

THE DEANERY CHURCH  
OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN,  
BOCKING

<b>Parish Office:</b>	St Mary's Church Office, Church Street, Bocking, Braintree CM7 5JY
<b>Priest in Charge:</b>	The Very Reverend Rod Reid, The Deanery, Bocking, Braintree, Essex CM7 5SR
<b>Bank:</b>	Barclays Bank PLC, Bank Street, Braintree, Essex.
<b>Independent Examiner:</b>	Elizabeth Burden FCA 254 Coggeshall Road Little Tey Colchester

The Parochial Church Council (P.C.C.) of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Bocking is registered with the Charity Commission. Registered No. 1131205

ANNUAL REPORT  
AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
For the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018

# **THE DEANERY CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, BOCKING**

## **THE ANNUAL VESTRY AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS**

**April 14<sup>th</sup> 2019 11:30 a.m.**

### ***AGENDA***

#### **ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING**

- 1. Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting 2018**
- 2. Election of Churchwardens**

#### **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

- 1. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2018**
- 2. Matters arising**
- 3. Elections:**
  - a) Parochial Church Council members**
  - b) Sides people**
  - c) Appointment of Independent Examiner**
  - d) Appointment of Responsible Officer – Safeguarding**
- 4. Reports:**
  - a) Electoral Roll Officer's report**
  - b) Churchwardens' Fabric report**
  - c) Church organisations' reports**
  - d) The Dean's Parish Report**
  - e) Annual Accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018**

**St Mary's Church, Bocking**  
**Minutes of the Annual Vestry meeting – April 29<sup>th</sup> 2018**

Item	Notes
Welcome	Fr. Rod (RR) opened the meeting at 11:45 am. Present: 45 Apologies: 5
1.Minutes 23.04.17	The proposal to accept the minutes was made by Angela Comfort and seconded by Celia Coulson. There were no abstentions or votes against. <b>All in favour.</b>
2.Appointment of Churchwardens	Fr. Rod expressed grateful thanks and appreciation of the support given by the Wardens over the past twelve months. The appointment of Churchwardens for the year 2018-19: Jo Mallows, proposed by Monica Cook and seconded by Graham Shaw; Graham Shaw, proposed by Joanna Mallows and seconded by Monica Cook. There were no abstentions or votes against. <b>All in favour.</b>

**Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Council meeting – April 29<sup>th</sup> 2018**

Item	Notes															
Welcome	Fr. Rod (RR) opened the meeting at 11:47 am. Present: 45 Apologies: 5															
1.Minutes 23.04.17	The proposal to accept the minutes was made by Irene Brewer and seconded by Janice Warren. There were no abstentions or votes against. All in favour.															
2.Matters arising	None. However, a point of order was raised by Tim Davis regarding the fact that the agenda for the Annual Meetings were not dated.															
3. Elections	<p>a) The election of 4 members to sit on the <b>PCC for the term 2018-21</b> took place.</p> <table><tr><th>Nominee</th><th>Proposed by</th><th>Seconded by</th></tr><tr><td>Irene Brewer</td><td>Angela Comfort</td><td>Pat Scott</td></tr><tr><td>Gillian Hunt</td><td>Ann Shaw</td><td>Jo Mallows</td></tr><tr><td>Stephen Johnson</td><td>Jo Mallows</td><td>Bryan Gullick</td></tr><tr><td>Julie Wilkinson</td><td>Margaret Johnson</td><td>Noreen Watkinson</td></tr></table> <p>Monica Cook - nominated for <b>co-option for 1 year</b> by Janice Warren and seconded by Caron Francis. There were no abstentions or votes against. All in favour.</p> <p>b) The election of <b>Sidespersons</b>: RR thanked everyone engaged in this vital role as the first line of contact and welcome for those coming to our church. All of those who had agreed to continue on the rota, plus Dorothy Shaw, were nominated en bloc by Tim Davis and seconded by Tony Everard. There were no abstentions or votes against. All in favour.</p> <p>c) The appointment of <b>Independent Examiner</b>: The PCC is very grateful to Mr. M.S.Mackay FCCA for his work and support in acting as the Independent Examiner for St. Mary’s over the years. He has now decided to retire from this voluntary position on reaching his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday! A letter of appreciation for his service and a gift will be sent forthwith.</p> <p>Mrs. Elizabeth Burden (Chartered Accountant) has kindly volunteered to be our Independent Examiner. She has been nominated by Bryan Gullick and seconded by Terry Brewer. There were no abstentions or votes against. All in favour.</p>	Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by	Irene Brewer	Angela Comfort	Pat Scott	Gillian Hunt	Ann Shaw	Jo Mallows	Stephen Johnson	Jo Mallows	Bryan Gullick	Julie Wilkinson	Margaret Johnson	Noreen Watkinson
Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by														
Irene Brewer	Angela Comfort	Pat Scott														
Gillian Hunt	Ann Shaw	Jo Mallows														
Stephen Johnson	Jo Mallows	Bryan Gullick														
Julie Wilkinson	Margaret Johnson	Noreen Watkinson														

