

# GROVE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Registered Charity No. 1129066

## Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year ended 31st December 2023

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Abbreviations:

PCC	Parochial Church Council
SOFA	Statement of financial activities

## **Grove Parochial Church Council**

### **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2023**

#### **Administrative Information**

The parish of St John the Baptist, Grove is part of the Vale Benefice, consisting of the parishes of Grove, Hanney, Denchworth and East Challow, in the Wantage Deanery of the Diocese of Oxford.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St John the Baptist, Grove (Grove PCC) is registered with the Charity Commissioners, Registered Charity Number 1129066.

The contact address for Grove PCC is Vale Benefice Office, Main Street, Grove, Wantage, Oxon, OX12 7LQ.

The trustees, members of Grove PCC (abbreviated to PCC), were as follows:

**Clergy:**

Vicar: Revd W John N Durant

Associate Vicar: Revd A Gill

**Licensed Lay Minister:**

Sue Powditch

**PCC Secretary:**

Anna Mabbett (to May)

Georgina Cook (from May)

**Churchwardens:**

Nicky Gibbard

Nick Terrill

**Treasurer:**

Frank Parnell

**Co-opted members:**

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Anne Cheeseman

**Elected Deanery Synod representatives:**

Sarah Shackleton

Helen Harwood

**Elected PCC members:**

James Mabbett

John Hudson

Johanna Fadipe (from May)

Colin Moulds (from May)

Rachel Hutchin (from May)

#### **Principal Advisors**

**Banker:**

The Co-operative Bank, PO Box 250, Delf House, Southway, Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT

**Independent Examiner:**

David Cooke & Co., 5 Briar Close, Banbury, OX16 9DS

**Management**

The PCC has been formed under the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956.

PCC members are recruited in a number of ways. The clergy, churchwardens and treasurer are members by virtue of their office. Deanery Synod representatives are elected by the annual parochial church meeting (APCM) and hold office for three years. Other members of the PCC are elected on a three year rolling basis at the APCM, except for times when there are gaps to be filled.

The PCC makes all decisions corporately except that the Standing Committee has delegated powers to make decisions between PCC meetings subject to keeping the PCC informed as fully as necessary. The full council meets bi-monthly with sub-committees as detailed below. These sub-committees report and recommend to the full council.

The PCC is responsible for all parish finances, its management and control, including the appointment of a treasurer. Members of the PCC are responsible for keeping accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the PCC to enable them to ascertain the financial position of the PCC and so ensure that the financial statements comply with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 as amended by the Church Accounting (Amendment) Regulations 2001, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102). The PCC is responsible for safeguarding any assets and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The PCC is also required to ensure that the financial statements are examined by an independent examiner or auditor prior to presentation to the APCM.

In preparing the financial statements, the PCC is required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- Follow applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice, 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 remain in operation.

The PCC met every other month on Monday nights until September, from then on it was a Tuesday night, and is served by a Standing Committee and various sub-committees as detailed below. There is an Annual Parochial Church Meeting held between March and May each year, which in 2023 was held in May.

There are the following sub-committees which all contain at least one PCC member and all regularly report back to the PCC:

**Standing Committee:**

Consists of the Vicar, Associate Minister, Churchwardens, Treasurer and Secretary. Responsibilities as stated above.

**Finance Committee:**

Supports the treasurer. Monitors church finances and makes recommendations to the PCC on budget setting and management of church funds.

**Pastoral Committee:**

Monitors and supports pastoral work within the church.

**Facilities Management Group:**

Manages the day to day issues with church fabric and the churchyard. Also supports and advises on any new fabric projects.

**Social Committee:**

Encourages, plans and organises social and fund-raising events for the church.

**GroW:**

Its Management Committee is a sub-committee of the PCC and include at least two members of the PCC.

**Mission:**

A member of the PCC monitors our interaction with the Mission organisations we support.

**Objectives and Activities**

The aim of the PCC is to cooperate with the ordained clergy in providing and promoting the whole Christian mission of the church, through worship, pastoral, evangelistic and social activities, and to support and draw others to the love of God.

Our vision is for St John's to be a Christ-centred Church and grow in numbers, faith, fellowship and mature godliness, sharing God's hope and expressing God's love for creation. While taking an active role in building a flourishing and inclusive community in Grove.

The full PCC met seven times during the year discussing issues including finance; worship; outreach; child protection; youth work; fabric improvements; health and safety; community engagement.

