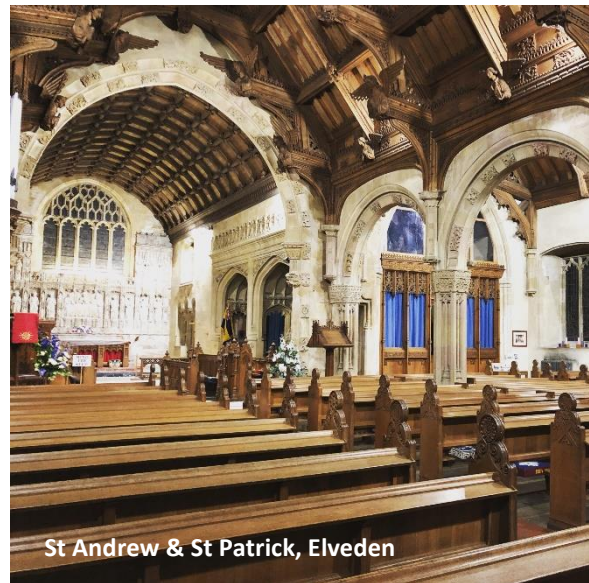


PARISH PROFILE

SANTON DOWNHAM WITH ELVEDEN AND LAKENHEATH

June 6, 2023



St Andrew & St Patrick, Elveden



St Mary the Virgin, Lakenheath

THE RECTOR

To move forward, we are looking for a kind, caring and listening priest who:

- Has the pastoral skills, enthusiasm, warmth and flexibility needed to maintain and nurture the pastoral needs of the whole Benefice.
- Is a leader who has training skills and will continue to encourage lay involvement and is committed to the outreach and the mission of the church whilst promoting a collaborative role in the various communities.
- Is willing to support all age groups - encourage the young and willing to experiment with services and activities for them, whilst fully respecting the needs and wishes of the individual congregations at large.
- Has a strong sense of tradition and care of our beautiful Grade 1 listed buildings, while helping us to look forward in our future ministry.
- Has time to visit and become part of the community – in particular, continuing the work with local schools and lead us in ministering to the sick and vulnerable.
- Can develop the Christian community in a forward looking way and to help try and build our congregations.
- Can help us engage in deepening our Christian knowledge and prayer life.



Each of our parishes is committed to continuing to work together as a benefice whilst maintaining our own individualities. We see this as a strength as it supports our different churches and the local communities in which we serve.

Our profile that follows can only introduce you to the parishes and some of the people who make up our church families. We do look forward to welcoming you so that you can see the potential benefits of ministering within our benefice for yourself.

OUR BENEFICE

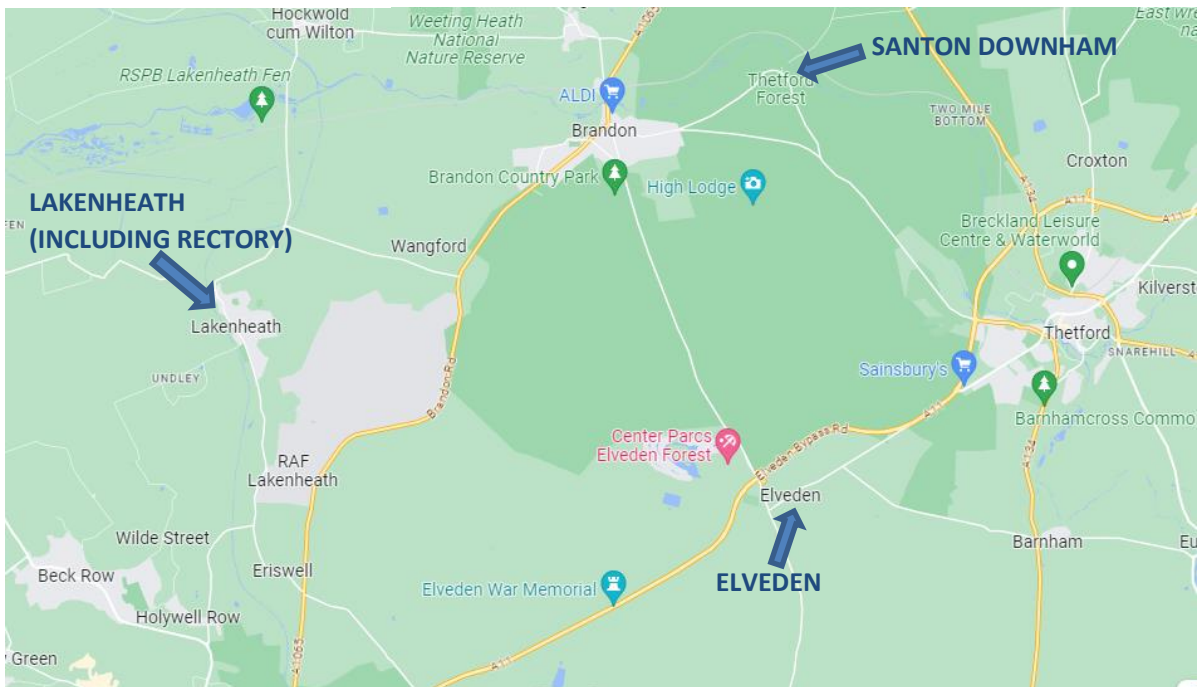
Our benefice has been worshipping and working together for around 6 years and is formed of the following three churches, cited in population order:

