



**The Parochial Church Council of
St. John the Baptist, Our Lady & St. Laurence
Thaxted**

**Annual Accounts and Financial Statements for the
year ending 31 December 2024**

Annual Accounts for 2024

Background

The Parochial Church Council (hereafter "PCC") has responsibility, under the chairmanship of Fr. Gerwyn Capon (at the start of the year), and the churchwardens Ann Pickhaver, Paul Meader and Colin Harrison, for the promotion of the ecclesiastical parish of the whole mission of the church – pastoral, evangelical, social, and ecumenical and for the running, maintenance, and daily upkeep of the parish church of St. John the Baptist, Our Lady and St. Laurence, Thaxted.

To best achieve this, the PCC is fully registered as a charity with the Charity Commission under registration number: 1127752.

Membership of the PCC

Members of the PCC are either elected by the Annual Parochial Church meeting or are appointed ex-Officio, in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. Occasionally, a member may be co-opted where specialist skills are required.

During the 2024 financial year, the following people served as members of the PCC:

Chairman	Fr Gerwyn Capon	(To August 2024)
Churchwarden	Colin Harrison Paul Meader Ann Pickhaver	(From April 2024) (To April 2024)
Secretary	Maryanne Fleming	(To April 2024, then Co-opted)
Treasurer	Philip Staker	(Co-opted)
PCC Member	Fr Chris Brown Maureen Edwards Angela Farr Trevor Haynes Anna Lee Janet Moore Pamela O'Toole Stephen Odom Ian Prince Emily Schofield Perry Staker Michael Tayler	(Co-opted) (From April 2024) (To April 2024) (To April 2024) (To April 2024) (From April 2024) (From April 2024) (From April 2024) (To April 2024)
Ex-Officio	Margaret Caton Maggie Catterall Rev. Susannah Lacon Adrian Wright	(Deanery Synod) (Deanery Synod) (Assistant Curate) (Licensed Reader)

Committees

The PCC operates, in part, through committees which meet in addition to the main PCC meetings.

Standing Committee

This committee is required under ecclesiastical law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given to it by the main PCC.

Estates Committee (formerly the Building Committee)

To maintain the fabric of the Thaxted Church estate and to improve the facilities that can be offered.

Finance Committee

Oversees the income, expenditure, and financial governance of the PCC. Producing budgets and recommending financial policies for the full PCC to approve.

Fundraising Committee

To facilitate and organise fundraising events on behalf of the PCC.

Lincoln Organ Committee

To co-ordinate all matters regarding the restoration of the Lincoln Organ on behalf of the PCC.

Worship, Nurture and Mission Committee

To support and encourage growth in the worship of God within all sections of the Parish community.

Church attendance

There were 90 parishioners recorded on the Church Electoral Roll in 2024, 17 of whom lived outside the Parish (from 87 & 17 in 2023 and, 88 & 16 in 2022).

The average number receiving communion on the Wednesday and Sunday services was 57 (up from 53 in 2023 and 52 in 2022) but this number excludes those receiving blessings and also any attendance at special masses around Holy days and ecumenical / community services like the very well supported Plough Sunday farmers' family service.

Thaxted Parish Church's 'Open Doors' family service, now held on every 1st Sunday of the month, continues to be a popular form of worship with families and existing parishioners alike and Thaxted parishioners continue to play an active part in wider benefice services and other ecumenical / 'churches together' services within the town.

Statement of Trustees' / PCC members' responsibilities

The purpose of this statement is to distinguish the members' responsibilities for the financial statements from those of the Independent Examiners as stated in their report.

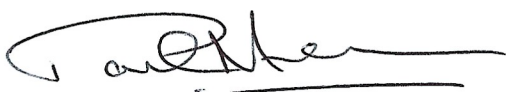
The Charities Act 2011 requires the members to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year.

In preparing the financial statements, the members followed best practice and:

- Selected suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently.
- Made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- Followed the recommendations of the Charity Commission and of the accounting professions regarding form and content of the financial statements or undertook to disclose and explain any departure therefrom, and
- Prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it was inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue to meet its objectives.

