

- Wardens: Mrs Coral Wingate, Mr Ken Thompson
- Deanery Synod Representative : Mrs Jennifer MacCallum

Elected members:

- Dr Jan Rogan. Vice Chairman to 31 January 2022
- Mrs Anne Matthews, Secretary
- Mr Richard Gough, Treasurer
- Mrs Barbara Rush, Safeguarding Officer
- Mrs Wendy Doncaster, Electoral Roll Officer
- Mr Keith Rush. Vice Chairman 1 February to 22 September 2022
- Mr Mark Wingate
- Mr John Pitts
- Mrs Linda Davis
- Mrs Mags Newton

Signed by Revd Ian Scott-Thompson on behalf of the PCC on 5 March 2023

*Ian Scott-Thompson*



## St Margaret's and St Catherine's



Annual Report  
2022

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reader and members elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral role of the church.

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

**Standing Committee:** This committee is required by law. It is made up of the Rector, churchwardens, Secretary and Treasurer. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC. The Rector is the Chairman.

**Leadership Team:** Meetings of this group were interrupted by Covid, but we hope to restart them in 2023. They are led by the Rector, and include the Reader, Churchwardens and a small number of other members. It meets on a regular basis to consider all aspects of church life.

**Fabric and Churchyard:** Mr Ken Thompson, churchwarden, is the lead maintainer of both the churchyard and fabric of the building. Many volunteers help with maintenance and cleaning on a regular basis. They cut the grass in the churchyard on a regular basis and assist on a one-off church yard maintenance morning and on other ad hoc occasions.

**Fund raising:** The establishment of the Friends of Aldham Church has already been referred to. However, the PCC and church members will continue to plan and organise other fund raising activities in the future.

**Other Rotas:** some 50-60 volunteers, amongst other things, welcome worshippers to church, read and lead the prayers in services, provide flower arrangements, serve coffee after church, clean the church, print and distribute the monthly newsletter, assist with logistics and cater for special occasions.

## Administrative information

St Margaret and St Catherine Church is situated at the cross roads of Tey Road, New Road and Green Lane, in the centre of the village. The correspondence address is The PCC Secretary, 18 Scott Drive, Colchester, CO3 4JD.

Sadly, we lost 2 important members of the ministry team who were also Vice Chairmen of the PCC, namely Dr Jan Rogan who died on 31 January 2022, and Mr Keith Rush who died on 22 September 2022.

Listed here are members of the PCC who have served at any time from 1st January 2022 until the date this report was approved:

Ex officio members:

- Incumbent: Revd Ian Scott-Thompson (Chairman)
- Reader and Deanery Synod Representative: Mr Iain MacCallum

<b>Mission &amp; Charity Giving - 2022</b>	
CYO	750
Tearfund	240
New Life Church, Nepal	600
Essex Clergy Charity	85
Friends of Essex Churches	60
Bible Society	140
CPAS	85
Colchester CAP	250
Colchester Foodbank	250
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 2,460</b>

### Budget 2023

With the addition of 4 churches from Hinckford deanery to our benefice, the parish share is due to reduce from £25,044 to £15,668. We should be able to pay this in full. However, there is much fabric work still to be attended to (see pages 10,11), and few realistic estimates are to hand. The increasing deficit in the Fabric Fund (see page 13) will be beyond the ability of FOAC to pay. We may therefore have to consider a major project, and apply for grants to get all these done.

### Structure, governance and management

Since October 2011 the Parish of St Margaret and St Catherine, Aldham, in the Benefice of Marks Tey and Aldham, has been in the Deanery of Colchester and in the Colchester Episcopal Area of the Diocese of Chelmsford.

The PCC is the body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity currently excepted from registration with the Charity Commission and exempt from tax under sections 505, 506 or 508 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988. It has no financially related trusts or charities. It met five times during the year.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. Our PCC consists of the incumbent who acts as Chairman, churchwardens, the

## 2022 Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of St Margaret's and St Catherine's Aldham

Incumbent: Revd Ian Scott-Thompson  
The Rectory, Church Lane, Marks Tey  
Colchester, CO6 1LW

Reader: Mr Iain MacCallum,  
9 Handford Place, Queens Road  
Colchester, CO3 3NY

Bank: CAF Bank Limited  
25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill  
West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner: Mr Colin Smith  
18 Reynards Copse, Highwoods  
Colchester, CO4 9UR

Website: **[www.aldham-church.co.uk](http://www.aldham-church.co.uk)**

## Aims and purposes

Aldham Parochial Parish Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Ian Scott-Thompson, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. As a church community, our aim is that we should all grow into a living relationship with Jesus Christ. We aim to do this through worship for people of all ages and stages in life, and through keeping the wider world's needs in our minds and in our giving.

