



**Pathway
Church**

at St Mary

REPORTS

FOR

ST MARY'S CHURCH, WHITTLESEY

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

2023

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Meeting of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
To be held in St Mary's Church on Sunday 14th May 2023 following the service

Vestry Meeting for the election of churchwardens

Eligibility to vote: anyone on St Mary's Church electoral roll or anyone who lives within the parish of St Mary's

1. Opening Prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Nominations and election of Churchwardens for 2023-24

Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting

Eligibility to vote: anyone on St Mary's Church electoral roll

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of Minutes of the 2022 APCM
3. Matters arising from the 2022 APCM minutes
4. Report on the revised Electoral Roll - Electoral Roll Officer
5. Elections
 - a. Deanery Synod (2 representatives)
 - b. PCC lay members (up to 9 representatives)
 - c. Team Council (2 representatives plus a churchwarden)
 - d. Churches Together (1 representative)
6. PCC membership decision re licensed lay readers
7. Appointment of Independent Examiner for the accounts
8. Presentation and acceptance of the 2022 examined financial accounts
9. Reports:
 - a. Electoral Roll Officer
 - b. Churchwardens
 - c. PCC Secretary
 - d. Safeguarding
 - e. Deanery Synod
 - f. Churches Together
10. Questions and items for discussion not covered elsewhere (to be notified to the secretary in advance of the meeting)

First Meeting of the new PCC (after the APCM)

Attendance limited to PCC members

1. Election of officers
 - a. Secretary
 - b. Treasurer
 - c. Vice Chair
 - d. Electoral roll officer
 - e. Parish Safeguarding Officer
2. Co-option to the PCC
3. Date of next meeting(s)

St. Mary's Church Whittlesey
Minutes of Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)
17 May 2022, 7pm

Held in church

Present: Rev Andrew Smith (Rural Dean) Sue Iles-Palmer, Ken Palmer, Jane Wilde, Luran Whitehouse, Shirley Wright, Gary Stewart, Shirley Skeats, Sian Ashby, Guy Ashby and Rev Mike Jones.

Apologies: Miriam Tordoff, Helen Brookes, Oliver Brookes and John Crisp

Vestry Meeting

1. **Opening Prayer**
2. **Appointment of Chair for Vestry meeting and APCM:** Rev Andrew Smith was appointed to chair the meetings this year.
3. **Apologies:** as above
4. **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

1. **Apologies:** as above
2. **Matters of business for item 17:** none notified so item 17 deleted
3. **Adoption of minutes of 2021 APCM:** all those who were present at the 2021 APCM agreed the minutes were accurate and a true representation of the meeting.
4. **Matters Arising from 2021 minutes:** no matters arising
5. **Electoral Roll report:** Ken Palmer confirmed there are currently 51 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)
6. **Election of Deanery Synod representative:** Elections are every 3 years. The last election was in 2020 when Miriam Tordoff was appointed, so no election this year.
7. **Appointment of independent examiner of accounts:** Robert Spires has agreed to continue in this post and was duly appointed.
8. **Election of new PCC (lay members):** (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 but one third must retire and be elected each year.)

Two nominations were received in writing from Laura Whitehouse and Jane Wilde and they were all duly elected.

The lay members of the PCC are:

Helen Brookes (elected in 2020), Oliver Brookes (elected in 2020), Laura Whitehouse (re-elected in 2022), Jane Wilde (re-elected in 2022)

We therefore have 5 vacancies for lay members of the PCC.

9. **PCC membership re licensed lay readers:** Rural Dean advised that LLM's (if on the electoral roll) are ex-officio members of the PCC. It was proposed that John Crisp be appointed to the PCC for another year. Everyone was in agreement and John was duly appointed.
10. **Election of Team Council representatives:** Jane Wilde agreed to continue as Team Council rep. along with one churchwarden. (There is one vacancy).
11. **Election of Churches Together representative:** No one was willing to be a rep. so, it was agreed that the PCC keep contact with the other team churches for input regarding Churches Together meetings. (One vacancy)
12. **Presentation and acceptance of the 2021 examined financial accounts:** the unexamined accounts had been distributed before 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.
13. **Reports:** all reports were compiled into a booklet and distributed to the congregation before the meeting. Reports printed were: agenda for APCM, report, Deanery Synod report, Churchwardens report and unexamined accounts)
14. **Matters arising from reports:** a question was asked regarding the 'churchwardens land' and can the East Window fund be used to clean the east window. Former is an investment fund of which the capitol is held by Ely and the interest is paid to us and yes the fund can be used for this. A quote was obtained and accepted but Churchwardens have yet to hear from contractor (David Sears).
15. **Date for the 2023 APCM:** it was agreed that this should be made by the new incumbent once she is licenced.
16. **First PCC meeting (after this meeting)**

