

Arborfield and Barkham Parish Churches Trust

Charity No: 1056400

Annual Report and Accounts

1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

Church Office,
The Rectory,
Church Lane,
Arborfield,
RG2 9HZ

Arborfield and Barkham Parish Churches Trust

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2024

Reference and Administrative Information

The Trustees present the report and accounts of Arborfield and Barkham Parish Churches Trust ("the Trust" or "Charity") for the year ended 31 December 2024. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102) [*Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)*].

The Trust is a registered charity (number 1056400) whose principal address is:

c/o The Church Office, The Rectory, Church Lane, Arborfield, Reading, Berkshire, RG2 9HZ.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Trust was originally established so that Arborfield and Barkham Parish Churches could jointly employ workers to assist in the mission of the Church. Since then Christ Church Wokingham has been established as an integral part of the group supporting the work of the Trust (*Christ Church Wokingham* was formerly known as *Church at the White House School*), and in 2017 a new church known as *Church at the Green* (CTG) was established as a plant from both Arborfield and Barkham churches.

The Charity's governing document is a Trust Deed dated 5 June 1996. The Trust is constituted as an unincorporated association. The Trust seeks to maintain at least six trustees to be representative of all the churches. New trustees are considered through discussion between the Chairman, the Trustees and the respective minister and/or churchwardens or elders, prior to the nominees being approached.

Whilst the Trustees would like to have at least six trustees in post at any one time, this has not been achieved this year. However, the Trustees are now urgently seeking to appoint further trustees, particularly as Ellen Sofie Richardson resigned with effect from 31st December. During the year the Trustees, representing the congregations of all the churches, were:

Rev'd Piers Bickersteth	CTG	resigned 18 th February 2024
Mr Michael Byrne	Barkham	Treasurer
Mr Edward Clark	CTG	Chairman
Rev'd Andy Kearns	Arborfield	Appointed 25 th November 2024
Mrs Ellen Sofie Richardson	Christ Church	Acting Secretary

The Trust Deed requires that the Trustees meet at least once in the calendar year. During 2024, the Trustees met on 19th March, 25th November and 9th December. Approved Minutes of meetings, redacted as necessary, are made available to the parochial church councils (PCCs) of Arborfield, Barkham and Christ Church, Wokingham. The report and accounts are also available for viewing on the Charity Commission website after lodgement.

Arborfield and Barkham Parish Churches Trust

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2024

Objectives and Activities

The objects of the charity as set out in the Trust Deed are:

- To advance the Christian faith
- To relieve the distress of people in need, hardship or sickness and
- Other charitable purposes

There have been a number of staffing changes this year. The Rector, who had been the minister running the CTG church plant, retired in February and a new minister was appointed for CTG starting in September. The Minister of Arborfield took responsibility to lead CTG during the intervening period. In late September the former Minister of Arborfield was appointed as the new Rector for the Arborfield with Barkham Benefice (whilst continuing to serve as the minister for Arborfield), and at that point resigned as an employee of the Trust. A new Community Minister at Arborfield was appointed to start in October.

During the year, employees of the Trust were as follows:

Associate Minister at Arborfield Church (until 27th September)
Community Minister at Arborfield Church (from 1st October)
Minister of Barkham Church
Associate Minister of Barkham Church
Minister of Church at the Green (CTG) (from 1st September)
Minister of Christ Church Wokingham
Church Office Administrator

Trust staff employed in ministry look to assist all members of the various congregations in developing their knowledge of and trust in Jesus through biblical teaching and worship, the provision of pastoral care to church members and parish residents and a wide variety of outreach activities.

The Trust is a public benefit entity. The Trustees confirm that they have given due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission. This guidance requires that the charity has identifiable benefits and that these be of benefit to the public or a section of it. The objectives, activities, achievements and performance are required to be summarised in the annual report.

Our normal regular activities are a monthly meeting for older people (CAMEO), weekly groups for pre/younger teens (Friday Club), and assemblies at two local primary schools.

Achievements and Performance

The Trust has continued to advance the Christian faith through the employment of 4 full-time ministers and 1 part-time. Ministers are regularly involved in taking assemblies at local primary schools.

Both CAMEO and Friday Club have a good number of members and sufficient leaders to make these groups viable and worthwhile.