The PCC is also specifically responsible for the church building and grounds.

## Dr Jan Rogan and Mr Keith Rush

When a small parish loses two of its PCC Vice Chairs in one year, the loss is more than significant. Both leaders were not only dedicated service leaders but very talented and effective preachers. Both Jan and Keith were taken from us when they would have expected to have many more years of service to give to the Lord. We remember their contribution to the life of the church with gratitude.

## Objectives and activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community.

Our Mission Statement reads:

“We exist to honour God and to enable people in our community discover Jesus”

The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our regular services and one-off special events can involve everybody within the parish. Before the Covid-19 pandemic, our monthly pattern of worship contained variety: one All-Age Worship, two Communion services and one or two Services of the Word. This year, the monthly pattern has been three Services of the Word and one Communion with Junior Church alternative on one Sunday. On fifth Sundays we join with Marks Tey for a combined service. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. We have also been particularly mindful of the guidance and encouragement provided by the previous Bishop of Chelmsford's Transforming Presence publication. We try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel, and developing knowledge

## Fabric Fund (Restricted)

We have allowed the Fabric Fund to move to a negative balance over recent years. This means the Fabric Fund is effectively borrowing money from the General Fund. As well as routine expenditure from this fund we spent £662 installing broadband into the church, £413 repairing the porch, £700 on other repairs and £720 on tree maintenance.

The fabric fund accounts show excess of payments over receipts of £3,416. Adding the deficit balance of £880 from 2021, and transferring the John Crane legacy (£1,468) out of the fabric fund into its own fund means that the fund carries forward a deficit balance of £5,764.25. This deficit is effectively “borrowed” from the General Fund, so the General Fund's closing balance is effectively only £4,035.16.

As the church is a grade II\* listed building, we are able to recover the VAT on much of the fabric repair work that has to be done.

Fabric Fund Year End Balances						
2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
£4,563	£1,666	£678	£693	(£613)	(£880)	(£5,764)

## Reserves Policy

We try to maintain a balance on non-restricted funds which equates to at least three months payments, which would be £7,295 in 2022. Our reserves at the end of 2022 are £15,973 after taking into account the Fabric Fund deficit.

## Missions and Charities

It continues to be our financial policy that we should seriously support the wider church. We do this in two ways. Members accept that 10% of their regular giving to Aldham Church will go as direct giving to external Christian causes. Also, we fundraise for specific causes and to respond to appeals.

## Giving in Kind

We continue to benefit from the generosity of many of our number who give their time, energy and material goods in order to keep the church operating with a minimum of actual expenditure. Whether inside the church, in the churchyard or elsewhere these efforts are appreciated and we thank all concerned who are on church rotas and who help out on an ad-hoc basis. At the request of those verging, bell ringing, sound engineering and playing the organ, the fees for providing the service are often retained.

churchyard. We also seek grants to cover major fabric repairs. We undertake fund-raising for fabric and churchyard.

In recent years “The Friend's of Aldham Church” (FOAC) has also contributed significantly to the Fabric Fund. FOAC's aims are to ensure that Aldham Church's building and churchyard shall be of increasing benefit to the wider community of Aldham and its neighbouring villages for present and future generations by aiding the PCC in improving, repairing, maintaining, renewing, restoring, preserving and developing Aldham Church, churchyard and associated buildings, and the fixtures and fittings in the Church, churchyard and associated buildings for the benefit of the public.

MISSIONS AND CHARITIES. We give 10% of the previous year's regular giving to external Christian missions and charities. In addition to this, fund-raising is undertaken by members for specific causes. The charities supported by this means are at the organisers' discretion, and the church is pleased to support such efforts for Christian organisations or organisations which have a Christian ethos.

## Accounting Policy

As our gross income is less than £250,000 we prepare our accounts on a receipts and payments basis. We choose to have an independent examiner (rather than a registered auditor) to examine the annual accounts.

## The Accounts for 2022

### General Fund

The General Fund (unrestricted) ended the year with a balance of £9,799.41, over £4000 up from the end of 2021. The total receipts into the general fund were around £600 up on 2021. Planned giving and collections have increased this year but income from the gift day and other one off donations decreased. Expenditure on oil, electricity and water significantly increased this year but overall expenditure from the General Fund was lower than 2021 because 2022 was the first time Aldham did not pay its Parish Share in full.

