

Barley Hill Parochial Church Council
Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023

Registered Charity no: 1127839



Barley Hill Parochial Church Council

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Achievements and Performance

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, Barley Hill Church has worshiped with St Mary's Thame and St Catherine's Towersey, initially online and then after lockdown at St Mary's Church. A trial process of working together continues. Whilst the PCC remains the legal governing body for Barley Hill Church, most of the ministry is now run jointly with St Mary's and St Catherine's. This report therefore combines details for the combined ministry.

GOVERNANCE & IDENTITY

The new governance structure, providing an informal Joint Church Council (JCC) and a Standing Committee, was agreed at the PCCs for St Mary's, Barley Hill and St Catherine's churches early in 2023. This structure has been successfully managing the running and finances of the combined churches, whilst retaining the legal structures of the existing PCCs. This has reduced the number of PCC meetings and helped decision making and communication across the three leadership groups, although improved communication from the JCC back to the PCCs is required. A major project to combine the finances and financial systems has also been undertaken.

During 2023 the name 'Thame Church' was endorsed by the JCC to refer to the combined congregations of the three churches. The communications team developed options for a new logo, and a final design was selected by the three PCCs. The new branding includes Thame Church at St Mary's, Thame Church at Towersey etc. to acknowledge times when the location is important.

It is hoped to recruit a part-time Operations Manager during 2024 to support the clergy in the effective planning and organising of church ministries and events.

WORSHIP & PRAYER

At the start of 2023 a weekly contemporary service was introduced for Sunday evenings and Evensong and Quiet Services were moved to 3pm. The evening service provided a valuable gathering and re-gathering of people who were on the fringes who preferred this style of service. The Evensong and Quiet Services suffered from being too early in the afternoon.

With the Team Rector Mike's operation and prolonged recovery, a review of the service pattern was conducted to try and create a sustainable pattern given reduced availability of clergy and retired clergy. In September the JCC proposed moving from 4 services each Sunday (8am BCP, 10.15 Morning Service / Holy Communion with Kids Church, 3pm Evensong/Quiet Service, 6.30pm Contemporary Service) to 2 (9am Holy Communion and 11am Informal Service with Kids Church) with shared coffee between the services. This was introduced in October, with the intention of reviewing after Easter 2024.

This new pattern has significantly reduced the burden of running so many services, which has been essential in Mike's absence, and also with our Curate Emma, on placement in Chinnor. It has also brought greater clarity and consistency to service styles. A further benefit has been bringing the church congregation closer together, rather than being spread across multiple services, with refreshments between the services bringing the whole church together (although the gap between services is proving too great for this to be effective). The new pattern has meant a loss to those who appreciated the BCP, Evensong and Quiet Services as well as a service in the evening. This will be considered at the review.

Weekly church attendance is typically 170 adults, 15 children and with around 20 watching online between the two services. During the year there have been 22 baptisms and birth thanksgivings (2022: 22), 12 weddings (2022: 19), 23 funerals (2022: 30) in St. Mary's and 7 services at the crematorium (2022: 9). There were also 33 committal of ashes services during the year (2022: 29).

Barley Hill Parochial Church Council
Annual report of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

We were delighted to appoint Hannah Smith to our team in September as our new, full-time, Children & Families Ministry Leader, with the support of a grant from the Diocese. Hannah has brought experience and leadership to this ministry. She has already developed our links with local primary schools Barley Hill and John Hampden, starting assemblies at both and re-starting our presence at the Barley Hill Carol Service. There are many plans for 2024 including Outdoor Church events and a Parenting Group.

Baptisms have continued to be held regularly, mainly during the 10.15am service and the new 11am service, and the midweek Sparklers service meets weekly with around 70 people, ensuring that families and carers have a regular, predictable pattern of activity.

YOUTH

Our volunteer youth leader stepped down and the weekly discipleship group for around 8 now meets fortnightly. However, we plan to start a new Sunday morning group in 2024 to support youth at the 11am service. We are prayerfully considering what other support we can provide to grow this important ministry.

SMALL GROUPS & PASTORAL CARE

We have encouraged participation of Small Groups during the year, with two new groups starting, taking the total to 14, with over 100 people attending. These include missional groups such as the Choir and EcoAction Group. The Small Group Leaders now meet termly for encouragement, training and to facilitate communication. Our Small Group structure is the main form of pastoral care in the church and is complemented by our clergy for those not in groups. We hope to establish a more formal Pastoral Care team for home visits in the coming year.

