

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY MAGDALENE, WHIPSNADE



**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
OF
THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2022**

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The Trustees of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Parish Church of St Mary Magdalene Whipsnade present their report and financial statements for the year ending 31st December 2022.

INTRODUCTION

The Church of St. Mary Magdalene Whipsnade sits on The Green in Whipsnade. It is part of the Deanery of Dunstable and within that of the United Benefice of Kensworth, Studham and Whipsnade in the Church of England Diocese of St Albans. It is also a member of the North Chilterns Group of Parishes. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, Clayhall Lane, Kensworth. The PCC form a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2020) and a charity currently excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served at any time between 1st January and 31st December 2022 are:

Ex Officio members:

The Rector: The Reverend Canon Nicola Lenthall (Chairman)

Churchwardens:

Mrs Isobel Randall

Mr Martin Rees

Deanery Synod representatives (elected)

Mrs Bola Fola-Caleb

Mr Martin Rees

Elected members:

Mrs Sarah Ayres

Mrs Joan Bailey (Trustee and Secretary)

Mr Michael Bailey (Safeguarding Officer)

Mrs Kim Brown (until 11 October 2022)

Mr Christopher Hazell (Vice-Chairman)

Mrs Jo King

Mr Les Randall (Treasurer)

Mrs Pamela Ward

Mrs Jane Wright

OUR PURPOSE

The PCC are committed to a life of faith and worship and in their role as PCC members to making our Church a welcoming place of worship and communion that parishioners will want to visit and support. The Church makes a vital contribution to village life and to the spiritual and pastoral well-being of our village community. Our objectives are reviewed annually and fully expressed in our Mission Action Plan (MAP) which is regularly updated.



HOW OUR ACTIVITIES DELIVER PUBLIC BENEFIT

Through our mission and ministry, the PCC provide:

- a focus for worship and prayer;
- pastoral care for people living in the parish.

We work with the Rector, the Reverend Canon Nicola Lenthall, in ministering to the people of the Parish, both through spiritual and social action and through the use of the Church building and the Churchyard. Our principal object is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the beliefs and practices of the Church of England. The PCC are also specifically responsible for the maintenance and development of the Church building and the Churchyard.

MISSION AND MINISTRY

The PCC are committed to caring for the people of the community in love and to encouraging as many as can to worship at our Church and become part of our worshipping life. The people of the Parish and those on the Electoral Roll are

nurtured through worship and prayer. They knit together in love through their common understanding of the message of the Gospel and their desire to live out the Gospel in their daily lives, through social action and in Summer 2022 pastoral responsiveness.

Our Ministry team now includes Dave Heather who we welcomed as Curate in our Benefice following his ordination as a Deacon. Along with Dorothy Blackburn and Penny Fray as Readers in our Benefice, and Bola Fola-Caleb, our Lay Leader of Worship in Whipsnade, the team have led services and supported the Rector and the community at Whipsnade, which is of great benefit to all.

We were all relieved and delighted that in 2022 Church life returned fully to normal after the worst of the pandemic, with services back in their regular pattern, and social and community events able to resume. Our mission and ministry once again included, for example, monthly village lunches, a resumption of the monthly 'Knit and Natter" group and Sunday School each second Sunday of the month, as well as some community events.

Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



We were delighted to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. We marked the occasion with a joyful and well attended service on 5 June, Pentecost Sunday, following which we planted a walnut tree in commemoration. Members of the congregation also participated in the wider village celebrations.

Like most of the Nation, we were shocked and saddened by the death of Her Late Majesty in September. The Rector and Churchwardens did a marvellous job in making the necessary arrangements – keeping the Church open, opening a book of condolence, and arranging a number of special services. These were well supported by the public, notably the act of prayer and thanksgiving on 11 September.

