



**Diocese of Chelmsford
St Mary The Virgin
North Shoebury**

**Annual Report and
Financial Statement 2019**

Address for correspondence

Mrs M Waters
PCC Secretary
6 Malmsmead
Shoeburyness
Essex
SS3 8AZ
07811 943691

Bankers

Barclays Bank plc
140 The Broadway
Thorpe Bay
Southend-on-Sea
Essex
SS1 3ES

Report approved by the Parochial Church Council at its meeting
on Sunday 25th October 2020

APCM AGENDA

1. Election of representatives of the laity to
The Parochial Church Council (3 reps for 3 years plus reps to fill other spaces)
2. Appointment of Sidesmen and the Independent Examiner
3. Consideration of:
 - a) A Report on changes in the Roll since that last annual parochial meeting
 - b) An Annual Report of the proceedings of the council
 - c) The independently examined Financial Statement of the Council for the year ending 31st December 2019
 - d) A Report upon the fabric, goods and ornaments of the Parish Church
(Church Warden's Report)
 - e) A Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod
 - f) Incumbent's Report
 - g) Any other matters of Parochial or general Church interest.

Parochial Church Council Membership

The Parochial Church Council is required, as stated in the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956, to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelist, social and ecumenical.

The following have served as members of the Parochial Church Council in the period 1st January 2019 (beginning of the financial year) to 31st December 2019.

Revd David Pierce	Lead Minister
Pat Fitch	Churchwarden
Craig Hunter	Churchwarden, Church Magazine
Sue Arnold	PCC member and Lay Chair
Michelle Waters	PCC Secretary
Francine Johnson	Treasurer, Social and Deanery Synod Rep
Anne Crabb	Deanery Synod Rep, Electoral role & Rotas (until November 2019)
Wendy Shipperley	PCC member
Denis Garne	PCC member
Kym Hazzard-Garne	Pastoral Care Assistant
Phyl Wickenden	Social Rep, Deanery Synod Rep
Keith Spenceley	PCC member (Resigned December 2019)
Tony Pond	PCC Member
Naomi Beechey	PCC Member

Church Statistics

Occasional Offices		2018	2019
Baptisms	Children under 1year	0	1
	Children age 1-12	3	0
	Over 13	0	0
First Communion		0	0
Confirmations		0	0
Weddings		1	0
Service of Prayer & Dedication after Civil Marriage		0	0
Service of Thanksgiving for Marriage		1	0
Funerals			
		2	2
Burials	Full	1	1
	Ashes	3	8

Attendance	2018	2019
Average Sunday Attendance	22	25
Average Sunday Communicants	22	20
Easter Attendance	29	37
Easter Communicants	26	25
Christmas (inc Eve) Attendance	218	214
Christmas (inc Eve) Communicants	33	34

Electoral Roll

At the date of the APCM, Sunday 25th October 2020, there are thirty members of the Electoral Roll

More details of Committees are given below.

Social and Fundraising - (*Chair of Social*)

Finance and Fabric Committee - (*Chair of Finance and Fabric*)

Church Hall - (I.C Hall)

Church Wardens' Report - (*Church Warden*)

Deanery Synod Report - (Deanery Synod Representative)

Activities of the PCC

HALL REPORT 2019

The hire fees for 2019 were as follows:

All hirers £4,967 up from £4,047 in 2018

The increase in our revenue reflects the rise in regular hirers and the start of a resurgence of casual bookings. Not all of our hirers are using the hall every week, some are only once a month, but overall we are pleased with the direction of travel.

The hall cost us £5,291 in general running costs and in addition we spent £2,940 on major repairs/renovation. There is still a shortfall between income and general running costs but with the increase in hirers we hope that the hall will 'wash its face' in 2020. In line with that aim we reviewed our casual hiring fees and increased them slightly, revised our hall hire agreements, both regular and casual and standardised the regular hirers fees.

Remembering the advice of the Archdeacon when he visited us we have focussed on promoting the hall availability to the local community and it's a visible sign that St. Mary's is open for business.

We continued the remedial work to the hall started in 2018, replacing all the toilets and wash basins. At the end of the year we had still to finish the redecoration and that is planned for 2020. Hirers have commented positively on how attractive our hall is and appreciate our efforts to keep it maintained to a good standard.

In addition to major repairs we also cleaned out and reorganised the inside store cupboard which had a legacy of items cluttering it up, no longer owned or recognised by current hirers. There's now a system for stacking the tables and hirers have been told to store anything they wish to leave in the hall in lidded, marked plastic boxes on the shelving provided.

