



**The Diocese of
St Edmundsbury and Ipswich**

**Annual Report and
Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council (Trustees)
of
St Peter & St Paul, Clare
with St Mary the Virgin, Poslingford**

For the year ended 31st December 2022

REPORTS TO THE 2023 ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

THE RECTOR'S ANNUAL REVIEW FOR 2022 FOR THE STOUR VALLEY BENEFICE (CAVENDISH, CLARE, HUNDON, POSLINGFORD, STOKE-BY-CLARE AND WIXOE)

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It is always good once in a while to pause and reflect on where we have come from, where we are now, and where we are heading, and this brief report for the APCM allows me that opportunity.

2022 has for the Benefice, been one of reawakening, whilst the impact of the pandemic has continued to influence the life and ministry in our churches and communities, there have been more opportunities to "get out and about", to be active in our wider communities, and once again to be able to visit freely our nursing homes, schools, and those who had been previously isolating at home. It has been a year where war and conflict has raised its head in Europe, but also one where the wider communities have come together to support those forced to leave their homes in Ukraine.

It has also been a year which has seen the joys of a Platinum Jubilee, but also the death of HM The Queen, and with it a new King. In all these moments, our churches have played a central role in helping our communities to both celebrate and mourn together.

Our response to the cost-of-living crisis has seen our churches offer practical support to those most vulnerable in our communities, creating free Community Pantries to ensure that no one in our town and villages need ever go hungry. Building on relationships which have grown and developed during the pandemic, we have also worked with our District and County Councils as well as other charities to signpost individuals and families to additional support. These activities have had the advantage of raising our profile with our communities, which will put us on a good footing for future mission and outreach projects.

In respect of our physical church buildings, I am, as always, grateful to all those who work tirelessly to not just maintain them, but also work to improve the facilities within them, and whenever possible to make them fit for the 21st Century. Such improvements are never cheap, and I am grateful to the grant giving bodies who have supported us, but also to you as members of our congregations, and the wider community who invest a significant amount of time and energy raising money to complete this work.

Thank you too, for those of you who give faithfully and regularly in our Benefice supporting the ministry both here and across the diocese through the Parish Share. The money raised each year across the diocese ensures that important functions such as safeguarding, training of future priests and lay ministers, and of course also contributing towards paying the stipends and pensions of Clergy. *"The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work."* (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)

Looking to the year ahead, I look forward to joining you all in welcoming Dr Karen Smith as our full time Curate in July. I am sure that she will be a great blessing to our Benefice, and I am excited about sharing my ministry here with her.

Finally, Let all of us reaffirm our commitment to “... love the Lord our God with all our hearts, and with all our souls, and with all our minds, and with all our strength.” and to “...love our neighbours as ourselves. There is no other commandment greater than these.”

The Revd Mark Woodrow, Rector, The Vicarage, Clare.

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll currently numbers 91 (ninety one) persons, of whom 22 (twenty two) reside outside the parish. Inclusion on the Roll, which entitles you to vote on parochial church matters, is a very simple procedure, so if you are not already enrolled, but would like to be, please let me know.

James Standen
Electoral Roll Officer
May 2023

Parochial Church Council (PCC)

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) currently consists of ten (10) elected members, plus the Rector (as Chairman) and our co-opted Treasurer. Since the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting in 2022, the PCC has met on four occasions, which is the statutory minimum requirement. Meetings are held at lunchtime after the Sunday morning service and a wide variety of subjects are discussed, of which an unadopted copy will from now on be published in the Parish Church News. Due to an editorial oversight, this has not always been done, for which please accept our apologies. The Council is not limited in the number of its members, so there will always be room for additional faces.

James Standen
Hon. Sec. Parochial Church Council
May 2023

Churchwardens' Fabric Report

One of the churchwarden's duties is to look after, as best they can, the fabric of the churches and the furniture and fittings inside them. Here in Clare and Poslingford we have a regular stream of visitors who are checking different things:

- ❖ Ecclesiastical (our insurance company) inspect every 5 years, and inspected Poslingford in 2022
- ❖ E-Bound annual inspection of the roof alarm system in Clare
- ❖ Drains and gutters cleaned out at least twice a year in both churches
- ❖ Fire extinguishers checked and serviced as required annually in both churches.
- ❖ Organ and piano serviced and tuned as needed in Clare
- ❖ Annual Archdeacons inspection to check inventory and silverware.

