



ANNUAL REVIEW AND ACCOUNTS 2005

Supporting Churches in Essex & East London

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The Lord Petre
The Bishop of Chelmsford,
The Right Revd. John Gladwin
The Bishop of Brentwood,
The Right Revd. Thomas McMahon

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Vice-Presidents: Col Sir John
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Col. H.E. Hunter Jones
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Vice-Chairman: Julia Abel Smith
Hon. Treasurer: Ian Dudley
Hon. Secretary: Mary Blaxall
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Ray Clements, Keith Gardner,
Ann Hilder, Revd. John Morley,
Simon Mynott, Marisa Petre,
Marion Scantlebury, Sir Alastair Stewart,
Sarah White

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This is my second Annual Report.

Can I begin by saying what a joy this job is. The Council and the Committees are peopled by enthusiasts; everyone more than pulls their weight and my job is very simple.

I have tried to attend all our meetings but I did miss one. Julia Abel Smith, our vice chairman, took the chair and showed we can look forward with confidence to the future. We have had another very successful year and allocated grants for more than £200,000 including grants from money we received from WREN. We do in fact have money left over, which will be added to the current year's allocation.

Julia Abel Smith has been organising the Bicycle Ride & Walk since 2001, but 2005 was her final year. Since she took over, we have seen the sum raised from a total of £78,000 in 2000 to £123,000 in 2004. Julia has done a wonderful job and we are very grateful to her. The fact that 2005 did not reach the dizzy heights of 2004 was due entirely to the terrible weather on the day. We can only hope the rain keeps off this year. Inflation in building costs goes on far ahead of the figures for inflation that appear in the press, so it is vital we continue to increase our income if we are to maintain the value of our help. We have been hugely helped this year by a very generous legacy. I cannot overstate how important legacies are to us and hope you will not forget.

May I place on record my particular thanks to four people - Mary Blaxall, John Bloomfield, Marion Scantlebury and Keith Gardner, the four honorary secretaries. The Friends could not function without their work and we would be in serious trouble. Our costs would rise and our performance decline. We are very grateful to them all. I see a lot of charity figures and administrative costs I have seen this year varied from 10% to over 50% of income. The Friends figures is under 3%. That is the measure of the value of all those who give their time and help for love of our wonderful church buildings.

I am sorry to have to end on a sad note, but one of our former Presidents, and current vice President, Hugh Hunter-Jones, died on 13th February aged 90 years. He had been living at Aldeburgh for the past few years, and Mary Blaxall, Geoffrey Morgan and I attended his Memorial Service there on 24th February.

LANCE LEPPER

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

21st April Langham Hall - a talk by Reverend Robin Griffiths-Jones of Temple Church, London on "The Da Vinci Code".
6.30 for 7.00pm. Tickets £20

3rd May Study Day - Harwich area

10th May Annual General Meeting at St. John's Stratford 3.00pm

19th June Wine Tasting - Great Lodge, Great Bardfield
6.30pm. Tickets £20

9th September Ride & Stride

30th September Study Day - Southend area by Coach

11th October Autumn Fair - Reid Rooms, Margaret Roding 10am to 2pm
Lots of new stalls

Chairman Events Committee
Sarah White Tel: 01245 354745

Study Days
Marion Scantlebury
Tel: 01279 731228

General Enquiries
Mary Blaxall
Tel: 01245 354745

Friends of Essex Churches and WREN - a joint approach



A total of £337,000 in funding has been given to the Friends of Essex Churches from the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme (LTCS), monies of Waste Recycling Group Ltd (WRG), distributed by WREN. Since 2001, when WRG took over the running of the Aveley and Ongar landfill sites, a total of 51 projects have benefited from WREN's financial input with an average of £6600 spent on each project.

The Scheme allows the landfill operator, WRG, to divert 6% of the landfill tax collected at each site to an 'Environmental Body', WREN. This money is then distributed as grants to community, heritage and conservation projects in the vicinity of the landfill site. Religious and heritage buildings are included under Category E and from very early on in the Scheme WREN, and many Churches Trusts and Friends groups, adopted a joint approach to distribute grants to churches in the operational areas. WREN relies on the expert knowledge and technical capabilities of the Friends of Essex Churches to determine which churches need priority funding.