Item	Notes
	<p>d) The election of the <b>Safeguarding</b> – Responsible Officer: Sue Beattie has agreed to continue in the role. We are very grateful to her for ensuring we are up to date in fulfilling our legal responsibilities as legislations changes over time. She was proposed by Steve Johnson and seconded Pat Scott.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">There were no abstentions or votes against. <b>All in favour.</b></p>
4.Reports	<p>a) <b>Electoral Roll:</b> As reported on p6 of the Annual Report by Monica Cook, Electoral Roll Officer, there are currently 139 (144 in 2017) on the Electoral Roll – 45% of whom are resident in the parish. The names of wedding couples are no longer added to Roll unless they become regular members of the congregation.</p> <p>b) Churchwardens’ <b>Fabric Report:</b> this report can be found on p.6 of the Annual Report document. The Wardens were thanked for everything that has been done to ensure that the maintenance of the fabric of the building is in good order. Particular thanks to Tim Davis and Steve Johnson should be noted for the cleaning of the Rood Screen and Rood. Our appreciation also goes to Braintree District Council for commissioning and funding the extensive repairs to the boundary wall along the north edge of the church grounds. The issue of bees falling into the nave from the roof space has continued and has cost considerable amounts in efforts to remove them and prevent future inhabitation.</p> <p>c) The <b>Church Hall:</b> this report can be found on p.5 of the Annual Report. Repairs and redecoration have been completed, new windows and a new kitchen installed and new blinds for the windows behind the stage area put in place. The Friends of St. Mary’s and St. Mary’s Fellowship have generously donated considerable funds towards meeting the costs of these works.</p> <p>d) The <b>Friends of St. Mary’s:</b> this report can be found on p7 of the Annual Report. Fr. Rod thanked the Friends’ Committee, and everyone who has supported the events put on over the past year, for their commitment to promoting the Church in the community and putting the fun into fundraising. The committee has adopted the management of the Church Hall and particular thanks are due to Graham Shaw for managing the renovation project.</p> <p>e) <b>Newala Link:</b> Chris Weston’s report can be found on p.6 of the Annual Report. We are grateful to Chris for his work in maintaining and developing our links with St. Mary’s parish, Newala, enabling us to support farming projects that help to meet the needs of local people and to provide much needed apparatus for their hospital.</p> <p>f) <b>St. Mary’s Fellowship Group:</b> Ann Lanham’s report on the success and growth of the Fellowship can be found on p7 of the Annual Report. Fr. Rod thanked Ann and the catering team for working so hard and maintaining this link with St. Mary’s local community through arranging 10 lunches and interesting speakers, as well as an annual outing, which was to Sheringham this year.</p> <p>g) <b>St. Mary’s Bell Ringers:</b> Julie Wilkinson’s report can be found on p7 of the Annual Report. It begins with information about St. Mary’s Guild as part of the Northern District of the Essex Association of Church Bell-ringers. There are 10 bells although it is now rare for there to be ten people able to ring them except when members of other Bands join together to ring for special</p>

Item	Notes
	occasions and weddings. There is currently a drive on to encourage new members to come forward to ring for the 100 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of Armistice Day. The maintenance of the bells is on-going but the need for more urgent work has been identified although total costs may be prohibitive.
5)Parish Report & Review of the year	Fr. Rod's <b>report and review</b> can be found on pages 8 -12 of the Annual Report. He began by thanking everyone for their continued support during 2017. He particularly wished to celebrate the joy of welcoming so many people to weekly services, as well as to the special celebrations through the year e.g. 450 adults and children attending the Christingle service on Christmas Eve. He expressed his sincerest thanks to members of the PCC and everyone who has worked to keep the church life at St. Mary's going so strongly. He explained the introduction of the principles of 'Serving with Accountability' and how we have begun to respond to them within our worship and our generosity to the wider church and within our community. He thanked the leaders of the monthly 'Sunday Club' for children, which had seen continued growth in attendance over the year. He felt that the highlights of <b>2017 in profile</b> included on p11-12 were: another successful Flower Festival and May Fayre; the continuing growth in Fellowship, hospitality and involvement with the wider community eg St. Mary's Toddler Group, Messy Church, Christmas Tree Festival, Carols on the Green; the number of school visits to the church and the encouraging signs of growth for the future. He recorded the sad loss of Clive Foulger, Joyce Fuller, Alice Geddes, Mike Griffiths, Guy Lister, Samuel Sargent and Derek Taggart who had died in 2017 and who had contributed so much to the life of the Church and parish. Fr. Rod added acknowledgement of the enormous contribution, given throughout a lifetime of service to the church, by Cyril Cotton. Fr. Rod felt that, although Cyril sadly died in January 2018, mention should be made of his dedication to St. Mary's at this meeting.
6)Annual Accounts for the year ending Dec 31 <sup>st</sup> 2017	Fr. Rod expressed his thanks to Bryan Gullick for his hard work in carrying out the role of Treasurer over the past year. He went on to present the <b>Annual Accounts</b> to those present, giving details of the various accounts provided on p.14-16 of the Annual Report. The <b>Treasurer's Report on the Financial Year</b> on p17 gives details of the year - such as the considerable outlay on the Church Hall, funded in the main from redemption of an OIKO trust fund to value of £21,462.90. Total Assets less liabilities are £350,343.34 including a re-evaluation of investments. There was a deficit on the year of £9,934.14. The Treasurer pointed out that income is lagging behind operational costs and we are very reliant on funds generated by events such as the May Fayre. Thought must be given to the future wellbeing of the financial position at St. Mary's. Some <b>questions</b> were raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Q.</b> What happens to the fees charged for weddings and funerals? <b>A.</b> Fee credits off-set the Parish Share payable to the Diocese.</li> <li>• <b>Q.</b> What about fees for cremation services led by Fr. Rod or Fr. Mark? <b>A.</b> Most of this money goes to the Diocese.</li> <li>• <b>Q.</b> Why is it that the categories under which receipts and payments are organised are seemingly different year on year? <b>A.</b> These have been arranged according to guidance from the Independent Examiner. Clarification will be sought from Mrs. Burden within the next few months in order to establish the categories in advance of the year end.</li> </ul>