MISSION & EVANGELISM

We serve the town of Thame through our toddler and carer group Sparklers, our monthly lunch and talk for older people (55+) as well as through the involvement by members of the church in numerous aspects of service within the town – e.g. as school governors, councillors, housing authority representatives and in supporting charities. We further support care of the elderly through our Anna Chaplain, services in Care Homes and regular home visiting done by many members of the church.

The PCC allocates at least 10% of general giving to mission support, (both in the UK and overseas). The allocation of this support is reviewed by the Mission Group each year. This group, like several others, has begun the process of amalgamating with similar groups at the other churches. This wider group is enabling effective communication and strategy to be made for all the mission partners.

We have seen a good number of people returning to the church following the changes to service structure. We have also welcomed many more newcomers. A leaflet drop across Thame facilitated many new people to come to our Christmas services this year. It was decided not to run Alpha or similar courses this year, but we plan to do so in 2024.

COMMUNICATIONS

Significant developments have been made to the systems this year, including the implementation of ChurchSuite and SharePoint as the primary administrative, communication and archiving systems. An Interim Church Administrator was appointed for 3 months to help implement these systems. Whilst resolving teething problems and buy-in from all the congregation is ongoing, we now have comprehensive and robust tools to provide a platform for effective data management and communication.

We have also developed a new Thame Church website, which will gradually take over from the individual church websites.

ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS

Impact Thame (formerly known as Lighthouse) is an ecumenical charity serving children, young people and families in Thame and surrounding villages. It has run several successful events during 2023 including a Big Church Family Fun Day in July and a Lighten Up Party on 30th October. These were successful and there are plans to develop them further in 2024. Thame in Prayer has continued to meet regularly and the Team Vicar continues to meet with the other church leaders monthly.

All this ministry is only possible with the incredible generosity of many in our community who faithfully serve and give their time and money. For this we give God thanks.

Andy McCulloch
Team Vicar, Thame Church

Financial Review

Income on the unrestricted fund totalled £65,266 (2022: £68,579). Income from all funds totalled £65,266 (2022: £68,579).

There was restricted income of £0 in 2023. (2022: £0).

The PCC received no goods or services (other than the time of volunteers) free of charge or at a discounted level.

There was restricted expenditure of £0 in 2023 (2022: £0). There was net expenditure in the year of £504 (2022 net expenditure: £14,204). Monthly income from individuals declined slightly during the year.

Overall costs were contained, and our Parish share was reduced as this is now shared across the 3 churches. The cash balance on the unrestricted fund at 31 December 2023 is £76,080 (2022: £74,699).

The PCC feel it is prudent to continue to hold reserves at the current level in order to allow the Church to fully resume its normal activities during next year.

The PCC is aware of its obligation to operate for the public benefit and the Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission public benefit guidance (PB3). The PCC considers it fulfils this requirement by contributing to the spiritual life of the parish it serves as well as offering tangible support to activities designed to aid hardship and provide help to those in need in the local and global community.

Reserves

The PCC's policy is to maintain reserves at a minimum of three month's operating expenses (£19,083). The charity's assets are both available and adequate to meet its obligations, with unrestricted reserves of £73,930.

Structure, governance and management

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure 1956. Appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules 2006. The charity is administered by its trustees, the PCC members.

Administrative information

Since the lifting of Covid 19 restrictions Barley Hill Church continue to meet online and in person at St Mary's Church Thame, together with the congregations from St Mary's and St Catherine's Church Towersey. The Church forms part of the Thame Benefice in the Diocese of Oxford. At 31 December 2023 there were 80 parishioners after revision of the electoral roll (2022: 83).

During 2009 Barley Hill Parochial Church Council (PCC) registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales under the name of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Barley Hill (registered number 1127839). Until then the PCC was a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission. The charity's correspondence address is:

Barley Hill Church, c/o Thame Barns Centre, Church Road OX9 3AJ

Barley Hill Parochial Church Council
Annual report of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023

Administrative information (Continued)

The PCC acknowledges that the operation of the Church is heavily dependent on the commitment of the volunteers within the congregation in order to fulfil its activities.

