

**Barley Hill Parochial Church Council**  
**Report and Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2024**

**Registered Charity no: 1127839**



**Barley Hill Parochial Church Council  
Legal and administrative information  
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

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**Barley Hill Parochial Church Council  
Legal and administrative information  
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

**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 2024 there were 80 parishioners after revision of the electoral roll (2023: 80).

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

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 2024 and 31 December 2024 are:

**Ex-officio:**

Andy McCulloch	Team Vicar (Chairman)
Sharon Bond	Safeguarding Officer

**Deanery Synod Representatives:**

Bridget Trueman  
Richard Shearwood

**Elected members:**

Al French	(Churchwarden)
Deborah Salisbury	(Resigned 22nd November 2024)
Natasha Challoner	
Richard Potts	
Andrew Newton	
Judith Harper	
Donna Maddock	(Resigned 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2024)
Carrie Priestnall	
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, 1 Market Square, Aylesbury Buckinghamshire HP20 1TD
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## **Achievements and Performance**

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, Barley Hill Church has worshiped with St Mary's Thame, initially online and then after lockdown at St Mary's Church. A trial process, including St Catherine's Towersey from 2022, of working together continues. Whilst the PCC remains the legal governing body for Barley Hill Church, ministry is now run jointly with St Mary's and St Catherine's. This report therefore combines details for their combined ministry, although details of services for St Catherine's are reported separately.

## **GOVERNANCE & STRUCTURE**

The new governance structure for St Mary's, Barley Hill and St Catherine's churches, implemented during 2023, continues to provide an informal Joint Church Council (JCC) and a Standing Committee to manage the running and finances of the combined churches, whilst retaining the legal structures of the existing PCCs. The combined churches operate under the name 'Thame Church'.

During this year we began discussions about the possibility of formally merging the three parishes, with advice and guidance from Oxford Diocese. This will have the benefit of further reducing the governance burden and significantly simplifying the financial procedures. We hope to progress this during 2025.

This year we welcomed Katy Hammond as our new part-time Operations Manager. She started in November 2024 to support the clergy in the effective planning and organising of church ministries and events.

## **WORSHIP & PRAYER**

Following significant changes to service patterns during 2023, this has been a year of consolidation for the 9am Holy Communion and 11am Informal services. A review of the service pattern was conducted at Easter with overall support for the new pattern. Some people still miss the BCP services, however with the reduced burden on clergy and the bringing together of the church community, rather than being spread across many services, it was felt that the new pattern should be retained. Occasional celebration evensong services were also held during the year.

Weekly church attendance is typically 170 adults, 18 children and with around 20 watching online across the two services. During the year there have been 11 baptisms and birth thanksgivings (2023: 22), 5 weddings (2023: 12), 17 funerals in St. Mary's (2023: 23) and 9 services at the crematorium (2023: 7). There were also 25 committal of ashes services during the year (2023: 33).

A Ministry Leader for Prayer was appointed which is successfully promoting existing opportunities for prayer during the week and prayer ministry at services, as well as developing new opportunities.

## **CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

Hannah Smith has continued to create more opportunities for children and families to encounter Christ and build their faith. Initiatives like outdoor church have started to flourish as well as Eco Church events - building bug hotels in the churchyard and our involvement with the Eco Zone at Thame Carnival. Our all-age services have also been developed to support the church becoming a truly intergenerational community of faith, with families at the centre.

Our toddler group, Sparklers, continues to flourish with around 80 parents/carers and toddlers attending weekly. This year focus has been put on supporting transitions e.g. at Baptism and starting primary/secondary, as well as supporting vulnerable families. We are so grateful for the many volunteers who support our Children & Families Ministry.

**Barley Hill Parochial Church Council**  
**Annual report of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024**

## **YOUTH**

We have continued without a volunteer youth leader this year, which has prevented us from investing as much as we would like in this ministry. We started a new Sunday morning youth group at the 11am service, which has a pool of around 8 young people, but with around 2-4 attending each week. A great team of volunteers support the young people and we hope to join Cornerstone youth for some of their regular social/chill gatherings as well as going on a youth weekend away in 2025. We received a significant donation of £31,250 towards our youth work which is hoped will provide seed money for a youth worker in the future.

## **SMALL GROUPS & PASTORAL CARE**

Our many small groups (currently 13) continue to provide valuable discipleship and pastoral support to a significant proportion of our congregation. Sermon series, such as Practicing the Way, were supported by small groups using the associated teaching material/videos. Leaders meet termly for encouragement, training and to facilitate communication.

This year we recruited and trained a formal Pastoral Care team, under Graham Choldcroft's leadership. This is now available to support those in need, particularly those outside of small groups. Those in local care homes are visited through our Anna Chaplain and we also run regular services.

## **MISSION & EVANGELISM**

As well as Sparklers being a key outreach to local families, our regular lunch and talk for older people (55+) continues to flourish, supporting over 60 people each month.

Easter Experience welcomed around 800 children from Barley Hill and John Hampden schools to the church for a creative, interactive telling of the Easter Story.