Ministry of Worship

The Rector and PCC continue to work together with the other Churches in the Benefice of Kensworth, Studham and Whipsnade to offer a range of services on a Sunday morning. Provision for High and Holy days is made throughout the Benefice. It is our policy to meet the expectations of worshippers by keeping to the same time every Sunday morning, with the exception of the services held on the fifth Sunday of a month. These are held in rotation around the three Churches of the Benefice at the usual time of their morning service. Traditional and modern language forms of Eucharist are both used at Whipsnade, and our Family Service on the 3rd Sunday is a less formal occasion, designed particularly for families or for couples wishing to gain a qualifying connection for a marriage service in the Church. Those who come to a service for the first time often talk about how welcome they are made to feel. Special occasions are celebrated by services such as Evensong on our Patronal Festival, Christingle, and the making by children of Easter gardens on Good Friday for the Churches of the Benefice. We also take our turn to host services for the North Chilterns Group of parishes.

We were very pleased that people chose during the year to use the Church for the occasional offices of baptism, marriage and funerals. During 2022 there were 3 baptisms and no weddings or wedding blessing services, 2 funerals with full burial, 1 funeral with cremation following, 1 funeral with unattended cremation, 1 funeral at a crematorium and 7 interments of cremated remains.

Those who attend our services, whether regularly or for the occasional offices, typically express gratitude to the Rector and members of the congregation for their dedication, support and kindness.

In January 2021 we obtained the necessary Diocesan permissions to develop a second Garden of Remembrance to the west of the Church. Preparatory work was carried out that Autumn and in Spring 2022 landscaping and planting were completed. We welcomed the Archdeacon of Bedford to our service on 20 March following which he blessed and dedicated the new Garden which looked beautiful in the sunshine and continues to give solace and pleasure to the bereaved, as well as those who visit the Church and the Churchyard.



Since Easter 2022 we have been able to use the new Garden to inter the cremated remains of a number of parishioners that we had been unable to accommodate over the previous two years. We are grateful to all those who worked to develop the new Garden, getting the necessary permissions, donating money towards the works and the costs of landscaping and planting including Whipsnade Parish Council, Jane and Ben Wright and a number of local residents and businesses. We were pleased that the first memorial plaque in the new Garden was for Vanessa Hornby, whose legacy to the Church contributed to the costs, which is a fitting tribute to her service to our Church.

The Tree Cathedral Annual Service on 12 June had the theme 'In celebration of trees' with the guest speaker Revd. Professor Andrew Gosler, Professor of Ethno-Ornithology at Oxford University. Thanks as ever to all involved, especially Pam Ward, the Blyth family, the children of Studham and Kensworth schools with teacher Anne Copeland, the Dunstable Salvation Army Band and the Kitsell family; and all who helped.

Mission for children and young people

We have strong links with the catchment school, Studham Village CE Academy which is a member of the Diocese of St Albans Multi-Academy Trust. The Rector and the Chairman of the Parish Council are governors of the School and Mike Bailey was Chair of the Board of Directors of the Multi-Academy Trust until August 2022, when he became a Member of the Company. The Rector has continued to offer collective worship to the children, and pastoral support to the staff and governors. She is much valued by the whole school community.

The congregation are pleased to have been able once again to make our work with children a key element of mission and pastoral work at Whipsnade. It is clear that the children enjoy coming to Sunday School and working with Glenda Cox, learning through their exciting activities and sharing them with the adult congregation at the end of the service.



Our wider ministry

We work closely with our sister Churches in the Benefice and the three congregations collaborate well to provide spiritual and social support for the local population, in addition to our regular services.

We also work with local groups of churches through the Deanery Synod, the North Chilterns Group of Churches (NCG) and local Methodists in a number of ways.

Deanery Synod

Through representation of the PCC at the Deanery Synod the PCC expresses the significance of its position within the Deanery of Dunstable and the wider structures of the church.

