

Dedham Parish

Annual Report

Year End December 2024



Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 13th April 2025

St Mary's Dedham

2024 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 18th March 2025

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 speak to both regular parishioners and visitors to St. Mary's. We constantly monitor our service patterns to ensure they have both audiences in mind. Our services to mark special holidays and festivals are particularly appreciated and important to the life of the village and the Christmas Crib service last year attracted a congregation of 410 people, which is the absolute maximum the church can accommodate and suggesting that for 2025 we will need to have two services.

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. Unfortunately, we have recently experienced problems with the equipment, but this is currently being addressed with the purchase of new equipment.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of their 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 4 baptisms, 5 weddings and held 11 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 our Rural Missioners, Revd Phillip and Revd John who have worked hard to bring the good news of Jesus to an increasing number in our parishes. Canon Merv McKinney has continued to

support us all leading and preaching at services and in many other ways, including sharing with us the benefit of his wisdom, and for this we thank him. Our thanks go to our lay preacher, Anne Marie Partrick and to our Lecturer Richard Hopkins, as well as to Antony Watson our Director of Music and to Gabbie Watson our verger, Claire Arculus for her work as our Children and Young People's Worker, the choir members and our service wardens, Be Burleigh, Sarah Oakley and David Druitt.

Church Membership

The Electoral Roll has been reviewed in 2024. Currently there are 75 on the Electoral Roll, of whom 67 are residents and 8 non-residents. The Electoral Roll is in the course of being updated before the upcoming APCM.

Choir and Music Report

2024 was a momentous year for the musical life of St Mary's Dedham. The completion of the Organ Project in December 2024 was the result of 20 years of discernment and seven + years of very hard work. The resulting instrument is 'A triumph' in the words of Colchester's Borough Organist, and one which will serve this parish and its church for at least 150 years. It remains to be celebrated as a remarkable achievement to have the project fully funded thanks to the generosity of so many, both in financial terms, but also with advice, fundraising and many other aspects. The Nicholson & Co team are remarkable, visionary craftsmen, who have been a joy to work with. The project would not have been possible without the remarkable effort of Margaret Kitson, who as secretary to the Organ Group saw to the day-to-day life of the project from the outset, and we are much indebted to Margaret for all that she has done and continues to do. We look forward to the Service of Dedication by the Bishop of Colchester, and the Celebrity Recital by Jonathan Scott, Britain's leading organist, on 10th May

I would also like to register my thanks to Andrew Stevens, our organ technician who kept the old organ going way beyond its expected lifespan. Andrew continues his association with Dedham, as he comes to service and tune Antony's practice pipe organ at Crownfields.

The Choir continue to meet weekly on Thursdays at 7.30pm. I am grateful on a daily basis that we retain a choir at St. Mary's. We are so lucky to have seen a number of new committed members in recent years, and obviously we would welcome more new members. As ever, we were delighted to augment the choir for our Christmas Carols, boosting the choir to 31 singers, to great effect.

We are grateful that Revive@5 has been musically supported by Dawn Saxon and her team, with Chloe and Gabbie and Revd John too, now that Antony has had to pull back on his workload on doctor's orders.

Antony continues to lead the singing at assemblies at Dedham C of E School from the piano on a weekly basis.

Antony Watson

Bell Ringing

Bell ringing has gone well in Dedham. We have a good reliable and very keen team and had two new youngsters join the team for their Duke of Edinburgh Award. They are enjoying ringing and are going to stay on when the six months are up, which is very pleasing. This gives us a team of eight at the moment.

Lou Davison

Flower Team

The flower team have continued to enjoy friendship and time together in being creative this year, both as a larger group when decorating the church for the major services, and as a smaller team arranging flowers for Sunday services and for visitors to the church during the rest of the year. It was lovely having afternoon tea together on a sunny day in the summer. This was also a chance to meet and catch up with members of the group who had left the team because of ill health.

The team are to be commended in continuing to embrace different ways of working without the use of Oasis (a generally non-biodegradable product). This has enabled the team to operate in a much more eco-friendly way.

It is great to report that three new members have joined the team, but sad also because three other members have had to stand down. New members are always welcome to join the team and thanks go to everyone who gives of their time or supports the team financially. It is much appreciated.

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 Be Burleigh Julia Campbell Danielle Dearsley 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 2024. I am very grateful to Peter Rowles and Elizabeth Hopkins for being our volunteer guides for the tours. They both do an amazing job and we receive very positive feedback.

Deb Turner

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

Dedham Church Wardens Report

Our aims and objectives for 2024 have been

- To ensure we continue the smooth running of the church and support the ministry of the two rural Missioners, Revd Phillip Young and Revd John Saxon
- To maintain a service pattern that offers a wide variety of service styles
- To support our children and young people by providing a Junior Church on Sunday mornings and leading school worship.
- 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

- The organ project has dominated activity in the past year and the installation was successfully completed during November 2024, with the new organ prominent during our Christmas celebrations. Our grateful thanks to all who contributed to the Appeal and to the organ committee, chaired by David Druitt, with a particular mention for Margaret Kitson and Antony Watson who were so intimately involved in the day-to-day activities of the installation done by Nicholson & Co. We look forward to the organ dedication service and recital to be held on the 10th May when the renowned organist Jonathan Scott will be the guest organist.