The Friends support Christian churches in the WREN areas with grants towards essential works - mainly fabric repair. Roof repair works are a common project application and examples of the churches supported in the Aveley and Ongar areas include St George's in Brentwood which received £20,000 towards urgently needed roof repairs and St Michael's, Aveley, which received £10,000 towards the renovation of the roof.

Whether of modern or ancient construction, the grants can make a big difference to the project finances. One of the oldest churches to have been supported is actually *the* oldest wooden church in Britain, St Andrews in Greensted, which received funding of £5,000 towards repairs to the spire. Its location near to the WRG site at Ongar ensured WREN and the Friends could provide a significant grant.

The good relationship that WREN has developed with the Friends of Essex Churches began in 2001 when our main contact was Colonel Geoffrey Morgan. Since then, Ann Hilder has attended all our meetings as the Friends representative and provides informed and knowledgeable assessments on all our projects, not just churches. Ann keeps us up to date on the grants that have been awarded by the Friends using WREN/LTCS monies and is a great ambassador for the Friends.

For more information about WREN and LTCS funding, please visit the WREN website:
www.wren.org.uk

SUE SHEPPARD, WREN Project Manager



Chairman of the Essex Advisory Panel, Andrew Gough, presenting a cheque for £52,000 to Anne Hilder, Friends of Essex Churches representative on the Essex Advisory Panel together with members from the Kent and Essex Panel and WREN staff.

The Hatchments of St. Mary's Chigwell

The hatchment or funeral escutcheon is a painting of the arms of the deceased on a canvas or wooden lozenge-shaped panel enclosed in a black frame. It was developed from the medieval practice of displaying arms at funerals and possibly derived from the need to identify the dead at war by the heraldic arms on their bodies. The name "hatchment" is thought to have derived from the word "achievement", meaning shield with armorial bearings.

In the seventeenth century it is recorded that people hung hatchments outside a house on death and, after the period of mourning had elapsed, it was transferred to the Parish Church.

The earliest recorded hatchment in Britain was in 1629 and the oldest one in Chigwell is of Edmund Denny (1656). Also the 17 hung in the roof of the south aisle with the Royal arms of George 2nd (1739) are the largest collection in a single church in the county, closely followed by Orsett Parish Church which has 14, so you will see that they are unique.

The Background: All black for a bachelor, spinster, widower or widow. When the dexter (left hand as you face it) half of the background is black and the sinister (right side) is white, a married man has died and his wife survives him. Where the sinister half is black and the dexter white, the wife has died and her husband survives.

Arms of a man: Undivided if he is a bachelor, divided by a vertical line down the centre if he is married and his wife is not an heiress. In such a case his arms are on the dexter side of the vertical line, his wife's (those of her father) on the sinister side. If a man marries an heiress or co-heiress, his own arms appear in the centre of which is superimposed a small shield bearing the arms of his wife (shield of pretence) because he pretends to represent the family of his wife, where there being no male member left to do so.

Arms of a woman: Arms of a spinster are emblazoned on an undivided lozenge - sometimes with fancifully curved outline - not a shield; those of a widow, also a lozenge, will be the same as her husband's. The arms of a spinster sometimes have a knot of ribbon at the top, where a man would have a helmet, above his shield; a knot is also found instead of a helmet, above the main shield, in hatchments where the wife has died and her arms appear on a shield of pretence.

A church has stood in the village of Chigwell since 1160. In 2000 the church launched a millennium project of repairing the 15c roof, repair, clean the "Ralph Downs" organ, install a new lighting system including floodlighting and re-decoration which eventually came to £176,000. (Grants were received from "Friends of Essex Churches" and Essex Environment Trust).

