

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF BITTERNE PARK, SOUTHAMPTON

England & Wales · Charity number 1128861

Details

Other names BITTERNE PARK PCC

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2009-03-27

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

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Activities

Objects: Promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church.

Activities: Promoting the whole mission of the church within the Ecclesiastical Parish.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Southampton City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£175,990	£239,097	-	-
2024-12-31	£167,728	£281,172	-	-
2023-12-31	£169,522	£200,568	-	-
2022-12-31	£155,452	£179,383	-	-
2021-12-31	£138,279	£136,996	-	-
2020-12-31	£92,093	£115,871	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Simon Robertson	Chair	2021-09-01
Christopher Allcock		2024-04-28
Dr Craig Roberts Gallen		2025-05-28
Dr Kevin Vaughan Reynolds		2023-06-05
Elizabeth Ellen Fewtrell		2022-05-23
Hannah Bayes-Knight		2025-05-18
James Allen		2026-05-17
Mary Dickson		2025-05-18
PETER GOODALL		2017-03-19
Samuel Nichols		2020-02-09
Stephen Alexander		2024-04-28
Suzanne Lancashire		2024-04-28
Timothy Michael Nutt		2019-11-25

Accounts

Ascension

Trustees' Annual Report 2025

**Annual report for the Parochial Church Council of
The Church of the Ascension, Bitterne Park**

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Ascension

Vision and Values

Vision

To see God's kingdom come to our communities through making and growing whole life followers of Jesus.

Values

We are a warm and welcoming community, rooted in the good news of Jesus Christ, hungering for the in-filling, presence, and empowerment of the Holy Spirit, and seeking to love the world in the name of Jesus. Therefore, we value:

Encountering Jesus

Our highest, greatest privilege and deepest joy is to have a relationship with Jesus. It is this relationship with Him that defines our lives. We are called to be His disciples, follow Him, worship Him, and be shaped by Him. We believe that our lives are changed forever when we encounter Jesus through the Holy Spirit.

Deep community

Church is family where you can find your home. We seek to live generously, practice hospitality, release creativity, and have hearts of compassion. It's a place where we encourage one another to discover and follow God's call on each of our lives.

Loving mission

God is on a mission to reconcile all things to himself. Together we are called to join him in that mission, creatively and prophetically engaging with our local area, and seeing people come to faith and communities thrive.

Welcome

2025 was a year shaped by shared effort, resilience, and God's steady faithfulness across Ascension Church. Rather than being defined by the work of a few individuals, this past year reflected the commitment of the whole church family, people offering time, prayer, generosity, creativity, and care in countless ways. Every ministry, every act of service, every quiet contribution helped hold our community together and move us forward in mission.

This was also a year of transition. We said farewell to Ruth and gave thanks for all she brought to the life of the church and the wider community. In the summer, we welcomed James as our new curate, whose pastoral warmth and thoughtful presence quickly enriched us. We were delighted to see Peter return to ministry after a period of ill health, bringing renewed strength and wisdom. Alongside them, Jackie continued her faithful ministry as Anna Chaplain, supporting older people with compassion and prayer. Our ordinands, Andy, Bev, and Lucy, remained a valued part of our church family, contributing energy and enthusiasm wherever they served.

Throughout the year, many people stepped up, shared responsibilities, and quietly supported one another. Our children's and youth ministry grew under Jo's leadership as Lead Worker, with Luke's work alongside her, supported by volunteers, parents, and young people. Behind the scenes, Lizi helped keep our operations steady, and Tim ensured our administration remained organised, but much of their work was strengthened by volunteers giving time to practical tasks, events, hospitality, and communication. Small groups thrived because leaders and members together created places of belonging, prayer, and discipleship. Our prayer life continued through Jacqui and Ginny's faithful leadership, sustained by those who gathered early in the morning, prayed in groups, or carried others quietly in their hearts.

One of the most significant changes of the year was the end of our formal partnership with the Diocese and Church Army in Townhill Park, a decision outside our control. We remain grateful for all the partnerships achieved over the years. Despite the change, we secured funding for another year of Sandra's role, ensuring continuity and care amid uncertainty. With possible redevelopment of the site where the EDGE Hub is located, we ended the year recognising that this is now an area requiring prayerful discernment, careful planning, and wisdom. The situation is complex and evolving, and will need ongoing thought, conversation, and commitment as we seek to understand what the future of ministry in Townhill Park might look like.

Our work alongside Southampton City Mission, the Marketplace in Townhill Park, and NHS social prescribers continued to be strengthened by the involvement of many who volunteered, prayed, welcomed, and supported neighbours in need. These partnerships mattered because our community committed to them together.

We are grateful for the generous giving of the church family. Strengthening our long-term financial sustainability remained a shared priority throughout the year. Together, we worked to grow regular giving, make wise use of our buildings, and steward our resources carefully. This collective focus is vital as we build a secure foundation for ministry in the years to come.

Looking back, 2025 reminded us again that the life of Ascension Church is held by many hands and hearts. Through every challenge and every change, God has been faithful, and our community has responded with generosity, creativity, and hope. We look back with gratitude and forward with confidence in all that God will continue to do among us.

I warmly commend this report to you.



Revd Simon Robertson, Vicar

Encountering Jesus

Sunday Services

Throughout 2025 we continued to gather, both in person and online, to worship together. We believe we are changed through these opportunities — whether in praise and sung worship, preaching, prayer, or the Eucharist. At home or at Ascension, God is at work.

2025 saw the introduction of our 7pm service, allowing us to offer three distinct services each Sunday:

- a quieter, more formal **9:00am Eucharistic service**
- a **10:45am informal and contemporary service** with specific provision for children and young people
- a **7pm evening service**, offering time for Bible study and worship

Our **Edge+ service** in Townhill Park continues to meet fortnightly. The church family continues to grow steadily across all services, both in depth and in numbers.

Life Events

There were **11 baptisms** held at Ascension during 2025 and **two weddings**. There was **one funeral** service held in our church, and a further six conducted by our team at local crematoria. There were seven interments of ashes in Ascension's **Garden of Remembrance**.

Prayer

It has been wonderful to see the Prayer Ministry flourish in the life of our church in 2025. **Prayer ministry is now an intrinsic part of our 10:45 service**, and we are delighted to see more individuals coming forward for prayer on a regular basis. Ginny and Jacqui held a **Prayer Ministry meeting in October** to review how things were going, and feedback from the team was very positive. There is a clear excitement about what God is doing and will do through us at Ascension. We are planning to run training and add three new members to the team in February 2026. It is wonderful to have such prayerful people involved.

Many of us from the Prayer Ministry team attended the **Wildfires** Festival in July 2025. There, we were challenged not to go a week without someone placing a hand on our shoulder and asking the Holy Spirit to fill us. As a result, the team has been trying to put this into practice before praying for others.

On **Wednesday mornings at 6:30am**, we continue to gather with brothers and sisters from across the city to intercede for our city, churches, and nation. It is encouraging to see a visible demonstration of church unity, brought together by a love for Jesus and a desire to see the Holy Spirit move and God's kingdom come in Southampton.

In March, we gathered home groups for **an evening of creative prayer specifically for our church's missional activities**, mindful of Psalm 127:1 — "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain." It was inspiring to showcase the breadth of our missional work and to lift it all to God in prayer. We also introduced the concept of **"Pop-Up Prayer,"** gathering at the end of the 10:45 service to pray for a particular aspect of church life. We trialled this in November to pray over our Christmas events and services, and we plan to continue this in 2026.

On 6 September 2025, we joined 24/7 Prayer's global week of prayer and created a 24/7-style prayer room, holding **12 hours of prayer** in the youth space at Ascension. We prayed for ourselves, our friends

and families, our city, nation, and world. It was moving to see the aftermath of our prayers — written on post-its, stones, chalked on the wall, hung on the prayer tree, and pinned to the world map. A small team with a passion for prayer has begun exploring further ways to encourage corporate prayer across the church.

Given the positive reception of the prayer room, we created another in the Grace Hall across the first week of January 2026, encouraging our congregation to meet with Jesus at the start of the new year. It has been encouraging to see people of all ages engage with the space and encounter God. The team has plans for further prayer days throughout 2026, and we are excited to see the return of prayer walks on the last Sunday evening of every month.

Ginny & Jacqui – Prayer Ministry Leads

The Rising Generation

We continue to have around a third of our worshipping community involved in our **Sunday children's and youth work**. During these sessions, we emphasise the importance of children having a personal encounter with Jesus, as well as learning how He speaks to us through the Bible. As in previous years, the children follow a full programme involving worship, Bible stories reinforced through drama, games, object lessons, and reflection — encouraging them to seek and hear God for themselves through creativity and Scripture.

Our heart is to see children and young people grow in their relationship with Jesus, walking in the fullness of His plan for their lives, knowing who He says they are, and sharing their faith with those around them.

This year, we started a new group, **Calm Club**, recognising that several children with additional needs required a different environment to grow in their faith. This was an act of faith, as we already had four groups for under-18s and did not have enough team members at the time. We are pleased to see our number of **volunteer helpers** increase, with specialist SEND volunteers filling this much-needed gap. We held a training day this year, equipping the team with autism awareness training from qualified SEND specialists, as well as reinforcing safeguarding and behaviour management.

My heart has always been to **build family** — for children and young people to know they are unconditionally loved, accepted, and important to the body of Christ. One way we do this is by acknowledging each child's birthday with a small gift and card. At Christmas, each young person receives a gift and a card with a **prophetic word** from the Prophetic Community. Parents and young people regularly share how meaningful this is.

It has been lovely to see our relationship with **local schools** grow. We currently see around 900 children three times a year, and some of these children now attend church independently of their parents.

'**Scooch**', our drop-in for Bitterne Park Secondary School, continues to grow in both numbers and depth of relationship. Each week we see around 100 students and have been excited to develop opportunities for them to hear God through pop-up prophetic stations and Scripture tombola. This connects with our work in the school's **Christian Union**, which has been growing rapidly, with pupils bringing their non-Christian friends. It has also been a privilege to be invited into the school to speak on various panels alongside other religious leaders, enabling young people to ask questions about our faith. We have also welcomed classes from the school into the church for talks about the building and Easter.

As one of the three founding churches of **Youthfest**, we have continued to work with a growing number of churches across the city to host a winter event and a summer camp for young people. These have been well received and continue to grow.

All youth groups have grown this year, both on Sunday mornings and weekday evenings, to the point that we have had to move groups around as we outgrew our spaces. We now have around 56 children and young people on a Sunday. Our Thursday evening youth group has also grown, with 35–40 young people attending. At least half of these are unchurched but show real engagement with the spiritual aspects, many attending our Youth Weekend Away and monthly worship evenings.

We initiated **Youth Worship evenings** this year, recognising neurodiversity and the different ways young people worship. We felt led to encourage creativity in these sessions, which have been well received, with 40 young people at our most recent event. We held prophetic art sessions, psalm drumming, and open creativity (canvases, writing, dance), alongside worship led by our **Youth Worship Band**.

It has been exciting to see young people grow in worship and prayer, engaging both in the main service and in their own groups. We are excited to develop our Youth Worship Band further, with the aim of seeing young people more actively involved in wider church ministry.

Our Youth Worship Band also led worship for our **Youth Weekend Away**, attended by 36 young people — many from our Thursday youth club as well as our worshipping community. We explored Matthew 7:7–8, Jesus' invitation to Ask, Seek, and Knock, and were blessed with prophetic input from Joy Chalke and Josh Heather from Emmaus Road Church. The young people responded well, facing challenges such as abseiling, and it was lovely to see relationships deepen and faith grow. We were able to offer a discount for the weekend thanks to proceeds from our Wreath-Making events, which raised over £2,000 to subsidise the weekend and provide branded hoodies for each young person.

Our **Youth Alpha course** was a success, with over 20 young people attending, and we have seen increased involvement in church life as a result. Our youth also hosted a quiz night for their nominated charity, Safe Families, raising £575.

Our annual **Light Party** was a great success, with around 300 people from the local community attending, and many of our youth helping to run it. This year's theme was Asian Fantasy, with ten craft stations and ten activities, including an enchanted forest and a mirror maze.

The **Wreath-Making** events were well attended, with 180 people over two nights from the local community. These evenings are a wonderful witness to our church family, bringing together parents from local schools, the running community, neighbours, and others. They also offer a moment to pause before the busyness of Christmas. We set a very low price to ensure financial barriers are minimal.

Over **Christmas**, we held three services as a children's work team: Christingle, Nativity, and the Crib Service — the latter being more outward-facing and drawing many families from the local community. It was also lovely to be present at **Christmas in the Triangle**, running a craft table and chatting with parents and children. It is encouraging to see inter-church relationships deepen through events like this.

Jo Szedlak, Children & Youth Worker

Alpha

In 2025 we had the joy of running an **Alpha** course again, with 21 people signing up to attend. This was a wonderful opportunity for people to meet, build community and relationships, and ask questions about faith. We welcomed people from a broad range of backgrounds and enjoyed rich discussions. We plan to continue this ministry into 2026, with an Alpha course already booked for January. We also ran a **Youth Alpha**, with 18 young people signing up to explore faith together over pizza.

The EDGE Hub, Townhill Park

2025 was a busy year for EDGE, bringing many changes, including the opening of our temporary premises in Townhill Park — **The EDGE Hub**. Lead Evangelist Ruth Hills left the role in the spring to move to Wales to be closer to family, and Sandra Philip took over from her. This brought many challenges and resulted in the loss of some whose relationships with Ruth had been central to their involvement in both the Hub and Edge+. We also said goodbye to several volunteers who felt it was time to move on.

Emily, one of our original volunteers, has become an important part of the work we do, as both her faith and confidence have blossomed, filling the space created by these staff changes. Emily's walk with God has been a beautiful testimony to how He changes lives and rewrites stories. We are excited to see where her journey takes her.

The **Saturday Breakfast Club** had a small but regular following. After reviewing how best to use our available hours to maximise impact, we decided to end this initiative and adjust our weekly timetable accordingly.

The Tuesday morning group became **Wellspring** — a group for women of all ages to meet, encourage one another, study the Bible, and grow in faith. We began with just a few, and now have a vibrant, committed group of women, each at a different stage of faith, but together becoming a supportive community.

We celebrated **Easter** with a week of activities, with over 150 visitors taking part. The week culminated in an Easter Brunch, where more than 20 people shared a meal and listened to the Easter story, followed by an Easter-themed game of pass-the-parcel, which was enjoyed by all.

We were delighted to collaborate with the council, local artists, schools, and THRILL to create the **Townhill Park Community Art Gallery** — an installation of artworks created by residents, many of which were produced at workshops hosted by the Hub. This project represented an act of social reclamation, transforming the hoardings surrounding demolition sites with colourful creativity. The event was attended by local councillors, press, artists, and residents. We have worked hard to build strong relationships with other stakeholders in the community this year, and events like this are vital in that endeavour. It was also wonderful to celebrate the creativity of the people of Townhill Park.

In August, we held a **Big Summer Hoe-Down**, which saw over 250 people enjoying an afternoon of attractions such as horseshoe tossing, Tin Can Alley, line dancing, and numerous other games and activities. The event filled the green on Meggeson Avenue, with marquees displaying artwork, refreshments, and candy floss. Everyone received a free cowboy lunchbox, and we were entertained with acoustic country music. A great time was had by all, and many new families began attending other Hub events as a result. As well as being a fantastic family event, it served as effective outreach, and due to popular demand, we intend to run it again next summer.

Attendance at **EDGE+**, our Sunday gathering, had fallen significantly. Although we attempted to continue in the same format, we decided to take a break over the summer and relaunch with a new name — **Edge Crew**. We now meet from 3–5pm on alternate Sundays. We have replaced the hot meal with a traditional Sunday tea and are now explicit in calling this event “church” — with a small c. Our intention is to grow this Sunday offering through the use of drama and music. Although Edge Crew has only recently launched, we feel excited and positive that God is with us as we build what is essentially a new church community.

Our **after-school drop-in sessions** are regularly attended by around 20 families, and we have come to know them well. We have a pool table, PlayStation, darts, board games, a daily craft activity, and a whole rail of dressing-up clothes that the children (and adults!) adore. We recently began offering hot snacks such as beans on toast and hot dogs, allowing parents to enjoy conversation while the children have tea. This is working well, and numbers remain consistent.

Our **Youth Café** is a new initiative for those aged 13 and over. Numbers vary, but we generally have five regular attendees, with many more having visited. We are confident that word of mouth will increase attendance, and we are actively promoting the café on social media. We anticipate an influx of young people once the new housing development begins, and we want to be ready to welcome them and provide a safe place to meet new friends and build positive relationships.

We ended the year with a **Christmas Party and Nativity Grotto**, attended by around 150 people — many of them children eager to take part in a performance of the nativity story. We transformed one of the Hub spaces with two dozen pink Christmas trees, fabric drapes, and magical icicle lights. In the weeks leading up to the event, children created small scenes that were displayed among the trees, with stars shining overhead. Our Mary, Joseph, and pantomime donkey (with our vicar performing the back end!) were hidden among the trees, and children could choose gold, frankincense, or myrrh to present to the baby Jesus, receiving a Christmas gift in return.

It was a lovely way to end a great year, and we look forward to 2026 with anticipation — ready for more opportunities to share the gospel, serve the people of Townhill Park, and reflect Jesus in creative ways

Sandra Philip, Evangelist

Deep community

Newcomers

We have had the pleasure of welcoming 34 new people this year who have joined us here at Ascension. This growth has been spread across the whole breadth of our community — from the 9:00am service from within our youth and children's groups, and among our 10:45am congregation.

To celebrate this, we held a Welcome Lunch — a wonderful opportunity to share a meal and get to know new members of our community. We are delighted with how Jesus is bringing people to us, and we would love to see this continue.

Social Events

We have enjoyed running social events again this year, creating opportunities for the whole church family to unite socially or worship together creatively. We held our annual *Thank You BBQ* for all those who serve in teams at Ascension, hosted monthly church lunches, and of course celebrated with our Christmas Party, which saw 100 of us eating, dancing, and bouncing together.

Alongside socialising, we also worshipped together at special services. A particular highlight was our stripped-back Maundy Thursday service and meal, where 69 of us reflected on Jesus' Last Supper as we worshipped and ate together.

Small Groups

Small groups are a deeply valued part of our ministry here at Ascension, and it has been a joy to see them grow and to hear how meaningful they are for those who attend. This year has been a time of transition, as Steve Waterton stepped down from his role as Small Group Coordinator. I want to express my gratitude to Steve for all he has invested in our small groups, and for the kindness he showed in supporting me through the handover.

Back in September, we estimated that around 36% of our adult church community were part of a small group. While this was encouraging, we long to see everyone have the opportunity to join a group and benefit from this ministry. At our small group leaders' meeting, I shared a vision of what it might look like to grow that number to 60% — not for the sake of statistics, but so that more people can flourish in their faith through all that small groups offer.

To work towards this, we focused on communicating the value of small groups, encouraging people to join, and launching new groups — especially additional daytime groups.

I'm delighted to say that we've already seen real progress. Since September, we have grown from 36% (79 people) to 45% (99 people) by February, with two new groups launched — one of which is a new daytime group that filled before it even began — and another group we hope to launch in 2026.

I am excited for the year ahead and for all that God is going to do. My prayer is that our small groups continue to grow in number and remain communities where people support, encourage, and build one another up in their faith in Jesus.

Rev. James Allen – Small Group Co-ordinator

Older Persons Ministry.

Our congregation includes a vibrant and dedicated group of older members. While many regularly attend the 9:00am Parish Communion, a number also join us for the 10:45am service, reflecting the diverse preferences and spiritual traditions within this community. Their presence enriches our church life, and throughout 2025 we have been reminded of the invaluable role they play at the heart of Ascension. As our church continues to grow, especially among families and younger members, we remain committed to ensuring that older people feel included and valued as an integral part of our all-age fellowship.

To respond to the unique needs of older people, we explored several initiatives this year. In the spring and summer, we trialled a dedicated social group; however, attendance was lower than expected, likely due to the range of other opportunities available locally. After careful reflection, we decided not to continue this group, choosing instead to focus our efforts elsewhere.

One particular highlight was the **Omega Course**, which ran for six weeks during the autumn term. This programme provided a supportive space for both recent and long-term retirees to reflect on how to approach the later stages of life. Feedback from the twelve regular participants was overwhelmingly positive.

We also hosted two **Quiet Days** — one during Lent and another in Advent — which were especially well received by those who attend the 9:00am service.

In addition, our daytime small groups have continued to flourish, offering older members regular opportunities for prayer and Bible study at times that suit them best.

Pastoral care remains a cornerstone of our ministry, with the Anna Chaplain, clergy, and pastoral team working together to offer support and visits to those who are unwell, bereaved, or housebound. Through these combined efforts, we strive to ensure that every older member feels connected, supported, and cherished within our church family.

Jackie Cooper, Anna Chaplain

Men's Ministry

Throughout 2025 we continued to hold regular **Men's Breakfasts**. These have been a wonderful opportunity for the men within our church and community to enjoy breakfast together and hear from a guest speaker.

We have also hosted monthly **Dad's Lego Breakfasts** for primary-aged children and their male carers, giving them space to spend quality time together over Lego and breakfast.

If you would like to know more about our Men's Ministry or how to get involved, please contact the office

Ladies Group

Ascension Ladies Group continued in 2025 with a varied programme of speakers, including The Love of Wood, Inspirations of a Local Author, and Malcolm's Pilgrimage to Canterbury. There were food events, a summer afternoon in Anne's garden, Christmas craft sessions, two gentle exercise sessions to music, quizzes, games, and many friendly conversations.

Across our programme — and through a very successful summer coffee morning — we were able to raise a further £300 towards the church's work at Townhill Park.

We continue to meet on most first and third Fridays of the month from 2:00pm to about 3:30pm in the café area at Ascension, and we always welcome new ladies to join us. Further information is available from the office or from Frances Samphire.

Frances Samphire

Loving mission

GrACE

GrACE (Greening Ascension's Community and Environment Group) continues to provide information, encouragement and tips to Church members to reduce their carbon footprint (i.e. use less fossil fuels), appreciate God's creation, and live more simply so that others (people and nature) may simply live.

During 2025, we ran a series through Lent with weekly posters, both on GrACE's Facebook page and displayed in the Worship Space, on topics that related to the environment and that were useful, money-saving or just plain fun.

We were delighted to see self-sown flowers growing in the front flower bed, and continued to keep on top of the marestails.

Ascension Gardeners worked in tandem with the contract gardeners; in the 'wild' area along the hedge behind the car park we planted two areas with wildflower seeds, but nothing came up probably due to the very dry period we had after sowing them; we have since sown more and hope for more success in 2026; and weaving more green waste into the small dry hedge units that mark the edge of the wild area.

We continue to have a **litter pick** around the church grounds on the 1st Sunday of the month and have also organised occasional litter picks around Townhill Park Green.

We again supported those who did the sponsored **Ride and Stride** in September by asking for Ascension to be registered as a participating church, and our cyclists raised funds for Ascension and Hampshire Historic Churches Trust. The following week was Creation Sunday, focused on caring for God's world; Sam Scott, Diocesan Environment Officer giving an inspiring talk at both services.

In December we encouraged Church members to pin a Christmas card to the dedicated display board, wishing everyone a happy Christmas; this was to ensure all members were included and to save people using lots of individual cards, thus saving trees.

In 2026 we will continue encouraging care for God's world to become part of our Church's 'DNA', and seek to work towards a gold Eco-Church Award.

Helen Pain, GrACE Group Co-ordinator

Ascension Running Community

Ascension Running Community continues to offer free community runs, with our aim of promoting good health and wellbeing through running together remaining at the heart of our activities.

Our weekly 5km community social **#RunAndTalk** continues, as does our fortnightly, term-time Friday morning '**School Run**' run — a gentle run in Riverside Park followed by coffee at Woodmill Café. Some runners join us for a season and then move on, but we are confident that everyone is warmly welcomed in our friendly groups. We have met people who are new to the area, enjoyed occasional return visits from those who used to run with us regularly, and established firm friendships with those who join us in all weathers.

We have been able to train another run leader to support our activities, and they were heavily involved in our summer Beginners Course, which saw 15 people come initially to have a go, culminating in a fun Parkrun at Netley for those who completed the course. Encouraging newer runners has been a joy, and we look forward to continuing this work in the year ahead. As ever, we continue to extend our invitation to newcomers who are always warmly welcomed in our friendly groups.

Anna Gordon, Run Leader

Community Café and Social Prescribing

In 2025 we have continued to host a drop in café each Tuesday afternoon, in partnership with the NHS Social Prescribers from Living Well Practice – "My Time to Chat". This is a wonderful opportunity to meet people, build community and access other healthcare services for wider needs. We'd love to see more people getting involved, attending, and considering serving as part of the team at this amazing outreach opportunity!

Market Place

We continue to partner with Southampton City Mission and others to run the **Market Place** initiative from the community centre in Townhill Park. The aim of the Market Place is to offer “choice and dignity through a personal selection of discounted, quality, fresh, refrigerated, and frozen food products to supplement people’s weekly shopping.” They are also intended to be small, welcoming communities offering all the health and wellbeing benefits of regular contact with a supportive network of peers and friends. Additional support is offered by having regular visits and workshops by other charities and agencies such as Social Prescribers, Debt Advice and Mental Health nurses.

We continue to collect food donations to pass on as well.

Financial Review

2025 brought encouraging growth in regular giving, and we are truly grateful for the generosity of our church family. While this progress is heartening, it is not yet enough to cover all our ongoing costs, which means we have continued to draw on our financial reserves.

Using reserves for essential building work and staff costs has been appropriate, but it’s not a sustainable long-term approach. Strengthening our financial stability remains an important priority.

The PCC is actively working on plans to reduce pressure on our reserves, reviewing expenditure, exploring new income opportunities, and encouraging continued growth in regular giving. We are committed to stewarding our resources wisely and supporting the long-term health of our ministry.

We remain hopeful and trust in God’s provision, and we are deeply thankful for everyone who gives so faithfully. We encourage the whole church family to keep praying and consider how we can each play a part in securing a stable future for Ascension.

Despite the challenges, expenditure remained within budget, and we met all routine commitments, including salaries and the Diocesan Common Mission Fund.

I would also like to thank the staff team for their careful and prudent stewardship throughout the year.

Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to maintain reserves equivalent to three months’ running costs at £27,000.

It is our policy to invest the short-term investment fund balances with the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund, and the remainder in the CCLA Church of England Investment Fund. Our financial policies and procedures have been updated and approved by the PCC.

Tim Nutt, Treasurer

Facilities

Our buildings continue to be a blessing to both our church family and the wider community. Throughout 2025, we have worked to steward our facilities well, ensuring they remain safe, welcoming, and fit for purpose. In 2025 we completed extensive repairs to our sacristy caused by damp and installed ventilation. We are grateful to the Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust and The Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme for providing grants to cover the costs of these works. We have also secured faculty permissions and funding to carry out essential repairs to the tower and louvres, which will commence in the new year. Regular maintenance, careful planning, and the dedication of volunteers have enabled us to host a wide range of ministries, events, and community activities. We remain committed to using our buildings creatively and responsibly as part of our long-term mission. The PCC would like to extend our thanks to our Architect Tim Sage for his ongoing advice and support.

