

**The Parish Church of All Saint's
Theydon Garnon
Epping**



ANNUAL REPORT for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Annual Parochial Church Meeting: 25 April 2024

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS THEYDON GARNON

Annual Report and Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31 December 2023

Bank:
Barclays Bank

Independent Examiner:
Michael J Coggins, FCA
7 Green Trees
Epping
CM16 4QT

Objectives and activities

Theydon Garnon PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the vicar, the Rev. John Fry, in the ecclesiastical parish, in the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, ecumenical and social. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church and Churchyard of All Saints', Theydon Garnon, Epping, Essex.

Structure, governance and management

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity exempted from registration with the Charity Commission.

During the year 2023 the following served as members of the PCC following the elections at the APCM:

Incumbent	Revd. John Fry	Vicar and Chair
Associate Priest	Revd. Carol Newnham	
Church Wardens	Mrs Hilary Mosley	Health & Safety Officer
	Mr John Chaplin	Parish Safeguarding Officer, Tree Officer and Churchyard Chair
Representatives in the Deanery Synod	Mrs Alison Mortimer	Children's Church
	Mrs Ann Clay	Deputy Church Warden, Verger and PCC Vice Chair
Elected Members	Mrs Joan Smith	
	Mr Richard Clay	Fabric Chair
	Mr Anthony Clanza	Deputy Treasurer
	Mrs Pamela Mulholland	Secretary
	Mrs Kate Faccini	Electoral Roll Officer
	Mr John Howard	Treasurer
	Mrs Carla Dunton	
	Mr Keith Mosley	
	Mrs Sarah Featherstone	

David Lockett is also a Deputy Churchwarden but is not on the PCC.

Committees

The PCC operates through a number of committees, which meet between full meetings of the PCC:

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. Membership currently consists of Churchwardens, Secretary, Vicar, Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer, Churchyard Chair, Fabric Chair and the Verger.

Ad Hoc Committees

These are formed from time to time for specific purposes, details of which are included in the PCC report. During 2023 there was a Fund Raising Committee for the "Raise the Roof" Project to repair the Church Roof.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

CHURCH ATTENDANCE (awaiting completion of revision of the electoral roll – Kate)

At the revision of the Electoral Roll in April 2024, 3 name has been removed. There are now 53 names on the Roll, of whom 21 (40%) are resident in the parish and 32 (60%) live outside the parish.

We remain entitled to elect 2 representatives on the Deanery Synod.

Katherine Faccini
Electoral Roll Officer

PCC REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The Parochial Church Council, along with the Incumbent, has the responsibility for promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish of Theydon Garnon, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The Parochial Church Council also has maintenance responsibilities for the church buildings and the Gatehouse.

Parochial Church Council Meetings

The PCC met five times during the year with attendance remaining high. The main focus of the discussions were the matters included in this Annual Report and in particular the decisions on the roof restoration project, including the funding and approvals required. We also discussed matters relating to the registration of land and received reports from the treasurer on the financial position. We discussed our events calendar which as well as raising the funds for the running of the church are an opportunity for mission and the involvement of the wider community. We discussed our responsibilities and training for Safeguarding, security and Health and Safety. My thanks to everyone on the PCC for the role that they undertake on the Committee to ensure the smooth running of the church and to Rev. John for his sage chairmanship.

The parish continues to work towards the shared Benefice Vision of the Theydon Parishes which is:

To be loving, caring and welcoming congregations who nurture each other to grow in faith together, through quality worship, Bible teaching and prayer, sharing the love of God in Christ with others by example and our activities in the community and wider world.

There are four subcommittees that report to the PCC as follows:

Events Committee: Organises social and fund-raising events to support the Church, including our annual summer event. This is chaired by Kay Oakes-Ash.

Churchyard: Has oversight of matters relating to the Churchyard, chaired by John Chaplin.

Fabric: chaired by Richard Clay which organises routine repairs and other maintenance to the historic church building.

Fund Raising Committee: for the "Raise the roof" campaign for the major project of restoring the church roof.

We give thanks to all those that continued to support Theydon Garnon in many different ways during 2023.

Pamela Mulholland,
PCC Secretary



Financial Statements for all accounts follow.

I have to report that the finances, after allowing for the impact of the Raise the Roof appeal, have unfortunately shown a small deterioration in 2023 when compared to last year.

