Al Sad*

### **EcoChurch**

In September 2022, I took over Eco-church from Christina Volkmann, who has done a fabulous job gaining a Bronze award for Dedham and Ardleigh.

During the winter, I attended Webinars on how to become a more sustainable and climate resilient church and plan to work towards the silver Eco-church award during 2023.

*Sara Marshall*

*Eco-church Representative*

### **e. The taking of religious assemblies in schools and work with children and families**

#### **Rise 'n Shine**

We continue to celebrate our Rise 'n Shine all-age worship on every first Sunday of the month, as an informal service with a variety of worship music and different activities. We live-stream our services, and they remain available on our *YouTube* channel. Our themes for the most part follow the liturgical calendar, for example, in a very special Pentecost service we also celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of Her Late Majesty. Our service outdoors in the churchyard on the theme of 'Praying with Trees' was blessed with beautifully sunny weather.

Rise 'n Shine services are also closely linked to our school ministry, especially in Dedham Primary School. The School had invited us into their Year 2 RE class to answer the children's questions about God, faith and church. Out of this grew several services, e.g. on the stained glass windows in Dedham Church and on 'Asking Questions - Receiving Blessing'. If you fancy a little 'pause to ponder' whilst reading this report, why not try a couple of the questions the children asked: 'Why do you have stained glass windows in churches?' - 'What's your favourite part of the Bible?' - 'Do you worship Jesus?' - 'Why are you a Christian?'

As before, a big Thank You: to all who come to worship together, to Amanda for being a font of ideas and for putting together the lovely activities for our children's corner, to Antony for selecting

our worship songs, to our AV Team for putting up with, at times, challenging conditions, to our Refreshments Team and to our Welcomers for all they do, and to our (new) Rural Missioner, Revd Phillip who brings his huge heart for all-age worship and children/youth ministry.

*Christina Volkmann*

### **Assemblies in schools**

My involvement in our ministry at Dedham Primary School has continued since last year, and I usually take one assembly a month during term times. Themes either relate to the values the school explore during that particular week (e.g. Compassion and Service), or to topics relating to the church year, e.g. Lent or Advent. In assembly, we sing one or two songs which either Antony or Miss Valentine pick, and we pray together.

I'm usually accompanied by Schaf, my toy(?) sheep, who thinks that everything in the Bible is about sheep and who loves Jesus, our Shepherd. At times, however, Schaf can unfortunately be quite disruptive during assembly, so on occasion we had to threaten putting him back in the car... Schaf and I were kindly invited to the School Nativity Play, which we enjoyed very much.

One of the highlights this year was that we were able to welcome the children back into church around Easter time. Due to the Covid pandemic, many of them had not been to a full school assembly in church. We also met in church for Harvest Festival, so that the children could explore the exhibits of the wonderful Flower Festival on 'God's Creation' and see their own contributions to the latter 'in action'.

The End of Year full school assembly, including parents/care givers/families and friends, brought another highlight. The School also kindly invited me to the Year 6 Leavers' Assembly in the morning (there wasn't a dry eye in the house). At this event, I handed out the *Good News Bibles* donated by Dedham Church and an activity booklet, and I prayed for children and parents in particular. Just to add that the Bibles and the booklets are much appreciated.

Antony Watson and I were invited into the Year 2 class to address questions about God, Jesus, the church, and our faith. This was a lovely afternoon. The children's questions subsequently featured in some of our Rise 'n Shine services.

A big thank you to everyone at Dedham Primary School for welcoming us. It was great also to welcome Gemma, the new Head Teacher, and I look forward to collaborating with her in our school ministry.

*Christina Volkmann*

### **Junior Church**

Since we arrived in October 2022, we have (re-)established the ministry of Junior Church, a weekly group for 3-10 year olds during the usual Sunday service (excluding the first Sunday of the month) in the Duchy Barn. At Junior Church we play games, generally have some sort of craft activity, and learn about the Christian faith in an age-appropriate way. This year we have been working through a series in Genesis. By the end of the year we had welcomed about 8 children into Junior Church and are excited about the potential this ministry has both in instructing future generations and enabling parents of young children to hear God's Word as their children are looked after in Junior Church. The initial team of leaders consists of four people and is soon to be expanded to six. All Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment guidance is being followed and is monitored by Deb Turner, Parishes Administrator. This ministry forms part of how we as a church family are seeking to make St. Mary's, Dedham an inter-generational church family.