In carrying out the activities of the PCC in the year under review, the trustees have had regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission, and are satisfied that the activities mentioned above have all been for the public benefit.

**Achievements and Performance**

We continue to hold three services every Sunday, offering a range of different worship opportunities across our congregations. Our 10am service was live-streamed throughout 2023 and has been a support for those who are not able to attend in person.

The number of people on the Electoral Roll is now 122 with attendance to Sunday services increasing during the year. We have seen a number of families, couples and individuals join our church community.

There were 3 Blessing and Thanksgivings of children and 9 baptisms. The clergy conducted 14 funerals in church and 5 at the crematorium along with 17 interments and 4 weddings.

The link with our church school is very strong. Rev. John Durant has led termly collective worship in school and welcomed the school to church for a service every term. A very dedicated Open the Book team continue to go into school each week to teach a bible story.

Across the year the Viva Network has been our overseas focus of mission and we have had visits from The Cornerstone and have increased our connections with The Wantage Street Pastors.

A new Church of England primary school has opened as part of the new housing developments, with a Church of England secondary school soon to be built as well. St John's has been in discussion with local Deanery partners and the Vale Academy Trust, who are all working together to provide a chaplaincy post for the secondary school.

The church community coped well with Rev. John Durant being off for 6 weeks following a second successful knee operation. At the end of 2023, Rev. John retired, having faithfully served the parish and benefice for 10 years.

**Reserves Policy**

Grove PCC aims to hold in reserve sufficient to cover the equivalent of 25% of annual general running costs. The current general funds are enough for this policy. The children's work (GroW) has approximately nine months' worth of normal expenditure in hand and is currently looking at obtaining additional grants. It is fully expected that these reserves, along with expected grants, should enable this work to continue for 2024.

We are grateful to God for all his blessings and the faithful service of our church members.

**Financial Review**

This year things have returned to a more normal state following the last few years after the pandemic. As can be seen from the accounts we have returned to a more normal financial situation in both income and expenditure.

The accounts show an income of £20,600 more than the expenditure for unrestricted funds. This is due to the increase in our lettings income along with several one off donations. Whilst we hope that the lettings will remain at this level we cannot rely on the other donations. However even without the one off donations we would have a surplus of income over expenditure.

In 2023 our income from hall and room lettings was about £13,000 which is an increase of just over 50% on the pre-pandemic levels and hopefully this will continue, however some of the increase was offset by our higher fuel costs.

In 2023 our utility costs increased from £5,000 in 2022 to £12,500. This was due to the general increases in gas and electricity prices. In 2024 our gas and electricity contracts are due for renewal and we have managed to achieve a much reduced rate for both, with a different company.

During 2023 we received income of just over £13,000 from the rental of the Curate's house. However, we did have to continue to carry out some further refurbishment work, including replacing the windows, totalling some £12,383 as our 52% portion of the costs. We also received a Gift Aided donation towards the refurbishment of £1,000, which resulted in just over £2,000 surplus for the year. In 2024 there will be further costs to complete the refurbishment.

We are, as always, extremely grateful to those of the congregation who continue giving on a regular basis, as well as the special donations we receive from them for additional expenditure items that arise.

In terms of general funds, the financial position is healthy, with an unrestricted cash balance of just over £60,000. Some of this is held as reserves in line with the policy above, whilst other is earmarked towards several large expenditures that will occur in 2024 .

Finally, thanks are also due to Sue Parnell who acted as bookkeeper during the year and to Pat Bates who counts and banks the money each week.

The report was compiled by Revd Alec Gill and Frank Parnell.

Approved by the PCC and signed on its behalf:

Signed:

Date:

Ms Nicky Gibbard Church Warden  
grovecw@valebenefice.org.uk

## Independent Examiner's Report to Grove PCC

I report on the accounts of Grove Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December 2023, which are set out on pages 6–16.

### Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

The PCC is responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The PCC considers that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The PCC is preparing accrued accounts and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission, and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

### 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 which give me cause to believe that, in any material respect

- (1) the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- (2) the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- (3) the accounts did 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:

Date:

D C S Cooke MA (Oxon) FCA FCIE

David Cooke & Co.  
5 Briar Close  
Banbury  
Oxfordshire  
OX16 9DS

## Statement of financial activities

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	2022 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	3(a)	142,395	65,284	207,679	182,329
Charitable activities	3(b)	18,525	96	18,621	12,782
Other trading activities	3(c)	19,852	-	19,852	7,956
Investments	3(d)	475	-	475	134
Other	3(e)	981	-	981	2,120
<b>Total income</b>		<b>182,228</b>	<b>65,380</b>	<b>247,608</b>	<b>205,321</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	4(a)	60	-	60	-
Charitable activities	4(b)	160,876	57,145	218,021	218,655
Other	4(c)	685	-	685	3,825
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>161,621</b>	<b>57,145</b>	<b>218,766</b>	<b>222,480</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>20,607</b>	<b>8,235</b>	<b>28,842</b>	<b>(17,159)</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	9	<b>(6,925)</b>	<b>6,925</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>13,682</b>	<b>15,160</b>	<b>28,842</b>	<b>(17,159)</b>
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>		<b>81,189</b>	<b>38,702</b>	<b>119,891</b>	<b>137,050</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>94,871</b>	<b>53,862</b>	<b>148,733</b>	<b>119,891</b>

## Statement of cash flows

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	2022 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>					
Net movement in funds (as per SOFA)		13,682	15,160	28,842	(16,775)
Adjustments for:					
Depreciation charges	5	3,262	505	3,767	3,324
Purchase of assets	5	(1,776)	-	(1,776)	(7,248)
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	3(d)	(475)	-	(475)	(134)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	6	(1,611)	57	(1,554)	(1,135)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	8	(6,391)	(193)	(6,584)	10,520
<b>Net cash provided (used)</b>		<b>6,691</b>	<b>15,529</b>	<b>22,220</b>	<b>(11,448)</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	3(d)	475	-	475	134
<b>Net cash provided (used)</b>		<b>475</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>134</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities:</b>					
<b>Net cash provided (used)</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>7,166</b>	<b>15,529</b>	<b>22,695</b>	<b>(11,314)</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at start of year</b>		<b>52,958</b>	<b>38,684</b>	<b>91,642</b>	<b>102,956</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>60,124</b>	<b>54,213</b>	<b>114,337</b>	<b>91,642</b>



**Balance sheet as at 31st December 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £	2022 £
<b>Fixed assets:</b>					
Tangible assets	5	35,987	625	36,612	38,603
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		<u>35,987</u>	<u>625</u>	<u>36,612</u>	<u>38,603</u>
<b>Current assets:</b>					
Debtors	6	2,832	616	3,448	1,894
Cash at bank and in hand	7	60,124	54,213	114,337	91,642
<b>Total current assets</b>		<u>62,956</u>	<u>54,829</u>	<u>117,785</u>	<u>93,536</u>
<b>Liabilities:</b>					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	8	4,072	1,592	5,664	12,248
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>58,884</u>	<u>53,237</u>	<u>112,121</u>	<u>81,288</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>		<u><b>94,871</b></u>	<u><b>53,862</b></u>	<u><b>148,733</b></u>	<u><b>119,891</b></u>
<b>The funds of the church</b>					
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General fund	9	64,671	-	64,671	53,780
Designated funds	9	30,200	-	30,200	27,409
		<u>94,871</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>94,871</u>	<u>81,189</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>	9	-	53,862	53,862	38,702
<b>Total funds of the church</b>		<u><b>94,871</b></u>	<u><b>53,862</b></u>	<u><b>148,733</b></u>	<u><b>119,891</b></u>

Signed:

Frank Parnell  
Treasurer

Date:

Nicky Gibbard  
Churchwarden

Date:

## Notes to the financial statements

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### 1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the financial statements of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

### 2 Accounting policies

#### Funds

The financial statements are prepared under the current Church Accounting Regulations and in accordance with the 2015 Charities SORP and applicable accounting standards

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

Restricted funds are those funds that must be spent on restricted purposes and details of the funds held and restrictions are provided in note 9.

#### Incoming resources

##### *Voluntary income and capital sources*

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving is recognised only when received.

Tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the donation is recognised.

Grants and legacies are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due can be measured reliably and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is probable.

When incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising income) the incoming resources and the related resources expended are accounted for gross.

##### *Other income*

Rental income from letting the Church Hall, St John's Rooms and the Curate's house is accounted for when it falls due.

##### *Income from investments*

Dividends are accounted for when due and payable, and interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same accounting year.

##### *Gains and losses on investments*

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold.

## Notes to the financial statements

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### Resources used

#### *Grants*

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

#### *Activities directly relating to the work of the Church*

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. If the PCC has not paid the parish share in full by 31<sup>st</sup> December but intends to do so in the future, then outstanding payments are provided for in these financial statements as an operational (though not a legal) liability. Such a liability is shown as a creditor on the balance sheet. If the PCC does not intend to pay any outstanding parish share, then no liability is shown.

