

St. Mary the Virgin, Sawston



Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Thursday 27 April 2023

at 19.30

in Church

St. Mary the Virgin, Sawston

Election of Churchwardens: 27 April 2023

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Last Meeting (28 April 2022)
3. Election / Appointment of Churchwardens.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting: 27 April 2023

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1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last meeting (28 April 2022)
3. Election of up to TWO members of the Deanery Synod to serve for THREE years.
4. Election of up to THREE members of the Parochial Church Council, to serve for THREE years and ONE to serve for ONE year.
5. Electoral Roll report (Janet Martin) The revised roll can be consulted on the notice board in Church.
6. Annual Report for 2022 on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council and the activities of the parish generally (Mary Dicken)
7. The Financial Statements of the Council for the year ending 31 December 2022 independently examined. (Robert Richmond)
Gift Aid Report (Marian Watson)
8. Appointment of Independent Examiner
9. Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the Church (Brian Page)
10. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod (David Bard)
11. Vicar's Report
12. Any other matters of parochial or general Church interest
 - Bellringers (Samantha Gorman)
 - Community Hall Report (Suella Hunting)
 - Craft Group (Christine Casey)
 - Flower Arranging Report (Barbara Hylton)
 - Magazine Committee Report (Dianne Conway)
 - Mothers' Union Report (Janet Martin)
 - Muddy Church (Katy Holloway)
 - Refresh (Rebecca Herrick)
 - Safeguarding (Jennifer Crompton/Simone Few)
 - Soup and Sandwiches & Winter Warmers (Mary Richmond)
 - SYG (Paul Whitmell)
 - Tuesday Home Group (Andrew/Joanne Beale)
 - Web Site (Rebecca Herrick)
 - World-wide Mission Committee Report (Susan Lowdell)

Minutes of the meetings in 2022

Election of Churchwardens

This took place on Thursday 28 April 2022 at 19:30 in Church and on Zoom with the vicar, The Reverend Kathryn Waite in the chair.

Thanks were expressed to Marian Watson for her work in producing the booklet of reports.

Those present were: David Bard, Sarah Bard, Andrew Beale, Joanne Beale, Paul Cain, Christine Casey, Dianne Conway, Mary Dicken, Clare Glendinning, Rebecca Herrick, Barbara Hylton, Josephine John, Anna Lovewell, Susan Lowdell, Janet Martin, Janet Marven, Jane Moloney, , Brian Page, Canon John Pinder, Wendy Redgewell, Canon Pam Reed, Corinne Roughley, Stephen Roughley, The Reverend Petra Shakeshaft, Hilary Streeter, Marian Watson.

1 Apologies for absence

These were received from John Crompton, Suella Hunting, Mary Richmond, Robert Richmond and Paul Shakeshaft.

2 Minutes of the last meeting (29 April 2021)

The minutes were accepted as a correct record, on the proposition of Hilary Streeter seconded by Josephine John and signed by the chairman.

3 Election of Churchwardens

Rebecca Herrick was nominated by Anna Lovewell and seconded by Sarah Bard.
Marian Watson was nominated by Christine Casey and seconded by Hilary Streeter.

There being no other nominations the chairman declared that they were duly appointed. She thanked the churchwardens for their tremendous contribution to the life of the Church with especial thanks to Andrew Overitt who was standing down as churchwarden.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This took place on Thursday 28 April 2022 at 19:30 in Church and on Zoom with the vicar, The Reverend Kathryn Waite in the chair.

Those present were: David Bard, Sarah Bard, Andrew Beale, Joanne Beale, Paul Cain, Christine Casey, Dianne Conway, Mary Dicken, Clare Glendinning, Rebecca Herrick, Barbara Hylton, Josephine John, Anna Lovewell, Susan Lowdell, Janet Martin, Janet Marven, Jane Moloney, , Brian Page, Canon John Pinder, Wendy Redgewell, Canon Pam Reed, Corinne Roughley, Stephen Roughley, The Reverend Petra Shakeshaft, Hilary Streeter, Marian Watson.

1 Apologies for absence

These were received from John Crompton, Suella Hunting, Mary Richmond, Robert Richmond, and Paul Shakeshaft.

2 Minutes of the last meeting (29 April 2021)

The minutes were accepted as a correct record, on the proposition of Hilary Streeter seconded by Josephine John and signed by the chairman.

3 Election of up to three members of the PCC to serve for three years and one to serve for two years

	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
Dianne Conway	Josephine John	Rosina Whitmell

Mary Dicken
Hilary Streeter
Corinne Roughley

David Bard
David Bard
Rebecca Herrick

Robert Richmond
Suella Hunting
Sarah Bard

As there were no other nominations, they were duly declared elected by the chairman, with the first three named to serve three years and Corinne Roughley to serve two years.

4 Electoral Roll

Janet Martin presented the revised Electoral Roll, with eighty-seven names on it, seven being non-resident. Thanks were expressed to Janet for all her hard work. It was proposed by Jane Moloney and seconded by Brian Page that the Roll be accepted and this was agreed, all voting in favour.

5 Annual Report for 2021

The report was received, with thanks being expressed to the secretary. The report was accepted on the proposition of Hilary Streeter, seconded by David Bard, all voting in favour.

6 The Financial Statements of the PCC for year ending 31st December 2021

Robert Richmond reported. The vicar explained that increases in fuel costs and in the Ministry Share would make inroads into current balances. Brian Page expressed the thanks of all to Robert Richmond. He will retire at the end of 2022 and any volunteer with the requisite abilities would be welcomed.

Marian Watson proposed and Brian Page seconded that the accounts be accepted and this was agreed, all voting in favour.

Marian Watson's report Gift Aid for 2021 was received. Marian was thanked for all she had done.

7 Appointment of Independent Examiner

This will be made by the next PCC or by the Standing Committee.

8 Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

Brian Page reported. David Bard noted the re-gilding of the high altar cross. The Quinquennial Report repairs are now out to tender, but the work may not start until next spring.

9 Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod

David Bard and Andrew Overitt reported on Deanery Synod proceedings during the year.

10 Vicar's Report

The vicar gave her report. She expressed her thanks for her welcome. She mentioned there were Baptisms in pipeline and that there had been a large number of funerals. Orchard House visiting is still restricted. Safeguarding has been updated and is about the way we look after each other in Church. She has appreciated her work with colleagues in other churches. She expressed her thanks to John Pinder and Petra Shakeshaft. The results of the survey about the Pattern of Services will be available soon and the PCC will consider the issues. The main question is how best to provide for children but the problem is the need for volunteers. She hoped the PCC could begin to look outward with the PCC morning of reflection on 14 May.

11 Matters of Parochial and General Church Interest

1) Other reports

These were received from

Bellringers
Community Hall report
Craft Group
Diocesan Synod
Flower Arranging
Magazine Committee

Samantha Gorman
Suella Hunting
Christine Casey
David Bard
Barbara Hylton
Dianne Conway

Mothers' Union report	Mary Richmond
Monday House Group	Sarah Bard
Mothers' Union	Mary Richmond
Refresh	Rebecca Herrick
Sawston Youth Group	Paul Whitmell
Safeguarding	Jennifer Crompton and Simone Few
Web Site	Rebecca Herrick
World-wide Mission Committee	Susan Lowdell

Mary Dicken expressed the thanks of everyone to the vicar for all that she does.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:04 with the Grace.

