



# APCM Pack 2024

## Contents

1. The agenda for the Annual Vestry Meeting and the APCM – white
2. The minutes of last year's meetings – white
3. PCC Secretary's report – pink
4. The 2023 Management Accounts 2023 Finance Highlights – 2 docs – green
5. The Churchwardens' Annual Report on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments – grey
6. Deanery Synod report – blue
7. ChristChurch report – yellow

## **PARISH OF ELY, HOLY TRINITY WITH ST MARY**

Annual Parochial Church Meeting of St Mary's Church, Ely  
Sunday 28 April 2024, 11:30am in St Mary's Church, St Mary's Street, Ely

### **Agenda**

#### **1. PM – Prayer**

#### **2. Annual Vestry Meeting**

- 2.1. BW - Introduction and Apologies
- 2.2. BW - Approval of the minutes of the 2023 Annual Vestry Meeting (white sheet)
- 2.3. BW – Election of Churchwardens

#### **3. Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

- 3.1. BW - Introduction and Apologies
- 3.2. BW - Approval of the minutes of the 2023 APCM (white sheet)
- 3.3. EA – Electoral Roll Report
- 3.4. BW – Elections to PCC
- 3.5. PS - PCC Secretary's Report (pink sheet)
- 3.6. PC - Finance Report (green sheet)
  - 3.6.1. PC – Appointment of Independent Examiner of Accounts
- 3.7. LT – Fabric Report (grey sheet)
- 3.8. JP, PW – Deanery Synod Report (blue sheet)
- 3.9. GB – Christchurch Report (yellow sheet)
- 3.10. PM – Priest in Charge's address
- 3.11. BW – Election results (if necessary)
- 3.12. PM – Closing Prayer

#### *Forthcoming dates (for information only):*

- *Short PCC meeting following this meeting – for election of officers only*
- *Next Standing Committee meeting: Wednesday 1 May 10:00, Vicarage*
- *Next Full PCC meeting: Monday 20 May 19:30, Church Hall, probably to be used for Team Viar interviews by PCC*
- *PCC Awayday and further PCC dates to be confirmed by Standing Committee on 1 May*

## Parish of Ely, Holy Trinity with St Mary

### Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting of the Parish of Ely, held on SUNDAY 23rd April 2022 at 11.46am in Church. 71 people attended the meeting.

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1. Lay Chair of the PCC, Barbara Walker ( Lay Vice Chair), chaired the meeting. She invited St Mary's Team Rector, Revd Chris Hill, to open the meeting in prayer.
2. **Annual Vestry Meeting of the Parish of Ely**
  - 2.1 **Introduction and apologies:** Chris explained that the main purpose of the Vestry meeting was to approve the minutes of the previous meeting and elect our churchwardens for the coming year. Apologies had been received from a number of people for both this meeting and the APCM that followed: Liz Sayers, Peter Harris, Liz Taylor, Paul Woodbridge, Amy Phillips, Janine Pyke, Vicky Lupson, Jeremy James and Sarah Lorden
  - 2.2 **Minutes of the previous meeting:** No corrections or amendments were required to the minutes of the 2021 Vestry meeting, which had been circulated in advance of this meeting as part of the APCM pack. The minutes were proposed by Richard Bamford, seconded by Janet Hardiment and approved by all as being an accurate report of the meeting.
  - 2.3 **Election of churchwardens:** The present Church Wardens, Liz Taylor and Poppy Crooks have both consented to stand for re-election. Liz has been a member of St Mary's for just over eight years – she attends the 11am service and can often be. Poppy introduced herself: she joined St Mary's in September 2021 and attends the 11.30 service. She thanked both Derek Tye and Chris Watson for their help in settling into the role of warden and was hugely grateful for all of their advice and support. She has served as churchwarden, PCC Secretary, youth worker and general volunteer in previous churches, so brings lots of experience to her new role. She explained that her strengths centred on buildings and maintenance and she was confident that Liz' skills would cover the other areas needed to have an effective Warden team. In her previous role as a church warden, she had experienced the process of interregnum and the selection of a new incumbent, so she felt confident that she would be able to help with the process in St Mary's.

Liz Taylor was not able to attend the meeting, but Barbara read a statement from Liz:  
'I joined ST Mary's in 2014, when I moved to Ely from Bristol. In that time the majority of my serving has been in the Worship Band and on the Sound Desk. I have also been a member of Maxine and Chris Brown's Home group and the St Mary's community has become my family, especially through the challenging times of separation and divorce. Outside of Church, I am the CEO of a charity 'Red to Green', that works with adults with learning disabilities and autism. I also tutor maths to support parents in my business 'Skills 4 Parents'. I have been a church warden alongside Poppy for the last year and it has been a privilege. I am passionate about St Mary's being a safe place where everyone is welcome and no one is judged. I want to continue, not only to offer some continuity, but also because I feel that I have got to grips with the things that need doing and I am really enjoying it.

Barbara proceeded to confirm Liz Taylor and Poppy Crooks as St Mary's Church Wardens for the year.

Signed: ..... (Chair)

Date:.....

## **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the Parish of Ely, held on Sunday, 23rd April 2022 at 11.55am in Church. 71 people attended the meeting.**

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### **3. Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the Parish of Ely**

