

CHRIST THE SERVANT KING, HIGH WYCOMBE

**ANNUAL REPORT
AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
OF THE
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST DECEMBER 2024**

Charity Number: 1129098

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**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
CHRIST THE SERVANT KING, HIGH WYCOMBE**

OFFICERS AND ADVISERS

Vicar	Revd Chris Owen
Honorary Assistant Clergy and Ministers	Revd Marie Jackson Revd Ruth Wooster
Banks	Barclays Bank plc PO Box 41 16 High Street High Wycombe Bucks HP11 2BG Santander UK plc BBAM Bridle Road Bootle Merseyside L30 4GB
Investments	The CBF Church of England Funds Senator House 85 Queen Victoria Street London EC4V 4ET
Independent Examiner	Mrs Rebekah Haywood Dashwoods Accountants Limited Chartered Certified Accountants 31 Dashwood Avenue High Wycombe Bucks HP12 3DZ
Charity Number	1129098

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF CHRIST THE SERVANT KING, HIGH WYCOMBE

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024

Aims and purpose

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Chris Owen, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral and evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the finances and maintenance of the Church of Christ the Servant King (CSK), High Wycombe.

Objectives and activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many as possible to worship at our church and in various other places within our district and to become part of the parish community of Christ the Servant King. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how services can involve as many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, the incumbent and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. Our vision is to be a growing and generous church which is expressed through our mission and core values. Our mission is to connect people to God: we will aim to be people who follow Jesus who lead others to Jesus, and we seek to focus all our activities around connecting people to the: presence, passion, power, promises, purposes, and peace of God.

All this hinges around our values:

- Worship – being a worshipping community centre around God
- Fellowship – sharing God's love with each other and the local community
- Maturity – growing in love, understanding and acts of service
- Ministry – serving within the church to build and grow our community of faith
- Mission – sharing the good news of God with words and actions

And is expressed in action through the Five Marks of Mission:

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Achievements and performance

Family Outreach

The church has a great team who work together in bringing activities to the local community and finding out where the team needs to be helping. It is through relationships and conversations that they are able to build up a picture of what should be offered and so some activities will be stopping and new ones will be tried out.

The Tuesday morning toddler time, Tiny Tots, continues to grow and one Tuesday morning there were 49 children which is the busiest ever seen. All the children came to gather on the mat for snack and story time. They listened beautifully as the story of the Lost Coin was told and then joined in with the singing and dancing after.

Children stories from the bible continue to be told and the associated craft will have a bible verse from the story attached to it. This is a great way of spreading the Good News to the children's families at home as many of them come with childminders.

The monthly clothes bank has continued to be popular, and it has been a blessing to see so many families who come along to find clothes and baby items that they would otherwise have to pay for. Just recently a school contacted the church to say that they needed spare uniform for their pupils. Another person had also been in contact and they supplied us with twelve bags of spare school uniform; the school were supplied with a huge bag of spare school uniform. God is so good.

The Outreach group has also been in contact with the local family hub for the area and they will keep the group connected with activities that are happening in the area and connect people together so the church can support people and families with different areas of expertise.

The relationship with Erica at Wycombe Youth for Christ (WYFC) and Bookerhill school continues, and the Year 6 children were invited for a Secondary School Transition workshop at the church. This is the first time that WYFC held this type of workshop in a church, and all involved felt it went really well. The children were much more engaged, they had more space to move around, and it took them out of their usual learning environment. It was great to see some of these children again at Lighthouse in the 10s and catch up with how they had been and how they were feeling about joining secondary school.

The Christmas workshops led by Erica for a new group of Year 6s were greatly enjoyed. The church was also able to bless 71 children at Booker Hill School with a voucher and chocolate selection box at Christmas and continue to include them in the monthly clothes bank and activities that are held at church. There are also links with Chepping View school and members of the group have been popping in with biscuits and cakes once a month to give a clothes bank leaflet for the school to promote to their parents. The Year One children from Chepping View before Christmas were also welcomed as they came and looked at different religious objects to inform their Religious Education curriculum. The children were really engaged and asked some brilliant questions. They spent some time at the end drawing, and this gave an opportunity to chat with the children and teachers.