The parish share continues to be a challenge. In 2021 we only managed to pay the share in full because the Gift Day total was in excess of £4,000. In 2022 the Gift Day raised only £1,115 and we paid £20,700 to the share instead of £24,000, thus avoiding using the Tom Holme legacy fund.

and trust in Jesus.

- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this we maintain the fabric of the Church. Despite it being an old and traditional building it was configured in 2006 to make it as multi-use as possible with kitchen and toilet facilities. During 2015 a Friends of Aldham Church was formed to assist with fund raising for maintenance of the fabric.

## Broadband

The Covid pandemic has highlighted the value of being able to broadcast worship from the local church to the community and beyond using the internet. Advantages could be reaching those who *cannot* get to church services and streaming in teaching material; a disadvantage of streaming services would be that it tempts members who *could* get to church, to stay in bed, and thereby divide the church. We have decided not to stream our services. Nonetheless, the PCC decided to pursue a free installation offered by County Broadband. It has been useful for some mid-week meetings when we have had to be in church.

## Achievements and performance

Aldham is a small village (approximately 490 residents 18 years+; 220 dwellings). Despite being a few miles from the ever-expanding boundaries of Colchester and close to a mainline commuter station at Marks Tey its population is relatively static. It is estimated that almost three quarters of residents have lived in the village for more than 12 years. It is also an ‘ageing’ village with less than 10% being children under 15 but just under 50% being 58 years or over. Almost three quarters of households are either single or two persons. It has no school, no shop, no pub and it is geographically spread out. During 2014 the Village Hall was reopened for full use after a large renovation and rebuilding project. It is well used by both village and outside groups. The village has seven Almshouse units managed by a separate charity. Renovation of the Hines Almshouses was completed and they were ready for occupation in 2019.

This profile presents challenges to us as a church. In normal times we struggled to attract children to All Age Worship services. When we were locked out of the church, we dropped the All-Age Service, as we were down to a single child. When we got back in the Church building, she was catered for on a one-to-one basis. We are praying for more children and a regular Junior Church in the Tower Room.

As an experiment, we have introduced Messy Church. It started with just one child and parent, but boasted 9 children and their parents/carers at the third session. We aim to run a Messy Church session every 6 weeks, new helpers are always welcome, no experience needed. It consists of a one and a half hour sessions, in which children and carers hear a bible story, take part in activities based around a theme, do art work and have a drink

and a biscuit. The experiment seems to have worked, but we'd like to see more children.

We continue to rely on a very willing but ageing congregation to help maintain the building and grounds, run events and engage in our outreach activities. We are pleased to report that most of our activities are approaching pre-pandemic normal. For example, the candlelit carol service was back in church this year on a very icy evening, when over 90 people came to enjoy the readings, the carols, mulled wine and mince pies.

None of this could have been achieved without the many volunteers who give of their time and resources to ensure the church is ready for worship each Sunday, that our outreach activities could resume, and that our church remains the lively and vibrant community it is. We would like to thank all of the 50-60 people who regularly assist with all these activities.

## Covid-19

Infection rates from Covid have fallen, but it seems it is something we will have to live with., as we sing and sit where we want to. A few church members have had Covid, not much worse than a cold, but they soon recovered

## Average attendances

We feel that now all services are in the building, attendance is slightly down on what we would expect. However the service register tells us that the average Sunday attendance is 24.4 compared to 21.2 in 2021 but that it was 29.9 in 2019.

We are predominantly a village congregation. Based on the 2022 Electoral Roll (52), 45 are Aldham residents, 3 *were* Aldham residents who now live outside the parish but return to worship in Aldham, and 4 are not Aldham residents. Thus the majority of worshippers *walk* to church. This may be one reason why the pandemic has not hit us as hard as some other churches.

## Occasional Services

In 2022 there were 1 Baptism, 2 Weddings and 5 Funerals.

## A Benefice in Plurality

On 29 June Revd Ian Scott-Thompson was installed as priest-in-charge of the churches of Great Tey, Little Tey, Wakes Colne and Chappel, as well as remaining priest-in-charge of Aldham and Marks Tey. These 4 new churches generally meet as one for worship at 10.00 am, circulating round the 4 buildings.