The members were reminded that they are responsible for keeping accounting records which are sufficient to disclose, with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the charity at any time, and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the disclosure regulations. They are also reminded that they responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council at a full meeting and signed on their behalf.



Paul Meader
Churchwarden – Thaxted Parish Church



Colin Harrison
Churchwarden – Thaxted Parish Church

Dated: 19/3/2025

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Parochial Church Council of St. John the Baptist, Our Lady and St. Laurence, Thaxted.

We have evaluated the financial statements of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the related notes set out on pages 5 to 10.

These financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention and in accordance with the accounting policies set out therein.

Respective responsibilities of members and accountants

The members' responsibilities for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law, charity accounting practice and (where appropriate) United Kingdom accounting standards are set out on page 3 of the report of the trustees.

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the guidelines within the Charities Act 2011. We also report to you whether in our opinion the information given in the trustees' report is consistent with the financial statements.

In addition, we report to you if, in our opinion, the charity has not kept proper accounting records, or if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our assessment.

We read the trustees' report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

Basis of accountant's opinion

We have examined the paperwork and sought evidence to verify the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the trustees in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our judgement so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion, we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion:

- The financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom generally accepted accounting practice applicable to charities, of the state of affairs of the charity as at 31st December 2024 and of the results of its activity for the period then ended;
- The financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the guidelines within the Charities Act 2011; and the information given in the trustees' report is consistent with the financial statements.



Nisar Ahmed ACMA CGMA

Ridgell & Guildway Accountants

Chartered Management Accountants

The Counting House,

Watling Lane,

Thaxted,

Essex CM6 2QY

Dated: 28th February 2025

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ending 31st December 2024

		Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2024	2023
Income and endowments from:	Notes						
Donations and legacies	2(a)	45,724	1,726.65	12,939	-	60,389	45,725
Other trading activities	2(b)	6,680	125	-	-	6,805	5,861
Investments	2(c)	-	-	-	1,521	1,521	3,339
Other income	2(d)	35,567	5,736	42,597	-	83,899	111,837
Total income		87,970	7,587.59	55,535	1,521	152,614	166,762
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	3(a)	1,239	1,042	1,300	-	3,581	962
Expenditure on charitable activities	3(b)	40,924	1,185	-	-	42,108	38,593
Other expenditure	3(c)	57,188	1,776	27,897	-	86,861	124,126
Total expenditure		99,351	4,002	29,197	-	132,550	163,681
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer		(11,380)	3,585	26,338	1,521	20,064	3,081
Transfers							
Gross transfers between funds - in		9,000	1,483	8,018	-	18,501	80,964
Gross transfers between funds - out		(5,283)	(9,050)	(4,168)	-	(18,501)	(80,964)
Total transfers		3,717	(7,567)	3,850	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(7,664)	(3,981)	30,188	1,521	20,064	3,081
Total funds brought forward		13,663	7,718	36,432	29,910	87,723	84,642
Total funds carried forward		5,999	3,737	66,620	31,431	107,787	87,723

Definition of fund types

Unrestricted funds are monies available to the PCC / Trustees for general use, without restriction.

Designated funds are monies which the PCC has set aside for a specific purpose, but it is within their remit to decide to reallocate these funds at any time, through a positive vote at a properly constituted meeting, for another purpose.

Restricted funds represent monies that are required to be used for the purpose that they are granted or collected. If these funds cannot be used for the purpose for which they were granted or collected, they cannot be re-allocated by the PCC but must either be held for a time until the restriction can be met or must be disposed of in accordance with Charity Commission guidance e.g. to another charity with aims that match the restriction.

Endowment funds represent monies that have been left to the church for a long-term purpose. These funds are restricted as above and generate income which is either reinvested or used for the purpose that the monies were endowed for.

