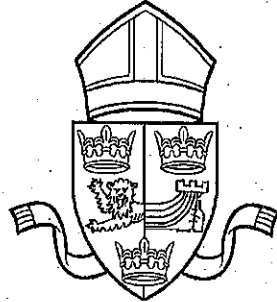


**Diocese
of
St Edmundsbury and Ipswich**



**Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of
The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish
of
St Mary the Virgin
Walton, Felixstowe
Suffolk**

For the year ended 31 December 2023

Prepared under the Receipts and Payments Basis

Registered Charity: 1133981

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Contact Details

Church

St Mary's Church
Walton High Street
Felixstowe
Suffolk
IP11 9DS

Rector

Revd Paul Clarke (until 31/05/23)
The Vicarage
15 Walton Hall Drive
Walton
Felixstowe
IP11 9FA

St Philip's Community Hub
Wadgate Road
Felixstowe
IP11 2LY

Office Manager

Mrs Georgina South
Church Office
St Philip's Community Hub
Wadgate Road
Felixstowe
IP11 2LY

PCC Treasurer

Dr David Bellamy
Church Office
St Philip's Community Hub
Wadgate Road
Felixstowe
IP11 2LY

Bankers

Barclays Bank
Leicester
LE87 2BB

Examiner

Mr S Renvoize
St Edmunds House
1 Arwela Road
Felixstowe
Suffolk
IP11 2DG

Architect

Mr Philip Orchard
The Whitworth Co Partnership LLP
18 Hatter Street
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 1NE
NR11 6EU

Charitable Status

Registered 2nd February 2010
Charity Number 1133981

Insurers

Church Rep: Mr Guy Pearse
Trinitas Church Insurance Services
Blenheim House
1-2 Bridge Street
Guildford
Surrey
GU1 4RY

Governing Document

Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended and Church Representation Rules

MEMBERSHIP OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Members of St Mary's PCC can be either ex-officio and/or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in April or May. The Associate Priest, the Readers, the Church Wardens and the Deanery Synod Representatives are all ex-officio members. All members of the PCC automatically become trustees. New trustees are inducted by the existing trustee body.

St Mary's Parochial Church Council was made up as follows:

	St Mary's PCC 2023	TO
Rector	Revd Paul Clarke (to 31/05/23)	Ex Officio
Wardens: Ex Officio	Dr Lynda Tempest Mr Philip Rawe	May 2024 May 2024
PCC Treasurer:	Dr David Bellamy	June 2024
Associate Priest	Revd Wendy Smith	Ex Officio
Readers	Mrs Wendy Fellingham Mrs Margaret White	Ex Officio Ex Officio
Deanery Synod Representatives: Ex Officio	Dr Lynda Tempest	June 2026
PCC Elected Members:	Dr David Bellamy Mrs Lorna Bellamy Mrs Jan Garfield Mr Ian Cobb Mr Michael Gates Mrs Isabel Jenkins Mrs Carolyn Jones Mr David Mutum Miss Valerie Moore Mrs Ann Woodard	May 2023-May 2026* May 2022-May 2025* May 2023-May 2026* May 2023-May 2026* May 2022-May 2025* May 2023-May 2026* May 2022-May 2025 May 2022-May 2025* To May 2023 May 2023-May 2026
PCC Secretary	Mrs Diane Buxton **	June 2024

*Has the option of standing for election for a further three years.

**Not a Trustee.

COMMITTEES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The PCC operates through a Standing Committee that meets between full meetings of the PCC.

PCC Standing Committee: (This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.) This committee is automatically comprised of the Rector, two Church Wardens, the Treasurer, the Secretary and one additional PCC Member.

The Rector has regular meetings with the two Church Wardens and the Treasurer.

Sub committees:

Finance:

Dr David Bellamy (Treasurer), Mr Philip Rawe (Church Warden – PCC Rep),
Mr Stephen Rowe (Bookkeeper), Mr Paul Solomon (Gift Aid Officer),
Mrs Margaret Lake (FWO Officer), Mrs Carolyn Jones and Miss Valerie Moore (until May 2023).

Estate:

Mr Philip Rawe (Church Warden), Mrs Georgina South (Benefice Co-ordinator), Mr Michael Gates (PCC Rep), Mrs Jan Garfield, Mr Christopher Hadden and Mr Ian Cobb.

St Philip's Community Hub:

The Rev'd Paul Clarke (Rector) (until 31/05/23), Dr Lynda Tempest (Church Warden), Mrs Carolyn Jones (Hub Manager), Mrs Margaret White (Pop-Up Manager), Dr David Bellamy (PCC Rep), Mrs Wendy Fellingham and Mrs Alison Harvey.

Benefice Council Representatives: As the Benefice Churches hold joint Benefice PCC meetings regularly, there are no separate representatives.

Ordinand: Mrs Georgina South

St Mary's Church Elders 2023: Dr Lynda Tempest, Miss Mary Wakefield, Mrs Ann Woodard, Mrs Georgina South and Mrs Linda Moore.

St Mary's Church Readers 2023: Mrs Mary Rowe, Mrs Margaret White, Mrs Wendy Fellingham, Mrs Rachel Clarke (until 31/05/23) and Mrs Sandra Griffiths.

St Mary's Church Officers 2023:

Health and Safety Officer: There was no Health & Safety Officer in 2023.

