

Charity registration number: 1128976

ST MARY LE TOWER IPSWICH
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Contents

Legal and Administrative Information	1
Trustees Report	2 -16
Independent Examiner's Report	17
Statement of Financial Activities	18
Balance Sheet	19
Notes to the Financial Statements	20-32

Legal and Administrative Information

Registered charity name	The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary Le Tower, Ipswich
Charity number	1128976
Principal address	St Mary le Tower Vicarage 53 Fonnereau Road Ipswich Suffolk IP1 3JN
Church location	Tower Street Ipswich Suffolk IP1 3BE
Main correspondence address	Parish Office Church House Oak Lane Ipswich Suffolk IP1 3BN
Independent examiner	Moore Green Chartered Accountants 22 Friars Street Sudbury Suffolk CO10 2AA
Trustees	The Revd Tom Mumford (Chairman and Incumbent) The Rev Jo Gunn (Vice Chair and Assistant Curate) The Rev Gregor Purdie (Curate) The Rev Pippa Scott (Assistant Priest) Mr David Matthews (Churchwarden) Mrs Bridget Hanley (Churchwarden) Miss Rosemary Caudle (Hon. PCC Secretary) Mr Andrew Gosden (PCC Treasurer) Mrs Sue Adair Miss Simone Butler - Mayer Mr Richard Hanley Mrs Joanna Jones Mrs Sarah Purbrook (Parish Safeguarding Officer) Mr William Harrison Mr Jonathan de Bernhardt Wood

Trustees' Annual Report

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's [governing document], the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Aims and Purposes

The primary object of St Mary le Tower Ipswich PCC is the promotion of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC (Powers) Measure 1956 states that to do this, the PCC is to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church of St Mary le Tower Ipswich and the adjacent Church House and Tower House buildings. The PCC mission statement is as follows:

"St Mary le Tower seeks to be a welcoming, inclusive and open church, offering peace and sanctuary in the heart of Ipswich, flourishing through prayer, faith, and positive action"

Objectives and Activities

At the beginning of 2022, the PCC engaged in a vision and strategic plan for the next five years. This vision and strategic plan continues to be our guide. As part of this plan, the PCC identified five areas of work that will help it achieve its vision. These are: welcome, worship, faith, act, and sustain. The plan, including its strategic objectives and activities are summarised below:

Welcome

We will provide a peaceful sanctuary for all through:

- An open church 7 days a week;
- A welcoming, accessible, and safe space for all;
- Hosting events and organisations for culture, learning and fun

Worship

We will enable all to experience the love and presence of God through exceptional worship

- Offering daily prayer for the people and town of Ipswich;
- Developing and sustaining choral excellence, with a particular focus on future generations;
- Creating a monthly service tailored to and led by young people

Faith

We will be a place where people can encounter, deepen, and grow in faith.

- Providing multiple opportunities for people to explore and enquire about Christianity;
- Holding regular events promoting the discussion of the Christian faith in contemporary life and the public square;
- Nourishing and deepening people's existing faith, across all ages.

Act

We will discern and respond to local need using pilot projects in the areas of:

- Health
- Loneliness
- Poverty

Sustain

We will secure a financially, environmentally and socially sustainable future through:

- A coherent and ambitious giving and fundraising project to fund our plans;
- Working towards attaining the highest possible Eco Church status;
- Adopting an intergenerational approach to mission and ministry, seeking partnership with local organisations, and developing the next generation of church leaders

Achievements and Performance

2024 was a year of huge grace. We continued to build on the substantial groundwork laid in recent years growing our congregation and, for the first time in living memory, posting a financial surplus. This is all despite the challenging financial headwinds in the national and local economy, and the continual narrative of decline for churchgoing in England. St Mary le Tower has, for the last 3 years now, bucked that trend, and continues to do so. During 2024 it was also announced that church would become Ipswich Minster in January 2025. Petitioned by the civic, business and local community, this is a huge honour and a tribute to both the wider town as well as the church's enduring mission. The re-designation will signify a renewed vocation to serve the town, its people, and to see both flourish. There is of course still more work to do in all areas (it will ever be so), and we have been lucky to appoint Rev. Pippa and welcome Rev. Gregor as Associate Priest and Assistant Curate, respectively to help us with that. Their contribution will be hugely important over the coming years. But for now, there is much hope and optimism for the future of Ipswich's civic church, as well as a continued determination to meet the challenges it faces. St Mary le Tower is a growing and faithful church with incredible potential, huge talent, and a dedicated and loving community. Examples of this follow in the sections below.

First, THANK YOU!

Before talking about 'achievements and performance' as required by the charity commission for this annual report, it is important to say, as I have sought to at regular intervals during my incumbency, THANK YOU. The mission and ministry of St Mary le Tower would not be possible without the ministry of so many members of the church community. Ministry is something that is done by the whole Body of Christ and so the PCC thanks all those who offer their time, gifts, and services to God in this place. Those individuals who volunteer their time, whether through the Top-Up Shop, music, pastoral care, worship leading, church and churchyard care, administrative support, fundraising, flowers, bell ringing and many other ways, are too many to name, but to all of you the PCC wishes to offer you its sincere thanks and continues to thank God for you!

Worship, Pastoral Care, and Discipleship

During 2024 the regular Sunday worship pattern included 4 services: a Book of Common Prayer Communion service, Choral Matins, Sung Eucharist, and Choral Evensong. There are sermons delivered at both the 8am BCP Service and the 10:30 Sung Eucharist. The latter of which is the best attended and has seen continued growth in 2024. In 2024 it averaged a weekly attendance of between 80 and a 100, but regularly saw more than 110-20 attenders for special services and feasts. Across a Sunday, by the end of 2024, the average church attendance was between 180 and 200 people. The 10:30 Sung Eucharist is also live-streamed every week and attracts a small number of regular worshippers who value the opportunity to share in worship with others.

A real highlight of the last worshipping year was our choir singing in St Paul's and also receiving a visit from the Chapel Royal of Hampton Court Palace for our Civic Service. In particular, the choir and music staff deserve enormous thanks and credit. We also saw, again, among the biggest numbers of confirmands in the diocese and hosted the first ordination in living memory (perhaps even ever).

The addition of the Daily Offices, instituted by the Vicar when he arrived, continues to be a real gift to the church and the town. Morning Prayer continues to be well attended and was said in church Monday to Friday (being Sung on a Sunday). A particular thanks to Jim Robinson, the Verger and Cathy Moss, who led these prayers when the Incumbent has been absent prior to the arrival of our curate. 2024 also saw the continuation of Evening Prayer five days a week, and including towards the end of the year a service of Choral Evensong now moved to a Thursday from a Friday.

At 10.30am on Wednesdays there is a Book of Common Prayer service of Holy Communion. This is the primary service of worship, and experience of church, for a small community of faithful people. Congregants at this service ranged from between 8 and 15 people. Though this congregation has lost some attenders through ill health, it has added to its number and remained small but strong. Following the service tea, coffee, and biscuits are always shared enabling regular fellowship. This community of worshippers have a strong bond and are always open to newcomers. They even have their own Christmas meal to which the Vicar is invited and attends.

Pastoral care and visiting have been a high priority for the Vicar. The Vicar and others regularly visit housebound members of the church family, as well as visiting those in hospital or in care when required. The Vicar's civic ministry has also led him into the lives of those outside the worshipping congregation and this has included much pastoral care. Funerals and memorial services both at the Tower and outside have resulted from this. To ensure effective pastoral care, members of the congregation are encouraged to let the Vicar know if they or anybody they know would value a visit from him or any of the pastoral visiting team. The Vicar also encourages any within the church family to consider whether pastoral visiting could be a calling of theirs.

