



Pathway
Church at St Mary's

Annual reports and accounts for 2023

for the 2024 annual meetings



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agenda for 2024 meetings

Meeting of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

**To be held in the Church after the 11am service, Sunday 21st
April 2024.**

Vestry Meeting for the election of churchwardens

Anyone on the church electoral roll of the parish or anyone who lives within the parish is entitled to attend and vote at this meeting.

Agenda

1. Opening prayer.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Approval of the minutes of the 2023 vestry meeting.
4. Thanks to outgoing churchwarden(s.)
5. Nomination and Election of Churchwardens for 2024-2025.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Anyone on the Church Electoral Role may participate in this meeting.

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Approval of Minutes of the 2023 APCM.
3. Matters arising from the 2023 APCM minutes.
4. Report on the revised electoral Roll – Electoral Roll Officer.
5. Elections:
 - a) to the PCC.
 - b) Deanery Synod representative.

6. Appointment of Independent Examiner.
7. Presentation and acceptance of the 2023 examined financial accounts.
8. Joint Council Proposal.
9. Reports:
 - a) Secretary.
 - b) Mission and ministry.
 - c) Churchwardens.
 - d) Treasurer.
 - e) Safeguarding.
 - f) Deanery Synod.
 - g) Churches Together.
10. Questions and items for discussion not covered elsewhere.
(to be given to the current secretary in advance of the meeting.)
11. Closing prayer.

First meeting of the new Parochial Church Council

Only those on the new PCC may participate in this meeting.

Agenda

1. Election of officers:
 - a) Honorary Secretary.
 - b) Honorary Treasurer.
 - c) Vice chairperson.
 - d) Joint Council members.
2. Date of the next meeting.

minutes of 2023 meetings

Minutes of Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) - 14 May 2023, 12pm - Held in church

Present: Rev Emily Davis (Chair), Rev Lloyd Davis, Sue Iles-Palmer, Miriam Tordoff, Jane Wilde, Laura Whitehouse, Shirley Skeats, Sian Ashby, Guy Ashby, John Crisp, Min Mean, Belinda Clapperton, Alex Elliot, Charlotte Elliot, Robert Mags, Paul McDowell, Ray Anderson, Sarah Spooner, Ann Fairbrass, Tatiana and Oleksandr.

Apologies: Ken Palmer, Shirley Wright.

Vestry Meeting

- 1. Opening Prayer**
- 2. Apologies:** as above
- 3. Nominations for & election of churchwardens:** Sue Iles-Palmer and Ken Palmer were both thanked for their time as churchwardens for the previous year. Two nominations were received from Sue Iles-Palmer and Ken Palmer. As there were no other nominations, they were both duly elected.

APCM meeting

- 1. Apologies:** as above
- 2. Approval of 2022 APCM minutes:** all those who were present at the 2022 APCM agreed that the minutes were accurate and a true representation of the meeting.
- 3. Matters Arising from 2022 APCM minutes:** no matters arising.
- 4. Electoral Roll report:** Ken Palmer confirmed there are currently 53 people on the revised electoral roll. (The number on the Electoral Roll is relevant for the election of Deanery Synod representative(s) and the PCC)

5. Elections

Deanery Synod: As the number on the Electoral Roll is over 50 we are entitled to elect up to 2 representatives. The term of office is 3 years. Two nominations were received in writing from Miriam Tordoff and Belinda Clapperton who were both duly elected. The next election is in 2026.

PCC lay members (up to 9 representatives): As the number on the Electoral Roll is over 50 we are entitled to elect up to 9 lay members of the PCC. The term of office is 3 years (rule M16(1) CRR). One third must retire and be elected each year.

Helen Brookes and Oliver Brookes have retired and thanks were expressed to them for their time in office.

Four nominations were received in writing from Siân Ashby, Guy Ashby, Ray Anderson and Shirley Skeats and they were all duly elected.

The lay members of the PCC are: Laura Whitehouse (re-elected in 2022), Jane Wilde (re-elected in 2022), Siân Ashby (elected in 2023), Guy Ashby (elected in 2023), Ray Anderson (elected 2023) and Shirley Skeats (elected in 2023).

