

Ardleigh and Dedham Parishes

Annual Reports

Year End December 2021



Open all hours.....

Annual Parochial Church Meetings

Dedham Sunday 15th May 2022 at 10.45am

Ardleigh Sunday 24th April 2022 at 10.30am

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St Mary's Ardleigh

2021 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
10 March 2022

1. Aim and purposes

St Mary's Parochial Church Council(PCC)has responsibility with an Incumbent for promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. We are currently in vacancy following the Rev Antony's departure in September and are in suspension for a period of 5 years. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St Mary's Church.

2. Objectives and activities

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

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

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

3. Achievements and performance

a. Regular public worship for all

Sunday Services

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

All Holy Communion services at 8am have been live streamed and our thanks go to both Christina Volkmann and Richard Culley for ensuring these services have been available to those unable to join us in person. Christina continues to livestream Morning and Evening Prayer on a regular basis

We also thank Amanda Watts who has continued to record sources for both Ardleigh and Dedham Primary Schools on a regular basis, as well as hosting Sunday at 3 on Zoom.

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 1 wedding and held 9 funerals in our church this year.

Church Membership

The Electoral Roll has been renewed in 2021. Currently there are 26 on the roll, 20 are residents and 6 are non-residents.

Music in worship

We continue to be very grateful for the ministry of Geoffrey Boyle who has played the organ for us at our Sunday services and for weddings and funerals too. He is always with us for special services as well. Thank you, Geoffrey, from each of us. We'd also like to thank Lynne Al-Sad and Christina Volkmann who sing from the Chancel steps and enhance our hymns of praise.

Bell Ringers

St Mary's has, in the past, been used extensively for the training of new recruits to bell ringing. Being in the centre of our north east district and having a large adjacent car park, with toilet and kitchen facilities, it is an ideal venue. Like so many others, Covid has hit us hard and so all our plans to improve the facilities for training have had to be put on hold, as the chance of fund raising for a major project during lockdown was a non-starter.

The first time the bells were rung during 2021 was for a wedding on 7th August, having been silent for 17 months. Following this, a post on social media brought in three people expressing an interest in learning to ring the bells. Following some months of training, they rang for the carol service at Christmas and are progressing well.

On 25th September, a band of ringers from Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk rang a full peal of 5,024 changes of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, taking 2 hours and 55 minutes. It was rung in thanksgiving for the lives of Des Thorne, one of our own ringers, and David Salter a local ringer, and for the ministry of Rev Antony Wilson who has left us for pastures new.

We continue with our weekly teaching practices on Tuesday evenings and ring for the 11am Sunday services when we can get enough ringers. We are still desperately short of ringers and would welcome anyone willing to learn this interesting and ancient art which provides both physical and mental stimulation. If you are interested in learning, then please contact me or one of the churchwardens.

David Culham

Flowers in Church

We have been decorating the Church for Easter, Harvest, Remembrance Day and Christmas. Thank you to Rita Randall and Pat Newton for all their hard work and commitment throughout the year.

Sue Hulbert and Rita Randall make sure the flowers are presented in the Church as appropriate each week, and are kept watered and well-maintained.

Due to Covid and lockdowns Ardleigh Church Flower festival was cancelled this year.

Sue Hulbert

Fabric Report

Volunteers

We may be a small church but what a fantastic team of volunteers we have - throughout 2021, the church building has continued to hold services with music; be open daily; be cleaned; be decorated with flowers and also to host both the Living Stones and the Friendship Groups - all in the midst of a global pandemic. What testimony to all involved!

We owe a huge debt of thanks to the whole Ministry Team including the Revs Antony, Merv, Carol and Stephen, as well as Amanda Watts, Susan Carne, Richard Hopkins, Christine Mingay and AnneMarie Partrick who lead and preached at our services, and offered us all such support throughout the year. Claire Arculus who had been our Benefice Administrator for many years left us in August, and the Rev Antony left in September. Deb Turner swiftly joined us in the role of Parishes Administrator and has very rapidly become an important member of our church family - thank you Deb.

Christine Mingay has been a much loved, and loyal member of our church, over many years and taken many, many roles - most notably Local Evangelist, Church Warden, Deanery Synod Rep and Lay Preacher to name but a few. Christine decided, in the year, that it was time to retire, including from preaching and leading Morning Prayer, which are the roles she had fulfilled

brilliantly in the recent past, working alongside the Rev Antony. We wish you, Christine, a very happy and fulfilled retirement - and hope to still see you on occasion.

Your PCC continued to work extremely hard on our behalf and sometimes, during the pandemic, the road has been rocky - especially in the field of Health and Safety - but the law of the land is the law of the land, and we have adhered to the very stringent criteria, thus remaining open.

Behind the scenes, David Barnard has continued to undertake the numerous changes of the altar frontals, replacement of candles, replenishment of Communion wafers and so many repair jobs including painting the re-plastered walls of the Lady Chapel, and reconfiguring a cupboard in the Vestry, as well as taking many roles within our services and also Verger-ing too - amazing! Richard and John Culley continue to check on the fabric of the church regularly and maintain clear rainwater goods; do the weeding and clearing of waste as well as numerous other vital activities -stunning!.

In May, sadly, we heard of the death of our very special Ardleigh resident, Des Thorne, who had unlocked the church for many, many years and was an enthusiastic member of our bellringing team too... we all miss him!

David Wright kindly and immediately took over the role of Unlocker, and so our church continues to be open from approx. 7:30 each day. David of course continues as Service Warden for our 8AM Holy Communion Services -brilliant!

The Locking team have continued, without complaint, to not only lock the doors each evening but also wipe down the south pews, door handles, mop floors as and when, and ensure continued Covid-security each day-magnificent!

The church has been cleaned although maybe not as often as we would have liked for various reasons - but it has been done regularly in year -pretty cool!

David Culham, Tower Captain, Pat Newton, Friendship Group lead, and Clare Fox, Living Stones lead, have each continued to maintain contact with members during Lockdown and beyond - all have regular numbers attending - please see their separate reports -wonderful!

We've had a new volunteer in year - Peter King - who, assisted by David Wright, has kindly been and taken a 360 degree interactive film of the body of our church and when he's finished filming of the Tower it will be available on the Benefice website ... and hopefully on the internet too. We've had a sneak preview and can't wait for you all to see it! It's truly amazing.

We all offer a huge THANK YOU to each of our wonderful volunteers in 2021 - without you, Ardleigh Church would not exist:

| | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Lynne Al-Sad | Sue Hulbert |
| Anne Auld | Rosemary Kleingeld |
| David Barnard | Peter King |
| James Blyth | Christine Mingay |
| Geoffrey Boyle | Pat Newton |
| Susan Carne | Rita Randall |
| Yvonne Cobbold | Christina Volkmann |
| David Culham | Amanda Watts |
| John Culley | Tony Windsor |
| Richard Culley | David Wright |
| David Elden | |

You will notice, as we move into 2022, that the number of attendees at services has yet to arise to pre- Covid levels; but the on-line viewings have risen above them.

The need for more volunteers is ongoing so we encourage you all to take part - we each make up 'the church', and your PCC hopes you will feel able to step forward once again to share the load more, now Covid is less life-threatening to each of us.

You may, by the way, be feeling that because you see a few members doing all the roles that they're happy doing it - which of course they are, but we would all welcome more volunteers so that the current service volunteers can, sometimes, just be in church to worship rather than be 'on duty' at every service

Your PCC asks you to please reflect upon where you might like/be able to help out - training and support can, and will, be given if requested.

We look forward to another full year in the life of Ardleigh Church as we move to 2022 and to all God has planned for us.

Sue Browne and Martin West, Churchwardens

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

Another interesting and very positive year - your Churchwardens and PCC have ensured all the Priority Repairs highlighted in the 2020 Quinquennial Report have now been completed; but there is still a lot of work to be done.

Sadly, the Faculty bid to have a matching oak box/seat near the font was turned down in amongst some unfortunate difficulties so this project will go no further - please speak to Martin if you require further information.

We received in year a quote of £137.5k for the roof repairs but are looking to other firms for possible quotes ... The issue being that all Church repairs are a specialist field and there are limited numbers of appropriate companies doing such work, with equally limited time availability. We have in year achieved the securing of a small charitable donation towards this very large and costly project.

We have also achieved a grant in year from the GCG Trust for the replacement rainwater drains, and at year end are just awaiting two further quotes from companies to satisfy their charitable donation criteria. We hope the project will be underway in the new year.

Your PCC has been working hard on other Fabric projects - Richard and John Culley have replaced some posts around the Garden of Remembrance, David Barnard has kindly undertaken numerous repair and redecorating tasks - including securing the shelves in the kitchen cupboard; reconfiguring a cupboard in the Vestry and painting the walls in the Lady Chapel following the re-plastering there.

There was a working party on 12 June when both the Mortuary rooms were sorted and tidied, and a huge amount of flammable leaves and branches were removed from the corner of the churchyard near Seeley Court - thanks to all who helped.

The sound system in church has continued to be a source of frustration for some but please be assured it has been checked and all is working well - your PCC is working to ensure all Service Wardens and Group Leaders are trained in how to control the volume and balance.

We look forward to a bright future as most large projects are now either completed or are known about.

We, the church can now look forward to a positive new year church fabric-wise.

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

The Benefice Pastoral Team continues to meet regularly.

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

As part of the care of the bereaved we telephone or write to them to offer a follow up visit after the clergy have completed their visits before and after the funeral. Every year those who have lost loved ones are invited to a service at one of our churches. In 2021 we hosted the Remembering Our Loved Ones service in November.

This is an area where we all have a ministry and it is good to know members of the congregation listen to and pray for one another in times of trouble. There are many other ways God uses us as we go about our daily life and encounter our neighbours sharing the help and comfort we have received from God.

The **Helpline** that was so gratefully received by those in need in Ardleigh has now closed but it can be reopened if ever there is further need.

Ardleigh Friendship Group

Due to Covid, we missed many coffee mornings. We did meet up again in April 2021.

First, one in church with masks and distancing. 11 people came, glad of some company.

The second one that month was outside in sunshine. Since then we have had regular coffee mornings, some outside but mostly in church. Usually around 12 people. One new lady came last time, said she enjoyed it and would come again.

Last September we invited some village people to say 'Goodbye' to Antony - 24 people.

We had a buffet, which was enjoyed by everyone.

In December just one coffee morning on a Christmas Party theme, 15 people came.

It would be good to see more people joining us. We also have 3 dogs now, all well behaved.

For the Queen's Platinum Celebration we hope to change to the first Tuesday of June so we can be part of the celebrations.

Pat Newton

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

We are grateful to Antony, Merv, Carol, Christine, Susan, Richard and Anne Marie alongside our visiting speakers who have faithfully preached from the Bible during the last year.

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

Alpha took place again in January 2021 and has been very successful in helping those who have wanted to explore their faith.

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

Ardleigh St Mary's C/E, V/C Primary School

"Let the children come to Me and don't hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to them."
Matthew 19:14

What a year 2021 was! All the staff did an amazing job keeping our children's education going, using modern technology and face to face teaching. Everyone has adapted their roles and carried

on. A grand effort by all: children, parents, carers, staff, volunteers and the wider village community. What a family we are!

I adapted collective worship, still mastering new skills. Changed my location in my house where I did the filming, so I had everything to hand. The filming took over a whole room, producing between three or four films per week.

