



**Diocese of Chelmsford**

**St Mary The Virgin  
North Shoebury**

**Annual Report and  
Financial Statement 2022**

**For Correspondence**

Tony Pond  
114 Caulfield Road  
Shoeburyness  
Southend-on-Sea  
SS3 9LW

**Bankers**

Barclays Bank plc  
174 The High Street,  
Southend-on-Sea,  
Essex. SS1 1JX

Report approved by the Parochial Church Council at its meeting on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**Annual Report 2022/23**

**Background:**

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the parish of St Mary the Virgin North Shoebury has the responsibility of cooperating with the Lead Minister in promoting the whole mission of the church – pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The council also has responsibility for the maintenance of the church and the church hall.

**Membership:**

Members of the PCC are either ex officio, elected at the Annual Parochial Church meeting (APCM) or co-opted in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. The PCC is obliged to meet a minimum of four times each year but may meet more frequently. The current timetable for the PCC is to meet ten times per annum.

The Standing Committee is required to exist by law. It may transact business between meetings subject to the directions given by the PCC.

## **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH VESTRY MEETING**

To be held in St Mary's Church Hall on Sunday 1st April 2023 after the 10.30am Service.

### **AGENDA**

Prayer and welcome

Election of Churchwardens

## **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

To be held in St Mary's Church Hall on Sunday 1st April 2023 immediately following the Vestry Meeting.

### **AGENDA**

Please notify the Chair of any AOB

**Questions and comments on the reports submitted.** (Please read these in advance).

### **Elections:**

Election of PCC members

Presentation of Accounts

Appointment of an Independent Examiner for the next APCM

Electoral Roll Report.

Lead Minister Address

Any other business

Closing Prayers

## **PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT**

PCC meetings are typically held monthly and there have been 7 PCC meetings between May 2022 and March 2023 (meetings are not normally held in August or December).

All meetings commence at 7.30pm and meeting dates up to March 2023 were as follows:

10th May 2022	7th June 2022	5th July 2022
No meeting in August 2022 (Summer Break)		
No meeting in September 2022 (due national mourning on the Queen's Passing)		
18th October 2022	23rd November 2022	
No Meeting in December (Christmas Break)		
18 <sup>th</sup> January 2023		
No Meeting in February (apologies from more than 50% of PCC)		
1 <sup>st</sup> March 2023		

Agendas are circulated approximately one week before each meeting, with Minutes being issued prior to the next meeting, both electronically as far as possible reduce printing and postage costs. Printed copies are available as required.

At each meeting, the Minutes of the previous meeting are confirmed as accurate, or amendments made as required and then signed by the Lead Minister or Lay Chairperson. Actions previously agreed are reviewed during the meeting to update PCC Members and to ensure an accurate record is kept. Standing Agenda items every month are Safeguarding, Finance and Fabric Matters, with other items added as necessary or appropriate throughout the year.

### **PCC Members for 2021/22:**

Revd Hannah Robinson (Chair), Tony Pond (Church Warden), Craig Hunter (Church Warden) Francine Johnson (Treasurer), Pat Fitch (Safeguarding Officer), Denis Garne, Phyllis Wickenden, Suzanne Jones, Michelle Waters and Sue Arnold (Vice Chair).

Michelle Waters stood down as PCC Secretary during the year and we thank her most sincerely for her service to the parish.

Our meetings have been both light-hearted and enjoyable whilst maintaining a proper sense of responsibility for the finances, the upkeep of our church and hall as well as addressing matters of worship. We have been mindful also of our duty to parishioners and the wider public which comes with those responsibilities.

By the visitation in the summer the PCC will be compliant with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

I would like to thank Tony, Craig and Francine and the members of the PCC for their advice and help during the year. Especially Suzanne who has helped me with PCC minutes.

*Revd Hannah Robinson (Lead Minister)*

## LEAD MINISTERS REPORT

I officially joined St Marys full time at the end of June 2022, but had been covering services part time since September 2022. Peter and I were immediately made to feel welcome and at home and we thank you for the welcome.

From the very beginning Tony Pond, Craig Hunter and I formed a team and after Monday morning prayer we go to the Parsons Barn for a team meeting and breakfast (which we each take a turn to buy). At these team meetings we do a quick review of the Sunday service. Then look ahead at our diaries and talk about the church and what needs doing.