*Louise Young*

**ReVive@5** - ReVive@5 has continued to meet on the fourth Sunday of each month, with refreshments served beforehand by our young people. The service is of a contemporary style and aimed at all ages, with a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. The teaching has been brought by a variety of speakers from both our own congregation and from others, and has focussed this last year on Bible characters. We often use creative ways to spend time in prayer, and prayer ministry is also available at the end of each service.

*Sharon and Tim Sarson*

## **Youth Report**

We continue to meet after Revive@5, with the youth engaging in the theme from the service and other activities based on exploring faith. Games, chat and refreshments are always part of the session and our focus going forward will be to look at how we incorporate prayer into our everyday lives and how we can help as individuals and as a parish to preserve the world by helping reduce climate change.

*Claire Arculus*

## **Annual Campout – Dedham Vicarage 2022**

We enjoyed our third annual campout in the garden of Dedham Vicarage from 29<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> July 2022 this time also having young people from the parish of St Albrights join us. In total we hosted 12 young people at the event of which 9 camped and 3 attended for the Friday evening.

I led the event and the following leaders helped with activities; Revd Wendy Pagden, Revd Anna Davis, Revd Chris Willis, Jo Jeffery, Patsy Ann Maggs and Tom Arculus, of which 3 leaders camped out. With so many more leaders this year, it meant our activities contained more variation, and also differing perspectives. We also got our tents up more quickly!

Whilst welcoming our guests, parents/carers were invited to pray with Revd Wendy for a short while before the campout started and have a tea or coffee. Our activities during the Friday evening included rounders, throwing balls into bucket game linking to stress analogy (coping with stress) and a wellbeing talk. Team building exercise with two teams competing to build the strongest bridge with newspaper and Sellotape (also any other resources they could find around the garden). Both teams passed the test of their bridge holding the weight of their bridge. We also had a juggling workshop led by Tom. With the use of the Vicarage kitchen, we could cook pizzas and have cake for pudding, all sitting together to eat. A firepit was laid and prepared and we enjoyed marshmallow toasting/smores whilst joining in with worship music around the campfire which Revd Chris and Tom kindly led.

This event was such a pleasure to lead and work with others on. As in previous years, the Holy Spirit was definitely felt during the event and it was such a privilege to lead this group of young people who all mixed and socialised so well together. I am very grateful to all who prayed for the event beforehand – your prayers are so valued.

This would be wonderful to continue and as per activity plan, hopefully arrange in due course a trip to a residential Christian event.

*Claire Arculus*



## Dedham Church of England Primary School

January 2022 – December 2022

### ***'A lifelong love of learning'***

*At Dedham Church of England Primary School, we equally value personal, emotional and spiritual development alongside academic progress. We value the individual whilst recognising the importance of contributing as local and global citizens in the world. We work closely with families and the community to equip children with the values and knowledge needed for the next steps in their lives.*

The school now has 199 pupils on roll and 34 members of staff, including 12 teachers.

The last calendar year has seen considerable staff changes which have impacted upon all areas of the school: office team, kitchen team, learning support team and the teaching team. In spring 2022, David Lerner announced that he would be resigning from the post of headteacher, and he left the school in December 2022 after just over four years in post. He sent the following message to the parent community at the end of the autumn term:

*It has been a privilege to lead such a wonderful school for the past four years. I could not have asked more of the staff during this time, and I will always be grateful for their commitment to the children and families of Dedham, each other and to me. To you, the families of our school, I thank you for the support and kindness you have shown to me during my headship at Dedham. I will really miss the daily inter-*

*action I had with your children and wish them all a wonderfully successful and happy future.*

*There have been many things that I will remember with great pride; the school's response to the Covid19 pandemic which I could write a book about, the togetherness of the staff and school community, and the new classroom. But most of all, with the support of an amazing staff team and yourselves, I am proud of the progress your children have made through the most challenging period of all of our lives.*

Mrs Gemma Chester assumed the position of headteacher on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023. The senior leadership team now consists of the Headteacher (Mrs Gemma Chester), the Deputy Headteacher (Miss Laura Valentine) and a Senior Teacher (Miss Katie Plant).