- Other projects have largely been on hold until completion of the organ, but the repair and maintenance of the stained-glass windows has now received faculty approval, but we are well short of the £165,000 needed for the total repair. I urge members to please give consideration to donating to this project now, as it will be financially beneficial if we can commit to the total works in a single project rather than phasing over a long period of time. It is now planned to begin the glazing in a phased manner with phase 1 starting in September this year and going through until December. Phase 2 will be in January to April 2026 and phase 3 September to December 2026. We need to raise sufficient funds to be able to commit to these dates and ideally carry out the masonry work at the same time.
- During the year the bell ropes were replaced by TL Blythe and we are grateful to the Friends for paying for this work. During the installation it was reported that safety work is needed to be carried out in the bell tower, and we await a quotation for this work.
- We also commissioned a report from the fire officer on the capacity allowed in the church and the emergency lighting, --the latter having been upgraded in line with their recommendations
- I am pleased to report that the churchyard is now in a much better condition thanks to the work of Richard Dean and Joe Matthew Preston, and we have received numerous positive comments regarding this; a rota is now in place to ensure that we maintain the same standard
- Finally, a huge word of thanks to our verger and caretaker Gabbie who maintains the cleanliness of the church to such a high standard, and our thanks also to the many volunteers who cover this work in her absence.

Peter Wilson, on behalf of Fabric Committee

Resource Centre

Sales continue to bring in a steady contribution towards church funds. Though the centre was closed during the installation of the new organ, we have had a very successful year. 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. New stocks have recently been ordered to increase the range available.

Be Burleigh

Muniment Library

The last 6 years' worth of Parish magazines have now been bound. Unfortunately, due to the new format, it has been necessary to bind only 2 years together rather than 3, incurring extra cost and including all advertisements.

It is hoped that there will be some assistance in curating the Muniment Room in the near future. Signs of neglect are being seen, and the collection is in danger of deterioration unless some action is taken very soon.

The embargo on going into the MR unless there is person/persons below needs to be lifted – if necessary, in consultation with the fire authorities. There is egress above the MR in case of fire and a risk assessment is likely to show very low risk.

Suzanne Woods

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

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 talk about the best way forward for our group to fulfil its aims.

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

The group met 3 times in 2024 with Revd Phillip Young in attendance. The annual service to Remember Loved Ones took place at St Mary's Ardleigh in November. As in previous years, invitations were sent to those who had been bereaved most recently and all were welcomed at the service and for refreshment afterwards.

Monthly visits by members of the group to the residents at Blackbrook House commenced this year. The visits have been warmly welcomed by both staff and residents.

The Walk and Talk group continues. Each month those who wish to have a walk, meet for a gentle ramble followed by coffee with others joining them for a chat.

A lunch takes place on the first Monday of each month at the Essex Rose. This is well attended, and Ann Shaw is the person to contact for further information.

Vee Druitt

Walk & Talk Group

The Walk & Talk group is still going well. We have managed to walk most months allowing for the bad weather. The coffee & chat is a valuable part of the morning and we had a great lunch at the Talbooth in January which we all enjoyed.

Lou Davison

Benefice prayers intercession group Mondays @ 5 via Zoom (mostly)

Do we understand our role as Christians in having influence in our world, our churches, our communities? Jesus does!

Do we feel overwhelmed and upset by all the atrocities we see and read about?

Do we find ourselves just too busy to pray, focussing on our own agendas?

I think we would all agree (in some way) to these questions...

However, every Monday at 5 pm, a few of us have found that by stepping aside from the madness of the world and our own preoccupations, we can cast our cares and concerns on One who loves and cares deeply for this world, our communities and our churches.

It's not hard to offer 40 minutes a week to pray together and discover find new ways to release our cares to the God. Different people from both parishes lead us, the technology is managed brilliantly (thank you David!) I for one never regret the time laying cares and concerns before the cross of Jesus, assured that the 'The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results'(James 5:16 NLT). Do join us!

Caroline Allen

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

Our Missioners (Phillip and John), our Lecturer (Richard Hopkins), Canon Merv, Authorised Lay Preacher (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 home 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 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.

Mission

Members

Lynne Al Sad, Ruth Higginson, Liz Reed, Caro McShane, Linda Redlich, Deidre and Adrian Beckingsale, Carol Buckland

Activities

We officially start our sales in May when we raised £280 for Christian Aid. During the year we raised a total of £2,520 which was split equally between Beacon House, Korban and Feeding Faith.

