



Confirmation at Chelmsford Cathedral 31st March
(Lydia, Sue, Bishop Stephen, Paul, Sarah & Connie)

Dedham and Ardleigh Parishes

The Annual Reports of the PCCs for 2017

St Mary's Church, Dedham APCM 22nd April 2018
St Mary's Church, Ardleigh APCM 29th April 2018

Sue Browne, one of our confirmation candidates, writes

All my life I have considered myself a Christian – I have certainly believed in God for as long as I can remember, and have prayed to God for others throughout; yet I also knew, only too well, I hadn't got it right for me, or him!

With the guidance of the ministry team here in Dedham and Ardleigh Parishes, especially Antony, Merv and Christine, I've realised key areas of my uncertainty, and consequently altered my thinking, and whilst it's still very much 'work in progress', I've finally, fully, put my trust in God's love. This has also been supported by all I've learnt on the Life Explored course; and am learning on Discipleship Explored, both facilitated and led by our ministry team. Still a load more to learn now I know – daunting, but I'm enjoying it and, of course, loving God's love! How different life feels already! Thank you team – I owe each of you a huge debt of gratitude for your gentle, yet positive, guidance and challenges!

Reflecting back I now, *profoundly*, realise that I have always loved the feeling of peace, and tranquillity walking to, and entering chapels, churches, cathedrals, and places of retreat; and enjoyed participating/listening to the hymns, sermons and prayers, and always taken from such; yet my Bible reading/listening only took place when in a Church. The reality is the main focuses of my life were my work role, my human relationships and my caring roles. God was there, but in the background of my life; regrettably not in my foreground – how passive my relationship with him was – looking back, no wonder I felt as I did!

My head has therefore taken a 360 degree turn recently. Happily, and gratefully, I am now devoting much more time to prayer and learning, and thus with the help/guidance of him and the ministry team and our community, gradually, bit by bit, deepening my relationship with the Lord - and for me, that's becoming life changing. I'm certainly learning from him, and about him, all the time - through prayer; through scripture; through living. My journey with the Holy Spirit is, and no doubt will continue to be, challenging.....but heh, I enjoy challenges!

For me, the timing feels right that I confirm, in front of witnesses, my faith in Lord Jesus, and partake in the very poignant taking of bread and wine symbolising his body and blood - which he gave for me, as well as all others.

Thank you to the whole ministry team here along with our church community, for your fellowship and continued guidance and encouragement throughout!

Sarah and Paul Rawlinson, two of our other candidates write

When Paul and I decided back in 2016 to renew our wedding vows at Ardleigh Church we met the new vicar Reverend Antony who helped us to arrange everything and went through all the protocol needed for this. We both felt special during this process. The big day finally arrived and this meant a new chapter in our lives we were celebrating 10 years of marriage.

We were learning a lot on our small journey through the church. Paul by this time had started the Life Explored course and understanding what the bible meant in his life and so our lives began to change.

Since then we, as a family, have got involved including our little boy Harry, whom is 9 years of age, and this has helped tremendously with his confidence. I am finding that having the link between the church and school this makes it easier for us.

Paul has also become a regular at Men's breakfast, home group and also at most events. I, myself, have found that by having faith and belief has helped me through my life in the last year or so through the tough times in our lives. I have this year joined Life Explored and found this of help in my life.

Paul and I have decided to move on a bit further in our lives by being confirmed and we both feel this is the right time to do this and we are now looking towards the future and Harry is looking forward to being there. When the time is right we will follow this process on for him but at the moment he is happy just to be baptised.

Our biggest achievement so far was to let God into our lives and experience this in our everyday lives which in turn reflects a lot of things that have happened in God's World.

Vicar's Benefice Report

It's the evening of Easter Day. What a week we have had together as a church community! At Revive @ 5 on Palm Sunday Steve Kersys (Diocesan Children's Advisor) filled Dedham Church with 'seeds' as he challenged us all to make a difference for God in our community. Since then adults and children have all visited the churches to reflect on the Easter story through the *One Friday* paintings and activities. Over 400 parents, grandparents and children attended our school Easter services. We shared a Maundy Thursday meal together and have celebrated Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

For me the two highlights have been the Easter Eve Confirmation Service at Chelmsford at which 5 of our candidates were confirmed and Rise n Shine on Easter Sunday, where there were over 200 people gathered to celebrate the good news of the Risen Christ.

Jesus is alive and so are our churches! Praise God! The evidence for this is in the lives that you read about at the start and the end of this report – lives transformed by the grace and mercy of God. Of course there are many more stories that could be told, and I am sure you could add your own testimonies to those written down here.

I am so grateful to everyone who plays their part in the life of our churches, to all the ministries whose activities are recorded here, from fabric to flower teams and Friendship Group to name just a few. I would like pay particular thanks to the ministry team who have worked tirelessly over the past year: Merv, Carol, Christine, Sally, Amanda and Claire in the office alongside Sara and Katrina. What we all do creates the seedbed from which God's kingdom can grow, and lives can be transformed. We all play our part and God brings all things to fruition.

In 1 Corinthians chapter 3 Paul writes: *What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe – as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labour. For we are fellow workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building. By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

This year PCCs have been thinking about three key parts of our life together that we need to nurture and develop. These can be summarised simply as UP, IN and OUT

UP – this is our worship of God corporately and individually

IN – this is our fellowship and community life together

OUT – our witness to God's love and the truth of the gospel to the wider community

Later this year we are going to explore the Anglican 5 Marks of Mission and consider how they might further inform and shape our purpose as a Benefice. There will be a morning together on 22 September and I hope you will be able to be there.

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Antony Wilson
April 2018

St Mary's Ardleigh

2017 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

3 February 2018

1. Aim and purposes

St Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Antony Wilson, in 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.

OUR PARISH VISION

Our vision is to make Jesus Christ the foundation of our lives through worship, sacraments, house groups, witness, personal prayer and Bible study and to make the Gospel the standard for our conduct. We aim to extend lay involvement in ministry by training leaders to structure and develop the children's youth, pastoral care and evangelism ministries. We need to reach out in the community and to Our Lord Jesus Christ for renewal in the fellowship.

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. During the year the PCCs of both Dedham and Ardleigh Churches have been exploring proposals to adjust the current service patterns to allow for more effective maintenance of current services and provide mission opportunities for the future. From May 2017 to January 2018 service times were revised to provide a pattern of 8 o'clock and 11 o'clock morning services alternating between Dedham and Ardleigh. Evensong and Revive at 5 remained unchanged. In August 2017 a new service, Rise

n Shine was introduced at Dedham at 9.30am every second Sunday. This has proved to be very popular with all ages of people, but particularly with families.

After a further review at the end of 2017 the pattern of services was amended to its current format.

Monthly pattern				
1 st Sunday	8am Dedham	9.30am Dedham <i>Rise n Shine</i>	I Iam Ardleigh Morning Prayer	5pm Dedham Evensong
2 nd Sunday	8am Ardleigh	9.30am Dedham Holy Communion		
3 rd Sunday	8am Dedham	9.30am Dedham Matins	I Iam Ardleigh The Eucharist	
4 th Sunday	8am Ardleigh	9.30am Dedham Morning Praise		<i>Revive at 5pm at Dedham</i>
5 th Sunday	Joint service		I Iam Ardleigh Morning Worship	

This provides a mid-morning service at Dedham at a consistent time each week, whilst maintaining the historical pattern of services at Ardleigh. It is recognised that this pattern is not perfect but reflects the resources available now that Dedham and Ardleigh are sharing one full time clergy minister.

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 5 baptisms and 0 weddings and held 7 funerals in our church this year.

Church Membership

As required by Church legislation a full revision of the Roll was made in 2013 when all members were required to re-apply. This is constantly updated and there are currently 33 on the Electoral Roll, of whom 20 are residents and 13 are non-residents. Three were added to the roll and 2 were removed from the roll in the year.

Music in worship

We are blessed by the ministry of Geoffrey Boyle and Gregory Frostick, who play the organ for us at our Sunday services. We currently do not have a choir but Helen Fontaine is exploring setting one up with local people.

2017 marked the death of our much loved organist Michael Simmonds and the church was packed for his funeral highlighting the impact he made on so many lives.

Bell Ringers

I have been the tower captain for just over a year now and we are going through an exciting period, we have enough ringers for the Sunday services and are twinning with Langham to ring every other Tuesday, Ardleigh being the 2nd Tuesday of the month. The practices are to hone the methods we know and also to learn new ones.

Since the beginning of last year I was asked if the Ardleigh school could get involved with their "Funky Friday scheme" so we have around 6 children who come down to the church on a Friday to learn to ring and at different stages of the progress get an achievement booklet to keep. So far we have 3 or 4 promising ringers. It is a country wide ambition to get 1400 new ringers

between Armistice Day 2017 and 2018. That is the number of ringers which were killed in the 2 world wars so hopefully we are doing our bit.

There are also plans at the moment to increase the bell to a 10 bell tower by adding 2 lighter bells, this will help the younger ringers to handle the bells as some find they are too heavy for them and they struggle to control the bells.

We are always looking for learners of any age, you don't have to be strong, it's a knack and once you have that knack you will never forget it once you have got through the learners stage there are plenty of methods to learn which is the fun bit.

Robert Barrell, Tower Captain Ardleigh Ringers

Flowers in church

Members: Sue Hulbert; Rita Randall; Diane Arnold; Elaine Brewster and Lynn Askham

The Flower group decorate the church for Easter, Harvest and Remembrance Day. At Christmas, an Advent ring is prepared, foliage and candles for the window sills and flowers for Christmas Day.

The Group also make sure flowers are presented in church as appropriate each week and continued to be watered and maintained.

The Group also put together funeral flower arrangements during the year, the saddest arrangement being for Liz MacGregor's funeral, who was a flower lady herself. A beautiful arrangement of different white flowers was made for her funeral. Three ladies attended a flower workshop organised by Helen Sims in May in Dedham.

Sue Hulbert and Rita Randall go into Ardleigh Primary School once a year to teach year 6 pupils about flower arranging and guiding pupils to make their own arrangements.

Sue Hulbert

Stewards

The following people have served as welcome stewards over the course of the year. We are grateful to them for their practical support of the running of our services.

Richard Culley Christine Mingay David Wright	Robin Hill Barbara Hill Elaine Brewster
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b. The provision of sacred space for worship, personal prayer and contemplation

St Mary's Church

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.

Fabric Report

The most significant event in the year was theft of lead from the North aisle roof which had the unfortunate effect of water penetration which resulted in damage to the organ below. The lead has been replaced and marked with the Smartwater tracing system and the organ repaired. Most of the cost has been covered by insurance. The roof alarm system has been checked and a maintenance programme carried out during the year. Before the lead was stolen the alarm sensor on that part of the roof had been torn off.

Repairs have also been made to the South aisle roof where water was getting through. All the

roof guttering has been checked and cleaned out.

The mortuary building has seen a new coat of paint on the woodwork; the inside of the building has been cleared and tidied and is suitable for storage of suitable items.

Following a tree survey conducted by Ardleigh Parish Council the dead horse chestnut by the Lych-gate has been felled, an elm has been reduced and deadwood removed from a cedar.

We have made alterations to the lighting in church with 14 new LED lights fitted in the nave and we are fortunate to have David Barnard looking after this and other necessary maintenance in the church.

Our major project for the year has been to replace the current heating system with a new gas boiler and radiator one. This will involve introducing a gas supply into the church, fitting a boiler and radiators that are suitable for the Victorian design of the interior. The builders at the time conveniently left space under the floors which can take the necessary pipe-work. With the agreement of the PCC, Gregory Frostick has kindly undertaken the work of planning in consultation with a heating engineer and we are most grateful to them both for this. We will all appreciate a warm church, particularly with the increase in planned children's activities.

Faculties have either been granted or application made for the heating system, fitting of a wall-mounted changing mat in the toilet and the replacement of our church notice-board.

Works following the Quinquennial report are now the responsibility of the PCC secretary and we are making gradual progress on the repairs necessary.

