

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, AMERSHAM

England & Wales · Charity number 1129139

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-04-15
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

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Activities

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

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Classification

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

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£162,880	£157,433	-	-
2023-12-31	£167,065	£182,860	-	-
2022-12-31	£187,318	£197,469	-	-
2021-12-31	£114,497	£139,383	-	-
2020-12-31	£154,640	£144,021	-	-

Trustees

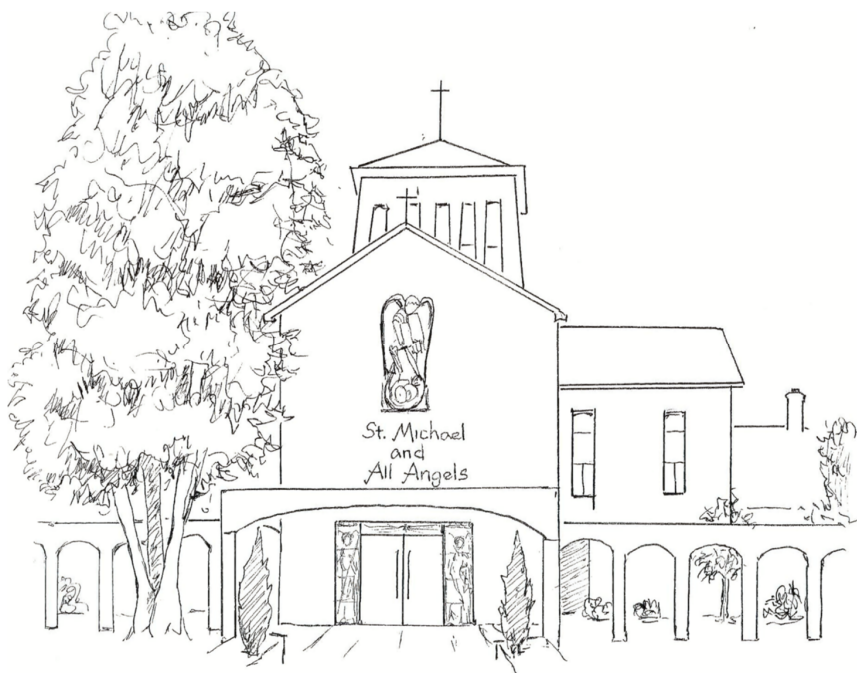
Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew Connor		2022-05-15
Barbara Gibson		2025-06-05
Hazel Gwendolyn Miller		2020-10-11
Neil Lynch		2023-06-28
Peter Binns		
Rachel Hill		2019-05-16
Rebecca Olsen		2024-04-28
Rev Debbie Oades		2016-04-24
Roger Leslie		
Rosemary Marciniak		2020-10-11

Accounts

**Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels,
Amersham on the Hill**

Registered Charity No. 1129139

**ANNUAL REPORT
and
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
of the
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
for the year ended 31 December 2024**



St Michael's Vision Statement:

*As a Christian community we seek to engage with the world around us
and to be a place of welcome and acceptance for all on a journey to
God – believers, doubters and those who are seeking.*

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

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Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

**Legal and administrative information
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

**Legal and administrative information
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

Name of the charity

The full name of the charity is The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham. The charity is registered with the Charity Commissioners of England and Wales and its registration number is 1129139.

Objects

The objects of the charity are as set out in the governing document issued by the Church of England. The PCC has adopted the objects clause of that governing document, the wording of which is given below.

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

In adopting and applying these objects, the trustees have regard to the guidance of the Charity Commission on Public Benefit.

Incumbent

Revd Debbie Oades
St Michael's Church
70 Sycamore Road
Amersham

Bank

HSBC
Corn Market
High Wycombe
TSB Bank plc
PO Box 373
Leeds

Independent Examiner

Mark Blackwell (ACMA)
MHR Consultancy Ltd
Ferneberga House
Alexandra Road
Farnborough
GU14 6DQ

Principal office

The principal office of the charity is 70 Sycamore Road, Amersham, Buckinghamshire HP6 5DR.

Average Church Attendance

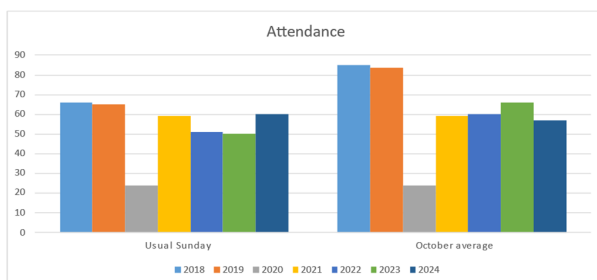
The figures are calculated on average attendance during October 2024.

Weekly attendance

56 adults, 1 child

Messy Church

18 adults and 21 children



Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Legal and administrative information for the year ended 31 December 2024

Electoral Roll Data

As at 31 December 2024 the total number on the Electoral Roll was 105.

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham was registered with the Central Register of Charities on 15 April 2009. The trustees of the charity are members of the PCC and decisions of the trustees are made at PCC. New trustees are appointed on personal recommendation of the PCC.

New PCC members are encouraged to attend diocesan or other training courses to help them in their responsibilities and given access to previous PCC minutes and documents and to Charity Commission guidance for trustees.

Trustees

Members of the PCC are the trustees of the charity and are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The members of the PCC who served during 2024:

Ex Officio

Debbie Oades	Vicar
Peter Binns	Associate Priest (co-opted 30 th May 2024)
Katherine Hyde	Licensed Lay Minister
Roger Leslie	Church Warden
Roland Gillott	Church Warden

Elected Members

Rachel Wilcox	Treasurer
Ann Beattie (resigned 28 th April 2024)	
Andy Connor	
Cathy Franklin	
Rachel Hill	
Neil Lynch	
Rosie Marciniak	
Rolande Mélisse-Merrifield (resigned 28 th April 2024)	
Rebecca Olsen (elected 28 th April 2024)	

Deanery Synod Representatives (ex officio)

Cathy Franklin
Hazel Miller

We continued with in-person meetings during 2024, with a Zoom meeting in November to avoid members having to travel in the dark. The Council met six times during the calendar year, including one meeting

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Legal and administrative information for the year ended 31 December 2024

where the only item on the agenda was approval of the annual report and accounts prior to the APCM. The average attendance was 10.0 out of a possible 13, (77%).

The agenda for all regular meetings includes an item on Vision, focussing on how the church is meeting the objectives set out in our Mission Action Plan. Reports from the Treasurer, from the Buildings Committee, on matters relating to fabric and hire of the church and hall, from the Safeguarding team and from the Communications Officer also form part of the standard agenda. St. Michael's representatives on the Deanery Synod feed back what was discussed at those meetings (three times/year) Other matters requiring annual attention such as confirmation of appointments to various roles; review of policies and approval of recommended mission-giving allocations were dealt with during the course of the year.

The Standing Committee is available to meet as and when necessary, between PCC meetings, with any urgent matters being resolved by e-mail or telephone. A **standing committee** of trustees has power to transact business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any instructions given by the PCC.

The members of the standing committee who served during 2024 were:

Revd Debbie Oades – Vicar
Roland Gillott
Rachel Hill
Roger Leslie
Rachel Wilcox

The PCC is also the Managing Trustee of the St Michael Charity. The Custodian Trustee is Diocesan Trustees (Oxford) Ltd. The property of the Charity consists of St Michael's Square fronting on to Sycamore Road together with the buildings thereon, namely, the Church, the Church Hall and the Vicarage. The Charity also has investments, the income from which may only be applied to the upkeep and repair of the property owned by the Charity.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2024

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Our central purpose is summed up in our Vision Statement: "As a Christian community we seek to engage with the world around us and to be a place of welcome and acceptance for all on a journey to God – believers, doubters and those who are seeking." This report seeks to show how we have interpreted this mission during the year under review.

Looking inward, looking outward

Mission Action Plan

Our Mission Action Plan ("MAP") set out our vision for 2018 – 2023. A MAP discussion day was scheduled in Autumn 2023, but due to the illness of our incumbent Rev Debbie Oades, it was not possible to undertake this review. We now have a MAP discussion day scheduled for later in 2025, to revisit and update the Plan.

We have therefore endeavoured to maintain the vision set out in the 2018-2023 document, and to live out that vision in our relationship with the community in Amersham on the Hill. 2023 saw some developments as activities which had been in abeyance during the pandemic restarted, and 2024 has to a large extent been a year of consolidation.

Messy Church has continued throughout 2024 and is being well attended, with sessions on *Abraham and Sarah, Joseph, Moses, Easter, Joshua, The Prodigal Son, The Good Samaritan, Feeding of the 5000, The Light of Christ, Remember Me, and God is with us*. 'Crafty Cuppa' and 'Pop in and Paint' are still going strong, and we also welcomed the 'Sympatico' group of artists during Bucks Art Weeks, and Amersham Photographic Society for their annual exhibition. A regular 'Repair Café' is held where people can bring items for repair or learn more about repair techniques for themselves, and the organisers of that, Sustainable Amersham, have also started an occasional Toy Swap in the church.

We have good contacts with the Amersham Town Council and with Amersham Action Group, with events both in the church and outside in St Michael's Square. On 30th November the Square was part of the Amersham Christmas Festival, which is always a vibrant event.

A new event in 2024 was the celebration for St Michael's Day, with the church open for members of the community to drop in, refreshments available, and performances by some of the groups who use the church hall to practise. Popstars Academy and Amersham Dance Studio packed the church as parents came to watch, while captivating performances of traditional music, singing and dance by Geetanjali Academy of Fine Arts and Antardhwani brought us a real taste of the culture and heritage of South India. Vestments were displayed in the sanctuary area and our own "Pop In and Paint" group presented their work both completed and in progress. The day was bookended with organ music, played by Stephen Wilcox, and was overall a huge success. We hope to hold another event during 2025 – though possibly in warmer weather when we can also use the Square.

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Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2024

Private Prayer

The Lady Chapel is still kept aside as a space for private prayer; it is no longer hired out as a community space. The votive candle stand remains in the main body of the church. The church is normally open from 10am to 4pm, Monday to Friday, and there are notices directing people to the Lady Chapel for private prayer. A service of Morning Prayer takes place each Tuesday morning at 9.00am.

Baptisms, weddings and funerals

We welcomed three candidates and their families for baptism during the year. It is a joy to be with the family as they start their Christian journey. Having welcomed our youngest congregation member to the Crib Service, aged just one week, we have another baptism to look forward to in 2025!

It is also a privilege to support and be with families at a time of loss and grief, and a relief that the limitations of the recent past have now been removed to allow wider attendance at funerals. This year we walked alongside 5 families as we conducted funerals or burial of ashes for their loved ones.

Lent, Easter, Harvest, Remembrance

Lent Course

2024's Lent discussion course used *Transfiguration* by Rob Marshall as a focus for the discussions. Looking at the story of Jesus displaying the overwhelming glory of God to three chosen disciples, the book explores the many layers of the Transfiguration and relates them to ordinary human experiences – journeying, prayer, revelation, tiredness, sleep, fear, doubt, waiting, questioning, listening, suffering, vision and much more. The weekly meetings were held over Zoom as before: this enables older members of the congregation to take part without having to come out on the dark early Spring evenings.

Easter and Holy Week

At St Michael's, Holy Week and Easter are a particularly rich time, and the full programme of services enabled the congregation to come together for worship and reflection at this crucial time in the church year. The COTHA Good Friday service on the Square was an opportunity for us to reach out not just to our brothers and sisters at Amersham Free Church but also to the wider community, being visible in a way that services inside the church are not. There was, as usual, a Lent Appeal in support of St Anne's Hospital, Liuli, more information on which is included later in this report under the heading of *Mission Giving and Appeals*.

Harvest

Details can also be found in that section of the Harvest appeal. Our celebration of Harvest coincided with the first 'Gathered Round' informal Eucharist, and donations were collected for Carers Bucks.

Remembrance

There was a Service of Remembrance in St Michael Square, including the two-minute silence at 11am, on Armistice Day, led by Fr Peter Binns. On Remembrance Sunday we marked the occasion in the usual way with the reading of 'We will remember them' and poppy petals falling into the sanctuary.

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Advent & Christmas

As in 2023, our Advent and Christmas celebrations included the choir's attendance on the first Sunday of Advent, a service of Nine Lessons and Carols, and a choral Midnight Mass. The crib service, which restarted in 2022, was again well attended, and it was particularly special to welcome one of our youngest ever attendees, at just one week old! This was again one of the most joyful services of the season.

Advent Course

The 2024 Advent course, led by our LLM, Katherine, was based on *Women of the Nativity* by Paula Gooder. This tells the familiar story from the perspective of nine women, some scriptural and some imagined, with paintings by the priest-artist Ally Barrett, bringing fresh insights.

Choir music, servers, welcomers

The choir's pattern of singing approximately once each month, and concentrating on the key festivals, has continued in 2024 and seems to work well. We are able by this to field a good group for the more important points in the year, rather than a smaller (and unpredictable) group more frequently. In all, the choir was 'officially' present for 15 eucharist services, including all four of the services in Holy Week, and the service of Nine Lessons and Carols. In addition, members of choir are frequently present to support the congregation on the intervening Sundays.

We are also fortunate in having a number of talented organists to contribute to the music, and send our thanks to Stephen Wilcox, Andrew Leslie and Delia Panter for all the work they put in.

St Michael's has always valued the role of all senses in worship, and so having the full range of liturgical colours, flowers, incense and servers is a great joy. The team of servers supports the clergy admirably, as do others who take on less visible, but very important roles such as laundering the altar linen.

We also thank the team of welcomers and sidespeople, who may be our first point of contact with new visitors.

Messy Church

Messy Church has been up and running since March 2023. It is fabulous! We have a core team of nine volunteer helpers. In 2024 we averaged an attendance of 28!!! Our highest attendance was 45 and lowest 15 (that was December so maybe early holidays were being enjoyed!). These numbers are slightly higher than 2023.

Thanks must go to our Communications officer for the advertising, information sharing and general drumming up of trade. As well as her tireless help for each session! Thanks must also go to Carly who shares details of the sessions monthly on local parents' Whats App groups. A very big thank you to all the volunteers who make each session so joyous and fantastic.

Messy Church is an immense success.

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Working with the local community

Community Christmas Tree Festival – raising funds for Wycombe Homeless Connection

The 2024 Festival grew again reaching a total of 31 Trees, generously sponsored by local Community Groups. The Angel Tree in the Narthex, where we invite visitors to hang up a bauble and make a donation, continued to attract much attention, particularly during the Christmas Fayre - indeed, so popular was it, that it toppled over under the weight of the baubles! The supporting 'Choirs, Coffee and Cake' event was much enjoyed by all the participating Choirs and the 'roving' audience throughout the day. The final amount raised from the ongoing collection, Christmas Fayre, Choir event, Crib Service and Gift Aid, totalled well over £4,000. Our thanks go to Alan Jarvis who broadcast the Choir event out to the Square and posted videos of the performances on YouTube, each receiving a great many hits -

<https://www.youtube.com/@stmichaelandallangels/streams> for anyone who missed it. And huge thanks also go to all the very kind volunteers from St Michael's and from Wycombe Homeless Connection, who helped with setting up, during the Festival, and clearing away. Hope we were all having fun, raising funds!

Deanery Synod

Amersham Deanery Synod met three times in 2024. St. Michael's was represented at all the meetings.

The March Synod included the AGM of Amersham Deanery Trust and was held at Christchurch, Waterside, Chesham. After the AGM, Rev Asa Humphries, the Parish Development Advisor for the Buckinghamshire Archdeaconry was the guest speaker. His role is to work with parishes during their time of vacancies and working with them towards a new appointment.

For the June meeting at Chesham Bois Parish Centre, in addition to the regular agenda items, there was discussion in small groups on '*Putting Disciples Together*', a resolution passed by the Diocesan Synod about the need to significantly increase engagement with children, young people, families and schools. Feedback from the groups was followed by presentations from a number of people on their and their churches' experience in this area.

The final meeting of the year was at St. George's, Little Chalfont. Time was allocated to a presentation by the Deanery Treasurer to set out the planned allocation of Parish share for the coming year. Rev'd Vicky Jones and Rev'd David Whale from the host church spoke about Estate Ministry and Amersham Deanery Mission Partners Steve and Lindsey Poulson provided a video report about their work in Honduras.

Hospitality

The Catering Team continue to provide refreshments twice a month after the Sunday 10am service and on other occasions as requested. This year we were very pleased to welcome two new helpers and will be delighted to hear from anyone else who would like to join us.

Mince pies and mulled wine were a feature just before Christmas, both at the Christmas Fayre in early December and on the Sunday before Christmas, also drinks and nibbles after our Patronal Service in September.

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The chance to mingle and catch up with friends and acquaintances is greatly appreciated by everyone and is also a way of breaking the ice for new members.

The wider world

Mission giving and Appeals in 2024

Mission giving in 2024 was £1,500 -the same as in recent years- although less than was possible before Covid. Three charities were each sent £500 from Church funds. They were:

1. Chiltern Samaritans, Amersham
2. Talk Back, Amersham
3. Embrace The Middle East, High Wycombe.

"Chiltern Samaritans", Amersham is one of 200+ branches affiliated to the national Samaritans body, all providing support to people in distress. Chiltern Samaritans, in its own right, is an independent registered charity, which is entirely volunteer led with 130 volunteer listeners providing round the clock services on a rota basis to people in distress.

"Talk Back" have a base in The Old Barn near the Lifestyle Centre in Amersham and provide autism and learning disability support and service programmes in Bucks and the surrounding areas. They are all designed around all key stages of life from pre-16 through to adults. For the younger people they provide transition programmes to help people move from school to college and minimise anxiety, for over 16s they provide education support and for over 18s they offer personal development and social skills.

"Embrace The Middle East" is well-known to St Michaels and used to be based in Old Amersham. They now have an enormous task to fulfil. Their vision statement is "As a Christian development charity, we partner with Christians in the Middle East as they work to transform lives and restore the dignity of the most excluded and marginalised communities."

Appeals in 2024

There were three appeals to the congregation for donations. The charities selected each have some local connection including those which support activities abroad. There was a balance between both international and domestic charities, as follows:

- The Lent Appeal raised £1,598 before gift aid for the Friends of St Anne's Hospital, Liuli, Tanzania.
- The Harvest Appeal raised £1,251 for Carers Bucks, including gift aid.
- The Christmas Tree Festival raised over £4,000 for Wycombe Homeless Connection which is referred to elsewhere.

For about 20 years the St Michael's congregation has given generously to the Friends of St Anne's, which supports a hospital, schools and community in south west Tanzania, Africa. As well as contact over the years with the charity's organisers at St Boniface Church, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh in Hampshire, St Michaels was in the past visited by the hospital's then doctor in charge, Mr Sam Ndimbo whose family are

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now active in the running of the hospital. There is an expectation that the Tanzanian government will become more involved with funding in future.

The St Michaels Harvest Appeal was for "Carers Bucks", a charity which supports unpaid carers of all ages, from all backgrounds and in all caring roles. This includes young carers, parents of children with disability, older carers, carers from diverse communities and those looking after someone with a mental health condition. The charity provides support for unpaid carers and those cared for whilst in Stoke Mandeville, Amersham, Wycombe General and Wexham hospitals. Their Head of Fundraising, Beth Sawyers, came to St Michaels and gave a presentation to our congregation about the charity.

Giving from Church funds

Chiltern Samaritans, Amersham	£500	
Talk Back, Amersham	£500	
Total home mission		£1,000
Embrace the Middle East, High Wycombe	£500	
Total overseas mission		£500
Total mission giving		£1,500

Funds donated direct by congregation

St Anne's Hospital, Liuli		1,598
Carers Bucks		1,251
Wycombe Homeless Connection (approximately)		4,000
		6,849

Fair Trade Stall

We are grateful to Margaret Dykes for her work during 2023 on identifying alternative suppliers to replace Traidcraft, which had ceased trading. This allowed us to continue to hold a regular monthly stall with Fair Trade products. Demand can vary, but coffee, tea and chocolate are always popular, and the Real Easter Eggs and Advent Calendars link into the main festivals of the church. Many thanks to Sue Eames for running the monthly stall and to all who support it.

Pastoral Care

Prayer Chain

St Michael's Prayer Chain members have continued to pray, in our own homes, for people who have requested prayers (both St Michael's members and for people who are known to them). This ministry has been continuing throughout the last three years on a confidential basis. We would welcome new members.

Safeguarding

Appropriate safeguarding training for all those who may come into contact with vulnerable adults and/or children, within the work of the parish has been brought up to date. As mentioned last year this is a Diocesan requirement, an insurance requirement and a necessity for St Michael's safeguarding policy.

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Many thanks go to Cathy Franklin, our Safeguarding Officer and Alan Jarvis our Safeguarding Assistant who worked throughout 2024 to ensure the training was done by those who need it. Thanks too to Hazel Miller who oversaw the DBS checks. These requirements are an ongoing process and will require constant updating.

Office and communications

During 2024 the office remained open four days per week with the Administrator working off site on the fifth day, to allow for the completion of tasks which are best done uninterrupted.

The Communications Officer continued to carry out tasks such as preparing and circulating weekly notices and the monthly Newsletter, maintaining the website, noticeboards, and other outward facing communications channels, and supporting outward facing activities such as the St Michael's Day event, which was held in September 2024 and brought many members of the community into the Church.

At the end of 2024 Hazel Miller retired from her role as Church Administrator and Rachel Wilcox stepped into the position. Huge thanks goes to Hazel Miller for the years she has dedicated to St Michael's in this role.

SHARING OUR RESOURCES

Amersham Deanery

As part of the established church, St Michael's benefits from the support of the wider church, through Oxford Diocese and Amersham Deanery, and we are glad to give support back in our turn.

Social events and activities

Tuesday Club

Having had a very successful and enjoyable holiday in 2023, the Tuesday Club took an enforced break in 2024, as Rev Debbie's illness meant that Fr Peter Binns was busier than usual, leaving no capacity for organising events. There was some discussion about whether the Club should continue, but at a well-attended meeting following last year's APCM, members were very keen that outings should resume when possible. There are plans for a theatre visit in 2025 and other activities will follow.

Pop In and Paint 2024

Pop in and Paint continues to go from strength to strength and most months we have at least 30 people joining us. We can't believe that we started with just 8 people back in 2012. We are so proud that many of our original members are still with us, and we are also welcoming new members every month. We are getting a little worried that we will run out of space, but we always manage to squeeze another chair in! We are completely self-funded apart from the donations that our members contribute towards refreshments and this is used to buy new materials and paints.

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Once again, we sponsored a tree for the Christmas Tree Festival at St Michael's and our members enjoyed creating some beautiful work to hang on it!

Wise Choices Film Club

The film club has been established since 2010. The purpose of the club is to enable those who would prefer to go out during daylight hours, to watch films old and newish! We meet in the Wheeler Room on the first Friday of the month during the winter months (September to April, 2-4pm). In a friendly environment we enjoy refreshments after the film and more often than not the film is discussed.

We are delighted that numbers have gone up, with a regular group of around fifteen people attending the screenings. They are a very jolly and appreciative group!

The audience is split roughly 50:50 between members of St Michael's and other members of the community. Voluntary donations are received and passed on to a chosen charity at the end of the film season.

Thanks go, as ever, to Isabel Wise for all the organisation that goes into running the club.

Bucks Art Weeks

During June 2024 the local art group, Simpatico, once again held their two week exhibition of work as part of the county-wide Bucks Art Weeks. Jenny Thompson and Liz Grammenos were again joined by artists Madeleine Fletcher and Barbara Spruytenburg. They attracted over 700 visitors into the Church to see their colourful and varied works of art displayed in a creative and joyous atmosphere! A healthy number of sales resulted in them raising £447.50 for St Michael's and the same amount again for their chosen charity, Chiltern Foodbank.

Buildings – church, hall and St Michael's Square

Our buildings, situated in the centre of Amersham-on-the-Hill, are an important resource for the local community. We were delighted to welcome once again the Simpatico art exhibition for two weeks in June, the Amersham Photographic Society for their annual exhibition for a week in September and Cards for Good Causes in the lead up to Christmas. The Repair Café meets bimonthly in the church as part of Sustainable Amersham, and this group has also started an occasional Toy Swap. All attracted a substantial number of visitors. We look forward to welcoming these groups again in 2025.

Little Learners Nursery opened on 15th April for 2 days a week and then every morning and two afternoons from September. This is run by Katy Young who lives locally and recently moved from being a headteacher to setting up the nursery.

There are six regular support groups who use the hall and church on a weekly basis and others providing children's tuition during term time. The large space in the hall was used by the Little Learners Nursery and for badminton, karate, yoga, fitness classes, a choir, performing arts academies, and dance schools. It is popular for children's parties, especially at weekends. An increasing number of groups, offering similar

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activities, meet in the Glover Room behind the main hall. Local music groups use the church and various rooms in the church and hall for rehearsals and performances

St Michael's Square, in front of the church, is well used for community events such as the Amersham Town Council environment action day in June and the Amersham Refugee week also in June. In December, Father Christmas visited as part of the Amersham Action Group's Christmas Fair. We look forward to hosting similar events in 2025.

On 9 April a planning application was made for the redevelopment of St Michaels Court, Amersham. The site shares a border with the church and church hall. On 9 July the application was refused.

While our buildings are an asset, they also require constant care and maintenance. We are custodians of these buildings for the future and take this responsibility seriously. The Quinquennial Inspection in 2023 identified some works, which are spread over the five-year cycle, and other tasks are undertaken as necessary to comply with regulations. This essential work is overseen by the buildings committee, to whom we are indebted for their time and expertise.

FINANCE

Review of the year

We have for a number of years ended with a deficit on our accounts, and this situation is always a concern. Early in 2024 a small group from the PCC got together to draft a letter asking the members of the congregation to consider their regular giving, with the hope of increasing this to help to break even over time.

As with the appeal in 2020, the response was wholehearted and humbling. The figures this year bear witness to that generosity, and for the first time for some years we have achieved a small surplus on our activities, of £5,447. Investments also increased slightly so we end the year with a net movement in funds of £7,842, which is tremendous.

The key place that this is visible is in the voluntary income figure, which increased from £88k in 2023 to just over £101k in 2024. Not all of this is recurring, as there were a number of one-off donations, but it is still wonderful to see. Letting income held well at £46k, even though the nursery which had used the hall up until December 2023 left, and its successor only took up all the possible sessions in the autumn of 2024. Investment income also held up well, playing its part in a solid year. The fact that there were no Tuesday Club activities appears to be a negative, with no income in 2024, but as there were also no expenses this doesn't have any overall effect.

Details of the breakdown of income are shown in note 2.

Unrestricted expenditure for the year was very close to that for 2023 (£154k vs £151k) and as we only had a small capital project, involving internal painting in the Hall, the total expenditure for the year was over £25k down on 2023, although a little under £2k of that related to the Tuesday Club. We still strive at all

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times to identify savings on regular costs, and to be as efficient as we can. Note 3 shows more detail on expenditure.

	2024	2023
	£	£
Surplus/(deficit) on church activities and fund raising	5,448	(15,795)
Legacies	-	-
Realised gains on investment disposals	-	227
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investment assets	2,395	1,335
Net surplus/(deficit)	<u>7,843</u>	<u>(14,233)</u>

Reserves policy

The PCC aims to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which is sufficient to meet expenditure for the following 6 months, taking into account planned maintenance, commitments to employees and the expected level of the Parish Share. The level of reserves at 31st December 2024 is considered adequate for this.

Risk management

The PCC has conducted a review of the major risks to which St Michael's is exposed. A risk register has been established and is updated at least annually.

As part of this, our safeguarding policy is reviewed and approved annually in line with diocesan requirements and guidelines. DBS checks are reviewed annually for all those coming into contact with vulnerable adults and children, and are renewed on a rolling four year cycle. Appropriate training is given from within the parish and through external providers as deemed necessary.

CONCLUSION FROM THE VICAR

What a year for both you and I!

I cannot go any further without saying a huge thank you to everyone who stepped forward and stepped up to keep St Michaels not only keep going but to thrive, during my absence. I acknowledge too that this came at the personal cost of many. Fr. Peter Binns...thank you! Katherine Hyde LLM thank you! Church Wardens thank you! Office staff thank you! PCC thank you! Thanks too must go to the Diocese for supporting and enabling my graduated return to work and putting in place everything I needed to make it possible. To all the clergy too who covered some of the services...thank you! To all St Michaels congregation, thank you for supporting them and me during this time. I thank everyone once more for your support during the last few months as I have gradually returned to work and giving me the time and space to continue with rehab and rest. And last but certainly not least to Rob without whom I would not have made the recovery that I have.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2024

times to identify savings on regular costs, and to be as efficient as we can. Note 3 shows more detail on expenditure.

	2024	2023
	£	£
Surplus/(deficit) on church activities and fund raising	5,448	(15,795)
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Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2024

I have taken to heart over the last year how central St Michaels is to the wider community and felt great joy in how we serve them and how they support us. Both Hall usage and Church usage has through hires increased and it has been good to have both regular and new users. It has also been a time of pleasure in seeing how the new faces of the year before are now well established within the church community and taking on roles within both church and community outreach.

The day of Mission Action Planning planned for 2024 will now take place in 2025. We look forward to exploring what God may ask us to do over the next five years. As was said last year ‘...we are getting better at facing out towards the wider community, not just inward to the existing congregation’. So with courage and humility



Amen.

Rev Debbie Oades
Vicar

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Statement of Council Members' Responsibilities

The members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the PCC's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing accounts giving a true and fair view, the members should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Church will continue in operation.

The members of the PCC are responsible for keeping accounting records which both disclose with reasonable accuracy and enable them to ascertain the financial position of the PCC and which enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Statement of Recommended Practice on Accounting and Reporting by Charities SORP (FRS102) and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the PCC and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

FOR AND BEHALF OF THE PCC



Roger Leslie
Church Warden

27.4.25

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of the Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

This report on the accounts of the Parochial Church Council ('PCC') for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 21 to 33 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as members of the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act have not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



MHR Consultancy Ltd
Ferneberga House
Alexandra Road
Farnborough
GU14 6DQ

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total funds	
					2024 £	2023 £
Income and Endowments						
Voluntary giving	2a	109,040	1,250	-	110,290	110,693
Activities for generating funds	2b	46,382	-	-	46,382	46,120
Church activities	2c	1,841	-	-	1,841	6,306
Income from investments	2d	1,001	3,366	-	4,367	3,946
Other incoming resources	2e	-	-	-	-	-
Total income and endowments		158,264	4,616	-	162,880	167,065
Expenditure						
Grants - Mission giving	3a	1,500	-	-	1,500	1,500
Church activities	3b	152,170	3,763	-	155,933	181,360
Total expenditure		153,670	3,763	-	157,433	182,860
Net income and incoming endowments before investment gains and losses		4,594	853	-	5,447	(15,795)
Gains & losses on investment assets, on disposals and on revaluation	5b	610	1,731	54	2,395	1,562
Net movement in Funds		5,204	2,584	54	7,842	(14,233)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-
Balances brought forward		109,843	260,648	2,293	372,784	387,017
Balances carried forward		115,047	263,232	2,347	380,626	372,784

Notes 1 to 24 form part of these accounts

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible fixed assets	5a	271,123	271,213
Investment Assets	5b	87,604	85,209
		358,727	356,422
Current Assets			
Debtors	6	8,338	6,208
Short term deposits		12,311	10,645
Cash at bank and in hand		11,656	8,100
		32,305	24,953
Liabilities			
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	7	(10,406)	(8,591)
		21,899	16,362
Net current assets		380,626	372,784
Total net assets		380,626	372,784
Parish Funds			
	9		
Unrestricted		115,047	109,843
Restricted		263,232	260,648
Endowment		2,347	2,293
		380,626	372,784

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 27 April 2025 and signed on its behalf by



Rachel Wilcox, Treasurer



Roger Leslie, Church Warden

Notes 1 to 24 form part of these accounts

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

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

1. Accounting Policies

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions, together with FRS102 (2017) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2017 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP (2017)).

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

a) Funds

Endowment funds are permanent endowments and bequests of capital used to generate income for restricted funds.

Restricted funds are funds which can only be used for particular purposes as specified by the donor or funds raised for particular restricted purposes.

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.

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. The group for which the PCC are responsible in law is St Michael's Tuesday Club.

b) Income and Endowments

Voluntary income and capital sources

- i) Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.
- ii) Planned Giving under gift aid is recognised only when received.
- iii) Income tax recoverable on covenants or gift aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.
- iv) Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due can be measured reliably and its receipt by the PCC is more likely than not.
- v) Funds raised by events are accounted for gross.

Other ordinary income

Rental income from the letting of premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

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

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains and losses are recognised when investments are sold.

Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on the revaluation of investments on 31st December 2024.

c) Expenditure

General Expenditure

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis, inclusive of VAT, which is not recoverable.

Grants

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

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The parish share is accounted for when payable.

d) Land and buildings

Land and buildings are included at cost less depreciation of the buildings over fifty years. The church, hall, vicarage and site are held by the Diocese of Oxford as Custodian Trustee of St Michael Charity, a permanent trust established in 1973 of which the PCC are managing trustees. Under the terms of the Trust, land and buildings must be used as they currently are being used. Information as to the cost of these buildings and site is not available. As the land has been held for ecclesiastical purposes for many years and the buildings constructed in 1966 would now be substantially depreciated, the property is included in the financial statements at a value of £nil. In 2007 an extension was added to the vicarage. This is included in the financial statements at a cost of £34,916 and is not depreciated as the residual value of the vicarage at 31 December 2024 is expected to exceed this sum. In 2013 work was completed on developing St Michael's Square and this is included in the financial statements at a cost of £235,940 and is not depreciated as the residual value at 31 December 2024 is expected to exceed this sum.

e) Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated at 25% reducing balance. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

f) Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December 2024.

g) Current assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December 2024 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 either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

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

2.	Income and endowments	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
2a.	Voluntary giving					
	Planned Giving:					
	Gift Aid donations	80,270	1,000	-	81,270	70,959
	Tax recoverable	19,840	250	-	20,090	17,392
		<u>100,210</u>	<u>1,250</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>101,460</u>	<u>88,351</u>
	Collections (open plate)	3,746	-	-	3,746	3,397
	Donations, appeals etc	5,084	-	-	5,084	2,319
	Grants	-	-	-	-	16,626
	Legacies	-	-	-	-	-
		<u>109,040</u>	<u>1,250</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>110,290</u>	<u>110,693</u>
2b.	Activities for generating funds					
	Lettings: Church hall	39,109	-	-	39,109	40,985
	Church	7,233	-	-	7,233	4,895
	St Michael Square	40	-	-	40	240
		<u>46,382</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>46,382</u>	<u>46,120</u>
2c.	Church activities					
	Tuesday Club	-	-	-	-	2,733
	Fees for weddings, funerals etc	1,484	-	-	1,484	3,458
	Donations from church drop-in groups	-	-	-	-	5
	Other income	357	-	-	357	110
		<u>1,841</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,841</u>	<u>6,306</u>
2d.	Income from investments					
	Dividends	664	3,126	-	3,790	3,641
	Interest	337	240	-	577	305
		<u>1,001</u>	<u>3,366</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,367</u>	<u>3,946</u>
2e.	Other incoming resources					
	Insurance claims	-	-	-	-	-
	Other income	-	-	-	-	-
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	Total income and endowments	158,264	4,616	-	162,880	167,065

Income for 2023 was received as unrestricted funds £135,958, restricted funds £31,107 and endowment funds £nil.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

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

3.	Expenditure	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
3a.	Grants - Mission giving					
	Overseas - missionary societies	500	-	-	500	500
	Home mission & other societies	1,000	-	-	1,000	1,000
		1,500	-	-	1,500	1,500
3b.	Church activities					
	Ministry: Parish Share	70,533	-	-	70,533	69,097
	clergy expenses	1,391	-	-	1,391	1,087
	other clergy costs	2,868	-	-	2,868	2,794
		74,792	-	-	74,792	72,978
	Services	1,362	-	-	1,362	2,319
	Cost of organist, choirmaster & choir	3,501	-	-	3,501	3,404
	Parish magazine & bookstall	221	-	-	221	294
	Tuesday Club	-	-	-	-	1,830
	Fees paid over to the Diocese	438	-	-	438	1,049
	Other fees and licences	701	-	-	701	446
	Community outreach and events	223	-	-	223	461
	Church running costs	22,850	-	-	22,850	21,872
	Church repairs and general maintenance	5,317	-	-	5,317	3,184
	Planned maintenance projects:					
	- Hall and Square renewal (HS2)	-	-	-	-	20,850
	- Hall painting	-	3,714	-	3,714	7,300
	Depreciation of equipment	41	49	-	90	120
	Hall running costs	18,542	-	-	18,542	21,951
	Support costs	23,892	-	-	23,892	22,888
	Bank charges	257	-	-	257	236
	Costs of generating funds	-	-	-	-	-
	Other costs	33	-	-	33	178
		152,170	3,763	-	155,933	181,360
	Total expenditure	153,670	3,763	-	157,433	182,860

Support costs include the salary of the parish secretary and the costs of running the church office.

Expenditure for 2023 was met from unrestricted funds £151,027, restricted funds £31,833 and endowment funds £nil.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

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

4.	Staff costs	2024	2023
		£	£
	Wages and salaries	36,247	34,146
	Social security costs	-	-
		36,247	34,146

5a.	Fixed assets for use by the PCC	Land and buildings	Other	Total
		£	£	£
	Actual/deemed cost			
	at 1 January 2024	270,856	5,009	275,865
	Additions at cost	-	-	-
	Disposals	-	-	-
	at 31 December 2024	270,856	5,009	275,865
	Depreciation			
	at 1 January 2024	-	(4,652)	(4,652)
	Withdrawn on disposals	-	-	-
	Charge for the year	-	(90)	(90)
	at 31 December 2024	-	(4,742)	(4,742)
	Net book value			
	at 31 December 2024	270,856	267	271,123
	at 31 December 2023	270,856	357	271,213

The church, church hall, vicarage and site are held by the Diocese of Oxford as Custodian Trustee of St Michael Charity which is a permanent trust established in November 1973. An extension to the vicarage is included at cost above as is expenditure on the redesign of the church entrance and on St Michael's Square. In both cases the cost is not depreciated. Otherwise information as to the cost of these buildings and site is not available and they are included at nil cost above.

5b.	Investment assets	Market value	Sale proceeds	Gain/ (loss)	Market value
	Movements in the year	1 Jan 2024			31 Dec 2024
		£	£	£	£
	CBF Fixed Interest Securities	42,159	-	1,273	43,432
	M&G Charifund	43,050	-	1,122	44,172
		85,209	-	2,395	87,604
	Historical cost	1 Jan 2024		31 Dec 2024	
		Shares/units	Cost	Shares/units	Cost
			£		£
	CBF Fixed Interest Securities	29,125	47,349	29,125	47,349
	M&G Charifund	3,000	2,526	3,000	2,526

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

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

6.	Debtors	2024	2023
		£	£
	Tax recoverable	3,442	480
	Prepayments and accrued income	1,459	1,467
	Other debtors	3,437	4,261
		8,338	6,208
7.	Liabilities: amounts falling due within one year	2024	2023
		£	£
	Creditors for goods and services	(9,585)	(7,532)
	Accruals and deferred income	(314)	(504)
	Other creditors	(507)	(555)
		(10,406)	(8,591)
8.	Analysis of net assets by fund as at 31 December 2024		
		Unrestricted	Restricted
		£	£
		Endowment	Total
		£	£
	Tangible fixed assets	77,682	193,441
	Fixed asset investments	20,805	64,957
	Current assets - debtors	8,088	250
	Current assets - deposits	7,222	4,584
	Current assets - cash at bank and in hand	11,656	-
	Current liabilities	(10,406)	-
	Fund balances	115,047	263,232
		2,347	380,626

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

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

9. Analysis of Fund Movements

	1 Jan 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains/ (losses)	31 Dec 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds:						
Designated						
Tuesday Club	4,177	1	-	-	-	4,178
St Michael's Vicarage	34,916	-	-	-	-	34,916
St Michael's Square	42,643	-	-	-	-	42,643
Pastoral Support	4,951	332	-	-	150	5,433
Buildings and Projects	1,004	1,582	-	-	30	2,616
Youth Activities	3,647	216	(339)	-	110	3,634
Sabbatical	821	45	-	200	-	1,066
Music	2,356	127	-	-	-	2,483
	94,515	2,303	(339)	200	290	96,969
Undesignated						
General Fund	15,328	155,961	(153,331)	(200)	320	18,078
Total Unrestricted Funds	109,843	158,264	(153,670)	-	610	115,047
Restricted Funds:						
Trust Income	8,589	1,464	(3,714)	-	268	6,607
Spiritual Development	6,660	136	-	-	166	6,962
St Michael Charity	51,676	3,004	-	-	1,297	55,977
St Michael's Square	193,297	-	-	-	-	193,297
St Michael's Project	426	12	(49)	-	-	389
Total Restricted Funds	260,648	4,616	(3,763)	-	1,731	263,232
Endowment Funds:						
Ellen Motion Fund	2,293	-	-	-	54	2,347
Total Endowment Funds	2,293	-	-	-	54	2,347
Total of all Funds	372,784	162,880	(157,433)	-	2,395	380,626

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

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

10. St Michael Charity

The St Michael Charity was established in November 1973 as part of a Scheme approved by the Charity Commissioners of England and Wales. As part of that Scheme, St Michael Charity acquired the land and buildings thereon, namely St Michael's Church, St Michael's Church Hall and the vicarage together with a share of the accumulated income allocated under the Scheme. The investments of St Michael Charity are included in these Financial Statements at Note 5b.

11. Bankers

HSBC, High Wycombe, and TSB Bank plc, Leeds, are the PCC's bankers. Additionally, Barclays Bank plc acts as banker for St Michael's Tuesday Club. The PCC also has funds on deposit with the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England.

12. Funds

The Charities Act distinguishes between 'restricted' funds, which are funds or endowments given to the PCC for a particular purpose and which can only be used for that purpose, and 'unrestricted' funds which are available for the general purposes of the PCC and may be designated by the PCC. The PCC make transfers between funds when expenditure of a restricted or designated nature is to be met from more than one type of fund. The maximum level of these transfers is agreed by the PCC prior to the expenditure. On 24 March 2006, the Charity Commission confirmed that the funds of St Michael Charity do not constitute permanent endowment but are restricted funds.

Unrestricted funds designated by the PCC:

i) St Michael's Vicarage

This fund includes expenditure on the vicarage extension in 2007.

ii) St Michael's Square

This fund includes expenditure on the redesign of the church entrance and on St Michael's Square met from unrestricted funds.

iii) Pastoral Support

This fund is for support for the Vicar in her pastoral work, including outreach activities. It holds investments in CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund and cash deposits.

iv) Buildings and Projects

This fund is for larger and capital projects relating to the church and hall buildings. It holds investments in CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund and cash deposits.

v) Youth Activities

This fund is for support for youth activities within St Michael's, including but not limited to Messy Church. It includes funds formerly held in the Spiritual Development fund and the Miss M.E. Blake legacy. It holds cash deposits.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

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

vi) Sabbatical

This fund is to provide support for sabbatical study for the Vicar. A grant was agreed, and paid, in 2019. From 2020 onwards it will be gradually increased each year to provide for a future sabbatical. It holds cash deposits.

vii) Music

This fund was established with a designated donation, to provide for exceptional items required in relation to music in the church. It holds cash deposits.

Unrestricted Funds which have not been designated by the PCC

viii) General Fund

This fund holds the accumulated surplus in cash, deposits and CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund and is used in conjunction with the PCC's cash operating accounts. It also holds expenditure on fixed assets (other than buildings) and on investments acquired with unrestricted funds.

Restricted Funds of the PCC

ix) Trust Income account

This fund receives income from St Michael Charity to be used for expenditure on the buildings in accordance with the trust deed.

x) St Michael Charity

St Michael Charity was established in November 1973 and is invested to provide income with dividends and interest being paid to the Trust Income account.

xi) Spiritual Development Fund

This fund is for the young people of St Michael's and receives income from the Ellen Motion Memorial Fund from which it originated.

xii) St Michael's Square

This fund represents expenditure on the redesign of the church entrance and on St Michael's Square met from restricted funds.

xiii) The St Michael's Project Fund

This fund was established in 2014 for restricted income, and matched expenditure, on specific projects – initially, for replacement seating, and then in 2015 and 2019 for the refurbishment of the church organ. In 2020 the fund was used for the hall improvement project, with matched expenditure charged to that fund. During 2022 and 2023 the fund was used for the HS2 project.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

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

Endowment Funds

xiv) Ellen Motion Memorial Fund

This fund is a permanent endowment invested to produce restricted income which is to be used for the spiritual development of the young people of St Michael's. By an addendum signed on 17 November 1997, it was agreed that income from the fund could be used to support payments to a voluntary youth worker.

13. Accruals

All amounts included in the financial statements are shown on an accruals basis. Where amounts have been received in advance such as for rental income, the amount relating to future periods has been deferred. Amounts invoiced but unpaid at the year end are included in creditors and estimates for costs relating to the year are included in accruals. At 31 December 2024, the PCC had a claimable income tax rebate of £3,442 (2023: £480). A summary of all debtors and creditors at the year end is shown at Notes 6 and 7 to the Accounts.

14. Tuesday Club

The Tuesday Club plans its events each year to break even with revenue from participants intended to meet the costs of such events. Revenue for the year was £nil (2023: £2,733) with costs for the year of £nil (2023: £1,830), as no activities were undertaken during the year. There are plans for a theatre visit in 2025 and other activities will follow.

15. Ex-gratia payments

In addition to the missionary and charitable giving listed in item 3a) of the accounts, ex-gratia payments valued at £nil were made during 2024 (2023: £nil).

16. Staff costs

During the year, the PCC employed a church secretary, a communications officer, a warden and a church cleaner. The average number of employees was 4. The organists were self-employed and payments to them are not included in Staff costs.

17. Incumbent's expenses

The vicar Debbie Oades was reimbursed expenses totalling £1,391 (2023: £1,087) as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Travel expenses	-	-
Vicarage telephone and internet	1,391	1,087
Other expenses	-	-
	<u>1,391</u>	<u>£1,087</u>

Expenses of £2,868 (2023: £2,794) were reimbursed to other ministers.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

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

18. Insurance

The PCC has insured itself with the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group for many years and the policy is inflation linked. From March 2024 cover of the buildings was provided at the following levels:

Church	£6,650,000 (2023: £6,650,000)
Hall	£3,330,000 (2023: £3,330,000)

19. Mission Giving

As noted previously, in 2020 the PCC took the hard decision to suspend the policy of allocating 10% of its voluntary income to Overseas Missions and 5% to Home Missions. It has not yet been possible to return to this level of Mission Giving. The policy will be kept under review.

20. Loans and guarantees

No loans or guarantees have been secured against any of the PCC's assets.

21. Contingent liabilities

There are no contingent liabilities.

22. Related party transactions

The church benefits from the services of family members of the PCC, whose skills are used in various roles as noted below. In each case the connected PCC member takes no part in setting specific terms for the appointment and the terms of such appointments are no better than those offered to unconnected parties. Further details are given in the table below.

Person	Role	Connected to	Nature of connection	£
Andrew Leslie	Organist	Roger Leslie	Son	540
Stephen Wilcox	Organist	Rachel Wilcox	Husband	1,620
Rachel Wilcox	Organist		PCC member	660
Hazel Miller	Administrator		Ex officio PCC member	14,798

No other payments or expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties.

23. Grants

	2024	2023
	£	£
HS2 Project	-	16,626
Total grants	-	16,626

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

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

24. Quinquennial examination

An Architect's Quinquennial Survey was completed in March 2021, and the Report received in May 2021. The Buildings Committee is reviewing the report and will advise the PCC on a programme of works. A full electrical survey has also been completed and its recommendations will also be reviewed, with recommendations to the PCC. Specialist contractors will be engaged where necessary.

Accounts

**Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels,
Amersham on the Hill**

Registered Charity No. 1129139

**ANNUAL REPORT
and
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
of the
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
for the year ended 31 December 2023**



St Michael's Vision Statement:

*As a Christian community we seek to engage with the world around us
and to be a place of welcome and acceptance for all on a journey to
God – believers, doubters and those who are seeking.*

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

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Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Legal and administrative information for the year ended 31 December 2023

Name of the charity

The full name of the charity is The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham. The charity is registered with the Charity Commissioners of England and Wales and its registration number is 1129139.

Objects

The objects of the charity are as set out in the governing document issued by the Church of England. The PCC has adopted the objects clause of that governing document, the wording of which is given below.

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

In adopting and applying these objects, the trustees have regard to the guidance of the Charity Commission on Public Benefit.

Incumbent

Revd Debbie Oades
St Michael's Church
70 Sycamore Road
Amersham

Bank

HSBC
Corn Market
High Wycombe

TSB Bank plc
PO Box 373
Leeds

Independent Examiner

Mark Blackwell (ACMA)
MHR Consultancy Ltd
Ferneberga House
Alexandra Road
Farnborough
GU14 6DQ

Principal office

The principal office of the charity is 70 Sycamore Road, Amersham, Buckinghamshire HP6 5DR.

Average Church Attendance

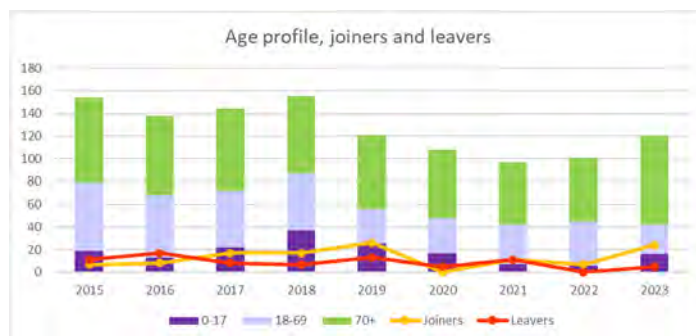
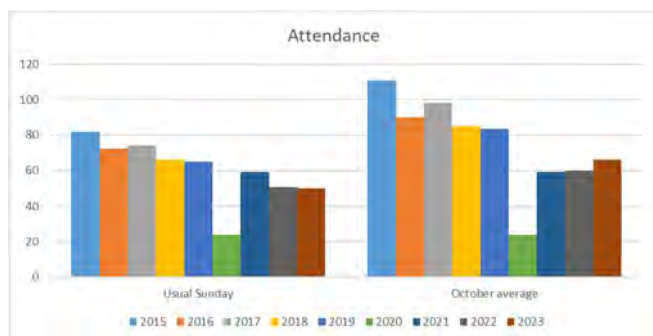
The figures are calculated on average attendance during October 2023.

Weekly attendance

66 adults, no children

Messy Church

13 adults and 13 children



Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Legal and administrative information for the year ended 31 December 2023

Electoral Roll Data

As at 31 December 2023 the total number on the Electoral Roll was 103.

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham was registered with the Central Register of Charities on 15 April 2009. The trustees of the charity are members of the PCC and decisions of the trustees are made at PCC. New trustees are appointed on personal recommendation of the PCC.

New PCC members are encouraged to attend diocesan or other training courses to help them in their responsibilities and given access to previous PCC minutes and documents and to Charity Commission guidance for trustees.

Trustees

Members of the PCC are the trustees of the charity and are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The members of the PCC who served during 2023:

Ex Officio

Debbie Oades	Vicar
Peter Binns	Associate Priest (co-opted 28 th June 2023)
Katherine Hyde	Licensed Lay Minister (co-opted 16 th November 2023)
Roger Leslie	Church Warden
Roland Gillott	Church Warden

Elected Members

Rachel Wilcox	Treasurer
Ann Beattie	
Andy Connor	
Cathy Franklin	
Rachel Hill	
Patryk Jakubowski (elected 21 st May 2023, resigned 23 rd February 2024)	
Neil Lynch (elected 21 st May 2023)	
Rosie Marciniak	
Rolande Mélisse-Merrifield	

Deanery Synod Representatives (ex officio)

Cathy Franklin
Hazel Miller

Face to face meetings resumed in March after being conducted on Zoom during lockdown. The Council met six times during the calendar year, including one meeting where the only item on the agenda was

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Legal and administrative information for the year ended 31 December 2023

approval of the annual report and accounts prior to the AGM. The average attendance was 9.3 out of a possible 13, (72%).

The agenda for all regular meetings includes an item on Vision, focussing on how the church is meeting the objectives set out in our Mission Action Plan. Reports from the Treasurer, from the Buildings Committee, on matters relating to fabric and hire of the church and hall, from the Safeguarding team and from the Communications Officer also form part of the standard agenda. St. Michael's representatives on the Deanery Synod feed back what was discussed at those meetings (three times/year) Other matters requiring annual attention such as confirmation of appointments to various roles; review of policies and approval of recommended mission-giving allocations were dealt with during the course of the year.

The Standing Committee is available to meet as and when necessary, between PCC meetings, with any urgent matters being resolved by e-mail or telephone. A **standing committee** of trustees has power to transact business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any instructions given by the PCC.

The members of the standing committee who served during 2023 were:

Revd Debbie Oades – Vicar
Roland Gillott
Rachel Hill
Roger Leslie
Rachel Wilcox

The PCC is also the Managing Trustee of the St Michael Charity. The Custodian Trustee is Diocesan Trustees (Oxford) Ltd. The property of the Charity consists of St Michael's Square fronting on to Sycamore Road together with the buildings thereon, namely, the Church, the Church Hall and the Vicarage. The Charity also has investments, the income from which may only be applied to the upkeep and repair of the property owned by the Charity.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Our central purpose is summed up in our Vision Statement: “As a Christian community we seek to engage with the world around us and to be a place of welcome and acceptance for all on a journey to God – believers, doubters and those who are seeking.” This report seeks to show how we have interpreted this mission during the year under review.

Looking inward, looking outward

Mission Action Plan

Our Mission Action Plan (“MAP”) set out our vision for 2018 – 2023. A MAP discussion day was scheduled in Autumn 2023 to revise and renew the Plan, but due to the illness of our incumbent Rev Debbie Oades, it was not possible to undertake this review.

We have therefore endeavoured to maintain the vision set out in the 2018-2023 document, and to live out that vision in our relationship with the community in Amersham on the Hill. Although there have been changes in some of the practical arrangements for worship and engagement as a result of the pandemic, we are now able to get back to offering some of the things which had been in abeyance.

Messy Church is probably the biggest of these, and it is a joy that this has restarted and is again being well attended. On the other hand, the ‘Nappy Days’ drop-in group has stopped, as the very young children, whose families who formed its core participants, have grown old enough to attend other types of activities. ‘Crafty Cuppa’ and ‘Pop in and Paint’ are still going strong, and we also welcome the ‘Sympatico’ group of artists during Bucks Art Weeks, and Amersham Photographic Society for their annual exhibition. A regular ‘Repair Café’ is held where people can bring items for repair or learn more about repair techniques for themselves.

We have good contacts with the Amersham Town Council and with Amersham Action Group, with events both in the church and outside in St Michael’s Square. On Sunday 7 May 2023 we followed the recommendation of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to use the weekend of the Coronation of King Charles III “to reach out, gather together with those we know, and establish new links and relationships”. We held a Special Commemorative Service on St Michael’s Square to celebrate the Coronation led by Revd Debbie at which Cllr Mark Roberts, the then Mayor of Amersham, Cllr Jane Barnes, the then Deputy Mayor of Amersham and Chair of Amersham Action Group, and Cllr Elizabeth Shepherd were our special guests as was Diane Rutter, Chiltern Foodbank Coordinator. The lesson was read by Cllr Jane Barnes and the Intercessions were led by Diane Rutter. The service was followed by tea, coffee and Coronation Celebration cake.

On 6 December 2023, St Michael’s hosted Amersham Town Council’s Community Carol Service. In Revd Debbie’s absence, the Mayor of Amersham, Cllr Elizabeth Shepherd, arranged for this to be led by Revd Jonny Rapson, the Rector of St Mary’s Church in Old Amersham.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

Welcoming our Licensed Lay Minister

During the year we have been joined by Katherine Hyde. She was introduced to the congregation at the 8:30 am and 10 am Eucharists on Sunday 27 August 2023, at both of which she gave an address. She was licensed as a Licensed Lay Minister (LLM) at a Licensing Service at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford on Saturday 4 November 2023 at which she was presented to Bishop Gavin by Archdeaconry Advisor Peter Flory, and supported for the Parish, on behalf of Revd Debbie, by Fr Peter Binns. Katherine was also supported at the service by Robin, her husband, by her immediate and wider families and by friends.

Local Schools

We have enjoyed more normal levels of contact with our local schools now that the pandemic restrictions have eased: these include Woodside Junior, Heatherton, and Dr Challoner's Grammar School. Assemblies recommenced in 2023, but the illness of Rev Debbie Oades, the main contact, interrupted these relationships again in the autumn. Heatherton took part in the Christmas Tree Festival, as they have done before, and Woodside Junior School attended St Michael's Church for their Christmas service on 14 December 2023 which, in the absence of Revd Debbie, was led by Roland Gillott.

Two members of the congregation work with people from other churches in the Amersham area to take Open the Book into local primary schools – in our case to St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Old Amersham."

Private Prayer

The Lady Chapel is still kept aside as a space for private prayer; it is no longer hired out as a community space. The votive candle stand remains in the main body of the church. The church is normally open from 10am to 4pm, Monday to Friday, and there are notices directing people to the Lady Chapel for private prayer. A service of Morning Prayer takes place each Tuesday morning at 9.00am.

Baptisms, weddings and funerals

We welcomed one candidate and their families for baptism during the year. It is a joy to be with the family as they start their Christian journey.

It is also a privilege to support and be with families at a time of loss and grief, and a relief that the limitations of the recent past have now been removed to allow wider attendance at funerals. This year we walked alongside 8 families as we conducted funerals or burial of ashes for their loved ones both in services at St Michael's, at the Crematorium and at the Chiltern Woodland Burial Park, Jordans.

Lent, Easter, Harvest, Remembrance

Lent Course

2023's Lent discussion course used *Finding the Way through Water* by Revd Roland K Price as a focus for the discussions. This explored the role of water in the Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation and reflecting on the problems in the world, in which water plays an essential part, and how an understanding of the nature of water can increase our understanding of Christian beliefs and the world. The weekly meetings

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Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

were held over Zoom as before: this enables older members of the congregation to take part without having to come out on the dark early Spring evenings.

Easter and Holy Week

At St Michael's, Holy Week and Easter are a particularly rich time, and the full programme of services enabled the congregation to come together for worship and reflection at this crucial time in the church year. The COTHA Good Friday service on the Square was an opportunity for us to reach out not just to our brothers and sisters at Amersham Free Church but also to the wider community, being visible in a way that services inside the church are not. There was, as usual, a Lent Appeal in support of St Anne's Hospital, Liuli, more information on which is included later in this report under the heading of *Mission Giving and Appeals*.

Harvest

Details can also be found in that section of the Harvest appeal. Our celebration of Harvest coincided with the first 'Gathered Round' informal Eucharist, and donations were collected for Medic to Medic.

Remembrance

There was a Service of Remembrance in St Michael Square, including the two-minute silence at 11am, on Armistice Day, led by Fr Peter Binns. On Remembrance Sunday we marked the occasion in the usual way with the reading of 'We will remember them' and poppy petals falling into the sanctuary.

Advent & Christmas

As in 2022, our Advent and Christmas celebrations included the choir's attendance on the first Sunday of Advent, a live service of Nine Lessons and Carols, and a choral Midnight Mass. The crib service, which restarted in 2022, was again well attended. Led by our LLM, Katherine Hyde, and Rebecca Olsen, this was again one of the most joyful services of the season.

Advent Course

The 2023 Advent course, led by our LLM, Katherine, was based on *Stick with Love*, by Arun Arora (Bishop of Kirkstall), and focussed on stories told by Jesus and men and women, whose lives reflect the love of God. It explored relationships with people from around the world, who are part of the family of the Church and difficulties encountered in relationships.

Choir music, servers, welcomers

The choir's pattern of singing approximately once each month, and concentrating on the key festivals, has continued in 2023 and seems to work well. We are able by this to field a good group for the more important points in the year, rather than a smaller (and unpredictable) group more frequently. In all, the choir was 'officially' present for 15 eucharist services and the service of Nine Lessons and Carols, as well as supporting the congregation on the intervening Sundays.

In addition, in 2023 we brought back the singing on the ordinary of the Mass at 'non-choir' Sundays – the Gloria, Sanctus and Agnus Dei, as well as the Sursum Corda, gradual responses and other music. As there

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Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

are usually some choir members present to help, this has been very successful – and the congregation also join in enthusiastically.

St Michael's has always valued the role of all senses in worship, and so having the full range of liturgical colours, flowers, incense and servers is a great joy. The team of servers supports the clergy admirably, as do others who take on less visible, but very important roles such as laundering the altar linen.

We also thank the team of welcomers and sidespeople, who may be our first point of contact with new visitors. The gradual easing of restrictions have taken out some of the additional duties the team had to perform, and being able to welcome the congregation without masks has also been a pleasure.

Messy Church

Messy Church has been up and running since March 2023. It is fabulous! We have a core team of nine volunteer helpers. Last year we averaged an attendance of 26.5!!! Our highest attendance was 43 and lowest 14 (that was June so maybe early holidays were being enjoyed!).

Thanks must go to our amazing Communications officer for the advertising, information sharing and general drumming up of trade. As well as her tireless help for each session! So many thanks to Rebecca . And indeed, a very big thank you to all the volunteers who make each session joyous and fantastic. Messy Church is an immense success. The pandemic is in the past, along with the enforced break we had to take. But WE ARE BACK! Praise God.

Working with the local community

Christmas Tree Festival – raising funds for Wycombe Homeless Connection

The Festival grew by a few Trees, with a total of 28, generously sponsored by local Community Groups, some new and some perennial! The amount raised was similar to last year - well in excess of £3,000. The supporting 'Coffee, Cake and Choirs' event was much enjoyed by the 4 participating Choirs and the 'roving' audience throughout the day. Our thanks go to Alan Jarvis who broadcast the sound out to the Square and posted videos of each performance on YouTube, receiving a great many number of hits <https://www.youtube.com/@stmichaelandallangels/streams> for anyone who missed it. And huge thanks also go to all the very kind volunteers from St Michael's and Wycombe Homeless Connection, who helped with setting up, during the Festival, and clearing away.

School Governor Activity

Dr Rob Oades, who was appointed in November 2020 as a skills governor for Woodside Junior School, and whose term of office would normally have ended in summer 2024, was unfortunately forced to step down early for personal reasons. He was however able to take a role in the appointment of a new head teacher, Owen Lloyd, to replace Dorota Miller.

Deanery Synod

Amersham Deanery Synod met three times in 2023. St. Michael's was represented at all the meetings.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

The March Synod included the AGM of Amersham Deanery Trust (ADT) and was held at St George Little Chalfont. The principal topic was around community engagement. There was a talk about the Family Food Hub at St George's, which included a brief account of how St George's church was set up in the 1930s and how the area has developed since.

Following this, Revd Michael Johnson, Team Vicar with the Beaconsfield Anglican churches, described how St Thomas' Beaconsfield had been remodelled to serve as a community centre café, and how this worked with the congregation.

For the June meeting at Denham, there was a presentation by the Deanery Mission Partners Steve and Lindsey Poulson, who work with young adults in Honduras. The second speaker was Archdeaconry safeguarding officer, Tsungai Muchegwa, who explained how safeguarding has developed recently and where the church was heading in the future.

At the December Synod, held at St. James, Gerrards Cross, the Deanery Treasurer reported on the planned allocation of Parish share for the coming year, and a revised budget for ADT given the known shortfalls in Parish Share payments by parishes. Our Deanery tag to General Synod is Revd Jeremy Moodey, who presented on the past year in General Synod, and outlined some of the major issues that occurred in 2023. Amersham Deanery Mission Partners Steve and Lindsey Poulson provided a video report.

Hospitality

The team has continued to provide tea, coffee and biscuits after the 10am service on alternate Sundays and we have been delighted to welcome two new helpers. The urn is now used on a regular basis and is making life easier for those serving.

We were pleased to be able to help in the celebrations for Revd Debbie's significant birthday which was a very happy occasion. Patronal followed the same pattern as in previous years, with Prosecco and light refreshments being served.

We would like to be able to start offering refreshments every Sunday as we did in the past but ideally need more helpers to make this feasible. We would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to join us; normally this would not involve helping any more than about four times per year (fewer than this if our numbers increase).

The wider world

Mission giving and Appeals in 2023

Mission giving in 2023 was £1,500, the same as 2022, but still lower than St Michael's has traditionally given because the Church's expenditure has again exceeded income.

Three charities were each sent £500 from Church funds. They were:

- The earthquake victims support charity Samara's Aid Appeal which provides medical and humanitarian aid, currently focused on Syria. They have sent many consignments there carrying

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Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

clothes, bedding, essential medical equipment, ambulances and school equipment. They also support food farming projects and run an outreach centre for orphans and widows in Syria.