I invested in some new music, added science experiments and magic tricks to help make the worship inspirational and memorable. We celebrated/focused on the Christian Festivals and the Christian values of Hope, Perseverance, Responsibility and Friendship. Chitter chatter continued; this is where each class had a question to discuss/write about/draw a picture which linked to the weekly theme. Also Acts of Caring remained where each class thought of something that would help others around them. The whole school then tried to do this act of caring during the coming week.

I am hoping, after Christmas, I will be able to be in school. I have missed the children, the expressions on their faces when I tell a story or do a science experiment, their amazing questions which make me stop and think/reflect, their willingness to help/take part/answer questions and last but not least, putting me right when I have forgotten to say/do something. Look out 2022, lots of new ideas from me and the children.

I would like to end with a fond farewell. Our Head, Donna Parker is retiring after many years leading our fantastic School. The school says hello and all the best to our deputy Head, stepping up to Acting Head, Nathan Kempster.

Donna will be greatly missed. I would like to end with the message I gave her at her leaving assembly:

As you know, everyone who leaves Ardleigh St Mary's, receives a pebble in a bag. So, it is right we do the same for you.

The stone represents us making waves, waves that affect other people around us. Just like dropping a stone into water.

We are giving you a bag of lots of pebbles, all very different, all unique. They represent all the children and adults you have known at Ardleigh St Mary's, including me, Amanda, being one of the pebbles.

(We would need to times the quantity in this bag by, say 20, or even more to include everyone. I didn't have enough pebbles!)

Children and adults who you have inspired to do amazing things, doing things that they may have only dreamt of, maybe making a small splash, or a big splash, all of us have made waves.

Just imagine throwing all these pebbles into the water, plus a whole lot more, imagine the splash, shapes and different patterns they would make, and the distance the waves would travel.

The splash would be huge, and the waves would travel far and wide, and be all different.

And this is what your bag represents and for you to celebrate. "...we will give children the inspiration and skills to follow their dreams." You have enthused so many children and adults, that is why your bag is white, and not green, white is for celebrating.

Words are not enough to say, THANK YOU, so look at the bag and remember us.

It's a real joy to be part of the family known as Ardleigh St Mary's.
Amanda Watts

Let's look back.....



Christmas, the first visitors.



Chris tingle at our Christingle.



A reading from the bible, Daniel and the Lions



A science experiment, drawn to Jesus



Year six leavers, we all make waves, make good waves.



Easter, Good Friday.



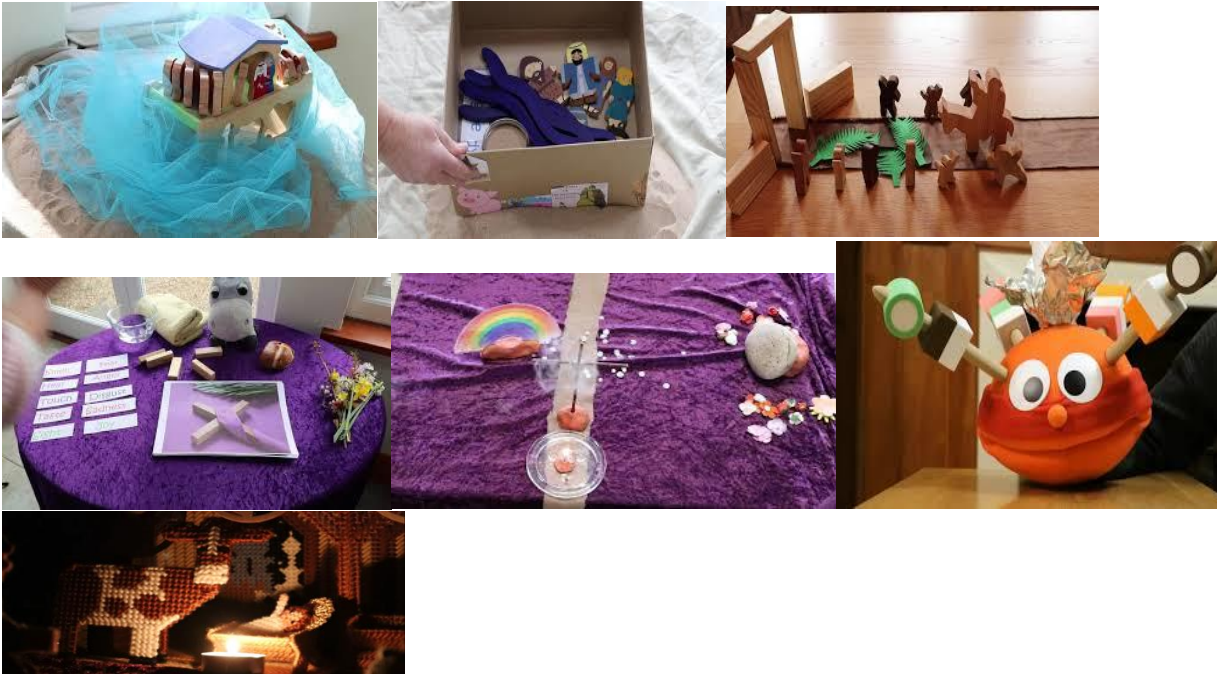
Epiphany, the gifts for Jesus

Children & Families Ardleigh

Covid has interrupted, like many other activities/day to day events, the normal run of things which happen in our village for children and adults. Sunday at 3 ran for a few months on line, but it wasn't the same, we had no cake! We were unable to meet to make Easter Gardens and Christingles. Again, there were videos for families to watch on the Churches' website. It was not the same as meeting in person.

The team will be meeting in January to regroup and plan the best way forward, so be looking out for some new, some old, events happening in a church that is down your street, or in your village. All are welcome.

Amanda Watts



f. Working with ecumenical partners
Deanery Synod

The full Deanery Synod met only once in 2021, in July, but the Standing Committee (a subset of the full Synod), met an additional four times. We are both members of the full Synod and in addition David is a member of the Standing Committee, so our Benefice has been represented at all meetings held. In addition, Churchwardens from all Parishes within the Deanery were invited to the full Synod meeting and the Bishop & Archdeacon of Colchester also attended.

A new 5-year Deanery Plan was the main focus of the work of the Synod in 2021, but progress on this was slightly disrupted with both the Area Dean, Rev'd Liz Barnes and our Vicar, Rev'd Antony Wilson, leaving for new jobs in September. The Archdeacon of Colchester committed to work with the Standing Committee to assist in producing the plan and it was also agreed that both she and Bishop Roger would attend all future Deanery meetings until a new Area Dean was appointed. At the July meeting, the Archdeacon of Chelmsford gave an environmental presentation and both General Synod and the Chelmsford Diocesan Synod have committed to be carbon neutral by 2030. PCC's were asked to have consideration of their environmental impact on every PCC meeting agenda and each parish will be asked to submit a return measuring their energy use which will provide input to an Energy Footprint tool for the Diocese.

Christina (Volkman) gave a presentation on how the Dedham and Ardleigh Benefice had achieved the Bronze ECO Church Award and referenced the resources available online to assist other parishes to achieve this, or Silver or Gold, status.

David Druitt & Liz Reed

Ardleigh Christians Together

Due mainly to the pandemic, Church at the Boot provided only a very limited presence during 2021. A decision about 2022 will be made in the near future.

Living Stones, led by Clare Fox have been meeting for prayer and worship at 6.30pm each Monday, including twice monthly at St Marys, Ardleigh. All are welcome to this more informal but exciting ministry.

Again, due to the circumstances, joint Ardleigh Christians Together services planned for February and May (Trinity Sunday) had to be cancelled.

A joyful prayer and praise service was however held on Sunday 5th December, 2021. Worship/music was led by Living Stones. Various contributions were made, including testimony, thanksgiving and song. We are starting to see God at work in these services, and a suggestion

has been made that it would be good to hold them six times per year. This is to be discussed at the next ACT meeting.

In past years Ardleigh Christians Together has organised some litter picking days, and we are delighted to note the Ardleigh Parish Council has invested in litter picking equipment which various members of the community are clearly using.

Russell Newsham

Living Stones Prayer Group

Living Stones is a charismatic prayer group, led by the Roman Catholic community, under the umbrella of ACT (Ardleigh Christians Together).

We returned to worshipping in St Mary's in July 2021 after easing Covid restrictions enabled us to gather and sing with no masks. Up until then we had been meeting during May and June in a barn on the Fox's farm in Bromley Road, where we were blessed with numbers of well over 20. We continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month starting with a gathering song at 6.25pm. The meeting formally begins at 6.30pm, ending around 7.45pm. Numbers are steadily between 15-18. Everyone is very welcome to come and join us for this time of praise and worship, testimony, bible sharing, teaching, quiet reflection and intercessory prayer.

We'd like to thank the Anglican community for continuing the Rev Antony's warm welcome and support in allowing us the use of this beautiful church, where we feel so much at home. We pray that the group may be a means for the Lord to bring us all into closer communion, working for the building of His kingdom here in Ardleigh.

Clare Fox

4. Financial review

Treasurers Report for the year ending 31 December 2021.

Introduction

This year, with huge help from Susan Carne and support from Martin West and Richard Culley, I took on the responsibility of doing Ardleigh's accounts. We have been well supported by David Wright and the PCC and have even moved the data from spreadsheets to a fully functioning accounting software package.

As a result of a more robust system the fees are now being accounted for correctly, using an 'agency nominal code'. The agency code distinguishes the income and expenditure which does not belong to the Church from that which does, avoiding Income and expenditure being overstated. The appointment of Philip Strangward as independent examiner, has allowed us to be consistent with the Charity Commission rules.

Overview

The closing balance of all Funds as at 31st December 2021 amounts to £197,360, a decrease of £14,842 on prior year.

This includes the General fund balance of £33,846 as at 31st December 2021, a year on year surplus of £2,076.

GENERAL FUND

Income

Donations

Voluntary giving during the year amounted to £22,258, which due to lower one-off donations caused a 4% decrease on last year. However, there has been a pleasing 34% increase in monthly standing orders during the year.

Income from Church Activities

There have been 3 weddings (2020 -1) and 4 funerals and 1 interment (2020- 7), with the income belonging to the church amounting to £1,455.

Income/ Interest from Investments

This income amounts to only £222, a huge reduction from last year at £1,009, due to lower interest rates.

EXPENSES

Expenditure on Church Activities

We have saved money on Vicar's working expenses since going into interregnum, 62% compared to last year. Office costs are lower by 22% and the new insurance provider had reduced premiums by 10%.

Some costs have increased; mainly financial admin and also our share of the costs associated with running the vicarage. Church utilities are also up, due to the church being shut last year. Due to the interregnum we also had to pay fees for services to our retired ministers; however, we claim all these back from the Diocese.

Agency Account

Fees

The statutory fees paid (from weddings and funerals) to the Chelmsford Board of Finance (CBoF) amount to £534 (Gross: £724.67) taking into account an overpayment of £190.67 from the previous year.

Grants

Total grants received of £22,453 came from the Listed Place of Worship VAT grant scheme and was mainly due to eligible fabric works.

Charitable Giving

During the year we collected £172 for the Royal British Legion and the Carol service raised £144 for Beacon House.

Parish Share

The Parish share paid for the year to 31 December 2021 amounts to £7,140 (2020: £10,890).