Balance sheet

as at 31st December 2024

		2024	2023
Current assets	Notes		
Investments	4	31,431	29,910
Cash at bank and in hand	4	76,438	58,035
		107,869	87,945
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	4	82	222
		82	222
Net current assets, less current liabilities		107,787	87,723
Total assets, less current liabilities		107,787	87,723
Total net assets, less liabilities		107,787	87,723
Represented by			
Unrestricted			
General fund	5	5,999	13,663
Designated			
Catering Fund	5	264	128
Chat Café	5	-	882
Lincoln Organ Running Costs	5	-	1,392
Literature Provision	5	1,090	50
Peter King Memorial Fund	5	478	477
Restoration Fund (Designated)	5	1,905	4,790
Restricted			
Restoration Fund (Restricted)	5	12,366	20,748
Replacement Lighting Project	5	5,470	4,047
Lincoln Organ Restoration Fund	5	36,945	-
Thaxted Church Music Fund	5	1,074	1,074
Kitchen, Toilet & Meeting Room Fund	5	4,127	4,032
Furniture Fund	5	964	964
Decorating the South Aisle	5	5,042	5,015
J. Sheppard's fund for External Lighting	5	535	464
For the Maintenance of the Bells	5	4	4
Provision of Raiment	5	87	85
Maintenance of the Vicarage	5	8	-
Endowment			
Chancel Trust	5	31,431	29,910
Funds of the church		107,787	87,723

Notes on the Financial Statements

For the year ending 31st December 2024

1. Accounting policies

General Principles:

These financial statements have been prepared under the current Church Accounting Regulations and in accordance with the current Charities SORP and applicable accounting standards.

Funds:

Unrestricted funds represent the funds available to the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. These include any funds which the PCC has itself *designated* for a specific purpose.

The purpose of other funds, *restricted* by the circumstances or conditions of their receipt, is noted in the financial statements.

Resources classified as '*Endowments*' will be treated as long term investments by the trustees and only the interest received on each investment will be available for re-investment or use for the purpose intended by the person / body who donated the funds, subject to any separate and distinct agreement on a particular endowment.

Incoming resources:

Collections and fees are dealt with in the financial statements when received. Covenanted receipts are dealt with when honoured by the covenanter. Tax recoverable is recognised in the financial receipt when certified as due by and received from the relevant tax authority.

Grants and legacies are accounted for when received or are able to be quantified with substantial accuracy. The proceeds of fund-raising and sales of magazines and other goods are shown gross, and corresponding costs being shown in resources used.

Resources used:

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid. Costs relating to work, fund-raising and administration are dealt with when incurred. Stocks of literature and goods for sale are included in the financial statements only if materially significant.

The Diocesan quota is accounted for when payable and any quota unpaid as at 31st December is shown as a creditor on the balance sheet.

Expenses incurred in the process of a fund-raising event will be attributed, where possible, to the Fund the income is being recognised in.

Restatement of Prior Year Classifications

Where it is found to be necessary to reclassify income or expenditure, either through enhanced information or changes to how particular items should be classified, the prior year will be restated within the current year's accounts to ensure a fair and accurate comparison.

Value Added Tax:

Irrecoverable Value Added Tax is written off as part of the relevant cost. Value Added Tax recoverable in connection with repair work is shown specifically as an incoming resource.

Other current assets:

Quantifiable amounts due to the PCC as at 31st December are shown as debtors on the financial statements after deducting any amount likely not to be collectable.

2. Income

2(a) Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	
					2024	2023
Giving - Bank S/O	2,788	-	600	-	3,388	3,388
Parish Giving Scheme	22,910	-	-	-	22,910	22,719
Loose plate collections	6,671	-	-	-	6,671	7,120
One-off Gift Aid gifts	1,270	-	-	-	1,270	1,995
Donations, appeals etc	4,447	203	5,941	-	10,590	3,796
Donations via Donation Station	1,609	394	1,398	-	3,401	2,446
Legacies	5,000	-	5,000	-	10,000	1,000
'Black Chest' Donations	515	515	-	-	1,031	1,228
Wall Safes	513	615	-	-	1,128	2,032
Total	45,724	1,727	12,939	-	60,389	45,725

2(b) other trading activities

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	
					2024	2023
Bookstall Sales - Fund raising	-	125	-	-	125	186
Church Lettings - General	6,250	-	-	-	6,250	5,315
Church Lettings - Heating	430	-	-	-	430	360
Total	6,680	125	-	-	6,805	5,861