SECRETARY'S REPORT

PCC members and roles:

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)
 Helen Brookes (Lay member & Team Council rep)
 Oliver Brookes (Lay member)
 Laura Whitehouse (Lay member & Parish Safeguarding Officer)
 John Chrisp (LLM)
 Revd. Mike Jones (co-opted)

PCC meetings during 2022/23

Meetings were held in May, June, July and September 2022 and in January and February 2023. Other business was conducted by e-mail. In June 2022 we welcomed our new priests, Emily and Lloyd Davis.

An invitational church

At the September 2022 meeting we discussed how we could make our church building and services more inviting. A less formal and modern style of worship was trialed in October 2022 at the 11am service. Following a survey of the congregation and a period of discernment the PCC agreed to the continuation of this new service. TV screens have been installed as well as a large play pen for young children and babies. In February 2023 we began a discussion on a proposed re-ordering of the building and what changes we would like to make.

Other matters discussed at meetings included the following:

PCC policies and reports

- New policies on Health & Safety, Safeguarding and Data Privacy were adopted in July 2022.
- Reports from the Churchwardens, Treasurer, Safeguarding officer, Deanery Synod and Team Council were standing agenda items.

Building and contents

- Refreshment area
- Roof and bell repairs
- Health and safety issues
- Potential for installation of broadband and solar panels

Finance

- Parish Share
- Parish Giving Scheme
- Contactless giving via a new all-in-one payment terminal
- Fundraising events – craft fayre, coffee mornings and concerts
- Whittlesey Charities donation

Other

- Options for the transfer of the land adjacent to St Mary's were discussed
- Resolution made to formalise the informal arrangement allowing residents in the Benefice to marry in any of the Benefice churches.
- Approval of a proposal to present Rev'd Emily Davis as Incumbent (Team Rector) of the Benefice.

Miriam Tordoff
PCC Secretary
22 April 2023

MISSION AND MINISTRY REPORT

I (Rev'd Emily Davis) joined the Benefice as Priest-in-Charge in June 2022, joined by Rev'd Lloyd Davis as Associate Vicar (Pioneer), and I have very much enjoyed getting to know the people of St Mary's over the latter half of 2022.

The Average Sunday Attendance (Congregation) at St Mary's in 2022 was 31, compared to 32 in 2019; (figures were not submitted in 2000-2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic). The Thursday morning Holy Communion service had an average attendance of 8 in 2022.

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

	2022	2021
Baptisms	19	21
Weddings	9	9
Funerals	27	29

I would like to say a big Thank You to Sue and Ken, our churchwardens, for all their hard work which has been a huge blessing to St Mary's and which has enabled much of the wider mission and ministry that we have been able to offer as a church. I am also very grateful to Nick, our Treasurer for the past 21 years, for all his hard work behind the scenes in support of the mission and ministry of St Mary's church.

I can't really speak for the first half of 2022 as I wasn't here (!) but I think that we have very much seen the Holy Spirit at work in St Mary's over the latter half of 2022 and there is much to celebrate.

From October the PCC decided to trial a more informal service with a screen and a mixture of more contemporary worship as well as traditional hymns. I realise that this, sadly, caused some divisions within the worshipping community of St Mary's and for some these changes went too far, whilst for others they perhaps didn't go far enough. In November/December we conducted a survey, asking members of our worshipping community to feedback on what they liked about the new service and what they didn't. These results were then collated and communicated to the wider Benefice church community.

As a result of the responses received, the PCC decided to continue with the new style service. It was felt that this would help us foster a wider choice of worship within the Benefice (across Pathway Church) and that this might be a service that we would feel more comfortable inviting those we meet in the community – through our outreach and Life Events ministry etc - to.