Martin West

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

LAY EVANGELIST'S REPORT As an evangelist I spend time listening to people and sharing God's Word about his love shown in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I also spend time praying alone or with others for God's blessing and truth to be clearly seen and experienced. On the pastoral side I visit the bereaved and answer calls for help or inquiries from visitors. This year I have been involved in several new situations as well as continuing as before.

The first new initiative was the Thursday evening service in Ardleigh. We use a simple liturgy, read the Bible and comment on the passage and pray for the people of Ardleigh. It is open to all including Methodist and Catholic Christians. Also in the church I have a booklet stall and have made a devotional guide to the church for visitors as well as updating the history guide.

I gave a talk about life in community in May 2017 at Revive @ 5 and I continue to work on the team for that service and for Rise and Shine. I worked the whole week for the Pirates Ahoy summer outreach to children and hope to do the same this summer. I also helped with the follow up visits.

In June I was invited to join the ministry team and meet weekly. Since then I have been more involved in visiting, leading groups at the vicarage, doing Bible studies at home, praying with individuals and in preaching at both churches. It was a privilege to take part in the baptism of Lisa Miles and Denny Cousins in the River Stour at the end of July. During December I visited over 40 businesses in Ardleigh with invitations to the Business Carol Service.

I am a supporter of the Ardleigh Christian Fellowship. The monthly meeting began in May 2015 in the Methodist Church. Studying the Bible and praying together continues to be a great encouragement. At the start of this year we began eating and praying together to get to know each other better. At the February meeting we decided to work more closely together with the logo ACT – Ardleigh Christians Together. One of the first outcomes is the training in joint pastoral care taking place at the Vicarage in March 2018.

Christine Mingay

Friendship Group

It was with great sadness to hear of the loss of our dear friend Elizabeth Macgregor in October 2017. She was great company and full of enthusiasm at our monthly meetings.

Many friends continue to come each month to have coffee and cake and a chat.

We have enjoyed celebrating Burns with Haggis and pancakes in February. In the summer we went to the Clacton Summer Show with fish and chips afterwards. We had a Christmas party and went for a meal at Acorn Village. Our new vicar, Antony, has also visited and invited us for coffee and cake at the vicarage in the summer.

Long may the group continue and hopefully grow. New friends will always be welcome.

Pat Newton

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

We are grateful to all who have faithfully preached from the Bible during last year.

Reverend Carol Mitson stepped back from regular involvement with services in January and we are hugely grateful to her for her faithful ministry amongst us.

Several small groups have met in homes throughout the year and have provided fellowship, bible discussion and prayer for those who have attended.

We have journeyed through several different preaching series over the course of the year: Encounters with Jesus in John's gospel, Summer Psalms, Colossians and the Solas of the Reformation, alongside the teaching at festivals and the liturgical calendar.

We joined with churches across the country in **Thy Kingdom Come** initiative at Pentecost based around a parish walk, worship and prayer stations.

Life Explored took place again in January and was once again very successful in helping those who wanted to explore their faith. Many have continued with the Discipleship Explored course.

e. The taking of religious assemblies in schools and pastoral and evangelist work with children and families

I have had another varied year working with children in Ardleigh. I remain a Co-Opted Governor at the school. Weekly Collective Worship continues - our themes for the past year have been the Christian Values of Hope, Friendship and Wisdom.

In December 2017 the school had a SIAMS inspection, Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools. Ardleigh St Mary's achieved an Outstanding Grade, the highest outcome possible. Four areas which stood out for the inspector were:

- *The focus on three different Christian values each year, matched carefully to the pupils at that point, means that the school meets the needs of individual pupils very effectively.*
- *A strong focus on personal reflection and prayer means that pupils are well prepared spiritually and emotionally for the world in which they live.*
- *Collective worship is used very well to ensure that all pupils are able to apply the school's values to their lives both within and beyond the school day.*
- *Religious education (RE) is approached in creative and relevant ways to blend in well with the wider school curriculum. This helps to deepen pupils' understanding of diversity in the world.*

The Head Teacher, staff, children, Reverend Antony and I have been working for many years to develop Collective Worship and Religious Education and we are very pleased with the outcome of this inspection. I look forward to working with the team to develop these areas even more over the coming years.

ADD club, Ardleigh Discovery Detectives, grows in strength each term. Children continue to take an active part in Collective Worship as well as enhancing the school environment. ADD club was asked to maintain a flower bed so they created a Nativity Scene for Christmas. The

area now displays the colours of the Christian year. Some class 3 children continue to look after the Easter Garden in the village.

As well as attending staff meetings, ADD members have started to attend Governor meetings updating the Governors with what ADD Club have been doing. They do this with great enthusiasm.

Regular prayer meetings are taking place where we pray for the school community, children, parents, carers, teachers and helpers.

Spirituality and the Outdoors continue for various year groups. One of the activities was thinking of a question to ask God. These questions were written down, decorated and are now displayed in the Peace Garden. Some children have made stars out of wood which are also in the Peace Garden. ADD Club members came up with other symbols that they thought would improve the garden, a rainbow, a sheep, a fish and a shepherd's crook. Add Club have put together a story in a bag, the Rich Farmer, and given it to two of our teachers to take to our Partner school St Pauls in Kenya.

A new after school club has started called Open the Box. I place a story and activities, crafts and games, in a box and then explore the box with the children. So far, we have explored some parables and miracles.

There is a bright corner in St Mary's Church with books, pictures to colour and games. There is also a display from the school, Ardleigh Preschool and Orchard Barns.

I continue to visit Ardleigh Preschool and Orchard Barns telling bible stories, making Christingles and talking about Easter Gardens. I had the honour of being the narrator for the Preschool Nativity play, Little Star. Mums, Dads, Grandparents, friends and class 1 enjoyed hearing the Christmas story and singing the songs.

Christmas Eve saw the return of a joint Nativity and Christingle Service. We gave out 100 Christingles creating cherished memories. Adults and children enjoyed the special warmth from the lit candles and the joy of the Christmas story.

*All the light and glory
Turned into the Christmas story.
See the darkened stable
Lit up with a newly born baby.
And the Son still shines now
Turning night to day.
Loving, healing, saving.*

I would like to say thank you to all who helped, from handing out service sheets and welcoming people, reading the story, holding the giant signs, to those lighting the Christingles. £200 was raised. The money was shared out between The Children's Society and Beacon House.

Plans are underway to develop "All Age Worship" in St Mary's, in some form, to work alongside Rise n' Shine and Revive@5.

The children are a delight to work with and come up with amazing challenging questions. I look forward to the coming year.

Amanda Watts

ST MARY'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT

As another year comes to an end, 2017 has been a year of success and change.

The Head and Staff are a dedicated team who are continuing to ensure a high standard of Teaching, Learning and Assessment, for all their pupils. In March, Ofsted visited the school for a Short Inspection and confirmed that the school continues to be judged "Good", since the previous Inspection in 2012, and who are now working towards "Outstanding". Improved

standards in English and Maths had been achieved and a continuing interest in the school resulted in a Roll of 116 Pupils between the years of 4 to 11 years' of age.

This was followed in December with a Church School Inspection, by the Diocese of Chelmsford (known as SIAMS, which is: a Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools). The school was awarded "Outstanding", which was a wonderful reflection on all the hard work since the previous Inspection in 2012!

Ardleigh school continues to maintain its strong Link (via the Diocese), with its Partnership with St Paul's Primary School in Kenya, and it is hoped that another Staff Exchange will be possible in early 2018.

The school's Link with St Mary's Church, had been strengthened with the appointment of the Reverend Antony Wilson, towards the end of 2016, for the parishes of Ardleigh and Dedham. Since then, he leads *Collective Worship* in the school on a regular basis. And school children have visited the church on many occasions, throughout the year.

In March, the children participated in the Messy Church Colouring Competition, which was a Butterfly, representing the whole life cycle of Jesus, then again in December, when the children coloured a Stained-Glass Window. There were many lovely entries, which were displayed in church over Christmas.

The school attended the Easter service at the church and each child was given a Palm Cross, as a reminder that Jesus died on Good Friday.

In June, the School Fete took place and was blessed with fine weather and many families and friends attended.

In the autumn the school attended St Mary's church for their Harvest Thanksgiving celebration.

On Sunday, 12 November, some of the Children attended the Church for the Remembrance Day service and placed a Wreath on the War Memorial.

During December, the school attended the church for the Christingle Service, then later in the month, the Carol Concert took place in church to a packed audience of families and friends.

There were some staff changes during the year, due to the Retirement of Mrs Janice Peru, in July, who had been teaching at the school for many years. New Staff were appointed during the autumn.

Finally, After-School Clubs are well supported and continue to offer a wide range of activities from Bell Ringing (Campanology) to Squash.

Barbara Hill – PCC Church Foundation Governor

Messy Church Report

2017 was another busy year for Messy Church. We have held several sessions during the year. We started with 'Wings of Spring' in April, 'Caring and sharing with Rainbow Fish' in May, 'Holiday fun' in July, 'Baby Moses' in October and 'Countdown to Christmas' in December. All of the sessions were held in Ardleigh Church and Great Bromley Church, apart from 'Baby Moses' which was held in Great Bromley Village Hall. Unfortunately, due to the snowy weather our session planned for December had to be cancelled at the last minute.

We have kept the price at £1 per child donation. The format is the same: refreshments, stories, crafts, songs, prayer and a light meal to finish. We have a mixture of regular and new faces at the sessions.

Numbers for the sessions have varied but the lowest attendance was 27 children increasing up to 43 children for the last two sessions. We held all of them (except December) at the start of the school holidays which is always a popular time.

The children who came to the sessions seem to enjoy what we do and when they leave with

their families they always seem happy. We have some lovely helpers and the committee work hard to ensure a well organised session. We have found some different themes and crafts and provide games for the children to be active. Our DBSs are all up to date and most of us have now completed on-line safe guarding training. Ruth does a risk assessment before each session.

At the end of June, beginning of July we had the Great Bromley Flower Festival. The Rainbow Fish theme was continued to do a lovely display organised by Yvonne. We used some items which had been made at our session in May by the children. We had some tables with crafts on for any children to help themselves to. Jenny and Yvonne then took part of the display to the Tending show.

We held an Easter Competition for both schools, asking them to decorate a butterfly picture. We had a total of 86 entries from both schools. The butterflies were lovely and were on display in their churches over Easter. We also held a Christmas Competition asking both schools to decorate a stained glass window. The results were amazing and we had a total of 57 entries, quite good for a busy time of year. All the entries receive a prize and are displayed in their churches for everyone to see.

All of our events are promoted by posters, flyers and emails. The schools and playgroups are good at sending out information for us.

We have been happy to see both Simon Heron and Antony Wilson at some of our Messy church sessions and have been pleased to receive their input. Due to the split between the parishes, it has been decided that any future events will now be held separately.

Carol Cordwell- Chairman of the Children's Committee (Messy Church)

4. Ecumenical relationships

Deanery Synod

One member of the PCC sits on the deanery synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

Deanery Synod Report

The most significant issue during the year has been the final approval and enacting of the Pastoral Measure for the deanery including the creation of the joint Benefice of Dedham and Ardleigh. As a result Antony, who was appointed as Priest-in-Charge is now stipendiary Vicar of Dedham and Ardleigh. Ongoing discussions in the deanery have focused on how the churches can best work together and with schools in the deanery taking account also of the housing expansion plans for Colchester and Tending.

The deanery has prepared a proposal for the establishment of a Mission and Ministry Partnership (elsewhere known as a Mission and Ministry Unit) for the whole deanery, which, after approval within the diocese, will start to be implemented during this year. The proposal largely concerns collaborative working within the deanery however there may eventually be an impact on the financial structure of the deanery. Initially the parish share calculations will continue as before and allocations will be to the benefices. Allocation to churches within a benefice will be done by the concerned churches.

The deanery is also implementing the necessary arrangements required by new General Data Protection Regulations which come into effect during this year.

Brian Moore - Dedham PCC Representative

Ardleigh Christians Together

There has been a regular monthly prayer meeting attended by Christians from the Anglican, Methodist and Roman Catholic Congregations in the village. There is now a feeling that it is time to ACT and reach out in more visible ways to the village. Ideas at present include litter picking

and pastoral visiting to homes. It is really encouraging to see the way that Christians are working together.