PCC members who have served between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023 are:

Ex-officio:

Andy McCulloch	Team Vicar (Chairman)
Sharon Bond	Safeguarding Officer

Deanery Synod Representatives:

Bridget Trueman
Richard Shearwood

Elected members:

Al French	(Churchwarden)	
Carrie Priestnall		Appointed 18.04.2023
Natasha Challoner		Appointed 18.04.2023
Richard Potts		Appointed 18.04.2023
Andrew Newton		Appointed 18.04.2023
Judith Harper		
Janette Dixon		Resigned 18.04.2023
Donna Maddock		
Deborah Salisbury		
Andrew Clamp		
Andrew Sweet		
Margaret Robinson		

Election to the PCC follows the Church representation rules published by the Church of England and a conscious effort is made to ensure it is both balanced and inclusive of the larger congregation.

Other relevant organisations.

Bank Lloyds Bank plc, 13 Cornmarket, Thame, Oxfordshire, OX9 2BN

This report was approved by the PCC on 7/4/24 and signed on their behalf by:



Natasha Challoner
(Treasurer)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Barley Hill Parochial Church Council (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 8 to 17.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 Trustee's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- (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.



Robert Kirtland, FCA
Critchleys Audit LLP, 23-38 Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford

Date: 8/5/2024

Barley Hill Parochial Church Council
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 Unrestricted £	2023 Restricted £	2023 Total £	2022 All funds £
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from donors	2	64,723	-	64,723	67,992
Interest income		543	-	543	37
Grants		-	-	-	550
Total incoming resources		65,266	-	65,266	68,579
Resources expended					
Mission and Charity Giving	3	10,086	-	10,086	9,768
Charitable activities undertaken directly	4	54,184	-	54,184	72,165
Governance costs	5	1,500	-	1,500	850
Total resources expended		65,770	-	65,770	82,783
Net outgoing resources		(504)	-	(504)	(14,204)
Fund balances at 1 January		74,434	-	74,434	88,638
Fund balances at 31 December		73,930	-	73,930	74,434

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. All gains and losses recognised in the year are included above.

All resources throughout the year related to unrestricted funds.

Note 13 provides an analysis of the 2022 comparative information.

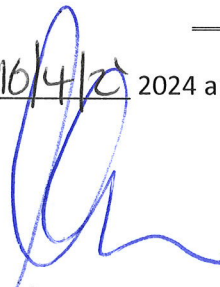
Barley Hill Parochial Church Council
Balance sheet at 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	8		-		228
Current assets					
Debtors	9	792		1,335	
Cash at bank and in hand	10	76,080		74,699	
		<u>76,872</u>		<u>76,034</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(2,942)</u>		<u>(1,828)</u>	
Net current assets			73,930		74,206
Total assets/(liabilities)			<u>73,930</u>		<u>74,434</u>
Funds					
Unrestricted funds (General)			72,815		72,113
Unrestricted funds (Designated)	12		1,115		2,321
Total funds			<u>73,930</u>		<u>74,434</u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 16/4/24 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Natasha Challoner
Treasurer



Al French
Churchwarden

The notes on pages 10 to 17 form an integral part of these financial statements.

1. Accounting policies

1.1 Statement of Compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and Charity Law in England.

The PCC has adopted the requirements of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice SORP (FRS 102) in preparing these accounts. The date of transition was 1 January 2015.

The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity incorporated in the UK.

The charity's correspondence address is:

Barley Hill Church, c/o Thame Barns Centre, Church Road, OX9 3AJ.

1.2 Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties regarding the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern.

1.3 Accounting convention

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention.

1.4 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for any other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. There were no restricted funds during the year or at the year end.

1.5 Incoming resources

Incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be measured reliably. For legacies, entitlement is recognised on the charity being notified by the executors that a payment will be made.

Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are received. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

1.6 Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Expenditure is recognised when a present legal or constructive obligation exists at the reporting date as a result of a past event; and it is more likely than not that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement; and the amount of the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

Expenditure has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

1.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

It is the policy of the Charity to capitalise new assets costing or valued at more than £1,000.