Planned giving in 2023 decreased by 2% on 2022 and is now 9% lower than the last pre-Covid year in 2019. The decrease in 2023 was potentially due to donations made to the Raise the Roof appeal.

The Parish Share contribution for 2023 decreased in total by 19% on 2022. Of this 19% decrease, 5% (£1550) was a reduction in the base Parish Share and 14% (£4223) was a reduction following Reverend Fry's appointment as part time Cathedral Missioner. The £1550 saving on the base Parish Share was transferred to the Fabric Account to support the Raise the Roof appeal.

Fortunately this year we were able to hold a June Fair which generated a profit of £4643 which was donated to the Raise the Roof appeal.

The Raise the Roof appeal to generate funds for major work on the church roof continued throughout 2023. A further £44134, inclusive of Gift Aid and VAT recoveries, has been raised and we owe our thanks to all of those who invested their time and effort into achieving this excellent result.

Our small but loyal congregation have continued to support the church, ensuring that money keeps coming into our accounts. We are very fortunate that a large proportion of our usual income is received by standing orders and direct bank transfers which has ensured a steady flow of cash during yet another challenging year.

I am extremely grateful to everyone who has set up new standing orders, made bank transfers or contributed to the church funds in any way.

The **General funds** have decreased by £1883. A Gift Aid scheme claim amounting to £4499 was made and subsequently received in 2023. Similarly, fees due to the Diocese for services in 2023 of £1475 have now been paid in 2024. £1550 was transferred to the Fabric Account in support of the Raise the Roof appeal. The Parish Share to the Diocese was paid in full (£24951). Since 2017, the United Benefice has employed a Benefice Administrator and this year our share of the funding (25%) was £2642.

The **Churchyard account** has decreased by £128. The largest item of regular expenditure is the Gatehouse insurance. There were no exceptional costs. Income is mainly derived from fees and an annual donation from Theydon Garnon Parish Council, for which we are very grateful.

The **Fabric account** has increased by £46022. The account continues to benefit from generous donations arising from church service fees paid out, but generously donated back to the church. The Raise the Roof appeal to generate funds towards a major refurbishment of the church roof continued during the year. A further £44137, inclusive of Gift Aid and VAT recoveries, has been raised. In addition, £1550 was transferred to the Fabric Account from the General Account in support of the project. This project is ongoing.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st December 2023

Cash Funds

The aggregate total across all accounts was £81703 broken down as follows

Bank Current Accounts (Barclays Community).

A total of £16285 broken down as follows:

A total of £781 representing designated but unrestricted funds within the Churchyard Account.

A total of £8992 representing designated but unrestricted funds within the Fabric Account

The balance of £6512 representing unrestricted funds of £5839 within the General Account and the sum of £673 designated within that same account as 'Church Flowers Fund'

Bank Deposit Accounts (Barclays Business Premium).

A total of £65416 representing designated Churchyard funds of £2348, designated Fabric funds of £58644 and designated but unrestricted General funds of £4424.

Cash

The sum of £205 was carried forward in the Cash Book.

The above totals were calculated taking account of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 section 5.12, and after taking into consideration uncleared cheques and transfers.

Assets of the PCC are recognised but not necessarily valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities and include: Church and Gatehouse Furnishings, items of plate for Church Services, and Mowers and other equipment for use within the Churchyard. Full details are held within the Church Property Register (the 'Terrier and Inventory')

NOTES to accompany Receipts and Payments Accounts

As is now established routine the financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis and in line with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011. Although there is no statutory format for such accounts, the examples shown in the Statements of Recommended Practice (SORP) have been adopted.

The Church Accounting Regulations 2006 state that Receipts and Payments where the PCC acts only as an 'agent' should not be included in PCC revenue and this has again been followed. There were no Items covered by this during 2023.

Diocesan Fees collected by the parish and forwarded to Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Finance, a total of £1533 from weddings, funerals, burials and memorials. Fee income shown in the financial statements was adjusted accordingly.

Transactions through the cash book covering 'casual' payments to organists and payments of 3rd party fees to choir, bell-ringers etc, amounted to a total of £3055. Of this total, £1115, as shown in the financial statements, represents payments to Organists associated with our own services. The remaining £1940 is 3rd party payments associated with weddings and funerals and Fee income shown in the financial statements was adjusted accordingly, although the 3rd party fees may not necessarily have been received in 2023.