Antony Wilson

5. Financial review

Ardleigh St Mary the Virgin Statement of Assets as at 31 December 2017													
	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	A	B	
	Total	Vicar's Rooms	PCC Property	PCC Property	Bell Fund	Organ Fund	Lighting Fund	Youth Fund	Fabric fund	Church Maintenance Fund	Church Operational Expenses Fund	Flower Fund	General Fund
Balance at at 31.12.16	176,765.63	92,648.92	4,526.14	37.23	3,179.96	1,480.07	2,000.00	466.75	8,724.19	5,000.00	10,000.00	621.30	48,081.07
Cash Receipts for period	2,364.78	-			385.00	980.18		750.00					249.60
Inter Fund Transfers	-	-							45,000.00	(5,000.00)	(10,000.00)		(30,000.00)
Utilisation of Funds	(11,290.90)				(24.00)			(532.97)	(5,718.08)				(5,015.85)
Revaluation	408.26		408.57	(0.31)									
Tax Recoveries due	(2,525.57)												(2,525.57)
Prior year tax received (2016)	1,837.86												1,837.86
Balance at at 31.12.17	167,560.16	92,648.92	4,934.71	36.92	3,540.96	2,460.25	2,000.00	683.88	48,006.11	-	-	870.90	12,377.51
A- Restricted Funds	CHECK												
B- Designated Funds	167,560.16												
Youth Fund	-												
Pre School Bible books		58.04											
Ardleigh School Table chairs		242.99											
CLC Int Children's corner supplies		129.53											
A Watts reimburse Children's corner supplies		102.31											
		632.87											

Interfund Transfers

£5,000, £10,000 and £30,000 from the Church Maintenance Fund, Church Operational Expenses Fund and the General Fund respectively to the Fabric Fund

Rationale

Provide greater clarity in respect of usage of the funds

Ardleigh St Mary the Virgin

Income & Expenditure Accounts for the 12 months to 31 December 2017

	Item	31.12.17	31.12.16	Variance	% change
Payments					
Ministry Expenses	1	8,146.87	2,700.11	(3,445.56)	128%
Church Expenses					
Heating & Light		1,756.65	964.52	(792.13)	
Insurance		2,765.82	2,641.76	(124.06)	5%
Rates		126.95	84.95	(42.00)	49%
Church Maintenance		3,277.59	3,908.36	630.77	-16%
Other Parish Expenses		602.38	549.30	(53.08)	10%
Church Running costs		8,629.39	8,148.89	(380.50)	5%
Administration-Bromley		-	53.67	53.67	
Administration-Ardleigh		327.82	618.33	290.51	
Secretarial- Ardleigh		1,146.75	-	(1,146.75)	
Church Running costs including Administration	2	10,803.96	8,820.89	(1,983.07)	13%
Parish Giving	3	137.40	318.00	180.60	
Parish Share and Deanery - (£817.00 per month)	4	11,004.00	10,272.24	(731.76)	7%
TOTAL EXPENSES		27,291.63	22,111.34	(5,178.78)	23%

Receipts					
Voluntary Income					
Planned Giving		4,434.96	4,499.96	(65.00)	-1%
Gift Aided Giving		4,597.30	2,826.00	1,771.30	63%
Recoverable Income tax		2,525.57	1,831.49	694.08	38%
Collections		2,231.60	1,965.88	265.72	14%
Offertory Box/Candlestand		148.10	165.30	(17.20)	-10%
	5	13,937.63	11,288.63	2,648.80	23%
Activities for generating funds					
Fund Raising-September Flower festival		-	-	-	
Dedham Music Festival (1/3rd of proceeds)		343.77	-	343.77	
	6	343.77	-	343.77	
Donations					
Roman Catholic community (% of Church Running costs)	40%	3,434.00	3,399.00	35.00	1%
Other Donations- General		1,437.50	908.30	529.20	58%
Other Donations- Building (to canvas)		367.40	50.00	317.40	
	7	5,238.90	4,357.30	881.60	20%
Income from Church activities					
Parochial Fees-Weddings		147.00	2,705.00	(2,559.00)	
Parochial Fees-Funerals		3,333.40	2,374.00	959.40	
Assigned Fees		(1,582.39)	(2,620.94)	1,038.55	
Total Net Parochial Fees	8	1,898.01	2,468.06	(561.06)	-23%
Transition Locum Fees		-	1,312.00	-	
Sundry Income		223.60	138.40	85.20	62%
	9	2,121.61	3,808.46	(1,787.86)	-48%
Income from Investments					
Bank Interest- Barclays Bank (Tfr from Chelmsford)		357.78	394.58	(36.80)	-9%
Bank Interest-CBF Deposit Fund (Reinvested)		275.59	459.02	(183.43)	
	10	633.37	863.60	(230.23)	-28%
TOTAL INCOME		22,276.18	20,408.99	1,868.18	9%
OPERATING (DEFICIT) / SURPLUS- GENERAL FUND		(5,015.85)	(1,702.25)	(3,313.60)	
Donations					
Flower Fund		249.60	211.20		
Church Maintenance- Net cost of Reinstalling Lead theft					
Church Maintenance- Lighting Upgrade		(5,718.08)			
Youth Fund		750.00			
Bell Fund-Donations		385.00			
Bell Fund-Expenses		(24.00)			
Organ Fund		980.18			
Children & Youth Work		(532.87)			
Asset revaluation		408.26	454.25		
Tax Recoverable current year		(2,525.57)	(1,831.49)		
Tax Receipts Refund			10,105.00		
Prior year tax received		1,837.86			
		(4,188.62)	8,938.96		
TOTAL (DECREASE)/ INCREASE IN FUNDS		(9,206.47)	7,237.71		

Treasurers Report for the year ending 31 December 2017

Introduction

This is my eleventh report as treasurer and I am now able to spend more time on PCC matters having retired in December 2015.

I would like to thank David Wright and his team in ensuring that the weekly collections are banked timely with supporting documentation prepared on a timely basis and my wife in completing the book-keeping.

I also offer my thanks to all those who have donated cash and given their time to organise and support fund raising activities.

Finally, I thank Mr Phipps for his role as Independent Examiner of the accounts for the year to 31 December 2017.

Overview and Operating Statement

I refer to the operating statement as it is important to communicate the continuing adverse financial results for the year ended 31 December 2017.

To provide clarity and transparency in respect of the Finances of the Church Accounts, the Funds have been reclassified as disclosed in the Statement of Assets and with comparatives together with the adoption of robust financial management principles.

For the year, expenses have increased by 23% from £22,114 to £27,291. Income has increased by 9% from £20,409 to £22,275 leaving an operating deficit of £5,015 for the year ended 31 December 2017 (Deficit £1,702; 31.12.16). The operating result for the year reflects the slight increase in the monthly Parish Share payable from £856 per month to £917 with effect from 1 January 2017 resulting in the partial payment of our Parish share of £11,004 for the year (2016; £10,272). This is after paying the Parish Share in full for the previous two consecutive years and there is more detail on this later in my report.

Detailed Review

Expenses

Parish Share

The Parish Share expenses for the year to 31 December 2017 amount to £11,004 (2016; £10,272). This is by far the biggest expenditure of the PCC. The operating deficit for the year is £1,702 (2015; £2,727). The initial Parish Share allocated by the Chelmsford Board of Finance amounted to £29,190 a rise of 168% following the introduction of a new calculation methodology. This was reduced to £19,421 net of a transition relief and is clearly unsustainable at this level.

I must report that although significant effort was made to obtain explanations from the Chelmsford Board of Finance, there has been a total lack of communication from the Board. Despite this negativity, the PCC graciously increased the Parish Share, using the General Fund Reserves.

Ministry Expenses

There has been a 128% increase in Ministry expenses and it relates to a combination of expenses of the new Vicar in place since December 2016 and Ministry Books.

Income

As noted earlier, total income has increased by 9% to £22,275. Voluntary income has increased by 23% with Gift Aided Giving increasing by 63% to £4,597. It is important to note that the level of comparable total income for the year ending 31 December 2007 was £46,000. It will be challenging to raise the level of income to these levels but clearly as a congregation we need to take active steps to achieve this aim.

There was no significant fund-raising activity for 2017 (2016 £Nil) other than £344 raised from a Joint Summer Festival with the Dedham Parish Church. Donations from the Roman Catholic community have increased by £100 to £850 per quarter; £3,434 (2016; £3,399) per annum.

Another significant impact on the accounts is the continued extremely low interest rates with the decrease in interest as reported.

Non-Recurring Expenditure and Income

£5,718 was incurred on upgrading the lighting of the church and use was made of the Fabric Fund. A claim for Gift Aid Tax refund was made on-line in September 2017 for £1,837 including interest receivable of £6.37 with the refund settled in the same month.

Overall Funds at 31 December 2017

Following a detailed review of the various funds, there was a reclassification as noted in the Statement of Assets into Restricted and Designated Funds. The new classifications provide greater clarity as to use of the various Funds. All operational expenses will be funded through the Revenue Account and from income received in the year.

The closing cash balance of the Total funds amount to £176,766 a decrease of £9,205 from 1st January 2017.

Conclusion

The Parish share is the single largest item that St Mary's needs to fund and for the year to 31st December 2017 amounted to £11,004. As with all expenses, the outgoings are funded through the General Fund-Revenue Account and for each discrete year. However, for this year, the PCC have agreed to use the General Fund Reserves to fund £5,016 of the Parish Share. I note that the change in the Parish Share allocation method following 15 years of using the old method has caused the Parish share to increase by 168% before application of transitional relief in 2017.

The PCC is taking active steps to ensure the Parish Share for 2018 onwards is calculated on a fair, just and consistent basis, in the light of the implementation of a new basis taking effect from 1 January 2017.

It is also the intention of the PCC to use the Funds raised from the sale of the Vicar's rooms for a heating project in 2018. However, we must ensure that Charity Legislation is complied with fully.

Francis Perera ACA
Treasurer

1 March 2018

Independent examiner's report to the PCC of St Mary the Virgin, Ardleigh

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended December 2017.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

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

It is my responsibility to

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiners Statement

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

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 s. 130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare accounts, which accord with these accounting records 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.



Mr R J Phipps ACMA, PGCE
181 Eastwood drive
Colchester

1 March 2018

6. Reserves policy

The PCC will be drawing up a Policy for its Reserves in 2018.

7. Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

There are no funds held on behalf of others

8. Plans for future periods

PCC objectives for the current year

To explore the Anglican 5 marks of mission to help us understand our purpose as a church

To develop links with Dedham Parish

To develop ecumenical links within the village

To complete the faculty paperwork for sharing the church with the RC congregation

To complete the project to install new heating in the church

To raise levels of voluntary giving to support our ministry and mission

9. Risk management

Health and Safety

An inspection of the premises was done by Elizabeth MacGregor together with David Barnard.

Elaine Brewster

The PCC does not currently have an overall Risk Management Policy - it will be working in 2018 to identify areas of risk and ways to mitigate that risk, using the guidance from the Charity Commission.

10. 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 priest-in-charge), 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

The PCC met 8 times during the year and there was an open meeting for members on the Electoral Roll to review service patterns and plan for the future.

The PCC year began with a paper from Antony on Dressing for worship where we considered what was appropriate clergy dress for Ardleigh's types of service as we had stated in our Parish profile and what is required by Canon law, and we concluded that an alb and stole were required for Eucharistic services. It was a useful exercise for us before the review of our service patterns which continued through the first part of the year.

During the year the PCC purchased new NIV pew Bibles, a new hymn book (Ancient and Modern version) and considered and introduced a new service booklet. We discussed and approved a code of conduct for PCC members to be aware of in their discussions and decision making while also reminding us of our responsibilities as members of the PCC. This was followed up with the introduction of a booklet from the Archbishops Council on Trusteeship for PCC members.

The PCC approved policies on the following:

The Baptism of Infants and Children

A parish activity plan on working with children and bellringing

A safeguarding statement (for both Ardleigh and Dedham)

Marriage of divorcees in church

Internment of ashes area

Planning for future events: we set up a sub-committee to organise a Flower Festival during October 2018.