We therefore have 3 vacancies for lay members of the PCC. These can be filled as soon as practicable by the PCC during the year rather than at the next APCM (rule M18 CRR).

Team Council (2 representatives and 1 Churchwarden): item to be moved to first PCC meeting

Churches Together (1 representative): item to be moved to first PCC meeting.

6. **PCC membership re licensed lay readers:** It was proposed that John Chrisp be appointed to the PCC for another year. Everyone was in agreement and John was duly appointed.

7. **Appointment of independent examiner of accounts:** Robert Spires has agreed to continue in this post and was duly appointed.

8. **Presentation and acceptance of the 2022 examined financial accounts:** the unexamined accounts (contained in the APCM booklet) had been published on the Pathway Church website and in hard copy in advance of the meeting. The independent examiner had not completed the examination by the meeting so it was agreed to accept the unexamined accounts and report any changes (if any) once received.
Nick Stanbridge is standing down as treasurer after 21 years of service. The APCM expressed its enormous thanks to Nick for all he has done.

9. **Reports:** the following reports, contained within the APCM booklet, were taken as read. These were published on the Pathway Church website and distributed to the congregation in hard copy in advance of the meeting.
 - PCC Secretary**
 - Mission and Ministry report**
 - Churchwardens**
 - Electoral Roll Officer**
 - Safeguarding**
 - Choir**
 - Deanery Synod**
 - Churches Together****Matters arising from reports:** no matters arising.

10. **Questions and items for discussion not covered elsewhere:** none raised.

joint council proposal

Over the past year, we have had a number of conversations in the Benefice about how we might make better and more effective use of our Team/Joint Council structure. In the process of this, we have discovered that there is a lack of clarity around membership of Team Council and what its purpose really is. Following these conversations, this proposal for a Joint Council has been discussed, agreed and is now put forward by the Rector, Churchwardens and the Ministry Team.

In putting forward this proposal our aim is to:

Clarify membership of the Team/Joint Council - the constitution that I have inherited as Rector excludes Ministry Team from the Team Council and we would like to see them included as we seek to re-define membership of this Joint Council.

It is also felt that, in order to be more effective, this Joint Council has to be of a more manageable size to have meaningful discussion and oversight of the wider mission and ministry across the Benefice. This new Joint Council would be of a smaller, but more effective, size than the current Team Council membership (see Point 1).

Clarify the aims and purpose of the Team/Joint Council - I feel it is important to have some structure within the Benefice, besides the Ministry Team, which seeks to look at the bigger picture of our ministry and our mission across Whittlesey, Pondersbridge and Coates. This is not to detract from the role and responsibilities of PCCs. (See Point 4). In practice this means that Joint Council will continue to decide upon matters such as:

- Ministry Share contributions from each Parish.
- Mission Action Planning at a Benefice-wide level.

- Diary/Event Co-ordination across the Benefice.
- Planning of Service Rotas/Service Patterns across the Benefice, including Christmas and Easter services.

This Joint Council Proposal is not to displace the role of PCCs (Parochial Church Councils). PCCs will continue to hold responsibility for the finances, building maintenance, mission and ministry of individual parishes.

If you have any questions about this, please contact either the Rector, a member of the Ministry Team or your Churchwarden(s). Please contact them in advance of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, when we are planning to vote on this proposal.

Reverend Emily Davis
Rector

Scheme for Partial Joint Council of Parishes

Whittlesey Team: Pathway Church Joint Council

The Annual Parochial Church Meetings of the Parishes of Whittlesey St Andrew & Whittlesey St Mary, Pondersbridge St Thomas, and Coates Holy Trinity, in the County of Cambridgeshire and the Diocese of Ely (the “Parishes”), in exercise of the powers conferred by Rules M37–42 of the Church Representation Rules and in accordance with the Pastoral Scheme made on 26 July 1995, make the following agreement that constitutes **Pathway Church Joint Council** (replacing Whittlesey Team Council):

1 Membership of Joint Council

There shall be a Joint Council for the Parishes (the “Joint Council”) with the following membership:

- 1.1 every clerk in Holy Orders who is beneficed in or licensed to a Parish;
- 1.2 one churchwarden of the Church of each Parish;
- 1.3 each deaconess, lay worker and reader licensed to a Parish,
- 1.4 any priest resident in the benefice with permission to officiate may be co-opted with 75% support of elected members, so long as at any meeting lay members outnumber clergy,
- 1.5 one lay person from each Parish elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the relevant Parish.
- 1.6 at any meeting, each parish shall be represented by 2 lay members, so if members elected to fill posts 1.2 & 1.4 are unavailable, they shall be represented by another lay person from the PCC of the parish, who may exercise their vote.