Receipts totalling £5485 from the other churches in the Benefice for paying their share of the Benefice Administrator costs.

The Financial Statements were approved by the PCC, subject to Independent Examination, at the meeting held on 15th February 2024 and signed on their behalf by

Rev. John Fry, PCC Chairman

John Howard, PCC Treasurer

Independent Examiner's report to the Theydon Garnon Parochial Church Council

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2023, which are set out on the accompanying pages

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity'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:-

1. examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
2. 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
3. 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.

Michael J Coggins, FCA

7 Green Trees
Epping
CM16 4QT

17th April 2024

THEYDON GARNON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
GENERAL (Unrestricted) Receipts & Payments Account

	2023		2022	
Receipts	£	£	£	£
Voluntary Receipts				
Regular Giving				
Planned Giving	17,624		18,055	
Collections	655		785	
Gift Aid Tax recovered	<u>4,499</u>	22,778	<u>5,519</u>	24,359
Other Voluntary Receipts				
Donations - general	0		0	
Donations - specific	0		0	
Bequests	5,034		0	
Wall Safe	11		4	
VAT refund	0		0	
Grants Received	<u>0</u>	5,045	<u>0</u>	4
Receipts from activities for generating funds				
Coffee Money	495		482	
Book Sales	31		3	
Gatehouse Hire	2,854		2,366	
Marquee Hire	50		0	
Summer Fete / May Fair	0		1,584	
Hog Roast (Net Inc.)	0		742	
Church Flowers	0		0	
Plant Sale	0		0	
Harvest Supper	0		390	
Advent Stall	0		0	
Sundry Sales	<u>0</u>	3,430	<u>0</u>	5,567
Receipts from Church Activities				
Fees	4,233		2,535	
Memorial Book	<u>50</u>	4,283	<u>0</u>	2,535
Receipts from Investments				
Interest/Dividends	<u>108</u>	108	<u>26</u>	26
Total Receipts		35,644		32,491

GENERAL (Unrestricted) Receipts & Payments Account contd.

Payments	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
Payments re regular giving and Voluntary Receipts				
Collections	0		0	
Donations (Manna)	0		78	
Transfers to Churchyard a/c	0		0	
Transfers to Fabric a/c	<u>1,550</u>	1,550	<u>0</u>	78
Payments re Activities for generating funds				
May Fair	0		35	
Harvest Supper	0		62	
Sundry Other	<u>0</u>	0	<u>0</u>	97
Church Activities				
Parish Share	24,951		30,724	
Clergy expenses	1,275		750	
Church Music costs	1,115		1,295	
Sacristry Supplies	156		316	
Oil, Electricity, Water	2,195		1,798	
Church Insurance	2,229		2,114	
Organ repairs	250		169	
Printing & Copying	104		91	
Internet costs	105		0	
Subscriptions	120		120	
Cleaning and Maintenance	835		415	
Memorial Book	0		0	
Flowers	0		0	
Coffee expenses	<u>0</u>	33,335	<u>0</u>	37,792
United Benefice payments				
UB Administrator	2,231		1,805	
Payroll services/Licences	<u>411</u>	2,642	<u>260</u>	2,065
Total Payments		<u>37,527</u>		<u>40,032</u>
Excess/(Deficit) of receipts over payments		-1,883		-7,541
Bank Balance as at 1st January		12,820		20,361
Bank Balance as at 31st December		10,937		12,820
		-1,883		-7,541

The following Fabric Account and Churchyard Account are not formally part of this Annual Report and its examination but are provided for information and completeness.

**THEYDON GARNON CHURCH FABRIC FUND Receipts & Payments
Receipts & Payments Account - Designated and Unrestricted**

Receipts	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
Voluntary Receipts				
Regular Giving				
Planned Giving	<u>100</u>	100	<u>100</u>	100
Other Voluntary Receipts				
Bequests	0		0	
Donations - General	0		320	
Donation of fees	0		645	
Donations - Ringers	5		126	
Donations - Roof Fund	39,445		10,285	
Transfer from General Account	1,550		0	
Gift Aid Tax recovered	2,443		0	
LPOW VAT refund	<u>2,249</u>	45,692	<u>0</u>	11,376
Receipts from Investments				
Interest/Dividends	<u>230</u>	230	<u>9</u>	9
Total Receipts		<u>46,022</u>		<u>11,485</u>