Personnel

2025 saw some changes to the staff team. In April we said goodbye to Ruth Hills who moved to Wales to be closer to family. We are grateful to Ruth for her dedicated service during her time with us here at Ascension and in Townhill Park. In July, we welcomed James Allen to the Ascension Staff Team as our new curate.

Simon continues to lead us as the vicar alongside his shared role of Joint Area Dean. Revd Peter Goodall continues to serve as our Associate Minister with us part-time, Andy Milligan, Bev Price and Lucy Hoyes continue to serve as second year Ordinands and Jackie Cooper continues to serve as our Anna Chaplain. Jo Szedlack continues to lead our Kids and Youth Ministry alongside Luke Shutler and Lizi Fewtrell and Tim Nutt continue in their roles as Operations and Administration support for the church.

As ever, our staff here at Ascension are supported by those who serve on teams, without which we would be unable to carry out even a fraction of what we do. We would like to take this opportunity to thank every member of our congregation who serves, gives and prays over our ministry here at Ascension.

Structure, governance, and management

The Parochial Church Council (PCC)

The **Parochial Church Council (PCC)** is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is a Registered Charity. The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The full PCC met in person 7 times during 2025 with the Standing Committee meeting a further 2 times.

At the 2025 APCM, Loz Foskett stepped down from her role as Church Warden. Andy Gordon agreed to continue in his roles as Church Wardens and was duly appointed. Mary Dickson was nominated as Church Warden and was duly appointed. Tim Nutt agreed to continue in his role as treasurer and was duly appointed. Sunke Trace-Kleeberg stepped down from the PCC after completing her term of service.

The election for this PCC vacancy was conducted as set out in the Church Representation Rules and Hannah Baynes-Knight was appointed to the PCC.

We would like to thank all who served on the PCC during 2025. For full details of the current PCC members please see back page.

Attendance and Electoral Roll

The average **weekly attendance**, at Ascension, counted during October 2025, was 140 adults and 75 children at our Ascension Services, and 10 adults and 10 children at our EDGE+ service. We continue to offer a live YouTube broadcast of our 10:45 service, with an average of 35 views per week during the same period.

All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the **Electoral Roll** to enable them to vote for the PCC membership and to stand for election themselves. In 2025, in accordance of Church of England rules, a new electoral roll was taken. The new electoral roll has been prepared in accordance of Church of England rules. At the APCM on 18th May 2025 the number on the electoral roll was declared at 112. Tim Nutt continued as the Electoral Roll Officer within his role as Parish Administrator.

Safeguarding

The **Safeguarding** of children and vulnerable adults continues to be a priority at Ascension. We have continued to comply with section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Disciplinary Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Over 2025 we have continued to work through the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard to ensure that we are compliant with all safeguarding regulations and best practice.

Andy Gordon has continued in the role of Safeguarding Officer.

Any Safeguarding concerns can be reported to safeguarding@ascensionsouthampton.co.uk

Deanery Synod

At the March meeting of Deanery Synod, and then again more informally in April, Synod welcomed Bishop Rhiannon to explore the bid for central Church of England funding to enhance the reach and impact of our mission within Southampton, under the banner “Serving Southampton”. It was great to have many non-Synod members also join those sessions and share the enthusiasm there already is across our Parishes to bring the light of God’s love in to the lives of those we live alongside in the City.

The June meeting had a focus on finance, with the Diocesan team sharing what goes into the Diocesan budget and how our Common Mission Fund contributions are used to fund clergy in our Parishes.

During the October meeting Archdeacon Richard shared the importance of looking after clergy wellbeing and some of the steps that have been taken to improve support to the clergy, as well as opening up a discussion about how PCCs can play a vital role in caring for their clergy so that their clergy are fit and well and able to lead.

The Synod also received regular updates on clergy movements, and feedback from Deanery Representatives on Diocesan Synod.

The Deanery Standing Committee also spent time during the year looking at how as a Deanery, we work more collaboratively together (whether the Serving Southampton bid is successful or not) and during 2026 the Standing Committee that we move Synod on from primarily being a place of information exchange to a gathering that is focused on empowering mission across the City. The Standing Committee hope that as APCMs across the City elect their Deanery Synod reps for the next period, they will have in mind who would be the best voices from their Parish to play a part in shaping and delivering our shared mission in Southampton. Support for Church Buildings, which was then forwarded to Diocesan Synod. The Synod received regular updates on clergy movements and feedback from Deanery Representatives on Diocesan Synod.

Administrative information

The Church of the Ascension is on Thorold Road, Bitterne Park, Southampton SO18 1HZ. It is part of the Diocese of Winchester within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is

The Parish Office, Ascension Centre, 1 Thorold Road, Bitterne Park, Southampton SO18 1HZ.

We continue to Bank with National Westminster Bank, and our Independent Examiner is Jonathan Marchant.

Registered charity number 1128861

PCC members for April 2024 – April 2025:

Chair	Revd. Simon Robertson
Church Wardens	Andy Gordon and Mary Dickson
Secretary	Lizi Fewtrell
Treasurer	Tim Nutt
Clergy	Revd. Peter Goodall, Revd. James Allen
Deanery Synod	Sam Nichols, Steve Alexander and Craig Gallen
Other Members	Becca Bartlett, Nneka Igiri, Kevin Reynolds, Hannah Bayes-Knight, John Finney, Christopher Allcock and Susan Lancashire

Annual Report approved by the PCC on 23rd March 2025

Signed on their behalf by Simon Robertson

Bitterne Park Parish
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
As at: 31 December 2025

	As at 31/12/2025	As at 31/12/2024
	£	£
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	40,292.44	35,446.98
CBF Church of England Deposit Fund	3,052.40	2,920.24
CBF Church of England Investment Fund at valuation	771,111.28	874,150.73
Net current assets less current liabilities	814,456.12	912,517.95
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General fund	766,972.68	862,357.95
Represented by		
Designated		
Designated - Garden of Remembrance	35,972.96	38,339.70
Designated - Tithe	7,350.53	7,350.53
Restricted		
Restricted - Running Club	1,167.00	1,321.85
Restricted - Lift Maintenance	1,500.00	1,500.00
Restricted - Hardship Fund	722.24	1,647.92
Restricted - The Christmas Presence Fund	770.71	-
Total Designated and Restricted Funds	47,483.44	50,160.00
Funds of the church	814,456.12	912,517.95
 Total Income	 £175,990	 £167,728
Total Expenditure	£239,097	£281,172

Approved:

March 2026

Bitterne Park Parish
Receipts and payments
Selected period: 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

	From To	1-Jan-25 31-Dec-25	1-Jan-24 31-Dec-24
General fund (Unrestricted)			
Income			
Donations and Gift Aid			
Alms		2,271	3,092
Freewill Offerings		83,049	69,147
Gift Aid		18,239	16,072
<i>Total Donations and Gift Aid</i>		<u>103,560</u>	<u>88,311</u>
Other trading activities			
Hirings		14563	15066
Lacon Rent		16200	15000
<i>Total Other trading activities</i>		<u>30,763</u>	<u>30,066</u>
Investments			
Dividends		22,709	24,550
<i>Total Investments</i>		<u>22,709</u>	<u>24,550</u>
Other income			
Events		2,477	2,737
Church Army Funding		800	2,985
Fees		4,969	2,214
Wreath Making		3,034	2,500
The Christmas Presence (TCP)	a	100	1,699
Youth & kids subs		1,726	1,835
Youth Weekend		2,255	3,280
Townhill Hub donations		985	4,789
Refunds	b	800	30.68
Staff Leaving Gift		276	669
<i>Total Other income</i>		<u>17,422</u>	<u>22,739</u>
Total income		174,453	165,665
Expenditure			
Building			
Cleaning		7,998	8,033
Electricity		5,948	5,941
Fire Protection		1,475	849
Gas		7,702	8,901
Insurance		6,013	5,856
Maintenance, fixtures and fittings		17,805	82,534
Parish Phone/Broadband		903	925
Refuse		1,802	1,328
Water		1,494	845
General			
Marketing		611	271
Bank Charges		398	388
Children and Youth		7,431	7,103
Community Engagement		909	790
Deanery Synod Fees		125	125
Equipment		6,465	1,807
Events Social		2,454	2,058
Events Outreach		2,307	1,969
Gift to Charities		1,750	0
GRACE Group		104	54
Hospitality		1,705	1,115
IT Operations		1,541	1,334
Licences		1,246	1,212
Music		170	170

Office expenses	2,140	1,960
Sanctuary	523	544
Stripe Charges	680	672
Students	0	42
The Christmas Presence (TCP)	0	1,546
Townhill Hub	610	2,447
Worship Team Expenses	785	1,035
Youth Weekend	2,642	2,063
Staffing		
Administrator Costs	13,217	10,544
Assistant Youth Worker Costs	25,416	22,158
Children & Youth Worker Costs	30,664	29,607
Curates' expenses	27	1,387
Discretionary fund	214	168
Ops Co-ordinator costs	17,475	17,129
Ordinands' expenses	59	50
Outreach worker's expenses	628	2,116
Payroll Costs	350	414
Staff Leaving Gift	345	681
Staff Training	1,668	1,230
Vicar's expenses	497	474
Diocese		
Common Mission Fund (CMF)	58,128	46,620
Fees	1,325	1,498
Total expenditure	235,747	277,992
Excess of Income over Expenditure	-61,293	-112,327
Brought forward balance	27,409	19,735
Transfers from investment	<u>65,000</u>	120,000
Transfers to TCP Fund	-619	
Total carried forward balance	30,496	27,409

Garden of Remembrance (Designated) Fund

Income		
Dividends	1,024	1,062
Total income	1,024	1,062
Expenditure		
Gardening	1,910	2,650
Total expenditure	1,910	2,650
Excess of Income over Expenditure	-886	-1,588
Brought forward balance	-807	781
Transfers from investment	3,000	
Total carried forward balance	1,308	-807

Hardship Fund (Restricted)

Income		
Freewill Offerings	450	1000
New Wine Support	-	0
Total income	450	1000
Expenditure		
General Support	1376	510
New Wine Support	-	0
Total expenditure	1,376	510
Excess of Income over Expenditure	-926	490
Brought forward balance	1648	1158
Transfers to/(from)	-	0
Total carried forward balance	722	1648

Tithe (Designated) Fund

Expenditure

Charities

-

-

Total expenditure

0

0

Excess of Income over Expenditure

-

-

Brought forward balance

7,350

7,350

Total carried forward balance

7,350

7,350

Lift-Fund - Lift Maintenance (Restricted) Fund

Income

Donations and legacies

Freewill Offerings

—

-

Total income

0

0

Excess of Income over Expenditure

—

-

Brought forward balance

1,500

1,500

Total carried forward balance

1,500

1,500

Ascension Running Club (Restricted) Fund

Income

Takings

63

-

Total income

63

0

Expenditure

Courses and training

110

20

Equipment

107

0

Total expenditure

217

20

Excess of Income over Expenditure

-154

-20

Brought forward balance

1,321

1,341

Total carried forward balance

1,167

1,321

The Christmas Presence (TCP) (Restricted) Fund

Income

Freewill offering

-

Total income

0

Expenditure

Refunds

-151

Total expenditure

-151

Excess of Income over Expenditure

151

Brought forward balance

0

Transfers from General Fund

619

Total carried forward balance

771

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals as the pence are not being shown

Notes

- Late income received after the event, so allocated to 2025. remaining funds moved to
- a separate TCP Restricted fund
 - b Grant refunds from Winchester Diocese for building work
 - c Transfer from CCLA Investments for new boiler, building work, salaries and Tithe giving to charities in 2025/26



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's
report on the accounts**

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF BITTERNE PARK, SOUTHAMPTON

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 December 2025

**Charity no
(if any)**

1128861

Set out on pages

1-2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above
charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 / 12 / 2025**.

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

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have
come to my attention (~~other than that disclosed below~~*) in connection with
the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material
respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of
the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date:

25 March 2026

Name:

Jonathan Marchant

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Address:

53 Wood End Way

Chandler's Ford

Eastleigh SO53 4LN

Accounts

Ascension

Trustees' Annual Report (TAR) 2024

**Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of
The Church of the Ascension, Bitterne Park**

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Ascension

Vision and Values

Vision

To see God's kingdom come to our communities through making and growing whole life followers of Jesus.

Values

We are a warm and welcoming community, rooted in the good news of Jesus Christ, hungering for the in-filling, presence, and empowerment of the Holy Spirit, and seeking to love the world in the name of Jesus. Therefore, we value:

Encountering Jesus

Our highest, greatest privilege and deepest joy is to have a relationship with Jesus. It is this relationship with Him that defines our lives. We are called to be His disciples, follow Him, worship Him, and be shaped by Him. We believe that our lives are changed forever when we encounter Jesus through the Holy Spirit.

Deep community

Church is family where you can find your home. We seek to live generously, practice hospitality, release creativity, and have hearts of compassion. It's a place where we encourage one another to discover and follow God's call on each of our lives.

Loving mission

God is on a mission to reconcile all things to himself. Together we are called to join him in that mission, creatively and prophetically engaging with our local area, and seeing people come to faith and communities thrive.

Welcome

A Year of Transition and Consolidation

Welcome to the Annual Report of Ascension Church in Bitterne Park for 2024! This has been a year filled with change, growth, and the undeniable presence of God at work in our community. We have experienced transitions, welcomed new faces, and continued to build on the strong foundations of the past. I am filled with excitement, gratitude, and expectancy for all that God is doing in and through the Ascension Church family.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who serves so faithfully across our ministries—in worship, hospitality, welcome, youth and children's work, small groups, prayer, outreach, and many other areas of church life. Your dedication, time, gifts, and financial support make all that we do possible.

Transitions in Leadership

This year brought significant leadership transitions. We said farewell to Marc, Lorna, and Charlie, giving thanks for their faithful service and impact on our church family. At the same time, we have joyfully welcomed new leaders stepping into ministry roles. Andy, Bev, and Lucy have joined us as ordinands, bringing fresh vision and energy, while Sandra has started working part-time alongside Ruth at the Centre of Mission (EDGE). These transitions mark not only change but also new opportunities for growth as we continue discerning where God is leading us next.

Consolidation and Growing Ministry

While change has been a theme, so too has consolidation and growth. We have seen ministries flourish and deepen in exciting ways:

- Children and Youth Ministry: Luke has settled into his role as Assistant Children's and Youth Worker, strengthening our work with young people. Scooch and our partnership with New Community to support the Christian Union at Bitterne Park Secondary School remain vital areas of investment.
- EDGE Hub in Townhill Park: This community hub, launched in partnership with the Diocese and the Church Army, has become a thriving presence, offering support and welcome to many.
- Small Groups: Under Steve Waterton's guidance, small groups continue to deepen in discipleship and community.
- Prayer Ministry: Led by Jacqui Finney and Ginny Balchin, our prayer ministry has expanded. In September, we launched a 6:30 am prayer time in collaboration with New Community Church—an encouraging step in our commitment to seeking God together.
- Leadership Development: We have begun a pilot leadership course to equip and encourage more church leaders and their staff.

Ongoing Mission & New Milestones

Despite transitions, our commitment to our mission remains steadfast. Partnerships with Southampton City Mission, the Marketplace in Townhill Park, and the NHS social prescribers' team have continued to support those in need.

Finance

We are deeply grateful for the generosity of our congregation, which enables us to continue our mission. However, financial sustainability remains a priority. We are actively exploring ways to increase income through giving, hiring out our hall, and other initiatives. Encouraging growth in financial stewardship is key as we seek to ensure a strong and sustainable future.

Looking Ahead

The future is filled with promise! We are excited about plans to develop an evening service, a pastoral care team, CAP Money courses, and a ministry for older people. As we look ahead, we do so with great expectancy, knowing that God is leading us. Our vision remains clear: to see God's kingdom come to our communities through making and growing whole-life followers of Jesus.

As we continue to encounter Jesus, build deep community, and engage in loving mission, let us step forward with confidence, trusting in His plans for the year ahead.

I warmly commend this report to you.



Revd Simon Robertson, Vicar

Encountering Jesus

Sunday Services

Throughout 2024 we have continued to gather, in person and online, to worship together. We believe we are changed through these opportunities, whether in praise and sung worship, preaching, prayer or Eucharist, at home or at Ascension, God is at work.

On Sundays, we have continued to offer two distinct services each week. A quieter, more formal, **9.00am Eucharistic service** and a **10.45am service** which is more informal and contemporary and has specific provisions for children and young people. In addition, we have continued to offer monthly **evening services** of praise and prayer. Our **Edge+ service** in Townhill Park continues to meet fortnightly. The church family continues to grow steadily across all services, in depth and in numbers.

Prayer

Prayer ministry continues to be an integral part of the life of our Church. During the 10:45 service our Prayer Ministry Team, identified by coloured lanyards, consistently gather around the coffee area to offer prayer during ministry time. We have recently been challenged by the Bishop of Winchester to ask God for 'more' and it is such a joy to see more people coming forward for prayer. Please keep coming forward - we love praying for you! Recently some individuals from outside of church have approached us for prayer support and members of the Prayer Ministry team have met them to offer prayer. Alpha has also opened up new opportunities to pray for guests.

We continued to hold prayer walks around the parish over 2024. We have a sense that our prayers have softened the ground for God to work in people's hearts and that our prayers are continuing to have a meaningful impact on our community. Please do continue to consider praying simple prayers such as 'Come Holy Spirit; we welcome You here' for your neighbours as you walk/drive around where you live and work.

Since September we have gathered with our brothers and sisters from Central Hall at 6:30am on a Wednesday morning to worship and intercede for our city. We have been joined by other churches too and it's so wonderful to see a visible demonstration of church unity, united by a love for Jesus and a desire to see the Holy Spirit move and God's Kingdom come in Southampton.

Jacqui and Ginny have met with the team to review the ministry area and hope to do some further discussion and training in 2025.

Life Events

There were nine **baptisms** held during 2024. There were two **funerals** held in our church, and a further one conducted by our team at a Crematorium. There were five interments of ashes in Ascension's **Garden of Remembrance**.

Alpha

In 2024 we had the joy of running an Alpha course again. This was a wonderful opportunity for people to meet, build community and relationships, and ask questions about faith. We've seen a broad spectrum of backgrounds and had great discussions! With your prayers and support we hope to continue this work in 2025.

The Rising Generation

We continue to have a third of our worshipping community comprising our **Sunday Children's and Youth work**. During these sessions we stress the importance of children having a personal encounter with Jesus as well as how He speaks to us through the bible. As in previous years, the children have a full programme that involves role-play, drama, worship, games, object lessons, a craft. Our heart is to see children and young people grow in their relationship with Jesus, walking in the fullness of his plan for their lives, knowing who He says they are and sharing that faith with those around them. We have **27 volunteer helpers** and were excited to run a training day for them last year which enabled us to improve the quality of what we provide. My heart has always been to build family, for children and young people to know that they are unconditionally loved and accepted and important to the body of Christ. One way we do this is by acknowledging **each child's birthday** with a small gift and card. At Christmas, each young person receives a gift and card with a **prophetic word** from the Prophetic community. Parents as well as young people feedback how wonderful this is.

It has been lovely to see our relationship with **local schools** and children grow. We currently see around 900 children three times a year and some of these come to church independent of their parents.

Last year, the increase in our youth group led to the formation of an **older youth group** both on a Sunday morning and a Weekday evening, we began with around eight young people and this number has more than doubled over the last year with some of our older youth taking a leadership role (one of them will run a **youth Alpha course**). They have also volunteered to run a **quiz night** to raise money for a **local charity**.

It has been exciting to see the kids grow in worship and prayer, engaging with the Sunday morning worship in the main service and their own groups. We are very excited to develop our **youth worship band** with the aim of seeing young people more actively involved in wider church ministry.

'Scooch', our **drop in for Bitterne park secondary school** continues to see growth in both numbers and relationship. Each week we see around 100 students each week and is a wonderful addition to the work in **Christian Union** at the Secondary school which has been growing rapidly with pupils bringing their non-Christian friends. The Christian Union has also grown rapidly with children bringing their unchurched friends, we recently had to move rooms as our numbers had doubled. It has also been a privilege to be invited into the school to speak on different **panels at BP Secondary** with other religious leaders across the city, enabling young people to ask questions about our faith and views.

As well as our youth family's surf trip to Devon, we have also continued to work together with Highfield, St James in the Park and Community Church, as founding members, to host **YouthFest**, both a Winter addition and summer camp for young people across nine different churches across the city. The numbers have continued to grow as well as the anticipation of what God will do.

Our annual **Light Party** was a great success, with around 300 people from the local community attending and many of the youth helping to run it. This year was a 'Land of Snow and Ice' theme. With ten different craft stations and ten activities, children were especially delighted by the nine-metre snow igloo maze and snow cave, as well as the Narnia wardrobe and snowball gauntlet. It was also great to see so many of the dads in the community getting involved in a tug-of-war!

Because children, families, and the wider community are so interconnected, we also try to develop relationships with families. For example, a low-cost **wreath-making workshop** before Christmas for 160 people was a wonderful opportunity to come together, 'pause' and chat and creatively celebrate the festive season. It is a time for people in the community to get together and many say it is the beginning of their Christmas.

Last year we also ran a Parenting workshop with Lorraine Lee a parenting consultant and family psychologist.

It was also lovely at Christmas to be present in '**Christmas in the Triangle**' running a craft table and chatting to parents and children was a real privilege and it is lovely to see those inter-church relationships deepen.

Jo Szedlak, Children & Youth Worker

EDGE (Every Day God Encounters)

The **Church Army Southampton Centre of Mission** in Bitterne Park has had another eventful year. Ruth Hills continues as the Lead Evangelist and Sandra Philip joined her as part time Pioneer Evangelist in June and has settled well into the EDGE community.

The Tuesday morning **EDGE Disciples**, are a wonderful small group that meets to grow in faith and understanding of what it means to walk with Jesus, and to share a bible study and discussion. It has been fun to watch people go from sitting on the edge of the group, pretending they weren't listening, to becoming engaged participants. It is also beautiful to see how the ladies are growing in discernment, confidence, and love for one another.

EDGE+ continues to meet on alternate Sunday afternoons and have recently moved to the Hub. The number attending has dropped, as people have moved out of the area, but it is a warm, friendly, Jesus centred gathering. We have games and craft each time we meet, with an accessible Jesus story and a simple meal eaten together.

We have a **Stay and Play** session each week at the Hub, which attracts a regular group of mums and carers. A place for tots to play together and the adults to share experiences and concerns, while enjoying a hot drink and some homemade cake!

Sandra has also introduced the **Breakfast Club** on Saturday mornings, which is extremely popular with the locals. A very good, cooked breakfast is served every week.

Following on from last year's successful **EDGE Summer Fun event**, which we held particularly for the many families were not able to get away, we decided to repeat the event on the Green. We had loads of cake, thanks to all who donated, drinks, craft, face-paints, very silly games and best of all a pop-up petting farm and unicorn rides. Families came with picnics, and we were blessed with wonderful weather.

Another highlight of the year was the Christmas **Tree of Hope** event. The tree in front of the Hub was lit up with hundreds of lights and transformed into a Tree of Hope, decorated with the hopes and dreams of the community. Lights were strung along the shop fronts, shining the joy and love Jesus brings into the darkness. Sandra led an excellent event of festive singing, shared memories of past Christmas's in Townhill Park and the hope Jesus brings. All washed down with mulled wine and party food!

We are so grateful for the hard work and generosity of our wonderful volunteers, cake bakers, and all those who support and pray for the community of Townhill Park, and the amazing things God is doing there. We look forward to an exciting and productive year ahead!

Ruth Hills, Lead Evangelist

Deep community

Newcomers

We have had the pleasure of welcoming 46 new people this year who have joined us here at Ascension. This has been across the whole breadth of our community, from the 9:00 service to Edge+, in our youth and children's groups, and our 10:45 congregation. To celebrate this, we have held two Newcomer Meals over 2024 – a wonderful opportunity to share a meal with and get to know new members of our community. We are delighted with how Jesus is bringing people to us, and we would love to see this continue.

Small Groups

Small groups continue to be foundational for us at Ascension as they were in the early church. Despite the busyness of life and the pressures that we commonly face we choose to make time in our week to gather together with others and encourage one another.

When St. Paul wrote his letter that we know as Ephesians, he summed up for me the purpose of small groups.

'So we will no longer be infants tossed back and forth by the waves and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead speaking the truth in love we will in all things grow up into him who is the head, that is Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament grows and builds itself up in love as each person does its work.' Ch 4:11-14

In the busyness of life, we can easily neglect our faith without realising it. Our weekly gatherings help us enormously to maintain a fixed reference point; Truth is not negotiable, it is fixed, it is absolute, God doesn't change but we can. We need to be anchored in our faith, fixing our thoughts and eyes to Jesus. We are all aware that we are living in the information age, and we have to filter that information as so much of it is not reliable. We come back again and again to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the authority of his word the Bible.

This past year we have seen one new group established and the merging together of two groups into one. All our groups except one are currently at full capacity. We have two daytime groups and six evening groups. We are very grateful for all the leaders who serve us and use their gifts in pastoral care and teaching. Recently they were prayed for at the 10:45 service and commissioned for their work this year. Please continue to remember them in your prayers and pray also that the Lord will raise up new leaders to accommodate our growing church family.

Steve Waterton, Small Group Co-ordinator

Ladies Group

The highlight of 2024 for the **Ascension Ladies Group** was a catered "ladylike" afternoon tea and celebration cake to mark our 50 years as a group.

We continue to meet most 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month from 2pm in the Ascension cafe space and have had a selection of talks including on hearing dogs, local history, the city's parks, the poems of Pam Ayres and the history of the jigsaw puzzle together with updates on the church's work with the children and young people and at Townhill Park following which we raised £300 to be used for equipment etc at the EDGE Hub. Other meetings were social events with quizzes, games, craft, tea and friendly conversation and we would always welcome new members to join us, get in touch with the office or Frances Samphire to find out more.

Men's Ministry

Throughout 2024 we held monthly **Men's Breakfasts**. These have been a wonderful opportunity for the men within our church and community to join us for breakfast together with a talk from a guest speaker. We have also held various other social events aimed specifically at the men in our congregation. If you would like to know more about this or how to get involved, please do get in touch with the office.

Social Events

We have enjoyed running **social events** again this year – creating opportunities for the whole church family to unite socially or worship together creatively. We held our annual Volunteer's Thank You BBQ, various all-church picnics and, of course, our Christmas Party which saw 86 of us eating, dancing and bouncing together! As well as socialising together, we also worshiped together at special services, a particular highlight being our stripped back Maundy Thursday service and meal, where we reflected on Jesus' last supper as we worshiped and ate together. If you would like to get involved in helping at events such as these in the future, please do get in touch with the office.