- 3.1 **Introduction and apologies:** Barbara Walker remained in the chair for this meeting. Apologies were the same as for the Annual Vestry Meeting (see above). Barbara asked if there were any further nominations for PCC besides the ones that had already been submitted; as there were none, she said that all those who had been nominated would be elected without needing to take a vote – see item 3.5 below.
- 3.2 **Minutes of the previous meeting:** No corrections or amendments were required to the minutes of the 2021 APCM, which had been circulated in advance of this meeting as part of the APCM pack. The minutes were proposed by Derek Tye and seconded by Piers Coutts as being a true record of that meeting; all were in favour.
- 3.3 **Electoral Roll report:** Elizabeth Anderson, our Electoral Roll Officer, reported that 15 names had been added to the Electoral Roll since the APCM in 2021 and 9 had been removed, making a new total of 298, an increase of 4 on last year's total of 294. Of this number, 21 attend Christ Church and 67 live outside the parish. There were no questions to Elizabeth on her report, a copy of which is attached to the minute book. Barbara Walker thanked Elizabeth for her work on keeping the Electoral Roll up to date.
- 3.4 **Elections to Deanery Synod:** Janine Pyke and Roy Mould are happy to continue in their role and Paul Woodbridge has agreed to stand for election. Roy said a few words about his involvement at St Mary's and Christ Church. Janine was not able to be present. Barbara read a few words from Janine. Paul Woodbridge also was not able to attend but Barbara also read a statement from him. There were no other volunteers for election and so no vote was necessary. They are all duly elected to represent us at Deanery Synod.
- 3.5 **Elections to PCC:** There were four vacancies on PCC this year and four nominations had been received, so all four were elected without a vote. They were Katy Coutts, Liz Sayers, Paul Smyth and Dan Brown. All four said a bit about themselves or, in the case of Liz Sayers, she sent a résumé which Barbara read out. Barbara thanks them for their willingness to stand again.
- 3.6 **PCC Secretary's report** (Katy Coutts; see the pink sheet in the APCM pack): The Secretary said that her printed report gave a snapshot of the work undertaken by the PCC during the year, and she thanked members for their continuing support and commitment to serving St Mary's and Christ Church in this way. Looking back at 2022, it was a year like no other because of the BTP when we not in the church. She expressed her gratitude to King's Ely for their willingness to offer Bishop Woodford House as an alternative venue for services. She thanked Derek and his team for all their hard work in transforming the building into the light, and positive space it is. She highlighted the work of those involved with safeguarding and policy building and reviewing. She encouraged people to volunteer for the roles that are vital to the church. Katy asked the members of the PCC to stand and make themselves known and invited those present to use them. She thanked everyone who has supported her. Members of PCC, Barbara, Lay Vice-Chair, Piers, Treasurer, Elizabeth, Kirsty, Adella, Minutes Sec, and to Chris Hill, for all of his leadership and support. There was an amendment to Katy's report to confirm the dates of Chris Hill's retirement ( 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023)

Chris Hill thanked Katy for her service as PCC Secretary. He highlighted her detail and depth. He presented her with some flowers. Barbara also thanked Katy for her support in her role as Vice-chair.

- 3.7 **Finance report** (Piers Coutts; see the green sheets in the APCM pack): The Treasurer explained that the Management Accounts in the APCM pack are a simplified version of our income and expenditure accounts – the ‘official’ accounts are a 23-page document which go to the independent examiner. Any differences between the Management Accounts and the official accounts are simply due to a different way of presenting the same figures. Piers thanked Rod Watson for his help with counting cash donations, Paul Smyth for dealing with the Gift Aid claims swiftly and efficiently, Kirsty and Elizabeth for their support in the office, and every member of the church for their continued financial support. He also thanked Katy for her work as secretary.

He then talked the meeting through the main points of the income and expenditure accounts as detailed on the green ‘Finance Highlights 2021’ sheet. He explained the way our money is spent and where it comes from. Rentals of building were low this year because we were not in the church, but he was optimistic about the prospects for the coming year. Piers explained that after the ‘BTP’, we were in the process of building a ‘new pot’ for the refurbishment of the toilet facilities and for Solar panels to be fitted to the south side of the roof.

With regard to the BTP, Piers explained that we were now in the ‘snagging period’ of the process which lasts for a year where any things that are not right will be sorted as part of the project. There are some funds remaining for certain items not yet completed and a small amount retained to pay the final bill once snagging is complete. He was delighted to report that it still looks as though the project will be completed on budget within a tiny amount of £1-2,000. Considering the 1.2 million spent this is little short of remarkable.

Piers outlined some of the major drains on our resources. Fuel Prices had been a significant drain. He also commented that the squeeze on Household incomes means that there might be implications for church giving. If some people cannot pay, others may have to give more.

Finally, he mentioned the different types of giving that are available and encouraged everyone to sign up to the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) if they can. The scheme does a huge amount of the administration for us and makes things very easy for the treasurer. He asked people to consider whether they actually wished to be anonymous. If they tick that box, then it means the church has no way of thanking them because we will not know who they are. Piers submitted his report and asked for questions

There were no questions.

**3.7.1 Appointment of independent examiner of accounts for 2022:** Piers Coutts proposed, and Richard Bamford seconded, that Whitings, a local company should be reappointed as our independent examiners for 2022, as they have provided a good service for the last three years. All were in favour.

Barbara thanked Piers for all his work on our behalf and congratulated him on his clarity in explaining what can be pretty baffling information..

### 3.8 **Fabric report**

Poppy explained that the big item on the fabric report for 2022 involved the BTP and that Derek Tye would be speaking on that subject shortly. She thanked everyone who has helped with maintaining the building, flowers, cleaning, grounds, anyone who has housed items belonging to the church during the building period and for their safe return. She looked forward to next year's projects, but handed over to Derek to give his report on the BTP.

Derek presented his report. He felt that the BTP had been an amazing journey with much evidence of prayer and faith. He thanked everyone involved. He re-iterated the fact that we are in the snagging period and encouraged everyone to report anything that isn't right. He mentioned the problems with the synchronisation of the sound and screen and hopes that this will be resolved soon. The sound system problems are still evident, but it is a work in progress.

Derek asked for questions – there were none.

Barbara thanked Derek for his dedication to the project and praised his modesty in downplaying the role he had in ensuring its completion.

### 3.9 **Deanery Synod Report** (see the blue sheet in the APCM pack): Beth Georgiou, who had written the report on Deanery Synod in the APCM pack. There were no questions

### 3.10 **Report from Christchurch North Ely** (Graham Biss; see the yellow sheet in the APCM pack): Graham presented his report. He thanked St Mary's for all of the support, financially and spiritually. In particular he thanked Chris and Debbie Hill for their support on a weekly basis. Debbie has been a huge source of advice and guidance. He also thanked Ruth Holmes for the work she has been doing to support the church. Christchurch is going through a discernment process to try and discover what God wants. He asked if there were any questions – there were none.

