

Dedham Parish

Annual Report

Year End December 2023



Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 28th April 2024 at 11.00am

St Mary's Dedham

2023 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 formally approved by the PCC at a meeting on 19th March 2024

1. Aim and purposes

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

2. Objectives and activities

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

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

3. Achievements and performance

a. Regular public worship for all

Sunday Services

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

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

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world. We have celebrated 1 baptism, 12 weddings and held 6 funeral services in our church this year.

We are grateful to all those who help to keep our church services running smoothly each month. It is a blessing that we remain able to offer the different styles of services that we do. Our thanks go to Revd Phillip who as one of our Rural Missioners has worked hard to bring the good news of Jesus to an increasing number in our parishes. Merv McKinney has continued to support us all leading and preaching at services as well as in numerous other ways, not least with the benefit of his wisdom. For all this and for giving generously of his time, we also thank Merv. Our thanks go to our lay preachers, Anne Marie Partrick and Richard Hopkins, to Antony Watson our Director of Music and to Gabbie Watson our vergger, the choir members and our service wardens, Be Burleigh, Sarah Oakley and David Druitt.

Church Membership

The Electoral Roll has been reviewed in 2023. Currently there are 75 on the Electoral Roll, of whom 67 are residents and 8 non-residents.

Choir and Music Report

2023 has seen a very busy year in the music department at Dedham Church. We have faced a few challenges as well, but as we approach Easter 2024, I have much to look back on and be grateful for.

The loyal choir continues to meet weekly. A recent decision to move rehearsals to Thursday evening has resulted in making membership look more attractive than Fridays to potential new members, and indeed we have enjoyed seeing new faces when other commitments allow. As always, we would always welcome new members.

Music of a broad range of styles continues to be offered across a range of different services from traditional to contemporary, with help from Misha Bennett and also from worship leaders from other parishes, especially in our quest for good modern worship at Revive@5, which has settled on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Antony is keen to be helped in this ministry, especially in the face of recent health issues. Misha will be going off to university in the autumn, so we continue to pray for this provision.

The Hill pipe organ was removed from the organ loft in January after 181 years in the church, to make way for the eagerly awaited Nicholson/Binns replacement in October to November. Fundraising has been completed, with well over £300,000 raised. Thank you to everyone who has contributed so generously and in such a timely way to be able to complete this project in a financially secure way. We have enjoyed many fundraising concerts during 2022-23, and much work has been done by the fundraising team, and especially Jasper Hunt, who worked tirelessly to secure grant funding. A recent structural survey of the vacant organ loft found that no work is required to strengthen it for the new instrument, and we are receiving regular photographic updates from Nicholsons on progress in their workshops. Huge thanks to Margaret Kitson for creating regular display boards to keep church members and visitors updated. Margaret along with David Druitt have kept the project very much alive whilst I was out of action in 2023, and I am hugely grateful.

We look forward to all that the new instrument will offer to the worship and artistic life of St. Mary's long into the future. We pray that God will continue to inspire and equip musicians and singers as we go forward with confidence.

Antony Watson

Bell Ringing

The Bell Team has been kept very busy this last year. Plenty of weddings and of course, some funerals. We have managed to supply a team for most Sundays and attended the Christmas Event held in the Church.

I have placed a small piece in the March Parish Magazine to see if we can encourage a couple of new ringers which would be helpful. We are looking forward to our NEW ropes.

Lou Davison

Flower Team

Flowers have been arranged weekly in church throughout the year, with the exception of the periods of Lent and Advent. The team enjoyed getting together as a whole group to decorate the church for Easter, Harvest and Lent. Thanks go to everyone who gives of their time or provides flowers/foliage/financial support. It all really helps.

Some new urns have been purchased which enable the team to work in a more sustainable way and this has drastically reduced the use of 'oasis' (the green blocks of foam traditionally used). Oasis was made from oil-based products and was not completely bio-degradable.

New members are always welcome!

Helen Sims

Stewards

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

Adrian Beckingsale Deidre Beckingsale Amanda Brebner Sue Browne Be Burleigh Julia Campbell David Druitt Vee Druitt Akshay John Ritika John Maria Johnston Marion Livermore Andrew McLaughlin Leonie McLaughlin	Liz Nickerson Sarah Oakley John Reed Liz Reed Jill Strangward Gabbie Watson Please speak to Be Burleigh if you are interested in being a steward.
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Guided Church and Tower Tours

A few Tower Tours took place in 2023. I am very grateful to Peter Rowles for being our now sole volunteer guide for the tours. He does an amazing job.

Deb Turner

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

Dedham Church Wardens Report

Our aims and objectives for 2023 have been

- To build on the foundations achieved for the smooth running of the church during the interregnum now that we have benefitted from the ministry of our first missionary Phillip for a whole year and John, who joined him after his licensing service in October.
- To maintain a service pattern that offers a wide variety of service styles
- To be a warm and welcoming church for all who pass through our doors
- To be accessible to all our church family as well as to the wider community
- To care for the financial wellbeing of the church
- To care for the maintenance of the fabric of the church
- To care for the maintenance of the churchyard
- To ensure safeguarding policies are in place and familiar to all
- To support all those involved in the above aims and objectives

Fabric Report, Church Cleaning and Churchyard Maintenance

- It has been a busy year for fabric activities both in the planning phase and operationally.
- The organ project has been central to activities in the year: the organ committee have now raised the target figure of £300k and have in fact surpassed this figure. Nicholsons approached us towards the end of 2023 to say that due to delays on other contracts they were able to bring forward the delivery of our project if we would allow them to remove our existing organ earlier than planned, which would also allow them to have precise measurements of the organ loft and allow us to complete a structural survey. After seeking advice from the Bat Conservation Trust, we undertook this work at the end of 2023 and have also now completed the structural survey. Installation of the new organ is due to begin towards the end of September and will hopefully be operational before the Christmas celebrations.
- The window project and associated masonry work is ongoing. The faculty has been applied for and answers provided to the questions posed by the DAC, but we have not yet received a signed faculty. The change in the timetable for the organ has caused some logistical issues if both projects were running at the same time—e.g. access for

contractors and visitors, storage requirements for pipes, scaffolding, church services. Some of the masonry work needs to be carried out when there is no frost and the Bat Conservation Trust has advised relatively small periods when this work should be carried out. We are therefore looking at probably two phases for the work—hopefully starting this summer and being completed spring 2025.