Item	Notes
	<p>Tim Davis offered a vote of thanks for the clarity of the Report, which was seconded by Steve Johnson, who also wished to note special mention of the work done to secure our financial future by Derek Taggart when he was Treasurer for some years until 2012.</p> <p>The formal <b>Adoption of the Accounts</b> was proposed by Bryan Gullick and seconded by Gary Fleming. No abstentions or votes against. <b>All in favour.</b></p>
A.O.B.	<p>a) <b>Baffle Boards for the Hall:</b> Q. How many? A. 8 to 10. Q. Where? A. Around the walls with the possibility of one longer one on the ceiling. Q. When will they be installed? A. As soon as possible? Q. Will they be affected by any future changes to the heating system? A. The current system seems to be working well at present but any changes to the installation would have to take account of the panels.</p> <p>b) <b>Carpeting on the stage:</b> The removal of the carpet will improve the acoustics in the Hall. It is hoped that this might be carried out when the floor is next skimmed.</p> <p>c) <b>Badminton court markings:</b> There used to be a court marked out on the floor, but it was not repainted when the floor was skimmed some years ago. No clubs have enquired about playing badminton in the Hall.</p> <p>d) Plans for the <b>provision of a toilet for disabled people</b> within or attached to the Church: This would ideally be incorporated into a building situated beyond the North door which would also provide space for a small kitchen, family area and storage. However, the cost would be considerable.</p> <p>e) The <b>use of confetti</b> after weddings: Wedding couples are asked to remind their guests not to throw confetti near to the porch. Bio-degradable confetti is available for purchase from the vergers on duty, but guests often arrive with their own – some of which is made from plastic or foil.</p>
Closure of the meeting	There being no further questions, RR thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 12:57pm.

### **NEWALA LINK REPORT 2018**

We continued to correspond with St Mary's throughout the year. The £1500 we had sent last year was used to buy an Operating Table for the Lulundi Health Centre and was being put to good use by the middle of the year. We continued with our fund-raising efforts and owe particular thanks to David Felsted for organising an enjoyable concert in June. We also owe a debt of gratitude to Ian and Jackie Mitchell for requesting donations for Newala in lieu of wedding gifts.

Interest was shown again during the year for a visit to Newala in 2020 and the feasibility is now being investigated. Anyone interested should talk to Chris Weston or a member of the Clergy. We have also heard that Bishop Oscar of the Newala Diocese is intending to attend the Lambeth Conference next year and we issued an invitation for him to visit Bocking if he can find space in his schedule.

Chris Weston, Co-Ordinator  
on behalf of St Mary's PCC

## ***CHURCHWARDENS' FABRIC REPORT 2018***

The main fabric of the Church continues to be in a satisfactory condition as remarked upon by the Architect during the quinquennial inspection under the Inspection of Churches Measure 1955. The report contains recommendations for works to be carried out in order of priority:

Immediately – redress the lead cover flashings and point up the parapet to north and east parapet walls of the roof nave.

Within 18 months – repair stonework to the south window to organ chamber; point up open joints to stone copings to top of buttresses and merlons on the tower; conservation to stonework to the rear niche to north side of west wall of tower; point up wall at low level to east face of vestry; point up miscellaneous open joints in weathering to stones to walls; remedial work to stonework to west door to tower.

Before the next inspection (2023) – remedial work to the cover of the tomb to north of the clergy vestry; remove vegetation to south wall of the churchyard.

Keep under review – westerly corbel to the roof of the nave to the south side and roof. If evidence of beetle activity is evident in Spring 2019 further investigation and treatment may be necessary; areas of damp to walls to north west corner of the tower.

Routine maintenance to gutters, downpipes and soakaways.

Apart from the immediate works required under the Inspection of Churches report, the following works have been carried out during 2018:

A comprehensive Asbestos Management survey of the church, the clergy and choir vestries, the boiler room, the organ, ringing chamber and ceilings to rooms in the tower.

Lead capping fittings to tower crenulations tightened.

Lighting along the church path was repaired.

The electrical wiring in the boiler room was replaced.

New lights were installed in the choir vestry.

Annual services were carried out to check: the boiler; the lightning conductor; the fire hydrants and blankets; the alarm system.

The Churchwardens on behalf of St. Mary's PCC

## ***ST MARY'S CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER REPORT 2017/18***

The Electoral Roll has been renewed in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. The Roll at April 2018 consists of a total of 139 persons. Numbers for April 2019 remain the same:-

45% (63) of these are resident in the Parish

55% (76) are non-resident

Monica Cook on behalf of St Mary's P.C.C.