Fabric Fund

The Heating project was completed and the retention paid during the year. Work was carried out on various parts of the church and the roof by Bakers costing £38,847 - which were repairs required following the 2020 Quinquennial.

The fabric fund received grants from the Listed Place of Worship grant scheme amounting to £22,157. Funds were also received from the dissolution of the Curatage, Canon Perry and Vicar's room funds, amounting to £98,953.

Curatage & Canon Perry Fund

It was decided during the year to apply to the Diocese to release these 2 small funds into the fabric fund and this was duly completed during the year.

Vicar's Rooms

The Vicar's Rooms Funds have been redesignated as a Fabric Restricted Fund, as mentioned in last year's report. These funds have now been released and the proceeds of the sale of the investments are to be reinvested in shares in the fabric fund.

Friendship Group

The PCC unanimously agreed to set up a designated fund for the friendship group, during the year and I would like to thank Pat Newton and her team.

Conclusion

We will need to maintain a tight control on expenditure in the coming year, particularly in light of the energy crisis and in view of the planned Quinquennial works. Although a grant has been given for the major drains project of £11K, further funding is required for the roof repairs highlighted in the Quinquennial. One quote has been presented for £89K and grants will need to be applied for by the PCC to cover this. *Sara Marshall, Financial Administrator*

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

Ardleigh Parochial Church Council

Summary Receipts & Payments Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2021

| | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Endowment Funds | 2021 Total Funds | 2020 Funds |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Receipts | | | | | |
| Donations & Legacies | 23,075 | 26,157 | 0 | 49,232 | 118,163 |
| Receipts from charitable activities | 1,605 | 10 | 0 | 1,615 | 1,729 |
| Other trading activities | 120 | 0 | 0 | 120 | 1,331 |
| Investments | 222 | 0 | 0 | 222 | 1,009 |
| Sale of Investments | 0 | 68,953 | 0 | 68,953 | 0 |
| Other receipts | 195 | 0 | 0 | 195 | 0 |
| Total Receipts | 25,217 | 95,120 | 0 | 120,337 | 122,232 |
| Payments | | | | | |
| Raising funds | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Charitable activities | 22,946 | 43,185 | 0 | 66,131 | 121,942 |
| Other payments | 195 | 0 | 0 | 195 | 0 |
| Total Payments | 23,141 | 43,185 | 0 | 66,326 | 121,942 |
| Net of receipts/(payments) | 2,076 | 51,935 | 0 | 54,011 | 290 |
| Transfers between funds in | 128 | 98,953 | 0 | 99,081 | 0 |
| Transfers between funds out | (128) | (98,953) | 0 | (99,081) | 0 |
| Net movement in funds | 2,076 | 51,935 | 0 | 54,011 | 290 |
| Cash funds last year end | 31,770 | 111,579 | 0 | 143,349 | 143,059 |
| Cash funds this year end | 33,846 | 163,514 | 0 | 197,360 | 143,349 |

Ardleigh Parochial Church Council

Statement of Assets & Liabilities

As at: 31 December 2021

| | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Endowment Funds | 2021 Total Funds | 2020 Funds |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Investments | | | | | |
| Curatage fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6,167 |
| Canon Perry fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 37 |
| Vicars room fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 62,649 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 68,853 |
| Cash funds held | | | | | |
| Barclays | 15,768 | 9,728 | 0 | 25,496 | 9,697 |
| CCLA | 18,078 | 153,929 | 0 | 172,007 | 129,290 |
| | 33,846 | 163,657 | 0 | 197,503 | 138,987 |
| Other monetary assets | | | | | |
| Gift aid due | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4,315 |
| Diocese fees overpaid | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 191 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4,506 |
| Liabilities | | | | | |
| Agency Account | 0 | 143 | 0 | 143 | 0 |
| Outstanding payment | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 144 |
| | 0 | 143 | 0 | 143 | 144 |
| Total Net Assets | 33,846 | 163,514 | 0 | 197,360 | 212,202 |

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
for the financial year ended 31st December 2021

Report to Ardleigh Parish Church - Parochial Church Council (PCC)

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set on pages 2 to 5 of the Full Annual Accounts.

Respective responsibilities of PCC and Examiner:

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of the Independent Examiner's Report

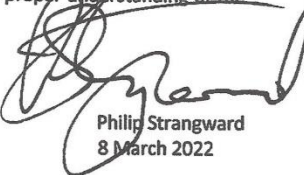
My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

Name of Independent Financial Examiner:
Date:


Philip Strangward
8 March 2022

5. Reserves policy

Dedham has considered its reserves and consider them to be adequate.

6. Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

There are no funds held on behalf of others

7. Plans for future periods

PCC objectives for the current year

To continue to

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

To continue to develop links with Dedham Parish

To develop ecumenical links within the village

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

8. Risk management

Health and Safety

Regular twice-monthly meetings continue to take place between the managers/churchwardens of our church buildings – St Mary's, Dedham, St Mary's, Ardleigh and the Duchy Barn with The Assembly Rooms holding separate meetings with the Trustees. Thank you to our volunteers for their continued support managing these buildings. The Risk Assessments are endorsed by all members of the PCC and are an important area for all to take note of requirements – as written in the crib sheets for all volunteers.

Safeguarding

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

This year I took up the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer, PSO, working with Richard Hopkins, PSO for Dedham and Charlotte Parker, PSO Administrator for Ardleigh and Dedham. We all have role descriptions and are set key tasks. We work with guidance from the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers over safeguarding issues.

I attended PCC meetings to ensure safeguarding issues were discussed and that the church leadership adopted the Annual Church Safeguarding Policy. I keep the leadership informed of good safeguarding practice.

Amanda Watts

9. 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 (when not in vacancy), churchwardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

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

PCC Report

During the year, the PCC has met once on Zoom, and twice in St Mary's. Jointly with Dedham we have had three meetings on Zoom, one of these included a talk by the Rev Phil Ritchie,

Colchester Area Mission and Ministry Advisor. We also had a joint meeting with Dedham PCC, in the Vicarage garden in July.

Francis Perera, our Treasurer for 15 years, presented his final report for the PCC in March; we are extremely grateful to him for his service on the PCC. Sara Marshall took over our finances as Finance Administrator and has now put our financial records on Data Development software. This is an ecclesiastical module within our current system and now makes entering data and accessing it much easier. Sara will be helped by David Wright and Susan Carne.

We began the year with 6 PCC members plus the Rev Antony as our chair. After the APCM Christine Mingay sadly decided to step down from the PCC, she will be much missed. Our PCC therefore consists of 6 members including our 2 church wardens (Martin West was elected church warden at the APCM).

Our two main discussions during the year were:

- Jointly with Dedham PCC a discussion on the C of E paper, *Living in Love and Faith* and the possible need to implement some of the proposals in the Benefice.
- We were joined by Dedham PCC in St Mary's in November for a discussion with Bishop Roger and Archdeacon Ruth on the future of our Benefice within the Deanery following the Rev Antony's resignation and departure in September.

Our PCC meetings follow the same format. The main areas presented/discussed are:

1. *The Five marks of Mission*

- Tell- including the running of Alpha and other courses, church ministry, schools ministry, and Mission support
- Teach- including Baptisms, nurturing of those in the church and teaching via Sermon series
- Tend- responding to human need - including, for example, the Helpline during the pandemic
- Transform- including praying for peace and reconciliation; and our commitment to Colchester Foodbank, Beacon House and Korban, and, more recently Tear Fund.
- Treasure - including our commitment to becoming more eco friendly. The eastern side of the churchyard is undergoing re-wilding and we, as a church, are using Fair Trade items from now on.

2. *Finance and stewardship*

Ensuring the continuation of Ministry and Mission as well as the upkeep of the ancient building, our Church. The heating is now working efficiently and the church building is more welcoming to everyone.

Once again, we have been unable to hold our expected Flower Festival this year.

However, we shall be looking to further income generation ideas during the coming year.

3. *Pastoral Care*

We, as a church, care for all God's people and as a PCC we have an ongoing focus upon our own members as well as all parishioners of Ardleigh.

4. *Children and Young People*

Amanda Watts has worked with the Rev Antony, Donna Parker, the school staff team, the children, and their families, as well as our Preschools/ Nurseries and reports back on all the projects she is involved in - including now producing wonderful films and craft resources which are uploaded onto our Benefice website

5. *Safeguarding*

This is an important role which your PCC takes responsibility for, and we aim to safeguard everyone - both adults and children and especially those with any additional needs; as well as ourselves

6. Health and Safety

Another important area covered by ongoing Risk assessments kept up to date and copies of which can be found in church.

7. *The fabric of the church -see separate report*

8. *Deanery updates - see separate Benefice report*

9.

We now look forward to the coming year when we hopefully can be together again to develop our mission and Ministry further.

Sue Browne and Martin West, Churchwardens

PCC Membership

Incumbent (Vacancy)

Churchwardens

Sue Browne (elected APCM 2021)

Martin West (elected APCM 2021)

Elected members and date of election

Richard Culley APCM 2021

Christine Mingay – *retired APCM 2021*

Amanda Watts APCM 2021

Christina Volkmann APCM 2020

Rosemary Kleingeld APCM 2021

Administrative information

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

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

Parishes Office

2021 was rather different to 2020, as the office began to open after being closed for most of the previous year. Then there was a change of staff with Claire Arculus leaving and being replaced by Deb Turner in early September 2021. The office is regularly open on a Tuesday and Thursday each week from 10am-12pm. As Parishes Administrator and Volunteers Coordinator, I continue to oversee the office management and administration for both Dedham and Ardleigh churches. The steep learning curve is still very steep, but I have been fully supported by the wonderful churchwardens, Rev Merv McKinney and many others. Charlotte Parker continues to assist with administrative tasks and maintains the editorial of the Dedham Parish Magazine to an excellent standard. Thanks to Sara Marshall for her outstanding finance management support.

Deb Turner

Communications

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

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

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

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

Website

The church website, dedham-and-ardleigh-parishes.org.uk, continued to provide a useful focal point for the church community during 2021 especially during the periods of lockdowns resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic.

In 2021 the total number of page requests on the website fell back from the high number experienced in 2020, the actual figure was 265,746. In 2020 the figure was 924,506 and in 2019 it was 188,000. Page Requests are the number of web pages requested by visitors to the web site. The average monthly figure was over 22,000, compared with 77,00 in 2020 and 15,000 in 2019. The month with the highest number of requests was November 2021 with over 30,000 requests.

The breakdown of the Page requests by website area shows that Articles received 12,020 requests (2020 - 71,033), Media 3,444 (2020 – 61,711) and Calendar 678 (2020 - 17,861). Media and Calendar requests were quite low, reflecting the effects of the Pandemic on Church Services.