Two members of the PCC sit on the Deanery Synod, which is currently chaired by the Rector in her role as Rural Dean. This continues to provide us with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the Church. The Synod met three times in 2022, returning to face-to-face meetings, having met solely on Zoom in 2021. The meetings were well attended. In March, the Revd Canon Malcolm Grant spoke about the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust and its role in supporting structural repairs in churches. A number of members commented favourably on the help which their parishes had received over many years, and how easy the applications were to complete. Synod member Winston Forde raised an individual question about the mechanism for removing churchwardens who were deliberately not carrying out their duties, which was then taken forward by the Chair and General Synod representative. The Rural Dean and Lay Co-Chair talked about the decision to postpone the Parish Share Factor review process to allow there to be a clearer financial position following the effects of the pandemic. The Diocesan and Deanery response to the developing situation in Ukraine was discussed. In July, the new Diocesan Secretary, David White, came to introduce himself to Synod, and to talk about his role. This was followed by questions from the floor and a presentation about the Deanery from the Lay Co-Chair. In December Synod enjoyed a presentation by Dr John Wallace about his doctoral thesis on 'Anglo-Catholic Church Planting' which included opportunities for questions and discussion. The recent motion from Diocesan Synod on the move towards net carbon zero by 2030 was presented by Kerry Smith, and difficulties as well as progress towards this were shared. Reports on 'Warm Hubs' in churches, or supported by them, were received. At every meeting the standing agenda included a General Synod report, a safeguarding update, eco-church information, the sharing of good news and a treasurer's report.

North Chilterns Group

We are a member of the North Chilterns Group of Churches, a partnership of eight rural parishes in South Bedfordshire which work together to provide a mutual support network. This year saw the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the group, under the current chairmanship of Isobel Randall. This important milestone was marked with a special service at Kensworth on Advent Sunday with the Bishop of St Albans as a guest preacher and a combined NCG choir. The liturgy was led by the clergy, readers and lay leaders of worship of the Group. Earlier in the year the Lent course, on trees and their role biblically, theologically and ecologically, was devised and partly led by the Revd. Louise Collins, Vicar of Elstree and Borehamwood. The confirmation service in June at Eaton Bray saw two people from our Benefice confirmed. The annual service in July at St. Giles' Totternhoe celebrated thirty years of ordained ministry for Revd. Joy Cousans and thirty years of reader ministry for our own Dorothy Blackburn with a very sparkly cake



There is no Methodist church in Whipsnade, but the Rector has developed good relationships with the Methodists in the Benefice parishes of Kensworth and Studham, and we have opportunities to join with our Methodist friends for worship and activities from time to time.

Eco-Church

Conscious that the Gospel is good news for God's earth, the Diocese of St Albans is encouraging churches locally to become environmentally aware and carbon-neutral in line with national Church aims. In 2020 Whipsnade received a bronze *A-Rocha* award, as a first step towards improving our environmental credentials. Representatives from the three parishes have grouped together to take forward this initiative in all three Churches. They have lots of great ideas, which have developed during 2022, including involving children more, as this is an area which really captures the imagination of our young people. Jo King led this work on behalf of the PCC in 2021, and we are grateful for all she has done, including

signing us up as a Fairtrade Church. In 2022 Kim Brown became our representative on the Group, until her move from the village.

Serving our Community - Ministry through pastoral and practical care

Some members of our parish are unable to attend church due to sickness, disability or age. Holy Communion at home is taken by the Rector and a team of volunteers to those in need, and parishioners are visited at home and in hospital. Some members of the congregation help frail or elderly people in Whipsnade by shopping, providing transport or by talking to them regularly to ensure that they are coping.

The Rector has been unfailing in her caring for people who have been ill, or died during 2022, and their loved ones, in the true spirit of Christian service. We have sadly lost some faithful and loved members of our parish. We particularly miss Norman Duncombe, who for many years served as an organist. He died in April, and is much missed.

In recent years the Rector has led special services and activities for those who have been bereaved and at which all are welcome. In 2022 these included the '*In Loving Memory*' service on 24 April 2022 at St Mary's Studham, '*Light out of Darkness*' at Kensworth on 4 December, and, for the first time since the pandemic, a 'Coffee, Cake and Company' on Sunday 20 March at Whipsnade Church.