Mary Dicken, Secretary to the PCC

Electoral Roll 2022 - 2023

There are 86 names on the Electoral Roll (copy attached), of whom six are not resident in Sawston. The Electoral Roll has been revised again this year in accordance with the Church Revision Rules and changes are as follows:

Added

Mrs Jean Green
Peter Green
Felicity Parker
Mr Anand Pillai

Removed

Mr Robert Allanson
Mr Alan Fox
Mrs Sarah Roberts
Mr Stephen Williams
Mr Ian Williams

Change of address

Mrs Jacqueline Pickett

New applications to be added at the APCM

Mrs Elizabeth Parker
Mrs Belinda Westwood

A copy of the Electoral Roll is retained by the Electoral Roll Officer with names, addresses and date of joining. A copy without addresses is displayed on the notice board immediately inside the Church.

Any queries, amendments or new applications should be sent to the Church Electoral Roll Officer:

Janet M Martin, Church Electoral Roll Officer, 10 April 2023 Janetm.martin@ntlworld.com

Electoral Roll, St Mary the Virgin Sawston 10 April 2023

Mr Andrew
Mr Max

Arthur
Ashley

Mrs Josephine Edwina
Mrs Laura

John
Lewis

Mrs	Lesley	Ashley	Mr	Daniel MacDonald	Lewis
Mrs	Sarah Judith Yarrow	Bard	Mrs	Enid May	Lewis
Dr	David Roy	Bard	Mrs	Anne	Little
	Joanne	Beale	Mrs	Judith Margaret	Lovell
Dr	Andrew	Beale	Mrs	Anna Jane	Lovewell
Mrs	Roslyn Mary	Buchet	Mrs	Susan Mary	Lowdell
Mrs	Clare	Buckingham	Mr	Roger	Mansfield
Mrs	Caroline	Burgess	Mrs	Janet Mary	Martin
Mr	Stephen	Burgess	Mrs	Janet May	Marven
Mrs	Dorothy Evelyn	Butler	Mrs	Shirley June	Mintkewitz
Mrs	Christine	Casey	Mrs	Anne Jane	Moloney
Mrs	Dianne Mary	Conway		Rachel	Norridge
Mr	John David	Crompton	Dr	Cynthia	Okpokiri
Mrs	Jennifer	Crompton	Mr	Nnadozie	Okpokiri
Mrs	Isobel	Darling	Mr	Chidiebere	Osuji
Mr	John Robert	Darling	Mrs	Eberechi	Osuji
				Andrew Timothy	
Mrs	Margaret Vera	Davis	Mr	Neville	Overitt
Mrs	Janet Margaret	De Luca	Mr	Brian	Page
Mrs	Joanne Clare	Deane		Felicity Ann	Parker
Mrs	Mary Christine	Dicken	Mrs	Ann Patricia	Peacock
Mr	Olorunfemi	Eletu	Mrs	Jacqueline	Pickett
Mrs	Avril	Eyres Harvey	Mr	Anand Mark	Pillai
Mr	Alan Richard	Farrington	Mrs	Wendy Maria	Redgewell
Mrs	Simone Gabrielle	Few	Mr	Robert Geoffrey	Richmond
Dr	Julian William	Few	Mrs	Mary Christina	Richmond
Mrs	Pauline Betty	Finbow	Dr	Corinne	Roughley
Mrs	Mun	Flint	Dr	Stephen David	Roughley
Dr	Megan	Gingell	Mrs	Mary	Russen
Ms	Clare Patricia	Glendinning	Mr	Paul John	Shakeshaft
	Peter John	Green	Mrs	Agnes	Stamper
Mrs	Jean Marjorie	Green	Ms	Avis Dulcie	Stinson
Mrs	Clare	Harris	Mrs	Geraldine	Stott
Mr	John	Harvey	Ms	Hilary Barbara	Streeter
Mrs	Rebecca Ruth	Herrick	Mrs	Dorothy	Ward
Mrs	Gillian Ann	Holloway	Mrs	Marian	Watson
Mr	David William	Holloway	Mrs	Rosina Juliet	Whitmell
Mrs	Katharine	Holloway	Mr	Paul Edwin	Whitmell
Mr	Christopher Alan	Hooper	Mrs	Mary	Wilson
Mrs	Suella Mary	Hunting			
Dr	Joe	Hutton			
Mrs	Barbara	Hylton			
Mr	Leslie	Hylton			

2022 Annual Report for the Parochial Church Council of St Mary the Virgin, Sawston, Cambridge

Aims and Purposes

The PCC of St Mary the Virgin has the responsibility of working with the incumbent, the Reverend Kathryn Waite to promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical within the parish of Sawston. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the fabric of the church of St Mary the Virgin, a Grade 1 listed building and of the burial ground. The Parish Council undertakes responsibility for the churchyard. The Community Hall Committee is responsible for maintaining the Community Hall in Church Lane and reports to the PCC.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our Church and to become part of St Mary's Church Family. The PCC maintains an overview of worship and regularly reviews the arrangements for key periods of the Church's year and looks for new ways to involve more people of the parish in worship. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning activities for the year the PCC has complied with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

We try to enable people to live out their faith through:

- Worship and prayer: learning about the gospel; developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus
- Provision of pastoral care for those living in Sawston
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of St Mary's Church.

Achievements and performance

Worship and Prayer

The pattern of services continued on the same basis as in late 2021 with a Eucharist and Open Door with children's provision or Muddy Church on most Sundays and an all-together Communion service once a month and on some other occasions. We are fortunate to have the help of The Reverend Petra Shakeshaft, who was licensed to the parish as an Associate Priest during the year, and of Canon John Pinder.

At the close of 2022 there were 87 parishioners on the Electoral Roll, 8 of whom are not resident in the parish. The average weekly attendance in person in Church, counted in October, was 52 adults and 15 children. There were 55 communicants at Christmas. The Christmas services held for the community had over 500 worshippers. There were 46 communicants at Easter.

As well as our regular services we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life; in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing; through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world. We held 9 baptisms. There were 3 weddings and we held 16 funeral services this year.

Deanery Synod

Two members of the PCC represent the parish on the Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structure of the Church. One of our representatives, Andrew Overitt, resigned during the year. The Deanery Eucharist for Ascension Day was held at Linton.

The Church Building and Grounds

Normal routine maintenance was carried out. The second stage of the installation of the new A/V system was completed. Tenders were received for the work due under the Quinquennial Inspection and the work will be carried out by Herringbone Restoration Ltd at a cost of £85 432.48. The Pugin brasses will be restored at a cost of about £12 000.

David Holloway and his team continued to maintain the burial ground to a high standard, although often frustrated by excessive activity from moles.

The Community Hall has continued to host a wide range of community activities and some social and fund-raising Church functions were held. The church office continued to operate under the very efficient management of Marian Watson. We have agreed to recruit a Parish Administrator in 2023.

Pastoral Care

Regular contact with all members of the Church family has been maintained by the vicar and a small team. The vicar's ministry to the bereaved was an important aspect of her work. Visits to the schools and their use of the Church building resumed. Soup and Sandwiches remained well-supported and Winter Warmers attracted a good attendance. We helped to support Warm Hubs but these were less popular. The Craft Group re-opened and the numbers at Refresh grew. Two members of our congregation, Agnes Stamper and Dorothy Ward, celebrated their ninetieth birthdays and we rejoiced with them.

Mission and evangelism

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. The PCC has continued to support a number of charities engaged in mission and several fund-raising events have been held.

We have maintained our support of the Leprosy Mission's hospital at Premananda, The Children's Society and Save the Children, along with UNICEF, The Besom in Sawston, The Mission to Seafarers and The Salvation Army.

We co-operated with The Royal British Legion for the Platinum Jubilee service, a service to mark the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II and for Remembrance Sunday. The High Sheriff, Jennifer Crompton of Sawston Hall, was present on these occasions.