Distribution

The amount we have raised during the year, £2,520, 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

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 has been implemented in the Spring/Summer. This included installing bird and insect boxes, as well as a hedgehog/amphibian box. We also created 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 Claire Arculus, 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 a drama sketch) 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 St. Valentine's Day (February), Great Stories / World Book Day (March) or Things That Last (in May). Attendance continues to fluctuate month by month, but we are seeing more and more families coming. This year we supported three families bringing their children for baptism in these services. We always welcome new ideas and voices to the team as we seek to create an atmosphere of 'worshipful fun' faithful to our Anglican roots.

Revd Phillip Young

Involvement at Dedham Primary School

Throughout 2024, four of us from St. Mary's went into Dedham Primary School regularly: Richard Hopkins, Claire Arculus, Christina Volkmann and Revd. Phillip Young. Sometimes these acts of 'Collective Worship' relate to school values and sometimes they relate to a liturgical season (Lent, Easter, Harvest, etc.), but in every case they seek to bring some relevant teaching from the scriptures to the subject at hand. Claire has also been working with the Student Worship Team and running themed Messy Church sessions. 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 achieved/learned in the term, as well as to hear a message from the scriptures to take away into the holiday period. Revd. Phillip is occasionally invited by teachers to address their classes on specific topics, e. g. what Christian baptism is. All the work in our schools is covered in prayer by our weekly Benefice Prayer Meeting, 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 in prayer 'behind the scenes'!

Revd Phillip Young

Junior Church

Junior church has had a fantastic year, and we have continued to see children returning most Sundays together with new families joining the group as well. Junior Church leaders meet in church initially at the start of the Sunday service (every week except the first Sunday when there is our all-age *Rise and Shine* service) and then the leaders take the children to the Duchy Barn where the sessions focus on providing fun, games and age-appropriate Bible teaching to children aged 3 to 11. The Biggest Story continues to be the main resource that is taught but the group

have also taught an Advent series which was sourced from Faith in Kids as well as a Lent series taught from Mustard-Seed.net, both being dedicated Bible reaching resources to children and youth. The sessions could not happen without the dedicated volunteer team of leaders and helpers which continues to grow in number and now stands at 10, two of which have recently joined. Over the year, on average the sessions have 10 children each week, with one week reaching up to 17. The volunteer leaders and helpers meet quarterly to discuss the topics to have going forward, encouragements and points to be made aware of and importantly to pray. Junior church could not happen without the volunteers, and I am so grateful for the commitment and dedication they all bring to the sessions. May the Lord continue to grow this ministry to our children and young people.

Claire Arculus



Revive@5

Revive@5 is a contemporary service, aimed at all ages with modern worship songs in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. It meets on the third Sunday of each month (except August and December) with refreshments from 4.45pm and the main service from 5pm until 6pm. Following a pause between July and December 2024, with the team discerning the way forward for the service, Revive@5 returned in January with a live worship band and the start of a 5-month series linked to the DJB Youth Group topics - 'Six Beats One Story' (Bible Society). The aim of the service is to bring different generations of worshippers together and before the service breaks in August, the team organise a barbecue for all worshippers in the vicarage garden. This was very well attended in July. The service talks are led by a variety of speakers including both our local missionaries Revd Phillip Young and Revd John Saxon, as well as people from other churches. We often use creative ways to spend time in prayer and our prayer ministry team, now led by Cathy Groslin, is also available during the service to pray with individuals as needed.

Claire Arculus

Youth Report

DJB Church Youth Group

The youth continue to meet straight after the Revive@5 service (on the third Sunday of each month), except in August and December. In addition, this year, the group have met for social events on top of the regular group meeting times. I continue to lead the group and have received support this year from Sue Browne and Lisa Miles. Our social events have included a trip to Hollywood Bowl at Christmas and a trip to the Dedham Therapy Farm in September. Revive@5 had a break between July and December, but the youth still continued to meet each month. It has been wonderful to see some new young people join the group and on average we now have up to 9 or 10 young people attending. Currently the session discusses the Revive@5 topic 'Six Beats One Story' which focuses on different books of the Bible. The group also enjoys games, food, and prayer has been introduced for all the young people. If the young people would like to receive prayer, then leaders will pray with them. There is a lot more planned going forward (requested mostly from our young people). This includes a camp out, more sports activities such as a further cricket evening, a trip to Frinton Beach and a litter pick. I am so thankful how this ministry has grown in recent months and particularly blessed by the volunteers who help. We are always in need of more helpers so if you are interested in joining as a helper do let me know.

Claire Arculus





Dedham Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School January 2024 – December 2024

The school now has 194 pupils on roll and 34 members of staff, including 12 teachers (two of whom are due to return from maternity leave early in 2025).

