

Ardleigh and Dedham Parishes

Annual Reports

Year End December 2020



Open all hours.....

Annual Parochial Church Meetings

Ardleigh Sunday 18th April 2021 at 12 noon

Dedham Sunday 25th April 2021 at 10.45am

Dedham and Ardleigh



during the Coronavirus pandemic

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Vicar's Report

We have just marked a whole year since the first lockdown in March 2020. In the past year there's been much discussion about how circumstances around the beginning of the pandemic in China. Early on I was reminded that the Chinese word for crisis is made up of two characters

危机 *one represents danger and the other opportunity.*

It has certainly been a very dangerous and difficult time, and many families have been deeply affected as lives have been cut short, jobs lost and at times the future has seemed very uncertain indeed. The danger has not gone away even though many of us by now have had our vaccines.

But the last year has also been a time of opportunity. We have had the opportunity to serve our neighbours and wider community in ways that we could never have imagined before.

I'm going to reflect on these opportunities and achievements as we continue to shape our ministry in keeping with the Anglican **Marks of Mission**

The Five Anglican Marks of Mission



We have lived out the good news in our communities by our loving service and by using opportunities to point people to Jesus, the good shepherd.

Apart from the period during the first national lockdown, our churches have been **open every day** as places for contemplation and prayer. Thank you to the teams who unlock, lock and clean each day making them COVID safe places.

The **Helpline**, staffed by over 30 local volunteers has to date responded to nearly 500 calls, what a fantastic team effort! Countless visits and phone calls have been made to vulnerable people, those within our congregation and in the wider community.

Two **Alpha** courses have been held on line via zoom, giving a small group the chance to explore further the full life that Jesus promises us especially in the face of uncertainty.

We've adapted our **services** to provide a rich weekly diet of recorded and live streamed worship, with my thanks to those who have got to grips with the technology to make this possible. We have added to this with our daily morning and evening prayer on line, and thanks to the team who have offered this. We currently have 184 people subscribed to the channel and nearly 16,000 views since last summer. It's been lovely to know that we have been able to reach out into homes across our local community and beyond, and serve those who may have been unable to get out.

We have continued to confidently **share the bible** with our community, believing that God's story is the only story that makes sense of life and brings truth, hope and comfort in these uncertain times. Thank you to our gifted team of preachers who week by week prepare carefully to bring God's wisdom and truth to life for us all.

Our **homegroups** have adapted to meeting on zoom or conferoo and have been places for fellowship and encouragement as they have shared time around the bible, reflecting on the

themes from our Sunday sermons. I am so grateful to the homegroup leaders for their ministry in leading these groups.

We now have a regular collection for the **Foodbank** at both our churches, thanks to the team who take the food down into Colchester for us. In May we set about a challenge to climb the Three Peaks (virtually up our stairs!) to raise money for **Christian Aid**. We ended up scaling over 14,000m (much higher than Everest) and raising over £2000. As I write a number of us are walking to cover the distance of the British Isles coastline and raising money for **Korban** which works with homeless young people in Colchester.

The pandemic is making us think differently for the future. Some of the changes we will see will come about as part of wider structural changes in the Diocese, and you can read about these in the Deanery Synod Report. The Deanery under the leadership of our Area Dean Liz Barnes, is working to create a plan for the sustainable and creative provision of ordained and lay ministry under the Five Marks of Mission.

Here in our benefice we will need to think creatively too. We must engage with the challenges presented by the climate emergency, and by the inequalities and racism in society that the pandemic has exacerbated. Many of us have started to explore the challenges presented by Tearfund in their **ReBoot** strategy. Expect to hear more about this in the months ahead.

Also on the agenda will be discussions around the Church of England's **Living in Love and Faith Report** which seeks to explore how questions about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage fit within the bigger picture of the good news of Jesus Christ? We will be asked to feed into those conversations in 2021.

Undergirding our mission and ministry are our foundations of **prayer, finance, fabric and governance.**

It's been good to **pray together** more regularly throughout the past year, and our Wednesday zoom gatherings have been especially encouraging.

Thank you to all those who work hard behind the scenes to manage our **finances**. There have been several changes in the benefice, David Druitt stepped down after 4 years as chair of Dedham's finance committee, thank you David. John Reed has taken on the role of Treasurer.

In Ardleigh Francis Perera stepped down after 15 years as Treasurer, and we are so grateful for his service to the church. I'm pleased to say that David Wright will continue and Susan Carne and Sara Marshall will now be overseeing Ardleigh finance under the PCC.

There have been real encouragements on the **fabric** front. The heating project at Ardleigh was ongoing through the last year and as of last week the remaining issue with the boiler has been fixed so we have a fully functioning system. The toilet and hospitality project in Dedham was completed in the autumn, but we were all saddened to hear of the death of Peter Gibbins in January 2021. Peter had bought that project to fruition. Thank you to all who work on these projects and maintain the churches and churchyards week to week - it's been good to welcome Andrew our caretaker in Dedham back to work after a period of absence, thank you Andrew.

Governance issues continue to be a significant responsibility – health and safety, GDPR and safeguarding. I'm grateful to all those who help with these behind the scenes tasks, and especially to Claire, Katrina, Sara and Charlotte in the Parish Office; and Amanda and Richard who have recently started as our Parish Safeguarding Officers

In all this it continues to be a privilege to be your Vicar and work with the whole church family, especially our ministry team – Merv, Christine, Vee, Peter, Sue, Claire, Amanda and Antony – thank you for your support!

O Holy Spirit Giver of light and life - Impart to us thoughts higher than our own thoughts, and prayers better than our own prayers, and powers beyond our own powers, that we may spend and be spent in the ways of love and goodness, after the perfect image of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

St Mary's Ardleigh

2020 Annual Report and Accounts

for the Parochial Church Council of St Mary the Virgin, Ardleigh

The draft accounts within this report were approved by the PCC at its meeting

On 15th February 2021

1. Aim and purposes

St Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Antony Wilson, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St Mary's Church.

2. Objectives and activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St Mary's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- a. Regular public worship, open to all
- b. The provision of sacred space for worship, personal prayer and contemplation
- c. Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved
- d. The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups
- e. The taking of religious assemblies in schools and pastoral and evangelist work with children and families
- f. Working with ecumenical partners in the village

3. Achievements and performance

a. Regular public worship for all

Sunday Services

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. COVID has meant that our service pattern has changed frequently throughout the past year, and in response to different lockdowns. We have been able to record the 8 o'clock service and upload it to our youtube channel, and we are hoping to be able to live stream it when we return to in person worship in April.

From March to July services were pre-recorded and with the help of Sam Hopkins on the production these were uploaded and made available for viewing on our you tube channel each Sunday.

Dedham Church installed a live stream camera in August 2020 and since then we have all been able to log on and join in with services during lockdown. There are currently 170 subscribers to the you tube channel. At Christmas we were able to hold in person Carol Services, but our Crib Services were all on line, as we went into the third lockdown. We also hosted a Drive in Carol Service with the Blyth family, which even got a feature on BBC's Farming Today!

We also started Morning and Evening Prayer on line and have maintained this service through the past year – thanks to Christina, Susan, Christine, Richard and Nicky for your help!

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and

to commend the person into God's keeping. We have celebrated 1 wedding and held 9 funerals in our church this year.

Church Membership

The Electoral Roll has been renewed in 2020. Currently there are 27 on the roll, 21 are residents and 6 are non-residents.

Music in worship

We are very grateful for the ministry of Geoffrey Boyle who has played the organ for us at our Sunday services and for funerals and weddings as and when they could take place.

Flowers in Church

Due to the church being closed for the heating project and then COVID-19 Easter flowers could not be arranged, however, we did decorate the Church for Harvest, Remembrance Day (porch only) and Christmas. Thank you to the members for their continued hard work and commitment. Sue Hulbert and Rita Randall continue to make sure that the flowers are presented in the Church as appropriate and are kept watered and well maintained.

Sue Hulbert

Fabric Report

Volunteers

Wow! What a year!.... yet, whenever possible/allowed by Government, we've such a fantastic team of volunteers on standby ready that we've managed to keep the church open for all except one week, and one day; and to worship together whenever possible.

Our wonderful team have been willing to step up to the mark every single day for unlocking and cleaning/locking, and for all roles in Sunday services, and that includes the extra marshalling and other duties needed at our special services - Harvest, Service of Remembrance, Remembering Loved Ones, and our ACT Carol Services.

We also have marvellous volunteers who've continued the churches floral arrangements and Harvest/ Remembrance/Christmas whole church decoration; the Friendship Group, and Sunday @ 3, as well as the upkeep of the church building.

And, of course, we could not have done it all without our wonderful Ministry Team, led by Rev Antony - Rev Merv, Amanda Watts, Christine Mingay, Richard Hopkins and Susan Carne; and also our members of the PCC.

I know we all offer a huge THANK YOU to each of the following volunteers:

Anne Auld
David Barnard
James Blyth
Yvonne Cobbold
John Culley
Richard Culley
Susan Carne
David Elden
Sue Hulbert
Rosemary Kleingeld
Christine Mingay
Pat Newton
Rita Randall
Des Thorne
Christina Volkmann
Martin West
Tony Windsor
David Wright
plus the whole Ministry team

Thank you each and every one - we couldn't do it without you!

We are always keen to welcome new volunteers to support us with locking our church, cleaning our church; and other roles to support services within our church. If you are able to help, or would like to know more, please have a word with me.

Blessings *Sue Browne, Churchwarden*

b. The provision of sacred space for worship, personal prayer and contemplation St Mary's Church

An important part of the PCCs responsibility is to maintain the fabric of the church so that it is open to all for public worship and private prayer.

Fabric Report

Such a year!..... yet God has blessed us and we've been able to keep our church open almost daily during the last year.

Both Rev Antony, and David Barnard, have thankfully encouraged companies to continue working for us during lockdowns.

The major project this year has been the heating project and we now have the system installed, which will hopefully be ready and waiting for us when we can physically be back in church. The path to its final handover (yet to happen) has been long and, at times, challenging. All went well with the removal of the pews, floorboards and the asbestos; plus the return of the boards and pews - although a few boards needed replacing and one pew was slightly damaged. The heating installation also went according to plan, and the radiators blend in so well they look as though they've been there for many years. A Plant Room within the Tower Room, was constructed to protect and hide away the many controls, the boiler and the pumps.

The boiler which was purchased by Lindseys, the first company we employed and which subsequently, went into liquidation, has actually proved to have too large a capacity for our needs and has thrown up various issues, although fortunately all issues are now resolved and we have a fully functioning and effective heating system.

Meanwhile all the servicing of the various items of electrical equipment, and necessary repairs to the speaker system have all taken place on time, despite the working challenges.

The Quinquennial Inspection took place as planned, in August 2020, and that has highlighted serious issues with both the Tower and Nave roofs, and the church's rainwater management (downpipes, drains and soakaways). Thankfully David Barnard has been busy getting quotes to carry out the priority repairs, and organising dates for this to be done; but there has had to be some slippage because the preferred firm has furloughed their staff at each lockdown.

We had a late request for a survey of bats, prior to any works starting, and this was done by a Bat Conservation volunteer, on behalf of Natural England. Evidence was found of a very small number of bats in the Tower's Bell Chamber, which is very exciting, and we hope they attract others to roost up there too! This presence of bats will, thankfully, not hold up the repairs.

David has also continued to help with many tasks, and minor repairs in our church, and that includes the hanging of photographs of past Incumbents on the new Plant Room wall in the Tower Room - definitely worth a good look! He's also organised for the rehanging of the painting 'Christ Blessing the Children' - due to go up soon. Thanks also go to Martin West for all the research and liaison about the painting over the past year enabling us to be at the point now where it can be re-hung. Rev Antony has kindly put the Fire Extinguishers on brackets, as recommended following our last Fire Inspection.

John and Richard Culley are kindly regularly checking all the drains, the Lychgate and the Tower roof to keep them as free-running as possible but we, the PCC, are aware that rainwater is THE most destructive force to ancient buildings; so we need to sort these issues as soon as possible. We would be most grateful for your prayers as we move to address these highly costly projects. We also need to make our church lavatory fully wheelchair accessible, so you'll perhaps notice changes when next there.

Currently in the specialist church planning application system, is a Faculty - our proposal - for an oak seat to match the one built near the font as part of the heating project - we'll keep you posted!

There is intent also to site two seats in the churchyard for the use of everyone for rest, prayer and contemplation - these plans are currently with Archdeacon Ruth - and we hope to move forward on this project shortly. One seat is in memory of Howard and Pamela Wright, and the other, with our very grateful thanks to the fundraising efforts of Helen Fontaine for all the work she undertook gaining photographs, and sponsorship for the production -, and sale of - , the Ardleigh 2020 calendar. The second seat will be the fruit of that labour, so thank you to Helen, photographer Gill and also to all those who purchased the beautiful calendars.

We are very grateful too for the continued support of our Parish Council who maintain the churchyard - both grass cutting and providing for any work required on the trees. Richard and John Culley have, along with Nicky Bailey, kept the paths around the church weed free and we thank each of them for their continued work.

The re-wilding of the eastern section of the churchyard, along the path near Ardleigh Court, is moving to its second year, and we are hopeful that we shall see more varied flora and fauna emerge as a result [hopefully including food for Tower living bats!] - we'll perhaps keep a log book in the church porch for you to record interesting observations and sightings of all sorts.

We believe that our lovely church would benefit from a Friends of St Mary's Group and hope that someone will come forward to start the process of creating such an association.

We now look forward to continuing the upkeep of our precious church during 2021-22. Volunteers have been, and always will be, essential to this aim. Let me know if you'd like to volunteer for any tasks related to the upkeep of the fabric and cleaning of the church and churchyard - we'd be most grateful.

We say a very big thank you to each and every person reading this - we couldn't maintain Ardleigh St Mary's without you!