During 2024 there were a number of discipleship opportunities that sought to deepen people's faith. There was a sermon and seminar series on Sunday mornings in Lent on the Beatitudes in Luke with a series of guest preachers. There was also a quiet morning with talks from an external speaker, as well as two weekly Lent study groups held ecumenically for the first time.

Following a busy but exhilarating Advent and Christmas, including the longest Trees @ The Tower yet, our choristers starring in Griff Rhys Jones variety show, a visit from Ed Sheeran and record congregations on Christmas Eve, the church looks forward eagerly to 2025 and its redesignation as Ipswich Minster.

The Reverend Tom Mumford

Vicar

Choral Tradition and Music

2024 started with the choir resuming its 4 sung services a week after a busy Christmas period. During this time, the choir consolidated repertoire learned in the previous autumn and looked ahead to endeavours later in the year.

A very successful 'Be A Chorister for a Day' was held on Shrove Tuesday, with the stalls full of current and prospective choristers, some of whom joined the choir subsequently. The choir performed Bach's *St John Passion* having learned the piece from scratch the previous year. Once again, the choir took part of the Justice Service held in St Edmundsbury Cathedral in late March.

Easter Sunday provided an opportunity to give the premiere of Ben Parry's Wolsey Mass, written as part of the Wolsey550 celebrations. The anthem that day was Handel's Hallelujah chorus which was applauded during the service. Something that hasn't happened before or since in my time.

Much of the summer term was dedicated towards preparations for the choir's new recording. The recording involved the choir plus a professional orchestra. The pieces that were chosen reflected the news that we were to be made a Minster church and the joyous and compassionate role the choir and church play in the heart of the town. The recording sessions were a huge success, with a special mention to those choristers who performed solos. The recording also included former chorister Jonathan Hanley who returned to sing the tenor solos.

Alongside the recording, an icon by Tracy de Bernhardt Wood was commissioned to be hung in the new Song School. The icon was inspired by the music of our recording which is called *Eternal Source of Light*.

Also in July, the church celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Girl Choristers. For the occasion we travelled to sing evensong in St Paul's Cathedral. I would argue that this service was the most musical event of my tenure as choirmaster. The standard of singing was notable and remarked upon by their clergy.

Over the summer months, plans were drawn up to establish a 'vocal pathway' both in the church and in conjunction with the Norfolk & Suffolk Music Hub. Initial conversations were had and were very positive. This is still ongoing but further progress has been made in 2025. We were delighted to establish and start working towards the January 2025 launch of Mini Minster Maestros, a choir for 5-8 year olds, which takes place on a Wednesday evening in the Song School.

Autumn 2024 brought with it a number of important events, such as the visit of the Prayer Book Society on the Accession of Charles III; a further "Be a chorister for a Day;" a joint concert with the Chapel Royal of Hampton Court Palace in Aldeburgh; a joint Civic Service with the Chapel Royal the following day; Gregor Purdie's ordination and Durufle's Requiem for All Souls.

The run up to Christmas involved a number of concerts, including the Ipswich Primary Schools' Concert as part of the tree festival and a performance at a variety show at the Regent Theatre alongside Griff Rhys Jones.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Vicar, Churchwardens, PCC and congregation for their support of the Music Department over the past year. I would also like to thank my colleagues, William, Matthew, Jane and Megan for their tireless work. And finally, a thank you to all the choir members: choristers; parents; choral scholars; adults for their hard work and excellent attitude.

Christopher Borrett – Director of Music

St Mary le Tower Ringing Masters Report

The sound of our 12 bells continues to be heard at least twice a week on Sunday mornings and Monday evenings, and occasionally on Sunday evenings too. These days, and thanks due to a very healthy number of members of our band, ringing all 12 bells is very much the norm on all occasions.

Our band caters for people at varying levels of capability, and it has been particularly pleasing to see all of our less experienced ringers make significant progress over the past twelve months. This has helped enhance our towers reputation as a progressive tower, and has succeeded in drawing in a number of ringers from nearby Ipswich towers who have aspirations to progress.

Notable occasions marked over the past twelve months through either peals or quarter peals include the His Majesty the King's birthday, SMLT Ipswich becoming a Minster Church, the Trees at the Tower festival and..... Ipswich Town earning promotion to the Premier League.

Training and development has been a key focus area for the last twelve months through the training bell project. This reached its conclusion in January when the physical installation of the six training bells was completed - which includes blue & white sallies to show our allegiance to our town's football team! Some fine tuning has been necessary post installation, but the training bells are now starting to be used for their intended purpose with numerous test activities performed for familiarisation purposes. The training facility is due to be blessed as part of a service in May, ahead of a formal launch in June.

Mechanically, the bells remain in good working order thanks to the ongoing efforts of our local band in performing day to day maintenance. With the 25th anniversary of the re-hanging of all bells now upon us, however, it will now be necessary to start planning for overhauling the fixtures and fittings that enable the bells to be rung as the current components approach end-of-life condition. This will necessitate engaging professional bell hangers as the work required will be beyond the capabilities of our local band.

David Potts - Ringing Master

Safeguarding Report

The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the Church.

As a Church we are committed to promoting a safer environment and culture, safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults, responding promptly to every

safeguarding concern or allegation, caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse or other affected persons, caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns/allegations of abuse and other affected persons and responding to those that may pose a present risk.

The PCC, the churchwardens, the music team, and many of the choir, the bell-ringers, top-up shop volunteers and those with roles of responsibility have completed or renewed safeguarding training. There is the opportunity for all congregation members to complete Basic and Foundation level training.

Throughout the year we have completed DBS checks as necessary and assessed safeguarding training needs for those involved in church roles and our community initiatives, we have also reviewed our recruitment processes for Staff and Volunteers.

We have had a small number of safeguarding questions and concerns in the last year which have been dealt with appropriately in a prompt and efficient manner, often with the guidance of Karen Galloway, Diocesan Safeguarding Officer. Myself and either Rev Tom Mumford or Rev Jo Gunn have met during the year to ensure Safeguarding at Ipswich Minster remains a priority and is kept up-to-date.

Our latest Safeguarding Policy is displayed on the website for everyone to access along with the CofE Safeguarding Policy and the 'Promoting a Safer Church' Poster.

Sarah Purbrook Parish Safeguarding Officer

Churchwardens' Report

During the past year there have been a number of projects affecting the church estate. This included the construction and painting of shelving for the Song School in Tower House to facilitate its smooth operation. There is still one room which is not in use on the second floor of Tower House South Wing.

Covid Memorial Dove

Funding for the re-siting of the Covid Memorial to the grounds of Tower House which is accessible from Tower Street has been sought but has not yet been successful.

Church House

Work is underway to reconfigure Church House so the function room can be used more effectively

- to support the work of the Associate Priest;
- to allow for more practical storage of garden tools in the churchyard;
- to review where the bins are stored in order to comply with guidance from the insurers.

A number of bids have been submitted unsuccessfully for funding of an architect's feasibility study into the development of the church estate to improve access for disabled people and provide toilet facilities. Funders are reluctant to provide money for projects without a physical end result. There is one further application to make for a May 2025 funding season.