Over the past year, the Parent Group have significantly increased their fundraising projects following a couple of years where Covid19 limited the events that were able to take place. Quiz nights, discos, a winter fair, wreath-making, film clubs, a summer fair and surprise rooms for Mother's Day and Father's Day have all featured in the school calendar. We are extremely grateful to them for all that they do because with unfunded pay rises for staff, a recent drop in pupil numbers, increases in the cost of food, fuel and services provided to the school, we are increasingly reliant upon the Parent Group to support us in funding school projects and experiences for the children. We are also extremely appreciative of the work of the Dedham Run Committee because the 2022 event provided £3000 for the school which we will be able to put towards the development of our school grounds in 2023. We are also grateful to the Dedham Ecclesiastical Lectureship Trust who continue to fund a visit to St Pauls for our year six children, and the generous donation from St Mary's Church of ten Christmas hampers for our families was extremely well received by some of our most vulnerable families.

Christina Volkmann continues to attend school once a month to lead collective worship and we are very grateful to her for both her friendship with the school and for sharing her Christian belief and knowledge with us, especially during the period of interregnum. We were pleased to welcome Revd Phillip to the role of Rural Missioner to the Harwich Deanery in October 2022 and were also delighted to welcome him and his family to the school community. Revd Phillip attends school once a half-term and has led an end of term assembly in church at which children's families also attended. We look forward to developing this relationship over the coming months and years. Antony Watson teaches piano in school most days now, and both he and Gabbie are very valued members of the staff team. Antony's support and guidance with whole school music-making and worship continues to be considerable and I, and the staff, are extremely grateful to him.

As a school, we are very happy to be a part of community events and we work hard to build positive relationships within the community. For the first time since December 2019, the KS2 Choir were pleased to represent the school at the village carol service and to perform Christmas carols at Blackbrook care home. As always, we were proud to be a part of the Remembrance Sunday service and the whole school enjoyed participating in October's Creation-themed flower festival.

The school is at the beginning of a new chapter under the leadership of Mrs Chester. There is a bright future ahead for the school, full of vision and energy, and with the continued support of the Governing Body, community and Dedham Church, we will continue to work to provide the very best education and start in life for our children.

*Laura Valentine, Deputy Headteacher*

## **f. Working with ecumenical partners**

### **Deanery Synod Report**

The full Deanery Synod met 3 times in 2022 and in addition the Standing Committee, a subset of the full Synod, met an additional three times. I am a member of the full Synod and attend Deanery Synod with David Druitt and Liz Reed from Dedham Church. David is also a member of the Standing Committee, so our Benefice has been represented at all meetings held.

In addition, Churchwardens from all Parishes within the Deanery were invited to the full Synod meetings and the Bishop & Archdeacon of Colchester also attended some of the meetings.

The main focus of many of the meetings was the recruitment of the 2 Rural Missioners who were going to look after the 9 rural Parishes within the Deanery and following the first round of advertising, it was very pleasing that the Revd Phillip Young was appointed as one of the

Missioners. The second post continues to be advertised and it is hoped that an appointment will be made in 2023.

During the year, several other topics were discussed and progressed where appropriate and these were as follows:

- Deanery 5-year plan
- EcoChurch (our Benefice is currently at Bronze Award level)
- New allocation mechanism for the 2023 and subsequent years' Parish Share (many thanks to John Reed, the Dedham Treasurer, for his considerable involvement in this always contentious subject)
- Lessons learnt from dealing with the Covid pandemic and especially new patterns of worship with the live streaming of services and Parish Helplines etc.

At this year's APCM elections to the Deanery Synod for the next 3 years will need to be held. Ardleigh will elect one member of Deanery Synod as before.

