

1129495

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST
STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING,
MONDAY, 25TH APRIL 2016

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2015

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CHARITY COMMISSION
FIRST CONTACT

13 SEP 2016

ACCOUNTS
RECEIVED

Rector's Report on 2015

Once again I am writing a single report which will cover the whole Benefice. The year 2015 was a difficult one for all of our parishes, not least because we lost several long standing and very hard working members of our congregations.

The year 2015 was my 25th year in ordained ministry. I was ordained as a Deacon in St. Alban's Abbey on the 1st of July 1990. I didn't celebrate that anniversary because it is my intention to celebrate this year the 25th anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood which took place a year later in 1991. I can't help, however, looking back and reflecting on the changes which have taken place over those twenty-five years.

When I was made a deacon it was alongside women who did not know if they would ever be ordained as Priests. At that time, women could be ordained as Deacons but not as Priests. General Synod finally decided to admit women to the priesthood in 1992 and the first women were ordained as priests in 1994. In 2014 women were finally admitted as Bishops and Libby Lane was consecrated as the first female Bishop in the Church of England on the 26th of January 2015. At last, women are able to play a full part in the ministry of the church and I, for one, rejoice in this.

I trained at Lincoln Theological College in the last year that college had a full complement of students. A few years later the college was one of those closed by the church authorities as there were far more places available for training than there were candidates to fill them. I was also considered, at thirty-two, an older candidate. Whilst the Church of England still has many people being ordained there are far fewer than there were twenty-five years ago and most of the people being ordained are older. This means that there are far less clergy available to serve the church and that those who are available are probably able to offer fewer years of ministry. I was ordained to a parish in Watford to serve as part of a team of three clergy in that Parish, which had a single church. Today clergy are far more widely spread and numbers will continue to fall until they level out in about 2025.

However, by far the biggest change that I have seen has been a growing hostility to the people of faith. In 1990, the Church of England was still seen by and large as 'a good thing'. People would regard themselves as 'Church of England' even if they never darkened the church's door. Faith and religion were seen, on the whole, as a good thing; or at least as a harmless eccentricity. All of that changed on September the 11th, 2001. That day changed everything. Suddenly religious believers were seen, not as harmless but as dangerous - the kind of people who guide aeroplanes into buildings. Soon communities, where different religious groups had lived alongside one another for millennia, were torn by conflict. The utterly foolish and wicked war in Iraq served only to pour petrol on flames that were already becoming out of control. Christianity has been almost totally obliterated in the Middle East in a persecution which shows no sign of abating. In our own country, the practice of faith has decreased alarmingly and the social benefit to the community given by faith groups is also under threat.

The context in which we practice our faith has changed beyond recognition over the last twenty-five years but I'm not sure the church has always been awake to that change. In many ways, I am rather an advocate of what I would call 'muddling through'. That is, doing the best we can in a difficult situation and hoping things will get better. But I'm not sure that that is an adequate reaction to the way things are now. My own feeling is that we need a core of

committed, dedicated and trained Christians in each church. We need people who are familiar with the Bible and the history and doctrine of the Christian faith, who are disciplined in prayer and study, and who are able to live out their faith in the communities in which they live. Our times have much in common with the turbulent times in which Dietrich Bonhoeffer began his ministry. He once wrote,

"...the restoration of the church will surely come only from a new type of monasticism which has nothing in common with the old but a complete lack of compromise in a life lived in accordance with the Sermon on the Mount in the discipleship of Christ. I think it is time to gather people together to do this..."

For those who would take this call seriously, I strongly recommend reading Bonhoeffer's two classic works - 'Discipleship' (sometimes called 'The Cost of Discipleship') and 'Life Together'. I would gladly talk further with anyone wanting to think more about this.

Developments in our group of benefices

The Stansted Benefice has been working in cooperation with Takeley and Dunmow for about two years now. Currently, this has been most clearly demonstrated in the mutual support that the clergy have sought to give one another and in the exchanges which have taken place, where clergy have swapped parishes for a particular Sunday. In 2014, we were hoping that we would be able to appoint a half time airport chaplain who would also give time to our benefice. This did not happen. Instead, Rob Burles, the vicar of Takeley, has taken on the role of Airport Chaplain two days a week. As a result of this, some finance has been released. This finance has generously been made available for use across the benefices of Takeley, Dunmow, and Stansted, and the PCC's of the churches have been invited to discuss and consider using that and some additional finance to appoint a pioneer minister and schools worker with a brief to bridge the gap between churches, schools and families within our communities. The planning for this is ongoing but it is an exciting prospect. I think it is vital that this role should not be allowed to become unfocused. It could easily become so diluted that it becomes ineffective. If this plan goes forward (and I hope it will) this must not be allowed to happen.

Services

We continue our regular pattern of worship during the week. Sunday, as the day of the resurrection, is the most prominent day of worship. The day starts with a service of Holy Communion at 8am at Stansted followed by the 9.30 Sung Eucharist at Stansted. This service is much enriched by the contribution of the choir, ably led by our Director of Music, Anne Brooks. On the Second Sunday of each month, the Sung Eucharist uses a simplified form and the Junior Choir makes a valuable contribution. It is encouraging to see that a number of new families have been attending this service.

I do find it difficult that I have to leave the congregation at Stansted very quickly after the 9.30 service, however, I then go on to one of either Farnham or Birchanger Church. There is a Communion service, which I almost always take, at Farnham on the first and third Sundays of the month, and at Birchanger on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. I do find it encouraging that on the other Sundays of the month there is either a service of Morning Prayer or a Family Service led by members of the congregation at Birchanger and Farnham. A highlight of the year in Farnham is the Rogation Service which takes place on one of the farms in the village during which we pray for God's blessing on the land and on the rural community.

On Sunday afternoon, there is often a service of Baptism at 3pm. Our church has a very open baptism policy and I am sure this is welcomed by our community. I'd like to thank Margaret Hill for all the help she gives me in organising baptisms.

Weekday services take place at St. John's on Tuesday with the Tots Service and on Wednesday with a midweek communion. The Tots service is extremely well attended and provides a valuable resource to the parents and others caring for young children. I need to say a huge thank-you to Margaret Hill and to the other ladies who help to make our church a welcoming place on Tuesday mornings.

The midweek communion draws a faithful congregation of about fourteen people who enjoy their worship together and the fellowship following the service.

Schools

Work with schools is an important part of the life of our benefice. There are four primary schools in our benefice with a fifth due to open in September 2016. Three of these are Church of England Schools. During the discussions about a possible move for Farnham School (this did not take place) I took up a place on the governing body and I have been a Governor St. Mary's school in Stansted for a number of years. The role of the governor has become much more demanding in recent years and I found it impossible to adequately carry out that role for two schools and, therefore, stepped down from the governing body of Farnham School once the concern over the possible move was settled.

I take assemblies in all four primary schools and have also sought to be available as a resource to teachers.

Care Homes

Care Homes have a statutory requirement to provide for the spiritual well-being of their residents. There are now three residential care homes in Stansted and I visit all three once a month to provide a short service of Holy Communion. The service involves familiar hymns and prayers and tries to provide a seasonal theme. I know that the service is valued by the residents.

Occasional Offices

I have already spoken about Baptisms but a lot of my time has been devoted to the other 'occasional offices' as they are known; namely weddings and funerals. There were not a lot of weddings in the Benefice in 2015 - only 3. A low number compared to previous years. I'm not sure if this was simply a blip or to do with people anxious about the economic state of the country not wanting to plan too far ahead. I'm pleased to say that wedding bookings for 2016 are back to their normal level.

I took thirty-seven funerals in 2015. It is a real privilege to minister to families at their time of loss and a great opportunity to share the hope we have in Jesus.

Churchwardens

Once again I am hugely grateful for the work done by our Churchwardens. Each year I state that I have always been blessed with the churchwardens that I have worked with and I just

want to say the same again this year. There are two churchwardens within our benefice who have decided to stand down this year. One of those is Pam Lee whose health has not been good over the past year. Pam's shoes are going to be very difficult to fill. She has given so much time, energy and commitment to the work of Birchanger church and I and the people of Birchanger owe her an immense debt of gratitude. She is going to continue as treasurer for Birchanger church - a role which she has filled admirably. It is my genuine hope and prayer that health will improve with treatment and that she will once again be able to take a fuller role in the life and work of the church to which she has been so committed.

Paul Buckingham is also standing down as churchwarden of Farnham, as he is moving away from the village. I am grateful to Paul for his unfailingly wise advice and guidance during his time as churchwarden. We wish him and his family well in their new home.

In 2015, there was a change of churchwarden in Stansted. In Stansted we have a rule that a churchwarden must take a year out after being in office for six years. Cheryl McGreal's six-year term expired in 2015 and she took on the role of treasurer made vacant by the sad death of Nigel Holland. Again there is so much for which I would like to thank Cheryl in both of her roles.