In September we held our Patronal Festival and it was great to see a packed church followed by celebratory cake and bubbly. It was a lovely and happy. But what a difference a week makes. A week later we were back at the church mourning the death of the Queen. We held a prayer service and rang the bell for each year of her life on Friday. We then held a memorial communion service on Sunday. Our church was open for people to pray in and sign a book of condolence and we had over a 100 people come to sign the book. A big thank you to everyone who sat in the church and talked to the people who came.

Also, in September we launched our new family service 'Xplore' which takes place on the last Saturday of the month at 4pm. The service uses science as a different way of teaching about Jesus. We've had walking on custard, dactylology (looking at fingerprints) and gravity. We have a dedicated group of families who come monthly, and it is lovely to see everyone enjoying themselves as well as learning more about Jesus and science.

At Harvest we hosted a joint fish and chip beetle drive with South Shoebury parish. A big thank you to Francine Johnson and Phyl Wickenden for organising the event and thank you to everyone who turned up. It was a good evening and I thoroughly enjoyed taking part in my first beetle drive and unexpectedly winning was a slightly embarrassing bonus.

In December we held our Christmas party with entertainment from people contributing their talents. It was a well-attended evening and the young people from Xplore stole the evening with their dance from Matilda the Musical which they learnt only that morning. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the evening it was an enjoyable night.

We had a full programme of Christmas Services – beginning with a chocolate nativity in our All-Age Service, it was hands down, the funniest Nativity I have done. I need to thank Tony Pond for getting all the chocolate (and there was a lot).

It was lovely to see a full church (the first since Covid – I understand) for our Christmas services, beginning with the Carol Service, then the fun but chaotic Crib service and finally our joint midnight mass with Holy Trinity. Thank you to everyone who contributed with readings, prayers, acting as sides people. Finally, a big thank you to the Johnson family for organising the tea lights on the path to light the way for midnight.

After Christmas we launched a new fundraising plan, to replace our current vestments which are now beyond repair with some new ones, particularly for the arrival of the new priest. We kicked off in January at our all-age service where we invited people to come up with different ideas for fundraising. I would like to thank everyone's for their generosity in

contributing to the vestment fund. We have been holding a fundraiser a month and each month I am blown away by everyone's response.

In January we also hosted the first community hub, which was launched in partnership with Asda and SAVS. Every month different community organisations come and link up with each other and the community who come and join us for a coffee morning. One of the success stories I have heard is a new COPD support group who now meet after a meeting between a COPD sufferer and a COPD nurse. This would not have happened if it was not for the community hub. Thank you to everyone for welcoming in the community and our guests on these Thursdays.

Finally in closing, I want to encourage you to continue to move forward, be outward looking, take chances and most importantly have fun and laugh. I know you will make the new priest as welcome as you made Peter and me. As one of my favourite verses says. "I planted (as in Paul), Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. <sup>7</sup> So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth." 1 Corinthians 3:6-7.

As you look forward to welcoming a new priest who will lead you in your future, I want to encourage you to keep looking for ways of planting seeds and watering the seedlings and continue to pray and trust God for growth.

I know you will continue to help and support Tony and Craig, being church warden at times is a full-time job and they will warmly welcome any help offered. Please know I will continue to pray for you all and I'm sure will continue to hear how you are all doing.

*Revd Hannah Robinson (Lead Minister)*

## **CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT**

Over the last year we have undertaken several works.

Furniture & Fittings –

The church fabric and silver are intact and accordance with the Terrier is complete and unchanged with no disposals and the addition of a new hymn board facing the choir donated by Gill Purnell.

- Silver chalice, Ciborium and Plate are in good condition.
- All brass candlesticks are in good condition.
- Altar linen cloths and Altar frontals are showing their age, however they will serve us well for a little longer, but will eventually need replacing.
- The Lectern, pulpit and lectionary drapes are in reasonable condition considering their age.
- You will all be aware by now that the Vestments in church have suffered badly over the past few years. We are currently in the process of having some or all replaced through fundraising, and our thanks go to all who have so generously contributed so far. The PCC has approved the disposal of the damaged one with agreement of Archdeacon Mike Power.
- The brass collection plate, baptism jug and bowl are in good condition.

- We would note here that, although the above are in good order, assistance in more regular cleaning by others would be most welcomed.
- The electric organ is in good working order.
- The pipe organ sadly needs attention, and although very rarely played, if we are to keep this instrument in the church for the future, money will have to be spent on its maintenance.
- The scroll of past clergy has been updated recently and is now back in place. Our grateful thanks go to John Tuff for carrying out this task.
- The electrical installations are all in good working order. In the past year minor repairs have been carried out by Masons to correct a fault within one of the heating switches. Since the new lighting spotlights were installed the church interior has taken on a much brighter appearance, especially within the Chancel and Sanctuary.