- Children from a Minority Ethnic Background: 11.9% (37.4% national)
- Children with English as an Additional Language (EAL): 3.1% (22.8% national)
- Children with Free School Meal entitlement (at any point in the last 6 years): 10.8% (25.9% national)
- Pupils with SEND: 11.9% (17.1% national)
- Absence rate: 4.0% (5.9% national)

Mrs Gemma Chester has been headteacher of Dedham CE Primary School for two years now. Following several changes to improve the school site in 2023, this has been a continued focus during 2024. Over the past year, LED lighting has been installed, all-weather artificial grass has been put in the Class R outdoor classroom, the hall roof has been repaired (partially funded by the local authority), the pedestrian entrance to the school has been widened, and an on-site Forest School area has been created.

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 on site is planned for 2025 including a pond as part of the 'Dedham 200' celebrations, and a summer house for Lego and colouring during lunchtimes.

	
Class R outdoor classroom	Forest School site

In the spring term of 2023, we launched a set of five new school values (kindness, appreciation, ambition, perseverance and respect) and 'Guide each of us to be a light to the world' (inspired by Matthew 5:16) replaced 'A lifelong love of learning' as the school's vision in 2024. The children are becoming increasingly confident in articulating what the vision and values mean and as a school we are now seeking to further embed both the vision and the values in the curriculum.

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. In the summer term of 2024, children from Y6 led an online assembly for the children at Elizabeth Selby, and the Y2 children at Elizabeth Selby led an online assembly for our whole school a few weeks later.

Claire Arculus began working closely with the school during 2024 in her role as Children and Young People's Worker. She has led a couple of assemblies and has worked with Miss Valentine to create a 'Messy Church' schedule. In December 2024, we had our first Messy Church afternoon with Class 3

focusing on Christingle. The afternoon ended with a short collective worship to which parents were invited. Each class will receive one Messy Church session a year focusing on different aspects of the church year, for example Lent (Class 5), Easter (Class 1), Pentecost (Class 4). We are also delighted to have been able to relaunch Open the Book assemblies. Our first assembly took place in December with some children in Class 5 helping to tell the parable of the unforgiving servant.

In November, Claire spent an hour with Class 6 working on ideas for a school prayer. The children's ideas will be put together to create a prayer to be shared with the rest of the school in 2025.

Our School Improvement Plan (SIP) sets out the priorities for each year and can be found on the school website. In 2024, the action points were:

- improve attitudes to learning and increase children's sense of pride
- ensure the behaviour policy is implemented and owned by all staff
- develop a vision for the whole school
- improve deployment and impact of LSAs
- improve work/life balance of staff
- offer a wide range of experiences so children and staff are able to grow spiritually (with particular focus on play and Forest School provision)
- improve opportunities for enrichment in the curriculum
- improve writing outcomes across the school
- consider the sequencing of the curriculum and standards in the foundation subjects
- develop the use of retrieval practice across the school
- embed the new feedback policy
- improve outcomes in phonics

Over the past year we have been delighted to welcome Rev 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.

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. 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 is considerable and we are extremely grateful to him for all he does for us.

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 once again supported each other with peer reviews, moderation of assessments, curriculum development and governor training, in addition to members of the SLT being a 'listening ear' for each other.

Finally, in June 2024, the school received its long-awaited Ofsted inspection. The school was last inspected in September 2012 and so the school had undergone significant changes in that time, not least, three changes of headteacher. The school was rated 'good' for quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, leadership and management, and early years provision, and it was rated 'outstanding' for personal development. The Senior Leadership Team and Governing Body felt that the process was fair and were delighted by the subsequent report which accurately reflected where the school was at, the progress that had been made and what the school wants to do to move forwards. The full report can be

found here however the following sentences from the beginning of the report certainly capture its essence.

- *Pupils thrive at Dedham Primary School. The school's exceptional personal development provision ensures they become resilient, confident young people.*
- *The school is determined for all pupils to learn and succeed. Lessons are usually well-matched to pupils needs, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). As a result, pupils achieve well.*
- *Pupils are very proud to attend this school. They enjoy seeing their work in weekly newsletters and displayed in the village. Pupils strive to do their best for themselves and for others. They work hard in class and play positively with each other.*

Laura Valentine, Deputy Headteacher

f. Working with ecumenical partners

Deanery Synod Report

The full Deanery Synod met three times in 2024, and in addition, the Standing Committee met three times. John Reed and David Druitt are both members of the full Synod having been appointed in 2023, and David, already on the Standing Committee, was elected in May to be the Lay Chair following the retirement of John Baker. Both of the Tendring and Dedham Missioners, Phillip and John, also attend meetings of the Deanery Synod, and following the new role for Area Dean, Rev'd Canon Phil Ritchie, the Synod meetings are now being chaired by Rev'd John Saxon.

The meetings cover a wide range of topics in the Deanery, and further afield, and included discussions and reflection on issues relating to:

- The Diocese having made available £29,000 to the Deanery from its Mission Opportunities Fund in 2024.
- A Deanery Wellbeing Officer appointment during the year to support Clergy and Laity.
- The Tendring Show which once again enabled the Deanery to participate in a well-attended event.
- The Deanery involvement with the shortly to be built Colchester Borders Garden Community.
- The report that all Parish Visitations on the Deanery list had been completed.