Sue Browne, Churchwarden

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

Our parish continues to be encouraged by the example of Dedham who have had a pastoral group for some time. It was decided that the two groups would meet together every three months or so for encouragement and training in future.

The core of our pastoral work is the Friendship Group and many thanks are due to Pat Newton who holds it all in places as well as providing delicious refreshments aided by her helpers. Several people who have been bereaved have joined this group and, from that beginning, renewed their faith by taking part in services at the church. It now meets every second and fourth Tuesday.

As part of the care of the bereaved we telephone or write to them to offer a follow up visit after the clergy have completed their visits before and after the funeral. Every year those who have lost loved ones are invited to a service at our churches. In 2020 we held service in November in both our churches, they were well received

This is an area where we all have a ministry and it is good to know members of the congregation listen to and pray for one another in times of trouble. There are many other ways God uses us as we go about our daily life and encounter our neighbours sharing the help and comfort we have received from God.

A key part of our pastoral work this year has been the establishment of the **Helpline** which has to date responded to nearly 500 calls. It is staffed by an excellent team of phone listeners and those who make deliveries, most of which have been for medical prescriptions and food.

Ardleigh Friendship Group

The Ardleigh Friendship Group has not been able to meet that much over the past year due to COVID-19. When the group has resumed, this has been at a social distance in the church porch and bringing own cups and drinks. However, the group will start again up again on Tuesday, 13th April provided there are no changes in Government advice and will resume on 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. Those attending are asked to bring their own cups & refreshments.

Pat Newton

Evangelism Report

The signs of change were just beginning to show at the turn of the year. The plans for a new road in Ardleigh were on display, the Life Word booklets were taken from the church in Ardleigh while the new heating was installed, my eye sight was deteriorating and I was aware of a call to pray.

A visit to a cell group from St John's Colchester and a training evening in early March with them to prepare for the Church at the Boot stall promised new growth and cooperation but things did not go according to plan. I preached my last sermon on a beautiful spring morning on a farm in May. After that I had to wait till the beginning of October for fibre broadband to take Morning and Evening Prayer apart from two Morning Prayers in Dedham Church during a break in lockdown.

A verse in Psalm 68 has often come to me. It is, "the Lord gave the Word and great was the company of the preachers." I am pleased to say because of home groups and Shape there have been several new people preaching and leading. It has been a joy to see the good news about God and his forgiveness and love going out via YouTube to many people. Alpha and other groups adapted to Zoom. Also the loving service of many through the Helpline showed love in action in the parishes. In December a member of St John's helped Antony at carols on the site of Church at the Boot. I was able to write to the bereaved, the undertakers and family members often enclosing a Life Words booklet. Above all I was able to get to know God better and hear his word through online courses and prayer.

We therefore begin 2021 with thanksgiving and trust that God's Word of truth will be shared with many in the coming months.

Christine Mingay

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

We are grateful to Merv, Christine, Susan, Richard and Anne Marie alongside our visiting speakers who have faithfully preached from the Bible during last year.

Richard and Susan have embarked on the Authorised Local Preachers Course.

Several small groups have met in homes throughout the year and have provided fellowship, bible discussion and prayer for those who have attended.

We have journeyed through several different preaching series over the course of the year: Ruth, 1 Peter, The Prayer Course, Exodus, and Worship in the Wilderness for Lent *alongside the teaching at festivals and the liturgical calendar*.

We joined with churches across the country in *Thy Kingdom Come* initiative at Pentecost.

Alpha took place again and has been very successful in helping those who have wanted to explore their faith. After Easter the course took place on line and that has been successfully repeated in January 2021.

e. Taking of religious assemblies and work with children and families.

Rev Antony and Amanda Watts lead assemblies nearly every week. Amanda organises the programme with the Headteacher.

Ardleigh School

We started 2020 with high hopes for the year. We were not to know or forecast what would happen and unfold in the following weeks and months. Many of our normal events and traditions would not take place and ways of working had to change as we all adapted to the new 'normal'.

The term began with our new Christian Value of Trust. Amanda Watts, once again, explored this value with the children and ADD Club added their own ideas and opinions during the Acts of Collective Worship through the first half term. ADD Club continued to develop under the leadership of Amanda, as well as the Year 6 pupils who had been working for many years with her. Amanda also assisted in the classrooms during RE lessons.

Reverend Antony has supported the school in many different ways including leading the Collective Worship, giving pastoral support when required and participating in discussions relating to school issues. Both Reverend Antony and Amanda are incredibly supportive of the school community and are always willing to help in any way possible.

The Christian Values for the remainder of the year were – Summer 2020 – Hope and Autumn 2020 – Courage. During the first half term we were also able to participate in many different activities including community events, musical experiences and sports.

Our Friends of Association were very busy as normal. They ran their very successful Cinema Club, which is always very well attended and in February, they hosted their popular Pancake Breakfast. The uptake for this event is always very high and it is so lovely to see so many people supporting this type of activity. The pancakes were delicious and so many toppings to choose from!!

They also organised for the school to be part of the Waitrose Community Matters Token Scheme. The money raised through this project enable the Friends of group to completely develop Class 2's outside space. This area has been completely transformed and the children absolutely love working out there.

In February we attended the Young Voices Concert at the O2 Arena in London. The choir start learning their songs the year before and so by the time the concert comes around, the children are all word perfect. This is such a lovely event as the families can also come along and watch their children in action, performing on one of the largest stages in the world.

Other events that took place include Class 2 staging their own 'Pirate Day' and Class 4 staging their Mexican Fiesta as part of their Spring Term Topics; dressing up for World Book Day; hosting a Phonics Workshop for parents of Class 1 and Class 2 to discover more about Phonics; Ardleigh Pre-School taking part in a Forest School session in our Forest School Area; participating in the Puffin Festival of Big Dreams; production of our own 'School Rainbow Snake and Get Caught Reading.

In January our Year 5 and Year 6 teams entered the Essex School Games Squash Championship having both triumphed in the Year 5 and Year 6 Roman Cup Competition. Both teams played exceptionally well and Year Five came 3rd, with Year 6 coming Runners Up. Traditionally, Year 3 and Year 4 participate in their squash lessons in the Spring Term and so they began their lessons, also managing to play Round 1 of the Year 3 and Year 4 Roman Cup Competition before Lockdown 1 happened. The children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in these competitions and so were quite disappointed when Rounds 2 and 3, as well as their lessons, had to be cancelled.

During March, our Hockey team took part in the annual Outdoor Hockey Tournament at Chase Lane Primary School, which is organised by the Harwich and District Primary Schools Sports Association.

The team played incredibly well throughout all of their matches and, to the children's delight, found themselves in the final. They were up against the reigning champions and was a repeat of the 2019 final, although the team were hoping that the outcome was not the same as the previous year! They showed great determination and real team spirit to play an exceptional game and came away as worthy winners.

Also in March, we participated in Sport Relief and this was a community affair, as we invite families in to join in the activities with their children. Everyone came dressed for the run, walk, jog and the enjoyment was evident on all of the faces. Our Friends of Association helped out with providing refreshments for the tired and weary participants.

Unfortunately, all of our plans then had to stop as, in March, we entered the first Lockdown. We were still open for Key Worker Children and Vulnerable Children and providing activities for children at home. Covid-19 Risk Assessments became our focus and keeping everyone as safe as possible a priority. Welfare Checks were carried out weekly and supporting all of the families, in any way we could, took on different meanings. We were delighted when we were able to open our doors to more children in June but school was still completely different for all concerned.

Although our Year 6 children were not able to follow the Ardleigh Community Award in the same way as normal, we were able to adapt the programme so that they were able to experience some of the activities that we had planned. We were also able to hold a scaled down presentation event; outside and observing all of the social distancing measures, so that they could receive their awards.

In the same way, we were able to say farewell to our Year 6 pupils at the end of the year. We could not hold our normal Leavers' Assembly but we managed to arrange a very brief presentation, which did include parents as well – obviously observing all of the safety measures in place. We were all so pleased that we were able to do something to celebrate the achievements of our fantastic Year 6 children – we are so proud of them and what they had accomplished during their time at our school.

We said goodbye to 2019-2020 and welcomed 2020-2021 with enthusiasm and excitement as we welcomed all children back to school for the Autumn Term. We still had our Covid-19 Risk Assessments in place and the concept of Bubbles was still part of our everyday lives but it was great to have the school alive again. The manner in which the children returned to school was amazing – so excited to be back and full of positivity and determination to re-engage with school life. A different school life but one where they could participate in learning again and being with their friends.

Our wellbeing programme was in place to support any of the children who needed help and support and we adapted the curriculum to take into account the fact that many of the children had not been in school since March 2020.

The staff have been absolutely incredible and it has been a real privilege to work beside them during this time. The Governors and our parent body have been extremely supportive and I am so proud of everyone associated with Ardleigh St. Mary's CEVC Primary School.

Ms D Parker - Headteacher

Children & Families Ardleigh

"Let the children come to Me and don't hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to them."

Matthew 19:14

I usually say that I've had a varied year, this year I really mean it. I have learnt new skills and adapted to new ways to share bible stories.

Looking back to January, to what started out being a normal spring term, Ardleigh St Mary's School started the new year, new term, with the Christian Value of Trust. During Lent, as we all know, we entered our first lock down. The approach to Collective Worship had to change and Antony and myself started to develop Bible stories on line. Over the weeks, months we were able to share bible stories and reflections to both Ardleigh and Dedham Primary Schools. This involved learning new skills and speaking to a camera and not to children. I do miss the input from the children and interactions I usually get when reflecting back on the stories.

Ardleigh moved on to the Christian Value of Hope in the summer term and courage in the autumn term. I feel we are going from strength to strength with new ideas. I am still developing new styles and new ways to engage with the children so they can feel included and find the time inspiring. We try to incorporate four elements, a four-fold structure to Collective Worship, Gather, Engage, Respond and Send. We try and develop an awareness of fundamental questions of life and promote the meaning through the pupil's own lives and the life of the community.

Chitter Chatter has moved on; this is the way that stories and discussions are taken back to the classrooms. The children share ideas and these are put down on paper in many different ways, prayers, pictures, single words and stories. The work is then shared and placed into a book.

Open the box, where the children explore a story in a box in an after-school club, has been put on hold since the first lock down, as well as ADD Club.

Class 2 children were able to visit Ardleigh Church before Christmas to practice and record a nativity play (in a Covid safe environment), which the parents/carers were able to see in the

comfort of their own homes. Year 6 children still had the opportunity to create their Christingles, I recorded a video for them to follow.



I would like to thank all the staff for their support and feedback, and for all their work supporting the children and each other. It's a great community to be involved in/be part of.

We started the year using the Methodist Church for our monthly meeting of Sunday at 3, bible stories, singing, prayers, crafts and cake. Then we had a break and relaunched via zoom. Sunday@3 is not just once a month on a Sunday at 3pm anymore!

The story can be viewed any time via the Parish Website. The large brown box is still part of the story.

The Kind Stranger.



The Parable of the Two Builders.



Other Bible stories are available on the Parish website, even some for preschool children.

Both Churches have joined in with some competitions this year, lighting up Christmas, Christmas Star Trail and colouring competitions. Many thanks to the people who planned the activities. Well done to everyone who took part. Lots of people joined via the website for the Crib Service. Hopefully we will be back in both Churches next year.

My last thanks goes again to the teachers and all staff, who have put in over 110% determination to try and keep the children's education going. They have put the children's and parents/carers wellbeing at the heart of everything they are doing. They have managed to implement many changes, some at very short notice.

Looking forward, the Church, as in the people, are very much active and activities are still on going. New ideas are still developing. People are here for when you need to talk or for you to just listen to the stories, find us on the Parish website or on the end of a phone.

Amanda Watts



f. Working with ecumenical partners

Deanery Synod

We are pleased to report that we now have three members from both Ardleigh and Dedham PCCs sitting on the Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

Christine Mingay - Ardleigh Representative

David Druitt - Dedham Representative

Liz Reed - Dedham Representative

After the December meeting both David Druitt and Rev Antony Wilson were selected to the Standing Committee.

Deanery Synod Report

The Deanery Synod met twice this year, the first in February at Lawford Church where we said goodbye to the Reverend Simon Heron and wished him well for his new appointment in Cheltenham.

Our final meeting of the year was on the 10th December where 40 representatives from the Harwich Deanery met via zoom under the direction and chairmanship of Liz Barnes our Area Dean. Initially committee members from the laity and clergy were proposed and elected to stand on various committees.

We then were invited to share good news stories from our parishes about shared initiatives and Sue Browne from Ardleigh spoke about the formation of clubs within each parish and voluntary organisations which had been set up to help those vulnerable and shielding during the recent pandemic.

It was agreed that technology had become a lifeline during the very difficult lockdown sessions. The online streaming of church services has appealed to so many more people as well as our immediate church family and we praise God for this positive initiative and pray it will continue to spread his word. Zoom has also become a very necessary medium for meetings and study groups.

We report that the setting up of the MMI units has continued to be a valuable support as a learning medium for training lay people working under the direction of our clergy.

Work in Re-imagining Ministry, one of the four strands of Transforming Presence which was begun in 2012, has continued but the Area Dean suggested there is no intention to rush into formal arrangements such as changing of parish boundaries and stipendiary clergy deployment. The Dean said the aim should be a deanery close to Jesus and be guided by the four Mission priorities but we should all be wise and adaptable about our resources and involve everyone to fully utilise their gifts.

Discussions and feedback involving all the representatives were then combined to inform and discuss priorities within this document and passed on to Chelmsford for further use.

God's work continues within our Deanery as we pray for his loving presence and guidance in the weeks and months to come.

Liz Reed- Dedham PCC Representative

Ardleigh Christians Together

Due to the Pandemic there is not much to report for ACT during the past twelve months. But despite the restrictions, Church at the Boot restarted in June 2020, and all team members were asked again if they wanted to participate. The result was that we had a presence at the Boot sale on some Sundays until to its premature end in October. It was also encouraging that four extra volunteers joined the rota from St Johns Colchester.