### 3.11 **Reflections from Chris** (Chris Hill; see the white sheet in the APCM pack): Most of all Chris wanted to give thanks for the BTP and everyone concerned. He looked forward to Phase 2.

Chris reflected on the six congregations that exist now. Four in St Mary's, the online community and Christchurch. He felt that we now offer a rich banquet of offerings to the Ely community. The online service has carried on past Covid and is still providing a service to the vulnerable and those who continue to shield. Between forty and fifty people use that every week. He thanked Andy Sykes for putting the service together each week. Chris thanked Steven Leake for leading the Thursday Morning service. That congregation continues to grow and offers encouragement to that community. He also thanked the Christchurch team for the way they have adapted to different needs and challenges as they continue to grow the church in North Ely. He was also grateful for the three congregations in the church on Sundays. Each offers its own unique way of worshipping.

Chris concluded that he would be proud to invite his friends to any one of the six congregations we have.

The discernment process has been challenging but rich. He has seen partnerships renewed and new ones have been made. It is time to say good bye with sadness, but with confidence in those who lead and volunteer. He hoped that both he and Debbie have nurtured

discipleship, discovered new leaders and encouraged us to be entrepreneurial and inclusive. He thanked everyone for their encouragement, love, hospitality and friendship. He looked forward to seeing how the work at St Mary's is built on in the coming years. He felt it had been an absolute privilege to work with Phil Marsh and Ruth Holmes and thanked the admin team of Kirsty and Elizabeth, who been a huge support and amazing to work with.

The Church wardens, Poppy and Liz will see the selection process through and be responsible for the church during the interregnum period. He ended his reflections with a prayer of thanksgiving.

3.12 As there were no election results to announce, Chris thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting with prayer at 13.01

Signed: ..... (Chair)

Date:.....

## **PCC Secretary's Report on 2023-2024 for 2024 St Mary's Ely Annual Parochial Church Meeting.**

St Mary's PCC is a registered charity whose main function is to promote the whole mission of the church in the parish. This includes pastoral, evangelistic, ecumenical and social concerns. All PCC members are trustees with legal responsibility for directing the affairs of the PCC efficiently, in compliance with charity and ecclesiastical law, and with prudence and care, particularly in financial matters. We also have a responsibility, together with the priest and the churchwardens, to ensure that our buildings are maintained and fit for purpose, current projects are moved forward, and any issues raised by quinquennial inspections are dealt with in a timely and appropriate manner.

The PCC usually meets six times a year, towards the end of January, March, May, July, September and November. Due to the numbers of matters requiring discussion, additional regular meetings were held in October and February for 8 in total. Meetings were held as hybrid meetings with most attendees physically present and a few joining online.

In addition to these regular meetings an "Away Day" was held in May to start the process of generating the Parish profile, at the beginning of our interregnum. Additional short notice meetings of the PCC were held in June. Further meetings were held with members of the other PCCs in the Benefice in June and July to complete the Benefice profile and support the recruitment process. For the PCC members, this process concluded with a presentation by Revd Phil Marsh and a Q&A session on 17 July.

The PCC members demonstrated a strong commitment to their role with a high attendance at all these meetings.

The matters that come to the PCC for attention each year are a reflection of all that is going on in St Mary's and ChristChurch. A number of are repeating items. At each regular meeting, the PCC received updates from the Ministry Team together with reports on: Finance, deanery synod and diocesan matters, health and safety, safeguarding and any issues with the fabric. Periodic reports were received regarding Christchurch and CAP. Throughout the year, the PCC reviews, and updates where necessary, all the policies and guidelines that govern and guide our church activities.

The PCC is responsible for safeguarding. It has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. We continue to be grateful to the safeguarding team of Chris Watson, Sue Morley, Ruth James and Phil Marsh for their commitment to making sure that St Mary's and ChristChurch comply with all diocesan and Church of England safeguarding requirements and to keeping safe all those who are part of or who come into contact with our church communities.

In addition to the regular items that come to the PCC there are an increasing number of other matters. The following list illustrates the variety of topics dealt with in the last year:

### **January 2023**

- Approval for Chris Tomkies of ChristChurch to begin LLM training
- Exploring a new approach to baptism preparation



### **March 2023**

- Annual report on ChristChurch
- Anna Chaplaincy, and authorisation for Beth Georgiou and Maria Parnell to train as Anna Chaplains
- Interregnum, including timescale, plans for the PCC Awayday
- Parish-School Covenant with St Mary's Junior School
- Celebrating the Coronation on 6 May

### **May 2023**

- Introduction of PCC Members induction papers requiring the signature of each member
- Interregnum update including congregational questionnaire and listening sessions
- Updated list of sides people/welcomers approved
- BTP Phase 2 Toilet & Solar Panels
- Annual CAP report

### **July 2023**

- Development of new application form for lettings
- Possibility of further congregational listening in Spring 2024
- Poppy Church Warden's absence for maternity leave
- National Burial Ground Survey (NBGS) approval
- Need for extra volunteers for CAP
- Parish-School Covenant with St Mary's Junior School update

### **September 2023**

- Initiatives to progress in the Autumn and initiatives that would have to be delayed until 2024
- Recruitment plans
- BTP Phase 2 Toilet & Solar Panels initial architect fees

### **October 2023**

- Anything we need to add to our code of conduct?
- What surprised us about our congregations' feedback?
- What are we learning about the heart and character of our congregations?
- What do you think God is up to in our congregations, and what is God up to in us as a PCC?