- The nature-based Lindengate charity, adjoining Dobbies Garden Centre in Wendover, which exists to improve people's mental and physical health and wellbeing through activities in horticulture, gardening, environmental conservation, heritage skills, arts and craft, woodworking and education.
- The recently established charity supporting immigrants, especially those from Ukraine, Chiltern Welcomes which aims to help refugee families settle and integrate into the local area. They find housing and provide funding until the families receive Government support. They help families register with schools and doctors, search for work, learn English, make friends and contribute to the community over time.

Appeals in 2023

There were four appeals to the congregation for donations. The charities selected each have some local connection including those which support activities abroad. There was a balance between both international and domestic charities, as follows:

- The Lent Appeal raised £1,441 (plus gift aid) for the Friends of St Anne's Hospital, Liuli, Tanzania
- An appeal at the special Coronation Service raised £250 for The Princes Trust
- The Harvest Appeal raised £845 for Medic to Medic
- The Christmas Tree Festival raised over £3,000 for Wycombe Homeless Connection which is referred to elsewhere.

We have been supporting the hospital in Liuli in a remote part of Tanzania for almost 40 years, having originally been inspired by a visit to St Michael's by Dr Sam Ndimbo, the former director of the hospital. His family are still involved with the hospital which is in need of repairs to its water supply. There is an expectation that the Tanzanian government will become more involved with funding in future.

It was felt only fitting to select The Princes Trust – soon to be renamed The King's Trust – for donations at the Coronation Service held at St Michael's. The Trust is a UK-based charity founded in 1976 by the then Prince of Wales to help vulnerable young people get their lives on track through developing skills and finding work.

The Harvest Appeal charity was Medic to Medic, whose main aim is to guarantee tuition fees and expenses, and medical equipment and books for healthcare students in Africa, especially in Malawi, who have academic potential, but are in financial need. Following the devastating cyclone there in 2023, they have also organised much-needed assistance with shipments of essentials collected locally. The CEO of the charity is Dr Tamsin Lillie, who grew up in Amersham. Kate Lillie, a key volunteer, and Tamsin's mother, came to St Michael's to give a short talk about the charity.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

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Mission giving 2023	£	£
Samara's Aid	£500	
Total overseas mission		£500
Lindengate	£500	
Chiltern Welcomes	£500	
Total home mission		£1,000
Total mission giving		£1,500

Traidcraft Stall

Early in 2023 we learned that Traidcraft had called in the administrators and were no longer trading. For a while we were able to continue with the monthly stalls, selling surplus stock held by our local supplier. Over the summer months Margaret Dykes identified alternative suppliers of ethical and fairly traded products and one of our new suppliers is True Origin who work directly with a network of small-holder farmers and producers in the global south. This partnership provides sustainable incomes, enabling farmers and producers to invest in equipment, education, infrastructure and environmental protection. As a result of the efforts made on our behalf, the range of products on the stall is steadily increasing month by month. Many thanks to Margaret for her help and all who support our monthly stalls.

Pastoral Care

Prayer Chain

St Michael's Prayer Chain members have continued to pray, in our own homes, for people who have requested prayers (both St Michael's members and for people who are known to them). This ministry has been continuing throughout the last three years on a confidential basis. We would welcome new members.

Safeguarding

Appropriate safeguarding training for all those who may come into contact with vulnerable adults and/or children, within the work of the parish has been brought up to date. As mentioned last year this is a Diocesan requirement, an insurance requirement and a necessity for St Michael's safeguarding policy. Many thanks go to Cathy Franklin, our Safeguarding Officer and Alan Jarvis our Safeguarding Assistant who work to ensure the training is done by those who need it. Thanks too to Hazel Miller who oversees the DBS checks. These requirements are an ongoing process and will require constant updating.

Office and communications

The office remains open four days per week with the Administrator working off site on the fifth day, to allow for the completion of tasks which are best done uninterrupted.

As the figures show, bookings for the Hall, Church rooms and Square have reached an all-time high this year, putting a correspondingly high demand on the Administrator's time. With this in mind, we recruited

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Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

a Communications Officer in late 2022, to take on some of the other tasks such as preparing and circulating weekly notices and the monthly Newsletter, has proved a great benefit.

This development has also allowed the church to be more active in maintaining the website, noticeboards, and other outward facing communications channels. While it is difficult to be certain what impact this has, the fact that we had 24 new 'joiners' in 2023 would seem to indicate that our public profile is growing.

SHARING OUR RESOURCES

Amersham Deanery

As part of the established church, St Michael's benefits from the support of the wider church, through Oxford Diocese and Amersham Deanery, and we are glad to give support back in our turn.

Social events and activities

Tuesday Club

During the last year, we have had one major event, our seventh holiday in Halifax. This was most successful, and everyone really enjoyed it.

The holiday took place from July 7th to 12th. We travelled by coach and stayed at the Holiday Inn, Brighouse for five nights, Friday to Wednesday.

On the Saturday, we had an outing to Bolton Abbey, set in stunning surroundings, and afterwards had a trip on the Embsay and Bolton Abbey Railway with a fish and chip lunch.

On the Sunday, we attended the Sung Eucharist in Halifax Minster, a beautiful church, where we received a warm welcome. We returned to the hotel for a very nice buffet lunch and then returned to the Minster for Songs of Praise outside (the weather was good!), accompanied by the Elland Silver Band.

On the Monday, we visited Shibden Hall, the home of Anne Lister, featured in the series Gentleman Jack. Shibden Hall is set in a lovely park, where we had lunch, and then went into Halifax, where there is plenty to see and do, including the Piece Hall, which dates from 1779 and is the last remaining cloth hall, where weavers, who produced their pieces of cloth at home, came to sell their products. The Piece Hall has now been fully restored, and now contains bars, restaurants, shops, a visitor centre and the local library and resource centre. Our people also enjoyed shopping in the independent department store and the covered market, which now in undergoing extensive restoration, and the fine Town Hall, the architect of which was Sir Charles Barry, famous for his work on the Houses of Parliament. Afterwards, we had a quick trip to see the Gibbet, where Fr Peter had to pretend to have his head chopped off!!

On the Tuesday, we had an excursion to the Wensleydale Creamery, where there was a demonstration of Wensleydale cheese making (by a man who originated from Chesham Bois!), a delicious lunch and tour of the shop and visitor centre.

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Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

On the last day, we went to Hebden Bridge, a former textile town, which is now a Pennine Tourist town with shops, cafés and bars and a good view of the Rochdale Canal and the River Calder, surrounded by the imposing Pennine mountains. We then returned to the Piece Hall in Halifax for an incredible lunch in the Trading Rooms.

This brought to an end a great holiday, which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Pop In and Paint 2023

Pop in and Paint continues to go from strength to strength and most months we have at least 30 people joining us. We can't believe that we started with just 8 people back in 2012. We are so proud that many of our original members are still with us, and we are also welcoming new members every month. We are getting a little worried that we will run out of space, but we always manage to squeeze another chair in! We are completely self-funded apart from the donations that our members contribute towards refreshments and this is used to buy new materials and paints.

Once again, we sponsored a tree for the Christmas Tree Festival at St Michael's and our members enjoyed creating some beautiful work to hang on it!

Wise Choices Film Club

The film club has been established since 2010. The purpose of the club is to enable those who would prefer to go out during daylight hours, to watch films old and newish! We meet in the Wheeler Room on the first Friday of the month during the winter months (September to April, 2-4pm). In a friendly environment we enjoy refreshments after the film and more often than not the film is discussed.

We are delighted that numbers have gone up, with a regular group of around fifteen people attending the screenings. They are a very jolly and appreciative group!

The audience is split roughly 50:50 between members of St Michael's and other members of the community. Voluntary donations are received and passed on to a chosen charity at the end of the film season.

Thanks go, as ever, to Isabel Wise for all the organisation that goes into running the club.

Bucks Art Weeks

During June 2023 the local art group, Simpatico, once again held their two week exhibition of work as part of the county-wide Bucks Art Weeks. This year Jenny Thompson and Liz Grammenos were joined by artists Madeleine Fletcher and Barbara Spruytenburg. This proved to be a very successful mix which brought a cacophony of colour and a large number of visitors into the church (over 900!!) Not to mention an atmosphere of creativity and joy! A healthy number of sales resulted in them raising £458 for St Michael's and the same amount again for their chosen charity, Lindengate.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

Buildings – church, hall and St Michael’s Square

Our buildings, situated in the centre of Amersham-on-the-Hill, are an important resource for the local community. We were delighted to welcome once again the Simpatico art exhibition for two weeks in June, the Amersham Photographic Society for their annual exhibition for a week in September and Cards for Good Causes in the lead up to Christmas. The Repair Café meets bimonthly in the church as part of Sustainable Amersham. All attracted a substantial number of visitors. We look forward to welcoming these groups again in 2024.

For more than 30 years the Beehive Montessori School has been based in the church hall and in September the owner, Lyndsey Nelson made the very hard decision to close at the end of the autumn term. We are pleased that in 2024, Little Learners Nursery opened on 15th April for 2 days a week and will then open every day from September. This will be run by Katy Young who lives locally and recently moved from being a headteacher to setting up the nursery.

There are five regular support groups who use the hall and church on a weekly basis and another providing children’s tuition three days a week during term time, The large space in the hall was used by the Beehive Montessori School and for badminton, fitness classes and dance schools. It is popular for children’s parties, especially at weekends. An increasing number of groups, offering similar activities, meet in the Glover Room behind the main hall. Local music groups use various rooms in the church and hall for rehearsals and performances.

St Michael’s Square, in front of the church, is being increasingly used for community events such as the Amersham Town Council environment action day in June and the Amersham Refugee week also in June. In December, Father Christmas visited as part of the Amersham Action Group’s Christmas Fair. We look forward to hosting similar events in 2024.

In July a Public Consultation Leaflet was received outlining the proposals for the redevelopment of St Michaels Court, Amersham. The site shares a border with the church and church hall. The leaflet included a comment that the development proposals had taken careful consideration of the relationships between the proposed development and the church as well as with surrounding buildings and neighbouring residents. Two meetings were held with the developer for the most part to discuss the proposals at the shared border. A planning application is expected shortly after Easter 2024.

While our buildings are an asset, they also require constant care and maintenance. We are custodians of these buildings for the future and take this responsibility seriously. The Quinquennial Inspection in 2022 identified some works, which are spread over the five-year cycle, and other tasks are undertaken as necessary to comply with regulations. This essential work is overseen by the buildings committee, to whom we are indebted for their time and expertise.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

FINANCE

Review of the year

2023 has again been a challenging year, and we have once more reached the end of the financial year with a deficit. This has increased slightly since 2022, which is disappointing, but there are some specific reasons for this.

Voluntary income has held very steady, totalling £82.7k against 2022's £81.6k, but in 2023 we did not receive any legacies (2022: £5k). However, hire income has reached its highest very point at £46k, up from £35k in 2022, and overall unrestricted income has increased by £10k. This year, too, the Tuesday Club was able to hold some activities and so income is shown for that (as well as expenditure).

Details of the breakdown of income are shown in note 2.

Unrestricted expenditure for the year has increased by almost £17k, due mainly to increased energy costs. These impacted less on 2022 as we were still within contracts negotiated before the major price increases: the new prices hit us from late 2022 and early 2023 and accounted for over £11.5k of the increased unrestricted expenditure. Thankfully, costs are now reducing again with new deals negotiated going forward. Other contributing factors include the employment of a Communications Officer (from late 2022, showing for a full year in 2023), the inclusion of the Tuesday Club's expenditure, and smaller increases in costs for services and the associated music. Note 3 shows more detail on expenditure.

2023 also saw the end of the HS2 funded project, and a second project to completely repaint the church hall. Both of these were approximately cost-neutral, with both income and expenditure being channeled through the restricted Projects Fund.

As mentioned above, we finished 2023 with a significant deficit. We have launched a major appeal in early 2024 to encourage higher regular giving among the congregation, and hope that this will help us reach financial equilibrium in the near future. So far, the response has been encouraging, and we are deeply grateful to all the congregation for their support, both past and future.

	2023	2022
	£	£
Deficit on church activities and fund raising	(15,795)	(14,910)
Legacies	-	5,000
Realised gains on investment disposals	227	-
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investment assets	1,335	(10,358)
Net surplus/(deficit)	<u>(14,233)</u>	<u>(20,268)</u>

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

Reserves policy

The PCC aims to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which is sufficient to meet expenditure for the following 6 months, taking into account planned maintenance, commitments to employees and the expected level of the Parish Share. The level of reserves at 31st December 2023 is considered adequate for this.

Risk management

The PCC has conducted a review of the major risks to which St Michael's is exposed. A risk register has been established and is updated at least annually.

As part of this, our safeguarding policy is reviewed and approved annually in line with diocesan requirements and guidelines. DBS checks are reviewed annually for all those coming into contact with vulnerable adults and children, and are renewed on a rolling four year cycle. Appropriate training is given from within the parish and through external providers as deemed necessary.

CONCLUSION FROM THE PCC

Inevitably any review of 2023 is affected by the absence of our Vicar, as a result of ill health, from the end of September 2023 through to the end of December 2023, and beyond.

We must particularly thank Fr Peter Binns, for stepping into the breach in Revd Debbie's enforced absence. He and our new LLM Katherine have worked tirelessly to keep things going as our vicar would want – but we are all looking forward to when she can return and take back command.

In addition, we would like to express heartfelt thanks to everyone in the congregation who undertakes so much to make St Michaels a vibrant community where we live out our Mission goals.

Although we have been without Revd Debbie for the last part of the year, we have not stood still. As referred to above, we have been very fortunate in the way Fr Peter has preached and presided at so many of our services. We have also been fortunate in the assistance which we have received from other clergy, including the Archdeacon of Buckingham, the Venerable Guy Elsmore, the Associate Archdeacon of Buckingham, the Revd Canon Chris Bull, the Area Dean, Revd Peggy Ludlow, and the former Rector of St Mary's, Old Amersham, the Revd Canon Tim Harper. In addition, Katherine, as our LLM, has become increasingly involved in our worship and our other activities. Messy Church has thrived under the leadership of lay members of the congregation. A rota of three lay members of the congregation has stepped in to lead 9 am Morning Prayer on Tuesday mornings. Our music has continued to be very much part of our worship, with both choir-days and the presence of choir members on non-choir days.

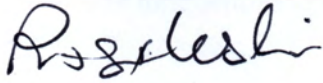
2022 was in many ways a year of consolidation, and 2023 has opened up some new opportunities – as well as closing off some other avenues. The community groups change and develop, because the needs of the wider community in Amersham change and develop: we are happy to be a part of that. Being able to welcome a significant number of new 'joiners' into the congregation has been a particular joy this year, and the record amount received for hall and church hire also testifies to our becoming better known – and

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

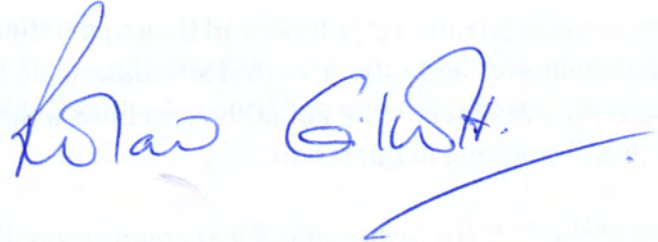
Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

our facilities better used! And in turn that shows that we are getting better at facing out towards the wider community, not just inward to the existing congregation.

On behalf of the PCC



Roger Leslie
Church Warden



Roland Gillott
Church Warden

4.4.2024

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Statement of Council Members' Responsibilities

The members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the PCC's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing accounts giving a true and fair view, the members should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Church will continue in operation.

The members of the PCC are responsible for keeping accounting records which both disclose with reasonable accuracy and enable them to ascertain the financial position of the PCC and which enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Statement of Recommended Practice on Accounting and Reporting by Charities SORP (FRS102) and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the PCC and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

FOR AND BEHALF OF THE PCC



Roger Leslie
Church Warden

4.4.2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of the Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

This report on the accounts of the Parochial Church Council ('PCC') for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 21 to 33 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility:

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

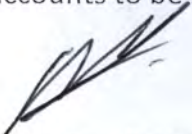
Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as members of the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act have not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mark Blackwell ACMA
MHR Consultancy Ltd
Ferneberga House
Alexandra Road
Farnborough
GU14 6DQ

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total funds	
					2023 £	2022 £
Income and Endowments						
Voluntary giving	2a	82,692	28,001	-	110,693	145,762
Activities for generating funds	2b	46,120	-	-	46,120	35,342
Church activities	2c	6,306	-	-	6,306	2,045
Income from investments	2d	840	3,106	-	3,946	4,169
Other incoming resources	2e	-	-	-	-	-
Total income and endowments		135,958	31,107	-	167,065	187,318
Expenditure						
Grants - Mission giving	3a	1,500	-	-	1,500	1,500
Church activities	3b	149,527	31,833	-	181,360	195,728
Total expenditure		151,027	31,833	-	182,860	197,228
Net income and incoming endowments before investment gains and losses		(15,069)	(726)	-	(15,795)	(9,910)
Gains & losses on investment assets, on disposals and on revaluation	5b	1,672	(211)	101	1,562	(10,358)
Net movement in Funds		(13,397)	(937)	101	(14,233)	(20,268)
Transfers between funds		1,312	(1,312)	-	-	-
Balances brought forward		121,928	262,897	2,192	387,017	407,285
Balances carried forward		109,843	260,648	2,293	372,784	387,017

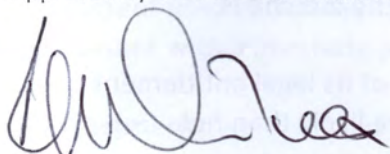
Notes 1 to 24 form part of these accounts

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

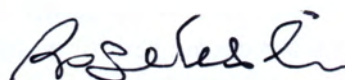
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible fixed assets	5a	271,213	271,333
Investment Assets	5b	85,209	93,647
		356,422	364,980
Current Assets			
Debtors	6	6,208	4,217
Short term deposits		10,645	17,263
Cash at bank and in hand		8,100	8,949
		24,953	30,429
Liabilities			
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	7	(8,591)	(8,392)
		16,362	22,037
Net current assets		372,784	387,017
Total net assets		372,784	387,017
Parish Funds			
	9		
Unrestricted		109,843	121,928
Restricted		260,648	262,897
Endowment		2,293	2,192
		372,784	387,017

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on *4 April 2024* and signed on its behalf by:



Rachel Wilcox, Treasurer



Roger Leslie, Church Warden

Notes 1 to 24 form part of these accounts

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

1. Accounting Policies

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions, together with FRS102 (2017) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2017 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP (2017)).

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

a) Funds

Endowment funds are permanent endowments and bequests of capital used to generate income for restricted funds.

Restricted funds are funds which can only be used for particular purposes as specified by the donor or funds raised for particular restricted purposes.

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.

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. The group for which the PCC are responsible in law is St Michael's Tuesday Club.

b) Income and Endowments

Voluntary income and capital sources

- i) Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.
- ii) Planned Giving under gift aid is recognised only when received.
- iii) Income tax recoverable on covenants or gift aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.
- iv) Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due can be measured reliably and its receipt by the PCC is more likely than not.
- v) Funds raised by events are accounted for gross.

Other ordinary income

Rental income from the letting of premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains and losses are recognised when investments are sold.

Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on the revaluation of investments on 31st December 2023.

c) Expenditure

General Expenditure

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis, inclusive of VAT, which is not recoverable.

Grants

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

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The parish share is accounted for when payable.

d) Land and buildings

Land and buildings are included at cost less depreciation of the buildings over fifty years. The church, hall, vicarage and site are held by the Diocese of Oxford as Custodian Trustee of St Michael Charity, a permanent trust established in 1973 of which the PCC are managing trustees. Under the terms of the Trust, land and buildings must be used as they currently are being used. Information as to the cost of these buildings and site is not available. As the land has been held for ecclesiastical purposes for many years and the buildings constructed in 1966 would now be substantially depreciated, the property is included in the financial statements at a value of £nil. In 2007 an extension was added to the vicarage. This is included in the financial statements at a cost of £34,916 and is not depreciated as the residual value of the vicarage at 31 December 2023 is expected to exceed this sum. In 2013 work was completed on developing St Michael's Square and this is included in the financial statements at a cost of £235,940 and is not depreciated as the residual value at 31 December 2023 is expected to exceed this sum.

e) Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated at 25% reducing balance. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

f) Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December 2023.

g) Current assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December 2023 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 either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

2.	Income and endowments	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
2a.	Voluntary giving					
	Planned Giving:					
	Gift Aid donations	61,959	9,000	-	70,959	78,914
	Tax recoverable	15,017	2,375	-	17,392	17,787
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
		76,976	11,375	-	88,351	96,701
	Collections (open plate)	3,397	-	-	3,397	1,900
	Donations, appeals etc	2,319	-	-	2,319	1,732
	Grants	-	16,626	-	16,626	40,429
	Legacies	-	-	-	-	5,000
		82,692	28,001	-	110,693	145,762
2b.	Activities for generating funds					
	Lettings: Church hall	40,985	-	-	40,985	31,977
	Church	4,895	-	-	4,895	3,060
	St Michael Square	240	-	-	240	305
		46,120	-	-	46,120	35,342
2c.	Church activities					
	Tuesday Club	2,733	-	-	2,733	-
	Fees for weddings, funerals etc	3,458	-	-	3,458	1,490
	Donations from church drop-in groups	5	-	-	5	314
	Other income	110	-	-	110	241
		6,306	-	-	6,306	2,045
2d.	Income from investments					
	Dividends	721	2,920	-	3,641	3,920
	Interest	119	186	-	305	249
		840	3,106	-	3,946	4,169
2e.	Other incoming resources					
	Insurance claims	-	-	-	-	-
	Other income	-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Total income and endowments	135,958	31,107	-	167,065	187,318

Income for 2022 was received as unrestricted funds £126,067, restricted funds £61,251 and endowment funds £nil.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

3. Expenditure	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
3a. Grants - Mission giving					
Overseas - missionary societies	500	-	-	500	500
Home mission & other societies	1,000	-	-	1,000	1,000
	1,500	-	-	1,500	1,500
3b. Church activities					
Ministry: Parish Share	69,097	-	-	69,097	71,942
clergy expenses	1,087	-	-	1,087	690
Sabbatical	-	-	-	-	-
other clergy costs	2,794	-	-	2,794	2,317
	72,978	-	-	72,978	74,949
Services	2,319	-	-	2,319	1,441
Cost of organist, choirmaster & choir	3,404	-	-	3,404	2,965
Parish magazine & bookstall	294	-	-	294	149
Tuesday Club	1,830	-	-	1,830	-
Fees paid over to the Diocese	1,049	-	-	1,049	1,010
Other fees and licences	446	-	-	446	640
Community outreach and events	461	-	-	461	266
Church running costs	21,725	147	-	21,872	15,168
Church repairs and general maintenance	576	2,608	-	3,184	5,819
Planned maintenance projects:					
- Hall and Square renewal (HS2)	-	20,850	-	20,850	58,174
- Hall painting	-	7,300	-	7,300	-
Depreciation of equipment	55	65	-	120	159
Hall running costs	21,088	863	-	21,951	14,729
Support costs	22,888	-	-	22,888	19,606
Bank charges	236	-	-	236	226
Costs of generating funds	-	-	-	-	-
Other costs	178	-	-	178	427
	149,527	31,833	-	181,360	195,728
Total expenditure	151,027	31,833	-	182,860	197,228

Support costs include the salary of the parish secretary and the costs of running the church office.

Expenditure for 2022 was met from unrestricted funds £134,054, restricted funds £63,415 and endowment funds £nil.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

4.	Staff costs	2023	2022
		£	£
	Wages and salaries	34,146	29,439
	Social security costs	-	-
		34,146	29,439

5a.	Fixed assets for use by the PCC	Land and buildings	Other	Total
		£	£	£
	Actual/deemed cost			
	at 1 January 2023	270,856	5,009	275,865
	Additions at cost	-	-	-
	Disposals	-	-	-
	at 31 December 2023	270,856	5,009	275,865
	Depreciation			
	at 1 January 2023	-	(4,532)	(4,532)
	Withdrawn on disposals	-	-	-
	Charge for the year	-	(120)	(120)
	at 31 December 2023	-	(4,652)	(4,652)
	Net book value			
	at 31 December 2023	270,856	357	271,213
	at 31 December 2022	270,856	477	271,333

The church, church hall, vicarage and site are held by the Diocese of Oxford as Custodian Trustee of St Michael Charity which is a permanent trust established in November 1973. An extension to the vicarage is included at cost above as expenditure on the redesign of the church entrance and on St Michael's Square. In both cases the cost is not depreciated. Otherwise information as to the cost of these buildings and site is not available and they are included at nil cost above.

5b.	Investment assets	Market value	Sale proceeds	Gain/ (loss)	Market value
	Movements in the year	1 Jan 2023			31 Dec 2023
		£	£	£	£
	CBF Fixed Interest Securities	49,561	(10,000)	2,598	42,159
	M&G Charifund	44,086	-	(1,036)	43,050
				-	
		93,647	(10,000)	1,562	85,209
	Historical cost				
		1 Jan 2023		31 Dec 2023	
		Shares/units	Cost	Shares/units	Cost
			£		£
	CBF Fixed Interest Securities	36,279	58,979	29,125	47,349
	M&G Charifund	3,000	2,526	3,000	2,526

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

6.	Debtors	2023	2022		
		£	£		
	Tax recoverable	480	368		
	Prepayments and accrued income	1,467	1,306		
	Other debtors	4,261	2,543		
		6,208	4,217		
7.	Liabilities: amounts falling due within one year	2023	2022		
		£	£		
	Accruals and deferred income	(1,059)	(1,483)		
	Creditors for goods and services	(7,532)	(6,909)		
		(8,591)	(8,392)		
8.	Analysis of net assets by fund as at 31 December 2023				
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total
		£	£	£	£
	Tangible fixed assets	77,723	193,490	-	271,213
	Fixed asset investments	20,196	63,225	1,788	85,209
	Current assets - debtors	6,208	-	-	6,208
	Current assets - deposits	6,207	3,933	505	10,645
	Current assets - cash at bank and in hand	8,100	-	-	8,100
	Current liabilities	(8,591)	-	-	(8,591)
	Fund balances	109,843	260,648	2,293	372,784

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

9. Analysis of Fund Movements

	1 Jan 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains/ (losses)	31 Dec 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds:						
Designated						
Tuesday Club	3,274	2,733	(1,830)	-	-	4,177
St Michael's Vicarage	34,916	-	-	-	-	34,916
St Michael's Square	42,643	-	-	-	-	42,643
Pastoral Support	13,657	458	-	(10,000)	836	4,951
Buildings and Projects	9,777	391	-	(10,000)	836	1,004
Youth Activities	3,979	213	(545)	-	-	3,647
Sabbatical	814	7	-	-	-	821
Music	1,003	41	-	1,312	-	2,356
	110,063	3,843	(2,375)	(18,688)	1,672	94,515
Undesignated						
General Fund	11,865	132,115	(148,652)	20,000	-	15,328
Total Unrestricted Funds	121,928	135,958	(151,027)	1,312	1,672	109,843
Restricted Funds:						
Trust Income	12,734	285	(3,618)	(1,312)	500	8,589
Spiritual Development	6,501	159	-	-	-	6,660
St Michael Charity	49,739	2,648	-	-	(711)	51,676
St Michael's Square	193,297	-	-	-	-	193,297
St Michael's Project	626	28,015	(28,215)	-	-	426
Total Restricted Funds	262,897	31,107	(31,833)	(1,312)	(211)	260,648
Endowment Funds:						
Ellen Motion Fund	2,192	-	-	-	101	2,293
Total Endowment Funds	2,192	-	-	-	101	2,293
Total of all Funds	387,017	167,065	(182,860)	-	1,562	372,784

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

10. St Michael Charity

The St Michael Charity was established in November 1973 as part of a Scheme approved by the Charity Commissioners of England and Wales. As part of that Scheme, St Michael Charity acquired the land and buildings thereon, namely St Michael's Church, St Michael's Church Hall and the vicarage together with a share of the accumulated income allocated under the Scheme. The investments of St Michael Charity are included in these Financial Statements at Note 5b.

11. Bankers

HSBC, High Wycombe, and TSB Bank plc, Leeds, are the PCC's bankers. Additionally, Barclays Bank plc acts as banker for St Michael's Tuesday Club. The PCC also has funds on deposit with the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England.

12. Funds

The Charities Act distinguishes between 'restricted' funds, which are funds or endowments given to the PCC for a particular purpose and which can only be used for that purpose, and 'unrestricted' funds which are available for the general purposes of the PCC and may be designated by the PCC. The PCC make transfers between funds when expenditure of a restricted or designated nature is to be met from more than one type of fund. The maximum level of these transfers is agreed by the PCC prior to the expenditure. On 24 March 2006, the Charity Commission confirmed that the funds of St Michael Charity do not constitute permanent endowment but are restricted funds.

Unrestricted funds designated by the PCC:

i) St Michael's Vicarage

This fund includes expenditure on the vicarage extension in 2007.

ii) St Michael's Square

This fund includes expenditure on the redesign of the church entrance and on St Michael's Square met from unrestricted funds.

iii) Pastoral Support

This fund is for support for the Vicar in her pastoral work, including outreach activities. It holds investments in CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund and cash deposits.

iv) Buildings and Projects

This fund is for larger and capital projects relating to the church and hall buildings. It holds investments in CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund and cash deposits.

v) Youth Activities

This fund is for support for youth activities within St Michael's, including but not limited to Messy Church. It includes funds formerly held in the Spiritual Development fund and the Miss M.E. Blake legacy. It holds cash deposits.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

vi) Sabbatical

This fund is to provide support for sabbatical study for the Vicar. A grant was agreed, and paid, in 2019. From 2020 onwards it will be gradually increased each year to provide for a future sabbatical. It holds cash deposits.

vii) Music

This fund was established with a designated donation, to provide for exceptional items required in relation to music in the church. It holds cash deposits.

Unrestricted Funds which have not been designated by the PCC

viii) General Fund

This fund holds the accumulated surplus in cash, deposits and CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund and is used in conjunction with the PCC's cash operating accounts. It also holds expenditure on fixed assets (other than buildings) and on investments acquired with unrestricted funds.

Restricted Funds of the PCC

ix) Trust Income account

This fund receives income from St Michael Charity to be used for expenditure on the buildings in accordance with the trust deed. In 2023 a transfer was made to move income previously credited to the St Michael Charity fund to this fund.

x) St Michael Charity

St Michael Charity was established in November 1973 and is invested to provide income with dividends and interest being paid to the Trust Income account. As for some years the income had been credited to the St Michael Charity fund, a transfer (as noted above) has been made to correct this.

xi) Spiritual Development Fund

This fund is for the young people of St Michael's and receives income from the Ellen Motion Memorial Fund from which it originated.

xii) St Michael's Square

This fund represents expenditure on the redesign of the church entrance and on St Michael's Square met from restricted funds.

xiii) The St Michael's Project Fund

This fund was established in 2014 for restricted income, and matched expenditure, on specific projects – initially, for replacement seating, and then in 2015 and 2019 for the refurbishment of the church organ. In 2020 the fund was used for the hall improvement project, with matched expenditure charged to that fund. During 2023 the fund received income, with matched expenditure, in relation to the HS2 project, with the final income and expenditure amounts in 2023.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

Endowment Funds

xiv) Ellen Motion Memorial Fund

This fund is a permanent endowment invested to produce restricted income which is to be used for the spiritual development of the young people of St Michael's. By an addendum signed on 17 November 1997, it was agreed that income from the fund could be used to support payments to a voluntary youth worker.

13. Accruals

All amounts included in the financial statements are shown on an accruals basis. Where amounts have been received in advance such as for rental income, the amount relating to future periods has been deferred. Amounts invoiced but unpaid at the year end are included in creditors and estimates for costs relating to the year are included in accruals. At 31 December 2023, the PCC had a claimable income tax rebate of £480 (2022: £368). A summary of all debtors and creditors at the year end is shown at Notes 6 and 7 to the Accounts.

14. Tuesday Club

The Tuesday Club plans its events each year to break even with revenue from participants intended to meet the costs of such events. Revenue for the year was £2,733 (2022: £nil) with costs for the year of £1,830 (2022: £nil).

15. Ex-gratia payments

In addition to the missionary and charitable giving listed in item 3a) of the accounts, ex-gratia payments valued at £nil were made during 2023 (2022: £nil).

16. Staff costs

During the year, the PCC employed a church secretary, a communications officer, a warden and a church cleaner. The average number of employees was 4. The organists were self-employed and payments to them are not included in Staff costs.