I would also like to thank Gary West for standing again as churchwarden at Stansted and Jo Wilson and Peter Odrich for their continuing as churchwardens at Farnham and Birchanger respectively. I am truly grateful for the work you all do.

Church Office

I am very glad that we once again have a Benefice Administrator who is able to take so much of the routine paper work and administration off of me. As members of the PCC will recognise I was not able to cope well without the kind of assistance Elaine is able to provide. I'm sure she finds me infuriatingly disorganised at times but I am truly grateful for the work she does. I am also very grateful to all those who worked voluntarily in the Church Office before Elaine's appointment and especially to Kathy for her work with the Bulletin. So thank-you to Elaine and thank-you to those who gave their time in the church office before she was appointed and to those who fill in when Elaine is away.

Those we remember with Thanksgiving

The year 2015 was marked by great sadness for the churches of or benefice as we lost some familiar faces from our congregation as they passed into the welcoming arms of our loving heavenly Father.

The year started with the funeral of Christopher Sporborg who died in the last few days of 2014. I spoke last year about Christopher's contribution to Farnham Church where he now rests in the churchyard.

The death of Nigel Holland was a great loss to the whole benefice, to the deanery and to St. Mary's school. Nigel served as treasurer to both St. John's and the Dunmow and Stansted deanery and his work for both was much appreciated. He was also a pillar of strength to Christine, the head-teacher at St. Mary's school, where he served as a governor. I often remarked that Nigel treated the church accounts as seriously as he did those of the major companies which he served in his working life. He was also a person of deep faith, great wisdom

and patience, and great generosity of spirit. We all miss him greatly. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Sue his wife and to his family.

Soon after Nigel passed away we lost another member of the congregation at St. John's, Marion Johnson. Marion was a unique individual and the world is a better place for her having lived in it. She grew up in Swansea and was proud of being Welsh. She overcame hardship and prejudice to become a teacher and spent all her working life teaching in St. Mary's School in Stansted. She is remembered as being quite strict. Marion's life was marked by hardship on several occasions but she remained an optimistic person and person of strong faith. The loss of her beloved son Huw inspired her to found the 'Huw Johnson Club' for disabled people. The club continues to thrive today. Again our thoughts and prayers are with Tom and Anne.

Later in the year, Farnham lost two of its stalwarts. Jim Nancarrow had suffered a hugely debilitating stroke a few years ago and had been severely disabled since. He had been a worshiper at Farnham Church but came more often to the 8am Communion at St. John's, preferring the earlier service. Jim had been an inspiring teacher and a keen cricketer and will be sadly missed. During his disability his wife Freda cared for him with strong devotion and our thoughts and prayers go out to her.

At almost the same time a Jim passed away Margaret Lehner also died. Margaret has to have been one of the most remarkable people I have known and it was a privilege to know her. She achieved 99 years of age and her mind remained alert and incisive almost to the very end. At the age of 99, she was still editing the Farnham Magazine and doing so ably. I loved to talk with her and hear some of the fund of stories she had of life as a nurse in Burma during the Second World War and living in Kenya and Iraq after the war. She is greatly missed.

Barbara Hoffman was a long-standing member of the congregation at St. John's although she had been housebound for quite a few years. She regularly received communion at home and was always anxious to hear the latest news of the church and the people she remembered from it. Not everyone may know that the font cover in St. John's was given by Barbara as a memorial to her young son who sadly died in childhood.

The death of Anne Wilkinson came as a tremendous shock to us all. Anne always looked the picture of health and her sudden illness was completely unexpected. Anne was a regular member of the Wednesday congregation at St. John's and a participant in many regular activities in the village. Her work for the Women's' World Day of Prayer is just one place where she will be very much missed, and again our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

As the year drew to a close we lost yet another member of the St. John's congregation; Priscilla Oldfield. Priscilla was another unique individual who is simply irreplaceable. A determined Irish lady she was a talented architect in her working life and a silversmith in her spare time. She sang in the choir at St. John's and was a faithful worshiper. Like many people, I shall remember that she made the very best tiramisu that I have ever tasted. Once again we reach out in thought and prayer to Stephen and the rest of her family.

All of these were remarkable and special people and to lose so many of them in a single year has been a great sadness to us all. Yet we are confident that they are not lost to us. They have gone to paradise, to the presence of the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and as he rose again so they will rise when He comes again in glory. May they rest in peace until that day.

Thank you

I have already said thank-you to the Churchwardens but I cannot end this report without other expressions of thanks as well. Thanks are also due to those who enrich the musical life of our churches: to Anne and the choir at Stansted, to Ruth and Phil at Birchanger, and to Leila at Farnham.

Thank-you again to Margaret and to all who help out at Tots service at Stansted and to those who lead worship at Birchanger and Farnham on 'non-clergy' Sundays.

Thanks also to those who serve as vergers - to Ann at Farnham, Rosemary at Birchanger and Jean at St. John's.

The trouble with saying thank-yous is that there are so many opportunities to miss people out, so let me say a big thank-you to everyone who gives so much time, money and effort to support the life of our churches. Thank you to all who serve on PCC's, to our treasurers Pam, Cheryl and Lucy, To our PCC secretaries John, Kathy and Sally, to sides people, to those who lead our prayers and read our lessons. Thank-you to those who clean our churches, maintain our churchyards, arrange the flowers and care for the Church Halls. And if I have missed anyone out, then thank-you to you as well.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:3-6

Your Rector,

Paul Wilkin

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PARISHIONERS - 27 APRIL 2015

The meeting was attended by 17 people and chaired by the Rector, Paul Wilkin, who opened the meeting at 8 p.m.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Liz Jennings, Janet Hollis, Malcolm and Judy Lloyd, Derek and Daphne Francis, Alastair and Susan Bone, Nigel Holland, Derek Honour, Bill and Christine Stiles, Margaret Hill and Katy Dockerill.

Minutes of Meeting of 28 April 2014 were approved and there were no matters arising.

Appointment of Churchwardens

There had been two nominations for Churchwardens - Mike Howes and Gary West. There being no other nominations, they were both duly elected.

The Rector thanked Cheryl for all she had done for St John's during her term of six years as Churchwarden.

The meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
27 April 2015**

The Rector, Paul Wilkin, opened the meeting at 8.10. 18 electoral roll members were present. Apologies were as stated for the Parishioners' meeting.

Minutes of APCM held on 28 April 2014 were accepted as a true record, and there were no matters arising.

The Annual Report of the PCC and activities of the parish for year ended 31.12.14 The Rector thanked Kathy for preparing the report and proposed that it be accepted. The meeting voted in favour.

The Annual Financial Accounts

The accounts were presented. There were no questions and the Rector proposed that they be accepted. The meeting voted in favour.

Electoral Roll Report

Ann Conroy reported that the numbers on the electoral roll had remained at 109. Two more requests had been received after the closing date. The Rector proposed that the Report be formally accepted. All voted in favour.

Deanery Synod Report

The Rector thanked Kathy for preparing this report and proposed that it be formally accepted. All voted in favour.

Fabric Goods and Ornaments

This report was presented by Mike. He had brought a copy of the recently completed Safety Audit in case anyone wanted to see it. The Rector proposed that the Fabric Goods and Ornaments report be formally accepted. All voted in favour.

Other Reports

Paul pointed out that there were other reports in the booklets which had been handed out and encouraged those present to take them away and read them.

St Mary's School

Alan Corbishley explained that there was to have been a report from the head of the school, but this had not proved possible in view of an imminent Ofsted inspection. Alan did, however, say he would like everyone to know how well the school is doing. It is important that its role as our church school should remain unchanged, despite it now being located half a mile from the church. The Rector

thanked Alan for his comments. He said he thought it is a fantastic school, and thanked Alan for all the work he has done as Chair of the Governors.

Election of PCC members

There were three nominations for election : Ann Conroy, Alan Corbishley and Cheryl McGreal. In the absence of any other nominations, they were duly elected.

Sidesmen's Report

The Rector thanked all those who do valuable work as sidesmen. The list of sidesmen submitted was approved by all present for re-election.

Appointment of Child Protection Nominated Person: Mike Howes agreed to continue as the designated representative.

Appointment of Vulnerable Adults Nominated Person: Cheryl agreed to continue as the designated representative.

Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner: As our total receipts do not exceed £250,000, we do not need to have our books audited. Instead we can use the services of an independent examiner and it was proposed that we ask Mr. Roy Pinner to provide this service, and he had agreed to continue in the role. He was proposed by Cheryl McGreal, seconded by Gary West, and all voted in favour.

Any Other Business

John Hollis asked if the clippings from the lime trees could be cleared up and removed from the churchyard. This will be addressed.

Rector's Closing Remarks

The Rector said that he had been with the Bishop and other clergy discussing "Transforming Presence". It is a sobering thought that in the 1980s the parishes of Stansted, Birchanger and Farnham had five clergy to serve them. In 2025 there will be 5 for the entire Deanery. The Bishop's priorities under this initiative are to evangelise effectively, serve with accountability, re-imagine ministry, be distinctive in the world. The Rector said this is a challenge we can rise to.

