



Annual Report 2019

Index

Report	Page
2 nd East Barnet (St Mary's) Brownie unit	22
2 nd East Barnet Guides	22
Barnet Deanery Synod report	18
Building Project	16
Chipping Barnet foodbank	24
Christian Aid	24
Churchwardens' report	5
Crèche and Children's Corner	25
Crib Service	25
Drama	25
East Barnet Herald	26
Electoral Roll	8
Events Committee report	26
Fabric	15
Flowers	27
Green Christian-Barnet group	27
Healing Team report	28
Little Tots	28
Messy Mass	28
Methodist Minister's report	17
Minutes: Annual meeting of Parishioners 2018	19
Minutes: APCM 2018	20
Monday Club	29
Music	29
Open Church	30
Parish Office	31
Partnership Enabling Group report	17
Pastoral Visiting Team report	31
PCC Report	7
Rector's Report	3
Sacristy	32
Safeguarding	19
St Mary's School	32
Sunday Club	34
The Children's Society	23
Toddler Praise	34
Treasurer's report and Accounts	9
Winter Shelter	34

Statutory reports

Rector's Report

My contribution to this annual report of the PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Barnet is a little truncated, because it was not until 3rd July 2019 that I was installed as Rector here.

My first six months in the parish have been blessed with the opportunity to start to get to know the congregation and the wider community. And, discovering the many connections between the two has confirmed my initial impression that St Mary's is unusual among suburban parishes, because this church has a very strong parochial identity.

It is home to a congregation who wish to be involved with the whole life of the parish. It has a welcome to all people: it is explicitly inclusive in its membership of Inclusive Church, and that inclusivity is defined again by the text set over our lych gate, where St Mary's is said to be a place where rich and poor, high and low, are all called together.

That desire to be at the heart of the life of the community is also reflected by the later contents of this annual report, and particularly by the sections on our Brownie and Guide units, our school, our support for Chipping Barnet Foodbank, and our involvement with the winter shelter.

This connection between the church and public life in East Barnet means I have also been invited to become involved with other local and charitable organisations, which are a valuable way to articulate the church's mission within the wider community.

Our desire to improve our communication with the parish means that we have put more effort into regular use of social media, including Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, and thanks to the efforts of John Hawkins and Chris Yates have moved toward the creation of a new and more accessible website. Matthew Eade has also continued to edit the East Barnet Herald, which is now delivered to over 3000 homes within the parish.

Another important aspect of our mission is the excellence of our worship, and its capacity to draw in new members of to the congregational community. We are lucky to have a large team of sacristans and servers who support services on Sunday and occasional offices then and on weekdays. The importance of music within our worship is also very clearly visible. I've enjoyed singing at morning services and Evensong with our choir, and I was stunned to experience for the first time the magical atmosphere woven by the special music groups and orchestras who were involved in our Advent and Christmas services.

Over 2019 our usual Sunday morning attendance was 62 adults, 17 children; but from the Autumn onwards those figures showed a slight increase, so that in October usual Sunday morning attendance was 69 adults, 22 children. At Easter 2019, 191 people attended St Mary's; over special Advent services in 2019, 587 people attended St Mary's; and at Christmas 2019, 159 people attended St Mary's. Our Electoral Roll stands at 103 at the time of writing.

There is scope to build up these figures, and the number of occasional offices we offer. In 2019 there were 13 baptisms; 3 weddings; and 8 funerals at St Mary's, in addition to those taken by our ministers at crematoria.

Our collaboration with St Mary's CE VA Primary School has also been an experience that deepens my faith in our church's commitment to the community, for through the church's support for the excellence of that institution, we have helped to educate generations of young people and we continue to support a wonderful and rich curriculum for them. Being a governor at St Mary's is a privilege, and leading collective worship for the whole school each week in the church building is a joy. Though it occurred in 2020 rather than 2019, it seems appropriate to say that I and the whole PCC are extremely proud of the result of the school's Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools, where it was judged to be Excellent, with separate Excellent ratings for RE and Collective Worship.

St Mary's also welcomes children to all its regular services, and we have benefitted from a very well attended and well run Sunday Club. I have certainly enjoyed going along to a few meetings. Claire Driscoll, who has coordinated Sunday Club for some years now, will be reducing her commitment to Sunday Club and the PCC and I have thanked her for the importance of her contribution to the lives of young people attending our services. The transition to a slightly larger team of Sunday Club leaders will not be an easy one, but I hope we can build on Claire's good work to grow even more in the quality of welcome we offer to children at St Mary's.

I greatly enjoyed planning and helping to lead the October teaching course, looking at the lives of famous and influential Christians, and how learning about the challenges they encountered can deepen our faith today. I hope that in the future the role of adult education within our congregational community is something that can also be deepened. That course, and other group meetings, are planned and delivered as part of our membership of the East Barnet Anglican Methodist Partnership. In 2019 it was realised that the partnership needed to go through a process of legal renewal, and while we are working through that process we are also seeking new ways to share in our common ministry to East Barnet and to learn from one another as Christians.

Monday Club, which has been able to meet in the hall at Brookside Methodist Church thanks to our shared use of that building, has been very popular with the group of older local residents who have attended its meetings and enjoyed participating in quizzes, tea and cakes there. Regrettably, Peggy Graham-Taylor, who has run the group with great dedication for the last 5 years, has had to stand down from her position and we were unable to find a new leader to follow her. Therefore the PCC and I have, sadly, had to allow the group to close. Many of those who had attended Monday Club will now begin to attend a similar session at Friends in Need, East Barnet Baptist Church.

We have managed to find a leader to continue Little Tots, which also meets in the hall at Brookside Methodist Church, for this school year, and hope that its provision for carers and young children will continue to help and support the wellbeing of that social group.

Our pastoral visiting team similarly seek to support those who might be vulnerable, in whatever way and for whatever reason, by keeping in touch with them. I have been very impressed by the continuity of pastoral care within the congregation that was maintained during the vacancy, and it's been lovely to support the pastoral visiting team in their ministry, and to go along to meet some of those whom they support with the team leader, Val Selby, and bring Holy Communion to those who cannot attend services in church.

A great deal of devotion has also gone into the maintenance of our ancient building, over almost 1000 years, and the aspiration to build a new church hall at St Mary's. I am told that this latter project has not quite been going for almost 1000 years, but I have been struck by the length of time that it has formed a major focus for the PCC's energy. The PCC and I have made considerable further progress in 2019, and are close to obtaining necessary permissions to begin building works.

I'd like to offer my particular thanks to all the visiting clergy who took services in the vacancy – and, since my arrival, to Richard Osborn and the Revd Brian Blackshaw for offering to take services in order that I can take annual leave. I also must express my gratitude to Shaun, Jenny, Margaret and Alan, who have become my close colleagues; to Chris and Roger, our churchwardens, who have been incredibly helpful; and to everyone from the congregation and wider parish community who have made me so very welcome in East Barnet.

The Rector

Churchwardens' Report

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve St Mary's as Churchwardens again during 2019.

At the beginning of the year we were given the official go-ahead from the Crown Representative to announce the good news that The Rev'd Dr Alec Corio had accepted the offer to be our new Rector. There was however a long delay in being able to announce the date for Alec's Licensing and Installation. This was mainly due to the fact that the Diocese could not find suitable accommodation in the parish for him and his family. Eventually, when the vicarage in Bells Hill became vacant, the Diocese offered it to Alec and his family and they moved into the premises at the end of June.

A very memorable date in 2019 was 3rd July when Alec was Licensed and Installed as Rector of East Barnet. It was a wonderful and happy occasion attended by a great many people. We are truly blessed to have such a dedicated, kind and patient person as our Rector. Alec is working very hard, both within the congregation and the wider community, to get to know as many people as possible and to find out what is available in the local area. We look forward to him and his family being with us for many years.

Alec's first six months have been a string of first times: Sunday services, the East Barnet Festival, Harvest, Memorial Service, Remembrance Day, Christmas Fayre and Christmas

Services, etc., etc. Of course 'firsts' will continue into 2020 with Christingle, Messy Mass, Mothering Sunday, Easter, etc.

During the year the number of people attending our services has remained quite stable and the Memorial Service, Easter and Christmas services were very well attended, as in previous years.

Our services are thought provoking, enjoyable and minister to our needs and inner wellbeing and for that we thank the visiting clergy during the vacancy, The Rev'd Dr Jenny King, The Rev'd Shaun Sanders and our new Rector, The Rev'd Dr Alec Corio. The dedication of the Sacristy Team ensures that the clergy have everything necessary and ready for the smooth-running of the services. Music plays an important part at St Mary's and we thank Alan, the adult choir and the junior choir for their hard work and dedication.

Our thanks go to the various leaders and helpers of the Monday Club, Brownies and Guides, Little Tots and Sunday Club. These groups would not be able to continue without their time and devotion.