Parish Safeguarding Officers: Mrs Sonya Stephenson and Mrs Ann Woodard.

Trustees Reports

ST MARY'S CHURCH: ANNUAL REVIEW 2023

Church Wardens Report 2023

Can anyone believe 2023 has come and gone? By the time you read this report we'll be nearly half way through 2024. It may surprise you to know we start the annual report in early January, but we have to leave time for all the 2023 invoices to be accrued. Come February we submit the financial report and church activity reports to the PCC for them to agree so that the draft APCM report can be forwarded to our financial examiner. He usually takes several weeks to complete this task and invariably seeks clarification over some of our activities. Historically the clarification is provided by our treasurer, in the present case, David Bellamy. The inspected report then has to go before the PCC for them to acknowledge the examiner has found no discrepancy in our accounts before it is presented at the APCM.

2023 has been an interesting year. The Rector Paul contracted Covid in 2022, and unfortunately this developed into long Covid. The Bishop transferred him to a much quieter Benefice, but it left this Benefice in "Vacancy". Older members of the congregation would describe it as an interregnum!

A team from the Benefice rewrote the Parish / Benefice profile before we advertised for a replacement Rector in November 2023. Yes it took 6 months to process the formalities. At the end of 2023 we had had no interest in the post. We can only hope and pray someone will come forward in 2024 to be welcomed into our friendly welcoming Benefice. During the vacancy the Church Wardens are responsible for the church's administration. As Lay Chair of the PCC Lynda Tempest has taken on this managerial role, an important job with little thanks.

At this point in the dialogue I could thank everyone by name, and I would guarantee missing someone off the list. So in general terms, the church has much to thank the Assistant Wardens, PCC members, Finance committee, Estates committee and the people who help maintain the fabric and pastoral support of the church. Our safeguarding team and Insurance adviser have thankless but incredibly important functions to perform on behalf of the church community. Have you ever thought of saying thank you to them for all their hard work?

It is a privilege to support St Mary's Church family. We might not always agree but I've only ever observed kindness and our respect for one another. We live in rapidly changing times, and if you listen to the news you could be forgiven for thinking it is all bad. Change can bring new opportunities. As a Church, we're obviously looking forward to a major change with the appointment of a new Rector, but it would be remiss of us not to thank the 'retired' Clergy, our Readers, Elders and office administrator for their support during 2023 to maintain our church services.

Philip & Lynda

Estates Committee Report 2023

The Quinquennial Inspection from June 2022 identified various items of work required, and we are attending to these in order of priority.

More minor routine items of maintenance have been, and continue to be, carried out.

St Mary's Church

The major project planned is re-tiling of the south facing roof of the nave. Insulation will be added to the roof where possible. Funding is in place for this. The Bat Conservation Trust have visited to check if we

have bats, as this would affect how and when the work is carried out. No bats were found, and subject to receiving their official report, work is due to start mid-March 2024.

Pigeons have been getting into the tower, making a mess. Work is planned to fix wire mesh to the back of the wooden louvres to prevent them from getting in.

St Mary's Church Hall

A new replacement boiler has been fitted, along with alterations to the heating controls to allow the Symonds Room to be heated independently of the Main Hall.

Work is planned to try and solve a problem of water leaking into the store room, and options are being looked at to replace the stage carpet.

Victoria Cottage

Various maintenance works have been carried out, including path repairs, replacement extractor fan, and fixing loose floor boards.

St Philip's

New audio-visual equipment has been installed, and is working well.

Gaps in the roof sheeting have been sealed to stop water leaking through to the kitchen ceiling.

Investigations are ongoing to identify the cause, and solve, damp issues along the north side wall.

With thanks to members of the Estates committee et-al for their help and support during 2023.

Mike Gates

St Philip's Review

Church Plant at St Philip's Report 2023

The team of 'Pioneers' as someone called us, from St Mary's Church, set off on our adventure at 11am. on Sunday 24th September 2022 and 18 months later I am pleased to say we are thriving.

We have been privileged to meet with our community and build on the mission work already done by the Pop-Up Shop (food bank) and the Hub (community café).

We have been pleased to see some from the community come regularly and some occasionally. We now average a congregation of 25-40.

We have formed a Steering Group to take care of the week to week running and to report to PCC.

We have begun to encourage some to step out and take on some of the roles and there is a real sense of people growing in confidence and faith.

We have a relaxed café style of worship with little formality but still Godly.

We have had comments like - Thanks for the commitment of the core team. Being accepted without judgement. I feel God's love again. I feel God's presence here. Thank you for the support given to me. It's happy, calm, relaxing. I feel safe here. Love the coffee and the toast. (*Our usual refreshments before the service*). People listen and help in times of need.

We have started a monthly Hub 'Home' Group with 5-10 attending and are now beginning to have events like Ice Cream Sunday, Bacon Butties and are about to have Sunday Lunch after a service.

Wow what a faithful God we have! Please keep praying.