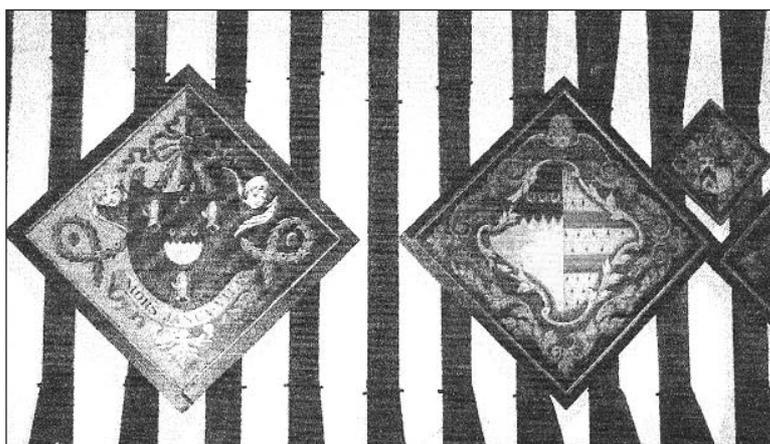
Naturally the hatchments had to be removed from the roof and this was started on a very cold, snowy January day in 2003 and the first time since 1950. We were very fortunate the "Council of the Care of Churches" paid for the initial report from their recommended conservationist Sally Wood, MA, Dip. Paintings Conservation, AMUKIC, who just "Eats and sleeps" paintings, not only restoring them but delving into the history and make up of each painting including the paint used. We understand she is writing a book in which the hatchments will be featured.

The final restoration cost was £29,900, which we are eternally grateful to the "Heritage Lottery Fund" for paying in full, especially as we still have an interest free loan of £20,000 to pay back on the original project.,

The repair and refurbishment of the hatchments required great skill and specialised knowledge and a variety of techniques. The hatchments had to be re-hung and the lighting installed by the 22nd October 2005 as the one of Lady Louisa Harvey (1758-1841), whose husband was Sir Eliab Harvey famous for commanding the fighting of "Temeraire" at the battle of Trafalgar, was essential for a special exhibition held in the church. The final result with the hatchments lit in the King Charles roof now makes them an outstanding feature.

A full report, with pictures, is on display with details of each hatchment, on the window ledge on the south wall. Full details of the hatchments are also printed in the history of the church price £2 (towards the millennium fund). Other services permitting, the church is usually open on Tuesday afternoons from 1.00 until 3.00pm and Thursday mornings from 10.30 - 12.30pm. We hope you will come and see them.

TREVOR L. JONES





The Bicycle Ride & Walk, 2005

This year we have raised £104,000. This amount, although a drop from last year, is a considerable achievement in view of the appalling weather on Saturday, 10th September, 2005. I have rarely seen rain like it but was fortunate to shelter at High Easter St. Mary, where I had my lunch and was made most welcome by the local organiser. With my husband, I cycled all round the Rodings and found every church open with Abbess Roding St. Edmund holding a very successful fête. I particularly enjoyed visiting St. Botolph Beauchamp Roding, situated down a lane in the middle of a field where Mrs Pigrem, the rector's wife, was stewarding all day. It was heartening to hear from her that they keep the church open daily. When the then Chairman of Friends of Essex Churches, Geoffrey Morgan,

asked me to organise the Bike Ride & Walk, I promised him that I would do it for five years. This period has now come to an end. I have greatly appreciated getting to know Essex churches and how the various denominations work within the county. I have been helped hugely by the Bike Ride Treasurer, Ray Clements and his wife, Beryl, who copes with an endless succession of rather grubby sponsor forms and reclaims large amounts of gift aid. To them both I owe great gratitude. I would also like to thank all the local and area organisers throughout Essex and East London and I make special mention of Sydney Smith at Great Dunmow, who has supported this event as Area Organiser since its inception. The winners of the 2005 Bike Ride & Walk were Brentwood, St. Thomas.

They raised the staggering sum of just under £4,000 for which we are enormously grateful. Their local organiser, Roland Platts, has sent me the following report which I enjoyed so much that I thought it should be published. For a picture of Roland in 2003 visit our website www.foec.org.uk. Finally, I am pleased to tell you that my successor will be John Hoskins, who lives at Braintree and used to work for BT in computers. Please note too that at the National Bicycle Ride & Walk meeting held in London, it was agreed that in future the event will be known as RIDE & STRIDE to cover all the ways people use to visit churches on the day.