To the many people who give their time and expertise in keeping St Mary's feeling and looking good, we give our heartfelt thanks: Kathy and her team of flower arrangers; all the people who serve refreshments; the cleaning team; the sidesmen and vergers; readers; intercessors; the crèche team; Matthew and The Herald team; PCC members and officers; Margaret and everyone who has manned the Parish Office; the Healing Team; the Pastoral Visiting Team; all the people who readily move chairs, etc., between the rectory garage and church; those who help keep the churchyard tidy; those who battle with the candelabras; the Open Church Volunteers; Gail and the team of fundraisers and everyone who supports St Mary's in any and every way.

Our beautiful church built at the top of the hill 940 years ago continues to flourish. People come to pray, take part in services, meet together, socialize, have fun, can cry, can laugh, can be silent, can be themselves. We are so blessed to have each other and to know that we are all accepted just as we are. We hope that St Mary's will continue to be a place where all people feel welcomed, feel and be safe, can worship as they wish, talk and be listened to and grow in their spiritual life.

Our thanks to you all for your prayers, support, friendship and love.

Chris Mears
Roger Melling

Parochial Church Council Report

The PCC was delighted to welcome Rev'd Dr Alec Corio as the new Rector of St Mary's, and also his family Sam, Nathaniel and Josiah. The installation service was a wonderful occasion led by the Bishop of St Albans on 3 July 2019. Alec's first working Sunday at St Mary's was 28 July, although he was involved in some ways before this date, including at the school leavers' service. Alec and his family are living in the St Stephen's vicarage in Bell's Hill until the new rectory has been built.

The PCC expressed its thanks to Chris Mears and Roger Melling for their outstanding work and commitment as churchwardens during the vacancy, and to Roger for acting as lay chair of the PCC during this time.

The PCC meetings during the year focused on **mission and ministry; the new building project; GDPR compliance; communications; community work; youth and children's work; St Mary's C of E Primary School; events; fabric and building maintenance; finance (see separate report); safeguarding; the East Barnet Anglican and Methodist Partnership; and deanery and diocesan news**. Two extraordinary PCC meetings were held. The meeting on 22 September 2019 passed a series of resolutions about the building project, releasing funds from the St Martin's and St Mary's Hall Funds, and purchasing and installing new sound system equipment. The meeting on 2 February 2020 passed a resolution to begin the tendering process for the building of a new church hall, on the basis of a contract for a hybrid design and build scheme on the expert advice of the church's architects, JBKS. The PCC also agreed with the architect's recommendation to accept the offer of a single upfront payment for the church hall site of £755K + legal fees + surveyor's fees at point of completion + curate's house.

Chris Yates led the work to ensure that the Church is GDPR compliant, including through privacy notices on the website, gaining consent to hold data on people, and making more use of Church Suite to maintain centralized rather than separate records.

Chris Mears continued as the church's safeguarding lead. New policies and procedures for safeguarding were approved. All groups connected with St Mary's that work with children and vulnerable adults need documents including role descriptions for group leaders, risk assessments and attendance registers. The PCC approved the adoption of a safeguarding policy, a domestic abuse policy and recruitment of ex-offenders' policy, which will all be reviewed on an annual basis. All PCC members are required to have completed a DBS check and online training.

Matthew Eade was thanked for his outstanding work on the Herald, which continues to be a high-quality publication much appreciated by church members and the wider community. John Hawkins is re-designing the church website to focus on ministry, how to access life events and events at church. John Savage organized significant repair work to the school house. Gail Phillips chaired the events committee and organized Christian Aid week.

The PCC agreed with much regret that, in the absence of new leadership, Monday Club should close in its current format at the end of the autumn term's activities. The PCC

expressed its thanks to Peggy Graham-Taylor for her leadership of Monday Club over many years.

The PCC also expressed its thanks to Claire Driscoll for her work and dedication in leading the children’s activities at Church, including Sunday Club and the Crib Service. Sunday Club is in a period of transition with a range of new leaders.

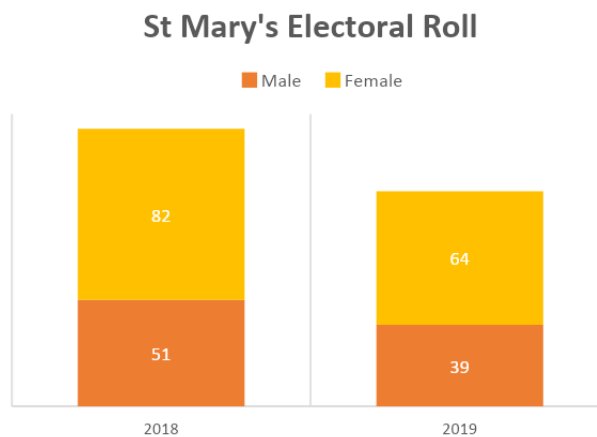
Alison Blunt, PCC Secretary

Electoral Roll Report

The Parish Electoral Roll is our list of all those entitled to vote on our electoral matters. Anyone over the age of sixteen who resides within our parish or who regularly worships at St Mary’s may join the roll. To ensure the validity of the roll it is deleted every six years and we are required to completely renew the list, this was the case for 2019.

Our 2019 Electoral Roll comprised of 103 names which is a 23% reduction from the 2018 Electoral Roll that contained 133 names. The gender balance of those listed on the Electoral Roll remained largely unchanged with the female to male balance being roughly 62% to 38% respectively.

The 2020 Electoral Roll will be compiled between 15 March and 10 April. The new Electoral Roll (names only) will be displayed inside the Church on our notice board for 14 days from 11 April and the number of people listed on the roll will subsequently be submitted to the Diocesan Secretary.



Chris Yates
Electoral Roll Officer

Treasurer's Report

Our cash balances over the year 2019 have seen a decrease in total and the accounts show a deficiency in our income over expenditure by £35,621.08.

In 2019 the parish share payable to the diocese to cover the Rectors salary, pension and central costs increased by 13% to £66.6k (£1,250 pw) from £58.3k in 2018. The parish share will increase again in 2020 to £70k pa.

Our covenanted income was down by £4.1k compared to the previous year at £51.5k. Our money received from weekly cash giving and donations decreased by £1k from £8.3k in 2018 to 7.1k in 2019.

Overall, outgoings decreased by 18% from £178.7k in 2018 to £147.9k in 2019 resulting in our annual shortfall over £112.4k income by the above mentioned £35,621.08. This can be attributed to the increased outgoings for the buildings project on fees and surveys, some £18.4k in 2019 (down on the amount spent on survey and fees in 2018, some £77.6k). Rental income on a net basis for the school house, which we manage for the Dioceses, brought in a further £7.3k in 2019, although we saw some expenditure of £12k spent on the refurbishment of the house, taken from the school house fund. This decreases the school house fund restricted in our balance sheet to £49k.

This leaves us with available cash balances of £65.7k after deduction of the school house fund as shown in the statement of assets. This represents a 31% reduction on the previous year (£94k).

Income received from housing a phone mast in the church tower has brought in a further £16.4k for the year (£32.9k to date).

I would like to thank Heather Melling for her work as our covenant secretary and also to Gail Phillips for helping count the weekly cash takings from our collections along with others. Also, I would like to thank Richard Selby for his on-going help and support in maintaining the parish accounts. Thanks again to Ron Neil for examining these accounts.

David Driscoll, PCC Treasurer

Independent Examiner's report

Page A5

**EAST BARNET PARISH CHURCH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
Financial Statement for the Year ended 31st December 2019**

**Independent Examiner's Report on the 2019 Accounts to the
East Barnet Parish Church Parochial Church Council**

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2019, which are set out on pages A1 to A5 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts, you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.144(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

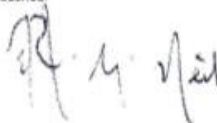
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- i. 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 Act, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met, or
- ii. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



Dated

5/4/2020

Ronald George Neil FCA
30, Cedar Avenue, East Barnet, Herts, EN4 8DX

Registered Charity Number 1143134
THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF EAST BARNET

Financial Statement for 2019

Page A1

**EAST BARNET PARISH CHURCH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**
Financial Statement for the Year ended 31st December 2019