Other repairs/defects are attended to as and when they occur

- ❖ Drips after heavy rain
- ❖ Cracks appearing in windows
- ❖ Heating failures
- ❖ Light bulbs needing replacement

All of which have happened in the year and have been rectified.

Additional safety features put in place this year

- ❖ Ladders installed on roof to make inspection easier/safer in Clare
- ❖ Damaged pieces of carpet removed in Clare

- ❖ Outdoor mat for Poslingford to try to keep small stones out of the church and to make the step easier for wheelchairs and walkers.
- ❖ Red light installed by master heating control to indicate whether heating is On or Off in Clare
- ❖ Replaced light bulbs in chancel in Clare
- ❖ Fitted new LED light in upper tower at Clare to improve safe access

Work in progress in 2023:

Plans to improve the servery in Clare are going ahead: a Faculty is required and is being progressed by the architect. The opportunity will be taken to repair the Vestry external door and to redecorate the entrance by the West Door which will include the repair of peeling plaster.

Other significant events in 2022:

- ❖ February: organ recital by Christopher Moore
- ❖ April: Concert for Ukraine with children from school and their private teacher
- ❖ June: Seranata Ladies choir
- ❖ October: Slideways trombone concert

Church events:

- ❖ May: Plant Sale fundraiser for Ukraine & Church
- ❖ August: Vicarage Tea Party
- ❖ October: Harvest Lunch following Harvest Festival
- ❖ November: Christmas Fair: a good footfall
- ❖ December: Carols by Candlelight at both churches followed by mulled wine and mince pies.
- ❖ Coffee Cake & Chat remained a regular monthly feature in Clare using Fairtrade resources, especially highlighted in March during the Fairtrade Fortnight.

No Report would be complete without a grateful acknowledgement of all the members of the congregation and others who help to make things run smoothly:

- ❖ Members of the PCC
- ❖ Members of the choir
- ❖ Choir leader cum accompanist
- ❖ The bell ringing team
- ❖ Members of the Flower Guild
- ❖ Those who periodically clean the church and the toilet
- ❖ Lesson readers
- ❖ Intercessor leaders
- ❖ Rota organizers
- ❖ Coffee service after church services
- ❖ The Coffee Cake & Chat team and cake makers for the events.
- ❖ The Communion linen washers
- ❖ Sidesmen
- ❖ Those who open up the church each morning, and those who lock it up in the evening
- ❖ The shop and the artisan group who provide handmade stock
- ❖ The bookshop
- ❖ Monthly magazine contributors and the Editor
- ❖ And a big "thank you" to Clare Town Council for looking after the graveyard grass and trees, and for allowing the Sensory Garden to be made.

Jean Ramsey
Church Warden

Deanery Synod Report 2022 (and elections)

There have been three synod meetings in 2022, 9th February, 16th June and 28th September. Members of the Deanery were also able to enjoy a 'Summer Social' at Haverhill on 28th August.

At the February meeting of the Synod the Deanery Plan was approved. This hopes to provide every parish with a service at a minimum of one each month.

During Lent 2022, the Deanery organised a course around the "Living in Love and Faith" material. This was a Deanery-wide Lent course to explore sexuality, identity, relationships and marriage. It was not a course telling people what to think but a time to listen, reflect and provide feedback to the diocese. This was not just for church-goers but for anyone within, without or on the margins of church.

The Synod meeting on 16th June was at Clare and included a Eucharist for Corpus Christ.

It was agreed that the Deanery Subscription paid by each parish should rise to £10.00

At the September meeting of the Deanery Synod our Treasurer Jill Davis retired after many years of service for which we are most grateful. We are actively searching for a replacement.