One particular highlight of the past year was the Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's. It was lovely to welcome so many through our doors over that weekend and to get to know some of our local families through the activities and crafts that we ran up in the sanctuary of the church.

Looking ahead slightly into 2023, it has been a joy to welcome a number of new faces to St Mary's and to see the growing fellowship and community within the church. As we seek out all that God is calling us to at St Mary's, I think there will be a number of challenges which as a whole church community we will need to pray for and discern over the coming year. Amongst these are the questions of:

Our worship – how do we better engage and include those of all ages within our Sunday worship.

Our building – how can we reimagine our building so that it is better equipped for the needs of our worshipping and local community. Some toilets and kitchen facilities would be a real blessing and would greatly expand the mission and ministry that we can currently offer.

Our outreach – how do we better reach out to the people of Whittlesey with the love and light of God and the Good News of Jesus Christ?

As we continue to discern God's vision for St Mary's and as we eagerly await all that the Holy Spirit still wants to do; let us commit as a church community to praying for wisdom, guidance and inspiration as we walk that journey of faith and fellowship together.

Rev'd Emily Davis
Priest-in-Charge

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!

Throughout the year all general repairs (gutters, organ tuning, boiler service, fire extinguishers etc.) have been carried out.

The quinquennial was carried out and there is a potential issue with the roof. Now that warmer weather is with us, an investigation can be undertaken.

The clock is working reasonably well but the hands and chimes are out of sync. We must now consider a major overhaul.

The bells have been repaired and a ringing team from Stanground will check the repairs this spring.

Fund raising has continued this year. We had a very joyful Christmas Tree Festival, charity coffee morning and concerts. October 2023 will see a month of music and the arts in Whittlesey and surrounding areas with much going on in our churches. Hopefully we will be able to run the successful Autumn Craft Fayre which is such a community event.

This year has seen some changes! As officers of the Bishop and your Churchwardens, Ken and I have been in the middle of many difficult conversations with lots of you. We have felt the hurt of some and shared the joy of others in the changes to the services. We, as a church, cannot be everything to all but we do have a growing church. Sunday worship services have seen a growth in families and younger people alongside our usual congregation. Equally the Thursday morning communion service has more than doubled in worshippers. We pray for those of you who have decided to continue your faith journey in our sister churches.

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.

Rev. Emily and Lloyd joined us half way through the year. It must be said that they have not always had an easy time. However, they have prayerfully stuck to their calling. They want the best for all of us; congregations and community. Emily and Lloyd exude Godliness and work endlessly in prayer and fellowship for all of us.

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 and Ken

TREASURERS REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
(not yet independently examined)

St Marys Church Accounts (Unexamined) 31st Dec 2022
Income and Expenditure Summary

<u>2021</u>	<u>OPENING BALANCES</u>	<u>2022</u>
14524.31	Current Account (Barclays)	6123.42
88.05	General Deposit (CB of F)	6088.94
45728.19	Restoration Fund (CB of F)	45752.01
41742.32	Fabric Fund (CB of F)	41041.57
<u>102082.87</u>	Total	<u>99005.94</u>
26607.08	Add income as scheduled	31678.80
29684.01	Less expenditure as scheduled	-36636.22
	Add Capital Introduced	3139.33
<u>99005.94</u>	<u>Net worth at 31 December</u>	<u>97187.85</u>

REPRESENTED BY

CLOSING BALANCES

6123.42	Current Account (Barclays)	3591.73
6088.94	General Deposit (CB of F)	6169.02
45752.01	*Restoration Fund (CB of F)	49493.10
41041.57	*Fabric Fund (CB of F)	37934.00
<u>99005.94</u>	Total	<u>97187.85</u>