It was not possible to hold our Village Lunch for much of 2021, but we were delighted to be able to return to the regular pattern of monthly lunches in 2022, and to welcome new volunteers from the Village to our team of helpers. We know that for many people this monthly get-together is an opportunity to meet up with friends and make new ones, which is what makes it so popular. The proceeds of the lunch in October were donated to the Bishop's Harvest Appeal, along with the Church's Harvest Service collection.

It was a real treat to be invited by Jane and Ben Wright to a most enjoyable Summer Garden party in September which brought together friends from the whole Church community in Whipsnade and the wider Benefice, and also raised a substantial amount for the Church and Junior Diabetes Research Foundation.

'Knit and Natter' our monthly social event for Whipsnade has taken place monthly in the Church, and continues to be very popular. Their work was showcased at a very successful Easter coffee morning in April and at the Christmas Coffee and Craft Fair in December. They made beautiful decorated panels for the Church, featuring Spring flowers at Easter and poppies for Remembrance Day, which were much admired by all.

We are pleased that the Church and the Vestry continue to be used more and more for community activities, and to support our efforts to combat loneliness in the village population. We are pleased too that the Benefice were able to resume coffee mornings for lonely and bereaved people in the villages.

We take our responsibilities in relation to safeguarding very seriously. Safeguarding policy and practice meet the requirements of the Church of England and the Diocese of St Albans. The Rector, members of the PCC, the appointed Safeguarding Officer (Mike Bailey) and several other members on the Electoral Roll have attended safeguarding courses, and some have followed the on-line sessions

Safeguarding is considered at every meeting of the PCC and policies are reviewed annually in accordance with Diocesan guidelines. During the past year there have been no reports of safeguarding issues. DBS clearance is required of those involved with vulnerable children and adults. All members of the PCC have obtained DBS clearance. The needs of the disabled are addressed in our policies.

Daily open access to our peaceful and beautiful church is greatly appreciated. One of the ways we know this is from the extent that visitors use our Prayer Tree, kindly donated by Glenda Cox in memory of her parents Monica and Eric Todd. We also receive many positive comments in our Visitors Book about the Church and Churchyard. We know too how much parishioners and local walkers visiting the village appreciate being able to go into the Church for a moment of private reflection and prayer during their daily walks. Materials to assist prayer and meditation are always available in the Church.

Ministry through Charitable Giving

Charitable giving covers many activities by the PCC and individual members of the congregation, including charitable donations and volunteering in the community. All members of our congregation make a contribution in their different ways to share their diverse gifts and talents for the benefit of others in the community and beyond. Maintaining the fabric of the Church of St Mary Magdalene and the surrounding Churchyard are top priorities, and we are grateful to those volunteers who have continued to work to this end.

Guided by the Charities Committee, the PCC have established a tradition of giving to charity on behalf of the congregation. We divide our giving between local, national and international charities, with a focus on issues related to spiritual growth, health and poverty. In 2022, and despite continuing pressures on our finances, we shared a donation of £700 between 7 charities. We continued to donate to our usual charities such as the Bishop's annual Harvest Appeal, to the Royal British Legion on Remembrance Sunday, and the Children's Society which at

Christmas is the focus of our fundraising related to carol singing (again in 2022 around the Home Park) and carol services. In accordance with custom we were able to hold occasional fundraising events for charities and to make collections supporting people in crisis across the world. We donated to the Disasters Emergency Committee's appeals for support for Ukraine and following the Pakistan floods in 2022. Details of the Church's charitable giving are in the annual accounts. The PCC are proud to represent a congregation which makes it a priority to support those in need.

The Parish Link, our Benefice magazine, is distributed monthly, free to every house in all three villages, providing vital means of communication for all those who live in the villages, be they churchgoers or not. The Link website, www.pariishlink.org.uk is a useful supplementary resource for late news and to allow people who have moved away to keep up with what's happening in the Benefice. In October we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the *Parish Link*.