### **November 2023**

- Approval of budget for 2024 including Ministry Share contribution
- Approval to increase Operation Manager's hours
- Approval of fees and charges for 2024
- Approval of supported charities for 2024 and discussion of the need for a chair of Charitable Giving
- Approval for St Mary's to become a bereavement friendly church
- Approval to "nest" a paid post for The Gather Movement
- Approval to support Chris Tomkies application for LLM
- Approval of nature of Lay Post role as a families and children's missionary
- Discussion of Team Vicar Role Description
- Discussion of requirement for additional PCC meetings to satisfactorily address all topics

### **January 2024**

- Instruction to Deanery Synod representatives to vote on Deanery Plan
- Allocation of small surplus from 2023 financial year
- Approval of amended budget for 2024
- Approval of Team Vicar Funding Agreement
- Approval of contribution to Bell ropes purchase
- Approval for student placement from ERMT
- Green Team Reactivation

### **February 2024**

- Discussion on re-introducing Baptism within Sunday services
- Approval of Annual Financial Statement to 31 December 2023
- Approval of signatories on CCLA account
- Approval of Chelle George from ChristChurch to do the ALM Pastoral training

### **March 2024**

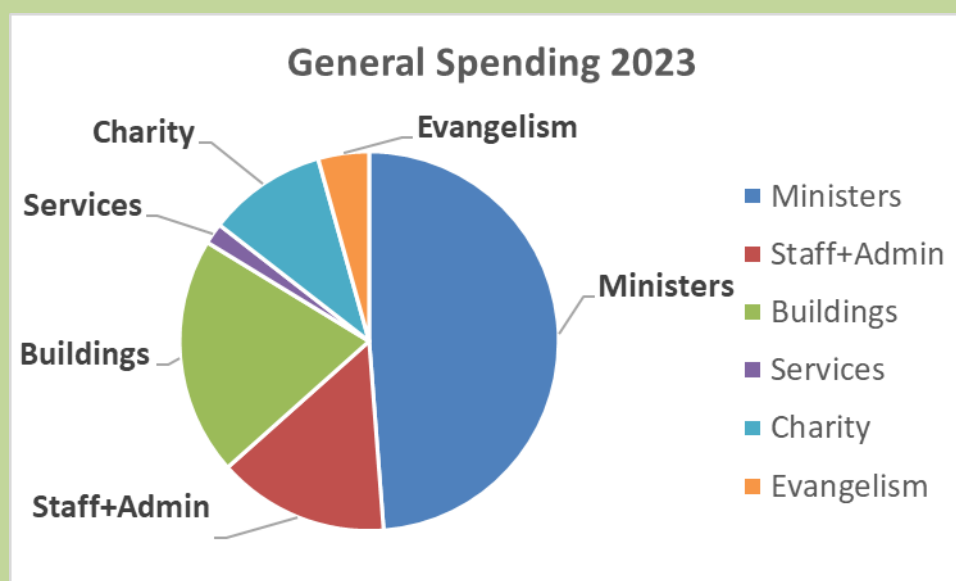
- Approval of Team Vicar Adverts and Benefice Profile
- Discussion on re-introducing the Common Cup for Communion
- Feedback from the congregational conversations
- Approval of revision to staff pay
- Approval of additional Communion Assistants

St Mary's and Christchurch comprise a large organisation where, thankfully, so many people embody the words of St Paul in 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, by serving to the best of their talents. Each one is important and deserves credit. Without wishing to ignore anybody, I'll only comment on a few. We have been blessed by the ministry of Phil Marsh and Ruth Holmes, both during the interregnum and since Phil's licensing. We are very fortunate to enjoy the additional blessings of our "retired" clergy. Kirsty Smith and Elizabeth Anderson continue to support the work of the church in all its many areas. They are never too busy to assist our activities. Liz Taylor and Poppy Crooks (until her pregnancy took priority) guided us skilfully through the interregnum and successfully minimised its duration. Barbara Walker, the Lay Vice-Chair of the PCC, continued to chair our PCC and Standing Committee meetings with efficiency and tolerance. Barbara has set a high bar for her replacement when she stands down at the APCM. Thankfully, we will continue to have the benefit of her wisdom on the PCC. Piers Coutts continues to not only manage our finances safely and efficiently but to communicate the intricacies so effectively.

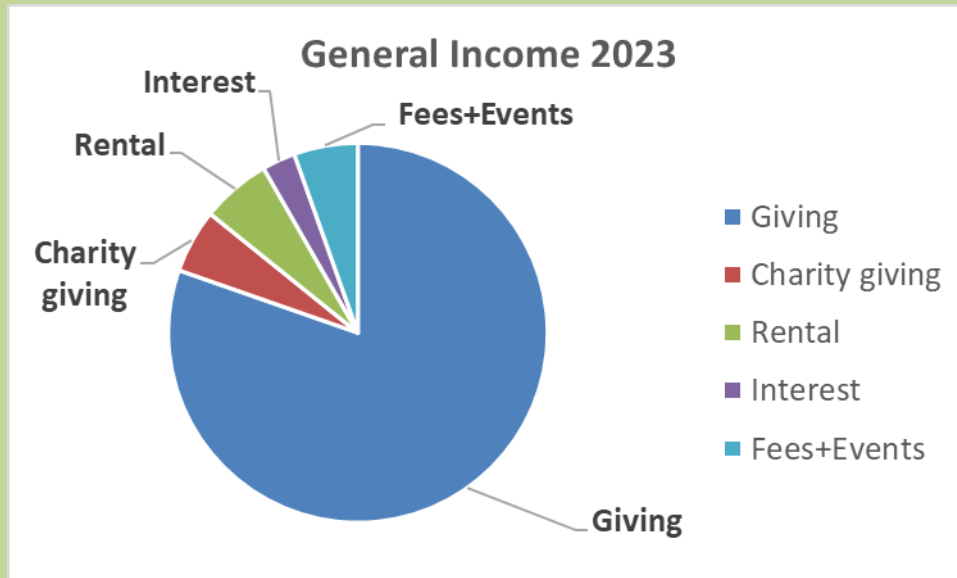
I am grateful to all members of the PCC for supporting me in my first year as secretary and tolerating my steep learning curve. Particular thanks to Adella Chralton for drafting the minutes for each of our PCC meetings. A final thought for those who will follow me, in due course, in this role: an interregnum is not the most straightforward time to start this role!