£5,000 has been donated by Cathedral Music Trust to support the musical outreach of the Music Department. Unfortunately this was considerably less than was requested, using the Charter 825 project as a vehicle for this work. This lesser award means that we are not eligible for more funds from this source until 2026. The music department has managed its finances to ensure the outreach work is self-funding for the next twelve months. Planning for the Minster-making weekend was a central focus over the past twelve months, culminating in a successful weekend in January. This helped establish useful links with local artists which should lead to the generation of original artwork to sell, in due course, as Minster merchandise, bringing in some income. Planning for the Ipswich Charter 825 celebration has been another key strand in the churchwardens' work. This has developed a strong collaborative link with Northgate High School and opened up channels of communication with other schools with a view to hosting visits by school children. The Music Department has actively supported the church's contribution to the Festival between 21st and 27th June 2025. Overtures to other choral, dance and community groups continue to be made to increase participation in order to project a sense of cohesive community. The church is liaising effectively with Ipswich Love who are co-ordinating and promoting the Festival across the town. The cost of the church's role in the Festival will be covered by funds donated by Essex and Suffolk Children's University for this sort of project, income from ticket sales and advertising and private donations.

Work has been ongoing regarding a review and renewal of literature about the church building so that visitors can be appropriately informed. Recruiting a team of volunteers to be welcomers during the week will then become a priority. Prior to their recruitment, the PCC has been focusing on an appropriate process for the recruitment, support and management of volunteers.

David Matthews, Churchwarden

Tower House

As liaison between Ipswich Minster the PCC and CAB (Citizens Advice Bureau) as the majority tenant, I have attended regular meetings with the Chief Executive Officer of CAB. More recently there has been a new person in post who has responsibility for premises management.

Several repairs have been carried out including to the car park drain and the guttering and glazing of Tower House.

The ground floor north wing has been renovated; re plastered and decorated and new carpet installed. CAB are now using this space in addition to other rooms. Rental figures have been adjusted to reflect this usage. CAB have funded refurbishment of both kitchenettes.

There are ongoing issues that require work for which quotes are being sought. These include a leak in the music library, leaking skylight, front door porch pillars requiring replacement, and an entry system to enable all users better access.

Doors require adjusting and push bar mechanisms so that the building is compliant with fire regulations.

Ipswich Chamber choir have use of the Song School on Tuesday evenings for rehearsal, in addition to using Ipswich Minster.

Jo Jones

Church Fabric Report

- At the beginning of the year the vergers Jim Robinson laid the felt underlay over the brasses as recommended and a volunteer cleaned the brasses with the Renaissance Wax.
- The Church boiler and Church House Flat boiler were serviced on Tuesday 13th February.
- On 17th February 13 people helped with a Spring Clean of the Church when we worked on cleaning all the floors and pews, applying beeswax to the latter, and William Baldry cleaned the organ pipes in the South aisle.
- The donations box was repaired by the carpenter who made it, and the glass panels replaced with wooden ones.
- New steps and a replacement gas meter cupboard were constructed in the North churchyard in March in time for the Covid Memorial service.
- In May there was a water leak caused by prolonged and heavy rainfall. The gutters were cleared.
- An electrical survey of the Church was carried out.
- Following advice from the DAC we applied for a List B Faculty to repair the drainpipes and the work was begun by Baker's of Danbury on 17th June. Work was completed in the autumn, having been delayed waiting for parts and cost slightly less than anticipated.
- On Tuesday 18th June the Church clock was fully serviced.
- Baker's also carried out an investigation of the problems with the chancel step with the architect on 20th June. It appears that the substrate to the central aisle has disintegrated and is not properly supporting the ledger stones or the tiling. This is progressively worse as one goes westwards. The architect has suggested some possible courses of action.
- On 28th June work was done to repair the problem in the Tower House carpark.
- IBC Parks department inspected and removed two trees in the churchyard that had died.
- The architect and churchwardens met a stained-glass specialist to get a sense of what work needs doing to the windows in the Church and potential costs.
- We took delivery of our two kneelers from the Cathedral which are now in the Churchwardens' pews.

- On Sunday 13th July it was discovered that the sound system had been stolen. CCTV footage revealed that this had happened on the previous Wednesday after the TUS. We have been fortunate that several members of the congregation have come forward to pay towards the cost of replacing the equipment which was installed on 29th August. The theft has highlighted the fact that we need more of a presence in Church and more obvious signage about the CCTV.
- The organ was tuned on 9th September and the blower and humidifier were serviced on Thursday 24th October.
- A new foam backed noticeboard was commissioned using the new Ipswich Minster branding to go into the glass fronted noticeboard near the Tower Street gates.

We are immensely grateful to Ian Molloy for all his efforts to keep the woodwork looking so good and his expert minor repairs and to the gardening team for all their hard work keeping the churchyard looking so well-tended.

Bridget Hanley *Churchwarden*

Works carried out by Ian Molloy - Clerk for Minor Works

"Why should the two large oak benches in the porch beneath the church bells be mentioned in this report? Well; here goes!

I started singing in the choir of St. Mary le Tower during the first Sunday of November, 1980, aged 36. My son, Andrew, joined me regularly.

I recall singing a baritone solo in the Nunc Dimittis at my first Evensong. At that stage, very few people knew that I was the Head of Technical Studies at Hadleigh High School. For at least a fortnight, everything remained normal. Then I noticed the heap of firewood near the font. It was a collapsed bench which had been in" the porch, near the large doors. The verger asked if I could repair the benches. I felt bound to tell him of the effect of the woodworm damage. The collapsed bench was unfit for use and could not be kept for firewood because Church House was not immune from damage. The Choir had recently sung a joint concert with the Cathedral Choir and, during the rehearsal, the bench collapsed under the massed bass and tenor choristers from St. Edmundsbury. (Don't ask me about the second bench. Life is too short for that.)

By early in 1981, I had acquired sufficient further oak to enable me to build two new long benches for use of St. Mary le Tower. Since then, the benches have retained their strength, but have become grubby. In 2024, I took the decision to take it home, where I could "Give it a birthday". It looks renewed and the brass remembrance plaques are cleaner than I can remember. Even better, the porch looks so much tidier in 2024. So, also, did the organ loft and floor, together with the choir-stalls on Cantoris' side. I was delighted by the positive response from numerous people, including visitors. In 2024, I started to clean the pulpit from the dove at the peak of the canopy and I have wax-polished many of the panels but I have not yet reached the floor. If I remain in sufficient health, I hope to continue to Decani choir stalls and the carved panels in 2025. Incidentally, the pulpit was built in 1699 -1700. It may shock you to know that I was not around at that time!"