- The Bell ropes have been causing problems and were found to be in need of replacement. New ropes were ordered in December 2023 with a 16/18 week delivery and will be fitted by the supplier TL Blythe at a cost of £1318.56. We are grateful to the Friends for their kind offer to pay for these ropes.
- We had a visit from the lay Chair to inspect the church Terrier and I am pleased to report that all was in order. We did point out that much of our information is now held on computers and there does not appear to be any recognition on how/where this should be stored. He promised to investigate and report back.
- Church and graveyard maintenance: Andrew Hodson retired as caretaker and groundsman during the year after 23 years of service and we thanked him and provided a gift to mark the occasion. We have bought the mower that Andrew used and will buy a new strimmer, and have found a local person, Joe, to tend the grounds. We are fortunate that Gabbie Watson has taken on the caretaker role which covers the cleaning of the church and its opening and closing, and we thank her for the service she provides in this area. Our thanks also to those members who volunteer to cover this work when Gabbie is absent for any reason.

Peter Wilson, on behalf of Fabric Committee

Resource Centre

Sales continue to bring in a steady contribution towards church funds. An increase in the budget has enabled us to purchase more items to fill the shelves, which has encouraged more visitors to come and browse. It has been noted that, in these cashless days, there has been an increase in the number of notes placed in the safe to say they have paid by card.

Be Burleigh

Muniment Library

A number of items have been returned to the Muniment Room this year but have not yet been properly filed.

A real problem has been posed by the fire regulation that no-one should go into the MR unless there is someone on watch on the ground floor. This has made curating virtually impossible for one person.

The writer is concerned about the well-being of the collection and recommends that it is assessed by the Bibliographic Society of which she, for the Church, is a member. The likelihood is that we may be advised to move the collection to a safer place. Despite many pleas over the last few years, we have had no offers of help and, whilst many will be upset if the collection is moved, it is currently of little or no value to the community and is in danger of being degraded by the elements and neglect.

Meanwhile, two further editions (each of 3 years) of the Parish News are ready to go to the binders.

At this point grateful thanks are due to Paula Watkins who has been emptying the dehumidifier which is essential to preserve the correct humidity for our very valuable collections.

Suzanne Woods

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

The pastoral group met 3 times in 2023. The aims of the group are to care for those in our community by making social activity opportunities available, offering support and visits to the bereaved as well as to anyone who is experiencing a difficult time. The group meets 3 times a year prayerfully to make future plans and to try to assess the best way forward for our group to fulfil its aims.

The monthly lunch at the Essex Rose is well attended and organised by Ann Shaw. The Walk and Talk group is organised by Lou Davison. Some people both walk and talk whilst others join for refreshment and a chat after the walk is completed. This year's Benefice annual service to Remember Our Loved Ones took place in Dedham in November. All were welcomed with those who had been bereaved most recently receiving a personal invitation.

The Duchy Barn is open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings for refreshments and friendship. We are grateful to the Duchy Barn Committee, chaired by Colin Biggins, who oversee activities in the Barn and report to the PCC.

Members of the group are, Ann Shaw, Ruth Higginson, John and Liz Reed, Merv McKinney, Lou Davison. Adrian Beckingsale and Vee Druitt.
Vee Druitt

Walk & Talk Group

The group is still going well, meeting up on the second Thursday of the month. We manage to walk most of the time, unfortunately there are a few days when the weather isn't with us. That doesn't stop us from meeting for coffee & chat.

This Christmas the whole group got together for a lovely Christmas meal at Oranges & Lemons which was enjoyed by all. Some of us even did a little bit of retail therapy!!!

In January I took some of the group who were free to the Talbooth for lunch on their 2 for 1 deal. A good time was had by all. I think that will be a permanent fixture in the diary.
Lou Davison

Benefice Prayers

Another year on, we still meet every Monday at 5pm for Benefice Prayers... mostly still via Zoom, but now with a once a month 'in person' gathering. As God directs our prayers, we are confident that His kingdom comes into our needy world (near and far), we notice where He is working and we remember to give Him glory and praise. Praying together (silently and aloud) is encouraging, powerful and effective and we'd love you to join us.
Caroline Allen

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

Our Missioners (Phillip and John), Merv, Authorised Lay Preachers (Richard and Anne Marie) and outside ministers and speakers have enabled us to grow in our faith through regular preaching and teaching from the Bible, which has largely followed the Common Worship Lectionary. There are many small groups that meet during the week in term time for fellowship, encouragement from the Bible and prayer support. We continue to offer seeker-friendly courses such as Alpha and Christianity Explored ahead to enable those less familiar with the Christian faith to explore and discuss it in an open and supportive environment. We run a Marriage Preparation Day for all the couples getting married across the benefice that year and more bespoke instruction for families preparing for baptism and confirmation. During the year there have been opportunities to follow short courses both in the Benefice and in our church group of nine as well as joining together for fellowship and hospitality. In November, Dedham hosted the Missioners Commissioning Service for our two Missioners, John Saxon and Phillip Young which was led by Bishop Roger.

Mission Members

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

Activities: In March, Ardleigh held a sale in aid of a Ukrainian charity which helps single mothers and orphans and also since the war has helped with the displaced women and children. We had a table there and our funds went towards the money raised by Ardleigh, which was over £3,000. We officially start our sales in May when we raised £325, £300 of which was donated to Christian Aid. During the year we raised a total of £2,589 which was split between Beacon House, Korban and Feeding Faith.