The 2021 Quinquennial report highlighted many items needing attention, A structural survey of the Church building was commissioned to investigate the cracks identified and to elicit their cause and status. In summary the church building was found to be stable and not under threat as the cracks in the structure were judged to be of considerable age probably initiated by gradual settlement and recent weather changes. They will only require visual monitoring.

As part of the investigation of cause in the movement of the building it was established that the French drain installed to lead damp away from the structure some decades ago was clear and unclogged internally by inserting a camera near the southeast corner. During this inspection it was discovered that plastic sheeting had been placed under the shingle to discourage the overgrowth of weeds.

With the agreement of the PCC, we are in the process of applying for a faculty to have the lower areas within the main body of the church and the vestry repaired, and repainted. This will in the short term cause some disruption to services, but in the long term make for a cleaner and brighter interior.

During spring there was evidence of a bat roost within the church building which required the covering of pews and other areas with plastic sheeting to minimise risk to users. As this incident was short term it was concluded that the presence was due to a temporary “nursery”. It is likely that this will reoccur this year.

The cleaning of the church weekly has been undertaken by the churchwardens. We urgently need further volunteers to help regularly following the withdrawal due to health concerns by Frank & Roz. We give most grateful thanks for their energy and dedication during the year.

Since Craig and I launched the Grow your Church campaign back in January 2022, and with the energy and total commitment shown to St Marys by Rev Hannah in her time with us as Lead Minister, we have seen significant growth and a much greater outreach into the Parish of North Shoebury. Added to this we now look forward to a new Priest who will continue the work of building God’s kingdom in this place.

*Tony Pond and Craig Hunter (Church Wardens)*

## **CHURCH YARD**

Thanks to Tony, the churchyard continues to be in great condition. We now have the Community payback team working regularly to assist in its upkeep, though their attendance is sporadic.

During the year we have.

- Lowered the height of the yew tree (south churchyard between main door and priest's door)
- Tony organised the council removal of the dead tree overhanging the west boundary fence threatening to fall onto some graves near the fence; and to cut back tree branches over hanging the church hall roof.
- Installed energy efficient light bulbs on the path leading to the church hall.

From lack of support the monthly churchyard work party on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month has been suspended.

*Craig Hunter (Church Warden)*

## **HALL REPORT**

The hire fees for 2022 were as follows:

All hirers	£6,579.84 (£1,720 in 2021)
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2022 saw an improvement in the number of groups hiring our hall and overall usage as the final hangover from the Covid pandemic unwound. We have a lot of community groups and our own Community Coffee morning goes from strength to strength. Our hall is a great resource, bright, clean and with car parking.

The hall cost us £4,447.41 in general running costs and another £3,196 on maintenance the majority of which can be accounted for by the upgrade of all the lighting in the hall to LED strip lighting. The light is improved, it's more eco-friendly and the cost to run will decrease.

This means that the hall cost us just over £1,000 more to run/maintain than our income but it helps us greatly to maximise our exposure to and involvement in the community – effectively outreach – so it should not be considered simply on the basis of finances.

However, looking forward, the hall finances will see the impact of increased electricity cost in 2023 which we were cushioned from by our previous energy deal. We probably need to look at replacing our storage heaters in the hall (now 20 years old) as they are not all in good repair, are inefficient and not easily controllable. This may help to mitigate the increased running costs although there will be capital expenditure in the short term.

We have a new caretaker, Jane, who is doing an excellent job for which we thank her – her work is much admired by our grateful hirers. Thanks are also due to Tony Pond for carrying out this role for much of the year until we found Jane and also for keeping an eye on the maintenance of the hall. We have set up a dedicated email address for hall bookings ([contactstmaryshall@gmail.com](mailto:contactstmaryshall@gmail.com)) and Tony is now running all the bookings for both casual and regular hirers.

*Francine Johnson (Treasurer)*

## **Finance Report 2022 (See Accounts that follow)**

With a return to more 'normal' times in 2022 St. Mary's finances benefitted with an increase in both planned giving and plate collections resulting in a higher rebate for Gift Aid from HMRC too. Hall hire income bounced back strongly too and we benefitted from some one-off donations. Overall our income increased from around £23,000 in 2021 to just over £31,000 in 2022.