Paul Smyth  
PCC Secretary

## Finance Highlights 2023



- Total **General Spending** in 2023 was **£224,712**, of which:
  - **£109,623** was spent on paying and resourcing **our Ministers**. This was mainly in our 'Ministry Share' of £98,111, which is used to cover the pay, housing, training, pensions and support of clergy and pioneers within the diocese; we benefitted by receiving our Rector Chris Hill, our Team Vicar Phil Marsh and our Curate Ruth Holmes. The remaining £8,669 covered our Families Missioner Ruth New's salary and the Ministers' expenses.
  - **£32,894** covered the pay and pensions for our **Administrative Staff**, plus the other costs of running the church office.
  - **£45,616** was allocated to the maintenance, insurance, heating and lighting for our **Buildings**. This includes £5,000 placed into building reserves towards the cost of any major repairs required in our 5-yearly inspection, and £5,000 to replenish our general reserves to cover any unexpected general expenses or sudden fall in income.
  - **£3,999** on **Services** is what we spend on materials, copyright, music, AV system etc. used in the worship services in the Parish.
  - **£22,823** given to **Charities** included **£3,992** to victims of the Turkish earthquake, **£160** to Job Twinning, **£3,236** to 'To Kenya With Love', **£3,331** to The Children's Society, **£3,403** to Climate Stewards, **£7,922** to the CAP Debt Centre, **£512** to Christian Aid and **£267** to other charities. This, with a small amount of other charitable activity, meant that **10.6%** of total unrestricted income was allocated to charitable giving.
  - **£9,757** was spent on **Evangelism**, covering our outreach work (for example with teenagers and children), Hospitality and the costs of Christchurch North Ely.
- In addition to the above the following 'Restricted' funds were spent: **£68,932** on the Building Transformation Project (BTP); **£1,000** on heating the church for the 'Open Space' event; and **£616** on preparation for the Toilets Refit Project.



- Total **General Income** was **£234,398** in 2023; **£221,655** of this was 'Unrestricted', of which:
  - **£155,264** came from personal **Giving** by our members
  - **£33,069** was **Gift Aid** on these donations
  - **£13,894** came from **Hire of Church Facilities**
  - **£12,773** was raised from wedding and funeral **Fees**, and other **Events**
  - **£6,655** came from interest and other unrestricted sources
- The remainder **£12,743** was 'Restricted' income for Mission and Charity causes
- In addition to the above some other Restricted income was received:
  - **£50,636** was received for the **Building Transformation Project (BTP)**, of which **£17,000** was a grant from ECDC and **£33,636** was reclaimed VAT.
  - **£18,123** was received for the Toilets Refit Project
- **The CAP Debt Centre project** is administered by St Mary's but is reported separately to a panel from the participating churches. During 2023 £14,559 was received from other churches and individuals, £7,922 donated through St Mary's, and £4,869 raised by fundraising, which together made an income of £27,350. A balance of £28,624 was brought forward from 2022, and £26,960 was spent during the year, so £29,014 is therefore carried forward to 2024.

#### Overall:

- Our everyday finances had a surplus of **£9,686** this year (compared to a surplus of **£5,692** in 2022). However the 7 month vacancy of the Families Missioner post reduced our spending by about £11,500; without this we would have had an overall deficit of about **£2,000**.

## Balances

At 31 December 2023 the church held the following balances:

Unrestricted:	£50,312	Working capital & General Reserves
Designated:	£60,367	Buildings repairs
Designated:	£12,500	Money given for Toilets Refit project
Restricted:	£42,447	Money given for Toilets Refit project
Restricted:	£29,014	Money given for CAP Debt Centre
Restricted:	£21,107	Money given for the Building Transformation Project
Restricted:	£1,098	Monday club funds
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>£216,846</b>	

## Types of Giving

In December 2023:

- 133 households (the same as in 2022) had regular (weekly, monthly, quarterly or annual) standing orders, or Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) DDs
- 98 of the 133 regular donors used PGS. This is the best method from our point of view by far as:
  - We don't have to count and pay in cash
  - It saves bank charges (1% on cash, 95p per cheque)
  - PGS provide a spreadsheet with all the donation listed – I don't have to check and record 98 donations from the bank statement each month
  - Gift Aid claim is all handled for us and paid to us each month
  - Donors (if they wish) you can tick an 'inflation-increase' box.
  - You can sign up with PGS online (there's a link on the church website) or I can give you a form to complete and return to PGS if you prefer.
- But of course we're very grateful for your gifts, however they're delivered!

Piers Coutts Church Treasurer

## St Mary's Ely Management Accounts at 31 Dec 2023

	<b>INCOME</b>					<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Ln	Budget Annual	Budget to 31 Dec	Actual to 31 Dec	Variance 31 Dec	Ln	Budget Annual	Budget to 31 Dec	Actual to 31 Dec	Variance 31 Dec
1	350	350	782	432	1	97,601	97,601	98,111	510
2	3,000	3,000	4,853	1,853	2	2,500	2,500	818	-1,682
3					3	27,892	27,892	27,539	-353
4	7,000	7,000	8,509	1,509	4				
5	25,000	25,000	23,160	-1,840	5	20,180	20,180	8,669	-11,511
6	119,000	119,000	117,557	-1,443	6				
7	33,500	33,069	33,069	-431	7				
8	12,000	12,000	13,894	1,894	8				
9	200	200	402	202	9	4,500	4,500	4,744	244
10					10	3,000	3,000		-3,000
11					11	5,000	5,000	5,000	0
12					12	5,000	5,000	5,000	0
13	750	750	5,102	4,352	13				
14					14	7,825	7,825	8,139	314
15		0	0	0	15	3,500	3,500	2,194	-1,306
16					16	11,500	11,500	16,001	4,501
17					17	400	400	67	-333
18					18	5,500	5,500	4,471	-1,029
19					19				
20					20	3,328	3,328	4,000	672
21					21	178	178	226	48
22					22	820	820	804	-16
23	400	400	1,552	1,152	23	6	6	25	19
24					24	250	250	300	50
25					25				
26					26	310	310	495	185
27	1,750	1,750	1,675	-75	27	75	75	172	97
28	0	0	0	0	28	935	935	1,323	388
29					29	990	990	1,123	133
30	10,000	10,000	8,973	-1,027	30	250	250	290	40
31	0	0	198	198	31	50	50	175	125
32					32	100	100	420	320
33	0	0	1,920	1,920	33	0	0	2,025	2,025
34					34				
35					35				
36					36	100	100	166	66
37					37	0	0	-20	-20
38	20	20	7	-13	38	4,250	4,250	3,325	-925
39					39	700	700	780	80
40					40	1,750	1,750	1,735	-15
41					41	0	0	0	0
42	0	0	0	0	42	100	100	268	168
43					43	0	0	0	0
44	0	0	0	0	44	300	300	0	-300
45					45	1,000	1,000	3,503	2,503
46					46				
47					47				
48					48				