Distribution: The amount we have raised during the year, £2,589, will be split between Korban, a homeless charity in Colchester dealing with young people aged between 16-25, and Beacon House also a homeless charity, and Feeding Faith. If you wish to know more about Korban their website is www.korban.org.uk and Beacon House whose website is www.beaconhouseministries.org.uk. The website for Feeding Faith is www.feedingfaith.org. Marjorie Culham's nephew and his wife work for Feeding Faith in Guatemala.

The website for Beacon House gives an updated list of what they need. They continue to do a necessary job of finding accommodation and giving support and encouragement to those in need. If anyone is interested in volunteering or just visiting to see the work that is done, please contact Julie on 01206 761960.

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 or even cake makers.

Ruth Higginson/Lynne Al Sad

EcoChurch

We are continuing to work towards the Silver EcoChurch Award. We have commenced by ensuring that fairtrade and recycled materials are used consistently, and all cleaning products are eco- friendly.

We have a Churchyard plan which will be implemented in the Spring/Summer. This includes installing bird and insect boxes, as well as a hedgehog/amphibian box. We also plan to create a wildflower meadow and are implementing a cutting regime to encourage more diversity.

Sara Marshall, Eco-church Representative

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

Rise 'n Shine

Rise 'n Shine, our all-age service on the first Sunday of the month, continues to draw many people of all ages and stages of life. A planning team consisting of Ritika John, Antony Watson, Amanda Watts and Revd. Phillip Young, plan and run each service. Services tend to be shorter (no more than 45 minutes), much more interactive (often with an 'Activity' slot) and songs that resonate with young and old. Revd. Phillip has used some material from Bob Hartman's *All Age Services* as inspiration or something topical such as the Coronation (in May) or 'Back to School' (in September). Attendance can fluctuate month by month, but in some services, we have had the privilege of welcoming five or more families. It has been a blessing to offer this service to younger families as a 'taster' before they consider coming to one of our more traditional services (although those have become an easier prospect for some families with the establishment of a weekly Junior Church for 3–10-year-olds). As ever, we welcome new ideas and voices to the team as we seek to create an atmosphere of 'worshipful fun', rooted in our Anglican identity.

Revd Phillip Young

Assemblies in schools

Three of us from St. Mary's go into Dedham Primary School regularly: Richard Hopkins, Christina Volkmann and Revd. Phillip Young. We are often given guidance on content in terms of the school values and/or the liturgical seasons (Lent, Easter, Harvest, etc.) and seek to bring some teaching from the scriptures to light on these leads. Revd. Phillip leads End-of-Term Assemblies, which (weather-permitting) take place at St. Mary's, thus enabling parents and carers to be present. These are great opportunities to look back at what's been done/learned in the term, as well as to hear a message from the scriptures for those present to take with them into the holiday period. Revd. Phillip is occasionally invited by teachers to address their classes on specific topics, e. g. the reasonableness of the Christian faith and what difference does the Trinity make to how I pray. All the work in our schools is covered in prayer by our weekly Benefice Prayer Meeting (largely online), which is a vital support to the work done 'on the ground'. Many thanks to all involved in our schools' work, whether 'on the ground' or 'behind the 'scenes'!

Revd Phillip Young

Junior Church

Junior Church is our group focussed on providing fun, games and age-appropriate Bible teaching to children aged 3 to 10. It takes place in the Duchy Barn alongside the normal Sunday service every week (except the first Sunday of the month, when everyone stays together for our all-age service, *Rise 'n Shine*). This year was the first full year of Junior Church and it was a year of many blessings. Our initial team of five worked well together to welcome an increasing number of children. To begin with we used materials from Mustard Seed, but we are now working through a new 2-year Biblically comprehensive, multimedia teaching programme called The Biggest Story (www.thebiggeststory.com). We now average 10 or more children each week. A number of leaders have recently joined, taking the team up to 7 and enabling us to serve the increasing number of children with which the Lord has blessed us. I'm so grateful to all those who continue to offer their time so generously to serve our Lord and these children in this way.

Louise Young

Revive@5 - Revive@5 is a contemporary service aimed at all ages with modern worship songs and a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. It meets on the third Sunday of each month with refreshments from 4.45pm and the main service from 5pm until 6pm. We have teaching brought to us by a variety of speakers including both our local missionaries Phillip Young and John Saxon, as well as people from other churches. We often use creative ways to spend time in prayer and our prayer ministry team is also available after the service to pray with individuals as needed.

Sharon and Tim Sarson

Youth Report

Dedham Youth

The youth continue to meet straight after the Revive@5 service (now the third Sunday of each month) except August and December. In September, the group started to meet at the Duchy Barn and Susan Carne and Sarah Beevers both helped me lead the group where we saw some new faces as well as regulars attend. Susan and Sarah helped with preparations and prayer for the group but unfortunately couldn't continue after November, I would like to express my thanks to both of them for their support. The Lord blessed us with a new leader, who carried on from January so the group has been able to continue. Thanks to Lisa Cousins for joining the team. Each evening we have refreshments, play games and chat about interesting topics or have the Revive speaker attend. The youth decided to call the group 'DJB' meaning Disciples of John the Baptist and all have expressed activities they would like to do with the group including campouts, picnics, social activities in Colchester or surrounding area, walks, cricket and more - so we will be kept very busy!

Claire Arculus



Dedham Church of England Primary School

January 2023 – December 2023

'A lifelong love of learning'

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

The school now has 199 pupils on roll and 35 members of staff, including 13 teachers (two of whom are currently on maternity leave).

- Children from a Minority Ethnic Background: 15.6% (37.4% national)
- Children with English as an Additional Language (EAL): 4.5% (22% national)
- Children with Free School Meal entitlement (at any point in the last 6 years): 13.6% (25.9% national)
- Pupils with SEND: 10.6% (16% national)
- Absence rate: 3.8% (6.3% national)

Mrs Gemma Chester became the headteacher of Dedham CofE Primary School on 1st January 2023 and since joining the school, she has pushed forwards with some considerable and much-needed changes to the school site: a new adventure playground was installed in April 2023; new gates on the carpark have improved security and the safeguarding of children; new flooring has improved the main corridor of the old building; smart new fencing and a new school sign at the front of the school have improved first impressions; a permanent shelter allows for all-weather outdoor provision for Class 1; and the Class R outdoor classroom has had a 'tidy-up'. All of these improvements have been made possible through Devolved Formula Capital (DFC funding) and money raised by the Parent Group and Dedham Run Committee. Further work is planned for 2024 including a widened entrance path into school, an on-site Forest School area, LED lighting throughout the school, and all-weather artificial grass in the Class R outdoor classroom.