However our expenditure also increased through a return to our 'normal' activities but also with a large part of that increase attributable to maintenance costs in the church (rewiring project in early 2022) and hall (particularly the upgrade of lights to LED). But these maintenance costs are funded by our savings, restricted for this purpose.

We were able to cover all our day to day running expenses and in terms of Parish Share, we contributed £14,000 in 2022 (£16,000 in 2021), which although a lower amount than 2021 still around 64% (65% 2021) of what was requested. Given that our overheads went back up this is a good achievement.

As ever, the consistency of regular giving is a good foundation for our finances for which I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone.

2023 is going to be a more financially challenging year. Our Parish Share has been set lower but our running costs are increasing markedly as we were insulated from the rise in energy costs by a 3 year fixed term electricity contract which has now ended.

### **Charitable Giving**

Our challenge to raise funds for particular charities each quarter bore fruit with overall payments to charities of £1,670. Thanks are due to all who organised and raised funds through various activities throughout the year. Those benefitting were:

Send a Cow (mainly raised in Q4 2021) - £395  
Church of England Children's Society - £449  
Shoebury Ark - £266  
Southend in Sight - £405  
Southend Food Bank - £101 (with £25 paid in 2023)  
Harp - £76

### **Chancel Repair Fund - Note**

This is an investment in a unitised investment fund and as such the value can increase or decrease according to the value of the underlying assets. Our accounts show that the valuation of our holding decreased in 2022 but don't show that the number of units we hold increased from 174.04 to 176.55 with the purchase of more units through the reinvestment of dividend income.

*Francine Johnson, Treasurer*



**ST MARY THE VIRGIN NORTH SHOEBURY PCC**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**of the**

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022**

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**ST MARY THE VIRGIN NORTH SHOEBURY**

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT – YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022**

2021 TOTAL	INCOMING RESOURCES			TOTAL FUNDS
	FUNDS UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED FUNDS		
	<b>Voluntary Income</b>			
11,929				
546	12,960			12,960
	1,101			1,101
611		247		247
	13	3,296		3,309
3,131	3,482			3,482
	<b>Income from Church Activities –</b>			
1,149				
1,720	1,010	219		1,325
190	6,580			6,580
3,109	350			350
	1,747			1,747
	<b>Investment Income</b>			
8				
	68	54		122
<b>£22,393</b>	<b>£27,311</b>	<b>£3,816</b>		<b>£31,127</b>

RESOURCES EXPENDED				
	FUNDS UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED FUNDS		TOTAL FUNDS
25				
76		1,670		1,670
16,000				
56	14,000			14,000
1,348				
1,875	323	8,175		8,498
469	2,437			2,437
	509			509
2,342		385		385
254		1,456		1,456
2,549	243			243
389	7,424	220		7,644
530	572			572
	705			705
<b>£25,913</b>	<b>£26,213</b>	<b>£11,906</b>		<b>£38,119</b>
(3,520)	1,098	(8,090)		(6,992)
591		(422)		(422)
437,730	10,323	424,478		434,801
<b>£434,801</b>	<b>£11,421</b>	<b>£415,966</b>		<b>£427,387</b>

(1)

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**ST MARY THE VIRGIN NORTH SHOEBURY**  
**BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST DECEMBER 2022**

2021 TOTAL FUNDS		FUNDS UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS
<b>TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS</b>				
354,839	Church Hall at valuation		354,839	354,839
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
4,013	Investment at Market Value		3,645	3,645
75,949	Bank Balances	11,517	57,482	68,999
	Deferred Income	(96)		(96)
<b>£434,801</b>		<b>£11,421</b>	<b>£415,966</b>	<b>£427,387</b>

**REPRESENTED AS FOLLOWS**

Funds				
10,423	Unrestricted			
4,013	Restricted - Chancel Repair Fund		11,421	
47,071	Fabric Fund	3,645		
16,732	Churchyard	40,350		
686	Music	15,976		
155	Flower Fund	686		
326	Fundraising Projects	17		
322	Hall Repair Fund	326		
334	Charity Fundraising	102		
354,839	Church Hall	25		
		354,839	415,966	
<b>£434,801</b>			<b>£427,387</b>	

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on

2023 and signed on its behalf

(CHAIRMAN)

(CHURCHWARDEN)

The notes on page 3 form part of these accounts

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**ST MARY THE VIRGIN NORTH SHOEBURY**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared under the current Church Accounting Regulations.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention except for the Church Hall which is shown in the balance sheet at its value for insurance purposes. The financial statements include all transactions, assets, and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

**FUNDS**

*Restricted Funds* represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object, or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year is carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund.