General Fund Receipts & Payments Account

RECEIPTS	notes	2019	2018	Variance
Incoming Resources from donors				
Planned Giving via bank or envelope		51,541.92	55,728.08	(4,186.16)
Offeratory collections inc. donations		7,178.39	8,347.34	(1,168.95)
Income Tax Recovered		14,386.29	16,376.63	(1,990.34)
Other collections at weddings etc.		3,641.09	892.79	2,748.30
Bequests		0.00	29,000.00	(29,000.00)
		76,747.69	110,344.84	(33,597.15)
Other Voluntary Incoming Resources				
Home and overseas Missions	2		-	-
Sunday School Toddler Praise			728.69	(728.69)
Fundraising Appeal 1000+	1	4,119.44	4,247.96	(128.52)
		4,119.44	4,976.65	(857.21)
Income from Investments				
Investment Income	4	1,134.28	1,096.13	38.15
Bank Interest		1,237.89	585.11	652.78
		2,372.17	1,681.24	690.93
Other Income				
Fees & Deposits		2,194.00	1,790.00	404.00
Sundries	12	629.67	1,658.81	(1,029.14)
Magazine Income from Adverts		2,711.00		2,711.00
		5,534.67	3,448.81	2,085.86
Total Receipts		88,773.97	120,451.54	(31,677.57)
PAYMENTS				
Grants				
Home Missions	2	1,203.89		(1,203.89)
Overseas Missions	3		-	-
		1,203.89	-	(1,203.89)
Church Activities				
Parish Share		66,653.00	58,354.00	(8,299.00)
Rector's Expenses	5	1,162.32	678.63	(483.69)
Curate's Expenses	5	-	-	-
Church Expenses	6	13,534.61	9,314.13	(4,220.48)
Choirmaster, Organ & Music	6a	9,680.00	10,020.75	340.75
Services & Candles	7a	1,256.19	1,406.47	150.28
Sunday School	8	1,364.00	937.74	(426.26)
Fees & Surveys		18,399.12	77,665.10	59,265.98
		112,049.24	158,376.82	46,327.58
Management & Administration				
Office & Administrator	10	13,589.93	13,707.83	117.90
Sundries	11	8,561.65	5,415.47	(3,146.18)
		22,151.58	19,123.30	(3,028.28)
Total Expenditure		135,404.71	177,500.12	42,095.41

Church Hall Fund - Receipts & Payments Account

RECEIPTS				
No income		-	-	-
PAYMENTS				
Insurance	2019 paid Church Expenses	-	-	-

EAST BARNET PARISH CHURCH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
Financial Statement for the Year ended 31st December 2019

SYNOPSIS OF FUNDS ACTIVITY		2019	2018	Variance
General Fund				
	Income	88,773.97	120,451.54	(31,677.57)
	Expenses	135,404.71	177,500.12	42,095.41
	Transfer to Statement of Assets	(46,630.74)	(57,048.58)	10,417.84
Church Hall Fund				
	No income	-	-	-
	Expenses	-	-	-
	Transfer to Statement of Assets	-	-	-
Special Projects				
Note 9a	Income	16,930.25	14,493.49	2,436.76
	Expenses	-	-	-
	Transfer to Statement of Assets	16,930.25	14,493.49	2,436.76
TOTAL ALL FUNDS				
	Income	105,704.22	134,945.03	(29,240.81)
	Expenses	135,404.71	177,500.12	42,095.41
	Transfer to Statement of Assets	(29,700.49)	(42,555.09)	12,854.60

School House Fund - Receipts & Payments Account

RECEIPTS				
	Rentals Received	7,325.00	7,000.00	325.00
PAYMENTS				
	Repairs	11,885.26	78.00	(11,807.26)
	Insurance / Professional Services	212.13	204.97	(7.16)
	Miscellaneous Renovations	-	750.00	750.00
		12,097.39	1,032.97	(11,064.42)

Statement of Assets								Note
	2018	movement	2019	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Diocesan Restricted	
General Fund	107,581.47	(28,809.89)	78,771.58	78,771.58				
1000+ Appeal & Building Fund	(46,195.43)	(16,719.05)	-62,914.48	-62,914.48				
Special Projects								
Churchyard Fund	108.88	-	108.88			108.88		9
Choir & Music Fund	451.00	-	451.00		451.00			9
Children & Youth Fund	939.93	-	939.93		939.93			9
Pastoral Care	3,266.83	-	3,266.83			3,266.83		9
Vocational Fund	100.48	-	100.48		100.48			9
Organ sinking fund	1,550.00	500.00	2,050.00		2,050.00			9
Net Phonemast	26,517.53	16,430.25	42,947.78		42,947.78			9
	94,320.69	(28,598.69)	65,722.00	15,857.10	46,489.19	3,375.71		
School House Fund - Fully Restricted	48,049.02	1,194.64	49,243.66				49,243.66	
	142,369.71	(27,404.05)	114,965.66	15,857.10	46,489.19	3,375.71	49,243.66	
Represented by				Variance				
Current Account	500.00		500.00					
Business Premium Account	49,139.01		7,495.57		41,643.44			
High Interest Account	1,962.17		1,970.09		(7.92)			
CBF Deposit Fund 1 Account	10,000.00		10,000.00					
CBF Deposit Fund 2 Account	95,000.00		95,000.00					
Unpresented Cheques	(8,264.44)		-		(8,264.44)			
	148,336.74		114,965.66		33,371.08			
INVESTMENTS				Variance				
Restricted by Diocese in our name								
"St Martins Church Hall" Fund								
9145 Units Black Rock CIF	17,009.70	at 31st Dec 2018	17,475.48	at 31st Dec 2019		465.78		
[CHARINCO]								
UK Alpha Fund Share Class A (Acc) (OEIC)								
[HENDERSON]								
Income shares 34,335.15	44,807.37	at 31st Dec 2018	54,386.88	at 31st Dec 2019		9,579.51		
CBF Deposit account	601.84	at 31st Dec 2018	601.84	at 31st Dec 2019		-		

EAST BARNET PARISH CHURCH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
Financial Statement for the Year ended 31st December 2019

NOTES

		2019	2018	Variance
1 Fundraising	General	4,119.44		4,119.44
	Appeal 1000+	4,119.44	-	4,119.44
2 Home Missions		-	-	-
3 Overseas Missions				-
	Noah's Ark Childrens Hospice	851.09		851.09
	Cherry Lodge Cancer Care	196.11		196.11
	Christian Aid - Easter Offering	156.69		156.69
		851.09	-	851.09
4 Bank & Investment Income				
	Black Rock Investments	1,134.28	1,096.13	(38.15)
	Barclays interest paying accounts	108.87	168.70	(59.83)
	CBF Deposit account No 1	181.65	39.66	141.99
	CBF Deposit account No 2	947.37	376.75	570.62
		2,372.17	1,681.24	614.63
5 Rector's & Curate's Expenses				
	Phones & contribution to energy bills	420.85	239.39	(181.46)
	Travelling and Entertaining	484.98	116.25	(368.73)
	Miscellaneous inc fee earning	256.49	322.99	66.50
		1,162.32	678.63	(483.69)
6 Church Expenses				-
	Electricity - Total Gas and Power	1,964.15	2,983.61	1,019.46
	Gas - Total and power	1,837.44	1,834.83	(2.61)
	Water Rates	168.67	164.99	(3.68)
	Insurance	1,687.37	2,771.79	1,084.42
	Hall Insurance	764.53	372.19	(392.34)
	Electrical Appliance Testing	1,144.00	-	(1,144.00)
	Electrical appliances	2,469.60	-	(2,469.60)
	Church Maintenance	See Note 7 3,056.72	1,080.32	(1,976.40)
	Easter Palms & Candles	-	70.40	70.40
	Criminal Records Checks	56.00	36.00	(20.00)
	Nes altar linen	139.41	-	(139.41)
		13,287.89	9,314.13	(3,973.76)
6a Music and Choir				
	Musical Director's Wages & Expenses	9,000.00	9,000.00	-
	Relief Organists & Visiting Singers and Musicians	540.00	820.00	280.00
	Royal School of Church Music & Copyright Licences	140.00	200.75	60.75
		9,680.00	10,020.75	340.75
7 Church Maintenance				
	Maintenance Fire Extinguishers	130.32	76.32	(54.00)
	Organ Maintenance	1,976.20	870.00	(1,106.20)
	Heating Repairs / New Boiler	950.00	-	(950.00)
		3,056.52	946.32	(2,110.20)
7a Service consumables				
	Candles/Wine/Wafers	879.78	894.56	14.78
	Flowers	376.41	511.91	135.50
		1,256.19	1,406.47	150.28