Treasurers are encouraged to audit each other's accounts across benefice borders. There have been problems with charity bank accounts which Tom McKenny, Deanery Organiser, has reported to the Diocese Financial Officers. A solution is being sought and various new banking arrangements are being discussed.

Tom McKenny and Justin Rabett (Lay Chair) have worked to provide many of the parishes across the Deanery with QR codes so that churches have some method of online donation.

Rev'd Clive Fairclough was installed as incumbent at Suffolk Heights in September.

Sadly, the payment of Parish Share has fallen further behind within the Deanery in 2022. It is now in the worst position since Tom McKenny has been the Deanery Organiser. Currently, three of the Benefices have failed to meet their commitments regarding full payment of parish share, Haverhill, Bansfield and Stour Valley. The final total was some £48,802 short of our Deanery total. This is a very regrettable situation and should be a great concern to all. Both Justin Rabett and Tom McKenny have worked with the Benefices of Suffolk Heights and Stourhead to achieve equitable share of the burden between their parishes and full payment despite facing the increased costs that all parishes have seen. Despite pleas from the Deanery Organiser, the financial priority of parish share and paying for ministry within Benefices is not being addressed. Congregational giving remains inadequate to finance current levels of ministry. Parish share pays for the ministry provided to each Benefice. Only a fraction, (7%), relates to congregation numbers and 4% adjusted due to relative affluence. It is expected the Diocese will be £1,000,000 short in 2022! Further re-organisation at Diocesan and Benefice level will be inevitable at this level of deficit. Of particular concern was the failure of Stour Valley Benefice to meet its commitments. Cavendish had a deficit of £4,741, due to fears expressed about increased heating costs, and Clare was £7,863 short, due to lower income. The Deanery Organiser was disappointed that treasurers of smaller parishes within Stour Valley seemed unwilling to assist the larger parishes to meet their financial commitments. The Deanery Organiser recognises that 2022 has been a difficult year but intends to look at the accounts of all the Parishes within the Benefice to assess what the commitment to Parish Share is possible in the future.

Tom McKenny
Deanery Organiser
May 2023

Poslingford

The Past Year at St. Mary Poslingford

It is good when looking back on this past year to note that the practical effects of the Covid-19 outbreak, and the measures taken to address and contain the pandemic have significantly diminished. As for worship and other activities at the church, these have been picking up again, though the church itself does still see relatively little use.

As I regularly write in these notes, the churchyard has recently been looking as delightful as ever. The cool wet weather through March and April meant the daffodils lasted a lot longer than usual, while the famous Poslingford Pinks have spread even further, colonising areas they have not been seen in previously. Now, umbelliferae proliferate, and it is also noticeable how much larger the trees have grown over the past twenty years.

A contractor employed by the Parish Council has continued to mow the grass regularly, and again a group of villagers has continued to carry out general tidying up.

Worship at St Mary's has continued at similar level to 2021/2. Our traditional Good Friday Compline service was held, and the 2022 Carol Service attendance was twice that in 2021. In addition the church has hosted a handful of '5th Sunday' Benefice services. Grateful thanks are due to Mark for ensuring that worship continues in this rural backwater.

The churchyard was not host to any village events during the year, though it is good to report that the usual summer village barbecue did take place last year but elsewhere. We hope the Parish Council will hold it again this year.

A touching ceremony took place on Remembrance Sunday, when villagers congregated at the war memorial and reflected on the lives of those who had died in the World Wars. Some local children painted stones which they placed at the foot of the memorial, and wreaths were laid. Prayers were said and poems read out, and the two minutes silence was observed. One young village lad with a family member commemorated on the memorial cleaned the stonework and tidied its surroundings in preparation for the day. Three County Councillors also attended.

Don Ramsey deserves a mention for his continued fabric improvement works over the past year. A section of tiling at the base the north facing nave roof was spalling badly and this area was replaced.

St. Mary Poslingford continues in its largely somnolent existence but is still a very visible presence right in the heart of the village. Its albeit infrequent use for worship and occasional community events demonstrates it is still an important part of village life, in a small community with few other amenities. We continually pray that this presence and purpose will both persist and grow.