17. Incumbent's expenses

The vicar Debbie Oades was reimbursed expenses totalling £1,087 (2022: £690) as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Travel expenses	-	-
Vicarage telephone and internet	1,087	690
Other expenses	-	-
	<u>£1,087</u>	<u>£690</u>

Expenses of £2,794 (2022: £2,317) were reimbursed to other ministers.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

18. Insurance

The PCC has insured itself with the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group for many years and the policy is inflation linked. From March 2023 cover of the buildings was provided at the following levels:

Church	£6,650,000 (2022: £5,910,000)
Hall	£3,330,000 (2022: £2,960,000)

19. Mission Giving

As noted in the Annual Report, in 2023 the PCC took the hard decision to suspend the policy of allocating 10% of its voluntary income to Overseas Missions and 5% to Home Missions. A flat sum was instead allocated. This policy will be kept under review.

20. Loans and guarantees

No loans or guarantees have been secured against any of the PCC's assets.

21. Contingent liabilities

There are no contingent liabilities.

22. Related party transactions

The church benefits from the services of family members of the PCC, whose skills are used in various roles as noted below. In each case the connected PCC member takes no part in setting specific terms for the appointment and the terms of such appointments are no better than those offered to unconnected parties. Further details are given in the table below.

Person	Role	Connected to	Nature of connection	£
Andrew Leslie	Organist	Roger Leslie	Son	£1,140
Stephen Wilcox	Organist	Rachel Wilcox	Husband	£1,530
Rachel Wilcox	Organist		PCC member	£540
Hazel Miller	Administrator		Ex officio PCC member	£14,029

No other payments or expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties.

23. Grants

	2023 £	2022 £
HS2 Project	16,626	39,474
Total grants	<u>16,626</u>	<u>39,474</u>

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

24. Quinquennial examination

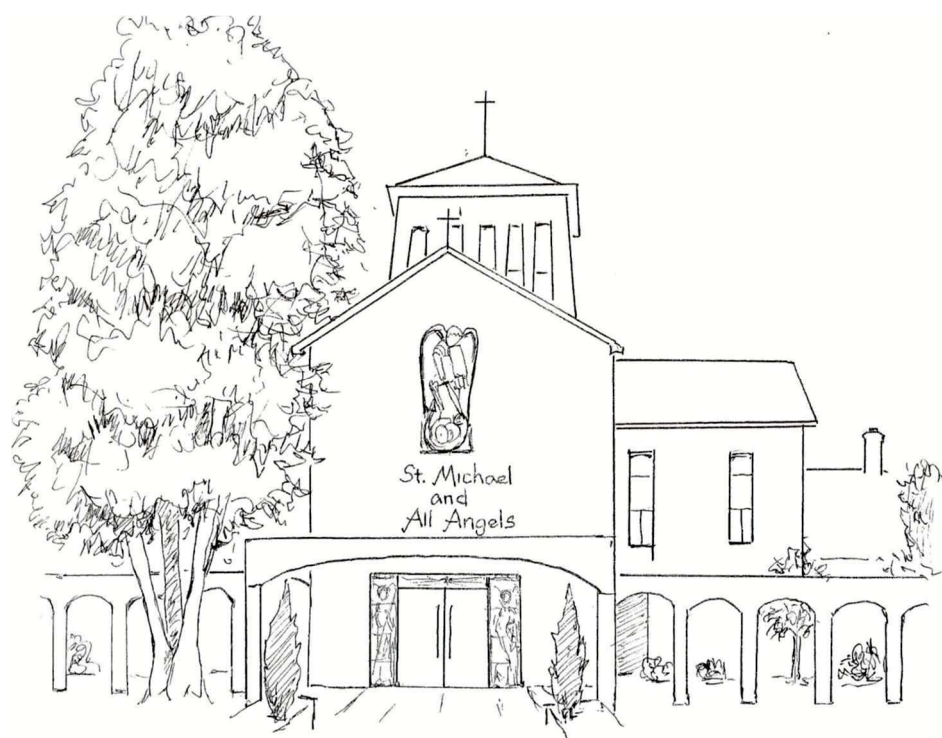
An Architect's Quinquennial Survey was completed in March 2023, and the Report received in May 2023. The Buildings Committee is reviewing the report and will advise the PCC on a programme of works. A full electrical survey has also been completed and its recommendations will also be reviewed, with recommendations to the PCC. Specialist contractors will be engaged where necessary.

Accounts

**Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels,
Amersham on the Hill**

Registered Charity No. 1129139

**ANNUAL REPORT
and
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
of the
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
for the year ended 31 December 2022**



St Michael's Vision Statement:

*As a Christian community we seek to engage with the world around us
and to be a place of welcome and acceptance for all on a journey to
God – believers, doubters and those who are seeking.*

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

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Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Legal and administrative information for the year ended 31 December 2022

Name of the charity

The full name of the charity is The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham. The charity is registered with the Charity Commissioners of England and Wales and its registration number is 1129139.

Objects

The objects of the charity are as set out in the governing document issued by the Church of England. The PCC has adopted the objects clause of that governing document, the wording of which is given below.

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

In adopting and applying these objects, the trustees have regard to the guidance of the Charity Commission on Public Benefit.

Incumbent

Revd Debbie Oades
St Michael's Church
70 Sycamore Road
Amersham

Bank

HSBC
Corn Market
High Wycombe

TSB Bank plc
PO Box 373
Leeds

Independent Examiner

Mark Blackwell (ACMA)
MHR Consultancy Ltd
Ferneberga House
Alexandra Road
Farnborough
GU14 6DQ

Principal office

The principal office of the charity is 70 Sycamore Road, Amersham, Buckinghamshire HP6 5DR.

Average Church Attendance

The figures are calculated on average attendance during October 2022.

Weekly attendance	60 adults, no children
Messy Church	No services held

Electoral Roll Data

As at 31 December 2022 the total number on the Electoral Roll was 101.

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham was registered with the Central Register of Charities on 15 April 2009. The trustees of the charity are members of the PCC and decisions of the trustees are made at PCC. New trustees are appointed on personal recommendation of the PCC.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Legal and administrative information for the year ended 31 December 2022

New PCC members are encouraged to attend diocesan or other training courses to help them in their responsibilities, and given access to previous PCC minutes and documents and to Charity Commission guidance for trustees.

Trustees

Members of the PCC are the trustees of the charity and are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The members of the PCC who served during 2022:

Ex Officio

Debbie Oades	Vicar
Peter Binns	Associate Priest (co-opted 15 th May 2022)
Roger Leslie	Church Warden
Roland Gillott	Church Warden

Elected Members

Rachel Wilcox	Treasurer
Ann Beattie	
Andy Connor (appointed 15 th May 2022)	
Kiki Connor (resigned 15 th May 2022)	
Cathy Franklin	
Ian Guest (died 10 th November 2022)	
Rachel Hill	
Rosie Marciniak	
Rolande Mélisse-Merrifield	

Deanery Synod Representatives (ex officio)

Cathy Franklin
Hazel Miller

Most PCC meetings continued to be via Zoom throughout 2022, but there was an 'in person' meeting in September. The Council met six times during the calendar year. The average attendance was 9.7 out of a possible 13, (75%) There were some occasions when members were unable to access the online meetings due to technological problems although they had intended to be present. An extra meeting (included in the figures above) took place in March when PCC members were briefed by Lawrence Tebboth, Lay Chair of Amersham Deanery Synod about the visit of the Bishop of Oxford to the deanery in May.

The agenda for all regular meetings included an item on Vision, focussing on how the church is meeting the objectives set out in our Mission Plan. Reports from the Treasurer; the Buildings Committee, on matters relating to fabric and hire of the church and hall; and the Safeguarding team also formed part of the standard agenda. Other matters requiring annual attention such as confirmation of appointments to various roles; review of policies and approval of recommended mission-giving allocations were dealt with during the course of the year.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Legal and administrative information for the year ended 31 December 2022

The Standing Committee met online as and when necessary between PCC meetings, with any urgent matters being resolved by e-mail or telephone. A **standing committee** of trustees has power to transact business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any instructions given by the PCC.

The members of the standing committee who served during 2022 were:

Revd Debbie Oades – Vicar
Roland Gillott
Rachel Hill
Roger Leslie
Rachel Wilcox

The PCC is also the Managing Trustee of the St Michael Charity. The Custodian Trustee is Diocesan Trustees (Oxford) Ltd. The property of the Charity consists of St Michael's Square fronting on to Sycamore Road together with the buildings thereon, namely, the Church, the Church Hall and the Vicarage. The Charity also has investments, the income from which may only be applied to the upkeep and repair of the property owned by the Charity.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Our central purpose is summed up in our Vision Statement: “As a Christian community we seek to engage with the world around us and to be a place of welcome and acceptance for all on a journey to God – believers, doubters and those who are seeking.” This report seeks to show how we have interpreted this mission during the year under review.

Looking inward, looking outward

Mission Action Plan

Our Mission Action Plan (“MAP”) sets out our vision for 2018 – 2023.

Inevitably, the pandemic over the last three years has caused an interruption to our plans. However it has also opened up new opportunities.

In the first two years, using SoundCloud to broadcast audio services allowed us to keep in touch with the congregation and – in some form – share our worship, and also reach out to past members of the congregation who have moved away and even to others who had previously not known of St Michaels. It was a challenge, but one that the clergy and congregation rose to. That experience gave us confidence for the next technological phase, with the introduction of live-streamed services after Easter in 2022. Although this involved significant technical challenges, and care around safeguarding issues, it has been a success and has allowed us to share our worship with other groups. The recordings of the services have been shown regularly at The Croft, and is being trialled at Pratt House, both of these are local Care Homes where the clergy take Home Communion services. It has been a joy to welcome the residents into our virtual community.

Zoom has continued to be a valuable tool. Although meeting in person is permitted, infections are still present and virtual meetings allow participation by those who are still cautious – whether for formal PCC meetings, or for the study groups in Lent and Advent. It has also increased attendance at these meetings, as people are able to attend when away on business or if they so desire when on holiday. It also means in winter months when some may not be comfortable about being out in the dark they are still able to participate.

The group for parents with young babies has continued to meet in church on a weekly basis. Called “Nappy Days”, St Michael’s building is able to provide an area with plenty of floorspace for babies to play on and a parking area for push chairs and other equipment. We also arrange the refreshments for those who come.

Three groups which are open to members of St Michael’s and to others within the community meet in the building on a monthly basis: “Pop in and Paint”, “Wise Choices Film Club” and “Crafty Cuppa”. The names of the first two are self-explanatory. “Crafty Cuppa” is an opportunity to come along with a piece of craftwork for a hot drink and a chat, or just come along for the cuppa and the chat.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022

Local Schools

Contact with our local schools: these include Woodside Junior, Heatherton House, and Dr Challoners Grammar School, has of course been affected by the pandemic, though Revd Debbie has kept in touch with all the schools. Heatherton House took part in the Christmas Tree Festival. Woodside School was due to attend St Michaels Church for their Christmas service, but due to snow and ice for safety reasons instead of the whole school walking round to St Michaels Revd Debbie was invited to the school where 225 attended. Revd Debbie also lead a service of remembrance for a member of staff who had died, this too was a full school service. Assemblies have now re-commenced.

Private Prayer

The Lady Chapel is still kept aside as a space for private prayer; it is no longer hired out as a community space. The votive candle stand remains in the main body of the church. The church is normally open from 10am to 4pm, Monday to Friday, and there are notices directing people to the Lady Chapel for private prayer. A service of Morning Prayer takes place each Tuesday Morning at 9.00am.

Baptisms, weddings and funerals

We welcomed four candidates and their families for baptism during the year, and a thanksgiving for a child baptism and welcome to St Michaels for one family. The families were from Amersham and further afield. It is a joy to be with the families as they start their Christian journey.

It is also a privilege to support and be with families at a time of loss and grief, and a relief that the limitations of the recent past have now been removed to allow wider attendance at funerals. This year we walked alongside seven families as we conducted funerals or burial of ashes for their loved ones both in services at St Michael's, at the Crematorium and at the Chiltern Woodland Burial Park, Jordans.

Lent, Easter, Harvest, Remembrance

Lent Course

Following the positive reception of the first part of Nick Fawcett's book, 'A Chequered Legacy', which was the Advent course in 2021, the second part, 'The Bad and the Ugly', was used as the basis of the Lent course in 2022. Attendance, via Zoom, was around 7-8 for each session.

Easter and Holy Week

It was a true joy to be able to celebrate Holy Week and Easter in something approaching our usual fashion, though with some slight adjustments to reflect the continuing need for some social distancing and other safety issues. There was, as usual, a Lent Appeal in support of St Anne's Hospital, Liuli, more information on which is included later in this report under the heading of *Mission Giving and Appeals*.

Details can also be found in that section of the Harvest appeal. Our celebration of Harvest coincided with the first 'Gathered Round' informal Eucharist, and donations were collected for Chiltern Food Bank.

There was a Service of Remembrance in St Michael Square, including the two minute silence at 11am, on Armistice Day, led by St Michael's clergy and the Amersham Branch of the Royal British Legion. On

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022

Remembrance Sunday we marked the occasion in the usual way with the reading of 'We will remember them' and poppy petals falling into the sanctuary.

Advent & Christmas

As in 2021, our Advent and Christmas celebrations included the choir's attendance on the first Sunday of Advent, a live service of Nine Lessons and Carols, and a choral Midnight Mass. And in 2022 we were able to reinstate the Crib service as well, welcoming children and families back for what is one of the most joyful services of the season.

Advent Course

Our Advent Course was 'Sleepers Wake – Getting Serious about Climate Change' by Nicholas Holtam. Following 2022's record hot summer, this seemed particularly pertinent. Again, 7 or 8 people joined this course.

Choir music, servers, welcomers

Although we are not yet singing at every Sunday service, the choir has now settled into something of a routine and has supported the church's main festival services with anthems, psalms and service music.

Making a specific plan to concentrate on the bigger services was, in some ways, a disappointment, but has also had some benefits. With a small number in the choir, even before Covid it was difficult to know who might be available each week: choir members do have holidays and wider families to visit! So knowing in advance which were the important dates has helped to ensure that we do have adequate numbers for those more important feast days. In all, the choir was 'officially' present for 14 eucharist services and the service of Nine Lessons and Carols, as well as supporting the congregation on the intervening Sundays.

The 'choir' services (and some others) have also been enriched by the 'Organ Alphabet' which has been curated and played by Stephen Wilcox. Starting with 'A is for Alain' way back at our Patronal Festival in 2020, Stephen finally made it to 'Z is for Zipoli' in December 2022. This has been a magnificent achievement, not just learning many new pieces, but researching the backgrounds and providing notes for the congregation. Stephen is currently planning the next larger project, and in the meantime writing informative background on the hymns for our services – which we so often take for granted, but which are a very important part of church music.

(In case you are wondering, X was for XX-chromosome – focussing on female composers.)

We have also much enjoyed our first full year back with a richer worship life, in liturgical vestments and colours, flowers and ceremony, that we so missed during the pandemic. Having the votive candle stand back also gives both regular worshippers and visitors a focus for prayer and reflection.

We also thank the team of welcomers and sidespeople, who may be our first point of contact with new visitors. The gradual easing of restrictions have taken out some of the additional duties the team had to perform, and being able to welcome the congregation without masks has also been a pleasure.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022

Messy Church

During 2022, the continuing cautiousness in relation to Covid infection levels, particularly in children, resulted in the decision not to restart Messy Church during that year. In addition, some volunteers had chosen to step back a little, with children who had previously attended growing older, there was plenty of work to do in preparation.

However, the sessions are restarting in March 2023, and we hope that this expression of Church will flourish as it did in the past.

Working with the local community

Christmas Tree Festival – raising funds for Wycombe Homeless Connection

This year we raised just in excess of £3,300, with, in total, 25 trees inside and outside the church generously sponsored by local community groups and individuals. The supporting 'Big Choirs Event' with Street Collection, planned for outside, moved inside with the weather forecast showing it would be an exceptionally cold day. This proved to be very successful and much enjoyed by the singers and visitors – our thanks go to the 4 choirs who took part, all of whom said they'd like to come back, anytime! And very well done to the team who stayed outside the entire time with the collection buckets along Sycamore Road. The AAG Christmas Fayre in St Michael's and The Crib Service collection helped boost the grand total considerably, as did using bank card readers for the first time – definitely the way forward! The volunteers from St Michael's and Wycombe Homeless Connection who assisted with setting up the Trees, during the Festival and clearing away the Trees were very much appreciated. Thank you – it was a great team effort.

From Dr Rob Oades: Report of School Governor Activity

In November 2020 I was appointed a skills governor for Woodside Primary School. This followed a request from the school to St Michael and All Angels PCC if it could put forward suitable candidates. This coincided with the plan for Woodside School to move from Local Authority management to the Oxford Diocesan Bucks Schools Trust (ODBST). This fitted in well with the links St Michaels already had with Woodside School and that had been developed further by Revd. Debbie.

Meetings have returned to being held face to face in 2022/23 after nearly two years of COVID restrictions. Unfortunately due to work commitments I have not been able to attend in person. I hope to rectify this for the remaining meetings over the academic year in 2023. The school however continues to make progress from being a local authority managed school to an ODBST school. Many new ODBST processes, procedures and ways of working have been adopted. Examples have included an attendance policy, a complaints and resolutions policy, a SEND Policy, an accessibility plan and an anti-bullying policy. These, along with many others, have benefitted greatly to the running of the school and the children's learning experience and wellbeing. Much work has been done in the areas of safeguarding and GDPR also.

I am sad to report that the headteacher Dorota Milner will be retiring at the end of the academic year. She has been a fantastic head and will be greatly missed. The governors have been busy with finding a replacement and will be interviewing shortlisted candidates in April 2023.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022

I am the schools link Governor for Science and Art provision in the school and have held discussions with the teaching focal points to discuss the work programs. Both are in excellent shape. I am also on the team that looks at the management of the school budget which is being tested by the increases to inflation and fuel costs.

I have attended a governor safeguarding training course and also undergone UK Government Home Office Prevent training.

Deanery Synod

The Synod met three times in 2022 – in March on home ground at St. Michael's; in September at Chalfont St. Giles Parish Church and in November at St. James Centre, Gerrards Cross.

All meetings have some common agenda items, namely the Area Dean's Notes and reports of Diocesan and General Synod meetings. Following these, there are additional presentations on topics of interest to delegates and the churches they represent.

As usual, the first meeting of the year incorporated the AGM of the Amersham Deanery Trust at which the previous year's accounts are presented, and an auditor appointed for the current year. An introduction to 'Living in Love and Faith' given by Doral Hayes, Oxford Diocese Advocate for the initiative was followed by discussion in small groups.

The presentations at the September meeting were concerned with environmental matters. Hannah Mann, programme manager in the Diocesan Environmental Team, spoke on the topic of 'Responding to the Climate and Ecological Emergency in the Oxford Diocese', before Keith Wood-Smith talked about Eco Church with special reference to St Giles, Chalfont St Giles which has been awarded the A Rocha bronze and silver awards and is now going for gold.

The final meeting included a detailed explanation by the Deanery Treasurer of how the 2023 Parish Share had been calculated, then Rev. Jeremy Moodey from Chesham talked about his first year as a member of General Synod, before the meeting concluded with a video illustrating the work of Steve and Lindsay Poulson who are serving with the Church Missionary Society in Honduras.

Copies of all the presentations made during the year, can be found on the Deanery Synod website, <https://www.amershamdeanery.org.uk/ddocuments.html>

Hospitality

2022 saw the Catering Team resume serving coffee on a more regular basis, starting in April. We now offer this service on the second and fourth Sundays in alternate months, which seems to have worked well so far.

A scaled down celebration for the Patronal, similar to the one held in 2021, was held in September, offering Prosecco and soft drinks together with savoury snacks. This was much appreciated.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022

In addition, we were able this year to serve mulled wine and minced pies after the Carol Service held on December 17th, followed by Mince Pie Sunday the following day! Both were greatly enjoyed and well attended.

The demise of Traidcraft has come as a blow to the team, as we have for a number of years now been able to serve their tea, coffee and biscuits at all these events.

The wider world

Mission giving and Appeals in 2022

Mission giving in 2022 was £1,500, slightly higher than in 2021 but nonetheless lower than St Michael's has traditionally given because Covid had caused the Church's expenditure to exceed income.

Three charities were each sent £500 from Church funds. They were:

- Action for Ingwavuma, located on the Mozambique - Swaziland border, a UK registered charity run in part from Chesham, which supports an impoverished community in South Africa,
- Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity, a nursing charity which operates throughout the UK, with strong roots in Great Missenden and an office in Amersham; and
- The Brain Tumour Charity, a national charity with which some members of our congregation have been closely connected.

During the year there were three appeals directly to the congregation for donations. All of the charities selected have some local connection including those which support activities abroad. There was a balance between both international and domestic charities, as follows:

- The Lent Appeal raised £3,775 for the Friends of St Anne's Hospital, Liuli, Tanzania
- The Harvest Appeal raised £1,785 for the Chiltern Foodbank
- The Christmas Tree Festival raised £3,300 for Wycombe Homeless.

We have been supporting the Hospital in Liuli in a remote part of Tanzania for almost 40 years, having originally been inspired by a visit to St Michaels by Dr Sam Ndimbo, the former director of the hospital. There is a continued need for support, but we are aware that the Tanzanian government is increasing its involvement in funding. Therefore their dependence on charitable giving may lessen.

We were very pleased to have Diane Rutter, a member of our congregation, give us a presentation about the Chiltern Foodbank in Chesham, which she runs. She produced one of the food parcels which are distributed discretely to those in need of them, giving us an insight into the considerable preparation that is required (for example, all sell-by dates are checked) and the due diligence carried out on the recipients. Sadly the need for food parcels continues to rise.

The Christmas tree festival and appeal on behalf of Wycome Homeless is covered elsewhere.

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	£	£
Mission giving 2022		
Action for Ingwavuma	£500	
Total overseas mission		£500
Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity	£500	
The Brain Tumour Charity	£500	
Total home mission		£1,000
Total mission giving		£1,500

Traidcraft Stall

Regular Traidcraft stalls appeared in church after the Gathered Round services throughout 2022, and were well supported. In addition, Traidcraft goods were still available to order through our local representative, Margaret Dykes. However, Traidcraft ceased business early in 2023 and the stalls have only been able to sell existing stock. This is disappointing, but other avenues to source Fair Trade goods are being investigated.

Pastoral Care

Prayer Chain

St Michael's Prayer Chain members have continued to pray, in our own homes, for people who have requested prayers (both St Michael's members and for people who are known to them). This ministry has been continuing throughout the last three years on a confidential basis. We would welcome new members.

Safeguarding

Appropriate safeguarding training for all those who may come into contact with vulnerable adults and/or children, within the work of the parish has been brought up to date. As mentioned last year this is a Diocesan requirement; an insurance requirement and a necessity for St Michael's safeguarding policy. Many thanks go to Cathy Franklin, our Safeguarding Officer and Alan Jarvis our Safeguarding Assistant who work to ensure the training is done by those who need it. Thanks too to Hazel Miller who oversees the DBS checks. These requirements are an ongoing process and will require constant updating.

Office and communications

Life got back to something closer to normal as social distancing restrictions eased. The Office is now open four days/week with the Administrator working off site on the fifth day, to allow for the completion of tasks which are best done uninterrupted.

The proportion of time spent on managing bookings increased again in line with demand for space, but with in-person church services resuming, this was balanced by less emphasis on providing worship facilities online.

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With volunteers standing down from ring-fenced tasks, additional responsibilities have devolved to the Office, most small in themselves, but put together, they add up. Added to the increased workload regarding the hall and church bookings as things began to open up more after Covid, it was imperative that we had someone who could take on the work of communications both internal and external via website and social media, publicity etc to maintain operations and support parish admin. We are delighted that we were able to appoint very quickly and the Communications Officer, Rebecca Olsen, started in October 2022. This has meant the transfer of some tasks, in particular the preparation and distribution of the weekly notices and maintenance of the website. Rebecca is growing into her role and proving very effective.

With the lease on the photocopier, arrangements were put into place at the end of the year for a replacement to be installed early in the new year. Funding was identified within the HS2 grant to upgrade the Office computers, something which will be finalised during 2023.

SHARING OUR RESOURCES

Amersham Deanery

As part of the established church, St Michael's benefits from the support of the wider church, through Oxford Diocese and Amersham Deanery, and we are glad to give support back in our turn.

Our incumbent, Revd Debbie Oades, serves on the Deanery Pastoral and Mission Committee. After four very fulfilling and busy years as Sabbatical Advisor for the Buckingham Archdeaconry Revd Debbie has now stepped down from this role. Changes to service patterns in lockdown have meant that our Associate Priest, Revd Peter Binns, has focused on St Michaels, and stepped back from his long-standing commitments at Trinity, Aston Abbots and Cublington, but still helps out at Penn.

Social events and activities

Tuesday Club

As reported last year, concerns over COVID infection rates led to the Tuesday Club holiday, planned for May 2022, being deferred. There were therefore no activities during 2022. The holiday will now take place in the summer of 2023, with 34 members of the Club booked to take part.

Pop In and Paint 2022

We were so pleased to be able to get back to normal in 2022 after all the restrictions of the pandemic and hold our usual monthly sessions. Pop in and Paint continues to go from strength to strength; most months we have at least 30 people joining us. We can't believe that we started with just 8 people back in 2012! We celebrated 10 years of PIP by holding an exhibition of all our members' beautiful work in November at St Michael's, which was enjoyed by everyone. We are so proud that many of our original members are still with us; we are also welcoming new members every month. We are getting a little worried that we will run out of space!

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We also sponsored a tree for the Christmas Tree Festival at St Michael's; once again our members produced some beautiful work to hang on it!

Wise Choices Film Club

The film club has been established since 2010. The purpose of the club is to enable those who would prefer to go out during daylight hours, to watch films old and newish! We meet in the Wheeler Room on the first Friday of the month during the winter months (September to April, 2-4pm). In a friendly environment we enjoy refreshments after the film and more often than not the film is discussed.

Average attendance is ten, however that number can swell to fifteen on occasions, depending upon the film.

The audience is split roughly 50:50 between members of St Michael's and other members of the community. Voluntary donations are received and passed on to a chosen charity at the end of the film season.

Thanks go, as ever, to Isabel Wise for all the organisation that goes into running the club.

Bucks Art Weeks

In June 2022 Simpatico - a group of local artists, Jenny Thompson, Liz Grammenos, Beverley Parkin and Candy Hackney - held another successful art exhibition as part of the county wide Bucks Art Weeks. They had a total of 595 visitors which was wonderful - many familiar faces as well as unfamiliar ones. During the fortnight they made a very healthy number of painting sales resulting in them donating £387 to St Michaels and the same to their chosen charity, Lindengate which is an award winning nature based health and wellbeing charity based in Wendover. Jenny and Liz look forward to showing their work again in St Michaels 10 - 25 June 2023 - this time alongside local artists, Madeleine Fletcher and Barbara Spruytenburg.

Buildings – church, hall, and St Michael's Square

Our buildings, situated in the centre of Amersham-on-the-Hill, are an important resource for the local community. During the year a project of works of some £75,000 was carried out on the church hall and St Michael's Square. This was financed by a grant from HS2, together with donations from members of St Michael's. The project included new front and side doors for the hall together with the refurbishment of the hall floor. Further enhancements were made to the Glover Room including a paving ramp to a new door providing wheelchair access, together with a covered buggy park for mums meeting in the Glover Room. All hall lighting was upgraded to LED where necessary and electric water heaters have replaced hot water taps. Two electric car charging points have been installed in the hall car park. In St Michael's Square new handrails were positioned in the middle of the step with two new benches positioned either side and bolted down. These are made of recycled plastic with a 50 year warranty. Four planters also made of recycled plastic have been positioned alongside the benches. We are indebted to Alan Jarvis who prepared the successful grant application and managed the project from start to finish, an immense task. Thank you Alan.

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We were delighted to welcome once again the Simpatico art exhibition for two weeks in June followed by the Amersham Photographic Society for the annual exhibition in August and Cards for Good Causes in the lead up to Christmas. On a bi-monthly basis we also welcomed the Repair Café. All attracted a substantial number of visitors. We look forward to welcoming these groups again in 2023. The church played host to several concerts in the second half of the year with further similar events already booked for 2023.

We have five regular support groups who use the hall and church on a weekly basis and another providing children's tuition three days a week during term time. The large space in the hall is used by the Beehive Montessori School and for badminton, karate, fitness classes and dance schools. It is popular for children's parties, especially at weekends. An increasing number of groups, offering similar activities, meet in the Glover Room behind the main hall. Local music groups use various rooms in the church and hall for rehearsals and performances.

St Michael's Square, in front of the church, is being increasingly used for community events such as the Christmas Festival, for sales in aid of local and national charities and for awareness-raising events such as a Climate Change Action Day. We hosted Amersham Gardening Association and Amersham in Bloom plant stalls and in December, Father Christmas visited as part of the annual Amersham Action Group's Christmas Fair. We look forward to hosting these and other events in 2023.

But if our buildings are an asset, they also require constant care and maintenance. We are custodians of these buildings for the future and take this responsibility seriously. The Quinquennial Inspection in the year identified some works, which are spread over the five-year cycle, and other tasks are undertaken as necessary to comply with regulations. This essential work is overseen by the buildings committee, to whom we are indebted for their time and expertise.

FINANCE

Review of the year

As in 2021, we have again run at a deficit for 2022, though it is heartening to note that the deficit on church activities is very much reduced this year. However, our base position is one where income does not fully cover expenditure: we are all aware that this is not a sustainable position in the long term. It is anticipated that we shall need to realise some investments in 2023.

Details of the breakdown of income are shown in note 2.

Expenditure for the year has supported the key objectives of St Michael's to be a church at the heart of the community of Amersham on the Hill, while at the same time contributing funds to the Church of England through our Parish Share and to charities through our Missionary Giving, even though that was so curtailed this year. Note 3 shows how our expenditure breaks down. The report on Buildings has highlighted the HS2 project, upgrading facilities in the Hall and on the Square: this was 75% funded by a grant in relation

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to the HS2 rail works, and the remaining 25% was raised through the generosity of members of the congregation. During the year, the costs incurred were fully matched by the income received so there was no impact on the bottom line of the accounts. All income and expenditure in relation to this is shown in Restricted Funds.

As mentioned above, we finished 2022 with a significant deficit. We hope that a return to a full year of activity in the hall and church in terms of hiring will help to make 2023 a better year.

	2022	2021
	£	£
Deficit on church activities and fund raising	(14,910)	(26,938)
Legacies	5,000	2,052
HS2 project: income and expenditure matched	-	-
Unrealised (losses)/gains on investment assets	(10,358)	1,460
Net surplus/(deficit)	<u>(20,268)</u>	<u>(23,426)</u>

Reserves policy

The PCC aims to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which is sufficient to meet expenditure for the following 6 months, taking into account planned maintenance, commitments to employees and the expected level of the Parish Share. The level of reserves at 31st December 2022 is considered adequate for this.

Risk management

The PCC has conducted a review of the major risks to which St Michael's is exposed. A risk register has been established and is updated at least annually.

As part of this, our safeguarding policy is reviewed and approved annually in line with diocesan requirements and guidelines. DBS checks are reviewed annually for all those coming into contact with vulnerable adults and children, and are renewed on a rolling four year cycle. Appropriate training is given from within the parish and through external providers as deemed necessary.

CONCLUSION FROM THE VICAR

A big thank you once more to all of you for all your efforts for the parish, the people we serve, and for all the work, prayer and both personal and financial sacrifice we as a community in Christ's name have borne witness to over yet another demanding year!

The new skills acquired during the height of pandemic have continued to grow and develop and are now significant parts of our daily church life particularly within the communication and media realms. Our use of Zoom has continued to be indispensable in communicating with one another for PCC and Standing Committee meetings and also our Lent and Advent Course.

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The introduction of live streaming has allowed us to reach out to a wider community both in this country and beyond. It has also allowed the house bound, infirm and those in care homes to access the services and feel fully part of the community of St Michaels. Many thanks go to all those involved in the setting up and operating of the system.

As the year progressed a sense of a new and yet familiar norm has developed and a fresh identity is being formed. There is a far more positive outlook with the success of the vaccination programme giving more confidence to step out once more. It must still be remembered that as we move forward there will be many people who have borne the loss of family and friends, an experience, which the congregation of St Michaels has sadly not been exempt. This has shown itself to the clergy via an increase in need of pastoral support from within and especially the wider community. The tension between those wanting to move forwards and those wanting to be very cautious has now lessened and as a community we have settled into the way we now worship liturgically, one that feels accessible to all. The PCC, wardens and clergy continue to strive to operate in the safest way possible and thanks go to all who have worked so hard to achieve this.