Payments	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
Maintenance (General)	0		0	
Maintenance (Roofing)	0		13,575	
Maintenance (New Boiler etc)	0		0	
Organ repairs	0		0	
Flag & flagpole	0		0	
Total Payments		<u>0</u>		<u>13,575</u>

Excess/(Deficit) of receipts over payments		46,022		-2,090
Bank Balance as at 1st January		21,614		23,704
Bank Balance as at 31st December		67,636		21,614
		46,022		-2,091

THEYDON GARNON CHURCH CHURCHYARD FUND
Receipts & Payments Account - Designated and Unrestricted

Receipts	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
Donations - specific	0		0	
Donations - other	0		100	
Parish Council Grant	250		250	
War Graves Commission	12		12	
Fees	308		705	
Proceeds from Sale of Mowers	71		0	
Interest/dividends	22	663	2	1,069
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Receipts		663		1,069

Payments	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
Gatehouse Insurance	791		734	
Gatehouse maintenance	0		1,800	
Tree Surgery	0		0	
Equipment (new/repairs)	0		128	
Petrol & sundries	0	791	384	3,046
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Payments		791		3,046

Deficit of receipts over payments		-128		-1,977
Bank Balance as at 1st January		3,258		5,235
Bank Balance as at 31st December		3,130		3,258
		-128		-1,977

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

The Deanery Synod met two times during the year and considered a range of interesting issues and received a number of presentations, including what it means to be a Deanery.

Ann Clay

Deanery Synod Representative

SAFEGUARDING ISSUES REPORT

We have had no Safeguarding issues in the Parish during the year 2023.

Our Church has continued to adopt the Diocesan Safeguarding policy and Safeguarding is a regular agenda item at our meetings of the PCC. We endeavour to make sure that our environment is seen as a safe place for Children and Vulnerable Adults to inhabit, and to feel confident that should they, or anybody else, have any concerns or issues, they would be listened to, and the matter reported properly.

The emphasis on our awareness of Safeguarding issues has continued and members of our PCC are now required to complete three training courses to be eligible to sit as a member. Whilst this has not been fully achieved, the training is ongoing, and we have supplemented the online Diocesan training courses by delivering the same training in house for those who are not confident working on computers or who have no access.

All persons in positions requiring DBS checking have current certificates.

John Chaplin
Parish Safeguarding Officer.

FABRIC REPORT

General works

The boiler has been serviced and the additional repair required was done under the boiler guarantee.

We have reattached some loose guttering on the kitchen side of the Gatehouse.

Some small tables and chairs that we normally use for events have been collected from Garnish Hall. Keith has kindly recovered the tops of the tables ready for use at the summer event.

Keith has put a metal bar on the Gatehouse door to provide extra security.

There was a major leak of water through the chancel roof and tiles were replaced in this area by Malcolm Eckton.

Routine clearing of gutters and drains and the valley gutter has been completed as usual.

Roof project

The faculty for the works to the roof of the nave and north aisle was received in March which meant that applications could start being made to trust and grant funding bodies.

During 2023 grants were offered from the Friends of Essex Churches, the Benefact Trust, the Chisenhale-Marsh Trust and the Rural England Prosperity Fund. In early 2024 a further grant was secured from the National Lottery Heritage

Fund. Fundraising efforts continued within the parish, and we are extremely grateful to all those who have donated towards this project, it has truly been a team effort to achieve so much progress in such a relatively short time. We were offered a pallet of 550 roof tiles from Keymar (the supplier for our roof tiles) which Charlie and Richard collected from the factory. These are being offered for sponsorship and can be decorated with a personal message. In November discussions were held with the architect and builders regarding looking at a possible start date in the Spring of 2024. The project costs were also updated to reflect inflation.

Richard Clay,

Fabric Chairman

NON-STATUTORY REPORTS

THE VICAR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2023

At the beginning of 2023, our Diocesan Bishop launched "Traveling Well Together". This is not a new strategy or tagline for the Diocese of Chelmsford but a set of seven values designed to be principles which can inform our shared life as churches across Essex and East London. One of the values is an "Awareness of Grace", in other words "God always provides the resources required for the mission of the church to continue. An awareness of grace engenders a spirit of thankfulness and enables us to notice what we have, rather than grieve for what we lack"

Every year, I write of my thankfulness to the team of people who do so much to resource our worship, and the organizational tasks that take place behind the scenes. But this year, I am especially aware of the gift of grace which each person in the churches is and the considerable amount of time and skill which is offered by so many. As some know, 2023 was not the year I personally expected it to be, there were joys and sorrows which led to my being away from the parishes for a time. At Bishop Guli's invitation, I had the privilege of serving for a season as Interim Cathedral Missioner in Chelmsford, in a half time capacity alongside my role in the Theydon Parishes, but also felt the pain of bereavement myself in the spring. I will always be grateful especially for the support I received from so many people in the Benefice, which enabled me to have space to grieve and process what had happened.