George Green
May 2023

Choir

Since the last APCM our small choir has kept going, for most of the time with David Musgrove doing sterling work as organist; but for the last few months David has had to stop doing this, as he is unable to commit to weekly services. Since then, Andrew Martin has played the organ for Communion services and piano has had to be used by me for non-Eucharistic services (Morning Prayer and Evensong).

Under these circumstances we do our best, but it is difficult to progress as a choir and to improve the delivery of music in the Worship. However, the choir enjoys singing for Evensong (a relatively new experience!) and learning new, albeit simple pieces as anthems. It would be good to introduce new hymns to the congregation. We have *slightly* expanded numbers as we have welcomed one more singer and he hasn't gone away yet!

The choir has taken part in some community events – the Community Carol Service at the Baptist Church, the Christmas Fair, the Lights Switch-on and, with 'friends', participating in the Coronation Concert.

We have, most importantly, provided a choir (hopefully enhancing worship) for almost all services at church, week in week out. I think we have tried 'to sing with the Spirit and the understanding also', as the RSCM believes we should do.

Mary Owen
May 2023

Church Shop

Despite the interior restorations the Church Shop remained open as we were able to move the Shop cupboards across to an area near the font.

Last year there were fewer overseas visitors and sales were down from previous years. We also reduced our stock levels. Some of our suppliers went out of business and others reduced the range of stock they had for sale or prices went up and we felt we could no longer afford to place an order with them.

Last year Caroline Knapp moved to Hadleigh. Chris Lord and I were delighted when Sue Long agreed to join us.

We want to thank all those who so generously make or give items to sell in the Shop. Despite the up's and down's, at the end of the year the Shop took over £ 2,500.

Very many thanks to our customers and supporters. Without you there wouldn't be a Church Shop.

Chris Lord, Sue Long, Olivia Posner
May 2023

Book Stall

The Book Stall happily continues to attract regular and occasional customers, offering as it does a range of hard and soft back books on a variety of subjects, both fiction and non-fiction, including a number of children's books.

We continue to welcome donations of books in good condition (we are particularly short of religious books at the moment) and thank everyone who has contributed on this front and, naturally, all our (we hope satisfied) customers!

The Book Stall now has a QR facility, which enables visitors to purchase through their mobile 'phones, instead of putting cash in the slot. Additionally some purchases are paid for via the contactless terminal near the main entrance.

Cash sales from April '22 to end of April '23 : **£ 668.74** + sales of **£4** made by the QR facility = **£ 672.74**.

Any payments made via the contactless terminal go directly into the General Account.

Mary Standen
May 2023

Flower Guild

The Flower Guild AGM was held on Saturday, 11 February at Clover House, Clare. We welcomed three new members and our membership is now fifteen. Barbara Wilder and Emma Judd have taken over the running of the Guild this year from Jean Hodson. We thank Jean for all her hard work over many years.

The yearly rotas have been distributed and displayed on the church notice board. We are looking to add *faux* flowers to the arrangements to save costs for fresh flowers. These *faux* flowers will be used amongst the fresh flowers. The current balance of the Flower Guild Fund is **£ 942.26**.

Lastly, the Flower Guild are having a Coffee Morning on 17 June from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. To raise funds, this will include the sale of cakes and a bring-and-buy table.

Emma Judd
May 2023

Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union branch of Clare and Cavendish decided to officially disband in October 2022 when there were only four remaining members. Those members elected to become Diocesan members, *i.e.* still part of the worldwide Mothers' Union and being able to participate in the meetings without being members of a Branch. So far, so good. We meet informally every month to discuss MU matters. The Clare MU banner will remain in the St. Mary the Virgin, Poslingford.

Jean Ramsey
May 2023

Open the Book

Open the Book is an initiative to bring Bible stories to children in the school. Here in Clare we have a team of 8 drawn from the Anglican and Baptist churches. We visit Clare Community School and Cavendish C. of E. schools twice a month for a 20-minute session, where the key figures in the story are played by adults, with pre-selected children from different year groups dressing up to participate in the supporting roles. The story is read from the "Open the Book" book provided by the Bible Society. Actors must stick to the text and refrain from adding any comments. The Bible stories are chosen to demonstrate certain qualities, *e.g.* friendship, faithfulness, etc. to fit in with each school's curriculum that term. New members are always welcome!