Sadly during the year we saw the deaths of Elizabeth MacGregor, a long-serving and much appreciated member of the PCC, and Michael Simmonds, our organist of over 50 years who contributed so much both to the musical life of St Mary's as well as in Colchester and Suffolk.

The organ:

Organ tuning is now the responsibility of Andrew Stevens who also tunes for Dedham. The key board has been repaired and a quiet stop provided on the great organ. We now have two organists organised.

Martin West, PCC secretary

Safeguarding

As required the DBS certification process has been carried out in conjunction with Chelmsford Diocese and certificates have been obtained for Barbara Hill and Francis Perera. Christine Mingay successfully completed the Adult Safeguarding Training.

Elaine Brewster

PCC Membership

Ex Officio members:

Incumbent The Reverend Antony Wilson (appointed Priest in Charge 9 Nov 2016)

Churchwardens

none

Elected members and date of election

Francis Perera (Treasurer) APCM 2015

Martin West (Secretary) APCM 2015

Elaine Brewster APCM 2015

Richard Culley APCM 2015

Barbara Hill APCM 2017

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.

The Parishes Office Report

The office opening hours continue to be Tuesdays 9-11am and Thursdays 11am to 1pm As Parishes Administrator and Volunteers Coordinator, I continue with all of the office administration for both Dedham and Ardleigh churches but also oversee the management of health and safety for all church buildings and safeguarding. *Claire Arculus*

Communications

Ardleigh Advertiser

Monthly information is sent to advertise services and events.

Website

The new website dedham-and-ardleigh-parishes.org.uk was launched in June 2017. The website uses the Church info platform which is based on a Content Management System which allows site administrators to update site pages without any programming skills.

The new features include a media section where sermons and other audio files, such as the Dedham lecture are stored, a Contact Form which visitors to the site can use to contact the Parish Office, a detailed church calendar which can be printed or sent to a mobile calendar application and a useful site search option.

In the 9 months since the website went live there have been almost 83,000 Page Requests, i.e the number of web pages requested by visitors to the web site. The peak month was November 2017 with over 16,000 requests. As far as visitor location is concerned, the site statistics shows that the USA has the highest number of page requests followed by the UK and then Germany.

The breakdown of the Page requests by website area shows that Articles received 22,700 requests, Calendar 13,700 and Media 7,200.

John Goldsborough

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
ST MARY'S CHURCH, ARDLEIGH
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON Sunday 9 April 2017

Chaired by the Revd Antony Wilson Number in attendance: 15

The meeting opened with prayers

VESTRY MEETING

1. Election of Clerk. Richard Culley proposed and Tubby Austin seconded and Martin West was appointed Clerk to the meeting.
2. Election of Churchwarden. No nominations were received and no election was made. Antony Wilson pointed out that it was a serious thing to have no nomination. The churchwarden is overseer of the church and an appointment is important for Antony as a new appointee as he is left vulnerable without a churchwarden. We can co-opt later but it should be a priority of the PCC to fill the position.
3. David Barnard. Grateful thanks for his services as Churchwarden were recorded. He has always been there when needed. A token of our appreciation was made to him

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Election of Clerk to the APCM. Barbara Hill and David Barnard seconded and Martin West was appointed Clerk to the meeting.
2. Apologies were received from Pat Gentry, Elaine Brewster, Gregory Frostick, David Wright. Christine was appointed teller for the meeting
4. Minutes of the APCM meeting held on 3 April 2016. Approval of the minutes as an accurate record was proposed by Rita Randall and seconded by Elizabeth MacGregor and they were therefore accepted.
5. Matters arising from the minutes. No matters were raised
6. Electoral Roll: Elaine reported that the figure is the same, we lost one and gained another. Number on Roll 35 at 1 April 2017 (19 resident in the Parish, 16 not resident in the Parish)
7. Elections:
8. To Parochial Church Council - Barbara Hill was proposed by Martin and seconded by Elaine and
9. was therefore elected to the PCC.
10. To Deanery Synod – No election was made.
11. Election of Sidespersons
 - a. Nicky Bailey David Wright Pat Gentry Barbara Hill Elizabeth MacGregor
 - b. John Culley Richard Culley Christine Jackson Elaine Brewster George Beeken
 - c. All were proposed *en bloc* and were accordingly elected.
12. Annual Report: Copies of the Annual Report for the year were presented at the meeting. Discussion followed:

- a. Barbara Hill queried the current website and Antony said that there will be one website for both churches in the Benefice. He also commented that earlier in the year the PCC will have a discussion on service patterns. We now have an 11.00 Sunday service at Ardleigh which enables an all age 9.30 service to be fitted in at Dedham. 4 times a year we will have 5TH Sunday joint service with Dedham. In agreement with the Archdeacon we will also make formal our sharing relationship with the RC congregation in Ardleigh.

13. Financial report

- a. Francis commented that in the year the voluntary income was down by 14%, overall income down 5%. However, there was an increase in wedding and funeral fee receipts. Of other costs, church maintenance expenses are variable. We are investigating using the funds from the sale of the Vicar's Rooms to augment church facilities.
- b. Questions on the accounts – Pat asked what happened to the fund for the Friendship Group? Noted that there is a Flower fund of £621.
- c. Barbara enquired about the Parish Share and whether it was expected that the extra cost would need to be drawn from the general fund.
- d. Antony discussed rising costs , eg secretarial costs, which have increased because we have no churchwarden and administration has to be dealt with by the parish office so those costs will inevitably go up.
- e. Brenda Mclean asked if we would be re-establishing Gift Day as a fundraiser – Antony said that gifts should be given by the congregation rather than relying on outside sources and reminded us that 30 April is Stewardship Sunday.
- f. Rita commented that Gift Day had worked well in the past as a giving occasion supported by the village. It was agreed to discuss whether within the PCC.
- g. Appointment of Independent Examiner
- h. Mr Phipps was willing to continue as Independent Examiner and his appointment was proposed by Martin West and seconded by Barbara Hill. We recorded our thanks to him and he was reappointed as Independent Examiner.
- i. Adoption of accounts following the report: Martin proposed and Nicky Bailey seconded the proposal to adopt the accounts, all were in favour and the accounts were therefore adopted.

14. Churchwarden's report

- a. David Barnard reported on fabric. We are continuing to address items noted in the Quinquennial report and work on the damp in the mortuary building. The PCC has voted to replace the main lighting but the Diocesan lighting adviser has lost our files so we must begin our application for a faculty once more. Last July the area Dean inspected the silver, ornaments etc for the Archdeacon's inspection. David thanked all those who had supported him in the past year.

15. Joint Benefice report

- a. Ardleigh is formally joined with Dedham and both PCCs have approved the Pastoral measure. We have had joint services worshipping in both services. The pattern of services from May means there is an 8 o'clock service every Sunday, also an 11 o'clock (but different locations). The Life Explored course has been successful and attended by more than 20 people.

16. Deanery Synod

- a. Barbara reported that there had been Harwich Deanery synod meetings in

Lawford and Mistley and the Deanery plan will be announced this year. We recorded thanks from Antony to Barbara for her work in this area over a long period of time.

17. Priest in charge's report

- a. Antony remarked that he heard about the vacancy on Maundy Thursday and will commemorate this date. What encouragements can we share from the last year?
- b. Martin said Antony's appointment naturally, and a change now in the pattern of our services was welcome
- c. Christine: the Tuesday meeting in Dedham at 10.30 is important to her, also the introduction of the new pew bibles.
- d. The PCC is pushing ahead with heating plans.
- e. Antony is grateful to Merv and Carol for their support and their time: their ministry is given freely. Much of Antony's time is taken up by maintenance, whether the fabric of, or the life of the church.
- f. Antony said that the job he took was advertised as for a missionary priest; the God of mission has a church and we are told to 'go and make disciples of all nations'. Therefore it is up to us to be agents of change and it is essential that we reach out to the children in our parishes as they are the present and the future of our church – Antony commends Amanda's report on her work in the benefice.

18. AOB – none

19. Date of next PCC meeting: 6 April May 2017 at 9.30 at Dedham.

20. The meeting closed with prayers at 13.05 pm.

St Mary's Church, Ardleigh

AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Sunday 29 April 2018

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 Rector 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.

d) appointment of auditor for the coming year.

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

11. Other verbal reports including joint Benefice Report *Priest in Charge*

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) P.C.C. representatives

14. Priest in Charge's report to the Benefice

15. 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)

P.C.C. MEETING The AGM is followed by a short meeting of the P.C.C. to elect:

a) Lay-chair.

b) Secretary.

c) Treasurer.

d) Electoral Roll Officer.

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

2017 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
27th March 2018

1. Aim and purposes

St Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Antony Wilson, in 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*).

Church members are encouraged to follow in the footsteps of the earliest Christians who were encouraged by St Peter to: *in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3 verse 15)*

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 week and over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. During the year the PCCs of both Dedham and Ardleigh Churches have been exploring proposals to adjust the current service patterns to allow for more effective maintenance of current services and provide mission opportunities for the future. From May 2017 to January 2018 service times were revised to provide a pattern of 8 o'clock and 11 o'clock morning services alternating between Dedham and Ardleigh. Evensong and Revive at 5 remained unchanged. In August 2017 a new service, Rise n Shine was introduced at Dedham at 9.30am every second Sunday. This has proved to be very popular with all ages of people, but particularly with families.

After a further review at the end of 2017 the pattern of services was amended to its current format.

Monthly pattern				
1 st Sunday	8am Dedham	9.30am Dedham <i>Rise n Shine</i>	I Iam Ardleigh Morning Prayer	5pm Dedham Evensong
2 nd Sunday	8am Ardleigh	9.30am Dedham Holy Communion		
3 rd Sunday	8am Dedham	9.30am Dedham Matins	I Iam Ardleigh The Eucharist	
4 th Sunday	8am Ardleigh	9.30am Dedham Morning Praise		<i>Revive at 5pm at Dedham</i>
5 th Sunday	Joint service		I Iam Ardleigh Morning Worship	

This provides a mid-morning service at Dedham at a consistent time each week, whilst maintaining the historical pattern of services at Ardleigh. It is recognised that this pattern is not perfect but reflects the resources available now that Dedham and Ardleigh are sharing one full time clergy minister.

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 7 baptisms and 4 weddings and held 5 funerals in our church this year.

Church Membership

As required by Church legislation a full revision of the Roll was made in 2013 when all members were required to re-apply. This is constantly updated and there are currently 237 on the Electoral Roll, of whom 117 are residents and 115 are non-residents. There have been 3 deaths from the electoral roll in the past year.

Music in worship

Another busy year in the musical life of Dedham Parish Church. The junior element of the choir has seen the 'retirement' of some valuable members due to other commitments. I wish to publicly thank them all for their contribution over the recent past, with thanks too to their parents for getting them to rehearsals and services. Thanks again to Liz Maythan for her continued support as chaperone, assisted on occasions by Margaret Kitson.

Our loyal choir has recently seen the retirement of several members, and recruitment remains an ongoing problem, however, this trend is being felt nationally. After a six month trial of a pattern of services which has seen the choir also singing at Ardleigh services, we have now returned full-time to Dedham, and are putting greater efforts and resources into Choral Evensong on the first Sunday of each month. The Christmas Carols Service was a great success, with the augmented choir giving stunning performances, as well as the Key Stage 2 Choir from Dedham C of E Primary School, and the Dedham Songbirds, making this once again a really valuable community event. Thank you to all our singers, who richly enhance our worship, as well as giving much valued support.

The organ, as recently written about in the Parish Magazine, is now in a very 'fragile' state, to quote our technician, with many breakdowns and call-outs, and we are seeking advice as to how to proceed with repair or replacement, as well as looking at how best to fund such a massive project. All options are being looked at. Recent attempts to gauge feedback have produced very little interest. A working party is up and running to look at all options.

Revive@5 continues to attract a diverse congregation, and after many prayers, we have welcomed Millie Watson and Ben Constable on board the music 'team', with Millie blessing us in leading the singing, and Ben bringing considerable blessings with his guitar experience. It has been great to have Geoff D'Arcy with us as bass guitarist, bringing with him much knowledge and experience of worship songs. Thank you again, Geoff.