### Fixed assets

#### *Consecrated property and movable church furnishings*

The church building is an historic asset and no valuation has been included in the accounts because of the significant costs involved in such a valuation compared with the additional benefit derived by the users of the accounts in assessing the trustees' stewardship of assets.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are accounted for as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the Church's inventory, which can be inspected on request. For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000, there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Items acquired since 1st January 2000 have been capitalized and depreciated in the financial statements over their currently anticipated useful economic life.

All expenditure incurred in the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings or on the repair of movable church furnishings acquired before 1<sup>st</sup> January 2000 is written off.

#### *Other fixed assets*

The Curate's House is valued at cost less 2% straight-line depreciation per annum.

All equipment is valued at cost less 25% depreciation per annum, from the initial purchase price.

Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

#### *Investments*

Investments are valued at market value on 31<sup>st</sup> December.

#### *Current assets*

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31<sup>st</sup> December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit at the bank.

## Notes to the financial statements

**3 Analysis of incoming resources**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	2022 £
<b>3(a) Donations and legacies</b>				
Planned giving	99,628	600	100,228	91,852
Collections at services	5,506	453	5,959	7,646
Other giving including appeals	11,830	580	12,410	6,950
Gift Aid recovered	22,545	559	23,104	23,993
Legacies received	2,886	-	2,886	2,000
Grants received	-	7,071	7,071	7,423
GroW Childrens work	-	56,021	56,021	42,465
	<u>142,395</u>	<u>65,284</u>	<u>207,679</u>	<u>182,329</u>
<b>3(b) Charitable activities</b>				
Statutory fees	6,931		6,931	5,470
Church groups and activities	11,594	96	11,690	7,312
	<u>18,525</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>18,621</u>	<u>12,782</u>
<b>3(c) Other trading activities</b>				
Fundraising activities	2,462		2,462	2,653
Lettings and rental income	17,390		17,390	5,303
	<u>19,852</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,852</u>	<u>7,956</u>
<b>3(d) Investments</b>				
Interest received	475	-	475	134
	<u>475</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>475</u>	<u>134</u>
<b>3(e) Other</b>				
Interest received	-	-	-	152
Other income	981	-	981	1,968
	<u>981</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>981</u>	<u>2,120</u>

**4 Analysis of resources expended**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	2022 £
<b>4(a) Raising funds</b>					
Raising funds		60	-	60	-
		<u>60</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>4(b) Charitable activities</b>					
Grants to partner organisations	12	2,850	802	3,652	3,005
Parish share		86,236	-	86,236	89,413
Running costs		46,414	45,294	91,708	80,492
Repairs, maintenance and building work		25,376	781	26,157	35,515
GroW - Children's work			10,268	10,268	10,230
		<u>160,876</u>	<u>57,145</u>	<u>218,021</u>	<u>218,655</u>
<b>4(c) Other</b>					
Governance costs		685	-	685	650
Other expenditure		-	-	-	3,175
		<u>685</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>685</u>	<u>3,825</u>

## Notes to the financial statements

**5 Tangible assets**

	Freehold land & buildings (unrestricted) £	Church equipment (unrestricted) £	Church equipment (restricted) £	Total £
<b>Cost or valuation</b>				
At beginning of the year	65,950	7,062	2,020	75,032
Additions	-	1,776	-	1,776
At end of the year	<u>65,950</u>	<u>8,838</u>	<u>2,020</u>	<u>76,808</u>
<b>Depreciation and impairments</b>				
At beginning of the year	32,975	2,564	890	36,429
Depreciation	1,319	1,943	505	3,767
At end of the year	<u>34,294</u>	<u>4,507</u>	<u>1,395</u>	<u>40,196</u>
<b>Net book value</b>				
At beginning of the year	32,975	4,498	1,130	38,603
At end of the year	<u>31,656</u>	<u>4,331</u>	<u>625</u>	<u>36,612</u>

**6 Debtors and Prepayments**

	Amounts falling due within one year			
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	2022 £
Prepayments and accrued interest	-	-	-	-
Other debtors	2,832	616	3,448	1,894
	<u>2,832</u>	<u>616</u>	<u>3,448</u>	<u>1,894</u>

The sum shown under Other debtors represents amounts due for room hire and funerals.

No amounts were due in more than one year.