## ***FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S AND CHURCH HALL REPORT 2018***

The Friends of St Mary's continues to develop the fellowship and friendship within our community and raise funds to support the fabric of St Mary's Church. We started with the AGM and a free afternoon tea for all catered by our fantastic committee shortly followed by another successful New Year's dinner at Weavers which, although not a fundraiser, was a great social evening and is now becoming a well-supported annual event.

Rather than put on a May Fayre event we elected to arrange a St George's day event, supported by Bocking Theatre Club and followed by supper, again catered by the committee. We repeated some previously well received events, including: 'The Big Quiz'; the Harvest Supper with food and entertainment plus an Auction of Promises; and the ever popular 'Light Party'. Instead of a Christmas Tree Festival concert we arranged a new event, the most enjoyable 'Strictly Bocking' with the talented dancers who practice in the Church Hall, led by dance teacher Jacquie Denigrie of A&M Dancing.

The Committee has donated funds this year towards the installation of CCTV, alarms to the office and lone working solutions for the ministry team here at St Mary's. We've also committed funds to the replacement of windows within the Church office next spring and will follow that with redecoration of the office space.

As usual we have another great year of entertainment planned with concerts, a quiz, a murder mystery evening, harvest supper and other fantastic social events for your entertainment. I am continually grateful for the help and support of the Friends Committee and of everyone from our community who has attended the events over the course of 2018.

Graham Shaw  
for the Executive Committee Friends of St Mary's

## ***ST MARY'S CHOIR 2018***

St Mary's Choir has continued to flourish with many new hymns and anthems added to its extensive repertoire in the past year. The average number who regularly sing in the choir every Sunday is 14.

Though we have recently lost one of our oldest members (from the bass section) due to a move to another area, we have been joined by our youngest member and hope she will enjoy many years of singing with her friends and mentors in the choir.

Those couples who book the choir for their wedding invariably write to praise the high standard of the singing and to congratulate the choir on its contribution to the success of the service.

We are always looking for recruits to the choir. No previous singing experience is required. You do not have to read music (but it helps!). All that is needed is a commitment to the weekly choir rehearsal on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm and the Sunday morning service at 10am. You will be warmly welcomed to join in the music-making, hard work and laughter.

Jeremy Nicholas, Director of Music

## ***ST MARY'S FELLOWSHIP GROUP 2018***

The Fellowship group has had another wonderful year welcoming church members, friends and many from the village to our monthly meetings. We had 10 meetings with talks as varied as Fr Mark sharing his journey into church, right through to the Burston School strikes! All topped off with a terrific Christmas Celebration with entertainment and



contributions from Darrell Williams and Fr Mark. In June, we had a terrific trip to London, visiting Camden Lock, Charterhouse and enjoying a fantastic canal boat trip. Our sessions are open to everyone and we would love to see you, every third Thursday in the month, meeting at the Church Hall and this year's outing taking place in September.

Ann Lanham

### ***ST MARY'S BELL RINGERS 2018***

St Mary's Guild is part of the Northern District, one of five districts of The Essex Association of Church Bell-ringers which in turn is part of the Central Council of Church Bell-ringers.

We are fortunate enough to have a ring of 10 bells (the majority of village churches has 8, 6 or fewer), the heaviest of which is 18 cwt. or 914kg. They were augmented from 8 in 1973 after many years of fund-raising by the then band of ringers. Sadly, now we rarely ring the 10, usually managing 8 ringers for Sunday service and frequently insufficient attendees for our Thursday practice night. However, we gather bands for weddings and other special occasions but sometimes have to rely on help from other local towers.

While our Steeple-keeper and other ringers undertake ongoing maintenance of our bells regularly we have discovered that work by skilled bell hangers needs to be done to prevent damage, repair existing damage and to improve the "bell-handling" to help make them easier to ring. Some of the urgent work has already been done and some is planned but if we are to contract experts then the costs are prohibitive and we would need to do some serious fund-raising and may need your help.

If you would like further information or want to "have-a-go" please contact our Ringing Master, Alan May, on 01376 345290, or 07935344038, or just come up and see us in the ringing room when you next hear the bells ringing. We would love to see you soon.

### ***BRAINTREE DEANERY***

Braintree Deanery Synod is a council of church members drawn mainly from the clergy and congregations in each of the parishes in the Deanery. Its purpose is to provide the communication link between congregations, the Diocese of Chelmsford and the Church of England nationally.