My thanks, as ever to those who share the privilege of leading and performing music in our worship, week-in, week-out, and who make my role here such a joy. Please pray for our organ and its future.

Antony Watson

Flowers in church

The year has passed with the usual activity of decorating the church for Easter, harvest and Christmas, and thanks go to all members of the team for their hard work and commitment throughout the year. On average, each member is involved in decorating the church 5 times a year in addition to the main festivals.

Four new members joined the group in 2017, taking the number of people within the group to 27. One has left due to work pressure.

A demonstration and training morning took place for the team in church in May. The purpose of this was to continue to stimulate ideas and learn new techniques to incorporate into designs. The team was joined by the flower arrangers from Ardleigh church and the session enabled the groups from both churches to meet each other. The session was well attended and feedback from most was good.

Helen Sims

Stewards

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

Joan Bunting Tony Blaxill Lou Davison David Druitt Nigel Everett Sally Gotelee Maria Johnston Jason Partrick Lucy Marshall	Andrew McLaughlin Leonie McLaughlin Beth Mitchell Liz Nickerson Anne Rowledge Tim Sarson Sharon Sarson Jill Strangward June Wilson
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Guided Church and Tower Tours

Guided Church and Tower tours are offered throughout the year by advance booking either through the tower tours link on the website or by contacting the Parishes office. At least 10 working days notice is required to ascertain availability of tour guides. Gabbie Watson is the coordinator of tours. Our guides are: Phil Erith, Simon Gallup, Roy Laverick, Colin West and Peter Rowles. In June 2017, it was decided to change the prices from £5 per adult, £3 per child and £12 per family; to £3 per tower tour or guided church tour, £10 per family; or combined tour price of £5 per person, £15 per family. These prices are for both adults and children. The age of children allowed (accompanied by adults) to book on a tower tour is 8 years of age. A total of 107 adults and 1 child booked on tower tours in 2017. We would like to thank our very dedicated and well informed tour guides for the time they give to the tours.

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

St Mary's Church

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. Our church is one of the most visited in the Diocese.

Buildings and Fabric Committee

Members: Brian Moore, David Jewell, Peter Wilson

Co-opted: Merv McKinney

Ex-officio: Antony Wilson

The Quinquennial Survey report was received in September 2017. The recommendations arising from this and other current fabric issues have been incorporated into the Buildings and Fabric Project Plan. Quotes are being sought on a number of areas requiring attention e.g. repairs to the boundary walls and gates and to the aisle buttresses. Also a number of maintenance tasks in the churchyard have been undertaken. Surveys of the stained glass windows have been undertaken and recommendations on future actions will be considered in conjunction with other required expenditure on fabric issues.

Consideration is still being given to the best way to improve the hospitality and toilet facilities. Progress on these is expected during this year.

Brian Moore

Churchyard

Reverend Antony Wilson and the Churchwardens take this opportunity to thank Andrew Hodson for maintaining the Churchyard to a high standard this year.

Resource Centre

Be Burleigh and Lou Davison continue to keep the Centre well stocked, attractive and useful to church members and visitors alike. The sale of items makes a substantial contribution towards church funds. Last year 2,405 signed the visitor's book.

Muniment Library

Very little activity has taken place in 2017, apart from ensuring that temperature and humidity are maintained. Also ongoing is the collection and filing of parish magazines, church chimes, special service sheets and local news items. An investigation has taken place into the ingress of damp from the flat roof above the library and, although at the time, the matter was not serious enough to warrant costly repairs, the situation is being monitored.

Suzanne Woods

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

Some members of our parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. Reverend Antony Wilson, Merv McKinney and Carol Mitson have visited all church members who have requested it, to celebrate communion with them either at their homes or in hospital or at Blackbrook Residential Home.

Pastoral Group

Members: Lynne Al-Sad, Ruth Higginson, Ian Sutherland and Ann Shaw

Pastoral Care: The Pastoral Group will visit people if requested. They offer lifts to church. Cards are sent to mark a first wedding anniversary and to celebrate a baptism. A lunch club meets every month in the Essex Rose tea rooms in Dedham.

Ann Shaw

Bereavement Visitors

Members: Vee Druiitt, David De'Ath, Ruth Higginson and Pam Tanner.

A card is sent to the next of kin soon after the funeral followed by a telephone call and visits if requested. A card is sent if the relative is outside of the immediate area. The Annual Bereavement Service was well attended and well received. Holy Communion is offered at home to those unable to attend church.

Ann Shaw

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

We are grateful to all who have faithfully preached from the Bible during last year.

Reverend Carol Mitson stepped back from regular involvement with services in January and we are hugely grateful to her for her faithful ministry amongst us over more than 20 years.

Several small groups have met in homes throughout the year and have provided fellowship, bible discussion and prayer for those who have attended.

We have journeyed through several different preaching series over the course of the year: Encounters with Jesus in John's gospel, Summer Psalms, Colossians and the Solas of the Reformation, alongside the teaching at festivals and the liturgical calendar.

We joined with churches across the country in **Thy Kingdom Come** initiative at Pentecost based around a parish walk, worship and prayer stations

Life Explored took place again in January and was once again very successful in helping those who wanted to explore their faith. Many have continued with the Discipleship Explored course

Mission and Evangelism

Members: Lynne Al Sad, Ruth Higginson, Caro McShane

Activities We have continued to raise money during the year with our various sales including the regular cake stall during the summer. This year we have raised £2,347.

Distribution The amount we have raised during the year will be split 50/50 between Beacon House, a homeless charity in Colchester, and the Van de Ruits (the Missionary family we support) in South Africa. As a church we continue to support Beacon House with collections of toiletries, clothes, and sundries collected. There is a box at the back of church for these items. Please continue to give these items, as they are always needed. A list of their current needs is posted at the back of Church. The Van de Ruits send us newsletters, and the latest one is posted on the notice board at the back of church. We hope that they might be able to visit us this year.

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.

Lynne Al Sad and Ruth Higginson

e. The taking of religious assemblies in schools

Reverends Antony and Merv have taken regular assemblies at Dedham Primary School. There were very successful termly services held in the church and a Eucharist in school

Open the Book

A team of 8 people have been going into Dedham Primary School once a month in term time to read and present a Bible story. After Easter in 2017 we continued with the stories up to the anointing of David as King by Samuel, from September the Bible stories relate to the Spiritual Values that the school is focussing for that week.

Some examples -

- In September the value was Perseverance and we told the story of Nehemiah
- In October the value was Teamwork and we told the story of the Man who was lowered through the roof by his friends.
- In January the value was Appreciation and Gratitude and we told the story of the 10 men with leprosy and the one who came back to say 'Thank you.'

We involve the children in the actions as often as we can, this helps the school to achieve one of the criteria for Ofsted and it is fun for the children and for us, an evaluation made by the school showed how much the children enjoy 'Open the Book'. We have built up a selection of costumes and props that Jean Flewin stores for us which is a great help.

If you would like to think about taking part in 'Open the Book', please speak to either Ann Shaw or Sue McKinney, we would love to have more people in the team. You would need to have a brief training about 'Open the Book' and what is expected of team members, and to be cleared by the Disclosure and Barring Service for the Child Protection requirements of the school and Diocese.

Sue McKinney

Dedham Church of England Primary School

The school now has 206 pupils on roll and 30 members of staff, including 10 teachers. With a tight budget and funding allocated per pupil, we are working hard to keep pupil numbers as close to 210 as possible. We advertise in all local pre-schools and hold many open mornings throughout the school year for prospective pupils. We rely a great deal on our fantastic parent group for fundraising and the success of events such as the Dedham Run and the Christmas Market help us to offer the wide-ranging opportunities which we seek to provide for our pupils. We were delighted with our 'Outstanding' grading in our SIAMS inspection (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) back in October. The full report is available via our school website, however the main findings were as follows:

Leaders have exceptional drive and ambition as well as clarity of vision for its Christian foundation and the impact it has on school life.

Excellent teaching and the wide range of opportunities and experiences offered ensure all pupils achieve well both academically and personally.

The school is central to the life of the local community with provision for every pupil greatly enhanced by highly valued relationships. Its Christian ethos is demonstrated in its inclusivity and the care shown to those in particular need. High quality religious education (RE) and collective worship are deeply important to the school and inspire pupils in their personal response to Christianity, in their spiritual development and, within RE, to the teachings of other world faiths.

In July 2018, the school will say a very fond farewell to Mr Aylott who will have worked at the school for ten years: eight as Deputy Headteacher and two as Headteacher. He has decided

to pursue other avenues in education and we wish him every success in his future endeavours. Mr David Lerner, currently Deputy Headteacher at Hamilton School, was appointed as his successor back in December and he will be working with Mr Aylott and the rest of the Senior Leadership Team during the summer term to ensure as smooth a transition as possible.

Through the generosity of the Burkitt Trust, last summer, Class 5 children were able to visit Elizabeth Selby Infant School in Tower Hamlets. The visit to Elizabeth Selby School provides children with the opportunity to visit a school in a very contrasting locality to Dedham and enables children from both schools to develop relationships with children of different faiths and cultures. Owing to recent terrorist attacks in London, it was decided not to travel to St Paul's Cathedral as part of the day.

The school held its second Prayer Space day in September and all classes had the opportunity to interact with the eight prayer spaces in the school hall. The day was led by Miss Briony Peake and the Worship Team and the different Prayer Spaces now rotate around the classes each week when members of the Worship Team lead class-based assemblies.

Following a 'values and visions' day with staff, governors and some members of the wider community, the school launched a set of new school values in September (attached). These values form the basis of weekly assemblies which are outlined and scheduled by Miss Valentine and Rev Antony Wilson. Assemblies in school are led by Mr Aylott, Miss Valentine, Rev Antony Wilson (fortnightly), Pastor Eric Blowes, Rev Merv McKinney, Amanda Watts, the school's Worship Team and the Open the Book team (monthly). Pupil questionnaires completed last spring identified that children enjoyed the variety of assemblies on offer and that children especially enjoyed opportunities to participate. We look forward to working with Mrs Sally Buchanan in her new role as Children and Families Worker over the coming year.

Children's work continues to decorate church windows at harvest and at Christmas and school assemblies continue to be held at the church once or twice a term. Harvest donations were once again sent to Beacon House and the collection at the school carol service was sent to New Hope Children's Orphanage in Kenya. In October, the children exhibited work as part of the Dedham Arts Group 50th anniversary exhibition.

The KS2 Choir took part in the village carol service again this year. As well as performing on their own, the children especially enjoyed the opportunity to perform pieces with the Church Choir and the Dedham Songbirds. Older members of the KS2 Choir performed Christmas carols at Blackbrook House Residential Care Home. Thank you to the Friends of Dedham Church for financing the transport to enable this visit to take place. The choir visits twice each year with the second visit in June being a performance of hymns and worship songs.

The school is now into its second year of the Understanding Christianity project. This Church of England Education Office project aims to help all teachers support pupils in developing their own thinking and understanding of Christianity. As a school, we are delivering the project through seven Understanding Christianity days across the year. Each day takes the format of a whole school assembly followed by a day of activities back in class. A large display of the project can be seen up in school.

At Dedham Primary School, we are proud of the strong and successful relationships that we have with Dedham Church and the community. We look forward to continuing to work closely with the Church and members of the community in the next year.

James Aylott, Headteacher

Additional achievements

g. Young people in church

Teens group

Over the past year, the teens group has met once a month to do a bible study and play games. We meet in the youth room at the vicarage, which we redecorated in the summer, using the furnishings bought at Ikea, kindly funded by the Lectureship Trust. The teens have an active role in the monthly Revive@5 service. Following the service, we come back to the vicarage for pizza and to chat with the speaker from the service. In October the teens group, along with the Ardleigh teens group, hosted a curry night at the Assembly Rooms which raised over £1,000 for the charities Mary's Meals and the Colchester Food Bank.

Children and Families worker

This post was created through the generosity of the Trustees of the Dedham Lectureship Trust and its scope was discussed and finalised through several meetings in the summer of 2017. Sally Buchanan was appointed in February 2018 and in the last two months she has already made a hugely positive start in reaching out to children and families in the parish, as well as working more widely with Amanda Watts in Ardleigh.