*Unrestricted Funds* are general funds which can be used by the PCC for ordinary purposes.

**INCOMING RESOURCES**

All income is recognised when received and accounted for gross.

**RESOURCES USED**

All expenditure is recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

**TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

Consecrated land and buildings are excluded from the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected. Equipment used in the church and church hall is written off when purchased.

The value of the Church Hall as stated represents its insurance cover value as following an insurance review in 2020.

**CURRENT ASSETS**

Investment is the market value 176.55 shares standing to the credit of the PCC in the Central Board of Finance Investment Fund.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC  
OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN NORTH SHOEBURY  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022**

**RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT**

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

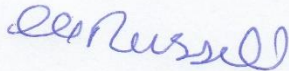
1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 145 of the Act; or

2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or

3 the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirements that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

11th March 20223



**Mr Colin Russell,  
Accountant,  
166 Maplin Way,  
Thorpe Bay,  
Essex SS1 3ND**

## **SAFEGUARDING REPORT**

Covid Guidance has been eased for worship in Church of England, but the PCC continues to assess the risk factors at each meeting. At present, for Communion services we are still not offering the Chalice to communicants but continuing with the Celebrant, while wearing a mask, dipping the wafer and offering it to the communicant. This seems acceptable and safe and will continue as we go forward but will be reviewed regularly.

In past years a DBS Certificate was valid for five years but this recently has been changed. It is now valid for three years, which means that those holding a Certificate that doesn't expire until 2024/25 can think about renewing in the next six - twelve months. All this is for the Diocese to be better organised in the future. I am hoping to help with this by taking on the role of Lead Recruiter for St Mary's but first I have three courses to attend. I have already booked the first one and will complete the others before September so that everything will be done when the new Incumbent is in place. Craig Hunter has agreed to be an assistant Recruiter and will assist me with the online aspect of the role.

It is also a directive on Safeguarding that each member of the PCC must have completed a Basic Safeguarding course and we continue to work towards this.

There have been a few incidents reported concerning Safeguarding and they have been discussed and logged and locked away, bearing in mind Safeguarding matters are highly confidential.

I do regularly contact those from our congregation who are unable to attend Church to show our concern and love for them, letting them know they are missed and in our prayers.

*Pat Fitch (Safeguarding Officer)*

## **ELECTORAL ROLL**

In 2021/2022 we had 30 people on our electoral roll. This year we must completely renew our electoral roll in line with the diocese requirement for a new electoral roll every six years. Thank you to everyone for filling in a new electoral roll form. The new electoral roll numbers will be sent off to the diocese and the original forms be kept within the safe in the vestry.

*Sue Arnold (Electoral Roll Officer)*

## **PARISH MAGAZINE**

Many of you may have noticed that the Parish Magazine has not been produced for a while. This is due to Craig Hunter having to take more responsibilities within his business as well as his duties as church warden and undertaking the diocese CCS course – which involves dreaded assignments.

We are looking to produce a small number of postcards with the service times on for visitors and to move the magazine quarterly. But Craig needs help and support in producing this. If you think this is something, you can help with. Please speak to him.

*Revd Hannah Robinson (Lead Minister)*

## ECO CHURCH

In February 2021, the General Synod of the Church of England pledged to become carbon neutral by 2030. To achieve this, every parish will need to play a part in reducing their carbon footprint. In the summer of 2022, thanks to the hard work by Suzanne Jones, we achieved our Silver A Rocha Eco Church Award. This is a massive achievement as only 401 churches across the whole church of England have achieved silver at the end of 2022 – Go Us!!!

The PCC is now looking at ways we can become a Gold Eco Church, which we are not far off. If we achieve gold, we will join only 23 other parishes with only one being in this diocese. If you're interested you can find out more information on Eco Church here:

<https://www.arocha.org/en/theology-churches/eco-church/>

*Revd Hannah Robinson (Lead Minister)*

## MISSION REPORT

Last year at the APCM it was decided that the church should choose a charity a quarter. The charities we supported were.