Revd Debbie Oades.



Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

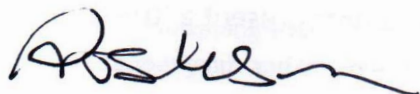
Statement of Council Members' Responsibilities

The members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the PCC's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing accounts giving a true and fair view, the members should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Church will continue in operation.

The members of the PCC are responsible for keeping accounting records which both disclose with reasonable accuracy and enable them to ascertain the financial position of the PCC and which enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Statement of Recommended Practice on Accounting and Reporting by Charities SORP (FRS102) and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the PCC and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

FOR AND BEHALF OF THE PCC



Roger Leslie
Church Warden

14.5.2023

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of the Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

This report on the accounts of the Parochial Church Council ('PCC') for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 21 to 33 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as members of the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act have not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mark Blackwell ACMA
MHR Consultancy Ltd
Ferneberga House
Alexandra Road
Farnborough
GU14 6DQ

16 May 2023

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total funds	
					2022 £	2021 £
Income and Endowments						
Voluntary giving	2a	87,587	58,175	-	145,762	81,827
Activities for generating funds	2b	35,342	-	-	35,342	25,195
Church activities	2c	2,045	-	-	2,045	3,326
Income from investments	2d	1,093	3,076	-	4,169	3,849
Other incoming resources	2e	-	-	-	-	300
Total income and endowments		126,067	61,251	-	187,318	114,497
Expenditure						
Grants - Mission giving	3a	1,500	-	-	1,500	1,888
Church activities	3b	132,554	63,415	-	195,969	137,495
Total expenditure		134,054	63,415	-	197,469	139,383
Net income and incoming endowments before investment gains and losses		(7,987)	(2,164)	-	(10,151)	(24,886)
Gains & losses on investment assets, on disposals and on revaluation	5b	(6,638)	(3,456)	(264)	(10,358)	1,460
Net movement in Funds		(14,625)	(5,620)	(264)	(20,509)	(23,426)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-
Balances brought forward		136,312	268,517	2,456	407,285	430,711
Balances carried forward		121,687	262,897	2,192	386,776	407,285

Notes 1 to 24 form part of these accounts

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible fixed assets	5a	271,333	271,492
Investment Assets	5b	93,647	104,003
		364,980	375,495
Current Assets			
Debtors	6	4,217	4,584
Short term deposits		17,263	22,587
Cash at bank and in hand		8,949	10,374
		30,429	37,545
Liabilities			
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	7	(8,392)	(5,755)
		22,037	31,790
Net current assets		387,017	407,285
Total net assets		387,017	407,285
Parish Funds			
Unrestricted		121,928	136,312
Restricted		262,897	268,517
Endowment		2,192	2,456
		-	-
		387,017	407,285

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 14.5.2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Debbie Oades, Vicar



Roger Leslie, Church Warden

Notes 1 to 24 form part of these accounts

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

1. Accounting Policies

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions, together with FRS102 (2017) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2017 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP (2017)).

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

a) Funds

Endowment funds are permanent endowments and bequests of capital used to generate income for restricted funds.

Restricted funds are funds which can only be used for particular purposes as specified by the donor or funds raised for particular restricted purposes.

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.

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. The group for which the PCC are responsible in law is St Michael's Tuesday Club.

b) Income and Endowments

Voluntary income and capital sources

- i) Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.
- ii) Planned Giving under gift aid is recognised only when received.
- iii) Income tax recoverable on covenants or gift aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.
- iv) Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due can be measured reliably and its receipt by the PCC is more likely than not.
- v) Funds raised by events are accounted for gross.

Other ordinary income

Rental income from the letting of premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains and losses are recognised when investments are sold.

Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on the revaluation of investments on 31st December 2022.

c) Expenditure

General Expenditure

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis, inclusive of VAT, which is not recoverable.

Grants

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

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The parish share is accounted for when payable.

d) Land and buildings

Land and buildings are included at cost less depreciation of the buildings over fifty years. The church, hall, vicarage and site are held by the Diocese of Oxford as Custodian Trustee of St Michael Charity, a permanent trust established in 1973 of which the PCC are managing trustees. Under the terms of the Trust, land and buildings must be used as they currently are being used. Information as to the cost of these buildings and site is not available. As the land has been held for ecclesiastical purposes for many years and the buildings constructed in 1966 would now be substantially depreciated, the property is included in the financial statements at a value of £nil. In 2007 an extension was added to the vicarage. This is included in the financial statements at a cost of £34,916 and is not depreciated as the residual value of the vicarage at 31 December 2022 is expected to exceed this sum. In 2013 work was completed on developing St Michael's Square and this is included in the financial statements at a cost of £235,940 and is not depreciated as the residual value at 31 December 2022 is expected to exceed this sum.

e) Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated at 25% reducing balance. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

f) Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December 2022.

g) Current assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December 2022 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 either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

2.	Income and endowments	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
2a.	Voluntary giving					
	Planned Giving:					
	Gift Aid donations	63,213	15,701	-	78,914	60,170
	Tax recoverable	14,787	3,000	-	17,787	13,966
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
		78,000	18,701	-	96,701	74,136
	Collections (open plate)	1,900	-	-	1,900	80
	Donations, appeals etc	1,732	-	-	1,732	2,103
	Grants	955	39,474	-	40,429	3,456
	Legacies	5,000	-	-	5,000	2,052
		87,587	58,175	-	145,762	81,827
2b.	Activities for generating funds					
	Lettings: Church hall	31,977	-	-	31,977	22,413
	Church	3,060	-	-	3,060	2,707
	St Michael Square	305	-	-	305	75
		35,342	-	-	35,342	25,195
2c.	Church activities					
	Tuesday Club	-	-	-	-	-
	Fees for weddings, funerals etc	1,490	-	-	1,490	2,348
	Donations from church drop-in groups	314	-	-	314	-
	Other income	241	-	-	241	978
		2,045	-	-	2,045	3,326
2d.	Income from investments					
	Dividends	982	2,938	-	3,920	3,835
	Interest	111	138	-	249	14
		1,093	3,076	-	4,169	3,849
2e.	Other incoming resources					
	Insurance claims	-	-	-	-	-
	Other income	-	-	-	-	300
		-	-	-	-	300
	Total income and endowments	126,067	61,251	-	187,318	114,497

Income for 2021 was received as unrestricted funds £111,761, restricted funds £2,736 and endowment funds £nil.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

3. Expenditure	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
3a. Grants - Mission giving					
Overseas - missionary societies	500	-	-	500	832
Home mission & other societies	1,000	-	-	1,000	1,056
	1,500	-	-	1,500	1,888
3b. Church activities					
Ministry: Parish Share	71,942	-	-	71,942	72,361
clergy expenses	690	-	-	690	984
Sabbatical	-	-	-	-	-
other clergy costs	2,317	-	-	2,317	1,299
	74,949	-	-	74,949	74,644
Services	1,441	-	-	1,441	1,905
Cost of organist, choirmaster & choir	2,965	-	-	2,965	1,465
Parish magazine & bookstall	149	-	-	149	73
Tuesday Club	-	-	-	-	-
Fees paid over to the Diocese	1,010	-	-	1,010	2,690
Other fees and licences	640	-	-	640	712
Community outreach and events	266	-	-	266	383
Church running costs	15,168	-	-	15,168	12,167
Church repairs and general maintenance	664	5,155	-	5,819	8,103
Planned maintenance projects:					
- Hall and Square renewal (HS2)	241	58,174	-	58,415	-
Depreciation of equipment	73	86	-	159	212
Hall running costs	14,729	-	-	14,729	13,883
Support costs	19,606	-	-	19,606	20,722
Bank charges	226	-	-	226	211
Costs of generating funds	-	-	-	-	-
Other costs	427	-	-	427	325
	132,554	63,415	-	195,969	137,495
Total expenditure	134,054	63,415	-	197,469	139,383

Support costs include the salary of the parish secretary and the costs of running the church office.

Expenditure for 2021 was met from unrestricted funds £128,849, restricted funds £10,534 and endowment funds £nil.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

4.	Staff costs	2022	2021
		£	£
	Wages and salaries	29,439	30,232
	Social security costs	-	-
		29,439	30,232

5a.	Fixed assets for use by the PCC	Land and buildings	Other	Total
		£	£	£
	Actual/deemed cost			
	at 1 January 2022	270,856	5,009	275,865
	Additions at cost	-	-	-
	Disposals	-	-	-
	at 31 December 2022	270,856	5,009	275,865
	Depreciation			
	at 1 January 2022	-	(4,373)	(4,373)
	Withdrawn on disposals	-	-	-
	Charge for the year	-	(159)	(159)
	at 31 December 2022	-	(4,532)	(4,532)
	Net book value			
	at 31 December 2022	270,856	477	271,333
	at 31 December 2021	270,856	636	271,492

The church, church hall, vicarage and site are held by the Diocese of Oxford as Custodian Trustee of St Michael Charity which is a permanent trust established in November 1973. An extension to the vicarage is included at cost above as expenditure on the redesign of the church entrance and on St Michael's Square. In both cases the cost is not depreciated. Otherwise information as to the cost of these buildings and site is not available and they are included at nil cost above.

5b.	Investment assets		Market value	Sale proceeds	Gain/ (loss)	Market value
		241	1 Jan 2022			31 Dec 2022
	Movements in the year		£	£	£	£
	CBF Fixed Interest Securities		57,317	-	(7,756)	49,561
	M&G Charifund		46,686	-	(2,600)	44,086
					-	
			104,003	-	(10,356)	93,647
	Historical cost		1 Jan 2022			31 Dec 2022
			Shares/units	Cost	Shares/units	Cost
				£		£
	CBF Fixed Interest Securities		36,279	58,979	36,279	58,979
	M&G Charifund		3,000	2,526	3,000	2,526

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

6.	Debtors	2022	2021		
		£	£		
	Tax recoverable	368	811		
	Prepayments and accrued income	1,306	1,688		
	Other debtors	2,543	2,085		
		4,217	4,584		
7.	Liabilities: amounts falling due within one year	2022	2021		
		£	£		
	Accruals and deferred income	(1,483)	(898)		
	Creditors for goods and services	(6,909)	(4,857)		
		(8,392)	(5,755)		
8.	Analysis of net assets by fund as at 31 December 2022				
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total
		£	£	£	£
	Tangible fixed assets	77,778	193,556	-	271,334
	Fixed asset investments	32,712	59,247	1,687	93,646
	Current assets - debtors	4,217	-	-	4,217
	Current assets - deposits	6,702	10,056	505	17,263
	Current assets - cash at bank and in hand	8,911	38	-	8,949
	Current liabilities	(8,392)	-	-	(8,392)
		121,928	262,897	2,192	387,017

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

9. Analysis of Fund Movements

	1 Jan 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains/ (losses)	31 Dec 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds:						
Designated						
Tuesday Club	3,274	-	-	-	-	3,274
St Michael's Vicarage	34,916	-	-	-	-	34,916
St Michael's Square	42,643	-	-	-	-	42,643
Pastoral Support	15,768	552	-	-	(2,663)	13,657
Buildings and Projects	11,930	510	-	-	(2,663)	9,777
Youth Activities	3,933	46	-	-	-	3,979
Sabbatical	610	4	-	200	-	814
Music	2,290	25	-	-	(1,312)	1,003
	115,364	1,137	-	200	(6,638)	110,063
Undesignated						
General Fund	20,948	124,930	(133,813)	(200)	-	11,865
Total Unrestricted Funds	136,312	126,067	(133,813)	-	(6,638)	121,928
Restricted Funds:						
Trust Income	15,135	2,754	(5,155)	-	-	12,734
Spiritual Development	6,377	124	-	-	-	6,501
St Michael Charity	53,006	189	-	-	(3,456)	49,739
St Michael's Square	193,297	-	-	-	-	193,297
St Michael's Project	702	58,184	(58,260)	-	-	626
Total Restricted Funds	268,517	61,251	(63,415)	-	(3,456)	262,897
Endowment Funds:						
Ellen Motion Fund	2,456	-	-	-	(264)	2,192
Total Endowment Funds	2,456	-	-	-	(264)	2,192
Total of all Funds	407,285	187,318	(197,228)	-	(10,358)	387,017

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

10. St Michael Charity

The St Michael Charity was established in November 1973 as part of a Scheme approved by the Charity Commissioners of England and Wales. As part of that Scheme, St Michael Charity acquired the land and buildings thereon, namely St Michael's Church, St Michael's Church Hall and the vicarage together with a share of the accumulated income allocated under the Scheme. The investments of St Michael Charity are included in these Financial Statements at Note 5b.

11. Bankers

HSBC, High Wycombe, and TSB Bank plc, Leeds, are the PCC's bankers. Additionally, Amersham branch of Barclays Bank plc acts as banker for St Michael's Tuesday Club. The PCC also has funds on deposit with the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England.

12. Funds

The Charities Act distinguishes between 'restricted' funds, which are funds or endowments given to the PCC for a particular purpose and which can only be used for that purpose, and 'unrestricted' funds which are available for the general purposes of the PCC and may be designated by the PCC. The PCC make transfers between funds when expenditure of a restricted or designated nature is to be met from more than one type of fund. The maximum level of these transfers is agreed by the PCC prior to the expenditure. On 24 March 2006, the Charity Commission confirmed that the funds of St Michael Charity do not constitute permanent endowment but are restricted funds.

Unrestricted funds designated by the PCC:

i) St Michael's Vicarage

This fund includes expenditure on the vicarage extension in 2007.

ii) St Michael's Square

This fund includes expenditure on the redesign of the church entrance and on St Michael's Square met from unrestricted funds.

iii) Pastoral Support

This fund is for support for the Vicar in her pastoral work, including outreach activities. It holds investments in CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund and cash deposits.

iv) Buildings and Projects

This fund is for larger and capital projects relating to the church and hall buildings. It holds investments in CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund and cash deposits.

v) Youth Activities

This fund is for support for youth activities within St Michael's, including but not limited to Messy Church. It includes funds formerly held in the Spiritual Development fund and the Miss M.E. Blake legacy. It holds cash deposits.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

vi) Sabbatical

This fund is to provide support for sabbatical study for the Vicar. A grant was agreed, and paid, in 2019. From 2020 onwards it will be gradually increased each year to provide for a future sabbatical. It holds cash deposits.

vii) Music

This fund was established with a designated donation, to provide for exceptional items required in relation to music in the church. It holds cash deposits.

Unrestricted Funds which have not been designated by the PCC

viii) General Fund

This fund holds the accumulated surplus in cash, deposits and CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund and is used in conjunction with the PCC's cash operating accounts. It also holds expenditure on fixed assets (other than buildings) and on investments acquired with unrestricted funds.

Restricted Funds of the PCC

ix) Trust Income account

This fund receives income from St Michael Charity to be used for expenditure on the buildings in accordance with the trust deed. In 2022 a transfer was made to move income previously credited to the St Michael Charity fund to this fund.

x) St Michael Charity

St Michael Charity was established in November 1973 and is invested to provide income with dividends and interest being paid to the Trust Income account. As for some years the income had been credited to the St Michael Charity fund, a transfer (as noted above) has been made to correct this.

xi) Spiritual Development Fund

This fund is for the young people of St Michael's and receives income from the Ellen Motion Memorial Fund from which it originated.

xii) St Michael's Square

This fund represents expenditure on the redesign of the church entrance and on St Michael's Square met from restricted funds.

xiii) The St Michael's Project Fund

This fund was established in 2014 for restricted income, and matched expenditure, on specific projects – initially, for replacement seating, and then in 2015 and 2019 for the refurbishment of the church organ. In 2020 the fund was used for the hall improvement project, with matched expenditure charged to that fund. During 2022 the fund received income, with matched expenditure, in relation to the HS2 project, with the final income and expenditure amounts in 2023.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

Endowment Funds

xiv) Ellen Motion Memorial Fund

This fund is a permanent endowment invested to produce restricted income which is to be used for the spiritual development of the young people of St Michael's. By an addendum signed on 17 November 1997, it was agreed that income from the fund could be used to support payments to a voluntary youth worker.

13. Accruals

All amounts included in the financial statements are shown on an accruals basis. Where amounts have been received in advance such as for rental income, the amount relating to future periods has been deferred. Amounts invoiced but unpaid at the year end are included in creditors and estimates for costs relating to the year are included in accruals. At 31 December 2022, the PCC had a claimable income tax rebate of £368 (2021: £811). A summary of all debtors and creditors at the year end is shown at Notes 6 and 7 to the Accounts.

14. Tuesday Club

The Tuesday Club plans its events each year to break even with revenue from participants intended to meet the costs of such events. Revenue for the year was £nil (2021: £nil) with costs for the year of £nil (2021: £nil).

15. Ex-gratia payments

In addition to the missionary and charitable giving listed in item 3a) of the accounts, ex-gratia payments valued at £nil were made during 2022 (2021: £nil).

16. Staff costs

During the year, the PCC employed a church secretary, an assistant administrator, a warden and a church cleaner. The average number of employees was 4. The organists were self-employed and payments to them are not included in Staff costs.

17. Incumbent's expenses

The vicar Debbie Oades was reimbursed expenses totalling £690 (2021: £984) as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Travel expenses	-	-
Vicarage telephone and internet	690	984
Other expenses	-	-
	<u>£690</u>	<u>£984</u>

Expenses of £2,317 (2021: £1,299) were reimbursed to other curates and clergy.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

18. Insurance

The PCC has insured itself with the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group for many years and the policy is inflation linked. From March 2022 cover of the buildings was provided at the following levels:

Church	£5,910,000 (2021: £5,600,000)
Hall	£2,960,000 (2021: £2,800,000)

19. Mission Giving

As noted in the Annual Report, in 2022 the PCC took the hard decision to suspend the policy of allocating 10% of its voluntary income to Overseas Missions and 5% to Home Missions. A flat sum was instead allocated. This policy will be kept under review.

20. Loans and guarantees

No loans or guarantees have been secured against any of the PCC's assets.

21. Contingent liabilities

There are no contingent liabilities.

22. Related party transactions

The church benefits from the services of family members of the PCC, whose skills are used in various roles as noted below. In each case the connected PCC member takes no part in setting specific terms for the appointment and the terms of such appointments are no better than those offered to unconnected parties. Further details are given in the table below.

Person	Role	Connected to	Nature of connection	£
Andrew Leslie	Organist	Roger Leslie	Son	£930
Stephen Wilcox	Organist	Rachel Wilcox	Husband	£1,590
Rachel Wilcox	Organist		PCC member	£330
Hazel Miller	Administrator		Ex officio PCC member	£13,230

No other payments or expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties.

23. Grants

	2022	2021
	£	£
HMRC Job Retention Scheme		
'Furlough' claims	-	3,456
HS2 Project	39,474	-
Total grants	<u>39,474</u>	<u>3,456</u>

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

24. Quinquennial examination

An Architect's Quinquennial Survey was completed in March 2022, and the Report received in May 2022. The Buildings Committee is reviewing the report and will advise the PCC on a programme of works. A full electrical survey has also been completed and its recommendations will also be reviewed, with recommendations to the PCC. Specialist contractors will be engaged where necessary.

Accounts

**Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels,
Amersham on the Hill**

Registered Charity No. 1129139

**ANNUAL REPORT
and
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
of the
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
for the year ended 31 December 2021**



St Michael's Vision Statement:

*As a Christian community we seek to engage with the world around us
and to be a place of welcome and acceptance for all on a journey to
God – believers, doubters and those who are seeking.*

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

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Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Legal and administrative information for the year ended 31 December 2021

Name of the charity

The full name of the charity is The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham. The charity is registered with the Charity Commissioners of England and Wales and its registration number is 1129139.

Objects

The objects of the charity are as set out in the governing document issued by the Church of England. The PCC has adopted the objects clause of that governing document, the wording of which is given below.

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

In adopting and applying these objects, the trustees have regard to the guidance of the Charity Commission on Public Benefit.

Incumbent

Revd Debbie Oades
St Michael's Church
70 Sycamore Road
Amersham

Bank

TSB Bank plc
PO Box 373
Leeds

HSBC
Sycamore Road
Amersham

Independent Examiner

Mark Blackwell (ACMA)
MHR Consultancy Ltd
Minster House
126a High St
Whitton
Twickenham
Middlesex TW2 7LL

Principal office

The principal office of the charity is 70 Sycamore Road, Amersham, Buckinghamshire HP6 5DR.

Average Church Attendance

The figures are calculated on average attendance during October 2021.

Weekly attendance	59 adults, no children
Messy Church	No services held
Church at Home (until April 2021)	67 listeners

Electoral Roll Data

As at 31 December 2021 the total number on the Electoral Roll was 99.

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham was registered with the Central Register of Charities on 15 April 2009. The trustees of the charity are members of the PCC and decisions of the trustees are made at PCC. New trustees are appointed on personal recommendation of the PCC.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Legal and administrative information for the year ended 31 December 2021

New PCC members are encouraged to attend diocesan or other training courses to help them in their responsibilities, and given access to previous PCC minutes and documents and to Charity Commission guidance for trustees.

Trustees

Members of the PCC are the trustees of the charity and are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The members of the PCC who served during 2021:

Ex Officio

Debbie Oades	Vicar
Peter Binns	Associate Priest (co-opted 11 th July 2021)
Roger Leslie	Church Warden
Roland Gillott	Church Warden

Elected Members

Rachel Wilcox	Treasurer
Ann Beattie	
Kiki Connor	
Cathy Franklin	
Ian Guest	
Rachel Hill	
Rosie Marciniak	
Rolande Mélisse-Merrifield	

Deanery Synod Representatives (ex officio)

Cathy Franklin
Hazel Miller

PCC meetings continued to be via Zoom throughout 2021. The Council met four times between the 2020 APCM in the October of that year, and the 2021 meeting the following July. The average attendance was 12.25 out of a possible 13. At the start of the year, formal motions put to the meeting were voted on subsequently by e-mail and the outcomes of such votes recorded in the minutes, until this rule was relaxed in the second part of the year, allowing voting online.

The agenda for all meetings included an item on Vision, focussing on the gradual opening up of services and church activities as lockdown ended. Reports from the Treasurer; the Buildings Committee, on matters relating to fabric and hire of the church and hall; the Health and Safety Officer and the Safeguarding team also formed part of the standard agenda. Other matters requiring annual attention such as confirmation of appointments to various roles, review of policies and approval of recommended mission-giving allocations were dealt with during the course of the year.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Legal and administrative information for the year ended 31 December 2021

An online 'Away Day' took place in February providing an opportunity to look at specific areas. The PCC divided into sub-groups to address the following topics: - the building; engagement and community; communication and use of technology. Results of these discussions started to show during 2021 and continue to drive planning into 2022.

The Standing Committee met online as and when necessary between PCC meetings, with any urgent matters being resolved by e-mail or telephone. A **standing committee** of trustees has power to transact business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any instructions given by the PCC.

The members of the standing committee who served during 2021 were:

Revd Debbie Oades – Vicar
Roland Gillott
Rachel Hill
Roger Leslie
Rachel Wilcox

The PCC is also the Managing Trustee of the St Michael Charity. The Custodian Trustee is Diocesan Trustees (Oxford) Ltd. The property of the Charity consists of St Michael's Square fronting on to Sycamore Road together with the buildings thereon, namely, the Church, the Church Hall and the Vicarage. The Charity also has investments, the income from which may only be applied to the upkeep and repair of the property owned by the Charity.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2021

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Our central purpose is summed up in our Vision Statement: “As a Christian community we seek to engage with the world around us and to be a place of welcome and acceptance for all on a journey to God – believers, doubters and those who are seeking.” This report seeks to show how we have interpreted this mission during the year under review.

Looking inward, looking outward

Mission Action Plan

Our Mission Action Plan (“MAP”) sets out our vision for 2018 – 2023.

Inevitably, the pandemic over the last two years has caused an interruption to our plans. However it has also opened up new opportunities.

One of the greatest of these opportunities has been the introduction of live broadcasts of services over SoundCloud. These not only linked us up with existing members of the congregation but also past members who have now moved away, and others who have not previously known about St Michael’s. These broadcasts came to an end soon after we returned to holding services in church at Easter in 2021. However, later in the year, a new form of broadcasting began, the livestreaming of services over YouTube.

Zoom, which few of us had heard of prior to the pandemic, has also enabled us to meet up and keep in touch at a time when it has not been safe for us to gather together in person in a crowded space.

In February 2021, the PCC had an AwayDay on Zoom to talk about three different themes: our Building; Engagement and community; and Communication and the use of technology.

Taking Communication and the use of technology first, reference is made above to the introduction of livestreaming, which is enabling us to involve in our worship those whose mobility is limited, or who do not yet feel ready to return to our services in church.

Combining our Building (which includes the area at the front, St Michael’s Square) with Engagement and community, a lot then happened during the remainder of the year.

A group looking for somewhere to bring together parents with young babies now meets in church on a weekly basis. Called “Nappy Days”, St Michael’s building is able to provide an area with plenty of floorspace for babies to play on and a parking area for push chairs and other equipment. We also arrange the refreshments for those who come.

Three groups which are open to members of St Michael’s and to others within the community meet in the building on a monthly basis: “Pop in and Paint”, “Wise Choices Film Club” and “Crafty Cuppa”. The names of the first two are self-explanatory. “Crafty Cuppa” is an opportunity to come along with a piece of craftwork for a hot drink and a chat, or just come along for the cuppa and the chat.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2021

In July we held a Community Post-lockdown Service in St Michael's Square, a service of lament for those who had died as a result of coronavirus, thanksgiving for deliverance from the virus and for all who worked hard (key workers, all who had voluntarily raised money or helped others); and restoration (looking to the future and rebuilding after the pandemic). People were invited to place a butterfly on the board in front of the altar, a purple one in remembrance of someone who had died, an orange one in thanksgiving for a key worker or volunteer.

In the period from the middle of November up until the end of the year, St Michael's Square played host to a range of activities: a climate change event arranged by Amersham Town Council, following the COP 26 conference in Glasgow; the launch of a local community radio station, Chiltern Voice 107.4 FM; our own Christmas Tree Festival, both in the church and outside in the square, with 25 trees altogether and sponsorship from a wide range of local groups and community organisations, which raised a substantial amount of money for Wycombe Homeless Connection; the Amersham Christmas Festival arranged, both in the church and on the square as well as in the road outside, by Amersham Action Group (AAG), the prime function of which is to promote and progress the revitalisation of Amersham-on-the-Hill; Music on St Michael's Square arranged by Kiki Connor with Alan Jarvis providing "sound" and featuring different choirs, including our own, singing festive songs and carols; and Christmas Carols on the square sung in the afternoon on the Sunday before Christmas by Amchor, a long-established choir which strives to promote music across the Chilterns.

After all that, it has been appropriate to take a breath, and then see what we might do in 2022.

Worship and Liturgy

Regular services

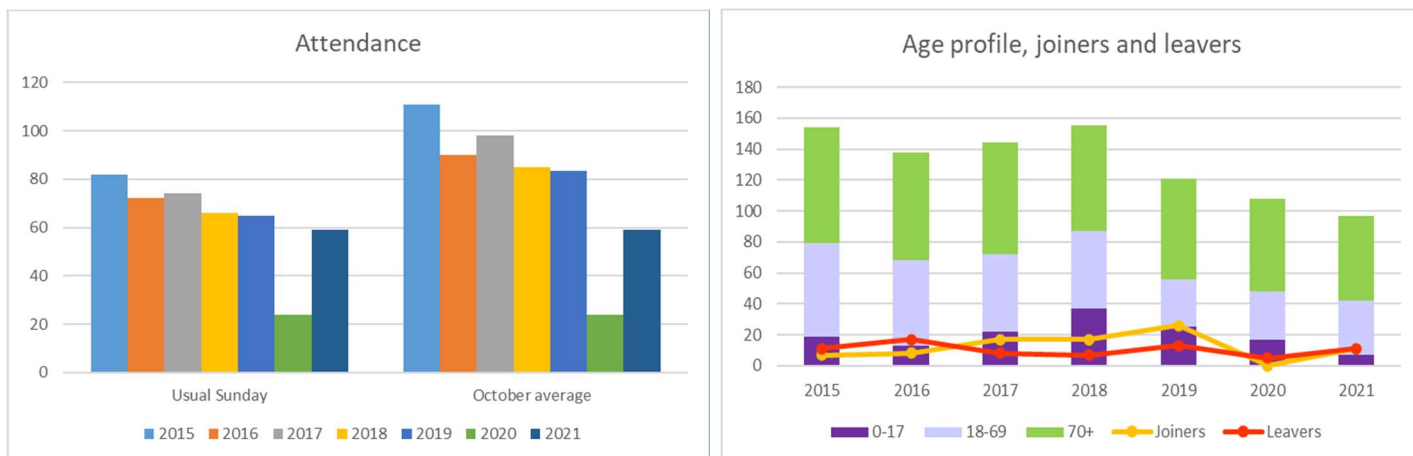
Following the third lockdown early in 2021, we planned for the Holy Week services to be delivered over the Soundcloud audio system, but were able to hold the main Easter morning service live, and services have continued in person since then. Audio services continued until the end of April 2021, attracting an average of 67 listeners. At this point the decision was made to suspend the audio services to encourage the congregation to return in person if possible, though the readings (on the usual notices sheet), sermon and intercessions continue to be circulated for those who cannot attend.

We were able to resume our pattern of two Sunday services – the early spoken Eucharist, now at 8.30am and the main 10am sung service – and a Tuesday morning said Eucharist from Easter Day, (4th April 21) and attendance at these has continued to grow. It was a joy to return to hymn singing, even through masks, and the choir returned, singing one service a month from September, and the informal 'Gathered Round' service resumed from October on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

The graph below headed 'Attendance' shows the impact of the reduced capacity of the church, rather than reflecting a dramatic fall in the congregation. It is comforting to see numbers increasing again, as services have restarted, and this year the number of people leaving the congregation has been matched by an equal number joining us.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2021



Private Prayer

We have now set aside the Lady Chapel for private prayer; it is no longer hired out as a community space. The votive candle stand, which was in the body of the church, is now there. The church is normally open from 10am to 4pm, Monday to Friday, and there are notices directing people to the Lady Chapel for private prayer.

Baptisms, weddings and funerals

We welcomed three families for baptism during the year, bringing five children in all, after the suspension of the services due to Covid. It is a joy to be with the families as they start their Christian journey.

It is also a privilege to support and be with families at a time of loss and grief, and so the limitations on the way services could be conducted were a great sadness. This year we walked alongside twelve families as we conducted funerals or burial of ashes for their loved ones both in services at St Michael's and at the Crematorium.

Easter, Harvest, Remembrance

Having very much missed the services of Holy Week and Easter during the first lockdown, being unable to hold the services in person for a second year was another blow, but the audio services, for all the main holy days, provided at least a partial substitute, and we were able to celebrate together on Easter Sunday. We look forward with joy to holding the services in church in 2022.

Harvest coincided with the first 'Gathered Round' informal eucharist, and donations were collected for Chiltern Food Bank. In addition, a financial appeal for The Hospice of St Francis in Berkhamsted was made, with donations going direct to the charity.

However, our customary Lent Appeal for St Anne's Hospital, Liuli, raised much needed funds, continuing our support for that valuable local institution.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2021

Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday were more small steps on our way back to 'normality'. There was a Service of Remembrance in St Michael Square, including the two minute silence at 11am, on Armistice Day, led by St Michael's clergy and the Amersham Branch of the Royal British Legion. On Remembrance Sunday we marked the occasion in the usual way with the reading of 'We will remember them' and poppy petals falling into the sanctuary.

Advent & Christmas

Our Advent and Christmas celebrations included the choir's attendance on the first Sunday of Advent, a live service of Nine Lessons and Carols, and a choral Midnight Mass – all more than we could manage in 2020. We had hoped to reinstate the Crib service as well, but with rising infection numbers, particularly among children, this was felt to be too risky.

Advent Course

Our Advent Course was 'A Chequered Legacy' by Nick Fawcett. This is a two part course, the first part for Advent entitled 'The Good' looked at the effect on church and the world of William Wilberforce, The Earl of Shaftesbury, Florence Nightingale, Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela. Twelve people followed the course, six reading the book at home for themselves and six attending a study group via zoom, which was very thought provoking. The second part of the course 'The Bad and the Ugly' will follow for Lent.

Choir music, servers, welcomers

Once again it has been another disrupted year for choral music at St Michael's.

Lockdown 2 (or was it 3!) started just before Christmas until the beginning of April so services went back to the on-line audio version with some pre-recorded contributions from the choir. Small groups were however permitted to meet in church for the purposes of preparing services so this did allow the choir to meet occasionally in small groups to record hymns and anthems for inclusion in the audio services. Once again we were indebted to Rachel and Stephen's portable recording equipment to make the Lady Chapel into a very effective studio.