- St Mary the Virgin, Lakenheath
- St Mary the Virgin, Santon Downham
- St Andrew & St Patrick, Elveden



The Brecks

The Benefice is located in the northwest corner of Suffolk on the Suffolk/Norfolk border, which is principally an agricultural area with steadily increasing population in the surrounding areas, particularly Lakenheath. The villages within the benefice are surrounded by areas of outstanding natural beauty - the Lakenheath Fens Nature Reserve, the Brecklands and Thetford Forest.



Each parish is an independent unit with their own individualities; however, all parishes are mutually supportive. Our parish share is paid in full, as are expenses.

As a benefice, we have:

- Regular benefice service on the 5th Sunday, with benefice festival services also
- Church wardens of the benefice meet throughout the year
- Benefice choir meet weekly and support services throughout the year, including special occasions
- Tower bell team who ring across the benefice



Benefice Choir



Community Garden at Lakenheath Church

- Messy church held at Lakenheath, but open to all within the benefice*
- Church of England School in Elveden village (Outstanding OFSTED rated), with pupils from around the benefice and supporting areas*
- Fundraising events across the year which are supported by all churches within the benefice

**additional information on these can be found in the individual profile for each parish below*

Our Support

All parishes are dedicated to support and help our new incumbent in both their work as well as finding time for themselves and their family. We wish to promote a healthy work life balance for the incumbent, and the parishes will respect the working hours of the Rector. We have experience of a house-for-duty Rector which will help us provide the Rector with the necessary support as we understand the demands of a multi-parish benefice.

The following ministry team provide active support for services and other activities within the parishes:

Elders	Pauline Lovelock Susie Taylor
Reader	Joe Rudniski
Church Wardens	<u>Lakenheath</u> Kevin Wickham Derek Bennett <u>Santon Downham</u> Debbie Cock Jill Enefer <u>Elveden</u> Janice Flack Wendy Francis
Priest (retired)	Nigel Ransom



Each parish has a PCC who will provide support to the incumbent. They each meet regularly throughout the year. There are also deanery synod representatives within the benefice PCC's.

Safeguarding

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy, and in line with our Safeguarding Policy and Safer Recruitment Policy, our benefice is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults. These policies are prominently displayed in each of our churches, and we are ably supported by our Safeguarding Officer, Mrs. Patricia Banks. PCC members also undertake online training to support this.



Our Worship

The table below shows our typical service pattern across the benefice. More information on the type of worship within each parish can be found in the individual parish sections later in this profile.

	Santon Downham	Elveden	Lakenheath
1st Sunday	9:30 Communion		11:00 Communion
2nd Sunday	9:30 Morning Worship	9:30 Communion	11:00 Communion
3rd Sunday	9:30 Communion		11:00 Communion
4th Sunday	9:30 Morning Worship		11:00 Communion
5th Sunday*	Benefice Service with alternating location		
Every Thursday			9:45 Communion

**where applicable*



THE RECTORY



A spacious, three storey, six bedroom detached property situated in the village of Lakenheath.

The property has two reception rooms, with a kitchen, utility room and WC on the ground floor. The first floor has a master bedroom with an en-suite, and three further bedrooms with a family bathroom. The top floor of the property contains the remaining two bedrooms, along with a shower room and WC.

The exterior of the property has a shared driveway entrance, which leads to a parking area in front of the property with room for two cars, a detached double garage and further shingle parking space. To the rear of the property, there is a paved seating area, with the remainder laid to lawn and edged by mature borders.