Jean Ramsey
May 2023

Churches Together

The church communities in Clare and Cavendish spent 2022 reopening, restarting and refreshing their varied programmes of services, events and support. Some of the activities that had been running in the pre-COVID days rediscovered their places in the regular schedules. For example, the coffee mornings at the Parish Church and the URC continued to welcome people each month, the Baptist Church's parent and toddler group, Allsorts, supported parents and carers while providing a safe and friendly atmosphere for babies and toddlers to play and develop, and The Priory offering a varied programme of retreats and quiet days for pilgrims from across the country and beyond.

Together, the church communities were able to join with the Town Council, uniformed organisations, Deputy Lord Lieutenant Mark Pennington and the great and the good of the town in our annual Act of Remembrance in November. The solemnity of the event, accompanied as always by the Boys Brigade Brass Band from Bury St Edmunds, was evident both in the Parish Church and around the war memorial on Market Hill.

Our other joint offering took place on Good Friday, instead of the pre-COVID times walk of witness around the town, members of the church communities offered a time of singing and reading and praying on Market Hill. Unfortunately, various key members of the churches were struck down with COVID, so it is a tribute to those who were left standing that anything was able to happen.

Individually, the churches have continued to serve both their own congregations and also to work out what they should be offering to those in their local communities. Some of these will be better achieved by working in partnership, other initiatives will need the distinctive “flavour” of one of the churches. Whatever this might look like in the future, it does at least prove that the Church in Clare is active, engaged and here for you, whoever you might be.

Rev Paul Graham

Baptist Minister & Chair of Churches Together in Clare and Cavendish

Safeguarding in the Stour Valley Benefice in 2022

- There have been no incidents reported during this Calendar year.
- New Training Co-ordinators Lisa Hicks and Mark Bee were appointed and conducted an audit of outstanding training needs across the Diocese. A comprehensive programme of face-to-face sessions was offered during the summer period, comprising Awareness, Foundation and Leadership Levels. The Leadership Levels were also offered extensively on Zoom.
- Ministry members from Stour Valley Benefice took full advantage of these face to face sessions, especially the Leadership level, and almost all our outstanding shortfall was rectified.
- Certificates of completed training have been collated by the Benefice Safeguarding Officer, and the Parish Dashboards have also been updated.
- DBS Certificates have been updated across the Benefice as required.

Beth Salmon, Benefice Safeguarding Officer



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

**Parochial Church Council of St Peter & St Paul, Clare
with St Mary the Virgin, Postlingford**

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December 2022

Charity no
(if any)

Church of England

Set out on pages

3 - 8

Responsibilities and
basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/12/2022**

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed:

Date:

26th February 2023

Name:

Neville A Broadbent

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

N/A

Address:

2 Market Hill, Clare,

Nr Sudbury

Suffolk, C010 8NN

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

Nothing to disclose

Parochial Church Council of St Peter & St Paul, Clare with St Mary the Virgin, Poslingford
Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022 prepared under the Receipts and Payment method

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
RECEIPTS		£	£	£	£	£
Voluntary income	2	26,747	118,822	-	145,569	84,581
Activities for generating funds	3	7,928	-	-	7,928	7,456
Income from church activities	4	7,767	-	-	7,767	4,651
Other income	5	425	-	-	425	157
Investment income	6	492	1,167	3,037	4,696	794
		<u>43,359</u>	<u>119,989</u>	<u>3,037</u>	<u>166,385</u>	<u>97,639</u>
PAYMENTS						
Church activities	7	42,671	4,251	-	46,922	39,692
Restoration	8	2,258	78,359	-	80,617	194,887
		<u>44,929</u>	<u>82,610</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>127,539</u>	<u>234,579</u>
Net incoming resources		(1,570)	37,379	3,037	38,846	(136,940)
Disposal/Revaluation of fixed assets		-	-	(656)	(656)	(7,663)
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>(1,570)</u>	<u>37,379</u>	<u>2,381</u>	<u>38,190</u>	<u>(144,603)</u>
Opening balance 1st January 2022		20,334	88,521	306,909	415,764	560,367
Closing balance 31st December 2022		<u>18,764</u>	<u>125,900</u>	<u>309,290</u>	<u>453,954</u>	<u>415,764</u>