John Goldsbrough

St Mary's Church, Ardleigh – Annual Meeting
Sunday, 18th April 2021
Held online on Zoom (Covid-19 restrictions)

The Annual Meeting consists of two meetings:

(1) Annual Meeting of Parishioners

(2) Annual Parochial Church Meeting

These meetings took place consecutively and are minuted below as Agenda Items (1) and (2), with individual agenda items as listed in the agenda on pp. 27-28 of the *Annual and Dedham Parishes Annual Reports, Year End December 2020* (file name: 2020 APCM Joint Report Final), hereafter referred to as *Annual Report*.

| Agenda Item | Minutes |
|-------------|---|
| (1) | Annual Meeting of Parishioners The meeting began at ca. 12.41. |
| | <p>Present: Reverend Antony Wilson (ACW) – Chair Sue Browne Susan Carne Rosina Harman Christine Mingay Christina Volkmann Martin West</p> <p>Apologies received: Richard Culley Rosemary Kleingeld Pat Newton June and Tony Windsor</p> |
| 1. | <p>Minutes of last year's Annual Meeting of Parishioners</p> <p>ACW requested comments regarding accuracy or content of these minutes. None were raised. The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting held 13-09-2020</p> <p><u>PROPOSED</u>: Martin West <u>SECONDED</u>: Susan Carne <u>VOTE</u>: Unanimous</p> |
| 2. | <p>Election of Churchwardens for the ecclesiastical parish</p> <p>ACW had received two nominations – <i>Martin West</i> and <i>Sue Browne</i></p> <p><i>Martin West</i></p> <p><u>PROPOSED</u>: Susan Carne <u>SECONDED</u>: Sue Browne</p> <p><i>Sue Browne</i></p> <p><u>PROPOSED</u>: Amanda Watts <u>SECONDED</u>: Christina Volkmann</p> |

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| | There being no other nominations for these two positions ACW declared Martin West and Sue Browne appointed as Churchwardens for the ecclesiastical parish. |
| 3. | Any other business Other business of general parish concern – none. Items those attending wished to be referred to the PCC – none. |
| | |
| | The meeting closed at ca. 12.46. |
| | |
| (2) | Annual Parochial Church Meeting The meeting began at ca. 12.46. |
| | Present: Reverend Antony Wilson (ACW) – Chair Sue Browne (SB) Susan Carne (SC) Rosina Harman (RH) Christine Mingay (CM) Christina Volkmann (CV) Amanda Watts (AW) [joined 1pm; discussion of Item (2)9.] Martin West (MW) Apologies received: Richard Culley Rosemary Kleingeld Pat Newton June Windsor Tony Windsor |
| 1. | Opening Prayer – ACW led the meeting’s opening prayer. |
| 2. | Apologies for absence received – see list above |
| 3. | Appointment of Tellers – ACW appointed CM as teller to count the votes of any elections during this meeting if so required. |
| 4. | Minutes of last year’s Annual Parochial Church Meeting These were reproduced in the <i>Annual and Dedham Parishes Annual Reports, Year End December 2020</i> (file name: 2020 APCM Joint Report Final) on pp. 22-26. ACW requested comments regarding accuracy or content of these minutes. None were raised. |
| 5. | Amendment and Adoption of those minutes The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting held 13-09-2020. <u>PROPOSED</u> : Christine Mingay <u>SECONDED</u> : Sue Browne <u>VOTE</u> : Unanimous |
| 6. | Matters Arising ACW checked the minutes. There were no matters arising. |
| 7. | Electoral Roll Report The Electoral Roll Officer could not join the meeting due to technical difficulties. ACW cited the Annual Report (p. 6): “The Electoral Roll has been renewed in 2020. Currently there are 27 on the roll, 21 are |

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| | residents and 6 are non-residents.” |
| 8. | <p>PCC Annual Report</p> <p>SB drew the meeting’s attention to her report on p. 19 of the <i>Annual Report</i>. She highlighted that the PCC had met on 11 occasions and that the PCC had 7 members (plus Revd Antony as Chair). The meetings follow a standard format based on the 5 Marks of Mission. She noted that the topics of Health and Safety as well as Safeguarding were likely to have a high profile in the coming year.</p> |
| <p>9. including</p> <p>9a) Report on the financial affairs of the parish church/PCC</p> <p>9b) Presentation of the examined accounts</p> <p>9c) Proposal for the formal adoption of the accounts</p> <p>9d) Appointment of auditor for the coming year</p> <p>Please note Action Point for MW under 9d)</p> | <p>Financial Report</p> <p>9a) and 9b)</p> <p>ACW drew the meeting’s attention to the Financial Report as compiled by Francis Perera (pp. 15-17 of the <i>Annual Report</i>). He noted that the Full Accounts are on the Parish website or can be requested by emailing the Parish Office.</p> <p>ACW added that, whilst total income had decreased by 3%, voluntary income had increased by 33%. The donations from the RC community which ceased in 2020 are not expected to return, representing a significant ongoing financial challenge.</p> <p>ACW reiterated his thanks to Francis and Barbara Perera for their dedicated service to the parish over the many years Francis was Treasurer. He also thanked David Wright for banking cash and cheques received.</p> <p>ACW further reported that the independent examiner was satisfied with the accounts (see p. 17 of the <i>Annual Report</i> for the ‘Independent examiner’s report’ by Mr R J Phipps, dated 24-02-2021).</p> <p>ACW drew the meeting’s attention to the Vicar’s Rooms, and he explained the history of these funds and how they might be accessed. He expressed his disappointment that there had been no contact from the Diocese on this matter since December 2020.</p> <p>9c)</p> <p>The meeting then voted on the Proposal for the formal adoption of the accounts.</p> <p><u>PROPOSED</u>: CV <u>SECONDED</u>: SC <u>VOTE</u>: Unanimous</p> <p>9d)</p> <p>With regard to the appointment of auditor for the coming year, the meeting voted on keeping Mr R J Phipps (1 Cherrywood, Station Road, Alresford, Essex) as independent examiner.</p> <p><u>PROPOSED</u>: MW <u>SECONDED</u>: CM <u>VOTE</u>: Unanimous</p> <p>Action point for MW: MW will ask Sara Marshall to confirm with Mr Phipps that he is willing</p> |

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| | to continue as independent examiner. |
| 10. | <p>Churchwarden's Report</p> <p>SB drew the meeting's attention to pp. 6-8 of the <i>Annual Report</i> for details. She reiterated her thanks to the volunteers of whom more are always welcome. With regards to the fabric of the church, she reported considerable achievements, even in the time of the pandemic. She thanked ACW and David Barnard for their hard work in this area. SB reported that Baker's of Danbury are currently doing the work coming out of the quinquennial review. She also reported progress on the project of the seat inside the church by the door to the Tower Room and the project of installing two benches in the churchyard.</p> <p>AW thanked Sue, with ACW adding his thanks for her diligence and her love and care for our church building. This was echoed by all members of the meeting.</p> |
| 11. | <p>Other verbal reports</p> <p>AW highlighted some of the very successful and much-appreciated work she had done with children, families, and the Primary School, esp. in light of many activities as well as worship moving online during the pandemic (also see <i>Annual Report</i>, pp. 11-12)</p> <p>MW welcomed specifically the <u>contribution by Ms Donna Parker, Headteacher of Ardleigh School</u> to the <i>Annual Report</i> (see pp. 9-11).</p> <p>CV drew attention to her report on the EcoChurch activities in the <i>Annual Report</i> (p. 36).</p> |
| 12. | <p>Deanery Synod Report</p> <p>ACW highlighted Liz Reed's Deanery Synod Report in the <i>Annual Report</i> (p. 13). He noted that he sees the Deanery Synod Reports as pertaining to the whole of the benefice, even though, formally, there are separate representatives for the parishes of Ardleigh and Dedham.</p> <p>He noted that the focus of the deanery work was on sharing resources and expertise, as well as on re-imagining ministry.</p> <p>ACW also sent to CV on 18-04-2021, at 13.14, the following updated version of this report which Liz Reed had compiled for the Dedham APCM on 25th April:</p> <p><u>"Synod APCM Presentation</u></p> <p>Good morning everyone</p> <p>My name is Liz Reed and I am one of the Synod representatives for Dedham, the others being David Druitt as well as Christine Mingay who has served for many years for both parishes.</p> <p>As the APCM report has stated much ongoing thought and discussion continues to take place to consider the effects of the financial situation in our diocese and which has tended to be highlighted by the implication of the Covid epidemic. A five year plan is being drawn up to consider further implications, but at the first meeting this year of the Synod on the 27th March Archdeacon Ruth gave us a reflective talk, and said she was pleased to report that the deanery plan contributions that were made by the Harwich deanery show that our parishes are already at our 2025 target for clergy. Sadly, we report that parishes such as Lawford, Little Bentley and the Bromley's are in vacancy with no thought to filling them in the future.</p> <p>Work on Re-imagining ministry is starting to show positive effects due to benefices being able to discuss and share training and resources as well as</p> |

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| | <p>individuals responding to particular areas of expertise which will enable us to help each other within the diocese.</p> <p>Ongoing concerns such as supporting families, schools and young people are also being considered, as small groups are being set up to respond more closely to particular needs in our communities.</p> <p>So our work on Re imagining ministry over the next few years will continue to take place through shared discussion throughout the deanery, and we very much hope that experiences gained by the Diocese of Saffron Walden will enable us to have further understanding, and find ways to move forward in our diocese in a positive manner, and we look forward to sharing their expertise.</p> <p>Finally we thank Antony, Merv, our churchwardens and lay preachers for all their hard work throughout the epidemic, recognising that through prayer, discussion and action we may all work together for God's purpose which is to spread His word and encourage others to find Him whether we worship on line or at our church services, both such valuable God given experiences in our communities.</p> <p>Thankyou"</p> |
| <p>13. including</p> <p>13a) Deanery Synod Representative</p> <p>13b) PCC Representatives</p> <p>Please note Action Point for CM and CV under 13a)</p> | <p>Elections from those entered on the Electoral Roll of the ecclesiastical parish</p> <p>13a) There is one space as Synod Rep now that Christine Mingay's term of office has come to an end. We are grateful to Christine for her faithful service as our rep.</p> <p>No nominations were received but CV is going to discuss the role with CM</p> <p>13b) ACW had received 3 nominations – <i>Richard Culley, Amanda Watts, Rosemary Kleingeld</i>. The election went as follows:</p> <p><i>Richard Culley</i> <u>PROPOSED</u>: SB <u>SECONDED</u>: SC <u>VOTE</u>: Unanimous</p> <p><i>Amanda Watts</i> <u>PROPOSED</u>: MW <u>SECONDED</u>: SB <u>VOTE</u>: Unanimous</p> <p><i>Rosemary Kleingeld</i> <u>PROPOSED</u>: SB <u>SECONDED</u>: CM <u>VOTE</u>: Unanimous</p> <p>ACW declared all duly appointed to their posts.</p> <p>In answer to a question from MW, ACW also explained that a PCC in a parish with an electoral role with up to 50 members can have 6 members (excluding the Chair and the churchwarden(s)).</p> |
| <p>14.</p> | <p>Vicar's Report to the Benefice</p> <p>ACW drew the meeting's attention to his report in the Annual Report (pp. 3-4). He highlighted his observations on the Mandarin Chinese word for 'crisis': "危机 one represents danger and the other</p> |

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| | <p>opportunity.” Danger implies hardship, sadness, and difficulty as we encountered them during the pandemic. Opportunity, in our context, comes in serving our community as we did in this past year, not least based the 5 Marks of Mission.</p> <p>As future activities, he highlighted the Deanery Synod and the conversations our benefice around the Living in Love and Faith initiative. We will continue to care for our buildings, engage in good governance (esp. in view of Health & Safety, safeguarding, GDPR).</p> <p>He paid tribute to the contribution of the Ministry Team.</p> <p>The meeting gave a collective ‘big thank you’ to Antony for his leadership and his hard work for our benefice and community.</p> |
| <p>15.</p> | <p>Any other business (Chair to be notified before the meeting)</p> <p>Other business of general parish concern – none.</p> <p>Items those attending wished to be referred to the PCC – none.</p> <p>SB suggested that attendees consider setting up a ‘Friends of Ardleigh Church’ interest group.</p> |
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| | <p>The meeting closed at ca. 13.27.</p> |
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| | <p>[This meeting was followed by a short PCC Meeting.]</p> |
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St Mary's Church, Ardleigh

Sunday, 24th April 2022

AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting consists of two meetings.