In October the annual Bright Lights party was well attended as the story of the Lost Sheep was told and families went round the church playing different fairground games which earned them tokens which they then exchanged for a bag of sweets. There was the ever-popular Teddy Tombola, as well as hand massage and a fire juggler at the front of the church.

During December our youth group came together to practice the Christmas nativity – 'Back to Bethlehem with Dr Why'. They worked hard practicing their lines and working out where they needed to be to perform their parts. The performance was on 15th December and twelve families from church and the community were welcomed and joined in with Christmas fun, Lighthouse mayhem and all-important mince pies and mulled wine. All that came along really enjoyed the afternoon.

CSK very kindly agreed to hold Lighthouse Cressex at the church after building work and technical issues made it difficult to hold it at Cressex school. The trustees worked out how Lighthouse would work across the church and were laughed at when they announced that there would be 6 marquees on the car park for the age group base rooms. Despite the unbelief all six marquees fitted in amazingly and a truly blessed year was had by all.

The Outreach team continue to hold a fortnightly youth group on a Thursday evening and continue to have a regular group of girls meet together to socialise and learn about Jesus through film clips and discussion. A few met at St Andrew's church to attend United Worship which is a youth group for all the youth groups across Wycombe to come together, socialise, worship and hear a talk from one of the leaders. It is hoped that the group will get more involved with these evenings.

Prayer Ministry

The Prayer Net is a facility that circulates prayer requests and updates on previous requests. These are circulated to a list of people who are happy to pray. Prayer is very powerful and even more so with so many people willing to pray for others.

Ladies Breakfasts were run on 4 Saturday mornings in 2024 and are an opportunity for the women of the church to meet together to share a light breakfast, to undertake a short activity which might focus on a particular topic, or a simple meditation etc., and then to pray together for one another, usually in pairs or small groups. They have been a time of friendship and fellowship, underpinned by prayer.

The Prayer and Fasting group now meets every 2nd Saturday of the month. The Lord has given the group a word from Leviticus 6:12 "The fire on the altar must be kept burning on it, it shall not go out." The Lord has answered many prayers and the moving of the Holy Spirit can be seen in the children's ministry.

Online prayer via Zoom has continued to play a significant role in the life of the church. Meetings are held on a Tuesday evening to pray for Ukraine and have been continuing for three years now. One of our members has subscribed to the Kyiv Independent newspaper and circulates this as a platform for informing our prayers. Following some early guidance from the 24-7 prayer movement, the meeting always starts with Psalm 46, choosing different translations to enhance understanding. The group believe that God is their refuge and strength and an ever present help in trouble for the people of Ukraine and will not give up praying for them until a lasting peace has been achieved.

On Thursdays the day starts with a session of morning prayer at 8am and then ends at 8pm with night prayer. This has been taking place since lockdown and it remains as popular as ever, with a whole house group joining us for night prayer every other week. The strength of these sessions is the fact that anyone can join knowing that nothing is expected of them, they can simply rest in God's presence. There is a core team of seven who lead the sessions and they generally last about 20 mins to half an hour, ending with a worship song. Jesus says "come to me all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest". Why not give night prayer a try: it has a wonderfully soporific effect after a busy day and some even fall asleep!

Prayer ministry takes place during the 9am Service when after receiving communion members, should they so wish, can have someone from the Healing Prayer Ministry Team to pray with them. At the 10.45 Service there is the occasion to offer Healing Prayer Ministry at the end of this service and occasionally during the service. Sadly with some members of the prayer group leaving the church it has been a struggle to cover some Sundays during the past year but with new people feeling the call to pray in this way, attending the short training course, most Sundays are now covered.