*Restricted

St Marys Church Accounts (Unexamined) 31st Dec 2022

<u>2021</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2022</u>	
	<u>Voluntary Income</u>		
2657.85	Open Plate	1712.68	
224.37	Weddings	339.10	
485.36	Funerals	1555.94	
951.98	Baptisms	812.31	
2092.50	Envelope Offerings	2073.00	
2756.00	From Lloyds/TSB	2985.00	
	9168.06		9478.03
1786.84	1786.84 Tax rebates	2486.67	2486.67
	<u>Donations</u>		
21.20	General	88.20	
	SumUp	258.56	
9156.17	Whittlesey Charities	7730.51	
	Friends		
306.00	Music Concert(s)	255.00	
591.85	Craft Fare	911.19	
1113.00	Tree Festival	1395.22	
	Ely Rev Bennett	387.60	
	Paid away	115.40	
	BellRinger	3139.33	
710.60	Expenses		
	HM Queen	193.62	
44.00	Copy Marr Cert		
	11942.82		14474.63
	<u>Other Income</u>		
3663.00	3663.00 Fees to PCC	4050.00	4050.00
	<u>Bank & Central Board of Finance Interest</u>		
0.89	Deposit Account	80.08	
23.82	Restoration Fund	601.76	
21.65	46.36 Fabric Fund	507.63	1189.47
	<u>26607.08</u>		<u>31678.80</u>
	TOTAL INCOME		

St Marys Church Accounts (Unexamined) 31st Dec 2022

<u>2021</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>2022</u>	
	<u>Ministry</u>		
2000.00	2000.00 Expenses	2000.00	2000.00
	<u>The Church & Services</u>		
1623.91	Gas	1888.34	
418.73	Electricity	382.86	
192.27	Water	266.40	
5345.15	Insurances	5586.02	
400.00	Organist Fees	1170.00	
710.60	Upkeep of Services		
722.40	Repairs	1641.56	
110.00	Music License	110.00	
115.20	GoodBox	57.60	
	Lloyd Davis	24.83	
	Church Together	65.00	
	MarrottSecurity	1988.28	
	Paul Bennett	387.60	
	To Reserve	3139.33	
118.75	Safe		
114.00	Paid Away	115.40	
	9871.01		16823.22
	<u>Parish Share</u>		
17813.00	17813.00	17813.00	17813.00
	<u>Donations</u>		
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<u>Other Expenditure</u>		
	RBL Service		
	Other Expenditure		
	<u>29684.01</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>36636.22</u>

CBF	Movement	Summary	2022				
Account	Opening Bal	Interest	Capital out	Interest out	Capital in	Closing	
General	6088.94	80.08				6169.02	
Restoration	45752.01	601.76			3139.33	49493.10	
Fabric	41041.57	507.63	3615.20			37934.00	
TOTAL	92882.52	1189.47	3615.20	0.00	3139.33	93596.12	

Churchwardens

Petty Cash Account 2022

Opening Balance		34.30
Credit:		
Donations from refreshments	153.54	
Other donations	50.00	
	<u>203.54</u>	203.54
Debit:		
Refreshments	87.53	
Sundries for services	37.99	
Sundries for maintenance	33.50	
	(159.02)	(159.02)
Closing balance		<u>78.82</u>

Churchwardens
Bank Account 2022

Opening Balance **3,360.23**

Credits:

In/out payment (error in banking)	507.10	
Coif Charities investments	623.02	
CBF investments	<u>2,034.61</u>	
	<u>3,164.73</u>	3,164.73

Debits:

In/out payment (error in banking)	507.10	
Cheque presented from 2021 accounts	205.10	
Fire extinguisher maintenance	96.30	
Lightening conductor check	342.00	
CCLI music licences	165.89	
Organ tuning	507.00	
Paschal candle and CD's	275.95	
Tree removal	500.00	
Roof alarm service	248.03	
Gas boiler service	198.00	
Replacement light bulbs	24.00	
Replacement water boilers	<u>360.00</u>	
	<u>3,429.37</u>	<u>(3429.37)</u>

Closing Balance **3,095.59**

St Marv's Church Account
Additional Assets and Deposit Accounts
For the year ended 31st December 2022

East Window Fund Share Account No 614144001J
(Central Board of Finance of The Church of England)

The Share Account valued at 31st December 2022

254.70 Accumulation Units @ 53304.80 pence each **£13511.33** (2021 = £14874.96)

Initial Investment made 31st May 1993 £1300

The Central Board of Finance Deposit Accounts

Includes (with interest applied)	2021	2022
<u>Restricted Funds</u>		
Church Restoration	£45752.01	£49493.10
Fabric Fund	£41041.57	£37934.00
 <u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		
General account	£6088.94	£6169.02
<u>Total restricted funds</u>	£86793.58	£87427.10
<u>Total unrestricted funds</u>	£6088.94	£6169.02
	—————	—————
<u>Total funds</u>	<u>£92882.52</u>	<u>£93596.12</u>