Our parish magazine, published quarterly, is free of charge and keeps our parishioners informed of all the important matters affecting our Church and includes articles which help to develop our knowledge of and trust in Jesus. We also contribute to *Sawston Scene*, the village magazine

Ecumenical Relationships

The vicar and the Reverend Phil Nevard have co-operated on a number of projects and all three ministers officiated at the Remembrance Day service.

Financial Review

The financial statements attached to this report show total net income of £82 084.70, and expenditure of £80 558.10, resulting in a surplus, before revaluations, of £1526.60. From this are deducted a loss on revaluation of investments, and depreciation on the new audiovisual equipment purchases, now capitalised, resulting in a reduction in overall funds of £4905.99.

The large increase in expenditure from 2021 was principally due to the 37.2% increase in Ministry Share, as St Mary's is now being asked to pay the full charge. Outlay on fixtures and fittings also greatly exceeded that in 2021, but the greatest single item, namely phase 2 of the new AV system, has been capitalised (see notes 6 and 8), and will be depreciated over a five year period at a flat rate of 20%/year. Other expenditure categories are largely unchanged from 2021.

Granta Deanery requested the move to full Ministry Share in the knowledge that the Ward's land sale was imminent, and this was completed during the year. As the original benefaction was made by John Warde for the exclusive benefit of St Mary's church and its parishioners, income arising from the proceeds of sale cannot be used to pay the Ministry Share, but can be used to support other costs in running and maintaining the church, and a total of £26 093 was donated during 2022. It is envisaged that at least £20 000/year will be donated towards running costs in the future, plus the cost of necessary maintenance works highlighted by the quinquennial inspection.

Despite generous regular giving, one-off gifts, events fundraising, and continued support from the Community Hall Management Committee, applicable income is slightly below the level needed to cover the Ministry Share, which has increased further in 2023, highlighting the need for the church community to do all it can to increase our various income streams in the future.

Volunteers

We should like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our Church a lively and supportive community. This includes virtually all Church members, so we cannot mention individuals, but the contribution made by everyone is much appreciated. The Safer Recruitment process is enabling us to keep a closer contact with all volunteers and to support them in their ministries.

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent, the associate priest (from June 2022) the churchwardens and the elected representatives to the Deanery Synod and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the Church. The licensed lay minister served up to the APCM. All those who attend our services regularly are encouraged to register on the electoral roll.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, including deciding how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The PCC met six times in 2022 with an average attendance of 86%. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These committees, detailed below, are all responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly. This year the committees have all continued to submit written reports in advance of PCC meetings which has meant that discussions are not needlessly repeated, and the business carried out more effectively.

Standing Committee

This is the only committee, which the PCC is required to appoint. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC. It also oversees the financial affairs of the PCC.

Fabric Committee

This is responsible for ensuring the good repair and maintenance of the church, churchyard and the burial ground.

World-wide Mission Committee

This maintains contact with missionary societies and co-ordinates giving to groups outside the parish and ensures information about their activities is readily available. It arranges events to raise funds and as social occasions.

Magazine Committee

This is responsible for producing and distributing a quarterly magazine, published on the first Sundays in March, June, September and December.

Administrative information

The Church of St Mary the Virgin is situated in Church Lane. It is in the Deanery of Granta and the Diocese of Ely within the Church of England

All correspondence should be sent to: The New Vicarage
 Church Lane
 Sawston, Cambridge, CB22 3JR

The PCC of St. Mary the Virgin, Sawston is a charity exempted from registration with the Charity Commission.

Bankers	Barclays, Saffron Walden, Essex Lloyds, Cattle Market, Cambridge
Independent Examiner	Geoffrey Mann
Architect	Ashley Courtney, Roseford Road, Cambridge

PCC members who served during 2022 are:

Vicar	The Reverend Kathryn Waite (chairman)
Associate Priest	The Reverend Petra Shakeshaft (from June)
LLM	Jose John (to the APCM)
Churchwardens	Andrew Overitt (to the APCM) and Marian Watson (vice-chairmen to the APCM) Rebecca Herrick (vice-chairman from the APCM)
Synod Representatives	David Bard and Andrew Overitt (to May 15)

Elected members were: Andrew Beale, Dianne Conway, John Crompton, Mary Dicken, Rebecca Herrick (to the APCM), Suella Hunting, Anna Lovewell, Susan Lowdell, Corrine Roughley (from the APCM) and Hilary Streeter.

Co-opted member was The Reverend Petra Shakeshaft (to June).

The PCC appointed Robert Richmond as treasurer, Mary Dicken as secretary, Janet Martin as Electoral Roll Officer and Marian Watson as Gift Aid Officer. Robert Richmond is not a member of the PCC and ended his term as treasurer on 31 December with many grateful thanks being expressed about his excellent stewardship of our finances. Alexander Henderson is the new treasurer.

The PCC appointed Jennifer Crompton and Simone Few as Safeguarding Officers and they put in train measures to ensure compliance with the latest guidance. The PCC adopted a Safer Recruitment Policy and is gradually implementing this. The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Compiled by Mary Dicken and Robert Richmond to reflect the position on 31 December 2022.

Approved by the PCC on 16 March 2023.

Signed on their behalf by Kathryn Waite, chairman

Gift Aid Report

The majority of donations to the church are done either by Parish Giving Scheme, Standing Order via Barclays Bank, Planned Giving (i.e weekly envelopes) and Annual Donation

At December 2022

14 donations are received via Standing Order: 12 of which are Gift Aided

7 people donate using weekly envelopes: 5 of which are Gift Aided

14 people donate through the Parish Giving Scheme: 9 of which are Gift Aided

Gift Aid returns are claimed quarterly throughout the year.

The total tax reclaimed over the four quarters of 2022 is as follows:

Q1 (01.01.22-06.04.22) GASDS	£1756.13 including £105.88
Q2 (7.04.22-30.06.22) GASDS	£1151.25 including £85.00
Q3 (01.07.22-30.09.22) GASDS	£11144.00 including £199.75
Q4 (01.10.22-31.12.22) GASDS	£1178.18 including £285.18

Parish Giving Scheme donations for 12 months £15464.91

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) has risen slightly during 2022. Donations made through this scheme use a Direct Debit, this can be made on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis. PGS collects regular donations for the parish on the 1st of the month and claims Gift Aid entitlement on your behalf, pays Gift Aid into the PCC account once it is received from HMRC usually on the 10th of the month, undertakes a basic level of donor care and provides the (popular) option for donors to increase donations annually with inflation. Information packs with forms are available on the table at the back of church. For up to date information please take a look at their website.

There are Standing Order forms available in church if you wish to donate via the bank and weekly envelopes are also available. If you can Gift your donations there are forms available in church. Once completed please return them in the envelopes provided.

As the numbers using the Planned Giving envelopes has reduced it is now not viable to keep purchasing them.

It is the responsibility of those signing Gift Aid Declarations to inform The Gift Aid/Recording Officer in writing, as soon as possible if your circumstance change and you can no longer Gift Aid, in order that records are amended and kept up to date as possible. The GA/Recording Officer should also be notified of any change of name/address.

Marian Watson, Gift Aid/Recording Officer, March 2023

SAWSTON PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT MARY, 2023 FABRIC COMMITTEE REPORT

There have been three Fabric Committee meetings held in the church since the last AGM with Brian Page in the chair.

2020 Quinquennial Report

The findings of the 2020 quinquennial report have been discussed and tenders received from four contractors. The lowest tender, from Herringbone Restoration, for the sum of £71,195, excluding VAT, was accepted and works will begin on 09 May 2023. The works will take four months from 09 April until 11 August 2023.