Loving mission

Ascension Running Community

Started in 2019, **Ascension Running Community** is still out running in all weathers with people from our local community. We are currently maintaining our weekly 5km community social #RunAndTalk activity as well as a term-time Friday morning 'School Run' - a gentle run in Riverside Park followed by coffee at Woodmill café. Our aim is to promote good health and wellbeing through running together (by encouraging people to be active, to meet with our welcoming and friendly runners and also enabling conversations about mental health and wellbeing). Our group sizes have decreased since 2021 and 2022 but we still have a number of committed regular runners and old friends who join us when they are able to. We are always keen to invite new people to join us and are training some new run leaders to support the continuation (and development) of our activities.

Anna Gordon, Run Leader

Community Café and Social Prescribing

In 2024 we have continued to host a drop in café each Tuesday afternoon, in partnership with the NHS Social Prescribers from Living Well Practice – “My Time to Chat”. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet people, build community and access other healthcare services for wider needs. We'd love to see more people getting involved, attending, and considering serving as part of the team at this amazing outreach opportunity!

Townhill Christmas Presence

Once again, we were able to run the **Townhill Christmas Presence** where families, identified as being most in need, were gifted special presents for their children, making sure that no family was forgotten. Through the amazing generosity of our congregation this project ensured that 80 families had gifts they would otherwise not have been able to afford,

Ruth Hills, Lead Evangelist

GrACE

GrACE (Greening Ascension's Community and Environment Steering Group) continues to provide information, encouragement and tips to Church members to reduce their carbon footprint (i.e. use less fossil fuels), appreciate God's creation, and live more simply so that others (human and throughout nature) may simply live.

During 2024, we ran a series through Lent with weekly posters, both online and displayed in the Worship Space, on topics that related to the environment and that were useful, money-saving or just plain fun.

Many Church members helped sow some seeds, which were later planted out into the flower beds in the grounds, for all to admire.

Ascension Gardeners worked in tandem with the contract gardeners to keep the compost bin rotation going and using the compost when it was ready; maintaining the 'wild' area along the hedge behind the car park; and weaving more green waste into the small dry hedge units that mark the edge of the wild area.

We continue to have a litter pick around the church grounds on the 1st Sunday of the month and have also organised occasional litter picks around Townhill Park Green.

We supported those who did the sponsored Ride and Stride in September by asking for Ascension to be registered as a participating church, and our cyclists raised funds for Ascension and Hampshire Historic Churches Trust.

Helen Pain, GrACE Group Co-ordinator

Market Place and Basic Clothing Bank

We continue to partner with Southampton City Mission and others to run the **Market Place** initiative from the community centre in Townhill Park. The aim of the Market Place is to offer “choice and dignity through a personal selection of discounted, quality, fresh, refrigerated, and frozen food products to supplement people's weekly shopping.” They are also intended to be small, welcoming communities offering all the health and wellbeing benefits of regular contact with a supportive network of peers and friends. Additional support is offered by having regular visits and workshops by other charities and agencies such as Social Prescribers, Debt Advice and Mental Health nurses.

We also continue to provide a venue for the weekly **Basic Clothing Bank**. Numbers continue to be high, due to the ongoing cost of living crisis. This year we clothed people 1,938 times. Clients continue to be from mixed backgrounds: single parents, couples, families, unemployed, refugee, homeless, retired, part-time, and full-time workers; those referred in because of a tragic life event, because of addiction or mental health struggles and those who are just not coping financially in the current climate. We continue to have regular clothing donations, which allows us to ensure there is a wide selection of clothing available for the clients. As always, it continues to be a privilege to operate this free service and welcome people into the space with dignity, respect and warmth.

We continue to collect food donations to pass on as well.

CAP Money Course

In 2024, three members of our congregation underwent training to run **Christians Against Poverty (CAP) money courses**. In November we ran our first course to help people understand their finances and how to budget going forward. We started small with a group of 8 of us at Townhill Park, and we hope to run a 2nd course after Easter in 2025

Windows Community Art Group

This year the **Windows Community Art Group**, a welcoming painting group offering supportive tutoring across a variety of water-based media, has adopted a new name to reflect our evolving structure and financial arrangements. While the group operates independently of Ascension, we continue to value and support the wider mission of the church. This longstanding partnership reflects a shared commitment to serving both the local and wider community.

Over the years, groups like the Windows Community Art Group have been widely recognised for their contribution to wellbeing. Jenny's background as a lay minister and spiritual director has deepened this aspect of the group, creating a space that nurtures both creativity and emotional resilience.

We are deeply grateful to the church for the continued use of Grace Hall for our weekly sessions and for hosting our Annual Exhibition. In 2024, we were thrilled to raise an additional £1,400 for Cancer Research UK through the exhibition – a wonderful celebration of community generosity and artistic expression.

Dave Hewitt – Tutor (Painting)
Jenny Hewitt – Tutor (Wellbeing)

Facilities

The ongoing care of our building has continued to be a priority this year as we work through our annual building maintenance schedule based on our latest Quinquennial Report. In 2024 we completed extensive repairs and maintenance to all our flat roofing, ensuring the building remains watertight. We carried out essential repair work to both our organ loft and several roof beams repairing damage caused by water ingress. The PCC would like to extend our thanks to our Architect Tim Sage for his ongoing advice and support, and to Steve Waterton for the many repairs and maintenance completed over the year.

Personnel

2024 saw some changes to the staff team. We said goodbye to Revd. Marc Allez and Revd. Lorna Allez in June as they moved to St Marks in Shirley for Marc to take on the role of priest in charge. We also said goodbye to our ordinand Charlie Gibbs who left in October to finish his training at another local parish. We are grateful to Marc, Lorna and Charlie for their time with us here at Ascension.

In August, Anna Gordon stepped down from her role as Parish Administrator. Anna, however, continues to serve at Ascension as our Running Community Co-Ordinator. We are grateful to Anna for all she achieved whilst in the role and for her continued commitment to the Ascension Running Community.

In July, we welcomed Sandra Philips to the Ascension Staff Team. Sandra joins us as a Church Army Evangelist, based primarily at Townhill Park. In September, we welcomed three new ordinands to our team here at Ascension. Andy Milligan, Bev Price and Lucy Hoyes, will serve here at Ascension whilst studying for ordination. Finally, we were also joined in September by Tim Nutt as our new Parish Administrator.

Revd Peter Goodall continues to serve as our Associate Minister with us part-time, and Simon continues to lead us as the vicar alongside his shared role of Joint Area Dean.

As ever, our staff here at Ascension are supported by those who serve on teams, without which we would be unable to carry out even a fraction of what we do. We would like to take this opportunity to thank every member of our congregation who serves with us here at Ascension.

Financial Review

2024 has been another good and stable year for us financially. We have seen a steady increase in regularly giving which is wonderful and has meant we have relied less on our savings to cover our day-to-day costs. Income from hall hirings is up, but sadly we have lost a number of regular customers so we expect a downturn in 2025. There is a plan to focus on increasing this area of income. We still own and rent out the house at 25 Lacon Close, and this also provides a good income. Our medium-long term investment value is stable, but we have had to withdraw a large amount of capital to cover the costs of the structural repairs to the church.

Overall expenditure was in line with our planned budget and the Parish has met all of its routine commitments including salaries, and the Diocesan Common Mission fund.

I'd like to thank the staff team for being prudent with their expenditure and generally keeping to the agreed budget.

Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to maintain reserves equivalent to three months' running costs at £27,000.

It is our policy to invest the short-term investment fund balances with the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund, and the remainder in the CCLA Church of England Investment Fund. Our financial policies and procedures have been updated and approved by the PCC.

Tim Nutt, Treasurer

Structure, governance, and management

The Parochial Church Council (PCC)

The **Parochial Church Council (PCC)** is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is a Registered Charity. The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The full PCC met in person 7 times during 2024 with the Standing Committee meeting a further 4 times.

At the 2024 APCM, Andy Gordon and Loz Foskett agreed to continue in their roles as Church Wardens and were duly appointed. Tim Nutt agreed to continue in his role as treasurer and was duly appointed. There were two PCC members who stepped down after completing their terms of service: Rosemary Haughton and Alex Walker.

The elections of their replacements were conducted as set out in the Church Representation Rules and John Finney, Christopher Allcock and Susan Lancashire were all appointed to the PCC. Craig Gallen and Steve Alexander were duly appointed as Deanery Synod representatives and PCC members.

We would like to thank all who served on the PCC during 2024. For full details of the current PCC members please see back page.

Attendance and Electoral Roll

The average **weekly attendance**, at Ascension, counted during October 2024, was 133 adults and 52 children at our Ascension Services, and 10 adults and 14 children at our EDGE+ service. We continue to offer a live YouTube broadcast of our 10:45 service, with an average of 35 views per week during the same period.

All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the **Electoral Roll** to enable them to vote for the PCC membership and to stand for election themselves. The electoral roll has been prepared in accordance Church of England rules. At the APCM on 28th April 2024 the number on the electoral roll was declared at 113.

Anna Gordon continued as the Electoral Roll Officer within her role as Parish Administrator, which passed over to Tim Nutt when he took over the role in September 2024.

Deanery Synod

The Synod met on three occasions during 2024. Presentations topics included the work of Safe Families charity, links with the Church in Myanmar, and getting Grants. Archdeacon Jean attended the May Synod and gave an introductory talk about her work. In October the Synod passing a motion related to National Financial Support for Church Buildings, which was then forwarded to Diocesan Synod. The Synod received regular updates on clergy movements and feedback from Deanery Representatives on Diocesan Synod.

Safeguarding

The **Safeguarding** of children and vulnerable adults continues to be a priority at Ascension. We have continued to comply with section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Disciplinary Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Over 2024 we have continued to work through the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard to ensure that we are compliant with all safeguarding regulations and best practice.

Becca Bartlett stepped down from the role of Safeguarding Officer in the summer of 2024 and Andy Gordon has taken over this role on a temporary basis.

Any Safeguarding concerns can be reported to safeguarding@ascensionsouthampton.co.uk

Administrative information

The Church of the Ascension is on Thorold Road, Bitterne Park, Southampton SO18 1HZ. It is part of the Diocese of Winchester within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is

The Parish Office, Ascension Centre, 1 Thorold Road, Bitterne Park, Southampton SO18 1HZ.

We continue to Bank with National Westminster Bank, and our Independent Examiner is Jonathan Marchant.

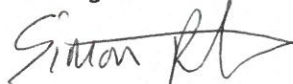
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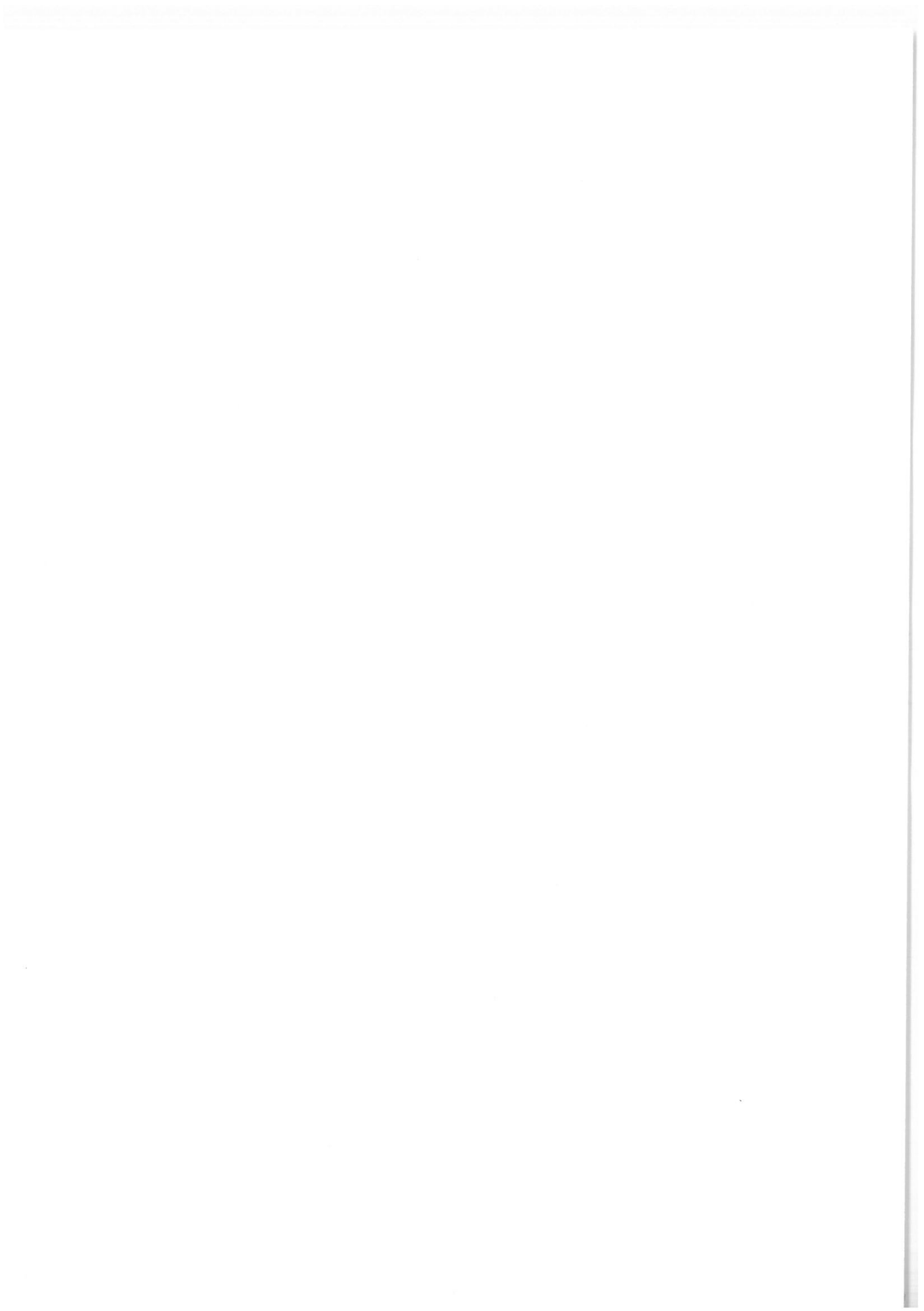
PCC members for April 2024 – April 2025:

Chair	Revd. Simon Robertson
Church Wardens	Andy Gordon, Loz Foskett
Secretary	Lizi Fewtrell
Treasurer	Tim Nutt
Clergy	Revd. Peter Goodall, Revd. Marc Allez (left July 24), Revd. Lorna Allez (left July 24),
Deanery Synod	Sam Nichols, Steve Alexander and Craig Gallen
Ex Officio	Ruth Hills (Licensed Lay Worker)
Other Members	Becca Bartlett, Nneka Igiri, Kevin Reynolds, Sunke Trace-Kleeberg, John Finney, Christopher Allcock and Susan Lancashire

Annual Report approved by the PCC on 17th March 2025

Signed on their behalf by Simon Robertson





Bitterne Park Parish
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
As at: 31 December 2024

	As at 31/12/2024 £	As at 31/12/2023 £
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	35,446.98	29,054.49
CBF Church of England Deposit Fund	2,920.24	2,773.06
CBF Church of England Investment Fund at valuation	874,150.73	971,157.59
Net current assets less current liabilities	912,517.95	1,002,985.14
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General fund	862,357.95	952,583.47
Represented by		
Designated		
Designated - Garden of Remembrance	38,339.7	39,051.37
Designated - Tithe	7,350.53	7,350.53
Restricted		
Restricted - Running Club	1,321.85	1,341.85
Restricted - Lift Maintenance	1,500.00	1,500.00
Restricted - Hardship Fund	1,647.92	1,157.92
Total Designated and Restricted Funds	50,160.00	50,401.67
Funds of the church	912,517.95	1,002,985.14
Total Income	£167,728	£169,522
Total Expenditure	£281,172	£200,568

Approved

8th April 2025

Bitterne Park Parish
Receipts and payments
Selected period: 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

	From To	01-Jan-24 31-Dec-24	01-Jan-23 31-Dec-23
General fund (Unrestricted)			
Income			
Donations and Gift Aid			
Alms		3,092	2,936
Freewill Offerings		69,147	78,983
Gift Aid		16,072	16,345
<i>Total Donations and Gift Aid</i>		<u>88,311</u>	<u>98,264</u>
Other trading activities			
Hirings		15066	13606
Lacon Rent		15000	14400
Easter Lilies		-	119
<i>Total Other trading activities</i>		<u>30,066</u>	<u>28,125</u>
Investments			
Dividends		24,550	25,715
<i>Total Investments</i>		<u>24,550</u>	<u>25,715</u>
Other income			
Events		2,737	2,684
Church Army Funding		2,985	-
Fees		2,214	4,575
Wreath Making		2,500	1,710
The Christmas Presence (TCP)		1,699	2,650
Youth & kids subs		1,835	1,718
Youth Weekend		3,280	1,980
Townhill Hub donations		4,789	-
Refunds		30.68	-
Staff Leaving Gift		669.42	-
<i>Total Other income</i>		<u>22,739</u>	<u>15,317</u>
Total income		165,665	167,422
Expenditure			
Building			
Cleaning		8,033	8,097
Electricity		5,941	7,289
Fire Protection		849	474
Gas		8,901	10,594
Insurance		5,856	5,536
Maintenance, fixtures and fittings		82,534	9,322
Parish Phone/Broadband		925	932
Refuse		1,328	865
Water		845	1,297
General			
Marketing		271	699
Bank Charges		388	364
Children and Youth		7,103	6,765
Community Engagement		790	1,216
Deanery Synod Fees		125	75
Equipment		1,807	1,221
Events Social		2,058	1,598
Events Outreach		1,969	2,145
GRACE Group		54	38
Hospitality		1,115	1,224
IT Operations		1,334	3,616
Leader's Lunch		-	284

Licences	1,212	1,153
Music	170	170
Office expenses	1,960	2,068
Real Easter Eggs	-	58
Sanctuary	544	405
Stripe Charges	672	439
Students	42	115
The Christmas Presence (TCP)	1,546	2,284
Townhill Hub	2,447	
Worship Team Expenses	1,035	1,012
Youth Weekend	2,063	1,906
Staffing		
Administrator Costs	10,544	12,612
Children & Youth Worker Costs	29,607	28,379
Curates' expenses	1,387	1,179
Discretionary fund	168	355
Assistant Youth Worker Costs	22,158	12,706
Ops Co-ordinator costs	17,129	16,438
Ordinands' expenses	50	0
Outreach worker's expenses	2,116	3,281
Payroll Costs	414	512
Staff Leaving Gift	681	-
Staff Training	1,230	1,125
Vicar's expenses	474	707
Diocese		
Common Mission Fund (CMF)	46,620	44,664
Fees	1,498	2,419
Total expenditure	277,992	197,637
Excess of Income over Expenditure	-112,327	-30,215
Brought forward balance	19,735	51,312
Transfers to/(from)	120,000	-1,360
Total carried forward balance	27,409	19,735

Garden of Remembrance (Designated) Fund

Income		
Freewill Offerings	—	-
Dividends	1,062	1,046
Total income	1,062	1,046
Expenditure		
Gardening	2,650	1,427
Total expenditure	2,650	1,427
Excess of Income over Expenditure	-1,588	-381
Brought forward balance	781	1,161
Total carried forward balance	-807	781

Hardship Fund (Restricted)**Income**

Freewill Offerings	1000	125
New Wine Support	-	849

Total income	1,000	974
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Expenditure

General Support	510	432
New Wine Support	-	1002

Total expenditure	510	1434
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Excess of Income over Expenditure	490	-460
Brought forward balance	1158	258
Transfers to/(from)	-	1360

Total carried forward balance	1648	1158
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Tithe (Designated) Fund**Expenditure**

Charities	-	-
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Total expenditure	-	-
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Excess of Income over Expenditure	-	-
Brought forward balance	7,350	7,350

Total carried forward balance	7,350	7,350
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Lift-Fund - Lift Maintenance (Restricted) Fund**Income**

Donations and legacies		
Freewill Offerings	—	-

Total income	—	-
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Excess of Income over Expenditure	—	-
Brought forward balance	1,500	1,500

Total carried forward balance	1,500	1,500
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Ascension Running Club (Restricted) Fund**Income**

Takings	-	80
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Total income	0	80
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Expenditure

Courses and training	20	-
Equipment	-	80
Events Outreach	-	-
Salaries	-	-

Total expenditure	20	80
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Excess of Income over Expenditure	-20	0
Brought forward balance	1,341	1,341

Total carried forward balance	1,321	1,341
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There may be minor discrepancies in the totals as the pence are not being shown

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Bitterne Park PCC

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of Bitterne Park, Southampton ('the PCC') for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

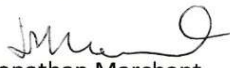
I report in respect of my examination of the PCC's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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 PCC as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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: 

Name: Jonathan Marchant

Address: 53 Wood End Way, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, SO53 4LN

Date: 8 APRIL 2025

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Bitterne Park PCC

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Signed: 

Name: Jonathan Marchant

Address: 53 Wood End Way, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, SO53 4LN

Date: 8 APRIL 2025

Accounts

Ascension

Trustees' Annual Report (TAR) 2023

**Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of
The Church of the Ascension, Bitterne Park**

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Ascension

Vision and Values

Vision

To see God's kingdom come to our communities through making and growing whole life followers of Jesus.

Values

We are a warm and welcoming community, rooted in the good news of Jesus Christ, hungering for the in-filling, presence, and empowerment of the Holy Spirit, and seeking to love the world in the name of Jesus. Therefore, we value:

Encountering Jesus

Our highest, greatest privilege and deepest joy is to have a relationship with Jesus. It is this relationship with Him that defines our lives. We are called to be His disciples, follow Him, worship Him, and be shaped by Him. We believe that our lives are changed forever when we encounter Jesus through the Holy Spirit.

Deep community

Church is family where you can find your home. We seek to live generously, practice hospitality, release creativity, and have hearts of compassion. It's a place where we encourage one another to discover and follow God's call on each of our lives.

Loving mission

God is on a mission to reconcile all things to himself. Together we are called to join him in that mission, creatively and prophetically engaging with our local area, and seeing people come to faith and communities thrive.

Welcome

Welcome to the Annual Report of Ascension Church in Bitterne Park for 2023. I am so grateful for all God is doing in and through the Ascension Church family. I am grateful for the time, gifts and financial support that has been given. For all those who serve on the different teams, from worship, hospitality and welcome, youth and children, small group leaders, and so much more. We would not be able to do what we do without you.

Throughout the past year, we have experienced remarkable growth and development, both spiritually and practically. I want to warmly welcome Luke, our new assistant Children's and Youth worker. Over the last year, we have continued to see growth in our Children's and Youth work within our church and local schools. We have seen a notable increase in the number of children and youth actively participating, thanks to initiatives like Scooch, an after-school drop-in, and our collaboration with New Community to support the Christian Union at Bitterne Park Secondary School.

Furthermore, our partnership with the Diocese and the Church Army has established the Edge Hub at the Old Housing Office in Townhill Park. This community space has quickly become a focal point for social interaction and engagement, warmly welcoming all who enter. We eagerly anticipate how God will continue to work through this initiative to bless our community.

I am delighted to introduce Steve Waterton as our new small group coordinator, whose leadership has facilitated the growth and deepening of our small group ministry. Additionally, the establishment of a dedicated prayer team under the leadership of Jacqui Finney and Ginny Balchin signifies our commitment to seeking God's guidance and wisdom in all that we do.

Our collaboration with Southampton City Mission and other organisations has also flourished, particularly through the Marketplace in Townhill Park and the weekly drop-in café run out of our café in partnership with the local NHS social prescribers' team. We also continue to take responsibility for the environment seriously and are delighted to announce that we have been awarded the Silver Eco Award. These endeavours reflect our commitment to meeting the practical needs of those in our community and to caring for God's creation while sharing the love of Christ.

As we look ahead, our vision remains focused on seeing God's kingdom come to our communities through the making and growing of whole-life followers of Jesus. Where we value encountering Jesus, fostering deep community, and engaging in loving mission. With God's guidance, I am confident that we will continue to see His Kingdom flourish in Bitterne Park and beyond.

We will continue to discern God's guidance and look forward to another exciting year ahead.

I warmly commend this report to you.

Revd Simon Robertson, Vicar

Encountering Jesus

Sunday Services

Throughout 2023 we have continued to gather, in person and online, to worship together. We believe we are changed through these opportunities, whether in praise and sung worship, preaching, prayer or Eucharist, at home or at Ascension, God is at work.

On Sundays, we have continued to offer two distinct services each week. A quieter, more formal, **9.00am Eucharistic service** and a **10.45am service** which is more informal and contemporary and has specific provisions for children and young people. In addition, we have continued to offer occasional **evening services** of praise and prayer. Our **Edge+ service** in Townhill Park met weekly at the start of 2023, moving to fortnightly after the summer. The church family continues to grow steadily across all services, in depth and in numbers.

Prayer

Prayer ministry is an integral part of the life of our Church, and we seek to allow time to pray for one another when we gather to worship. Ginny Balchin and Jacqui Finney have taken on the role of developing and heading up our Prayer Ministry Team at Ascension. We have run four Prayer Ministry Training sessions since November and had the privilege of training 23 people from our congregation. During the 10:45 service members of the Prayer Ministry Team, identified by lanyards, will stand to the sides and offer prayer during ministry time. Please do come forward! We'd love to pray with you!

We have also started monthly prayer walks around the parish. These are normally on the last Sunday of the month, meeting outside Ascension at 7pm. We walk around the parish in small groups of 2 or 3 asking the Holy Spirit to come and welcoming Jesus into our neighbours' homes, schools, business, medical centres, churches etc. We were recently led in prayer to see this work as digging trenches around the parish for the Holy Spirit to flow and we believe that our prayers are having a meaningful impact on our community! Please do consider praying simple prayers such as 'Come Holy Spirit; we welcome You here' for your neighbours as you walk/drive around where you live and please do join us.

Life Events

There were eight **baptisms** and one **thanksgiving/dedication Service** held during 2023. There were two **weddings** conducted, one **renewal of wedding vows**, two **funerals** and one **service of thanksgiving** in our church, and a further four conducted by our team at a Crematorium. There were five interments of ashes in Ascension's **Garden of Remembrance** and one at Holy Saviour, Bitterne.

Alpha

In 2023 we had the joy of running several Alpha courses. These have been a wonderful opportunity for people to meet, build community and relationships, and ask questions about faith. We've seen a broad spectrum of backgrounds and had great discussions! With your prayers and support we hope to continue this work in 2024.

Charlie Gibbs, Ordinand

The Rising Generation

During the last year we have continued to see growth, in all areas of **Sunday Children's and Youth work**, with around 130 children on the books, making up 36% of our worshipping community. The increase in our youth group has led to the formation of an older youth group both on a Sunday morning and a Weekday evening. It has been exciting to see the kids grow in worship and prayer, engaging with the Sunday morning worship in the main service and their own groups. We are very excited to develop our **youth worship band** with the aim of seeing young people more actively involved in wider church ministry. As in previous years, the youth begin their time together with breakfast and fellowship, and all the children have a full programme that involves role-play, drama, worship, games, object lessons, a craft. Our heart is to see children and young people grow in their relationship with Jesus, walking in the fullness of his plan for their lives, knowing who He says they are and sharing that faith with those around them.