NOTES

	2019	2018	Variance
8 Sunday School			
Rent	1,335.00	855.00	(480.00)
Books & Other Materials	29.00	82.74	53.74
	1,364.00	937.74	(426.26)
9 Special Project Funds			
	Start Balance	Additions	Withdrawals
Churchyard Restricted	108.88		
Music Fund Designated	451.00		
Child & Youth F'd Designated	939.93		
Pastoral Care F'd Restricted	3,266.83		
Vocational Fund Designated	100.48		
Organ Fund Designated	1,550.00	500.00	
Net phonemast Designated	26,517.53	16,930.25	
	32,934.65	16,930.25	-
			End Balance
Churchyard			108.88
Music Fund			451.00
Child & Youth F'd			939.93
Pastoral Care F'd			3,266.83
Vocational Fund			100.48
Organ Fund			2,050.00
Net phonemast			42,947.78
			49,864.90
			(16,930.25)
10 Office Administration and Printing of Herald			
Administrator's Salary (including previous years PAYE paid to HMRC)	6,210.00	6,210.00	-
British Telecom (Office & Computer)	2,612.69	2,015.89	(596.80)
Computer & Software (including Repairs)	1,990.16	1,186.46	(803.70)
Inplant Stationers [Copy paper]	904.43	645.17	(259.26)
General Stationery		45.00	45.00
Herald Printing costs		102.00	
GE Capital Eqp Finance re copier & collator		1,460.44	1,460.44
Alarm Service	495.74	390.72	(105.02)
Viking Direct and Miscellaneous Stationers		341.60	341.60
Petty Cash & Post	62.99	92.80	29.81
Cost of Office at Brookside Methodist Church	1,313.92	1,217.75	(96.17)
	13,589.93	13,707.83	15.90
11 Sundry Expenses			
Community Fun Day/Church Hill School re Concert	320.00	148.00	(172.00)
Easter Offering		300.00	300.00
East Barnet Community Festival Sponsorship	500.00	17.00	(483.00)
Coffee purchases	371.92	307.20	(64.72)
Festive Lighting + tree	13.33	37.00	23.67
Fire Alarm	54.74		(54.74)
Special Birthday & Leaving presents for staff	(part funded)	1,437.03	1,437.03
Rector's installation costs	892.50	-	(892.50)
East Barnet Community Christmas Tree	45.00	45.00	-
Miscellaneous	70.00	50.88	(19.12)
Vacancy cover costs	1,539.75	2,654.56	
Herald Printing Costs	4,424.36	-	4,424.36
Christmas nativity costs		82.80	(82.80)
Bank Charges/St Johns First Aid course	330.05	336.00	(5.95)
	8,561.65	2,342.11	74.62
12 Sundry Income			
Coffee sales	629.67	656.81	(27.14)
Contributions for James Mustards leaving present		1,002.00	
	629.67	656.81	(27.14)

Fabric Report

David Howard, who had overseen the church fabric on behalf of the PCC for many years, sadly died early in 2019. The condition of the church building, and its preservation as a unique heritage asset at the heart of an ancient parish, is a testimony to his years of dedication to our community and its place of worship.

With the generous advice and assistance of Comtec, the church upgraded some components of its sound reinforcement system. They ensured that all damaged microphone cabling and our induction loop (for hearing aid users) in the south aisle was repaired. Having discovered that the phone mast installed in the church tower was causing interference with our obsolete radio microphones, these were replaced. Our mixer amplifier was also causing interference because of its age, and so this was replaced with a model that will be compatible with the possible future installation of another sound reinforcement system in the planned new church hall. These new components are stored in a new secure cabinet, to protect the church's investment. Roy Mears was incredibly supportive of this work, remaining reasonably patient despite the many challenges faced and adjustments which proved to be necessary.

Roy also organised some repairs to the south aisle pew platforms and chancel floor, and helped the church to institute a schedule of maintenance tasks to be spaced across each year, in order to ensure that tasks which much be completed regularly in order to keep the building and its users safe are noted and completed in a timely manner. I am particularly grateful to Roy for his work leading this project.

A new chalice, a gift of an anonymous benefactor some years ago, was brought into use for the celebration of the Eucharist.

Over the course of the year, the organ was tuned and maintained on three visits by Wintle Organs. In the Autumn, they carried out major and essential repairs to its circuit boards under Alan Day's capable oversight.

Just as the weather turned wet in the Autumn, it was discovered that the church roof was subject to minor leaks at the west end of the building, and at the nave-chancel abutment. These have been causing dampness to enter the walls, and undermine the plaster in these places. It was also discovered that old temporary repairs to the roof over the gallery stairs, consisting of plywood boards and plastic coverings, were no longer safe. The roof over the gallery stairs does not leak at present, but the plaster there has been damaged by water penetration in the past. These areas of concern will be further investigated early in 2020, and repairs organised. I am very glad that Roger Melling is willing to scramble about on top of the church roof with me, and is as reliable when holding a ladder as he is offering advice as one of our excellent churchwardens.

I am also glad that our team of church cleaners and flower arrangers has continued to ensure that our building is attractive and has a warm atmosphere, and this is a vital part of our ministry of welcome, and to the invitation to become part of our congregational community.

In 2019 a significant development was also initiated at the school house of St Mary's CE VA Primary School, for which the PCC has traditionally assumed management responsibility. For the first time in many years, a full inspection of the property was carried out, alongside a surveyor from the diocesan contracted firm of Rumball Sedgewick. The Diocese of St Albans then permitted us to begin work to improve those areas of the property identified as in need of renovation: A new combi boiler was installed; the house's bathroom was renewed; the loft was insulated, and a new loft access hatch created. Outside the house, the rear patio and a dangerously cracked manhole cover were made safe. A number of other minor tasks were also completed.

This work will continue into 2020, with a redecoration of the landing and hall, and a comprehensive renewal and upgrade to the kitchen-diner planned. Following these works, the Diocese of St Albans will then contract a professional lettings manager to organise some minor external works and continue to manage the property in its improved state. I deeply appreciate John Savage's energy and diligence in leading this project.

The Rector

Building project report 2019

The project to build a church hall as an annex to St Mary's has made good progress, particularly in the latter half of 2019. This is despite the sad fact that the death of David Howard at the beginning of 2019 was a great loss to the continuity of our planned development as well, of course, as a loss to the congregation.

The particular successes of the past year have included the renegotiation of the terms of the offer from Stanley and Ingram to purchase the old church hall site, so that this offer now consists of an upfront payment, the construction of a curate's house, and compensations for some of the church's professional fees.

This change in our agreement with Stanley and Ingram has allowed the section 106 agreement with Barnet Council to be simplified into a form which will allow the project to proceed. In the new year, our draft council planning permissions will therefore be updated to reflect that development. Full planning permission should be granted in 2020. A faculty for the building is also in the process of being applied for, and should be granted early in 2020.

We have also been successful in updating the terms of the St Mary's Hall Fund with the Charity Commission, and confirming that funds held there and in the St Martin's Fund can be devoted to the building project.

However, the projected costs of the project may exceed the total of the offer from Stanley and Ingram and the funds we already possess, and in the coming year some details of the new hall plans may be revised to take account of that, or external grant funding might be applied for if members of the congregation can offer their assistance.

The Rector

The East Barnet Anglican-Methodist Partnership Partnership Enabling Group [PEG]

Our Partnership with Brookside is based on a National Covenant between the Methodist Church and the Church of England which was formed in 2003 to encourage local working between the two churches. The then clergy, Richard Watson and Colin Smith, attended the signing of the National Covenant and resolved to propose a local partnership in East Barnet. The two Church Councils initiated the work and consultation necessary to establish a local partnership. A Local Ecumenical Partnership was formally authorised in February 2008 for a period of 7 years, so should have been reauthorized in 2015. In the later part of 2019 it was realised that reauthorization had not been sought in 2015. Steps have been taken to correct this situation and therefore to restore the legal status of the Partnership. Our failure to reauthorize the Partnership has had no effect on the day to day operation of the Partnership or the spirit that lies behind our joint working.

The Partnership Enabling Group has provided 'light touch' oversight for the joint working of the two churches since the creation of the Partnership. It does not duplicate the work of either church Council. Members of group are the Rector, the Methodist Minister and four lay representatives from each church. St Mary's has two lay vacancies on the PEG. Would you be interested in joining this group and contributing to our developing relationship with Barnet Brookside Methodist Church? You do not need to be a member of the PCC. PEG meets twice a year to plan for our joint services, activities and working in the wider community. We have also been looking at longer term plans for working with children and young people. The group approved a draft Partnership Prayer which has now been approved by the PCC.

Roger Melling
Chair PEG

Methodist Minister's Report

It has been a privilege again to share in the work St. Mary's through the Partnership. These include our Lent groups and Autumn Teaching Course.

During Lent in 2019, we joined together for a series of weekly meetings to enter more deeply into the Beatitudes of Jesus, the sayings of Jesus at the start of the Sermon on the Mount in St. Matthew Chapter 5. Using the booklet, 'Life's Attitudes', we used those challenging but affirming words of Jesus to relate to everyday life.

For the Autumn Teaching Course we looked the 'Great Lives' of Martin Luther, St. Augustine of Hippo, Cecily Saunders and Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Through them, we were able to gain a deeper understanding of Christian freedom, self-knowledge, the hospice movement and the cost of discipleship.

Thank you to Alec, Jenny and all those who supported these groups.

I've led many of the services of Holy Communion at Apthorp Care Centre, especially during the vacancy. The services are valued by the residents and day centre users and we have great support from the staff. It's an example of much of the work of the Church takes place in the community outside our buildings, not just by clergy but by all of us.

*Rev Shaun Sanders
Minister of Barnet Brookside Methodist Church*

Barnet Deanery Synod

The Barnet Deanery is made up of 17 churches covering the area from Totteridge through Barnet and Potters Bar to Elstree and Borehamwood. Synod is made up of elected representatives from each of the parishes.