Maintenance works to the clerestory windows have been agreed so that they can be used to ventilate the church. This work is programmed to take place this year during May and June if all goes according to plan.

South Aisle Door Access

Work on the new south door steps has begun, albeit taking longer than anticipated. The internal timber steps have been completed but the stone flagstones, to provide a level exit in the graveyard, are still to be cut and bed.

Burial Ground

Grass cutting sessions are still ongoing with our band of volunteers, who do a sterling job, with Lilleys of Sawston Landscaping.

Boundary walls are needing maintenance to both churchyards. Repairs to the burial ground wall will be tackled by the contractor carrying out the quinquennial repairs. The boundary wall repairs to the old churchyard are being reviewed by the Parish Council.

Pugin Brasses

Skillington Workshop have been delayed in producing their report, but the survey should take place during the next four weeks. The report proposals will need to be agreed by the DAC prior to works commencing. The anticipated project cost is in the order of £12,000, excluding VAT, for the two Huddleston brasses.

Silver Candlesticks

A quotation from James of Saffron Walden, for the repair and re-gilding the high altar cross, was accepted and the works have been satisfactorily completed.

Laser Projector and Audio Installation

The church electrician has investigated the tripping RCD caused when the projector and audio installation was turned on. The problem has now been resolved by the introduction of a new type of RCD.

Church Re-ordering

The bells are in need of maintenance, retuning and new bearings as they have had no refurbishment work carried out on them for around a century. Two quotations have been received but they both hi-lighted the need for the toilets to be removed, as well as the Victorian screen below the organ loft, to provide a route out of the church via the north porch.

It was agreed that a brief needs to be established that may also include a meeting area, church electrical distribution, wi-fi/internet link, solar panels and a new heating system.

Disposal of the Old Pulpit


The Faculty, to dispose of the redundant pulpit, has been granted by the Registrar allowing the pulpit to be sold.

Yew Trees

The pruning back of the Yew tree, adjacent the west tower, has been carried out after obtaining relevant approvals from the DAC and SCDC. The yew trees in the churchyard will be reviewed next as they are becoming 'monumental' in size.

Fabric Committee Members

David Bard, John Crompton, Mary Dicken, Suella Hunting, David Holloway, Brian Page, Paul Shakeshaft, Rev Kathryn Waite and Marian Watson.



Brian Page, Chair of Fabric Committee

Granta Deanery Synod Report to St. Mary's APCM, April 2023

Granta Deanery Synod held three main meetings between April 2022 and April 2023; Wednesday 6th July, 2022 (St. Mary the Virgin, Bartlow), Monday, 7th November, 2022 (St. Mary Magdalene, Ickleton) and Tuesday, 14th March, 2023 (St. Mary the Virgin, Great Shelford). There were no additional meetings during this period.

The July meeting received a presentation from Mike Kelly, Diocesan Development Officer – Youth & Families on “Youth Ministry in an emerging landscape”. Mike, who had extensive previous experience in youth ministry, had been in post for six months. Since his present appointment he had spoken informally to a number of parishes and realized that most had some youth provision. He cited the recently published ‘Talking Jesus report’ of research carried out under the auspices of a partnership between Alpha, the Evangelical Alliance, HOPE Together, Luis Palau Association and Kingsgate Community Church, (See: <https://bit.ly/3UfKhxp> for a link to the full document). In summary the report found that 76% of adults canvassed had come to faith by the age of 18 but that 68% of churches had no young people attending and that 25% had ceased youth ministry since the pandemic. Although the position was not so bleak with the Ely Diocese, there was no case for complacency and it was essential to maintain contact with schools and families. Mike gave examples of several events such as a campfire service held at Witchford. The challenge was to get young people interested and for them to feel that they were being listened to. Immediate initiatives included training, which Mike would be offering from September (2022) and a two-day youth specific Mental Health First Aid course. This course turned out to be significantly oversubscribed.

In November, Rev Julie Norris organized an ‘Explore Further’ event aimed at encouraging anyone who might have a calling to become an ALM, LLM or a candidate for ordination and to discuss what might be involved and to explain the training available. Nine people had attended and a follow-up Zoom session was held on 15th March. She encouraged members of Synod to come forward if they felt that they might have a vocation and to encourage others who might not previously have considered it.

The future of the annual Deanery Fair was discussed on several occasions throughout the year. A fair had been held in April, 2022 and raised £1,500 for YouthInc, but although attendees generally valued the Fair as a social event, it was becoming difficult to find stallholders prepared to continue and a Fair has not been arranged for 2023. No decision has been taken to discontinue the fair permanently and whether it is reinstated in future years will depend on the availability of volunteers.

The year has been dominated by the preparation of a Deanery Development Plan for the next five years. The current Diocesan Development Plan ‘Ely 2025’ will need to be replaced by a new ten year plan before the end of 2025 and the deanery plans, which it is hoped will be in place by the Summer of 2023 will help to inform this higher level document. Representatives had been appointed from each of the benefices within the deanery who would hold meetings with their relevant PCCs and wider church memberships to establish facts, challenges and aspirations. It was hoped that this work would be completed by the end of 2022, but the Diocese issued an updated proforma in early January, which could require some of the work to be modified or repeated. It is hoped that the exercise will be completed by the end of July 2023, the deadline set by the Diocese, but it may extend into the early Autumn, in which case an extra deanery synod meeting will be required to sign it off.

We were very pleased to welcome Felicity Parker as the new youth worker for YouthInc and a new youth group was started at Whittlesford in November. YouthInc continues to offer activities and fellowship to young people throughout the Deanery and activities have included a Youth Alpha course at Hinkledux and the Four Church Benefice and the establishment of a new group at Sawston. The Ark, a weekly after-school drop in café in Whittlesford started in November and currently 20-25 older primary school pupils attend each week. In February, families from Hinkledux, Sawston, Whittlesford and Balsham gathered to hear Rev. Olivia Coles interview four Christian sportspeople about how their faith and sport interact. YouthInc, whilst receiving some grant funding, is dependent on ongoing support from churches throughout the Deanery. It is hoped to appoint a second youth worker and churches will be approached for contributions. Further information about YouthInc can be found on the website: <https://bit.ly/3Kghwwa>

Finances remain tight and again the Deanery was unable to meet its full ministry share for 2022. The Deanery maintains a reserve of ~£25,000 and if the shortfall in parish contributions is less than £12,000, the Deanery will make up the difference and hence qualify for the £12,000 rebate offered by the Diocese for full payment. In both 2021 and 2022 the shortfall was greater than this.

In March, the Deanery received reports from the Diocesan and General Synods concerning the House of Bishops' statement on 'Living in Love and Faith'. The full text of the approved resolution can be accessed at: <https://bit.ly/3YYNySt>.

The March meeting was the last in the current cycle and PCCs will need to elect deanery representatives for 2023-6 at their 2023 APCMs.

David Bard 06/04/2023

Sawston Tower Captain Report 2023

Ringling at both Sawston and Pampisford has continued throughout this year. Practices are 7:30-9pm at Sawston on the 1st and 3rd Fridays and 7:30-8:30pm at Pampisford on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays. Thursday practices at Pampisford tend to be better attended and the bells are much easier to ring. Current focus of these practices is Kent Treble Bob Minor. We can still struggle at Sawston on Fridays and the old fittings, fixtures and odd struckness of the bells makes it difficult for learners to progress. We have had some help at Sawston practices from the Perry Person support scheme but we could still do with a couple more experienced ringers to help on these evenings. We are aware of a few people who have expressed an interest in learning to ring which would be a good addition to the band.