In the spring term of 2023, we launched a set of five new school values (kindness, appreciation, ambition, perseverance and respect) and these are now embedded with teachers and children confidently referring to them in day-to-day experiences within the school day. Work on developing a new school vision also took place towards the end of 2023 and 'Guide each of us to be a light to the world' (inspired by Matthew 5:16) will be replacing 'a lifelong love of learning' in 2024.

Our curriculum offer continues to develop and 2023 saw the introduction of Forest School provision for all classes following the training of two additional members of staff. We continue to be extremely grateful to Munnings Museum who let us use the site on the opposite side of the road to the museum. We have also trained up a Higher-Level Teaching Assistant to run Thrive sessions which promote emotional well-being and positive mental health.



Thanks to the work of our Parent Group, all key stage two classes now have class sets of books which children use for whole class reading lessons and we also have two wonderful libraries and an online library system available for our children. We received a huge number of book donations from the school community when we published our 'wish-list' and these are now available for all to borrow. Our 'open library' every Friday after school also encourages families to come in to borrow books.



The Dedham Ecclesiastical Lectureship Trust once again funded a visit to St Pauls for our year five children and our partnership with Elizabeth Selby Infant School in Tower Hamlets continues to grow with children visiting each other during the year. We have plans for the children to deliver online assemblies with each other in 2024.



Over the past year we have been delighted to welcome Revd Phillip, Richard Hopkins and Christina Volkmann into school to lead collective worship. Where possible, visitors lead worship about the key Christian festivals or link the teaching of the bible to our school values. Other worship during the week is led by Mrs Chester, Miss Valentine, class teachers and our Worship Team. Our Worship Team is made up of volunteers from Class 6 who, supported by Miss Valentine, plan and lead worship in classes each week. Each week focuses on a value and links to a bible story. Thank you to DELT who kindly purchased seven Storyteller Bibles for these assemblies.

We continue to attend the church for a whole school assembly at the end of each term which is well-attended by families. Our Key Stage Two Carol Service also continues to be held in the church and we were delighted by the attendance of so many families when we trialled having it during the afternoon rather than the evening. Antony and Gabbie Watson continue to be very valued members of the staff team. Antony's support and guidance with whole school music-making and worship continues to be considerable and we are extremely grateful to him for all he does for us.

As a school, we work hard to build positive relationships with the local community: we created totem poles for an art exhibition at Munnings Museum; we showcased children's work at the Tendring Show for the first time in a number of years; we took part in the village Remembrance service; the Christmas Market returned to Dedham High Street for the first time since 2019; the KS2 Choir performed at the village carol service; and we have worked with Dedham Parish Council to run a poster competition about speed awareness.

We continue to work closely with Lawford CE (VA) Primary School and Highfields Community Primary School. This partnership, entitled the Constable Collaborative Partnership (CCP), was formed over a decade ago but it continues to grow and to develop. Over the past year, the schools have supported each other with peer reviews, moderation of assessments, curriculum development, governor training, a KS1 arts event and sports fixtures, in addition to members of the SLT being a 'listening ear' for each other.

On joining the school at the beginning of January 2023, Mrs Chester carried out parent, pupil and staff questionnaires and these were repeated twelve months later. The headline statistic was that 99% of parents would now recommend Dedham Primary School to other parents, an increase from 75% twelve months ago. It's been an exciting twelve months of realigning the school's vision and pushing towards once again being an outstanding school for the children of this community. Plans for 2024 are already underway and we look forward to continuing to work with St Mary's Church, Dedham, and the local community in achieving our plans.

Laura Valentine, Deputy Headteacher

f. Working with ecumenical partners

Deanery Synod Report

The full Deanery Synod met three times in 2023 and in addition the Standing Committee, a subset of the full Synod, also met three times. We are both members of the full Synod, having been elected at the 2023 APCM, and in addition David is a member of the Standing Committee, so our Parish has been represented at all meetings held.

In addition, Churchwardens from all Parishes within the Deanery were invited to the full Synod meetings and our Churchwardens attended as and when possible.

One of the key things that Synod focused on was the recruitment of a 2nd Rural Missioner and it was very pleasing that John Saxon was appointed following interview, and he was licensed to the post at Tendring Parish Church on the 10th October.

In addition, it is good to report that in February the Revd Canon Phil Ritchie agreed to take on the role of Area Dean of the Harwich Deanery, which he will perform alongside his existing role as Mission & Ministry Adviser for the Colchester Episcopal Area.

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

- The new Parish Share allocation mechanism and it is pleasing to report that at the end of 2023 89.3% of the overall assessed Parish Share for 2023 for the Deanery was paid to the Diocese (it is pleasing that Dedham managed to pay the higher of the two targets set for Parishes – Hard & Aspirational).
- The Deanery 5-year plan (2021 – 2026).
- Wellbeing for all Clergy in the Deanery and also Laity involved at the Parish level across the Deanery.
- Creation of a Deanery Facebook page under the title 'Harwich Deanery Churches'. Any items relating to events etc. should be sent to Nigel Dyson at nigel@garden-shows.com for inclusion.
- A Deanery presence at the Tendring Show with a display entitled "Creation and Creativity in the Countryside" and an area for a baby changing facility.
- Use of a Mission Opportunity Fund available from the Diocese and oversee requests for support from it - the "Rural Nine" Parishes received an amount to assist with employing a Children & Families Worker.