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

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

The meetings may be chaired by the 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, including vote from all eligible

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

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

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

a) Deanery Synod representative

b) PCC representatives

14. Vicar'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)

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

a) Lay-chair

b) Secretary

c) Treasurer

d) Electoral Roll Officer

e) Standing Committee

e) Any co-opted appointments

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

St Mary's Dedham

2021 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 8th March 2022

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. After the resignation of Antony Wilson at the end of September the Churchwardens and the PCC continued this responsibility. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St Mary's Church and the Duchy Barn (*through oversight of its Management Committee*).

2. Objectives and activities

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

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

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

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

3. Achievements and performance

a. Regular public worship for all Sunday Services

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. Covid has meant that our service pattern has changed frequently throughout the past year, and in response to different government guidance.

Online services have been available via our website on livestream via YouTube including Morning and Evening Prayer. Many have continued to join these services.

Easter services including a 6am dawn service took place outside.

We installed a live stream camera in August 2020 and since then we have all been able to log on and join in with services during lockdown.

At Christmas we were able to hold in person a Carol Service but our school children did not attend and their annual school service was cancelled due to Covid risk. The crib services were cancelled also. In person Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services took place.

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 8 baptisms, 10 weddings and held 18 funerals in our church this year.

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

Church Membership

The Electoral Roll has been renewed in 2021. This is constantly updated and there are currently 77 on the Electoral Roll, of whom 74 are residents and 3 non-residents.

Music in Worship

As the world recovers from the global pandemic, with restrictions firstly eased and now over, we are seeing a gradual return to more normal times, especially in the life of the choir. Whilst not everyone has felt comfortable to a full return, given that Covid has not gone away, most of our members have returned to a near-normal rehearsal schedule on Friday evenings, and the use of face coverings has been relaxed, as singers feel comfortable. We have seen a shift in membership, with house moves and retirement, but also a few new singers in our number, always a good sign. In February 2022, we had the first social in two years; a choir meal at The Marlborough, where we were able to mark our changes and give thanks and express gratitude for long service in the choir.

As I write, it is hard to imagine what we have been through in the last couple of years as a choir, with singing not being permitted, changing guidance at each turn, and through it all, 'the faithful few fought bravely' to keep live music at the heart of what we do. My thanks to all who made this possible through their brave commitment.

As time goes on, we see an ebb and flow. Currently, we have no junior element to the choir, due to changes of school, and our longest serving 'junior' coming of age. Such is the nature of a parish church choir. As singing in our primary school returns to normal, with Antony playing for two assemblies in school each week, as well as assisting in teaching new songs to the children, music in praise of God goes on in the background.

We had a Christmas Carol Service planned for 2021, with the Primary School Choir due to sing for us, as well as having their own Carols Service the following day. In the event, the school was decimated by Covid cases, including the staff required to make it happen, so we had to adjust. I'm sure He saw and heard our rehearsals, and was pleased that 'Peace on earth and good will to all men' was very much on our lips – a message the world needs to hear even more clearly just over two months later.

The Organ Project was put on hold during the pandemic, but was revisited by the PCC in Spring 2021, and it was agreed to raise the profile of the project with an Organ Recital on the August Bank Holiday, followed by a public meeting in September to discuss and agree a way forward. Overwhelming support for the project to relocate and refurbish a pipe organ from a church in Glasgow was received by a well-attended meeting, however the project was put on further hold with the departure of Rev'd Antony Wilson. As the organ itself has continued to give problems on an almost weekly basis, the PCC have agreed to explore a way forward. A modest digital organ has been purchased in recent days to provide an emergency instrument in the event of total failure, especially in view of the large number of weddings booked in 2022, especially with the backlog due to Covid. It remains a huge project, but an important one in the musical life of our church. Please continue to pray for the project.

We have been richly blessed by having Misha Bennett agreeing to lead the worship with her lovely singing at Revive@5, following Millie Watson's departure to Leeds for her degree course. We continue to explore new ways of sharing this musical ministry with other local churches. Antony would like to thank all those who share the ministry of music with him, and as we look forward with renewed hope, we ask God to bless our efforts.

Antony Watson

Bell Ringing

I have been Bell Captain since the beginning of 2022. I have done a couple of advertising articles for more Bell Ringers as we have become increasingly small in numbers. This has been quite successful and I have started training up my new recruits, and all is going well at the moment. Hopefully this will continue as we have 14 weddings coming up this year.

Lou Davison

Flowers in Church

It thankfully feels as if we are now getting back into a proper pre-pandemic routine with flowers being regularly arranged in church now. The 18 or so people on the rota help to make the church an uplifting and welcoming place with their arrangements, and they demonstrate many individual acts of Christian devotion with what they do. I would like to thank the team for the time they give in hands-on arranging and with the necessary follow-up watering!

The whole team have loved getting together to decorate the church for Easter, Harvest and Christmas and we have been developing ways to be more eco-friendly by reducing our use of the 'oasis' material which is not fully bio-degradable. We have started to think about and plan this year's Flower Festival which takes place in October under the title of 'Creation'.

Some team members have sadly had to leave the group due to infirmity or for personal reasons, so we are looking for new members to join the group.

Helen Sims

Stewards

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

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Deidre Beckinsale | Liz Nickerson |
| Amanda Brebner | Sarah Oakley |
| Be Burleigh | Linda Redlich |
| Lou Davison | John Reed |
| David Druitt | Liz Reed |
| Nigel Everett | Jill Strangward |
| Sally Gotelee | Paula Watkins |
| Maria Johnston | |
| Lucy Marshall | |
| Andrew McLaughlin | |
| Leonie McLaughlin | |

Guided Church and Tower Tours

After the Guided Church and Tower tours were suspended due to the pandemic, they were up and running again in 2021. There have been a few tours happen in 2021. As things start to open up more fully, then hopefully there will be more demand.

Deb Turner

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

Fabric Report

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

The major expenditure during the year was the replacement and repair of gutters and downpipes which were in a poor condition. It was very important to address this issue as failure to do so could cause damage to other parts of the church fabric. The works were completed by Keystone at a cost of £17,954, and was funded partly by two grants, one from Friends of Dedham Church (£10,000) and one from GCG Environmental (£5000).

One other major area of focus was the heating system: the current oil boiler located underground with access from the vicarage cellars proved to be at the end of its life with no spare parts now available. Extensive consultations took place with various contractors offering a variety of heating options and after taking advice from the heating advisor to the DAC, it was decided to install a gas boiler. A faculty was prepared and accepted by the DAC, and a contractor has been chosen. Update note: It is hoped that work can begin during the spring of this year when the weather is milder. The current world uncertainty is affecting prices of all materials and we have asked for an update to the price before work commences.

The other major issue faced by the church in 2021 was the continuing decline in the condition of the current organ. It has been failing on an increasing number of occasions and is now unreliable, and all professionals asked to investigate have indicated that it is beyond economic repair. A public meeting was in favour of a new pipe organ, but faced with a forecast cost in excess of £250,000 and in a period of interregnum it was decided to postpone the project until a new incumbent was appointed.

Update Note: After further consultation, and in light of the long lead times offered by organ manufacturers, and people's desire to be able to contribute, it has been decided to begin an official fundraising programme. To ensure that the church will not be without organ music should the current organ totally fail, a small digital organ has been purchased as back up.

Peter Wilson, on behalf of Fabric Committee

Church Cleaning and Churchyard Maintenance

Churchwardens and the PCC wish to thank Andrew Hodson for his commitment in continuing to maintain the Church and Churchyard to a high level.

Resource Centre

It is good news that the Resource Centre is now open once more to the public to purchase books and other items. The income from the sales makes a steady contribution towards church funds and we hope that this will continue throughout the year.

Muniment Library

There is very little to report here as I have been laid up following a shoulder operation and unable to drive. Many thanks to Paula Watkins who has been keeping an eye on the Library and ensuring heat and humidity are as they should be.

Mrs Lucy Archer has been resourcing material in the Library for her excellent Parish Magazine articles which I am sure we are all enjoying immensely. The last three years' worth of Parish Magazines have been collected and are on their way to the binder. Subscriptions have been paid to The Bibliographical Society and copies of "The Library" are received from them quarterly. Items of local interest are culled from the Essex County Standard for filing and copies of the Dedham Vale Society magazine are also collected.

We are still hoping that someone will come forward to take over the care of this valuable resource.

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 and Merv McKinney have visited all church members who have offered, to celebrate communion with them either at their homes or in hospital or at Blackbrook Residential Home.

Helpline and Buddy system

After the Helpline was closed down we decided that there were still a number of people who would need specific support in the form of prescription pickups, local shopping or a friendly telephone ear. So, a system named the Buddy system where particular former Helpline volunteers kindly agreed to be supportive of vulnerable people living in both Dedham and Ardleigh was set up. We plan to continue to be supportive to those in need for as long as is

required in Dedham and Ardleigh. Our sincere thanks to everyone for their help throughout the last year.

Pastoral Group

The Pastoral Group members are Lynne Al-Sad, Ruth Higginson, Jean Flewin and Ann Shaw. 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. The Monday lunch club has met as and when restrictions have allowed.

Bereavement Visitors

The Bereavement visiting team are Vee Druitt, Ruth Higginson and Ann Shaw. A card is sent to the next of kin soon after the funeral followed by a telephone call and a visit if requested. A card is sent to the next of kin if they are outside the immediate area. The Annual Bereavement service was well attended and well received.

Ann Shaw

Walk & Talk Group

I started this group about fifteen months ago. Obviously during lockdown, we missed some meetings and also a couple of months we just did the "Walk" as I felt it was not the right time for coffee and chat inside when the Covid numbers were so high. Hopefully we will move forward now and get back to some normality.

I have a couple of older ladies who are unable to take part in the "Walk" but really enjoy the coffee and chat afterwards at the Arts Centre. The total number of people attending is about ten. At Christmas we had a meal together after the walk which was a great success. I look forward to the numbers increasing during this coming year.

Lou Davison

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

We are grateful to Merv, Susan, Richard and Anne Marie alongside our visiting speakers who have faithfully preached from the Bible during last year.

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

During the year we studied the Beatitudes followed by Acts

We joined with churches across the country in *Thy Kingdom Come* initiative at Pentecost.

Alpha was successfully repeated in January 2021. After the Alpha course, a number of us completed the Growing Leaders course and a number did Living in Love and Faith.

Mission Fundraising

Members

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

Activities

Covid restrictions were still in force but we were able to hold our usual summer cake/bric a brac sales. Again, there was no Winter Fair. There was one carol service but the Crib services were cancelled. However, we were still able to raise £2,015 through the continued hard work of our team.