Sunday Service ringling at Sawston has recommenced on the 2nd Sunday on the month and has generally been well attended. We have also rung for Easter Sunday, Remembrance Sunday, Christmas Eve Crib Service and Christmas Day. Pampisford's regular service ringling is on the 1st Sunday of the month and continues as a quarter peal slot and we were pleased to score Les' first on an inside bell (plain bob doubles) last month.

We have rung for several National occasions at both towers over the last year. First, there was ringling for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June. Unfortunately the peal attempt at Sawston associated with this was unsuccessful but did draw a crowd outside the Church to listen and some positive feedback on the Sawston Facebook page. In September, we were ringling again but sadly this time to mark the death of the Queen. Over the period of

mourning, there was tolling, fully muffled ringing with tenor open back strokes and quarter peals scored at both Sawston and Pampisford. Ringing with the bells open was also provided for the proclamation of the new King.

Thank you to everyone for their continue support of the ringing, the regular ringers and visitors who help make all of this possible and give up their time on many occasions to come out and ring.

Samantha Gorman

Community Hall Report March 2022 – March 2023

It is good to report that during the last year the use of the Hall has returned to pre-pandemic levels. It is also encouraging that more Church groups are using the Hall and we are pleased to support the Craft Group, Soup and Sandwiches, Winter Warmers (now Tea and Friendship), the new Church Youth Group and of course Jumble Sales. I should also mention the Church Office and the committee meetings held in the meeting room.

Maintenance

A new gas boiler was fitted in May 2022. After teething troubles it has settled down and with a better thermostat/controller is more efficient.

Routine maintenance continued and occasional problems such as detached fascia, blocked drains were dealt with as necessary.

Many thanks to John P for his continued dedication to the hedge and the grounds.

We were sorry to lose our cleaner, Kirsty, but pleased to welcome Stephen Farrow in her place. Steve works quietly behind the scenes to keep the Hall looking good and we are very grateful for all his efforts.

Accounts

The Hall accounts are in the Appendix. Our profit for 2022 was £7,540.59 (cf £609.01 in 2021). This is the amount transferred to the PCC as the excess over our base level of £9,000 and reflects the 'back to normal' state of Hall Bookings in 2022. We also paid the PCC our customary £500/quarter throughout the year. Regular User hire fees had not been increased since 2016 so most fees were increased by £5 session in September.

Latest Update

There have been changes amongst our Regular Users but bookings are very healthy. We are particularly pleased that the Active with Parkinson's class is flourishing and now running two sessions each week. As always we try to maintain a mixed balance of activities amongst our Regular Users and are happy to reduce fees to help starter groups get established.

As usual thanks are due to all the Hall Committee members for the diligent work they put into ensuring the smooth running of the Hall. Katy Holloway joined the Committee recently and we are glad to have a new face (and new ideas) at our meetings. Running the Hall for St Mary's is a necessary task and we should be pleased to hear from anyone else who may like to get involved. Special thanks also go to Jeanette and Gerry for all the hours they contribute – we really couldn't do it without you!

Current projects include looking to replace the children's carpet – it is proving difficult to find a new one that can easily be rolled up. The painting of the fence is also due this spring when the weather improves.

We are also looking forward, once again, providing a water station at the Hall for Sawston Fun Run (on 7 May this year)

Finally we welcome any ideas and suggestions that will help us to continue running the Hall as a good facility for the Church and the Community. This is outreach in its widest sense.

St Mary's Community Hall Management Committee:

Jeanette Harvey (Booking Secretary), Gerry Holloway (Treasurer), Katy Holloway (from Jan 2023), Suella Hunting (Chairman), Les Hylton, Jane Moloney, John Poulter, Hilary Streeter (Minutes Sec)

St. Mary's Craft Group Report May 2022 - April 2023

I am very pleased to report that over the last year the craft group has continued to thrive and in recent months there has been a small number of new members who have joined us, which is very encouraging and wonderful for the group.

There are twenty six members who attend fairly regularly, eight of whom are members of St. Mary's congregation. One or two members are known to the group from past meetings but who have health issues which prevent them from attending regularly. It is reassuring to know that the group is reaching out to the wider community of Sawston and the surrounding areas and I hope that all members know how welcome they are, even if they can only come to our meetings occasionally.

I try to make sure that all members are notified about Church services and other events occurring at St. Mary's and to let them know that they are welcome to any of these events, including Soup and Sandwiches and Winter Warmers, soon to be Tea and Friendship as it continues into spring and summer.

In March 2022 I borrowed the Wedding Kneeler from Church and took it along to the craft group meeting, where it was greatly admired by all the members. The kneeler was made by a variety of people from the congregation of St. Mary's and the local community, some of whom are still members of St. Mary's and the craft group. It was, for some of them, the first time they had actually seen it completed.

In the May issue of the Church magazine I included a photo of the Kneeler, together with photos of the Noah's Ark and animals which are used at Refresh, and a picture of the "Posada" Nativity figures, all of which were made and donated by members of the group. It was very pleasing to see them all being made use of, particularly having the "Posada" happening again in the run up to Christmas where the nativity figures are passed from house to house in the village and displayed in windows for passers by to see.

The members continue to amaze me with the standard and variety of craft work that they produce and because of their generosity we were able to have craft stalls during the course of this last year. In September, at the Church's late Summer Fair, there was a very full and colourful stall with an amazing variety of craft items for sale, all of which helped swell the funds raised for St. Mary's Church.

We were also able to have a craft stall in St. Mary's in October when the Mission committee held a coffee morning and again when the Christmas tree decoration took place in December. Both of these events were very successful and proved to be a good time of tea, coffee and wonderful cakes - all of which helped to not only raise money for charities, but also to produce a happy and warm occasion and the opportunity to greet people from the wider community in Sawston.

As a group we were all very saddened when one of our members, Judy Saunders, died very suddenly in November last year, after a very short illness. Judy was a much loved and well respected in many areas and had also run the Wool'n Tea group in Sawston for many years. There was a beautiful service for Judy at St. Peter's in Babraham and a lot of craft group members attended.

It was a fitting tribute to a very talented lady who had given me a lot of advice and encouragement when I was setting up St. Mary's Craft Group in 2016 and the two groups ran alongside each other in good harmony.

In December we had our usual Christmas meeting, though due to the snow it had to be postponed for a week. Sadly that meant one or two people who had other commitments were not able to attend. Nevertheless we had an enjoyable time with Christmas cakes, mince pies and something to fill our glasses. Our very good friend Chris Allen treated us, as he has done in the past, in memory of his late mother, Pauline Allen, who was a member of both craft groups for many years, so we were able to raise our glasses to past and present members.

We have once again had a request from Becca Herrick for a further supply of Moses basket blankets for the Besom Charity. These are given as part of the Baby Bundles that they distribute to new Mums in the area. As usual, the craft group have responded brilliantly and quite a few are busy knitting or crocheting and as they are completed we are passing them on to Becca. To date ten blankets have been donated and some members are still working on more.

Over the last year we have continued to be given items of various craft materials which are either used by members or passed on to people who can make use of them. Recently we were also given a huge amount of materials for "Felting" and these have been passed on to someone who is an avid "felter". Another member of the group is now using the donated embossing machine, and is producing the most beautiful cards. I am hoping that the person who is now making use of the felting materials will come and give the group a chance to see what she has made and also to give a demonstration of what "felting" involves.

Members are continuing to make a donation of £1.00 at every meeting and this enables me to give a card and small gift to each member at Christmas and Easter. I ensure that past members who attended regularly, but for largely health reasons are no longer able to do so, also receive a card and gift on these occasions in recognition of their past support and in order to maintain contact with them.