The Trust has continued to manage the finances of the CTG church plant through the restricted fund established for this purpose. Through CTG the Trust has contributed to community events at the Arborfield Green Community. It is envisaged that the Trust will continue to manage the finances for CTG for a few more years until the church is sufficiently established to become a separate charity with its own bank account.

Arborfield and Barkham Parish Churches Trust

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2024

Financial Review

Most of the Trust's income derives from the individual parochial church councils (PCCs) and the members of CTG. The PCCs in turn are funded by the donations of their church members. Donations from the members of CTG are put into the Trust's CTG restricted fund. Both the Arborfield and Barkham PCCs have underwritten the costs of CTG; in 2024 Arborfield PCC has made monthly transfers to the Trust's CTG fund.

The CTG reserves stood at £38,056 at the end of the year (2023 £26,697). The significant increase is largely due to CTG being without a dedicated minister from mid-February until the end of August, and some lump sum gifts made towards employing a new CTG minister. These reserves are anticipated to be sufficient to cover CTG expenditure for the next 2 years despite the recent cessation of some very substantial regular giving.

The Trust prepares a budget for the year covering staff costs and Church office costs, and the costs of running CTG as well. Ministerial staff work primarily within a particular church and the appropriate PCC pays monthly contributions to the Trust to cover their employment costs. Each PCC also makes monthly contributions to the Trust to cover the costs of administrative staff and running the Church office. CTG is included in the apportionment of these central costs, and the CTG apportionment is taken out of the CTG restricted fund.

The Trust does not seek to accumulate large reserves and uses the resources at its disposal to further its objectives in the medium term. In recent years the Trust has been increasing its reserves to provide better cover for continued employment of the current staff; staff costs averaged a total of £21K per month in 2024, and we have also incurred some large and unpredictable support costs for our staff in recent years. At the end of the year the Trust's unallocated reserves (i.e. excluding restricted and designated funds) stood at £40,729 (2023 £35,099).

There are no funds materially in deficit.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees by:

Edward J Clark

Ed Clark, Chairman



Andy Kearns (acting as Secretary)

Date of signature 04/03/2025

Arborfield and Barkham Parish Churches Trust

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	Un- restricted £	Restricted (Church at The Green) £	Restricted (Barkham Minister Housing) £	Restricted (Refugee Fund) £	Restricted (Other) £	Total 2024 £	<i>Total 2023</i> £
Income								
Income from PCCs		296,406	2,276	28,090		0	326,771	<i>310,741</i>
Income from personal donors		360	52,980		13,854	2,510	69,704	<i>51,868</i>
CTG external income			5,000				5,000	<i>0</i>
Tax recovered		90	13,010		3,164	0	16,264	<i>11,080</i>
PCC Events		1,910					1,910	<i>682</i>
Other event income		1,187	40				1,227	<i>2,297</i>
Sale of goods and services		0	0				0	<i>20</i>
Interest on savings/investments		1,275					1,275	<i>765</i>
Total income		301,227	73,306	28,090	17,018	2,510	422,150	<i>377,453</i>

Arborfield and Barkham Parish Churches Trust

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	Un- restricted £	Restricted (Church at The Green) £	Restricted (Barkham Minister Housing) £	Restricted (Refugee Fund) £	Restricted (Other) £	Total 2024 £	<i>Total 2023</i> £
Expenditure								
Charitable donations		225	75		9,115	2,510	11,925	<i>1,275</i>
Mission and training		0	750				750	<i>0</i>
Staff salaries etc	4	150,595	20,070				170,665	<i>169,787</i>
Staff housing etc	4	69,578	11,397				80,975	<i>67,895</i>
Property (5 Somerville Close)	4			7,609			7,609	<i>7,967</i>
Employee support		0					0	<i>185</i>
Parish Share Contributions		57,960	15,896				73,856	<i>64,116</i>
Staff expenses		456	290				746	<i>1,254</i>
CTG Running Costs			10,284				10,284	<i>9,933</i>
Church events		1,910	967				2,877	<i>1,551</i>
Joint activities & events		1,821	118				1,938	<i>1,699.84</i>
Shared resources		410	36				445	<i>304</i>
Office maintenance & equipment		3,622	596				4,218	<i>228</i>
IT		2,033	359				2,392	<i>1,792</i>
Electricity		1,246	205				1,451	<i>1,650</i>
Office supplies		726	119				846	<i>1,093</i>
Photocopier/Printer		857	141				998	<i>1,066</i>
Telephone		374	62				436	<i>420</i>
Insurance		1,661	277				1,938	<i>1,804</i>
Purchase of goods for sale		0	0				0	<i>0</i>
Bank charges		51	9				60	<i>60</i>
Governance		1,985	297				2,282	<i>16,721</i>
Other office costs		0					0	<i>0</i>
Total expenditure		295,510	61,948	7,609	9,115	2,510	376,692	<i>350,801</i>