**7 Cash and cash equivalents**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	2022 £
Cash in hand	60,124	54,213	114,337	91,642
	<u>60,124</u>	<u>54,213</u>	<u>114,337</u>	<u>91,642</u>

Cash in hand includes cash in current and immediate access bank accounts.

**8 Creditors and accruals**

	Amounts falling due within one year			
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	2023 £
Diocesan fees	833		833	1,172
Other creditors	3,239	1,592	4,831	11,076
	<u>4,072</u>	<u>1,592</u>	<u>5,664</u>	<u>12,248</u>

## Notes to the financial statements

## 9 The funds of the church

Unrestricted funds	Fund balances brought forward £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	Fund balances carried forward £
General	53,780	164,776	(146,960)	(6,925)	64,671
Legacy donations unrestricted	17,409	2,886	(2,278)		18,017
Curates House	-	14,416	(12,383)		2,033
Organ	-	130	-		130
Tech Replacements	-	20	-		20
Contingency	10,000				10,000
	<u>81,189</u>	<u>182,228</u>	<u>(161,621)</u>	<u>(6,925)</u>	<u>94,871</u>

The Contingency fund is held as part of the PCC's reserves policy as stated in the annual report.

Restricted funds	Fund balances brought forward £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	Fund balances carried forward £
GroW - Children's work	22,706	56,522	(41,449)		37,779
Special Collections	145	818	(902)	(61)	-
Chaplaincy	-	3,900	(3,900)		-
Fabric	5,783	600	(873)	61	5,571
Benefice	2,018	3,267	(9,855)	6,925	2,355
Local Mission	7,967				7,967
Flowers	83	273	(166)		190
	<u>38,702</u>	<u>65,380</u>	<u>(57,145)</u>	<u>6,925</u>	<u>53,862</u>

The Fabric fund includes money collected for the Church Hall refurbishment and extension.

The Local Mission fund holds money for use in local mission and outreach.

The Chaplaincy fund was for collecting money for the deanery chaplain and passing it on to them.

The Benefice fund contains money from all four churches in the Benefice to be used for payment of shared Benefice expenses. All shared Benefice expenses are recorded as expenditure from the Benefice fund. The contribution to those expenses from Grove PCC is made as a transfer from the General fund to the Benefice fund, and the contributions from the other three PCCs are made as grant income to the Benefice fund.

The Special Collections fund holds money collected for third parties as part of normal church activities. In 2023 this included money for VIVA Network, Christian Aid Middle East Appeal, The Gatehouse, Open Doors and Little People. The transfer is the remaining money given for the prayer walk stones, which has now been transferred to the Fabric Fund for maintenance of the stones going forward. Two stones had been purchased from the donations made, and there was not enough left to purchase a third.

## Notes to the financial statements

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### 10 Staff costs

During the year, the PCC employed a part-time cleaner (to March), a part-time co-ordinator for GroW childrens work, two part-time children workers for GroW and a church office administrator. The total costs incurred were: £48,690 in gross wages and £1,871 in Employers Pension Costs. £5,683 of the office administrators costs were contributed by the other churches in the Benefice for Benefice office work.

### 11 Trustee remuneration, expenses, and related party transactions

No lay members of the PCC received any remuneration for their work on the PCC. The clergy, who are ex officio members, do receive a stipend but are not remunerated for their service on the PCC.

The following PCC members received reimbursement from PCC funds for out-of-pocket expenses: Frank Parnell (£288), Nicky Gibbard (£171) and Helen Harwood (£150)

The clergy received directly paid expenses in their role as parish priests: John Durant (£1,456), and Alec Gill (£1,147). These costs are shared with the other parishes in the Benefice, who between them contributed £781 (30%).

The total value of all donations received by the PCC from PCC members or their close family members during 2023 was £33,320, this includes a total of £5,700 of recovered Gift Aid. None of these donations had attached conditions which either did or might require the PCC to significantly alter the nature of its existing activities.

## Notes to the financial statements

### 12 Grants made

Grants were made to the following institutions.

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Wantage & Grove Street Pastors	1,000	-	1,000
Cornerstone Christian Centre	1,600	-	1,600
Wantage & Grove Partnership	250	-	250
	<u>2,850</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,850</u>

### 13 Collections for third parties

During 2023, the following amounts were collected and passed on

	£	£
Viva Network	-	267
Open Doors	-	135
The Gatehouse	-	40
Christian Aid Middle East Appeal	-	300
Wantage & Grove Little People	-	60
	<u>-</u>	<u>802</u>