John Reed & David Druitt

4. Financial review

DEDHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL- FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Management: The PCC Finance Committee met on 5 occasions in 2024 and is composed of 5 members: John Reed (Chairman and Treasurer), Peter Wilson (Churchwarden), Adrian Beckingsale (PCC), David Jewell, and Sara Marshall (Financial Administrator). The Dedham PCC holds Charity Commission registration No. 1130860, and the Annual Financial Accounts can be reviewed on both the Dedham Church and the Charity Commission websites.

General Fund Income: The total amount received from all Planned Gift aided and Other Giving in 2024 was £89,100, a figure £600 below the £89,700 for 2023. Most sources of Giving rose on last year, but there was a fall in the unpredictable one-off donations, which had been strong in 2023. However, following the Pledge Day appeal, late in 2024, several new monthly donors signed up, which will help boost the 2025 income. All other General Fund Income of £42,234 came from fees, advertising, resources, fundraising and grants, 49% of which came from Parish Magazine advertising. This increase of £1,850 on the 2023 total of £40,384 came largely from the fundraising that was held in the year, including the Big Breakfast and the D-Day concert.

The overall income from Giving and Other income for the year rose 1% to £131,334 compared to £130,084 in 2023.

General Fund Expenses: (ex-Parish Share) 2024 thankfully saw a slower rate of inflation than 2023 affecting Church overheads. However, the running expenses did rise on last year by 9.3% from £76,521 to £83,651 due to one key factor. Whilst 93% of these costs, including personnel, rose by just 3.2%, the cost of maintaining the Churchyard rose very sharply due to much needed contractor support, as well as emergency tree maintenance. The amount borne by the General Fund in excess of the amount raised by the Churchyard Fund was £5,320 (2023 £639), and this was the main reason why expenses were higher in 2024.

Parish Share: The Parish Ask for the nine rural Parishes was agreed at a level that invited Dedham to pay £49,141 (2023-£46,622). It was pleasing that we were able to meet this increase of £2,519 in full.

Reserves: The overall total funds held by the PCC at 31st December 2024 were £440,587, a decrease of £162,137 in the year. Unsurprisingly, the installation of the organ depleted the funds by £187,191, but all the other funds grew by £25,054. With the General Fund declining by £1,458, the growth largely came from the invested funds held by the CCLA which have been targeted more at earning income than growth in 2024. Their strategy has delivered investment growth gains of £5,899 and interest income of £13,706.

To summarise. Church finances are continually dependent on increasing funds and holding down costs, and I am satisfied that the funds at 31st December 2024 are sufficient to meet our current needs, and we will continue to monitor and safeguard them in the future. Finally, grateful thanks to all who gave financially, as well as time and effort, and also a massive thanks to Sara Marshall and Katrina Ablett who continually work so hard at keeping our finances in such good shape.

John Reed, Treasurer

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

Dedham Parochial Church Council

Statement of Financial Activities For the year ended 31 December 2024

Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2024 Total Funds	2023 Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	2(a) 98,222	67,618	0	165,840	162,321
Activities for generating funds	2(b) 29,816	2,938	0	32,754	66,411
Investment income	2(c) 3,225	16,675	1,396	21,296	16,448
Charitable activities	2(d) 9,246	3,344	0	12,590	11,323
Other incoming resources	2(e) 0	0	0	0	92
Total Incoming Resources	140,509	90,575	1,396	232,480	256,595
Resources used					
Cost of generating funds					
Fundraising/ Trading cost	3(a) 2,031	0	0	2,031	2,003
Charitable activities	3(b) 137,261	260,095	250	397,606	215,738
Governance costs	3(c) 700	0	0	700	600
Other outgoing resources	3(d) 180	0	0	180	320
Total Resources used	140,172	260,095	250	400,517	218,661
Net Incoming/Outgoing Resources Before transfers	337	(169,520)	1,146	(168,037)	37,934
Transfers					
Transfers between funds	0	0	0	0	0
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	11/12 0	3,796	2,103	5,899	22,572
Net movement in funds	337	(165,724)	3,249	(162,138)	60,506
Reconciliation of funds					
Total Funds brought forward	44,442	464,408	93,875	602,724	542,218
Total Funds carried forward	44,779	298,684	97,124	440,587	602,724

Dedham Parochial Church Council

Balance Sheet As at: 31 December 2024

	Notes	Total	
		2024	2023
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets	4	0	0
Investments	5	264,606	258,164
		<u>264,606</u>	<u>258,164</u>
Current Assets			
Debtors	6	29,034	20,810
Cash at bank and in hand		185,948	335,170
	8	<u>214,982</u>	<u>355,980</u>
Liabilities			
Creditors	7	39,001	11,420
Amounts falling due in one year			
Net current assets less current liabilities		175,981	344,560
Total net assets less current liabilities		<u><u>440,587</u></u>	<u><u>602,724</u></u>
Represented by			
Unrestricted Funds			
General Reserves	9	25,954	27,412
Designated Funds	10	18,825	17,029
Total Unrestricted Funds		<u>44,779</u>	<u>44,442</u>
Restricted Funds	11	298,684	464,408
Endowment Funds	12	97,124	93,875
		<u><u>440,587</u></u>	<u><u>602,724</u></u>