Our thanks to all involved in maintaining the hall and encouraging hirers and particularly to Steve Joy, our Caretaker, without whom we wouldn't be able to operate the hall.

Phyllis Wickenden and Francine Johnson

Social & Fundraising Report 2019

The efforts to build a cohesive, friendship and support community at St Mary's continued in 2019 and are bearing fruit.

A new initiative has been the free Community Coffee Morning which takes place every Thursday morning at 10.30 am in the Church Hall, timed so that attendees of the mid-week Eucharist can attend although that's not a requirement. By the end of the year we had a strong group of regular attendees and regular helpers, some of them new to St Marys, a very positive sign.

As in previous years we had a Curry Night at the Café Masala, our Ladies Wot Lunch group met every other month throughout the year and we actually got a couple of hungry gentlemen to join us – something we hoped for last year!

We continue to support Harp through regular donations and also the Southend Foodbank. Collections at the series of organ concerts held throughout the summer were donated to the Children's Society.

We also hosted a Maundy Thursday supper to which the congregations of the Salvation Army and Friars Baptist Church were invited. A very good community event.

The highlight of our social year was a Barn Dance in October, a great success which we hope to repeat in 2020.

We would like to thank everyone from the kind staff at Café Masala to our team of coffee/tea and cake makers and the organisers of the Ladies Wot Lunch club who not only find venues but round us all up and arrange lifts.

We have reinforced our community and it's expanding too.

Phyllis Wickenden and Francine Johnson

Fabric and Finance Report 2019

Finance

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL ST MARY THE VIRGIN NORTH SHOEURY

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT – YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019

2018 TOTAL	INCOMING RESOURCES	FUNDS		TOTAL FUNDS
		UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED FUNDS	
	Voluntary Income			
	Planned giving -			
9,078	Stewardship Donations	11,335		11,335
1,587	Plate Collections	1,883	60	1,933
205	Flower Fund Donations		150	150
224	Sundry Donations	165	261	426
2,898	Gift Aid and Small Donation Tax Recoveries	3,182	208	3,390
	Income from Church Activities –			
	Fundraising	255	421	676
4,263	Church Hall lettings	4,967		4,967
260	Magazines (including advertisements)	250		250
2,741	Occasional offices	1,726		1,726
627	Interregnum Fees			
	Other Income			
170	Insurance Claims			
	VAT refund	5,554	5,555	11,109
	Interest			
415	Interest receivable	411		411
£22,468	TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	£29,728	£6,645	£36,373

	RESOURCES EXPENDED	FUNDS		TOTAL FUNDS
		UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED FUNDS	
	Charitable Donations		527	527
	Stewardship costs	187		187
	Church Activities			
16,747	Diocesan quota	12,157		12,157
1,179	Clergy & Pastoral assistant	486		486
	Church Running Expenses –			
5,356	General Maintenance	177	626	803
	Major Repairs	35,860	35,860	71,720
2,944	Utilities & Insurance	2,549		2,549
179	Cost of services	443		443
844	Musical Director	1,216		1,216
59	Cost of Flowers		186	186
20,578	Churchyard Upkeep		2,686	2,686
308	Parish Magazine Costs	350		350
5,783	Church Hall - Running expenses	5,291		5,291
	Church Hall Major Repairs	2,940		2,940
182	Fundraising Expenses	174		174
10	General Administration	1,019		1,019
£53,169	TOTAL OUTGOING RESOURCES	£62,849	£39,886	£102,734
(30,701)	NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	(33,121)	(33,240)	(66,361)
42	UNREALISED GAINS ON INVESTMENT		569	569
	TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS	(200,000)	200,000	
88,323	BALANCES AT 1ST JANUARY 2019	245,407	112,267	357,664
£357,664	BALANCES AT 31ST DECEMBER 2019	£12,286	£279,586	£291,872

(1)

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
ST MARY THE VIRGIN NORTH SHOEBURY
BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST DECEMBER 2019

2018 TOTAL FUNDS		FUNDS UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS				
200,000	Church Hall at valuation		200,000	200,000
CURRENT ASSETS				
2,540	Investment at Market Value		3,109	3,109
155,124	Bank Balances	12,286	76,477	88,763
£357,664		£12,286	£279,586	£291,872

REPRESENTED AS FOLLOWS

Funds				
245,407	Unrestricted		12,286	
2,540	Restricted - Chancel Repair Fund	3,109		
84,355	Fabric Fund	53,474		
24,370	Churchyard	21,683		
846	Music	846		
146	Flower Fund	148		
	Fundraising Projects	326		
	Church Hall	200,000	279,586	
£357,664			£291,872	

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on

2020 and signed on its behalf

(CHAIRMAN)

(CHURCHWARDEN)

The notes on page 3 form part of these accounts

Reflecting the turnaround in the fortunes of St Mary's which started with the Revd. David Pierce's arrival as our lead minister in December 2018, our finances have started to improve too. We are not out of the woods by any means but our income increased by 8.8% compared to 2018.