*Christina Volkmann*

#### **4. Financial review**

**Management:** The PCC Finance Committee met on 5 occasions in 2022, and has 4 members: John Reed (Chairman & Treasurer), Peter Wilson (Churchwarden), David Jewell and Sara Marshall (Financial Administrator). The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission under Charity number 1130860, and the Annual Accounts can be viewed on the Dedham Church website. Once agreed at the APCM, they are available via the Commission's website ([www.charitycommission.gov.uk](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk)).

**Income:** 2022 was a very active financial year as the Church gradually returned to a degree of normality following two Covid affected years, as well as the period of Interregnum.

Planned and Other Giving to the General Fund during 2022, (including Gift Aid), amounted to £79,074 compared to £78,975 in 2021. Despite this somewhat flat performance, the Committee once again offer their sincere thanks to all who gave so generously through the year, whether it was by regular Standing Order, one-off donations, or by giving to the many other activities where the Church invites support.

Other General Fund Income (note 2b) was largely made up of the Parish Magazine advertising fees, up another £1,002 on 2021 at £20,170. The Big Breakfast, and the "Creation" Flower Festival were the two major 2022 fundraising events which together generated a net surplus of £4,421, and thanks go to all who supported these in whatever capacity.

**Grants and Fabric projects:** In 2022, the project to purchase and install a new gas boiler was a major exercise that ultimately cost £91,090 including all the groundworks. The PCC are incredibly grateful to the Dedham Ecclesiastical Lectureship Trust (DELT) for supporting this project with a grant of £75,000, the remaining sum of £16,090 being met from the PCC Repairs & Maintenance Fund. Along with other organisations, DELT also supported a number of Church costs, and thanks go to all who gave Grants during the year. (note 2g)

**Legacies:** Two were received in 2022, the largest being £5,000 that was bequeathed to the Vicars and Churchwardens Discretionary Fund.

**Expenses:** The running expenses of the Church were anticipated to be higher in 2022 than the quieter Covid year of 2021, and these costs ultimately rose to £68,319, a 17.6% (£10.3k) increase. Inflation was undoubtedly a factor, but nearly two thirds of the increase related to two exceptional and unbudgeted items, so that setting these aside, the increase would have been contained to 6.6% (£3.8k) compared to 2021, and 3.3% (£2.1k) below the 2022 Budget.

**Parish Share:** These two unpredicted expenses made it difficult to improve on the £55,928 paid over to the Diocese in 2021, and consequently, the final 2022 contribution was £50,500, well below the invited Diocesan quota, but equal to the PCC 2022 budget.

**Reserves:** The overall funds held by the PCC at the end of 2022 total £542,218 an increase of £158,322 on 2021. This significant increase is very largely due to the Organ Appeal Fund, that holds £202,643 at the close of the year, following a very encouraging six months that raised income of £227,987. (note 11b). All other Funds fell by a net £44,321.

The main contributor to this fall was a £30,914 loss in the value of invested funds (11.4%), as a result of the general downturn in market performance across the globe during 2022. It should be noted that the investment performance for the three previous financial years have seen gains of £80,647.

The current policy of the PCC is to maintain a prudent Cash balance on the Unrestricted General Reserve of £20,000. This target has been achieved, with a balance at 31<sup>st</sup> December of £20,470 (2021 £19,825). (note 9)

Finally, in a challenging year, I must pay tribute to all the Finance team, particularly Sara Marshall and Katrina Ablett, who have worked so hard to keep our finances in such good shape. Thanks also to Peter Wilson, and David Jewell for their continued help and support on the Finance Committee.