Paul thanked everyone for attending, and the meeting ended with The Grace at 8.45pm.

St John the Evangelist

Charity No. 1129495

Annual Report & Financial Statements

of the

Parochial Church Council of

Stansted Mountfitchet

For the year ended 31st December 2015

**Rector : The Rev'd Paul Wilkin
5 St John's Road
Stansted, CM24 8JP**

Bankers : Barclays Plc

**Independent Examiner :
Roy Pinner
6 Hargrave Close
Stansted, CM24 8DL**

**ST JOHN'S CHURCH, STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
ANNUAL REPORT 2016 FOR THE YEAR 2015**

Rector: Rev'd Paul Wilkin
Administration : Elaine Ballard
The Church Office, St John's Hall
Stansted CM24 8JP. Tel: 01279 815243
Organist/Director of Music: Anne Brooks
Church website: www.stanstedstjohns.btck.co.uk

ST JOHN'S PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

The Council has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the church building and grounds, hall, Curate's house and the grounds of St Mary's Church (now under the control of the Churches Conservation Trust).

St John's has strong links with St Mary's Church of England Primary School. The Rector is regularly invited into Forest Hall School, and Bentfield County Primary School.

St John's is a part of a United Benefice with the parishes of Birchanger and Farnham. The PCC works closely with the St John's Hall committee. Stansted parish is part of the Dunmow and Stansted Deanery.

PCC membership

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with Church Representation Rules. During the year the following served on the PCC:

Clergy : Incumbent: Revd Paul Wilkin
Member of the Diocesan Synod : Mr Roland Pelly

Members of the Deanery Synod :
Mr Alastair Bone
Mr Nigel Holland (until his death on 23rd May 2015)

Mrs Cheryl McGreal (Churchwarden and Vice Chairman until APCM 2015 - also vulnerable adult nominated person)

Elected Members :
Mr Peter Ballard
Mrs Ann Conroy (Electoral Roll Officer)

Mrs Francine Cope
Mr Alan Corbishley
Mrs Katy Dockerill
Mrs Margaret Hill
Mr Matthew Jessup
Mr Malcolm Lloyd
Mrs Jean Newson (from May 2015)
Mr Ray Smith (from May 2015)
Mr Michael Howes (Churchwarden - also child protection nominated person)
Mr Gary West (Churchwarden from APCM 2015)
Mrs Kathryn West (Secretary)

Standing Committee The Standing Committee comprises the Rector, Churchwardens, Secretary, Treasurer and Electoral Roll Officer. This committee is required by law and has the power to transact the business of the PCC subject to the direction of the PCC.

PCC Status The Parochial Church Council of Stansted is registered with the Charities Commission, registration number 1129495 with the working title of St John's Church.

Church Accounts

The church accounts are operated through a scheme administered by the Diocese. The Treasurer liaises with Pauline Montague from the Diocese in the maintenance of church accounts.

Church Music

There are now nineteen adult choir members leading our worship under the direction of Anne Brooks, organist/Director of Music. The St John's Junior choir meets for practice once a week and sings with the adult choir at the monthly Second Sunday Service. There are currently ten members of the junior choir. The PCC was pleased to approve the purchase of new choir robes for the junior choir, funded by the Religious Education Fund.

Church Services

A Holy Communion service is held on Sundays at 8 a.m. (average attendance 4)

A Sung Eucharist service is held at 9.30 a.m. every Sunday. A simpler form of service is used on the second Sunday of the month, which is aimed at families. (average attendance 60). A Wednesday Holy Communion service is held at 10 a.m. (average attendance 10).

Morning Prayer is said on weekday mornings (except Friday) at 8.30am (9am on Wednesday and Saturday). Evening Prayer is said on weekdays (except Friday) at 5pm. The service for St John's Tots is held on Tuesday mornings (average attendance 55). St Mary's Church, Stansted is used as a chapel for churchyard and cemetery interments.

CTS

In 2015 St John's continued to be represented on the Churches Together in Stansted Forum which, under a revised constitution, meets at least three times a year. The PCC were pleased to approve involvement in the following CTS initiatives :

Messy Church The PCC were delighted to support Messy Church which started on 4th October.

Defibrillators CTS had been instrumental in the fundraising for defibrillator machines. St John's was delighted that members of our congregation were amongst people training as "first responders" with access to this equipment.

Food Parcels The "Food Parcels" initiative first mooted by CTS at the end of 2012, continued to be successful, with members of St John's congregation responding generously to fill boxes as they were needed by members of our local community.

Hustings The CTS were instrumental in organising a "hustings" in St John's Church to which all prospective parliamentary candidates were invited to answer questions.

Songs of Praise A "Songs of Praise" (accompanied by the Bishop's Stortford Town Band) was held in the Memorial Gardens on 13th September. Despite a bad forecast, the rain held off. A collection for the charity "Seeking Sanctuary" was held.

Harvest Supper The CTS Harvest Supper was held in St John's church hall in October.

Celebration of Christmas This year, for the first time, the CTS Celebration of Christmas was held at St Theresa's RC Church. This was very successful and extremely well attended.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Proceedings of the PCC and activities of the Parish in 2015

The PCC was saddened to learn of the deaths of several faithful members of our congregation : Nigel Holland, Marion Johnson, Priscilla Oldfield, Barbara Hoffman and Anne Wilkinson.

The full PCC held six ordinary meetings with an average attendance of 85%, with the Standing Committee also meeting six times.

Benefice Office For most of the year, the benefice operated without a Benefice Administrator since the former incumbent had resigned in September 2014. The PCC was very grateful to the volunteers who took over tasks formerly undertaken by her. However, in the spring of 2015 it became apparent that the lack of an administrator was putting undue pressure on our Rector, and so the PCC unanimously agreed to appoint Elaine Ballard in this role with effect from 20th July 2015. This has proved very successful and we are delighted with the way Elaine has settled into the role.

Ministry And Worship

Outreach or Extinction. At the March PCC meeting a lot of time was taken with discussion about a General Synod report which bore the headline *local churches may be extinct in a decade*. Following on from this, Paul produced a paper *Tall Trees Need Deep Roots*, which concluded that we as church members need to be a more prayerful people, particularly praying together as Christians. There are opportunities to pray which very few of us take up - for instance on most days Morning and Evening prayer, Pilgrim courses. If we took up these opportunities our spiritual lives would be deepened in order to bring others to God.

Family Service At the PCC Meeting in January, it was agreed to change the date of the Family Service from the first to the second Sunday in the month. It was felt that this would be a more appropriate Sunday to hold this service. Under this new arrangement, a simplified Sung Eucharist Service is now held.

Silent Prayer Day On 9th May, Magdalen Houlihan from Clare Priory came to St John's to host a workshop exploring Silent Prayer. This was well attended.

Pastoral Care As part of our pastoral care and community work within the Parish, during 2015 the Rector officiated at twenty baptisms, three weddings and thirty-seven funerals (including some at the Crematorium). There have also been regular visits to the housebound and the sick as well as visits to support the families concerned. Pastoral care is also provided to Norman Court, Hargrave House and Broom End Nursing Home.

The Prayer Group met on a monthly basis at the homes of parishioners.

Family of Churches Our Rector Paul has been working closely with clergy in neighbouring parishes, and on several occasions during 2015, he and his opposite number at Takeley church swapped churches for Sunday services. This will be extended to include Dunmow clergy in 2016.

Book of Remembrance The PCC are grateful to Peter Ballard for volunteering to keep this up to date. It has now become customary for people's year's mind to be mentioned in the Sunday Bulletin and our prayers of intercession.

Special Services in 2015

Women's World Day of Prayer In March it was St John's turn to host this service which was written by the women of The Bahamas.

Good Friday Our Good Friday service this year was a Tenebrae Service which had been specially written by the Royal School of Church Music.

Magna Carta Service On Sunday, 14th June St John's hosted a special service to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta. The beautiful Magna Carta embroidery was on display in the church, and one or two brave souls had a picnic in the grounds of the church under stormy skies.

All Souls Service In accordance with our normal custom, this service was held in November. Recently bereaved people from the community were invited to attend to hear their loved ones mentioned by name, and to light a candle in their memory.

Deanery Healing Service This took place in St John's on the Feast of St Luke, 18th October.

Christmas Once again, the Children's Christmas Eve Service brought a packed church, with children dressing up as their favourite nativity story character.

Mission, Fellowship, Fundraising

Lent Course A five-week Lent Course took place in the church exploring The Ten Commandments.

Hill Chilli Sonia Levy's Hill Chilli event took place in July with funds raised going to the Church Hall. The PCC is grateful to Sonia for her continuing support.