Synod now meets three times this year. There is a talk by an external speaker on an issue of common interest. These meetings are open to any church member and are not restricted to elected representatives. Our meetings in 2019 covered the following topics:

- **February**—The Rev'd Kate Peacock, Diocesan Church Growth Officer addressed the question 'what makes churches grow?'. There is no simple answer to the question but Kate identified a number of factors that contribute to church growth:
 - Have a clear mission and purpose and good communications.
 - Understand the role of the church in the local community
 - Willing to change and adapt
 - Build relationships with new comers
 - Clergy and lay leaders work together to innovate
- **June**---'Sharing and Supporting Each Other' This Synod created the opportunity for different groups of Church Officers to share their experiences and support each other. There were five groups: Churchwardens, Treasurers/Parish Giving Officers, Safeguarding Leads, Administrators and Working with Children and Young People. Each group reported back on the issues they considered to be key for the future.
- **October**---The Rev'd Harry Steele, Diocesan Church Growth Officer explained that he had joined the Diocesan team in September [2019] to lead the 'Leading your Church into Growth' [LYCIG] programme. LYCIG is a national charity that has been running for nearly 25 years and worked in 23 dioceses. A variety of different formats are used including conferences. Harry invited church members in the Deanery to attend a conference in February.

---Rev'd Louise Collins, Team Vicar, Elstree and Borehamwood spoke about a proposal to create a half time post within the Deanery to focus on green/ environmental issues with an emphasis of working with young people. The Area Dean agreed to pursue the matter at Diocesan level

Please speak to me if you would like to see full reports on these events.

Roger Melling

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is extremely important at St Mary's. Safeguarding is the action we take to promote a safer culture. We will promote the welfare of children, young people and adults and work to prevent abuse from occurring. We will seek to protect those that are at risk of being abused and respond well to those that have been abused. We will take care to identify where a person may present a risk to others and offer support to them whilst taking steps to mitigate such risks.

St Mary's is taking all necessary steps to maintain a safe environment for all and to practice fully and positively Christ's Ministry towards children, young people and adults and to respond sensitively and compassionately to their needs in order to help keep them safe from any harm.

All diocesan bishops were required to ask their parishes to undertake a Past Cases Review. Our PCR2 was completed in October 2019.

At the PCC meeting held on 19th November 2019 three policies were passed: Safeguarding Policy, Safer Recruitment Policy and Domestic Abuse Policy.

Please remember, it is the responsibility of everyone to be vigilant.

Chris Mears
Safeguarding officer

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS Sunday 28th April 2019 at 11.45am MINUTES

In the absence of a Rector, Roger Melling took the Chair and opened the meeting with prayer. 31 parishioners were present.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from: John Savage, Ann Savage, Alison Blunt, Steve Edwards, Molly Boniface, Claire Driscoll, Tony Ure, Roy Mears, Peter Aley.
2. **Election of Clerk** Dick Selby was proposed by Roger Melling and seconded by Chris Mears.
3. **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners 2018** were proposed by Heather Melling and seconded by Graham Cranfield as a true record and signed by Roger Melling.
4. **Election of Churchwardens** The Chair was handed over to Dick Selby and the following were nominated as Churchwardens: Christine Mears and Roger Melling were proposed by John Ball and seconded by Peter Weller. There being no other nominations, these two people were duly elected by unanimous show of hands.

The meeting closed at 11.55am.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Sunday 28th April 2019 at 12.00 noon

MINUTES

In the absence of a Rector, Roger Melling took the Chair and 31 members of the congregation were present.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from John Savage, Ann Savage, Alison Blunt, Steve Edwards, Molly Boniface, Claire Driscoll, Tony Ure, Roy Mears, Peter Aley.
2. **Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2018** were proposed by Brian Gregory and seconded by Alan Danson as a true record and signed by Roger Melling.
3. **Matters arising:** none
4. **Church Wardens' Report** See page 3 of the Annual Report.
5. **Statutory Reports:**
 - i. **The PCC Vice-chair's Report:** Roger took the opportunity to bring everyone up to date that there was no date for the new Rector to arrive. Matters were complicated by there not being a Rectory for him to take up as residence. He also mentioned that Alison Blunt had agreed to accept the role of PCC Secretary. Brian Gregory commented on the penultimate paragraph of the Churchwardens' Report to say how it measured just what the kind of church we have at St Mary's.
 - ii. **Electoral Roll:** It was reported that there were 102 names on our electoral roll as at the due date.
 - iii. **Treasurer's Report:** David Driscoll confirmed that we were presently negotiating the access of the St Martin's Trust Fund to improve our liquidity.
 - iv. **Fabric Report:** Nothing was discussed as all seems in order until the refurbishment.
 - v. **Deanery Synod Report:** Nothing further to be added.
 - vi. **Safeguarding Report:** Everyone in attendance accepted the following statement –

“The Church will take appropriate steps to maintain a safer environment for all and to practice fully and positively Christ's Ministry towards children, young people and adults, to respond sensitively and compassionately to their needs in order to help keep them safe from harm.”

6. **Election to the PCC** Roger explained that there were vacancies to the PCC as four members were due to retire. David Driscoll, Gail Phillips and Dick Selby were re-elected. Chris Yates was elected additionally. They were proposed en bloc by Peter Weller and seconded by Barbara Campbell.
7. **Appointments:**
- i. **The existing sidesmen** were re-elected with Mike Nunn in addition. Proposed by Kathy Horton, seconded by Ian Walter. Unanimous show of hands.
 - ii. **The Electoral Roll Officer** was confirmed as Chris Yates. Proposed by Kathy Horton, seconded by Veronica Weller. Unanimous show of hands.
 - iii. **The Independent Examiner/Auditor – Ron Neal** was reappointed. Proposed by David Driscoll, seconded by Dick Selby. Unanimous show of hands.
8. **Parochial Reports:** These were taken as read. Proposed by Graham Cranfield, seconded by Pauline Hayes. Unanimous show of hands. Matthew Eade was specifically thanked for his hard work in getting the Herald up and running again.
9. **Any other business:** A request was made by Chris Mears for more help with the chalice. The Website will be revised when the new Rector arrives.
10. **The PCC Vice-chair's closing remarks:** Roger gave special thanks to Margaret Cranfield for her hard work in the office, to Roy Mears for keeping the Sacristy Team in shape and to Heather Melling for her support. He also said what a joy it was working with Chris as fellow Churchwarden. The vacancy gave rise to many issues that would not normally be within the remit of Churchwardens. It was a huge relief to be able to share these issues with Chris who always contributed her wide experience, compassion and thoughtfulness to finding the best solutions.

Following the Grace, the meeting closed at 12.20pm. A Loyal Toast was then made to HM The Queen.

Parish Reports 2019

2nd East Barnet Guides

Another great year for East Barnet Guides; we continue with around 24 Guides, two Young Leaders and five Leaders.

We started with our annual trip to Hollywood Bowl for an evening of ten-pin bowling, we continued to embrace the new programme which included making eco-systems out of bottles and growing basil in them, and we have had several nights mapping the local community.

In April we had a 2 night camp at Northern Heights with a Harry Potter theme, the Guides also took part in Archery, Zipline, Bouldering and Traversing wall.

In the summer term we went to the park for a games night and again for a water night, before ending with our annual girls and parents Sausage Sizzle at the county camp site. During the summer holiday 4 Leaders and 4 girls attended Wellies and Wristbands a 4 day event at Foxlease in the New Forest hosted by Girlguiding. There were 3500 girls and leaders from across the UK, who spent the days taking part in fun activities like Zipline, Nightline, and Escape rooms.

In December we had our usual successful stall at Brookside for the East Barnet Christmas Fayre, providing craft for the younger attendees.

One Guide was successfully nominated for a Jack Petchey Youth Award.

Karen Binns

2nd East Barnet (St Mary's) Brownie Unit

Over the year we have welcomed a number of new girls and now have a young and very lively group, together with an extensive waiting list. Being a Brownie is all about fun, friendship and adventure.

During this busy time we have been lucky enough to have had 3 Leaders and a rota of Young Leaders to assist with organising the activities.

We are now using the new programme, which has 6 themes. The Brownies each have a Badge Book containing the Brownie Skills Builders (levels 2 & 3) and Interest Badges. Rainbows and Guides have the same Skills Builders at different levels. There are 5 parts to every SB topic. The range of topics means there is something for every girl, so they can go from being new to a subject to becoming an expert as they journey through Guiding.

We do still make time to continue with Guiding traditions such as Thinking Day which is a celebration of our global movement and links to our Founder. In May some girls went to Girlguiding's HQ in London to learn some Science skills – they made a volcano! This was made with bicarbonate of soda and vinegar with red food dye for effect! Some marshmallows were catapulted by elastic band held onto a model of a siege engine built out of sticks to an ancient Greek design. Others joined another Brownie Unit on a weekend Brownie Holiday. A few weeks of Christmas crafts is always a firm favourite, e.g. Christmas pudding pompoms.