With the employment of Luke, our Youth and Children's Assistant, it has been lovely to be able to restart 'Scooch', a **drop-in for the Bitterne Park Secondary School** pupils where we see around 100 students each week and is a wonderful addition to the work in **Christian Union** at the Secondary school which has been growing rapidly with pupils bringing their non-Christian friends. It has also been a privilege to be invited into the school to speak on different **panels at BP Secondary** with other religious leaders across the city, enabling young people to ask questions about our faith and views.

We have also enjoyed our continued involvement working together with Highfield, St James in the Park and Community Church to host '**Youth fest**', both a Winter addition and summer camp for young people across nine different churches across the city. The numbers have continued to grow as well as the anticipation of what God will do.

Our annual **Light Party** was a great success, with the youth helping to run it. With an 'underwater' theme, it was attended by over 250 people. It was great to see so many of the dads in the community getting involved in a tug-of-war! My personal favourite was the nine-foot whale bubble blowing whale that hung from a reverse underwater ceiling display, the shark gauntlet and the underwater cave.

Because children, families, and the wider community are so interconnected, we also try to develop relationships with families. For example, a low-cost **wreath-making workshop** before Christmas for 90 people was a wonderful opportunity to come together, 'pause' and chat and creatively celebrate the festive season. In the next term we are running **Parenting workshops** which we hope will not only be helpful for our church community but continue to make links with the local community and the various **schools work** that we engage with.

It was also lovely at Christmas to be present in '**Christmas in the Triangle**' running a craft table and chatting to parents and children was a real privilege and it is lovely to see those inter-church relationships deepen.

Jo Szedlak, Children & Youth Worker

EDGE (Every Day God Encounters)

The Church Army Southampton **Centre of Mission** in Bitterne Park has had an eventful year. We said goodbye to Claire Lingard who left her role of Pioneer Evangelist in early 2023. Ruth Hills continues as the Lead Evangelist and there are plans to advertise for a part time person to work alongside her. Footsteps, the parent and toddler group continues to be very popular. Ruth has stepped out of leading it, to enable her to focus more on the work in Townhill Park. Helen Pain, ably assisted by Emily Marshall continues this vital ministry to the local community. The greatest joy of Footsteps continues to be the overlap between it and EDGE+, the fresh expression emerging in Townhill Park, and the 10.45am service.

At the beginning of 2023 we continued to look for premises in the Townhill Park area. In September we were given access to 121-123 Meggeson Ave. A wonderful team of volunteers have cleaned, fixed, sourced, and painted furniture and fittings and, on 20th Jan 2024, we opened EDGE Hub. We had two very well attended half term events, with craft, games, coffee and cake. It was exciting to see the Hub buzzing with crowds of people having fun. The Hub is open currently four mornings a week as a cafe and we are beginning to hold events, such as community creative events and Wriggle and Rhyme, there to draw in the community. Our hope and prayer is that the Hub will be at the centre of community in Townhill Park, where people of any or no faith background can feel safe, loved and accepted. Your prayers for all the work God is doing are much appreciated.

The **Tuesday morning group, EDGE Disciples**, is a wonderful small group that meets to grow in faith and understanding of walking with Jesus. There is a hunger to know Jesus and, thanks to Emily looking after the children, we have wonderful meaty discussions about being Jesus' disciples. Since the Hub opened this group, and the evening group, have moved to the Hub. It is fun to be having a lively Bible debate in the corner of the cafe, whilst others-within earshot, go about their business.

Tuesday evening's EDGE meeting is a lovely community, supporting and encouraging one another beautifully; we love our time together. We have been watching The Chosen together and have had some interesting discussions as we see the Bible fleshed out for them. Working out our faith together in amongst the complicated messiness of life is challenging, but as part of a community is so much more fun.

EDGE+ continues to meet on Sunday afternoons. We meet fortnightly now, rather than weekly, as we await the new person in post. We average around 35-40 people, including children. We have games and craft each time we meet, with a Jesus story and a meal together. This continues at Townhill Park Community Centre, as the Hub is sadly not suitable for the Sunday meetings. It is a joy to hear children ask their parents "Is it EDGE this week? Oh, why not?!!!" We do hope to return to meeting weekly in the coming year.

EDGE Parent Support Group, at the Family Hub (SureStart as it was) in Townhill Park, cooperation with the local council, ran for two terms, with local mums as volunteers. Whilst we had a couple of regular mums, it never really took off and this group has been reinvented as Wriggle and Rhyme at the EDGE Hub.

This summer we were particularly aware how many families were not able to go away, so we decided to hold a two-day Summer Fun event on the Green. We had loads of cake, thanks to all who donated, drinks, craft, very silly games and, best of all, a pop-up farm with pigs, sheep and a pony. Families came, with picnics, for the whole time and we were blessed with no rain!

Ruth Hills, Lead Evangelist

Deep community

Newcomers

We have had the pleasure of welcoming 73 new people this year who have joined us here at Ascension. This has been across the whole breadth of our community, from the 9:00 service to Edge+, in our youth and children's groups, and our 10:45 congregation. To celebrate this, we have held two Newcomer Meals over 2023 – a wonderful opportunity to share a meal with and get to know new members of our community. We are delighted with how Jesus is bringing people to us, and we would love to see this continue.

Small Groups

Steve Waterton joined the team in April of 2023 as our Small Group Co-Ordinator, working to develop our small groups and support our small group leaders here at Ascension. Since that time, we have clarified the purpose of small groups and produced a five-point document to describe what we are aiming at (available on our website).

We have gathered small group leaders together each term to envision them in their role and to give some helpful training- providing assistance with both resource materials to use in groups and the pastoral care of group members. There has also been a consistent effort to encourage our congregation to seriously consider joining a group despite the many pressures in life that we all struggle with. Behind the scenes we are constantly looking for potential new leaders and hosts and working on the process of the formation of new groups. We have updated our website which is a work in progress and we continue to pray and to strive towards a discipleship culture at Ascension which is primarily worked out in our small group structure. We have nine small groups, two of which are daytime and the others meeting on Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursday evenings respectively. Encouragingly two of these groups were new for 2023 and are already at capacity. We are planning to launch two or three new groups in 2024.

For those of you reading this report and not part of a small group may I take the opportunity to encourage you to consider getting involved. It is in small groups that people can get close enough to know each other, to care and share, to challenge and support, to confide and confess, to forgive and be forgiven, to laugh and to weep together, to be accountable to each other, to watch over each other and to grow together. Personal growth does not happen in isolation. It is the result of interactive relationships. Small groups are God's gift to foster changes in character and spiritual growth and God's gift to you as you identify with His church here in Bitterne Park.

Steve Waterton, Small Group Co-ordinator

Our **Seniors Group** came to a close in November 2023 after being faithfully run by Barbara Winsborough and team for three years. Over 2023 the group continued to meet every other month on a Saturday afternoon. Chris started each afternoon with twenty minutes of Armchair Keep Fit to music, followed by tea, cake and time to chat. During tea, Jennifer Bunn sold photographic cards in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. After tea the group continued with a talk, music or quiz and a variety of interesting subjects and entertainment were arranged throughout year. The Ascension Staff Team would like to extend our thanks to Barbara and all the ladies who supplied and served the tea and cake and to all who helped make this group such a success. If you feel called to support or lead our Seniors Ministry here at Ascension, please do get in touch – we would love to hear from you.

Ladies group continues to meet on most 1st and 3rd Friday afternoons in the cafe area at Ascension where we enjoy a mix of talks, quizzes, craft and social events. We continue our charitable fundraising and in 2023 after a talk from an Anna Chaplain we raised £300 to help Caraway in their work with older people in Southampton. Next year we will be celebrating 50 years as a group and as well as having original and longstanding members continue to warmly welcome new ladies to join us.

Frances Samphire

Social Events

We have enjoyed running **social events** again this year – creating opportunities for the whole church family to unite socially or worship together creatively. We celebrated the Kings Coronation weekend with Pimm's and Cake on the Saturday and a Church Picnic on the Sunday, we held a Volunteer's Thank You BBQ, baked potato Sundays and, of course, our Christmas Party! All of which were well attended and a wonderful opportunity to spend time together. With the help of our Youth, we also held a very successful Quiz and Chips Charity Night, raising £330 for World Vision. As well as socialising together, we also worshiped together at special services, a particular highlight being our stripped back Maundy Thursday service and Meal, where we reflected on Jesus' last supper as we worshiped and ate together. If you would like to get involved in helping out at events such as these in the future, please do get in touch with the office.

Loving mission

Ascension Running Community

The **Ascension Running Community** continues to offer a weekly 5km community social #RunAndTalk activity as well as a term-time Friday morning 'School Run' - a gentle run in Riverside Park followed by coffee at Woodmill café. Our focus remains promoting mental health and wellbeing through running together. Often people open up more easily while running - sharing what's going on in their lives, which enables supportive relationships to grow as well as opportunities to signpost to further help where appropriate. Our activities also offer the safety of running with others on dark winter evenings, the company of a friendly community and the physical activity itself (with physical and mental health benefits). This year we hope to develop an activity to support young people during their exams – encouraging them to take a break from revision and to get physically active for the benefits this brings (improving concentration, reducing stress, improving sleep etc).

Anna Gordon, Run Leader

Wellbeing Café and Social Prescribing

In May 2023, with the arrival of the warmer weather, we saw the natural end of our weekly "warm spaces" Wellbeing Café, a welcoming space where anyone from the community was able to come and relax, chat, and have a free drink and something to eat. In its place we now host a drop in café each Tuesday afternoon, in partnership with the NHS Social Prescribers from Living Well Practice. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet people, build community and access other healthcare services for wider needs. We'd love to see more people getting involved, attending, and considering serving as part of the team at this amazing outreach opportunity!

Charlie Gibbs, Ordinand

Townhill Christmas Presence

Over Christmas, we again ran the **Townhill Christmas Presence** – a fun filled day in Townhill where families, identified as being most in need, were invited to share a meal, enjoy some festive crafts and, most importantly, pick out and wrap some gifts for members of their family to be given on Christmas Day. Through the amazing generosity of our congregation, this project saw over 100 gifts donated and £2000 received in cash donations to be spent on gifts for the project. Through this project 80 families had gifts they would otherwise not have been able to afford. The 'shop' was so well stocked Lorna and Ruth went door knocking around the area on the day, inviting other families to join us; their joy and incredulity at the invitation was a delight to see. "That's exactly what my daughter wanted...and I could never have afforded it." one mum was heard to exclaim.

Ruth Hills, Lead Evangelist

GrACE

GrACE (Greening Ascension's Community and Environment Steering Group) is championing moves to enable our Church - as an organisation, and individual members - become more aware of our carbon footprint and seek to reduce it. This is a response to climate change (the Church of England has set the goal of being carbon neutral by 2030) and an effort to live in ways that are kinder to God's wonderful creation.

Last year, thanks to the church leadership and management, we achieved our aim to get the Silver Eco Church award, and this year seek to embed all the gains that have been made into our Church life and encourage church members to live more simply. We also look forward to new ventures to celebrate God's creation and take care of it as He would like us to. Keep an eye on our Facebook page (accessed via the GrACE page on our website)

Helen Pain, GrACE Group Co-ordinator

Market Place and Basic Clothing Bank

We continue to partner with Southampton City Mission and others to run the **Market Place** initiative from the community centre in Townhill Park. The aim of the Market Place is to offer "choice and dignity through a personal selection of discounted, quality, fresh, refrigerated, and frozen food products to supplement people's weekly shopping." They are also intended to be small, welcoming communities offering all the health and wellbeing benefits of regular contact with a supportive network of peers and friends. Additional support is offered by having regular visits and workshops by other charities and agencies such as Social Prescribers, Debt Advice and Mental Health nurses.

We also continue to provide a venue for the weekly **Basic Clothing Bank**. Numbers continue to be high, due to the ongoing cost of living crisis. This year we clothed 2,168 people, up from 1,906 in 2022. Clients continue to be from mixed backgrounds: single parents, couples, families, unemployed, refugee, homeless, retired, part-time, and full-time workers; those referred in because of a tragic life event, because of addiction or mental health struggles and those who are just not coping financially in the current climate. We continue to have regular clothing donations, which allows us to ensure there is a wide selection of clothing available for the clients. As always, it continues to be a privilege to operate this free service and welcome people into the space with dignity, respect and warmth.

We continue to collect food donations to pass on as well.

Peter Goodall, Associate Minister

Community Art Group

We continue to host to a **Community Art Group** in our building. Membership in the group remains stable as those leaving are replaced by those on the waiting list. It was gratifying to see the funds we raised a couple of years back being spent on refurbishing and equipping the new EDGE Hub, run by our attached Church Army member and team at Townhill Park. This year's Hampshire Open Studios Exhibition will run from 17th to 25th August, and we intend to use the proceeds of painting sales etc to support cancer treatment/ research this time round. We thank the PCC for allowing us to hire the main hall of the church for our regular meetings and also as the venue for our annual exhibition.

Dave Hewett, *Painting Tutor*
Jenny Hewett, *LLM*

Personnel

2023 saw some changes to the staff team. We said goodbye to Claire Lingard who left her role as Pioneer Evangelist at the beginning of the year. We also said goodbye to Ann Devereux who left in May to finish her training at another local parish. We are grateful to both Ann and Claire for their time with us here at Ascension. In May, we had the joy of welcoming Luke Shutler to the Ascension Staff Team. Luke joins us as our Assistant Youth and Kids Worker and brings with him a wealth of enthusiasm and experience working with young people – we look forward to how this new role helps to shape our ever-growing ministry for the rising generation. Following his Discipleship Year, Charlie Gibbs officially joined the Ascension Team in September as an Ordinand.

Both Lorna and Marc have continued their curacy training with us this year. Revd Peter Goodall continues to serve as our Associate Minister with us part-time, and Simon continues to lead us as the vicar alongside his shared role of Joint Area Dean.

As ever, our staff here at Ascension are supported by those who serve on teams, without which we would be unable to carry out even a fraction of what we do. We would like to take this opportunity to thank every member of our congregation who serves with us here at Ascension.

Facilities

The ongoing care of our building has continued to be a priority this year as we work through our annual building maintenance schedule. We also continue to address the areas of one-off maintenance highlighted in our latest Quinquennial Report, including updating our lightning protection system, replacing areas of church flooring and removing vegetation which was causing damage to the fabric of the church. Looking ahead to next year, we are planning major repair works to our flat roofs and some of our internal walls.

Lizi Fewtrell, *Operations Co-ordinator*

Financial Review

2023 has been a good and stable year for us financially. We have seen a steady increase in regularly giving which is wonderful and has allowed us to expand our work. Income from hall hirings has also increased during 2023. We still own and rent out the house at 25 Lacon Close, and this also provides a good income. Our medium-long term investments have increased in value by around 10% recovering majority of the loss seen in 2022.

Expenditure was in line with our planned budget and the Parish has met all of its routine commitments including salaries, and the Diocesan Common Mission fund.

I'd like to thank the staff team for being prudent with their expenditure and generally keeping to the agreed budget.

Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to maintain reserves equivalent to three months' running costs at £27,000.

It is our policy to invest the short-term investment fund balances with the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund, and the remainder in the CCLA Church of England Investment Fund.

Tim Nutt: Treasurer

Structure, governance, and management

The Parochial Church Council (PCC)

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is a Registered Charity. The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The full PCC met in person 9 times during 2023.

At the APCM, Andy Gordon and Loz Foskett agreed to continue in their roles as Church Wardens and were duly appointed. Tim Nutt agreed to continue in his role as treasurer and was duly appointed. There were three PCC members who stepped down after completing their terms of service: Christoph Szedlak, Jackie Cooper and Helen Pain.

The elections of their replacements were conducted as set out in the Church Representation Rules and Becca Bartlett, Kevin Reynolds and Nneka Igiri were all appointed to the PCC.

We would like to thank all who served on the PCC during 2023. For full details of the current PCC please see back page.

Attendance and Electoral Roll

The average [weekly attendance](#), at Ascension, counted during October, was 112 adults and 51 children at our Ascension Services, and 21 adults and 19 children at our EDGE+ service. We continue to offer a live YouTube broadcast of our 10:45 service, with an average of 33 views per week during the same period.

All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the [Electoral Roll](#) to enable them to vote for the PCC membership and to stand for election themselves. The electoral roll has been prepared in accordance Church of England rules. During 2022-2023, we had 3 members leave the roll and we have received 11 new enrolments. Therefore, at the APCM on 23rd April 2023 the number on the electoral roll was declared at 113.

Frances Samphire stepped down from her role as Electoral Roll Officer at the 2023 APCM. Anna Gordon has agreed to take on the management of the Electoral Roll within her role as Parish Administrator.

Safeguarding

The **Safeguarding** of children and vulnerable adults continues to be a priority at Ascension. We have continued to comply with section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Disciplinary Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Over 2023 we have continued to work through the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard to ensure that we are compliant with all safeguarding regulations and best practice.

Becca Bartlett agreed to take on the role of Safeguarding Officer and was duly appointed.

Any Safeguarding concerns can be reported to safeguarding@ascensionsouthampton.co.uk

Administrative information

The Church of the Ascension is on Thorold Road, Bitterne Park, Southampton SO18 1HZ. It is part of the Diocese of Winchester within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is

The Parish Office, Ascension Centre, 1 Thorold Road, Bitterne Park, Southampton SO18 1HZ.

We continue to Bank with National Westminster Bank, and our Independent Examiner is Jonathan Marchant.

Registered charity number 1128861

PCC members for April 2023 – April 2024:

Chair	Revd. Simon Robertson
Church Wardens	Andy Gordon, Loz Foskett
Secretary	Lizi Fewtrell
Treasurer	Tim Nutt
Deanery Synod	Sam Nichols

Other Members

Revd. Marc Allez, Revd. Lorna Allez, Peter Goodall, Becca Bartlett, Rosemary Haughton, Nneka Igiri, Kevin Reynolds, Sunke Trace-Kleeberg and Alex Walker.

Ex Officio - Ruth Hills (Licensed Lay Worker)

Approved by the PCC 18/03/2024.

Signed on their behalf by Simon Robertson

Bitterne Park Parish
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
As at: 31 December 2023

	As at 31/12/2023	As at 31/12/2022
	£	£
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	29,054.49	45,364.83
CBF Church of England Deposit Fund	2,773.06	17,557.53
CBF Church of England Investment Fund at valuation	971,157.59	886,978.83
Net current assets less current liabilities	1,002,985.14	949,901.19
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General fund	952,583.47	903,336.02
Represented by		
Designated		
Designated - Garden of Remembrance	39,051.37	36,115.00
Designated - Tithe	7,350.53	7,350.53
Restricted		
Restricted - Running Club	1,341.85	1,341.85
Restricted - Lift Maintenance	1,500.00	1,500.00
Restricted - Hardship Fund	1,157.92	257.79
Total Designated and Restricted Funds	50,401.67	46,565.17
Funds of the church	1,002,985.14	949,901.19
Total Income	£169,522	£155,452
Total Expenditure	£200,568	£179,383

Approved:

April 2024

Bitterne Park Parish
Receipts and payments
Selected period: 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

	From To	01-Jan-23 31-Dec-23	01-Jan-22 31-Dec-22
General fund (Unrestricted)			
Income			
Donations and Gift Aid			
Alms		2,936	2,204
Freewill Offerings		78,983	72,611
Gift Aid		16,345	12,504
<i>Total Donations and Gift Aid</i>		<u>98,264</u>	<u>87,319</u>
Other trading activities			
Hirings		13606	12,426
Takings		0	227
Lacon Rent		14400	-
Easter Lilies		119	-
<i>Total Other trading activities</i>		<u>28,125</u>	<u>12,653</u>
Investments			
Dividends		25,715	25,754
<i>Total Investments</i>		<u>25,715</u>	<u>25,754</u>
Other income			
Events		2,684	2,613
External Funding		-	2,829
Fees		4,575	5,365
Wreath Making		1,710	-
The Christmas Presence (TCP)		2,650	-
Youth & kids subs		1,718	
Youth Weekend		1,980	
Miscellaneous		-	-100
Refunds		-	140
Staff Leaving Gift		-	103
<i>Total Other income</i>		<u>15,317</u>	<u>10,950</u>
Total income		167,422	136,682
Expenditure			
Building			
Cleaning		8,097	6,034
Electricity		7,289	3,052
Fire Protection		474	560
Gas		10,594	4,538
Insurance		5,536	5,322
Maintenance, fixtures and fittings		9,322	11,226
Parish Phone/Broadband		932	899
Refuse		865	802
Water		1,297	1,914
General			

Marketing	699	514
Bank Charges	364	260
Children and Youth	6,765	-
Community Engagement	1,216	934
Deanery Synod Fees	75	-
Equipment	1,221	8,179
Events Social	1,598	1,963
Events Outreach	2,145	1,336
GRACE Group	38	50
Hospitality	1,224	1,431
IT Operations	3,616	4,699
Leader's Lunch	284	-
Licences	1,153	1,442
Music	170	290
Office expenses	2,068	2,455
Real Easter Eggs	58	-
Sanctuary	405	3,508
Stripe Charges	439	-
Students	115	637
The Christmas Presence (TCP)	2,284	1,490
Worship Team Expenses	1,012	403
Youth Weekend	1,906	-
Staffing		
Administrator Costs	12,612	11,743
Children & Youth Worker Costs	28,379	-
Curates' expenses	1,179	2,889
Distribution of external funding	-	1,825
Hire Deposit return	-	240
Discretionary fund	355	692
Assistant Youth Worker Costs	12,706	-
Ops Co-ordinator costs	16,438	8,964
Ordinands' expenses	0	45
Outreach worker's expenses	3,281	2,486
Payroll Costs	512	237
Staff training	1,125	1,646
Vicar's expenses	707	389
Diocese		
Common Mission Fund (CMF)	44,664	38,628
Fees	2,419	2,074
CEMES scheme expenses	-	57
Total expenditure	197,637	135,868
Excess of Income over Expenditure	-30,215	814
Brought forward balance	51,312	74,398
Transfers to/(from)	-1,360	-23,900
Total carried forward balance	19,735	51,312
Garden of Remembrance (Designated) Fund		
Income		
Freewill Offerings	—	-
Dividends	1,046	1,040
Total income	1,046	1,040
Expenditure		

Gardening	1,427	1,170
Total expenditure	1,427	1,170
Excess of Income over Expenditure	-381	-130
Brought forward balance	1,161	1,291
Total carried forward balance	781	1,161

Family & Children Worker (Designated) Fund - Merged in General Fund for 2023

Income		
Takings	-	2,628
Events	-	1,562
Refunds	-	83
Total income		4,273
Expenditure		
Children and families	-	4,127
Courses and training	-	100
Equipment & Books	-	190
Events Social	-	2,602
Children & Youth Worker Costs	-	27,175
Light Party	-	-
Total expenditure	-	34,194
Excess of Income over Expenditure	-	-29,922
Brought forward balance	-	—
Transfers to/(from)	-	29,922
Total carried forward balance	—	—

Hardship Fund (Restricted)

Income		
Freewill Offerings	125	199
New Wine Support	849	-
Total income	974	199
Expenditure		
General Support	432	-
New Wine Support	1002	-
Distribution of external funding	-	678
Electricity	-	100
Maintenance, fixtures and fittings	-	100
Total expenditure	1,434	878
Excess of Income over Expenditure	-460	-678
Brought forward balance	258	875
Transfers to/(from)	1360	60
Total carried forward balance	1158	257

Tithe (Designated) Fund**Expenditure**

Charities

-

3,000

Total expenditure

-

—

Excess of Income over Expenditure

-

-3,000

Brought forward balance

7,350

10,350

Total carried forward balance

7,350

7,350

Lacon Close (Designated) Fund - Merged into General Fund for 2023**Income**

Rent

-

13,200

Total income

-

13,200

Total expenditure

—

—

Excess of Income over Expenditure

-

13,200

Brought forward balance

-

-

Transfers to/(from)

-

-13,200

Total carried forward balance

—

—

Lift-Fund - Lift Maintenance (Restricted) Fund**Income**

Donations and legacies

Freewill Offerings

—

-

Total income

—

-

Excess of Income over Expenditure

—

-

Brought forward balance

1,500

1,500

Total carried forward balance

1,500

1,500

Ascension Running Club (Restricted) Fund**Income**

Takings

80

57

Total income

80

57

Expenditure

Courses and training

-

1,169

Equipment

80

189

Events Outreach

-

9

Salaries

-

2,901

Total expenditure

80

4,270

Excess of Income over Expenditure

0

-4212

Brought forward balance

1,341

5,554

Total carried forward balance

1,341

1,341

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Accounts

Ascension

Trustees' Annual Report (TAR) 2022

**Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of
The Church of the Ascension, Bitterne Park**

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Ascension

Vision and Values

Vision

To see God's kingdom come to our communities through making and growing whole life followers of Jesus.

Values

We are a warm and welcoming community, rooted in the good news of Jesus Christ, hungering for the in-filling, presence, and empowerment of the Holy Spirit, and seeking to love the world in the name of Jesus. Therefore, we value:

Encountering Jesus

Our highest, greatest privilege and deepest joy is to have a relationship with Jesus. It is this relationship with Him that defines our lives. We are called to be His disciples, follow Him, worship Him, and be shaped by Him. We believe that our lives are changed forever when we encounter Jesus through the Holy Spirit.

Deep community

Church is family where you can find your home. We seek to live generously, practice hospitality, release creativity, and have hearts of compassion. It's a place where we encourage one another to discover and follow God's call on each of our lives.

Loving mission

God is on a mission to reconcile all things to himself. Together we are called to join him in that mission, creatively and prophetically engaging with our local area, and seeing people come to faith and communities thrive.

Welcome

Welcome to the Annual Report of Ascension Church in Bitterne Park for 2022. What a difference a year makes. With restrictions lifted and people able to return to some normality, we find ourselves faced with a new set of challenges, the cost of living and the political uncertainties. Yet through all of this, we have seen the church respond to the needs of the local community, seeing people eager to learn more about Jesus, and here at Ascension, we have seen continued growth in those who call Ascension their home.

We have much to celebrate as we now have two new members of staff, Lizi and Anna, who are an incredible asset to us. We have partnered with Southampton City Mission and others to run the Market Place in Townhill Park. We have started a well-being café supported by NHS social prescribers and MIND. This has been expanded to every week over the winter period as part of our response to Warmer Place's initiative. We have seen continued growth in our children and youth work and are now in the process of appointing an assistant children and youth worker. We have now become a Centre of Mission, partnering with the Diocese and the Church Army, and now Claire has joined the team working alongside Ruth. These are just a few exciting developments; as you will read in the rest of this report, there is more besides.

In these challenging times, it is essential more than ever for the church to be a place of hope, a beacon, and a place where we share the light of Christ. Where we continue to grow in our discipleship to Jesus. I am grateful for everyone playing their part in seeing God's Kingdom come to Bitterne Park and beyond. Our vision is to see God's kingdom come to our communities through making and growing whole life followers of Jesus, where we value Encountering Jesus, Deep community, and Loving mission.

We will continue to discern God's guidance and look forward to another exciting year ahead.

I warmly commend this report to you.