Parochial Church Council of St Peter & St Paul, Clare with St Mary the Virgin, Poslingford
Analysis of Incoming Resources

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Clare Church Estate	Gregory Trust	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Note 2						
Voluntary income						
Planned giving:						
Envelopes, Parish Giving & Bankers Orders	15,255	-	-	-	15,255	17,522
Gift Aid/VAT Recoverable	4,757	15,822	-	-	20,579	36,988
Collections, Donations, Appeals	5,379	-	-	-	5,379	6,466
Poslingford	1,356	-	-	-	1,356	1,602
Legacy	-	100,000	-	-	100,000	5,003
Grants	-	3,000	-	-	3,000	17,000
	<u>26,747</u>	<u>118,822</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>145,569</u>	<u>84,581</u>
Note 3						
Activities for generating funds						
Fundraising Events inc. Christmas Fairs	7,579	-	-	-	7,579	7,231
Suffolk Historic Churches - Bike ride	349	-	-	-	349	225
	<u>7,928</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,928</u>	<u>7,456</u>
Note 4						
Income from church activities						
Church shop	2,980	-	-	-	2,980	1,672
Fees	4,787	-	-	-	4,787	2,979
	<u>7,767</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,767</u>	<u>4,651</u>
Note 5						
Other income						
Flower Guild	-	-	-	-	0	-
Use of church in elections	-	-	-	-	0	150
Candles	425	-	-	-	425	7
	<u>425</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>425</u>	<u>157</u>
Note 6						
Investment income						
Interest	117	1,167	2,261	776	4,321	209
Rent	375	-	-	-	375	585
	<u>492</u>	<u>1,167</u>	<u>2,261</u>	<u>776</u>	<u>4,696</u>	<u>794</u>

Parochial Church Council of St Peter & St Paul, Clare with St Mary the Virgin, Poslingford
Analysis of Outgoing Resources

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Clare Church Estate	Gregory Trust	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Note 7						
Church activities						
Mission & charitable giving						
Home missions & other charitable societies	571	-	-	-	571	557
Ministry						
Parish Share	25,000	2,500	-	-	27,500	15,000
Stour Valley Group	1,412	-	-	-	1,412	1,767
Clare running expenses						
Heat/light/water	847	-	-	-	847	282
Insurance	4,637	-	-	-	4,637	4,704
Choir & music	116	-	-	-	116	677
Organists & Bookkeeper	2,165	-	-	-	2,165	914
Flowers	117	-	-	-	117	-
Maintenance	1,594	1,751	-	-	3,345	12,768
Altar purchases	-	-	-	-	0	37
Fees	1,320	-	-	-	1,320	1,341
Printing & stationery	-	-	-	-	0	7
Sundry	130	-	-	-	130	156
Church shop & bookstall	1,813	-	-	-	1,813	507
Purchases & expenses	2,949	-	-	-	2,949	975
	<u>42,671</u>	<u>4,251</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>46,922</u>	<u>39,692</u>

Note 8

Restoration

Clare restoration	-	64,097	-	-	64,097	158,887
Professional fees	-	-	-	-	0	-
Poslingford (running expenses & restoration)	2,258	14,262	-	-	16,520	36,000
	<u>2,258</u>	<u>78,359</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>80,617</u>	<u>194,887</u>

Note 9

Fixed Assets

Freehold land & buildings is comprised of:

Approx. 7 acres of agricultural land at Poslingford	<u>70,000</u>	<u>70,000</u>
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Note 10

Charibonds

M&G Charibonds 514 Accumulation shares	<u>-</u>	<u>29,430</u>
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The market value at 31st December 2021 was £21,766.59.