Church opening The church continued to be open for visitors during daylight hours, and a book provided for prayer requests. Whilst it is hard to quantify the number of visits that took place during the year, the book is well used, and comments in it show the appreciation of local people and visitors to the village that they have found the church to be open.

Children's Society Members of St John's congregation continued to support the Children's Society through the collecting boxes scheme.

Whitechapel Mission continued to receive support from the congregation who donated items of clothing, bedding and toiletries throughout the year.

Christmas Market The Christmas Market was again under the management of Richard Lenten and Ray Smith. Over £2,600 was raised.

Herts and Soul Community Choir Concert in December also raised funds for the church hall and local charities

Other fund raising schemes Regular funds continue to be generated by Susan Bone's candle sales, Janet Wilkin's crafts, the 300 Club (now in its sixth year) the sale of goods made by the Craft Ladies, and the profit from sale of teas/coffees on Sunday mornings. St John's is a Fair Trade church, and Jean Newson runs the Traidcraft stall on most Sunday mornings in church, profits going to church funds.

Bishop of Chelmsford's appeal St John's were pleased to support the Diocesan Refugee Appeal launched in September. The sum of £270 was raised.

Thursday morning coffee at St John's This idea was floated at the PCC and consideration is still being given to it.

Essex Clergy Charity Our Rector Paul is now a representative of this charity. The PCC were pleased to agree to a donation of £50 a year to the charity.

Church Buildings/Equipment And Grounds

St Mary's Churchyard As reported last year, the PCC's attention was drawn to the fact that the churchyard at St Mary's Church is full and no space is available for new graves. The procedure to close the churchyard and pass responsibility for its upkeep to the Parish Council continued during 2015.

Choir Frontals The PCC agreed to investigate the possibility of purchasing choir frontals for the front rows of the choir to rest books on.

Sound System Improvement to the sound system was discussed with no firm proposals being put forward.

Gate No action has yet been taken with regard to the proposed gate across the car park.

Airport Chaplain The proposal to appoint a part-time Airport Chaplain to be accommodated in our Benefice did not materialise. For this reason the Gilbey Crescent property has been re-let.

Church Hall The PCC was concerned about the dilapidated state of the Church Hall and a special meeting to discuss this was scheduled for January 2016.

Lighting Problems with the lighting continue to be addressed.

Notice Boards The Parish Council had drawn our attention to the fact that our two notice boards on Chapel Hill have fallen into a state of disrepair. Quotations are being obtained.

PCC SECRETARY'S SUMMARY

Although the decision not to replace the Benefice Administrator was done with the best of intentions - mainly for economic reasons - by spring of 2015 it became apparent that this was putting too much additional workload onto the shoulders of our Rector. The PCC is pleased that following the appointment of Elaine, the church administration once again runs smoothly, leaving Paul to concentrate on his ministry in our Benefice and our Deanery.

There are several outstanding issues which are of concern to the PCC, the most pressing of which concerns the condition of the Church Hall. There is now a *Church Hall Task Force* considering various options, and progress is being made.

Please remember that PCC minutes are available at the sidesmen's table for perusal.

Kathryn West, PCC Secretary, April 2016

St John's Church ~ Stansted Mountfitchet
Statement of Assets & Liabilities
as at 31st December 2015

	General Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowments Fund	Total 2015	Total 2014
Fixed Assets						
Property						
Gilbey Crescent		37535			37535	37535
Church Hall		73985			73985	73985
Land at St Mary's		1			1	1
	0	111521	0	0	111521	111521
Investments						
Livesey Trust				3654	3654	3605
Tithe Chancel				4594	4594	4396
WLO Trust				0	0	828
	0	0	0	8248	8248	8829
Total Fixed Assets	0	111521	0	8248	119769	120350
Current Assets						
Debtors					0	0
Deposit	33552	9574	23058		66184	66417
Cash at bank	39428	6414	-3091		42751	27050
	72980	15988	19967	0	108935	93467
Current Liabilities						
Agency			-3591		-3591	-1051
Grand Total	72980	127509	23557	8248	232294	214868
Funds						
General Fund	72980				72980	52692
Designated						
Benefice Fund		1261			1261	530
Fabric Fund		12475			12475	16747
Hall Fund		2252			2252	1764
Property Fund		111521			111521	111521
Restricted						
WLO			866		866	402
J Livesey Trust			542		542	0
RE Trust			22149		22149	22383
Endowment						
J Livesey Trust				3654	3654	3605
Tithe Chancel Trust				4594	4594	4396
WLO					0	828
	72980	127509	23557	8248	232294	214868

Approved by the PCC on

and signed on their behalf by Revd Paul Wilkins

Signed:

Paul Wilkins

10/4/16

St John's Church ~ Stansted Mountfitchet
Receipts & Payments A/c for year ending 31st December 2015

Receipts	General Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowments	Total 2015	Total 2014
<i>Voluntary Income</i>						
Planned Giving	41198				41198	43488
Tax Reclaimed	5501	0			5501	11362
Collections	4690				4690	6394
Grants		0	6		6	12413
Legacy	27000	0			27000	1000
Donations ~ Gift Aided	40	0			40	856
~ General	1325				1325	1290
~ Charities	287				287	2755
	80041	0	6	0	80047	79558
<i>Activities for generating funds</i>						
General Fundraising	3665	470			4135	5553
300 Club	4091				4091	3294
Fair Trade Stall	840				840	974
	8596	470	0	0	9066	9821
<i>Investment income</i>						
Curate's House	3050				3050	8885
Dividends			172		172	168
Interest	382	1	126		509	293
	3432	1	298	0	3731	9346
<i>Incoming resources from charitable activities</i>						
Church Lettings	740				740	240
Hall Lettings		7991			7991	9204
Parochial Fees	90	4968			5058	4159
	830	12959	0	0	13789	13603
<i>Other incoming resources</i>						
Miscellaneous					0	53
Insurance Claim		0			0	
	0	0	0	0	0	53
Total Receipts	92899	13430	304	0	106633	112381

Payments	General Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowments	Total 2015	Total 2014
<i>Cost of generating voluntary income</i>						
Gift Aid Scheme Costs	125	0	0	0	125	0
<i>Fundraising Costs</i>						
General Fundraising	0				0	881
Fair Trade Stall	942				942	822
	942	0	0	0	942	1703
<i>Charitable activities</i>						
Parish Share	51658				51658	51330
Fees & Licences	273	359			632	402
Mission & Charities	964	20			984	3773
Service Costs	961				961	1094
Utilities	4650	1328			5978	6772
Insurance	3529	853			4382	4881
Parish Costs: Education	45		359		404	
Parish Costs: Mission	279				279	221
Non-Pastoral Staff costs	2509	1258			3767	5289
Clergy Costs	1579				1579	1711
General Admin: Benefice Costs	1536				1536	
General Admin: Sundries		8			8	1394
Repair & Maintenance: minor	4686	4527			9213	10474
Repair & Maintenance: major		4272			4272	5912
Repair & Maintenance: Curate House	1452				1452	268
Churchyard	1192				1192	1008
Equipment					0	155
APCM+ Governance costs					0	
Miscellaneous	89				89	103
	75402	12625	359	0	88386	94787
Total Payments	76469	12625	359	0	89453	96490
Surplus/Deficit	16430	805	-55	0	17180	15891
Revaluations				247	247	444
Transfers	3858	-3858	828	-828	0	
prior y/e Adjustment					0	
Opening Balance	52692	130562	22784	8829	214868	198532
Closing Balance	72980	127509	23557	8248	232294	214868

**Designated Funds
Receipts & Payments Accounts**

Receipts	Benefice Fund	Fabric Fund	Hall Fund	Property Fund	Total 2015	Total 2014
<i>Voluntary Income</i>						
Tax Reclaim					0	0
Grants					0	12407
Legacy					0	0
Donations ~ Gift Aided					0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	12407
<i>Activities for generating funds</i>						
General Fundraising			470		470	415
	0	0	470	0	470	415
<i>Investment income</i>						
Interest			1		1	1
	0	0	1	0	1	1
<i>Incoming resource from charitable activities</i>						
Hall Lettings			7991		7991	9204
Parochial Fees	4968				4968	4085
	4968	0	7991	0	12959	13289
<i>Other incoming resources</i>						
Miscellaneous					0	10
Insurance					0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	10
Total Receipts	4968	0	8462	0	13430	26122
<i>Payment</i>						
	Benefice Fund	Fabric Fund	Hall Fund	Property Fund	Total 2015	Total 2014
<i>Fundraising Costs</i>						
General Fundraising					0	662
	0	0	0	0	0	662
Fees & Licences	359				359	32
Mission & Charities	20				20	20
Utilities			1328		1328	2565
Insurance			853		853	1325
Non Pastoral Staff						
Costs			1258		1258	1035
Gen Admin			8		8	48
R&M: minor			4527		4527	4734
R&M: major		4272			4272	5912
Miscellaneous					0	103
	379	4272	7974	0	12625	15774
Total Payments	379	4272	7974	0	12625	16436
Surplus/Deficit	4589	-4272	488	0	805	9686
Transfers	-3858				-3858	-4145
Opening Balance	531	16747	1764	111520	130561	125020
Closing Balance	1262	12475	2252	111520	127508	130561