I am indebted to all the members of the group who continue with their support and who also contribute to the warm and friendly atmosphere at all of our meetings. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to Jane Maloney for her continued help with the tables and chairs for the meetings and also my two "assistants" Dorothy Ward and Geraldine Stott for their support.

Hopefully the coming year will see a continuation of our meetings with the same feeling of fellowship, friendship and a common love of craft work.

Tina Casey, Craft Group Leader

Flower Arranging Report

The Flower Team at St. Mary's currently has fourteen members. Since the lifting of all previous Covid restrictions, the team now meets at regular intervals to plan, discuss, share ideas and thoughts about floral arrangements in church. We continue to explore new ways of arranging flowers without the use of oasis, although there are times when oasis remains the better option! We do however use biodegradable oasis, which breaks down quicker than the old type. We have explored using a 'wool' based oasis, which is completely biodegradable and can be used on gardens afterwards. Using this type of oasis will be an ongoing challenge for the whole team.

2022 was a busy year for the team; in addition to the usual festivals, the team were involved in preparing Mothering Sunday posies. There were 2 weddings at St. Mary's in April and October and members of team were involved in the floral arrangements for these. In June the whole team arranged flowers for the late Queen Elizabeth 11's Platinum Jubilee. The church was filled with floral arrangements of red, white and purple flowers – purple being the Jubilee colour. At the end of September, we held a Harvest Craft morning for our younger church members and the team were on hand to help the children with a variety of crafts such as Harvest wreaths, making paper flowers and vases, printing using fruit and vegetables to name a few.

I would like to thank all members of the flower team for their continued support, enthusiasm and commitment. They are all so very generous not only in giving their time but in giving the flowers. As a team we would welcome any new members anytime. Please do get in touch with me if you are at all interested.

Barbara Hylton, April 2023

Magazine Committee Annual Report for 2022 - 2023

Four editions of St Mary's Church Magazine 'Communicate' have been published this year in June, September and November 2022 and in March 2023. The magazine is sent out electronically and put on the church website so we are producing fewer printed copies. However, extra copies were produced of the December – March edition to give out at Carol Services.

We are up to date with our invoice payments but are awaiting an invoice for the last issue. The money from our advertisers allows us to give the magazine away free of charge and to have a few colour pages. We are currently covering our costs for printing. The printer is trying really hard to source the best deals for paper and has not increased his charges by much. Our advertising fees have remained the same for more than 5 years. Currently we have one advertising space to fill. Hopefully we will be able to continue to cover our costs in the coming year.

The committee communicates via email and Dropbox. Rachel Norridge receives the original copy for each edition and does an initial proof read and corrections before Dianne Conway puts the magazine together. Rosie Whitmell designs the front cover, encourages folk to contribute to the coffee and chat item and the recipe page. Andrew Beale reports on the children's work. Mary Dicken contributes the regular 'From the Past' pages and organises the tributes to those church members who have died. Rachel proof reads the draft copy before it goes to the printer. She also contacts our advertisers prior to the September edition asking them to check their advert and re subscribe.

We are grateful to everyone who contributes material for the magazine and to all those who delivered printed magazines to their friends and neighbours. Thank you.

The next issue of 'Communicate' will be published on 4th June 2023. The deadline for contributions is Sunday 14th May 2021. We welcome new items, ideas and photographs of events. However, items submitted after the editorial date may not be included. So please make sure your contributions arrive by the editorial date. Thank you.

Dianne Conway on behalf of the magazine committee

Sawston Branch of the Mothers' Union

Mothers' Union is a Christian organisation that has been supporting families worldwide for over 140 years. Started by Mary Sumner in 1876 in her local parish, it is now an international charity with over 4 million members in 84 countries.

Mothers' Union works towards stopping poverty, stopping inequality and stopping injustice. Members work at grassroots level around the world bringing practical support to millions of people every year through parenting, literacy and community development programmes.

The Sawston branch is part of Granta Deanery and meets each month for prayer, fellowship, and talks on a variety of subjects. Members also continue to support the wider work of the Church locally including: Refresh, jumble sales, flowers for Mothering Sunday, refreshments following services and participating in World Day of Prayer. One of our members sends a card to families on baptism anniversaries.

We currently have 22 members and officers, confirmed at the Annual General Meeting on 7 February 2023, are as follows:

Branch Lead/Secretary:	Janet Martin
Branch Treasurer:	Margaret Davis

At this meeting we agreed our annual donations to Away From it All Holidays and Mothers' Union Worldwide Fund.

We have close links with Ely Diocese and have been delighted to welcome Hazel Williams, Ely Diocesan President to several of our recent meetings. Our meeting in January focussed on discussing Hazel's paper on modernising and streamlining MU processes and structure. We are planning how the Sawston Branch can help to carry this work forward during 2023, and draw greater attention to Mothers' Union campaigns, particularly on gender-based violence and overseas work.

Janet Martin, Branch Lead, 10 April 2023

Muddy Church Report 2022

In 2022 Muddy Church met eight times: in February, March, April, June, July, September, October and December. We did not meet in January as it was the holidays and the very start of the year, May due to the fun run, August due to the summer holidays and November due to leader illness. Throughout the year Muddy Church was well attended with an average of 10 families coming, 16 at the final December Muddy Church with at least three new families who joined us for that session (and others who've sent their apologies). In actual numbers this often meant 17 adults and 25 children in attendance. Muddy Church is a family worship service, it starts with a welcome, brief recap of the preceding month, a bible story and visual representation of this (for example an experiment or play) then an explanation of activities, time to do these activities, refreshments - often hot chocolate as we meet outside during very cold months! Then a coming back together, song, prayer activity and final sending out.

The Muddy Church format worked really well, we had high levels of positive feedback and families often invited their friends to come and join us, leading to a total of 20 registered families. It was a brilliant way of families worshipping together in a format that all ages seemed to enjoy. It also successfully navigated the problem of trying to work for differing ages of children by having parents differentiate to their own children's abilities in each activity, something we would have been unable to do without parents being there. We also found parents thoroughly enjoyed the activities and worshipping with their children, and the community which was formed was incredibly welcoming and strong.

After two highly successful and dedicated years and having helped build a community during a pandemic Anna stepped down at the end of 2022 and thus with my inability to lead it on my own without vicar/leadership help Muddy Church is currently on pause. I hope this is a temporary measure and with leadership interest and a new team we would be able to restart in some form. We are asked by many families when this is going to happen on a regular basis.

Katy Holloway

Refresh – Report to the APCM

Refresh continues to grow and thrive in its present Monday morning slot in church. Our drop-in sessions for parents and carers with their preschool children and babies continue to be well attended, with roughly 25 "families" attending each week. We offer free-play with many different toys, as well as play-doh and a themed craft. We continue to stick to the original ethos of Refresh – to be a place of refreshment to the parents and carers who join us, offering a cuppa, cake (often deliciously homemade by our very own star-bakers) and when needed, a listening ear.

We pause mid-session for a story and song time. The stories have followed different themes over the year, including hearing about different bible heroes and heroines, as well as the miracles Jesus performed and the stories he told. And of course, listening to the stories of Easter and Christmas. We have a lot of fun singing the songs together too, and it's such a joy to see the children joining in enthusiastically with songs like "Jesus love is very wonderful" and "Our God is a great big God" alongside traditional nursery rhymes.

We continue to run a clothes recycling bank at Refresh, where people can bring good condition clothes for under-fours along, and take away any that would be useful to them. We hope this will go some way to helping parents, as well as doing something to help our planet. We also advertise the work of Baby Bundles, for local parents in need.