JULIA ABEL SMITH
County Organiser, 2001-2005



The Salvation Army on wheels!

Introducing the new
Ride & Stride
Organiser:

JOHN HOSKINS

Tel: 01376 552350

email:
johnhoskins85@msn.com

You will be hearing from him
and he will be pleased to
hear from you.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LAST 25 YEARS

Since coming to the Brentwood area 26 years ago I have done the Friends of Essex Churches Sponsored Bike Ride & Walk for 25 years. It has always been an event that I have enjoyed; meeting like-minded people, and having chats with the stewards. One always learns more about the fascinating history of the churches which are all such beautiful buildings, with a deep sense of the years of worship and spirituality that surround them.

Some years I have done the ride with no great plans; some years taking young children with me has meant less ambitious plans. Other years have been great challenges, but it is always fun to do something different. One year, possibly the first year Louise and I were married, we tried a tandem, but had to give up as we could not cope with the balance and had to go back and get our individual bicycles! I cannot remember any year when the weather has been so adverse that it made cycling difficult. The maximum number of churches that I have achieved in a ride is about 80 using a route of 70 miles incorporating Brentwood, Ingatestone and Chelmsford, which are all well-endowed with churches, some a little more obscure than others, like the Petre mausoleum in Thorndon. Sadly some are no longer places of worship, such as St. Raphael on the Warley Hospital site.

Another Bike Ride Day, I went on a pilgrimage to St. Peter-on-the-Wall at Bradwell and back. This was one of the few years when I do remember some serious rain hampering things for a while; going down a hill in the Dengie Peninsular at speed, I felt my back wheel starting to slide from under me but somehow I managed to stay on! Getting back to Great Burstead the front changer on my bike (I hardly ever use this lowest gear) did not work for a very tired cyclist. I had to stop and admit defeat for a while. I watched an elderly lady walk up the hill and when she reached the top it inspired me with new strength to attack this steep hill and continue.

In 2003, I decided to break with tradition completely with a row down the Chelmer and Blackwater Canal, starting at Chelmsford. Whilst I unloaded the dinghy from the top of the car, Louise went to Chelmsford Cathedral. The dinghy was lifted round the locks, carried like a coracle. Whilst not visiting a huge number of churches, we found more than we expected to visit. Of course Ulting is right on the canal, but Louise left me just below Ulting and rejoined me at Maldon after visiting quite a few churches. At Maldon the weed defeated us and we never made it to Sainsbury's, recovering the dinghy in the Tesco car park alongside the canal: one of the few places you can go shopping by boat!

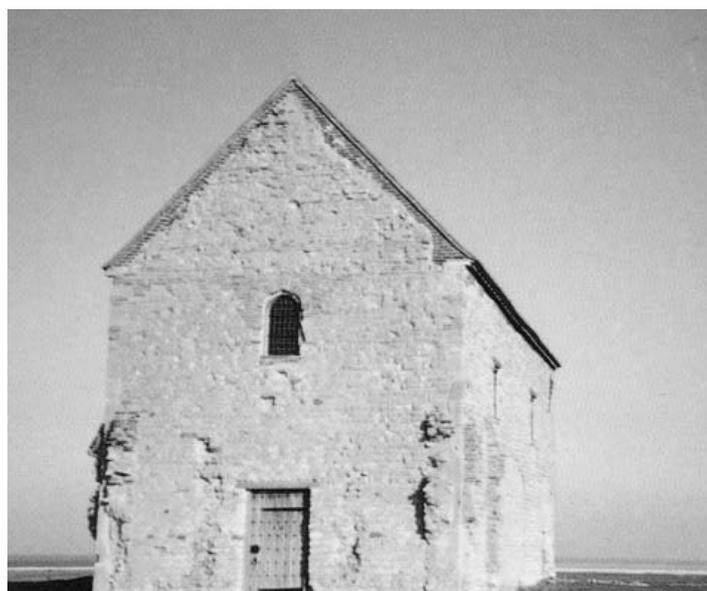
In 2004, Song Cycle was starting from Coggeshall where Phillip Banks, one of our former curates, is rector. (Song Cycle is a group from the choir at St Thomas, Brentwood who sing a motet at every church they visit on Bike Ride Day). This seemed like a good starting point for a trip to Thaxted. The route was only about 40 miles, taking in Felsted, my old school, but by the end, my son James and I felt as if we had done 80 miles! A strong wind had been against us all the way, and Thaxted is on a considerably higher contour than Coggeshall. This is one of the disadvantages of not doing a circular route, but the beauty of this part of Essex compensated for the pain.