2 Officers of the Joint Council

- 2.1 The Chair of the Joint Council shall be taken by one of the following persons in the following order:
- 2.1.1 the Minister of that Parish if they are present;
 - 2.1.2 the Vice-Chair of the Joint Council, if they are present;
 - 2.1.3 a member of the Joint Council chosen by all members present at the meeting from amongst their number.
- 2.2 The Joint Council shall elect one of its lay members to act as Vice-Chair.
- 2.3 The Joint Council may appoint one of its members as secretary, but if it does not, it must appoint some other fit person. The Secretary is to have charge of all the documents relating to the current business of the Joint Council, to keep the minutes, to record all resolutions passed and to notify the Secretary's name and address to the Secretary of the Deanery Synod and the Secretary of the Diocesan Synod.
- 2.4 The Joint Council may appoint one of its members as treasurer or two or more of its members as joint treasurers, but if it does not, it must arrange for the office of treasurer to be discharged by some other fit person or persons.

- 2.5 At the first meeting following 1 June in each year, the Joint Council shall appoint some fit person holding the qualifications required by the Church Representation Rules and not being a member of the Joint Council to be an independent examiner or auditor to the Joint Council. The term of office of the Independent Examiner or Auditor ends at the conclusion of the first meeting following 1 June in the year after appointment, but may be renewed (for any number of times) annually. The Joint Council shall meet the remuneration of such a person.
- 2.6 The Joint Council may appoint such other officers on such terms and with or without remuneration as it sees fit.

3 Meetings

The provisions of the Model Rules for a Parochial Church Council contained in Part 9 Section B of the Church Representation Rules shall apply to meetings of the Joint Council and transacting business by correspondence so far as consistent with the provisions of this Scheme, substituting 'parishes' for 'parish' and 'Joint Council' for 'PCC' as appropriate.

- 3.1 The Joint Council shall meet at least 4 times per year.
- 3.2 The meetings of the Joint Council shall be open to any member of a PCC within the benefice. However, additional members of a PCC (above 2 elected) may not vote.

- 3.3 Voting shall be by show of hands, unless a secret ballot is requested by 2 members. Decisions will require a majority of 2/3rds, and must include at least one member from each PCC voting in favour.
- 3.4 Any business item may be delayed until the next meeting by 2 members of the Joint Council asking for an adjournment in order to consult their PCC.

4 Functions and powers of the Joint Council

- 5 4.1 The following functions of each Parochial Church Council are delegated to the Joint Council:

4.1.1 co-operation with the Minister in promoting in the Parishes the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. This shall particularly include: Mission Action Planning, Co-ordination of diaries across the parishes; Co-ordination of major projects; planning of service rotas; working towards Net Zero carbon; liaising with local and Civic authorities (The PCCs reserve to themselves responsibility for those pastoral, evangelistic, and social ministries that solely impact upon their geographical parish or church building);

4.1.2 the consideration and discussions of matters concerning the Church of England or any other matters of religious or public interest, but not the declaration of the doctrine of the Church of England on any question;

4.1.3 making known and putting into effect any provision made by the Diocesan Synod or the Deanery Synod, but without prejudice to the powers of the Joint Council on any particular matter;

4.1.4 giving advice to the Diocesan Synod and the Deanery Synod on any matter referred to the Joint Council;

4.1.5 raising such matters as the Joint Council considers appropriate with the Diocesan Synod or Deanery Synod;

4.1.6 the co-ordination of safeguarding across the benefice (but not ultimate responsibility for safeguarding which remains with the PCC).