Arborfield and Barkham Parish Churches Trust

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	Un- restricted £	Restricted (Church at The Green) £	Restricted (Barkham Minister Housing) £	Restricted (Refugee Fund) £	Restricted (Other) £	Total 2024 £	<i>Total 2023</i> £
Net income		5,717	11,359	20,481	7,902	0	45,458	26,652
Transfer between funds	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total funds brought forward		39,180	26,697	325,356	0	0	391,233	364,581
Total funds carried forward		44,896	38,056	345,837	7,902	0	436,691	391,233

There are no gains or losses other than those recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and all activities are classed as continuing.

Arborfield and Barkham Parish Churches Trust

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets	5	422,911	422,911
Current Assets			
Debtors	6	20,890	31,267
Cash at bank		80,089	54,857
		100,979	86,124
Creditors: due within 1 year	7	31,716	40,838
Net Current (Liabilities)/Assets		69,263	45,286
Total Assets less current liabilities		492,174	468,197
Creditors: due after more than 1 year	8	55,483	76,964
Provisions for liabilities		0	0
Net assets		436,691	391,233
Represented by:			
Restricted Funds	9,10	391,794	352,053
Unrestricted Funds (designated and general)	10	44,896	39,180
		436,691	391,233

Arborfield and Barkham Parish Churches Trust

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities:					
<i>Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities</i>	11	5,971	39,742	45,713	485
Cash flows from financing activities:					
Repayments of borrowing		0	(20,481)	(20,481)	(19,433)
Cash inflows from new borrowing		0	0	0	0
<i>Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities</i>		0	(20,481)	(20,481)	(19,433)
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		28,160	26,697	54,857	73,804
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward		34,131	45,958	80,089	54,857

The notes numbered 1 to 12 form part of these accounts.

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees by



Michael Byrne, Treasurer



Andy Kearns, (acting as Secretary)

Date accounts approved by Trustees 03/03/2025

Arborfield and Barkham Parish Churches Trust

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

1. Basis of preparation

Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis in accordance with:

- the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)
- the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102)
- and applicable charity law.

Change in basis of accounting

There has been no change to the basis of accounting since last year.

Changes to previous accounts

No changes have been made to accounts for previous years.

2. Accounting Policies

The following policies have been used in the preparation of these accounts:

Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are included in the accounts when the Trust is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Income is recognised in the period to which it relates.

Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for inclusive of VAT, which cannot be recovered, on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Tangible Fixed Assets

The fixed asset (5 Somerville Close) shown on the Balance Sheet is shown at cost. The property is depreciated over 50 years only to the extent that the cost of the building materially exceeds residual value. Interest payments in respect of the mortgage on this property are included as an expense in the Statement of Financial Activities as they are incurred. An analysis reconciling the opening and closing carrying amounts of this fixed asset is provided at Note 5 below.

Operating Leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are included as an expense in the Statement of Financial Activities as they are incurred.

Debtors

Debtors are measured at their recoverable amounts.

Liabilities

Liabilities are measured at their settlement amount.

Concessionary Loans

Concessionary Loans are recognised and measured at the amount received or paid, with the carrying amount adjusted in subsequent years to reflect repayments and any accrued interest and adjusted if necessary for any impairment.

Staff Costs paid directly by PCCs

Some staff housing costs are paid directly by one or other of the PCCs. Such amounts are included in these accounts as both income ("Income from PCCs") and expenditure ("Staff housing etc").

Arborfield and Barkham Parish Churches Trust

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

3. Disclosures

There are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue.

The Trust is a public benefit entity.

Disclosure of Trustees' remuneration and benefits

In the reporting period none of the Trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with the Trust or a related entity.

Disclosure of Trustees' expenses

In the reporting period no expenses have been incurred by Trustees in fulfilling their duties.

Disclosure of related party transactions

There are no related party transactions in the reporting period requiring disclosure.

Disclosure of audit, independent examination and other financial service fees

An independent examination fee of £1,095 has been included in these accounts.