Wendy Fellingham and the Team

St Philip's Pop-Up Shop 2023

Looking back at the report I wrote last year, I see that very little has changed as far as the Pop-Up Shop at St Philip's is concerned. And in many ways this is the important nature of the work we do every Tuesday. Every week we meet people whose lives are incredibly difficult, through money worries, health problems, isolation and loneliness, and difficulties with relationships. And every week the Pop-Up Shop does just that - we pop up at St Philip's Hall to welcome them, to listen, to provide food for the family, to refer to CAP in the form of Carolyn, or to Parish Nursing in the form of Lorna and John (now replaced by Lesley), to offer coffee and cake and the opportunity for conversation. We are very often the only constant source of all these things in their lives, and as a team we see this as a great privilege.

Our numbers have remained fairly constant over the year, as each week we welcome about 45 customers, shopping for over 100 people.

We are very grateful to all the sources of food - the supermarkets Tesco and Lidl, the Walton Bakery, Fareshare and Greggs. During the year we've also started having a weekly delivery of fruit and vegetables from Fruit and Flowers, which has been very popular and enables people to make choices about healthier eating. We're also very grateful for the groceries given by the congregations of St Mary's and St Philip's, who respond so quickly to my notes in the Connect sheet about the things we're desperately in need of. We're so grateful to all the people who make individual donations of money, and organisations like the Rotary Club and St Martin's, Trimley, so we can buy what we need. We continue to access the warehouse in Ipswich run by East Suffolk, and have recently taken delivery of a bulk order of non-food items made possible through the same source. An innovation this year has been regular visits from Simone, the hairdresser, who has so kindly given her time and skills to offer free haircuts during the morning. This has been such a treat for our customers.

We had a fabulous Christmas lunch, with a range of chicken casseroles in slow cookers, followed, of course, by Christmas pudding and custard. This was enjoyed by about 60 people.

Once again I want to thank the fabulous team of helpers for all they do, for their willingness and enthusiasm, and especially to Carolyn for her success in grant applications! Thanks above all to the people of St Mary's whose prayers underpin all we do. Thank you so much to everyone who supports us in prayer and by your gifts.

Margaret

St Philip's Community Hub Report 2023

When you enter St Philip's Community Hub on a Thursday it is a hive of activity. The day begins with Isabel and myself opening up and setting up food for the day. Lunch is slow cookers filled with delicious homemade soup all made by volunteers. The café table is laden with cakes and savouries mostly donated by Greggs the bakery in town along with homemade and donated goodies by our band of volunteers. At 9.30 we stop to have morning prayer a quiet time to reflect on the day ahead and give thanks for this amazing place.

Since opening in May 2021 the day remains busier and busier and what a joy it is to witness Gods work in Action. On average 50-60 folk come through our doors, some stay for coffee and cake and conversation, some make a craft, most stay for lunch. The Winter menu is homemade soup, roll pasty,

hot dessert or fruit. The Summer menu is filled roll, side salad, pasty, crisps, fruit and on occasions ice cream! There is always a Greggs filled roll to take home if you cannot make lunch!

We do not charge, however we welcome donations and along with grants and money from friends and family we aim to continue this way, making it a place accessible for everyone.

Following the support for Warm Spaces Oct 22-April 23 we received £900 to offset gas costs and a donation for all the extra hot drinks and food served from Cost-of-Living grant. February we were shortlisted for The Great Ideas Award (nominated by a councillor) and although we did not win, Margaret, Alison, Isabel and myself enjoyed a lovely evening at Snape Maltings. Also in February Margaret and I attended The Felixstowe Community Choir presentation evening and were given a generous donation.

I am The Felixstowe Christians Against Poverty representative for St Mary's and St Philip's and Tuesdays and Thursday I hold 1-1 sessions to support folk with all money related matters. This is the 2nd year that I have successfully gained funding for folk who are struggling with the cost of living. The Household Support Fund administered by Suffolk Foundation Trust is government money that is given to local groups who daily come across hardship (food energy and wider living essential costs). In 2023 I have been able to help over 40 folk, holding interviews, giving support with budgets and funding following strict criteria. St Mary's PCC has supported this work which has helped many who struggle with life's challenges.

I received the Mayor's Award in May for the work at The Community Hub and explained without the amazing Team at St Philip's there would be no Hub!

We love a celebration and on the King's Coronation we had a fabulous party attended by over 100 folk. Lyndsey won the prize for a cake fit for a king!

Training at The Hub takes many forms, and we were inspected by Food Standards and our criteria had to be updated to café standard, we achieved a 4 with feedback that more volunteers should hold Food Safety qualifications. I ran 2 sessions educating all on Safer Food and Better Business which most of our volunteers attended, with over 8 now holding Level 2 Food Safety.

We had a Fire Prevention in the Home talk by Mick from Ipswich Fire Safety which was very interesting and several folk booked safety home checks, with some having smoke alarms fitted in their homes free of charge.

Ben Taylor has visited on several occasions to clean and repair watches and jewellery free of charge.

Walton Parsh Nursing is integral to all that happens at St Philip's and how blessed we are to have Lorna and John attend every Thursday. The compassion support care and guidance they give to all is a joy to witness. We said goodbye to John in November with a gift and all our love for a Happy Retirement, and Lesley has slotted into his role perfectly.

It was Lorna who was instrumental in obtaining a defibrillator after several of us attended a First Aid & defib course at the Hub.

With some of the donations we were able to fund the electrics for the installation and now have our own defib, and it has been accessed on several occasions. Well done Lorna.

We continued to support Food for All in the summer school holidays making packed lunches for 30 to take away. Many thanks to The Rotary and Mothers Union for their donation towards this.