We are just about covering our day to day running costs but were not able to pay our full Parish Share. The diocese confirmed that we paid £12,156.75 for 2019 - 75% of the assessed share agreed by Synod and, to quote the diocese "you have more than covered your costs of ministry. I can only say that your efforts are very much appreciated".

However our Parish Share assessment for this year reflected a special grant authorised by the Archdeacon and this has not been made available to us for 2020, meaning a Parish Share of £24,000 has been requested.

Coming into 2019 our capital reserves were healthy but earmarked for major projects one of which came to fruition during the year – the Spire repair. This has reduced our reserves but was a very necessary and long awaited project.

Repairs to the Church Spire

This was the year that finally saw the repairs to the Church Spire roof and internal supporting structure. Bakers of Danbury carried out the work, a project that cost £75,000 in total, including architect's fees and after reclaiming VAT on Bakers invoices. It was a long project and I personally would like to thank my long suffering husband, Stephen, who was always on hand to go up a ladder (or 3 to get to the very top) and photograph the progress so that we could not only see the progress at particular stages and ask questions but also have a full photographic record of the whole process for the future. Once the spire was opened up it became apparent that the scale of the job was larger than foreseen and internally many of the old beams had to be cut out and replaced. But the final effect is a striking zinc clad roof which emulates the shape of the wooden one it replaced and will hopefully last for many years to come.

Whilst this project came to fruition in 2019, particular thanks must also go to John Tuff for all his hard work in preparation over many years.

Rewire and New Lighting System:

The PCC continues to discuss the rewiring of the church with the aim of reviewing the lighting at the same time. However the focus of efforts this year were directed to the Spire Repairs.

Churchyard

Two gardeners continue to maintain the churchyard for us and we would like to thank them but also Tony Pond who as well as carrying out additional major projects has organised Churchyard Working Parties that take place once a month (2nd Saturday, 2-4pm). His oversight of the churchyard and recommendations have been crucial to our efforts to bring the churchyard maintenance back up to a very good standard.

Francine Johnson, Treasurer

Reports not forming part of the Annual Report

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT 2019

3 meetings were held during the year and apart from the general business of the Deanery, such as Parish Share, vacancies, events, the special subjects covered at Deanery Synod in 2019 were:

A Presentation on Education by Tim Elbourne the Diocesan Director of Education There is an aim for the engagement of churches in all schools. Small number of churches here have good links with schools. Ministering to children gives us a ministry to the parents as well

A Church plant at St John's and Seeding at St Mark's was discussed in June. The Diocesan vision is to grow new Christian communities. This has been done this since St Cedd. Specific goal and target is for 101 new Christian Communities over the next 10 years.

A Presentation on the missionary work of the Church by Church Missionary Society (CMS).

In November John Orchard gave a presentation on the work of CMS in the UK, Africa and Asia.

Francine Johnson, Deanery Synod Representative

Churchwarden's Report 2019

The events of 2019 affecting our church cannot be documented without first mentioning the losses our church family suffered. We saw the passing of Barbara Tuff, Ken Hastings and Kath Berg who were three faithful and loved members of our congregation. We miss them deeply but are reassured that they are now at peace with God.

Michael Crabb retired as Organist and Choirmaster after many years of service. With no adequate replacement available our choir have resolutely continued to lead our musical worship and Denis Garne has stepped up to support them as much as he can. It is still hoped that a full-time replacement can be found and that we will have the funds to return to this side of our worship.

The year started with a Sunday lunch in the Church Hall cooked by Craig for the congregation, who subsequently took up the post of Churchwarden. We entered the year with hope as David Pierce our newly appointed Lead Minister instigated a 10am Sunday Family Service in addition to our continuing 11am Eucharist. Morning and evening prayer were re-established on Mondays and Thursdays and a mid-week Eucharist service which was followed by the new initiative of a Community Coffee morning.