2(c) Investments

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	
					2024	2023
Gains / Losses on Trust Revaluation	-	-	-	1,521	1,521	3,339
Total	-	-	-	1,521	1,521	3,339

2(d) other income

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	
					2024	2023
Tax recoverable on S/O & Gift Aid	3,702	-	-	-	3,702	2,731
Tax recoverable on Giving Scheme	5,795	4	54	-	5,853	5,680
Non-recurring one-off grants	1,740	-	2,000	-	3,740	15,376
Yardleys Charity	-	-	-	-	-	5,000
Thaxted Parish Council	-	-	2,000	-	2,000	2,000
Restoration Grants (Non-Specific)	-	-	-	-	-	2,024
Vicar & Churchwardens Grant	-	-	-	-	-	50,000
Other funds generated	-	-	37,471	-	37,471	255
Candle Collection	1,317	-	-	-	1,317	909
Catering Income	-	669	-	-	669	388
May & Christmas Fayres	12,983	-	-	-	12,983	12,000
Fundraising Committee Events	400	5,061	-	-	5,461	3,425
Bank and building society interest	474	1	1,071	-	1,547	786
Fees for weddings and funerals	8,745	-	-	-	8,745	11,198
Wedding Fees for Choir	-	-	-	-	-	65
Insurance Claims	410	-	-	-	410	-
Total	35,567	5,736	42,597	-	83,899	111,837

3. Expenditure

3(a) Raising funds

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	
					2024	2023
Costs of fetes & other events	269	1,042	1,300	-	2,611	773
Cost of Credit Card Machine	970	-	-	-	970	188
Total	1,239	1,042	1,300	-	3,581	962

3(b) Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	
					2024	2023
Giving - Missionary societies	-	-	-	-	-	150
Giving - Relief & Development agencies	100	-	-	-	100	100
Home mission	999	1,185	-	-	2,184	4
Secular charities	99	-	-	-	99	50
Ministry parish share etc	39,726	-	-	-	39,726	38,289
Total	40,924	1,185	-	-	42,108	38,593

3(c) Other expenditure

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	
					2024	2023
Organist Fees	6,375	-	-	-	6,375	6,000
Parish Administrator	12,000	-	-	-	12,000	5,500
Parish Administrator - Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	158
Expenses of Ministry Team	427	-	-	-	427	543
Vicarage - Utility Costs	109	-	-	-	109	-
Parish training and mission	43	-	-	-	43	-
Church running - Insurance	8,266	-	-	-	8,266	7,731
Parish Office - Consumables	753	-	-	-	753	399
Parish Office - Broadband / WiFi	527	-	-	-	527	475
Organ / piano tuning	588	-	108	-	696	516
Church running - Maintenance	12,720	-	-	-	12,720	3,097
Church running - Cleaning & Laundry	231	-	-	-	231	202
Church running - Catering	150	257	-	-	407	191
Church running - Flowers	-	1,180	-	-	1,180	1,899
Church running - Service (Consumables)	2,851	-	-	-	2,851	3,031
Church running - Service (Assets)	-	-	-	-	-	1,287
Upkeep of churchyard	-	-	5,800	-	5,800	4,220
Administration	4,539	-	-	-	4,539	2,123
Bank Fees	60	-	-	-	60	55
Fees Payable to the Diocese	2,117	-	-	-	2,117	2,533
Church running - Electric	1,405	-	-	-	1,405	2,581
Church running - Gas	2,579	-	-	-	2,579	15,834
Church running - Water	138	-	-	-	138	125
Church running - Oil	740	-	-	-	740	-
Bookstall costs	-	338	-	-	338	287
Governance - Examination / Audit Fee	570	-	-	-	570	570
Church major repairs - Structure	-	-	2,365	-	2,365	50,944
Church major repairs - Installation	-	-	1,429	-	1,429	7,462
Church major repairs - Churchyard	-	-	13,306	-	13,306	-
Church interior and exterior decorating	-	-	-	-	-	-
Church - Furniture Costs	-	-	-	-	-	447
Church - Lighting Project	-	-	4,889	-	4,889	4,176
Vicarage - Maintenance	-	-	-	-	-	1,740
Total	57,188	1,776	27,897	-	86,861	124,126