Ian Molloy *Clerk for Minor Works*

Eco Church

The Eco Church team was formed in July 2024. We are a team of four eco enthusiasts working towards achieving an Eco Bronze award. Having spent the last few months collating information and gaining an understanding of what we need to do, we recognize that this is not something that can be achieved by a small team in isolation. It needs everyone within the church community to play their part, no matter how small, otherwise it will not work. We have already started working closely with the gardening team, the Top-Up Shop and the Trees at The Tower café where small but very important changes have already been made. These are some of the activities / changes that have taken place since July:

- Attended the 'Caring for God's Creation' Diocesan event at Stowmarket and several online seminars where we heard from other churches who have been on this journey and we got to know several people from within the Diocese who can support us.
- We have been in contact with the Wildlife Trust and the Suffolk Bee Association and Fairtrade to improve our understanding of what is needed in those particular areas.
- Amanda Richmond contacted SOS Swifts regarding swift boxes and is now working alongside the bellringers to see if the boxes can be accommodated in the belfry louvre windows.
- Tony James is acting as our link to the gardening team and we are now working together on the herb and wildflower garden. June Malloy and David Matthews are carrying out a plant audit which will be a benchmark to assess progress against in future years. This may lead to an informal churchyard plan which will be overseen by June and David, so that everyone knows who's doing what and where.
- Tony James is planning a wild flower bed in the Tower House carpark as a memorial to Francis Simpson, an Ipswich School alumnus, who wrote a book on Suffolk Flora and Fauna.
- The Net Zero Carbon Diocesan officer has visited the Church, Church House and Tower House and has provided us with a lot of information on what can be done to improve our energy efficiency and how we can get the funding for it.
- We have had an energy audit done on all three buildings and are awaiting the report which will highlight areas for attention. This will enable us to access some of the Diocesan grants available.
- All non-LED lighting has been identified and quotes for replacements have been received. We can now start looking at grants to have the lighting replaced.
- There is now a facility to collect all plastic wrappings / bags and to take them to the local supermarket for recycling. Some teams have already started reducing the use of plastics including the Top Up Shop who are now using butter tubs and jam jars rather than individually wrapped butter portions.
- The Trees at The Tower café served Fairtrade Tea and Coffee throughout the festival and all coffee granules and compostable tea bags were composted. We are working towards having Fairtrade tea and coffee at all times.

There is still a lot to do to achieve the Eco Church Bronze Award which requires us to have made progress in many areas not least our procurement, the use of plastics and chemicals, reducing the amount of energy we use, conserving water, ensuring that the goods and services we buy have been produced by workers who are paid a fair wage and have good standards of living.

If you are interested in joining the team or if you have any ideas on how we can become more eco-friendly please contact any member of the team, we would love to hear from you.

Bridget Hanley, Sonia Docherty, Rosemary Caudle, Amanda Richmond, Tony James

Flower Arranging

The flower rota has run smoothly this year. There has been no change in the number of volunteers, but we would always welcome more. There was very little holly that was reachable in the churchyard this Christmas due to enthusiastic pruning which made life a little difficult for the Christmas flower arrangers.

Claire Jones is helping with organising the rota for 2025/26.

I would like to thank all the lovely volunteers for their hard work over the last year.

Sue Adair

Care of the Churchyard

The last 12 months have seen some significant changes to the overall look of the churchyard. A new border along the Tower Street boundary on the north side of the church was created by Paul Whinney, who also cleared a large area of ivy near the Covid Memorial Garden. A good working relationship with Ipswich Borough's Parks Department has resulted in the cutting down of two dead trees near the church porch and a great reduction of shrub and undergrowth.

near the south wall. This work has produced a log pile for insects and help for the police in their fight against anti-social behaviour.

Prior to the making of Ipswich Minster, the Parks Department did sterling work with grass cutting and grass edge trimming, thus aiding the work of the gardening team to provide a churchyard worthy of this very special occasion. Very shortly, (as I write this brief report), David Matthews and I will produce an inventory of plants in the churchyard, which will provide information for Eco-church and help formulate future ideas for the gardening team. We are all conscious of changing times, and give much thought to the future for plants, pollinators and people.

All this would not be possible without my dedicated gardening team- Mike, Penny, Tony, Louis, and Catherine, to whom I owe much gratitude. I'm also very grateful to David for his support, encouragement and his vast gardening knowledge! We welcome Sonia Docherty to the gardening team who is currently working on the North area of the church yard to create a herb garden.

Let's see what the next 12 months will bring.

June Molloy Head Gardener

Social Events

Social events followed the same pattern as last year! Pancakes were provided on Shrove Tuesday and enjoyed by all from the whole church community. The now traditional cooked breakfast was enjoyed after the Sunrise service on Easter Day and a bring and share lunch was organised before the APCM in May. In September Diana Pipe once again opened her garden and hosted a wonderful afternoon tea on a sunny Saturday. Celebratory cake and fizz were served after Gregor Purdie's Ordination, and Pippa Scott's licensing and a special service organised by The Prayer Book Society to mark the anniversary of the Accession of The King.

Richard Hanley

Pins and Needles

We are small in number but big in friendliness. At the moment our numbers are reduced due to ill health, but we continue to meet, (weather permitting) on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month in Church House from 12-2pm. Most of us are knitters, but all crafts are welcome. Why not come and join us over a hot drink and a biscuit or two, along with conversation and laughter? The welcome would be warm.

June Molloy

Top Up Shop

Each Wednesday morning there are around a dozen people waiting in Tower Street at 7.30 am to queue for the Top Up Shop and cafe. We welcome our customers into the porch to wait, or to join us for Morning Prayer, which some occasionally do. At 9 am the shop opens and we then welcome around 35 customers weekly, to shop at £2 a bag, choosing their own goods. They can then enjoy a free hot drink and rolls, sandwiches and cake. One or two people don't shop but enjoy the refreshments and company. This happens as a band of volunteers arrive on Tuesday afternoon to sort out the delivery from Fareshare, one of the food providers, and then set up the "shop" at the back of Church. We also receive food, household cleaning products and hygiene goods, from the donations in the blue box at the back of church. We also collect food from Suffolk Food Partnership, from time to time, but this is an irregular supply. We also receive donations collected from the residents around Christchurch park, facilitated by Councillor Carole Jones. We have received grant funding from the Grimwade Family charitable trust, which we have spent on food and toiletries. One of our volunteers collects food, usually bread and cake from the local Sainsbury every Tuesday. There are around 25 volunteers from Ipswich Minster involved with this.

Customers are from a variety of backgrounds with differing needs for food and other support. We have welcomed Citizens Advice, NHS Suffolk and Housing Officers to offer advice to customers. At Christmas and Easter, we have offered additional gifts of treats, including chocolate and toiletries. We work as part of a group of Churches in Ipswich.

Jo Jones

Trees @ the Tower' - Christmas Tree Festival

This was another successful year for the Christmas tree festival. Having taken advice, the event was extended to cover two weekends, offering people more opportunity to visit. It was open for 10 days, extended from 7 in previous years. Visitor numbers increased to around 8,000. Trees were varied and thoughtfully prepared.

The opening event being on a Friday evening was well attended by both sponsors and participants including the Mayor and representatives of the charities, that were selected for support; Genesis Orwell Mencap and Cancer Support Suffolk, both the Mayors chosen charities. The financial outturn will be noted in the annual accounts.

The Christingle service and Children's primary school concert were both very well supported and very happy occasions. To give volunteers some downtime during T@TT the cafe was closed on the Wednesday and Thursday, which did cause some disappointment for visitors, and the Children's Craft activities were also not offered on these days, with the exception of a session for a playgroup who were very appreciative. The Planning Group will review the whole offering when meeting next, and will welcome the views of others.

The amount of help from the congregation, as well as help from friends and family has been crucial to getting T@TT planned, up and running, and the Planning Group really appreciated all the help provided.

Jo Jones

Deanery Synod Report

The churchwardens' Ipswich Deanery WhatsApp group continues to be a useful source of information and support.

Meetings were held on Wednesday 28th February at St Helen's Church Ipswich Tuesday 25th June (All Hallows) and Tuesday 22nd October (St Mary Stoke).

The focus for the first meeting was clergy wellbeing and resources that have been created by the national Church were shared. Delegates were then asked to discuss questions which were circulated for groups of clergy and lay members. The importance of protecting the clergy's rest days was highlighted. Rev Canon Charlotte Cook had attended General Synod in February and fed back on this and Canon Alan Forsdike spoke about the Deanery finances. Alan went on to say that the Deanery Treasurers' Group is growing in success and through it several treasurers are linking up to help each other.