The Friends of Whipsnade Church, an independent charity, was set up in July 2004 "for the preservation repair maintenance restoration improvement and ornamentation of the fabric of the Parish Church of Whipsnade". Its trustees were mainly members of the congregation, and they raised funds through running events such as the annual Summer Fete and the Tea, Cakes and Music party in the Wrights' garden. During 2022 the trustees decided to close the Charity, as it had become almost inactive. The balance of the Charity's account was transferred to the PCC on its closure, and remains designated for fabric. The PCC are grateful to the Friends for their fundraising over the years and to Jane Wright, the Treasurer, for organising the closure.

The Churchyard

The PCC are very conscious that our large and beautiful Churchyard plays an important part in the ministry of the Church in Whipsnade and how much it is enjoyed by local walkers and visitors from further afield.

The PCC have paid the bulk of the cost of regular grass cutting and hedge trimming, with regular support from the Parish Council.

A small and dedicated churchyard working party continued to work hard to maintain the Churchyard. It has come to be regarded as an outstanding example of wildlife and plant conservation.

Early in 2022, the PCC, having obtained the necessary permissions, took steps to remove from the Churchyard two trees, an ash tree suffering die back and a dead cherry tree, which may pose a risk to visitors. The trees were to be replaced by a walnut and a hawthorn, with the former being the tree planted to mark the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.

MAINTENANCE AND WORKS

Work has been carried out in accordance with our maintenance schedule and has been recorded. Required checks on fire extinguishers have been completed. Electrical safety tests on portable equipment are up to date.

Other minor works have been carried out including in early 2022 strengthening of the surface of the track across the Green.

A Quinquennial inspection was carried out in August 2021. A copy of the Report and recommendations is available for inspection in the Church. The recommendations include items requiring attention within 6 months; within 18 months; and within 5 years. The Purchasing, Works and Contracts Committee are leading on carrying forward the recommended work and overseeing the practical arrangements involved.

Fibre Optic 'Ultra fast' Broad Band project

In early 2022 the Church was given the opportunity to join a Community Fibre Partnerships scheme for Studham and Whipsnade which will enable us to access funding to cover the costs of installing fibre broadband to the Church bringing an internet connection for the first time at no cost to the PCC. We are hoping the internet will be installed in Summer 2023. This will bring new opportunities and benefits for the Church.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Total receipts during 2022 were £35,434 as detailed in the attached financial statements.

Total expenditure over all accounts was £30,234, £58 less than 2021's expenditure of £30,292. The Parish Share increased in 2022 to £21,372 (+2.067%) which continues to be a significant expenditure for such a small church. This amount will increase to £22,063 (+3.233 %) in the next financial year.

St Mary Magdalene has no charitable endowments.

We wish to record our thanks to Barrie Huggins for kindly examining the PCC accounts again this year.

PCC account

The PCC account balance stood at £39,662 at the end of December 2022 compared with £39,920 in 2021.

Total income during the year was £29,173 compared to £28,224 in 2021. This reflected higher income from the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS), the village lunch and church events. Total expenditure was £29,370 compared with £30,106 in 2021, a saving of £736. The savings were mainly achieved by reduced church expenses which had included costs for the Quinquennial Inspection and the new Garden of Remembrance in 2021. We were pleased to send £700 of donations shared between 7 charities and £1,641 collected in church to other charities. . Overall, the account showed an in-year deficit of just £196.

Designated Funds (formerly the Restoration Account)

The Designated Funds cover specific projects including restoration. Income for the year was £6,260 which included £4,934 from The Friends of Whipsnade Church, the balance of funds moved to the church and designated for restoration. Expenditure was £864 for the Garden of Remembrance and restoration work. The end of year balance was £19,626 with £18,658 being designated for restoration.

General issues

Interest on all accounts totalled £399.17 compared to £29.85 in 2021.