*John Reed, Treasurer*

**A copy of the Full Accounts can be found on the website, or by emailing the Parishes office**

## Dedham Parochial Church Council

### Statement of Financial Activities For the year ended 31 December 2022

Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2022 Total Funds	2021 Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Incoming Resources</b>					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income					
2(a)	179,112	51,805	0	230,917	132,492
Activities for generating funds					
2(b)	28,324	185,678	0	214,002	25,553
Investment income					
2(c)	309	6,982	1,784	9,075	6,613
Charitable activities					
2(d)	8,506	4,058	30	12,594	11,355
Other incoming resources					
2(e)	1,248	0	0	1,248	1,184
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>217,499</b>	<b>248,523</b>	<b>1,814</b>	<b>467,836</b>	<b>177,197</b>
<b>Resources used</b>					
Cost of generating funds					
Fundraising/ Trading cost					
3(a)	2,747	770	0	3,517	903
Charitable activities					
3(b)	217,966	54,654	500	273,120	150,561
Governance costs					
3(c)	600	0	0	600	500
Other outgoing resources					
3(d)	1,350	14	0	1,364	1,212
<b>Total Resources used</b>	<b>222,663</b>	<b>55,438</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>278,601</b>	<b>153,176</b>
<b>Net Incoming/Outgoing Resources Before transfers</b>	<b>(5,163)</b>	<b>193,085</b>	<b>1,314</b>	<b>189,236</b>	<b>24,021</b>
<b>Transfers</b>					
Transfers between funds					
12 (d)	1,826	0	(1,826)	0	0
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>					
Gains/(losses) on investment assets					
11/12	0	(20,107)	(10,807)	(30,914)	33,542
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>(3,337)</b>	<b>172,978</b>	<b>(11,319)</b>	<b>159,322</b>	<b>57,563</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
<b>Total Funds brought forward</b>					
	43,659	243,480	96,757	383,896	326,333
<b>Total Funds carried forward</b>	<b>40,322</b>	<b>416,458</b>	<b>85,438</b>	<b>542,218</b>	<b>383,896</b>

## Dedham Parochial Church Council

### Balance Sheet

As at: 31 December 2022

	Notes	Total	
		2022	2021
		£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible Assets	4	3,726	7,452
Investments	5	235,331	265,994
		239,057	273,446
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors	6	11,988	9,353
Cash at bank and in hand		306,480	116,100
	8	318,468	125,453
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Creditors	7	15,307	15,003
Amounts falling due in one year			
<b>Net current assets less current liabilities</b>		303,161	110,450
<b>Total net assets less current liabilities</b>		542,218	383,896
<b>Represented by</b>			
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>			
General Reserves	9	24,196	27,277
Designated Funds	10	16,126	16,382
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>		40,322	43,659
<b>Restricted Funds</b>	11	416,458	243,480
<b>Endowment Funds</b>	12	85,438	96,757
		542,218	383,896

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**  
**for the financial year ended 31st December 2022**

**Report to Dedham Parish Church - Parochial Church Council [PCC]**  
**Charity Number: 1130860**

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set on pages 3 to 12 of the Full Annual Accounts.

**Respective responsibilities of PCC and Examiner:**

The PCC is responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The PCC considers that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that only an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

**Basis of the 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 PCC 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 statement below.

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

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

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act, have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Name of Independent Financial Examiner:  
Date:

Philip Strangward  
8 March 2023

## **Fundraising Team**

This year the fundraising team concentrated on helping with the Flower Festival in October and were very much part of that lovely event doing the catering and also stewarding.

In November we held the Big Breakfast which was also a very successful event, serving in excess of 140 breakfasts.

The team consists of Vee Druitt, Jill Strangward, Beth Mitchell, Pam Tanner, Ann Shaw, Lou Davison and Ruth Higginson.

*Jill Strangward*

## **5. Risk management**

### **Health and Safety**

A Health and Safety meeting is held twice a year. At these meetings, our lists of contractors who perform safety checks is updated. Between meetings, Deb Turner, in our Parishes Office arranges site visits for contractors. Annually, both the church and Duchy Barn are checked for any health hazards and any issues addressed and noted on the risk assessment. First Aid boxes are checked annually. Instructions for completing the Accident Book are in the First Aid box, as is the book. A risk assessment is made before any out of the ordinary activity or service prior to this taking place. In 2022 such events included the Flower Festival and the Crib service. In July an evacuation drill was successfully carried out during a Sunday morning service. A fire extinguisher check was carried out in May.

### **Safeguarding**

The Diocese of Chelmsford is committed, as part of the Christian Church living in the spirit of the Gospel, to protect and care for everyone and we aim to be a beacon of best practice in safeguarding. Looking the other way is not an option.