The theme for the June meeting was to consider the Fifth Mark of Mission 'to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth' and in particular to look at 'Net Zero Carbon'. There was an update on the churches in the Deanery that had achieved their bronze and silver awards and Rev Emma Haggard interviewed James Rolls the Diocesan Net Zero Carbon Officer. The interview format was an engaging way to present the information and there was an opportunity for questions afterwards.

On Sunday 6th October there was a Deanery Celebration of Inspiring Ipswich at St Matthews instead of the usual Autumn Conference. This gave us all time to reflect and give thanks for Archdeacon Rhiannon's ministry as we said goodbye to her and wished her well for her new role as Suffragan Bishop of Southampton. It was a very uplifting and moving occasion.

At the October meeting Bishop Martin attended and the evening was devoted to discernment and listening about the future of the deanery and archdeaconry. Rev Canon Charlotte also introduced Archdeacon Rich (Archdeacon of Suffolk) who is the interim Archdeacon of Ipswich. Bishop Martin re-licensed Rev Tom Mumford and Rev Rachel Revely as Assistant Area Deans for a further 2 years and licensed Rev Kiran Lotay as Assistant Area Dean for 2 years. Rev Canon Charlotte Cook's license has another three years to run. There was some information also some circulated about the new Eco Church Survey.

Bridget Hanley Churchwarden

Diocesan Synod Report

This was held at the Cathedral and was the last Diocesan Synod of the Triennium and was Bishop Mike's last Synod before leaving for Exeter.

In his speech the Bishop thanked Synod for their diligence and engagement over the last three years. The theme was Church Buildings and the Environment. In his speech the Bishop detailed three very different Church Buildings.

There were talks on the Environment and churchyards and the Diocesan Director of Education presented the Annual Schools report.

More details can be found on the Diocesan website. <https://www.cofesuffolk.org>

This was my last Diocesan Synod as I have not applied for the next Triennium.

Sue Adair

Diocesan Synod Representative

Financial Review

Overview

General Operations

For the first time in many years 2024 has seen an operational surplus for day to day activities after growth in investments of £1,282 vs a deficit of c (£28,986) in 2023, for which we praise God! We ran a campaign in Autumn 2024 asking congregation members to contribute £200 each to plug a predicted deficit of around £32,000. This raised more than £34,000 including Gift Aid. In 2025 we aim to work hard to encourage increased regular giving to reduce the need for one-off appeals such as this. Investment growth of c. 2.3% further improved that position by an additional c. £3,200.

Regular giving has increased by 15%, with more people taking advantage of the Parish Giving Scheme.

Overall donations including gift aid increased by 16%.

Trees at the Tower income was at least £13,000 vs £11,600 in 2023 (not including gift aid and additional contactless donations that could be attributed to the increased footfall) while costs reduced slightly to £5,000.

Tower House

The operation of Tower House returned a small surplus of £4,650 in 2024 vs. a deficit of (£5,000) in 2023. This is despite having to write off £1,500 in bad debt from former tenants from 2023. This surplus should increase in 2025 as more of Tower House is rented to the anchor tenant, the Citizens Advice Bureau. A further £30,600 was spent on work on Tower House from the Bellamy legacy.

Choir and Music

We are grateful for an annual grant of £15,000 from Framlingham College which allowed us to employ our music director full-time from the start of 2024. We also received £5,000 from the Cathedral Music Trust to support the work of the department including our choral outreach work. The Scarfe trust made a grant of £600 towards the recording of our new CD.

Thanks to the generous support of sponsors, and donations at concerts, the lunchtime concert series, and other occasional concerts returned a surplus of £4,051 leaving a healthy balance in the Concert funds of £8,241. The major choir project was the production of a wonderful new CD which, despite some generous sponsorship towards recording fees, has left the funds with a deficit of (£1,000), which we hope to offset with CD sales in 2025 when the CD is officially launched.

After a number of years of operation, the trustees of Choral Foundation for St Mary Le Tower Church decided to wind up the charity and the remaining funds of £56,226 were transferred to the church to continue the funds objectives of developing and maintaining the musical life of the church. This has been placed in a specific fund with the intention of using the money for music projects or development of music ministry and not (at least at this stage) for general expenditure.

Fabric

£15,000 was spent on work on the fabric. We received £11,000 from St Mary le Tower Charities, representing accumulated income over several years from various investments owned by a separate trust for the benefit of the church, and the PCC agreed this should be placed in a designated fund for fabric.

Top-up Shop

Alongside the weekly donations, the Top-up shop was supported during the year with a number of grants including from the L D Rope Trust, Grimwade Charitable Trust and Rotary Club East.

Other activities and grants received

In addition to those listed above we are very grateful for grants received from a number of bodies as listed in the accounts including the Belstead Ganzoni Trust and Alfred Williams trust towards installation of Training Bells and the Suffolk Children's University to support the Ipswich Charter Festival in 2025. There is a full list of grants shown in the accounts in Note 11.

It is impossible to list all the acts of financial generosity which we have seen through the year, with many one-off donations for the mission and ministry of the church and for specific projects, choir activities, concerts, music and so on. We are immensely grateful for each and every one of these.

Last year I quoted the great 19th Century missionary to China, Hudson Taylor, who proved in his own life that "God's work, done in God's way will never lack God's supply."

We have seen God's financial provision in wonderful ways in 2024. In ways that are "immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine." [Ephesians 3.20]. To God be all the glory!

Andrew Gosden *Treasurer*

Structure, Governance and Management

PCC members who have served at any time between 1st January 2024 and 11th May 2025 are as follows

Ex-Officio Members

Incumbent:	The Reverend Tom Mumford (Chairman)
Clergy	The Rev'd Jo Gunn (Assistant Curate)
	The Rev'd Gregor Purdie (Curate)
	The Rev'd Pippa Scott (Assistant Priest)

Churchwardens:	David Matthews
	Bridget Hanley

Elected members:	Mrs Sue Adair
	Miss Simone Butler- Mayer
	Mr Jonathan De Bernhardt Wood
	Miss Rosemary Caudle
	Mr Andrew Gosden
	Mr Richard Hanley
	Mr William Harrison
	Mrs Joanna Jones
	Mrs Sarah Purbrook
	Mr Graham Ridgeway

2024 Report on Proceedings of the PCC

As at 22nd February 2025, the PCC will have met seven times since the last APCM which was on 11th May 2024.

The PCC were led throughout the year by the Rev'd. Tom Mumford who chaired all of the meetings.

All PCC meetings have been in person with the first meeting following last years' APCM being hosted by Tom at the new vicarage in Fonnereau Road; from then on meetings were held in Church House.

The PCC currently comprises of 16 members represented by:- 4 Clerk in Holy Orders [the Vicar, Curate, Assistant Curate and Assistant Priest] 2 churchwardens [Also Denary and Diocesan representatives], 1 Diocesan Synod representative and 7 laity. There are currently a maximum of 7 places available on the PCC.

There has been good representation at the meetings from the PCC and the meetings have been supported with regular reports and updates. There have been specific papers relating to a number of initiatives and policies. These have enabled detailed discussion and the approval of reports and agreement for various essential works to be carried out on Church Fabric.