Distribution

The amount we have raised during the year will be split between Korban, a homeless charity in Colchester dealing with young people aged between 16-25, Beacon House, also a homeless charity and the Van de Ruits (the missionary family we support) in South Africa. Their newsletters are displayed on the noticeboard at the back of church. They visited the church in summer whilst home on leave to visit their families. We continue to support Beacon House with collections of toiletries, clothes, and sundries. 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. Beacon House were back to serving hot food inside the building but only to

street homeless people because numbers were restricted. Lateral Flow tests had to be done before anyone could go into the building. As many as possible have been vaccinated – this still continues. Some homeless people were put into hotels and temporary accommodation. Beacon House continue to do a necessary job of finding accommodation and giving support and encouragement to those in need. If anyone is interested in volunteering or just visiting to see the work that is done please contact Julie on 01206 761960

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

Ruth Higginson/Lynne Al-Sad

EcoChurch

As in other areas of our church life, the pandemic with its limitations on meeting in person continued to have an impact on our *EcoChurch*-related activities in 2021. In July, we were able to welcome the Year 6 pupils of Dedham Primary School for their 'leaving do'. On a glorious summer morning they had great fun exploring the richness of our churchyard, in terms of its ecology and its meaning as an historic green space in our community. We worked with materials from *Caring for God's Acre* (www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/), one of the many organisations supporting churches and communities in their action on climate change.

The Church of England's target of net zero carbon (carbon neutrality) by 2030 as adopted by the General Synod in February 2020 continues to form the wider context of our activities, as do the recommendations of the *Essex Climate Action Commission* (essexclimate.org.uk) of which our Bishop of Colchester is a member. We continue to be part of *EcoChurch* working in the categories of Worship and Teaching, Land, Buildings, Lifestyle, and Community Engagement.

The courses and activities put on by the Church of England help us navigate the bewildering complexity of addressing the climate-related issues facing our churches. As exemplified by the heating project in Dedham Church, the path to carbon neutrality by 2030 is proving challenging to all of us.

We have begun to work with other parishes in our Deanery and in the Colchester Area in order to share experiences and support one another, e.g. planning for joint/shared activities for the Church of England's 'Great Big Green Week' in September of 2022.

Thank you to all who have been involved in EcoChurch this year!

If you know of anyone who might like to join in, please do get in touch. I'm at church most Sundays, or you can contact me through the Parishes Office. And, most importantly, please pray for our churches on our EcoChurch journey.

*"You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honour and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they were created
and have their being."*

(Revelation 4: 11)

Christina Volkmann

e. The taking of religious assemblies in schools and work with children and families Rise 'n Shine

We celebrate our Rise 'n Shine all-age worship on every first Sunday of the month as an informal service with a variety of worship music and different activities. Our themes for the most part follow the liturgical calendar, e.g. Advent or Lent. At Harvest Festival, for example, we focused on the 'Harvest of Salt' and Jesus's reminder that as His followers we are the 'salt of the earth'. Last summer, we took our worship outside (no, it didn't rain that much...) when we explored our churchyard in a creation-related theme. A few days later, on a gloriously sunny morning, we hosted the Year 6 pupils of Dedham Primary School for their 'leaving do' with a

similarly-themed activity. We live-stream our services, and they remain available on our YouTube channel.

And finally, a big Thank You: to all who come to worship together, to Amanda for being a font of ideas and for putting together the lovely activities for our children's corner, to Antony for selecting our worship songs, to our AV Team for putting up with at times challenging conditions, to our Refreshments Team and to our Welcomers for all they do, and, last but by no means least, to Rev'd Antony for encouraging me to give Rise 'n Shine a go when he moved on to pastures new.
Christina Volkmann

Open the Book

The last time we went to Dedham School for an Open the Book Assembly was February 2020 just before the first lockdown. Since then Sue has stepped down from leading this work, members of the team are willing to continue going into school but with the other commitments they have, they are unable to take on the responsibility of leadership. For now, the Open the Book Assemblies are not happening. If someone thinks this is something they could do please contact me.

Sue McKinney

Youth Report

Our young people continue to gather on a monthly basis after ReVive@5 either at the Vicarage or in the Vicarage garden depending on the weather. If there is a speaker at the ReVive@5 service, they are invited to come and chat to the young people and join us for pizza and games. We have up to 7 young people each month on a regular basis. If your child is secondary school aged and would like to join us, they would be very welcome. We meet 6.00-7.30pm after the service at the Vicarage in Dedham.

Our annual campout took place in August in the Vicarage Garden and we welcomed young people from Boxted and Langham Parish as well to join us. The group of 2 boys 5 girls enjoyed games, hot dogs cooked on the fire pit, marshmallows, some reflection time and Reverend Antony put on a mini firework display as our finale before bed. The weather was great and we all had a fantastic time.

Thank you to Christina Volkmann & Tom Arculus for helping to lead the young people with me this year.

Claire Arculus

ReVive@5 - ReVive@5 has continued to meet on the fourth Sunday of every month in the last year. It is an informal service with contemporary worship, prayer ministry and often a guest speaker. We have been very blessed to have Antony Watson lead our worship with the help of a vocalist. We are now looking to develop a worship band going forward and would be delighted to hear from and welcome any new musicians who have a heart for worship

Our planning team have welcomed some newcomers recently, and we are delighted to have Pete and Ineke Cook join us to help with the planning and teaching

We give thanks to God for all that He is doing through the ReVive service, and all are welcome to come along

Sharon and Tim Sarson



Dedham Church of England Primary School

'A lifelong love of learning'

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

The school now has 209 pupils on roll and 31 members of staff, including 12 teachers.

Last year, we reported on the challenges that the Covid19 pandemic had brought to school life but also of our pride in the commitment and camaraderie of the staff. Unfortunately, Covid19 has continued to bring immense challenges over the past twelve months, but the support of the parent community in following guidance, and the dedication of staff, has made navigating difficulties that much easier. We have of course striven for 'normality' for our school community where possible, but we certainly look forward to a time when dealing with Covid19 isn't a daily headline for us. In just the last couple of weeks however, we have had twelve members of staff test positive and so we're not quite there just yet.

Last academic year, events inviting visitors and parents into school had ceased entirely, however slowly but surely these are reappearing in the school calendar. Our KS1 children were able to put on a Nativity play, our drama club have taken to the stage, and open days are giving prospective parents an insight to our school. Year 4 have taken a trip to West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village, children in years 2-6 have had CPR training and we are in communication with Elizabeth Selby Infant School in Tower Hamlets about re-establishing our school partnership. Slowly but surely we're seeing regrowth and a building back towards the broad, enriching educational experiences that we want for the children at Dedham.

In the autumn term, we launched our new school house system. We now have seven houses (or 'treehouses' as they're affectionately known) and just before Christmas we had our first annual treehouse event: tree decorating! Each treehouse worked together to make Christmas tree decorations for a Christmas tree and then the trees were dotted around the school building; the 1st December is set to become a favourite day in the school calendar! The treehouses are named after native trees and following a generous donation of a mountain ash from Original Landscape Design, we also have examples of each tree in our school grounds: beech, oak, horse chestnut, mountain ash, maple, cherry and hornbeam. One of our strengths as a school is how well our children work and play with children across other year groups and this new house system will certainly allow for further development of this.

Our Priority Improvement Plan continues to have curriculum development as a key theme running through it but we are also looking to develop our school grounds and outdoor learning environment over the coming year. In September 2021, year six were able to move into their new classroom following the replacement of our old demountable classroom and this has significantly increased the hard-surface area for children to play on between October and March when the playing field can't be used.

Our school values continue to form the basis of weekly assemblies. It is wonderful to once more be able to gather together as a whole school for assemblies and singing is very much back on the activity list! Unfortunately, with Rev Antony Watson leaving in October, Pastor Eric Blowes stepping back from his work in school, and no longer having an Open the Book team, providing a wide range of collective worship experiences has become much more challenging. We are extremely grateful to Christina Volkmann who has begun attending school once a month to deliver an assembly and she has also spent time in year two discussing what it means to be a

Christian. Despite all the difficulties of the past two years of which we are all too well aware, Dedham Church of England Primary School remains committed to providing the very best education and start in life for all children who walk through the doors. We look forward to working together with the church and the local community over the coming year in striving to achieve this.
Laura Valentine – Deputy Headteacher

f. Working with ecumenical partners

Deanery Synod Report

The full Deanery Synod met only once in 2021, in July, but the Standing Committee (a subset of the full Synod), met an additional four times. We are both members of the full Synod and in addition David is a member of the Standing Committee, so our Benefice has been represented at all meetings held. In addition, Churchwardens from all Parishes within the Deanery were invited to the full Synod meeting and the Bishop & Archdeacon of Colchester also attended.

A new 5-year Deanery Plan was the main focus of the work of the Synod in 2021, but progress on this was slightly disrupted with both the Area Dean, Rev'd Liz Barnes and our Vicar, Rev'd Antony Wilson, leaving for new jobs in September. The Archdeacon of Colchester committed to work with the Standing Committee to assist in producing the plan and it was also agreed that both she and Bishop Roger would attend all future Deanery meetings until a new Area Dean was appointed. At the July meeting, the Archdeacon of Chelmsford gave an environmental presentation and both General Synod and the Chelmsford Diocesan Synod have committed to be carbon neutral by 2030. PCC's were asked to have consideration of their environmental impact on every PCC meeting agenda and each parish will be asked to submit a return measuring their energy use which will provide input to an Energy Footprint tool for the Diocese.

Christina (Volkman) gave a presentation on how the Dedham and Ardleigh Benefice had achieved the Bronze ECO Church Award and referenced the resources available online to assist other parishes to achieve this, or Silver or Gold, status.

David Druitt & Liz Reed

4. Financial review

Management: The PCC Finance Committee met on 5 occasions in 2021 and has 4 members: John Reed (Chairman & Treasurer), Peter Wilson (Churchwarden), David Jewell and Sara Marshall (Financial Administrator). Additionally, Vee Druitt, (Churchwarden) receives all the reports of these Finance Committee meetings. The Rev'd Antony Wilson stepped down in September 2021, on leaving St Mary's.

The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission under Charity number 1130860, and the Annual Accounts are on the Church website. Once agreed at the APCM, they are available via the Commission's website (www.charitycommission.gov.uk).

Income: 2021 was another challenging year, with the Covid-19 pandemic giving rise to varying degrees of lockdown, which then impacted on the regular flow of services and events. However, the General Fund Income for all Giving, including Government Gift Aid increased by 1.3% on 2020 to £78,975. The level of one-off donations in 2020 was exceptionally rewarding, and although 2021 had some generous donations, they fell short of the previous year. The Committee are incredibly grateful to all those with regular giving standing orders, and all other donors who have helped support the church financially through this difficult year.

The 2021 pandemic was not quite as disruptive to Other Income, as in 2020, and we received some £8,953 from Weddings, Resource sales, fees, the Big Breakfast and other activities, nearly doubling the low level of last year. But the biggest activity of growth came from the Parish Magazine advertising which attracted £19,168, up 7.7% on 2020, a great effort from both our long standing, and newly welcomed advertisers.

Grants are a vital source of support to enable Church Fabric works to be financed, and whilst 2020 was bearing the cost of the Hospitality and Toilets project, 2021 had only one significant project, the urgent replacement and upgrade of the Guttering and drainage furniture. This cost

£17,954 and was part-funded by a grant from the Friends of Dedham Church (£10,000) and another from the GCG Environmental Trust (£5,000). Other grants were received during the year from the Dedham Ecclesiastical Lectureship Trust (£7,369), the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme (£4,240), and the Dedham Parish Council (£1,500 for Churchyard support). We are very appreciative of the generous support we receive from all our donors. There was one legacy of £636 received during the year.