Reserves Policy and Risk Management

The PCC aim to retain sufficient funds in the PCC account to enable the smooth day-to-day running of the Church, that is, payment of the Parish Share to the Diocese, and meeting our administrative expenses. Funds for the maintenance of the fabric are kept in the Restoration Account, to provide for emergencies. The Church, including the new extension, is insured following the advice of the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, to cover any potential damage to the building and the Churchyard, and to meet the cost of any potential claims against the PCC. As part of the terms of this policy, we follow advice in taking precautions against theft, fire or damage to the building, goods and chattels.

Legacies policy

The PCC welcome all gifts in Wills, however large or small. Our policy is to use gifts for the benefit of the Church and its community and to ensure that there continues to be an active and thriving church in Whipsnade, both now and for future generations.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

At present the PCC form a Charity within the Church of England which is regulated by the Charities Commission but excepted from registration, as gross annual income is below the threshold of £100,000. The Charity is, however, regarded by HMRC as having charitable status for tax purposes.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Mary Magdalene's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our Rector), Churchwardens, members elected to serve on the Deanery Synod and a maximum of 9 members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the Electoral Roll of the Church. All those who attend our services regularly are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the Parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. Each year members review policies on health and safety, disability access and safeguarding. The policies and practices with regard to safeguarding are clearly displayed in the Church. The Annual Parish Church Meetings (APCM) were held in April 2022.

The Church Electoral Roll was reviewed in 2022 and presented to the APCM. The legal requirements in relation to the holding and publishing of personal data are strictly observed. Each member is given an assurance that we only use the information to enable us to collate church membership statistics and report them to the Diocese, and also so that we can communicate with members. We do not keep any unnecessary personal data on individuals. At the 2022 APCM there were 56 people on the Roll. Fifteen members of the Roll reside in the Parish, with 41 members living outside the Parish boundary.

Sub-committees were re-constituted and members appointed in June 2022 following the APCM: the Standing Committee (Rector, Churchwardens, Treasurer, Secretary, Vice-chair); Charities Committee (Rector, Churchwardens, Treasurer, Secretary plus one other available member); Purchasing, Works and Contracts Committee (Mike Bailey, Churchwardens, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary); Children Committee (Rector, Churchwardens, Sarah Ayres, Sylvia Kendrick, Mike Bailey and Glenda Cox, Secretary); Fabric and Churchyard Committee (Churchwardens, Pam Ward, Paul and Lorraine Wright, Bola Fola-Caleb, Secretary); Social Committee (Jo King, Sarah Ayres, Sylvia Kendrick, Kim Brown, Isobel Randall and Jane Wright).

The PCC met five times during 2022, Members considered matters relevant to the development of ministry, the health and safety of people attending the Church, and the maintenance of the Church fabric and Churchyard. Matters of a pastoral nature and issues concerning safeguarding were reported at each meeting. Minutes are displayed in the Church so that all details of discussions are available to all. Each meeting received reports from the Churchwardens, the Treasurer and the Safeguarding Officer as well as from representatives of the Deanery Synod and the North

Chilterns Group. We were delighted that Bishop Richard of Bedford joined our November meeting and talked with us about mission and ministry at Whipsnade; we were proud to share the many achievements of our congregation with him.

Some thankyous

A huge thank you from the PCC to all those who have worked during 2022 to fulfil our purpose and continue to provide public benefit through much needed worship and pastoral support, while keeping the Church open and both it and the Churchyard safe and in good order. A church would not function without the commitment and service people of faith who work tirelessly and selflessly for the wider good. There are so many people who merit thanks this year.

Thanks are due in particular to our hard-working churchwardens for all that they do, and the responsibility they carry throughout the year.

We are grateful also for the work of Les Randall, our Treasurer, particularly in the challenging times of the past 2 years, and of Joan Bailey, the PCC secretary.

We were sorry that Kim Brown and her family moved away from the village in November – the PCC are grateful for all that she and her family did over many years to support the Church and the village, and wished them well for the future.

Maintaining the fabric of the Church of St Mary Magdalene and the surrounding Churchyard are top priorities, and we are grateful to all those volunteers who have continued to work to this end.