Alpha was run with around 10 guests in the summer with a mixture of people from church, on the fringe of church and outside. It is hoped to run courses again early in 2025.

Our Curate Emma Endean-Mills has supported the local air cadets squadron as chaplain providing pastoral care to cadets and staff. This is done with a focus on representing the Kingdom of God and its values, to meet the pastoral, spiritual and moral needs of the cadets and to enable that body to practise its various faiths. We also welcomed the cadets into church for the squadron to celebrate their 30th Anniversary.

The church co-ordinated annual events such as Music in the Park's free drop off and craft activities, supporting 76 children this year, and Carols Around the Tree enabling hundreds to gather to sing carols on Christmas Eve. Key community events at Towersey are also supported by the church including the May Festival and Church Fete.

We ran a stall at the town's Christmas Tree Light Switch-On event giving out chocolates and leaflets for Christmas services. This was an excellent opportunity to engage with the local community and successfully promoted services.

The PCC allocates 10% of its general giving to support mission partners both in the UK and overseas. Each month one of these groups gives a short update/presentation to the 9am and 11am services.

**Barley Hill Parochial Church Council**  
**Annual report of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024**

## ECO CHURCH

We received our Bronze Eco Church Award in December 2024, which recognises the great efforts of our EcoAction Group. Significant steps have been taken to make the culture, buildings, churchyard and purchasing more caring towards creation. Many more plans are in store, such as air-source heat pumps for St Mary's.

## COMMUNICATIONS

The new ChurchSuite and SharePoint systems have brought significant benefits in communication. These continue to be developed/used and will be a key tool for our new Operations Manager. The new Thame Church website was officially launched and we are extremely grateful to Keith Civval for his incredible efforts in making this happen. A review of our welcome desk and leaflet are under review to ensure newcomers are welcomed well.

## FACILITIES

The quinquennial inspection for St Mary's was carried out this year, with a long list of jobs needing to be done, primarily stonework repairs. This work has still to be costed, but designated funds should be able to cover a reasonable proportion of these.

Following the decorating of St Mary's toilets in 2023 it was hoped to develop the servery in 2024. However, this has been delayed as we reflect on wider considerations for catering in the church.

The Barns Centre lease ran out in 2023 and is still under re-negotiation between the church, the Barns Centre Charity and the Town Council (who co-own the centre with the church). The delay has been caused by differences in understanding regarding the purpose of the centre. We are currently taking legal advice to ascertain the current position and options for moving forward.

## ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS

Thame Church joined other local churches to support Impact Thame's Lighten Up Party and Holiday Club which were successful. Our clergy meet with other church leaders on a monthly basis to support and encourage each other. This also led to the launch of United.Ignited, a monthly gathering of all churches in Thame for worship, prayer and ministry.

All this ministry is only possible with the incredible generosity of many in our community who faithfully serve and give their time and money. We are immensely grateful to all who have helped. We thanked and celebrated their efforts with them (and their partners) at our first Volunteer Thank You event, with over 200 gathering for Pimm's and Puddings.

We give thanks to God for all he has done and for all his provision throughout the year.



Mike Reading (Team Rector) and Andy McCulloch (Team Vicar)  
Thame Church



## **Financial Review**

Income on the unrestricted fund totalled £60,586 (2023: £65,266). Income from all funds totalled £60,586 (2023: £65,266). There is a slight reduction in Regular giving.

There was restricted income of £0 in 2024. (2023: £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 2024 (2023: £0). There was net expenditure in the year of £3,829 (2023 net expenditure: £504).

Overall costs were contained, and our Parish share was reduced as this is now shared across the three parishes. Church running costs are also shared. The cash balance on the unrestricted fund at 31 December 2024 is £69,609 (2023: £76,080).

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 (£16,103). The charity's assets are both available and adequate to meet its obligations, with unrestricted reserves of £70,101.

**Barley Hill Parochial Church Council**  
**Annual report of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024**

**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.

**Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities for the year ended 31 December 2024**

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Trust and of the surplus or deficit of the Trust for that period. In preparing those accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the accounts on the going-concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Trust will continue in operational existence.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Trust and to enable them to ensure that the Accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Trust and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the PCC on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



**Natasha Challoner**  
(Treasurer)



**Barley Hill Parochial Church Council**

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Barley Hill Parochial Church Council**

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 2024, which are set out on pages 9 to 15.

***Responsibilities and basis of report***

As the trustees of the charity, 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 charity'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.



Date: 15.05.25

Peter Foley, ACA

Gravita Audit Oxford LLP, Park Central, 40-41 Park End Bridge Street, Oxford, OX1 1JD

**Barley Hill Parochial Church Council**  
**Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2024**

	Notes	2024 Unrestricted £	2023 Unrestricted £
<b>Income from:</b>			
Donations and Legacies	2	59,936	64,723
Investments income		650	543
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>60,586</b>	<b>65,266</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>			
Church Activities	3	64,415	65,770
Raising funds		-	-
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>64,415</b>	<b>65,770</b>
<b>Net expenditure</b>		<b>(3,829)</b>	<b>(504)</b>
<b>Fund balances at 1 January</b>		<b>73,930</b>	<b>74,434</b>
<b>Fund balances at 31 December</b>		<b>70,101</b>	<b>73,930</b>

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.