We recorded a lot of the usual music for the Easter Services so that this year we were able to hear our own on-line St Michael's Services – as near as we could get to normal under the circumstances. Covid cases had fallen enough by Holy Week that it was deemed safe enough to have the congregation back in church again for a joyous Easter Sunday celebration.

After Easter, as services became regular in-person events again, it was decided that to keep choir members as safe as possible and to more effectively use our dwindling numbers that we would have one full Choral service a month and we aimed to have these as far as possible on important liturgical Sundays. From September onwards the congregation were permitted to join in singing the hymns wearing their masks and this also coincided with the start of live streaming services for those unable to attend church. In this way we had 9 Choral services celebrating Pentecost, 2 ordinary time services, Patronal, All Soul's, Advent Sunday, a Nine Lessons and Carols with augmented choir, Christmas Eve and Epiphany. The resumption of regular services has enabled our organists to return to playing regularly – Stephen plays twice a month with Andrew covering another week and Rachel accompanying the Gathered Round service.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2021

In addition the choir sang at two Community events in St Michaels Square. In July there was a Covid Post-lockdown Service to remember all those lost to Covid and to give thanks for community efforts during the previous year. The second was a Charity Carol Singing event in December involving ourselves and other local choirs/groups.

It has been good to recover some of the richness of worship, in liturgical vestments, that we have so missed during the pandemic. Having the votive candle stand back also gives both regular worshippers and visitors a focus for prayer and reflection.

We also thank the team of welcomers and sidespeople, who may be our first point of contact with new visitors. This year, those volunteers had additional duties: ensuring contact details were recorded for the test and trace system, and helping the congregation to comply with social distancing guidance for the services, including the administration of communion – and all the while continuing to be a friendly face, even behind a mask.

Messy Church

Although regulations permitted it, it was decided not to re start Messy Church in person. A number of reasons made up this decision – the remaining COVID restrictions, the growing number of cases and a general feeling of wanting to wait longer.

Messy Church packs were sent to 30 families from September to December, and thanks go to Cathy Franklin who led these activities. It was then felt that, as it was very difficult to vary the contents and as Revd Debbie has contact with many of the children who were now, due to the time lapse, in primary school, that Messy Church would require a full new restart. A recommencement of Messy Church is hoped for, but dates and times to be discussed.

+INSPIRE+

+INSPIRE+ is St Michaels youth group. Due to Covid restrictions this too has had to be suspended. Revd Debbie keeps in contact with the members and their families and two of the INSPIRE members are now regularly working the sound and video elements of our services providing 'inspiration' to us all.

Working with the local community

COTHA

Churches on the Hill Amersham (COTHA) is currently a covenant between three churches: Amersham Free Church (AFC), St John's Methodist Church (St John's) and ourselves at St Michael's.

Sadly, at the COTHA Annual Meeting (AGM) held in November, St John's let us know that they would be closing for worship after the Easter Services in April 2022. After Easter 2022, therefore, the covenant will be between two churches: AFC and St Michael's. The hall and other rooms at St John's will, until further notice, continue to be available for hire as a community facility, but there will no longer be any services.

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Each year, one of the churches takes it in turn to be the COTHA “lead church” from one AGM to the next, with responsibility for organising events such as the AGM. In 2020/21 it was AFC which was the lead church, and St John’s were due to take over from them. In view of the position with St John’s, AFC kindly agreed to continue as the lead church in 2021/22.

There were two COTHA United Services during the year. The first was on Sunday 24 January, towards the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This was due to be at St John’s. However, as we were not holding services in our churches at that time, the service was broadcast over SoundCloud, led by St John’s, with other Ministers taking part. The second was on Sunday 18 July at AFC (as by then we were holding services in church), led by AFC, again with other Ministers taking part.

The Ministers of the three churches met on three occasions during the year, on Zoom in view of the pandemic.

Christmas Tree Festival

This year's Christmas Tree Festival, raising funds for Wycombe Homeless Connection, grew to a total of 25 Trees inside and outside the Church, bringing together local community groups, small businesses and individuals who sponsored and decorated the Trees, and many visitors supporting the event in true and generous Christmas spirit.

The grand total raised during the event was £2,250 which included £670 from sponsorship donations, £300 collected at the Angel Tree during the AAG Christmas Festival, £1,000 on Street Collection during the Music Event on the Square, and £280 from the on-going bucket collection in Church.

Wycombe Homeless Connection offered great support by decorating a Tree and sending 8 volunteers to boost the St Michael's team of Street Collectors throughout the day. Thanks are due to Kiki Connor and Ann Beattie for all their hard work on making this event such a success.

Local Schools

Contact with our local schools: these include Woodside Junior, Heatherton House, and Dr Challoners Grammar School, has of course been affected by the pandemic, though Revd Debbie has kept in touch with all the schools. Heatherton House took part in the Christmas Tree Festival. Woodside School attended St Michael's Church for their Christmas services, these took place without parents attending (due to restrictions) on the 16th December 21 with Key stage 1 in the morning with 96 attending and in the afternoon Key stage 2 with 134 attending. It was lovely to have the children and staff back and we look forward to welcoming them all along with students' parents this year. Restarting of assemblies will commence as soon as they feel it is possible.

Report of School Governor Activity for St Michael and All Angels – Woodside School

In November 2020 Dr Robert Oades was appointed a skills governor for Woodside Primary School. This followed a request from the school to St Michael and All Angels PCC if it could put forward suitable candidates. This coincided with the plan for Woodside School to move from Local Authority management

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to the Oxford Diocesan Bucks Schools Trust (ODBST). This fitted in well with the links St Michaels already had with Woodside School and that had been developed further by Revd Debbie.

Dr Oades is the schools link Governor for Science and Art provision in the school and has held discussions with the teaching focal points to discuss the work programmes. Both are in excellent shape. He is also on the team that looks at the management of the school budget.

Over the last 18 months the role has been challenging to fulfil due to COVID 19 restrictions, but 8 meetings have been attended using zoom.

Deanery Synod

Amersham Deanery Synod met three times in 2021. There are 16 parishes within the Deanery. These meetings provide an opportunity for representatives from each of them to come together to learn about, and discuss, matters of mutual interest.

The first meeting in March took place via Zoom. Officers were elected to serve for the next three year term. Lawrence Tebboth from Gerrards Cross, was re-elected as Lay Chair and Mrs Julie Dziegiel of Chesham, as Treasurer. Mrs. Dorothy Potter (St. Mary's Amersham) agreed to stay on as Secretary for one more year. Revd. Peggy Ludlow, recently returned from Australia and now serving with her husband in Latimer, was introduced as a new Assistant Area Dean. A meeting of the Amersham Deanery Trust (the body which gives legal standing to the Synod) followed to receive the annual accounts and the budget for the next year. Towards the end of the meeting, members had a short time in break out groups to talk about how churches could move forward as the pandemic appeared to be drawing to a close. At the end of the meeting, presentations were made to Revd. Tim Harper, the outgoing Area Dean, prior to his retirement and Revd. Cassa Messervy, the Assistant Area Dean, who was moving to a new parish outside the deanery.

The second meeting took place at the Fitzwilliam Centre in Beaconsfield and provided the first opportunity for St. Michael's new representatives to meet their opposite numbers from other churches, in person. Following the decision of Revd. Martin Williams to step down from his position as Co-area Dean, it was announced that Revd. Peggy Ludlow would take on the full responsibilities of this role. The main theme of the meeting was 'Continuing the Re-building'. Revd. Brian Ludlow, who has a background in the area, gave a presentation on the public and occupational health aspects of the pandemic from a faith perspective. This was followed by a second presentation by Revd. Gill Lovell, Parish Development Officer Buckingham Archdeaconry, on the topic of learning and questions for our churches as we rebuild.

The final meeting of the year was held at the St. James Centre, Gerrards Cross. Elections to serve on the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee for the next three years took place before Steve and Lindsey Poulson, who work with street-connected and vulnerable children and young people in Honduras, gave a presentation about the Proyecto Alas project which they run, which provoked a number of requests for further detail about their work.

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Copies of all the presentations made during the year, can be found on the Deanery Synod website, <https://www.amershamdeanery.org.uk/ddocuments.html>

Hospitality

For much of the year, due to the pandemic, it was not possible to have any kind of catering in church. However, in September it was decided to have a small celebration for the Patronal festival. We bought canapes and prosecco and these were served in the north transept after the 10.00am service. This seemed to be much appreciated by the congregation.

It was agreed that we would then try serving coffee on alternate Sundays rather than every week, as numbers of those able to help are now quite low. We did this a few times, but the resurgence of the pandemic shortly before Christmas meant that we had to stop. The plan is to start again in April. We are certainly in need of more helpers and if anyone would like to join the team Di Bacon would be delighted to hear from them.

Chiltern Community & Policing Forum

Because of the changes in council/civic arrangements within the Amersham and Buckinghamshire areas, the nature and format of these meetings Revd Debbie no longer felt these appropriate for her to attend. St Michaels is the Amersham community collection point for written suggestions to these meetings. (Remember this is not for reporting crimes). The dates of these meetings are posted on www.chilterncommunityforum.org. The suggestion box is situated in the Narthex and is another way of maintaining St Michaels at the heart of the community.

The wider world

Missionary giving

Mission giving had again to be limited in 2021 because of the Covid impact on the Church's finances. Nonetheless three charities shared £1,248. We aim to have a balance between both international and domestic charities and try to support those with whom we have had a connection in the past. We chose The Leprosy Mission, USPG – United Society Partners in the Gospel and New Hope, Watford. The Leprosy Mission is a global Christian organisation leading the fight against leprosy in 28 countries. USPG are an Anglican mission agency that partners churches and communities worldwide to enliven Christian faith and champion justice. New Hope provides three homes for people in recovery from alcohol and substance misuse, has an emergency helpline and offers advice and support to those facing homelessness in the local area. They also encourage people to prepare for employment through training and volunteering.

The Lent and Harvest Appeals went ahead as usual with donations, including gift aid, made directly to the Friends of St Anne's Hospital, Liuli, Tanzania and the Hospice of St Francis, Berkhamsted respectively. The congregation gave generously to both charities and had the benefit of a presentation in the church at Harvest time from Helen Robinson, one of the hospice's fund-raising volunteers.

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Mission giving 2021	£	£
The Leprosy Mission	£416	
USPG	£416	
Total overseas mission		£832
New Hope Watford	£416	
Total home mission		£416
Total mission giving		£1,248

It is of course a great sadness to us to have to suspend the more generous Mission Giving of our recent past. The PCC are grateful to the Mission Giving committee members – present and past – for their work in this area, and would like to celebrate the fact that, in the 22 years up to 2019, the church gave over £300,000 to other charities.

Traidcraft Stall and Foodbank

With the resumption of the Gathered Round services in October, the regular stalls returned to church. In addition, Traidcraft goods were still available to order through our local representative, Margaret Dykes.

In terms of the Foodbank, the need remains great and growing. Over the last 25 months, members of the church and the wider community have donated collectively £50,000 which has been spent buying ethically- sourced and fairly-traded quality goods requested by, and delivered to, the Food bank. The original challenge around the first covid lockdown was superseded by the second and third, and then new cost of living challenges driven by rising costs, inflation beating fuel price rises and (in 2022) the consequences of the terrible tragedy unfolding in Ukraine, for food and fuel prices. Margaret and Bill send their thanks to St Michael's members for their continuing support for this essential service.

Pastoral Care

Healing ministry and Prayer Chain

There have been no healing services or Healing and wholeness sessions this year. At the time of writing, no further plans have been made.

However, St Michael's Prayer Chain members have continued to pray, in our own homes, for people who have requested prayers (both St Michael's members and for people who are known to them). This ministry has been continuing throughout the last two years on a confidential basis. We would welcome new members.

Safeguarding

Appropriate safeguarding training for all those who may come into contact with vulnerable adults and/or children, within the work of the parish has been brought up to date. As mentioned last year this is a Diocesan requirement; an insurance requirement and a necessity for St Michael's safeguarding policy. Many thanks go to Ann Beattie, our Safeguarding Officer and Alan Jarvis our Safeguarding Assistant who

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work to ensure the training is done by those who need it. Thanks too to Hazel Miller who oversees the DBS checks. These requirements are an ongoing process and will require constant updating.

Office and communications

For much of the year, the office staff worked from home, gradually returning as lockdown eased. A normal service continued to be provided with the phone redirected and full access to e-mail and electronic files.

Web-based resources remained important with a transcript of services together with readings, intercessions and a sermon published weekly until October to complement the audio services. The website also featured a series of images under the heading of 'Our Creative Community' produced by members of Pop In and Paint working at home while the group were unable to meet in person.

With the gradual resumption of services, a new task was added to the weekly list – ensuring that separate sets of service booklets and check-in sheets were prepared for each of the three regular services, the former to minimise the risk of transmission of infection through touch, and the latter to conform to track and trace requirements.

The IKnow database continues to play an important role in communication between members of the church community. Over 100 people now receive weekly notices and monthly newsletters in this way, as well as reminders of rota duties and agenda for meetings, where appropriate. Gradually more people are engaging with this software, and hopefully more will do so as time goes on.

A new module was added to the system in 2021, the Life Events Diary, developed by the Church of England, with the intention of making it easier streamline the administration of Baptisms, Weddings, Banns, and Funerals.

Once restrictions on social gatherings started to ease during the summer, many of the regular users of the hall restarted their activities, meaning a transfer of resources to the managing of bookings and invoicing, and to ensuring that the internal and external noticeboards were kept up-to-date. Demand for one-off bookings gradually picked up during the autumn as people felt more confident about getting together.

In November, Nicola Petrou-Amerikanos, who had held the role of Office Assistant since the start of 2020 decided it was time to move on, leaving the Church Administrator as the only regular member of staff.

SHARING OUR RESOURCES

Amersham Deanery

As part of the established church, St Michael's benefits from the support of the wider church, through Oxford Diocese and Amersham Deanery, and we are glad to give support back in our turn.

Our incumbent, Revd Debbie Oades, serves on the Deanery Pastoral and Mission Committee, and is Sabbatical Advisor for the Buckingham Archdeaconry. Changes to service patterns in lockdown have meant

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that our Associate Priest, Revd Peter Binns, has focused on St Michaels, and stepped back from his long-standing commitments at Trinity, Aston Abbots and Cublington, but still helps out at Penn.

The Sycamore Club

The Sycamore Club, a local charity based at Amersham Free Church, has for many years provided a day centre for the elderly, often those living with dementia. Fr Peter has actively supported and chaired this for 12 years. In the Autumn of 2021 at its AGM it was decided that due to the falling numbers, increasing age and demands of time on the volunteers it was time to close. Many thanks go to Fr. Peter, AFC and all the volunteers for their many years of service to the local community.

Social events and activities

Tuesday Club

Owing to the pandemic, the Tuesday Club has not arranged any activities during 2021 and so far in 2022. The holiday in Sudbury, Suffolk, which was due to take place in May, 2022 has been cancelled, as COVID is still around, and it was felt that it would be too much of a risk to undertake such an activity at this time. A final Tuesday Club holiday in Halifax is being arranged for 2023.

Pop In and Paint

As the pandemic continued Pop in & Paint were unable to hold any sessions for most of 2021, but we continued on line with our monthly challenges, setting a different theme each month. It was lovely to see how our members responded, sharing photographs of their paintings with each other, which definitely kept the spirit of PIP going!

We were able to resume our meetings again in September and it was great to welcome everyone back in person. We also sponsored a tree for the Christmas Tree Festival at St Michael's and some beautiful art work was produced to hang on the PIP tree! We are celebrating 10 years of Pop In & Paint in September 2022 and we are so proud that many of our original members are still with us and we continue to welcome new members each month.

Wise Choices Film Club

The community film club restarted in September 21 and held four meetings up to year end. Films shown during this period were Second Hand Lions, Bohemian Rhapsody, He named me Malala and Downton Abbey the movie. All sessions were very well attended, and our thanks go to Isabel Wise for organising these events.

Bucks Art Weeks

In June 2021 the group of local artists known as Simpatico held another art exhibition as part of Bucks Art Weeks. It was wonderful to see many familiar faces again (albeit masked!!!) and meet new visitors! It actually felt like some normality was slowly creeping back into our lives! As a result of healthy sales and visitors' generosity we managed to raise £656.50 for St Michael's and the same amount for our chosen

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charity, Horatio's Garden. We look forward to being back to hold our Bucks Art Weeks exhibition 11 - 26 June 2022!

Buildings – church, hall and St Michael's Square

Our buildings, situated in the centre of Amersham-on-the-Hill, are an important resource for the local community. As lockdown eased, we were delighted to welcome once again the Amersham Photographic Society for the annual exhibition in August followed by the Simpatico art exhibition for a week in September. Both attracted a substantial number of visitors. We look forward to welcoming these groups again in 2022. The church played host to a number of concerts in the second half of the year with further similar events already booked for 2022.

We have regular groups who use the hall and church, The extended period of lockdown saw some changes with some groups closing or re-locating to larger premises, but new groups coming in to replace them. The large space in the hall is used by the Beehive Montessori School and for badminton, fitness classes and dance schools. It is popular for children's parties, especially at weekends. An increasing number of groups, offering similar activities, meet in the Glover Room behind the main hall. Local music groups use various rooms in the church and hall for rehearsals and performances. In line with government advice, both the hall and church were closed to external hirers for several months during the year.

St Michael's Square, in front of the church, is being increasingly used for community events such as the Christmas Festival, for sales in aid of local and national charities and for awareness-raising events such as a Climate Change Action Day. We also hosted the Chiltern Voice radio launch and "Choirs on the Square". In December, Father Christmas visited as part of the Amersham Action Group's Christmas Fair. We look forward to hosting other events in 2022.

But if our buildings are an asset, they also require constant care and maintenance. We are custodians of these buildings for the future and take this responsibility seriously. The Quinquennial Inspection in the year identified some works, which are spread over the five-year cycle, and other tasks are undertaken as necessary to comply with regulations. This essential work is overseen by the buildings committee, to whom we are indebted for their time and expertise.

FINANCE

Review of the year

It will come as no surprise that St Michael's has run at a deficit for 2021. The astounding generosity of the congregation in response to the appeal in 2020 has, however, left us still in a reasonable position to go forward. Hall and church rooms hire has bounced back and contributed to our income, though this is still not back to pre-pandemic levels for the year in question, as it was affected by the various lockdowns and restrictions.

Details of the breakdown of income are shown in note 2.

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Expenditure for the year has supported the key objectives of St Michael's to be a church at the heart of the community of Amersham on the Hill, while at the same time contributing funds to the Church of England through our Parish Share and to charities through our Missionary Giving, even though that was so curtailed this year. Note 3 shows how our expenditure breaks down.

As mentioned above, we finished 2021 with a significant deficit. We hope that a return to a full year of activity in the hall and church in terms of hiring will help to make 2022 a better year.

	2021	2020
	£	£
Surplus/(deficit) on church activities and fund raising	(26,938)	458
Legacies	2,052	14,000
Noticeboard project	-	(3,837)
(Losses)/gains on investment assets	1,460	(6,583)
Net surplus/(deficit)	<u>(23,426)</u>	<u>4,038</u>

Reserves policy

The PCC aims to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which is sufficient to meet expenditure for the following 6 months, taking into account planned maintenance, commitments to employees and the expected level of the Parish Share. The level of reserves at 31st December 2021 is considered adequate for this.

Risk management

The PCC has conducted a review of the major risks to which St Michael's is exposed. A risk register has been established and is updated at least annually.

As part of this, our safeguarding policy is reviewed and approved annually in line with diocesan requirements and guidelines. DBS checks are reviewed annually for all those coming into contact with vulnerable adults and children, and are renewed on a rolling four year cycle. Appropriate training is given from within the parish and through external providers as deemed necessary.

CONCLUSION FROM THE VICAR

A big thank you once more to all of you for all your efforts for the parish, the people we serve, and for all the work, prayer and both personal and financial sacrifice we as a community in Christ's name have borne witness to over yet another difficult and demanding year!

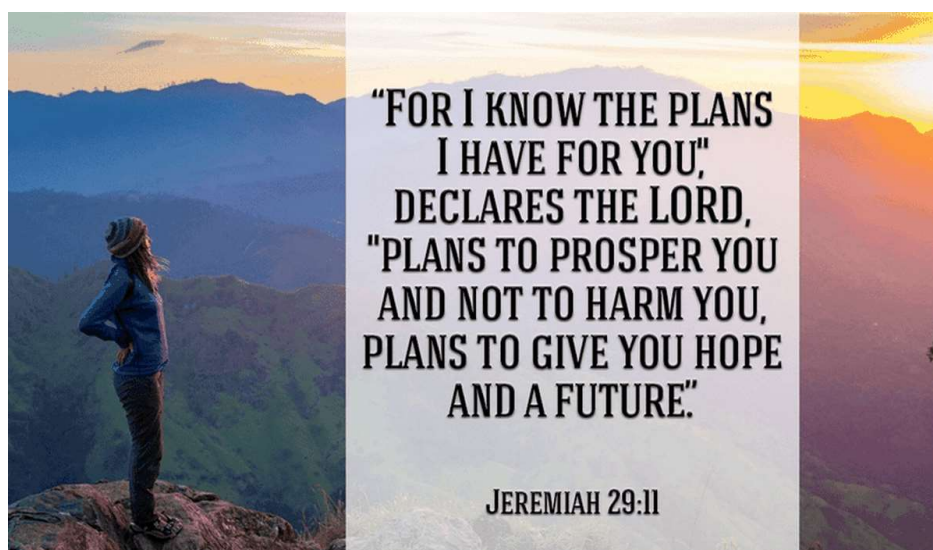
The new skills acquired last year during the height of pandemic have continued to grow and develop and have now become significant parts of our daily church life particularly within the communication and media realms. Our use of Zoom has continued to be indispensable in communicating with one another for PCC and Standing Committee meetings and also our Advent Course.

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The sense of dislocation has continued to be felt during the year of 2021. The happenings of the Covid 19 global epidemic and the concomitant effects have of course caused this. This year there has generally been a more positive note but still a very cautious stance. Glimmers of the ever-present light now shine far brighter though with the success of the vaccination programme despite still living with masks and distancing in some situations and what was 'the new norm' reappears or dissipates as infection rates dictate. It must still be remembered that as we move forward there will be many people who have borne the loss of family and friends, an experience, which the congregation of St Michaels has sadly not been exempt. This will inevitably have an impact on our community going forwards for many months and years to come. The tension between those wanting to move forwards and those wanting to be very cautious has been difficult and keenly felt by many. Our aim has always been to be and to operate in the safest way possible and thanks go to all those on the PCC, the wardens and clergy colleagues who have worked so hard to achieve this.

St Michael and All Angels has even more than before become a centering point, a place of stillness and presence, holding out the light, hope and love of Christ to the community it serves in its brokenness and in its healing. Community event requests to be held in church or the hall have seen a big increase for the year ahead, many events wanting to move forward with joy and positivity which is very much needed. However we also need to continue in acknowledging the loss and brokenness of lives and livelihoods lost which many going forwards will find very hard indeed. The need to hold our community in prayer continues as ever. We give thanks for all those who have proved a blessing in our lives and those around us and hold them up to God with thankful hearts. Special thanks go to Fr. Peter Binns for his unending support and humour, to office personnel, Church Wardens, and PCC. And to every one of you for everything that is happening to keep our community here at St Michaels going forwards despite the challenges.



Revd Debbie Oades.

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Statement of Council Members' Responsibilities

The members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the PCC's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing accounts giving a true and fair view, the members should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Church will continue in operation.

The members of the PCC are responsible for keeping accounting records which both disclose with reasonable accuracy and enable them to ascertain the financial position of the PCC and which enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Statement of Recommended Practice on Accounting and Reporting by Charities SORP (FRS102) and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the PCC and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

FOR AND BEHALF OF THE PCC

Roger Leslie
Church Warden

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Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of the Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

This report on the accounts of the Parochial Church Council ('PCC') for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 21 to 33 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as members of the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act have not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mark Blackwell ACMA
MHR Consultancy Ltd
Minster House
126a High St
Whitton
Twickenham
Middlesex TW2 7LL

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total funds	
					2021 £	2020 £
Income and Endowments						
Voluntary giving	2a	81,827	-	-	81,827	129,076
Activities for generating funds	2b	25,195	-	-	25,195	16,747
Church activities	2c	3,326	-	-	3,326	4,665
Income from investments	2d	1,113	2,736	-	3,849	4,152
Other incoming resources	2e	300	-	-	300	-
Total income and endowments		111,761	2,736	-	114,497	154,640
Expenditure						
Grants - Mission giving	3a	1,888	-	-	1,888	2,390
Church activities	3b	126,961	10,534	-	137,495	141,631
Total expenditure		128,849	10,534	-	139,383	144,021
Net income and incoming endowments before investment gains and losses		(17,088)	(7,798)	-	(24,886)	10,619
Gains & losses on investment assets, on disposals and on revaluation	5b	(2,780)	4,378	(138)	1,460	(6,582)
Net movement in Funds		(19,868)	(3,420)	(138)	(23,426)	4,037
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-
Balances brought forward		156,180	271,937	2,594	430,711	426,674
Balances carried forward		136,312	268,517	2,456	407,285	430,711

Notes 1 to 24 form part of these accounts

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible fixed assets	5a	271,492	271,704
Investment Assets	5b	104,003	102,543
		375,495	374,247
Current Assets			
Debtors	6	4,584	8,259
Short term deposits		22,587	25,958
Cash at bank and in hand		10,374	27,493
		37,545	61,710
Liabilities			
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	7	(5,755)	(5,246)
		31,790	56,464
Net current assets			
		407,285	430,711
Parish Funds			
	9		
Unrestricted		136,312	156,180
Restricted		268,517	271,937
Endowment		2,456	2,594
		-	-
		407,285	430,711

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on

and signed on its behalf by:

Debbie Oades, Vicar

Roger Leslie, Church Warden

Notes 1 to 24 form part of these accounts

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

1. Accounting Policies

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions, together with FRS102 (2017) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2017 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP (2017)).

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

a) Funds

Endowment funds are permanent endowments and bequests of capital used to generate income for restricted funds.

Restricted funds are funds which can only be used for particular purposes as specified by the donor or funds raised for particular restricted purposes.

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.

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. The group for which the PCC are responsible in law is St Michael's Tuesday Club.

b) Income and Endowments

Voluntary income and capital sources

- i) Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.
- ii) Planned Giving under gift aid is recognised only when received.
- iii) Income tax recoverable on covenants or gift aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.
- iv) Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due can be measured reliably and its receipt by the PCC is more likely than not.
- v) Funds raised by events are accounted for gross.

Other ordinary income

Rental income from the letting of premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains and losses are recognised when investments are sold.

Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on the revaluation of investments on 31st December 2021.

c) Expenditure

General Expenditure

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis, inclusive of VAT, which is not recoverable.

Grants

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

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The parish share is accounted for when payable.

d) Land and buildings

Land and buildings are included at cost less depreciation of the buildings over fifty years. The church, hall, vicarage and site are held by the Diocese of Oxford as Custodian Trustee of St Michael Charity, a permanent trust established in 1973 of which the PCC are managing trustees. Under the terms of the Trust, land and buildings must be used as they currently are being used. Information as to the cost of these buildings and site is not available. As the land has been held for ecclesiastical purposes for many years and the buildings constructed in 1966 would now be substantially depreciated, the property is included in the financial statements at a value of £nil. In 2007 an extension was added to the vicarage. This is included in the financial statements at a cost of £34,916 and is not depreciated as the residual value of the vicarage at 31 December 2021 is expected to exceed this sum. In 2013 work was completed on developing St Michael's Square and this is included in the financial statements at a cost of £235,940 and is not depreciated as the residual value at 31 December 2021 is expected to exceed this sum.

e) Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated at 25% reducing balance. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

f) Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December 2021.

g) Current assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December 2021 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 either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

2.	Income and endowments	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
2a.	Voluntary giving					
	Planned Giving:					
	Gift Aid donations	60,170	-	-	60,170	65,341
	Tax recoverable	13,966	-	-	13,966	13,564
	Other	-	-	-	-	120
		74,136	-	-	74,136	79,025
	Collections (open plate)	80	-	-	80	776
	Donations, appeals etc	2,103	-	-	2,103	29,276
	Grants	3,456	-	-	3,456	5,999
	Legacies	2,052	-	-	2,052	14,000
		81,827	-	-	81,827	129,076
2b.	Activities for generating funds					
	Lettings: Church hall	22,413	-	-	22,413	14,795
	Church	2,707	-	-	2,707	1,622
	St Michael Square	75	-	-	75	330
		25,195	-	-	25,195	16,747
2c.	Church activities					
	Tuesday Club	-	-	-	-	1,253
	Fees for weddings, funerals etc	2,348	-	-	2,348	2,022
	Other income	978	-	-	978	1,390
		3,326	-	-	3,326	4,665
2d.	Income from investments					
	Dividends	1,108	2,727	-	3,835	4,023
	Interest	5	9	-	14	129
		1,113	2,736	-	3,849	4,152
2e.	Other incoming resources					
	Insurance claims	-	-	-	-	-
	Other income	300	-	-	300	-
		300	-	-	300	-
	Total income and endowments	111,761	2,736	-	114,497	154,640

Income for 2020 was received as unrestricted funds £151,942, restricted funds £2,698 and endowment funds £nil.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

3. Expenditure	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
3a. Grants - Mission giving					
Overseas - missionary societies	832	-	-	832	416
Home mission & other societies	1,056	-	-	1,056	1,974
	1,888	-	-	1,888	2,390
3b. Church activities					
Ministry: Parish Share	72,361	-	-	72,361	74,663
clergy expenses	984	-	-	984	905
Sabbatical	-	-	-	-	-
other clergy costs	1,299	-	-	1,299	974
	74,644	-	-	74,644	76,542
Services	1,486	419	-	1,905	866
Cost of organist, choirmaster & choir	1,465	-	-	1,465	1,652
Parish magazine & bookstall	73	-	-	73	-
Tuesday Club	-	-	-	-	1,306
Fees paid over to the Diocese	2,690	-	-	2,690	1,068
Other fees and licences	712	-	-	712	784
Community outreach and events	383	-	-	383	-
Church running costs	12,167	-	-	12,167	13,799
Church repairs and general maintenance	603	7,500	-	8,103	5,482
Planned maintenance projects:					
- New sign board	-	-	-	-	3,837
Depreciation of equipment	97	115	-	212	282
Hall running costs	11,383	2,500	-	13,883	14,284
Support costs	20,722	-	-	20,722	21,330
Bank charges	211	-	-	211	324
Costs of generating funds	-	-	-	-	-
Other costs	325	-	-	325	75
	126,961	10,534	-	137,495	141,631
Total expenditure	128,849	10,534	-	139,383	144,021

Support costs include the salary of the parish secretary and the costs of running the church office.

Expenditure for 2020 was met from unrestricted funds £143,325, restricted funds £695 and endowment funds £nil.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

4. Staff costs		2021	2020
		£	£
Wages and salaries		30,232	29,891
Social security costs		-	-
		30,232	29,891

5a. Fixed assets for use by the PCC		Land and buildings	Other	Total
		£	£	£
Actual/deemed cost	at 1 January 2021	270,856	5,009	275,865
	Additions at cost	-	-	-
	Disposals	-	-	-
	at 31 December 2021	270,856	5,009	275,865
Depreciation	at 1 January 2021	-	(4,161)	(4,161)
	Withdrawn on disposals	-	-	-
	Charge for the year	-	(212)	(212)
	at 31 December 2021	-	(4,373)	(4,373)
Net book value	at 31 December 2021	270,856	636	271,492
	at 31 December 2020	270,856	848	271,704

The church, church hall, vicarage and site are held by the Diocese of Oxford as Custodian Trustee of St Michael Charity which is a permanent trust established in November 1973. An extension to the vicarage is included at cost above as is expenditure on the redesign of the church entrance and on St Michael's Square. In both cases the cost is not depreciated. Otherwise information as to the cost of these buildings and site is not available and they are included at nil cost above.