Our only joint service of 2020 was held at St Marys, Ardleigh on 18th October. With nearly twenty in attendance, this was well supported in difficult circumstances. A clear sense of God was present, and the Holy Spirit ministered to people. The theme was nautical, including getting out of the boat. The relatively new worship group also blessed those present. There are dates for three joint services in 2021.

For the past four months we have been having our monthly meetings on line, via Zoom, hosted by Antony. These now convene at 4.30pm on the second Wednesday. One person now leads with ministry for the first period, followed by future planning discussion.

Russell Newsom

4. Financial review

Treasurers Report for the year ending 31 December 2020.

Introduction

This is my fourteenth and final report as treasurer following my retirement as Treasurer and Committee Member on 24th February 2021. I would like to thank David Wright and his team in ensuring that the weekly collections are banked timely with supporting documentation prepared on a timely basis. I also thank my wife for completing the book-keeping over the last decade and note that she will also be stepping down. David is a key and invaluable member of the team and his support this past year has been greatly appreciated.

I also offer my thanks to all those who have donated cash and given their time to organise and support fund raising activities.

Finally, I thank Mr Phipps for his role as Independent Examiner of the accounts for the year to 31 December 2021

Overview and Operating Statement

I refer to the operating statement as it is important to communicate the financial results for the year ended 31 December 2020.

To provide clarity and transparency in respect of the Finances of the Church Accounts, the Funds are clearly classified as disclosed in the Statement of Assets with comparatives. Robust financial management principles have continued to be applied.

For the year, expenses have increased by 0.3% from £26,103 to £26,187. Income has decreased by 3% from £29,492 to £28,622 leaving an operating surplus of £2,435 for the year ended 31 December 2020 (Surplus £1,589: 31.12.19). The PCC has met its allocation of the Parish Share for the year at £11,775 (2019 £8,861) in full.

Detailed Review

GENERAL FUND

Income

Voluntary Income

Total Income has decreased by 3% to £ 28,622 (2019 £29,492). Voluntary income has increased by 33% because of significant additional Donations from members of the Congregation. It is important to note that the level of comparable Total Income for the year ending 31 December 2007 was £46,000. It will be challenging to raise the level of income to these heights but clearly as a congregation we need to take active steps to achieve this aim.

Activities for generating funds

Drive-In Carols were arranged in December 2020 and this raised £1,331. However, all funds raised net of the organiser's fees were distributed to three charities.

Donations

Donations from the Roman Catholic community ceased in 2020 resulting in a shortfall of £3,700. However, the Deficit was made up by significant additional contributions from the congregation.

Income from Church Activities

There have been 1 wedding (2019 -3) and seven funerals (2019- 11) and net income decreased to £3,145.

Income from Investments

This income amounts to £1,009 and is still at historic low levels.

EXPENSES

Ministry and Administrative Expenses

Ministry expenses have decreased by 30% to £4,297 with Secretarial decreasing by 12% to £1,144.

Church Running costs

This has decreased by 17% to £7,420 and comprise mainly non-discretionary spend.

Parish Giving

This comprised the organisers costs relating to the Drive-In Carols for £960 and donations to Beacon House (£191), Children's Society (£37), Embrace the Middle East, Colchester Food Bank and Colchester Anti Loo Roll Brigade (all at £92 each).

Parish Share

The Parish Fee for the year to 31 December 2020 amounts to £10,890 (2019; £7,140) and assigned fees paid to the Chelmsford Board of Finance (CBoF) amount to £885 (2019; £1,721) and both these total £11,775.

As reported last year we are still awaiting conclusions of the working party established by the CBoF in respect of the Parish Share calculations.

Movements in other funds

General Fund - Non-operational items

In the year tax recoveries for £6,636 in respect of Planned Giving and £1,886 in respect of the Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme was received.

Fabric Fund

The Asbestos and Heating project contracts were awarded to successful contractors in December 2019. The Asbestos project was completed successfully in 2020 with costs amounting to £36,028 and the Heating Project is expected to cost £106,293 We have been fortunate to receive significant funding from Friends of Essex Churches Trust (£10,000) for the Asbestos Project and the GCG Environmental Trust (£67,500) for the Asbestos and Heating Project. The Heating Project is subject to final testing and handover to the PCC.

In the year, an anonymous donation for £16,000 was received which together with Gift Aid Tax recovered has strengthened the Cash Reserves of the PCC. In addition, £1,153 was received from the sale of surplus pews.

Vicar's Rooms

It is expected that the Vicar's Rooms Funds would be redesignated as a Fabric Restricted Fund following a meeting with the Chelmsford Board of Finance representative.

Overall Funds at 31 December 2020

The closing cash balance of the Total Funds amount to £207,698 an increase of £4,223 from 31st December 2019.

Conclusion

The Parish share is the single largest item that St Mary's needs to fund and for the year to 31st December 2020 amounted to £11,775. As with all expenses, the outgoings are funded through the General Fund-Revenue Account. Finally, I wish the PCC the best in all future endeavours.

Francis Perera ACA Treasurer

A copy of the Full Accounts can be found on the website or by emailing the Parish Office.

Independent examiner's report to the PCC of St Mary the Virgin, Ardleigh

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended December 2020.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

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 procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

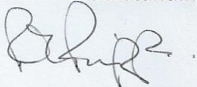
Basis of Independent Examiners Statement

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 consideration of 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 I do not express an opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with s. 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.



Mr R J Phipps ACMA, PGCE
1 Cherrywood,
Station Road
Alresford
Essex

24 February 2021

5. Reserves policy

The PCC will be drawing up a Policy for its Reserves in 2021.

6. Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

There are no funds held on behalf of others

7. Plans for future periods

PCC objectives for the current year

To explore the Anglican 5 marks of mission to help us understand our purpose as a church

To develop links with Dedham Parish

To develop ecumenical links within the village

To complete the faculty paperwork for sharing the church with the RC congregation

To raise levels of voluntary giving to support our ministry and mission

8. Risk management

Health and Safety

Regular six-monthly meetings continue to take place between the managers/churchwardens of our church buildings – St Mary's, Dedham, St Mary's, Ardleigh and the Duchy Barn with The Assembly Rooms holding separate meetings with the Trustees. Thank you to our volunteers for their continued support managing these buildings. Particularly the churchwardens of both churches who helped to create essential risk assessments for our churches to enable them to open at various times during the pandemic. We held successful fire training carried out by West One in September for over 20 people who are key to managing, maintaining and stewarding our church buildings.

Claire Arculus

Safeguarding

The safeguarding register is maintained and is now fully up to date. Dates are monitored and diarised for updates to certification, training and reviews. The register and supporting data are stored securely on dropbox, accessible by the Vicar and parish office only. DBS applications are now requested on line and ID checks carried out at the time of application to the Diocese. The process runs smoothly with direct links to Diocese safeguarding, and now further supported by the appointment of dedicated Safeguarding officers for both Dedham and Ardleigh.

Charlotte Parker

9. Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Mary's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (vicar), churchwardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

PCC Report

Ardleigh PCC has continued to hold meetings during this most unusual of years and, despite pandemic Lockdowns, we have met on 11 occasions. We are thankful that technology has allowed us to continue to meet - and therefore all essentials have been covered.

We have maintained a cohort of 7 members, plus Rev Antony as our Chair, and almost all meetings have been fully attended. We have occasional full Saturday morning meetings, held jointly with Dedham PCC, and all are inspiring and move our thinking forward, especially in the area of the Five Marks of Mission - see below. As PCCs we have also undertaken statutory Fire Training - some members even using Fire extinguishers.

The evening meeting Agendas always follow the same format, and each starts with Evening Prayer - Compline - appreciated by all.

The main areas presented/discussed are:

1. The Five marks of Mission

- Tell - including the running of Alpha and other courses, church ministry, schools ministry, and Mission support
- Teach - including Baptisms, nurturing of those in the church and teaching via Sermon series
- Tend - responding to human need - including, for example, the Helpline during the pandemic
- Transform - including praying for peace and reconciliation; and our commitment to Colchester Foodbank, Beacon House and Korban, and, more recently TearFund.
- Treasure - including our commitment to becoming more eco friendly - and during the last year we have received the Bronze Eco Church award. The eastern side of the churchyard is now undergoing re-wilding and we, as a church, will be using Fair Trade items from now on.

2. Finance and stewardship

Ensuring the continuation of Ministry and Mission as well as the upkeep of the ancient building, our Church. We have had heating put in which I'm certain we shall all appreciate hugely, and our speaker systems been repaired; whilst the Hearing Loop continues to work especially well. This year we have been unable to hold our expected Flower Festival, which always generates income - we shall be looking to further income generation ideas once we are back in church

3. Pastoral Care

We, as a church, care for all God's people and as a PCC we have an ongoing focus upon our own members as well as all parishioners of Ardleigh.

4. Children and Young People

We have had, during the last year, a talk by Donna, the Headteacher of our primary school. Weekly regular services take place in school led by Amanda Watts and/or Rev Antony. Amanda works closely with Rev Antony, the school staff team, the children, and their families, as well as our Preschools/ Nurseries and reports back on all the projects she is involved in - including now producing wonderful films and craft resources which are uploaded onto our Benefice website

5. Safeguarding

This is an important role which your PCC takes responsibility for, and we aim to safeguard everyone - both adults and children and specially those with any additional needs; as well as ourselves

6. Health and Safety

Another important area covered by ongoing Risk assessments kept up to date and copies of which can be found in church

7. The fabric of the church - see separate report

8. Deanery updates - see separate report

9.

We now look forward to the coming year when we hopefully can be together again to develop our mission and Ministry further.

Sue Browne - Churchwarden

PCC Membership

Incumbent The Reverend Antony Wilson (Vicar)

Churchwardens

Sue Browne (elected APCM 2019)

Elected members and date of election

Francis Perera (Treasurer) APCM 2018 – *retired February 2021*

Richard Culley APCM 2018

Christine Mingay (Deanery Synod) APCM 2018

Martin West APCM 2018

Amanda Watts co-opted November 2020

Christina Volkmann co-opted January 2020

Administrative information

St Mary's Church is situated in The Street, Ardleigh, CO7 7LD. It is part of the Diocese of Chelmsford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is:

The Parishes Office, The Assembly Rooms, Dedham CO7 6HJ.

Parish Office

Sadly the Parish office has been mainly shut over 2020 due to the pandemic with most of the office staff working from home and isolating. Working days for the administrator continue to be on a Tuesday and Thursday each week when office voicemails and emails are checked. When restrictions are lifted completely, the office will reopen specific days and times. As Parishes Administrator and Volunteers Coordinator, I continue to oversee the office management and administration for both Dedham and Ardleigh churches but also manage the GDPR (ensuring we are adherent to the General Data Protection Regulation implemented May 2018) and health and safety processes (in line with Ecclesiastical Insurance Guidelines) for both churches. Charlotte Parker continues to assist with administrative tasks and maintains the editorial of the Dedham Parish Magazine to an excellent standard. Thanks to Katrina Ablett and Be Burleigh for their valued support with office tasks and Sara Marshall for her outstanding finance management support.

Claire Arculus

Communications

Church Chimes is our in-house newsheet produced every other week.

Facebook – we have our own Facebook @dedhamandardleigh – please follow us!

Ardleigh Advertiser Monthly information is sent to advertise services and events.

Youtube – our youtube channel is accessible via our church website and currently has 170 subscribers

Website

The church website, dedham-and-ardleigh-parishes.org.uk, provided a useful focal point for the church community during 2020 especially during the periods of lockdowns resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic.

In 2020 there were almost a million page requests on the website, the actual figure was 924,506 compared to 188,000 in 2019. Page Requests are the number of web pages requested by visitors to the web site. The average monthly figure was over 77,000 compared with 15,000 in 2019. The highest figures were recorded in April (174,000) and May (236,000), the first two full months of lockdown.

The breakdown of the Page requests by website area shows that Articles received 71,033 requests, Media 61,711 and Calendar 17,861. Media didn't see the same growth as in the previous year mainly due to the fact services and sermons were streamed using a youtube channel.

In 2020 two other Church linked websites have undergone a makeover using the essexonline system provided by OneSuffolk.

The Friends of Dedham Church, www.friendsofdedhamchurch.org.uk and the Assembly Rooms, with a new web address, www.dedhamassemblyrooms.essexonline.net.