David Druitt & John Reed

4. Financial review

Management: The PCC Finance Committee met on 4 occasions in 2023, and has 5 members: John Reed (Chairman & Treasurer), Peter Wilson (Churchwarden), David Jewell, Adrian Beckingsale (from 9th May), and Sara Marshall (Financial Administrator). The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission under Charity number 1130860, and the Annual Accounts can be viewed on the Dedham Church website (www.dedham-and-ardleigh-parishes.co.uk). Once approved at the APCM, they are available on the Commission's website (www.charitycommission.gov.uk).

Income: 2023 built on the progress made in 2022, and the finances benefitted from strong Church attendances, and additional other giving. The 2023 total of Planned and other Giving to the General Fund (Note 2a) including Gift Aid amounted to £89,698, a 13.4% increase on the total for 2022 of £79,074. Despite the continued flat income from monthly standing orders, the donations from all other sources were well ahead of last year, and the PCC wishes to thank everyone who

gave so generously in 2023. Other General Fund Income in 2023 (Note 2b), was also positive, with the Parish Magazine generating income of £19,946 from advertisers. The one Fund Raising event in 2023 was the Big Breakfast which raised record income of £2,089.

Grants Received & Fabric projects: Several grants were received in 2023 to support both the church overheads and the Organ Appeal fund, the only Fabric project in 2023 (Note 2g). The Appeal raised another £63,213, which took the total to within 4% of the target of £300,000. Preliminary costs were paid out, mainly to Nicholson & Co totalling £56,031 (after all VAT was reimbursed).

Legacies: Two bequests were gratefully received in 2023, including one for £5,929, with the Will indicating that it should be used for maintaining the Fabric of the Church.

Expenses: The impact of global inflation was very evident in early 2023, and had a major impact on overheads, particularly utility costs, which have now been secured on far more advantageous contracts. This has been a year when a number of one-off or routine maintenance issues have arisen, and this has all led to a sharp rise in Expenses. Church running costs rose by £8,202 (12%) to £76,521.

Parish Share: A revised Diocesan Parish Share system was introduced in 2023 as part of the new Missioner ministry arrangements. This brought substantial relief from the previous out-of-reach Parish "Ask". The 2023 Aspirational level of Parish Share for Dedham was set at £46,623, some £3,877 less than 2022, and it was very pleasing that this year we had enough in the General Fund to meet this.

Reserves: The overall funds held by the PCC at 31st December 2023 total £602,724, an increase of £60,506 in the year. The largest fund continues to be the Organ Appeal fund and this now stands at £216,581, sufficient to meet the Organ rebuild this coming Autumn. Apart from the Organ Fund, all other funds increased by a net £46,568 during 2023, compared to a loss of £44,321 reported last year. Fund investments made a gain of £22,572 which recovered 73% of the investment losses in 2022. Whilst the current outlook for the economy remains uncertain, it is vital that the PCC continues to maintain sufficient funds in the General Reserve to meet future challenges. The strong financial performance in 2023 has resulted in a Cash balance of £27,412 being held in the General Fund at 31st December (2022 £20,470 cash).

In Conclusion, I wish to give my heartfelt thanks to both Sara Marshall and Katrina Ablett for the immense amount of work they put in, diligently and professionally throughout the year.

John Reed, Treasurer

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

Balance Sheet
As at: 31 December 2023

	Notes	Total	
		2023	2022
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets	4	0	3,726
Investments	5	258,164	235,331
		<u>258,164</u>	<u>239,057</u>
Current Assets			
Debtors	6	20,810	11,988
Cash at bank and in hand		335,170	306,480
	8	<u>355,980</u>	<u>318,468</u>
Liabilities			
Creditors	7	11,420	15,307
Amounts falling due in one year			
Net current assets less current liabilities		344,560	303,161
Total net assets less current liabilities		<u><u>602,724</u></u>	<u><u>542,218</u></u>
Represented by			
Unrestricted Funds			
General Reserves	9	27,412	24,196
Designated Funds	10	17,029	16,126
Total Unrestricted Funds		<u>44,442</u>	<u>40,322</u>
Restricted Funds	11	464,408	416,458
Endowment Funds	12	93,875	85,438
		<u><u>602,724</u></u>	<u><u>542,218</u></u>

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
for the financial year ended 31st December 2023

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 2023, 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
16 April 2024

Fundraising Team

This year the only Fundraiser we did was the Big Breakfast held in November. It was a huge success and gets bigger every year providing a welcome community event for the Village.

Jill Strangward

5. Risk management

Health and Safety

Health and Safety Meetings take place twice a year. Those attending are Deb Turner, Vee Druitt, Ruth Higginson, Colin Biggins (on behalf of the Duchy Barn) and Martin West (Ardleigh Churchwarden). At each meeting a check is made that contactors' visits for various assessments are up to date. Annually, all Fire extinguishers and Blankets are checked. The First Aid box is checked, and its contents kept up to date. Any accidents are recorded in the Accident Book and a copy retained in the Parishes Office. Risk assessments are made on an individual basis for non-regular events in church. A visual check with the caretaker is made annually. In addition, any Health and Safety queries are brought to the Churchwarden or the Parishes Office.

Vee Druitt

Safeguarding

A safeguarding report is made at the PCC meetings. There were no Safeguarding incidents reported in 2023. The PCC has yet to appoint a Safeguarding Officer. Deb Turner is the administrator who advises church members when safeguarding course updates are due. New volunteers are being recruited using the Church of England safer recruitment model.

Vee Druitt

6. Structure, governance and management

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

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

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

PCC Report

The PCC met 6 times in 2023 with any urgent business conducted via email between meetings and ratified at the next in person meeting. All our meetings began with prayer for the discussions and decisions of the PCC and at meetings where Revd Phillip Young attended a focus on a bible passage.

At the January meeting the possibility of advertising for a Children and Families worker was discussed. Further discussions took place throughout the year and the PCC agreed that advertising should commence.