One of the huge privileges of running Refresh is seeing the joy it brings to parents and children alike. The parents tell us how their children can't wait to come to "play church" (their name for it!). Many have commented on the sense of peace it brings to them as they begin the week and how they enjoy the warm welcome that we offer. It is a real blessing to see the children grow and thrive over the months and to get to know so many people from our village and beyond.

Of course, none of this would happen without our faithful band of volunteers who turn up every week – Mary Richmond, Jose John, Anne Little and Barbara Hylton, you are all superstars! Thank you so much for all you give each week. Thank you also to Joanne, Kathryn and Petra, who support us as regularly as they can and take a willing turn at the story slot. And finally, thank you to the team led by Sally Bard, who meet every month to pray for the work of Refresh and the other Christian toddler groups across the village. Prayer makes all the difference! We thank God that after nine years Refresh is still growing from strength to strength and continuing to bless families throughout the local villages.

Rebecca Herrick, March 2023

Safeguarding Report

The past year has been a varied one for the Safeguarding team.

Some urgent Safeguarding issues and concerns have come up which have tested the team's training and response. It has been comforting to know that the hard work done by everybody to get the training appropriate for their roles has paid off - it has enabled members of our community to identify, report and manage these issues as they came up, and highlights the importance of doing the training required for many of our activities. For the Safeguarding officers, what struck us most was seeing the importance of teamwork in action. Open discussion, queries and sharing information helped ensure correct and positive steps were taken to protect the vulnerable in our community. It has shown the importance of everybody making Safeguarding their priority, not just a handful of individuals.

Many 'business-as-usual' actions have been undertaken this year, including getting multiple new DBS checks underway and responding to queries on training and reporting. As both Safeguarding officers are relatively new to the role, it is good to see that some things are becoming easier to do with experience! We would like to remind everybody that we are always happy to answer queries and support in any way - please don't hesitate to contact us (see details below) - - ideally please include us both in your communication so we're both up to speed.

However, while the Safeguarding team has been able to be reactive to urgent Safeguarding issues and 'business-as-usual' matters, we have not been able to achieve as many of our long-term objectives as we would have liked this past year due to personal time commitments. We will be carrying over our ambitions to get the PCC up to date with DBS checks and training, improving the integrity of our Safeguarding database and reaching out to individuals who need DBS and training renewals. Most importantly, we will be working closely with the vicar to ensure that our Safeguarding Portal becomes more 'green' than 'red'!

There have been lessons learned over this past year and improvements to make, and we look forward to taking our experience forward into 23/24.

Soup and Sandwiches / Winter Warmers Report

Following a two year break during the Covid pandemic, Soup and Sandwiches re-started in May 2022 and now meets on the second Thursday of each month at 12.30pm in the Community Hall. Helpers were re-appointed in line with the Church of England's "Safer Recruitment" policy, DBS checks were carried out and helpers undertook the relevant safeguarding training. In addition, three helpers undertook the Food Hygiene Level 2 training. Soup and Sandwiches was inspected by South Cambridgeshire District Council in June 2022 and was awarded a four star food hygiene rating. Complying with the various regulations has been hard work but this has been amply rewarded by the warmth and appreciation of all who attend Soup and Sandwiches.

We have eleven helpers and cooks in total although not all are present at every session. The team is very friendly and we all work well together. Typically we have between thirty and forty attendees at each session. Lunch consists of a choice of two types of homemade soup, filled rolls, cakes and hot drinks. We are very grateful to those members of the congregation who bake cakes for us. Our attendees tell us how much they enjoy the social aspect of the event and they are always complimentary about the food.

There is no charge for attending Soup and Sandwiches but voluntary donations are welcome and people have been very generous. After taking helpers' expenses, the money collected is split between St Mary's, St Peter's and Huntingdon Charity. In October 2022, we also set up Winter Warmers which has met throughout the winter on the first Thursday of each month at 2pm in the Community Hall for hot drinks, biscuits, chat and the option to play games or do some adult colouring. This activity has been much enjoyed with between ten and twenty people attending each session. We are very grateful to Eric Jacobs who has organised playing card bingo and to David Wilkinson who has organised games of giant dominos. Both of these activities have really brought the group together and given some structure to the afternoon. The last Winter Warmers was held in April 2023 but participants expressed a wish to continue meeting during the Summer. Therefore, beginning in June 2023, we will be running Tea and Friendship, which will be the same as Winter Warmers but without the need to change the name with each season! We will continue with this activity for as long as there is the demand.

In December 2022 we were very pleased that the Bellbird School accepted our invitation to bring their year six classes to sing Christmas carols and songs at both Winter Warmers and our Christmas Soup and Sandwiches. Both events were very well attended and our attendees thoroughly enjoyed the singing. The children performed with enthusiasm and were wonderfully well-behaved. It was a real joy to bring the two generations together.

There is a lovely warm and friendly atmosphere at both of these groups and we are frequently told how much everybody enjoys and appreciates them. Both groups reach out across the community of Sawston and to other villages as well. Thanks are due to all the helpers and cooks for their hard work and commitment, and we much appreciate the support and prayers of the Church family.

Mary Richmond, 14th April 2023
on behalf of the Soup and Sandwiches Team

This report covers the year from April 2022 to April 2023. Last year was our 20th Anniversary of when we first started in September 2001.

The group held a successful summer residential at The Vauxhall Christian Centre in Suffolk which was attended by Kathryn. Numbers were good and everyone that attended had a great time. Devotions centred on “Life Boats” and we learnt about Jonah and the Whale, Jesus calls the first disciples, The story of Noah, Journey’s with Paul and Jesus walking on the water.

The group has met every Monday in term time and has grown in both enthusiasm and numbers. We now have waiting lists on both our younger Explorers group and Juniors.

Our band continues to meet and led the Sawston Remembrance Day parade and played Last Post at various schools and in the High Street. From January 2023 until March 2023 the band learnt a new march called “Sawston” which was written especially for us. We performed this to the composer at the end of March 2023. The band has also continued to grow with many new members.

We held our enrolment service in church in October 2022 and we also held our Carol Service in December 2022, both to a full church.

Much of the focus for leaders this year has been training – five attended a Youth Leaders Training Course over two weekends, all leaders have completed e-learning modules in risk management and safeguarding, six leaders attended a dofe update course and two leaders attended a Company Management Training course.

Others have completed canoe training courses in safety and rescue.

Finally, most leaders attended a face to face Safeguarding update course.

Our numbers today are:

Explorers	10
Juniors	29
Seniors/Amicus	21

We have 23 registered leaders who attend most weeks.

In the year we awarded five Bronze DofE awards. Looking to the future we are very hopeful and are planning for growth. We have twelve members that have just started their Bronze DofE award and 5 moving onto Silver.

We expect to have a separate Amicus group (aged 14yrs to 18yrs) in September with 15 young people and a senior group of around 20. We expect Explorers and Juniors to be around the same number that they are now.

This means the group numbers will go from 60 young people to 74 in September. This will be a challenge both in logistics and staffing.

Other events planned are a Juniors weekend away at Vauxhall in May 2023 and a seniors weekend away in the Yorkshire Dales at the end of July 2023. We are not holding a joint residential in 2023.

In October 2023 we are leading a Band Tour to Scotland supported by the National Heritage Lottery to discover the Heritage of the Boys’ Brigade. We expect this to have around 80 going and we shall be performing and visiting Glasgow, Edinburgh, Inverness and Thurso with band performances at George Sq.& Glasgow Cathedral, a performance along the Royal Mile and at Edinburgh Castle and at Pennyland House, Thurso.

We meet every Monday evening at the Marven Centre with a variety of programme activities including games, crafts and nights out and each week includes a devotional time.