From Lakenheath:

15 miles to Ely

16 miles to Bury St Edmunds

28 miles to Cambridge

47 miles to Norwich



Local amenities:

- Small shops in village including a Co-op local, with larger supermarkets available in nearby Mildenhall, Brandon and Thetford.
- Primary school available within the village and upper schools in nearby Mildenhall and Brandon.
- Playing field in the village home to sports teams with a newly built pavilion. Leisure centres available in Mildenhall and Brandon.
- Well used village hall and community centre within the village.
- Two pubs in the village as well as various food outlets including restaurants and takeaways, with more available in surrounding areas.
- Lots of clubs and classes including flower arranging, photography, yoga, board games and over 60's.
- Train station 1.5 miles from village and bus service.

LAKENHEATH – St Mary the Virgin



Location

Lakenheath is a large ever-growing village which is predominantly agricultural, with the fens to the west and breckland to the east. The population of the village was listed as 4691 in the 2011 census. There is currently a new housing development being built on the north end of the village and another proposed at the south end. Around 400 new houses are being built and a new primary school for the village. There are also numerous American service personnel and their families from the bases at RAF Lakenheath and RAF Mildenhall living in the village. Many retired people have also settled here.

Housing is mixed, approximately 68% privately owned, 9% council housing. Some of the private houses are rental properties, rented mainly to American service personnel. Many of the villagers work around the surrounding area commuting to local towns such as Thetford, Bury St Edmunds, Mildenhall, Newmarket, Cambridge and beyond.

The Church

The church of St Mary the Virgin is one of the finest medieval churches to exist in East Anglia. The earliest reference to the building comes in 970 A.D., in a charter of King Edgar, where the church is gifted to the new foundation of Ely Cathedral. Indeed, this association with Ely and the Liberty of St Audrey, confirmed in many subsequent royal charters, continues to the present day and has been a defining feature of the parish history.



In the second half of the 19th century a remarkable discovery was made inside the church. Scrapping away layers of dirt and lime-wash the Victorian workmen uncovered the remains of a startling series of medieval wall paintings. As each wall was examined more and more medieval images came to light. Angels, saints and sinners began to emerge from beneath the layers of limewash that had hidden them from view for hundreds of years. By the time the workmen had finished it was realised that the church contained not just one medieval paint scheme – but many. At least five different schemes were found, covering a period of over 400 years.

These paintings are of significant interest and attract visitors from all over the world. They were stabilized just over ten years ago.



Our Worship

The church has a very strong congregation of regular worshipers enjoying both modern and traditional worship in a rather more catholic style and with the use of vestments. On the first Sunday of the month, we have family worship with Holy Communion at 11.00am with music from the live worship band. On the other Sundays we have Holy Communion at 11.00am. Average attendance is 30. If there is a fifth Sunday, we sometimes have a benefice service which rotates around the churches. There is also a weekday communion service on Thursdays at 9.45am. Average attendance is 10. The church is open every day for the village community, visitors, private worship and quiet reflection.

We have a small but active Sunday school which operates on each Sunday apart from the first Sunday which is the family communion service where the children remain in the service.

Several of our congregation members help to run messy church combining with the Methodist and Assembly of God. This is held in the Methodist church hall. We try to have about five a year. They consist of crafts with a short talk afterwards followed by tea. On Easter Saturday we organise an Easter Egg Hunt which happens in the churchyard or in the church if the weather is wet.

There is a full team of bellringers who regularly ring for Sunday services. We are currently trying to resurrect some of the social and fundraising events we held before the pandemic. We have recently had a coffee morning, harvest supper and a Christmas bazaar.

We also have strong links with the Methodist and Assembly of God churches in the village.



Pastoral

We have two churchwardens who will work with the incumbent to further the ministry of the church,

The PCC has six elected members, two Deanery Synod representatives and one on the Deanery, Mission and pastoral committee.

Our quota is always paid in full.

Electoral Roll

We have 41 names on the electoral roll of which 3 are non-resident.

Going Forward

We look forward to leadership from a priest who can build upon the sound foundations which are in place and will continue to take us forward and out into the community.



SANTON DOWNHAM – St Mary the Virgin



Community

In the 1920s the village, which was previously a private estate, was taken over by the Forestry Commission and became the East of England headquarters and base for forestry workers. It is currently comprised of approximately 80 houses.