In 2005, having heard about it on Radio 4, Little Maplestead beckoned. I could not resist visiting it. The round part was built c.1180 by the Knights Hospitaller, a rival organisation of the Knights Templar. This was modelled on the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. James and I started from here but were soon troubled by a puncture, one of the few that I have experienced on this event - a spare inner tube is always useful! Our route incorporated Sudbury on the upper reaches of the Stour (I am hoping one year to row down the tidal part of the Stour) and for the first year I felt a bit of a traitor, visiting Suffolk Churches. As Essex men we were made very welcome. We were lucky to avoid the worst downpour during our lunch break and we thoroughly enjoyed the beauty of both North Essex and this part of Suffolk. It is an event that I hope to continue participating in for many years to come, enjoying meeting other people on route, and appreciating the rich church heritage that we have in Essex.

ROLAND PLATTS

GRANTS 2005

Alphamstone St Barnabas	General Repairs	£ 6000
Ashen St Augustine	Ceiling Repairs	3000
Ashingdon St Andrews	Masonry Repairs	5000
Bocking St Mary the Virgin	Masonry Repairs	10000
Bradwell St Peter on the Wall	Butress & Roof Repairs	4000
Canewdon St Nicholas	Plaster Repairs	10000
Colchester St Peter	General Repairs	15000
Doddington All Saints	Asbestos Removal	1000
Dunmow United Reform Church	Essential repairs	2000
Farnham St Mary the Virgin	Roofing	5000
Forest Gate Emmanuel	Major Repairs	10000
Galleywood St Michael & All Angels	Masonry Repairs	6000
Great Baddow St Paul	Essential Electrical	3000
Great Braxted All Saints	Essential Electrical	3000
Great Horkesley All Saints	Essential Electrical	500
Heybridge St Andrew	Floor & Plaster Repairs	8000
Kelvedon United Reform Church	Repainting	3000
Little Hallingbury St Mary the Virgin	Dry Rot	10000
Little Wigborough St Nicholas	Underpinning	10000
Maldon All Saints	Roofing	10000
Manningtree Methodist	Lead & Stone Repairs	3000
Ramsden Bellhouse St Mary the Virgin	Spire Repairs	5000
Southend All Saints	General Repairs	3000
Stow Maries St Mary & St Michael	Belfry & Lead Repairs	10000
Tillingham St Nicholas	Roofing	4500
Wickham Bishops St Bartholomew	General Repairs	2000
Woodham Walter St Michael the Archangel	General Repairs	2500
Writtle All Saints	Dry Rot	3000
		<u>£157500</u>

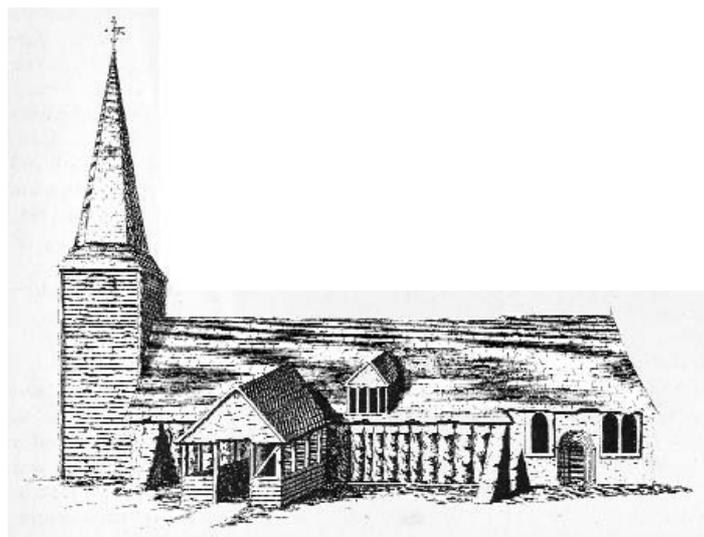


Bradwell on Sea: St Peter's-on-the-Wall, St Cedd's 'cathedral' c.653, facing east.