4.2 The Joint Council shall have some of the powers of each Parochial Church Council, including power to:

4.2.1 agree on behalf of all of the Parishes the amount(s) to be offered to the Diocesan Board of Finance as a contribution to the costs of the Diocese;

4.2.2 organise, operate, manage, maintain, discontinue, alter, promote, fund and establish any missionary activity in the Parishes of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, which would have been an activity of a Parochial Church Council;

4.2.3 establish a standing committee of the Joint Council to transact the business of the Joint Council between meetings of the Joint Council, subject to any directions as to the exercise of its power made by the Joint Council, but the standing committee:

- (a) may not discharge a duty of the Joint Council, and
- (b) may not exercise a power of the Joint Council which is subject to the passing of a resolution by the Joint Council or to compliance with the Joint Council with some other requirement;

4.2.4 establish such other committees (which may include persons who are not members of the Joint Council) for the various branches of church work in the Parishes, of which the Minister is entitled to be an ex officio member;

4.2.5 open and operate a bank account (or accounts) for the purposes of mission and ministry in the benefice, including for the purposes of payment of expenses of clergy and lay ministers;

4.2.6 when the Joint Council makes decisions that expose the PCCs to risk, including public liability, the PCC of the place in which the risk was incurred will assume liability for the activity, decision or impact. The action of the Joint Council will be deemed to be the action of the PCC in question.

5 Transfer of assets

6 5.1 The following assets of the Parochial Church Council (or former Team Council) shall be transferred to and vest in the Joint Council on the date when this Scheme comes into operation, including:

5.1.1 the bank accounts and investments set out in Schedule 1.

5.2 The PCCs will transfer to the Joint Council such other monies as the Joint Council shall, by vote, agree on 1 June and 1 January each year.

6 Operation

6.1 This Joint Council shall come into operation on such date as the Bishop of Ely may determine, being a date not later than [*specify date*].

6.2 If the Parishes cease to be within the area of a united benefice the Bishop of Ely may exercise the powers contained in the Church Representation Rules to:

6.2.1 provide for the Joint Council to cease to apply to the Parish which has ceased to be connected to the other Parishes or has been dissolved; or

6.2.2 provide for the Joint Council to be revoked, but it is recorded here that it is the intention of the Annual Parochial Church Meetings that the Bishop should provide for the following: redistribution of any assets owed to the Parishes which ceases to belong to the scheme.

APPROVED by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at the Annual Parochial Church Meetings of the Parishes of Whittlesey St Andrew & Whittlesey St Mary, Pondersbridge St Thomas, and Coates Holy Trinity held on the following dates:

Name of Parish	Date approved	Numbers voting		
		For	Against	Abstained

SCHEDULE 1

Part 1

Bank accounts and investments to be held by the Joint Council for its general purposes: **Bank Account held in the name of 'Benefice of Whittlesey Pondersbridge And Coates Team Council'**.

Approved by the Bishop of Ely:

Signed:

Date:

secretary's report

PCC members and roles:

Rev'd Emily Davis (Incumbent – Team Rector)
Rev'd Lloyd Davis (Pioneer Minister & Associate Vicar)
Sue Iles-Palmer (Churchwarden & Benefice Safeguarding Officer)
Ken Palmer (Churchwarden & Electoral Roll officer)
Miriam Tordoff (Deanery Synod rep, Vice-chair & Secretary)
Jane Wilde (Lay member & Team Council rep)
Laura Whitehouse (Lay member & Parish Safeguarding Officer)
Siân Ashby (Lay member)
Guy Ashby (Lay member & Team Council rep)
Ray Anderson (Lay member)
Shirley Skeats (Lay member & Churches Together rep)
Belinda Clapperton (Deanery Synod rep)
Charlotte Elliot (Treasurer - co-opted)
Alex Elliot (co-opted)
John Chrisp (LLM)

PCC meetings during 2023/24

Meetings were held in May, June and August 2023 and in January 2024.
Other business was conducted by e-mail.