Depreciation is provided on a systematic basis over the economic life of an asset to reflect its use and consumption of the economic benefits or service potential provided by the asset. Depreciation is provided on a monthly basis at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Office equipment	-	33.33% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	-	20.00% straight line

2. Incoming resources from donors

All Funds

	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		
Planned giving		
Covenanted, Gift Aid	40,700	39,437
Tax recoverable	10,290	9,859
Other planned giving, tax not recoverable	13,733	18,696
	64,723	67,992
Unplanned giving		
Cash collections	-	-
Total Unrestricted Giving	64,723	67,992
RESTRICTED FUNDS	-	-
TOTAL	64,723	67,992

3. Grant Funding of Activities - Missionary & charity giving

All Funds

	2023	2022
	£	£
Missionary societies/individuals	10,086	9,768

The above totals include the following grants totalling £500 or more:

Grants to organisations

New Life House - Nepali orphanage	3,000	3,300
Wycliffe Bible Translators (Sweets)	2,280	2,508

Grants to persons

Steven & Dr Catherine McGoldrick	4,500	3,960
	9,780	9,768

4. Charitable activities directly relating to the work of the church

	2023 Total All funds £	2022 Total All funds £
Church Family		
Sunday morning general expenditure	1,989	1,091
Youth work and related costs	511	2,913
Interparish Transfers	4,313	-
	<u>6,813</u>	<u>4,004</u>
Interregnum		
Interregnum costs	-	488
Social Action		
Mission for Thame	677	590
Leadership		
Training and Ministry Development	-	50
Employee costs	-	4,837
Insurance and licences	545	730
Legal and bank fees	84	84
Admin and communications	886	3,069
Miscellaneous costs	192	453
Parish share	44,930	57,633
Depreciation	57	227
	<u>46,694</u>	<u>67,083</u>
Total	<u><u>54,184</u></u>	<u><u>72,165</u></u>

Barley Hill Parochial Church Council
Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

5. Governance costs

	2023	2022
	Total	Total
	£	£
Independent examiner's honorarium	1,500	850

6. Related party transactions

The trustees neither received nor waived any emoluments from the charity during the period. Ordained members of the clergy receive their stipends directly from the Church of England.

Related party transactions are as follows:	2023	2022
	£	£
Out of pocket expenses reimbursed to trustees and connected persons	969	1,352
	Number	Number
Number of trustees and connected parties paid	2	6

7. Staff costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages & salaries paid to staff	-	4,611
Employer's National Insurance	-	-
Pension	-	226
Total	-	4,837

No employee had emoluments of over £60,000 in the year. The average number of employees, calculated on a full-time equivalent basis, analysed by function was:

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
Administrator	-	0.15
Total	-	0.15

8. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Storage Shed	Computer Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost or valuation			
At 1 January 2023	1,136	1,459	2,595
Disposals during the year	(1,136)	(1,459)	(2,595)
At 31 December 2023	-	-	-
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2023	908	1,459	2,367
Charge for the year	57	-	57
Disposals during the year	(965)	(1,459)	(2,424)
At 31 December 2023	-	-	-
Net book value			
At 1 January 2023	228	-	228
At 31 December 2023	-	-	-

9. Debtors

	2023 Total All Funds	2022 Total All Funds
	£	£
Tax recoverable (Unrestricted)	-	958
Prepayments	792	377
	792	1,335

10. Cash at bank and in hand

	2023 Total All funds	2022 Total All funds
	£	£
Deposit account	40,212	41,216
Current accounts	35,868	33,483
	76,080	74,699

11. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 Total All Funds £	2022 Total All Funds £
Creditors	592	-
Accruals	2,350	1,828
	<u>2,942</u>	<u>1,828</u>

12. Designated funds

The movement on designated Funds during the year was:

	Men's Ministry £	'58 Fund' £	2023 Total All funds £	2022 Total All funds £
Balance at 1 January	321	2,000	2,321	2,321
Resources received	-	-	-	200
Resources expended	-	(1,206)	(1,206)	(200)
Transfer to Undesignated funds	-	-	-	-
	<u>321</u>	<u>794</u>	<u>1115</u>	<u>2,321</u>

Men's Ministry : Supports men's social events.

"58" Fund : Supports people who are facing hardship.

13. Comparative Statement of Financial Activity

As required by FRS102 the SOFA set out below is the full analysis for the 2022 comparative.

	2022 Unrestricted	2022 Restricted	2022 Total
Incoming resources			
Incoming resources from donors	67,992	-	67,992
Interest income	37	-	37
Grant	550	-	550
Total incoming resources	68,579	-	68,579
Resources expended			
Mission and Charity Giving	9,768	-	9,768
Charitable activities undertaken directly	72,165	-	72,165
Governance costs	850	-	850
Total resources expended	82,783	-	82,783
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources	(14,204)	-	(14,204)
 Fund balances at 1 January	 88,638	 -	 88,638
 Fund balances at 31 December	 74,434	 -	 74,434