We are grateful to Pam Ward and the team who keep the Churchyard and new Garden of Remembrance in such excellent condition. Theresa Williams and Jane and Ben Wright are loyal members of this team. The first Garden of Remembrance is lovingly maintained by the Kingham and Bedford family in honour of their deceased relatives; this is greatly appreciated by mourners.

The quality of our worship has been enhanced by the music provided by Chris Hazell. We are very grateful for Chris's substantial contribution to the work of the Church.

Our dedicated band of bell-ringers, led by Pam Ward and Roger Kendrick, summon people to worship in the traditional way. We are very grateful to the Kendrick/Ayres family for their service over so many years.

The Church is made beautiful by the efforts of flower arrangers. Anne Weir, who led the team for many years, stepped down this year. We thank her for all that she has done for us. Her successor Anne Brinklow has ensured that the Church continues to look beautiful throughout the year, giving great pleasure to the congregation and to all those who use the Church.

Sidesmen, readers and those who administer the Chalice support our worship by their regular assistance in services. Volunteers have also opened up the Church each day for the benefit of the community and those who visit the Church.

Thanks to the Ayres, Whalleys, Kendricks and Glenda Cox for helping to get the Sunday School back up and running so successfully. Thanks also to Sarah Ayres, Jane Wright and Jo King for putting together 'goody bags' of activities for children on those Sundays when there is no Sunday School.

We have a wonderful team of Church cleaners who make the Church safe every day for those who use it for private prayer, rest and contemplation. The whole community are grateful for their hard work.

This year we have been blessed by the efforts of those who have organised or supported fundraising events to bolster Church funds. The Hornby family, particularly Helen and David, held a delightful concert in the Church in celebration of the life and contribution of Vanessa, and shared audience donations with the Church; Kim Brown led the organisation of the Summer Fete in July; Jane and Ben Wright hosted a successful 'Tea, Cakes and Music' afternoon in September; Pam and Bola supported the Bedfordshire Churches' Bike and Hike event in September; there was once again a Macmillan Coffee morning held in the Church; and the Poppy Appeal was once again strongly supported across our Benefice.

Sincere thanks to Fiona McDougal and her *Parish Link* team, to Les Randall the website editor and to Jane Wright our Whipsnade correspondent.

And finally

The PCC speak for all of the Church community in expressing heartfelt appreciation of the inspirational leadership of the Rector. Her caring and conscientious pastoral and ministering support sets a fine example to us all in our Christian living.

We were so proud to witness her installation as an Honorary Canon of St Albans Cathedral at an evensong service on 19 March – a great honour so well deserved. At our APCM Dorothy Blackburn said that she had told the Bishop that Nicola was the most hardworking vicar she had encountered in her long service, and had thanked him for honouring her in this way – that rather sums up what we all think!



Signed on behalf of the PCC by the Reverend Canon Nicola Lenthall (PCC Chairman)

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Date:

ST. MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH, WHIPSNADDE
Income and Expenditure Account 1st January 2022 - 31st December 2022