The following changes have been made to those serving on the PCC members since the last APCM PCM as follows:-

- Graham Ridgway was elected onto the PCC at the APCM and welcomed during the June PCC meeting by TM. Graham then moved out of Suffolk and therefore submitted his resignation from the PCC in September 2024.
- Simone Butler Mayer joined the PCC in October 2024 along with Amelia Grezesiak [a chorister] who is our young person's representative.
- The PCC have welcomed both Gregor Purdie and Pippa Scott to the PCC meetings and look forward to their wisdom and guidance in our decision making during the coming year,
- In addition to these places there are a maximum of seven other vacancies on the PCC for new members. During the year the PCC has had to consider some very important proposals in relation to the continued Mission of the Ipswich Minster, both from a financial point of view and to enable the aims of the Mission Statement to be delivered. Many of the decisions needed courage and considerable prayer to be led into the right path to take. Below is just a sample of some of the decisions that were discussed and voted on. Minutes of the PCC meetings can be found in a folder at the back of Church near the South Door.
- The working title of the St Mary le Tower has changed to Ipswich Minster with the legal ecclesiastical title remaining St Mary le Tower. This has resulted in the need for new information boards, renewal of guide books etc. all of which the PCC agreed to. The rebranding also involved a new web site being created by George Heath Collins [Webmaster], along with changes to email address and the purchase of domains e.g. Ipswichminster.org.
- During many of the meetings much time has been given to creating a policy for the safer recruitment of volunteers working closely with Karen Galloway [Diocesan Safeguarding Officer].
- In July David Matthews, Andrew Gosden and Rosemary Caudle attended the Leading Your Church in Growth [LYCiG] training weekend and Rosemary attended the follow up in September 2024. The aim of LYCiG is to look at ways to lead the development of growth within the church and to keep this at the heart of activities and events in the church.
- The PCC endorsed the concept of setting up home groups which have initially been hosted by David Matthews.
- The PCC have shown a commitment to supporting the Christmas Gift Campaign.
- The PCC are in agreement to the principal of the formation of Friends of Ipswich Minster and the proposal to launch the Friends in the near future. They agreed that the concept of the Friends scheme could be launched over the Ipswich Minster making weekend with postcards, flyers, a QR code and webpage being made available to the congregation and public so that they can indicate an interest in joining the scheme.

Sue Adair is standing down from the roll of Diocesan Synod Representative at the end of this Triennium and we thank Sue for her service, time and dedication which she has given whilst holding office over a considerable number of years.

The PCC looks forward to continuing to work on behalf of the St Mary le Tower community in the year ahead, serving God and ensuring St Mary le Tower is a church for the community in Ipswich.

Rosemary Caudle Hon. PCC Secretary

Electoral Roll Report

This year saw the preparation of a completely new electoral roll replacing the 2019 roll in its entirety. The final roll is displayed on the noticeboard in the South Porch and at the back of church. Sadly some previously on roll have passed away whilst others have moved away from the area.

We remember and pray Rest In Peace and Rise in Glory for Michael Warren and Jean Bradberry as well as Michael Watts and Lorna Wood who, whilst not on the electoral roll, were members of the congregation. We also remember Michael Watts and Lorna Wood, and others that we know, who have gone before us since the last annual meeting.

The final number on the electoral roll will be reported at the APCM.

Rosemary Caudle Electoral Roll Officer

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees' Annual Report was approved on

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

.....
The Reverend Tom Mumford

.....
Mr David Matthews

.....
Mrs Bridget Hanley

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of St Mary-le-Tower Ipswich

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of St Mary-le-Tower Ipswich (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 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

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000, your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

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

Signed:
Nicholas Farr
Independent Examiner
ICAEW

22 Friars Street
Sudbury
Suffolk
CO10 2AA

Dated:

ST MARY-LE-TOWER IPSWICH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Endowment Funds 2024 £	TOTAL Funds 2024 £	TOTAL Funds 2023 £
Incoming Resources						
Donations & Legacies	2	194,172	112,809	-	306,981	236,676
Charitable Activities	3	82,920	5,160	-	88,080	69,955
Investments	4	2,772	12,847	-	15,619	19,231
Trading Activities	5	-	-	-	-	-
Other		5,768	-	-	5,768	2,107
Total incoming resources		285,631	130,816	-	416,447	327,969
Resources Used						
Charitable Activities	6	204,471	101,041	-	305,513	487,427
Raising Funds	7	14,330	6,422	-	20,752	8,117
Support	8	35,080	15,449	-	50,529	32,600
Total resources used		253,882	122,913	-	376,794	528,145
Net Incoming / Outgoing Resources (before transfers)		31,750	7,903	-	39,653	(200,175)
Fund Transfers In		-	1,908	-	1,908	607
Fund Transfers Out		1,908	-	-	1,908	607
Net Incoming / Outgoing Resources (before gains/losses)		29,842	9,812	-	39,653	(200,175)
Investment Gains (or Losses)	12	3,140	5,447	2,257	10,845	46,891
Net Incoming / Outgoing Resources (before Asset Revaluation)		32,981	15,259	2,257	50,498	(153,284)
Asset Revaluation		-	-	-	-	-
Net Movement of Funds		32,981	15,259	2,257	50,498	(153,461)
Total Funds Brought Forward		679,005	351,047	98,624	1,128,676	1,281,962
Total Funds Carried Forward		711,987	366,306	100,881	1,179,174	1,128,676

ST MARY-LE-TOWER IPSWICH

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	Endowment 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Prior Year 2023 £
Non-Current Assets						
Fixed Assets	13	553,832	-	-	553,832	553,832
Investments	14	108,094	275,676	100,881	484,651	473,807
		661,926	275,676	100,881	1,038,483	1,027,639
Current Assets						
Accounts Receivable	16	9,585	396	-	9,981	23,082
Short term Deposits (Investments)	17	10,017	48,852	-	58,869	45,037
Cash		40,205	51,300	-	91,505	67,900
Prepayments		-	-	-	-	-
		59,807	100,547	-	160,354	136,019
Current Liabilities						
Accounts Payable	18	9,746	2,417	-	12,163	27,481
Deferred Income	18	-	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
Net Current Assets		50,061	93,130	-	143,191	103,538
Total Assets less current liabilities		711,987	368,806	100,881	1,181,674	1,131,177
Non-Current Liabilities						
Long Term Loan / Mortgage		-	2,500	-	2,500	2,500
Net Assets		711,987	366,306	100,881	1,179,174	1,128,677
Capital Funds						
Endowment Funds General	20	-		100,881	100,881	98,624
		-				
Income Funds						
Restricted Funds	21	-	366,306		366,306	351,047
Unrestricted Funds		711,987			711,987	679,005
		711,987	366,306	100,881	1,179,174	1,128,676

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on

.....
Trustee

Notes to the Financial Statements**1. Accounting Policies****Charity information**

St Mary-le-Tower Ipswich (known as Ipswich Minster) is a public benefit entity and a registered charity in England and Wales and is unincorporated. The address of the principal office is Church House, Oak Lane, Ipswich IP1 3BN

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the second edition of the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" issued in October 2019. The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. The departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluations of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements continued...**1.3 Charitable funds**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amounts is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

Income from donated goods is measured at fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.

Income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent of a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Notes to the Financial Statements continued...**1.5 Expenditure continued...**

Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on generating funds includes the cost of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities and the sale of donated goods.