John Goldsborough

ST MARY'S CHURCH, ARDLEIGH ANNUAL MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 0900HRS
Held in front of the Porch in the open air for COVID-19 safety reasons

ACW welcomed everyone and informed the attendees that The Annual General Meeting consists of two meetings:

1. Annual Meeting of Parishioners followed by the
2. Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This meeting was recorded and is available to view on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8KmbUNRWMo&t=37s>

Agenda Item	Minutes		
1	<u>Annual Meeting Of Parishioners</u>		
	<table><tr><td>Present: Chair - Rev Antony Wilson [ACW] David Barnard [DB] Sue Browne [SB] Susan Came [SC] John Culley [JC] Richard Culley [RC] Barbara Hill [BH] Christine Mingay [CM] Pat Newton [PN] Martin West [MW]</td><td>Apologies: Tubby and Jean Austin James Blyth Eileen Cole Helen Fontaine Pat Gentry Rosina Harman Libby Harris Sue Hulbert Nan Percival Francis Perera Rita Randall Christina Volkmann Joan Wallis Amanda Watts David Wright Ian Young</td></tr></table>	Present: Chair - Rev Antony Wilson [ACW] David Barnard [DB] Sue Browne [SB] Susan Came [SC] John Culley [JC] Richard Culley [RC] Barbara Hill [BH] Christine Mingay [CM] Pat Newton [PN] Martin West [MW]	Apologies: Tubby and Jean Austin James Blyth Eileen Cole Helen Fontaine Pat Gentry Rosina Harman Libby Harris Sue Hulbert Nan Percival Francis Perera Rita Randall Christina Volkmann Joan Wallis Amanda Watts David Wright Ian Young
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1	Minutes of last year's Annual Meeting of Parishioners Minutes of the meeting were read by ACW ACW requested any feedback re accuracy or content of minutes - none raised Acceptance of Minutes as true and accurate record PROPOSER: Richard Culley SECONDER: Martin West VOTE: Unanimous		
2	Election of Churchwarden ACW had received one Nomination - Sue Browne PROPOSER: Christine Mingay SECONDER: Richard Culley VOTE: Unanimous SB accepted, and CM prayed for her in her renewed CW role		
3	Meeting Closed at approx 0910hrs		

ST MARY'S CHURCH, ARDLEIGH ANNUAL MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 0900HRS

Held in front of the Porch in the open air - for COVID-19 safety reasons

This meeting was recorded and is available to view on YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8KMBUNRWMo&t=37s>

Agenda Item	Minutes		
2	<u>Annual Parochial Church Meeting</u>		
	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 50%;"> Present: Chair - Rev Antony Wilson [ACW] David Bamard [DB] Sue Browne [SB] Susan Came [SC] John Culley [JC] Richard Culley [RC] Barbara Hill [BH] Christine Mingay [CM] Pat Newton [PN] Martin West [MW] </td> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 50%;"> Apologies: Tubby and Jean Austin James Blyth Eileen Cole Helen Fontaine Pat Gentry Rosina Harman Libby Harris Sue Hulbert Nan Percival Francis Perera Rita Randall Christina Volkmann Joan Wallis Amanda Watts David Wright Ian Young </td> </tr> </table>	Present: Chair - Rev Antony Wilson [ACW] David Bamard [DB] Sue Browne [SB] Susan Came [SC] John Culley [JC] Richard Culley [RC] Barbara Hill [BH] Christine Mingay [CM] Pat Newton [PN] Martin West [MW]	Apologies: Tubby and Jean Austin James Blyth Eileen Cole Helen Fontaine Pat Gentry Rosina Harman Libby Harris Sue Hulbert Nan Percival Francis Perera Rita Randall Christina Volkmann Joan Wallis Amanda Watts David Wright Ian Young
Present: Chair - Rev Antony Wilson [ACW] David Bamard [DB] Sue Browne [SB] Susan Came [SC] John Culley [JC] Richard Culley [RC] Barbara Hill [BH] Christine Mingay [CM] Pat Newton [PN] Martin West [MW]	Apologies: Tubby and Jean Austin James Blyth Eileen Cole Helen Fontaine Pat Gentry Rosina Harman Libby Harris Sue Hulbert Nan Percival Francis Perera Rita Randall Christina Volkmann Joan Wallis Amanda Watts David Wright Ian Young		
1	Opening Prayer was led by ACW		
2	Apologies for absence Please see list above		
3	Appointment of Tellers As there were 9 Electoral Roll members present it was felt that each could count and check in the event of any split vote		
4	Minutes of last year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting ACW requested any feedback re accuracy or content of minutes - none raised		
5	Adoption of Minutes as accurate record PROPOSER: Christine Mingay SECONDER: John Culley VOTE: Unanimous Acceptance of Minutes of 2019 APCM as a true and accurate record		
6	Matters Arising not on the Agenda None raised		

Agenda Item	Minutes
7	<p>Electoral Roll Report RC reported the following: Currently on Electoral Roll = 27 of which: 21 are resident members 6 non-resident members RC confirmed his agreement to remain as Electoral Roll Officer</p>
8	<p>PCC Annual Report SB reported 12 meetings of which 2 were Joint PCC morning meetings with Dedham PCC which were very positive impactful moving things forward All meetings are prayerful and are focussed around our 5 Marks of Mission There are 16 running Agenda items ACW brought to the attention of all that the Minutes of the meetings are freely available on the Parishes website ACW notified the members that Barbara Hill is now at the end of her tenure and thanked her for her time on the PCC [over 20years] and presented her with a bouquet of flowers</p>
9	<p>Financial Report</p> <p>i. Report on Financial Affairs In the absence of Francis Perera, Our Treasurer, ACW asked all if they had any issues surrounding the Finance Report - None raised MW proffered an observation that losing the £3700 funding from the RC community, as they are currently not using the church, is a big hole to fill, which we as parishioners and members will need to fill. ACW has written to members on the Electoral Roll explaining the situation. The meeting thanked Francis Perera for his continuing contribution to the life of our Church in his role as Treasurer</p> <p>ii. Presentation of the examined accounts ACW reported that as we have less than 50 members on the Electoral Roll we have our accounts examined, not audited</p> <p>iii. Proposal for the formal adoption of the Accounts ACW asked the meeting for a proposal for the adoption of the Accounts PROPOSER: David Bamard SECONDER: Martin West VOTE: Unanimous</p> <p>iv. Adoption of an Examiner for the following year It was proposed that Mr RJ Phipps, ACMA, PGCE, of 1 Cherrywoods, Station Rd, Arlesford, Essex CO7 8BU should be the Examiner of the Accounts for the coming year PROPOSER: Christine Mingay SECONDER: Sue Browne VOTE: Unanimous</p>
10	<p>Churchwardens Report - the following is a copy of Sue's prepared talk</p> <p>I find it difficult to believe I've been in role for 16 months - how time flies! Services have continued throughout the year and thanks to Antony with his technological skills recording both services, and Morning and Evening prayers when lockdown occurred, we have all, if we have internet access, been able to attend services regularly; those who don't have access had the opportunity to listen to services via their telephone and that's been hugely appreciated by those who joined. Contd.</p>

Agenda Item	Minutes
<p>10 Contd</p>	<p>I understand, this facility is about to get even more whizzy with wifi and new equipment just installed at Dedham. Sunday @ 3 services continued until lockdown with, pleasingly, a gradually increasing number of families attending; and Amanda continues to do an amazing job with recording items through both lockdown and the school holidays for all to access. We would like to reinstate Thursday Evening Prayer - please let me know if you would wish to be part of it.</p> <p>Pleasingly, and with huge thanks to all on the locking and unlocking rotas we reopened very quickly after lockdown; special thanks to all who felt able to support that during the difficult times -we've only been locked for one week since - when we had no volunteer. Martin has kindly, temporarily, agreed to do a fortnight's stint at a time in order to keep us open - if anyone can help out in future please let me know. Since the last APCM, we as a PCC have met 12 times, two of which were in meetings held jointly for whole mornings which have been hugely positive and appreciated by all. The Agendas for our meetings cover roughly 16 items, which we cover prayerfully, and thanks to Antony he keeps us moving to ensure all is discussed in a timely manner and at all times we approach all items from our Five Marks of Mission perspective</p> <p>Thank you too to all on the various Rota's - for services, for locking, for Church at the Boot and to Sue, Rita and volunteers for the floral displays. And thanks to David Wright and The Culleys who responded quickly and have service wardened our 8am Holy Communion service weekly since lockdown.</p> <p>Key elements of the year - in no particular order</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. we have the lovely new noticeboard by the south wall and lighting now both of the board and the path from Lychgate to the main porch- which is a huge plus safety and comfort wise. 2. We now have a Benefice wide fail-safe system in place for annual inspections of Fire risks, emergency lighting etc, roof alarms etc and the quinquennial inspections of fabric and electrics too - both of which have been completed this year. 3. The painting of Christ and the little children is due to be hung in Mid October when the delayed Quinquennial Repairs will be completed. 4. We've had the asbestos removed and certificated and the heating project is due to be signed off any day now. A plaque will be placed shortly on the Plant Room wall with thanks to Gwen Smith. I personally feel the whole look of our church has been enhanced hugely by the new radiators and stained floors. It. Feels and looks more loved as one walks in. 5. As part of the post heating project, carpets conforming to current Fire legislation have been laid in the Ringing Chamber, Vestry and Lady Chapel and we shall shortly have a red carpet in the children's area 6. Covid 19 has changed the way we do church but thank to you all we are keep each other as safe as we can. Special thank you's too to all members of the locking and unlocking Rotas who have been prepared to take on additional duties since the end of Lockdown as we need to clean the south pews and south aisle daily. The church being open has been a blessing to so many and that's down to the volunteers - Im sure you all join me in thanking those who do volunteer. Funerals now take place on a Wednesday in order that the 72hour quarantine is covered from Sunday and to Sunday. Thanks also to Pat, and the Friendship Group team ,who got the group up and running as soon as possible and cleanliness of the seats are washed. <p style="text-align: right;">Contd.</p>

Agenda Item	Minutes
<p>10 Contd</p>	<p>7. Thank you to the volunteers for roles on the services rota - your availability has fluctuated but we have managed - just! Currently it has been left to the few for HC but as we move to resume services in November we would be grateful if as many of you as possible volunteer again - the roles are: Service Warden Service welcomers Reader 1 Reader 2 Intercessor and Refreshments</p> <p>8. Thanks go to Richard and John who have helped with maintenance throughout the year - from sweeping the tower roof, moving furniture and effects to and from the Methodist Chapel, weeding, laying a short shingle path outside the mortuary, changing lightbulbs and the list goes on!</p> <p>9. New Bell project is still in planning stages and we await further information from Bob Barrell, our current Tower Captain.</p> <p>10. We do still need volunteers to assist in the cleaning of the church - - we're moving towards a Big Clean Saturday say once or twice a year, but need certain things done regularly in between such as the kitchen and WC cleaning regularly. I intend asking our Catholic colleagues but don't feel we can leave it all to them especially as they are not currently worshipping here</p> <p>As we move towards winter we have pressing fabric projects we need to progress - rainwater soakaways and Tower /Nave roof repairs, plus lead roofing replacement so please pray for there to be satisfactory outcomes to all projects.</p> <p>I would like to thank David Bamard, Martin West, Francis Perera and John and Richard Culley all of whom contributed to the fabric maintenance and projects of our beautiful church.</p> <p>And finally I would like to thank ACW on behalf of the whole church, both present here today and those not, for his love and leadership of us all. Thank you!</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>Other Verbal Reports None provided</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>Harwich Deanery Synod Report</p> <p>- CM said she'd been Harwich Deanery Synod Representative for a number of years and it was seen, in the past, as a rather non attractive role: but in the past few years she has very much enjoyed being part of the Deanery Synod. CM's reason being the Synod has been active in reorganising the parishes, and focussing too upon the finances of the Harwich Deanery. One of the objectives has been to enable people to feel part of the Deanery - and that goal was initiated when :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All were invited to have Fish and Chips at St Nicholas Church, Harwich, which was a successful evening. 2. Having breakfast with Bishop Stephen at Wrabness [All Saints] Church before walking along the river to Bradfield [St Lawrence] Church. 3. All Churchwardens were invited to a CWs day [NB Sue Browne on sick leave at time] 4. Bradfield St Lawrence is now the hub of the Deanery for Study and they have already held a Bible Study Course there. 5. CM assured the group we are not alone we have many friends across the Deanery. <p>- BH asked whether in COVID -19 era we can still have Deanery meetings. ACW replied that the 3 larger churches within the Deanery - Dedham, Tendring, and Harwich may be able to host such.</p> <p>- ACW thanked CM for both her report and her commitment.</p>

Agenda Item	Minutes
13	<p>Elections form those entered on the Electoral Roll of Ardleigh Ecclesiastical Parish</p> <p>a. Deanery Synod Representative It was proposed that Christine Mingay be our Deanery Synod Representative for the following year PROPOSER: Sue Browne SECONDER: Helen Fontaine VOTE: Unanimous</p> <p>b. PCC Representatives It was proposed that Christina Volkmann, co-opted to the PCC in year, should become a full member of the PCC PROPOSER: Sue Browne SECONDER: Christine Mingay VOTE: Unanimous</p>
14	<p>Vicar's report to the Benefice Antony reflected on the achievements of the past year under the 5 Marks of Mission headings and thanked everyone for their support.</p> <p>Highlights Tell - the Alpha Courses and continued work in the schools Teach - the variety of parts of the bible we have studied together and the strength of the Homegroups Tend - the Helpline which has supported so many during the recent crisis Transform - our continued prayer and support for the Persecuted Church Treasure - the Bronze Eco Church award</p> <p>He explained that the PCC have been thinking about these questions, and invited feedback from the members gathered. We all agreed that our online presence was much appreciated and would form part of our ministry going forward</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>What have we gained but are happy to lose?</i> 2. <i>What have we gained and want to keep?</i> 3. <i>What have we lost and don't want back?</i> 4. <i>What have we lost and want back?</i> <p>He shared some thoughts about what we might focus on, these come from a paper written by Ruth Valerio who works for Tearfund</p> <p>We should...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pray earnestly 2. Learn through life 3. Speak up for the poor and marginalised 4. Live lightly caring for creation 5. Give - and we have the opportunity to join in the Harvest of Talents this autumn 6. Imagine the better future that God promises
15	<p>Any other business of general parish concern or items to be referred to PCC None raised</p>
16	<p>Meeting closed at 1000hrs</p>

St Mary's Church, Ardleigh

Sunday, 18th April 2021

AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting consists of two meetings.

1. The Annual Meeting of Parishioners is open to all persons resident in the ecclesiastical parish of the church, and is for the purpose of electing the Churchwardens of the parish. All residents of the parish whose names are entered on the civil Electoral Roll are entitled to vote.

2. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) is open to all persons resident in the ecclesiastical parish and those on its electoral roll. Only those whose names are entered on the Electoral Roll of the parish church may speak or vote. This meeting hears reports on the church's maintenance and work over the past year, receives the examined or audited accounts, and elects an Electoral Roll member to serve as the parish representative on the Deanery Synod, and other members to the Parochial Church Council.