	<u>2022</u>				<u>2021</u>			
	General Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	2022 Total Funds	General Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	2021 Total Funds
	£	£	£	£	£			
INCOME								
Church Fees	2,360.00			2,360.00	2,714.00			2,714.00
GASDS	3,426.18			3,426.18	1,353.35			1,353.35
Planned Giving - Tax Efficient	13,134.00			13,134.00	13,646.00			13,646.00
Tax recovered on Gift Aid/GASDS	3,746.11			3,746.11	3,611.19			3,611.19
Donations	1,334.42			1,334.42	4,763.04			4,763.04
Bank interest	358.91	40.26		399.17	14.21			14.21
Village Lunch	2,532.50			2,532.50	585.50			585.50
Events	2,281.15			2,281.15	1,537.00			1,537.00
Charity Events			1,640.68	1,640.68			1,328.89	1,328.89
Garden of Remembrance		1,285.00		1,285.00				
Church Restoration & Development		4,934.97		4,934.97		507.70		507.70
	29,173.27	6,260.23	1,640.68	37,074.18	28,224.29	507.70	1,328.89	30,060.88
EXPENDITURE								
Parish Share	21,372.00			21,372.00	20,939.00			20,939.00
Church Expenses	5,601.70			5,601.70	7,337.79			7,337.79
Utilities	760.45			760.45	585.15			585.15
Clergy and Admin support	304.00			304.00	197.90			197.90
Clergy Expenses	470.87			470.87	314.10			314.10
Charities	725.00		1,640.68	2,365.68	725.00		1,328.89	2,053.89
Bank charges	135.74			135.74	7.65			7.65
Garden of Remembrance		316.81		316.81				
Church Restoration & Development		547.00		547.00		185.00		185.00
	29,369.76	863.81	1,640.68	31,874.25	30,106.59	185.00	1,328.89	31,620.48
Balance of Income less Expenditure	-196.49	5,396.42		5,199.93	-1,882.30	322.70		-1,559.60
Add Opening Balance	39,858.77	14,229.40		54,088.17	41,803.08	13,906.70		55,709.78
Balance called forward 31 December	39,662.28	19,625.82		59,288.10	39,920.78	14,229.40		54,150.18

Bank Balances

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
CCLA PCC 001D	27,647.53	27,288.62
CCLA Restoration 002D	774.05	764.00
HSBC BANK PCC General Fund 281	19,478.62	12,570.15
HSBC Rest & Dev Account 023 *		1,973.02
Virgin Money Bank	11,522.59	11,492.38
Add cheques not cashed in previous year	424.99	487.00
Deduct cheques not cashed	-559.68	-424.99
	59,288.10	54,150.18

* Account closed and transferred to HSBC General Fund 281

Breakdown of Funds

	Opening	Receipts	Payments	Balance
Designated Funds				
Garden of Remembrance		1,285.00	316.81	968.19
Church Restoration & Dev.	14,229.40	4,975.23	547.00	18,657.63
Total of designated funds	14,229.40	6,260.23	863.81	19,625.82
Restricted Funds				
DEC Ukraine Appeal		207.00	207.00	
DEC Pakistan Floods Appeal		205.00	205.00	
Bishop's Harvest for the Hungry Appeal		439.00	439.00	
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal		230.00	230.00	
The Children's Society		559.68	559.68	
Total of Restricted Funds		1,640.68	1,640.68	
Donations by the PCC				
Dementia UK			100.00	
Society of Mary & Martha			100.00	
Keech Hospice Care			100.00	
The Salvation Army			100.00	
Rennie Grove Hosp			100.00	
St Martin in the Fields			100.00	
Water Aid			100.00	
Total of Donations by the PCC			700.00	
Total Expenditure				
Altar wine, breads, linen and candles etc			58.66	
Bank charges			135.74	
Charity giving			700.00	
Charity giving (restricted)			1,640.68	
Church expenses paid by the Rector			1,370.70	
Church Flowers			200.00	
Churchyard grass & hedge cutting			890.00	
Clergy and admin support			304.00	
Clergy expenses			470.87	
Electrical work			726.00	
Electricity			664.14	
Fire extinguisher			114.00	
Hire of Village Hall for Lunches			40.00	
Garden of Remembrance			316.81	
Insurance			646.64	
Lightning Conductor Repair			165.00	
North Chilterns Group of Churches Levy			108.00	
Parish Share			21,372.00	
Plaques for Garden of Remembrance			143.70	
Poppy Wreath			25.00	
Present for new curate			50.00	
Removing 2 trees from churchyard			1,014.00	
Road repair			250.00	
Rope Handrail for Tower Stairs			275.00	
Subscriptions			40.00	
Tree for Churchyard			57.00	
Water Bills			96.31	
			31,874.25	

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Whipsnade Church.

I report to the PCC of Whipsnade Church on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mr & Mrs E B Huggins
93 West Hill
Dunstable
Bedfordshire
LU6 3PN

Date: 26 March 2023