Disclosure of staff costs and employee benefits

See Note 4 below.

Arborfield and Barkham Parish Churches Trust

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

4. Paid employees

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Staff costs consist of:			
Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind		141,381	142,430
Employer's National Insurance costs		7,575	6,385
Pension:			
Pension contributions paid in the year		21,709	20,973
		170,665	169,787

The Trust also provides housing and pays council tax for staff employed as "ministers of religion" for whom this is recognised by HMRC as a non-taxable benefit.

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Housing costs consist of:			
Rental and water rates on rented property		70,812	57,679
Council tax		10,163	10,216
Mortgage interest, water rates and insurance on owned property		7,609	7,967
		88,584	75,862

The average number of employees in the year was 5.0 (2023: 7.2).

The average number of full-time equivalent employees in the year was 4.5 (2023: 6.2).

One employee received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 during the year (2023: none). This employee's benefits were in the range £60,000+ to £70,000.

5. Tangible Assets

	Freehold Land & Buildings £	Total £
Cost or Valuation		
At 01 January 2024	422,911	422,911
Additions	-	-
At 31 December 2024	<u>422,911</u>	<u>422,911</u>
Net Book Value 31 December 2024	<u>422,911</u>	<u>422,911</u>

Arborfield and Barkham Parish Churches Trust

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

6. Debtors

		2024	2023
	Notes	£	£
Trade debtors		0	0
Amounts owed by associated undertakings		6,245	20,132
Prepayments and accrued income		10,989	7,478
Other debtors		3,657	3,657
		<u>20,890</u>	<u>31,267</u>

7. Creditors: due within one year

		2024	2023
	Notes	£	£
Taxation and social security		2,518	2,401
Trade creditors		1,508	8,441
Amounts owed to associated undertakings		0	0
Accruals and deferred income		0	0
Other creditors (excluding loans/mortgage)		6,099	9,405
Mortgage	5	<u>21,592</u>	<u>20,591</u>
		<u>31,716</u>	<u>40,838</u>

8. Creditors: due after more than one year

		2024	2023
	Notes	£	£
Mortgage repayable from 1 to 5 years	5	55,483	76,964
Mortgage repayable after 5 years	5	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
		<u>55,483</u>	<u>76,964</u>

Arborfield and Barkham Parish Churches Trust

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

9. Fund Movements

Fund	Type	Notes	Balance 1st Jan 2024	Transfers	Income	Expenditure	Balance 31st Dec 2024
			£				£
Barkham Minister Housing	Restricted		325,356	0	28,090	7,609	345,837
Church at the Green (CTG)	Restricted		26,697	0	73,306	61,948	38,056
Refugee Fund	Restricted		0	0	17,018	9,115	7,902
Specific Collections	Restricted		0	0	2,510	2,510	0
Friday Club	Designated		424	0	536	450	510
General	Unrestricted		38,756	0	300,690	295,060	44,386
Total Restricted			352,053	0	120,924	81,182	391,794
Total Unrestricted			39,180	0	301,227	295,510	44,896
Total			391,233	0	422,150	376,692	436,691

Arborfield and Barkham Parish Churches Trust

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

10. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Note	Tangible Fixed Assets	Current Assets	Current Liabilities	Loans Due after 1 year	Total
	s	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds						
Barkham Minister						
Housing		422,911		(21,592)	(55,483)	345,837
Church at the Green (CTG)			38,056			38,056
Refugee Fund			7,902			7,902
Special Collections			0			0
General Funds			55,021	(10,125)	0	44,896
		422,911	100,979	(31,716)	(55,483)	436,691

11. Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)		5,717	39,742	45,458	26,652
Adjustments for:					
(Increase)/decrease in debtors		10,377		10,377	(18,370)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		(10,122)		(10,122)	(7,796)
Transfers between funds		0	0	0	0
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities		5,971	39,742	45,713	485

12. Transfers between Funds

No transfers were made between restricted funds, or between unrestricted and restricted funds, in 2024.

**Independent examiner's report on the accounts to the Trustees of
Arborfield and Barkham Parish Churches Trust (charity number
1056400)
for the year ending 31 December 2024**

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Trust's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of both the ACCA and ACIE, both of which are listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



Date 12/03/2025

Name Jason Foxwell

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

Chartered Certified Accountant
Fellow of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners

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