The meetings may be chaired by the Rector or in absentia by the Lay-chair of the PCC.

(1) ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS AGENDA

1. Minutes of last year's Annual Meeting of Parishioners.

2. Elections of Churchwardens for the ecclesiastical parish.

Note: The Representation Rules state that nominations for this election must have been received by the Rector before the start of the meeting

3. Any other business of general parish concern, or items those attending may wish to be referred to the PCC.

(2) ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING AGENDA

1. Opening prayer.

2. Apologies for absence received. (Not assumed apologies for those noticed to be absent)

3. Appointment of Tellers to count the votes of any elections during the meeting if so required.

4. Minutes of last year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

5. Amendments and Adoption of those Minutes as an accurate record.

6. Matters Arising.

7. Electoral Roll report on numbers, additions, deletions. *Electoral Roll Officer*

8. PCC Annual report. Number of meetings, main items of business etc. *Churchwarden*

9. Financial report including: a) report on the financial affairs of the parish church/PCC.

b) the presentation of the examined or audited accounts.

c) proposal for the formal adoption of the accounts, including vote from all eligible

d) appointment of auditor for the coming year.

10. Churchwardens report to include review of the church fabric, goods and ornaments.
Churchwardens

11. Other verbal reports

12. Deanery Synod report on the past year. *Deanery Synod Representative*

13. Elections from those entered on the Electoral Roll of the ecclesiastical parish

a) Deanery Synod representative

b) P.C.C. representatives

14. Vicar's report to the Benefice

15. Any other business of general parish concern, or items those attending may wish to be referred to the PCC. (please notify Chairman before the meeting)

P.C.C. MEETING The AGM is followed by a short meeting of the P.C.C. to elect:

a) Lay-chair.

b) Secretary.

c) Treasurer.

d) Electoral Roll Officer.

e) Standing Committee

e) Any co-opted appointments.

The meeting may also consider any urgent business that cannot wait until the next full PCC meeting.

St Mary's Dedham

2020 Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

for the Parochial Church Council of St Mary the Virgin, Dedham

Registered charity number 1130860.

The draft accounts within this report were approved by the PCC at its meeting on

8th March 2021

1. Aim and purposes

St Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Antony Wilson, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St Mary's Church and the Duchy Barn (*through oversight of its Management Committee*).

2. Objectives and activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St Mary's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- a. Regular public worship, open to all
- b. The provision of sacred space for worship, personal prayer and contemplation
- c. Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved
- d. The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups
- e. The taking of religious assemblies in schools

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St Mary's and the Duchy Barn

3. Achievements and performance

a. Regular public worship for all

Sunday Services

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. COVID has meant that our service pattern has changed frequently throughout the past year, and in response to different lockdowns.

From March to July services were pre-recorded and with the help of Sam Hopkins on the production these were uploaded and made available for viewing on our you tube channel each Sunday.

We also started Morning and Evening Prayer on line and have maintained this service through the past year – thanks to Christina, Susan, Christine, Richard and Nicky for your help!

We installed a live stream camera in August 2020 and since then we have all been able to log on and join in with services during lockdown. There are currently 170 subscribers to the you tube channel. At Christmas we were able to hold in person Carol Services, but our Crib Services were all on line, as we went into the third lockdown. We also hosted a Drive in Carol Service with the Blyth family at the Car Boot site in Ardleigh, which even got a feature on BBC's Farming Today!

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends

and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping. We have celebrated 5 weddings and held 21 funerals.

We are grateful to all those who help to run our services, not least our Director of Music, Antony Watson, and the choir; our vergers Gabbie Watson, and service wardens Be Burleigh, Suzanne Woods, Sarah Oakley and David Druitt.

Church Membership

As required by church legislation a full revision of Electoral Roll took place in 2019 when all members were requested to re-apply. This is constantly updated and there are currently 101 on the electoral roll, of whom 77 are residents and 24 are non-residents. There have been 4 deaths.

Music in Worship

What an incredible year we have seen since writing this report a year ago – what incredible challenges we have faced in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic, and what resilience and adaptability we have shown.

Never in my lifetime did I imagine a ban on collective singing in church, and that is what we have faced for almost a year now.

I recall that final service before lockdown, on Mothering Sunday, with just myself, the Vicar and Gabbie (singing) and Brebs managing a video camera. A memorable sign of things to come. With the 2020 Lockdown in March, I was furloughed by the PCC from my usual duties, as church was closed, and service provision was entirely online. I continued to make suggestions about music which could be used in video format, which was skilfully edited into the services, thanks in large due to the talents of Sam Hopkins, to which we owe a huge debt of gratitude. When content wasn't available online, we had fun recording some items at home during lockdown, and I'm grateful to my musical family for their patience and support in that regard.

With the easing of restrictions, services resumed in July, and I'm sure it was a great relief to many to see church friends at a social distance, though communal singing remained to be not permitted. Gabbie was a huge support, and by merit of being the organist's wife, we were 'sung-to', and we heard some music on CD, and some lovely 'cello music, again from Gabbie. Millie also provided some beautiful singing at Revive@5, although predominantly on Zoom.

Gradually, we were able to have a small group of singers, and we have been blessed to have the talented Hopkins family join us to be able to offer harmonies. In September, Choir Practice resumed, and it was an interesting challenge to manage choirs that were effectively sub groups of six, with different entrances, staggered departures, and the 'policing' of mingling! This enabled us to minister to the village for Harvest, Remembrance Sunday, Advent and Christmas before we were forced into Lockdown again in January 2021.

At the time of writing this report, we are holding live streamed services in church with a skeleton staff, with Gabbie once again providing the singing, until restrictions are eased. We have been richly blessed by this resource, and we have received phone calls of appreciation from as far away as France!

The organ project is currently 'on hold' as we navigate the crisis, but I hope we can continue to further a solution when things begin to return to some kind of normality. What a year!

Antony Watson

Bell Ringing

It has been a very quiet year for the bell ringing team although we did manage to ring for a couple of weddings in September. The existing guidance has suggested we ring for a maximum of 15 minutes hence we have veered on the side of caution and not rung during the pandemic.

We are a small, friendly team of mixed ages and we always welcome newcomers who would like to have a go. During normal times we meet at the bottom of the tower steps on Sunday mornings at 9am. Let's hope it won't be too long before we're back!

Unfortunately, some of the bell ropes are fraying and will need replacing at some stage. I would like to take this opportunity to say farewell and a big thank you to Colin West for all the hard work he has put in to looking after the bells and the fabric of the bell tower for a number of years. Many a time he has been called to carry out emergency repairs! He has now moved on to pastures new and we wish him well.

Anne Lipscomb Bell Captain

Flowers in Church

The flower team have provided church flowers throughout lockdown when possible and arranged flowers as a team for Christmas.

A new system of composing waste foliage and flowers is being trialled with a compost bin now constructed in the graveyard. This will save on the cost of a wheelie bin and is a more eco-friendly way of disposing of waste. There are 21 people on the rota.

Helen Sims

Stewards

During the past year we are grateful to the Stewards who have given their time to welcome people to church on the Sundays when we have been open, receive the offertory and clear up after the service. The following are proposed as stewards for the forthcoming year:

Joan Bunting Be Burleigh Lou Davison David Druitt Nigel Everett Sally Gotelee Maria Johnston Lucy Marshall Andrew McLaughlin Leonie McLaughlin Beth Mitchell	Liz Nickerson Sarah Oakley Lynda Redlich John Reed Liz Reed Anne Rowledge Jill Strangward Paula Watkins June Wilson Suzanne Woods
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Guided Church and Tower Tours

Guided Church and Tower tours were sadly suspended for most of 2020 due to the pandemic. We hope the tours can start again when it is safe to do so and in line with Government guidelines. Sadly one of our very committed tower tour guides passed away last year, Roy Laverick, for which I pay tribute.

Claire Arculus

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

Fabric Report

An important part of the PCCs responsibility is to maintain the fabric of the church so that it is open to all for public worship and private prayer. Our church is one of the most visited in the Diocese.

Buildings and Fabric Committee

The fabric committee have continued to action the issues raised in the 2017 Quinquennial report and other day to day issues as they arise. These include:

- Wall repairs adjacent to the Royal Square, buttress repairs to the south side of the church, drain and gutter repairs have been completed.
- Minor redecorating was completed following an ingress of water.
- A new bolt was fixed to the main door at the rear of the church to conform with fire regulations.
- A section of the railings separating the cemetery from the playing fields has been replaced.
- The toilets and hospitality unit have been completed.

The next Quinquennial is due in 2022.

Peter Wilson, on behalf of Fabric Committee

Church Cleaning and Churchyard Maintenance

Reverend Antony Wilson and the Churchwardens take this opportunity to thank Andrew Hodson for his commitment in continuing to maintain the Church and Churchyard to a high level. We also thank Vee Druitt, Sarah Oakley, Be Burleigh, Jo Wilson and Ruth Higginson for helping to clean the church and lock/unlock for a period of time when Andrew was recuperating after an operation.

Resource Centre

Unfortunately, due to Covid 19 restrictions, the Resource Centre has been closed to the public since March 2020, therefore sales have been nil. It is hoped that the Centre will be open once again during 2021.

Muniment Room

Unsurprisingly, there is very little to say about events of this year.

We should note that a fairly recent fire inspection has ruled that, whenever someone goes to the Muniment Room there should be at least one person on the ground floor who is aware that the room is occupied.

The 2018/2019/2020 Parish magazines have been assembled together for binding and this will proceed as soon as we can meet with the bookbinder.

There is considerable concern for the 'welfare' of the contents of the Muniment Room. Not only has lockdown prevented visits but an accident prior to Christmas has meant that it has not been possible to drive for several months. The Muniment Room really deserves someone – or two – people to visit weekly; check humidity, file and keep records.

If anyone feels that they could help in this way, please let me know on 01255 870640.

Suzanne Woods

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

Some members of our parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. Reverend Antony Wilson and Merv McKinney have visited all church members who have requested it, to celebrate communion with them either at their homes or in hospital or at Blackbrook Residential Home.

A key part of our pastoral work this year has been the establishment of the **Helpline** which has to date responded to nearly 500 calls. It is staffed by an excellent team of phone listeners and those who make deliveries, most of which have been for medical prescriptions and food.

Pastoral Group

The Pastoral Group members are Lynne Al-Sad, Ruth Higginson, Jean Flewin and Ann Shaw. The pastoral group will visit people if requested. They offer lifts to church. Cards are sent to mark a first wedding anniversary and to celebrate a baptism. The Monday lunch club has met as and when restrictions have allowed.

Bereavement Visitors

The Bereavement visiting team are Vee Druitt, Ruth Higginson and Ann Shaw. A card is sent to the next of kin soon after the funeral followed by a telephone call and a visit if requested. A card is sent to the next of kin if they are outside the immediate area. The Annual Bereavement service was well attended and well received.

Ann Shaw

Walk & Talk Group

The first Walk & Talk meeting took place in November 2020. The meeting takes place on the second Thursday of the month, we meet up at 10:00 am outside Dedham Church. The group is for bereaved people and anyone who is need of friendship. We walk for about an hour plus depending on the route and then we have a coffee & chat afterwards when allowed. The aim is to go to the Dedham Arts Centre for coffee/ early snack lunch which we managed to do last December. This is a nice chance for people to have an outing planned which is very important when living on your own.

Lou Davison

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

We are grateful to Merv, Christine, Susan, Richard and Anne Marie alongside our visiting speakers who have faithfully preached from the Bible during last year.

Richard and Susan have embarked on the Authorised Local Preachers Course.

Several small groups have met in homes throughout the year and have provided fellowship, bible discussion and prayer for those who have attended.

We have journeyed through several different preaching series over the course of the year: Ruth, 1 Peter, The Prayer Course, Exodus, and Worship in the Wilderness for Lent *alongside the teaching at festivals and the liturgical calendar*.

We joined with churches across the country in *Thy Kingdom Come* initiative at Pentecost.

Alpha took place again and has been very successful in helping those who have wanted to explore their faith. After Easter the course took place on line and that has been successfully repeated in January 2021.

Mission Fundraising

Members

Lynne Al Sad, Ruth Higginson, Liz Reed, Caro McShane, Sylvia Nodder

Activities

This has been a difficult year for all of us raising money but we were lucky in that the lockdown was eased during the summer. We were therefore able to have our monthly sales up to the end of October. There was no Winter Fair or the usual carol services to boost the funds. However we were still able to raise £2,072 through the continued hard work of our team.

Distribution

The amount we have raised during the year will be split mainly between Korban, a homeless charity in Colchester dealing with young people aged between 16-25, and the Van de Ruits (the Missionary family we support) in South Africa. A small amount has gone to Beacon House this year. Beacon House had had many grants in 2020 so were not in need of funds. We will assess the split again next year. During last year Richard and Sue had been stranded in Uganda so they renewed their ties with a church in Jinja. They are now back in South Africa. Their newsletters are displayed in the church. We also continue to support Beacon House with collections of toiletries, clothes, and sundries. There is a box at the back of church for these items. Please continue to give these items, as they are always needed. A list of their current needs is posted at the back of Church. Although Beacon House have not been able to provide their normal service,

they carried on serving hot meals and drinks and helped with housing needs. At the start of the lockdown in March 2020 they worked with the council to get as many people as possible off the streets and into some sort of housing – although sometimes this was only temporary in hotels.

Thank you to all who have supported and helped with Mission this year, especially the cake bakers. We are always looking for volunteers to help on the stalls during the year or even cake makers.

Ruth Higginson/Lynne Al Sad

Eco-Church Report

Our benefice is a member of *EcoChurch*, an organisation inviting “churches of all denominations to care for creation as an integral part of loving their neighbours and following God faithfully” (ecochurch.arocha.org.uk). The Church of England’s target of net zero carbon (carbon neutrality) by 2030 as adopted by the General Synod in February 2020 forms the wider context of our activities.