However, things can change in the blink of an eye; Amy is moving, with her family, to the Isle of Wight. We will miss her, but wish her well and envy the new Brownie Unit we are sure she will join fairly quickly!

We'd love to have more help; you don't need to have been involved in Guiding before. Take a look at the ways you can get involved:
<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/ways-of-volunteering/>
Leaders: Anne Malloy, Elaine Eyles, Amy Pollock

Anne Malloy
Brownie Leader

The Children's Society

The Church of England Charity since 1881 has been helping children and young people of any race or creed in this country

Our Christingle Service was once again held at Candlemas/Messy Mass and the children made their own Christingles and for the rest of the congregation.

Your collecting candles and envelopes raised £227.82 for the much needed work of The Children's Society. Thank you children, parents and congregation for all your donations.

Brookside Methodist Church very kindly agreed once again to us joining their Coffee Morning for The Children's Society Coffee Morning and Box Opening and £61.50 was raised, plus many orders for Children's Society Christmas Cards.

The Boxes themselves raised a wonderful £545.92 Very many thanks to all our generous box holders and to those who attended the Coffee Morning for their support.

Your kind donations totalling £835.24 will help The Children's Society to fight children's poverty, abuse and neglect across the UK and ensure that children's voices are heard.

Val Selby
Box Secretary

Chipping Barnet foodbank

The Chipping Barnet Foodbank continues to operate from St Peter's Parish Centre in Somerset Road, New Barnet. They provide three days' of nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to them in crisis. They are part of a nationwide network of food banks supported by the Trussell Trust, working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK.

They have had another busy year helping a total of 2,066 clients, an increase of 20% on the previous year. During the summer they compiled 'family bags' for families to receive additional food to support them through the time the children are away from school; and at Christmas they repeated their successful Christmas Angels project feeding an additional 30 families and providing blankets and presents for the children. They have also continued to support other organisations in the borough with food parcels, including the Rainbow Centre and Solace Women's Aid to name but a few.

This year, in conjunction with CARITAS, they are setting up a weekly computer-based programme which will give support to people needing the digital skills to access benefits etc. In addition to this they have started a furniture exchange project whereby clients who need furniture can be matched with furniture that has been donated.

Many thanks to all of you who have contributed over the past year. Further donations are most welcome, including money. Current food shortages are listed each week in the Service Sheet. There are collection points both at St Mary's and at Brookside Methodist, and also at New Barnet Sainsbury's.

Sarah Edwards/Chris Watson

Christian Aid

Each year we have experienced a reduction in the number of people willing to undertake house to house collections. In an attempt to reach households by a different means, it was decided that the annual appeal would appear in The Herald, together with a form to accompany donations. In consultation with Christian Aid HQ, we were assured that they would be able to identify monies mailed in as attributable to St. Mary's. Unfortunately this did not happen, and despite my pleas, apparently it was not possible for them to give me a figure. Indeed, even the mailed in contributions about which I knew were not recognised by Christian Aid as funds being raised by St. Mary's efforts, despite acknowledgement letters being received by each donor.

The results of the other fund raising efforts raised a total of £621.26 which was made up from street collections in the village (£141.53), donations received from the St Mary's congregation (£393.30), St. Mary's church school (£38.83) and the inter-church rounders match (£47.80)..... which we won!

Many thanks as always to the people who supported this cause whether by their time or their donations. Contributions have enabled Christian Aid to provide much needed healthcare and nursing skills to Sierra Leone and other poor areas of the world.

Gail Phillips

Crèche and Children's Corner

Numbers of babies and small children using the toys, books and table activities in the children's corner varied from none (only once) to a dozen or so, especially when a few over-5s sneaked in on return from Sunday Club or at All Age services!

The trend for families to stay in church during most or all of the 10am service has continued, with the option of using toys and books in the choir vestry as necessary. Renewal of the sound system means the service is now reliably relayed there.

Each week one of the 5 creche helpers was available to set up, welcome, oversee and tidy away. Many thanks to them all - and to Margaret for providing colouring and puzzle sheets based on the gospel reading. These were also available for older children to use in their seats.

Heather Melling

Crib Service

This year's crib service was again a popular event. The crib service was joint with Brookside with around 25 children taking part. 146 adults and 66 children attended.

A team of volunteers helped at rehearsals and on the day, so thank you to Gill Haggan and Alison Blunt.

Claire Driscoll

Drama

In January we performed Dickens's A Christmas Carol in yet another format. We had taken the production 'on tour' to St Albans in early December and now brought it back as an after lunch entertainment. This, and the lunch, went down very well. The two performances in St Albans were in two very different church buildings and required different staging. Back at St Mary's we arranged it to be as if the performance was unplanned and almost as if the players had arrived unannounced in the middle of the lunch. Dick Selby, as Ebenezer Scrooge, was well supported by a motley crew of players.

John Savage

East Barnet Herald

Our parish magazine, the East Barnet Herald, proved very successful in 2019. Having been online-only in the previous year, we relaunched the printing and distribution of the paper in January delivering 3000 copies through front doors in the parish which has been made possible by a sterling team of 30 volunteers, both from St Mary's congregation and the wider community. In addition, copies of the Herald have been stocked in local libraries, churches, shops, and the Prince of Wales. In August we increased the print run to 4000 and the number of pages from 20 to 24.

We also saw the reintroduction of local business advertisements into the Herald, initially beginning with 10 at the start of 2019, rising to 27 in December. In 2019 advertisements contributed a total of £2,105 towards the printing costs of the Herald.

The content of the Herald has been enriched with regular contributions from our new Rector, Brookside Methodist Church, and the East Barnet Residents' Association, as well as parishioners, community groups, and charities alike.

The Herald has been fantastically received by the community of East Barnet. I hope that it continues to be a valued resource both to the church and the community and to expand our reach in the parish.

Matthew Eade

Events Committee

Firstly I would like to thank not only the members of the Events Committee for the time they give to our task, but also the 'support staff' – the folk who help out with the set-up and break down of each event, as well as those whose culinary skills stand us in such good stead. The rhythm of the year remained unchanged. Table Top Sales in March, May and October were increasing well supported as the year progressed with the refreshment tables contributing a good percentage of the £1,238.70 raised.

In July, St Mary's once again sponsored the tea tent at the East Barnet Festival as well as having our own stall. The bottle tombola proved very successful in raising £483.25. The presence of our newly installed incumbent was much appreciated as it enabled both Alec and the community to meet informally.

Harvest Supper was again shared with Brookside, although held at St Mary's. As usual it was an enjoyable family evening, with hearty songs and music provided this year by The Shanty Men. Many thanks especially to Heather Melling whose gardening skills provided the base for a delicious dessert. Together with the fact that the songsters do not charge a fee (but pass the hat around for contributions to their charity, The RNLI), this resulted in the supper realising £253.66.

2019's final event was the Christmas Fayre. Held just before the start of Advent, and with Santa looking particularly smart in a new suit, the combined domestic, acquisition and selling skills of our congregation enabled all attendees to enjoy a happy evening, culminating in a healthy £1572.82 addition to the coffers.

Gail Phillips

Flowers

Flowers have been arranged in Church throughout the year except for the weeks of Lent and Advent. Most of the arrangements are done by me but I am very lucky to have the expertise of Debbie Ioannou, an ex-florist, Vanessa Wennell and Lesley Danson who willingly help at the Festivals of Easter, Harvest, Christmas and other special occasions and without whose support there would not be the lovely displays in Church at these times. My thanks also goes to Heather Melling and others who help out when I am away. I am grateful also to those who give donations for the flowers and those who do an arrangement in memory of a loved one. I do enjoy arranging flowers but it would be lovely if others would "have a go"; I would give you help and encouragement and you never know what talent you might have.

Kathy Horton

Green Christian – Barnet

In September 2018 local churches, charities and community groups from across the borough of Barnet came together to hold a Climate Concern event, with speakers and discussion on the issue of climate change and what could we do. Following this event, some of those involved formed a new Green Christian - Barnet group, which is affiliated to the national Green Christian network, seeking to provide a local forum for Christians, churches and others to raise awareness, exchange information, and take action, on climate change and wider environmental issues. We have been active throughout 2019, with meetings taking place roughly every 6-8 weeks at St John's URC, Somerset Road, focusing on topics from climate change to plastic pollution to food sustainability and energy efficiency, and regularly hearing from charities working on these issues including Tearfund, Cafod and Christian Aid. Each meeting considers how we can respond as individuals in our own lifestyles; as churches including in our teaching, worship, and witness; and politically through lobbying our local representatives. Campaigning events included the (unsuccessful) attempt to persuade Barnet Council to declare a climate emergency, and most notably the largest ever lobby of MPs, the Time Is Now, organised by the Climate Coalition in June 2019, where a group of us met with Theresa Villiers, MP for Chipping Barnet, to raise our concerns. The group is planning involvement in the joint churches' Lent course in 2020 as well as seeking to engage more with our local MP, in collaboration with other local climate groups.