Safeguarding in our Church is everyone's concern. Our safeguarding procedures have been under review given that for part of the year we have had no Safeguarding Officer. We are grateful to both Richard Hopkins and Amanda Watts for previously filling this important role. The documentation of DBS checks for those who are advised to have them has passed to Deb Turner in our Parishes Office who has now taken on the administration for this. In addition, courses on Safeguarding are available on the Chelmsford Diocese website and Deb is also keeping a record of those who have completed them.

*Vee Druitt*

## **6. Structure, governance and management**

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

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Mary's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our Vicar), churchwardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

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

### **PCC Report**

During 2022, the PCC met 8 times. The members of the PCC during 2022 were Peter Wilson (Churchwarden), Vee Druitt (Churchwarden), John Reed (Treasurer), Paul Brebner, Richard Hopkins, Liz Reed, Linda Redlich, Sharon Sarson, Helen Sims, Gabbie Watson and Lynne Al Sad with Akshay John joining the PCC after the APCM in May.

All our meetings began with prayer for our church and for our discussions and decisions. The PCC's financial situation was discussed and during the year, budgets were approved.

Additionally, our Parish Share contribution was approved. The details of our financial position are

covered in our Treasurer's report. Below is an account of the main subjects addressed during 2022.

At our January meeting we discussed the Deanery Plan and the change that was to take place regarding the 9 parishes in vacancy and the proposed appointment of 2 Rural Missioners to minister to these parishes. The purchase of a supplementary organ was approved as back up should our organ fail completely. Trustee liability and insurance cover for PCC members were also discussed.

In March, our thanks were recorded to the Dedham Education Lectureship Trust (DELT) for agreeing to finance the supplementary organ which had now been purchased. Our parish profile was reviewed and reduced to fit the template for the profile for the Harwich Deanery 9 parishes profile. The possibility of using the temporarily vacant Dedham vicarage as a home for Ukrainian refugees was debated and it was decided to make enquiries to the Diocese. It was agreed that a Goodbox and podium would be purchased to encourage cashless donations in church. Anne Marie Price Partrick was approved as an Authorised Lay Preacher for our parishes. There was an update on our progress towards a new boiler with the news that having taken diocesan advice and despite all other sources of energy being investigated, the most suitable energy source for our church boiler was gas.

In May, Akshay John was welcomed to the PCC. An invitation to put forward questions for applicants at their interviews for the Rural Missioners' positions was discussed. Ukrainian refugee support was discussed after receiving the news that the Diocese would not permit the use of the vicarage for this purpose. Following on from the Leading Your Church into Growth course it was decided that our way forward would be through Mission to our community. Fuel, energy and food costs in particular were rising and ideas for local support were put forward. These included providing food and a warm space. A long term aim to provide a welcome area with comfortable seating at the back of our church was discussed and approved. This would include the consideration of repositioning of the font. Our services were reviewed and thanks recorded to Anne Marie and to Merv for all their help. The news was received that Charlotte Parker had given notice of her resignation as Parish Magazine editor and as administrator for Safeguarding in our parishes. Plans for the forthcoming Flower Festival in October were agreed. Funding for the new organ was reviewed as was progress towards establishing organ committee positions. Health and Safety report was received.

In June, an update on interest for the Rural Missioners positions was received. Preparation for the Archdeacon's forthcoming visitation on July 13<sup>th</sup> were reviewed. An update on the plans for a new organ was received. Christina Volkman's resignation from the role of Eco Church lead was received as well as the news that Sara Marshall had agreed to take on this role. Thanks to both were given.