We reached out to our sister churches at Easter with a Maundy Thursday service to which the Salvation Army and Friars Baptist Church were invited. Social activities continued regularly through the year. As well as the regular "Ladies What Lunch" we also had a Curry Evening at café Masala and a Barn Dance in autumn.

A churchyard work party was instigated to meet regularly each month to improve the upkeep of the church grounds to match the external repairs of the church spire which finally had works approval though did not commence until June of 2019. This was the culmination of many years of effort by many members and past members of the PCC and was brought to a successful implementation through the efforts of Francine and Stephen Johnson who made immense efforts and devoted considerable time to keep the project on track and within budget.

Despite many Banns readings sadly none of the couples were married in the church. Safeguarding training was completed in September enabling the policy to be published on our website and put into action throughout our activities. Phyl and Francine worked to regularise the organisation of our Hall hirers both regular and casual and steadily built our income from this valuable asset.

We can report that the Church Plate and furnishings are in good order. Church linen is now in need of replacement and should anyone have white linen or cotton side tablecloths they would be willing to donate they would be gratefully received.

It has been a year of loss and change but slight growth, we look forward and pray for St Mary's to continue to grow to serve our parish and community.

Pat Fitch and Craig Hunter

Incumbent's Report – 2019

“What is Church?”, Why are we here?”

These are the two themes I have focussed on during this year and I will use these questions as the structure of this report.

I have been Lead Minister for just a year, and so I can reflect on “A Year in the Life of St. Mary North Shoebury”.

You will have heard me say that purpose of a community of Christians is to meet to worship God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and to support each other on our Christian and life journeys.

It has been a year of change, which I promised would happen when I joined St. Mary's a year ago.

During the year there were some sad events. Barbara Tuff, Ken Hastings, Grace Isbell and Kath Berg passed away. There may well have been others who were once active members of our church but who have moved away.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Worship

Our first task as a Christian community, also known as “church”, is to meet and worship God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The worship at St. Mary's is good, and honest. By that I mean that it is suitable for a village church in a rural setting. More of that later.

During this year, there have been changes in worship. We have started a 10:00 service on Sunday. This new service is for those who prefer a more flexible and informal approach to worship. On the first Sunday of the month, the service is “Eucharistic”, on the other Sundays it is a “Service of the Word”. Out of necessity, we have used recorded music.

One advantage of an informal service is that it can be interactive. The congregation are able to take part, ask questions, change the hymns, make comments. I know that this will not suit all tastes, so the 11:00 service has remained a Eucharist Service in the traditional style and will continue as such.

At the end of September, after many years at St. Mary's, Michael Crabb retired. This meant changes did happen at the 11:00 service. Apart from losing him as our organist, it left the choir without a choir master. We have tried to recruit a replacement, but to no avail. There are too many bigger churches also looking for a choirmaster, and choirmasters are thin on the ground. The search

continues, and Denis Garne has volunteered to play in the meantime. For a while there was no choir, and consequently we lost three more valuable members of our congregation.

In spite of there now being two Sunday Services, and the changes following the retirement of Michael, numbers have held up, and are increasing, but are not consistent.

There was once a time when regular church members felt the need to attend church every week. Those days are gone and are unlikely to return so when we look at numbers, we really need to consider the timeframe of a month.

On Thursday morning, there is a simple service of Holy Communion. This has attracted new members and is slowly growing. It is followed by a “Community Coffee Morning”, but more of that later.

Lastly, on the subject of Worship, we also say Morning and Evening Prayer on Monday and Thursday. In the winter months, Evening Prayer has stopped, and will start in 2020 in Lent.

This simple service, which includes a reflection on the Bible readings of the day, and a short discussion on these readings, has attracted a loyal following. It will continue, and I hope will grow.

Spirituality and Nurture

Part of the role of a church is to encourage its members to grow in faith. This may be through prayer whether public or private. It might be through encouraging people to take part in study groups. In 2019, we have addressed spirituality and nurture.

We have tried to embed both spirituality and nurture in our new 10:00 Sunday service, in the mid-week communion service and in Morning Prayer on Monday and Thursday. Of course, I commend all these to you, and would encourage each of you to try to attend them if you can.

In Lent 2019, we started a study of “Serving with Accountability”. I am sure that those who were able to attend this short course will recognise the headings I am using for this report.