Thank you to Tesco and Groundworks for their Grant of £1000 to support the Hub.

We held a table sale in November to help fund the Christmas Party for over 112 folk and were delighted to receive a grant from Suffolk Coastal to pay for the gifts.

Thank you to the team who erected our Christmas tree outside shining a light out in the community, funded again from donations.

The Hub is a safe place for all, some who visit are lonely isolated anxious and vulnerable – we see grandparents with grandchildren, visitors of all ages are welcome.

Huge thanks to all who volunteer - serve throughout the day - make soup and cakes - wash up, and to Greggs in town who donate their unsold savouries, cakes and rolls each week.

Please continue to pray for this amazing place.

Do come along Thursday between 10-1.30 - you would be most welcome.

Carolyn Jones

Aims and Purposes

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the minister in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, which encompasses our charitable aims of providing public benefit.

The mission statement for the Benefice is:

To **grow in faith** together through the love of God, be empowered to **make Jesus known** and inspired by the Holy Spirit to **be His light** in our communities.

This is further simplified into three areas:

Grow in Faith
Make Jesus known
Be His Light

St Mary's PCC is responsible for co-operating with the clergy to fulfil God's mission in the ecclesiastical parish of Walton. Together with all clergy and members, they proclaim the gospel, worship God and care for their members and the local community. They also have maintenance responsibilities for the parish church of St Mary's, St Mary's Church Hall, Victoria Cottage and St Philip's Church and Hall.

Public Benefit

The members of the PCC are aware of the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit in "The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit" and have had regard to it in their administration of the PCC. The PCC believes that by promoting the work of the Church of England in the Parish of St Mary's, Walton, it provides a benefit to the public by:

- Providing facilities for regular public worship, open to all;
- The provision of space for personal prayer and contemplation;
- Pastoral work including supporting the work of Walton Parish Nursing, the Boost Chaplain at Felixstowe School, Felixstowe Christians Against Poverty and The Hope Trust;
- Providing a Community Hub Drop In and a Pop Up Shop & Community Café;
- Taking religious assemblies in schools;

- Providing special services of remembrance, bereavement services and Remembrance Sunday;
- Providing help and support for the local community through various projects;
- Providing services of baptism, marriage and funerals.

Objectives, Activities, Achievements and Performance

Noted in the Churchwardens' Report above.

Future Plans

The PCC continues:

- with their discussions around developing St Philip's
- to support the Hub's work with the community
- to focus attention on St Mary's mission.

Risk Assessment and Health & Safety Report

The responsibility for Health and Safety rests with the Church Warden and PCC and they are actively seeking a volunteer for this role.

Safeguarding Report for APCM 2024 (for the year 2023)

We continue to monitor the training needs of all our volunteers (70 overall) and paid staff and have been very encouraged by everyone's willingness to keep themselves up to date. In 2023 we were blessed to have several face-to-face sessions at Trimley which many people were able to attend. More are planned for this year.

Safeguarding is ever evolving and changing, and the Diocese have added further mandatory courses for certain members of the church. Pastoral visitors, members of the ministry team and others have been asked to complete the Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse course and a few members of the PCC, and the PSOs, are required to complete the Safer Recruitment course. The Diocese have also updated their Safeguarding web page and it should now be easier for folks to navigate and use.

At present we are happy to report that the majority of training and DBS checks are up to date, and we are trying to get ahead by reminding folk ahead of time when their training is due.

Annie had the opportunity, in January, to talk to the Pastoral Care Team about lone working and the new training requirements. If anyone else would like us to talk to them or their group/activity, we are more than happy to do so.

Due to the care and diligence of our church members a few issues of concern were flagged up over the past year. We have worked to solve these with teamwork and assistance from Social Services and Walton Parish Nursing. While we were both away in September/October, we left advice and contact numbers for any problems. Unfortunately, an incident did occur, but it was dealt with so well by members of the congregation and they sought advice from Karen Galloway at the Diocese. Those involved should be commended for their sensitivity and actions and we believe this is further evidence of us all working together to ensure our visitors and church family are safe.

Without a Rector, things haven't always been easy, so we are glad to have each other for support. We meet regularly to discuss progress and any issues and divide up the work between us. We are also very grateful for the support we have received from Lynda (churchwarden) and members of the PCC. For

various reasons we haven't been able to meet regularly with Joan at Trimley but we are in contact with her and we continue to share responsibility for the Safeguarding emergency phone.

With our thanks to everyone who works to keep our churches safe places for all. We couldn't do it without you.

Many thanks,

Annie Woodard and Sonya Stephenson (St Mary's Parish Safeguarding Officers)

Church Membership and Services

Electoral Roll

Resident:	47
Non-Resident	31
As at 31/12/2023	<u>Total</u> 78

Attendance

An average of 47 people attended church services at St Mary's Church, an average of 29 at St Philip's Community Hub, with a further average of 5 attending St Mary's Church online.