In September 2020, we were awarded the *EcoChurch Bronze Award*, based on the categories of ‘Worship and Teaching’, ‘Buildings’, ‘Land’, ‘Community and Global Engagement’, and ‘Lifestyle’. As part of our *EcoChurch* award application, we also obtained *Fair Trade* accreditation for both our churches.

The *EcoChurch Conference* organised online from St Albans in October has given us many new ideas for future projects that will help us move towards the Silver Award.

We have begun to work towards making our churchyards more wildlife-friendly. We are planning eco audits in order to have a basis for deciding on specific projects, such as (unobtrusive) solar panels or in relation to our plans for Living Churchyards. Many individuals have also inspired with their contributions, e.g. contributing to our parish magazines, switching to ecologically sound household cleaning products, reducing packaging waste, or going litter picking.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to EcoChurch in this unusual year! Please stay or get involved. Any contributions, queries, comments, and suggestions most welcome: stmarydaeco@gmail.com.

Christina Volkmann

e. The taking of religious assemblies in schools and work with children and families

Antony has taken in person assemblies when COVID rules have permitted, but mostly assemblies have been pre-recorded and shared via you tube. See below for report from the school.

Rise and Shine has been held in person from September to November, and online live stream for the rest of the year. A priority as we hopefully move out of lockdown will be to reconnect with the families who were coming to the service before the pandemic.

Open the Book has not been able to take place due to the pandemic.

Youth Report

The benefice offers a range of services for young people including Rise N’Shine, Sunday@3 and ReVive@5. Unfortunately due to the pandemic, there has been limited services where congregations can meet in person and when these have taken place, social distancing has been necessary. However, the services above have been offered throughout the pandemic either through live-stream or zoom in lockdown periods. Unfortunately there could be no annual holiday club in the summer.

ReVive@5 - a more contemporary service where all ages are welcomed, aimed particularly for high school aged children. The service is informal, friendly and contemporary. As mentioned, services have been provided either via zoom or in church over the past year. However, we have still had different speakers for certain services, these have included speakers from the Korban Project and Christian Aid as well as talks by Christina Volkmann on her pilgrimage, Dot Salmon (Diocese Youth Advisor) and a Taize service led by Rachel and Kevin Pugh. Although we have had limited meetings after Revive with the high school aged children in 2020, we have managed

to hold a successful camp-out in the Vicarage garden in September and a walk from Dedham to Flatford and back in December with marshmallow toasting in the Vicarage garden. Links continue with the parish of Langham with Boxted, with a recent pancake day zoom party with six families dialling in. We hope next year will see restrictions lifted and the postponed SOLID festival trip to resume.

Claire Arculus



Dedham Church of England Primary School

'A lifelong love of learning'

At Dedham Church of England Primary School, we equally value personal, emotional and spiritual development alongside academic progress. We value the individual whilst recognising the importance of contributing as local and global citizens in the world. We work closely with families and the community to equip children with the values and knowledge needed for the next steps in their lives.

The school now has 212 pupils on roll and 31 members of staff, including 12 teachers.

Around the world it's been a year like no other and the past twelve months have certainly brought with them challenges the like of which the education sector has never seen. As a leadership team, we are immensely proud of the commitment and camaraderie of our staff team because the success of key worker provision and remote education has been as a result of their dedication and hard work. Our families felt happy and safe returning to school because of strong relationships and communication with school staff and we hope that the past twelve months will have in many ways strengthened our school community.

The school remained open throughout the first lockdown in spring 2020 and all staff volunteered to work in school on a rota system to care for the children of key workers coming into school. Teachers provided remote education throughout the lockdown using the online platforms Tapestry and Seesaw and then when schools reopened on June 8th we welcomed back 77% of children in years R, 1 and 6. Before the summer holiday, all children in other year groups were invited to attend school for two days with their class teacher in small groups. We were delighted that 180 children (out of 209) reconnected with school in the summer term and then our attendance rate in the autumn term was 99%.

In January 2021, the school once again opened for those families who needed us and this time sixty children met the government criteria for key worker provision or were deemed by the school to be vulnerable. Provision in school was covered primarily by support staff which enabled teachers to have the time to focus on remote education provision and welfare calls. Teachers also invited children to live sessions each week on MS Teams which had the primary objective of enhancing children's wellbeing and these sessions were filled with games and opportunities to see and interact with friends.

We were delighted to be able to launch our new school logo at the start of September 2020. During the spring and summer terms, staff, governors, parents and children were invited to share their thoughts on a number of different designs and as a result, the favourite design was chosen. At the centre, is a tree symbolising nurture, diversity, progress and strength. The tree also encapsulates the beautiful setting of our school, in the heart of Dedham Vale. The trunk and branches create a cross, highlighting the value we place on spirituality and our close links with St Mary's Church, Dedham. Finally, the circle of text creates the idea of support and protection. Children have already begun wearing jumpers and cardigans displaying the school logo and we hope to have all children wearing them by September 2022. We still have Constable and Munnings as our two school houses although we are looking to build upon this two house system

to have 'family groups' within the school. One of our strengths as a school is how well our children work and play with children across other year groups and we would like to build more opportunities for this during a school year.

We became a Thrive School in February 2019. The principle behind the Thrive Approach is that all children need to feel valued, involved and appreciated in order to become happy, confident and creative children with curious minds. Sometimes, children can get emotionally thrown off track, either temporarily or over longer periods, and Thrive helps us understand the needs being signalled by children's behaviour and gives us targeted strategies and activities to help them re-engage. Unfortunately, individual and group Thrive sessions are unable to take place at the moment but we hope to be able to recommence these in the summer term when guidance allows. The Thrive approach is however a whole school ethos and we continue to work to ensure that all communication with children follows its principles.

To support the Thrive approach, in December 2020 we purchased a new scheme of work for PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education) called Jigsaw. As well as covering the statutory RSHE (Relationships, Sex and Health Education) objectives, it provides a whole school approach to supporting children's development as human beings, to enable them to understand and respect who they are, to empower them with a voice and to equip them for life and learning. Across a year, all children will explore the following areas of learning: Being me in my world; Celebrating difference; Dreams and goals; Healthy me; Relationships; and Changing me. Each new theme is launched with a special whole school assembly and there are songs to accompany each area of learning too.

This year's Priority Improvement Plan continues from last year and it has curriculum development as the key focus area. We want to ensure that we are offering a broad and balanced curriculum for our children, that it is meeting the needs of our children and that it is in line with the aims and vision of the school. The phrases 'recovery curriculum' and 'catch-up curriculum' are in common use in the media at the moment. For us, a recovery curriculum is a curriculum which gets children back into a mind-set for learning in a classroom environment and therefore during the three weeks before Easter, priority has been given to re-establishing routines and reconnecting with each other. Play, physical exercise, creativity and enjoying shared experiences feature regularly on class timetables at the moment. We don't want children at any point to worry that they are behind and needing to 'catch-up'. Teachers are experts at assessing children in the day to day classroom environment and in all years, they ably support and challenge a wide range of ability levels. Of course some children will have been affected more than others during the past twelve months and therefore in addition to classroom support, one-to-one tutoring and small group tutoring will take place for those most in need after Easter.

Our school values continue to form the basis of weekly assemblies. Unfortunately, we are not all able to gather in the hall together at the moment and so assemblies have taken place in classrooms via MS Teams. With thanks to very generous donations by the Dedham Lectureship Trust and Friends of Dedham Church, we now have an amazing audio-visual system in the school hall meaning that assemblies and other school events such as parent forums and class performances can be recorded and shared. This system was installed right at the end of the autumn term and so we're looking forward to putting that into use now that we're all back together again. Rev Antony has continued to come into school fortnightly this year and between September and December led assemblies with one class in the hall while other children watched the assembly live streamed in classrooms. During the recent period of lockdown, children were able to watch Rev Antony's assemblies at home and also watched the Church of England Faith at Home assemblies and Fischy Music assemblies. We look forward to a time when we are able to welcome back Pastor Eric Blowes, Rev Merv McKinney and the Open the Book team to lead assemblies.

At Dedham Church of England Primary School, we are extremely proud of the strong and successful relationships that we have with St Mary's Church and the community. Usually, we are able to undertake visits to Blackbrook Care Home, St Paul's Cathedral and Elizabeth Selby Infant School but unfortunately this year we have been unable to get out into the community and we have also been unable to invite members of the community into school for school plays, coffee mornings and showcase assemblies. We fervently hope that this time next year our school calendar will once again be brimming with activities and events and we look forward to welcoming friends, families and visitors back into school.

Laura Valentine – Deputy Headteacher

f. Working with ecumenical partners

Deanery Synod Report

The Deanery synod met twice this year; the first in February at Lawford church where we said goodbye to the Rev Simon Heron and wished him well for his new appointment in Cheltenham. Our final meeting of the year was on the 10th December where 40 representatives from the Harwich Deanery met via zoom under the direction and chairmanship of Liz Barnes our Area Dean. Initially committee members from the laity and clergy were proposed and elected to stand on various committees.

We then were invited to share good news stories from our parishes about shared initiatives and Sue Browne from Ardleigh spoke about the formation of clubs within each parish and voluntary organisations which had been set up to help those vulnerable and shielding during the recent pandemic.

It was agreed that technology had become a lifeline during the very difficult lockdown sessions. The online streaming of church services has appealed to so many more people as well as our immediate church family and we praise God for this positive initiative and pray it will continue to spread his word. Zoom has also become a very necessary medium for meetings and study groups.

We report that the setting up of the MMI units has continued to be a valuable support as a learning medium for training lay people working under the direction of our clergy.

Work in Re-imagining Ministry, one of the four strands of Transforming Presence which was begun in 2012, has continued but the Area Dean suggested there is no intention to rush into formal arrangements such as changing of parish boundaries and stipendiary clergy deployment. The Dean said the aim should be a deanery close to Jesus and be guided by the four Mission priorities but we should all be wise and adaptable about our resources and involve everyone to fully utilise their gifts.

Discussions and feedback involving all the representatives were then combined to inform and discuss priorities within this document and passed on to Chelmsford for further use.

God's work continues within our Deanery as we pray for his loving presence and guidance in the weeks and months to come.

Liz Reed - Dedham PCC Representative

4. Financial review

Management: The PCC Finance Committee met on 5 occasions in 2020 and has 4 members, David Druitt (*Chairman*), David Jewell, Sara Marshall (*Financial Administrator*) & Rev'd Antony Wilson with the Churchwardens attending meetings as and when they can. In preparation for his taking over as Treasurer in 2021, John Reed joined the Committee for the last 2 months of the year.

The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission under charity number 1130860 and the annual Accounts are on the Church website and, once agreed at the APCM, are available via the Commission's website (www.charitycommission.gov.uk).

Income: In such a difficult year for everyone, it is very encouraging indeed to report that regular "Giving" increased on a year-on-year basis by just over 8% and we also received some very generous donations and two small legacies. Other areas of income were however affected by the closure of the Church for significant periods during the year but despite this, at the end of the year the PCC was able to take the decision to add £9,306 to the figure originally budgeted for the Parish Share payable to the Diocese, bringing it to the same level as that paid in 2019 (£52,574). This amount is however still considerably less, even after taking Ardleigh's contribution (£10,890) into account, than the combined Benefice had been asked to pay by the Diocese (£82,213).

During 2020, a total of £83,532 was received in recurring and non-recurring grants, the significant ones being from the Friends of Dedham Church (£38,759 for the new Toilets & Hospitality Unit), the Dedham Ecclesiastical Lectureship Trust (£24,184 primarily Parish Secretary contribution & the new AV/PA system), the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme (£13,523 for reclaimed VAT), the Friends of Essex Churches (£3,000 for the Hospitality Unit) the Parish Council (£1,700 Churchyard maintenance and the Helpline) and HM Government (£1,166 for the Job Retention Scheme). These generous grants assisted, in the main, in defraying ongoing costs that the PCC would otherwise have had to find ways of paying with a consequent effect on the amount paid to the Diocese for the Parish Share.

Expenditure: Expenses were very tightly controlled through the year and, other than the increase in the Parish Share payment referred to above, were lower than budget due to this control and the closure of the Church for parts of the year.

Reserves: The Church Balance Sheet reports net assets of £326,333, which is an increase of £11,145 from the end of 2019, but it should be noted that 92% of these assets are held in Designated, Restricted or Endowment funds with consequent restrictions on how they, or the income earned by the funds, can be used. At the end of the year the cash in the Unrestricted Reserves, or the General Fund, from which the costs of Ministry and day to day running of the Church must be funded, totalled £15,824 having increased by £7,458 during the year. During the year there were some gains in individual fund values, notably the Heath Fund, because of positive investment returns and these assisted offsetting some of the expenditure on capital projects from the various Funds. In May 2018, the PCC adopted a Reserves policy of 6 months of expenditure on staff costs, payable from the General Fund, and this was sustained through 2020.

Stewardship: The Committee would like to extend very grateful thanks to all those Church members who increased their regular committed "Giving" or made donations during the year.

Priorities for 2021: The Finance Committee will be setting the priorities for 2021 and these will be reported on at the APCM.

Lastly a very big thank you to the members of the Committee for their work through 2020 and in particular to Sara Marshall and Katrina Ablett for the huge amount of work they do in supporting the Committee and for keeping the Church finances running so smoothly particularly during such a challenging and difficult year as this. In handing over to John Reed, I am totally confident that the PCC Finances will be in very capable hands and thank him for stepping forward to take over from me.

David Druitt, Chairman

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

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
for the financial year ended 31st December 2020

Report to Dedham Parish Church - Parochial Church Council [PCC]
Charity Number: 1130860

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set on pages 3 to 12 of the Full Annual Accounts.