Restricted Funds Receipts and Payments

Receipts	Livesley Trust	WLO	Religious Education Trust	Total 2015	Total 2014
<i>Voluntary Income</i>					
Grants		6		6	6
	0	6	0	6	6
<i>Investment Income</i>					
Dividends	140	32		172	168
Interest			126	126	116
	140	32	126	298	284
Total Receipts	140	38	126	304	290
Payment					
<i>Charitable activities</i>					
Parish Costs:					
Education			359	359	0
Churchyard				0	51
Total Payments	0	0	359	359	51
Surplus/Deficit	140	38	-233	-55	239
Transfer		828		828	0
Opening Balance	402	0	22383	22785	22546
Closing Balance	542	866	22150	23558	22785

Endowments Receipts & Payments

Receipts	Livesey	Watson Levey + Oliver	Tithe Chancel Trust	2015	2014
Interest				0	163
Total Receipts	0	0	0	0	163
Payments					
Total Payments	0	0	0	0	0
Surplus/Deficit	0	0	0	0	163
Transfer		-828		-828	444
Revaluation	49		198	247	0
Opening Balance	3605	828	4396	8829	8222
Closing Balance	3654	0	4594	8248	8829

**Notes to the Financial Statement
For year ended 31st December 2015**

1 Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2011 together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2015 and on the receipts and payments method.

The historical cost convention has been used except for the valuation of investments assets, which are shown at market value. These statements include all transactions assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that own their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

On completion of the 2011 accounts the treasurer did not wish to continue and as no one within the parish could be found to take on this role the PCC availed itself of the book-keeping services offered by the Diocese. This minimum 3 year commitment with a minimum of 1 year's notice has now ended and the PCC has confirmed that it wishes to continue using this service.

2 Funds

- a) **Endowment Funds** are funds, the capital of which must be maintained, only the income arising from these investments may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established. The Wilson Levey & Oliver endowment was closed during the year and the funds transferred to the Wilson Level & Oliver Restricted Fund. The endowments under the control of the PCC are:

Mrs E Livesey Trust	Purpose:	Maintenance of St Marys
Tithe Chancel		Repairs to the Chancel

- b) **Restricted Funds** represent (a) income from trusts and endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific project. These funds may only be expended on the specific project for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance of that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis. Current restricted funds are:

Wilson Levey & Oliver	Purpose:	Upkeep of the Churchyard
Mrs E Livesey Trust		Maintenance of St Marys
Religious Education Trust		Religious Education

- c) **Designated Funds:** These are funds that the PCC has set aside for specific projects or purposes and may be returned to General Funds as the need arises. Current designated funds are:

Fabric Fund	Purpose:	Fabric of the Church
Hall Fund		Maintenance of Hall
Benefice Fund		Benefice receipts and payments

- d) **Unrestricted Funds** are those funds that can be used by the PCC for ordinary purposes. There is only one fund in this category and that is the General Fund

3 Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in these accounts in accordance with s10(2) of the Charities Act 2011.

Moveable church furnishings are held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). Individual items of equipment with a purchase value of £1000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired. The parish still retains an electric organ that was purchased in 2005

4 General Notes

- a) **Benefice Costs:** Birchanger and Famham each contribute towards the costs incurred for the Benefice as a whole. With effect from 1st January 2011 the agreed ratios were Stansted 70%, Birchanger 15% and Famham 15% and they remained unchanged during 2015.
- b) **Current Liabilities ~ Agency:** The Statement of Assets and Liabilities shows a balance of £1051, This relates to transactions undertaken on behalf of our sister churches in Birchanger and Famham. The Parish Office deals with receipts and reallocation of all Parochial Fees for the benefice and at the year end there were balances owed to Birchanger (£1011) and Famham (£1961). Also all expenses incurred relating to the cost of the Parish Office are recorded through the Church Current it is therefore necessary to re-allocate the proportion chargeable as mentioned in 4a above. The Church also pays for all gas, electricity and water bills, this is then reallocated to Hall (50%) and Parish Office (2%). As the position of Parish Administrator was only filled in the later part of the year the regular payments being received from Birchanger and Famham now exceeds the costs. Thus are the year end the balances were:

Parish Office costs	Birchanger	1011
	Famham	1961
	Hall owes Church	(6562)
		<u>£(3591)</u>

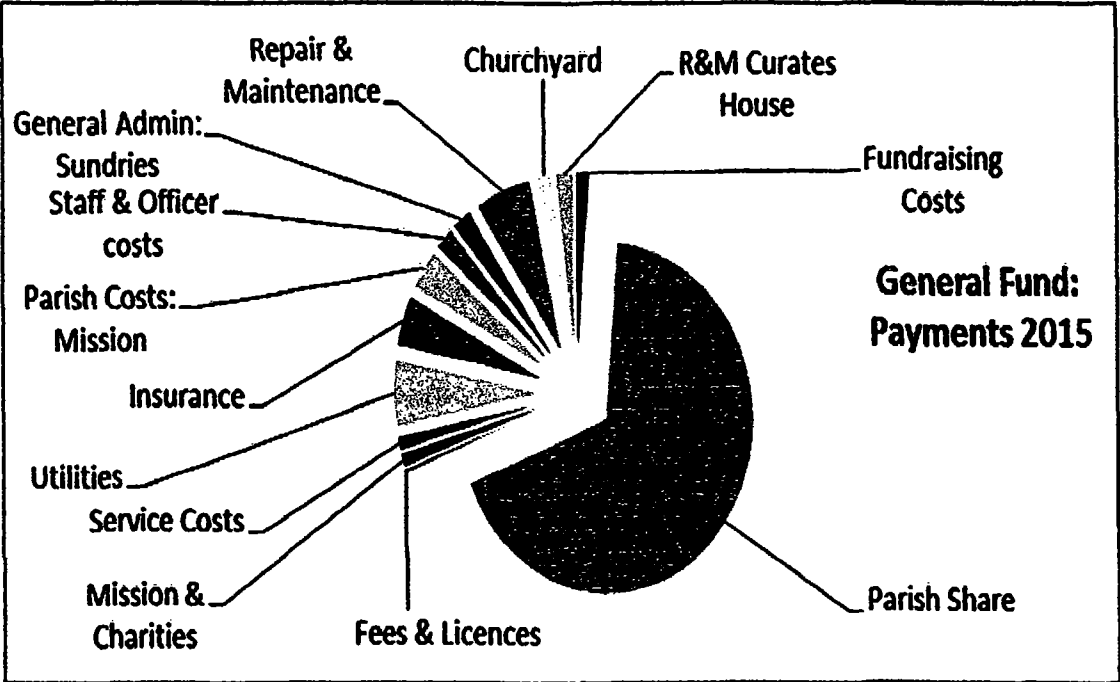
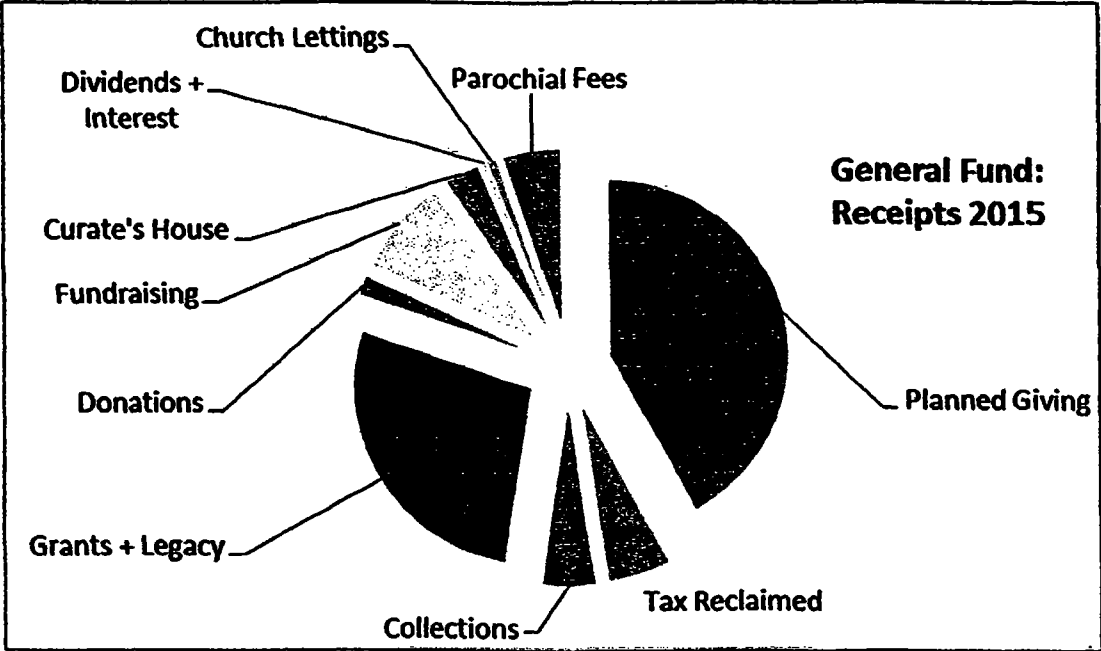
c) General Fundraising~ Total £4135