Weddings	2
Baptisms	2
Funerals (inc those held at Crematoria)	14
For period 1/1/23 to 31/12/23	<u>Total</u> 18

Financial Review 2023

As I complete my first full year as PCC treasurer the word 'generous' comes to mind. I have seen the generosity of the church family reflecting the generosity that we receive from God. A year that, like many before it, has required the PCC to take careful and considered decisions on spending in these challenging financial times has not proved to be as difficult as was initially feared. For that we feel blessed and grateful. We end the year in better financial shape than we started it in. We cannot, however, ease back and must remain watchful. Economic uncertainty and world events can rapidly change things. We have four important buildings to maintain; much valued outreach work, particularly at St Philip's, that we wish to continue and the usual day-to-day costs to be met. With your continued, appreciated and generous support, both financially and with your time, talents and prayers, this we aim to achieve.

We began 2023 with total funds of £63,426 and ended with £101,085 an increase of £37,659.

In February, as cash flow worries eased, we were able to return the £10,000 moved from our reserves last year back to the deposit account from the current account.

Receipts in 2023 on Unrestricted General Funds totalled £126,837. Regular planned giving through the bank and the Free Will Offering (FWO) envelopes increased by £5,696 to £43,067; loose plate collections at St Mary's and St Philip's increased by £2,904 to £6,246. This increase in giving is a testament to the faithfulness of the church family.

Irregular donations increased by £3,617 to £22,059. This figure includes a generous gift aided donation of £11,500 received in January which the PCC prudently decided to designate for maintenance. It also includes gift aided donations of £4,000 towards the £5,445 cost of the new tech equipment at St Philip's

which has made such a difference to the Sunday services there. I have mentioned previously that irregular donations are necessary to help us meet our regular monthly expenditure and this remains so.

We continue to let Victoria Cottage, the Church Hall and part of St Philip's (to Little Hoppers Pre-School). We are dependent on the income generated from these lettings which remained on a par with 2022 at just under £28,000.

In February we received an Energy Support Grant of £5,000 from our diocese to help with the energy costs of our buildings as well as a £900 Cost of Living Grant from East Suffolk Council to help towards the cost of providing a Warm Space at St Philip's Hub over the winter months. Communities Together gave us a grant of £408 in April towards the cost of hospitality at St Philip's. The Pop-Up Shop and the Hub have also been supported by donations from Trimley PCC, the Rotary Club and Felixstowe Town Council.

The work and outreach at St Philip's (Pop-Up Shop, Community Hub and the Sunday services) is detailed elsewhere in the Annual Report. The proceeds of the Pop-Up Shop and Hub have continued to support Felixstowe Christian Action Against Poverty and Debt with a monthly contribution of £105 (totalling £1,260 over the year) as well as donating £500 to Walton Parish Nursing, who both work closely with us. At year end the Pop Up Shop held £2,984 in restricted monies and the Hub £10,476 in restricted monies – this includes a £5,000 Household Support Grant from the Suffolk Community Foundation, received in December, which will be overseen by Carolyn Jones to help people in need.

Our contribution to the Diocesan Parish Share continues to be our biggest item of expenditure, totalling £46,924 an increase of £2,000 on 2022. This money largely provides the stipends, pensions and housing for the clergy and training and support to the PCC. We continue to pay Georgina South as our Benefice Coordinator & Communications Assistant and Steve Rowe as our bookkeeper along with keyboard players, an organist and a cleaner for the Church Hall and St Philip's Hall.

Expenditure from Unrestricted General Funds totalled £113,315 which means this fund shows a year end surplus of £13,521. I hope that you will be as encouraged by this as I am and pray that things will continue positively in 2024.

After much consideration the PCC decided to replace the ageing boiler in the Church Hall with a more efficient one and a new gas boiler was installed in August at a cost of £9,772. Grants of £2,000 from the Ganzoni Trust and £2,000 from Trinity College, Cambridge were received to offset the cost. £5,000 of our reserves was also used, which we aim to replace as efficiency savings accrue and conditions allow.

Our most recent Quinquennial Inspection highlighted concerns about three sections of St Mary's Church roof. It was decided to plan the repair of the most urgent part, which will cost £14,000 + VAT (which can be reclaimed through the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme). A Prayer and Gift Day was held in September with the gifts received to be used for this work. With gratitude for your generous response, £7,267.50 was raised; receipt of subsequent donations to the Church Roof Fund brought the amount available to £10,996 by the end of the year. The Suffolk Historic Churches Trust (SHCT) have promised a grant of £1,000. The work will commence in March 2024.

Believing that our churches should be generous, the PCC continued with its five-year Mission Giving Strategy for the second year. We donated to our partner charities £2,000 to Walton Parish Nursing, £1,000 to Boost and £250 to CPAS. The Charity of the Quarter initiative has met with great success and in this first year raised £1,895 for the chosen charities, Tearfund, The Leprosy Mission, SHCT and Bible Society. It will continue throughout 2024 supporting four different charities.

Tax recoverable on Gift Aid makes such a difference to our income each year. Across all donations received in 2023 this totalled £16,748. Thank you to all those who gift aid their financial contributions. If this is something you could consider and would like to find out more, please do come and talk to me about it.

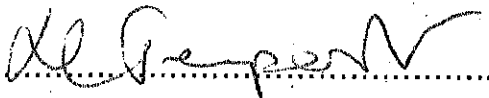
My thanks go to a dedicated and supportive Finance Committee for their help throughout the year - Carolyn Jones, Philip Rawe, Steve Rowe (bookkeeper), Margaret Lake (FWO Coordinator), Paul Solomon (Donations Coordinator) and Valerie Moore.