5b. Investment assets	Market value	Sale proceeds	Gain/(loss)	Market value
Movements in the year	1 Jan 2021			31 Dec 2021
	£	£	£	£
CBF Fixed Interest Securities	61,366	-	(4,049)	57,317
M&G Charifund	41,177	-	5,509	46,686
			-	
	102,543	-	1,460	104,003
Historical cost	1 Jan 2021		31 Dec 2021	
	Shares/units	Cost	Shares/units	Cost
		£		£
CBF Fixed Interest Securities	36,279	58,979	36,279	58,979
M&G Charifund	3,000	2,526	3,000	2,526

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

6.	Debtors	2021	2020		
		£	£		
	Tax recoverable	811	982		
	Prepayments and accrued income	1,688	5,956		
	Other debtors	2,085	1,321		
		4,584	8,259		
7.	Liabilities: amounts falling due within one year	2020	2019		
		£	£		
	Accruals and deferred income	(898)	(1,512)		
	Creditors for goods and services	(4,857)	(3,734)		
		(5,755)	(5,246)		
8.	Analysis of net assets by fund as at 31 December 2021				
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total
		£	£	£	£
	Tangible fixed assets	77,851	193,642	-	271,493
	Fixed asset investments	39,349	62,703	1,951	104,003
	Current assets - debtors	4,584	-	-	4,584
	Current assets - deposits	10,226	11,855	505	22,586
	Current assets - cash at bank and in hand	10,057	317	-	10,374
	Current liabilities	(5,755)	-	-	(5,755)
	Fund balances	136,312	268,517	2,456	407,285

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

9. Analysis of Fund Movements

	1 Jan 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains/ (losses)	31 Dec 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds:						
Designated						
Tuesday Club	3,274	-	-	-	-	3,274
St Michael's Vicarage	34,916	-	-	-	-	34,916
St Michael's Square	42,643	-	-	-	-	42,643
Pastoral Support	26,601	557	-	(10,000)	(1,390)	15,768
Buildings and Projects	22,764	556	-	(10,000)	(1,390)	11,930
Youth Activities	4,209	2	(278)	-	-	3,933
Sabbatical	409	1	-	200	-	610
Music	2,289	1	-	-	-	2,290
	137,105	1,117	(278)	(19,800)	(2,780)	115,364
Undesignated						
General Fund	19,075	110,644	(128,571)	19,800	-	20,948
Total Unrestricted Funds	156,180	111,761	(128,849)	-	(2,780)	136,312
Restricted Funds:						
Trust Income	15,488	276	(10,000)	10,056	(685)	15,135
Spiritual Development	6,319	58	-	-	-	6,377
St Michael Charity	55,598	2,401	-	(10,056)	5,063	53,006
St Michael's Square	193,297	-	-	-	-	193,297
St Michael's Project	1,235	1	(534)	-	-	702
Total Restricted Funds	271,937	2,736	(10,534)	-	4,378	268,517
Endowment Funds:						
Ellen Motion Fund	2,594	-	-	-	(138)	2,456
Total Endowment Funds	2,594	-	-	-	(138)	2,456
Total of all Funds	430,711	114,497	(139,383)	-	1,460	407,285

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

10. St Michael Charity

The St Michael Charity was established in November 1973 as part of a Scheme approved by the Charity Commissioners of England and Wales. As part of that Scheme, St Michael Charity acquired the land and buildings thereon, namely St Michael's Church, St Michael's Church Hall and the vicarage together with a share of the accumulated income allocated under the Scheme. The investments of St Michael Charity are included in these Financial Statements at Note 5b.

11. Bankers

TSB Bank plc, Leeds, and HSBC, Sycamore Road, Amersham, are the PCC's bankers. Additionally, Amersham branch of Barclays Bank plc acts as banker for St Michael's Tuesday Club. The PCC also has funds on deposit with the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England.

12. Funds

The Charities Act distinguishes between 'restricted' funds, which are funds or endowments given to the PCC for a particular purpose and which can only be used for that purpose, and 'unrestricted' funds which are available for the general purposes of the PCC and may be designated by the PCC. The PCC make transfers between funds when expenditure of a restricted or designated nature is to be met from more than one type of fund. The maximum level of these transfers is agreed by the PCC prior to the expenditure. On 24 March 2006, the Charity Commission confirmed that the funds of St Michael Charity do not constitute permanent endowment but are restricted funds.

Unrestricted funds designated by the PCC:

i) St Michael's Vicarage

This fund includes expenditure on the vicarage extension in 2007.

ii) St Michael's Square

This fund includes expenditure on the redesign of the church entrance and on St Michael's Square met from unrestricted funds.

iii) Pastoral Support

This fund is for support for the Vicar in her pastoral work, including outreach activities. It holds investments in CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund and cash deposits.

iv) Buildings and Projects

This fund is for larger and capital projects relating to the church and hall buildings. It holds investments in CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund and cash deposits.

v) Youth Activities

This fund is for support for youth activities within St Michael's, including but not limited to Messy Church. It includes funds formerly held in the Spiritual Development fund and the Miss M.E. Blake legacy. It holds cash deposits.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

vi) Sabbatical

This fund is to provide support for sabbatical study for the Vicar. A grant was agreed, and paid, in 2019. From 2020 onwards it will be gradually increased each year to provide for a future sabbatical. It holds cash deposits.

vii) Music

This fund was established with a designated donation, to provide for exceptional items required in relation to music in the church. It holds cash deposits.

Unrestricted Funds which have not been designated by the PCC

viii) General Fund

This fund holds the accumulated surplus in cash, deposits and CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund and is used in conjunction with the PCC's cash operating accounts. It also holds expenditure on fixed assets (other than buildings) and on investments acquired with unrestricted funds.

Restricted Funds of the PCC

ix) Trust Income account

This fund receives income from St Michael Charity to be used for expenditure on the buildings in accordance with the trust deed. In 2021 a transfer was made to move income previously credited to the St Michael Charity fund to this fund.

x) St Michael Charity

St Michael Charity was established in November 1973 and is invested to provide income with dividends and interest being paid to the Trust Income account. As for some years the income had been credited to the St Michael Charity fund, a transfer (as noted above) has been made to correct this.

xi) Spiritual Development Fund

This fund is for the young people of St Michael's and receives income from the Ellen Motion Memorial Fund from which it originated.

xii) St Michael's Square

This fund represents expenditure on the redesign of the church entrance and on St Michael's Square met from restricted funds.

xiii) The St Michael's Project Fund

This fund was established in 2014 for restricted income, and matched expenditure, on specific projects – initially, for replacement seating, and then in 2015 and 2019 for the refurbishment of the church organ. In 2020 the fund was used for the hall improvement project, with matched expenditure charged to that fund.

Endowment Funds

xiv) Ellen Motion Memorial Fund

This fund is a permanent endowment invested to produce restricted income which is to be used for the spiritual development of the young people of St Michael's. By an addendum signed on 17 November 1997, it was agreed that income from the fund could be used to support payments to a voluntary youth worker.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

13. Accruals

All amounts included in the financial statements are shown on an accruals basis. Where amounts have been received in advance such as for rental income, the amount relating to future periods has been deferred. Amounts invoiced but unpaid at the year end are included in creditors and estimates for costs relating to the year are included in accruals. At 31 December 2021, the PCC had a claimable income tax rebate of £811 (2020: £982). A summary of all debtors and creditors at the year end is shown at Notes 6 and 7 to the Accounts.

14. Tuesday Club

The Tuesday Club plans its events each year to break even with revenue from participants intended to meet the costs of such events. Revenue for the year was £nil (2020: £1,253) with costs for the year of £nil (2020: £1,306).

15. Ex-gratia payments

In addition to the missionary and charitable giving listed in item 3a) of the accounts, ex-gratia payments valued at £nil were made during 2021 (2020: £nil).

16. Staff costs

During the year, the PCC employed a church secretary, an assistant administrator, a warden and a church cleaner. The average number of employees was 4. The organists were self-employed and payments to them are not included in Staff costs.

17. Incumbent's expenses

The vicar Debbie Oades was reimbursed expenses totalling £984 (2020: £906) as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Travel expenses	-	-
Vicarage telephone and internet	984	906
Other expenses	-	-
	<u>£984</u>	<u>£906</u>

Expenses of £1,299 (2020: £974) were reimbursed to other curates and clergy.

18. Insurance

The PCC has insured itself with the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group for many years and the policy is inflation linked. From March 2021 cover of the buildings was provided at the following levels:

Church	£5,600,000 (2020: £5,600,000)
Hall	£2,800,000 (2020: £2,800,000)

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

19. Mission Giving

As noted in the Annual Report, in 2021 the PCC took the hard decision to suspend the policy of allocating 10% of its voluntary income to Overseas Missions and 5% to Home Missions. A flat sum was instead allocated. This policy will be kept under review.

20. Loans and guarantees

No loans or guarantees have been secured against any of the PCC's assets.

21. Contingent liabilities

There are no contingent liabilities.

22. Related party transactions

The church benefits from the services of family members of the PCC, whose skills are used in various roles as noted below. In each case the connected PCC member takes no part in setting specific terms for the appointment and the terms of such appointments are no better than those offered to unconnected parties. Further details are given in the table below.

Person	Role	Connected to	Nature of connection	£
Andrew Leslie	Organist	Roger Leslie	Son	£90
Stephen Wilcox	Organist	Rachel Wilcox	Husband	£1,170
Rachel Wilcox	Organist		PCC member	£90
Hazel Miller	Administrator		Ex officio PCC member	£12,781

No other payments or expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties.

23. Grants

	2021	2020
	£	£
HMRC Job Retention Scheme 'Furlough' claims	3,456	5,999
Total grants	<u>3,456</u>	<u>5,999</u>

24. Quinquennial examination

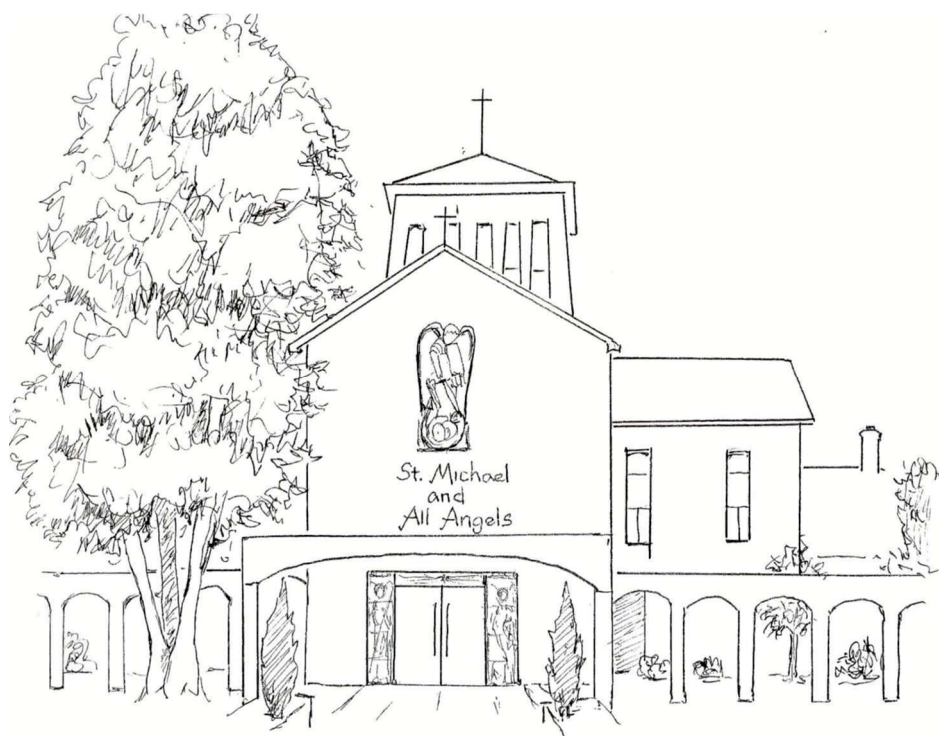
An Architect's Quinquennial Survey was completed in March 2021, and the Report received in May 2021. The Buildings Committee is reviewing the report and will advise the PCC on a programme of works. A full electrical survey has also been completed and its recommendations will also be reviewed, with recommendations to the PCC. Specialist contractors will be engaged where necessary.

Accounts

**Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels,
Amersham on the Hill**

Registered Charity No. 1129139

**ANNUAL REPORT
and
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
of the
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
for the year ended 31 December 2020**



St Michael's Vision Statement:

*As a Christian community we seek to engage with the world around us
and to be a place of welcome and acceptance for all on a journey to
God – believers, doubters and those who are seeking.*

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

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Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Legal and administrative information for the year ended 31 December 2020

Name of the charity

The full name of the charity is The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham. The charity is registered with the Charity Commissioners of England and Wales and its registration number is 1129139.

Objects

The objects of the charity are as set out in the governing document issued by the Church of England. The PCC has adopted the objects clause of that governing document, the wording of which is given below.

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

In adopting and applying these objects, the trustees have regard to the guidance of the Charity Commission on Public Benefit.

Incumbent

Revd Debbie Oades
St Michael's Church
70 Sycamore Road
Amersham

Bank

TSB Bank plc
PO Box 373
Leeds

HSBC
Sycamore Road
Amersham

Independent Examiner

Mark Blackwell (ACMA)
MHR Consultancy Ltd
Minster House
126a High St
Whitton
Twickenham
Middlesex TW2 7LL

Principal office

The principal office of the charity is 70 Sycamore Road, Amersham, Buckinghamshire HP6 5DR.

Average Church Attendance

The figures are calculated on average attendance during October 2020.

Weekly attendance	24 adults, no children
Messy Church	No services held

(The above figures are significantly lower due to the restrictions placed on us in making the services Covid-safe, which reduced the capacity of the church.)

Church at Home (audio service online)	Approximately 60
---------------------------------------	------------------

Electoral Roll Data

As at 31 December 2020 the total number on the Electoral Roll was 106.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Legal and administrative information for the year ended 31 December 2020

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham was registered with the Central Register of Charities on 15 April 2009. The trustees of the charity are members of the PCC and decisions of the trustees are made at PCC. New trustees are appointed on personal recommendation of the PCC.

New PCC members are encouraged to attend diocesan or other training courses to help them in their responsibilities, and given access to previous PCC minutes and documents and to Charity Commission guidance for trustees.

Trustees

Members of the PCC are the trustees of the charity and are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church representation Rules.

The members of the PCC who served during 2020:

Ex Officio

Debbie Oades	Vicar
Peter Binns	Associate Priest (co-opted 11 th Oct 2020)
Roland Gillott	Church Warden
Roger Leslie	Church Warden

Elected Members

Rachel Wilcox	Treasurer
Ann Beattie	
Kiki Connor	
Cathy Franklin	
Ian Guest	(elected 11 th Oct 2020)
Rachel Hill	(co-opted 16 th May 2019; elected 11 th Oct 2020)
Rosie Marciniak	(elected 11 th Oct 2020)
Rolande Merrifield	

Deanery Synod Representatives (ex officio)

Cathy Franklin	(elected 11 th Oct 2020)
Roger Leslie	(resigned as Deanery Synod Representative 11 th Oct 2020)
Hazel Miller	(elected 11 th Oct 2020)
David Rafferty	(resigned 11 th Oct 2020)

The PCC met twice between the 2020 APCM and the end of January, with an average attendance of 12.5 out of a possible 13. The PCC secretary was elected as a Deanery Synod representative at the APCM and is therefore now a full member of the PCC.

The Mission Action Plan (MAP) agreed in 2018 has been central to discussions about new initiatives and possible changes to existing practices which have all been considered in the light of how they might

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Legal and administrative information for the year ended 31 December 2020

contribute to delivery of the MAP. Planning for ways of marking the centenary of the establishment of St. Michael's Church (the first service being held in December 1920) was part of the agenda for each meeting. Regular updates from the Treasurer on financial issues, and reports from the Buildings Committee on matters relating to fabric and hire of the church and hall also featured on the agenda of each meeting. Other standard items requiring annual attention, such as confirmation of appointments to various roles and review of policies were dealt with during the course of the year.

A **standing committee** of trustees has power to transact business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any instructions given by the PCC.

The members of the standing committee who served during 2020 were:

Revd Debbie Oades – Vicar

Roland Gillott

Rachel Hill (elected 11th Oct 2020)

Roger Leslie

David Rafferty (resigned 11th Oct 2020)

Rachel Wilcox

The PCC is also the Managing Trustee of the St Michael Charity. The Custodian Trustee is Diocesan Trustees (Oxford) Ltd. The property of the Charity consists of St Michael's Square fronting on to Sycamore Road together with the buildings thereon, namely, the Church, the Church Hall and the Vicarage. The Charity also has investments, the income from which may only be applied to the upkeep and repair of the property owned by the Charity.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2020

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Our central purpose is summed up in our Vision Statement: “As a Christian community we seek to engage with the world around us and to be a place of welcome and acceptance for all on a journey to God – believers, doubters and those who are seeking.” This report seeks to show how we have interpreted this mission during the year under review.

Looking inward, looking outward

Mission Action Plan

Our Mission Action Plan, originally prepared in May 2018, was reviewed again this year, with the exceptional circumstances of the pandemic as a backdrop. The three Cs – Contemplative, Compassionate and Courageous – helped to inform our response during the year:

- **Contemplative:** weekly – or even more frequent – home reflections, for the liturgical seasons, or based on scripture such as the Psalms, have been provided throughout the year and are much appreciated, bringing a new richness to how we can be a church even when we cannot meet in person.
- **Compassionate:** we acted swiftly to respond to the practical and pastoral needs of the congregation, with rotas for shopping and collecting prescriptions and a telephone support system. Such was the response that one of the coordinators, early on, was accosted by a volunteer shopper, wanting to know why they had not been allocated someone to help: the simple answer was that we had more helpers than helpes!
- **Courageous:** moving to online audio services, even though these were pre-recorded and not live, was a leap for many of us, but the number of people using these resources proved this was the right thing to do.

We continue to review our activities against these qualities. Discussions have already taken place in 2021, looking at further ways to build on the new skills and self-knowledge which this difficult year has brought.

Our Centenary Celebrations

Over the period Patronal 2019 to Patronal 2020, we had planned to mark the centenary of the laying of St Michael’s foundation stone. The wording on the stone is: “THIS STONE WAS LAID TO THE GLORY OF GOD IN THANKSGIVING FOR VICTORY AND PEACE JULY 1919”. Sadly, the coronavirus pandemic has meant that plans, for a Centenary Fun Day around the Church, the Hall and the Vicarage Garden, have had to be deferred.

Our Patronal Festival in September was during a period when live services were possible, and although it could not be as rich as in ‘normal’ times, we welcomed Bishop Alan, Bishop of Buckingham, as our preacher – and even enjoyed some live singing from the choir (though no hymns, sadly).

We are always keen to engage with our community, though the circumstances have prevented many of the regular events from taking place. The church was a venue for a smaller, local version of Bucks Art

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Week, organised by a group of Amersham artists and craftspeople, with displays from three painters drawing a good – socially distanced – attendance in October.

The 'Cards for Good Causes' pop-up shop opened in November, only to have to close almost immediately, but extended its dates in December and provided a chance to buy Christmas cards supporting a wide variety of charities. Sadly, neither the Amersham Community Carol Service and part of Amersham Action Group's Amersham Christmas Festival could take place, but we worked with Amersham Free Church and St John's Methodist Church, our COTHA partners, to make an online service of Nine Lessons and Carols, which was widely enjoyed and broadcast on the pop-up 'Radio Christmas' station.

We did still manage to hold our Christmas Tree Festival, with community groups among those sponsoring trees, though again this was only open for a limited time. The sum of £625 (paid over in 2021) was raised for Wycombe Homeless Connection – an excellent result under the circumstances. Following our Christmas services, the crib was placed at the glass doors of St Michael's to be visible to passers-by.

Worship and Liturgy

New service booklets

One new booklet, for Transfiguration, was produced in 2020, for use both on the Sunday next before Lent and on the Feast of the Transfiguration in August. The pattern of these services books has settled well.

Regular services

Our pattern of two Sunday services – a spoken 8am Eucharist and the main 10am sung service – and a Tuesday morning said Eucharist was only possible until the Covid lockdown began in March 2020. Easter 2020 fell during the first lockdown, so no services were available. The Diocese provided links for streamed services, which were welcomed, but specific St Michael's services re-started in May with an audio service of the word provided via Soundcloud. The readers and intercessors provided their contributions to add to the service material recorded by the clergy, members of the choir provided hymns, and each week's sermon was both recorded and circulated electronically. The text of the service, including the hymns, was added each week to our website for the congregation to follow. With the exception of Sunday 27th December, when we all took a well-earned holiday, this audio service has been provided for each Sunday of the year, and listened to by an average of 76 people. We have continued these even when live services restarted in July, as restrictions on capacity in church meant that we could not welcome the whole congregation back at one time, and we anticipate that the total listeners – from 19 separate countries – will pass 4,000 by Easter 2021.

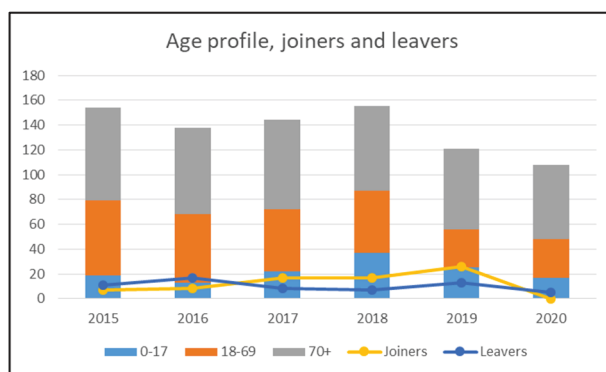
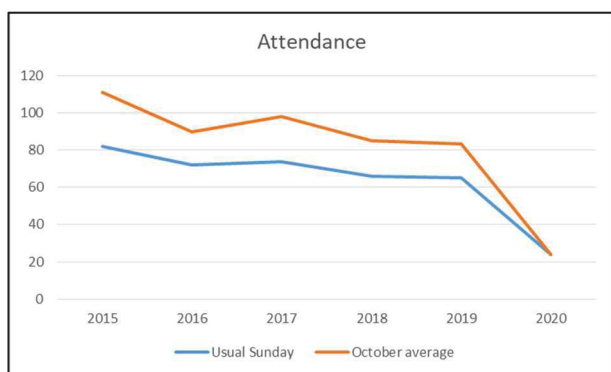
The live services, beginning with a service of the word and later incorporating communion, were a welcome chance to be back in our building and meeting together, albeit in a socially distanced fashion. Much thought went into making these events as safe as possible, and also linking to the audio services: the readings and intercessions recorded for the audio services were played in church, so the virtual and physical congregations heard the same things. The second suspension of services in November was a disappointment, but less of a practical challenge as the system was by that stage running well, and we could at least look forward to being back in person for Christmas.

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Since then, with the emergence of new variants of Covid, live services have again been suspended, this time by a decision of the Vicar and Wardens. The situation is under review as things develop, with the hope of at least one live Easter service in 2021.

The graph below headed 'Attendance' shows the impact of the reduced capacity of the church, rather than reflecting a dramatic fall in the congregation, though the second graphic does show that a small number of people have left the congregation.



Baptisms, weddings and funerals

The suspension of baptisms came early in the year, and so we had no such services in church. We look forward to being able to share this part of the Christian journey with families when it is once again permitted.

It is a privilege to support and be with families at a time of loss and grief, and so the limitations on the way services could be conducted were a great sadness. This year we walked alongside 11 families as we conducted funerals for their loved ones both in services at St Michael's and at the Crematorium.

Easter, Harvest, Remembrance

As a church with a strong sacramental tradition, Holy Week and Easter have a very special place in the St Michael's calendar, and so it was a great loss that this fell during the first lockdown, with no services possible, and before we had been able to put other arrangements in place. Easter 2021 will again be very different to our normal practice, but online audio services are being prepared which we hope will in some way fill the gap.

We took the hard decision that, given the financial position (of which more later), we could not make an appeal for funds for a chosen charity at Harvest. However, our customary Lent Appeal for St Anne's Hospital, Liuli, raised £3,520 – a truly magnificent sum.

Remembrance Sunday fell during the second lockdown, and restrictions on gathering prevented us even from holding an act of remembrance in St Michael Square.

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Christmas

In an extraordinary year, extraordinary efforts went into making our Christmas celebrations as rich as possible under the circumstances. Our biggest attendance of any year would normally be the Crib service – impossible in 2020. But a superb video production, featuring members of the *+INSPIRE+* group and edited by Rae Gillott, was put together and watched online at least 140 times.

A similar cooperative effort, between the COTHA churches, produced an audio service of Nine Lessons and Carols. Clergy and readers from all three churches recorded their contributions, and the joint choirs provided the music, with additional help from singers in Beaconsfield and further afield. Amersham Band graciously allowed us to use music from their Christmas CD, and the result was listened to by 130 people. A Zoom video call to listen to this as a community was attended by over 50 people.

With services permitted from the second Sunday in Advent, we were able to hold two Christmas services: a First Mass of Christmas at 8pm on Christmas Eve (earlier than usual, to allow for cleaning the church) and the usual 10am service on Christmas Day. Both had live organ music, and some singing from the choir, to lift the spirits.

Choir music, servers, welcomers

Not surprisingly a global pandemic of a respiratory virus was not going to be good news for an activity such as group singing! Thanks largely to the ingenuity of Rachel and Stephen Wilcox we have not been entirely silent.

Audio church services at St Michael's got going just after Easter during the first lockdown and the Wilcoxes embarked on a mission to include music every week using organ voluntaries on the home organ & Rachel singing a few familiar hymns recorded on the laptop and the tracks added into the audio service sent out every week to listeners at home. Over the course of the summer this was expanded by sending out backing tracks so that choir members could record their contributions on phones or iPads and email them back so they could be added into the audio service. This provided a more congregational feel to some of the hymns & the chance to do an anthem. As the Covid measures eased a little we were able to meet in small groups of 6, socially distanced in the church after the morning service and to rehearse and record items for the weekly services and any upcoming events. For 3 glorious months the church rang to the sound of music again and we revelled in being able to raise our voices once more. We managed to record hymns, anthems and many carols for an on-line COTHA 9 Lessons & Carols Service brilliantly masterminded by Rachel and Stephen. This was a real highlight in an extremely hard and difficult year involving a huge amount of work not only in terms of overseeing the recording process but many hours editing and merging multiple tracks into one track for use in the Lessons & Carols and for other services over Christmas. These audio services have not only been a lifeline for members of own congregation because we know people in the wider community who would not normally come to church are listening in thus enabling us even in the most trying of times to fulfil our outreach mission.

We are now in lockdown again and once more relying on recording separately in our homes where this is at all possible. It has been difficult for all of us to join in with this due to either difficulties with the techie

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stuff or simply just having enough time and quiet enough homes eg. those with children and babies. We are hugely indebted to Rachel and Stephen for keeping the music going and we all look forward to happier times to come when we can make music together once again.

For a church which tries to appeal to all our senses, it has been a thin time. We have been unable for most of the year to enjoy the liturgical colours, with vestments not being used (for hygiene reasons) and no flowers. The votive candle stand has also had to be removed, but a candle always burns in church to symbolise all our prayers. While the church is closed, this is placed at the door to be visible to anyone passing.

We also thank the team of welcomers and sidespeople, who may be our first point of contact with new visitors. This year, those volunteers had additional duties: ensuring contact details were recorded for the test and trace system, and helping the congregation to comply with social distancing guidance for the services, including the administration of communion – and all the while continuing to be a friendly face, even behind a mask.

Messy Church

Messy Church continues to be a great link with the wider community and is in itself forming its own community within St Michaels. Over the last year we have not been able to meet due to the Covid restrictions but we have maintained contact with the families via online cards and activities concluding with a great response to the Christmas Envelope Decoration Packs sent out. The great response meant the Messy Church Christmas Tree for the Festival was totally covered with the children's decorations. Thanks go to Cathy Franklin who has during lockdown continued to lead on Messy Church Activities.

+INSPIRE+

We are delighted to say that 2020 saw the continuation of +INSPIRE+, our Youth Discipleship Group. As per Covid restrictions once again meetings had to cease but contact maintained via phone and online communications. We are also delighted to say that many of the children and their parents got involved with our Online Filmed Crib Service both in front and behind Camera. Many thanks go to all those involved in a fun filled Covid secure day!

Working with the local community

COTHA

COTHA (Churches on the Hill Amersham) is the group of three churches (Amersham Free Church, St John's Methodist Church and St Michael's) which have signed a Covenant together. During the year there were two COTHA Combined Services, but only one which happened 'live', in January at St Michael's. The July service was a combined online service, with contributors from all three churches providing recorded items. The Ministers' Fraternal has continued to meet during the year, albeit online, an opportunity for the Ministers to plan the Combined Services and to have an informal discussion. Each church now takes it in turn to be the Lead Church for COTHA for a year. During 2019/20 St Michael's was the Lead Church, with Amersham Free Church taking on this role for 2020/21.

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Christmas Tree Festival

Knowing that many community events would be curtailed, St Michaels felt it was important to maintain the momentum of the Christmas Tree Festivals from 2018 and 2019. We had 13 very enthusiastic and creative local community groups sponsoring and decorating trees, giving them an opportunity to shine a light on their own activities. The ever-popular 'Angel Tree' was decorated by visitors choosing a bauble to hang up and making a donation in support of the chosen charity, Wycombe Homeless Connection. The start of the festival was delayed by the second lockdown, and we were unable to open after Christmas, but the total raised, £625 (with an additional £50 donation made direct to the charity) was good under the circumstances.

Local Schools

Contact with our local schools: these include Woodside Junior, Heatherton House, and Dr Challoners Grammar School, has of course been affected by the pandemic, though Revd Debbie has kept in touch with all the schools. During the year the link with Woodside School was further strengthened when Dr Rob Oades was elected a Governor as a representative of St Michaels. No school services in church have been possible, but Heatherton House still took part in the Christmas Tree Festival. We look forward to welcoming the schools back, and restarting assemblies, when it becomes possible.

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod provides us with a valuable opportunity to learn from, and share with, other local Anglican churches.

The first meeting of the year was scheduled to be held at St George's Church in Little Chalfont with presentations by Matt Fulford an energy adviser on practical solutions to make churches sustainable in a net zero carbon world and by Stephanie Summerell of Amersham Deanery, on how churches can meet the challenges of the environmental crisis and better steward God's world. The meeting was unfortunately cancelled because of the impending lockdown. The remaining meetings of the year were held on Zoom.

At the June meeting the main topic was a presentation by Rev'd Martin Williams on 'Church Next – Emerging from lockdown'. What is church going to look like in the coming months and years? People have been happily going to church on Sunday's and some weekdays, but with the lockdown the church congregation has been scattered. Many parishes have been able to provide online Sunday services, and some have found that they had grown their congregations, by as much as 50%, as people had joined digitally, who would not normally attend a Sunday service. When we emerge from lockdown, how do we keep connected with these people? Will the older members of the church be happy to return? The Deanery Synod broke into rooms to discuss what key lessons have been learned, and what processes can be used to go forward.

The third meeting of the year in September included a video presentation by Mrs Nicola Flower, head teacher of Gerrards Cross School, on the challenges of being head of a Church of England Primary School as children return for the first time since lockdown in March. Nick Cuthbert a Lay Canon and the founder of Lead Academy gave a video presentation 'Before You Go Back'. This looked at churches and why we do

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what we do. Churches are scattered during lockdown and this should be seen as an opportunity to consider doing church differently in the future.

The final meeting of the year included a discussion on Living well through the next 6 months, using material that Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford had recently released as part of two webinars on the themes of 'Rebuilding ministry with children' and 'Working with adults coming to faith'.

Hospitality

Hospitality, like so many activities, had to be put on hold in March 2020, and we do not know when we may be able to restart even our Sunday coffee and biscuits. While there have been some virtual get-togethers on Zoom on Sunday mornings, these simply are not the same. We could not hold our Patronal lunch, nor provide mince pies, and the Wheeler Coffee Pot also had to shut its doors.

One joy, before the first lockdown, was sharing a cake in celebration of Betty Adam's 100th birthday – particularly lovely as it coincided (roughly) with the church's own centenary celebration.

Chiltern Community & Policing Forum

Revd Debbie continues to attend these meetings – virtually, of course – which help the Council and Police to decide their priority foci for the local areas in relation to crime and public concerns. St Michaels is the Amersham community collection point for written suggestions to these meetings. (Remember this is not for reporting crimes). The dates of these meetings are posted on www.chilterncommunityforum.org. The suggestion box is situated in the Narthex and is another way of maintaining St Michaels at the heart of the community.

Chiltern Foodbank

With services suspended and issues over infection control, collections at the church have not been possible. However, as noted further on in this report, the congregation continued to support those in need through the link between the Traidcraft representative and Chiltern Foodbank.

Food bags

We continue to see a rise in the number of people in extreme need who come to us for help. Some bags were provided before lockdown, and when it was clear we could not continue the service ourselves, the supplies were donated to Wycombe Homeless Connection so that they could still reach those in need.