49				
50				
51				
52				
53				
54				
55				
56				
57	Transfer from General Reserves	4,000	4,000	0
58	Additional donations for Heating co	3,000	3,000	0
59				
60	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>219,970.00</b>	<b>219,970.00</b>	<b>221,654.72</b>
61				<b>1,684.72</b>

49	Charity & Mission: Job Twinning	0	0	160	160
50	Charity & Mission: TKWL	2,520	2,520	2,520	0
51	Charity & Mission: Children's Soc	2,520	2,520	2,520	0
52	Charity & Mission: Climate Stewards	2,520	2,520	2,360	-160
53	Charity & Mission: CAP Debt Cent	2,520	2,520	2,520	0
54					
55					
56					
57					
58					
59					
60	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>219,970.00</b>	<b>219,970.00</b>	<b>211,968.60</b>	<b>-8,001.40</b>
61					

62					
63	<b>'Planned fundraising'</b>				
64	Charity & Mission: Job Twinning	0	0	0.00	0
65	Charity & Mission: TKWL	2,500	2,500	715.95	-1,784
66	Charity & Mission: Children's Soc	2,500	2,500	830.41	-1,670
67	Charity & Mission: Climate Steward	2,500	2,500	1,042.68	-1,457
68	Charity & Mission: CAP Debt Cent	2,500	2,500	5,402.20	2,902
69	Charity & Mission: Christian Aid	500	500	511.88	12
70	Charity & Mission: Earthquake	0	0	3,993.09	3,993
71	Other charities	1,010	1,010	246.78	-763
72		<b>11,510</b>	<b>11,510</b>	<b>12,742.99</b>	<b>1,233</b>
73					

63	<b>'Planned donations'</b>				
64	Charity & Mission: Job Twinning	0	0	0.00	0
65	Charity & Mission: TKWL	2,500	2,500	716.00	-1,784
66	Charity & Mission: Children's Soc	2,500	2,500	811.02	-1,689
67	Charity & Mission: Climate Stewards	2,500	2,500	1,042.68	-1,457
68	Charity & Mission: CAP Debt Cent	2,500	2,500	5,402.20	2,902
69	Charity & Mission: Christian Aid	500	500	512.25	12
70	Charity & Mission: Earthquake	0	0	3,992.01	3,992
71	Other charities	1,010	1,010	266.78	-743
72		<b>11,510</b>	<b>11,510</b>	<b>12,742.94</b>	<b>1,233</b>
73					

74				
75				
76	<b>Restricted and Designated Funds</b>			
77	Income - Monday Club			0
78	Donations - Winter hardship funds			0
79	Donations - Debt Centre Insolvencies fund			815
80	Donations - CAP Debt Centre			26,535
81	Donations - Toilets			18,123
82	Donations + GA - BTP			0
83	VAT reclaim - BTP			33,636
84	From Trusts / ECDC for BTP			17,000
85				

74				
75				
76				
77	Spending - Monday Club			0
78	Spending - Winter hardship funds			1,000
79	Spending - Debt Centre Insolvencies fund			1,080
80	Spending - CAP Debt Centre			25,880
81	Spending - Toilets			616
82	Spending - Building Transformation			68,932
83				
84				

86 Overall total: **330,507**

86 Overall total: **322,220**

**NOTES - INCOME**

**Giving income:**

Budgeted giving income to date (top 6 lines)	154,350
Actual giving income to date (top 6 lines)	154,862

**Charity & Mission projects:**

Funds raised to date	12,743
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**Income tax recoverable**

PGS tax is received each month; tax on other giving is received each quarter

**Wedding / Funeral fees**

The figure shown is Income net of expenses and diocesan fees

**NOTES - EXPENDITURE**

**Charity & Mission projects:**

Committed funds transferred to projects to date	10,080
Raised funds transferred to projects to date	12,743
Other St Mary's Charitable Activity	430
<b>Total given to charity &amp; mission projects £</b>	<b>23,253</b>
<b>Total given to charity &amp; mission projects as % of income</b>	<b>10.58%</b>

General funds year-end balance **9,686**

**Fund balances at 31 Dec**

<b>Working Capital - unrestricted</b>		
In Lloyds Bank a/c - for General Purposes	£13,912.09	Unrestricted: Working capital used to pay everyday bills - this fluctuates substantially over the year
Category total	£13,912.09	
<b>General Reserves - unrestricted</b>		
In CBF a/c1 - for General Reserves	£36,400.30	Unrestricted: General Reserves which the PCC is free to use as it wishes
Category total	£36,400.30	
<b>Monday Club funds - restricted</b>		
In Lloyds Bank a/c - for Monday Club	£1,098.34	Restricted: funds to be used by Monday Club
Category total	£1,098.34	
<b>Winter Hardship Fund</b>		
In Lloyds Bank a/c - for Winter Hardship	£0.00	Restricted: to be spent on relief of winter hardship for St Mary's parishoners
Category total	£0.00	
<b>CAP Debt Centre - restricted</b>		
In Lloyds Bank a/c - for CAP Debt Centre	£2,097.42	Restricted: Amount left out of money given specifically for insolvency fees via CAP Debt Centre
In Lloyds Bank a/c - for CAP Debt Centre	£26,916.44	
Category total	£29,013.86	
<b>Building Repair Reserves - Designated</b>		
In 4 bldgs a/cs Work and repairs on Buildings	£60,367.39	Designated: PCC funds set aside as designated for work on buildings, but not formally restricted
Category total	£60,367.39	
<b>Toilets &amp; Solar Panels (BTP2) - Restricted</b>		
Work on toilets or solar panels	£12,500.00	Designated: PCC funds set aside as designated for toilets or solar panels, but not formally restricted
Work on toilets or solar panels	£42,447.19	
Category total	£54,947.19	
<b>Building Transformation - restricted</b>		
BTP funds in hand	£21,107.26	<b>Total BTP funds:</b> £21,107.26 Funds in banks £4,870.56 VAT paid post Feb 2023 to be reclaimed £25,977.82 Total available for BTP
Category total	£21,107.26	
<b>Total balances:</b>	£216,846.43	