As we move into 2024 and all that it brings, please be assured that as a PCC we will continue to be prudent with decisions on spending and we thank you all for your continued support and prayers.

David Bellamy
Treasurer

The above reports were approved by the Parochial Church Council

On 26/3/2024 and signed on its behalf

By  (Chairman)

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

Independent examiner's report to the PCC of St Mary's Church Walton, for the year ended on December 31st 2023

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023 which are set out on pages 16-23

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

- (1) which give 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; or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

(Signed)



Name: Mr S R Renvoize ACA

Date: 26/3/24

Address: St Edmunds House
1 Arwela Road
Felixstowe
IP11 2DG

St Mary's Church Walton - 1133981

Receipts and Payments Account

For the period from 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Receipts						
Donations and legacies	87,602	14,375	26,406	—	128,384	93,317
Income from charitable activities	11,272	—	601	—	11,873	7,555
Other trading activities	27,916	—	—	—	27,916	27,188
Investments	46	992	405	5	1,449	507
Other income	—	—	—	—	—	30
Total receipts	126,837	15,367	27,412	5	169,622	128,598
Payments						
Raising funds	21,092	2,022	—	—	23,115	21,923
Expenditure on charitable activities	91,893	6,676	9,347	—	107,917	115,916
Other expenditure	329	—	601	—	930	645
Total payments	113,315	8,698	9,948	—	131,962	138,485
Excess of receipts over payments before transfers	13,521	6,668	17,464	5	37,659	(9,887)
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	1,000	13,933	—	—	14,933	10,000
Gross transfers between funds - out	(13,933)	(1,000)	—	—	(14,933)	(10,000)
Excess of receipts over payments before other gains	588	19,602	17,464	5	37,659	(9,887)
Net movement in funds	588	19,602	17,464	5	37,659	(9,887)
Reconciliation of funds						
Funds at beginning of year	19,701	21,918	20,214	1,592	63,426	73,313
Funds at end of year	20,289	41,520	37,678	1,597	101,085	63,426

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities
as at 31st December 2023**

	General Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowment Fund	Total	As at 31/12/22
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cash Funds						
Representing balances on the following accounts:						
Barclays Bank	12,607	2,365	13,463	28,435	28,435	27,226
CCLA Investment Account	7,618	39,155	24,215	70,988	70,988	34,590
Porter Endowment Fund	65			1,597	1,662	1,592
Cash in hand	0			0	0	16
Total	20,290	41,520	37,678	1,597	101,085	63,424

Other monetary assets

Gift Aid tax refunds due	2,205				2,205	1,223
Lettings fees due	1,667				1,667	
Total	3,872			3,872	3,872	1,223

Assets retained for the charity's own use

The church is the beneficial owner of the following assets (estimated rebuilding valuation)

St Mary's Church Hall	550,000				550,000	550,000
Victoria Cottage	180,000				180,000	180,000
St Philip's Church and Hall	380,000				380,000	380,000
Total	1,110,000			1,110,000	1,110,000	1,110,000

Liabilities: None

Signature 

Date 26/03/24

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

1. Accounting Policies

These accounts have been prepared under the receipts and payments basis and in accordance with Section 133 Charities Act 2011.

Funds

Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

Designated Funds are general fund set aside by the PCC for use in the future for particular purposes. The PCC may re-designate or transfer these funds back to unrestricted funds.

Restricted Funds are funds that have been given for particular purposes and can be spent only on the specific purpose intended by the donors. Interest on pooled investments is apportioned to the individual funds on an average balance basis.

Endowment Fund: The Porter Endowment Fund is specifically for the maintenance of the Porter Window in the church. A proportion of the interest is transferred to general fund for youth work.

2. Staff Costs

a) Staff costs

Total staff costs are shown below. Staff costs are shown on the Analysis of Income and Expenses under the codes stated below.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Wages and Salaries from PCC funds code - 2007-2008-2011-2014-2050-2363-2514- 2544	£24,518	£23,541

b) Staffing

We employ a part time Benefice Coordinator & Communications Assistant, working 25 hours per week, who supports the Incumbent and PCC with benefice administration, secretarial and IT support and manages the lettings for our halls.

We also employ a Bookkeeper.

Pay is received by our keyboard players and organist.

The PCC employs a cleaner for both St Philip's Hall and St Mary's Hall.

The average head-count employed during the period is four staff.

There are no employees who received emoluments of more than £60,000.

c) Payment to PCC members.

No payments or expenses were paid to any PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties, with the following exceptions

- (i) reimbursement for items or materials purchased solely for the use of the PCC
- (ii) small transfer payments to the Administrator for petty cash.

3. Fixed Tangible Assets

a) All assets are freehold lands and buildings
Rebuilding valuations made by Richard Monks Associates Ltd,
Chartered Surveyors on 22/09/2011 are as follows:

	Rebuilding Valuation
St Mary's Church Hall	£550,000
Victoria Cottage	£180,000
St Philips Church and Hall	£380,000
Total	<u>£1,110,000</u>

We have confirmation from the Diocese of our ownership of all the above assets.

b) Fixed assets

Consecrated property and moveable church furnishings.

Moveable church furnishings held by the Incumbent and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected (at any reasonable time).

4. Income tax recoverable

Income tax received during the year on gift aid is £16,748.