The village has a long history going back to Neolithic times (Grimes Graves) and is mentioned in the Domesday Book. During the Medieval period the land was owned by Ixworth Priory until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539. The area then became a country estate managed by a number of 'Squires' until the Forestry Commission took over in the first part of the

20th century. Downham Hall was demolished in 1925, although a few ancillary buildings from the period do remain. In the 1970s most of the houses were sold to residents and plots made available for new homes to be built. There is a village hall and village club/bar (open Friday through Sunday and Bank Holidays) well used by the church & community.

Worship

- At Christmas each church takes one of the major services (traditionally Santon Downham has hosted the Christmas Morning service).
- All services use the liturgy of Common Worship and Orders of Service are produced centrally.
- Hymns are downloaded to the church laptop and played through the sound system with the congregation joining in.
- The church is opening daily from 8am to 5pm for visitors and those looking for a quiet spot to pray.



- There is lay participation in services with readings and intercessions being led by members of the congregation. On the 4th Sunday coffee, tea and cakes are served following the service.
- There is a reliable core of 7 to 10 members who attend each week with visitors and not so regulars at Festivals. The majority of our congregation are elderly and prefer a more traditional Order of Service.

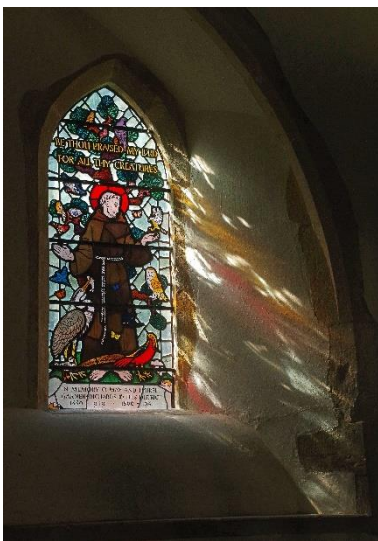
Electoral Roll

There are currently 16 names on the Santon Downham Electoral Roll- 4 are residents in the village, the remainder live in the surrounding area.

Buildings

St Mary the Virgin, Santon Downham, is a small Grade 1 listed two cell Norman Church with many Medieval survivals. The tower was added in the 15th century with more additions from the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries.

The building is in good order with regular maintenance having been made over the years. In 2021/22 concrete was removed from the flint walls and replaced with lime mortar - to help the walls breathe. 2022 also saw a sound system and hearing loop installed in the church and the heating and lighting has been upgraded. At time of writing, we are planning on opening an extension to the churchyard on land adjacent and owned by the church and the installation of a composting toilet with storage on that land.



Regular working parties help to maintain the building and the PCC pay a local to keep the grass mown and tidy.

Finance

Due to some sensible financial management, the church has a reasonable investment portfolio with CCLA and this has enabled us to carry out the works on the fabric of the church.

Three quarters of the congregation use the Parish Giving Scheme for their stewardship and a contactless module allows visitors to donate electronically towards the running of the church. The church is proud to be able to pay its annual Quota in full.

Going Forward

Since the Covid lockdown we have moved forward with a number of projects, with a view to preparing the church for a new era - we hope now to hold events: music recitals, talks and exhibitions as well as restarting church events such as the harvest supper (enjoyed by the whole village), flower festivals, teas etc. We appreciate the need to make use of the building outside the normal services and to be able to welcome the whole community to join us.

Our position in the Forest means we receive a good number of visitors - walkers, birdwatchers etc. and the comments in our visitors book often mention the beauty and tranquility of the church - a perfect place for quiet prayer and reflection.

There are opportunities to build a relationship with the wider village at events held at the Village Hall and reach out to those residents who do not currently attend.

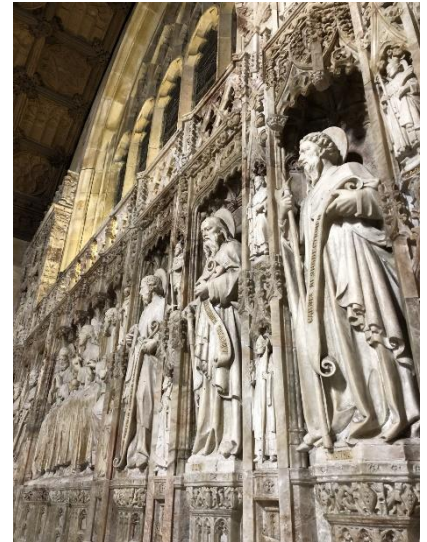


ELVEDEN – St Andrew & St Patrick

Location & Community

Elveden village is a rural village encompassed in Elveden Estate, privately owned by the Earl of Iveagh. Many of the properties are tied accommodation, rented or service related housing with many villagers employed by Elveden Farms or Center Parcs Holiday Village. Including children, the population is 248.