Sarah Edwards

Healing Team

The service for prayers for the Healing and Wholeness ministry continued at St Mary's in 2019. As usual, with few exceptions, the services were held on the second Sunday of alternate months, commencing in January.

Prayers continued to be said after the morning Eucharist, after which the team would light candles for those who have asked for personal prayers or on behalf of loved ones. The team continue to feel that it is always a fulfilling personal experience as it is for those asking for prayers.

Thanks to all who are part of this pastoral ministry, including Joyce Bailey, Brian Gregory, Chris Mears, Sue Nunn, Ian Walters, Peter Weller and Deborah Windeler. The healing ministry is for everyone. We all need healing in some way and through this ministry, Jesus Christ meets us at our point of need.

Matthew 18 v 20: "For when two or three are gathered together, there am I in the midst of them."

Anne Foley

Little Tots

Little Tots playgroup meets on Thursday mornings during term time from 10-11.30 am at Brookside Methodist Church hall. Despite a few quiet weeks back in Autumn, the group is now well-attended and we continue to welcome newcomers as regulars leave for nursery or school. The children enjoy a variety of toys, games and crafts whilst the adults have a chance to chat and have a cup of tea or coffee. Then the children have their snacks followed by singing and story time. We remain grateful to Anne Malloy and Veronica Weller for serving refreshments and helping to make the group a friendly success. We also thank Joanne Webb O'Rourke for running the group brilliantly prior to handing responsibilities to me in September 2019. Newcomers and volunteers are always welcome!

Sally Latham Birt

Messy Mass

There was only one Messy Mass this year which was the Christingle service. Messy Mass services have been very popular in the past; families tend to feel more relaxed, and children really enjoyed the services. Previously they have been once a quarter.

This year's service, led by the Rev'd Eugene Hanshaw, was much appreciated by adults and children alike. Dick and Val Selby bought the oranges and I bought and prepared anything else we still needed, and set it up. Sunday club helpers assisted us on the day.

Claire Driscoll

Monday Club

Peggy and her wonderful team of helpers have been running this social get together almost every Monday in the Brookside hall, Ian coming in to set up the tables, Mary and Jan to run the kitchen where Mary bought and donated all the cakes each week. Plus our reliable chauffeurs who collected members in their cars and took them home afterwards.

We made a charge of £1 each week which was used to pay an entertainer and a keep fit session plus we had monies which had been donated by past in an account Helen had made over to the church. The church did not charge us for the hall and I and all the helpers made no charge.

I have been running it for five years and because of my age wanted to find someone younger to take on the leadership but it proved impossible to find someone to do it without charging.

Muz and Faz who look after the dementia clubs in the area agreed to take it over. They need to make a small profit and cover their charges so are charging the members £5 each and it is running successfully but in a different hall.

I am still taking in my members by car and joining in the action, the exercise and tea plus the bingo which we all enjoy.

I think they call it the Fun Club now but it is still on a Monday.

Peggy Graham-Taylor

Music

The first six months of 2019 was a time of the interregnum at St Mary's church. Services continued with excellent sermons from visiting clergy. Both the adult and children's choirs continued to provide anthems for services throughout this time. The children's choir also engaged with the adult choir to sing settings (in Latin) of Ave Verum by Mozart and Elgar. Young instrumentalists sometimes accompanied the children's choir items. Despite various initiatives, choir numbers sadly and frustratingly remain low. I am immensely grateful to each member, for their commitment, service and effort (a rare quality in our nation today). Spring into Summer and Fall into Autumn Concerts continued to bring excellent artistes, ensembles and an appreciative audience into St Mary's church. These concerts provide an important social connection for many elderly people in our community. We have received many positive comments from them, but however valuable and immensely enjoyable these concerts are, their future is currently under review.

The major event of 2019 was the installation of Dr Alec Corio as our new rector. Once again, the two choirs sang anthems and hymns accompanied by organ and brass quintet. The major services at Advent and Christmas also included instrumentalists. I am grateful to the

young musicians and professional colleagues who come to play at our services: Their playing adds another dimension to the worship at St Mary's.

Alan Danson

Open Church

On almost every Saturday of the year, a team of sixteen people take it in turns to open the church and keep it open between the hours of 10am and 2pm. Leaflets and other information about the church and the churchyard are on display for people to use if they wish, the main candle is lit on the candle stand so that people can light a candle and pray there, and simple hospitality is available.

I think it is fair to say that we are not overwhelmed with lots of visitors, but the people who come do appreciate the space, and we often find ourselves talking to visitors and finding something we have in common. If nobody comes ... we have had a quiet couple of hours in church, which is always a bonus!

If anyone has any ideas about how we can use this time and space to encourage more people to come, and perhaps provide further resources for them, do speak to the Rector or the wardens.

Many thanks to Kathy Horton who draws up the rota for Open Church, and to everyone on the rota.

Margaret Cranfield

Parish Office

The start of 2019 saw us still in vacancy, although we knew this would come to an end in the course of the year. The Wardens, the PCC, Shaun, and visiting clergy kept us together and working well as a church, so that when Alec arrived things were in good heart. Bishop Stephen Venner was particularly helpful when we had to produce a new order of service for Easter Day.

Alec's arrival has seen our weekly staff meeting continue to include the wardens, which has greatly helped with communication, and I am grateful to Roger and Chris for making themselves available for the time this takes. Alec has also made himself familiar with InDesign, which we use for our notice sheets and orders of service, and this is a considerable relief to me, as I am no longer the only one who knows how to do these. In addition to all the other ways he helps and supports me, Alec has also been very helpful in providing technical advice when I have needed it.

The new printer is now well established and normally works very well. In particular I appreciate being able to set orders of service to print, collate, fold and staple, which frees me to do other things while keeping an eye on the output. We do have to call in the people

we lease it from for any but the most basic of technical issues, but help usually arrives promptly. It is good to be able to use colour in our worship notices and other materials, though this can be expensive if used in quantity.

Some work began on making the information we hold at the parish office GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) compliant, and we have bought shredders for the office and Alec. I would like to thank Chris Yates for his advice and generous help on this issue. Once this project has been fully completed, we can make sure that people's details are safe from potential identity fraud. However, there is still a long way to go with this process.

My work is mostly dealing with information – receiving it, storing and displaying it, and making sure that it is available to read or access online. People in the church can help with this by making sure they tell me anything they would like publicised, as early as possible, and also by making sure they read and take note of notice sheets, emails, and other information I put out.

During the year we also reviewed my work hours. I have tried to streamline most of what I do so it takes no more time than is necessary. However, this still means that such tasks as data input, shredding and filing pile up while the day to day running of the office and church take priority. If anyone would like to help with this, please let me know.

I would like to thank those mentioned in this article for their assistance, with the addition of Roy Mears, Roger and Heather Melling, John Savage, Claire Driscoll and Kathy Horton for the rotas, and David Driscoll and Dick Selby for help with financial matters. My husband Graham has also been very supportive in so many ways.

Margaret Cranfield
Parish Administrator

Pastoral visiting team

The Team meets every few months to update our list of parishioners who are unable to attend services due to illness or distress and vulnerable parishioners and their needs. We have made home visits, some with home communion, hospital visits and have kept in touch by phone. It is our aim that no-one in need of support will be overlooked.

There is still a box in Church, near the votive candles and under the photos of the Team, where anyone can confidentially request a visit or a chat or give the name of a person who they think would be pleased to receive a visit. Better still have a word with one of the team or contact us by our e-mail address care@stmaryseastbarnet.org.

Val Selby Co-ordinator

Sacristy Report

The Sacristy team welcomed the Rev'd. Dr A.S. Corio as the new Rector and we are pleased to provide support and assistance to the new Rector, Rev Shaun Sanders, and the Rev'd. Dr Jenny King and thank them both for their help and advice.

In the closing months of the Interregnum they continued to work with the visiting Clergy and thank them for their help and assistance though out this period of the Interregnum

The Sacristy Team members are Brian Gregory, Matthew Eade, Vincent Perera, Alex Mathews, Nayan Perera, Louise Tanner, Jess Tanner and Marcia Manarin.

Help with the laundering and maintenance of the Altar linen has come from Hillary Middleton and Val Selby.

New Altar Frontals for both the high Altar and the Chapel Altar have been made by Val Selby together with the Priest's Chasuble.

If you are interested in joining us come and have a chat with Brian or myself, we will be pleased to welcome everyone who is interested.