Building Project

At our June meeting we began to discuss improvements that could be made to the building such as having a more flexible, open space for worship, installing toilets and a kitchen, and having an enclosed area for prayer/meetings. The congregation was consulted in the Summer via a survey and the majority were in favour of the initial proposals. Some initial advice has been obtained from the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) which is responsible for granting permission for certain works. In March 2024 the PCC met with our appointed architect to discuss what the next steps might be to get a project off the ground, including which bodies need to be consulted. We will also be considering what funding is available.

Other matters discussed at meetings included the following:

PCC policies and reports

- The Safeguarding and Data Protection policies were reviewed.
- Reports from the Ministry Team, Churchwardens, Treasurer, Safeguarding officer, Deanery Synod and Team Council were standing agenda items.

Ministry & Mission

- Attendance at the Leading Your Church into Growth course in May 2023.
- In January 2024 we agreed to support two members of the PCC in their calling to Lay Ministry

Building and contents

- The roof was inspected and further inspection is needed to assess what essential repairs are required.
- A new coffee bar was lovingly constructed by Lloyd and Ray, improving our welcome and refreshment area.

Land

- The transfer of a strip of land adjacent to the east of St Mary's - this is ongoing
- Liability for activities carried out on our land (closed graveyards to the west and east of the church).
- Internment of cremated remains in the Garden of Rest (closed graveyard to the east).

Finance

- Payment of the Parish Share
- New accounting system was bought to make it easier to manage our accounts.
- Draft budget – to show that our spending reflects our mission
- Insurance premium
- Energy costs
- Additional signatories for bank accounts
- Giving as part of our worship
- Fundraising events – craft fayre, Christmas Tree Festival, Straw Bear Festival and concerts
- Whittlesey Charities donation and legacy monies

Other

- Providing our views on the next Bishop of Ely, including whether we would like the new Bishop to ordain women
- Sir Harry Smith's sword – to be loaned to the Whittlesey Museum
- Prayers of Love and Faith – to be an ongoing discussion

Miriam Tordoff
PCC Secretary

mission and ministry report

This was my first full year as Incumbent in the Benefice of Whittlesey, Pondersbridge and Coates and in August of this year I was installed as Rector at a service at Holy Trinity, Coates.

Our Worship

The Average Sunday Attendance (Congregation) at St Mary's in 2023 was 28 (25 adults and 3 children), compared to 31 in 2022. The midweek Holy Communion service continued at St Mary's until October, when it moved to St Andrew's for the winter months, before returning in Spring 2024; during its time at St Mary's this midweek service had an average congregation of 12. I am very grateful to those from St Mary's who attended this service at St Andrew's throughout the colder months - remembering that it is our God and our worship which matters, not the building we worship in.

The Occasional Offices held at St Mary's were as follows:

	2023	2022
Baptisms	20 (<i>including 2 adult baptisms</i>)	19
Weddings	4	9
Funerals	27	27

I would like to say a huge Thank You to our Churchwardens, Sue and Ken, for their service and support of our Church's mission and ministry this past year. I know it has not always been particularly easy as we've continued to navigate a path of change and experimentation within our Sunday worship.

I am also incredibly grateful to Rev. Lloyd who, in his role as pioneer minister, has the time and space to help St Mary's step out in faith and develop newer and more contemporary expressions of church.

Teaching and Discipleship

Our Sunday Worship included a couple of teaching series in 2023. Following Eastertide, we began a teaching series which explored the story of the Acts of the Apostles (Book of Acts). Later in the year we had the 'Our Church' teaching series, throughout which we explored and discussed our church community's values and vision (see below).

I am very thankful to those from St Mary's who co-led and helped with the Benefice Alpha Course, Summer Book Club and Bible Study groups last year.

Our Values

Welcome and Hospitality: We have continued to offer refreshments and hospitality before our Sunday Worship as well as after; this helps to provide a warm welcome and also gives more opportunity for our church family to share in fellowship. In September, two of our church members built a coffee bar to better serve our welcome and hospitality as a church.

Prayer and Intercession: Our new Prayer and Praise Board was introduced in the Spring. Rev'd Lloyd ran a couple of Prayer Ministry Enabling teaching sessions. Throughout our Sunday worship we experimented with a number of different prayer activities to engage all ages.