## **ELY ST MARY'S ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2023**

Annual Report on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments for the Calendar Year 2023

### **Thanks**

As always, we are very thankful for everyone who gives up their time and energy to maintain our buildings and grounds so well. We are particularly grateful to Derek Tye who leads the building team, organising and overseeing the maintenance of buildings and grounds. However, it takes a team, and if you are one of the cleaning team, flower team, garden, or maintenance team who have carried out tasks so diligently, and largely unseen, this is for you. THANK YOU!

### **Quinquennial Inspection Report & Repairs**

In July 2021, our Architect carried out the five-yearly survey on the condition of our Grade 1 Listed building. His report detailed a number of areas requiring attention in the next two years. Recommendations included replacement of cracked ridge tiles on the nave roof, loose tiles on the chancel roof, repairs to mortar on walls and buttresses, and repairs to hoppers and downpipes.

In 2023 repairs have been carried out to the South Aisle roof to prevent rainwater entering the building. Rainwater drains were checked and cleared where necessary and the lower-level gutters cleared. Quotes have been received for new hoppers and downpipes for the South Aisle and the relevant permissions are being obtained. Repairs were also carried out to the Lady Chapel window.

In last year's report we identified issues with damp in the church rooms, it was then discovered to be an issue in the disabled toilet. With that fixed we were able to dry out the area and have been monitoring for any signs of damp since.

The final snagging meeting was held for the BTP in the main church with Coulsons, and some items were rectified including fixing an area of the ledger stones in the Lady Chapel, so they are safer, and providing more sockets by the organ.

### **Church Grounds**

St Mary's church grounds are classified as a 'closed churchyard' which means that burials no longer take place. A small area of ground at the rear of the church building is set aside for the burial of cremated remains. The maintenance of the perimeter walls, trees within the grounds, and the grounds themselves is the responsibility of East Cambs District Council (ECDC).

In this year ECDC have carried out extensive works to the trees within the grounds of St Mary's. We wish to place on record our sincere thanks to ECDC, and particularly their employees who maintain the grounds to such a high standard.

### **Church Property Register**

The Church Property Register includes the inventory which records all items belonging to the church and a detailed record of all alterations, additions and repairs carried out. One of the duties of churchwardens is to check the inventory at least once a year. With the BTP there have been many additions and changes to make, and that work has been started and will be completed in 2024.

### **Plans for 2024**

Having completed a small refresh of the toilets in 2022, BTP part 2 is now being explored. This will include the remodelling of the WCs, including being more accessible for disabilities. Consideration is also being given to storage and office space, which may include re-designing the wooden floored area and the meeting room.

Liz Taylor and Poppy Crooks, Churchwardens

## **Ely Deanery Synod Report to St Mary's, Ely APCM – April 2024**

This year saw the culmination of several years' work to produce a Deanery Plan. The Deanery Mission and Planning Committee (DMPC) met several times during the year and the full Deanery Synod also discussed the plans on several occasions. The plan was approved at the January meeting of the Synod and was forwarded to the Archdeaconry Mission and Planning Committee. At this stage, the plan envisages the 16 parishes of the Deanery being arranged to form 4 Benefices, with a total of 6 stipendiary clergy as follows:-

Ely, Chettisham & Stuntney – 2 clergy posts

Littleport – 1 clergy post

Soham – 1 clergy post

Coveney, Haddenham, Little Downham, Little Thetford, Mepal, Stretham, Sutton, Wentworth, Wilburton, Witchford & Witcham – 2 clergy posts.

It is acknowledged that implementation of this plan is likely to require a significant subsidy from the Diocese in terms of clergy costs in relation to Parish Share.

Currently, there is one incumbent priest in post in each of Ely (including Chettisham & Stuntney), Littleport and Soham with the remainder of the parishes in the Deanery being looked after on a temporary basis by the Rural Dean, Mark Howarth, who's current appointment runs until late summer 2024.

In 2023, the Deanery was able to meet its allocated Diocesan Share in full, which means there will be a small rebate in 2024. It is expected that, moving forward, many parishes in the Deanery may struggle to meet their allocated Parish Share.

It was noted that the Deanery is currently unable to fill all its vacancies for lay representation on the Diocesan Synod, and is seeking volunteers to fulfil this important role.

In addition to the above major business items, the Deanery Synod also received several presentations from clergy during the year, including:-

The Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust (in relation to the annual "ride and stride" event held each September).

Authorised Local Leadership (ALL) – about Diocesan plans to recognise, encourage, affirm and authorise lay leadership in parishes.

The Diocesan Mission and Ministry Team – about their plans to equip, support and provide training to help churches develop their ministry within their parishes.

Finally, it is worth making sure people are aware that, within the Deanery, it is obvious that St Mary's (with ChristChurch) is an exceptionally well-resourced parish, in terms of church attendance, annual income, paid staff and a building in a relatively good state of repair. For most of the other parishes in the Deanery, resources, whether people or finance, are in much shorter supply, which means that they may increasingly need to rely on the support of wealthier parishes such as our own in order to continue and develop their ministry. The main purpose of a local Deanery is to ensure that local churches are able to support each other and it is unfortunately the case that St Mary's has not always been seen as willing to offer such support. Recently, Phil in particular has been working hard to try to communicate with and offer support to other parishes in the Deanery and it is hoped that, moving forward, St Mary's and ChristChurch will be able to play a full part in participating in and encouraging this.