Roy Mears

Saint Mary's School

The past year has been an eventful one for the school community at St Mary's. At the time of writing last year, we were looking forward to welcoming Alec to his appointment as Rector following the vacancy. We are extremely grateful to Roger and Chris, the churchwardens, for helping us to maintain our partnership with the church. Our weekly services on Thursdays continued throughout along with the annual church service in school. We were delighted to welcome a number of leaders and speakers, foremost being Rev Shaun Saunders, minister of Barnet Brookside Methodist Church, who led many of our church services, including our termly Communion service. Rev Rupert Lazar and Steffan, the minister and youth worker from East Barnet Baptist church, along with the Rev'd Laura Hewitt and Chris, the vicar and children's worker from St James, and St Mary's Church member, John Savage, took many of our services, each leading in their own way and giving us all a continued and relevant experience of worship in St Mary's church, and half termly at Brookside Methodist church. We are grateful too to church members from both these churches who gave their time to come along, set up and welcome us. Our local churches have embraced us and we continue to work with this rich tapestry of worship both in church and in our school daily worship.

It was a great pleasure to welcome Alec and his family back in June. Since then we have developed a very strong working relationship, building on all the good work we have done with the church over many years. Alec has shown a real commitment to the school, leading worship and becoming a school governor, adding his experience and spiritual leadership to our work.

As we started the academic year 2019-2020, we were fully aware that this would be the year of our SIAMS [Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist schools] inspection. Believing we had until the end of the academic year, senior staff and governors worked closely with Alec to ensure we were sharing understanding of what it means for us to be a church school. This is summed up in our vision:

'At St. Mary's, inspired by Christian values, we are excited by our learning, proud of our achievements, determined to be the best we can be and caring for all of God's creation.'

This vision is theologically underpinned by the school's explicitly Christian values. It reminds everyone in the community that they can achieve great things in God's world from their seemingly small beginnings.

Taken completely by surprise, we were informed back in early February that the inspection would take place on 13 February. We were delighted that the inspection findings summed up for us what it means for us to be a church school and the difference it makes to us in our day to day work with the children, staff and families, along with the church. This is summed up in the following :

Key findings:

- Leaders demonstrate emphatically how well every aspect of the school's work is driven by the distinctive Christian vision. Because of the depth to which the Christian values are understood theologically they underpin this vision. It is refreshed regularly so that it remains relevant and meaningful for the entire community. The joint headteachers are dynamic leaders and collaborate extremely well. They share a passion for maintaining the school as an excellent church school at the heart of this community, building on its long-established strengths.
- Governors are determined to maintain and strengthen the Christian character of the school and the centrality of the vision for everyone to flourish. They monitor this frequently and widely. They have shown their commitment through innovative succession planning.
- Worship is highly engaging and relevant, developing children's and adults' understanding of the Christian faith extremely well. It is greatly enriched by the strong ecumenical partnership, especially with the local Methodist Church.
- Pupils, parents, staff and governors articulate the vision confidently, explaining its biblical context and the impact the vision makes in ensuring that everyone flourishes. They demonstrate how they benefit from the school's wide-ranging partnerships.
- Religious education (RE) is excellent. Pupils make very good progress in understanding the Christian faith and the beliefs of others through outstanding teaching, opportunities for reflection and an exciting curriculum. Pupils are inspired by RE. They value the opportunity to discuss one another's views openly.

Little could any of us know that within a month, the school and the country, along with much of the rest of the world, would be closing down. The reality of being in a school founded by people of Christian vision and belief back in Victorian times, and sustained to the present day, supports the now day to day life of our staff as we try to maintain some kind of normality, though very different, for our children. Providing home learning and opening to support key worker families, the staff are being magnificent in their efforts. This is against the background of many being affected in so many ways, through illness and

family circumstances. This is where our faith foundation is a strength, as we continue to pray for each other, our school families, our community and our church. Thank you to St Mary's Church. We look forward to a day when we can open the Church Hill gate and wend our way up the hill on a Thursday to worship once again. In the meantime, our love and prayers to all. God Bless.

Mel Adams and Maria Constaninou
Co-head teachers

Sunday Club

Sunday Club continues to take place every Sunday except for during all age services. Sunday club also still operates during school holidays. The numbers are consistently high and enjoyed by all children from ages 3 up to 16. A team of volunteers support each session, so thank you to Gill Haggan, Vanessa Wennell, Alison Blunt, Sarah Edwards, Tracey Cobbett, Alex Matthews, Tim Sanders, Emma Willis and Anthea Morton.

Claire Driscoll

Toddler Praise

Toddler Praise took a break and was hoping to relaunch again with the help of the new Rector in September 2019. This proved difficult as a team of volunteers were required to help to prepare craft activities, read the Bible story and serve refreshments. Therefore Toddler Praise is still on hold until a team of volunteers can support the running of the sessions.

Claire Driscoll

Winter Shelter

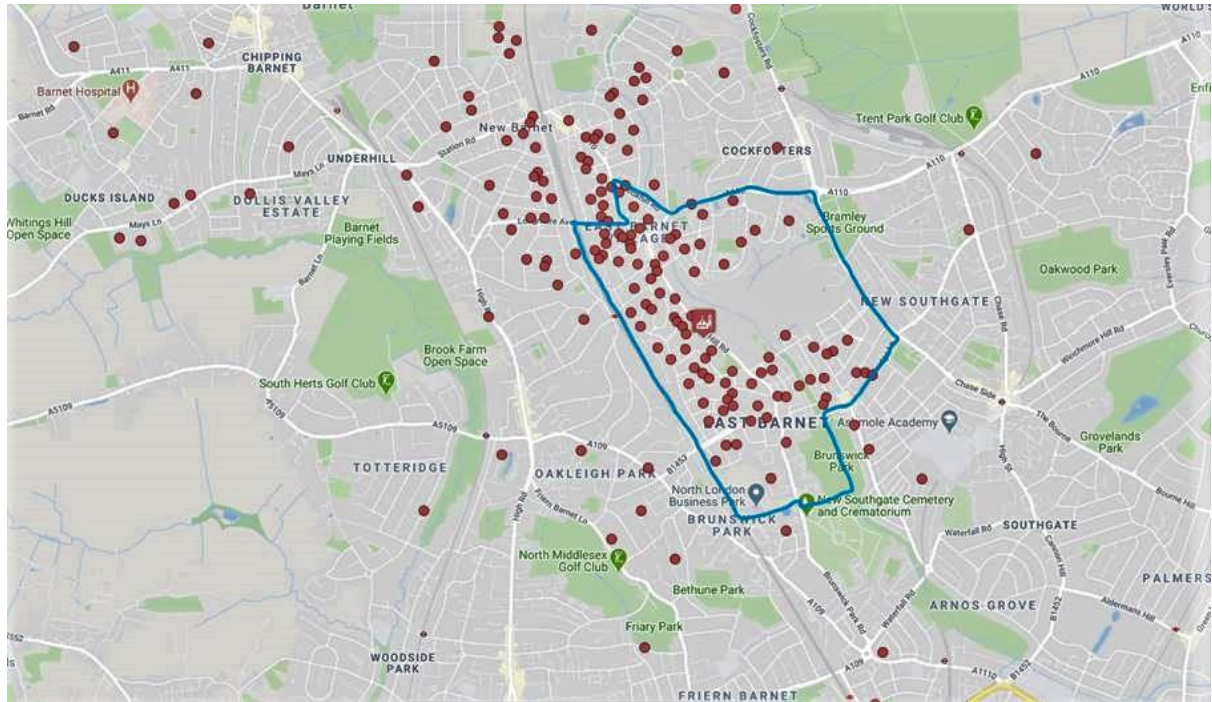
For some years now faith groups in the London Borough of Barnet have been providing overnight shelter for the homeless. Different faith groups provided shelter every day of the week from October to March. Locally East Barnet Baptist Church [EBBC] has provided the shelter on Saturday nights. In 2019 the EBBC Night Shelter ran for 12 weeks from late December. St Mary's does not have the facilities to provide a shelter but in 2019 16 members of our congregation along with members of other East Barnet churches volunteered to help with the EBBC shelter, covering three shifts: Saturday evening, Saturday overnight and Sunday breakfast. On a number of occasions St Mary's volunteers have also provided an evening meal for the 15 guests and the six volunteers on the evening shift. Other members of the congregation who are not able to volunteer have supported the Shelter financially. Before helping with the shelter there is a requirement to attend a training/briefing session.

Other churches in the area also provide shelters and are grateful for support so there are plenty of opportunities to help. Everyone who has helped has said it was both enjoyable and satisfying to be working in the wider Christian community in East Barnet.

Roger Melling

The Parish of St Mary the Virgin, East Barnet

This is taken from our database, Church Suite. Members of the congregation in the immediate area are shown by the dots.



EAST BARNET 
PARISH CHURCH
St Mary the Virgin

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A Christian presence in every community

**DIocese OF
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Living God's Love



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learning in
faith



st mary's, east barnet

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week

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Barnet
foodbank


 **The
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