In particular I would like to pay tribute to the work and service of Rev Carol Newnham, who covered for me and who in November 2023 was appointed to serve as House for Duty Rector to two parishes in the Diocese of St Alban's. We will miss her greatly, and the good heart that the parishes were in at the end of 2023 owes much to her pastoral ministry and the leadership she has given. Sarah Bowen also moved on from her role as Benefice Administrator and Daria Emery joined the team in that role. Our team of 6 churchwardens, Mary Gill, Margaret Dennis, Jo Shepard, Hilary Mosley, John Chaplin and Andrew Crook continue to be a source of great encouragement, and we are lucky to have such a dedicated team looking after our buildings and so much more. Our Benefice would be much poorer without them. There are so many other people who go above and beyond in the Benefice, but in particular thanks are due to our team of vergers, Ann Clay, Anne Padfield and Carole Fenton who in their respective churches do so much behind the scenes to ensure that services and Occasional Offices run smoothly. And at the same time everyone is important, and everyone is valuable in the kingdom of God. The Theydon Parishes would not be the flourishing place they are without the contributions that each person makes. Financially each parish is solvent and is a going concern and despite the challenges, the total worshipping community has returned to pre-pandemic numbers. There is much to be grateful for.

The Benefice continues to be committed to doing all we can to be a safe space for all, and with the work of Andrea Crombie and John Chaplin as Parish Safeguarding Officers we have continued to follow the House of Bishops' guidance on Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable adults, including following safer recruitment practices, and ensuring all PCC members and ministers complete regular training as expected by the Church of England. We continued to see significant section of the Sunday congregation being made up of children and young people at St Mary's Theydon Bois and All Saints Theydon Garnon where Sarah Twitchett (our allocated worker from Red Balloon Foundation has been leading the work) and Alison Mortimer continue respectively to lead the work. Pastoral visiting continues to happen because people notice one another, but it is true to say that we would greatly benefit from a person whose primary calling in Christ is to animate this kind of caring ministry.

Paul's letter to the Romans reminds people that he is convinced that nothing can separate us from the love of God, not things from past, present or future can make that love smaller. It is true that there are challenges ahead for our Benefice, and there are a number of things which it would be good to have or to achieve. But as our Benefice Vision sets out, our core values are "Faith, Love and Community" and that we seek to live those out by welcoming all, caring and teaching. These are things which can be practiced whether things are going well or when there are challenges, when we are blessed with the things which each parish would like to achieve and just as much can be practiced at the times when our respective parishes may not have achieved all that we set out to do. Let us in the year ahead not give up practicing an awareness of grace, but still be open to noticing the new things which Christ calls us into, but above all, let us value the shared identity we have as parishes working together.

Rev. John Fry

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## CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

2023 didn't start off too well but eventually turned out to be a very busy year for us.

We lost a very valuable member of our congregation, Daphne Elliott, a Very Remarkable lady. Anyone who knew Daphne, knew she loved our church as Deputy Churchwarden & for many years, singing in our choir until at 94, ill health finally made it too hard. Every year at our Fair she could be found manning the Produce stall with the other ladies, offering conversation, common-sense and wisdom in a kindly way. I can't believe it's just over a year since I haven't been called "Dear girl" and we've not been graced with her presence.

January saw a meeting forming a plan to kick-start the Roof Appeal. A team was put together Ann-Grant Applications & together with Pam-Fund Raising, Charlie and Richard- Logistics & anything "Bat" related. The Clergy & Ann in dealing with the Diocese and all the Parochial Church Council supporting them.

February saw Rev'd Carol and husband Gary take part in the Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and on her return we had a very enlightening slide show in St. Mary's church hall.

Beer & Bible also restarted, in the Merry Fiddlers pub, where we engaged with the locals as well as ourselves on various Biblical topics.