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
for the financial year ended 31st December 2024

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 2024, 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
28 February 2025

Fundraising Team

The Fundraising team held 3 events in 2024

1. A Dedham Stakes evening in April
2. A D-Day Concert in June
3. The Big Breakfast in November

All three events were very well attended and just under £5000 was raised.

The team comprises, Ann Shaw, Vee Druitt, Ruth Higginson, Lou Davison, *Jill Strangward*

5. Risk management

Health and Safety

Health and Safety Meetings take place twice a year. Those attending are Deb Turner, Vee Druitt/Sharon Sarson, Ruth Higginson, Colin Biggins (on behalf of the Duchy Barn) and Martin West/Susan Carne (Ardleigh Churchwarden). At each meeting a check is made that contractors' 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.

Deb Turner

Safeguarding

A safeguarding report is made at the PCC meetings. There were no Safeguarding incidents reported in 2024. 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.

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 consisted of the two church wardens, three elected members (Helen Sims, Gabbie Watson and Lynne Al Sad, plus two co-opted members (Adrian Beckingsale and Roger Berry who are both standing for election this year) . Our two Rural Missioners were invited to attend and each meeting began with a prayer. The PCC met 6 times in 2024 with any urgent business conducted via email between meetings or by the standing committee consisting of the church wardens and Treasurer and ratified at the next PCC meeting.
- Discussions took place through the early part of the year re the possibility of recruiting a children and family worker and Delt agreed to fund a large part of this cost: following interviews an appointment was made in June 2024 and the job holder has been involved in the school, in Rise and Shine services and with the young people group
- This year at Christmas we provided £50 gift vouchers to 20 families who we were advised by the school would benefit from receiving such a gift and these were well received
- The PCC approved a grant of £1000 to Feeding Faith in Guatemala to provide clean water for the local population. Kristen and Julian Crisp who run the project visited us during their last visit to the UK and explained a little about their work and expressed their gratitude for our support

- Churchyard regulations for memorials were reviewed and updated
- Our PCC formally approved the position of Anne Marie Price-Partrick, as Authorised Lay Preacher (ALPs) at our services in Dedham.
- The PCC agreed to continue to support the principle of Eco Church and working towards a silver award for our effort. We are joining the wider effort by the parish council who have the aim to improve wellbeing of people in Dedham; the church believes this is a positive step and aligns with the ethos of the church to tell people about the better way of life that Jesus offers. Sara Marshall, Adrian Beckingsale and Janet Titterton are taking the lead on working with the council to make further improvements and hopefully work towards the gold award.
- The 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.
- The security cameras in church were upgraded and our thanks to Paul Brebner for undertaking this work—they have already proved useful in a number of situations.
- The issue of Love and Faith (LLF) was discussed on a number of occasions by the PCC and both the Missioners gave their differing views on the matter. The current position of the Church of England is that prayers may be said for same sex couples who request this as part of a normal service or in private. The PCC is aware that there are a variety of different views on this matter within our church and the wider Deanery, and we feel that one of our duties as a PCC is to try to maintain unity within our church and to avoid any splits. WE will continue to welcome all people who love the Lord and wish to worship at Dedham, but we do not feel the need at this time to make a decision on this issue and encourage both our Missioners to focus on preaching the gospel as they have been doing
- 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.

Peter Wilson

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 Sharon Sarson, Churchwardens
 John Reed, Treasurer
 Gabbie Watson.
 Helen Sims
 Lynne Al Sad
 Co-opted members: Adrien Beckingsale, Roger Berry

Ex Officio members:

Missioner – Revd Phillip Young

Missioner – Revd John Saxon

Churchwardens

Sharon Sarson(elected April 2024)

Peter Wilson (elected April 2019)

Elected members *and date of election*

Gabbie Watson 2018

Lynne Al-Sad 2018

John Reed 2018

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 2024, with myself as chairman, Anne Rowledge treasurer, Steve Mole DPC representative, Vee Druitt the PCC representative (for part of the year), Avril Biggins coffee mornings organiser, and 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, had to step down – we are all extremely grateful to her for her commitment to The Barn over many years. We were pleased to co-opt Lesley Sant on to the committee earlier this year, to fill the vacancy created by Beth's retirement from the committee and welcomed Helen Sims and Helen Main on to the committee as PCC and Dedham Youth Club representatives respectively.