Children & Young People: A Play Pen was added to our Play & Praise Corner early in 2023 and this has been well used during our Sunday worship as well as at Weddings, Baptisms and some Funerals.

We have embarked on a journey of discovery as we seek to explore and develop a more intergenerational style of worship at St Mary's.

Worship & Generosity: Our Sunday Worship continued to evolve throughout 2023 as we began to explore what intergenerational worship might look like at St Mary's. Worship Wednesdays continued and in 2023 had an average congregation of 12.

The Worship and Teaching team met a few times throughout the year to discuss and help plan our worship and teaching series.

'Beyond the Building': Of all our values, I feel this was the one that it was generally felt needed the most development. As we continue to seek God's vision for God's church in Whittlesey, we share his love and his heart for the people of our town who are yet to know Jesus and life in his name. I know that a number from our church community have been praying into this and we hope that we might better embrace and live out this value in 2024.

Rev'd Emily Davis
Team Rector



churchwardens' report

Many thanks you to all who have helped and supported Ken and I in the running of St. Mary's this year. Everything is very much appreciated!

As churchwardens, along with the PCC, we are charged with the responsibility of keeping this Grade 1 Listed Building in good repair. Throughout the year all general repairs (gutters, organ tuning, boiler service, fire extinguishers etc.) have been carried out.

The church grounds also come under the purview of the Churchwardens and to this effect Ken and I have maintained the grass cutting and weeding. We organised a churchyard tidy-up, many thanks to the two people who came and helped.

A preliminary investigation into the state of the roof was undertaken and the report sent to the Diocese for their input.

The clock is not working and much discussion about this has taken place on social media. It will be for the PCC to decide if we repair them. In the meantime, a clock expert will be coming to investigate.

We have been fortunate that a bellringing team from Stanground have been organising ringers for weddings and they do visual checks on the bells on our behalf.

Fund raising has continued this year. We had a very successful Autumn Craft Fayre, a joyful Christmas Tree Festival, and concerts. This coming year will see us hosting an Armed Forces Weekend as well as more concerts.

As officers of the bishop and as your Churchwardens, Ken and I can report that the changes in worship at St. Mary's have been widely embraced although we do still have difficult conversations with some of you and the wider community. We are always here to listen and help where we can. The church is seeing a growth in families and younger people attending services and Revs. Emily and Lloyd are running new services along with the regular services. The Thursday Communion service moved to St. Andrews church for the winter months and will return in the spring to St. Mary's.

Our thanks go to Rev. Mike and the Lay Ministers, Roger, John and Jane who support us at St. Mary's in our worship and the community when leading funerals.

My personal thanks go to Ken, who has decided to step down as churchwarden. He has supported me in my role as churchwarden for many years before taking up the role himself. He has given many years of dedicated service to St. Mary's.

Revs. Emily and Lloyd have continued to work endlessly in prayer and fellowship for all of us. It must be said that they still do not always have an easy time. However, they have prayerfully stuck to their calling. They want the best for all of us and our community.

Let us look forward to embracing the future, let us continue to support each other with prayer and fellowship and let us know that God has been with us and will continue to be with us on our journey.

God Bless.

Sue Iles-Palmer and Ken Palmer
Churchwardens

treasurers report

Please see the separate finance document for the amended 2022 Accounts, the independently examined 2023 Accounts, an explanation of our church accounts and our Treasurer's Report.



electoral roll report

The Electoral Roll is the Parish Church's register of electors, who are therefore qualified to attend and vote at the Annual Parish Church meeting where the elections take place for membership of the Parish Church Council, and the Deanery Synod.

Last year the number on the Roll was 53. Since the last AGM three persons have been taken off, two sadly deceased, the other has moved away from the Parish, two persons have been added, giving a new figure of **52**.

You can be added to the Electoral Roll if you have been baptised, and are over 16, and either 'live in the parish', 'live outside the parish and have attended St Mary's for six months' or 'are a member in good standing of another church and have attended St Mary's for six months'. If you would like to be added to the Electoral Roll or have any questions, please do contact me: ken.palmer@pathway-church.co.uk

Ken Palmer
Electoral Roll Officer



safeguarding report

Laura Whitehouse remained as Safeguarding Officer in 2023, before recently stepping down in March 2024. I am very grateful to Laura for her work in this very important role.