A new services rota was discussed and created with an emphasis on increasing the opportunities to attend the more modern styles of service. A trial of this rota took place for 3 months. However, after feedback from some members of the congregation this was again amended. In December the PCC decided that Revive@5 was better placed on the 3rd Sunday of each month starting from January 2024

Thanks were received from families in our community who had received food parcels in 2022 and later in the year it was agreed that a gift of vouchers would be given at Christmas 2023.

Churchyard regulations for memorials were reviewed and updated.

In March it was reported to the PCC that the new church boiler was now working effectively, and the thermostatic issues resolved.

Our PCC formally approved the positions of Anne Marie Price-Partrick, Richard Hopkins and Susan Carne as Authorised Lay Preachers (ALPs) at our services in Dedham.

At our May meeting we welcomed Professor Douglas Bourne who made a presentation on sustainable Dedham. The PCC agreed to support this and added that the aim to improve

wellbeing of people in Dedham was a positive one and that the ethos of the church was to tell people about the better way of life that Jesus offers. The PCC approved recommendations in a report written by Sara Marshall on ECO church. Mission giving was discussed, and it was agreed that one of the recipients of our future giving would be Feeding Faith in Guatemala. In May it was also agreed that the offering of communion wine would be resumed post covid restrictions.

It was noted that our Church was still looking to appoint a Safeguarding Officer. Later in the year it was agreed that in the interim any Safeguarding concerns should be reported to either of the churchwardens.

In July, the possibility of printing the Parish Magazine on recyclable paper was raised and discussed along with the relevant costs. In view of the extra cost of using recyclable paper it was decided to leave the printing as it is for now.

In September, Phillip Young's Baptism paper was accepted by the PCC. This gives parents a choice of Baptism with parents and godparents baptised and confirmed, or a service with guide parents or a service of thanksgiving for the birth of a child.

Approval was given to the Post Revive youth group to meet at the Duchy Barn, with the PCC covering the costs.

In November, the news that several new people had offered to join the Junior Church team was welcomed. They would need to be safely recruited and to complete safeguarding training.

It was agreed that the security cameras in church should be upgraded and an offer from Paul Brebner to undertake this work was gratefully received.

Phillip gave a thought-provoking insight into the bible-based background leading to his decision not to use the prayers of love and faith (PLF) produced by the Church of England and agreed at General Synod or any other prayers to bless the marriage of same sex couples. Whilst holding this personal view Phillip encouraged us all to continue to welcome with love all who come to worship in our church. The PCC is aware that there are a wide variety of views on this subject both within our PCC, our congregation, and our Deanery.

Other matters that were discussed throughout the year were the organ project, the window repairs and other matters concerning the fabric which will be included in the Fabric report as well as Church finances and accounts which will be found in our Treasurer's report. News on these items will be reported separately.

We wish to thank Liz Reed who is not standing for re-election for all her support during her years on the PCC.

Peter Wilson and Vee Druitt

PCC Membership

PCC members who have served at any time from the last APCM on 16th April 2023 until the date this report was approved are:

Peter Wilson and Vee Druitt, Churchwardens
John Reed, Treasurer
Gabbie Watson.
Helen Sims
Lynne Al Sad
Liz Reed
Paul Brebner
Sharon Sarson

Ex Officio members:

Missioner – Revd Phillip Young

Missioner – Revd John Saxon

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
Helen Sims 2021
Sharon Sarson 2020

The Duchy Barn

The Duchy Barn continues to be a valuable community resource which is managed by a committee accountable to the PCC. The committee has met on 4 occasions during 2023, with Colin Biggins as chairman, Anne Rowledge treasurer, Steve Mole DPC representative, Vee Druitt the PCC representative, Avril Biggins coffee mornings organiser, with Kevin Taylor, Beth Mitchell and Karla Bohn as community representatives. We were sad that for health reasons Beth Mitchell former chairman and committee member for many years has had to step down – we are all extremely grateful to her for her commitment to The Barn over the years

Maintenance and repairs: No major repairs or renovation work carried out in 2023 but all mandatory servicing and checks were carried out. There is some outstanding external woodwork repair work to be done which has been held up through wet weather but this should be completed soon. Thanks to Alison O'Reilly who has helped maintain the garden area to a good standard. We are very grateful to have been given a grant by DPC of £1500 to carry out some kitchen upgrade work. Obtaining the necessary quotes from tradesmen is now in hand. During last summer it was thought that some of the woodwork was being damaged by insect infestation but Maljohns of Ipswich came and investigated and reassured us that these were ants coming through with rainwater – this has now been addressed! We are grateful that Maljohns did not charge us for this service. In addition, in October we had an extensive clear out of the store cupboard and we were extremely grateful for the help given by Sean and Josh Doyle who not only did a lot of the heavy lifting and carrying but disposed of the rubbish as well, again at no cost.

Activities and hiring: In addition to occasional private function hires, the Barn continues to be well used during 2023 with regular twice weekly coffee mornings and regular hiring by local organisations including Phoenix Homes Colchester, the Allotment Association, Dedham Parish Council and the Monday morning watercolour painting group. Cancer Research UK have hired the premises on 2 occasions to raise money through the sale of nearly-new clothing and the committee has held two book and bric-a-brac sales during the year to raise funds for the Barn and local charities. The book sale in September raised £100 that was donated to Dedham Primary School to go towards restocking and refurbishing of the school library. There is still no news as to whether the youth club under the auspices of the YMCA will start up again but late in the year approaches were made about the setting up of a church youth group which at the time of writing has now come to fruition.

Income: As always, our coffee mornings generates a steady stream of income, which covers the costs of not only the necessary supplies but of other incidental expenditure such as hand wash soaps, cleaning materials, toilet rolls, paper towels etc. Thanks to Avril Biggins for organising the rotas and to our volunteers without whose help the coffee mornings would not go ahead. We continue to be grateful to the Nicole Young Trust for its generous annual grant of £1000. We continue to hold around £28k - £30k in longer term investments and we aim to keep around £1k - £1.5k in our current account. Thanks to Anne Rowledge for her work as treasurer and for the support from Sara Marshall Finance Officer at the Parishes Office.