During 2018/19 St Mary's was represented in the House of Clergy by both Fr Rod and Fr Mark and in the House of Laity by Isabel Adcock, Angela Comfort and Dr Celia Coulson. The Synod met three times during the year, on 6 June and 3 October 2018 and 6 February 2019. Meetings were chaired jointly by the Area Dean, Rev'd Canon Chris Davey, and the Lay Joint Chair, Canon John Turton. The main focus of the Synod's work during the year was the development of Braintree Mission and Ministry Partnership (previously known as Braintree Mission & Ministry Unit), formally commissioned by the Bishop of Colchester, 4 June 2018. Progress has included:

- Establishing Mission Teams focusing on Resources, Youth, Mission and Nurture
- Organising a successful MMP Children's Fun Day in August 2018
- Holding a one-day conference in November 2018 to consider the future shape of the church and the role of the MMP within this. A report on the outcomes from the day is currently being finalised and will be used as the basis for a plan to ensure that theory is translated into action. Other issues considered by the Synod included:

- A presentation on the Diocesan Youth Strategy – this was the first in a series of presentations on the areas covered by the four MMP Mission Teams.
- The arrangements for and results of the triennial elections to the Diocesan Synod held in July 2018. The following were elected to represent Braintree Deanery for the period 2019 – 2021: House of Clergy Rev'd Dr S Batts and Rev'd I Bendrey  
House of Laity Mrs I Adcock and Mrs P Bash

The Synod has also received regular reports of proceedings at Diocesan Synod and General Synod, and updates on news and events from parishes across the Deanery.

The Very Revd Rod Reid  
April 2019

### **PARISH REPORT FOR 2018**

Members of the PCC are either *ex officio*, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (ACPM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules or co-opted for a set term.

#### *Ex Officio Members*

Rev. Roderick Reid	The Dean of Bocking
Rev. Mark Payne	Curate
Mr. Graham Shaw	Churchwarden
Mrs. Joanna Mallows	Churchwarden & PCC Secretary
Mrs. Isabel Adcock	General Synod & Deanery Synod Rep
Mrs. Angela Comfort } Dr. Celia Coulson }	Deanery Synod Reps April 2017 until 2020
Mr. Bryan Gullick Mrs. Sue Beattie	Treasurer Safeguarding Officer

#### *Elected Members*

Mrs. Irene Brewer Mrs. Gill Hunt Mr. Stephen Johnson Mrs. J. Wilkinson	} until April 2021
Mr. Gary Fleming Mrs. Caron Francis Mrs. Jackie Lawrence Mr. Alan Richardson	} until April 2020
Mrs. Angela Adams Mr. Tim Davis Mrs. Ann Shaw Mr. Chris Weston	} until April 2019

Mrs. Monica Cook - co-opted April 2018-2019

The PCC operates through full meetings of all its members and through Standing Committee meeting occasionally between PCC meetings. This committee consists of the Priest in Charge, the Wardens and the Treasurer and has power to transact business of the Council between meetings.

### **Serving with Accountability**

This is a document prepared for the Diocese by the former Archdeacon of Chelmsford, David Lowman, to encourage parishes to become more accountable for what they do. There are 9 priorities set, Worship, Spirituality, Nurture, Evangelism, Vocation, Service, Hospitality, Interdependence and Generosity.

The PCC discussed its response to the Strategic Priorities outlined in the Diocese of Chelmsford's 'Transforming Presence' document and chose 2 priorities in November 2016, namely 'Worship' and 'Generosity' for development during 2017.

The PCC chose to consider our response to the key priority around 'Hospitality' in November 2017 to develop during 2018. The following was returned to the Archdeacon by the closing date of November 30<sup>th</sup> 2017.

Briefly, the discussion around our Hospitality considered:

- **what we are doing to ensure our church is a place of welcome for all ages and for all people**

It was acknowledged that we are already welcoming and have received many positive comments and feedback from visitors and people who are new to our congregation.

- There is always someone to welcome members of the congregation as they arrive in the church for services.
- We welcome everyone to come along and join together for chat and coffee/tea after Mass on Sundays.
- The children's Sunday Club is now well established and numbers are growing. The children are becoming more involved in our services e.g. giving out the books and taking the collection at the Harvest Festival service and telling the congregation about their Sunday Club activities.
- The Toddler Group reaches out to families with younger children and helps them to get to know members of our church community. They and many others attend our Messy Church events, most of which are free.
- Members of our congregation run St. Mary's Fellowship which hosts a monthly lunch with a speaker, that is open to all.
- We hold several events throughout the year at which we engage with people from the community e.g. the Christmas Tree Festival, the Flower Festival, Messy Church, an annual service of remembrance for our departed loved ones, and the very popular Christingle service on Christmas Eve.
- For Christian Aid week we ran our first Big Breakfast which was well supported, future events are planned.
- The Friends of St. Mary's committee organises social events to which many people from the local community come along and join us in putting the 'fun' into fundraising e.g. a Light Party in the church around the end of October, a Big Quiz, Barn Dancing, a photographic competition for a calendar.

- We are developing occasional opportunities to share worship and to socialise together with the members of the United Reformed Church in the village.
- We now have a much more accessible website and are planning to extend the content to enable those who are housebound to see the readings for each Sunday and keep up to date with the Pew News sheet.

### **What we are doing to ensure our church is a place of safety?**

We are very aware that 'a place of safety' means a great deal more than 'a safe place'. We would wish people to feel welcomed and in a place where they are respected and cared for at all times. We are committed to looking out for anyone on their own - or seeming particularly alone - and making ourselves known to them. Opportunities for private prayer and to talk to the priests can be arranged.

- The Wardens check the church building regularly and ensure that it is well-maintained and safe.
- There are Risk Assessments covering events with checklists of actions to be signed by the organisers of them, with a requirement to provide feedback on any issues arising during the event.
- We have rehearsed a full evacuation of the church and are in the process of developing risk assessments for fire and for attack. Designated stewards will oversee evacuation and carry out searches. Maps of the church, marked in zones and numbered for the purposes of organising searches and for prioritisation of action in the case of fire, are being prepared.