	Receipts		Payment	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
Christmas Market	2917	2573		97
Coffee	464	177		
Craft	950	813		
Jazz (for the Hall)	415	470	662	
Ride & Stride	100	103		
Concert	611			
Quiz	30			
Misc	66			123
	<u>£5,553</u>	<u>£4,135</u>	<u>£882</u>	<u>£0</u>

d) Mission & Charity Collections: During the year several collections were made to support other charities:

	2014	2015
Bishop's Appeal		289
Essex Clergy		50
Christian Aid	20	20
Churches together in Stansted	3023	
CMS		75
Funeral Collections	580	
Stort Valley Schools	50	
Defibulator	100	
SL Davies ~ Trike		500
St Barnabas		50
	<u>£3,773</u>	<u>£984</u>

5 General Fund Analyses 2015



From: Kathryn West [kewest@btinternet.com]
To: "Cheryl McGreal" <cl.mcgreal@talktalk.net>, "Ann Conroy" <ann.con@btinternet.com>, "Michael Howes" <michael.howes1@ntlworld.com>, "Paul Wilkin" <paulwilkin@iname.com>, "Gary West" <gary.west@talktalk.net>
Date: 26/04/2016 10:29
Subject: AMENDMENT TO TREASURER'S STATEMENT

General Fund

The year-end accounts show a revenue surplus of £16,430. There is outstanding money to come to us from the Gift Aid Scheme, which will increase this figure by £5,000 to £21,430. Without the two bequests totalling £27,000, there would have been a revenue deficit of £5,570.

Please amend your copies.

Treasurers Statement 2015

General Fund

The year-end accounts show a surplus of £17,180. However this is due to two bequests totalling £27,000 given to the church. Without the legacies there would be a revenue deficit of £5,570.

The Parish Share was paid in full in 2015. The parish contribution for 2016 will be £53,666. As our parish has opted to pay in full by direct debit, a 1% regular payment discount of £536.60 is applicable, leaving a balance of £53,129.40, thus giving a monthly payment of £4,427.45.

Fabric Fund

The lighting in the church is still ongoing and is very expensive to achieve. The five year Quinquennial is due in June 2016 which will throw up repairs and maintenance. The nave roof will need replacing during the next ten years. It is important to increase our efforts in fund raising to cover costs not only now but in the future.

Hall Fund

The hall is running at a deficit of £6,562.46. This figure is to cover utilities which is paid for by the PCC and the hall then reimburses us. There is a debt of £1,500 owed by one of the hirers, which is now with the courts.

General Notes

I would like to thank those of you who have worked hard in raising funds for the church during 2015. For all the volunteers who help on a day to day basis.

Finally, thanks go to Mr Roy Pinner, our Independent Examiner.

Cheryl McGreal, April 2016

Stansted Mountfitchet Parochial Church Council

Independent Audit Examination for Financial Year Ended 31 December 2015

Criteria to continue with my appointment:

- 1) I am independent.
- 2) I have the requisite ability & practical experience for this PCC, as I have many years experience of professional auditing & have also acted as auditor of this PCC for several years.
- 3) My appointment has been approved by the PCC.
- 4) The PCC is aware of my responsibilities.
- 5) This PCC's gross income & total expenditure is less than £250,000 in this & the two preceding years.
- 6) In my first year as auditor I obtained background information on the PCC, how it is organized, the extent of its activities, the existence of Trusts & the nature of its income, expense, assets, liabilities & funds. For subsequent years I have checked & updated relevant details concerning the aforementioned from the previous year.

Accounting Records maintained by the PCC

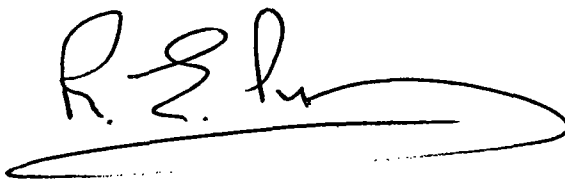
Cash Book, General Ledger, Church Hall income & expenditure account & Benefice Office income & expenditure account.

Scope of Audit

I selected the months of July, August & September 2015 & traced all transactions through the bank statements, cash book & general ledger using detailed schedules where necessary. I also verified that all payments were accompanied by an approved invoice or other relevant request for payment. I also checked the monthly totals for income & expense through to the accounts via the general ledger or other supporting records.

I reviewed the PCC minutes & ensured any activities & policies were reflected in the accounts.

Finally, I reviewed the 2015 Accounts & compared them to the previous year, obtaining explanations for any material differences or new classifications from the Treasurer.



Roy Pinner,
6 Hargrave Close,
Stansted,
Essex CM24 8DL

19TH April 2016

Deanery Synod report for 2015

St John's is part of the Deanery of Dunmow and Stansted and has two Deanery Synod representatives, Alastair Bone and Cheryl McGreal. Representatives are appointed every three years, and the next election will be in 2017.

Deanery Synod meetings are held at various churches throughout the Deanery. There have been four Deanery Synod meetings held since the last APCM.

Every year the Deanery organises a Prayer Pilgrimage. The one held in 2015 was very successful with between 25-40 people each month walking a specified route incorporating churches in the deanery. The walkers also joined together to pray for the people of that church and the work that it does.

Each year a Deanery Service is held with a different theme. This year it was the turn of St John's to host this service, which was led by our Rector Paul and Rev Tim Goodbody. It was held on the Feast of St Luke and was a service of healing.

At the November meeting, Rev Canon David Parrott, Vicar of St Lawrence Jewry spoke on 'Ministering amongst Mammon' in which he explained his City of London ministry.

Towards the end of 2015 it was announced that Rev Rob Burles, Vicar of Takeley, was to be appointed part-time Chaplain at Stansted Airport.

Deanery Synod meetings are open to everyone. Look out for details of forthcoming meetings in the church bulletin.

Kathy West, PCC Secretary

Electoral Roll Report

There is the same number on the Electoral Roll as last year - 109.

Four members died during 2015 - Nigel Holland, Marion Johnson, Priscilla Oldfield and Anne Wilkinson. Four people have joined.

Ann Conroy
Electoral Roll Officer

REPORT ON THE FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS 2015

During 2015 we conducted the 5-year electrical condition survey. This revealed that some of the internal electric cabling in the Church is reaching the end of its useful life. It still has some life left in it, but we will need to have it checked annually to ensure it is still safe. However, the cabling to the outside lights is in a worse state and needs to be partially replaced. This work will be conducted as part of the electrical remedial project during the second week of February 2016.

A project to upgrade the lighting in St John's with LED lights similar to those installed at Farnham is still under way. The test lamp installed in the nave did not prove entirely satisfactory and to install 30 or so of this type would have been very expensive. Cheaper and better options are now available and further quotations have been requested that use LED lights to illuminate both the Nave, South Aisle, Chancel, and parts of the roof. We may retain the existing LED lights in the Lady Chapel because they appear to be satisfactory. All this work will require a Faculty and it is unlikely that the necessary approval will be achieved much before mid-year. The sooner we can do this work the better, because the current lighting in St John's is extremely expensive to run. Not only do the existing lights consume a lot of electricity but the replacement reflector spot bulbs blow regularly and are also expensive to replace. A conservative estimate puts the annual saving in excess of £2,000 if we replace all our lights with LEDs.

The Fire and Safety Risk Assessment was updated in November. Following this annual update there remain some issues that users of the Church need to consider:

- The meter in the Boiler Room can now be read automatically, so there is no need for the meter reading company to enter the building. However, a few members of the Church have to go into the Boiler Room to recover flower stands and other kit. It is important that no-one goes into the Boiler Room unaccompanied and a person should remain outside to call for assistance if necessary.
- The Churchwardens are concerned about Fire Risk in St John's because there is so much in the Church that could burn. For this reason it is important that all sidesmen are aware of the location of fire extinguishers and keep an accurate account of the number of people in the Church. A digital counter is available from the Churchwardens for this purpose.
- Every special event in the Church needs to be supported by a separate Safety Audit. This is a requirement of the Church's Insurance policy and is usually carried out in about an hour. It helps to identify and avoid risks.

Minor repairs have been carried out to several panes of glass in the South Aisle, caused by a child throwing stones.

A project is in hand to replace the Notice Boards in the Church grounds. This is currently being handled through a small sub-committee. Because the Boards are to be erected on Church grounds, a Faculty will be required.