Whilst Carol was away, we 'borrowed' Rev'd Olive Thursby from Walthamstow, overseeing Tuesday Communion and also some Sunday services together with a Parish walk and we know she found her rural ministry with us very enjoyable.

At the Annual Meeting, Heather decided to stand down as Deputy Warden. However, she still supports our church and we offer her our great Thanks for all she is able to do.

May, saw Rev'd John's licensing as Interim Cathedral Missioner at Chelmsford Cathedral with a very moving Ceremony until he returned to us full-time at Christmas.

The run up to June kept us very busy preparing for our 1 Day Fair to raise money for the Roof Fund. We made a fantastic amount due to Everyone's Hard Work pulling together to make it an outstanding success!

A week later Charlie & myself together with the other Benefice Warden's were "sworn in" again at St. John's in Epping.

In October, it was with great sadness that we heard of the sudden demise of Allen de Ferry, another valuable member of our church family. Allen was a Gentleman who took his Religion seriously. He was also a great prankster, - I know, I've fallen for them many times. Allen is sadly missed & we hold Rita, Sarah and whole family in our hearts.

Our small silver chalice and wine flagon needed repairing and these were done free of charge by a congregation member, with our great thanks.

October, also saw Rev'd John commissioned by the Archdeacon of Barking as the New Area Dean for the Deanery of Epping Forest and Ongar.

December saw us hold 4 Advent stalls, & man stalls in the Christmas Market in Epping & at St. Mary's Christmas Bazaar with all the proceeds going to the Roof Appeal.

We now come full circle by finishing 2023 as it started by fund raising for our new roof, and there are some people who need our great thanks and a special mention with regard to this. Charlie & Richard for dealing with builder's quotes, The Bat Conservation Trust, going "hither & thither" on roof business. Pam for her tireless fund raising – opening her home for a Wine Tasting Evening plus the Market stall co-ordination. However, there is one person who needs special mention in dealing with all our Grant Funding – Ann, who has, & still is working tirelessly so that we can hopefully start work in Spring 2024. For some of our Benefactors she has had "to jump through hoops" & be scrupulously meticulous in answering their queries. Thank You Ann.

As someone remarked at our last PCC, meeting, "it's been lovely that we have all worked hard together as a team to enable us to start work on the roof". THANK YOU, All Saints is a very special place.

Hilary Mosley & John (Charlie) Chaplin.

Church Wardens.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT**

The Church of England rules on Safeguarding changed, so the Diocese updated their on-line training courses. All the Parochial Church Council and Wardens completed them and we will all be renewing them in 2026.

We renewed our first aid kits another one for the Church and a larger one for the Gatehouse.

We had our Annual Fire Extinguisher service, requiring us to have 3 more new ones. As the total is in the region of £300/£400 per annum, we are looking at changing service providers.

2023, saw us having the main Gatehouse door repaired again by Richard Clay as it was damaged again after November 2022. Luckily this time the culprits didn't gain entry. After advice from Essex Police, a steel plate has been put on to overlap the gap between the doors. The steel was supplied by Richard & Keith cleaned, cut & painted it, then Charlie & Keith attached it to the door. There are still a couple of items Charlie & I need to do for security but not make it like "Fort Knox".

Hilary Mosley,

Health and Safety Officer

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## **CHURCHYARD WORKING GROUP**

Throughout the year the churchyard working group has continued to maintain all areas of the churchyard to a good standard. This was a difficult task in Spring due to the large amount of rain fall and related weed and grass growth. There have been six interments of ashes and two burials during the year 2023.

The wildflower area was again set aside and there was a better show of flowers this year. The wildflower area was cut back in late summer and the seeds left to propagate on the ground as usual.

As the result of an enquiry from the War Graves Commission concerning their yearly £12 donation to our church yard account it was identified that no plaque was in place to show the presence of War Graves in our church yard. An application has been made for an official sign and this have been approved. The application currently awaits the approval of the Arch Deacon before the plaque can be sent out for installation.

There are two outstanding actions still to be completed from last year's report which will be prioritised in the coming year - the felling of the dead Horse Chestnut tree on the west boundary and the pruning of the dead wood on the Yew

trees in front of the entrance porch. Hopefully we will get these jobs completed during 2024. The expenditure for the Yew tree work has already been agreed with the PCC after an estimate had been obtained from a local tree surgeon. Spring will be an ideal time to undertake this work.