**Summary of possible actions:** We are aware that there is much more to be accomplished in all aspects of our Hospitality offering and have discussed:

- the logistics of providing a safe area within the Church that could be used by younger children during the service.
- the development of more accessible materials for children to use during the service and should reflect aspects of our religious beliefs.
- ways of attracting teenagers, young professionals and families by developing contacts with other local churches in finding ways to do this and acting on them.
- the possibility of encouraging attendance at the National Youth Pilgrimage to Walsingham, along with other churches in the Deanery, in August 2018.
- the issue of being able to open the Church during the week when the clergy are in the Office, as people do visit and are disappointed not to be able to go into the Church. The provision of CCTV inside the Church with a motion sensor or pressure mat at the main door - linked to the Clergy Vestry and to the Office - are being researched and costed. These would serve as a security measure as well as alerting anyone working alone in the Vestry that someone has entered the Church.
- writing a policy for Lone Working to cover those working in the church on their own as well as those who visit people in their own homes.

### **Church Attendance**

During 2018, the average Sunday morning attendance was regularly over 100, with larger congregations at Christmas, Easter, Harvest, Mothering Sunday, Remembrance Sunday and the Flower Festival in May. There were 182 communicants at Easter (180 in 2017) 170 at

Christmas (175 in 2017). Of particular note were the 450+ people we welcomed for the Christingle Service on Christmas Eve which was a fantastic number.

The Annual Service to remember departed loved ones was held in May at the close of the Flower Festival Week. Congregation numbers have remained largely steady through the year with wedding couples joining us and a number of new members too, especially some new families, not least with the continued success of Sunday Club.

## **Review of the Year**

### **The Church**

We continue to be dedicated to using St Mary's Church in the most creative ways we can to worship God and draw others to him through the ministries of stewardship, prayer, teaching and welcome, whilst continuing to develop our overseas link with the Parish of St Mary's Newala and other aspects of the wider Church.

### ***P.C.C. Meetings***

The Church Council met 6 times for business meetings during 2017, with an average of 66% of its membership in attendance. The PCC continued to review its Child Protection policy and Risk Assessments as well as hearing reports on the work of the Deanery Synod, the Church Hall, the Friends of St. Mary's, Health and Safety, Church Fabric, the Pastoral Group and our link church in Newala.

### ***General Finance***

In the year 2018, we again met our obligations to the Diocese and parish in full and as usual, the Gift Aid Scheme has continued to benefit our work considerably. We are grateful to those who have completed a Gift Aid Declaration for their giving and to all who contribute regularly and generously through Standing Orders and Weekly Envelopes. If you are a Tax Payer we cannot afford for you not to be in the Gift Aid Scheme! We are also pleased to report the continued growth of charitable giving through the Sunday Coffee monies, Home Collecting Boxes and special appeals.

### ***Dean Rogers Million Penny Fund***

St Mary's Church continues to be grateful to the Dean Rogers Million Penny Fund for the payment of the Insurance Premium, details of which are included in the accounts. As planned, additional funds were donated during 2018, via personal giving and the Sunday Coffee morning monies during June.

<b>Charitable Giving 2018</b>			
<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Value</b>
Farleigh Hospice	110.00	The Children's Society	1,945.35
Hope House Essex	100.00	Braintree Mencap	150.00
Braintree Stroke Survivors	220.00	Christian Aid	140.00
The Tabor Centre	185.00	Lupus	140.00
The Royal British Legion	125.00	Rainbow Rural	100.00
Essex Air Ambulance	90.00	The Sick Children Fund	130.00
The Sick Children Trust	120.00	EACH	110.00
		<b>Total donated over the year</b>	<b>3,665.35</b>

### ***The Year 2018 in profile:***

- *Sunday Club continues to grow & flourish with new children each time. A special mention for their additional contribution to the Flower Festival and WW1 service.*
- *St Mary's took part in the Women's World Day of Prayer in March, hosted wonderfully at Christchurch in Braintree.*
- *Over the Flower Festival and May Fayre weekend St Mary's welcomed many visitors from Bocking and further afield.*
- *In the second week of May a service of Thanksgiving for departed loved ones was once again held with Janet C. Davies Funeral Directors.*
- *The Toddler Group continues to flourish with new leaders. Numbers have remained steady with new youngsters joining as some of the older ones started school.*
- *Through the pastoral team and helpers, monthly Holy Communion was taken into 5 of our local care homes, with additional services at Easter and Christmas.*
- *St Mary's saw 44 baptisms and 25 weddings during the year. Fr Rod and Fr Mark conducted 20 funerals in the Church and over 35 more in local cemeteries or crematoria.*
- *In November, as part of the commemoration of the end of WW1, we held a very special service to mark this occasion. With input from a range of guests, and a packed church, it was an occasion to remember.*
- *The Bocking Bake Off was back and bigger than ever. New winners were crowned on a gorgeous Summer's day.*
- *Grow it Lent – our fundraising campaign for the Children's Society was a huge success raising over £2000.*
- *The Bible Study Group met regularly through the year studying the life and works of Elijah and Elisha, as well as reading and studying the books of Ruth, Amos and Isaiah.*
- *The Book Club continues to meet, a number of publications have been read and discussed through the year. The club always welcomes new members.*
- *The Christmas Tree Festival took place over the second weekend in December and was a great success, especially with the addition of Father Christmas himself. Celebrations began with the first Strictly Bocking!*
- *We enjoyed Carols by Candlelight on the Sunday before Christmas when the church was packed. Carols on the Green was very well supported by the village. £520 was raised for The Children's Society at the ever-popular Christingle service.*
- *Carol singing took place in a number of our local care homes. Also in The Retreat, which returned after a very successful event last year.*
- *There have been continued links with our schools; a number of classes from Bocking School have been down to visit, as well as Scallywags Nursery. The Dean remains Chair of the Governors at Bocking Primary School and also a Governor at Edith Borthwick.*
- *We have also had regular visits from the local Beavers group particularly in the lead up to Easter and Christmas.*
- *In July, it was great to host Fr Philip's celebration of 40 yrs of Priestly Ministry. Along with Fr Philip were many of those who have supported and guided him over that time, with representation from a number of parishes that he has led, not least St Mary's, Bocking.*