In 2016 we are due to have our next Quinquennial Survey. The date for the inspection has been set in late May. One area of particular concern is the whole of the tiled area of the roof. Some preliminary items were noted by Lodge and Sons when they carried out the annual guttering maintenance. This implies that some work is already necessary particularly in the roof area above the Vestry. It is hoped to obtain approval from neighbours for a further aerial survey in spring 2016 of the whole roof area, using a camera attached beneath a small drone.

No additional goods or ornaments were added during the year.

In order to understand the extent of routine maintenance work at St John's and define an ongoing list of project work and faculties required, the Churchwardens have compiled a catalogue of everything that is in hand. The routine work is defined in the form of a year plan, that also records contact details of the contractors who normally carry out the work. There is also a section that lists all the one-off projects in hand and their status. This document is constantly under review and a new version is issued for every Standing Committee and PCC meeting.

An important reason for doing this analysis is to understand the totality of what is required at St John's to keep on top of everything. It will be a key starting point to help newly elected Churchwardens to understand what is required. But it also provides a sound basis for delegation because work cannot be delegated unless there is an understanding of what needs to be done. In view of the amount of work that has been identified it seems inevitable that if everything is to get done, then others will have to be involved in the process.

Several key things stand out from this analysis that need to be addressed:

- A few projects have earmarked funding, but the majority, including major jobs such as the lighting upgrade currently have no funds allocated, so raising money to address these issues is going to be an important consideration.
- The priority order for big projects such as the lighting or nave roof renewal is often undefined. This is currently left to the Churchwardens to decide, but the PCC needs to be more involved in the process.
- We currently have only one Warden normally available during the week. But most routine maintenance work is done during the working week by various contractors. So it follows that attendance on site always falls onto the shoulders of one individual. Inevitably there are mishaps. In view of this, and the volume of work needed at St John's over the next few years, we need to consider if a third Warden who can be available during the week might help to alleviate the problem.

Michael Howes

11th February 2016

St John's Church Hall
Annual Report for 2015

1. Committee/management

As Chairman of the Hall committee I have also acted as Treasurer for the time being.

Committee members during the year are as follows:

Ray Smith	Chairman
Simon Wilson	Bookings Administrator
Stuart Ayres	
Cheryl McGreal	Church Warden
Matthew Jessup	PCC member

Co-opted
Yvette Georgiou Cleaner

It is my pleasant duty to thank all members of the Hall Committee, who have worked so hard to keep the ship afloat and maintain its progress through 2015

2. Committee Meetings

The Committee met on two occasions to discuss various matters which required more time than brief discussions at Church.

3. 2015 Financial Results

Refer to accounts provided by the Deanery.

Essentially lettings income was £ xxxxx (2014 £ 9,620) and expenditure £ xxxxx (2014 £ 10,228 giving a loss of £ xxx (2014 £ 608). It is regretted that the accounts do not easily permit extraction of the above figures for this year. I shall be visiting Pauline Montague in the near future to determine how this situation can be remedied

Fundraising (included in the income) was £ 1,000 approx.

4. Bookings and Fund raising

Basically the type of bookings has remained constant, although there are several new, regular Customers eg Slimming World, Air Britain etc, which is very encouraging. Parties for teenagers and young adults remained banned during 2015 in common with other Halls in the area.

In terms of fundraising, The Hill Chilli event raised £ 415 but the H&S Christmas Concert is becoming a regular event and raised £ 600 last December.

5. Fabric

Basically no changes apart from the clearance of some ivy and saplings at the back of the hall facilitating exit from the Hall in emergency. A working party to consider the refurbishment of the Hall has been established and is making good progress.

6. Security

Nothing to report

There have been no instances of vandalism or forced entry.

7. Inventory in Hall - essentially no change

6' Tables in Hall	15
(6' Tables in Church	2)
Stackable tables	6
Chairs: folding cream/grey	51
Chairs, stackable, blue/grey	55

8. Challenges for 2016

The Chairman is looking forward to better developing the treasury function and other aspects of the Hall management, in particular

- Supporting the Bookings Administrator in increasing "sales".
- Establish a set of metrics which will enable financial trends to be monitored and controlled such that the hall is turned round into a (small) net profitable, independent venture.
- Progress plans to fund the upgrading proposals, post the Viridor debacle.
- Renew efforts for fundraising.

Raymond M. Smith
Hall Chairman

12th April 2016

Sidesmen's Report

Sadly we lost Nigel Holland from our team but we have endeavoured to maintain a helpful and friendly presence at the 9.30 Eucharist and occasional other services throughout the last year. I would like to pay a public tribute to Derek Poole-Adams, who does not wish to be formally elected as a sidesman, but who continues to give wonderful support by getting the books and service sheets ready most weeks.

I propose the re-election of the following members:

John Dockerill, Katy Dockerill, Reg Farmer, Derek Francis, Derek Honour, John Jaques, Nigel Johnson, Ann Lee, Richard Lenton, Malcolm Lloyd, Ray Smith, Bill Stiles, Harold Thistle and Jenny Wood.

I also propose the election of the following three new members : Francine Cope, Julie Lenten and Janet Macfarlane.

Katy Dockerill

Churchyard, Trees and Grounds

St. Mary's

There are three Ash trees in the Churchyard. None have yet shown signs of Ash Die-Back. We have kept these under surveillance during the year. The most recent inspection was on 22nd February 2016, but this disease is difficult to spot during the winter months.

No other work has been necessary at St Mary's this year.

St. John's

Weeds around the Church have been treated with industrial weed killer this year and were also cleared manually during a Churchyard clearing day. This has significantly improved the appearance of the Church, but as ever the work will need to be repeated in the spring of 2016.

Several Churchyard clearing days have been organised during which volunteers reduced the height of the front hedge, pruned off suckers from the lime trees and generally cleared up branches and litter. The side hedge between St John's Road and the Church Hall also needs to be reduced to approximately half its current height. This work has been started and is still in progress.

Concern has been expressed about the state of the car park entrance, which probably needs to be resurfaced. The car park itself cannot be resurfaced with tarmac or any solid substance such as concrete because this would prevent rainwater from clearing adding to the risk of flooding in the Church Hall. The answer may be to add more pea gravel.

Graffiti at the East end of the Church still needs to be cleaned. We have not yet found an effective means of doing this. Graffiti on brickwork is difficult to remove.

It has not been necessary to conduct any other work on the trees at St John's.

Michael Howes

300 Club

As the current 300 Club year draws to a close on 30 April, we have 282 numbers allocated, an increase of 10 on last year, and will have raised £4,265 net profit for the church over the course of the year. We already know that 7 of these numbers will become available at the start of the new year, due to deaths and members moving from the area but we will, as always, attempt to resell these numbers and further increase the member base to maintain our relatively gradual but steady rise in membership and, therefore, profit.

Having now been running for 6 years, the 300 Club has paid out a total of £15,000 in prize money and raised a grand, and much needed, total of £19,945 for church funds.

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported this venture and I hope that you will all be prepared to continue your membership for another year. For anyone who has not yet joined but would like to do so, please contact myself or Rosaleen Nagle for an application form for the new year to commence on 1 May 2016.

Francine Cope

The Choir

The main adult choir of St John's continues to have some 19 members who sing at all the main services, some weddings and funerals, and also at Farnham and Birchanger during the Christmas season. The adult choir leads the singing at all the main services and performs a weekly anthem. All of the junior choristers are now singing the hymns and anthems alongside the adult choir at the monthly Second Sunday service.

The junior choir is now well established and consists of about ten members. As well as their singing and weekly activities, the children work towards the Royal School of Church Music "Voice for Life" programme. During the past year some of the choristers have been awarded their Voice for Life "White" badges. Some of the junior members have also achieved special music badges for musical attainment in choral music.

The older members received their "Light Blue" medals.

All these awards were given to the choristers at the Christingle service in December 2015.

On Christmas Eve 2015 the junior choristers also performed a play called "The Miracle at the Christmas Café" as part of the service for children and parents.

As well as singing, reading musical notation and playing, the choristers learn aspects of the Christian faith through various activities. Much of the work is displayed in church on a regular basis.

The St John's music group continues to play at the Second Sunday services and have also performed at St Mary's for the Christmas Tree Festival service. Both choirs attended this service of lessons and carols.

Both choirs rehearse on Thursday evenings during school term times. The children meet from 5.45 p.m. to 6.45 p.m. followed by refreshments. The adults rehearse from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Anne Brooks, Director of Music BA (Hons), LGSM Dip Mus. Dip RS)

CRAFT LADIES

During 2015 the Craft ladies have been busy making a wide variety of knitted and sewn items to raise money for the Church. Items sold are mainly made from donated materials and the amount raised this year was £1,013 plus Susan's candles and boot sales raised over £400.

There is not much that our ladies cannot turn their hand to and are happy to accept commissions, for example, named banners, named teddy bears and special sized aprons.

We have a regular place at Ugley Farmers' Market which is on the third Saturday of each month.