Roy Mould

## **ChristChurch APCM Report**

In last year's PCC and APCM report, we reported a number of challenges faced by ChristChurch. The first was around how we reach into North Ely, given the challenges of slower than expected development and a lack of interest in the ChristChurch Sunday presence. The second and third were both in relation to resourcing, more generally and then directly in relation to the departure of Chris and Debbie Hill.

These areas of engagement have marked the last year in the life of ChristChurch. Much of our previous reports remains the case. We have continued:

- to meet at 4pm in the Isle of Ely Primary School throughout the last year with a focus on hospitality, accessible worship, and space for discussion.
- to experiment with creative ways to worship, including worshipping outside in the Isle of Ely School wild garden once a month over summer.
- to visit the Orchards each month, now led by Yvonne Biss (ALM)
- to host community events. In May a street party for the King's coronation, a small pop-up event at Harvest, and carols at the Orchards over Christmas.
- to support the Isle of Ely Primary School, predominantly through engagement with the wild garden, led by Graham Biss (LLM).
- to develop all members of the congregation in leadership and service.

While there have been no major changes, there have been some noticeable shifts in culture relating to our discernment process. The first has been the way in which a number of people have stepped into leading services and preaching this year, with support from Ruth Holmes, Graham, Yvonne, and Phil, we have often used books to further support the teaching e.g. following Pete Grieg's book *How to Pray* and Selina Stone's Lent book *Tarry Awhile*. Chris Tomkies has been accepted to train as an LLM and Chelle George has applied to train as a Pastoral ALM. It feels like ChristChurch continues to be a training ground in which all of us are growing in our gifts and in confidence. Secondly, there has been more sharing between ChristChurch and St Mary's. A number of those from ChristChurch have enjoyed attending special services at St Mary's – for example, Ash Wednesday – and engaged with pastoral training or the Lent Course.

### **Discernment Process**

Along this "business as usual" we have continued to embark with Phil's help on a period of discernment. This began with the timeline activity reported last year, then conversations within the congregation (conducted by Chris Tomkies), and then conversations with the community (conducted by various members of the congregation)

Finally, we gathered together over three Sundays and one Saturday morning in January and February 2024 to discern together what God was doing amongst us and how we might respond. The aim and output of these conversations are summed up in the diagram below

## Next Steps for Discernment at Christchurch

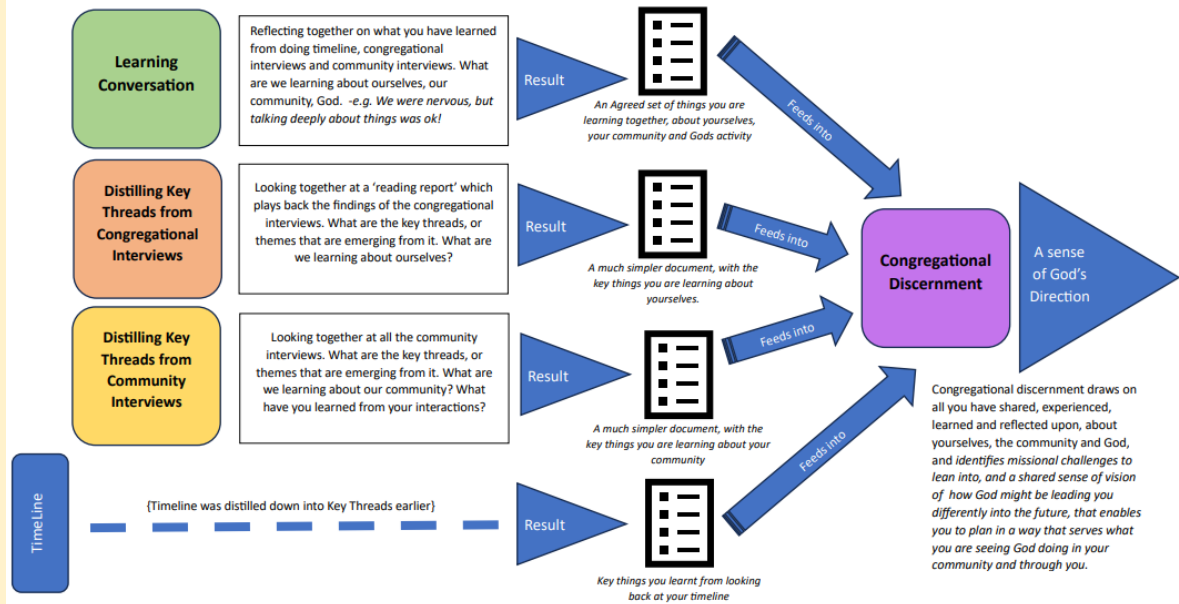
### Bringing it all Together

Three types of conversation to be had.

- ❖ **LEARNING** – from the experience of having done some of these things
- ❖ **DISTILLING** – Agreeing the key threads emerging from a piece of work
- ❖ **DISCERNING** – Seeking a sense of God's direction emerging from all you have noticed and learned.

### Overview

You have done some amazing work as a congregation. The amount of material you have created through the time-line, congregational interviews, and community interviews is significant. In order to discern together whether we are seeing a sense of God's direction for Christchurch, we need to draw out the key themes and threads emerging from each piece of work, into manageable forms before bringing it all together.



Following our final congregational discernment session in February, we arrived at a shared sense of direction. This is not a dramatic change for ChristChurch, but a re-orientation putting mission through building community in focus again and with the freedom for our Sunday worship to serve this sense of God's call on us. This sense of direction is: "We want to build community, founded upon knowing the love of Christ, through acts of service".

Our next steps are to start a conversation with those we have identified in the local area who are also wanting to build community. We will aim to work with these "people of peace" God is giving us to experiment with some ways to serve North Ely. Within our discernment we had a sense that God was giving us freedom to think more widely than simply the Orchards Estate development itself, and to be open to anyone looking to build community with ChristChurch. We have agreed that Sunday services will serve this sense of direction and have committed to keep on reflecting, praying, and discerning together. One notable outcome of this process has been a marked shift in people's sense of ownership of Christchurch.