As we now don't have a Parish Safeguarding Officer in post, much of this responsibility falls to myself as Incumbent.

It is important that we take our shared responsibility as a church community for the safeguarding of our members and all we come into contact with through our ministry.

It is the legal responsibility of each PCC to fulfil their duty of care towards all those present during worship, all church sponsored activities and activities in church buildings. In practice, this means that each parish must adopt an appropriate safeguarding policy, appoint a safeguarding officer, and generally ensure that all of its practices and procedures comply with that policy and with relevant law.

Safeguarding Training has been made available to all who are required to complete it. Safeguarding has been included as a standing item on the agenda of every PCC meeting.

Rev'd Emily Davis
Team Rector

deanery synod report

In June newly elected members attended their first meeting of the Deanery Synod and a new Standing Committee and Offers were appointed. The new Deanery Synod Treasurer is Lesley Gibbs, the Deanery Secretary Admin is Julie Lee. Anthony Gleaves volunteered as a member of the Standing Committee. However, the post of Lay Chair remains unfilled.

The Deanery Development Plan was agreed and a “pen-picture” and pillar document were sent representing all the churches in the Deanery.

Archdeacon Richard gave a briefing from the Diocesan Synod about the study on the deployment of clergy staff and how this will need to evolve in the future.

In September the Revd. Peter Leech, Deputy Director for Mission and Ministry, led a discussion on our Deanery Development Plan including finance, lay leadership, benefice re-organisation and church schools.

Holly – Development Officer for Good Communication, talked about the importance of sharing good practice around churches, using social media, the Church Near You website and social network information. She suggested consulting communications @ElyDiocese.org.

In November the Revd. Mark Rodel spoke on Join the Learning Revolution – An Introduction to Open Christian Learning. Courses offered will be a mixture of online and personal discussions. It is just beginning to be implemented and more information will follow.

The second speaker was the Revd. Tim Tompson who spoke about the Cambridge Historic Churches Trust, their fund raising through Ride and Stride and donations through Wills which allows them to give churches grants and loans.

Discussions on the Parish Share allocations and the formulas used to allow fair contributions are ongoing and no definite conclusions have been reached.

The Deanery Development Plan will be focusing on training and the climate change environmental agenda.

In January the Revd. Imogen Way spoke on Engaging with the Eco Church Journey. She gave some inspiring practical ideas as to how to make your church into an Eco Church as Ely Diocese has introduced an Ely Diocesan Action Plan to become Net Zero by 2030.

The majority of speakers this year have been interesting and some thought provoking, providing useful information about accessing further information or help.

*Fiona Heaysman
Deanery Synod Rep.
Holy Trinity, Coates*



churches together report

This year Churches Together has continued to develop as a team supporting one another in Services, Messy Church and Holiday at Home and growing in fellowship.

A joint service was held for the week of prayer for Christian Unity at Queen Street and St. Jude's Roman Catholic Church hosted a joint service for the World Day of Prayer.

The Witness and Service for Good Friday was well attended by members of the public and activities for the children were completed at Queen Street, where refreshments were served.

A joint Pentecost Praise Picnic was held in May on North Street, where prayers, activities and reflections were led by members of the different churches.

Fund Raising for Christian Aid included a Concert by the Whittlesey Concert Band, A cake stall at the Buttercross, a cake and craft morning at the Studio and a collection after the service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

We have begun distributing the Churches Together leaflets to the new housing developments.

Holiday at Home continues to be a great success with all the places filled and volunteers from several of the churches.

Messy Church Families under the Churches Together banner continues to be well supported. The team has members from nearly all the churches and we meet to plan activities and review previous sessions as well as run the actual sessions.

The planning for some of next year's activities is underway and we hope to continue with enthusiasm, prayer and fellowship.

*Fiona Heaysman
Churches Together Rep.
Holy Trinity, Coates*



Pathway Church

*The Church of England in
Whittlesey, Pondersbridge and Coates*

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The Church of England
Diocese of Ely