The investment formed part of the Clare Church Estate, one of the charities which support the church.

Parochial Church Council of St Peter & St Paul, Clare with St Mary the Virgin, Poslingford
as at 31st December 2022

Monetary assets

		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
		£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	Note					
Freehold Property & Land	9	-	-	70,000	70,000	70,000
		-	-	70,000	70,000	70,000
Current assets						
Short term deposits		9,022	111,762	239,290	360,074	242,140
Cash in bank and in hand		9,742	14,138	-	23,880	81,857
Investments		-	-	-	-	21,767
		18,764	125,900	239,290	383,954	345,764
Net assets		18,764	125,900	309,290	453,954	415,764

Reconciliation of Funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Receipts	43,359	119,989	3,037	166,385
Payments	(44,929)	(82,610)	-	(127,539)
Disposal/revaluation	-	-	(656)	(656)
Transfer between Funds	-	-	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,570)	37,379	2,381	38,190

Funds at 31/12/21 £415,764.00

Funds at 31/12/22 £453,954.00

MISS S E BARTLETT
TREASURER

MARCH 2023

Treasurer's report

The general income of the Church amounted to £43,359 (2021: £40,171). Despite this increase, the underlying income streams continue to highlight the challenge that the Church faces in generating income.

Voluntary income was down in the year at £26,747 (2021: £27,557). Although income from the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) has increased to £11,545 plus Gift Aid recoveries of £2,402 (2021: £10,921 Gift Aid £2,280) and Collections to £5379 (2021: £3,967); Other Giving has decreased to £3,710 (2021: £6,600). Our sincere thanks to all those that have contributed, it is appreciated.

As expected the amount of VAT recoverable has decreased to £15,822 (2021: £32,522) as the volume of restoration works on which VAT can be recovered has decreased now that the Tower Project has finished.

Legacies & Grants

We would like to convey our gratitude for the generous legacy of £100,000 received in the year to support future renovation work at Clare Church.

We would like to express our thanks to the organisations that have donated £3,000 to the Poslingford Chest Restoration project, we await the Chancellor's approval so that work can commence.

Fundraising

During the year there were nine fundraising events: (1) Clare College Choir £1,388 (£166 net of expenses), (2) Organ recital £775, (3) Serenata Choir £463 (£213 net of expenses), (4) Plant sale £152, (5) Vicarage Tea Party £600, (6) Harvest Lunch (7) Slideways Concert £526 (8) Christmas Fair £3,627 (£3,527 net of expenses), (9) Ride & Stride £349.

Expenditure

Expenditure has been as anticipated. By far the largest regular expense item is our Benefice Parish Share. Our share of Benefice Parish Share is 46.5% or £32,063 (2021: £31,590), as at year end, we had paid £19,000 (2021: £15,000) towards this with a further £5,200 (2021: £11,000) being paid in January 2023*. As a result, we have a shortfall of £7,863 (2021: £5,590). It remains our opinion that a share of 46.5% is just too great for a Parish with two churches to maintain.

**The window for paying the 2022 Parish Share stays open until the end of January 2023, indeed £8,500 of Parish Share amounts appearing in these financial statements are in relation to the 2021 Parish Share).*

As we look forward to the year ahead, we anticipate the impact of rising energy costs on the Churches power bills will exacerbate the challenge that we face in meeting the Parish Share request.

Restoration

Clare Windows & Walls

As mentioned in last year's report work on Clare Windows & Walls project was completed in 2021 although final completion payments (£64,097) and VAT recoveries (£12,098) were not made until the end of the retention period in 2022.

Poslingford Windows & Walls

The work on this project continued into and completed in 2022. Costs in 2022 were £13,591 and VAT recoveries £2,212.

Investments

You will recall from last year's report that our investment in M&G's "Charibond" Accumulation Fund was being negatively influence by market forces. In 2022 the investment was disposed of at a slight loss (£656) to book value and funds returned to the Clare Church Estate endowment fund.