Revd Simon Robertson, Vicar

Encountering Jesus

Sunday Services

Throughout 2022 we have continued to gather, in person and online, to worship together. We believe we are changed through these opportunities, whether in praise and sung worship, preaching, prayer or Eucharist, at home or at Ascension, God is at work.

On Sundays, we have continued to offer two distinct services each week. A quieter, more formal, **9.00am Eucharistic service** and a **10.45am service** is more informal and contemporary and has specific provisions for children. In addition, we have continued our monthly **6.00pm service** of praise and prayer. **Edge+** in Townhill Park continued to run fortnightly with a move to weekly in 2023. The church family continues to grow steadily at all services, in-depth and in numbers.

Prayer

Prayer ministry is an integral part of the life of our Church, and we seek to allow time to pray for one another when we gather to worship.

The **prayer chain** has received several requests for urgent or confidential needs during the year. Anyone can let the Parish Office know if they would like this team to lift a need in prayer.

Life Events

There were seventeen **baptisms** and one **thanksgiving/dedication Service** held during 2022. There were two **weddings** conducted, two **funerals** and two **services of thanksgiving** in our church, and a further six conducted by our team at a Crematorium. There were nine interments of ashes in Ascension's **Garden of Remembrance**.

Alpha

As last year, we have again had the opportunity to host several **Alpha** courses at Ascension and in our Edge+ community. It has been enormously exciting seeing so many people taking the chance to explore the big questions of life and faith, and we are currently exploring how we can work with other churches across the city to keep up this trend.

Marc Allez, Curate

The Rising Generation

Over the last year, our **Ascension Youth Group on Thursday evening** has continued to grow, with around 40 young people regularly attending. We begin each Thursday by eating together and have spent time on and off-site, with some highlights being: twilight kayaking up the Itchen, water fights and torch light tag at Deep Dene, Ikea scavenger hunts and treasure hunts and chips in the park. We are excited to soon meet with another local youth group with a human 'among us' game. In the building, we have scrapheap challenge, baking, and crafts.

Over 50% of the young people are non-churched but come together and engage with the spiritual input time, learning to hear the prophetic voice of God, ask questions and continue to grow in their faith. We have also been blessed to have the input of Joy Chalke, who runs the Southampton **prophetic community**. Seeing unchurched kids hearing God was incredible, and we are excited that she will be coming more regularly.

For Christmas, we gave out bibles to many of the young people and a prophetic word for every young person; we were greatly encouraged by the number of non-church parents who said how touched they were and how accurate the words were. Ascension Youth provides a safe place for young people amidst the challenges of their lives, where they can come and chat and know they are unconditionally accepted, relationships continue to thrive, and some have begun coming to Church on Sunday because of the Thursday evening group.

In summer, we had a **youth family's weekend away** in Devon and are set to have another this year. Also, in collaboration with two other churches, we helped run a **'Youthfest'**. A weekend of worship, friendship and teaching for young people, which saw many young people saved and spiritually grow. This event was attended by around 100 young people from seven different churches. We celebrated this within Ascension Church in January with a similar format, hosting 130 young people. Seeing so many of our Thursday evening youth attend and enjoy the evening was lovely. We look forward to another 'Youthfest' in June and all that Jesus will do in the young people's lives.

Our **school's work** has been exciting, particularly as relationships grow. Over Christmas, we saw over 1,400 children in 7 different schools and preschools.

During the last year we have continued to see growth, in all areas of **Sunday Children's and Youth work**, with around 90 children on the books, making up a third of the congregation each Sunday. The increase in our youth group has led to the formation of an older youth group both on a Sunday morning and a Weekday evening. It has been exciting to see the kids grow in worship and prayer, engaging with the Sunday morning worship in the main service and their own groups. We are very excited to see many of them attend a monthly **youth worship band**. As in previous years, the youth begin their time together with breakfast and fellowship, and all the children have a full programme that involves role-play, drama, worship, games, object lessons, a craft. Our heart is to see children and young people grow in their relationship with Jesus, walking in the fullness of his plan for their lives, knowing who He says they are and sharing that faith with those around them.

Our annual **Light Party** was a great success, with the youth helping to run it. With a 'League of Super Pets' theme, it was attended by over 200 people. It was great to see so many of the dads in the community getting involved in a tug-of-war! My personal favourite was the guinea pig gauntlet and the bat cave, but it was also so lovely that leaders from other churches offered to help with this event.

Because children, families, and the wider community are so interconnected, we also try to develop relationships with families. For example, a low-cost wreath-making **workshop** before Christmas for 90 people was a wonderful opportunity to come together, 'pause' and chat and creatively celebrate the festive season.

It was also lovely at Christmas to be present in **'Christmas in the Triangle'** running a craft table and chatting to parents and children was a real privilege and it is lovely to see those inter-church relationships deepen.

Jo Szedlak, Children & Youth Worker

EDGE (Every Day God Encounters)

The Church Army Southampton **Centre of Mission** moved from Sholing to Bitterne Park in September 2022 and to the parish of Ascension. Ruth Hills is now the full-time Lead Evangelist, and Claire Lingard has joined us from Middlesbrough as the Pioneer Evangelist. Claire works part-time in Townhill Park with Ruth and EDGE+ and is part-time across the Diocese rolling out Envoy, a discipleship community.

Footsteps, the parent and toddler group which Claire is now leading, continues to be very popular. The greatest joy of Footsteps is the overlap between it and EDGE+, the fresh expression emerging in Townhill Park, and the 10.45am service.

The **Tuesday morning group, EDGE Disciples**, is a wonderful small group that meets to grow in faith and understanding of walking with Jesus. There is a hunger to know Jesus and, thanks to Rosemary looking after the children, where we have begun to have worship, times of the Holy Spirit breaking in, wonderful questions, prayer, tears, and laughter.

Tuesday evening's EDGE meeting is a lovely community. We support and encourage one another beautifully and love our time together. We have been watching The Chosen together and have had some wonderful discussions as they see the Bible fleshed out for them. Working out our faith together in amongst the complicated messiness of life and encouraging each other to see where God is moving in each other's lives.

EDGE+ continues to grow in numbers and, more importantly, in the depth of understanding. We have now had a total of 10 baptisms, with another one pending. From the beginning of 2023, we will meet weekly, with food offered each week, a huge undertaking for which we are very grateful to our team of volunteers who cook and clear up afterwards. It is especially difficult to cater when the number who attend fluctuates so much! The team normally cater for around 40, and either we have smaller portions or there is enough for folks to take some home with them. It always works out! We are a community of people working together to see God's kingdom grow in that place, which is evident every week as everyone mucks in throughout to help.

EDGE Parent Support Group, which will begin shortly at the SureStart centre in Townhill Park, will cooperate with the local council and with local mums as volunteers. This is an exciting step forward in the ministry of EDGE, and we will see how it goes.

We continue to look for premises in the Townhill Park area that we could use as our own but have, as yet been unsuccessful, though discussions with the council around a couple of future possibilities are ongoing. Your prayers for all the work God is doing are much appreciated.

Ruth Hills, Lead Evangelist

Deep community

Newcomers: This year, we have continued to see new people join our community. This has been across the whole breadth of our community, from the 9:00 service to Edge+, in our youth and children's groups, and our 10:45 congregation. We are delighted with how Jesus is bringing people to us, but we would love to see this continue.

Marc Allez, Curate

Small Groups

Our **small groups** have continued to flourish over the course of the last year, with another new group being formed. For many, small groups are essential to their discipleship journey, being places of care, family, friendship, teaching, prayer and encouragement. Our small groups continue to play a central role in the life of our Ascension community, and there is a hope that they can continue to develop in the coming years.

Marc Allez, Curate

The **student community** continue to meet on a Sunday evening, sharing a meal followed by a bible study or joining with the whole church for evening worship. This year we've tried to find natural ways of helping students get to know other members of the church. This has included running workshops for the whole church on Sunday evenings on topics like prayer and prophesy and joining in with the monthly worship evenings. We've had a few socials throughout the year, including a scavenger hunt at IKEA and we look forward our day away together in March. We've seen God at work through the increase in new students coming, in seeing how we're growing closer as a community, and seeing people serve in all different ways. Looking ahead we're excited about being witnesses wherever we are, and seeing people grow in their faith so they're able to share Jesus with their friends and colleagues.

Anne Ranasinghe, Student group co-leader

Our **Seniors Group** is now in its second year, meeting every other month on a Saturday afternoon. Interest in the group is still growing as the word gets around. Chris starts each afternoon with twenty minutes of Armchair Keep Fit to music, followed by tea, cake and time to chat. During tea, Jennifer sells photographic cards in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. After tea the group continue with a talk, music or quiz and a variety of interesting subjects and entertainment have been arranged for the coming year. Many thanks to Jenny and the ladies who supply and serve the tea and cake and to all who help and take part. Any enquiries and ideas for the future, please contact Barbara.

Barbara Winsborough

The long running **Ladies Group** continues to meet mostly twice a month at the Ascension Centre with a programme of talks and social events, craft, quizzes etc. We continue to fund raise and were able to donate £400 to the work of the Wessex branch of the Blood Bikers. Most importantly we continue to be a friendly and supportive group and are always happy to welcome new members.

Frances Samphire

Social Events

We have enjoyed running **social events** again this year – creating opportunities for the church family to unite socially or worship together creatively. We held a Maundy Thursday meal and worship evening, a Summer Ball, a Volunteer's Thank You BBQ, a Quiz and Chips Night and a Christmas Party. All of which were well attended and a wonderful opportunity to spend time together. 2022 also saw the return of our regular Baked Potato Sundays – an opportunity to share a simple meal together after our 10:45 service.

Lizi Fewtrell, Operations co-ordinator

Loving mission

Ascension Running Community

The **Ascension Running Community** continues to lead free community running activities to promote good mental health and wellbeing through running together. We regularly have 2 groups out running each Monday and have resumed our gentle weekly Friday morning runs with cafe social afterwards. We continue to have new people join our community, the majority of whom are not otherwise connected with our church, and we encourage discussion and open conversation about wellbeing to offer support and encouragement in pursuing good mental health and seeking support as required.

We will soon launch a daytime walking activity which we hope will help us engage with a different audience and promote the benefits of physical activity on mental health and wellbeing. We are grateful to our team of volunteer Run Leaders and Mental Health Champions for supporting our activity in this way and strive to seek God's plans for this activity going forward.

Anna Gordon, Run Leader

Wellbeing Café

In May, we opened a monthly **Wellbeing Café**. The Wellbeing Café is a welcoming space where anyone from the community can come and relax, chat, and have a free drink and something to eat. We run the café with partners from various community groups, including Mind and Social Prescribers from the NHS Living Well Partnership. Due to its success, and in response to the cost-of-living crisis and warm spaces initiative, the Wellbeing Café will run weekly from January 2023.

Lizi Fewtrell, Operations Co-ordinator

Townhill Christmas Presence

Over Christmas, we ran the **Townhill Christmas Presence** – a fun filled day in Townhill where families, identified as being most in need, were invited to share a meal, enjoy some festive crafts and, most importantly, pick out and wrap some gifts for members of their family to be given on Christmas Day. Through the amazing generosity of our congregation, this project saw over 100 gifts donated and £1440 received in cash donations to be spent on gifts for the project. Through this project 60 children and 38 adults had gifts chosen and wrapped for them.

GrACE

GrACE (Greening Ascension's Community and Environment Steering Group). This small group of people, passionate about caring for the world that God has made, has organised a number of projects this year: the Ascension gardeners each 1st and 3rd Wednesdays manage the Church grounds for us and wildlife, to which all are welcome to join; the Church has signed up for EcoChurch and gained the Bronze Award; and we have a Facebook page to keep you all updated.

Our future plans include supporting the church in reducing its carbon footprint; encouraging more recycling; encouraging the purchase of fair trade and environmentally- friendly products; and continuing to improve the grounds for wildlife.

Helen Pain, Co-ordinator

Market Place and Basic Clothing Bank

We have partnered with Southampton City Mission and others to run the **Market Place** initiative from the community centre in Townhill Park. The aim of the Market Place is to offer "choice and dignity through a personal selection of discounted, quality, fresh, refrigerated, and frozen food products to supplement people's weekly shopping. They are also intended to be small, welcoming communities offering all the health and wellbeing benefits of regular contact with a supportive network of peers and friends. Additional support will be offered by having regular visits and workshops by other charities and agencies such as Social Prescribers, Debt Advice, Mental Health nurses etc."

We continue to provide a venue for the weekly **Basic Clothing Bank**. Following the Pandemic lockdowns, the number of people taking advantage of the free clothing project based at Ascension has been steadily climbing – clothing 1906 people in 2022. As usual, the clientele are from mixed backgrounds: single people, couples, and families; unemployed, retired, part-time and full-time workers; those referred in because of a tragic life event, because of addiction or mental health struggles and those who are just not coping financially in the current climate. We continue to be blessed with enough donated clothes to meet demand and to be able to sort carefully and be very selective about only putting the best quality of clothing out for clients to choose from. It has been a privilege to operate this free service and welcome people into the space with dignity, respect, and warmth.

We continue to collect food donations to pass on as well.

Peter Goodall, Curate

Ascension Café

The **Ascension café** remained closed during 2022, but the café committee is exploring re-opening it during 2023.

The vision is for it to be a place for the community to belong and to provide an opportunity to equip those in our community to get back into employment and support those in need.

Lizi Fewtrell, Operations Co-ordinator

Community Art Group

We continue to host to a **Community Art Group** which remains popular after 14 years, over which time they have raised many thousands of pounds for various charities. Since last July, the Art Group has moved from twice weekly to once a week, meeting on a Tuesday morning.

A brief report from the group leaders provided the following additional information which readers may find useful: "there are 25 members currently, with a waiting list of 8. The Art Group's annual Hampshire Open Studios Exhibition in August raised £1,250 to support Ukrainian families, and the charity has acknowledged receipt of this donation. We welcome painters of all abilities, and we know that church member-led groups such as ours are increasingly recognised as supporting those who attend. Given the backgrounds of those within our membership and our operating ethos of "caring and sharing", we can provide some degree of support for our student's physical, mental and spiritual well-being. "

Dave Hewett, *Painting Tutor*

Jenny Hewett, *LLM*

Personnel

2022 saw some significant changes to the staff team. We said goodbye and thanked our Parish Administrator of over 10 years, Isobel White, and welcomed Anna Gordon into this role. To support the operational management of the church, Lizi Fewtrell was appointed to the new role of Operations Co-ordinator.

We also welcomed Charlie Gibbs to the Ascension team. Charlie is on the Discipleship Year programme, so he will be interning with us for a year.

The final member of the team to join us in 2022 was Claire Lingard. As part of the Church Army, Claire will work closely with Ruth in our outreach activities and with the Diocese of Winchester, spreading the love of Jesus all over the place!

Looking to the year ahead, we hope to expand our staff team further in 2023 with the recruitment of an Assistant Children and Youth Worker to support our ever-growing ministry for the rising generation.

We celebrated a double ordination in the summer, with Revd Marc Allez being ordained a priest and Revd Lorna Allez a deacon. Both Lorna and Marc have continued their curacy training with us this year.

Revd Peter Goodall continues to serve as SSM Curate with us part-time, Ann Devereux continues part-time as an ordinand, and Simon continues to lead us as the vicar alongside his shared role of assistant area Dean.

As ever, the staff team are supported by a wider team of volunteers, without which we would be unable to carry out even a fraction of what we do. We would like to take this opportunity to thank every member of our congregation who has volunteered their time and expertise to support us in our mission.

Facilities

The ongoing care of our building has continued to be a priority this year. We had a Quinquennial Report completed by an external architect at the start of the year, highlighting areas of the building that need attention. A 5-year building maintenance plan has been drawn up to ensure the building is well-maintained. As well as ongoing maintenance and cleaning, a number of larger projects have been completed this year, including repairs to the boiler and underfloor heating, repair to the roof following storm damage, clearing and pigeon-proofing the roof voids and repainting flaked areas of the worship space.

Lizi Fewtrell, Operations Co-ordinator

Financial Review

2022 has been a good and stable year for us financially. We have seen an increase in regularly giving which is wonderful to allow us to expand our work. Income from hall hirings is now starting to return to pre-COVID levels and we want to increase this further into 2023. We still own and rent out the house at 25 Lacon Close. Due to the economic downturn our medium-long term investment has decreased in value by around 11% since the beginning of 2022.

Expenditure was in line with our planned budget and the Parish has met all of its routine commitments including salaries, and the Diocesan Common Mission fund.

I'd like to thank the staff team for being prudent with their expenditure and keeping to the agreed budget.

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to maintain reserves equivalent to three months' running costs, this was increased at the end of 2022 from £22,000 to £27,000.

It is our policy to invest the short-term investment fund balances with the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund, and the remainder in the CCLA Church of England Investment Fund.

Tim Nutt, Treasurer

Structure, governance, and management

The Parochial Church Council (PCC)

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is a Registered Charity. The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The full PCC met in person 8 times during 2022.

At the APCM, Andy Gordon and Loz Foskett agreed to continue in their roles as Church Wardens and were duly nominated. Tim Nutt agreed to continue in his role as treasurer and was duly nominated. There were two PCC members who stepped down - Matt Fewtrell and Karen Clucas.

The elections of their replacements were conducted as set out in the Church Representation Rules and Lizi Fewtrell (as Secretary) and Sunke Trace-Kleeberg were appointed to the PCC.

We would like to thank all who served on the PCC during 2022. For full details of the current PCC please see back page.

Attendance and Electoral Roll

The average [weekly attendance](#), at Ascension, counted during October, was 120 adults and 38 under 16s at our Ascension Services, and 23 adults and 14 under 16s at our EDGE+ service. We continue to offer a live YouTube broadcast of our 10:45 service, with an average of 35 views per week during the same period.

All those who attend our services, are encouraged to register on the [Electoral Roll](#) to enable them to vote for the PCC membership and to

stand for election themselves. The electoral roll has been prepared in accordance Church of England rules. At the APCM on 25th May 2022 the number on the electoral roll was declared at 105. During the past year 10 members have moved and we have received 10 new enrolments - leaving a total of 105 members on the roll.

Frances Samphire, Parish Clerk

Southampton Deanery Chapter

Peter continues as secretary to the [Southampton Deanery Chapter](#) and in 2022 Simon took on the shared role of assistant area Dean. In June 2002 Reverend Sheena Williams stepped down as Area Dean and Simon together with the Reverend Dan Clark (St James by the Park, Shirley) held the reins. At the beginning of 2023, both Dan and Simon were licensed by +Debbie as joint Area Deans for the Southampton Deanery.

Peter Goodall, Curate

Safeguarding

The **Safeguarding** of children and vulnerable adults continues to be a priority at Ascension. We have continued to comply with section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Disciplinary Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Over 2022 we have worked through the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard to ensure that we are compliant with all safeguarding regulations and best practice.

Megan Bailey continued in her role of Safeguarding Officer, standing down from the role at the end of 2022. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Megan for her dedication and support whilst in this voluntary role.

Any Safeguarding concerns can be reported to safeguarding@ascensionsouthampton.co.uk

Lizi Fewtrell, Operations co-ordinator

Administrative information

The Church of the Ascension is on Thorold Road, Bitterne Park, Southampton SO18 1HZ. It is part of the Diocese of Winchester within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is

The Parish Office, Ascension Centre, 1 Thorold Road, Bitterne Park, Southampton SO18 1HZ.

We continue to Bank with National Westminster Bank, and our Independent Examiner is Jonathan Marchant.

Registered charity number 1128861

PCC members for 2022/2023

Chair	Revd Simon Robertson
Church Wardens	Andy Gordon, Loz Foscett
Secretary	Lizi Fewtrell
Treasurer	Tim Nutt
Deanery Synod	Peter Goodall, Sam Nichols and Ben Parkin

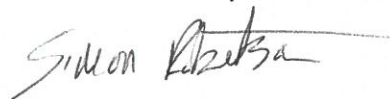
Other Members

Marc Allez, Lorna Allez, Megan Bailey, Jackie Cooper, Ann Devereux, Rosemary Haughton, Helen Pain, Christophe Szedlak, Sunke Trace-Kleeberg and Alex Walker.

Ex Officio - Ruth Hills (Licensed Lay Worker)

Approved by the PCC 27/03/2023.

Signed on their behalf by Simon Robertson



Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Bitterne Park PCC

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of Bitterne Park, Southampton ('the PCC') for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the PCC 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 PCC'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 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 PCC as required by section 130 of the Act;
or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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: 

Name: Jonathan Marchant

Address: 53 Wood End Way, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, SO53 4LN

Date: 11 APRIL 2023

Bitterne Park Parish
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
As at: 31 December 2022

	As at 31/12/2022	As at 31/12/2021
	£	£
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	45,364.83	44,374.14
CBF Church of England Deposit Fund	17,557.53	42,162.11
CBF Church of England Investment Fund at valuation	886,978.83	1,004,727.71
Net current assets less current liabilities	949,901.19	1,091,263.96
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General fund	903,336.02	1,039,216.61
Represented by		
Designated		
Designated - Family & Children Worker	-	-
Designated - Garden of Remembrance	36,115.00	40,884.82
Designated - 25 Lacon Close	-	-
Designated - Windows Cafe	-	-
Designated - Windows Cafe equipment renewals reserve	-	7,118.51
Designated - Tithe	7,350.53	10,350.53
Restricted		
Restricted - Running Club	1,341.85	5,554.71
Restricted - Lift Maintenance	1,500.00	1,500.00
Restricted - Poverty Fund	257.79	875.80
Total Designated and Restricted Funds	46,565.17	52,047.35
Funds of the church	949,901.19	1,091,263.96
Total Income	£155,452	£138,279
Total Expenditure	£179,383	£136,996

Approved:

11-Apr-23

Bitterne Park Parish
Receipts and payments
Selected period: 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

<i>Note</i>	From To	01 Jan 2022 31 Dec 2022	01 Jan 2021 31 Dec 2021
Lift-Fund - Lift Maintenance (Restricted) Fund			
Income and endowments			
Donations and legacies			
Freewill Offerings		—	1,500
<i>Total Donations and legacies</i>		<u>—</u>	<u>1,500</u>
Total income and endowments		—	1,500
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		<u>—</u>	<u>1,500</u>
Brought forward balance		1,500	—
Total carried forward balance		1,500	1,500
RunClub - Ascension Running Club (Restricted) Fund			
Income and endowments			
Other trading activities			
Takings		57	100
<i>Total Other trading activities</i>		<u>57</u>	<u>100</u>
Other income			
External Funding		—	2,432
<i>Total Other income</i>		<u>—</u>	<u>2,432</u>
Total income and endowments		57	2,532
Expenditure			
Other expenditure			
Courses and training		1,169	1,810
Equipment & Books		189	188
Events Outreach		9	—
Salaries		2,901	980
<i>Total Other expenditure</i>		<u>4,270</u>	<u>2,978</u>
Total expenditure		4,270	2,978
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		<u>(4,212)</u>	<u>(445)</u>
Brought forward balance		5,554	6,000
Total carried forward balance		1,341	5,554
General - General fund (Unrestricted) Fund			
Income and endowments			
Donations and legacies			
Alms		2,204	1,819
Freewill Offerings		72,611	72,463

Gift Aid	12,504	10,992
Lauren Leaving Gift	—	100
<i>Total Donations and legacies</i>	<i>87,321</i>	<i>85,375</i>
Other trading activities		
Hirings	12,426	3,888
Takings	227	98
<i>Total Other trading activities</i>	<i>12,654</i>	<i>3,987</i>
Investments		
Dividends	25,754	24,548
<i>Total Investments</i>	<i>25,754</i>	<i>24,548</i>
Other income		
Events	2,613	1,051
External Funding	2,829	38
Fees	5,365	3,856
Miscellaneous	(100)	10
Refunds	140	459
Smith Gift	—	15
Staff Leaving Gift	103	—
<i>Total Other income</i>	<i>10,951</i>	<i>5,429</i>
Total income and endowments	136,682	119,340
Expenditure		
Other expenditure		
CEMES scheme expenses	57	—
Cleaning	6,034	4,865
Courses and training	1,646	593
Curates' expenses	2,889	141
Distribution of external funding	1,825	660
Electricity	3,052	2,034
Equipment & Books	8,179	4,033
Events Social	1,963	1,453
Events Outreach	1,336	144
Fees	2,074	1,760
Fire Protection	560	207
Food	1,431	20
Gas	4,538	5,511
Hire Deposit return	240	—
Insurance	5,322	4,773
Maintenance, fixtures and fittings	11,226	9,282
Discretionary fund	692	146
Music	290	316
Office expenses	2,455	2,348
Ordinands' expenses	45	297
Outreach worker's expenses	2,486	1,161
Parish Administrator Costs	11,743	10,071
Parish Share - CMF	38,628	40,932
Refuse	802	775
Sanctuary	3,508	976
Vicar's expenses	389	115
Water	1,914	2,168
Students	637	623
Marketing	514	1,225
Licences	1,442	1,038
Parish Phone/Broadband	899	779
IT Operations	4,699	929

Payroll Costs	237	291
COVID-19	—	792
Smith Gift Expenses	—	15
Lauren Leaving Expense	—	224
GRACE Group	50	—
Worship Team Expenses	403	—
Community Engagement	934	—
Bank Charges	260	—
Operations costs	8,964	—
The Christmas Presence (TCP)	1,490	—
<i>Total Other expenditure</i>	<i>135,868</i>	<i>100,712</i>
Total expenditure	135,868	100,712
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	695	18,627
Brought forward balance	74,398	75,713
Transfers to/(from)	-23,900	-19,942
Total carried forward balance	51,192	74,398

Garden - Garden of Remembrance (Designated) Fund

Income and endowments		
Donations and legacies		
Freewill Offerings	—	525
<i>Total Donations and legacies</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>525</i>
Investments		
Dividends	1,040	1,006
<i>Total Investments</i>	<i>1,040</i>	<i>1,006</i>
Total income and endowments	1,040	1,531
Expenditure		
Other expenditure		
Gardening	1,170	1,786
<i>Total Other expenditure</i>	<i>1,170</i>	<i>1,786</i>
Total expenditure	1,170	1,786
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	-129	-255
Brought forward balance	1,291	1546
Total carried forward balance	1,161	1,291

F-C-Worker - Family & Children Worker (Designated) Fund

Income and endowments		
Other trading activities		
Takings	2,628	237
<i>Total Other trading activities</i>	<i>2,628</i>	<i>237</i>
Other income		
Events	1,562	489
Refunds	83	—
<i>Total Other income</i>	<i>1,645</i>	<i>489</i>
Total income and endowments	4,273	727

Expenditure

Other expenditure

Children and families	4,127	3,499
Courses and training	100	—
Equipment & Books	190	—
Events Social	2,602	565
Children & Youth Worker Costs	27,175	25,886
Light Party	—	669

<i>Total Other expenditure</i>	<u>34,196</u>	<u>30,620</u>
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Total expenditure

34,196	30,620
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Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	(29,922)	(29,892)
Brought forward balance	—	—
Transfers to/(from)	29,922	29,892

Total carried forward balance

—	—
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Poverty - Poverty Fund (Restricted) Fund**Income and endowments**

Donations and legacies

Freewill Offerings	199	200
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<i>Total Donations and legacies</i>	<u>199</u>	<u>200</u>
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Total income and endowments

199	200
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Expenditure

Other expenditure

Distribution of external funding	678	200
Electricity	100	35
Equipment & Books	—	85
Maintenance, fixtures and fittings	100	—
Discretionary fund	—	250

<i>Total Other expenditure</i>	<u>878</u>	<u>570</u>
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Total expenditure

878	570
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Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	(678)	(370)
Brought forward balance	875	245
Transfers to/(from)	60	1,000

Total carried forward balance

257	875
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Cafeequip - Windows Cafe equipment renewals reserve (Designated) Fund

Brought forward balance	(7,118)	(7,118)
Transfers to/(from)	7,118	—

Total carried forward balance

—	(7,118)
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Tithe - Tithe (Designated) Fund**Expenditure**

Expenditure on charitable activities

Charities	3,000	—
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<i>Total Expenditure on charitable activities</i>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>—</u>
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Total expenditure	3,000	—
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	(3,000)	—
Brought forward balance	10,350	10,350
Total carried forward balance	7,350	10,350

Lacon - 25 Lacon Close (Designated) Fund

Income and endowments		
Other trading activities		
Rent	13,200	12,450
<i>Total Other trading activities</i>	<i>13,200</i>	<i>12,450</i>
Total income and endowments	13,200	12,450
Expenditure		
Other expenditure		
Insurance	—	329
<i>Total Other expenditure</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>329</i>
Total expenditure	—	329
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	13,200	12,120
Brought forward balance	—	(1,170)
Transfers to/(from)	(13,200)	(10,950)
Total carried forward balance	—	—

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Bitterne Park PCC

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of Bitterne Park, Southampton ('the PCC') for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the PCC 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 PCC'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 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 PCC as required by section 130 of the Act;
or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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: 

Name: Jonathan Marchant

Address: 53 Wood End Way, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, SO53 4LN

Date: 11 APRIL 2023

Accounts

Ascension

Trustees' Annual Report (TAR) 2021

**Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of
The Church of the Ascension, Bitterne Park**

Ascension

— MISSION STATEMENT —

Inviting those around us to encounter the living **Jesus** and be transformed to a life captivated by him.