Funds held by Ely Diocesan Board of Finance at 31st December 2021

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
<u>Chancel Fund</u>	£13924.76	£13502.61
<u>Churchwardens Land</u>	£77537.33	£68409.90
<u>Churchwardens Land (401760001T)</u>	£23610.23	£20864.79

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNT 1st JAN 2022 - 31st DEC 2022

Sheet 1	Freewill/Gift-Aid Weekly Envelopes	£ 2,091.00
Sheet 1	Tax Recovered against Weekly Gift-Aid	£ 409.25
Sheet 2	Covenants by Bankers Orderd - Lloyds TSB	£ 3,005.00
Sheet 2	Tax Recovered against Bankers Orders	£ 545.00
Sheet 3	GADS	£ 5,097.25
Sheet 3	Tax Recovered against GADS	£ 1,359.92
		<u>£ 12,507.42</u>

BALANCE OF BARCLAYS ACCOUNT

01-Jan-22	Balance in Bank	£ 110.01
	Money Received	£ 3,005.00
01-Apr-22	Interest	£ -
		<u>£ 3,115.01</u>
29-Dec-22	Paid to PCC	£ 2,985.00
31-Dec-22	Balance in Bank	<u>£ 130.01</u>

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 52. Two persons have been taken off as they have moved away and three have been added, giving a new figure of 53.

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

Before I start my report, I would like to take this opportunity to thank a couple of people. Firstly, thank you to Sue Iles-Palmer, for her support as Team Safeguarding Officer. She has ensured that we as Parish Safeguarding Officers know what to do and she has done a lot of the work I will mention below. Secondly, thank you to Rev. Lloyd Davis, for his support to ensure safeguarding is a priority in our Team and for working to safely recruit some volunteers. As a church, we continue to work on ensuring that our safeguarding policy and procedures are in line with that advised by Ely Diocese. This year we have continued to make use of the Parish Dashboard; this is an online system that tracks our progress using a RAG rating. It covers policy, procedure, training and DBS checks. It also creates an action plan report that we bring to our PCC meetings. The PCC have also voted and accepted the safeguarding policy updates we have had this year and Safeguarding is a standing agenda item for these meetings.

Training is an important part of safeguarding. As such we have ensured that all PCC members have completed the appropriate level of training as required by Ely Diocese. We are currently working on making sure that those who have recently been safely recruited are completing the training required.

Sue Iles-Palmer has been working on getting DBS checks done across the Team.

Safer Recruitment has also been a key part of what we have done this year. We have ensured procedures in place to safely recruit volunteers to church. This has included creating volunteer

packs, agreements and role descriptions, so that all are aware of their roles, how safeguarding is included in that role and what training they need to complete.

In the coming year, we will start to make use of the Safeguarding Hub, to track the training and DBS checks of our PCC and Volunteers. We will continue to have Safeguarding as a standing item on our PCC meeting agendas and will continue to make use of the Parish Dashboard. But most importantly Safeguarding and ensuring that our space and activities are safe for all will continue to be of high priority.

Laura Whitehouse
Parish Safeguarding Officer

CHOIR REPORT

2022 rolled off for the choir with the promise of a better year ahead and in the hope that restricted living and singing rules were finally at an end and we could all be 'normal' again. We were still without a vicar and it was uncertain if there was likely to be a new one on the horizon. There were more Morning Praise services and less Holy Communion. This did impact on the choir as there was less opportunity to sing the anthems which we do love to sing when we get the chance, normally while communion is taking place, It was an improvement on Zoom services though.

Choir practices had gravitated to a Wednesday evening, having been on a Thursday evening for years but we wanted to accommodate the organists and some of the choir members who had conflicting engagements. We were pleased to welcome the regular attendance of Holy Trinity choir members and frequent attendance of some of St Andrews choir members as well at these practices.

There were weddings, mainly at Holy Trinity and St Mary's at which the combined choirs always turned out in good numbers and also at Civic and Remembrance Day Services. The Christmas Carol Services across the Benefice are always a joy to sing at and by the time Christmas arrived we were all carolled out!

Early in the year we were happy to know that at last we were going to be able to welcome a new vicar, Emily and her husband Lloyd, though we were aware that they would want to bring changes with them to hopefully swell the dwindling congregations across the Benefice.