The post and rail fence on the west boundary was in a state of disrepair and this has been made good by straightening and supporting posts and re-attaching the rails. Eventually it will need replacing but for the time being it is now secure.

Our new neighbour in the Old Rectory has erected a new fence around his property which is set inside the existing fence. Whilst it is slightly higher than what is already there, the PCC did not consider it necessary to raise any objections. The unsightly piles of earth and spoil have now been moved further away and will eventually be used to level the remaining garden area.

The registration of our church yard and car parking area with HM Land Registry was an issue that was identified early in 2021. There have been a number of difficulties including COVID which have delayed the process, but we are hoping to be able to report a positive outcome at the end of 2024.

The only costs incurred during 2023 relate to the Gatehouse Insurance, petrol, and maintenance costs for machinery.

Any new volunteers should contact me on (tel.01992 813942) and will be warmly welcomed. My thanks are extended to those who help me throughout the year with the maintenance of our churchyard which is such a beautiful and tranquil place.

John Chaplin  
Leader Churchyard Working Group.

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## **CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

Since September we have been meeting in our normal way on the second and third Sunday of the month. Membership has dropped slightly due to the fact that some of the children are older now and have other commitments. Despite this, the older children are always ready to help out if needed and do attend from time to time.

We had the usual busy and fun time leading up to Christmas. We were able to decorate a tree for the St John's Christmas Tree Festival which kept us busy and provided a lot of creative fun! We also made Christingles and took part in our Christingle service. After the service we ran a cake stall in support of the Children's Society. This was well received by all and a happy occasion.

Unfortunately the Christmas party did not take place this year which was sad as it is usually a great occasion. WE have been talking about planning another event instead - maybe outdoors when the weather is better.

On Mothering Sunday we hope to hold another cake sale which will raise money for the Children's Society.

The children had fun making pancakes in preparation for Lent and it was nice to see some of the older members attend.

I use the Roots magazine to help plan the sessions and these sessions include a lot of discussion, drama, creativity and games. We especially enjoy being able to go outside and enjoy the beautiful churchyard. Hopefully these cater for the wide age range of children we have. We usually come into the church for the blessing if we have been successful in finishing our activities.

Alison Mortimer,

Children's Church

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## TREE REPORT

This report has been prepared as an update on tree work carried out during the year 2023. Our last professional tree inspection report was conducted in December 1996 by Tim Moya and an update report has been prepared each year since that date. The numbering of the trees remains constant.

T7, T8, T9 & T10. The fire damage to these trees, following the accidental destruction of the flower shed, is still the subject of regular inspections. These trees have failed to produce the expected new growth and an estimate for the removal of the dead wood has been obtained. This work is scheduled to be undertaken this Spring.

G3. The traditional assorted hedge plants, which replaced the screen of conifers, are now establishing themselves in their new location. The tops have been removed to promote growth at a lower level and the hedge has developed well over this year.

T14. This tree is the last of a set of horse chestnuts trees on the west boundary and is completely dead. It was our intention to fell this tree during the year, but this has not been achieved due to other priorities taking precedence. We intend to complete the felling of this tree this year.

During the winter months continued regular maintenance on the trees has taken place, dead wooding and removing hung up dead growth. A standard canopy height of 2.5 meters is maintained throughout the churchyard and light shaping of the crowns is undertaken where necessary. Significant base growth is also removed to limit multi stemming. Visual inspections have not detected any significant changes which would warrant any other remedial action.

John Chaplin, Leader of Churchyard Working Group

## CHOIR AND ORGAN REPORT

The choir sings regularly at services except the family service on the first Sunday of the month. We have a practice before Evensong, when this was held, on 5th Sundays with the help of Jeremy Oakes-Ash.

The choir was joined by some additional singers for our carol service and at weddings during the year. We would welcome anyone who would like to join the choir to sing regularly at services or to join us just for the Carol service or weddings.

We are grateful for the help of Jeremy Oakes-Ash who plays for most of our services and that Jean Kibblewhite is now able to play again at some services.