Respective responsibilities of PCC and Examiner:

The PCC is responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The PCC considers that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that only an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of the Independent Examiner's Report

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

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act, have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Name of Independent Financial Examiner:
Date:

Philip Strangward
4 March 2021

Fundraising Team

The Dedham Fundraising team of Vee Druitt, Lou Davison, Ann Shaw, Beth Mitchell, Ruth Higginson and Jill Strangward did very little this year due to the pandemic. However at Christmas we organized the 'lighting up the villages' which proved to be a mood enhancer more than a fundraiser but it did bring in approx £211.

Jill Strangward

5. Reserves policy

In May 2018, the Finance Committee recommended to the PCC that this should be 6 months of expenditure on staff (employees and contractors) costs (maximum £20,000) to be covered from General Funds (unrestricted and designated) and this was sustained through 2020.

6. Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

There are no funds held on behalf of others

7. Plans for future periods

PCC objectives for the current year

To continue to explore the Anglican 5 marks of mission as we understand our purpose as a church

To continue to develop links with Ardleigh Parish

To develop ways to reach out to children and families

To implement recommendations from recent reports seeking to support the governance of the PCC, including a Risk Management Policy

To increase income from giving to develop a healthier financial position

To develop a plan for the replacement of the current organ

8. Risk management

Health and Safety

Regular six-monthly meetings continue to take place between the managers/churchwardens of our church buildings – St Mary's, Dedham, St Mary's, Ardleigh and the Duchy Barn with The Assembly Rooms holding separate meetings with the Trustees. Thank you to our volunteers for their continued support managing these buildings. Particularly the churchwardens of both churches who helped to create essential risk assessments for our churches to enable them to open at various times during the pandemic. We held successful fire training carried out by West One in September for over 20 people who are key to managing, maintaining and stewarding our church buildings.

Claire Arculus

Safeguarding

The safeguarding register is maintained and is now fully up to date. Dates are monitored and diarised for updates to certification, training and reviews. The register and supporting data are stored securely on dropbox, accessible by the Vicar and parish office only. DBS applications are now requested on line and ID checks carried out at the time of application to the Diocese. The process runs smoothly with direct links to Diocese safeguarding, and now further supported by the appointment of dedicated Safeguarding officers for both Dedham and Ardleigh.

Charlotte Parker

9. Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Mary's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our Vicar), churchwardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

PCC Report

The Dedham PCC continued to meet at approximately 2 monthly intervals during the year. Our meetings continued to be guided by the Anglican Five Marks of Mission which are Tell, Teach, Tend, Transform and Treasure. Each meeting begins with prayer and reflection on events since the last meeting.

Clearly, much of our time was spent making plans and proposals which had to be changed in the light of the ongoing challenges of the Covid 19 pandemic restrictions and their frequent changes. A Saturday morning joint meeting with Ardleigh PCC was held in September. It was then agreed that Dedham and Ardleigh would in future hold PCC meetings at the same time, opening with prayer and the sharing of common business before dividing for individual PCC meetings.

Tell – The PCC discussed Alpha courses, VE Day celebrations with the visit from the BBC and associated interview with Antony Wilson, the Holiday Club and the resources for families to enjoy both in our church and online.

Teach – The PCC agreed to make provision for our services to be streamed online and as well as most teaching and meetings. We also agreed that Broadband should be available in our church. The pattern of services was discussed and changes to this made when needed. The use of a telephone conference facility was suggested for those without internet access.

Tend – The set up and use of the Helpline was discussed as well as the need for additional pastoral care and support for the community during the pandemic and after. All stewards were encouraged to attend Fire safety training in September. Risk assessments were also agreed. The Assembly Rooms Trust came into existence having been changed from the Hewitt Memorial Hall Trust. Whereas previously, the sole trustee was the Vicar, the trustee numbers have increased to include an Assembly Rooms user and a local community representative. The PCC approved this change after due process had been completed with the Charity commission.

Transform – PCC members were encouraged to continue their prayer for the wider church and for persecuted Christians worldwide.

Treasure – During the year our church applied for and received an ECO Church Bronze award. The PCC has committed to maintaining our ECO church principles. An area of our churchyard is now left to grow wild.

Vee Druitt, Churchwarden

Past PCC minutes are available from the website under *Resources tab*

PCC Membership

PCC members who have served at any time from the last APCM on 27th September 2020 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex Officio members:

Incumbent - Reverend Antony Wilson (Vicar)

Churchwardens

Vee Druitt (elected Sept 2020)

Peter Wilson (elected April 2019)

Elected members and date of election

Gabbie Watson 2018

Lynne Al-Sad 2018

Christine Frost 2018

John Reed 2018

Liz Reed 2020

Paul Brebner 2020

Sharon Sarson 2020

Linda Redlich 2020

The Duchy Barn

Not surprisingly, this is rather 'thin' report given the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic during most of this year.

The year started off normally with coffee mornings running as usual soon after the Christmas and new year break. Although attendance was modest as is often the case in winter months, they were much appreciated by our village regulars who look forward very much to their resumption as soon as it is safe to do so.

The management committee met on two occasions - on the 10th February prior to the first lockdown, and again on the 7th September when it was still permissible to hold business type meetings with appropriate safeguards in place. These meetings were chaired by Colin Biggins who was elected as acting chairman following Beth Mitchell stepping down from this role after several years. It was intended to hold our AGM on the 18th May when elections would have taken place but as this had to be deferred Colin has remained as acting chairman and carried the role of secretary as well for the time being.

There have been no further coffee mornings, social event bookings or any other social events since the Barn more or less shut down in March last year. There have however been a few 'business' meetings held there by local organisations conducted within the rules applicable at the time. These were Dedham Horticultural Society committee meetings (2), The Board of Trustees of Dunton's Almshouses (2), Phoenix Homes Colchester Board meeting (1), and a meeting between members of the Barn Management Committee and the PCC chaired by the Vicar.

During the summer and autumn month's work was carried out with the help of the vicar and the parish office to make the Barn as 'covid- secure' as possible with the installation of a hand sanitiser and a QR code poster for use with Smart phones for test and trace purposes and related paper work for users/hirers of Barn to complete as necessary plus information signs, supplies of anti-bacterial sprays and hand washes, and a small supply of disposable masks. A check has also been made of the First Aid box to ensure its contents are compliant with current regulations. Work has been completed on a detailed risk assessment and risk management plan in the event of the Barn being able to open in the next few weeks or months with new rules for hirers of the premises to follow post-lockdown, to minimise the risk of any infection being transmitted. It seems advisable to run these past our insurers before any activity resumes at the Barn.

On the maintenance side, some repairs to external woodwork at the southern end of the building were carried out to a good standard by a local contractor. Our heating engineer had to be called out in November as the boiler was cutting out and causing the electrics to fail – a leak was detected in the pump and this was replaced successfully. The boiler has now had its annual service, and PAT testing has been completed recently. As chairman/secretary/odd- jobs-man I call into the Barn to ensure that everything is working as it should and to ensure that the fabric of the ensure that the building is in good order and that. Before Christmas with the help of my wife (also a committee member) a thorough clean was carried out mostly to clear away dead insects and cobwebs that had accrued over the summer and autumn!

In September, Anne Rowledge our treasurer reported that unsurprisingly little income has been generated, and at that point in time advised that whilst utility costs remained stable, expenses were £772 in excess of income, with £100 in hand to be paid in, income from those bookings listed above. However, since then, I was contacted in November by Kate Saunders from the Nichol Young Trust about the possibility of an annual grant to the Barn's funds from this grant making charity. The late John Mitson who was so heavily involved in the development of the Barn as a community centre, was also involved in the Nichol Young charity for many years and it was through the suggestion made by Carol, John's wife, that this overture was made by Kate, who is John's daughter! The outcome of this is that an annual grant of £1000 to the Barn's funds has been agreed, with the first payment having been made – such a wonderful and unexpected development to brighten what has undoubtedly been in many ways a dark year. It has been proposed that when the committee next meets that we discuss having a small plaque put up in the Barn both as a fitting memorial to John and as token of thanks for this grant which can continue for as long as we would like it! The Trust does not require us to submit detailed accounts but a short paragraph each year on how the money has been used for them to include in their report to the Charity Commissioners.

Colin Biggins

Communications

Parish Office

During the pandemic the office has continued to operate but with most of the office staff working from home. Working days for the administrator continue to be on a Tuesday and Thursday each week when office voicemails and emails are checked. When restrictions are lifted completely, the office will reopen specific days and times. As Parishes Administrator and Volunteers Coordinator, I continue to oversee the office management and administration for both Dedham and Ardleigh churches but also manage the GDPR (ensuring we are adherent to the General Data Protection Regulation implemented May 2018) and health and safety processes (in line with Ecclesiastical Insurance Guidelines) for both churches. Charlotte Parker continues to assist with administrative tasks and maintains the editorial of the Dedham Parish Magazine to an excellent standard. Thanks to Katrina Ablett and Be Burleigh for their valued support with office tasks and Sara Marshall for her outstanding finance management support.

Claire Arculus

Parish Magazine

The magazine continues to be produced and distributed to houses throughout Dedham, as well as copies in local business and Dedham and Ardleigh churches. Throughout the last year the magazine has been a lifeline for residents to keep up to date with changes and providing vital information as well as light relief from the difficult times. 1500 copies are produced which is funded by the advertising pages. The magazine contains regular input from the church, Dedham school, the Parish council, doctor's surgery and local clubs and groups. A regular focus on Dedham history has evolved over the past few months as well as some great features from our regular and occasional writers.

Charlotte Parker

Website

The church website, dedham-and-ardleigh-parishes.org.uk, provided a useful focal point for the church community during 2020 especially during the periods of lockdowns resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic.

In 2020 there were almost a million page requests on the website, the actual figure was 924,506 compared to 188,000 in 2019. Page Requests are the number of web pages requested by visitors to the web site. The average monthly figure was over 77,000 compared with 15,000 in 2019. The highest figures were recorded in April (174,000) and May (236,000), the first two full months of lockdown.

The breakdown of the Page requests by website area shows that Articles received 71,033 requests, Media 61,711 and Calendar 17,861. Media didn't see the same growth as in the previous year mainly due to the fact services and sermons were streamed using a youtube channel.

In 2020 two other Church linked websites have undergone a makeover using the essexonline system provided by OneSuffolk.

The Friends of Dedham Church, www.friendsofdedhamchurch.org.uk and the Assembly Rooms, with a new web address, www.dedhamassemblyrooms.essexonline.net.

John Goldsborough

Face book

We now have a Facebook page @dedhamandardleigh which is a good way to keep in touch Do like the page and follow us!

Youtube – our youtube channel is accessible via our church website and currently has 170 subscribers

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

Dedham Ecclesiastical Lectureship Trust (DELT)

2020 was an exceedingly difficult year for so many people owing to the Covid-19 virus and this affected several areas that the Trust has supported in the past few years, particularly to do with Children & Families work. It is however pleasing to report that the Trust was able to use some of its financial resources to support new initiatives within the Parish such as the live streaming and recording of services to enable as many people as possible to have access to an, albeit different, form of worship from their homes.

During the year, the Trust supported the Vicar & Lecturer and the PCC by making the following financial contributions:

- the cost of 6 hours a week of the Parish Office Secretarial staff
- costs relating to materials required for the services specifically designed for young people a contribution towards clergy retreats and courses
- Christmas and Easter reading material available free in Church for Parishioners and Visitors to take
- replacement of the Church sound system and installation of a comprehensive video and audio live streaming and recording facility (£18,000)

The Trustees are aware that the PCC is extremely grateful for the financial support it gives and if the Trust had not made these payments, they would all have fallen to the PCC to try and find ways to fund them from its general account out of the income it receives with a potential effect on the amount that could be paid to the Diocese for the Parish Share.

In addition, the Trust purchased Bibles for Dedham Primary School Reception and Year 6 pupils and made a significant financial contribution of just over £4,000 to the School to enable them to record and livestream Assemblies and collective acts of worship into the classrooms and for parents to watch at home if they wished.

During the year, Peter Moorhouse advised the Trustees that he wished to relinquish the tenancy he had on a small piece of land owned by the Trust immediately behind Dedham Primary School. In recent years this land has been farmed by P.G. Rix Farms Ltd and they have agreed to take over the tenancy on an initial three-year term.

In November Ann Shaw decided to retire as a Trustee having been one of the Bishop of Chelmsford's nominated Trustees since 2008. The Trustees would like to thank her for her time as a Trustee and express their appreciation for her commitment to, and interest in, the work of the Trust. I am pleased to report that Clifford Sims has agreed for his name to be submitted to the acting Bishop of Chelmsford for nomination as a replacement for Ann.

At the October meeting of the Trustees I advised that I would be stepping down as the PCC nominated Trustee at the end of March 2021. I was appointed as a Trustee in 2001 and have been Chairman since 2007 and it has been an honour and a privilege to serve the Trust and the wider community in this way.

David Druitt
Chairman

Administrative information

St Mary's Church is situated in The High Street, Dedham. It is part of the Diocese of Chelmsford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is:
The Parishes Office, The Assembly Rooms, Dedham CO7 6HJ.
Registered charity number 1130860.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
ST MARY'S CHURCH, DEDHAM
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 27th SEPTEMBER 2020
at 10.45am in Dedham Church
(Delayed from April 2020 due to COVID)
Chair: The Revd Antony Wilson

(1) ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHONERS AGENDA

1. Minutes of last year's Annual Meeting of Parishioners (page 49 of the Annual Report)

Revered Antony Wilson drew attention to the minutes for 2019 APCM. No changes were made.

Ruth Higginson proposed acceptance of the minutes as an accurate record, seconded by Gill Strangward. All in favour of accepting the minutes of the APCM of 2019.

Thanks, were given to Suzanne Woods who stepped into the role 4 years ago, Antony gave thanks for all the support and friendship.