Within the community, we have the Primary School, village hall, playing fields and the estate farm shop and pub. Groups within our community include the Cricket Club, Village Hall Committee and Parish Council. Center Parcs is also located within our community, but this is self-contained and privately owned.

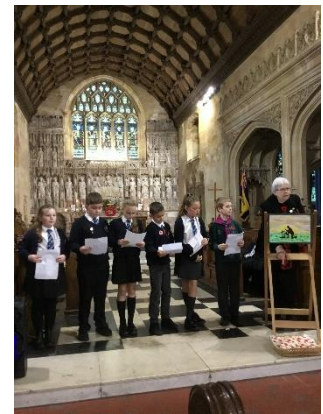


Elveden Church of England Primary Academy

The village is served by the Elveden Church of England Primary Academy, which has nearly 100 pupils ages 4-11 years. The school has held 'Outstanding' for both OFSTED and the SIAMS inspection. Be prepared to take an assembly weekly and become a part of the governing body. The school children visit the church a few times throughout the year. One of the churchwardens also attends the school for some special assemblies and other services, particularly festivals.

The Church

The Church of St Andrew & St Patrick combines the older St Andrew's Church with St Patrick's Church built in 1906. St Andrew's was restored at that time and has sections dating back to 1100 AD mentioned in the Domesday book. Situated within Elveden Park, the church has cloisters and memorial bell tower and overlooks the parkland. The church and its surroundings are beautiful, with a number of visitors coming from afar to be able to have a look around.



Grave of Duleep Singh as shared in EDP

The churchyard also contains the grave of the Maharajah Duleep Singh, his wife, and their youngest son, with a plaque commemorating his centenary. The church receives many Sikh visitors, a number of whom make the pilgrimage to visit annually. The churchyard contains a commonwealth war grave, with a sign to indicate this. During the Second World War, Americans were stationed in the park, and there is a commemorative window dedicated to this. There are still strong USAF links within the area.

Our Worship

Our church worship is central and traditional. Although our congregation is small in size, regular worship is still important. We have regular attendees who come each month with a larger congregation at festivals throughout the year. The school also sometimes support some services, and occasionally have their own services at the church. Service sheets are printed along with the hymns, which are downloaded onto a laptop.

For the last few years, we have held a Christmas Tree Festival which has raised vital funds for the church, as well as attracting a number of visitors to the church, many of whom have not been before. The church is opened Friday, Saturdays and Sundays for visitors who wish to have a look around or have some quiet time for reflection and prayer.

We have also started a presence on social media to try and modernize our approach and advertise services etc.



The church is an important habitat for a few species of bats who take residence in our church. There is a nursery located within the church above the font, and they do make a guest appearance at times during some services! Bat surveys have also been held.

As well as the benefice bell ringing team ringing the church bells for weddings and benefice services, they are also rung regularly throughout the year. We also have guest bell ringing teams visit the church in order to ring our wonderful eight bells.

Leadership

The PCC members are good, faithful church members. The Churchwardens and Treasurer carry out the verger's duties, aided by a small but willing team. Cleaning is carried out by this same team. The Parish have paid their Quota in full for many years. Invaluable support is given by Elveden Estate with regards to emergency repairs and upkeep of the churchyard. Lord Iveagh is a benevolent and supportive patron. Although small, the parish represents a good cross-section of the community.

Going Forward

We would like to increase our congregation size, as well as try and increase our number of services over time. We also would like support in improving our facilities at the church to include a toilet and kitchen, which would enable us to use the church for a wider variety of events in the future.

We would like to look at having some concerts, musical recitals, talks and festivals (such as flower festivals and continuing our Christmas tree festival). We would hope this would increase the number of people who attend our church and make use of our wonderful building, as well as continue to raise vital funds required for the upkeep of our church.