Expenditure: Just as we tightened expenditure in 2020, our General Fund expenses in 2021 (excluding the Parish Share) were held down to an identical level, and the running costs of the Church totalled £56,849, just £83 above the same costs for last year.

Parish Share: The extra cash generated in the Unrestricted Reserve (General Fund) as a result of the above activity, enabled the PCC to pay over a Parish Share of £55,928, an increase of £3,350 on 2020. This meant we reached 80.8% of the quota assessed by the Diocese for Dedham, a 6.4% increase on the previous year.

Reserves: The Overall Funds held by the Church at the end of 2021 are £383,896, an increase of £57,563 compared to a year ago. We need to remember that 93% of these assets are held in Designated, Restricted or Endowment Funds, subject to restrictions on how the Capital and Income can be utilised. The unrestricted General Fund through which we conduct the Church's operations, had assets of £27,277 at the close, including £7,452 of illiquid capitalised items. One Legacy, and one personal donation, each of £10,000 was received and applied to the Restricted Funds in the year, for which are very grateful.

Finally, my sincere thanks go to all the Finance team, particularly Sara Marshall and Katrina Ablett, who worked incredibly hard throughout the year. They have made my first year as Treasurer a smooth transition from the indomitable David Druitt.

John Reed, Chairman

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

Dedham Parochial Church Council

Statement of Financial Activities For the year ended 31 December 2021

| Notes | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Endowment Funds | 2021 Total Funds | 2020 Funds |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Incoming Resources | | | | | |
| Incoming resources from generated funds | | | | | |
| Voluntary income | 2(a) 108,389 | 24,103 | 0 | 132,492 | 167,715 |
| Activities for generating funds | 2(b) 22,594 | 2,959 | 0 | 25,553 | 21,975 |
| Investment income | 2(c) 51 | 4,844 | 1,718 | 6,613 | 7,126 |
| Incoming resources from charitable activities | 2(d) 6,977 | 4,378 | 0 | 11,355 | 7,060 |
| Other incoming resources | 2(e) 1,184 | 0 | 0 | 1,184 | 646 |
| Total Incoming Resources | 139,195 | 36,284 | 1,718 | 177,197 | 204,521 |
| Resources used | | | | | |
| Cost of generating funds | | | | | |
| Fundraising trading cost of goods sold | 3(a) 903 | 0 | 0 | 903 | 415 |
| Charitable activities | 3(b) 138,497 | 11,689 | 375 | 150,561 | 201,440 |
| Governance costs | 3(c) 500 | 0 | 0 | 500 | 500 |
| Other outgoing resources | 3(d) 1,212 | 0 | 0 | 1,212 | 5,222 |
| Total resources used | 141,112 | 11,689 | 375 | 153,176 | 207,577 |
| Net incoming/Outgoing resources Before transfers | (1,917) | 24,595 | 1,343 | 24,021 | (3,056) |
| Transfers | | | | | |
| Transfers between funds | 12 (d) 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other recognised gains/(losses) | | | | | |
| Gains/(losses) on investment assets | 11/12 0 | 21,567 | 11,975 | 33,542 | 14,201 |
| Net movement in funds | (1,917) | 46,162 | 13,318 | 57,563 | 11,145 |
| Reconciliation of funds | | | | | |
| Total Funds brought forward | 45,576 | 197,318 | 83,439 | 326,333 | 315,188 |
| Total Funds carried forward | 43,659 | 243,480 | 96,757 | 383,896 | 326,333 |

Dedham Parochial Church Council

Balance Sheet As at: 31 December 2021

| | Notes | Total | |
|--|-------|----------------|----------------|
| | | 2021 | 2020 |
| | | £ | £ |
| Fixed Assets | | | |
| Tangible Assets | 4 | 7,452 | 11,178 |
| Investments | 5 | 265,994 | 232,209 |
| | | 273,446 | 243,387 |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Debtors | 6 | 9,353 | 17,301 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 116,100 | 87,652 |
| | 8 | 125,453 | 104,953 |
| Liabilities | | | |
| Creditors | 7 | 15,003 | 22,007 |
| Amounts falling due in one year | | | |
| Net current assets less current liabilities | | 110,450 | 82,946 |
| Total net assets less current liabilities | | 383,896 | 326,333 |
| Represented by | | | |
| Unrestricted Funds | | | |
| General Reserves | 9 | 27,277 | 27,002 |
| Designated Funds | 10 | 16,382 | 18,574 |
| Total Unrestricted Funds | | 43,659 | 45,576 |
| Restricted Funds | 11 | 243,480 | 197,318 |
| Endowment Funds | 12 | 96,757 | 83,439 |
| | | 383,896 | 326,333 |

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
for the financial year ended 31st December 2021

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

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set on pages 3 to 12 of the Full Annual Accounts.

Respective responsibilities of PCC and Examiner:

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of the Independent Examiner's Report

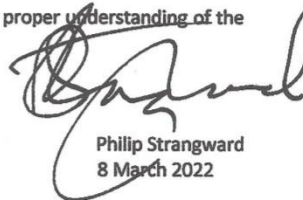
My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

Name of Independent Financial Examiner:
Date:


Philip Strangward
8 March 2022

Fundraising Team

The only fundraiser event we did this year was the Big Breakfast on 13th November. We approached this event with trepidation as we needed to make sure we were all Covid safe. However, it turned out to be one of our most successful Big Breakfasts and our customers were very generous with their donations on the door as opposed to a fixed price.

Jill Strangward

5. Reserves policy

Dedham has considered its reserves and consider them to be adequate.

6. Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

There are no funds held on behalf of others

7. Plans for future periods

PCC objectives for the current year

Our immediate Plans are to ensure the continued smooth running of the church in this interregnum period and to be a welcoming and all inclusive church community. We will prepare a Parish profile to be presented to Missioner Applicants. We are considering the lessons learnt from the Leading Your Church into Growth seminar with a view to introducing some actions later in the year and also the implications of the series on Living in Love and Faith for St Mary's.

8. Risk management

Health and Safety

Regular twice-monthly meetings continue to take place between the managers/churchwardens of our church buildings – St Mary's, Dedham, St Mary's, Ardleigh and the Duchy Barn with The Assembly Rooms holding separate meetings with the Trustees. Thank you to our volunteers for their continued support managing these buildings. The Risk Assessments are endorsed by all members of the PCC and are an important area for all to take note of requirements – as written in the crib sheets for all volunteers.

Safeguarding

The safeguarding register is maintained and was up to date. Since Antony left no new nominations/requests have been received. Dates are monitored for updates to certification, training and reviews. A review is taking place at the moment as DBS renewal dates have been reduced. The register and supporting data are stored securely, accessible by the Vicar and parish office only. DBS applications are now requested on line and ID checks carried out at the time of application to the Diocese. The process runs smoothly with direct links to Diocese safeguarding, and now further supported by the appointment of dedicated Safeguarding officers for both Dedham and Ardleigh.

Charlotte Parker

9. 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

Dedham PCC met regularly during the year. They joined with Ardleigh PCC to share prayer and joint business before most of their meetings. There are separate reports from the Finance and Fabric committees so this report does not cover these subjects.

During the year, the PCC used the 5 Marks of Mission to shape their discussions. In January 2021, much church life was taking place on line. An Alpha course that had been approved by the PCC began. Streaming of services and school assemblies were well attended as the PCC focused on the TEACH and TEND marks of mission. The Dedham and Ardleigh Helpline was embraced by the PCC and prayer facilitated by Zoom. At our January meeting, Richard Hopkins was elected to the role of Safeguarding Officer. Our Church Cleaner and Churchyard Maintenance contractor, Andrew Hodson, took sick leave for a few weeks and the PCC took over the organisation of the cleaning and care for our church.

At our March meeting, Phil Ritchie, whose role in the diocese is Area Mission and Ministry Advisor spoke to the PCC using the framework of Generous God, Generous Disciples to increase our giving and stewardship. A Benefice wide giving appeal was subsequently agreed. A plan was discussed for the gradual reopening of our church and it was agreed that services for Easter would take place outdoors. John Reed was appointed and welcomed as our PCC treasurer.

In May, Jane Jewell made a presentation to the PCC on behalf of the Friends of Dedham Church and Richard Hopkins was nominated by the PCC as governor for Dedham Primary School. Plans for moving services back into church after restrictions had been lifted were approved. The PCC decided that it would support and promote discussions around Living in Love and Faith.

In July, after news of Claire Arculus' resignation, arrangements were approved to progress the advertising and interviewing for a new Parishes Administrator. Antony Wilson's resignation was announced adding that his last service would take place on September 19th. An update on schools ministry was received. Plans for an August Bank Holiday Event were discussed. A plan for services to continue without changes was agreed and the PCC expressed gratitude to Merv, Carol and our lay preachers who were willing to increase their commitments to this. Morning and evening prayer online would continue on Monday and Fridays respectively and the PCC recorded its thanks to Christina for this.

In September, the APCM for 2020 which had been delayed by Covid restrictions took place. Deb Turner was welcomed as our Parishes Administrator. Linda Redlich was appointed PCC representative to the Friends of Dedham Church.

In October, the PCC met to discuss the future of organ music in our church.

In November, the PCC met to discuss the responses to the Living in Love and Faith course. Throughout the year, the PCC was updated regularly by our Deanery Synod representatives on the future plan for our Deanery.

Vee Druitt

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

PCC Membership

PCC members who have served at any time from the last APCM on 25th April 2021 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex Officio members:

Incumbent - Vacancy

Churchwardens

Vee Druitt (elected Sept 2020)

Peter Wilson (elected April 2019)

Elected members and date of election

Gabbie Watson 2018

Lynne Al-Sad 2018

John Reed 2018

Liz Reed 2020

Paul Brebner 2020

Linda Redlich 2020

The Duchy Barn

1. The Barn resumed 'normal duties' as Covid restrictions were gradually lifted and it is pleasing to see it being well used again with increasing activity since the autumn of 2021. However, Covid safety notices and hand sanitisers remain in place with users being mindful of maintaining adequate ventilation – made easier as the weather gets warmer!
2. Regular events are the community coffee mornings on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and the Monday morning watercolour painting group. The Parish Council holds its meetings there on the first Monday evening of each month and has hired the premises in recent months for a number of sub-committee meetings providing a useful source of income. In addition, there have been a few private hires by local organisations for business meetings and by individuals and families for daytime parties/celebrations.
3. The fabric of the Barn remains in good order with regular inspections by the chairman. Some minor work has recently been completed outside with guttering repair and repairs to the signage, and the fitting of a new cover for the gas and electricity meters. Electrical equipment is PAT tested annually and the fire extinguishers are inspected annually. The gas boiler and the CCTV system have been inspected and serviced recently – it is likely that new cameras for the latter will be needed next year. A Health and Safety audit has been completed and it has been noted that the premises electrical systems e.g. circuit board, wiring etc need inspection and certification in the coming weeks and that volunteers who work at the Barn need refresher training on the use of fire extinguishers - this to be arranged soon. Outside we now have a garden contractor who keeps the garden area tidy and relatively weed free and a local cleaner now provides regular and thorough cleaning on a regular basis.
4. With regard to finances, the available monies to be accessed for minor expenditure in our current account remains at about £1000 with over £30000 held in longer term investments. It is important to maintain a regular income stream through coffee mornings, hiring of premises and the occasional fund-raising event. It was decided at the last management committee meeting that we should seek to renegotiate our broadband service with BT which seems very expensive and if not successful to seek a better value provider. We are grateful as ever for the annual grant from the Nichol Young Trust of £1000 which is a most valuable and much appreciated contribution to our running costs.
5. In December 2021 and January 2022 book sales were held with the monies raised being split between the Barn's petty cash funds (to cover the costs of running the event i.e. refreshments expenditure etc) and other charities. Another is planned in early 2022 when all proceeds will be donated to a Ukraine refugee crisis appeal.
6. A much delayed AGM was held on the 2nd November 2021 when I was formally voted in as Chairman and a committee elected made up of Anne Rowledge (treasurer), Avril Biggins (coffee mornings co-ordinator), Steve Mole (DPC representative), Kevin Taylor, Karla Bohn, and Beth Mitchell as community representatives. We have no representation at present from Dedham Youth Club whose activities have been suspended for some time by the YMCA but it is hoped that this issue will be addressed in the near future. My thanks to all committee members and to the parish office staff for their help and support during my time as acting chairman and now as a formally elected chairman!