The wider world

Missionary giving

For many years, St Michael's has allocated 15% of its regular income to a selection of domestic and overseas charities which are recommended by the Mission Giving committee to the PCC for approval. With our finances badly affected, through loss of letting income from the buildings, the PCC took the very hard decision that we could not continue this for 2020, and that it would need to be carefully reviewed thereafter.

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A smaller sum of £1,248 was approved (compared to £12,284 given in 2019). As in the past, this was divided between several charities: the committee felt that dividing this between three recipients was more beneficial than supporting more charities with smaller sums.

Mission giving 2020	£
Embrace the Middle East	£416
WorkAid	£416
Hospice of St Francis	£416
Total overseas mission	<u>£1,248</u>

These amounts are in addition to the Lent and Christmas Tree appeals, which are mentioned elsewhere in this report.

It is of course a great sadness to us to have to suspend the more generous Mission Giving of our recent past. The PCC are grateful to the Mission Giving committee members – present and past – for their work in this area, and would like to celebrate the fact that, in the 22 years up to 2019, the church gave over £300,000 to other charities.

Traidcraft Stall

From January to March we were able to hold stalls in church as usual. When the first lockdown began in March, Traidcraft goods were still available to order through our local representative, Margaret Dykes. She could even deliver toilet rolls directly to our homes!

Following the closure of churches (and other collection points) at the start of the pandemic, donations to the Chiltern Food Bank in Chesham decreased just as demand was rising rapidly. Margaret and her husband Bill invited us to sponsor food boxes and have been supplying Traidcraft goods to the food bank weekly for many months. In the autumn we were invited to sponsor Advent calendars and by December 165 calendars had been delivered to the Food Bank – providing a real chocolate treat for the children of families receiving parcels in the lead up to Christmas.

Margaret and Bill send their thanks to St Michael's members for their support which has contributed to the sum of over £17,000 being raised by December. As a result good nutritional food – ethically sourced and least harmful to the planet – has been made available to local people in need throughout this exceptionally difficult year.

Pastoral Care

Healing ministry

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Due to the Covid situation, the ministry team were only able to offer the monthly Wednesday healing sessions for two months in 2020 – January and February. The Healing service was cancelled in March, and no Healing services offered after that for the same reason.

Prior to the lockdown, in January 2020, after much discussion the team had reluctantly come to the conclusion that we would not be able to continue with Wednesday Healing sessions after September 2020, unless new members joined the team. Given current circumstances the future is uncertain for this part of the ministry.

In 2020 we gave £200 to St Michaels from donations received during on Wednesday Healing sessions. We hope to continue with Healing services when it is possible. However, Joy Johns has decided to stand down as team lead.

Safeguarding

Appropriate safeguarding training for all those who may come into contact with vulnerable adults and/or children, within the work of the parish has been brought up to date. As mentioned last year this is a Diocesan requirement; an insurance requirement and a necessity for St Michael's safeguarding policy. Many thanks go to Ann Beattie, our Safeguarding Officer and Alan Jarvis our Safeguarding Assistant who work to ensure the training is done by those who need it. Thanks too to Hazel Miller who oversees the DBS checks. These requirements are an ongoing process and will require constant updating.

Office and communications

The Office

At the start of the year Nicola Petrou-Amerikanos joined us in the new role of Office Assistant, initially concentrating on supporting the room hire programme. The start of lockdown in March led to the closure of the Church Office with staff working from home. The phone was redirected and a full back-up of the pc files retained by the Administrator. The sudden reduction in external users of the premises brought additional challenges. Nicola was still working through her induction programme at the time then had to suddenly to take on new tasks remotely. Since then communication between the team has been mainly by phone, with pCloud used to share documents.

From March onwards, we concentrated on improving our online communication with emphasis on the development of St. Michael's website, and expanding our use of the IKnow database which stretched our technological skills beyond what we would have previously thought possible. Our entry in the 'A Church Near You' directory was also monitored regularly and updated as appropriate. While most of this was carried out by the Office, it was encouraging to see increased engagement with IKnow from members of the congregation, which we hope to build on in 2021 and beyond.

During the course of the year, there was an increase in the number of people able to receive copies of the weekly notices and monthly newsletters by e-mail, along with the various series of reflections produced by the clergy while face-to-face worship was not possible. Paper copies of all these documents continue to be provided for anyone who does not have email. The audio services have been complemented by a text

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order of service published on the website. Seasonal service booklets together with a copy of the sermon and intercessions for each week were provided to anyone requiring paper copy to enable them to participate fully in Church at Home.

A new noticeboard, commissioned at the start of the year, was erected on St. Michael's Square in the summer. With its header board, this makes it clear to anyone passing by what the building in front of them is. Previously many people were not aware that it was a church as there was no eye level signage. The older noticeboard has been maintained with the intention of making it available to external groups meeting in the church buildings to draw attention to their activities.

Newsletter

Our newsletter continues to be produced every month, except January and August. It goes, either by email or hard copy, to every member of St Michael's and to a number of former members. It is also displayed on the noticeboard outside the church. It showcases future activities as well as reporting on things that have already taken place.

Current and past copies of both the Sunday notices and the newsletter are available on St. Michael's website, www.stmichaelsamersham.org.uk along with other information about the church and its activities which may be of interest to the local community.

SHARING OUR RESOURCES

Amersham Deanery

As part of the established church, St Michael's benefits from the support of the wider church, through Oxford Diocese and Amersham Deanery, and we are glad to give support back in our turn.

Our incumbent, Revd Debbie Oades, serves on the Deanery Pastoral and Mission Committee, and is Sabbatical Advisor for the Buckingham Archdeaconry. Changes to service patterns in lockdown have meant that our Associate Priest, Revd Peter Binns, has focused on St Michaels, and stepped back from his long-standing commitments at Trinity, Penn, Aston Abbots and Cublington. He still assists where needed at other churches in the Deanery, and chairs the Sycamore Club, a local charity providing a day centre for elderly people, based at Amersham Free Church.

Social events and activities

Pre Lenten Social

This was the third year of the Shrove Tuesday parish meal at Pizza Express (ie Italian 'pancakes' of sorts) which was again well attended by both regular and intermittent church attenders. It continues to be a good opportunity to get to know each other, and took on an extra resonance this year, being one of the last social events possible. Although it could not be held in 2021, we fully intend to reinstate it for future years.

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Tuesday Club

Apart from meeting up in January for our Christmas lunch, the Tuesday Club has been effectively suspended for the year. We have missed each other, and the pleasure of attending cultural events together, but hope that 2021 will allow us to restart.

Pop In and Paint

Obviously we have not been able to have our lovely Pop In And Paint sessions since the beginning of last year. We have however, set themes each month for our members. Many of them have enjoyed taking part in these challenges and have sent us photographs of their paintings which we have then shared by email with all members. It has been a great way to keep in touch with everyone and it has really brightened all our lives seeing all the super work that was accomplished! Some of these photos were also sent to the Church Office and have been featured on the website gallery.

Simpatico

As a result of the cancellation of Bucks Art Weeks in June due to the pandemic, a group of local artists decided to set up a similar event at the end of September once lockdown rules had been relaxed. We held a very successful exhibition in the Church 28 September until 4 October. We were unsure how well it would go what with all the mask wearing, sanitising and number limiting rules we had to apply. It went very well though and was wonderful to see familiar faces alongside new visitors to the exhibition. A real success! We also managed to raise £280 for the Church as well as a similar amount for the charity MIND Buckinghamshire. We look forward to being able to hold our Bucks Art Weeks exhibition in June as usual this year - keeping all our fingers crossed!!

Buildings – church, hall and St Michael’s Square

Our buildings, situated in the centre of Amersham-on-the-Hill, are an important resource for the local community. We were delighted to welcome to the church once again the Simpatico art exhibition for a week at the end of September; and Cards for Good Causes, selling Christmas cards on behalf of a wide range of charities during the run-up to Christmas. Both attracted a substantial number of visitors – and purchasers. We look forward to welcoming these groups again in 2021.

In a typical year we have regular groups who use the hall and church, including a number catering to pre-school children. As well as the Beehive Montessori School, there are more informal groups such as Drama Stars, Cha Char Chimps and Jacq’in the Box. The large space in the hall is used by badminton, fitness classes and dance schools. It is popular for children’s parties, especially at weekends. An increasing number of groups, offering similar activities, meet in the Glover Room behind the main hall. Local music groups use various rooms in the church and hall for rehearsals and performances. In line with government advice, both the hall and church were closed to external hirers for several months during the year.

St Michael’s Square, in front of the church, is frequently used for community events, and for sales in aid of local and national charities. For more than twenty-five years the regular flower stall has been a spot of bright colour and generated for us a steady income stream to support our other activities. Sadly, Michael Carter, who ran the stall, has decided it is time to bring it to an end.

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But if our buildings are an asset, they also require constant care and maintenance. We are custodians of these buildings for the future and take this responsibility seriously. The Quinquennial Inspection (in December 2015) identified major works, which were dealt with over the five-year cycle, and other tasks are undertaken as necessary to comply with regulations. The next Quinquennial inspection is planned for 2021. All essential work is overseen by the buildings committee, to whom we are indebted for their time and expertise.

FINANCE

Review of the year

St Michael's receives the majority of its income from voluntary giving, church and hall lettings and various other fundraising activities. The reduction in income from lettings, due to the Covid lockdowns and restrictions, had a significant effect on our income stream. This was identified early on, and the PCC decided to try to mitigate the effect, both by the suspension of most of our Mission Giving, and by appealing to the congregation for financial contributions.

The response we received was truly wonderful, bringing in over £28.5k including Gift Aid, including some donations from hall and church hirers, and passers-by outside the church. This, together with two legacies received or notified in the year, and £6k of support from the Government's Job Retention Scheme, has resulted in a small surplus for the year. One word of caution is needed, however: this appeal was a one-off, and we know that 2021 will still be significantly affected by Covid restrictions.

Although this part of our report focuses on money, we also receive significant contributions from the work of volunteers, which cannot practically be quantified in financial terms but for which we are very grateful. This practical support has been a key factor in maintaining the life of the church through such a difficult year.

Details of the breakdown of income are shown in note 2.

Expenditure for the year has supported the key objectives of St Michael's to be a church at the heart of the community of Amersham on the Hill, while at the same time contributing funds to the Church of England through our Parish Share and to charities through our Missionary Giving, even though that was so curtailed this year. Note 3 shows how our expenditure breaks down.

As mentioned above, we finished 2020 with a small surplus, which puts us in a much stronger position to weather the continued difficulties of 2021 and the future. Thanks go to all those who contributed to this result, whether through financial donations or voluntary help.

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	2020	2019
	£	£
Surplus/(deficit) on church activities and fund raising	458	(16,539)
Legacies	14,000	1,000
Noticeboard project	(3,837)	-
(Losses)/gains on investment assets	(6,583)	8,268
Net surplus/(deficit)	<u>4,038</u>	<u>(7,271)</u>

Key items contributing to the move from a deficit of £16.5k to a surplus of £0.5k on general activities and fundraising were:

	£'000	£'000
Additional voluntary giving through the 2020 Appeal:	26.2	
Additional grant income:	3.5	
Reduction in rental income:	(24.0)	
Reduction in other income:	<u>(2.3)</u>	
Change in income (excluding legacies):		3.4
Reduction in Mission Giving:	10.0	
Other cost savings:	<u>3.6</u>	
Change in expenditure (excluding projects):		<u>13.6</u>
Change in result on general activities (approximately):		<u><u>17.0</u></u>

Reserves policy

The PCC aims to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which is sufficient to meet expenditure for the following 6 months, taking into account planned maintenance, commitments to employees and the expected level of the Parish Share. The level of reserves at 31st December 2020 is considered adequate for this.

Risk management

The PCC has conducted a review of the major risks to which St Michael's is exposed. A risk register has been established and is updated at least annually.

As part of this, our safeguarding policy is reviewed and approved annually in line with diocesan requirements and guidelines. DBS checks are reviewed annually for all those coming into contact with vulnerable adults and children, and are renewed on a rolling four year cycle. Appropriate training is given from within the parish and through external providers as deemed necessary.

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CONCLUSION FROM THE VICAR

A big thank you to all of you for all your efforts for the parish, the people we serve, and for all the work, prayer and both personal and financial sacrifice we as a community in Christ's name have borne witness to over the last very difficult and demanding year!

There has been a surprising and challenging consequence on a practical level to the Covid situation. This has resulted in new skills acquired by many within our community that I seriously doubt would have occurred without the pandemic. This has been within the communication and media realms. Our use of Zoom has been a revelation and indispensable in communicating with one another for PCC and Standing Committee meetings alongside meeting for post service online Coffee time. The use of Sound Cloud has enabled us to worship together as a congregation, a local community and on a global platform thereby proving to be a marvellous Missional tool. (From May to the end of the year, our Sound Cloud services clocked up 2,844 'listens'!) Special thanks must go to those teams providing the music tech and the delivery of the Sound Cloud services, to those in the office providing and sending out online support and to those delivering paper copies to those unable to access online provision.

The sense of dislocation has continued to be felt during the year of 2020. The happenings of the Covid 19 global epidemic and the concomitant effects of national lockdowns have of course caused this. At the moment of writing this there is a more positive note and glimmers of the ever-present light now more perceptible in the distribution of vaccination programs, despite still living in what is being called 'the new norm' of social distancing. It must be remembered that as we move forward there will be many people who have borne the loss of family and friends, an experience, which the congregation of St Michaels has sadly not been exempt. This will inevitably have an impact on our community going forwards.

St Michael and All Angels has been a centering point, holding out the light, hope and love of Christ to the community it serves in its brokenness and in its healing. This need will continue as we move forwards, but we also need to acknowledge and be thankful too by recognising the blessings of and witnessing to so many giving of themselves in service to the needs of others. Special thanks go to Fr. Peter Binns for his unending support and humour, to office personnel, Church Wardens, and PCC. And to every one of you for everything that is happening to keep our community here at St Michaels going forwards despite the challenges.

***"Rejoice and exult in hope; be steadfast and patient in suffering and tribulation; be constant in prayer."
(Romans 12:12)***

Revd Debbie Oades.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Statement of Council Members' Responsibilities

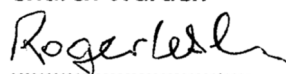
The members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the PCC's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing accounts giving a true and fair view, the members should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Church will continue in operation.

The members of the PCC are responsible for keeping accounting records which both disclose with reasonable accuracy and enable them to ascertain the financial position of the PCC and which enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Statement of Recommended Practice on Accounting and Reporting by Charities SORP (FRS102) and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the PCC and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

FOR AND BEHALF OF THE PCC

Roger Leslie
Church Warden



.....

6.6.2021

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of the Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

This report on the accounts of the Parochial Church Council ('PCC') for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages 21 to 33 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as members of the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act have not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mark Blackwell ACMA
MHR Consultancy Ltd
Minster House
126a High St
Whitton
Twickenham
Middlesex TW2 7LL

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total funds	
					2020 £	2019 £
Income and Endowments						
Voluntary giving	2a	129,076	-	-	129,076	87,601
Activities for generating funds	2b	16,747	-	-	16,747	40,755
Church activities	2c	4,665	-	-	4,665	26,899
Income from investments	2d	1,454	2,698	-	4,152	5,214
Other incoming resources	2e	-	-	-	-	376
Total income and endowments		151,942	2,698	-	154,640	160,845
Expenditure						
Grants - Mission giving	3a	2,390	-	-	2,390	12,477
Church activities	3b	140,936	695	-	141,631	163,907
Total expenditure		143,326	695	-	144,021	176,384
Net income and incoming endowments before investment gains and losses		8,616	2,003	-	10,619	(15,539)
Gains & losses on investment assets, on disposals and on revaluation	5b	1,416	(8,068)	70	(6,582)	8,268
Net movement in Funds		10,032	(6,065)	70	4,037	(7,271)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-
Balances brought forward		146,148	278,002	2,524	426,674	433,945
Balances carried forward		156,180	271,937	2,594	430,711	426,674

Notes 1 to 24 form part of these accounts

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

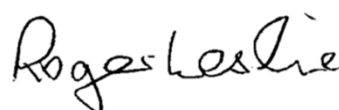
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible fixed assets	5a	271,704	271,986
Investment Assets	5b	102,543	109,126
		374,247	381,112
Current Assets			
Debtors	6	8,259	6,557
Short term deposits		25,958	39,815
Cash at bank and in hand		27,493	6,198
		61,710	52,570
Liabilities			
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	7	(5,246)	(7,008)
		56,464	45,562
Net current assets		430,711	426,674
Total net assets		430,711	426,674
Parish Funds			
	9		
Unrestricted		156,180	146,148
Restricted		271,937	278,002
Endowment		2,594	2,524
		430,711	426,674

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 6.6.2021 and signed on its behalf by:



Debbie Oades, Vicar



Roger Leslie, Church Warden

Notes 1 to 24 form part of these accounts

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

1. Accounting Policies

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions, together with FRS102 (2017) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2017 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP (2017)).

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

a) Funds

Endowment funds are permanent endowments and bequests of capital used to generate income for restricted funds.

Restricted funds are funds which can only be used for particular purposes as specified by the donor or funds raised for particular restricted purposes.

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.

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. The group for which the PCC are responsible in law is St Michael's Tuesday Club.

b) Income and Endowments

Voluntary income and capital sources

- i) Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.
- ii) Planned Giving under gift aid is recognised only when received.
- iii) Income tax recoverable on covenants or gift aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.
- iv) Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due can be measured reliably and its receipt by the PCC is more likely than not.
- v) Funds raised by events are accounted for gross.

Other ordinary income

Rental income from the letting of premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains and losses are recognised when investments are sold.

Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on the revaluation of investments on 31st December 2020.

c) Expenditure

General Expenditure

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis, inclusive of VAT, which is not recoverable.

Grants

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

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The parish share is accounted for when payable.

d) Land and buildings

Land and buildings are included at cost less depreciation of the buildings over fifty years. The church, hall, vicarage and site are held by the Diocese of Oxford as Custodian Trustee of St Michael Charity, a permanent trust established in 1973 of which the PCC are managing trustees. Under the terms of the Trust, land and buildings must be used as they currently are being used. Information as to the cost of these buildings and site is not available. As the land has been held for ecclesiastical purposes for many years and the buildings constructed in 1966 would now be substantially depreciated, the property is included in the financial statements at a value of £nil. In 2007 an extension was added to the vicarage. This is included in the financial statements at a cost of £34,916 and is not depreciated as the residual value of the vicarage at 31 December 2020 is expected to exceed this sum. In 2013 work was completed on developing St Michael's Square and this is included in the financial statements at a cost of £235,940 and is not depreciated as the residual value at 31 December 2020 is expected to exceed this sum.

e) Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated at 25% reducing balance. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

f) Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December 2020.

g) Current assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December 2020 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 either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

2.	Income and endowments	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
2a.	Voluntary giving					
	Planned Giving:					
	Gift Aid donations	65,341	-	-	65,341	63,450
	Tax recoverable	13,564	-	-	13,564	14,107
	Other	120	-	-	120	1,997
		79,025	-	-	79,025	79,554
	Collections (open plate)	776	-	-	776	2,489
	Donations, appeals etc	29,276	-	-	29,276	2,998
	Grants	5,999	-	-	5,999	1,560
	Legacies	14,000	-	-	14,000	1,000
		129,076	-	-	129,076	87,601
2b.	Activities for generating funds					
	Lettings: Church hall	14,795	-	-	14,795	29,041
	Church	1,622	-	-	1,622	9,039
	St Michael Square	330	-	-	330	2,675
		16,747	-	-	16,747	40,755
2c.	Church activities					
	Tuesday Club	1,253	-	-	1,253	24,398
	Fees for weddings, funerals etc	2,022	-	-	2,022	1,043
	Other income	1,390	-	-	1,390	1,458
		4,665	-	-	4,665	26,899
2d.	Income from investments					
	Dividends	1,383	2,640	-	4,023	4,883
	Interest	71	58	-	129	331
		1,454	2,698	-	4,152	5,214
2e.	Other incoming resources					
	Insurance claims	-	-	-	-	-
	Other income	-	-	-	-	376
		-	-	-	-	376
	Total income and endowments	151,942	2,698	-	154,640	160,845

Income for 2019 was received as unrestricted funds £155,966, restricted funds £4,879 and endowment funds £nil.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

3.	Expenditure	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
3a.	Grants - Mission giving					
	Overseas - missionary societies	416	-	-	416	8,184
	Home mission & other societies	1,974	-	-	1,974	4,293
		2,390	-	-	2,390	12,477
3b.	Church activities					
	Ministry: Parish Share	74,663	-	-	74,663	72,556
	clergy expenses	905	-	-	905	1,327
	Sabbatical	-	-	-	-	-
	other clergy costs	974	-	-	974	2,486
		76,542	-	-	76,542	76,369
	Services	866	-	-	866	2,761
	Cost of organist, choirmaster & choir	1,652	-	-	1,652	2,690
	Parish magazine & bookstall	-	-	-	-	45
	Tuesday Club	1,306	-	-	1,306	23,637
	Fees paid over to the Diocese	1,068	-	-	1,068	1,360
	Other fees and licences	784	-	-	784	54
	Community outreach and events	-	-	-	-	148
	Church running costs	13,799	-	-	13,799	12,936
	Church repairs and general maintenance	4,940	542	-	5,482	8,117
	Planned maintenance projects:					
	- New sign board	3,837	-	-	3,837	-
	Depreciation of equipment	129	153	-	282	376
	Hall running costs	14,284	-	-	14,284	13,956
	Support costs	21,330	-	-	21,330	20,193
	Bank charges	324	-	-	324	395
	Costs of generating funds	-	-	-	-	514
	Other costs	75	-	-	75	356
		140,936	695	-	141,631	163,907
	Total expenditure	143,326	695	-	144,021	176,384

Support costs include the salary of the parish secretary and the costs of running the church office.

Expenditure for 2019 was met from unrestricted funds £175,933, restricted funds £451 and endowment funds £nil.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

4.	Staff costs	2020	2019
		£	£
	Wages and salaries	29,891	24,930
	Social security costs	-	-
		29,891	24,930

5a.	Fixed assets for use by the PCC	Land and buildings	Other	Total
		£	£	£
	Actual/deemed cost			
	at 1 January 2020	270,856	5,009	275,865
	Additions at cost	-	-	-
	Disposals	-	-	-
	at 31 December 2020	270,856	5,009	275,865
	Depreciation			
	at 1 January 2020	-	(3,879)	(3,879)
	Withdrawn on disposals	-	-	-
	Charge for the year	-	(282)	(282)
	at 31 December 2020	-	(4,161)	(4,161)
	Net book value			
	at 31 December 2020	270,856	848	271,704
	at 31 December 2019	270,856	1,130	271,986

The church, church hall, vicarage and site are held by the Diocese of Oxford as Custodian Trustee of St Michael Charity which is a permanent trust established in November 1973. An extension to the vicarage is included at cost above as is expenditure on the redesign of the church entrance and on St Michael's Square. In both cases the cost is not depreciated. Otherwise information as to the cost of these buildings and site is not available and they are included at nil cost above.

5b.	Investment assets	Market value	Sale proceeds	Gain/ (loss)	Market value
	Movements in the year	1 Jan 2020			31 Dec 2020
		£	£	£	£
	CBF Fixed Interest Securities	59,305	-	2,061	61,366
	M&G Charifund	49,821	-	(8,644)	41,177
		109,126	-	(6,583)	102,543
	Historical cost				
		1 Jan 2020		31 Dec 2020	
		Shares/units	Cost	Shares/units	Cost
			£		£
	CBF Fixed Interest Securities	36,279	58,979	36,279	58,979
	M&G Charifund	3,000	2,526	3,000	2,526

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

6. Debtors	2020	2019		
	£	£		
Tax recoverable	982	585		
Prepayments and accrued income	5,956	1,859		
Other debtors	1,321	4,113		
	8,259	6,557		
7. Liabilities: amounts falling due within one year	2020	2019		
	£	£		
Accruals and deferred income	(1,512)	(1,301)		
Creditors for goods and services	(3,734)	(5,707)		
	(5,246)	(7,008)		
8. Analysis of net assets by fund as at 31 December 2020				
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	77,948	193,757	-	271,705
Fixed asset investments	42,128	58,325	2,089	102,542
Current assets - debtors	8,260	-	-	8,260
Current assets - deposits	5,599	19,855	505	25,959
Current assets - cash at bank and in hand	27,491	-	-	27,491
Current liabilities	(5,246)	-	-	(5,246)
Fund balances	156,180	271,937	2,594	430,711

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

9. Analysis of Fund Movements

	1 Jan 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains/ (losses)	31 Dec 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds:						
Designated						
Tuesday Club	3,327	1,253	(1,306)	-	-	3,274
St Michael's Vicarage	34,916	-	-	-	-	34,916
St Michael's Square	42,643	-	-	-	-	42,643
Pastoral Support	25,186	707	-	-	708	26,601
Buildings and Projects	25,185	708	(3,837)	-	708	22,764
Youth Activities	4,208	63	(163)	101	-	4,209
Sabbatical	209	-	-	200	-	409
Music	2,395	6	(112)	-	-	2,289
	138,069	2,737	(5,418)	301	1,416	137,105
Undesignated						
General Fund	8,079	149,205	(137,908)	(301)	-	19,075
Total Unrestricted Funds	146,148	151,942	(143,326)	-	1,416	156,180
Restricted Funds:						
Trust Income	14,784	355	-	-	349	15,488
Spiritual Development	6,230	89	-	-	-	6,319
St Michael Charity	61,765	2,250	-	-	(8,417)	55,598
St Michael's Square	193,297	-	-	-	-	193,297
St Michael's Project	1,926	4	(695)	-	-	1,235
Total Restricted Funds	278,002	2,698	(695)	-	(8,068)	271,937
Endowment Funds:						
Ellen Motion Fund	2,524	-	-	-	70	2,594
Total Endowment Funds	2,524	-	-	-	70	2,594
Total of all Funds	426,674	154,640	(144,021)	-	(6,582)	430,711

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

10. St Michael Charity

The St Michael Charity was established in November 1973 as part of a Scheme approved by the Charity Commissioners of England and Wales. As part of that Scheme, St Michael Charity acquired the land and buildings thereon, namely St Michael's Church, St Michael's Church Hall and the vicarage together with a share of the accumulated income allocated under the Scheme. The investments of St Michael Charity are included in these Financial Statements at Note 5b.

11. Bankers

TSB Bank plc, Sycamore Road, Amersham, and HSBC, Sycamore Road, Amersham, are the PCC's bankers. Additionally, Amersham branch of Barclays Bank plc acts as banker for St Michael's Tuesday Club. The PCC also has funds on deposit with the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England.

12. Funds

The Charities Act distinguishes between 'restricted' funds, which are funds or endowments given to the PCC for a particular purpose and which can only be used for that purpose, and 'unrestricted' funds which are available for the general purposes of the PCC and may be designated by the PCC. The PCC make transfers between funds when expenditure of a restricted or designated nature is to be met from more than one type of fund. The maximum level of these transfers is agreed by the PCC prior to the expenditure. On 24 March 2006, the Charity Commission confirmed that the funds of St Michael Charity do not constitute permanent endowment but are restricted funds.

Unrestricted funds designated by the PCC:

i) St Michael's Vicarage

This fund includes expenditure on the vicarage extension in 2007.

ii) St Michael's Square

This fund includes expenditure on the redesign of the church entrance and on St Michael's Square met from unrestricted funds.

iii) Pastoral Support

This fund is for support for the Vicar in her pastoral work, including outreach activities. It holds investments in CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund and cash deposits.

iv) Buildings and Projects

This fund is for larger and capital projects relating to the church and hall buildings. It holds investments in CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund and cash deposits.

v) Youth Activities

This fund is for support for youth activities within St Michael's, including but not limited to Messy Church. It includes funds formerly held in the Spiritual Development fund and the Miss M.E. Blake legacy. It holds cash deposits.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

vi) Sabbatical

This fund is to provide support for sabbatical study for the Vicar. A grant was agreed, and paid, in 2019. From 2020 onwards it will be gradually increased each year to provide for a future sabbatical. It holds cash deposits.

vii) Music

This fund was established with a designated donation, to provide for exceptional items required in relation to music in the church. It holds cash deposits.

Unrestricted Funds which have not been designated by the PCC

viii) General Fund

This fund holds the accumulated surplus in cash, deposits and CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund and is used in conjunction with the PCC's cash operating accounts. It also holds expenditure on fixed assets (other than buildings) and on investments acquired with unrestricted funds.

Restricted Funds of the PCC

ix) Trust Income account

This fund receives income from St Michael Charity to be used for expenditure on the buildings in accordance with the trust deed.

x) St Michael Charity

St Michael Charity was established in November 1973 and is invested to provide income with dividends and interest being paid to the Trust Income account.

xi) Spiritual Development Fund

This fund is for the young people of St Michael's and receives income from the Ellen Motion Memorial Fund from which it originated.

xii) St Michael's Square

This fund represents expenditure on the redesign of the church entrance and on St Michael's Square met from restricted funds.

xiii) The St Michael's Project Fund

This fund was established in 2014 for restricted income, and matched expenditure, on specific projects – initially, for replacement seating, and then in 2015 and 2019 for the refurbishment of the church organ. In 2020 the fund was used for the hall improvement project, with matched expenditure charged to that fund.

Endowment Funds

xiv) Ellen Motion Memorial Fund

This fund is a permanent endowment invested to produce restricted income which is to be used for the spiritual development of the young people of St Michael's. By an addendum signed on 17 November 1997, it was agreed that income from the fund could be used to support payments to a voluntary youth worker.

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

13. Accruals

All amounts included in the financial statements are shown on an accruals basis. Where amounts have been received in advance such as for rental income, the amount relating to future periods has been deferred. Amounts invoiced but unpaid at the year end are included in creditors and estimates for costs relating to the year are included in accruals. At 31 December 2020, the PCC had a claimable income tax rebate of £982 (2019: £584). A summary of all debtors and creditors at the year end is shown at Notes 6 and 7 to the Accounts.

14. Tuesday Club

The Tuesday Club plans its events each year to break even with revenue from participants intended to meet the costs of such events. Revenue for the year was £1,253 (2019: £24,398) with costs for the year of £1,306 (2019: £23,637).

15. Ex-gratia payments

In addition to the missionary and charitable giving listed in item 3a) of the accounts, ex-gratia payments valued at £nil were made during 2020 (2019: £nil).

16. Staff costs

During the year, the PCC employed a church secretary, an assistant administrator, a warden and a church cleaner. The average number of employees was 4. The organists were self-employed and payments to them are not included in Staff costs.

17. Incumbent's expenses

The vicar Debbie Oades was reimbursed expenses totalling £906 (2019: £1,327) as follows:

	2020	2019
	£	£
Travel expenses	-	273
Vicarage telephone and internet	906	946
Other expenses	-	108
	<u>£906</u>	<u>£1,327</u>

Expenses of £974 (2019: £2,422) were reimbursed to other curates and clergy.

18. Insurance

The PCC has insured itself with the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group for many years and the policy is inflation linked. From March 2020 cover of the buildings was provided at the following levels:

Church	£5,600,000 (2019: £5,408,000)
Hall	£2,800,000 (2019: £2,704,000)

Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

19. Mission Giving

As noted in the Annual Report, in 2020 the PCC took the hard decision to suspend the policy of allocating 10% of its voluntary income to Overseas Missions and 5% to Home Missions. A flat sum was instead allocated. This policy will be kept under review.

20. Loans and guarantees

No loans or guarantees have been secured against any of the PCC's assets.

21. Contingent liabilities

There are no contingent liabilities.

22. Related party transactions

The church benefits from the services of family members of the PCC, whose skills are used in various roles as noted below. In each case the connected PCC member takes no part in setting specific terms for the appointment and the terms of such appointments are no better than those offered to unconnected parties. Further details are given in the table below.

Person	Role	Connected to	Nature of connection	£
Andrew Leslie	Organist	Roger Leslie	Son	£230
Stephen Wilcox	Organist	Rachel Wilcox	Husband	£1,240
Rachel Wilcox	Organist		PCC member	£30
Hazel Miller	Administrator		Ex officio PCC member	£3,148

No other payments or expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties.

23. Grants

	2020	2019
	£	£
Towards the cost of other projects		
IBM	-	1,560
HMRC Job Retention Scheme		
'Furlough' claims	5,999	-
Total grants	<u>5,999</u>	<u>1,560</u>

24. Quinquennial examination

An Architect's Quinquennial Survey was completed in March 2021, and the Report received in May 2021. The Buildings Committee is reviewing the report and will advise the PCC on a programme of works. A full electrical survey has also been completed and its recommendations will also be reviewed, with recommendations to the PCC. Specialist contractors will be engaged where necessary.