Expenditure on charitable activities included all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

Other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following basis:

Freehold land and buildings	Not depreciated
-----------------------------	-----------------

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

Notes to the Financial Statements continued...**1.7 Fixed asset investments**

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transactions price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

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

Basic financial liabilities

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

Notes to the Financial Statements continued...**1.9 Financial instruments continued...**

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.10 Employees benefits

The costs of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

ST MARY-LE-TOWER IPSWICH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

2 Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	TOTAL 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	TOTAL 2023 £
Donations - Other	75,650	10,717	86,367	44,330	29,776	74,107
Donations - Regular Giving	69,731	2,920	72,651	61,583	1,610	63,193
Gift Aid Receivable	32,681	1,486	34,167	25,196	3,667	28,862
Grants	12,860	41,460	54,320	2,486	56,513	58,998
Transfer from closure of Choral Foundation	-	56,226	56,226	-	-	-
Legacies	3,250	-	3,250	1,500	10,016	11,516
	194,172	112,809	306,981	135,095	101,581	236,676

3 Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	TOTAL 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	TOTAL 2023 £
Tower House - Rental Income	27,925	-	27,925	18,638	-	18,638
Tower House - Tenants Committee Payments	16,949	-	16,949	8,454	-	8,454
Music - Concert Income	9,221	4,950	14,171	9,178	2,550	11,728
Trees at the Tower	13,244	-	13,244	11,643	-	11,643
Fees for Weddings and Funerals	4,094	-	4,094	2,750	-	2,750
Music - Sale of CDs	3,867	-	3,867	203	-	203
Top-up Shop Income	3,375	-	3,375	3,429	-	3,429
Rental income - Church and Church House	2,090	-	2,090	2,455	-	2,455
Music - Choir Trips and Tours	1,540	-	1,540	8,490	-	8,490
Event Income	486	-	486	-	1,050	1,050
Fundraising Income	-	210	210	-	200	200
Other Income	128	-	128	240	676	916
	82,920	5,160	88,080	65,479	4,476	69,955

4 Investments

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	TOTAL 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	TOTAL 2023 £
Income from listed investments	2,347	6,240	8,586	3,615	14,443	18,057
Interest Receivable	425	6,608	7,033	687	486	1,174
	2,772	12,847	15,619	4,302	14,929	19,231

5 Other Income

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	TOTAL 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	TOTAL 2023 £
Car Park Fees	776	-	776	541	-	541
Insurance Claim	3,174	-	3,174	-	-	-
Other Income	1,817	-	1,817	1,275	292	1,566
	5,768	-	5,768	1,816	292	2,107

ST MARY-LE-TOWER IPSWICH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

6 Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	TOTAL 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	TOTAL 2023 £
Music - Staff Employment Costs	45,709	27,981	73,690	17,480	38,276	55,757
Parish Share	64,814	-	64,814	61,441	-	61,441
Clergy and other Staff Employment Costs	21,323	-	21,323	18,589	9,614	28,203
Tower House - Building Works	-	18,709	18,709	-	171,840	171,840
Tower House - Utility Costs	17,264	-	17,264	13,729	-	13,729
Tower House - Tenants Committee Costs	16,866	-	16,866	8,023	-	8,023
Music - Church Music Expenses	3,867	12,280	16,148	1,075	12,943	14,018
Bells Incl. Training Bells installation	-	11,354	11,354	-	10,663	10,663
Music - Concert Expenses	4,602	5,295	9,897	9,352	4,065	13,417
Tower House - Repairs and Maintenance	-	9,201	9,201	-	17,720	17,720
Tower House - Other Running Costs	4,558	1,119	5,677	10,496	2,483	12,980
Printing, Stationery and Postage	4,675	925	5,600	3,836	-	3,836
Other Expenditure	-	5,496	5,496	13	2,005	2,018
Equipment	5,078	-	5,078	2,205	485	2,690
Church House - Utility Costs	4,787	-	4,787	3,247	-	3,247
Top-up Shop Expenses	-	4,332	4,332	2,685	2,146	4,831
Clergy and Staff Expenses	3,105	-	3,105	2,344	138	2,482
Resources and Expenses for Mission and Ministry	1,663	900	2,563	1,896	-	1,896
Car Park Costs	1,700	-	1,700	1,237	-	1,237
Music - Projects (Trips, Tours etc.)	-	1,607	1,607	8,879	4,825	13,704
Tower House - professional fees	-	1,578	1,578	-	13,602	13,602
Tower House - Unpaid Rental (Bad Debt)	1,536	-	1,536	-	-	-
Licence Expenses	572	264	836	235	552	787
Mission Giving	800	-	800	-	419	419
Church House - Repairs and Maintenance	755	-	755	954	-	954
Church House Flat - Utilities	552	-	552	2,053	-	2,053
Bank Charges	208	-	208	339	-	339
Training	37	-	37	30	-	30
Church House - Building Works	-	-	-	1,138	11,620	12,759
Sanctuary Day Centre Costs	-	-	-	-	12,753	12,753
	204,471	101,041	305,513	171,278	316,150	487,427

7 Raising Funds

Music - CD Production Costs	8,987	6,265	15,251	-	-	-
Fundraising costs - Trees at the Tower	5,016	-	5,016	6,346	371	6,718
Fundraising costs - other	328	158	485	-	1,400	1,400

14,330	6,422	20,752	6,346	1,771	8,117
---------------	--------------	---------------	--------------	--------------	--------------

8 Support Costs excl governance costs

Church - Building Works	-	12,169	12,169	-	704	704
Church - Repairs and Maintenance	7,758	3,220	10,978	8,487	-	8,487
Insurance	10,358	-	10,358	9,745	-	9,745
Church - Utility Costs	8,828	-	8,828	6,125	-	6,125
Bank Charges, Fees and Finance Costs	1,869	60	1,929	1,569	-	1,569
Church - Telephone costs	1,857	-	1,857	1,473	-	1,473
IT and Website Expenses	1,119	-	1,119	974	-	974
Other Running Costs	531	-	531	986	-	986
	32,320	15,449	47,769	29,358	704	30,062

8b Governance Costs

Governance Costs	2,760	-	2,760	2,538	-	2,538
	2,760	-	2,760	2,538	-	2,538

9 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year

ST MARY-LE-TOWER IPSWICH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was

2024 Number	2023 Number
5	6

Employment costs

2024 £	2023 £
95,013	83,959

Wages and Salaries

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000

11 Analysis of Grants Received by Fund and Grant Making Body

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	TOTAL 2024 £
General			
St Eds & Ipswich DBF (for Minster Making Video)	1,500		1,500
Ips. Borough Council (Electricity & Ground Maintenance)	360		360
Fabric Designated			
Grant from St Mary-le-Tower Charities	11,000		11,000
Music - Choir Memorial			
Framlingham College (for Director of Music)		15,000	15,000
Scarfe Trust Grant (for CD Recording)		600	600
Music - Cathedral Music Trust Fund			
Cathedral Music Trust (for support of music department)		5,000	5,000
Music - Choral Foundation			
Closure of St Mary-le-Tower Choral Foundation		56,226	56,226
Top-up Shop			
L D Rope Trust		6,360	6,360
Grimwade Charitable Trust		1,000	1,000
Winter Warm Grant		1,400	1,400
Rotary Club East		100	100
Bells - Training Bells			
Belstead Ganzoni Trust (for Training Bells)		4,000	4,000
Alfred Williams		3,000	3,000
Ipswich Charter 825			
Suffolk Children's University (for Charter Festival)		5,000	5,000
	12,860	97,686	110,546

ST MARY-LE-TOWER IPSWICH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

12 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Endowment Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Endowment Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Revaluation of Investments	3,140	5,447	2,257	10,845	9,176	23,337	8,549	41,062
Gain/(loss) on investments	-	5,830	-	5,830	-	5,830	-	5,830
	3,140	5,447	2,257	10,845	9,176	29,167	8,549	46,892