## Pastoral care

Aldham is a small village with a strong sense of community. The Church has no official

## Other fabric work done in 2022

Date	Item	contractor	Cost to PCC
January	Sum Up Card Payment Machine		0.00 [1]
January	Annual Drains and Gutter clean	Lodge	226.80 [V]
March	Lightning Protection test	Bacon	131.10 [V]
March	Fire extinguisher inspection	TBS	25.00
March	Survey for Broadband	Architect	195.00
May	Churchyard Tree Work	Chris Wynn	720.00
June	Replace porch broken tiles	Lodge	412.80 [V]
June	Remount tower stair grabrail	Lodge	0.00 [2]
June	Broadband installed	County broadband	0.00
July	Roof Alarm subscription	E-Bound	194.10 [V]
August	Organ service	A. Stevens	150.00 [V]
August	Roof Alarm service & repair	E-Bound	757.80 [V]
August	Power installation broadband	Lissimore	466.80 [V]
November	Noticeboard Rebuild	Ensom Carpentry	0.00 [3]

### Notes

- [1]. Donation
- [2]. Donation (£393.60)
- [3]. Insurance claim £234.00, FOAC £500.00; Total cost £734.00
- [V]. VAT recovered - total for 2022 = £389.90

## Financial Review

### Treasurer's Post

Richard Gough continued in the role of treasurer during 2022 with assistance and support from Iain MacCallum.

### Financial Policy

GENERAL FUND. The cost of ministry and worship are generally met by the direct giving of the membership of the church. By church membership, we mean regular worshippers and the church Electoral Roll. We post all fees to the general fund, and we welcome donations and legacies (claiming Gift Aid where we can).

FABRIC AND CHURCHYARD. From time to time, we invite the village as a whole to contribute towards repairs or improvements to the fabric, and to maintenance of the

## Fabric and Churchyard

### Quinquennial (2016) Repairs

All the work specified in the 2016 Quinquennial report has been completed.

### Quinquennial (2021) Repairs

#### Summary of Architect's list of work to be done. Not all has been done so far

The church has been well maintained and is generally in very good order but there will, of course, always be a number of day to day items of maintenance in a building of this nature.

For the assistance of the PCC the items requiring attention have been listed in an approximate order of priority with an indication of cost which is for guidance only and will change as time goes by.

<u>Urgent works requiring immediate attention</u>	£
Replace broken tiles to roofs (done)	£50
Check no water ingress at roof hatch -	£--
Check valley gutter for any further squirrel damage at drips -	£--
<u>Work requiring attention within twelve months</u>	
Local timber treatment as required at hatch enclosure	£50
Treat Nave SW cornice (check also leaking pipe adjacent)	£250
Check for worm at other cornice, in particular at Chancel	£--
Local timber treatment at pulpit lowest step, adjacent Choirstall end, pew ends, floor and edge at pews, as needed	£150
Repair worm damage at rear Aisle platform edge	£350
Provide brass "hospital pattern" pipe clips for rope at Stair	£200
Remove ivy at boundary wall and monuments	£--
Paint gate hinges	£30

#### Work requiring attention within five years

De-rust and paint window ironwork	£900
Repaint rainwater goods, including inside gutters & hoppers	£3,500
Complete repointing to south boundary wall.	£200
Replace 2 or 3 missing flints at Chancel gable apex	£1,200
Carry out localised areas of pointing, re-bed displaced flints	£2,500
Fill badly open crevices at flintwork	£500

Pastoral Committee as such but Mags Newton, who is a Pastoral Assistant, visits extensively. She identifies any who need visiting or any particular help and she and a number of church members ensure that those in need are visited and followed up.

### Worship and prayer

Ideally, we would like to offer a range of services each month and over the course of a year. Before the pandemic, we had All-Age services on the first Sunday of the month with an enthusiastic music group and a number of leaders sharing the planning and activities. But 2021 started, with the church out of bounds and services held on Zoom up until 25 April. Regrettably, we had to discontinue All-Age worship, and the pattern is now three Services of the Word, and one Communion. For Communion we use individual glasses and wafers, so we can all consume at the same time. Almost everyone is comfortable taking the wine this way.

We were back in the church for Harvest Thanksgiving on 2 October, bringing gifts of non-perishables for the **Open Door** drop-in centre that was still functioning in the forecourt of the Baptist Church in Eld Lane.

The Carols by Candlelight service was also back in the church attracting over 90 adults and 7 children.

The annual Shoe Box project went ahead. Lindsay Gough made up or collected 57 shoeboxes for **Operation Christmas Child**. We supported **Beacon House** with the proceeds of the church Christmas Card. The Blue Box collection for the **Children's Society** raised £278.

John Pitts is now an authorised lay preacher who plays a full part in the leading of services and preaching.

Throughout the restrictions, the mid-week home group has carried on. We have watched several teaching DVDs from New Wine and the Keswick Convention including expositions of Paul's second letter to Timothy, and Luke chapters 1 and 2. We sit in the chancel, look at a laptop, and listen to the messages through the church PA system.