Maintenance and repairs. No major repairs or renovation work has been carried out during the past 12 months but all mandatory servicing and checks were carried out. Our thanks To Alison O'Reilly who has helped maintain the garden area to a good standard and thanks also to the PCC for funding the work necessary with the large ash tree in the small garden area. We were very grateful to have been given a grant by DPC of £1500 to carry out some kitchen upgrade work – about £1k of this was spent on the installation of a water heater providing instant hot water for coffee mornings etc, and it has proved an invaluable addition to the kitchen area!

Activities and hiring. In addition to occasional private function hires, the Barn continues to be well used 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. The committee has held two book and bric-a-brac sales during the year to raise funds for the Barn and local charities. In recent months the youth club has started up again and the church youth group continues to meet monthly. The Barn is also being hired on a weekly basis by a local AA group which is well attended and has provided us with a regular income stream. The AA group has felt welcomed at the Barn and has expressed its appreciation at being able to use the facility on a regular basis.

Income. As always, our coffee mornings generate 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 Nichol Young Trust for its generous annual grant of £1000, which makes a very valuable contribution to our running costs especially now that we hire a contract cleaner on a regular basis who does a great job in keeping the interior spick and span!. 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.

As ever my thanks to all committee members for their continued interest and support.

Colin Biggins, Chairman, Duchy Barn Management Committee

Communications

Parishes Office

2024 was a busy year in the Parishes office. The office was originally open on a Tuesday and Thursday each week from 10am-12pm, but this changed part way through the year to Mondays from 9am-1pm. As Parishes Administrator and Volunteers Coordinator, I continue to oversee the office management and administration for both Dedham and Ardleigh churches, plus also the administration of the 7 parishes in the group of 9 across the Harwich Deanery. I have been fully supported by the wonderful churchwardens, Rural Missioners, Canon Revd Merv McKinney and many others. 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. A total of 1,100 copies are produced. 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 second full year with John Goldsbrough as editor. The FlipBook magazine (Web version) on the Church website and the Dedham Parish Council web site continues to be a useful addition to the printed version. The viewing statistics show that on average there are around 289 monthly views (2023 – 239) for each magazine, the total number of views for 2024 was 2893 (2023 - 2393). Thank you to all our contributors, the Advertisers 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. Also, I would like to thank our volunteers who distribute the magazine throughout the village. At the end of the year, Liz decided to step down from her role, once again I would like to thank her for her help in finding articles for the magazine.

John Goldsbrough

Website

The church website, dedham-and-ardleigh-parishes.org.uk, continued to provide a useful focal point for the church community during 2024 with highest number of page requests since the pandemic year of 2020.

In 2024 the total number of page requests from users on the website was 276,056, an increase of 75,916 (38%) compared to the previous year's figure of 200,140. Page Requests are the number of web pages requested by visitors to the website. The average monthly figure was 23,004 (16,180 in 2023). The month with the highest number of requests was March 2024 with 43,688 (19,000 in 2023) requests.

The breakdown of the Page requests by website area shows that Articles on the site received 137,664 requests (2023 – 78,550), Pages (Groups) – 98,060 (2023 – 53,820), Media – 59,457 (2023 – 50,130) and Calendar – 11,633 (2023 – 11,070). Both the Media and Page (Groups) views increased substantially in 2024.

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 290 subscribers.

Instagram

Follow us on Instagram: dedham_and_ardleigh_parishes

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

Dedham Ecclesiastical Lectureship Trust (DELT)

Following the appointment of Richard Hopkins as the new Lecturer, two major projects dominated the Trustees' activities in 2024.

The first was to update the governing legal documentation that had governed the Trust since 1979. This work was begun in 2023 but completed in June 2024. The objects of the Trust remain the same, i.e. the promotion of the principles and doctrines of the Church of England in the parish of Dedham. Although the PCC is represented by the churchwardens on its governing trustee board, it should be noted that DELT's trustees must exercise their duties independently because the Trust's assets are separate to those of the PCC.

The second project was the funding of the majority of the costs of employing the new Children and Young People's Worker. DELT agreed to fund a sum of £9,000 per annum for three years. During the year, in addition to the above, the Trust continued with its ongoing financial commitments towards part of the cost of staff in the Parish Office, a contribution towards the cost of Bibles and school trip expenses for Dedham Church of England Primary School to St Paul's Cathedral.