Colin Biggins, Chairman, Duchy Barn Management Committee

Communications Parishes Office

2023 was a busy year in the Parishes office. The office is regularly open on a Tuesday and Thursday each week from 10am-12pm. As Parishes Administrator and Volunteers Coordinator, I

continue to oversee the office management and administration for both Dedham and Ardleigh churches. The main change this year has been in taking on the administration of the 7 parishes in the group of 9 across the Harwich Deanery, in addition to Dedham and Ardleigh. I have been fully supported by the wonderful churchwardens, Revd Merv McKinney and many others. The arrival of Revd John Saxon from October was very welcome. Thanks, as always to Sara Marshall for her outstanding finance management support.

Deb Turner

Parish Magazine

The magazine continues to be produced and distributed to houses throughout Dedham, as well as copies in local businesses and Dedham and Ardleigh churches. 1,200 copies are produced, though we are reducing this for 2024. The magazine is funded by the advertising pages and a contribution from Dedham Parish Council. The magazine contains regular input from the Church, Dedham Primary School, Dedham Parish Council and local clubs and groups.

This was the first full year with John Goldsbrough as editor. It was also the first time that we have published the magazine as a FlipBook for the links on the Church website and the Dedham Parish Council web site. The viewing statistics show that on average there are around 180 views for each magazine, the total number of views for 2023 was 1,853. Thank you to all our contributors, the Advertiser and Dedham Parish Council who help to keep the magazine afloat, also a thank you to Sara Marshall (Advertising) and Liz Reed for sourcing articles.

John Goldsbrough

Website

The church website, dedham-and-ardleigh-parishes.org.uk, continued to provide a useful focal point for the church community during 2023.

In 2023 the total number of page requests from users on the website was 200,140, a fall from the previous year's figure of 230,148. Page Requests are the number of web pages requested by visitors to the web site. The average monthly figure was 16,180 (19,179 in 2022). The month with the highest number of requests was March 2023 with over 19,000 requests.

The breakdown of the Page requests by website area shows that Articles on the site received 78,550 requests (2022 – 88,712), Pages (Groups) – 53,820 (2022 – 58,649), Media – 50,130 (2022 – 47,680) and Calendar – 11,070 (2021 – 10,798). Media and Calendar page views increased this year.

John Goldsbrough

Facebook

We 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 around 250 subscribers.

Instagram

In late 2022, the PCCs in Dedham and Ardleigh approved the creation of a new account for the Benefice. It currently has nearly 100 followers and is used to share information about services, Junior Church, tell the Jesse Tree story and any other appropriate content. We also repurpose some of the posts to share the activities of Junior Church, Rise 'n Shine and the senior school youth group (DJB) with others (including the school and Facebook).

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

Dedham Ecclesiastical Lectureship Trust (DELT)

The main occupation of the trust this year has been the appointment of a Dedham Lecturer. This is the first time for about a century that the lectureship position has been held by someone who is not the Vicar of Dedham. The need to appoint a lecturer was triggered because, for now, nobody occupies the position of Vicar of Dedham. The trust advertised the position as a voluntary role in

the hope it could preserve its funds to use for some of its other charitable objectives. With no applications forthcoming, the Chair of the trust, and long time trustee, Richard Hopkins resigned as a trustee so that he could apply for the position. The trustees considered his application against the job description and chose to appoint him. This created a vacancy on the board of trustees which was filled by Akshay John at the invitation of the Bishop of Chelmsford. The vacant role of chair was filled by existing trustee Clifford Sims who was elected unopposed by his fellow trustees. Richard is already an authorised local preacher in the Benefice of Dedham and Ardleigh, so it is a natural step for him to take on the preaching duties of the Lecturer. Because he will be unpaid, the trust's income may instead be applied to support its other charitable activities. Trustees are, therefore, looking forward to the next year, and hope to be able to continue to support the work of Dedham Parish Church.

Richard Hopkins - outgoing Chair and incoming Dedham Lecturer

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.

Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting 16 April 2023

1. PW began the meeting with an opening prayer.
2. There was only one apology for absence from Rev. Phillip Young
3. David Druitt was appointed teller.
4. The minutes of the meeting of 15 May 2022 were accepted as accurate and there were no amendments or matters arising.
5. The Electoral Roll: there are 77 people on the Electoral Roll of whom 74 are residents and there are 3 non-residents.
6. PCC Report:
 - Vee Druitt reported that the PCC had met 8 times during year and thanked members for their support year; those serving were; John Reed, Liz Reed, Paul Brebner, Richard Hopkins, Linda Redlich, Sharon Sarson, Helen Sims, Gabbie Watson, Lynne Al Sad and Akshay John joining post the APCM in May; Rural Missioner Phillip Young joined our meetings when possible
 - The Deanery plan to appoint 2 Rural Missioners was discussed amongst the 9 parishes and various meetings took place of parish representatives.
 - Christina Volkman resigned from the lead on eco church, and we thank her for leading us to a bronze award; the PCC wish to thank Sara Marshall for taking on this position.
 - The organ project was reviewed at each PCC meeting.
 - The PCC adopted the approach of reaching out into the community and as part of this provided its own food bank in the church porch, distributed some food parcels at Christmas with the help of Dedham primary School (our thanks To Laura Valentine for her help with this), and promoted the Duchy Barn as a warm space in response to rising energy costs.
 - H&S was on each agenda and our evacuation process was tested.
 - Another campout for young people was held in the vicarage garden.
 - A new church guide was produced by John Goldsbrough and Peter and our thanks to DELT for meeting the cost.
 - Tower tours are becoming fewer through a lack of guides—are there any volunteers.
 - A huge thank you to Louise for starting a Junior Church in the Duchy Barn each Sunday morning.
 - It has been difficult to find someone to repair the altar frontal, but we believe we have now found a company in Norwich.
 - We are still looking to fill 2 very important positions—Safeguarding Officer and Data protection officer; please advise the PCC if you are willing to take on this role or know of anyone suitable.

- Finally, thanks to all PCC members who have contributed so much during the year and a special thanks to John Reed for acting as minute secretary as well as treasurer.