- *St Mary's Fellowship Group has continued to meet each month with ever growing numbers. Last year, members enjoyed the varied lunches, visiting speakers, and a coach trip to London.*
- *At All Souls, we hosted a Memorial Service, inviting all those for whom the parish had conducted a service. It was appreciated by many and will return.*
- *We celebrated Fr Mark's Ordination to the Priesthood firstly at Saffron Walden in late September and then with his First Mass the next day.*
- *We supported other local churches in the first ever joint Messy Church which took place in Bocking Public Gardens in August.*
- *Bishop Roger returned to St Mary's back in February as we confirmed a number of both adults and children in a wonderful service.*
- *We record the loss, during 2018, of a number of people associated with the life of the Church over the years, contributing widely in their different ways. Amongst them we remember with thanksgiving Cyril Cotton, Val Hurry, John Page, Beryl Townley, Kath Jobson, Sheila Allen and Roy Dove*

### ***Grateful Thanks***

The P.C.C. wishes to thank the many, too numerous to mention by name, whose hard work and dedication has meant another successful year for St Mary's Church. We continue to thrive and flourish only because so much is done by so many people in a huge variety of ways and we truly value the contributions made by each and every one. Without so much being done to clean and decorate the Church, provide flowers, music, singing, bells, pastoral care, ministry to the sick and bereaved, take minutes, make coffee, soup and many other meals our parish and its fellowship would be the poorer.

### ***The Dean's Reflections on 2018***

This is my fifth Annual Report, it seems hard to believe really, but here we are! Looking back over 2018 we are reminded that on so many occasions we have been blessed as a church. There really is so much to give thanks for but before that an acknowledgement that none of it would be possible without your continued support, both to me as your Parish Priest but also the family that is St Mary's Bocking. A number of you, again and again, have given your time energy and gifts to support both new initiatives as well as more regular features, all of which have been so wonderfully successful. So from me, a really big thank you, especially to those behind the scenes without whom my role would be infinitely harder.

While the year had many highlights, of real significance personally was being made Dean in December. In a joint service with the new Incumbent at Hadleigh, I was officially made the Dean of Bocking which has been a while in coming. Although, it is wonderful personally, I was especially pleased for the parish and St Mary's.

Those sort of special, stand out services have been a theme through the year beginning with Bishop Roger being with us for Candlemas and the confirmation of more candidates, then Fr Philip's celebrations in July marking 40yrs in ordained ministry, and in September we gathered to support Fr Mark and his family, as he was ordained Priest, a milestone that he had been building to for many years. A real sense of God's presence and grace for Fr Mark as his ministry flourishes at St Mary's. The following day he had the daunting task of celebrating at his First Mass which was an emotional occasion and I don't mind saying just

how proud I was. This year of special, one off services culminated with the commemoration of WW1 on November 11<sup>th</sup> itself, marking exactly 100yrs to the moment since the guns fell silent. Alongside our regular congregation, we welcomed many others to mark this auspicious occasion through music and readings.

St Mary's then has once again been at the very heart of the community with these services but also through our regular worship, seeing some new faces joining us, more wedding couples, and lots more children! It has been wonderful to see the numbers grow steadily in Sunday Club services, and to have the children share at the end what they have been up to, here's to that continuing in 2019.

Earlier in the year we took up the challenge to Grow it Lent with people using some seed money to then turn it into even more with fantastic and creative ideas being used. We also engaged the whole of Bocking School getting them to fill Smarties tubes of coins to take part. All in all, over £2000 profit was raised from an initial £300, which is incredible and indeed has been acknowledged by the charity itself for the impact and total monies raised.

Taking risks isn't easy but we must keep stepping out in faith, and Grow it Lent was a great example of that. Of course, there have been many other highlights in 2018 including leading my first Parish Retreat, but I am struck as we look forward of the need to keep on reaching out, and taking risks. Most importantly, we know that as we face the challenges that lie ahead, as well as seeking to embrace new opportunities, we don't do it alone. As God has blessed us in 2018, so he will continue to do so in this and all the years to come. I look forward to taking those risks with you and journeying together, as we seek to serve God, one another and the community around us.