— VALUES —

JESUS IS THE DEFINITION

We look at **Jesus** to see fully who God is, what it means to be human and how it looks to be fully alive.

PROPHETIC INTERRUPTION

We expect that **the Holy Spirit** will interrupt our plans, as he leads us as a community. We make space to respond to this as we follow him together.

EMPOWERING VOCATION

We are committed to helping people discover who **Jesus** has made them to be and empowering them to play their role in his rescue plan for creation.

JESUS ENCOUNTER

We expect to encounter **Jesus** as present with us and to be changed through this. We intentionally shape our gatherings to make space for this.

DEPENDANT PRAYER

We seek to engage deeper and more often in prayer, only with this foundation will we see the impossible happen and lives be transformed by **Jesus**.

Welcome to the Annual Report of Ascension Church in Bitterne Park. After the disruption of 2020, 2021 continued to be a challenging year, with COVID 19 still persistent in disrupting church life. Yet, despite these challenges, Jesus has been working amongst us, and there is much to be thankful for. We have seen the congregation continue to grow; we have seen the community adapt to the challenges that have presented; we have been able to meet more regularly to worship together; some normality is returning. This has been a time when everyone has pitched in, especially through the interregnum.

I want to say thank you to you all for those who are on the PCC, our churchwardens Andy and Loz, the staff team, and countless others who have volunteered, giving of their time and energy across all areas of the church. We have seen growth in children and youth work, where nearly a third of our community at Ascension is below 18 years old. That is amazing. We have also seen Jesus at work in Townhill Park through the ministry of Ruth, and we are excited about what God has in store.

There have been some extraordinary gifts given to the church for the sake of the mission, for which we are truly thankful.

Sadly, we have had several people pass away over 2021, and we give thanks for them and all they have been to the congregation.

Arriving in September, Sandy, Chloe, and I received a really warm welcome. We are so grateful to you all for supporting us as we settle in. It is a real privilege to be your vicar, and I look forward to seeing where Jesus will lead us in 2022. So let us keep on discerning together, looking out for where the Holy Spirit is moving and, prayerfully and expectantly, let us join in with what we see God doing within the life of the Benefice of Bitterne Park.

I warmly commend this report to you.

Revd Simon Robertson, Vicar

Every Church of England church has the same aim: 'to promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.' Please read on to see how we fulfil that mission.

Worship and prayer

We welcome anyone who wishes to attend our **regular services**.

Throughout these challenging times we have continued to gather, in person, online, and sometimes both simultaneously, to worship together. We believe we are changed through these opportunities, whether in praise and sung worship, preaching, prayer or Eucharist, at home or at Ascension God is at work.

On Sundays, when in person worship was permitted, we have continued to offer two distinct services. A quieter, more formal, **9.00am Eucharistic service**, which once a month is reflective. The **10.45am service** is more informal and contemporary and always has specific provision for children. We have introduced a new monthly **6.00pm service** of praise and prayer. **Edge+** in Townhill Park continues fortnightly. The church family is continuing to steadily grow at all services, both in depth and numbers.

Small Groups Our small groups have continued to flourish over the course of the last year, with new groups being formed and existing groups growing in numbers. For many in the church, small groups are vital sources of pastoral care, family and friendship, for others a brilliant chance to grow in discipleship. Some of the groups established during the first national lockdown have adapted to life offline and have continued to meet, others came to natural conclusion following the re-opening of church buildings and the reintroduction of our regular pattern of Sunday worship. Our small groups continue to play a central role in the life of our Ascension community, and there is a hope that they can continue to develop in the coming years. If you are new to church and would like to get involved in a small group, please contact Peter or Marc

Marc Allez, Curate

Prayer ministry is an integral part of the life of our Church, and we seek to allow time to pray for one another when we gather to worship.

The **prayer chain**, for urgent or confidential needs, has received several requests during the year. Anyone can let the Parish Office know if they would like this team to lift a need in prayer.

In the recent past **Quiet Days** have been held four times a year but following the onset of Covid and lockdowns this was not possible for much of 2021. But, in November we were finally able to run again, the format was a little different, attendees brought their own lunches and we provided drinks. Silence was

observed throughout the day except for over lunch. Reading and art materials were provided as well as prayer and meditation resources including our large labyrinth. This new format proved so popular we are likely to keep it for future days.

Jenny Hewett

Mission and evangelism

The **café** remained closed during 2021, but a committee was established, and a lot of background work has been done with a view to re-opening it during 2022. The vision is for it to be a place for the community to belong and to provide opportunity to equip those in our community to get back into employment and to support those in need.

Alex Hills

Footsteps the parent and toddler group continues to be very popular, with a new family joining almost every week. Thanks go to all who help at Footsteps for their faithfulness in their support of this group. The greatest joy of Footsteps recently has been the overlap between it and both EDGE+, the fresh expression emerging in Townhill Park, and with the 10.45 service.

We have a **Tuesday morning group** that began as an informal Alpha - informal due to the number of children around and has now become a small group. There are between 8-10 mums and their children, from 6 different nationalities ("make disciples of all nations" ... they come to my front room!). They are hungry to know Jesus and, although we often only get a few minutes of peace, we have had times of the Holy Spirit breaking in, wonderful questions, tears, and laughter. Thank you to the volunteers who have helped amuse the children enabling those few minutes of God time. They are starting from knowing absolutely nothing about scripture and it is so refreshing to have such honest questions. Please pray for their growing faith journeys.

Tuesday evening **EDGE** meeting is a lovely community who each have

their own struggles. They support and encourage one another beautifully and love their time together, child free. We have been doing some of Jesus' parables but with a modern take. Their reaction was priceless when I was "arranging" them to help me with clearing a local pond, offering £500 for the day to those I employed in the morning (how much? Wow, I'll work for you!) and the same amount to those at lunchtime and in the evening (a very irate...but that's not fair!). I hope you can spot the parable there? Please do pray for these lovely people as they tentatively try to find Jesus during their struggles.

EDGE+ continues to grow, both in numbers but, more importantly, growing in depth. In September we had 4 adult full immersion baptisms, the first of this little community, and very exciting. We now have a planning group, including some of the local ladies, who both help plan and lead the bi-weekly events. We have another local woman, who has begun to introduce some worship to us; she is an excellent musician but is learning to lead us in worship as we are learning to worship as a community. The ladies from the Tuesday morning group have really serving hearts and are very quick to help cook, wash up and clear up at the end. We are looking to find local

premises into which we could have a more consistent presence throughout the week. Please do pray for wisdom around that. Please also pray for God to draw more men into what we are doing. A big thank you to all who make that happen.

Ruth Hills

Over the last year, despite the many challenges created by covid, **Ascension Youth (ASC:Y)** has grown by over 150%, with around 35 young people in total (we had 15 before lockdown). We begin each Thursday by eating together which the young people love and is a time for them to really develop in their relationships. We have spent time on and off site with some highlights being: twilight kayaking up the Itchen, water fights and torch light tag at Deep Dene and treasure hunts and chips in the park. In the building we have made and raced go carts, baking, crafts, dodgeball, and many other events. Over 50% of the young people are non-churched but come together and engage with the spiritual input time, learning to hear the prophetic voice of God, to ask questions and continue to grow in their faith, we have also been blessed to have the input of Joy Chalke who runs Southampton prophetic community; it was incredible seeing unchurched kids hearing God and is something we have built on since. For Christmas we gave 18 bibles out and

a prophetic word for every young person; we were greatly encouraged by the number of non- church parents who said how touched they were and how accurate the words were. Asc:y provides a safe place for young people amidst the challenges of their lives, where they can come and chat and know they are unconditionally accepted and relationships continue to thrive and some have begun coming to Church on Sunday as a result of the Thursday eve group.

Since **schools** have begun to reopen to the outside world, we were pleased to have been invited to four schools over Christmas, creatively delivering sessions that related to their curriculum using interactive drama, crafts and songs and giving out almost 1000 copies of the Bible Societies Christmas story.

We have recently reinstated our relationship with Bitterne Park Secondary, taking part in a panel answering questions to roughly 100 children and we have been invited to continue our Q&A sessions visiting each form during years 7 and 8.

Although our **preschool** work was cancelled this year due to a rise in covid cases, we were able to provide almost 200 bags for the children each containing a small gift, a craft, and a book.

During 2021 there were 3 groups running each **Sunday morning**: Early years, older kids, and Youth. Again, despite the challenges, we are thankful to have seen rapid growth in all groups, almost 100% with now around 50 children “on the books” and just under 20 children each Sunday. We are excited to begin to have regular interactive family services led by our youth band while the children have streamers and sign to the worship. These have, so far, been well received. The youth begin their time together with homemade waffles and discussion, and all the children have a full programme that involves role-play, drama, worship, games, object lessons, a craft - all centring around a passion for them to learn the word of God and to develop a personal relationship based on reflective prayer and how they can work with Jesus to show others God’s love. One way we do this is to use their work to form a window display but sometimes it is more reflective: what is Jesus saying?

Our annual **Light Party** was a great success, with the youth helping to run it. There were ten creation/jungle inspired crafts and as many games on offer, it was attended by over 200 people. It was great to see so many of the dads in the community getting involved with tug of war! My

personal favourite was the crocodile and butterfly cave!

Because children and families and wider community are so interconnected, we also try and develop relationships with families. For example, a low-cost **wreath making workshop** before Christmas for over 30 people was a wonderful opportunity to come together, 'pause' and chat and creatively celebrate the festive season. In summer we will have a youth family's weekend away in Devon and a Rocket Day (we design and launch rockets in the new forest while having a picnic).

Jo Szedlak

Newcomers This year we are pleased to have seen a huge number of new people, across a variety of age groups, join our church family. As restrictions have eased, we have been delighted to be able to have more opportunities to get to know each other socially.

Marc Allez

The **student community** at Ascension are a core part of the wider church, and many serve in different ways across the different ministries. Several of the students have found mentors from the wider church community which has been a huge blessing and support to them.

Despite COVID restrictions, we saw new students visit us in October for their first time and hosted four weeks of student lunches after the 10.45 service. The student group meets on Wednesday evenings, and many have invited friends to church events or services over the past year. Although we couldn't have a **student weekend away** last year due to COVID restrictions, we look forward to an away day in March! Overall, we've seen God at work within our student community and have heard testimonies of new conversations students have had with their friends about Jesus. As we look to the year ahead, we are excited about forming deeper community and seeing more students come to know the living Jesus!

Lorna Allez

Many of the **events** we had planned for 2021 were disrupted by Covid, but we continue to try and create opportunities for the church family to come together for social events or to creatively worship together

Ladies Group having not met since the first lockdown, had our first meeting outdoors in July 2021 and have been meeting, mostly regularly, in the Ascension Centre since the autumn. Most of our members voted to change our meetings from evenings to afternoons and although we have sadly therefore lost some members who are working the move

may hopefully encourage older members and others who are free during the day to continue to support what is now a full, twice monthly, programme of talks, events, charity fund raising activities and most importantly fellowship.

Frances Samphire

The **Prayer Shawl** team have still not met up in person since the start of Covid, but they have still been praying and knitting shawls to be given to those in need of a blessing. They have given a few away during this time but do have several looking for homes. So, if you know of anyone, who perhaps is poorly, or recovering from an operation, facing particularly challenging circumstances or otherwise who would like (or needs) to know that they are loved and known please contact Diana Higgins.

Diana Higgins

The **Flower Team** is a small but enthusiastic group, who continue to bring colour to our worship space. We have been able to enhance the beauty of our church for the major festivals using arrangements that bring joy to worshippers and those who visit during the week. These have been created using mainly silk flowers, but fresh flowers on special occasions.

Even though worship in person wasn't possible on Mothering

Sunday, we were able to make our usual posies for the mothers in our church and they were distributed around the parish by the church team.

Our Easter Lily display rose from the font to remember those who have passed both in recent years and before.

And at Christmas the Advent Ring and other arrangements around the worship space brought life to our church.

Our Flower Team would love to welcome new members, whether it is to be on a regular rota or just available to help on special occasions. We can undertake weddings and other occasions on request.

Donations are welcome towards the flower fund for displays in the church. Please contact the church office or members of our team.

Jane Tudor

Covid impacted on attendances at the Ascension **Art Groups** as it did for other groups. Early in the year, whilst still under lockdown, we maintained contact with members by telephone and a series of lengthy newsletters which included our "Lockdown Muses" - poetic reflections on our experiences. This provided us all with a lively and amusing outlet for our lockdown frustrations.

The PCC supported us running our annual Hampshire Open Studios

Exhibition in August. This was well attended, and we raised £1,500 for The Church Army via the auction and sale of paintings together with the sale of Cream Teas & refreshments. During the week we had many enquiries and requests to join our groups, so many in fact we had to create a “reserve list”. Eventually we commenced our new sessions on Tues 14th & Thurs 17th Sept, with an average of 24 attending each week since then across both groups. One of our members whilst recognising that there are some talented painters in the groups as well as others who continue to develop their technique observed that “we are all amateurs, and we really operate as a Church led support group which does a bit of painting”.

Dave Hewett. Tutor

Ascension Running Community continues to deliver free community running activities to promote good mental health and wellbeing. It has been exciting to see our group grow over the last 12 months, and we particularly enjoy getting to know those who have been joining us from outside the Church community. Thanks to the grants from All churches Trust and Southampton Council’s Community Chest, we have been able to train up a fantastic team

of Run Leaders and Mental Health Champions to support our activities. We now have three people who have completed run leader training and initiated new activities including: a weekly Mental Health Miles session, a gentle run and café social (accessible even for parents with pre-schoolers in tow), and a monthly run and social activity just for men. We now also have another Mental Health Champion who supports our activities, and another person in training as a Run Leader. Each leader’s background and gifts have enriched our activities and facilitated our connection with different groups within our community. The Project Coordinator role is established for a fixed term, providing administrative support for our current activities and team, whilst pursuing the development of new activities.

Anna Gordon

This year we have again had the need to run multiple **Alpha** courses, both at Ascension and in our Edge+ community. It has been enormously exciting seeing so many people taking the chance to explore the big questions of life and faith, and we are hugely thankful for all involved in helping to run these courses so brilliantly.

Marc Allez

We continue to provide a venue for the weekly **Basic Clothing Bank**. There were over 1000 interactions with people looking for clothing during 2021, the first 4 months were clearly impacted by Covid, with less than 30 visiting each week, as low as 13 in March, by contrast in September 151 people were helped. We now have a clothing bin in the car park which enables donations to be made 'out of hours', and although there is a facility for SCM to request items of clothing it is mainly revenue for basics bank that is generated from items donated. We continue to collect food donations to pass on as well.

Peter Goodall

This past year has been particularly tough globally in the face of the Coronavirus pandemic - Our link parish, **Naminage** has seen a change in vicar which coupled with covid has restricted our ability to make links with the Parish. We do however continue our link with the Reverend Richard Rukundo supporting him in his work as children and young person's lead for the Anglican Province of Uganda - he plays a significant role in supporting and training the dioceses and parishes in relation to safeguarding and parenting.

Peter Goodall

Pastoral

We have a small but loyal team of people who visit those who are sick or housebound. More than ever the capacity to take **Home Communion** to those who are sick, dying or otherwise unable to attend church has been important this year. There were 13 **baptisms** but no thanksgiving / **dedication** services. Two **weddings** were conducted here during 2021. There were four **funerals** or **services of thanksgiving** in our church, and a further one conducted by our team at a Crematorium during 2021. There were 7 interments of ashes in the **Garden of Remembrance**.

Personnel

2021 did see some significant changes to the team. The newly ordained Revd Lauren Cheshire left us in July to take up her Curacy in Bournemouth, but we are pleased that Revd Marc Allez had his Curacy placement continuing with us confirmed, and Revd Peter Goodall is now an SSM Curate with us part-time. Sara Whitmarsh, Licensed Lay Minister, made a move to be nearer her family. We are grateful for her time with us. After 15 months interregnum, during which Andy Gordon and Loz Foskett,

our Churchwardens, led the church alongside our staff team, in September we were delighted to welcome our new Vicar, Revd Simon Robertson and his family, Sandy & Chloe.

Anna Gordon joined the team as Running Co-ordinator, this is a part-time post funded for 1 year by a grant. Her role is to develop free community running activities within our local community, to promote mental and physical health through running and walking together.

Meg Bailey continues as the **safeguarding** officer, and we have continued to comply with section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Disciplinary Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Objectives and Activities

Facilities

Since the building has become more fully re-opened, we have been able to complete some bigger repairs – the canopy on the entrance and the wall along the driveway. We have also sorted some cracked windows and minor plumbing grumbles (faulty taps and cistern as well as a leaky sink). We have changed the heating contractors we use, and they appear

to have managed a temporary fix for the heating in the extension – in particular for the office and the cafe, work is scheduled Feb 2022 to sort these issues more permanently. They also have made the heating in the old part of the building much more effective and reliable. Additionally, there has also been some work on the automated fire protection systems.

Churchwardens

(GrACE) Greening Ascension's Community and Environment Steering Group.

This small group of people, passionate about caring for the world that God has made.

Our key aim is to encourage Church members to become more aware of how we can each care for God's creation better, and our aspiration is to help us all to do that through:

reducing the Church's carbon footprint; encouraging more recycling; encouraging purchase of fair trade and environmentally-friendly products; and continuing to improve the grounds for wildlife.

We have begun several projects this year: the Ascension gardeners each 1st and 3rd Wednesdays to manage the Church grounds for us and wildlife, to which all are welcome to join; the Church has signed up for EcoChurch and gained the Bronze Award; and we have a Facebook page to keep you all updated.

Our future plans include reducing the Church's carbon footprint; encouraging more recycling; encouraging purchase of fair trade and environmentally friendly products; and continuing to improve the grounds for wildlife.

Helen Pain, Co-ordinator

Financial review

2021 has been a good and stable year for us financially. We have seen an increase in regularly giving which is wonderful along with two legacy gifts. Income from hall hiring's is now starting to return and we expect it to increase further into 2022. We still own and rent out the house at 25 Lacon Close and our medium-long term investment has increased in value.

Expenditure was in line with our planned budget, except for a few

unforeseen maintenance issues around heating and café roller shutter. The Parish has met all its routine commitments including salaries, and the Diocesan Common Mission fund.

The PCC has decided to tithe 10% of the legacy given last year to help fund local community projects, and we expect to receive applications in 2022. The PCC has also generously donated £3000 to St George Foundation in Sierra Leone who work closely with ToyBox to support street children in Freetown.

Reserves policy It is PCC policy to maintain reserves equivalent to three months' running costs, £22,000.

It is our policy to invest the short-term investment fund balances with the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund, and the remainder in the CCLA Church of England Investment Fund.

Tim Nutt, Treasurer

Structure, governance, and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is a Registered Charity. The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The full PCC met (in person or on zoom) 8 times during 2021.

Some additional meetings were also held specifically related to the recruitment of the new Vicar.

Each year at least a third of the PCC members stand down. At the APCM there were four retiring members, these were Marc Allez, Lorna Allez, Ann Devereux (all of whom were then co-opted back onto the PCC as staff members). The fourth was Alex Hills to whom the PCC gave thanks for his role as Treasurer.

The elections of their replacements were conducted as set out in the Church Representation Rules and Tim Nutt, Megan Bailey, Rosemary Haughton, and Alex Walker were appointed to the PCC. We would like to thank all who served on the PCC during 2021. For full details of the current PCC please see back page. Additionally, Matt Fewtrell moved away and consequently left the PCC in July.

The average weekly attendance, at Ascension, counted during October was 136. We continue to offer live youtube broadcast of our 10:45 service, with an average of 35 views per week during the same period. This is very encouraging given the continued prevalence of covid, the nervousness around covid and the desire to offer covid safe worship. We would usually expect attendance to be higher for the various festivals.

All those who attend our services, are encouraged to register on the **Electoral Roll** to enable them to vote for the PCC membership and to stand for election themselves. The electoral roll has been prepared in accordance Church of England rules. At the APCM on 23rd May 2021 the number on the electoral roll was declared at 105. During the past year 10 members have moved and I have received 10 new enrolments - leaving a total of 105 members on the roll - 61 who live inside the Parish and 44 out of the Parish.

Frances Samphire, Parish Clerk

October 2021 Peter became the **Southampton Deanery** Chapter Secretary. Throughout 2021 Synod continued to meet on zoom. The first in person meeting in 18 months will be March 2022.

Peter Goodall

Administrative information

The Church of the Ascension is in Thorold Road, Bitterne Park, Southampton SO18 1HZ. It is part of the Diocese of Winchester within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is

The Parish Office, Ascension Centre, 1 Thorold Road, Bitterne Park, Southampton SO18 1HZ.

We continue to **Bank** with National Westminster Bank and our **Independent Examiner** is Jonathan Marchant.

Registered charity number 1128861

PCC members for 2021/2022

Chair Revd Simon Robertson (from Sept 2021)

Church Wardens Andy Gordon, Loz Foskett

Secretary Marc Allez

Treasurer Tim Nutt

Deanery Synod Peter Goodall, Sam Nichols Ben Parkin

Other Members

Lorna Allez, Megan Bailey, Karen Clucas, Jackie Cooper, Ann Devereux, Rosemary Haughton, Helen Pain, Christophe Szedlak and Alex Walker.

Ex Officio Ruth Hills (Licensed Lay Worker)

Approved by the PCC.
signed on their behalf by

Rev Simon Robertson

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Bitterne Park PCC

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of Bitterne Park, Southampton ('the PCC') for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the PCC 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 PCC'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 Act.