A second home group was restarted in 2022. It meets monthly to study various biblical topics as the Spirit moves them.

### The PCC

The PCC met 5 times during the year. Important issues, apart from the regular items, were:

- Unlocking the church during the daytime.
- Repair of the notice board, blown down by strong winds
- Proposal for power screen and projector (rejected).

Future heating of the church by electricity.

Starting Messy Church

Restarting Open Church on Tuesdays and monthly tea parties.

## Mission and Outreach

Helping those in need and bringing others to Christ is a demonstration of our faith.

The PCC has continued its policy of supporting Christian organisations or organisations which support the Christian ethic. We do this in two ways:

- 10% of our regular giving is donated to external Christian causes. A full list is given in the financial statements. They include the local Christian Youth Outreach (CYO) in Colchester reaching out to young people in local schools and international work, such as the New Life Church in Kathmandu. Together with St Andrews, Marks Tey we have supported the growth of this Christian church, often in very difficult circumstances, since 2003. We rejoiced with them in October when their fine new church building was formally opened by a government minister! The New Life Church and its church plants now considerably outsize Aldham and Marks Tey!
- Fund-raising and donation of food, etc. are undertaken for specific causes. During 2022 these included Open Door, Foodbank and Beacon House which specialises in assisting homeless people to get back into society. For many years we have supported the Samaritan's Purse shoebox scheme, sending gifts to deprived children at Christmas time.

Three important social initiatives have restarted as the Covid crisis has eased: the popular monthly Saturday morning Book Exchange, coffee and cake; open church each Tuesday morning for coffee, a chat and a time of fellowship; and the monthly sit-down Afternoon Tea.

Many who come to these events are not yet regular church members, but some have gone on to make Sunday church a regular event. We think of this as low-key outreach. The footfall, over all services and events in pre-pandemic 2019 was about 4,650, or 9 times the population of Aldham! It will take a few years to regain that footfall.

The church is well-represented on the Village Hall Management Committee. We are always looking for ways to co-operate with the Village Hall whether for social or fund-raising purposes.

The monthly newsletter resumed regular production. The paper issue is delivered free of charge to every house in the parish, carrying church and village news. Forty copies are e-mailed monthly to friends around the world.

Our website carries details of worship, mission, who's who, recent newsletters and links to other sites. We continue to write a church column in Grapevine, the quarterly village magazine.

## Friends of Aldham Church

The start of this new year is a good time to review the **Friends of Aldham Church** after two very lean years as the result of the pandemic. Luckily we do appear to be largely out of the really serious effects but nevertheless it did affect many people in lots of different ways. It definitely had a serious effect in 2020 and 2021 on our ability to raise funds for the maintenance of the church building.

However the situation has improved and our first major event of 2022 was the Aldham Open Gardens in July which we ran in conjunction with the Village Hall. Despite the exceptionally hot weather at the time we did have a good attendance over the two days and as a result we raised a total of over £1,700 which we hold for the church fabric fund.

The coffee morning held in September to raise funds for the Flower Festival made a very worthwhile £237 contribution towards the cost of the flowers. The actual Flower Festival in the church itself was another highlight of the year and contributed a further £1,700.

The final event of the year in early December was the concert given by the Kelvedon Singers in the church. Although it clashed with some important World Cup football we had a really good turnout and everyone enjoyed the evening. As a result, our funds were increased by about £750.

In total we managed to raise just over **£4,150 from the above events** over the year which, considering the prevailing conditions, was a pretty good result. So well done and thanks to everyone who contributed in whatever way. During the year we were able to make an urgent contribution of £500 to the church for the repair of the church noticeboard which had been seriously damaged by the storm earlier in the year.

We now start to plan for 2023 and have a number of possible events in mind including a history talk and music evening in the spring, a summer garden party in July, a possible village scarecrow competition, an autumn coffee morning and a quiz night in October. We hope that many people from the village and beyond will be able to attend many of these events as we do need to raise more funds. We are aware that there are upcoming repairs that will need to be carried out and an estimate of £9,200 has been made to cover these. There are also concerns with regard to heating the church as the current boiler is getting old. Our current balance stands at just over £7,500 so we do need to continue adding to this.

The current membership of FOAC is 57 and as ever we need more people to become Friends (an annual subscription of just £15 per person) or alternatively to support the proposed events which will be well publicised.

Finally my grateful thanks to all Friends for their continued support, everyone who attended any of our 2022 events and finally the committee members for all of their hard work throughout the year.

*Andy Brown. chair, FOAC*