5. Reserves Policy and Funds

a) Reserves

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which equates to at least three months of unrestricted payments. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. Total 2023 unrestricted resources used were £113,315 therefore reserves of £28,329 should be set aside. The Reserve Fund Designated balance at year end 2023 is £23,644. Additionally, there is £20,289 within the closing general reserves.

b) The Endowment Fund

This comprises the Porter Family Bequest and 90% of the annual interest is transferred to the General Fund.

6. Analysis of income and expenditure
Selected period: 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
Income and endowments						
Donations and legacies						
0101 - Gift Aid - Bank	35,046	—	480	—	35,526	27,347
0103 - Tax efficient planned gifts, Including C	4,100	—	—	—	4,100	4,050
0110 - Gift Aid - Envelopes	575	—	—	—	575	3,007
0201 - Other planned giving Bank	2,914	—	—	—	2,914	1,120
0210 - Other planned giving FWO Envelopes	432	—	—	—	432	2,147
0301 - St Marys Loose plate collections	3,823	—	—	—	3,823	3,050
0302 - St Phillips Loose Plate Collections	2,423	—	—	—	2,423	292
0303 - Irregular Gift Aid donations	4,351	11,500	1,120	—	16,971	16,530
0304 - Irregular nonGA gifts	1,668	—	2,345	—	4,013	3,467
0401 - Regular gift days Not GA	—	—	1,230	—	1,230	—
0405 - Regular Gift Days Gift Aided	—	—	6,950	—	6,950	—
0410 - Additional gifts for services and refres	—	—	—	—	—	775
0415 - St Mary's church group donations	145	—	—	—	145	525
0417 - St Mary's church hall donations	877	—	—	—	877	624
0419 - St Phillips hall and church donations	1,001	—	—	—	1,001	771
0501 - One-off Gift Aid gifts	4,540	—	—	—	4,540	—
0550 - Donations appeals etc	—	—	—	—	—	227
0551 - Charity of the quarter	—	—	1,895	—	1,895	—
0601 - Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	12,015	2,875	1,857	—	16,748	12,076
0801 - Recurring grants	105	—	—	—	105	573
08A1 - Non-recurring one-off grants	8,308	—	9,612	—	17,920	12,971
0901 - Other funds generated	—	—	—	—	—	22
0902 - Fund raising activities	1,676	—	916	—	2,592	1,238
0903 - Benefice shared staff contribution	3,600	—	—	—	3,600	2,500
Donations and legacies totals	87,602	14,375	26,406	—	128,384	93,317
Income from charitable activities						
1101 - PCC Fees for weddings and funerals	2,559	—	—	—	2,559	1,192
1150 - DBF assigned fees	—	—	601	—	601	112
1200 - PCC Fees Heating Weddings & Funerals	720	—	—	—	720	60
1202 - PCC Bells Fees for Weddings	90	—	—	—	90	—
1206 - Organist any others	980	—	—	—	980	385
1207 - Online service fee	225	—	—	—	225	—
1208 - Verger Fees Income	880	—	—	—	880	250
1225 - St Phillips pop-up shop income	4,336	—	—	—	4,336	3,924
1246 - Community Hub income	1,480	—	—	—	1,480	1,631
Income from charitable activities totals	11,272	—	601	—	11,873	7,555

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	
					This year	Last year
Other trading activities						
1213 - Victoria Cottage letting	6,375	—	—	—	6,375	6,170
1216 - Church hall lettings	9,491	—	—	—	9,491	9,218
1226 - St Phillips lettings	12,050	—	—	—	12,050	11,800
Other trading activities totals	27,916	—	—	—	27,916	27,188
Investments						
1020 - Bank and building society interest	46	992	405	5	1,449	507
Investments totals	46	992	405	5	1,449	507
Other income						
1325 - Sundry income	—	—	—	—	—	30
Other income totals	—	—	—	—	—	30
Income and endowments grand totals	126,837	15,367	27,412	5	169,622	128,598

Expenditure

Raising funds

1725 - Cost of admin of personal giving FWO etc	49	—	—	—	49	53
2514 - PCC staff costs St Mary's Hall Cleaner	2,370	—	—	—	2,370	1,955
2516 - Hall running - electricity	657	—	—	—	657	568
2518 - Hall running - gas	1,410	—	—	—	1,410	1,324
2520 - Hall running - insurance	663	—	—	—	663	628
2522 - Hall running - maintenance	1,018	686	—	—	1,705	594
2526 - Hall running - water	283	—	—	—	283	322
2530 - St Phillips electric	1,198	—	—	—	1,198	3,474
2532 - St Phillips Church Gas	1,085	—	—	—	1,085	1,011
2534 - St Phillips Hall gas	1,747	—	—	—	1,747	1,783
2536 - St Phillips Insurance	577	—	—	—	577	546
2538 - St Phillips Maintenance	6,587	861	—	—	7,448	4,668
2540 - St Phillips Water	691	—	—	—	691	549
2544 - PCC staff costs St Phillips cleaner	1,778	—	—	—	1,778	1,452
2550 - Victoria Cottage Insurance	345	—	—	—	345	327
2554 - Victoria Cottage routine maintenance	250	474	—	—	724	2,461
2556 - Victoria Cottage annual servicing	375	—	—	—	375	200
Raising funds totals	21,092	2,022	—	—	23,115	21,923