The organ was tuned as usual in the Spring with no major issues

Ann Clay

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## GATEHOUSE AND EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Gatehouse is often used internally by Children's Church, for after service refreshments, for meetings of the PCC and of the Events Committee. It was used externally by the Art Group on a Friday morning and is often hired for private use following a funeral or private function. The Brownies use the gatehouse on a Monday evening for regular meetings and sometimes by their leaders for a training day on a Saturday or a Brownies sleepover during a weekend and this is very successful often for a 24 hour period. A pilates group has a regular booking for classes which are run at the church (either in the Gatehouse or Church yard in summer) on a Tuesday morning for an hour.

The Events Committee held a May Fair on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2023 from 11 am to 5 pm with various stalls and Jean sold many plants, Ann bric a brac, Alison children's activities, produce stall run by Olive and Joan, Kay books and refreshments, which were organised by Pam, were served by the team in the marquee and visitors could sit and enjoy

the churchyard atmosphere. The art group displayed some artwork in the church and Mike Coggins invited people to practise some bell ringing which was very popular with visitors to look round the church. Wendy ran a stall where people could buy a roof tile for someone and make it attractive with names and designs. It was a lovely afternoon for people to visit the church and helped to raise money for the church roof fund. A quiz night was held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and Michael was the host and Wendy helped him. This always raises funds for the church and another one is planned for April this year to raise additional funds for the church roof with a fish and chip supper and raffle.

The Events Committee organised a Harvest Supper in October 2023 when a two-course cold supper was provided. Jeremy provided music and song sheets for a sing-along. In order to encourage younger families to come, it was held at an earlier time and a harvest hat competition was suggested for any volunteers which made a very enjoyable evening for those who attended.

The Carol Service held in December 2023 was well attended and refreshments of mulled wine (organised by Michael) and mince pies were served afterwards in the gatehouse which is enjoyed by all to celebrate Christmas.

Kay Oakes-Ash,

Gatehouse and Events Committee

### **BELL RINGER'S REPORT**

We have regular practices on Wednesday evenings with the support of some members from other local towers and have 2 new learners who are making good progress. We have continued to ring before some morning services and were asked to ring at most of the 2023 weddings (with the help of ringers from other towers). The bells were rung to celebrate the coronation of the King.

There have been several visits from bellringing groups from other towers through the year.

If you would like to give ringing a try, please come along on a practice night at 7.30 or contact Richard or Ann Clay for more information.

Ann Clay

### **CHURCH ATTENDANCE**

Attendance figures varied according to the Service, being approximately as shown below:-

|                   |                  |                                                               |                              |
|-------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 8:00 am           | Holy Communion   | (1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday)                                      | 6-8                          |
| 9:15 am           | Family Service   | (1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday)                                      | 30-35 (40 on parade Sundays) |
| 9:15 am           | Parish Communion | (2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> + 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays) | 25-30                        |
| 6:00 pm           | Sung Evensong    | (5th Sun)                                                     | 10-12                        |
| 10.00 am          | Holy Communion   | Weekly on Tuesdays                                            | 6-9                          |
| Children's Church |                  | (2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sundays)                 | 6-8                          |

## SERVICE TIMES

The pattern of services is as follows:

|                                 |          |                                           |
|---------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of month | 8.00 am  | BCP Holy Communion                        |
|                                 | 9.15 am  | Family Service                            |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of month | 9.15 am  | Parish Communion (and Children's Church)  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of month | 9.15 am  | Parish Communion (and Children's Church)  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of month | 9.15 am  | Parish Communion                          |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of month | 9:15 am  | Parish Communion, joint with the benefice |
|                                 | 6.00 pm  | Choral Evensong                           |
| Every Tuesday                   | 10.00 am | Holy Communion                            |

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## FROM THE REGISTERS 2023

*We welcomed into the Church through Baptism:*

25th June      Eliza Balcam  
                    George Drakes

*We celebrated the Confirmation of:*

26th November Harriet Joannou

*We celebrated the marriages during 2023 at Theydon Garnon of:*

1st April        Audrey Higgleton and Colin Greenslade  
6th April        Gemma Morris and Anthony Haythornthwaite  
15th June       Jessica Greenhalgh and Alexander Moore  
4th August      Jane Minto and Christopher Edwards  
5th August      Laura Bush and George Bartlett  
4th November Elizabeth Mortimer and Anthony-Paul Cooper

*We committed to God's merciful keeping those who have died:*

2nd January    Daphne Elliott aged 96  
21st February   Joy Calver aged 94  
30th July        Douglas Thornton aged 95  
11th October    Allen De Ferry aged 82