In July, the PCC received a report on the successful evacuation drill from church. It was completed in 2 minutes. An enquiry had been made regarding the possible use of recyclable paper for the Parish Magazine. Unfortunately, the cost for this was prohibitive. In addition, the Kelvedon Singers concert was reviewed as was the Archdeacon's visitation service. It was reported that there had been 3 applications for the position of Missioner and interviews would be taking place later month. After a very generous donation that had been received on the evening of the Kelvedon Singers concert, the organ project was in a position to be moved forward and discussions were being held with Nicholsons and Co with regard to removing the desired organ from Harvest Church in Glasgow and placing it in store. DELT had agreed to fund  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the expected cost of the new boiler. Richard Hopkins gave a helpful clarification on Safeguarding in our church explaining the roles of Safeguarding Officer and the administration required to ensure that records of relevant people were kept up to date. The Risk assessment for the annual youth barbeque and campout in the vicarage garden were authorised.

In September it was reported that the Quinquennial survey had taken place but there was no report available yet. The faculty for the organ had been approved. The new Church Guide had been completed and DELT were thanked for kindly covering the cost. It was reported that there were now only 2 active Tower Tour guides and more were needed for tours to be possible in future.

In November, it was agreed that the Flower Festival had been a great success both in terms of its creativity and the profit made to support our church. Thanks to all who helped were to be made publicly. Our Missioner, Phillip Young, attended and suggested a Pledge Day to try to address some of the shortfall in our giving. A potential new service pattern was discussed with a view to encouraging a wider church attendance. It was decided that as part of our mission decision to support local people some Christmas parcels would be funded and delivered to families attending Dedham Primary School. Phillip suggested opening a church Instagram account and this was supported. Linda Redlich has resigned from her role as PCC representative on the Friends of Dedham Church committee. Paul(Brebs) Brebner agreed to replace her. Enquiries continued regarding the repair of damaged/worn Altar frontals after a failure to find an organisation to take on this work thus far.

In addition the PCC received a submission from Louise Young offering to set up and take responsibility for a Junior Church to take place on each Sunday except the first Sunday of the month. After the relevant Safeguarding check and safer recruitment procedure had taken place, this initiative began in December with the full approval of the PCC. Our thanks go to Louise bringing to fruition this long term aim for children's ministry.

*Vee Druitt*

Past PCC minutes are available from the website under *Resources tab*

### **PCC Membership**

PCC members who have served at any time from the last APCM on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2022 until the date this report was approved are:

#### **Ex Officio members:**

**Incumbent** – Revd Phillip Young

#### **Churchwardens**

Vee Druitt (elected Sept 2020)

Peter Wilson (elected April 2019)

#### **Elected members and date of election**

Gabbie Watson 2018

Lynne Al-Sad 2018

John Reed 2018

Liz Reed 2020

Paul Brebner 2020

Linda Redlich 2020

Sharon Sarson 2020

Richard Hopkins 2021

Helen Sims 2021

Akshay John 2022

### **The Duchy Barn**

1. The running of the Barn is delegated to a management committee that is accountable to the PCC. During 2022, the committee has met on 4 occasions, chaired by Colin Biggins. The May meeting is always preceded by the AGM. Current membership of the committee is as follows: Colin Biggins (chair), Anne Rowledge (treasurer), Vee Druitt (PCC representative), Steve Mole (Dedham Parish Council representative), Avril Biggins, coffee mornings organiser, Kevin Taylor, Beth Mitchell and Karla Bohn (community representatives).
2. Maintenance and Repairs. During 2022, no major repairs or upgrading work were undertaken. The 5 yearly electrical safety survey was carried out, annual boiler servicing and servicing of the security system were also undertaken. All portable electrical equipment items were tested satisfactorily. An annual Health and Safety survey was also carried out in February by the chairman and Vee Druitt on behalf of the PCC.
3. Activities and hiring etc. Use of the Barn has built up during the year post-covid, with regular community coffee mornings held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings that continue to be well supported and valued by its regular users as well as 'passing trade' from visitors to

the village who are always delighted and intrigued to see inside this ancient building. Local groups and organisations have hired the premises on a regular basis for meetings e.g the Phoenix Homes Colchester charity, the Board of Trustees of Dunton's Almshouses, the Allotment Association, Dedham Parish Council. The Watercolour Art Group meets every Monday morning but the Barn has not been used at all by Dedham Youth Club whose activities have been held in abeyance for some time now. During the year, 3 book sales were held (with coffee and cake) – 2 on a Saturday morning and one on August Bank Holiday Monday - with the proceeds being split between the Barn fund and a nominated charitable cause (EACH, Age UK and Ukrainian Refugee Appeal). Two 'special' coffee mornings were held to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee and Christmas and the Barn was used as a 'hub' during the Jubilee celebrations held on the playing fields, organised by the Parish Council, and on the occasion of the Dedham Fun Run. The premises were also used over a 3 day period during the Flower Festival held in October for the preparation of refreshments that were provided throughout this event in the church. The Barn has also been hired on a number of occasions for small private parties with a regular advertisement appearing in the Parish Magazine.