Prayer is also offered at home visits and when people meet in their small groups. And of course, there is corporate prayer in the services and it's wonderful to meet together to pray with one another, pray for the town, for countries where there is conflict and the world generally.

Mission and evangelism

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. As in previous years our giving from our unrestricted voluntary income went to a range of local, national and international charities. These were: Open Doors, Wycombe Youth for Christ, Lighthouse Cressex, Wycombe Homeless Connection, REMA and Wycombe Fair Trade.

Children and young people

The children's group runs three Sundays out of the month with age groups ranging from zero to eighteen years. The Creche group is for our youngest members from zero to four years, the Kidzone group from year R to Year 5/6 and the youth group which is year 6/7 to year 13. There are a small number of children under four years old and so the Creche is now self-serving meaning there are toys provided, a simple craft, snack and the 10.45am service is zoomed into the room for parents to watch whilst their children play. The feedback from parents that have used the new Creche set up has been positive.

In January 2024 a Praise and Worship session was introduced once a month where the children can have their own live worship with singing, dancing, bubbles and balloons. They then spend some time listening to Jesus and waiting for words or pictures from him. The children are then able to use materials such as painting, playdoh, craft, duplo and lego to create what Jesus may have placed upon their heart. Some really lovely pictures of Creation and creations of houses made from lego have been made.

The summer term saw the Creche group continue to look at the New Testament stories of life after Jesus had risen. They looked at the story of Pentecost through to Jesus coming back again and then made some Father's Day creations and looked at Jesus's love for us.

The kidzone and youth group looked at families in the bible. They covered the first family of Adam and Eve, the family of Abraham and Jacob, Jesus's family and then their own families.

The group were also able to serve the main church family by offering prayer and blessings after the service and serving refreshments. This is a great opportunity for the young people to get involved in church life and have a chance to serve. They are part of the family of God and so all members need to feel valued and involved in different aspects of the church. The term finished by serving our community with a litter pick and having a trip to the local park for a play and picnic.

In September the groups came back together to look at the theme of the Armour of God in kidzone and youth. In creche the Old Testament stories from Creation to the birth of Jesus were covered. The children had a great time looking at the different pieces of armour that God has given them to help when journeying through life and why they need this protection. The children had some great ideas that they shared with one another and ended up with an amazing theme board covered in the children's creations. they even made some belts of truth out of sweets!

The youth group also looked at the armour of God and they were able to take discussions deeper when looking at why they might need this armour and what it means to put it on daily and how this may help them in life. Towards the end of the term the Year 6's joined the youth group as they started the Youth Alpha series in preparation for some of the young people getting confirmed in early 2025.

The youth group had around fourteen young people join us on a Sunday morning to watch a video about Jesus and then to take time to reflect on different questions and what it means to them. There have been some brilliant ideas and discussions within the group.

As always, we ended the autumn term with making Christmas cards for the Wednesday café guests which are always received really well. They then had a Christmas story games morning which entailed telling the story of Jesus's birth through different stories! Mary was dragged to Bethlehem on a blanket, animals fruit salad (Jesus was born in a stable with the animals) and then went through an obstacle with our sheep (there were shepherds at the time) to find baby Jesus laying in the manger and finished with making stars that the Wise Men followed to find Jesus. A very active but fun morning.

Financial review

The church accounts for 2023 showed a surplus of £4,266 but this was because £11,500 of Parish Share (our biggest expense) was held over to 2024. For this year the accounts show a deficit of £15,458 but this is not really a true reflection of the year. The deficit would have been £3,958 without the payment of the outstanding Parish Share.

Three years ago, in 2021 the PCC pledged to support the new appointment of a Family and Children's Worker and put aside the amount of £36k for the next three years to cover her salary. However, the pledging of these funds meant that deficits were expected at the end of the next three years, although maybe not as high as the amount in 2022. If the bottom lines for 2022, 2023 and 2024 are combined the deficit is about £36k, which is as was anticipated in 2021 and budgeted.