Sally spoke at her first Sunday in February outlining how she saw the role: *Reaching out with God's love to families and children in our parish introducing them to Jesus and the life that He promises in all its fullness*

Children and Families Report

Introductions

I spoke at Rise N Shine and Holy Communion services in February and challenged RnS congregation to start a conversation with non-church goers about church, children encouraged to bring a friend to RnS for a play date. The wider congregation were reassured about changes to children's ministry with a promise to be respectful of the past whilst acknowledging children's ministry must evolve. Introductory cards given out - use of the Deuteronomy scripture to frame what I see as our biggest challenge in Dedham: parental responsibility for the spiritual well-being of our children. My method is to facilitate (not do) and engage the wider congregation in taking work forward.

Methodology – in a short space of time our congregation have played their part in:

Strengthening our communications: they are engaged with other parents at school gates and toddler group, twice a month newsletter now published through School Comms, bright posters for church events are being shared and displayed, consistent use of our own existing Rise N Shine branding helps people identify with news from the church, and a social media presence is on the horizon;

Making children and families feel invited and comfortable in church and at school: our resource area now has a dedicated children's space with colourful displays, toys, activities, and 0-5 baskets for use in services. Preliminary work in school is helping to make the links between children and their parents.

Keeping our focus spiritual: One Friday Easter Journey with interactive activities for children and families, and a Home Bible Study piloted for families to take away via Morning Praise;

Our dedicated teams have shown that church can be lots of fun: Men's Breakfast hosted a Dads and Kids Craft event, Open the Book hosted a drop in event at the school Parents Evening, our congregation have been helpful in getting Church Rocks painted for a community wide Easter Egg hunt with a difference;

Proving that Dedham is most certainly unique: Pulling in all our brilliant village groups and schools and using them as a conduit for all future children and family activities. There are so many great resources out there for us to engage through.

To conclude – the first two months have been very much about reaching out with God’s love. Future plans over the next year will all be geared around our existing congregation making new friendships with our newly engaged families providing lots of opportunities for fellowship and spiritual growth.

Sally Buchanan

h. The Duchy Barn

The Duchy Barn continues to serve as a centre used by the community. As most of you are aware we have moved to the Assembly Rooms while the CO-OP temporarily occupies the Duchy Barn after the ram-raid on their premises so that the village would have a much needed grocery shop.

Volunteers warmly welcome visitors and locals on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10.30 am to 12 o’clock. Unfortunately we have had to cancel the Friday morning due to lack of visitors but we are open on the last Friday of each month for the Veterans Association “Comrades in Arms” and visitors are most welcome.

The Bridge Club continues to meet on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday evenings and the Youth Club on Friday evenings and the Parish Council hold their meetings once a month. Unfortunately we are not able to take bookings for private parties.

I must thank the wonderful band of helpers and again sincere thanks go to Colin Biggins our Secretary as well as being responsible for the maintenance issues, Anne Rowledge for being the Treasurer as well as being the bookings Secretary and Eve for organising the rota of volunteers.

We look forward to the day that we can move back to the Barn but in the meantime I hope that the locals will support us while we are at the Assembly Rooms and pop in for a drink and chat. It is only a short walk and we would love to see you.

Beth Mitchell

4. Ecumenical relationships

Deanery Synod

The most significant issue during the year has been the final approval and enacting of the Pastoral Measure for the deanery including the creation of the joint Benefice of Dedham and Ardleigh. As a result Antony, who was appointed as Priest-in-Charge is now stipendiary Vicar of Dedham and Ardleigh. Ongoing discussions in the deanery have focussed on how the churches can best work together and with schools in the deanery taking account also of the housing expansion plans for Colchester and Tendring.

The deanery has prepared a proposal for the establishment of a Mission and Ministry Partnership (elsewhere known as a Mission and Ministry Unit) for the whole deanery, which, after approval within the diocese, will start to be implemented during this year. The proposal largely concerns collaborative working within the deanery however there may eventually be an

impact on the financial structure of the deanery. Initially the parish share calculations will continue as before and allocations will be to the benefices. Allocation to churches within a benefice will be done by the concerned churches.

The deanery is also implementing the necessary arrangements required by new General Data Protection Regulations which come into effect during this year.

Brian Moore

5. Financial review

See Summary Accounts and overview overleaf.

**DEDHAM
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
Financial Overview**

Members: David Druitt(*Chairman*), David Jewell, Reverend Antony Wilson, Sara Glover & Sara Marshall (*Financial Administrator*)

Management: The PCC Finance Committee was re-formed in June 2017. It has met on several occasions since then and is supported very well indeed by Sara Marshall and Katrina Ablett. The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission under charity number 1130860 and our annual returns are available via the Commission's website www.charitycommission.gov.uk).

General Fund: Whilst it is encouraging that "Giving" increased over 2016 it must be made clear that the PCC were once again not able to pay its Parish Share in full to the Diocese. We were assessed as needing to contribute £58,795 although this is not necessarily an accurate figure as we were assessed on a joint basis with Ardleigh and a somewhat arbitrary split was made between the 2 Parishes. By the end of the year we had paid £52,386 or 89% of the required figure and the PCC must focus on how we are going to pay 100% in 2018.

Expenditure: This was lower than 2016 primarily because less was spent on the major refurbishment project. It must be understood however that the PCC received considerable assistance through the year from both Dedham Ecclesiastical Lectureship Trust and the Friends of Dedham Church defraying certain costs that would otherwise fall to the PCC to pay.

Reserves: A cursory glance at the Church accounts would suggest that the finances remain in good health. The Church has a Balance Sheet, reporting net assets of £288,662, however 97.5% of these assets are held in Designated, Restricted or Endowment funds with the Unrestricted Reserves, or the General Fund, from which the costs of Ministry must be funded, totalling £7,446 having decreased by £14,422 over the course of the year. During the year substantial progress was made in understanding what the Heath Church Fund, one of the Restricted funds, could be used for and it has been agreed by the PCC that, apart from the principal capital sum (£11,300), the rest is available to them for the benefit of the Church & the Parish.

Stewardship: This will clearly be an area that the PCC and the Finance Committee must have as a priority in 2018 as we seek to ensure we meet our commitment to pay our Parish Share in full by the end of the year. We were fortunate in late 2017 to receive a very generous legacy for use on the repair and maintenance of the Church and this together with the generous support of the Friends of the Church should enable the PCC to address some of the priorities arising from the 2017 Quinquennial report.

Priorities for 2018: It is quite clear that finding ways of increasing the income of the Church is of paramount importance as is maintaining a close control over expenditure. Further work will be done on increasing the clarity and transparency of the quarterly and annual accounts and simplifying how these are reported to the PCC.

Lastly a very big thank you to the members of the Committee for their work through 2017 and in particular to Sara Marshall and Katrina Ablett for huge amount of work they do in keeping the running of the Church Finances going so smoothly.

David Druitt, Chairman

INCOMING TO THE PCC GENERAL FUNDS	2017	2016
Giving		
Covenanted/Gift aid	44,236	40,759
Recoverable Tax	13,026	11,976
Uncovenanted	7,677	46,069
Grants & Legacies	56,783	27,074
Activities for Raising Funds	24,281	27,024
Investment Income	4,555	3,984
Incoming resources from Charitable Activities	39	22
TOTAL £	150,597	156,908
OUTGOING FROM THE PCC GENERAL FUNDS	2017	2016
Parish Share	52,386	35,000
Employees/Contractors		
Persons	17,138	12,696
Resources	6,730	16,327
Services Upkeep	42,513	35,172
Fabric	62,157	93,120
Trading/fundraising costs	5,520	5,175
TOTAL £	186,444	197,490
OVER THE YEAR THE PCC GENERAL FUNDS lost £35,847 lost £ 40,582		
<i>Please note that the change in the General Funds does not include the transfer of the Duchy Barn income and expenses from the DB Endowment fund to the Duchy Barn Fund (Designated) amounting to £17,050.</i>		
<i>The term 'General funds' includes all unrestricted and designated funds.</i>		

RESTRICTED FUNDS

The objectives of the church are also supported as follows by funds which were given for specific purposes.

	Incoming	Transferred	Outgoing
Heath Fund	-	119,971	-
PCC Repairs & Maintenance	45,193	-	-
Vicars & C.W's Discretionary	5,016	-	-
Mission Funds	2,261	-	(1,100)
Churchyard Fund	2,790	-	(2,790)
Organ Fund	3	-	-
Fabric Fund	7	-	-
Youth Club Fund	-	-	(5,480)
Muniment Room Fund	2	-	-
Flowers	20	-	(20)
Gifts from other Charities	-	-	(1,806)
	<u>55,292</u>	<u>119,971</u>	<u>(11,196)</u>

- *Restricted Funds that are not spent one year are carried forward to the next.*
- *When an outgoing amount is higher than an incoming amount some funds have been brought forward from the previous year.*
- *The total Restricted Funds at the year-end were **£177,202***

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	Incoming	Transferred	Gains	Outgoing
Heath Church Sale Fund	-	(119,971)	10,266	-
Vicar's 1970 Discretionary Fund	-	-	1,552	-
Churchyard Trust	-	-	1,029	-
Tithe Chancel Trust Fund	374	-	949	-
Parochial Benefit Fund: Duchy Barn	6,123	(17,050)	1,367	(3,582)
	<u>6,497</u>	<u>(137,021)</u>	<u>15,163</u>	<u>(3,582)</u>

- *The total Endowment Funds at the year-end were **£59,258***

DEDHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

BALANCE SHEET 31 DECEMBER 2017

	2017	2016
	£	£
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Fixed Assets	1,806	3,612
Investment Assets	<u>178,852</u>	<u>163,315</u>
	180,658	166,927
 Current Assets		
Debtors, Prepayments & Accrued Income	54,736	16,009
Cash at Bank and in hand	<u>68,019</u>	<u>103,370</u>
	122,755	119,379
 Current Liabilities (Amounts due within one year)		
Liabilities, Accruals & Deferred Income	14,751	23,970
 Net Current Assets	<u>108,004</u>	<u>95,408</u>
 Net Assets	<u>288,662</u>	<u>262,336</u>

TYPES OF FUNDS MAKING UP THE ASSETS OF THE PCC

General (Unrestricted) Funds		
Reserves	7,446	21,868
Designated Funds	<u>44,756</u>	<u>49,131</u>
 Total Unrestricted Funds	52,202	70,999
Restricted Funds	177,202	13,136
Endowment Funds	<u>59,258</u>	<u>178,201</u>
	<u>288,662</u>	<u>262,336</u>

CHANGE OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS

Assets at 31/12/16	262,336	286,801
Decrease in General Reserves	(14,422)	6,429
Decrease in all other Unrestricted Funds	(4,375)	(47,011)
Increase in Restricted Funds	164,066	(104)
Decrease in value of Endowment Funds	<u>(118,943)</u>	<u>16,221</u>
Assets at 31/12/17	<u>288,662</u>	<u>262,336</u>

Dedham Parochial Church Council

Parish Office, The Assembly Rooms, High Street, Dedham, Colchester CO7 6HJ

Stmaryda@gmail.com

www.dedham-and-ardleigh-parishes.org.uk

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
(for the financial year ended 31st December 2017)

Report to Dedham Parish Church - Parochial Church Council [P.C.C.]

Charity Number: 1130860

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2017, which are set on pages 4 to 14 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:


Luc H Ray-Mathur
06th April 2018

Relevant professional qualification or body: Association of Accounting Technicians (Local Government)
Address: Murlau, 2 Moorfield Close, Grange Farm, Kesgrave. IPSWICH. SUFFOLK. IP5 2YD

Fundraising Team

Members: Jill Strangward, Lou Davison, Vee Druitt, Ruth Higginson, Beth Mitchell, Ann Shaw and Pam Tanner

Activities this year included the following events, which were held in 2017 and raised the following amounts for the Church.

- Music evening - £300
- August - the August Bank Holiday Monday event raising approx £1600
- November - Big Breakfast raising approx £1500

6. Reserves policy

The PCC will be drawing up a Policy for its Reserves in 2018.

7. Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

There are no funds held on behalf of others

8. Plans for future periods

PCC objectives for the current year

- To explore the Anglican 5 marks of mission as we understand our purpose as a church
- To continue to develop links with Ardleigh Parish
- To develop ways to reach out to children and families
- To implement recommendations from recent reports seeking to support the governance of the PCC, including a Risk Management Policy
- To increase income from giving to develop a healthier financial position
- To develop plans for a hospitality area and toilet within the church (in conjunction with the Friends of Dedham Church)
- To develop a plan for the replacement of the current organ

9. Risk management

Health and Safety

Considerable work has already been done to improve working practices and further work will be completed in 2018. All health and safety representatives of each church building (Dedham Church, Duchy Barn, Assembly Rooms and Ardleigh Church) aim to meet twice a year to discuss the health and safety requirements and updates from Ecclesiastical Insurance which are followed through a checklist procedure. The meetings also share information to provide consistency across the health and safety and maintenance of each building.

The PCC does not currently have an overall Risk Management Policy - it will be working in 2018 to identify areas of risk and ways to mitigate that risk, using the guidance from the Charity Commission.

10. 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

The PCC meet every two months in the Vicarage and cover a number of agenda items. The main areas discussed at every meeting include:

- Finance and Stewardship
- Sunday Worship
- Mission and Evangelism
- Pastoral Care
- Children and Young People
- Social and Fundraising
- Safeguarding
- Health and Safety
- Fabric
- Communications
- Deanery updates

Other items are discussed as and when they arise and for which are necessary for discussion and approval by the PCC.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is up to date with no problems arising during the year. Data is stored using Dropbox, which is only shared with the Vicar and the Parish Office. The Diocese are changing the way that the DBS applications are processed, which will mean that the PSR (Parish Safeguarding Representative) will have to now do the identity checks. Paper DBS applications will cease at the end of 2018. All the Parish Activity Plans have been reviewed and updated where necessary.

Ruth Higginson

Communications

Parish Office

The office continues to expand welcoming our new office member, Sally Buchanan. The office opening hours continue to be Tuesdays 9-11am and Thursdays 11am to 1pm. The finance team generally work from the office on a Tuesday. As Parishes Administrator and Volunteers Coordinator, I continue with all of the office administration for both Dedham and Ardleigh churches but also oversee the management of health and safety for all church buildings, safeguarding and tower tours in Dedham. I also remain PCC secretary. The Office team comprises of myself, Katrina Ablett and Sara Marshall (Financial Administrators), Be Burleigh (Administration Assistant) and Sally Buchanan (Children and Families worker). Thanks to Be Burleigh, Sylvia Nodder and Katrina Ablett for their administrative help this year.

Claire Arculus

Website

The new website dedham-and-ardleigh-parishes.org.uk was launched in June 2017. The website uses the Churchinfo platform which is based on a Content Management System which allows site administrators to update site pages without any programming skills.

The new features include a media section where sermons and other audio files, such as the Dedham lecture are stored, a Contact Form which visitors to the site can use to contact the Parish Office, a detailed church calendar which can be printed or sent to a mobile calendar application and a useful site search option.

In the 9 months since the website went live there have been almost 83,000 Page Requests, i.e the number of web pages requested by visitors to the web site. The peak month was November 2017 with over 16,000 requests. As far as visitor location is concerned, the site statistics shows that the USA has the highest number of page requests followed by the UK and then Germany. The breakdown of the Page requests by website area shows that Articles received 22,700 requests, Calendar 13,700 and Media 7,200.

John Goldsborough

PCC Membership

PCC members who have served at any time from the last APCM on 23rd April 2017 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex Officio members:

Incumbent Reverend Antony Wilson (appointed Priest in Charge 9 Nov 2016)

Churchwardens

Suzanne Woods (elected 23 Apr 2017)

Richard Hopkins (elected 18 Dec 2016)

Elected members *and date of election*

David Jewell 2016

Suzanne Woods 2013 (Churchwarden from 23 April 2017)

Gabbie Watson 2015

Ruth Higginson 2017

Jo Hole 2013

Brian Moore 2014 (Deanery Synod Representative)

Peter Wilson 2017

Gillian De'ath 2017

David De'ath 2017

Vee Druitt 2017

11. Reports from Charities whose activities are closely related to those of the PCC

Friends of Dedham Church (FoDC)

The Friends continue to prosper in terms of raising funds for the maintenance of the church fabric and providing events at which members can socialize with each other. During the year we provided grants totalling £36,765.53: the main grant of £34,531.73 was towards the repair and decoration of the aisles which represented 60% of the total cost. A further £2,150 was paid for the new sills under the windows in the aisles and a grant of £83.80 was given to the school for the hire of coaches to take pupils to Blackbrook Care Home to give two concerts for the patients. At the year end the Friends remain in a very sound financial position and we retain a portion of our funds for the hospitality and toilet facility to which we are committed once the faculties are agreed for both these projects.

We organize a number of events during the year and are continually looking for new ideas to bring members together and attract new members. Individual membership is £15 per annum and if you are not already a member please consider joining us.

By Peter Wilson

Dedham Ecclesiastical Lectureship Trust (DELT)

Trustees: *Nominated by the Bishop of Chelmsford:* Ian Hunter Clerk, Richard Hopkins, Ann Shaw; *Nominated by the PCC:* David Druitt Chairman, *Ex-officio* The Archdeacon of Colchester, Ven. Annette Cooper; *Churchwardens:* Richard Hopkins & Suzanne Woods;

Objectives: Founded in 1577 to supplement the ministry of the Church in this parish, it is one of the three Patrons of this Benefice. It supports the Lecturer, who is now also the Vicar of Dedham and it may also do other works for the “*promotion of the principles and doctrines of the Church of England in the ecclesiastical parish of Dedham*”.

The **2017 Lecture** was given on the 21st September by Nick Spencer, the Director of Research at Theos a Christian think tank organisation. His subject was “*Doing Good – A future for Christianity in Britain*”. An interesting perspective on the future by a very well-respected commentator & writer. The Trustees have, for a while, been discussing whether a formal Lecture is the best format to promote its objectives and have concluded that it is not, as well as being conscious that it needs to attract the younger generation, who are, of course, the future of the Church. For 2018 therefore, there will be no Lecture and instead we will be exploring the idea of the Trust putting its (financial) resources behind a weekend celebrating the Christian Faith through art, music, poetry & related activities.

During the year the Trust made a number of one-off and ongoing financial commitments and these included funding an additional 6 hours a week for the Parish Secretary, the cost of a Germinate Leadership programme for Reverend Antony Wilson, expenses for retreats and courses for the Parish clergy, and the Christmas reading material that was handed out free at all Christmas services.

In addition, the Trust has committed, for an initial 5 year period, to pay the salary of the new Children & Families Worker who starts work on the 1st February and also to pass £25,000 from its reserves to the PCC for the repair and maintenance of the Church following the Quinquennial report being produced in September 2017.

Ian Hunter, Trustee and Clerk, announced in September that he would be resigning after 10 years in the role and also Mike Fisher, who has been the Financial Administrator of the Trust for many years, decided to retire in December. The Trustees would like to thank both individuals for everything they have done for the Trust during their time in office.

Lastly the Trust has been advised that its role as alternate Patron, which had been suspended during the interregnum, has been re-instated although it will now be one of 3 Patrons along with the Duchy of Lancaster and the Patron of Ardleigh on a rotating basis.

David Druitt, Chairman

Assembly Rooms

Who runs it? The Vicar is sole trustee of the Assembly Rooms and with the Churchwardens, as co-trustees, he is responsible for the *Hewitt Memorial Fund*. The Clerk to the Trust manages

the rooms and the trusts. The building is looked after on a daily basis with dedicated care by a small team of caretakers and cleaners. Their hard work and commitment is very much appreciated.

How is it funded? The Hewitt Memorial Fund was established by the will of William Wilkins Hewitt, of Lower Park, Dedham, former Churchwarden of Dedham Parish Church, in 1917. He left the sum of £3000 for the upkeep of the Hewitt Memorial Hall (as it had been renamed in memory of his late brother), together with a further £500 for Parish Church chancel repairs. Hewitt Cottage was sold in 2004 and the proceeds invested to provide a long-term maintenance fund. Day-to-day maintenance, insurance and running costs are covered by income from charges, all users pay to use the rooms but the full cost of community and charity use is heavily subsidised by others. We are in the process to amalgamate the two trusts in a new trust called the Assembly Rooms Trust.

Use The Rooms are available for hire for meetings, talks, productions, celebrations and much more. They are used regularly by Art classes, the Brownies and Guides, the Horticultural Society, the Film Club, Dedham Players and Little Squigglers. This year we welcomed Dedham Art group for their regular bi weekly meetings. The Parishes Office has settled in well. During the summer the exterior was redecorated. In the autumn we had Assembly Way relayed due to the very poor condition of the surface, we accepted the Assembly Rooms users used this road way the most so arranged for the resurfacing. In December we welcomed various groups from the Duchy Barn who had moved out to accommodate the Co-op. We are looking forward to a very busy year at the Rooms.

Tracy Woods

William Burkitt Trust

Trustees The Vicar (*Chairman*), Richard Hopkins (Churchwarden) and Tim Sarson.

History The Charity was established in 1698 to help children to read the Bible, which was considered a basic Christian education.

Activities Once again the Charity funded a visit by the Year 5 children of Dedham C.E. Primary School to St. Paul's Cathedral, Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood, and to the Elizabeth Selby Infants School, Bethnal Green; The Trust also funded bibles and *It's Your Move* books for Year 6 children. The Charity also sponsored several children to attend a Christian camp. In addition, a room in the vicarage designated for the teenagers of the congregation was decorated and furnished. The Charity also funded the hugely successful summer holiday club 'Pirates Ahoy'.

Sara Marshall

Littlegarth Cottages

Trustees Vicar & Lecturer, Churchwardens *ex officio*, and Arthur Carter

Clerk Tracy Woods

History The four ancient Littlegarth Cottages in Princl Lane, Dedham, were the gift of the late Betty Mallett to this community. All income is used to maintain and improve the cottages. The terms of the Trust Deed include provision: *"to house those in need or those who are elderly and in need or to use them for the furtherance of religious and other charitable works of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical parish of Dedham"*.

Residents We welcomed a new tenant to cottage No3 in February. Cottage No4 became

vacant in the spring. The cottage was held during the process to recruit a new Children's and Families worker for the parish to be offered as part of the remuneration package. Not being needed for the new worker the tenancy was advertised for applicants during November. We had 3 sets of applicants and the trustees had a very difficult decision deciding who to offer the tenancy to. Our new tenants moved in during March and we look forward to welcoming their twin babies. The community at the cottages this year has been very harmonious.

Tracy Woods

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.

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
ST MARY'S CHURCH, DEDHAM
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 23rd APRIL 2017**

(1) ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS AGENDA

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

Reverend Antony Wilson (ACW) drew attention to the minutes for the 2016 APCM. No changes were made.

Andrew McLaughlin proposed the acceptance of 2016 minutes as an accurate record. Antony Watson seconded. All present were in favour of acceptance.

2. Elections of Churchwardens for the ecclesiastical parish.

ACW confirmed two nominations had been received for the role of Churchwarden for forthcoming year, Richard Hopkins and Suzanne Woods.

Brian Moore proposed Richard Hopkins as Churchwarden. Be Burleigh seconded. Quinlan Terry proposed Suzanne Woods as Churchwarden. Antony Watson seconded.

All present were in favour of electing the above as Churchwardens from APCM 2017.

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

None.

(2) ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING AGENDA

1. Opening prayer.

2. Apologies for absence received.

Sue Vinter, Jo Hole and Lou Davison

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

Be Burleigh volunteered to act as Teller.

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

ACW drew our attention to the minutes from last year.

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

No amendments to 2016 minutes recorded.

Jill Strangward proposed acceptance of minutes from 2016. Ruth Higginson seconded the proposal. All in favour.

6. Matters Arising

Matters outstanding include the ongoing vacancy for voluntary role of Treasurer on the PCC. Tim Sarson and Sara Marshall have not been acting as Treasurer but assisting with Church finances. This vacancy is still ongoing and needs to be filled.