The impact on the choir at St Mary's has been profound. The new services did little for choral music and the introduction of canned songs was not helpful for choral singing. Choir members became increasingly dismayed that the services were no longer the traditional services they had grown up with and we didn't feel the power of faith through them. But we decided to try to support them until the end of the year to see if, given time, our opinions changed. Sadly

they didn't and at the end of the year the choir took a sabbatical for a month while the PCC decided what they considered should be the way forward for the services at St Mary's. Sadly for the choir they decided that they would continue with the new services so the choir decided that they would not return apart to sing at weddings, funerals and Festivals. We did entreat our vicar to leave us with the Traditional Holy Communion service just once a month but that apparently could not be accommodated in the new scheme of things.

At this point 2 choir members had already left the choir and 2 decided to stay at St Mary's this left 4 of us. We were approached by another church in Peterborough to join their ranks but this meant a journey on a Sunday morning that we didn't really want. An idea to form a Benefice choir to support the choirs at our smaller churches who struggle to find choristers for their traditional Holy Communion Services was floated to us by Emily and we gladly took up the idea and produced a plan to support these choirs and to provide at least one choir practice a month at their own church to include all choristers from all the churches as we used to do on a Wednesday evening at St Mary's. The Choir, as we now call ourselves, having considered a range of possible names, is now working across the Benefice and has been greeted very warmly by almost everyone. We now have 5 choir members in the 'mobile' group! It is a joy to take part in these services and to feel that we have a welcome at all of them.

Jan Sharman
The Choir

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

The main emphasis this year has been on working on the Deanery Development Plan for the future progress of the churches within the Deanery. A copy of the Plan was voted for at the Synod meeting and passed. The Standing Committee is now working on the Mission Action Development Plan and their findings will be submitted in the summer.

Our speakers this year have been Peter Leech, Deputy Director of Diocesan Mission and Ministry Department who spoke on Education, Mission and Ministry within a Local Context; The Rev Julie Norris, Diocesan Director of Lay Ministry, who spoke on Lay Ministry, Lay Vocations and Developing Lay Ministry and the training opportunities available; the Ven Richard Harlow, Archdeacon of Huntingdon and Wisbech who introduced himself and shared his views on how to move the church forward; and Geoffrey Hunter (Diocesan Advisory Committee) who gave a presentation on the REACH Ely Project.

Discussions were also held on the Deanery Share 2023 which is to increase by 4%. It was decided that for the present the same formula would be adopted for the allocation of costs. Whittlesey, Pondersbridge and Coates Benefice will therefore be requested to give £64,685.00.

Throughout this year the Deanery Synod has been without a secretary and Stephen Tooke, the Lay Chair has been coordinating minutes. It is hoped that a new secretary can be elected for the next Synod.

Fiona Heaysman
Deanery Synod Representative
for Holy Trinity, Coates

CHURCHES TOGETHER REPORT

Since some new members joined Churches Together this year there has been an enthusiasm to become more proactive and this has been seen in the number of services and activities held with increased participation from all the churches in the group.

In April many people attended the Procession of the Cross followed by the Service at the Buttercross and refreshments afterwards. In March (2022) a service was held for the Women's World Day of Prayer where members from our churches contributed to the readings and prayers.

Christian Aid fund raising activities took place throughout the year, including a coffee morning, cake stall at the Buttercross and a Quiz Night at St Jude's.

In June, a joint service was held to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee and in December a prayer area was set up near the Buttercross with opportunities to write a prayer at Whittlesey Christmas Extravaganza. Books and children's poems were given out and many of the Churches Together members took part in manning the area and speaking to people. In January we held a service for the Week of Christian Unity followed by refreshments. Churches Together members took part in the readings and prayers.

Mr Ian Cornall has worked hard producing a Churches Together leaflet to be distributed to people in the new developments around Whittlesey. A limited leaflet drop has happened and we are reviewing the information contained in the leaflet for further distribution.

The Rev Langley Mackrell-Hey has opened a Churches Together Facebook page which provides thoughts and reflections as well as encouraging others to contribute.

Roger Brown, our treasurer, continues to ensure that we are covered for public liability insurance and paying for advertising in Discovering Whittlesey magazine.

Fiona Heaysman
Churches Together Representative
for Holy Trinity, Coates