However, looking at the amount in the bank accounts, £103k, this is healthy and if this money can be used for good purposes, then deficits can be expected at year end.

Throughout 2024 the PCC has been able to regularly monitor income and expenditure and therefore has

felt more in control of the church's finances. The accounts show an anticipated deficit, however in 2025 we are aware of legacies totalling £43k which the PCC will look to use wisely. Whilst there are no restrictions on the use of this money, we do wish to use it to support the activities that the legators contributed to during their lives. During 2025 the PCC will continue to look at expenditure to ensure that this matches income as far as possible.

Reserves policy

The PCC considers that it is appropriate to maintain a level of income reserves equivalent to three to six months of unrestricted expenditure, approximately £45,000, in order to meet its needs, including its legal and constructive obligations and to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow. At the year end the reserves were above the level required by the policy, nevertheless a tight rein will be maintained on expenditure during the current year, to ensure funds are available for outreach and evangelism initiatives.

With energy prices and other costs continuing to be high, the trustees continue to monitor income and expenditure, particularly cashflow.

There are no material uncertainties about the ability of the church to continue.

Investment policy

It remains our policy to invest our funds balances with the CBF Church of England Deposit fund.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all who work so hard to make our church the lively and vibrant community it is. In particular we want to thank the church warden, David Lidiard, who has worked tirelessly on our behalf and all the other members of the PCC for their valuable contribution to our ministry and for keeping the church running.

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity with charity number 1129098. From 4th February 2013 the name for the church and parish of Christ the Servant King, High Wycombe was adopted.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The membership of the PCC consists of the vicar, non-stipendiary ministers, churchwardens, the LLM reader and members elected by those members of the various congregations of the church who are on the electoral roll of the church. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and hence are eligible to stand for election to the PCC. In addition, members may be co-opted as necessary. The PCC met six times during the year.

Committees and teams

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The PCC operates through a standing committee and a staff team which meet between full meetings of the PCC.

Standing Committee

This is the only Committee required by law. It meets as and when necessary.

Staff Team

The staff team oversees the day to day running of the church within the direction set by the PCC and ensures that the work of the various teams in the church is coordinated.

Administrative information

The church of Christ the Servant King is situated in Sycamore Road, Booker within the town of High Wycombe. It is part of the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is: The Church Office, Sycamore Road, Booker, High Wycombe, Bucks HP12 4TJ.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2024 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex Officio members:

Clergy and ministers:

Revd Chris Owen
Revd Marie Jackson
Revd Ruth Wooster

Church Wardens:

David Lidiard
Carol Wotherspoon (resigned 21st April 2024)

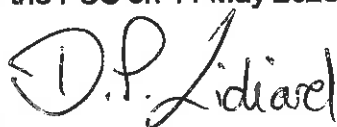
Licensed Lay Ministers:

Janice Allerston
Allison Smale
Heather Searle

Elected Members:

Alan Molyneux (resigned 9th January 2024)
Carolyn Nally (resigned 21st April 2024)
Paul Brown
Cynthia Kalyan
Godfrey Otudeko (resigned 23rd March 2025)
Robert Wratten (resigned 1st January 2025)
Andy Smale (elected 21st April 2024)
Sue Gaunt (elected 21st April 2024)

Approved by the PCC on 11 May 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Mr D Lidiard
(PCC Lay Chairman)
11 May 2025

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES / MEMBERS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
CHRIST THE SERVANT KING, HIGH WYCOMBE**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2024 which are set out on pages 8 to 11.

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 accounts 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

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:

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act;
or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and contents of accounts as set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirements 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.