WREN 2005		
Bentley Common St Paul	Roof Repairs	10000
Brentwood St Thomas of Canterbury	Roof Repairs	10000
Chadwell St Mary Emmanuel	Roof Repairs	3500
Forest Gate Emmanuel	Major Repairs	10000
Greensted-Juxta-Ongar St Andrew	Shingle Replacement	5000
Leytonstone St Andrew	Drainage	10000
Romford St Andrew	Porch Repairs	2500
Warley Christ Church	Tower Roof & Masonry Repairs	10000
		<u>£61000</u>

Enquires about grants to:

JOHN BLOOMFIELD
Hon. Secretary Grants Committee
01708 745273



Greenstead church illustrated in 1748

SOUTHEND BRANCH

We are delighted to record another successful year, 2005 being one of full coaches, fine weather on the chosen days, good company and warm enthusiastic welcomes at the Churches visited:

Danbury, Woodham Walter, Great Bromley, Hempstead (lunch at the local pub and, appropriately, Nelson/Trafalgar connection down in the crypt). We also saw the Art Nouveau treasures of St. Mary the Virgin, Great Warley and last but not least, Topplesfield. Most trips were "topped off" with a renowned W.I. tea!

Too good to be true? Contact Berry Garrood on 01702 557466 for the delights planned for 2006, or see our Friends website www.foec.org.uk.

DON WORACKER

TREASURER'S REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Treasurers Report

During the year we received payments of £67,742 from Waste Recycling Environmental for which we are extremely grateful. Unrestricted income from Members Subscriptions and Donations, together with the fundraising activities of our Events Committee and the Sponsored Bicycle ride, produced £109K, with interest and dividends amounting to £19.2k. In addition we are most grateful for the legacy from the estate of Miss D.S. Attoe which gave a magnificent boost to our income and brought the unrestricted total to £217k.

Expenses remain very modest at only 1.5% of total income.

The Grants Committee allocated £61,000 from the WREN restricted fund and £157,000 from unrestricted funds. Investments rose in value by £25,242.

For 2006 the Trustees have decided to again have a grant allocation to £200,000. There is also £29,701 available in grants for churches within the WREN restricted area.

Our net unrestricted income (excluding legacies) continues at £125/130k. We will continue to budget for this level adding a proportion of our legacy income to the grant allocation. As our grant allocation has been around £250,000 during recent years the Trustees have agreed to increase our reserve figure to this level.

IAN DUDLEY, 28th February, 2006

Auditors Statement to the Members of The Friends of Essex Churches

We have examined the above summarised financial statements.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Auditors

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of summary financial statements. We have agreed to report to you our opinion on the summarised statements consistency with the full set of financial statements, on which we reported to you on 10th March, 2006.

Basis of Opinion

We have carried out the procedures we consider necessary to ascertain whether the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements from which they have been prepared.

Opinion

In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements for the year ended 31st December, 2005.

Edmund Carr

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors, 146 New London Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0AW.