I have been Chairman of the group for most of the twenty two years of the group and it was agreed that I would retire from this post in September 2024 although remain as a leader. We therefore are looking to appoint someone from within the group to the Chairman role at this years AGM so that person can shadow me for a full year before taking on the role.

Our group has been blessed with growth, local support from Sawston VC and from previous and current vicars at St Mary's. We are incredibly grateful for the support from Kathryn and thank her for all she has done and is doing for SYG.

Today SYG is one of the largest voluntary youth groups in South Cambs and I hope something St Mary's can be very proud of. If you know of anyone in school years 1 upwards who would like to give us a try, please encourage them to come along on a Monday evening.

Paul Whitmell, Chairman

TUESDAY HOME GROUP

Andrew and Joanne Beale began a St Mary's homegroup in October 2022. The group meets at their home once a week on a Tuesday evening for fellowship, to study the bible and to pray with and for each other. The group has 10 active members of which normally 6-8 will meet on a given week. Between October and Christmas we used a video resource from 'Burning Heart' on Deuteronomy which we enjoyed and since then we've been working through Hebrews using a Lifebuilder Study Guide. At Christmas we put together a hamper for a recipient through Besom which was a great team-building activity. As a group we hope to be able to support each other through the busyness of family and working life and our intention was to have termly socials. That did not happen this term which is indicative of the busyness. Meeting together on a Tuesday evening has become the highlight of the week for us and we have heard others say the same. As we read through Hebrews and are asked to think about ways to keep ourselves 'running the race of faith' we often as a group reflect on the blessing that being together as a homegroup has been and continues to be. It's still very early days but we're excited about what God has in store for us all!

Andrew & Joanne Beale

Website and Social Media – Report to the APCM

The church website and Facebook page continue to be updated regularly and have details of the latest services, events and the weekly notices. The church Facebook page reaches many who don't attend the church regularly, so this is a good way to get information about the church out to our community. At present, I am (usually) the sole contributor to both the website and Facebook. It is hoped that a new Parish Administrator will take on (some of) this work, but if others would also like to get involved, do let us know. There is certainly potential to make more of our use of our

social media presence. The website is also beginning to look dated (it's current look is now nine years old) and therefore we may need to consider a revamp over the coming year.

Rebecca Herrick, March 2023

www.stmaryssawston.org.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/stmaryssawston>

World-wide Mission Committee Annual Report to the APCM April 2023

The Mission Committee members for the past year were: Sue Lowdell (Chair), Marian Watson (Treasurer), Tina Casey (co-opted member), Jose John (co-opted member), Anne Little (co-opted member), Janet Marven (co-opted member), Dorothy Butler (co-opted member), Agnes Stamper (co-opted member). We welcomed Revd Kathryn Waite, our Vicar, to our meetings.

The Mission Committee met on the following occasions during the past year: 16th June 2022, 6th October 2022, 16th January 2023.

I would like to record my grateful thanks to the members of The Mission Committee for their support and encouragement during the past year. With their excellent help we have been able to continue with our main aim of supporting our chosen quarterly charities, Christmas Shoeboxes, House Boxes and Christian Aid and we have held regular fundraising events. I would also like to record a big 'thank you' for the annual allocation of funds from the PCC to aid our fundraising; it is very much appreciated.

Our chosen charities during the past year were as follows:

- (i) **The Besom at Sawston:** 'Home' Charity from 1st April – 30th June 2022
- (ii) **Mission to Seafarers:** 'Overseas' Charity from 1st July – 30th September 2022
- (iii) **The Salvation Army:** 'Home' Charity from 1st October – 31st December 2022
- (iv) **WaterAid:** 'Overseas' Charity from 1st January – 31st March 2023

Our chosen charities for special church events:

- (v) **The Children's Society:** Christingle Service, November 2022
- (vi) **Save the Children:** Christmas Crib Services, December 2022

Invited Guest Speakers in 2022:

- (i) Mia Deveraux from The Besom came to speak to the congregation at St Mary's on Sunday 24th April 2022.

We hope for more guest speakers in the future; there is no doubt that the pandemic has had a negative effect with people less willing to travel and preferring to make presentations on line. However, there are signs that charities are prepared to consider sending a representative to visit St Mary's and we are looking forward to welcoming further guest speakers later in 2023.

We agreed to a special arrangement for fundraising during the first quarter of 2023:

We agreed at our meeting on 19th January 2023 to dedicate our fundraising for the first three months of 2023 entirely to **WaterAid**, as follows:

- (i) Donations were welcomed via the Mission Plate in St Mary's Church until the end of March.
- (ii) **WaterAid** would also be our **2023 Lent Charity**. We asked the congregation to save whatever they could in their own recycled jam jars ('Jars of Change') and to bring their filled jars into St Mary's at the end of Lent. We would do the counting and the recycling of the jam jars, and would let everyone know how much was donated.
- (iii) We held a **WaterAid Fundraising Coffee Morning** with a Tombola Stall on Saturday 11th February 2023, where we raised just over £200.

Donations were sent to the following charities from 1st April 2022 - 31st March 2023:

- (i) **UNICEF UK** (1st January – 31st March 2022): £350 We asked UNICEF give our donation to the children of Ukraine.
- (ii) **Sightsavers UK** (2022 Lent Box Appeal): £150
- (iii) **The Leprosy Mission** (Fundraising Coffee Morning held on 7th May 2022): £310
- (iv) **The Besom in Sawston** ('Home' charity) 1st April – 30th June: £325
- (v) **The Mission to Seafarers** ('Overseas' charity) 1st July – 30th September 2022: £285
- (vi) **Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC)**: Flood Disaster in Pakistan: £150
- (vii) **The Salvation Army International Development UK** (Fundraising Coffee Morning, 15th October 2022: £300 (plus a personal cheque for £50)
- (viii) **The Children's Society**: £410 (made up from £200 raised at the Fundraising Coffee Morning; £116.00 at the Christingle Service and £91.07 from The Children's Society House boxes.
- (ix) **Save the Children**: £228 raised at the 2022 Christmas Crib Services.
- (x) **The Salvation Army** ('Home' charity) 1st October – 31st December 2022: £310.
- (xi) **Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC)**: Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal: £250

House box donations for 2022 were:

- (i) **The Children's Society**: £91.07
- (ii) **The Leprosy Mission**: £90.63
- (iii) **Mission to Seafarers**: £10.63

Coffee Morning Fundraising Events held during the past year:

- (i) **Saturday 7th May 2022**: The Leprosy Mission
- (ii) **Saturday 15th October 2022**: The International Salvation Army UK
- (iii) **Saturday 10th December 2022**: The Children's Society
- (iv) **Saturday 11th February 2023**: WaterAid

Christmas Shoebox Appeal: A very big 'thank you' goes to the members of the congregation who donated 8 Christmas Shoeboxes. They went towards a grand total of 61 Christmas Shoeboxes, collected by Sawston Free Church. The shoeboxes were collected by Blythswood Care earlier this year in order to give them more time to check the shoeboxes before delivering them in time for Christmas. The Christmas shoeboxes were going to men, women and children who have seen war, terror and poverty in Eastern Europe: Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Pakistan, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine.

Christian Aid Week: £200 was donated from St Mary's via the Christian Aid Envelopes, which went towards a grand total of £1,378.75 (including £81.25 Gift Aid) raised at fundraising events held by Sawston Free Church.

On behalf of the members of The Mission Committee, I would like to thank all the congregation at St Mary's and St Peter's. Your willingness to contribute, support and take part in the fundraising that we have organised during this past year has enabled us to help many people in distress in areas of world devastated by war, disease, earthquakes, flood and climate change. With God's help we hope we can continue to do this well into the future.

Sue Lowdell, 21st March 2023