Expenditure on charitable activities

1801 - Giving to missionary societies	—	—	460	—	460	—
1830 - Giving - relief and development agencies	—	—	1,072	—	1,072	131
1850 - Home mission	3,250	—	363	—	3,613	4,170
1910 - Parish share	46,924	—	—	—	46,924	44,924
2002 - PCC staff expenses	87	—	—	—	87	91
2007 - PCC staff costs Pam H	832	—	—	—	832	832
2008 - PCC staff costs other musicians	770	—	295	—	1,065	360
2011 - PCC staff costs Inland Revenue	119	—	—	—	119	1,136
2014 - Verger expenses weddings and funerals	755	—	—	—	755	185

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	
					This year	Last year
2050 - Salary of parish administrator	13,999	—	—	—	13,999	14,021
2101 - Working expenses of incumbent	152	—	—	—	152	2,520
2205 - Parish training	80	—	—	—	80	15
2210 - Mission outreach	—	—	—	—	—	302
2301 - Church running - Insurance	1,777	—	—	—	1,777	1,682
2310 - St Marys Church broadband	328	—	—	—	328	609
2312 - Benefice office telephone & broadband	464	—	—	—	464	657
2330 - Church maintenance	211	1,106	—	—	1,318	5,553
2331 - St Marys Church, cleaning materials	191	—	—	—	191	115
2340 - St Marys Upkeep of services	783	—	—	—	783	900
2342 - Pastoral	30	—	—	—	30	43
2343 - St Marys hospitality	334	—	—	—	334	531
2360 - Administration	711	—	—	—	711	12
2362 - Admin Running costs	1,536	—	—	—	1,536	1,666
2363 - Bookkeeper	3,600	—	—	—	3,600	3,600
2364 - Admin licences subs	1,388	—	—	—	1,388	1,539
2420 - St Marys Church running - water	227	—	—	—	227	220
2440 - St Marys Church, heating and light	3,660	—	—	—	3,660	4,019
2521 - St Marys Hall, cleaning materials	371	—	—	—	371	253
2523 - St Marys Hall hospitality	—	—	—	—	—	16
2541 - St Philips Hall, cleaning materials	355	—	—	—	355	270
2543 - St Philips hall hospitality	366	—	—	—	366	315
2545 - St Philips pop-up shop expenses	2,963	45	2,245	—	5,254	3,573
2546 - Community Hub expenses	562	525	2,810	—	3,898	5,301
2547 - Home Support Grants	—	—	500	—	500	5,499
2548 - St Philips - upkeep of services	283	—	—	—	283	140
2560 - Sundry costs	—	—	400	—	400	—
2701 - Church major repairs - structure	—	—	—	—	—	4,700
2710 - Church major repairs - installation	—	—	1,200	—	1,200	6,000
2820 - Hall + major repairs - installation	4,772	5,000	—	—	9,772	—
Expenditure on charitable activities totals	91,893	6,676	9,347	—	107,917	145,916
Other expenditure						
2020 - DBF assigned fees payments	—	—	601	—	601	323
2601 - Governance costs examination/audit fee	329	—	—	—	329	322
Other expenditure totals	329	—	601	—	930	645
Expenditure grand totals	113,315	8,698	9,948	—	131,962	138,485
Excess of receipts over payments before transfers	13,521	6,668	17,464	5	37,659	(9,887)

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

St Mary's Church Walton - 1133981

7. Fund movement by type
Selected period: 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

Fund and type	Fund balances brought forward	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains and Losses	Journal Entries	Fund balances carried forward
Unrestricted							
General - General fund	19,701	126,837	113,315	(12,933)	—	—	20,289
Sub-totals	19,701	126,837	113,315	(12,933)	—	—	20,289
Designated							
Hub-Des - Hub Designated	—	—	570	2,933	—	—	2,363
Maint-Des - Maintenance Reserve - Reserve fund	—	14,500	—	—	—	—	14,500
Choir - Choir designated	17,777	866	5,000	10,000	—	—	23,644
Ch-Dv-Des - Church Development designated	1,011	—	—	—	—	—	1,011
	3,128	—	3,128	—	—	—	—
Sub-totals	21,918	15,367	8,698	12,933	—	—	41,520
Restricted							
Ch-Rf-Res - St Marys Church Roof	—	10,996	—	—	—	—	10,996
ComHub-Res - Community Hub Restricted	3,934	9,853	3,310	—	—	—	10,476
DBF - DBF	—	601	601	—	—	—	—
Ext-Fund - External Fund Raising	—	2,295	2,295	—	—	—	—
Organ-Res - Church Organ Fund	7,350	395	1,495	—	—	—	6,250
PopUp-Res - Pop-Up Shop Restricted	2,169	3,061	2,245	—	—	—	2,984
Trinity-Rs - Incumbent's Trinity College Fund	0	—	—	—	—	—	0
Miss-Res - Mission Restricted	6,780	209	—	—	—	—	6,969
Sub-totals	20,214	27,412	9,948	—	—	—	37,678
Endowment							
Porter-End - Porter Endowment	1,592	5	—	—	—	—	1,597
Sub-totals	1,592	5	—	—	—	—	1,597
Totals	63,426	169,622	131,962	—	—	—	101,085

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