ST MARY-LE-TOWER IPSWICH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

13 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold Land and Buildings £
Cost	
at 1 January 2024	553,832
At 31 December 2024	<u>553,832</u>
Carrying Amount	
At 31 December 2024	<u>553,832</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>553,832</u>

14 Fixed asset investments

	Listed Investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 January 2024	473,807
Additions	-
Valuation Changes	10,844 See Note 12
At 31 December 2024	<u>484,651</u>
Carrying Amount	
At 31 December 2024	<u>484,651</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>473,807</u>
Unrestricted	108,094
Restricted	275,676
Endowment	<u>100,881</u>
	<u>484,651</u>

15 Financial Instruments

	2024 £	2023 £
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss	<u>543,520</u>	<u>518,844</u>

16 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade Debtors	518	14,036
Other Debtors	<u>9,463</u>	<u>9,046</u>
	<u>9,981</u>	<u>23,082</u>

ST MARY-LE-TOWER IPSWICH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

17 Current asset investments	2024	2023
	£	£
Short-term deposits	58,869	45,037
18 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	12,163	27,481
Accruals	-	-
Deferred Income	5,000	5,000
	<u>17,163</u>	<u>32,481</u>

19 Retirement benefit schemes

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

20 Endowment Funds

Endowment funds represent assets which must be held permanently by the charity. Income arising on the endowment funds can be used in accordance with the objects of the charity and is included as unrestricted income. Any capital gains or losses arising on the assets form part of the fund.

	Balance at 1 Jan 2023	Revaluation gains and losses	Balance at 1 Jan 2024	Revaluation gains and losses	Balance at 31 Dec 2024
Harriet Bacon Trust Endowment	44,613	4,234	48,847	1,118	49,965
Choir Memorial Endowment	6,984	663	7,647	175	7,822
Prior Memorial (Church House) Trust Endowment	38,478	3,652	42,130	964	43,094
	<u>90,075</u>	<u>8,549</u>	<u>98,624</u>	<u>2,257</u>	<u>100,881</u>

ST MARY-LE-TOWER IPSWICH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

21 Restricted Funds

	Movement in Funds 2023					Movement in Funds 2024					
	Balance at 1 Jan 2023	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Fund Transfers	Revaluations, Gains (or Losses)	Balance at 1 Jan 2024	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Fund Transfers	Revaluations, Gains (or Losses)	Balance at 31 Dec 2024
Tower House Restricted (Restricted)	384,593	11,321	(198,146)	-	21,440	219,208	6,233	(30,606)	-	4,153	198,988
Fabric Restricted (Restricted)	3,090	23,094	(704)	-	-	25,480	587	(15,389)	-	-	10,677
Music - Choir Memorial Restricted (Restricted)	29,897	17,139	(44,756)	-	2,003	4,283	26,428	(29,366)	-	29	1,374
Music - Choir Scholarship Restricted (Restricted)	7,708	-	(2,168)	-	122	5,662	-	(2,953)	-	58	2,767
Music - Choir Projects Restricted (Restricted)	2,500	6,915	(5,770)	-	-	3,644	4,265	(7,909)	1,875	-	1,875
Music - Concerts Restricted (Restricted)	722	2,550	(3,177)	-	-	95	5,000	(5,329)	-	-	(234)
Music - Choir Tenor Fund (Choral Foundation Grant) (Restrict	-	4,487	(120)	-	-	4,367	-	(2,492)	-	-	1,876
Music - Cathedral Music Trust Fund (Restricted)	7,000	694	(4,671)	-	-	3,023	5,000	(5,644)	-	-	2,379
Music - Choral Foundation (Restricted)	-	-	-	-	-	-	56,226	-	-	-	56,226
Top-up Shop Restricted (Restricted)	779	1,861	(2,631)	-	-	9	8,895	(4,332)	-	-	4,572
Bells - Restricted (Restricted)	1,825	728	-	-	-	2,553	248	(691)	-	-	2,110
Bells - Training Bells Restricted (Restricted)	-	18,145	(11,224)	-	-	6,920	10,130	(10,723)	33	-	6,361
Sanctuary Guild Restricted (Restricted)	545	-	-	-	-	545	-	-	-	-	545
Church House Restricted (Restricted)	4,509	-	(4,446)	-	750	812	1,187	-	-	43	2,042
Mission Giving - Res. Giving for spec. projects (Restricted)	523	289	(254)	-	-	558	-	-	-	-	558
Covid Memorial Garden (Restricted)	7,553	-	(1,975)	-	-	5,578	-	(5,578)	-	-	-
Fundraising Restricted (Restricted)	14,187	-	(838)	-	-	13,349	-	(76)	-	-	13,273
Children's Ministry (Restricted)	400	-	(371)	-	-	29	-	-	-	-	29
Mission Giving - Christingle Donations (Restricted)	75	66	(140)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Suffolk Theology Forum (Restricted)	-	2,055	(168)	-	-	1,888	-	-	-	-	1,888
Sanctuary Day Centre - Restricted (Restricted)	-	22,974	(22,367)	(607)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ipswich Charter 825 (Restricted)	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000	(1,825)	-	-	3,175
Usherwood Capital Restricted (Restricted)	26,343	-	-	-	2,500	28,843	-	-	-	615	29,458
Harriet Bacon Trust Restricted (Restricted)	9,839	1,460	-	-	670	11,970	1,616	-	-	290	13,875
Charity Capital Restricted (Restricted)	17,725	-	(7,174)	-	1,682	12,233	-	-	-	261	12,493
Mission Giving - Red Cross (Restricted)	25	-	(25)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tower House - AHF Restricted (Restricted)	-	7,500	(7,500)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	519,810	121,277	(318,625)	(607)	29,167	351,047	130,816	(122,913)	1,908	5,447	366,306

22 General and Designated Funds

General (Unrestricted)	129,810	156,800	(156,355)	607	9,176	140,038	206,913	(197,741)	(1,908)	3,140	150,442
Fixed Assets (Unrestricted)	553,832	-	-	-	-	553,832	-	-	-	-	553,832
Tower House Designated (Designated)	(18,335)	27,091	(32,248)	-	-	(23,492)	44,874	(40,224)	-	-	(18,843)
Fabric Designated (Designated)	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,000	-	-	-	11,000
Music - Choir Projects Designated (Designated)	1,270	8,693	(8,879)	-	-	1,084	6,049	(10,127)	-	-	(2,993)
Music - Concerts Designated (Designated)	4,269	9,178	(9,352)	-	-	4,096	10,170	(5,790)	-	-	8,476
Top-up Shop Designated (Designated)	1,204	3,429	(2,685)	-	-	1,947	3,375	-	-	-	5,323
Legacy - Designated (Designated)	-	1,500	-	-	-	1,500	3,250	-	-	-	4,750
TOTAL	672,050	206,693	(209,520)	607	9,176	679,005	285,631	(253,882)	(1,908)	3,140	711,987

ST MARY-LE-TOWER IPSWICH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

23 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Endowment Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Fund balances at 31 December 2024 are represented by					
Tangible assets	553,832	-	-	553,832	553,832
Investments	108,094	275,676	100,881	484,651	473,807
Current assets/(Liabilities)	50,061	90,630	-	140,691	101,037
	<u>711,987</u>	<u>366,306</u>	<u>100,881</u>	<u>1,179,174</u>	<u>1,128,676</u>