Appendix I

Table 1 - St Mary the Virgin, Lakenheath - General Fund Receipts and Payments Account Year Ended 31 December 2022

RECEIPTS	2022	2021
Incoming resources from donors		
Planned giving	£13,884	£15,193
Collections and other giving	£5,479	£4,809
Income tax recovered	£1,255	£2,292
Other voluntary incoming resources		
Legacies		
Donations	£935	£235
Grants	£12,400	
Income from generating activities to further the work of the church		
Fees	£2,716	£2,558
Income from operating activities to generate funds		
Magazine advertisement fees		£96
Rent from lettings	£90	£130
Summer fete/Christmas bazaar/rummage sales	£2,040	£1,151
Income from investments		
Bank Interest	£172	£7
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£38,971	£27,831
PAYMENTS		
Grants to further the work of the church		
Church overseas		
Relief and development agencies		
Home mission		
Secular charities	£955	£894
Activities directly relating to the work of the church		
Diocesan/deanery parish share	£13,000	£12,900
Church expenses	£3,736	£4,754
Clergy expenses	£1,009	£1,309
Cost of Services	£2,246	£3,638
Building maintenance	£17,811	£612
Church management and administration		
Administration		£223
Printing/stationary/post/fees, etc	£357	£216
Parish administrator		
Cost of generating funds		
Fetes, bazaars, other events		
Cost of stewardship campaign	£576	£544
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£39,690	£24,490

Table 2 - St Mary the Virgin, Santon Downham - General Fund Receipts and Payments Account Year Ended 31 December 2022

RECEIPTS	2022	2021
Incoming resources from donors		
Planned Giving (inc FWO & Collections)	£3,219	£3,192
Collections and other giving	£1,758	£1,883
Goodbox	£102	£70
Income tax recovered (inc Giftaid)	£557	£1,126
Other voluntary income resources		
Legacies Dividend Income (Restricted)	£5,906	£5,715
Legacies Dividend Income (UnRestricted)	£685	£663
Donations	£0	£0
Income from activities to further to work of the church		
Sale of magazines	£0	£0
Contributions for community use of building	£0	£0
Fees (Weddings & Funerals)	£1,444	£2,688
Income from activities to generate funds		
Misc income	£42,299	£748
Sales	£0	£0
Income from Investments		
Interest CCLA Deposit Account	£7	£1
TOTAL RECEIVED	£55,977	£16,087
PAYMENTS		
Grants to further the work of the church		
Church overseas		£0
Relief and development agencies	£160	£80
Secular charities		£0
Activities directly relating to the work of the church		
Diocesan Quota share	£5,800	£5,700
Utilities (Elec/Water)	£465	£893
Clergy expenses	£660	£660
Communion items	£69	£133
Verger/Organist Fees	£360	£340
Building maintenance	£8,058	£8,236
Misc	£1,908	
Bank	£10,518	
Church Insurance	£797	£1,298
Church Management and Administration		
Gifts for volunteers (keyholder, Mole catcher etc)	£32	
Printing/stationery/post etc	£538	£102
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£29,364	£17,442

Table 3 – St Andrew & St Patrick, Elveden - General Fund Receipts and Payments Account Year Ended 31 December 2022

RECEIPTS	2022	2021
Incoming resources from donors		
Planned Giving (inc Gift Aid)	£308	£116
Collections and other giving	£414	£237
Voluntary Receipts (inc Goodbox)	£7,816	£6,070
Gift Aid recovered	£181	£55
Grants	£1,184	£0
Other Receipts		
COIF Charities Interest Sundries (Restricted)	£34	£33
Float tin increase in balance	£69	£0
Income from activities to further to work of the church		
Fees (Weddings & Funerals)	£2416	£2976
Income from activities to generate funds		
Investment Income (CCLA Fund)	£438	£17
Easy Fundraising	£65	£64
Sale of Guidebooks, Postcards, Fridge Magnets, Keyrings, Greeting Cards	£233	£185
Sponsored Fundraising / Christmas Tree Festival	£903	£450
TOTAL RECEIVED (inc Restricted Funds)	£14,061	£10,801
PAYMENTS		
Church Activities		
Parish Share	£1,400	£1,250
Clergy & Benefice Costs	£240	£240
Church Running Expenses		
Insurance	£4,279	£6,200
To Float Tin	£600	£900
Organ Tuning	£108	£216
Utility Bills	£5	£100
Capital Expenditure - Repairs	£7,771	£698
New Building Work	£0	£250
All Other Payments		
Fund Raising Expenses	£30	£0
Sundries	£234	£25
PCC Fees - refund	£0	£74
Float Tin decrease in balance	£0	£86
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£14,667	£10,039