4. Income. The coffee mornings and hire charges generate a useful income stream. This is supported by the annual grant of £1k from the Nicole Young Trust for which we are extremely grateful. A financial report is provided at each committee meeting and generally an amount of c£1500 is held in a current account and c£30k is held in longer term investment accounts. Anne Rowledge is supported in her role by Sara Marshall finance officer at the Parishes Office which is much appreciated.

*Colin Biggins, Chairman, Duchy Barn Management Committee*

## **Communications**

### **Parishes Office**

2022 was a busy year in the Parishes office. The office is regularly open on a Tuesday and Thursday each week from 10am-12pm. As Parishes Administrator and Volunteers Coordinator, I continue to oversee the office management and administration for both Dedham and Ardleigh churches. I have been fully supported by the wonderful churchwardens, Revd Merv McKinney and many others. The arrival of Revd Phillip Young from October was very welcome. Thanks as always to Sara Marshall for her outstanding finance management support.

*Deb Turner*

### **Parish Magazine**

The magazine continues to be produced and distributed to houses throughout Dedham, as well as copies in local business and Dedham and Ardleigh churches. 1,200 copies are produced, which is funded by the advertising pages. The magazine contains regular input from the Church, Dedham Primary School, Dedham Parish Council and local clubs and groups.

After three years of producing the magazine Charlotte Parker retired as editor and John Goldsbrough took over as editor with the July/August edition as his first edition. A new feature includes articles about Dedham from the British Newspaper Archive. Thank you to all our contributors and the Advertisers who help to keep the magazine afloat, also a thank you to Sara Marshall (Advertising) and Liz Reed for sourcing articles.

### **Website**

The church website, [dedham-and-ardleigh-parishes.org.uk](http://dedham-and-ardleigh-parishes.org.uk), continued to provide a useful focal point for the church community during 2022.

In 2022, the total number of page requests from users on the website was 230,148 a slight fall from the previous year's figure of 265,746. Page Requests are the number of web pages requested by visitors to the web site. The average monthly figure was over 19,179 which

compares favourably with the pre-pandemic figure of 15,000 in 2019. The month with the highest number of requests was March 2022, with over 28,500 requests.

The breakdown of the Page requests by website area shows that Articles on the site received 88,712 requests (2021 – 77,941), Pages (Groups) - 58,649 (2021 – 118,057), Media - 47,680 (2021 – 47,139) and Calendar - 10,798 (2021 – 12,803).

*John Goldsbrough*

### **Facebook**

We now have a Facebook page @dedhamandardleigh which is a good way to keep in touch Do like the page and follow us!

**YouTube** – our YouTube channel is accessible via our church website and currently has over 200 subscribers

## **10. Reports from Charities whose activities are closely related to those of the PCC**

### **Dedham Ecclesiastical Lectureship Trust (DELT)**

This year we have made a financial contribution to the installation of the new boiler at Dedham Parish Church as well as supporting the PCC in other ways. We have also provided funding for specific activities at Dedham Primary School. Our main focus has been on our duty to appoint a Lecturer in the Parish of Dedham, which is something that we are required to do when there is no Vicar of Dedham in office. We have begun the process of seeking someone for the role and hope to make an appointment in due course.

*Richard Hopkins, Chair*

### **Administrative information**

St Mary's Church is situated in The High Street, Dedham. It is part of the Diocese of Chelmsford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is:

*The Parishes Office, The Assembly Rooms, Dedham CO7 6HJ.*

*Registered charity number 1130860.*