10th March, 2006

Summarised accounts for the year ended 31 December 2005

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2005

Total 2004 £'000		2005 Restricted Fund £'000	2005 Un-restricted Fund £'000	2005 Total £'000
38.9	Landfill tax credits	67.7	0.0	67.7
22.4	Subscriptions	0.0	19.3	19.3
28.9	Donations	0.0	26.5	26.5
0.2	Legacies	0.0	88.8	88.8
61.8	Fund Raising - Bike Ride	0.0	56.7	56.7
7.0	Fund Raising - Other events	0.0	6.3	6.3
17.9	Interest and dividends	1.1	19.2	20.3
0.4	Gazetteers sold	0.0	0.2	0.2
177.5	Total income	68.8	217.0	285.8
(3.3)	Administration costs	0.0	(2.6)	(2.6)
(2.0)	Fund raising/publicity costs	0.0	(1.7)	(1.7)
0.0	Gazetteer Expenses	0.0	0.0	0.0
(188.5)	Grants payable	(61.0)	(157.0)	(218.0)
(193.8)	Total Expenditure	(61.0)	(161.3)	(222.3)
(16.3)	Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	7.8	55.7	63.5
10.2	Gains/(losses) on investments	0.0	25.2	25.2
(6.1)	Net movement in Funds	7.8	80.9	88.7

Summary balance sheet as at 31 December 2005

2004 £'000		2004 £'000
160.3	Investments - market value	185.5
423.6	Cash and deposits	437.0
4.8	Sundry debtors	3.1
588.7	Total assets	625.6
(166.0)	Undrawn grants	(114.0)
(1.4)	Creditors	(1.5)
421.3	Net assets	510.1
398.6	Represented by:	
0.8	General fund (unrestricted)	479.3
21.9	Gazetteer fund (unrestricted)	1.1
	Landfill tax credits (restricted)	29.7
421.3		510.1

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

First I would like to thank all our loyal members who send in their subscriptions so regularly. I am especially grateful to those who pay by Bankers Order and sign the Gift Aid Form. I always include these forms in the Review for the convenience of some members and to give you the opportunity to hand them on to friends and encourage them to join. There are 2.5 million people in our Diocese and only a tiny (but valued!) fraction are members.

Thanks you also to church congregations who add to our income. As well as the faithful stalwarts we have had some new and renewed donors in 2005 namely:

St. Martin of Tours, BASILDON	St. Andrew, GOOD EASTERS	St. Mary at LATTON (Harlow)
St. Andrew, CHELMSFORD	St. Paul, HARLOW with Little Parndon	LISTON & BORELY
St. Paul, CLACTON	Holy Trinity, HATFIELD HEATH	All Saints, LITTLE TOTHAM
St. Mary, FARNHAM	St. Mary, HAWKWELL	All Saints, NORTON MANDEVILLE
FINGRINGHOE, Methodist	Holy Trinity, HEYDON	St. Peter & St. Thomas, STAMBOURNE
		St. John, STRATFORD

We have also received donations from the Essex Club, The Augustine Courtauld Trust and Lodge & Sons (Builders)

Please accept this as a heartfelt THANK YOU to all who subscribe

KEITH GARDNER

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION To: The Hon. Membership Secretary, Keith Gardner Esq., Pink Cottage
Curtis Mill Green, Stapleford Tawney, Essex, RM4 1RT
Tel: 01708 688576 Email: keith.gardner@care4free.net

- I would like to become a member / renew my membership of The Friends of Essex Churches
- EITHER I enclose a donation of £(suggested minimum £15 p.a., family £25 p.a.)
Please make cheques payable to The Friends of Essex Churches
- OR I have completed the Bankers Order and enclose it with this application
- I have completed the Gift Aid Declaration (to allow The Friends to reclaim tax against my donation)

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

Surname and InitialsTitle

Address

.....PostCode

Telephone.....Signature

GIFT AID DECLARATION

I

Of
(Town/Village)

Post Code.....

would like all gifts to The Friends of Essex Churches paid on or after the date of this declaration to be gift aid donations. I confirm that I am a UK taxpayer (income or capital gains tax), resident in the UK for tax purposes and I will advise the Friends of Essex Churches if my situation changes.

Signed

Date

BANKERS ORDER

To (Name of donor's bank).....

Address

Pleas pay to Barclays Bank plc, 2 High Street, Chelmsford, Sort Code: 20-19-95
Account No: 70427845 Account Name: The Friends of Essex Churches

£annually on the first day of(month)(year)
and of each succeeding year until further notice

This cancels any previous standing order payable from my account for the credit of The Friends of Essex Churches

SignatureDate.....

BankSort Code

Name

Address