The Very Revd Rod Reid, Dean of Bocking, April 2019

***NOTE ON THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER FOR THE ACCOUNTS WHICH FOLLOW***

*We are grateful to Elizabeth Burden for continuing to be our Independent Examiner.*











The Deanery Church of St Mary the Virgin, Bocking

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2018

	2018 Unrestricted Funds £	2018 Restricted Funds £	2018 Total Funds £	2017 Total Funds £
<b>Receipts</b>				
Planned Giving	12,165.00		12,165.00 ↑	11,930.00
Collections      Envelopes	12,281.20		12,281.20 ↑	11,228.84
Loose	8,136.89		8,136.89 ↑	6,925.98
Other Voluntary receipts				
Charity Giving	4,599.54		4,599.54 ↑	1,329.31
Fund Raising	9,800.15		9,800.15	13,686.10
Friends of St Mary's		6,740.00	6,740.00	13,704.63
Donations	2,247.92		2,247.92	3,358.14
Gift Aid tax recovered	3,396.98		3,396.98	8,504.30
Activities to generate funds	20,675.39		20,675.39	1,467.90
Investment Income			-	
Dean Rogers & CCLA	6,441.59		6,441.59	6,706.97
Insurance contribution from DRMPF	6,295.56		6,295.56	6,142.36
Church Hall Income	9,405.08		9,405.08	11,472.51
Receipts from Church activities				
Newala		1,049.18	1,049.18	982.12
Weddings and Fundraising	24,798.58		24,798.58	25,247.53
	<u>120,243.88</u>	<u>7,789.18</u>	<u>128,033.06</u>	<u>122,686.69</u>
<b>Payments</b>				
Parish Share	52,119.60		52,119.60	50,925.60
Clergy and Staffing costs	8,294.17		8,294.17	4,350.66
Church running costs				
Church running costs	16,609.02		16,609.02	17,734.79
Utility bills	7,162.41		7,162.41	6,686.29
Repairs	6,224.76		6,224.76	5,433.00
Insurance	6,184.75		6,184.75	5,875.76
Church Hall running costs	4,635.85		4,635.85	2,006.16
Church Hall repairs and maintenance	214.95	6,500.00	6,714.95	27,685.90
Missionary & charitable giving	2,000.00		2,000.00	2,932.50
Fees to Diocese	14,082.35		14,082.35	4,859.00
Cost of generating funds	3,056.76		3,056.76	4,031.17
	<u>120,584.62</u>	<u>6,500.00</u>	<u>127,084.62</u>	<u>132,520.83</u>
<b>Net Surplus/(deficit)</b>	(340.74)	1,289.18	948.44	(9,834.14)
<b>Total Funds brought forward</b>	350,823.08	-	350,823.08	340,573.00
<b>Revaluation of Investments</b>	(17,183.28)	-	(17,183.28)	20,084.22
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<u>333,299.06</u>	<u>1,289.18</u>	<u>334,588.24</u>	<u>350,823.08</u>



The Deanery Church of St Mary the Virgin, Bocking  
Balance Sheet  
As at 31 December 2018

		2018 £		2017 £
<b>Bank accounts</b>				
Current account		<u>28,938.00</u>	28,938.00	<u>29,800.50</u> 29,800.50
<b>Investment assets</b>				
Investments held by the Diocese as Custodian Trustee representing the sale of church hall		115,763.97		127,779.33
CCLA Investments		<u>189,886.27</u>		<u>193,243.25</u>
		305,650.24		321,022.58
<b>Total Funds</b>		<u><u>334,588.24</u></u>		<u><u>350,823.08</u></u>
		£		£
<b>Reserves</b>	Surplus/(deficit) for the year	948.44		(9,834.14)
	Revaluation of investments to market value	(17,183.28)		20,084.22
	Total funds brought forward	350,823.08	345,476.00	340,573.00
				350,823.08
<b>Total funds</b>		<u><u>334,588.24</u></u>		<u><u>350,823.08</u></u>

Approved by the PCC on

2019 and signed on its behalf by:

Rev. R Reid  
Priest in charge

Churchwarden



The Church of St Mary the Virgin Bocking

Year ended 31 December 2018

Notes on SOFA

1) Gift Aid Tax Recovery 2017: Includes an amount of £4,316.36 representing delayed recovery of entitlement for previous years for Small Donation Relief on loose collections, the gift aid is being reclaimed regularly now and this will not recur.

2) Investment Income: This includes income from the CCLA shareholdings and from the Dean Rogers Million Penny Fund which is used to cover Insurance premium.

3) Other Voluntary Gifts: Includes contribution from the Friends of St Mary's against Hall Refurbishment costs of £6,500.



**Independent examiner's report to the Parochial Church Council of The Deanery Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Bocking**

I report to the PCC on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of The Deanery Church of St Mary the Virgin, Bocking (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2018, which are set out on pages 18 to 20.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

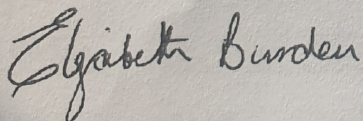
As the charity trustees of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). I report in respect of my examination of the PCC's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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



Elizabeth Burden FCA  
254 Coggeshall Road  
Little Tey  
Colchester

12 April 2019