7. Fabric Report:

- Peter reported that the new gas boiler was completed at a cost of £91,000; this cost increased due to the delay in the faculty being issued and material and labour costs escalating by approximately 15%.
- The annual tree survey was carried out in the churchyard and the work completed.
- Our thanks to Andrew Hodson for his work in cleaning the church and maintaining the churchyard. Our thanks also to the volunteers who help with the church cleaning and opening and closing the church when Andrew is on holiday.
- Towards the end of the year, we received the quinquennial report from the architect which stated, “the church is in a reasonable condition and the interior is in exceptionally good order”. There are a number of recommendations, and the priorities are the repair and restoration of some of the windows and to address area of potential water ingress.
- The diocese has completed the repair to the church wall and the architect and contractor have done an excellent job.

8. Financial Review:

- The finance Committee comprising John Reed (Chair/CW), Peter Wilson (CW), David Jewell and Sara Marshall (Financial Administrator) met 5 times throughout the year.
- Income at £79074 was almost flat compared to 2021 (£78975); the committee thanked all who gave so generously throughout the year.
- The other general fund income of £31745 was generated from the Parish magazine advertising, Big Breakfast and the “Creation” themed flower festival. Our thanks to all who were involved in these events.
- The new boiler cost £91090 and was funded by a grant of £75,000 from the DELT with the remaining money coming from the Repair and maintenance fund.
- There were two legacies during the year, one of which was bequeathed by Ian Sutherland to the Vicar and Churchwardens Discretionary Fund to be used for pastoral care.
- We anticipated the running costs would be higher in 2022 than the covid year of 2021 and the costs were materially higher at £68319—a 17.6% increase. Inflation was a key factor but almost two thirds of the increase was due to two unbudgeted items. Setting these aside the increase would have been contained at 6.6% compared to 2021 and 3.3% below the 2022 budget.
- Parish Share of £50,500 was paid (2022 was £55,928) and was well below the £72394 requested by the Diocese.
- PCC reserves at the year-end were £542,218, an increase of £158,322 compared to 2021. This increase was largely due to the £202,643 held at the year-end in the Organ Appeal Fund. Other funds fell by £44,321—the major fall arising in our

invested funds which fell as a result of market conditions. It is expected that these will increase with the market upturn, and it needs to be noted that over the previous 3years we had seen gains of £80646.

- The current policy of the PCC is to maintain a prudent cash balance on the unrestricted reserve of £20,000 and this was achieved at the yearend (£20,470)
- Finally, particular thanks to Sara Marshall and Katrina Ablett who work very hard to keep the finances in good shape and to my other colleagues on the finance committee.
- Questions of the treasurer were invited, and Caro McShane asked whether the money for the new organ was invested, and it was confirmed it was in a deposit interest bearing account.
- The accounts were adopted unanimously; proposed by David Druitt and seconded by Sarah Oakley.
- Appointment of Auditor: Philip Strangward was proposed by Richard Hopkins and seconded by Tim Sarson, and this was unanimously approved.

1. Organ Appeal:

- The fund at the end of 2022 totalled £202643 and at the end of March 2023 totalled £210422. This is after paying Nicholson for removing the organ from Glasgow, repairing the flooring in harvest church Glasgow, and ongoing storage charges for the Organ in Kidderminster. The committee has been active in arranging fund raising events and in July the Goldsborough consort gave a concert in the church in aid of the funds. David Druitt said that different charities are being contacted for support and emphasised the importance of us all in bringing in the outstanding monies needed.

2. Elections:

- David Druitt agreed to continue as one of the Synod representatives and John Reed was unanimously elected to serve as the second representative.
- Three members of the PCC chose to stand down: Linda Redlich, Richard Hopkins and Akshay John and the church wardens thanked them all for their service. The remainder of the PCC were:

Re-elected to serve with the two Church wardens, namely-- Liz Reed, John Reed, Sharon Sarson, Helen Sims, Lynne Al Sad, Paul Brebner, Gabbie Watson.

3. Church Wardens Report:

- In the continuing absence of a vicar and Phillip being on holiday Peter gave an overall view in the year
- Although we were without a vicar or Missioner for much of the year, we continued to provide a full range of Sunday service as well as a Tuesday service of morning prayer and other activities during the week. We are grateful for those who facilitated these: Rev Merv McKinney, Richard Hopkins, Anne Marie Price-Partrick, Christina Volkman for leading our worship, Antony Watson for leading the music

and the Revive@5 team. We are blessed to have so many willing and capable members within our church.

- In October we welcomed Phillip, Louise and their 3 children who have settled well into the village, and we are fortunate to have found someone who is committed to speaking the gospel clearly and fearlessly and provide strong leadership to Dedham church and the wider community: we are also grateful to Louise for her initiative in setting up a Junior church.
- One of the tasks of the PCC is to ensure that we meet the needs of our local membership and the wider community and deliver a clear gospel message. At a recent meeting we discussed the format of services and felt that the service of Matins was not easily understood by those visiting for the first time and especially those attending for marriage preparation. We decided that for a trial period of 3 months we would alternate Matins with Morning praise: our service pattern each month will be –
Rise and Shine-Communion—Matins or Morning Praise—Communion.
We hope this will help people of all ages and traditions feel welcomed into the fellowship at Dedham.
- Finally on behalf of Vee and myself we would like to thank everyone who contributes to the life and work of the church, and a special thank you to all who have served with us on the PCC during the past year.

4. Questions?

Sarah Oakley asked if we had plans, now that Covid has largely passed, to return to the traditional method of giving communion. This has been discussed and we took the opportunity to ask the members for their thoughts. There was approximately a 50/50 split, and we feel both methods of giving communion needs to be provided.

Sarah also asked whether the collection baskets would be reintroduced; in reply Peter said because there are other means of donating that it was not felt there was a need to bring back the baskets.

5. The meeting closed with a prayer at 11.38 am.

St Mary's Church Dedham

Sunday, 28th April 2024

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.