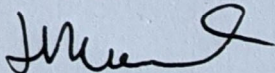
Independent examiner's statement

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 PCC as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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:



Name: Jonathan Marchant

Address: 31 Glen Eyre Drive, Southampton SO16 3NQ

Date: 26 APRIL 2022

Bitterne Park Parish
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
As at: 31 December 2021

	As at 31/12/2021	As at 31/12/2020
	£	£
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	44,374.14	17,998.80
CBF Church of England Deposit Fund	42,162.11	67,139.75
CBF Church of England Investment Fund at valuation	1,004,727.71	878,420.90
Net current assets less current liabilities	1,091,263.96	963,559.45
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General fund	1,039,216.61	917,921.45
Represented by		
Designated		
Designated - Family & Children Worker	-	-
Designated - Garden of Remembrance	40,884.82	36,161.00
Designated - 25 Lacon Close	-	-
Designated - Windows Cafe	-	-
Designated - Windows Cafe equipment renewals reserve	- 7,118.51	- 7,118.00
Designated - Tithe	10,350.53	10,350.00
Designated - Uganda	-	-
Restricted		
Restricted - Running Club	5,554.71	6,000.00
Restricted - Lift Maintenance	1,500.00	-
Restricted - Poverty Fund	875.80	245.00
Total Designated and Restricted Funds	52,047.35	45,638.00
Funds of the church	1,091,263.96	963,559.45
Total Income	£138,279	£116,854
Total Expenditure	£136,996	£173,047

Approved: April 2022

Bitterne Park Parish
Receipts and payments
Selected period: 01 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

<i>Note</i>	From To	01 January 2021 31 December 2021	01 January 2020 31 December 2020
Lift-Fund - Lift Maintenance (Restricted) Fund			
Income and endowments			
Donations and legacies			
Freewill Offerings		1,500	—
<i>Total Donations and legacies</i>		<u>1,500</u>	<u>—</u>
Total income and endowments		1,500	—
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		1,500	—
Brought forward balance		—	—
Total carried forward balance		1,500	—
RunClub - Ascension Running Club (Restricted) Fund			
Income and endowments			
Other trading activities			
Takings		100	—
<i>Total Other trading activities</i>		<u>100</u>	<u>—</u>
Other income			
External Funding		2,432	6,000
<i>Total Other income</i>		<u>2,432</u>	<u>6,000</u>
Total income and endowments		2,532	6,000
Expenditure			
Other expenditure			
Courses and training		1,810	—
Equipment & Books		188	—
Salaries		980	—
<i>Total Other expenditure</i>		<u>2,978</u>	<u>—</u>
Total expenditure		2,978	—
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		-445	6,000
Brought forward balance		6,000	—
Total carried forward balance		5,554	6,000
General - General fund (Unrestricted) Fund			
Income and endowments			
Donations and legacies			
Alms		1,819	1,757
Freewill Offerings		72,463	49,197
Gift Aid		10,992	11,859
Lauren Leaving Gift		100	—
<i>Total Donations and legacies</i>		<u>85,375</u>	<u>62,814</u>
Other trading activities			
Hirings		3,888	4,268
Takings		98	475
<i>Total Other trading activities</i>		<u>3,987</u>	<u>4,743</u>
Investments			
Dividends		24,548	14,993
<i>Total Investments</i>		<u>24,548</u>	<u>14,993</u>

Other income		
Events	1,051	545
External Funding	38	906
Fees	3,856	3,282
Fundraising	—	195
Miscellaneous	10	121
Refunds	459	2,778
Students	—	245
Smith Gift	15	1,405
NHS Gift Bags	—	60
<i>Total Other income</i>	<i>5,429</i>	<i>9,540</i>
Total income and endowments	119,340	92,092
Expenditure		
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Charities	—	490
<i>Total Expenditure on charitable activities</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>490</i>
Other expenditure		
Children and families	—	2,610
Cleaning	4,865	4,718
Courses and training	593	1,303
Curates' expenses	141	846
Distribution of external funding	660	750
Electricity	2,034	2,096
Equipment & Books	4,033	536
Events Social	1,453	1,335
Events Outreach	144	664
Fees	1,760	1,619
Fire Protection	207	418
Food	20	307
Gas	5,511	4,542
Hire Deposit return	—	96
Insurance	4,773	4,572
Maintenance, fixtures and fittings	9,282	24,544
Discretionary fund	146	379
Music	316	377
Office expenses	2,348	1,785
Ordinands' expenses	297	336
Outreach worker's expenses	1,161	652
Parish Administrator Costs	10,071	9,679
Parish Share - CMF	40,932	40,932
Refuse	775	726
Sanctuary	976	537
Stationery and Literature	—	8
Vicar's expenses	115	961
Water	2,168	1,049
Students	623	573
Marketing	1,225	530
Licences	1,038	924
Parish Phone/Broadband	779	721
IT Operations	929	979
Payroll Costs	291	259
COVID-19	792	1,346
Smith Gift Expenses	15	1,405
NHS Gift Bags	—	253
Lauren Leaving Expense	224	—
<i>Total Other expenditure</i>	<i>100,712</i>	<i>115,381</i>
Total expenditure	100,712	115,871
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	18,627	-23,778
Brought forward balance	75,713	69,025
Transfers to/(from)	-19,942	42,762

Transfers to/(from)	—	-12,296
Total carried forward balance	74,398	75,713

Garden - Garden of Remembrance (Designated) Fund

Income and endowments		
Donations and legacies		
Freewill Offerings	525	200
<i>Total Donations and legacies</i>	<i>525</i>	<i>200</i>
Investments		
Dividends	1,006	971
<i>Total Investments</i>	<i>1,006</i>	<i>971</i>
Total income and endowments	1,531	1,171
Expenditure		
Other expenditure		
Gardening	1,786	1,390
<i>Total Other expenditure</i>	<i>1,786</i>	<i>1,390</i>
Total expenditure	1,786	1,390
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	-255	-218
Brought forward balance	1,546	2,754
Transfers to/(from)	—	-990
Total carried forward balance	1,291	1546

F-C-Worker - Family & Children Worker (Designated) Fund

Income and endowments		
Donations and legacies		
Freewill Offerings	—	20
<i>Total Donations and legacies</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>20</i>
Other trading activities		
Takings	237	—
<i>Total Other trading activities</i>	<i>237</i>	<i>—</i>
Other income		
Events	489	—
External Funding	—	1,000
<i>Total Other income</i>	<i>489</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Total income and endowments	727	1,020
Expenditure		
Other expenditure		
Children and families	3,499	429
Events Social	565	—
Children & Youth Worker Costs	25,886	25,945
Light Party	669	—
<i>Total Other expenditure</i>	<i>30,620</i>	<i>26,375</i>
Total expenditure	30,620	26,375
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	-29,892	(25,355)
Brought forward balance	—	(1,379)
Transfers to/(from)	29,892	26,734
Total carried forward balance	—	—

Poverty - Poverty Fund (Restricted) Fund

Income and endowments		
Donations and legacies		
Freewill Offerings	200	200

	<i>Total Donations and legacies</i>	<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>
Total income and endowments		200	200
Expenditure			
Other expenditure			
Distribution of external funding		200	650
Electricity		35	—
Equipment & Books		85	—
Discretionary fund		250	—
	<i>Total Other expenditure</i>	<u>570</u>	<u>650</u>
Total expenditure		570	650
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		-370	(450)
Brought forward balance		245	695
Transfers to/(from)		1,000	—
Total carried forward balance		875	245
Cafeequip - Windows Cafe equipment renewals reserve (Designated) Fund			
Expenditure			
Other expenditure			
Maintenance, fixtures and fittings		—	1,346
	<i>Total Other expenditure</i>	<u>—</u>	<u>1,346</u>
Total expenditure		—	1,346
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		—	(1,346)
Brought forward balance		-7,118	-7,233
Transfers to/(from)		—	1,461
Total carried forward balance		-7,118	-7,118
Tithe - Tithe (Designated) Fund			
Brought forward balance		10,350	10,058
Transfers to/(from)		—	292
Total carried forward balance		10,350	10,350
Lacon - 25 Lacon Close (Designated) Fund			
Income and endowments			
Other trading activities			
Rent		12,450	11,400
	<i>Total Other trading activities</i>	<u>12,450</u>	<u>11,400</u>
Total income and endowments		12,450	11,400
Expenditure			
Other expenditure			
Insurance		329	294
Maintenance, fixtures and fittings		—	1,668
	<i>Total Other expenditure</i>	<u>329</u>	<u>1,962</u>
Total expenditure		329	1,962
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		12,120	9,437
Brought forward balance		-1,170	14,258
Transfers to/(from)		-10,950	-24,865
Total carried forward balance		—	-1,170
<i>There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown</i>			

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Bitterne Park PCC

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of Bitterne Park, Southampton ('the PCC') for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

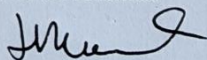
I report in respect of my examination of the PCC's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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 PCC as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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: 

Name: Jonathan Marchant

Address: 31 Glen Eyre Drive, Southampton SO16 3NQ

Date: 26 APRIL 2022

Accounts

Ascension

Trustees' Annual Report (TAR) 2020-21

**Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of
The Church of the Ascension, Bitterne Park**

Ascension

— MISSION STATEMENT —

Inviting those around us to encounter the living **Jesus** and be transformed to a life captivated by him.

— VALUES —

JESUS IS THE DEFINITION

We look at **Jesus** to see fully who God is, what it means to be human and how it looks to be fully alive.

PROPHETIC INTERRUPTION

We expect that **the Holy Spirit** will interrupt our plans, as he leads us as a community. We make space to respond to this as we follow him together.

EMPOWERING VOCATION

We are committed to helping people discover who **Jesus** has made them to be and empowering them to play their role in his rescue plan for creation.

JESUS ENCOUNTER

We expect to encounter **Jesus** as present with us and to be changed through this. We intentionally shape our gatherings to make space for this.

DEPENDANT PRAYER

We seek to engage deeper and more often in prayer, only with this foundation will we see the impossible happen and lives be transformed by **Jesus**.

Welcome to the Annual Report of Ascension Church in Bitterne Park. 2020 has proved to be a challenging year in so many ways and so much of 'normal' church life has been disrupted. The COVID-19 pandemic has prevented so many of our ministries, meetings and groups from operating in their usual fashion, not least our main Sunday worship. This year has also seen us lose a number of significant members of our Church Staff Team and our worshipping community. At the start of the year, our Curate Will Fairbairn and his wife Katie headed to Bristol and soon after our Vicar, Andy & his wife (Revd) Nicky Smith and their family felt God calling them to pastures new. While we were excited to see them all responding to God's calling on their lives, we were sad to see them go. Sadly also several long-standing members of our congregation passed away this year and the difficult circumstances were compounded by the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. They had served the church in so many roles and over a considerable period of time and at this point of the year when we reflect on our church and community, we remember them all fondly, miss them and give thanks to God for their faithful service.

It has been a privilege however to see first-hand how our community has risen to the challenges posed by this year and exciting to witness how God has continued to bless us richly and lead us in an exciting direction despite everything that has been going on. This Annual Report is very different to previous years but bears witness to how we have responded to the restrictions imposed on us by the pandemic and how we continued to serve our church community and the wider parish population. The majority of our usual ministries, outreach and seasonal events had to be re-imagined and the staff team and leaders of those groups have done a fantastic job of keeping everything going. It is incredible that our church family has continued to grow despite the circumstances that we have found ourselves in and God has continued to bless us enormously in countless ways.

Please join with me in saying an enormous 'well done' and 'thank you' to the fantastic staff team, volunteers and community here at Ascension for successfully navigating the troubled waters of 2020 and we prayerfully now look forward to the future with great hope and confidence for our Church and community. I am excited to see where God will lead us in the next year.

Andy Gordon, Churchwarden

Every Church of England church has the same aim: 'to promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.' Please read on to see how we fulfil that mission.

Worship and prayer

We welcome anyone who wishes to attend our **regular services**. Throughout these challenging times we have continued to gather, sometimes in person, sometimes online or the telephone, sometimes all 3 simultaneously, to worship together. We believe we are changed through these opportunities; whether in praise and sung worship, preaching, prayer or Eucharist, at home or at Ascension God is at work.

On Sundays, when in person worship was permitted, we have continued to offer two distinct services. A quieter, more formal, **9.00am Eucharistic service**, which once a month is reflective. The **10.45am service** is more informal and contemporary and always has specific provision for children. The church family has still been steadily growing at both services, both in depth and numbers.

Small Groups have played a significant part in our worshipping collectively during Covid. As soon as

the March lockdown was announced it was decided that the best way to preserve the worshipping life of our congregations whilst simultaneously allowing authentic community to flourish, would be to create more small groups, with the added benefit of providing members a support network. During the first two weeks of lockdown, the staff team contacted every member of our church family and invited them to be a part of a small group during this lock-down period. Pleasingly 95%, c 150 people with a variety of ages, backgrounds, stages of faith and life situations joined up.

Each group was led by a member of the staff team and had 8 -15 members. They met weekly and followed a teaching programme created by the staff team to maintain some sense of continuity among the groups. In this way we were able to maintain prayer, worship, teaching, confession, scripture reading, children's and youth work, and outreach.

We are excited to see how these develop as the world returns to normal. If you are not yet in a group but might like to be please contact Marc or Peter.

As soon as we were able we opened as and when we could for **private prayer**. We are grateful to the volunteers who along with the staff team enabled this to happen. Staff

team continued to welcome anyone who chooses to join them for **prayer** on Tuesday mornings. At the start of the year, when permitted, we held our usual Wednesday 9.30 am **communion service** but this morphed into a zoom telephone **morning prayer** service at 11.30am followed by a chat as a result of the lockdown.

Prayer ministry is an integral part of the life of our Church and we seek to allow time to pray for one another when we gather to worship.

The **prayer chain**, for urgent or confidential needs, has received a number of requests during the year. Anyone can let the Parish Office know if they would like this team to lift a need in prayer.

Mission and evangelism

New to our family?: **Belong**
Over the last 12 months despite lockdown we have had people joining us, some logging into live streams and others through Alpha and other events. We have held several zoom 'coffee & catch up's to welcome people who have joined us recently. Part of our Churchsuite process also reaches out to people who are contacting us via the website. Whilst it has been hard to connect with new comers, in all the usual ways, this

year, we have still had the joy of welcoming people into our Church family.

Lauren Cheshire

The **café** only ran for a couple of weeks between Christmas and lockdown. We are frequently asked when it will be re-opening. We look forward to when we will be able to open again and the opportunity it gives us welcome in and engage with the wider community.

Debbie Goodall

The Monday tots group, **Footsteps**, as with many things, has barely met in the past year. Pre-lockdown we were regularly getting 10-15 children with their grown-ups attending. When the first lockdown came last March I attempted to put Footsteps online, which proved more stressful for parents than not doing it, so sadly it had to stop.

We have kept in contact with as many families as have allowed us to, by regularly dropping goodie-bags at their door; this both gives the children something slightly different to do and also enables a brief, socially distanced doorstep chat with the Mums. We did manage to meet a few times between lockdowns, though with some adjustments to make it safe. I have always maintained the group is a support for the parents as

well as fun for the children and thus we were able to continue, albeit limited to smaller numbers. Interestingly, we found conversations to be deeper and more meaningful within a smaller group. Maybe something to learn from when we come out of this difficult time. A huge thank you goes to the lovely team of volunteers who work well together to create this God-filled place for the children and parents.

Ruth Hills

The **EDGE**, the after-school club at Townhill continued at the Community Centre pre-lockdown, and was thriving. Once the restrictions came into place, we did manage to put activities online for the children for a few weeks-though this was less popular than the usual active games. We even had, between lockdowns, a distanced game of Laser Quest on the local field. We successfully found lots of reasons to deliver countless number of goodie bags over the past year to EDGE families, half term, Easter, Christmas, summer holidays etc., again with the dual hope of giving the children something to do and maintaining relationships with the families.

However, when the children's lessons went online, they became disenchanted with games on a screen and began to not join in.

Alongside this fall off from the children, came a demand from some of the parents for something aimed at them. **EDGE+** was born, an evening Zoom meeting aimed at adults. After a few weeks this became an **online Alpha** group and once that had finished we continue as a **small group**, with faith based discussion, worship and challenging thoughts. I am told it is the highlight of their weeks and is helping to keep them sane.

Ruth Hills

In this recent lockdown we have been able to distribute a **weekly frozen meal** to those who have need. We offered them to all the families from EDGE, though only some have taken them up. We have also been able to meet some other families who have need - either through low income or as they are isolating. They have been a real blessing to many and I thank God for this opportunity...may His goodness be seen as we deliver the meals.

Ruth Hills

The **Light Party** clearly had to be very different in 2020, due to Covid 19 and associated restrictions, but as we were aware of how much children and parents were struggling, we were keen to do something. Jo, Emma and Ruth organised a Light Quest around

the area, with treasure maps, and clues on lampposts, ending up at Ascension to pick up their bag of goodies. Whilst we were a little disappointed at how tame it felt in comparison to our usual Light Party, the feedback we got from children and parents, who took part was very enthusiastic. They appreciated that someone had put on something for them to do.

Jo Szedlak

Scooch has shifted to a detached format under Covid restrictions. This is because we haven't been able to use the Youth Space and remain socially distanced, but we have managed to keep running for some of the time by setting up outside and giving out sweets (in a covid safe way) to young people as they have come home from school on Wednesday evenings. This has led to some really good conversations and helped to maintain connections with students. We are praying and thinking about the best way forward for Scooch as the restrictions are lifted to make the most of in house and detached youth ministry, both of which can be incredibly helpful in connecting with the youth in the community.

Lauren Cheshire

Ascension youth (ASC:Y) has met regularly on a Thursday throughout the year. We have spent time together on & off site and on zoom when meeting in person was not possible. We were lucky to be able to make use of a local forest and enjoy laser nerf wars, sparklers and capture the flag, we also had a water sports day. Despite the many challenges the group has thrived, relationships have deepened, and there is a real sense that God is moving among us, children are hearing God for themselves and each other and a quarter of our youth, from non-churched backgrounds are loving coming and are actively questioning and showing interest during our spiritual input time. We are thankful that having started the group in October 2019 with 4 regular members we finished 2020 with 18 and were able to present each of them with their own youth bible for Christmas.

Jo Szedlak

Our **Sunday morning groups** welcome regulars, occasionals and other visitors to the various age appropriate activities. We are particularly keen to keep the older children engaged at a time when so many are distracted by the secular world. The move online during the first lock down has meant that there were 5 zoom groups

running: preschool, keystages 1 and 2, youth and a family/children's group on a Sunday. We were able to provide craft activities & resources, teaching, worship and biblical teaching as well as prayer/ treasure trails around the parish. It was disappointing that we were unable to take the youth to the big church day as planned. The children's beautiful creative worship has been used to create colourful window displays that speak of His life and hope and our presence within the wider community.

An amazing thanks to all the awesome volunteers on the teams, for their time, inspiration, love and support who make what we do possible.

Jo Szedlak

Schools Engagement

Relationships with the local primary and secondary schools were really beginning to grow before lockdown. It had been agreed that I/we could run lunch time assemblies for the children at the primary school, we hope to be able to implement this when schools fully re-open. At the beginning of the year we were able to continue our support to the RE curriculum by holding one of our (previously) regular Q&A sessions at Bitterne Park Secondary School. We were particularly excited that

immediately prior to lock down the Headteacher had agreed to Ascension beginning a lunch time club at the school. During lockdown the school has had a new headteacher appointed. We wait to see if we will be able to continue with these plans.

Jo Szedlak

Pre-school unfortunately our usual opportunities to host the children and staff at Easter were cancelled. However when they were again unable to visit before Christmas we sent 165 bags for the children each containing the christmas message and a nativity craft and gift.

Jo Szedlak

To support **parents** during lockdown there was a regular parent online coffee morning.

In the run up to Christmas we held a wreath making workshop, attended by those with children and those without. It was a valuable opportunity for a 'pause' for mums to release their creative side, appreciate the season and enjoy fellowship. When so much else is expensive it is great to do it at cost price.

Jo Szedlak

The **student community** at Ascension continues to grow and helps equip students to know and share Jesus. Despite COVID restrictions, we saw many students visit us in October for the first time,

and some have made Ascension their home as a result. As we couldn't provide student meals, we improvised with take-away food bags that they could go home with, we love seeing our students well fed! We meet as a student community over zoom on Wednesday evenings, and managed to meet in person last term when the restrictions were lighter. In early March 2020, we took our students on a weekend away, where we focused on the Holy Spirit and how the Spirit changes us and those around us as we encounter God. Although in previous years we've loved hosting socials for students to bring their friends to, we've found we've had to be more innovative when it comes to mission and inviting our friends to know Jesus! Overall, we've seen God be at work significantly within our student community and each week have heard testimonies of new conversations students have had with their friends about Jesus. As we look to the year ahead, we are excited for the days we can eat together again, and meet in person to worship the living Jesus.

Lorna Allez

Ladies Group started 2020 with our usual full programme of talks and events - until the first March lockdown happened. Very sadly our chairwoman and main programme

co-ordinator Trisha Eldridge passed away on 13th May - she will be much missed. In the summer the committee were able to meet but in view of the continuing restrictions and the age of some of our members realised that we would be unable to restart meeting in person yet and did not feel that we had enough members with the equipment or the desire to carry on meeting online. We were however, using money already raised plus our funds, able to make our promised donation to our nominated charity the Amber Chaplaincy. We now look forward to better times ahead.

Frances Samphire

Prayer Shawl Ministry Regretfully we had to suspend the giving out of shawls due to covid19, but we are still knitting/crocheting. It was hard as they would have been more needed now than ever. We hope to be able to return very soon ready to supply shawls. Meanwhile we have been praying for the parish as a whole as well as for those we know.

The Prayer Shawls Ministry Team

The **Flower Team** is a small but enthusiastic group, who normally work through the year to enhance the beauty of our church for the major festivals. The arrangements bring life and colour for worshippers

and those who visit during the week. We also undertake weddings and other occasions on request.

However, due to the pandemic, we have not had the opportunity to add those creative displays and colour to our church, our silk flowers etc have had to be stored away. Lockdown and social distancing meant that, although we started a collection towards our usual Remembrance Lilies in March 2020, we were unable to put the arrangement and plaque in the church.

It was lovely to be able to dress the Advent Ring in church in December and place small posies on some of the windowsills to help celebrate Christmas. We look forward to being able to return to being able to have floral displays around our worship space in the future. Donations to the Lily fund or for any other displays are most welcome and can be given into the office.

Jane Tudor

With this strange year uprooting many plans we were unable to keep to the **events** schedule as hoped, but we did manage a Zoom Quiz in the first lockdown, a Light in the Night community trail, the Online Crib service and even have another event coming up at the end of January. Over the next few months I will be looking at developing the events schedule with the wider team

so that key dates remain in the Church's yearly calendar. As always we cannot wait to be together and celebrate that which unites us, being God's family here in this place.

Lauren Cheshire

Covid 19 caused us to cancel the **Ascension Art Groups** after only 7 weeks but the average weekly attendance of 23 matched the 2019 weekly numbers. Contact with group members has been maintained throughout the lockdown period via telephone calls, e-mails and regular newsletters. Copies of ongoing painting projects have been shared along with my latent interest in poetry. These resultant Lockdown Muses bulletins were very well received, stimulating a number of interesting and informative responses which we have all enjoyed immensely. Unfortunately, the Covid pandemic also meant that we were unable to hold our annual exhibition in association with HAMPSHIRE OPEN STUDIOS week in August. We continue to welcome painters of all abilities and all faiths and will offer spiritual and moral support through members of our prayer ministry team who attend. We look forward to welcoming new participants when we are able again to meet together.

Dave Hewett. Tutor

The Coronavirus Pandemic has hugely affected the way we can operate the activities of **Ascension Running Community**, but we have tried to adapt with much smaller group sizes to keep activities going whenever possible.

We are delighted to have been awarded two generous grants from Allchurches Trust and Southampton Council's Community Chest, to support our activities in the community through these difficult times. We hope to fund a small fixed term Project Coordinator role and to train more people as Run Leaders and Mental Health First Aiders in order to accommodate all those wanting to run with our #RunAndTalk and to develop new activities for Youth, Students and the Townhill area. These activities have a focus on promoting good mental health and wellbeing through running, and building supportive communities linked with our church.

Anna Gordon

This year we have run 3 **alpha** courses, one in person and two online. We have learnt a lot and have created a small Alpha team who are committed to continue running Alpha 2-3 times a year in the future. We have had people from Townhill and wider afield join our online Alphas which have been more accessible for

those with children. We hope to build on relationships within Alpha during events and small groups. For more information on Alpha check out: www.alpha.org.uk and contact Lauren if you are interested in doing an alpha course and exploring some of the big questions about life and faith or if you would like to be on team!

Lauren Cheshire

In Sept 2019 the Diocese appointed a Youth Discipleship Enabler, part of their brief is to run and further develop the Diocesan **Ministry Experience Scheme**. Until, August 2020 we continued this management brief in partnership, but we have now stepped back as co-ordinators of the scheme. Although we may in future years once again be host to one of the participants.

Until August 2020 we continued to be the venue for the Diocesan **vocations hub** (an initiative facilitating exploration of vocation), which was led and facilitated by Revd Angi Nutt, the then Diocesan Assistant DDO. On Tuesdays participants joined (in person and on zoom) with the MES Leadership Assistants and others from Ascension and beyond to attend streamed modules of world class **Theological teaching** from St Mellitus college, London.

We continue to provide a venue for the weekly **Basic Clothing Bank**. They tell us that 2020 saw 1044 people clothed, however this does not tell the full story.. There were enforced closures in the first lockdown and again more recently when the infection rates had significantly increased. In between they had to recruit an entire new team of volunteers to relaunch the clothing bank, and thankfully they managed to reopen but, to facilitate social distancing, with a reduced volunteer team and a limit on the number of clients in the building at one time. It is fantastic that clients could be welcomed back and the local community served in this way. Numbers got back up to 50 people served each Wednesday before having to shut again. With the new team in place they look forward to opening again as soon as they can. We continue to collect food donations to pass on as well.

Peter Goodall

2020 saw a year of transition in our relationship with our linked parish, **Naminage** in Uganda. The Revd Sosan Buzza moving on to a new parish and the departure of our Vicar, Andy Smith, however we look forward to rekindling our relationship with our friends in Naminage and their new vicar the Revd Patrick Kalangula.

Peter Goodall

Personnel

There were several significant changes during 2020. In February, as his Curacy ended, Will Fairbairn was appointed Vicar of Redland Church in Bristol.

In July we had to say good bye to Andy & Nicky Smith and their family as Andy had been appointed Vicar of Christ Church, Bangkok. Since then the church has been led by Andy Gordon (Churchwarden) and the remaining staff team. The process for the new appointment has started January 2021.

In July, Abbie Cann's placement year here as part of the (CE)MES scheme finished. She had been a great asset to us generally and the Children's work in particular.

Meg Bailey has replaced Peter Goodall as the **safeguarding** officer. Peter transitioned from ordinand to become Assistant Curate in October and can no longer hold the position.

Pastoral

We have a small but loyal team of people who visit those who are sick or housebound. More than ever the capacity to take **Home Communion** to those who are sick, dying or otherwise unable to attend church has been important this year.

There were no **baptisms** but there was one **thanksgiving / dedication** service and one **wedding** conducted here during 2020.

There were two **funerals** or **services of thanksgiving** in our church, and a further 2 conducted by our team at a Crematorium during 2020. There were 8 interments of ashes in the **Garden of Remembrance**.

Objectives and Activities

Facilities

Despite the building being largely closed during much of 2020 quite a lot was achieved. We were able to replace some of the heating system in the original part of the church. The PCC wanted to support the cleaners financially during the lockdowns so whilst the cleaning requirements were greatly reduced they were happy to be diverted to do some painting in the extension, mainly refreshing the entrance and corridors. The lift required some costly repairs following the closures. Acoustic panelling has been fitted in the Worship Space and Grace Hall. The café briefly re-opened before Easter after the major refurbishment there.

(GrACE) GReeening Ascension's Community and Environment Steering Group. Towards the end of 2020 the PCC invited a small group of people to form a steering group (separate from staff or PCC) to consider how we as a Church can be more intentional about caring for God's creation. Our plans include minimising our carbon footprint, reducing waste, encouraging more recycling, improving our garden for wildlife and educating others. We are brim full with ideas, but waiting for the new incumbent to give us the go-ahead to really get started. There will firstly be a variety of things for the PCC to take action on. If accepted, we then hope Church members will individually and collectively, join our projects, some of which would see us collaborating with community organisations. We look forward to sharing our plans with you in the coming year!

Helen Pain, Convenor

Financial review

As you all know 2020 has been very unusual for all of us. However, our wonderful regular donors have thankfully continued to support the church and the accounts at the end of 2020 are looking healthy.

We still own and rent out the house at 25 Lacon Close and our medium-long term investment has increased due to a generous legacy left to the

church and is a now a total of £840,000. In 2021, we will be planning how best to use a proportion of this in extending God's mission in Bitterne Park. The Parish has met all of its routine commitments including salaries, and the Diocesan Common Mission fund from its monthly income, which has come from regular donors, limited hiring out of the community rooms, and from dividends on the investments. Regular giving from members has increased over the course of 2020.

Reserves policy It is PCC policy to maintain reserves equivalent to three months' running costs, £22,000. It is our policy to invest the short-term investment fund balances with the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund, and the remainder in the CCLA Church of England Investment Fund.

Tim Nutt, Treasurer

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure, and is a Registered Charity. The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The full PCC met (in person or on zoom) four times during the year (scheduled meetings during first lockdown were postponed & combined with later meetings).

Each year at least a third of the PCC members stand down. At the APCM the three retiring members were Trisha Eldridge, Sam Nichols and

Tom Tarling. The elections of their replacements were conducted as set out in the Church Representation Rules and Jackie Cooper, Helen Pain and Christophe Szedlak were appointed to the PCC. Additionally Peter Goodall, Sam Nichols and Ben Parkin were appointed to Deanery Synod. During the year Will Fairbairn, Andy Smith and Nicky Smith left Ascension and the PCC. We would like to thank all who served on the PCC during 2020. For full details of the current PCC please see back page.

The average weekly attendance, at Ascension, counted during October was 101, there was an average 50 views per week for each of the October youtube broadcasts

(although each could have been more than one person) a further 3 or 4 joined each week on Zoom. We would usually expect these numbers to be higher for the various festivals – 2020 Easter was during lockdown 1 and Christmas under severe restrictions.