Fabric updates include the aisle redecoration, which has been completed. Thanks given to Friends of Dedham Church (FoDC) and the PCC for funding the cost of this. FoDC have paid 60% of the cost and the PCC have paid 40%.

No other matters arising.

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

Be Burleigh confirmed there are 235 on electoral roll, of which 122 are residents and 113 are non-residents. There have been 4 deaths in the past year.

Stewardship letters have been put together for everybody on the electoral roll. These are available at the back of the church for collection before attendees leave. As 190 letters were put together shows the strength of numbers currently on our electoral roll. Thanks to Sylvia Nodder and Claire Arculus for putting together the letters and envelopes.

8. PCC Annual report.

See Annual Report. PCC business this year included the recent adoption and approval of the Mission and Pastoral Measure put together by the Diocese. The PCC approved the measure without the formal joining of Dedham in a Group ministry with Lawford benefice.

ACW confirmed that he is currently Priest in Charge of Dedham and Curate in Charge of Ardleigh. His title will eventually become Vicar of Dedham and Ardleigh.

9. Financial report including:

a) report on the financial affairs of the parish church/PCC.

Tim Sarson highlighted the report undertaken by Philip Strangward in 2016 in line with the Charities Act. Recommendations made in the report were adopted and Tim now hopes the accounts meet everybody's approval following the changes. A second report proposed by the Archdeacon and undertaken by Stephen Marriott (known as the Marriott report) looked further into the way the PCC undertakes its accounting procedures. The main focus from the report is the significant number of trusts and endowments currently set up. In particular, the Heath Fund -the PCC will be looking into its purpose in 2017.

b) the presentation of the examined or audited accounts.

As presented in the report, the important point to note from the accounts is the difficulty in meeting the financial commitments the church has in its general fund (excluding the cost of works to the building). In 2016, Dedham PCC paid £35,000 towards the parish share of £59,712 which is 58% of the total.

In response to a question from the floor ACW replied that there is no Treasurer in post at present. The responsibilities fall to the Churchwardens and ACW. ACW said that given the complexity of the funds currently set up, it will be difficult to move forward and resolve the issues

highlighted by the Marriott report without a Treasurer in place.

At the same time ACW thanked Sara Marshall and Katrina Ablett for all their work.

ACW gave some detail to the meeting on where the parish share goes: it covers the direct cost of ministry in the parish. A clergy post costs £47,000 which includes cost of stipend, costs for maintaining the Vicarage, training and pension.

The parish share also includes: support for poorer parishes in the Diocese by wealthier parishes, administration, costs of services to parishes (Bishops, Archdeacons, Clergy training, youth and children advisors, legal costs, running the DAC.

ACW finally confirmed the statistics for Mission return had been completed, which takes into account a number of factors such as attendance at services, baptisms, weddings and funerals.

No questions were raised.

ACW thanked Tim Sarson for giving up so much of his time over the years to support this financial role.

c) proposal for the formal adoption of the accounts.

The accounts were proposed by David Druitt, seconded by David Watson. Accounts adopted.

d) appointment of auditor for the coming year.

Luc Ray Mather was proposed by Tim Sarson and seconded by Gabbie Watson to continue as Auditor.

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

Richard Hopkins spoke briefly regarding the fabric and specifically the 'terrier' undertaken for the Diocese which is an inventory of all items (goods and ornaments) in the Church. Thanks to Suzanne Woods who is currently completing this report.

11. Other verbal reports including joint Benefice Report *Priest in Charge*

ACW spoke about the good start that has been made to drawing Ardleigh and Dedham together into joint benefice. One important aspect of this is a new pattern of services which has been discussed and approved by both PCCs and will commence in May:

Sunday	St Mary's Dedham	St Mary's Ardleigh
1 st in the month	8.00am Holy Communion 5.00pm Choral Evensong	11.00am Morning Worship
2 nd in the month	11.00am Holy Communion	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
3 rd in the month	8.00am Holy Communion	11.00am Parish Eucharist
4 th in the month	11.00am Matins (BCP) Revive @ 5pm	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
5 th in the month	11.00am Morning Worship	

Midweek

Morning Prayer	Tuesdays at 10.30am	at Dedham
Evening Prayer	Thursdays at 5pm	at Ardleigh

ACW invited questions from the floor. No questions were raised regarding this.

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

Deanery Synod report contained within APCM report.

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

a) Deanery Synod representative

Brian Moore has volunteered to stand as Deanery Synod representative for a further year.

Peter Wilson proposed and David Druitt seconded.

b) P.C.C. representatives

The following introduced themselves individually and explained why they wish to be elected on to the PCC.

Ruth Higginson

Jill Strangward proposed and Ann Shaw seconded election.

Virginia (Vee) Druitt

Ann Shaw proposed and Maria Johnston seconded election.

David De'Ath

Ann Shaw proposed and Suzanne Woods seconded election.

Gillian De'Ath

Anne-Marie Partrick proposed and Ruth Higginson seconded election.

Peter Wilson

David Druitt proposed and Vee Druitt seconded election.

Liz Maythan proposed all of the above be elected to PCC. Gabbie Watson seconded.

ACW thanked Be Burleigh, Tim Sarson, Sue Vinter and Antony Watson who are stepping down from the PCC. Thanks for all their contributions.

We prayed for the PCC

15. Priest in Charge's report to the Benefice: ACW spoke: '...Maundy Thursday, Maintenance and Mission

It's almost a year since I first saw the post of Vicar of our churches advertised – to be precise it was **Maundy Thursday** 2016. That Thursday falls at the centre between the dates of our APCMs for this year. Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper where the central event of the evening was Jesus' washing of his disciples feet. By doing this he demonstrated his

desire to humble himself and serve them. Within hours he would make his ultimate sacrifice by dying on the cross for them and us.

I have been hugely encouraged to see how *service* plays such a big part in the life of our churches. The word *liturgy* means *the work of the people* and this includes both our worship to God when we gather together and our love and care towards others during the rest of the week— so being a Christian is much more than coming to a service on a Sunday – it means serving fellow Christians and those in the wider community – that’s why we often say these words together as we leave a church service *Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. In the name of Christ. Amen.* It’s in His name that we go out to serve others. Reading these APCM reports shows just how much is going on!

A question to the floor: What are you encouraged by? Responses included: The flower team, Life Explored Course, the new Vicar!

Thank you to everyone who serves – whether that be helping with our worshipping life on a Sunday or serving others at any other time during the week in the parishes, through our work and witness. I would like to specifically thank Quinlan Terry who is standing down as Churchwardens. Thank you too to my ministerial colleagues Merv and Carol who provide such a great support to me.

Much of my time in the first few months has been focused on getting to know you and the people of our parishes. I’ve also been understanding how the churches operate and the challenges facing the PCCs as they care for our historic buildings and start to work together more collaboratively in our new benefice. **Maintenance** of what we already have is a vital part of our work whether that be buildings or worship services that enrich those of us who are already Christians and which help us to live out our lives as disciples. The PCCs have paid close attention to this principle whilst discussing changes to our service patterns which will be shared with the wider congregations in due course. These changes are partly necessary because we now share one full time minister who cannot be in two places at once!

I would like to pay tribute to everyone who is involved with the running of the Parish Office, particularly to Claire, our Parishes Secretary. Planned changes to the way the office operates should help us to maintain our responsibilities for the future. Thank you too to Sara and Katrina, to Be and Suzanne and PCC members.

Thank you to Andrew Hodson – cleaner and churchyard groundsman

Thank you to Antony and Gabbie – I am struck about how much of a blessing they are to us as a family in leading Good Friday service.

The thing that drew me to consider applying for this post was its description as a **Missionary Priest**. In its 2004 report *Mission Shaped Church* the Church of England challenged parishes to think of themselves as agents of God’s mission *‘it is not the church of God that has a mission in the world, but the God of mission that has a church’*. When we pray *Thy Kingdom come* we are asking that God would restore all things, establish shalom or peace, renew creation and redeem fallen humanity. This must start with the commission that Christ gave his disciples at the end of Matthew’s gospel (chapter 28 verse 19) *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*” It has been a real encouragement to journey through the *Life Explored*

Course with over 20 people – this is one way that we help people to become disciples and deepen their relationship with Christ.

I now see our biggest challenge as churches being to reach out to **children and families** who are present in our communities but not yet part of God's kingdom. They are largely missing from our worshipping life. God is a missionary God and so we need to ask Him what we need to do to co-operate in that task of helping them to become disciples. Part of this will be new all together service at 9.30am in Dedham each month, preceded by holiday club in August

At the heart of all this is prayer – can I ask you to pray for the mission of our churches both on your own and by joining with others: we have services of Morning Prayer on Tuesdays (and a new service of Evening Prayer after Easter on Thursdays in Ardleigh).

In all this I am reminded of the words of St Paul in Ephesians chapter 3

16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. 20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.

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

The appointment of Stewards.

Antony Watson proposed the approval of those named below to serve as stewards, with the thanks of the PCC. Brian Moore seconded.

Peter Adams Tony Blaxhill Be Burleigh Lou Davison David Druitt Nigel Everett Sara Glover Sally Gotelee Maria Johnston Caro McShane	Lucy Marshall Beth Mitchell Liz Nickerson Sarah Oakley Anne Rowledge Sharon Sarson Tim Sarson Jill Strangward June Wilson Suzanne Woods
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The meeting closed at 1pm with the Grace.

St Mary's Church Dedham

AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Sunday 22 April 2018

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 Rector 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.
- d) appointment of auditor for the coming year.
- 10. Churchwardens report to include review of the church fabric, goods and ornaments.
Churchwardens
- 11. Other verbal reports including joint Benefice Report *Priest in Charge*
- 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) P.C.C. representatives
- 14. Priest in Charge's report to the Benefice
- 15. 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)
- P.C.C. MEETING** The AGM is followed by a short meeting of the P.C.C. to elect:
 - a) Lay-chair.
 - b) Secretary.
 - c) Treasurer.
 - d) Electoral Roll Officer.
 - e) Any co-opted appointments.

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

A cat-sitting weekend that transformed two lives

When a friend asked Denny and me to cat-sit for the weekend early in 2017 we had no idea how much our lives would completely change for the better. The house was opposite Dedham church and early one Sunday we heard the bells ringing and decided it might be nice to attend the service. We received a warm welcome and an invitation to lunch by Antony Wilson, the vicar.

We felt truly inspired over lunch and when he prayed with us we felt a shift and a deep sense of peace. We knew we were embarking on a journey that God had intended for us and were further inspired by another member of the church and her sense of love joy and kindness.

When I (Lisa) enquired about joining the women's Bible study group in Dedham I was a bit apprehensive and quite anxious as to what the women would be like and how they would take to me. I was welcomed with open arms. It felt like coming home. I particularly valued the women relating their own day to day life experiences to passages in the bible which made it so much easier to apply the teachings in to my own life.

Last summer Antony suggested to us about being baptised and so in July we were baptised in the river at Dedham and were overwhelmed by the love and support of our new church family.

We have experienced great difficulties in our lives at times. Denny experienced the loss of both his parents between his late teens and twenties and at times we have battled addiction and trauma in our lives. We appreciate that life may still be difficult at times but we wanted to touch on the sheer beauty and magnitude of God's blessings upon us and his part in our lives.

I lacked any kind of relationship with my

sister and desperately wanted to develop a relationship with my niece and new nephew. Through prayer a series of events occurred which gave me great insight and understanding in to my sisters' experiences and feelings. We have now begun to develop a relationship and I am a very proud Auntie who loves spending time with my niece and nephew.



Neither of us knew that such peace could be possible

Denny has been self employed which has caused financial hardship at times however he has now been offered his first full time employed job at aged 51 in an environment which he really enjoys.

My three best friends with whom I lost touch have come back into my life and through feeling more accepted I have been able to love myself and others in ways that I never dreamed. Both of us have experienced a far greater sense of understanding for each other which has also applied to all other relationships. The more we begin to understand Jesus and his boundless love the more we are willing to understand others. Neither of us knew such peace could be possible until we developed a relationship with Jesus.

This Easter we are looking forward to worshipping the God who we know is alive and at work in our lives. Why don't you join us too?

Lisa Miles and Denny Cousins