4. Statement of assets and liabilities

as at 31st December 2023

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	2024	2023
Current assets - Cash at bank & in hand						
Barclays - Current Account	635	1,409	6,325	-	8,369	6,169
Barclays - Restoration Account	220	60	880	-	1,160	8,115
CAF Bank - High Interest	4,255	2,268	59,497	-	66,020	42,804
CAF Bank - Current Account	889	-	-	-	889	947
Cash in Hand	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	5,999	3,737	66,702	-	76,438	58,035
Current assets - Investments						
Chancel Trust	-	-	-	31,431	29,910	29,910
Totals	-	-	-	31,431	29,910	29,910
Liabilities - Agency accounts						
Agency collections	-	-	82	-	82	222
Totals	-	-	82	-	82	222
Grand total	5,999	3,737	66,620	31,431	107,787	87,723

5. Statement of the movement of funds

For the year ended 31st December 2024

	Fund Balances brought forward	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains / Losses	Fund Balances carried forward
Unrestricted Funds						
General fund	13,663	87,970	99,351	3,717	-	5,999
Designated Funds						
Catering Fund	128	872	736	-	-	264
Chat Café	882	-	1,185	303	-	-
Flower Fund	-	-	1,180	1,180	-	-
Lincoln Organ - Running Costs	50	-	-	-50	-	-
Literature Provision	477	1	-	-	-	478
Peter King Memorial Fund	1,392	1,036	338	-1,000	-	1,090
Restoration Fund	4,790	5,678	563	-8,000	-	1,905
Restricted Funds						
Replacement Lighting Project	4,047	7,506	6,083	-	-	5,470
Lincoln Organ – Restoration Fund	-	38,303	1,408	50	-	36,945
Restoration Fund	20,748	7,524	15,906	-	-	12,366
Decorating the South Aisle	5,015	26	-	-	-	5,042
Furniture Fund	964	-	-	-	-	964
Kitchen, Toilet & Meeting Room Fund	4,032	96	-	-	-	4,127
J. Sheppard fund for External Lighting	464	71	-	-	-	535
Maintenance of the Bells	4	-	-	-	-	4
Maintenance of the Churchyard	-	2,000	5,800	3,800	-	-
Maintenance of the Vicarage	-	8	-	-	-	8
Provision of Raiment	85	2	-	-	-	87
Thaxted Church Music Fund	1,074	-	-	-	-	1,074
Endowment Funds						
Chancel Trust	29,910	1,521	-	-	-	31,431
Total	84,642	166,762	163,681	-	-	87,723

Associated Organisations

In addition to the funds which the trustees / PCC members have direct control of, there are several associated organisations which, although cannot form part of the accounts, do have a connection to the fabric and the work of the church.

Each organisation produces an independent account of their income and expenditure but an extract of each of these is reproduced below for information and for comparison with previous years' accounts.

Vicar and Churchwardens Accounts

Extract from the Summary of the Funds within the Vicar & Churchwardens accounts as at 31st December 2024

	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
Charity Funds held (Details in the full V&CW accounts)	3,242	3,208
Yardley Ecclesiastical Charity	26,034	18,902
Total Restricted funds	29,276	22,110
V & CW Fund	21,589	20,610
Chantry Estate	28,467	25,944
Total Unrestricted funds	50,056	46,554
Fund balance at Year End	79,332	68,664

Lincoln Organ Restoration Committee accounts

From 2024, the Lincoln Organ Restoration Funds have been fully incorporated into the Thaxted PCC annual accounts as a restricted fund.

Thaxted Church Hall

Extract from the record of income and expenditure of the Thaxted Church Hall accounts as at 31st December 2024

	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
Opening funds	4,280	2,298
Total Income	8,626	8,173
Total Expenditure	5,523	5,166
GRANTS / Loans	-	3,516
One off Expenses	638	4,000
Surplus / (Deficit)	2,465	2,522
Funds Balance at Year End	7,285	4,820