All those who attend our services, are encouraged to register on the **Electoral Roll** to enable them to vote for the PCC membership and to stand for election themselves. The electoral roll has been prepared in accordance Church of England rules. Since last year 6 members have died or moved away and we have 4 new enrolments, so, the new roll has 105 members, of whom 57 live in parish.

Frances Samphire, Parish Clerk

Southampton Deanery Synod

moved on-line as a result of the Covid situation. We were pleased to welcome the Reverend Sheena Williams as the new area dean and thanked her for stepping up to offer the opportunity for the lay and clergy across the parish to continue to meet and develop a shared vision for what God is doing in our City.

Peter Goodall

Administrative information

The Church of the Ascension is in Thorold Road, Bitterne Park, Southampton SO18 1HZ. It is part of the Diocese of Winchester within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is

The Parish Office, Ascension Centre, 1 Thorold Road, Bitterne Park, Southampton SO18 1HZ.

We continue to **Bank** with National Westminster Bank and our **Independent Examiner** is Jonathan Marchant.

Registered charity number 1128861

PCC members for 2020/21

Chair	Revd Andrew Smith (left July 2020)
Church Wardens	Andy Gordon
Secretary	Marc Allez
Treasurer	Tim Nutt
Deanery Synod	Peter Goodall, Sam Nichols Ben Parkin

Other Members

Marc Allez, Lorna Allez, Karen Clucas, Jackie Cooper, Ann Devereux, Matt Fewtrell, Alex Hills, Helen Pain and Christophe Szedlak.

Ex Officio - Ruth Hills (Licensed Lay Worker)

Approved by the PCC.
signed on their behalf by the Churchwarden, Andy Gordon

22 March 2021

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Bitterne Park PCC

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of Bitterne Park, Southampton ('the PCC') for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

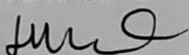
I report in respect of my examination of the PCC's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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 PCC as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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: 

Name: Jonathan Marchant

Address: 31 Glen Eyre Drive, Southampton SO16 3NQ

Date: 4 MAY 2021

Bitterne Park Parish
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
As at: 31 December 2020

	As at 31/12/2020	As at 31/12/2019
	£	£
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	17,998.80	19,570.42
CBF Church of England Deposit Fund	67,139.75	83,610.35
CBF Church of England Investment Fund at valuation	878,420.90	492,161.00
CBF Church of England Fixed Interest Securities Fund at valuation	-	28,752.00
Net current assets less current liabilities	963,559.45	624,093.77
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General fund	917,921.45	589,671.27
Represented by		
Designated		
Designated - Family & Children Worker	-	- 1,379.50
Designated - Garden of Remembrance	36,161.00	2,754.00
Designated - 25 Lacon Close	-	14,258.00
Designated - Windows Cafe	-	- 1.00
Designated - Windows Cafe equipment renewals reserve	- 7,118.00	- 7,233.00
Designated - Townhill Park outreach	-	- 519.00
Designated - Tithe	10,350.00	10,058.00
Designated - Uganda	-	1,443.00
Restricted		
Restricted - Running Club	6,000.00	-
Restricted - CEMES Overall 19/20	-	3,497.00
Restricted - Theology 19/20	-	4,111.00
Restricted - Pamela Bailey Legacy	-	6,739.00
Restricted - Poverty Fund	245.00	695.00
Total Designated and Restricted Funds	45,638.00	34,422.50
Funds of the church	963,559.45	624,093.77

Approved: 4th May 2021

Bitterne Park Parish
Receipts and payments
Selected period: 01 January 2020 to 31 December 2020

<i>Note</i>	<i>From To</i>	01 January 2020 31 December 2020	01 January 2019 31 December 2019
RunClub - Ascension Running Club (Restricted) Fund			
Income and endowments			
Other income			
External Funding		6,000	—
<i>Total Other income</i>		<u>6,000</u>	<u>—</u>
Total income and endowments		6,000	—
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		6,000	—
Total carried forward balance		6,000	—
General - General fund (Unrestricted) Fund			
Income and endowments			
Donations and legacies			
Alms		1,757	3,430
Donations		—	3,938
Freewill Offerings		49,197	46,464
Gift Aid		11,859	15,800
<i>Total Donations and legacies</i>		<u>62,814</u>	<u>69,634</u>
Other trading activities			
Hirings		4,268	16,245
Takings		475	201
<i>Total Other trading activities</i>		<u>4,743</u>	<u>16,446</u>
Investments			
Dividends		14,993	15,242
<i>Total Investments</i>		<u>14,993</u>	<u>15,242</u>
Other income			
Course fees		—	281
Events		545	2,145
External Funding		907	—
Fees		3,282	2,589
Fundraising		195	—
Miscellaneous		121	4,847
Photocopying		—	11
Refunds		2,778	1,474
Students		245	90
Smith Gift		1,405	—
NHS Gift Bags		60	—
<i>Total Other income</i>		<u>9,541</u>	<u>11,439</u>
Total income and endowments		92,093	112,763

Expenditure

Expenditure on charitable activities		
Charities	490	820
<i>Total Expenditure on charitable activities</i>	<i>490</i>	<i>820</i>
Other expenditure		
Children and families	2,610	1,599
Cleaning	4,718	4,942
Courses and training	1,303	3,210
Curates' expenses	846	1,937
Distribution of external funding	750	—
Electricity	2,096	2,568
Equipment & Books	536	5,155
Events Social	1,335	2,777
Events Outreach	664	—
Fees	1,619	891
Fire Protection	418	364
Food	307	966
Gardening	—	1,363
Gas	4,542	5,206
Hire Deposit return	96	200
Insurance	4,572	4,597
Maintenance, fixtures and fittings	24,544	2,354
Discretionary fund	379	742
Music	377	65
Office expenses	1,785	2,285
Ordinands' expenses	336	85
Outreach worker's expenses	652	96
Parish Administrator Costs	9,679	9,875
Parish Share - CMF	40,932	35,763
Refuse	726	903
Sanctuary	537	630
Stationery and Literature	8	453
Vicar's expenses	961	2,115
Water	1,049	1,844
Students	573	563
Marketing	530	2,300
Musical equipment	—	4
Licences	924	768
Parish Phone/Broadband	721	—
IT Operations	979	—
Payroll Costs	259	—
COVID-19	1,346	—
Smith Gift Expenses	1,405	—
NHS Gift Bags	253	—
<i>Total Other expenditure</i>	<i>115,381</i>	<i>96,633</i>
Total expenditure	115,871	97,453
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	(23778)	15,310
Transfers to/(from)	42762	(7,301)
Transfers to/(from)	(12,296)	7,000
Transfers to/(from)	—	4
Brought forward balance	69,025	54,012
Total carried forward balance	75712	69,025

CEMES1920 - CEMES overall 19/20 (Restricted) Fund

Income and endowments		
Other trading activities		
Takings	(70)	—
	<i>Total Other trading activities</i>	<i>(70)</i>
Other income		
External Funding	1,914	—
Miscellaneous	—	(50)
Refunds	—	220
	<i>Total Other income</i>	<i>1,914</i>
Total income and endowments	1,844	170
Expenditure		
Other expenditure		
CEMES scheme expenses	3,095	281
Parish Administrator Costs	1,012	375
	<i>Total Other expenditure</i>	<i>4,108</i>
Total expenditure	4,108	656
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	(2,264)	(486)
Transfers to/(from)	(1,233)	3,984
Brought forward balance	3,497	—
Total carried forward balance	—	3,497

Garden - Garden of Remembrance (Designated) Fund

Income and endowments		
Donations and legacies		
Freewill Offerings	200	—
	<i>Total Donations and legacies</i>	<i>200</i>
Investments		
Dividends	971	943
	<i>Total Investments</i>	<i>971</i>
Other income		
Fees	—	372
	<i>Total Other income</i>	<i>—</i>
Total income and endowments	1,171	1,315
Expenditure		
Other expenditure		
Fees	—	20
Gardening	1,390	180
	<i>Total Other expenditure</i>	<i>1,390</i>
Total expenditure	1,390	200
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	(218)	1,115
Transfers to/(from)	(990)	
Brought forward balance	2,754	1,639

Total carried forward balance	1,545	2,754
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F-C-Worker - Family & Children Worker (Designated) Fund

Income and endowments

Donations and legacies

Freewill Offerings

20

—

Total Donations and legacies

20

—

Other income

External Funding

1,000

—

Total Other income

1,000

—

Total income and endowments

1,020

—

Expenditure

Other expenditure

Children and families

429

42

Equipment & Books

—

139

Outreach worker's expenses

—

30

Salaries

—

11,166

Children & Youth Worker Costs

25,945

—

Total Other expenditure

26,375

11,379

Total expenditure

26,375

11,379

Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure

(25,355)

(11,379)

Transfers to/(from)

26,734

10,000

Brought forward balance

(1,379)

—

Total carried forward balance

—

(1,379)

Legacy - Pamela Bailey Legacy (Restricted) Fund

Expenditure

Other expenditure

Maintenance, fixtures and fittings

14,003

3,838

Total Other expenditure

14,003

3,838

Total expenditure

14,003

3,838

Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure

(14,003)

(3,838)

Transfers to/(from)

4,967

—

Transfers to/(from)

2,296

—

Brought forward balance

6,739

10,577

Total carried forward balance

—

6,739

Poverty - Poverty Fund (Restricted) Fund

Income and endowments

Donations and legacies

Donations

Freewill Offerings

Total Donations and legacies

—

200

200

200

200

975

1,175

Total income and endowments

200

1,175

Expenditure

Expenditure on charitable activities

Charities

Total Expenditure on charitable activities

—

—

—

80

80

Other expenditure

Distribution of external funding

Equipment & Books

Discretionary fund

Total Other expenditure

650

—

—

—

650

—

100

300

400

Total expenditure

650

480

Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure

Brought forward balance

(450)

(450)

695

695

695

—

Total carried forward balance

245

695

Theology19 - Theology 19/20 (Restricted) Fund

Income and endowments

Other income

Course fees

Total Other income

710

710

710

4,187

4,187

Total income and endowments

710

4,187

Expenditure

Other expenditure

Courses and training

Parish Administrator Costs

Total Other expenditure

4,002

4,002

202

4,204

—

75

75

Total expenditure

4,204

75

Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure

Transfers to/(from)

Brought forward balance

(3,494)

(3,494)

(617)

4,111

4,111

—

—

Total carried forward balance

—

4,111

Cafe - Windows Cafe (Designated) Fund

Income and endowments		
Other trading activities		
Takings	2,401	6,420
	<i>Total Other trading activities</i>	<i>2,401</i>
Other income		
Fees	(9)	—
Miscellaneous	—	68
	<i>Total Other income</i>	<i>(9)</i>
Total income and endowments	2,391	6,488
Expenditure		
Other expenditure		
Cafe supplies - non-food	20	204
CEMES scheme expenses	41	—
Food	1,075	2,536
Maintenance, fixtures and fittings	5	—
	<i>Total Other expenditure</i>	<i>1,143</i>
Total expenditure	1,143	2,741
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	1,248	3,747
Transfers to/(from)	(1,247)	(4,517)
Brought forward balance	(1)	769
Total carried forward balance	—	(1)

Cafeequip - Windows Cafe equipment renewals reserve (Designated) Fund

Income and endowments		
Other income		
Refunds	—	1,040
	<i>Total Other income</i>	<i>—</i>
Total income and endowments	—	1,040
Expenditure		
Other expenditure		
Cafe supplies - non-food	—	3,529
Equipment & Books	—	1,144
Maintenance, fixtures and fittings	1,346	16,968
	<i>Total Other expenditure</i>	<i>1,346</i>
Total expenditure	1,346	21,642
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	(1,346)	(20,602)
Transfers to/(from)	1,461	4,517
Brought forward balance	(7,233)	8,851
Total carried forward balance	(7,118)	(7,233)

Tithe - Tithe (Designated) Fund

Income and endowments

Other income

Events

	—	880
<i>Total Other income</i>	—	880

Total income and endowments

— 880

Expenditure

Other expenditure

Events Outreach

	—	4,700
<i>Total Other expenditure</i>	—	4,700

Total expenditure

— 4,700

Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure

Transfers to/(from)

Transfers to/(from)

Brought forward balance

Total carried forward balance

	—	(3,820)
	292	1,541
	—	(5,000)
	10,058	17,336
	10,350	10,058

Uganda - Uganda (Designated) Fund

Income and endowments

Donations and legacies

Alms

Donations

Freewill Offerings

	—	1,000
	—	4,810
	23	—
<i>Total Donations and legacies</i>	23	5,810

Income from charitable activities

Charity fundraising

	—	1,198
<i>Total Income from charitable activities</i>	—	1,198

Total income and endowments

23 7,008

Expenditure

Expenditure on charitable activities

Charities

	1,991	2,258
<i>Total Expenditure on charitable activities</i>	1,991	2,258

Other expenditure

Equipment & Books

Events Social

Discretionary fund

Vicar's expenses

	—	669
	—	323
	—	3,134
	—	182
<i>Total Other expenditure</i>	—	4,309

Total expenditure

1,991 6,567

Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure

Transfers to/(from)

Brought forward balance

Total carried forward balance

	(1,967)	440
	524	3,458
	1,443	(2,456)
	—	1,443

Lacon - 25 Lacon Close (Designated) Fund

Income and endowments

Other trading activities

Rent

11,400

12,350

Total Other trading activities

11,400

12,350

Total income and endowments

11,400

12,350

Expenditure

Other expenditure

Insurance

294

293

Maintenance, fixtures and fittings

1,668

735

Total Other expenditure

1,962

1,028

Total expenditure

1,962

1,028

Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure

9,437

11,321

Transfers to/(from)

(24,865)

—

Transfers to/(from)

—

(1,000)

Brought forward balance

14,258

3,937

Total carried forward balance

(1,170)

14,258

Townhill - Townhill Park outreach (Designated) Fund

Income and endowments

Other trading activities

Takings

—

396

Total Other trading activities

—

396

Other income

Events

—

168

Fundraising

—

25

Total Other income

—

193

Total income and endowments

—

589

Expenditure

Other expenditure

Children and families

—

386

Events Social

—

461

Food

—

253

Marketing

—

6

Total Other expenditure

—

1,108

Total expenditure

—

1,108

Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure

—

(519)

Transfers to/(from)

519

—

Brought forward balance

(519)

—

Total carried forward balance

—

(519)

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Bitterne Park PCC

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of Bitterne Park, Southampton ('the PCC') for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

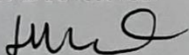
I report in respect of my examination of the PCC's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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 PCC as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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: 

Name: Jonathan Marchant

Address: 31 Glen Eyre Drive, Southampton SO16 3NQ

Date: 4 MAY 2021

Bitterne Park Parish
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
As at: 31 December 2020

	As at 31/12/2020	As at 31/12/2019
	£	£
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	17,998.80	19,570.42
CBF Church of England Deposit Fund	67,139.75	83,610.35
CBF Church of England Investment Fund at valuation	878,420.90	492,161.00
CBF Church of England Fixed Interest Securities Fund at valuation	-	28,752.00
Net current assets less current liabilities	963,559.45	624,093.77
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General fund	917,921.45	589,671.27
Represented by		
Designated		
Designated - Family & Children Worker	-	- 1,379.50
Designated - Garden of Remembrance	36,161.00	2,754.00
Designated - 25 Lacon Close	-	14,258.00
Designated - Windows Cafe	-	- 1.00
Designated - Windows Cafe equipment renewals reserve	- 7,118.00	- 7,233.00
Designated - Townhill Park outreach	-	- 519.00
Designated - Tithe	10,350.00	10,058.00
Designated - Uganda	-	1,443.00
Restricted		
Restricted - Running Club	6,000.00	-
Restricted - CEMES Overall 19/20	-	3,497.00
Restricted - Theology 19/20	-	4,111.00
Restricted - Pamela Bailey Legacy	-	6,739.00
Restricted - Poverty Fund	245.00	695.00
Total Designated and Restricted Funds	45,638.00	34,422.50
Funds of the church	963,559.45	624,093.77

Approved: 4th May 2021

Bitterne Park Parish
Receipts and payments
Selected period: 01 January 2020 to 31 December 2020

<i>Note</i>	<i>From To</i>	01 January 2020 31 December 2020	01 January 2019 31 December 2019
RunClub - Ascension Running Club (Restricted) Fund			
Income and endowments			
Other income			
External Funding		6,000	—
	<i>Total Other income</i>	<u>6,000</u>	<u>—</u>
Total income and endowments		6,000	—
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	<u>6,000</u>	<u>—</u>
Total carried forward balance		6,000	—
General - General fund (Unrestricted) Fund			
Income and endowments			
Donations and legacies			
Alms		1,757	3,430
Donations		—	3,938
Freewill Offerings		49,197	46,464
Gift Aid		11,859	15,800
	<i>Total Donations and legacies</i>	<u>62,814</u>	<u>69,634</u>
Other trading activities			
Hirings		4,268	16,245
Takings		475	201
	<i>Total Other trading activities</i>	<u>4,743</u>	<u>16,446</u>
Investments			
Dividends		14,993	15,242
	<i>Total Investments</i>	<u>14,993</u>	<u>15,242</u>
Other income			
Course fees		—	281
Events		545	2,145
External Funding		907	—
Fees		3,282	2,589
Fundraising		195	—
Miscellaneous		121	4,847
Photocopying		—	11
Refunds		2,778	1,474
Students		245	90
Smith Gift		1,405	—
NHS Gift Bags		60	—
	<i>Total Other income</i>	<u>9541</u>	<u>11,439</u>
Total income and endowments		92093	112,763

Expenditure

Expenditure on charitable activities		
Charities	490	820
<i>Total Expenditure on charitable activities</i>	<i>490</i>	<i>820</i>
Other expenditure		
Children and families	2,610	1,599
Cleaning	4,718	4,942
Courses and training	1,303	3,210
Curates' expenses	846	1,937
Distribution of external funding	750	—
Electricity	2,096	2,568
Equipment & Books	536	5,155
Events Social	1,335	2,777
Events Outreach	664	—
Fees	1,619	891
Fire Protection	418	364
Food	307	966
Gardening	—	1,363
Gas	4,542	5,206
Hire Deposit return	96	200
Insurance	4,572	4,597
Maintenance, fixtures and fittings	24,544	2,354
Discretionary fund	379	742
Music	377	65
Office expenses	1,785	2,285
Ordinands' expenses	336	85
Outreach worker's expenses	652	96
Parish Administrator Costs	9,679	9,875
Parish Share - CMF	40,932	35,763
Refuse	726	903
Sanctuary	537	630
Stationery and Literature	8	453
Vicar's expenses	961	2,115
Water	1,049	1,844
Students	573	563
Marketing	530	2,300
Musical equipment	—	4
Licences	924	768
Parish Phone/Broadband	721	—
IT Operations	979	—
Payroll Costs	259	—
COVID-19	1,346	—
Smith Gift Expenses	1,405	—
NHS Gift Bags	253	—
<i>Total Other expenditure</i>	<i>115,381</i>	<i>96,633</i>
Total expenditure	115,871	97,453
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	(23778)	15,310
Transfers to/(from)	42762	(7,301)
Transfers to/(from)	(12,296)	7,000
Transfers to/(from)	—	4
Brought forward balance	69,025	54,012
Total carried forward balance	75712	69,025

CEMES1920 - CEMES overall 19/20 (Restricted) Fund

Income and endowments

Other trading activities

Takings

(70)

—

Total Other trading activities

(70)

—

Other income

External Funding

1,914

—

Miscellaneous

—

(50)

Refunds

—

220

Total Other income

1,914

170

Total income and endowments

1,844

170

Expenditure

Other expenditure

CEMES scheme expenses

3,095

281

Parish Administrator Costs

1,012

375

Total Other expenditure

4,108

656

Total expenditure

4,108

656

Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure

(2,264)

(486)

Transfers to/(from)

(1,233)

3,984

Brought forward balance

3,497

—

Total carried forward balance

—

3,497

Garden - Garden of Remembrance (Designated) Fund

Income and endowments

Donations and legacies

Freewill Offerings

200

—

Total Donations and legacies

200

—

Investments

Dividends

971

943

Total Investments

971

943

Other income

Fees

—

372

Total Other income

—

372

Total income and endowments

1,171

1,315

Expenditure

Other expenditure

Fees

—

20

Gardening

1,390

180

Total Other expenditure

1,390

200

Total expenditure

1,390

200

Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure

(218)

1,115

Transfers to/(from)

(990)

Brought forward balance

2,754

1,639

Total carried forward balance	1,545	2,754
--------------------------------------	--------------	--------------

F-C-Worker - Family & Children Worker (Designated) Fund

Income and endowments

Donations and legacies

Freewill Offerings

20

—

Total Donations and legacies

20

—

Other income

External Funding

1,000

—

Total Other income

1,000

—

Total income and endowments

1,020

—

Expenditure

Other expenditure

Children and families

429

42

Equipment & Books

—

139

Outreach worker's expenses

—

30

Salaries

—

11,166

Children & Youth Worker Costs

25,945

—

Total Other expenditure

26,375

11,379

Total expenditure

26,375

11,379

Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure

(25,355)

(11,379)

Transfers to/(from)

26,734

10,000

Brought forward balance

(1,379)

—

Total carried forward balance

—

(1,379)

Legacy - Pamela Bailey Legacy (Restricted) Fund

Expenditure

Other expenditure

Maintenance, fixtures and fittings

14,003

3,838

Total Other expenditure

14,003

3,838

Total expenditure

14,003

3,838

Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure

(14,003)

(3,838)

Transfers to/(from)

4,967

—

Transfers to/(from)

2,296

—

Brought forward balance

6,739

10,577

Total carried forward balance

—

6,739

Poverty - Poverty Fund (Restricted) Fund

Income and endowments

Donations and legacies

Donations	—	200
Freewill Offerings	200	975

<i>Total Donations and legacies</i>	<u>200</u>	<u>1,175</u>
-------------------------------------	------------	--------------

Total income and endowments

200	1,175
------------	--------------

Expenditure

Expenditure on charitable activities

Charities	—	80
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<i>Total Expenditure on charitable activities</i>	<u>—</u>	<u>80</u>
---	----------	-----------

Other expenditure

Distribution of external funding	650	—
Equipment & Books	—	100
Discretionary fund	—	300

<i>Total Other expenditure</i>	<u>650</u>	<u>400</u>
--------------------------------	------------	------------

Total expenditure

650	480
------------	------------

Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	<u>(450)</u>	<u>695</u>
--	--------------	------------

Brought forward balance	695	—
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Total carried forward balance	245	695
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Theology19 - Theology 19/20 (Restricted) Fund

Income and endowments

Other income

Course fees	710	4,187
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<i>Total Other income</i>	<u>710</u>	<u>4,187</u>
---------------------------	------------	--------------

Total income and endowments

710	4,187
------------	--------------

Expenditure

Other expenditure

Courses and training	4,002	—
Parish Administrator Costs	202	75

<i>Total Other expenditure</i>	<u>4,204</u>	<u>75</u>
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Total expenditure

4,204	75
--------------	-----------

Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	<u>(3,494)</u>	<u>4,111</u>
--	----------------	--------------

Transfers to/(from)	(617)	—
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Brought forward balance	4,111	—
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Total carried forward balance	—	4,111
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Cafe - Windows Cafe (Designated) Fund

Income and endowments		
Other trading activities		
Takings	2,401	6,420
	<i>Total Other trading activities</i>	<i>2,401</i>
Other income		
Fees	(9)	—
Miscellaneous	—	68
	<i>Total Other income</i>	<i>(9)</i>
Total income and endowments	2,391	6,488
Expenditure		
Other expenditure		
Cafe supplies - non-food	20	204
CEMES scheme expenses	41	—
Food	1,075	2,536
Maintenance, fixtures and fittings	5	—
	<i>Total Other expenditure</i>	<i>1,143</i>
Total expenditure	1,143	2,741
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	1,248	3,747
Transfers to/(from)	(1,247)	(4,517)
Brought forward balance	(1)	769
Total carried forward balance	—	(1)

Cafeequip - Windows Cafe equipment renewals reserve (Designated) Fund

Income and endowments		
Other income		
Refunds	—	1,040
	<i>Total Other income</i>	<i>—</i>
Total income and endowments	—	1,040
Expenditure		
Other expenditure		
Cafe supplies - non-food	—	3,529
Equipment & Books	—	1,144
Maintenance, fixtures and fittings	1,346	16,968
	<i>Total Other expenditure</i>	<i>1,346</i>
Total expenditure	1,346	21,642
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	(1,346)	(20,602)
Transfers to/(from)	1,461	4,517
Brought forward balance	(7,233)	8,851
Total carried forward balance	(7,118)	(7,233)

Tithe - Tithe (Designated) Fund

Income and endowments

Other income

Events

—

880

Total Other income

—

880

Total income and endowments

—

880

Expenditure

Other expenditure

Events Outreach

—

4,700

Total Other expenditure

—

4,700

Total expenditure

—

4,700

Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure

—

(3,820)

Transfers to/(from)

292

1,541

Transfers to/(from)

—

(5,000)

Brought forward balance

10,058

17,336

Total carried forward balance

10,350

10,058

Uganda - Uganda (Designated) Fund

Income and endowments

Donations and legacies

Alms

—

1,000

Donations

—

4,810

Freewill Offerings

23

—

Total Donations and legacies

23

5,810

Income from charitable activities

Charity fundraising

—

1,198

Total Income from charitable activities

—

1,198

Total income and endowments

23

7,008

Expenditure

Expenditure on charitable activities

Charities

1,991

2,258

Total Expenditure on charitable activities

1,991

2,258

Other expenditure

Equipment & Books

—

669

Events Social

—

323

Discretionary fund

—

3,134

Vicar's expenses

—

182

Total Other expenditure

—

4,309

Total expenditure

1,991

6,567

Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure

(1,967)

440

Transfers to/(from)

524

3,458

Brought forward balance

1,443

(2,456)

Total carried forward balance

—

1,443

Lacon - 25 Lacon Close (Designated) Fund

Income and endowments

Other trading activities

Rent

11,400

12,350

Total Other trading activities

11,400

12,350

Total income and endowments

11,400

12,350

Expenditure

Other expenditure

Insurance

294

293

Maintenance, fixtures and fittings

1,668

735

Total Other expenditure

1,962

1,028

Total expenditure

1,962

1,028

Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure

9,437

11,321

Transfers to/(from)

(24,865)

—

Transfers to/(from)

—

(1,000)

Brought forward balance

14,258

3,937

Total carried forward balance

(1,170)

14,258

Townhill - Townhill Park outreach (Designated) Fund

Income and endowments

Other trading activities

Takings

—

396

Total Other trading activities

—

396

Other income

Events

—

168

Fundraising

—

25

Total Other income

—

193

Total income and endowments

—

589

Expenditure

Other expenditure

Children and families

—

386

Events Social

—

461

Food

—

253

Marketing

—

6

Total Other expenditure

—

1,108

Total expenditure

—

1,108

Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure

—

(519)

Transfers to/(from)

519

—

Brought forward balance

(519)

—

Total carried forward balance

—

(519)