2. Elections of Churchwardens for the ecclesiastical parish

Antony confirmed two nominations had been received for the role of Churchwarden for the forthcoming year, Peter Wilson and Vee Druitt.

As per received nomination forms:

Beth Mitchell proposed the election of Peter Wilson, Caroline McShane seconded.

Ann Shaw proposed the election of Vee Druitt, Be Burleigh seconded.

All present were in favour of electing the above as churchwarden from September 2020. It is to be confirmed when The Arch Deacon will confirm the positions. Richard Hopkins prayed for Peter and Vee.

The number of candidates not exceeding the number of seats to be filled each candidate was declared elected.

3. Any other business of general parish concern, or items those attending may wish to be referred to the PCC.

None.

(2) ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING AGENDA

1. Opening prayer

2. Apologies for absence received

Jo Wilson, Merv and Sue McKinney, Elizabeth Hopkins.

3. Appointment of Tellers to count the votes of any elections during the meeting if so required

David Druitt and Tim Sarson volunteered to act as Tellers.

4. Minutes of last years Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Antony drew our attention to the minutes from last year (*reference page 49 to 52 of the Annual Reports 2019-2020*).

5. Amendments and adoption of those minutes as an accurate record.

No amendments to 2019 minutes recorded.

Beth Mitchell proposed acceptance of minutes from 2019, Ann Shaw seconded the proposal. All in favour.

6. Matters Arising

No matters arising, to be discussed as we move the agenda.

7. Electoral Roll report on numbers, additions, deletions: *Electoral Roll Officer*

Antony confirmed on behalf of Be Burleigh that there are 104 on the electoral roll, of which 76 are residents and 28 non-residents.

8. PCC Annual report

Peter Wilson stated that the PCC met every 2 months plus one joint meeting. The agenda is in a fixed format which includes the 5 marks of mission, any items arising during the previous period, quarterly finance update, fabric and review of the church service timings. Health and safety, risk assessments and the Eco church updates are also included in the agenda. Any other key items are added as required and remain as ongoing until they are completed, for example the church organ.

9. Financial Report including:

a) report on the financial affairs of the parish church/PCC

David Druitt, Chair of the Finance Sub Committee, presented the report which was circulated in advance of the meeting. Some key items to note are the flower festival which raised over £4000, which went towards the parish share. David offered thanks for the increase in giving and stated that the increase needs to be the priority moving forward. David gave thanks to the committee/PCC, and in particular Sara Marshall and Katrina Ablet. Thanks, were also given to David Jewell for his work behind the scenes. The paper provided in 2019 titled 'from subsidy to sustainability'. It was stated that £82,000 was required from Dedham and Ardleigh Parishes. We are not meeting this target. It is possible that resources will be diluted, for example the Vicar will oversee more parishes. Note full accounts are available separately.

Questions:

- i. Do we know when we give donations, where does it go to? *David stated that this goes towards the running of the church, including the payment of the parish share, parish to diocese, parish office costs, staff.*
- ii. Is the Parish share not achieved due to lack of giving? *David stated that giving isn't enough to cover the cost of a Minister.*
- iii. Is there a time limit to get it all together? *David stated that the parishes were to meet the cost, but not aware of the exact time scale.*

Antony stated that by 2025 parishes were to be financially viable, aiming for 5 deanery clergy posts, up until now it has been 6. Due to COVID this is now being brought forward to 2021. An assessment has been made in the summer to review all this. By the end of next year, the deanery needs to be sustainable. Antony is meeting with the Bishop early next month. Note the vicar of Lawford, Great Bromley and Little Bentley left and will not be replaced. Implications will be decided, but parishes adjoining will be affected.

- iv. What proportion of the parish share can we pay? *David stated that we can pay around 55 to 60% (£47,000), we should be paying £82,000. This is to be confirmed at the end of the month, but we will be around £30,000 short. The Parish share includes costs of the ministry and future training. It also includes central costs of the diocese including a significant amount for the shortfall in the pension fund. There will be an update on the website and church chimes when it is all confirmed. We are very fortunate to have the friends of Dedham Church and the Lectureship trust and to receive money from them. Their support in 2019 was around £30,000.*
- v. It is important to acknowledge that if the Vicars time is spread further it will seriously affect Dedham and Ardleigh. What can the congregation do to help? We all need to embrace the possibility of this happening and can't be blind to it, we need to acknowledge change is coming.

Antony stated that this is important. Other diocese has a different structure, others stand alone and pay for their own Minister. The deanery came up with a plan, this includes 40,000 people, note 22,000 of those live in Harwich, less than 5,000 are in this benefice. In reality there will be 4 clergy within the deanery and there will be implications. This is on the agenda of the PCC for the next few months.

- vi. Peter Wilson stated that a large proportion of the money is going centrally looking after deanery costs, and they ask for way above what the church can ever afford. Antony agreed and stated that any church has to bear the central costs otherwise we would have to cover them ourselves. Next year's parish share is to be confirmed.

Antony gave thanks to David Druitt for the last 3 years work, David will be stepping down next year so someone else will be needed to step into the role, which is voluntary. You don't need to be an accountant! Please let Antony know if you would be interested.

David gave thanks to Antony and everyone for their efforts to achieve the parish share.

b) the presentation of the examined or audited accounts

The full accounts were prepared by Sara Marshall and checked by Philip Strangward. A copy of the audit report is contained in the Annual Reports 2019-2020.

c) proposal for the formal adoption of the accounts

The accounts were proposed by Christine Frost, seconded by Peter Wilson. All were in favour and accounts were adopted. All agreed.

d) appointment of examiner for the coming year

Philip Strangward was appointed, agreed by all.

10. Churchwardens report to include review of the church fabric, goods and ornaments:

Peter Wilson presented the report. Peter gave thanks to Suzanne for all her help and support. Support has been given to Antony as part of the role to look at the overall financial position.

Buildings and Fabric: The wall, pillar, buttress and water ingress have been repaired. The gutters have been cleared and a survey carried out on the gutters, downpipes and soffits. A faculty is required to do this. The path has been re layed and the window in the porch mended, helped by the Friends of Dedham Church. The hospitality unit is nearly complete, £35,000 was given from the Friends of Dedham Church. Work going forward includes the organ project. Note the boiler is very old, if it fails there is no money available for replacement and this will be expensive. Antony gave thanks to all the hours of work and the fabric committee for their support. Everyone will be pleased when the work is all done, in particular the hospitality unit.

11. Other verbal reports

None given

12. Deanery Synod report on the past year:

There was no representation for the Deanery synod.

13. Elections from those entered on the Electoral Roll of the ecclesiastical parish

a) Deanery Synod representative

A nomination has been received for David Druitt, nominated by Antony Watson, seconded by Suzanne Woods.

There are 3 spaces on the Deanery Synod, which is the decision-making body. If anyone else would like to stand please contact Antony.

The number of candidates not exceeding the number of seats to be filled each candidate was declared elected.

b) PCC representatives

Nominations received:

Ruth Higginson, nominated by Linda Redditch, seconded by Lynne Al Sad

Sharon Sarson, nominated by Martin Hole, seconded by Jo Hole

Richard Hopkins, nominated by Peter Wilson, seconded by Vee Druitt

Paul Bremner, nominated by Peter Wilson, seconded by John Reed

Liz Reed, nominated by Peter Wilson, seconded by Sarah Oakley

Thanks to all, welcome to the new member of the PCC.

The number of candidates not exceeding the number of seats to be filled each candidate was declared elected.

14. Vicars report to the Benefice

Marks of Mission:

Tell: Antony was encouraged with all that has happened in the last year, and a lot has been invested in sharing. 2 Alpha courses have been run, one face to face and one on line. Antony has regularly shared in the school. One year ago, this weekend was the flower festival which was so successful.

Teach: We have been teaching one another and hearing from the bible. Everyone has been a great support for morning prayers. Antony gave thanks to Merv, Anne Marie, Richard, Christina, Susan and Christine. Also, thanks to the wardens and Saturday teams for providing an open place of welcome.

Tend: The helpline has taken approximately 400 calls, around 6 to 12 calls a day. The line is still running but with less regular calls. We have reached out to people, including the duchy barn and lunches at the Essex Rose and home Groups, thanks to the leaders.

Transform: Regular prayer for persecuted Christians across the world.

Treasure: We have achieved our Bronze Eco Church award and we are now working towards silver. Thanks to Christina Volkmann our eco champion for this achievement.

Thanks to Antony Watson (Director of Music) for his work as our Director of Music.

Thanks to Claire Arculus for being an absolute star, for her support in the office and beyond.

Thanks to the contractors, Andrew for repairs, Sara for Finance and Charlotte as PCC Clerk and for the Dedham Parish Magazine.

Antony asked some questions for everyone to think about, following the last few months...

- What have you gained and now happy to lose?
- What have you gained and want to keep?
- What have you lost and don't want back?
- What have you lost and want back?

The on-line worship has been a pleasure, the church live streamed its first wedding and will be doing the same for an upcoming funeral.

Antony shared some thoughts from an article by Ruth Valerio which positively reminds us what we as Christians offer in these times.

- We pray when we see people and the world in trouble, we encourage.
- Lament, this must be part of the cycle of life
- Learn, we constantly learn, change and adapt. We should speak up for the needy, poor and vulnerable.
- We carry on in a different way than we did before. It reminds us how we live, our lifestyle, steps we take.
- We give, the way we chose to spend/care for others.
- Imagine, we have the prophetic imagination to look back at the bible story, showing history has ups and downs but God is the same yesterday today and forever.
- Imagine things will get better, makes us hope. We will be people of hope and look for a better future.

15. Any other business of general parish concern, or items those attending may wish to be referred to the PCC

None

Closing remarks from Antony - thank you for your support for the year and I look forward to working with you in the year ahead

The meeting closed at 11.50am with prayer

St Mary's Church Dedham

Sunday, 25th April 2021

AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting consists of two meetings.

1. The Annual Meeting of Parishioners is open to all persons resident in the ecclesiastical parish of the church, and is for the purpose of electing the Churchwardens of the parish. All residents of the parish whose names are entered on the civil Electoral Roll are entitled to vote.

2. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) is open to all persons resident in the ecclesiastical parish and those on its electoral roll. Only those whose names are entered on the Electoral Roll of the parish church may speak or vote. This meeting hears reports on the church's maintenance and work over the past year, receives the examined or audited accounts, and elects an Electoral Roll member to serve as the parish representative on the Deanery Synod, and other members to the Parochial Church Council.

The meetings may be chaired by the Rector or in absentia by the Lay-chair of the PCC.

(1) ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS AGENDA

1. Minutes of last year's Annual Meeting of Parishioners.

2. Elections of Churchwardens for the ecclesiastical parish.

Note: The Representation Rules state that nominations for this election must have been received by the Rector before the start of the meeting

3. Any other business of general parish concern, or items those attending may wish to be referred to the PCC.

(2) ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING AGENDA

1. Opening prayer.

2. Apologies for absence received. (Not assumed apologies for those noticed to be absent)

3. Appointment of Tellers to count the votes of any elections during the meeting if so required.

4. Minutes of last year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

5. Amendments and Adoption of those Minutes as an accurate record.

6. Matters Arising.

7. Electoral Roll report on numbers, additions, deletions. *Electoral Roll Officer*

8. PCC Annual report. Number of meetings, main items of business etc. *Churchwarden*

9. Financial report including: a) report on the financial affairs of the parish church/PCC.

b) the presentation of the examined or audited accounts.

c) proposal for the formal adoption of the accounts, including vote from all eligible

d) appointment of auditor for the coming year.

10. Churchwardens report to include review of the church fabric, goods and ornaments.
Churchwardens

11. Other verbal reports

12. Deanery Synod report on the past year. *Deanery Synod Representative*

13. Elections from those entered on the Electoral Roll of the ecclesiastical parish

a) Deanery Synod representative

b) P.C.C. representatives

14. Vicar's report to the Benefice

15. Any other business of general parish concern, or items those attending may wish to be referred to the PCC. (please notify Chairman before the meeting)

P.C.C. MEETING The AGM is followed by a short meeting of the P.C.C. to elect:

a) Lay-chair.

b) Secretary.

c) Treasurer.

d) Electoral Roll Officer.

e) Standing Committee

e) Any co-opted appointments.

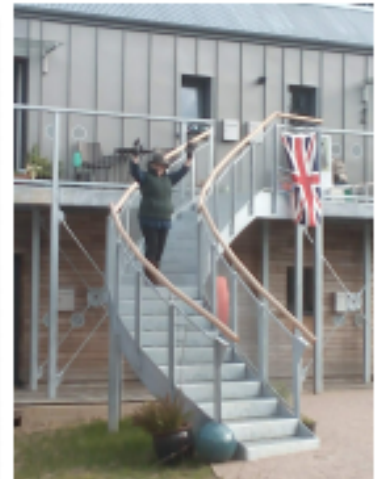
The meeting may also consider any urgent business that cannot wait until the next full PCC meeting.

Everest is
8,848m high
We achieved
14,657m
in total
which is
amazing!
We have
raised £2000
so far!



Well done to everyone who took part in our challenge to climb the Three Peaks at home for Christian Aid week.

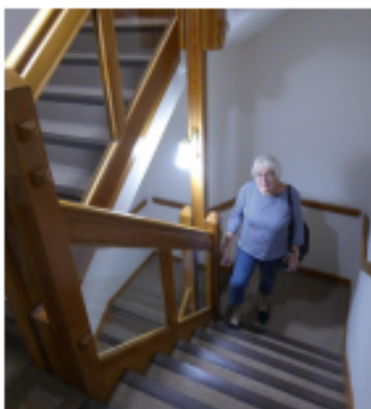
Our aim was to climb 3400m and we did much better as you can see!



The Marshall family
Managed a total of 3,106m

Linda Redlich

Alice was the star of the family completing 1,109m!



The McKinney's raised £110

Susan Carne

Jim Craigie