Colin Biggins, Chairman, Duchy Barn Management Committee

Communications

Parishes Office

2021 was rather different to 2020, as the office began to open after being closed for most of the previous year. Then there was a change of staff with Claire Arculus leaving and being replaced by Deb Turner in early September 2021. The office is regularly open on a Tuesday and Thursday each week from 10am-12pm. As Parishes Administrator and Volunteers Coordinator, I continue to

oversee the office management and administration for both Dedham and Ardleigh churches. The steep learning curve is still very steep, but I have been fully supported by the wonderful churchwardens, Rev Merv McKinney and many others. Charlotte Parker continues to assist with administrative tasks and maintains the editorial of the Dedham Parish Magazine to an excellent standard. Thanks to Sara Marshall for her outstanding finance management support.

Deb Turner

Parish Magazine

The magazine continues to be produced and distributed to houses throughout Dedham, as well as copies in local business and Dedham and Ardleigh churches. 1500 copies are produced which is funded by the advertising pages. The magazine contains regular input from the church, Dedham school, the Parish council and local clubs and groups. A regular focus on Dedham history has continued to evolve and readers enjoy reading about the years gone by as features from our regular and occasional writers which are always very welcome.

Charlotte Parker

Website

The church website, dedham-and-ardleigh-parishes.org.uk, continued to provide a useful focal point for the church community during 2021 especially during the periods of lockdowns resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic.

In 2021 the total number of page requests on the website fell back from the high number experienced in 2020, the actual figure was 265,746. In 2020 the figure was 924,506 and in 2019 it was 188,000. Page Requests are the number of web pages requested by visitors to the web site. The average monthly figure was over 22,000, compared with 77,00 in 2020 and 15,000 in 2019. The month with the highest number of requests was November 2021 with over 30,000 requests.

The breakdown of the Page requests by website area shows that Articles received 12,020 requests (2020 - 71,033), Media 3,444 (2020 – 61,711) and Calendar 678 (2020 - 17,861). Media and Calendar requests were quite low, reflecting the effects of the Pandemic on Church Services.

John Goldsbrough

Facebook

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

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

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

Dedham Ecclesiastical Lectureship Trust (DELT)

Over the last year we have been pleased to welcome Sharon Sarson as a PCC-appointed trustee. Trustees have agreed to offer financial support to the PCC towards the cost of the upcoming church boiler replacement project. Trustees have also been discussing how they intend to appoint a Lecturer in order to be compliant with the Trust's Scheme. This requires the Trust to 'appoint a suitably qualified communicant member of the Church of England to the office of Lecturer during any period when there is no Vicar or Priest-in-Charge resident in the ecclesiastical parish of Dedham'. We are working closely with the diocese and the deanery to ensure that we fulfil this duty in a way which is, as far as possible, consistent with the vision of these institutions for the provision of ministry in the parish of Dedham whilst always putting the best interests of the Trust first, as we are required to do by law.

Richard Hopkins

Chair

Administrative information

St Mary's Church is situated in The High Street, Dedham. It is part of the Diocese of Chelmsford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is:
The Parishes Office, The Assembly Rooms, Dedham CO7 6HJ.
Registered charity number 1130860.

Annual General Meeting

St Mary's Church, Dedham

Minutes of the meeting of **Sunday 25 April 2021** held via zoom

1. Annual Meeting of Parishioners

- Minutes of last meeting were 27 Sept 2020 were approved.
 - Proposed Jill Strangward/Seconded David Druitt
- There were two nominations for Churchwarden and Vee Druitt and Peter Wilson were elected. Merv McKinney offered a prayer for them

2. Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Opening prayer
2. There were no apologies for absence
3. Vee Druitt was appointed teller.
4. Minutes of last meeting; there were two corrections: Linda Redditch had been nominated by Ruth Higginson and Paul Brebner's name had been wrongly spelt.
5. With these corrections the minutes were approved. Proposed by Suzanne Woods/seconded by Liz Reed.
6. Matters arising – there were none
7. Electoral role report: there were 101 people on the electoral role of whom 77 were residents and 24 non- residents: this compared to 104 the previous year 76 resident and 28 non- resident.
8. PCC Report: Vee Druitt stated that the PCC met Bi-monthly and more frequently if required. Each meeting commenced with a prayer followed by discussion based on the 5 marks of mission. Much time had been spent in considering Covid measures and guidance, the Help line and community needs. In September a joint Dedham/Ardleigh meeting was held to discuss growth and new life, and it was decided the PCC's would meet on the same date and share common issues before separating to discuss local matters. The Alpha course was continued and the streaming of services, prayer meetings and Zoom home groups became the norm. In September fire training was held and recorded for anyone to view. The governance of the Assembly rooms was changed and now includes a representative of the community and user groups. The church gained a Bronze ECO Church award.
Thanks to Antony for his guidance and to all who helped in different ways throughout the year.
9. Finance:
 - a. Report on Financial Affairs of Church: John Reed introduced himself as the new Treasurer, and began by thanking David Druitt for his past work in this role and for preparing the financial overview to the accounts and ensuring a smooth transition. John commended Sara Marshall for her dedication, excellence and loyalty and Katrina Ablett for her support and David Jewell for his work on the committee. In summary, income was up by 8% compared to 2019 helped by direct bank payments, while expenses were down by 20%. The sum of £52574 was paid as the Parish share—the

same as in 2019: this was a good result considering there had been no fund raising activities. This payment represented 76% of what the diocese had requested from Dedham, but this amount was 23% of what was requested across the whole diocese – the allocation system is to be reviewed. During the year grants totalling £83k were received mainly for fabric work from the Friends of Dedham Church and DELT. There was an improvement to the balance sheet as a result of favourable investment performance, but most of these assets are held in designated, restricted or endowment funds. A prudent 2021 budget has been prepared which has a £6k carry over in the general fund from 2020, assumes a 5% increase in giving but no fund raising activity; this has been adopted by the PCC and will be reviewed in July to monitor progress.

Questions: Tim Sarson asked what impact would it have on Dedham if we continued to underpay the requested parish share; would it expose us to having less use/time of a minister? Antony Wilson answered that it is challenging for the diocese as a whole: in summary:

- Deanery is working to 2025 forecast numbers which is for 5 full time clergy
- Review Process is ongoing about how to organise ordained clergy ministry and taking account of the decision not to replace the vacant post at Lawford, Great Bromley and Little Bentley.
- Diocesan review is taking place on parish share calculation
- No vacant posts within Diocese are currently being filled

Follow up Question: there is a shortfall of £16k. How much do the Congregation currently pay? Standing order and Envelopes account for £43k or £50k including gift aid and there is approximately a further £18K from other sources.

Question: Merv Mc Kinney asked if there was a catch up on deficits. No

b. Presentation of audited accounts – these were presented (details in annual report and full report on website)

c. Formal adoption of 2020 accounts: Proposed by Ann Shaw/seconded Linda Redich. All in favour

d. Appointment of auditor : There was a proposal to re-appoint Philip Strangward as the auditor: proposed John Reed /seconded Ruth Higginson. All in favour

10. Churchwarden's report Peter Wilson thanked Merv Mckinney, John Reed and Paul Brebner for their support on the committee. The issues dealt with during the year formed part of the 2017 Quinquennial report. The works completed were:

- New toilet and hospitality unit
- Replacing the top bolt on the door at the rear of the church
- Repairs to the south side buttress
- Wall repairs in royal square
- Minor redecorating following water ingress to the choir stall area
- Replacing a section of railing separating the cemetery and playing field

- The next quinquennial review is due in 2022. Our main concern at the moment is the need to replace the current oil boiler which has reached the end of its life
- Antony Watson raised the issue of the organ: Antony Wilson replied that this is a standing issue for the PCC but it is not thought that now is the right time to address this issue.

11. Other verbal reports – none

12. Deanery Synod: Liz Reed—Currently co-opted member reported on the Deanery Synod; Much of this topic is already covered in the finance section. There is a five year plan and Archdeacon Ruth had commented that Harwich Deanery was already at 2025 clergy level and working hard to increase sharing activities. Special groups are being set up to support families, schools etc and plans need to be in place to re-energise ministry—Saffron Walden was stated to be an example to be looked at.

David Druitt commented on the earlier point raised by Tim Sarson on ministry sharing and said that this would need to happen, but on a wider basis and not just ministry. The diocese would need to look at what expertise exists across the diocese and how this can be used for the benefit of the diocese as a whole.

Christine Frost was concerned as to whether population statistics were being considered and how the needs elderly people were being addressed. Antony Wilson pointed out that Dedham and Ardleigh had one minister for a population of 4000, while Harwich had one minister for a population of 20000: these issues are being considered.

Ann Shaw reminded the meeting that not long ago (before the pandemic) some of us had visited Harwich for a synod meeting when it was stated that a new church should be planted in Lawford. What now?

13. Elections from those on Electoral Roll

a. Deanery Synod representative: Liz Reed was proposed by David Watson/seconded by Sue McKinney.

b. Election of PCC Representatives:

John Reed: proposed by Jill Strangward/seconded Richard Hopkins

Lynne Al-sad: proposed by Jo Hole/seconded by Sarah Oakleigh

Helen Simms: proposed by Vee Druitt/seconded by Be Burleigh

Gabbie Watson: proposed by Ann Shaw/ seconded by Martin Hole

There being sufficient vacancies the above were appointed without the need for an election.

14. Vicar's Report – Antony briefly highlighted the main themes in his written report (see Annual Report) and thanked everyone for there support and hard work throughout what has been a difficult year, but a year when we have been able to serve our community in new and gracious ways.

15. AOB: On behalf of the membership, Ann Shaw thanked Antony for his leadership and all that he had done during the year.

Antony closed the zoom meeting in prayer at 12.30

St Mary's Church Dedham

Sunday, 15th May 2022

AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting consists of two meetings.

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

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

The meetings may be chaired by the 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, including vote from all eligible

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

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

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

a) Deanery Synod representative

b) PCC representatives

14. Vicar'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)

PCC 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) Standing Committee

e) Any co-opted appointments.

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