- 1) Children's Society
- 2) Southend In Sight
- 3) Shoebury Ark
- 4) Food Bank and Harp

Thank you to everyone for your generosity and support for four great charities. This year we are going to continue to choose four more charities with Trust Links being the first charity, which we will support through an open garden trail. This Charity has been nominated by Phyl Wickenden and Francine Johnson. You can find out more about the work of Trust Links here: <https://www.trustlinks.org/growing-together/shoeburyness/>. It would be great if people could nominate three more charities to be voted on at the APCM.

We will continue to collect for the food bank throughout the year. Thank you to Tony Pond for taking the items we collect to the food bank.

*Revd Hannah Robinson (Lead Minister)*

## DEANERY SYNOD REPORT 2022

3 meetings took place in 2022, one of which we hosted at St Mary's – there is always the general business of news of new clergy, new vacancies, finances etc but in addition there's usually a presentation. Presentations were given as follows:

**February 2022:** A lot of 'admin and updates' and planning for the Platinum Jubilee celebration services. Then Synod broke into groups, mixing attendees from different churches to discuss Hopes and Thoughts for Future Work and Plans of the Synod which were reviewed jointly. Our Deanery Dreams included: Prayers for the Community, sharing Deanery News, Away Days/Tours to get to know each other better, improving support

between churches and during interregnums, kingdom building together and promoting youthwork and sharing resources. All could be summarised as closer co-operation, increased knowledge and greater support of each other. In AOB Revd Ben Drury spoke about the Anglican and Eastern Churches association and the pilgrimage to Tur Abdin taking place in September 2022 to promote links with Syrian Orthodox Christians'

**June 2022:** A video presentation from Lifestreams about the ongoing mission at St Peter's, St Cedd's and St Stephen's. The Coffee House community project at St Peters, the various community projects at St Cedd's, and at St Stephen's the garden project – creating safe spaces, the community fridge – avoiding food waste, and the new building project to replace the old St Stephen's building. The significance of having a presence on social media was also highlighted. This was followed by a presentation on the new Parish Share scheme which is a more consultative process now.

**November 2022:** Held at St Mary's – Tony and Craig led the initial worship and were able to explain what we're up to at St Marys. Various 'housekeeping' discussions regarding clergy movements and a proposal for an 'away day' for deanery members to follow up on the suggestion that members need to build closer ties between churches in the deanery. The main discussion that followed was about Children and Youthwork – lots happening and the information will be collated for circulation so that everyone can learn from each other's experiences.

I am stepping down as Deanery Synod Rep so St Mary's is seeking a replacement to be our ears, eyes and occasionally mouthpiece in the Deanery. Representatives serve usually for a 3 year period (triennium) but it's not an onerous commitment with so few meetings each year. If anybody would like to find out what it entails please don't hesitate to talk to me.

Francine Johnson, Deanery Synod Rep.

## **SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING REPORT 2022**

Our Community Coffee Morning remains the mainstay of our social calendar and participants have also contributed to our various charity fundraisers. The Smartie challenge went down particularly well! I wonder why?

The 100 Club ran again in 2022 and helped raise general funds and will continue in 2023.

At the beginning of the year Covid was still lurking so we got off to a slow start. Many of our activities centred around our charity fundraising plan. Our Easter Bake event, Patronal flower festival and beetle drive all fell into this category. A big thank you to all who helped with and attended these events. They draw in lots more people than just our congregation and it's great to see other people getting involved.

With Hannah's arrival events increased (see her report) and have continued to do so into 2023.

As she leaves us it would be good to continue event planning and our first will be an Open Garden Trail in early June. We would also like to organise a table sale/fete, another flower festival and anything to do with cake which always seems to be well supported. Offers of help and ideas would be very welcome.

Francine Johnson (Treasurer)



## Church Statistics

Occasional Offices		2018	2019	2020	2021
Baptisms	Children under 1year	0	1	2	0
	Children age 1-12	3	0	0	1
	Over 13	0	0	0	
First Communions		0	0	0	0
Confirmations		0	0	0	0
Weddings		1	0	0	2
Service of Prayer & Dedication after Civil Marriage		0	0	0	1
Service of Thanksgiving for Marriage		1	0	0	1
Funerals				0	0
		2	2	0	6
Burials	Full	1	1	0	1
	Ashes	3	8	4	6

Attendance	2018	2019	2020	2021
Average Sunday Attendance	22	25	16	18
Average Sunday Communicants	22	20	15	17
Easter Attendance	29	37	0	20
Easter Communicants	26	25	0	19
Christmas (inc Eve) Attendance	218	214	20	39
Christmas (inc Eve) Communicants	33	34	20	19