On Sundays during the year we followed the Lectionary. Week by week we looked at St. Luke’s Gospel and thought about some of the challenges that this presents to us. In doing so, I hope that the challenges presented by St. Luke helped us each of us to consider what being a Christian in the 21st Century means.

Prayer, and Bible study are also essential parts of a growing faith. If one or the other is missing, I am not sure our faith is growing, and I encourage you all to make every effort to pray each day and study, not just read, the Bible. There are many study books available. Please talk to me if you would like to know more.

Evangelism

Evangelism is one of the more complex aspects of “Serving with Accountability”. At a personal level, there are many of us who do all we can to look out for opportunities to share our faith, but as a church, maybe this is something we can look to improving. Maybe we can try to reflect on what Evangelism means to us as a church, and find some way to address this.

Of course, the Thursday “Community Coffee Morning” is one way in which we reach out into North Shoebury and share the Gospel message. We support HARP and the food bank, but I am not sure this could be regarded as an activity embraced by the whole church. Maybe we could address this too in 2020.

Vocation

We are all called to serve God. That is one reason we attend church. We should take time, maybe as we pray, to consider what role God has for each of us. Some are called to be ministers, some to care for others, some to guide and instruct, and so on. For more in this read 1 Corinthians 12.

We, as a church, are encouraging our members to take a more active role in the life of the church. The 10:00 Sunday morning service is “lay led”, giving those involved time to develop new skills. This will continue into the new year, and I hope the number of people who share in the active leadership of this service will grow.

Service

During the Lent course, I asked “How is St Mary’s Church a blessing to our community?”

We offer a place to pray, but we have to keep the church locked. We are a place where for generations, people have brought their family members for burial, but do we really reach out to those who faithfully maintain their graves and burial places? I am aware of all the work and care undertaken by a small group, but I am thinking now of our role as a whole church.

Our community coffee morning reaches out to those who are lonely. We could, as a church, offer our services to the local school to hear children read, or offer support in other ways.

Earlier in this report I mentioned that we are a village church in an urban setting. This change has happened in the lifetime of many members of the church.

I wonder if we could think about this during 2020? What are the characteristics of a village church? I imagine social events, flower festivals, community concerts. At Harvest we held a “Barn Dance”. This was attended by members of the community who saw it advertised on the Internet. What about the Internet? Could we use it better?

Hospitality

So the question is, “What are we doing to ensure that our church is a place of safety and welcome for all ages and for people of all backgrounds?”

I think many of the issues this raises are addressed earlier in this report. I think we are all aware that, actually, we are hospitable. I think the importance of our Community Coffee Morning is often not appreciated.

But it is also the case that those who take an active part are drawn from a small group. We have done well in the last year, so as we look to the new year, let us try and encourage more people to be involved in our activities.

Interdependence

We have during this year developed relationships with The Salvation Army, and Friars Baptist Church. We shared our Maundy Thursday “agape meal” with them. I meet the leaders of these churches, and with Louise Williams from St. Andrew’s and St. Peter’s, and with the other churches. As we face the future, I think we will need to grow closer to these churches. It would be good if maybe our PCC could meet with the PCCs of the other churches.

Generosity

Lastly, how generous are we? Several issues came to the surface late in the year. Before we consider whether there are signs of generosity towards the wider community, we have to ask ourselves if our church is financially secure. The clear answer is no, it is not financially secure.

This is not a matter of faith, this is a matter of fact. We have to raise more money, and how we do that is a matter for the whole church.

The building we all value so much is a Grade II* listed building. We have a responsibility to maintain it, and that is a drain on our funds. But our church building is also one of our greatest assets. In 2020 let us, as a church, consider how we can put this to better use.

I mentioned earlier in this report that we live in an age where it is no longer the habit of members of the church to feel that they need to attend on a regular weekly basis. This is the world we now occupy, and I see no sign that this will change. So every Sunday we do not attend, those who give through the plate do not give through the plate. It would help the finances if all regular members who consider St. Mary’s to be “their” church were giving through the bank. In this way at least we can generate a predictable income.

Another way to raise income is to grow our numbers. We have done this through the 10:00 Sunday service and the mid-week service of Holy Communion, but we could do more. I am of the view that by taking on the role of village church, by reaching into schools and other organisations, by becoming more visible, this can change. We are described as “the church behind ASDA.” Wouldn’t it be lovely if ASDA was described as “the supermarket near St. Mary’s”?

This will not happen overnight, but we need to become a more visible presence in the community.

That work has already started, I hope and pray that it will continue in 2020.

God bless

David