Rebekah Haywood
Dashwoods Accountants Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
31 Dashwood Avenue
High Wycombe
Bucks HP12 3DZ

14 May 2025

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
CHRIST THE SERVANT KING, HIGH WYCOMBE
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024**

Section A Receipts and payments

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Receipts					
Donations and legacies	1(a)	99,790	6,934	106,724	97,601
Charitable activities	1(b)	25,690	-	25,690	35,180
Investments	1(c)	3,975	-	3,975	2,326
Grant	1(d)	2,000	-	2,000	-
Total receipts		131,455	6,934	138,389	135,107
Payments					
Charitable activities	2	146,894	6,953	153,847	130,481
Net of receipts/(payments) before transfers		(15,439)	-19	(15,458)	4,266
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Cash funds last year end		116,106	2,082	118,188	113,922
Cash funds this year end		100,667	2,063	102,730	118,188

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Designated funds to nearest £	Total funds at 31 December 2024
B1 Cash Funds				
Co-operative Bank	21,787	2,063	-	23,850
Church Board of Finance	78,866	-	-	78,866
Petty cash	19	-	-	19
Total cash funds	100,672	2,063	-	102,735

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
CHRIST THE SERVANT KING, HIGH WYCOMBE
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024**

B2 Other Monetary assets**B3 Investment assets****B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use****Fund****Cost****Current value**

Fixtures & Fittings

Unrestricted

72,030

7,399

Container

Unrestricted

1,323

-

B5 Liabilities & Funds**Fund****Amount due**

Accruals

Unrestricted

0

Signed on behalf of all the trustees



Signed by

Mr D Lidiard

Dated

11 May 2025

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
CHRIST THE SERVANT KING, HIGH WYCOMBE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024**

1 Receipts from

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
(a) Donations and legacies				
Planned giving:				
Stewardship giving	77,941	6,150	84,091	77,170
Tax recoverable	16,887	803	17,690	14,101
Collections (open plate)	2,396	-	2,396	3,120
Donations, Appeals	20	-19	1	2,586
Other collections	2,546	-	2,546	624
	<u>99,790</u>	<u>6,934</u>	<u>106,724</u>	<u>97,601</u>
(b) Charitable activities				
Premises hire	24,079	-	24,079	34,917
Fees received	1,611	-	1,611	263
	<u>25,690</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,690</u>	<u>35,180</u>
(c) Investments				
Interest receivable	<u>3,975</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,975</u>	<u>2,326</u>
(d) Other				
Oxford Diocese Grant	<u>-</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Total income	<u><u>129,455</u></u>	<u><u>8,934</u></u>	<u><u>138,389</u></u>	<u><u>135,107</u></u>

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
CHRIST THE SERVANT KING, HIGH WYCOMBE**
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

2 Payments on:

	<i>Unrestricted Funds</i> £	<i>Restricted Funds</i> £	<i>2024 Total</i> £	<i>2023 Total</i> £
Charitable activities				
Missionary and charitable giving:				
Home missions and other Church Societies	9,700	-	9,700	9,507
Other collections	-	-	-	899
	<u>9,700</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,700</u>	<u>10,406</u>
Ministry: Parish share	76,460	-	76,460	55,530
Fees paid out	1,087	-	1,087	-
Clergy expenses	556	-	556	595
Vicar's discretionary fund	225	-	225	-
Church running costs	4,576	-	4,576	4,410
Light & water etc.	8,270	-	8,270	9,736
Wine, wafers & candles	957	-	957	492
Repairs and maintenance	4,370	-	4,370	4,977
Cleaning	9,755	-	9,755	9,288
Children's Church & Youth	634	-	634	306
Outreach	4,191	-	4,191	3,522
Secretarial	14,542	-	14,542	15,340
Family Worker	7,905	6,953	14,858	12,654
Office costs	1,948	-	1,948	2,169
Bank charges	134	-	134	226
Unresolved fraud	324	-	324	0
Governance costs - Team Levy	420	-	420	380
Accountancy fee	840	-	840	810
Total payments	<u>146,894</u>	<u>6,953</u>	<u>153,847</u>	<u>130,841</u>