

**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.*

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

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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

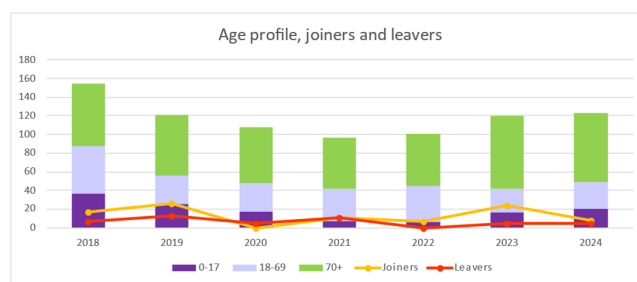
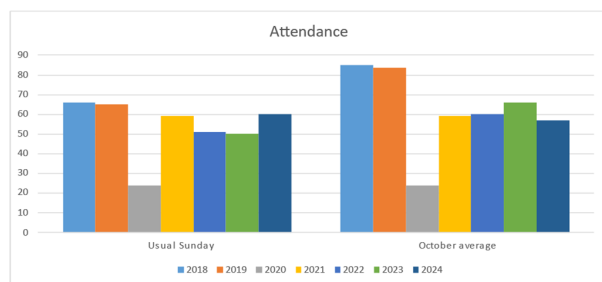
The figures are calculated on average attendance during October 2024.

Weekly attendance

56 adults, 1 child

Messy Church

18 adults and 21 children



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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

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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.

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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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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	<u>£500</u>	
Total home mission		£1,000
Embrace the Middle East, High Wycombe	<u>£500</u>	
Total overseas mission		<u>£500</u>
Total mission giving		<u><u>£1,500</u></u>

Funds donated direct by congregation

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

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)
Legacies	-	-
Realised gains on investment disposals	-	227
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investment assets	2,395	1,335
Net surplus/(deficit)	7,843	(14,233)

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

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)
Net current assets		21,899	16,362
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
		100,210	1,250	-	101,460	88,351
	Collections (open plate)	3,746	-	-	3,746	3,397
	Donations, appeals etc	5,084	-	-	5,084	2,319
	Grants	-	-	-	-	16,626
	Legacies	-	-	-	-	-
		109,040	1,250	-	110,290	110,693
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
		46,382	-	-	46,382	46,120
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
		1,841	-	-	1,841	6,306
2d.	Income from investments					
	Dividends	664	3,126	-	3,790	3,641
	Interest	337	240	-	577	305
		1,001	3,366	-	4,367	3,946
2e.	Other incoming resources					
	Insurance claims	-	-	-	-	-
	Other income	-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	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	-	271,123
	Fixed asset investments	20,805	64,957	1,842	87,604
	Current assets - debtors	8,088	250	-	8,338
	Current assets - deposits	7,222	4,584	505	12,311
	Current assets - cash at bank and in hand	11,656	-	-	11,656
	Current liabilities	(10,406)	-	-	(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.

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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

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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.