The Trust welcomed John Reed as a new Trustee as the PCC's representative and thanked Vee Druitt for her years of service as one of the churchwarden trustees
Clifford Sims

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 the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Held on Sunday 28th April 2024

1. The Reverend Phillip Young, Missioner for the nine Rural Parishes in the Harwich Deanery, opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. Apologies were received from Tim and Sharon Sarson.
3. David Druitt was appointed as Teller to count any votes if so required.
4. 5. and 6. The Minutes of the Annual meeting held on 16th April 2023 were accepted as accurate, and there were no amendments or matters arising.
7. Be Burleigh reported that there are currently 75 people registered on the Church Electoral Roll, of whom 67 are residents and 8 non-residents.
8. PCC Annual Report: Vee Druitt reported that the PCC had met 6 times during the year as well as dealing with formal business by e mail.
There had been some changes made with Service patterns, including the retention of Matins. Local welfare had been maintained with the continuance of the Food Bank in the porch, and the distribution of food parcels via the School at Christmas. Further afield, a donation supporting mission was made to the Feeding Faith charity in Guatemala.
The Church is still looking for a Safeguarding Officer. In May, Professor Douglas Bourne gave a talk to the PCC on the subject of Sustainable Dedham, as part of our aim to achieve a Silver Award by our Church Eco representative, Sara Marshall. The Reverend Phillip Young has been instrumental in making positive changes to the Baptism Service and Godparents role.

Discussions remain ongoing with regard to the subject of Living in Love and Faith, (LLF) currently being debated by the Church of England.
At the end of April 2024, we are very hopeful that an announcement on the appointment of a Children & Families worker will be made.
Vee thanked all the members of the PCC for their support throughout the year, and additionally gave special thanks to Paul Brebner and Liz Reed, who were stepping down from the PCC, and the Churchwardens were grateful for their contribution over the years.
9. Financial Report:
 - (a) John Reed reported on the Church Accounts for 2023, that had now been signed off by the Examiner and published on the Parish website. The Accounts contain a financial commentary which indicates that the finances are in sound shape, despite a year where soaring inflation had impacted on

our Church expenses. There had been a welcome improvement in Giving income, and this offset higher costs. John also summarised the success of the Organ Appeal that has now raised the target of £300,000, and the aim was now to spend this on the rebuild in the Autumn of 2024.

(b) The examined Accounts were presented to the Meeting.

(c) There being no questions, a proposal for the formal adoption of the Accounts was made by Richard Hopkins and seconded by Helen Sims. The proposal was carried unanimously by the meeting.

(d) John Reed thanked Philip Strangward for acting as Examiner in 2023, and he was duly appointed to continue in the role for 2024.

10. Churchwardens Report:

Fabrics: Peter Wilson gave an update on the progress of the Organ project, and was confident that the new Binns organ would be in place before the end of the year. Plans were progressing slowly with regard to the Stained Glass Windows and Masonry renovations. Regular maintenance continues to keep the fabric of our Grade 1 building in good order.

We had much to be thankful for in 2023. In December, we welcomed our second Missioner, the Rev John Saxon, to join Phillip in ministering across our nine rural Parishes.

Our Services continue to be varied, and it is pleasing to see our numbers slowly increasing, as is Junior Church which caters for 3-10 year olds. Revive@5, Tuesday morning prayers and Home groups also continue to flourish. We have a vibrant church family which is growing spiritually, as well as in numbers, and we extend a warm welcome to anyone who wishes to join us. Part of our mission is outreach, and we continue to work in the local community in many ways.

Peter gave fulsome praise to Vee Druitt, who was today stepping down as Churchwarden. On behalf of the whole Church community, he paid tribute to her commitment and hard work, stressing how valuable she has been in supporting him in the Churchwarden role through some challenging times. The congregation echoed these sentiments, and Vee was presented with a gift to recognise her outstanding service.

The retirement of two members of the PCC is an undoubted loss, but Peter Wilson was able to confirm that two people had offered to stand and would be co-opted to the PCC immediately after this Annual Meeting.

Finally, Peter was delighted to announce that Sharon Sarson, who has been a PCC member for some time, had agreed to take on the role of Churchwarden.

11. There were no other verbal reports.

12. There was no verbal Deanery Synod report, but details can be found in the Annual Report under 3 (f) on Page 12.
13. There were no requirements to elect a Deanery Synod representative (John Reed), or any PCC representatives, as two volunteers will be simply co-opted after this APCM.
14. In the absence of a “Vicar”, Phillip Young, one of our two Missioners, was able to speak to the meeting. Firstly, he thanked everyone who had made him and his family so welcome since their arrival. He then gave thanks to all who have helped towards the success of this Church year, and that included Louise’s gratitude for those supporting her with Junior Church. Phillip recognised the signs of growth in many areas of activity, and with numbers rising, against the national trend, and with a Children & Families worker starting soon, the future looks promising. With finances sound, Phillip gave thanks to all who have given to help the Church funds and was delighted that the Parish Share was able to be paid in full for 2023.
15. Any Other Business:
- (a) The managing of garden waste matter was raised, and Peter Wilson agreed that the disposal issue was being addressed.
 - (b) Marjorie Culham thanked all who support the Guide Dogs for the Blind events.
 - (c) Christine Frost asked the PCC to consider an annual service for those who had been baptised, rather like our annual Remembrance for loved ones Service. The Reverend Phillip felt it would be good to offer a Service for all generations which would include this point raised regarding baptisms

The Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting was then closed after prayers from Rev. Phillip Young

St Mary's Church Dedham

Sunday, 13th April 2025

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. Rector'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.