Other events we have attended in 2015 are:

Summer Fayre in Station Road

Windmill Fete

Church Christmas Market

Stansted Christmas Fayre

Ann, Sally, Rosaleen, Susan and June

Helpline

With the exception of 2014 which was particularly busy with 193 requests, we had our next highest number of calls last year since 2008 - 179 in total, of which 167 related to providing transport.

We lost 4 volunteers last year as a result of their own ill health or that of their spouses but fortunately have largely recouped the losses by the return of a volunteer who had been unavailable for a couple of years, and the addition of 3 new recruits.

After the considerable trials and tribulations that we had to deal with during 2014, I am pleased to say that last year was a much calmer year and all now seems to be going well. As always, a huge thank you to all our volunteers who give their time so generously to help those in our parish in need of practical assistance.

Francine Cope
Chairman, Helpline

Huw Johnson Club

2015 was a year of highs and lows for the Huw Johnson Club. We enjoyed a huge range of activities, from our usual games evenings, curling competitions and quiz and bingo evenings, to newer events, including a Keep Fit Class, First Aid training, a Film Night, discos, pub trips and a visit from the Bishop's Stortford Woodwind Band. We were even asked to decorate the cloth used to unveil the village's Magna Carta tapestry as part of the festival in the summer.

We also had our annual Sports Nights, hosted by the Lentons, our summer BBQ, hosted by the Embletons, and our Fireworks Party, held at the Ropkins' house, as well as our now-traditional Christmas Carol Concert at St. John's Church. In September, we had a great time on the London Eye, and we also went to the Cinderella Pantomime in Cambridge - always a highlight of the year! Our New Year Party in February was very generously hosted by the Inner Wheel of Bishop's Stortford, and was a very enjoyable evening.

But 2015 was also very sadly the year we lost Marion Johnson, who founded the Club with her husband Tom in memory of their son over 40 years ago. Marion was a true inspiration - she did so much for so many, and the continued success of the Club is a testament to her hard work and dedication to helping those with learning disabilities. We are pleased that we were able to celebrate the Club's 40th anniversary with her in 2014 and recognise her lifelong contribution. We miss her greatly and remember her fondly.

The Huw Johnson Club relies on volunteers and donations to survive, and we are very grateful to everyone who has volunteered, driven, escorted, or donated their time or money to the Club over the year. It has been wonderful to see such generous and heartfelt support from the local community. Thank you.

We always welcome new members, helpers or visitors. Anyone wanting to know more should contact Katharine Collis on 461270.

Prayer Group Report

Prayer is one of the most important activities for any Christian and our Benefice has an active Prayer Group which meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month (apart from August).

We are a small, but faithful group who feel called to pray for those who are sick. The format of our meetings is to read a passage from the Bible, and be led in prayer by one of our number who also leads us in a period of quiet when we remember people for whom we have been asked to pray. We end with a period of fellowship over a cup of tea and chocolate biscuit!

Sadly, during 2015 we lost Marion Johnson, a key member of our group. We still regularly meet at Tom and Ann's house during the winter months, but during the summertime we also meet in other members' houses and our 'term' culminates in a home communion service in July.

We would love to welcome new members. And if there is anyone for whom you would like us to pray please contact me.

Janet Wilkin



St Mary's C E Foundation Primary School

In September 2014 there were several significant changes introduced by the Government for the new school year. St. Mary's completed a lot of work in the previous year to become informed about and prepare to implement these. Our school curriculum was ready for the revised National Curriculum; we had in place all the systems required by the new framework for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND); we had arrangements in place for the Universal Free School Meals. We were also poised for an Ofsted inspection.

We also began the year with a further class, having increased the school Published Admissions Number (PAN) to 45 and the number of classes to eleven. Due to a shortage of primary school places in the area, our new school building had to be extended after St. Mary's had been just over one year in the premises. Just as the planting was beginning to settle, we became a building site once again. It was touch and go, but the room was ready the day before term began! We did have to wait a little longer for the all-weather sports pitch to be completed, but it was worth it. The children can make use of the school field for playtimes and for sports all year round, unlike a grass pitch. It is an excellent facility.

By March 2015, the beginning of the period covered by this report, the school was working very efficiently. In April 2015 we had an Ofsted inspection. The outcome was that St. Mary's is a 'Good' school and the content of the report indicates that this was a strong and secure judgement. In summary, the inspectors agreed that children make good progress and achieve well.

Attendance is above average, pupils behave well, they are polite, courteous and enjoy learning. The teaching is good, teaching assistants are effective and governance is capable. All of us belonging to the school are very proud of St. Mary's and we were waiting for this report to make public what we in school all know - that we are a 'Good' school, strong in many aspects of our practice, aware of what we still could improve and ambitious to maintain and continue to develop our good provision.

The School Development Plan: this has focused principally on assessment, to ensure that we were able to evaluate our provision and the achievement of pupils, as the previous measures had all become obsolete with the new

curriculum. In addition, now we have a large staff, we have been able to extend the range of curriculum areas that we address during any one year. Thus, as well as the core subject areas, we now have named staff members who lead on Phonics, Speaking and Listening plus Pupil Voice and in developing Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC). This last is important in the Foundation Stage but also in all the other years too. As part of LOtC (and repairing the grounds following the building extension) we have created seating and areas for quiet activities, developed and planted up the allotment area, installed compost bins, re-lined and restocked the pond. We have also given thought to the of the play times for the children. They have been part of the discussions in deciding on activities, equipment and zones for the playground areas.

Events in the school have been many and varied. During the spring term 2015 we welcomed Roger Morris, the Bishop of Colchester, to the school. Madi Haselton and Lewis Ward, our Head Girl and Head Boy, made very efficient hosts, greeting the Bishop when he arrived, showing him around the school and keeping him informed of our activities. The Bishop spent time visiting the pupils during lessons, speaking with them about their learning. He met with staff and governors before enjoying a school lunch with the children. We learned that he is very knowledgeable about '80s music and also particularly fond of carrot cake! The school's theme for assemblies that week was 'Water'. Everyone present will remember Bishop Roger's assembly based on the story of the wedding at Canaan, when Jesus turned water into wine. Apparently, Bishop Roger is also able to perform this miracle! Clear liquid he poured from a glass jug went scarlet when poured into a glass... Bishop Roger was a chemist before joining the church; perhaps anyone who interested in chemistry may like to work out how he did it!

St. Mary's took part in the Magna Carta commemorations, creating artwork and creative writing for the competition run by the Stansted business forum. There was also a full programme of educational visits to diverse places from the local cinema to the National Library. We also have visitors into school to enrich the curriculum, for example Indian dancers, Chinese cooking, Lego workshops for all classes resulting a model of Stansted village.

Themed weeks are a feature of the St. Mary's curriculum. These serve to support the school development plan and to enrich and add variety into the children's learning. In September 2015, to start the new school year, we took the books of Anthony Browne as a whole school topic. The focus was to promote and reinforce our school values and to re-establish our community ethos ready

for the year ahead. In the spring term 2016 we had a Performing Arts week. This theme supported our work in developing pupils speaking skills, their creativity and their confidence in speaking and performing to an audience. The children enjoyed and learned from a visiting author, music specialists and West End actors; they created and performed music, dance, poetry and drama.

All schools change and evolve with the times, but St. Mary's is a school that has experienced an extraordinary amount of change, particularly in the last few years. The past twelve months, from March 2015, have seen the school enter a more settled phase: pupil numbers are approaching capacity; we have an excellent staff in teaching and in support roles; we are fortunate in our capable and supportive Governing Body. There is momentum in the work of the school together with the ambition and the capacity to continue our planned improvements. Long may this continue!

Christine Tonkins

Headteacher

March 2016

Contact details for the school are:

Tel: 01279 812212

Email: admin@st-marys-stansted.ssex.sch.uk

St. John's Tots 2015

Once again St. Johns Tots is a thriving group. Every week we have 40 - 60 members enjoying coming to play and chatting together.

At Easter the children received their knitted gifts , a big thank you to the Craft Ladies.

In November saw our 7th birthday. Thank you to the ladies who made cakes.

At the end of November we helped raise money for the church at the Christmas Market A very big thank you to Anne Brooks and Janie for helping with the Tots stall.

The Tots Christmas tree was once again on display at St. Mary's Church for the Festival.

December saw the Tots dressing up as their favourite nativity character. They were also presented with a small book for Christmas.

A very big thank you to all the ladies that help at Tots on a regular basis on Tuesday morning.

Margaret Hill

Traidcraft 2015

The past year has been fairly good for Traidcraft sales.

I would like to thank all the people who have made purchases from the Traidcraft stall during the year.

Traidcraft goods are fairly traded, which means that the producers are paid a fair price for their goods. Please could all the people who currently purchase goods from the Traidcraft stall continue to do so.

I would appreciate any suggestions for future purchases. Catalogues are available for people to look at or take away. New customers are always welcome.

Jean Newson