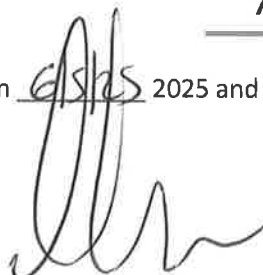
**Barley Hill Parochial Church Council**  
**Balance sheet at 31 December 2024**

	Notes	2024	2023
		£	£
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	7	2,327	792
Cash at bank and in hand		69,609	76,080
		<u>71,936</u>	<u>76,872</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	8	<u>(1,835)</u>	<u>(2,942)</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>70,101</b>	<b>73,930</b>
<b>Total assets/(liabilities)</b>		<u><b>70,101</b></u>	<u><b>73,930</b></u>
<b>Funds</b>			
Unrestricted funds (General)		70,101	72,815
Unrestricted funds (Designated)	9	-	1,115
<b>Total funds</b>		<u><b>70,101</b></u>	<u><b>73,930</b></u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 21st 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



**Natasha Challoner**  
**Treasurer**



**Al French**  
**Churchwarden**

**The notes on pages 11 to 15 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. All designated funds were utilised during the year.

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 Income**

Income is 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 Level of rounding**

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Trust. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

**1.8 Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

**1.9 Basic financial assets**

Basic financial assets, which include cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

**1.10 Basic financial liabilities**

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

**1.11 Judgements and estimations**

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

# Barley Hill Parochial Church Council

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

## 2. Donations and Legacies

### All Funds

	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>		
<b>Planned giving</b>		
Covenanted, Gift Aid	46,103	40,700
Tax recoverable	10,039	10,290
Other planned giving, tax not recoverable	3,010	13,733
	<u>59,152</u>	<u>64,723</u>
<b>Unplanned Giving</b>		
One off gifts	784	-
<b>Total Unrestricted Giving</b>	<u>59,936</u>	<u>64,723</u>
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>59,936</u>	<u>64,723</u>

## 3. Church Activities

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Grants (Note 4)</b>	8,880	10,086
<b>Direct Costs</b>		
Parish share	30,160	44,930
Ministry expenses	1,134	2,648
Outreach Expenses	958	529
Church running expenses	<u>20,757</u>	<u>4,313</u>
	53,009	52,420
<b>Support and Governance Support Costs (Note 5)</b>	2,526	3,264
<b>Total Costs</b>	<u>64,415</u>	<u>65,770</u>
<b>Analysis by Fund:</b>		
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<u>64,415</u>	<u>65,770</u>

**Barley Hill Parochial Church Council**  
**Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024**

**4. Grants - Missionary & charity giving**

The above totals include the following grants totalling £500 or more:	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
<b>Grants to organisations</b>		
New Life House - Nepali orphanage	<b>3,000</b>	3,000
Wycliffe Bible Translators	<b>2,280</b>	2,280
<b>Grants to persons</b>		
Steven & Dr Catherine McGoldrick	<u><b>3,600</b></u>	<u>4,500</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u><b>8,880</b></u>	<u>9,780</u>

**5. Support and Governance Costs**

	<b>Support</b>	<b>Governance</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£	Total £	Total £
Office and Sundry expenditure	<b>906</b>	-	<b>906</b>	1,764
Independent examination fee	-	<b>1,620</b>	<b>1,620</b>	1,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>906</b>	<b>1,620</b>	<b>2,526</b>	<b>3,264</b>

**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:	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
Out of pocket expenses reimbursed to trustees	<b>288</b>	969
Donations made by trustees	<b>13,995</b>	16,440
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>
Number of trustees reimbursed expenses	<b>2</b>	2
Number of trustees making donations	<b>8</b>	8

**Barley Hill Parochial Church Council**  
**Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024**

**7. Debtors**

	<b>2024 Total All Funds £</b>	<b>2023 Total All Funds £</b>
Tax recoverable	<b>524</b>	-
Prepayments	<b>1,803</b>	792
	<b>2,327</b>	792

**8. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2024 Total All Funds £</b>	<b>2023 Total All Funds £</b>
Trade Creditors	<b>215</b>	592
Accruals	<b>1,620</b>	2,350
	<b>1,835</b>	2,942

**9. Designated funds**

The movement on designated Funds during the year was:

	<b>Men's Ministry</b>	<b>'58 Fund'</b>	<b>2024 Total All funds £</b>	<b>2023 Total All funds £</b>
Balance at 1 January	<b>321</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>1,115</b>	2,321
Resources received	-	-	-	-
Resources expended	-	<b>(794)</b>	<b>(794)</b>	(1,206)
Transfer to Undesignated funds	<b>(321)</b>	-	<b>(321)</b>	-
	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,115</b>

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

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