

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY-LE-MORE AND ALL HALLOWS WITH ST LEONARD AND ST PETER, WALLINGFORD

England & Wales · Charity number 1129240

Details

Other names WALLINGFORD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2009-04-21

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

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Activities

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

Activities: St Mary-Le-More and St Leonard are churches in Wallingford, Oxon. A strong Christian community ministering to the needs of all people with mission at the heart of our worship. Regular church services are held during the week. The church is also used by groups e.g. Tiny Toes Toddlers' Group, Carers' Group and for Choir and Bell practice. The church building is available for hire.

Classification

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

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£217,273	£213,407	-	-
2023-12-31	£164,422	£158,927	-	-
2022-12-31	£172,621	£146,448	-	-
2021-12-31	£146,150	£149,165	-	-
2020-12-31	£145,145	£130,083	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Sarah Joy Nesbitt	Chair	2024-03-06
Alice Louise Carberry		2025-04-06
Amanda Simons		2017-04-30
Charles Patteson Hughes		2022-05-15
Charlotte Jane Rothwell		2025-04-06
Charlotte Louise Brampton		2020-10-04
Gavin Wood		2019-04-07
Hazel Shuttleworth		2025-04-06
Helen Swan		2020-10-04
Jacqueline Mary Hughes		2025-06-24
Katherine Elizabeth Spence		2025-04-06
Kenneth David Swan		2025-04-06
Mildred Eaton		2023-04-23
Oliver Charles Garland		2022-05-15
Peter Howarth		2022-06-23
Prof Helen King		2021-10-12
STEPHEN MARK HARRISON		
Thomas Woelker-Darley		2025-04-06
Wendy Lee Muggeridge		2014-07-07

Accounts



**St Mary's & St Leonard's
Wallingford**
open to God, open to all

Wallingford Parochial Church Council

Annual Report & Financial Statements 2024

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1. Aim and Purpose

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Mary-le-More's (St Mary's) and St Leonard's has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent to promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. As a parish, we aim to become a living and loving example of Jesus Christ in our community, to be **open to God, open to all**.

The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St Mary's Church and St Leonard's Church.

2. Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches (in-person or online) and to become part of our parish community. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament whilst our outreach activities strive to look beyond ourselves to share the love of Christ as we serve and connect with the community.

When planning our activities and priorities for the coming years in 2017, we identified three main priorities, which we have continued to progress:

- Development of our provision of worship, taking into account people's busy lives and their requirements for alternative forms of worship
- Development of ways to encourage local residents to be part of our church, whilst nurturing our current congregation.
- Development of the role of a Children and Families Worker to further attract, support and encourage young people to be lifelong Christians.

To deliver these priorities, the PCC has a number of Vision Groups and sub-groups, which meet independently and report back to the PCC when the council meets. These groups are expanded upon in the following sections.

An additional focus since 2019 involves '**Cherishing God's Earth**' and inspires us to think about expressing our care for God's world in our lives and worship.

Activities offered include a robed choir (both adults and juniors), a music group, Emmaus and Bible Study groups and bellringing. We offer a range of children's activities, such as Children's Church (called JAM, or Jesus and Me), Tiny Toes Toddlers' group and Baby Singing. We also host a Carers' Group, social groups such as The Fellowship, and coffee mornings twice a week.

St Mary's is in the heart of Wallingford and we aim to keep the church open daily for both parishioners and visitors. It is a space open to anyone who wants to find peace at the heart of bustling, everyday life or spend time in quiet contemplation or prayer. Being open every day also enables understanding of the church and its rich history.

Our two buildings are spaces where life events such as weddings and baptisms are celebrated with joy and thanksgiving. They allow us to hold funerals with respect and compassion, offering an opportunity to give thanks for the loved one, time to reflect and think, and to entrust them into

God's care.

In 2024 there were 153 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll. We celebrated 8 baptisms and 2 weddings. Nineteen funerals were held in our two churches during the year; in addition, our parish clergy officiated at a further 1 funeral at a crematorium.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, fully recognising its duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. (See section 5 for a report from our Parish Safeguarding Officer).

The PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and works to provide a welcoming atmosphere and suitable facilities for all people. St Mary's, in particular, is available for wider community use and during the year is normally used by several groups unconnected with the church; further details of activities for the public benefit are given throughout this report.

3. Financial Review

3.1 Financial Summary

In 2024 we lived within our means again as a church, with income very slightly ahead of expenditure. A significant amount of money was spent on the church roof lead replacement project, but much of this was funded by grants and donations from individuals and organisations (including The Friends of St Mary's & St Leonard's) for which we are very grateful. However, regular giving - through standing orders, envelopes, and plate collections - although a little higher than in 2023 is still lower than in 2022.

Looking forward, we have to complete the rest of the lead replacement, but also to start the process of replacing the boiler at St Mary's: it is increasingly unreliable and has been very expensive to keep working over the last few years. We therefore need to address the slow decline in planned giving.

I am very grateful for the support I receive from Jenny Harden and Judith Pengilly: without their help and encouragement it would not be possible for me to look after our church finances.

3.2 Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the Wallingford PCC to maintain as a reserve approximately three months of general running costs (amounting to £30,000) plus a further amount as contingency for quinquennial and other works arising. The target level for this contingency is £90,000 giving a total target for reserves of £120,000.

3.3 Grant making policy

The total of donations made by the PCC, plus collections taken at special services (including Christmas, Easter, Harvest), should approach 10% of the PCC's unrestricted income. The

management of this giving is delegated to the Social Responsibility Group. The current practice is to support at least one UK charity and one overseas charity. One of the charities must be Christian based. Collections for emergency disaster appeals and one-off charities are agreed by the PCC.

In 2024 we achieved approx. 7%, primarily due to the fact that we encourage people who wish to gift aid their donation to do so online as the charities do not provide gift aid envelopes anymore.

3.4 Stewardship

There was no stewardship campaign during the year.

*Stephen Harrison
PCC Treasurer*

4. Rector's Report

This year has been a whirlwind of firsts and a steep learning curve, but with a real sense that God is with us. I can't thank you enough for your support and encouragement since my licensing on 6th March. Whatever your role in the church community – and you all have one – your enthusiasm, willingness to 'go with the flow' when I've changed things around and a great deal of work done quietly in the background means we are fulfilling our vision of being 'Open to God, open to all'. Thank you for being direct with your feedback when I have got things wrong, it's been valuable. I have spent a great deal of time listening and learning this year, being the gentle shepherd you asked for while looking forwards in our Christian mission here.

We are blessed with a wonderful team of ministers, both ordained and lay, meaning we can offer a very full range of worship and ministry in church, at home and in the wider community. Also, an amazing team of volunteers whose reports offer highlights on the following pages. You built strong foundations during the interregnum from which we can now grow, with Christ as our guide and with prayer at the heart.

I spent a good deal of time in the summer and autumn building on previous work developing a Deanery bid for National Church funding for Children, Young People and Families work. We were not successful, but the work is not wasted and will be carried forward as a Team project in the coming months.

Alongside my role as Team Rector, I am a Foundation Governor at St Nicholas' School, a Trustee of the Wallingford Municipal Charities, Mayor's Chaplain and Street Pastor, taking our contribution beyond the faith community. As I don't live there, The Rectory continues to be under the management of the diocese and is let on a six-monthly contract basis.

*Revd Sarah Nesbitt
Team Rector*

5. Report from Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)

Our Safeguarding Culture

Safeguarding is a standing item on PCC agendas, with an updated Action Plan at each meeting. Our Parish Safeguarding Policy is reviewed annually and is in line with [Promoting a Safer Church](#). The PCC complies with its safeguarding duties following guidance from the Church of England and Diocese of Oxford. Most recently, in response to the findings of the Makin report, we have been asked to ensure a good understanding of the guidance on [Responding Well to Victims and Survivors](#), and to consider the strengths and weaknesses of our parish culture around safeguarding. I am grateful to the PCC for their ongoing engagement; we are particularly fortunate to have General Synod member Helen King's wisdom and wider perspective on this crucial area of parish life.

Safer Recruitment and People Management

We continue to monitor training undertaken by volunteers; all PCC members complete basic and foundation level training, as do those working closely with children or vulnerable adults. Online training is accessible to anyone via the [Church of England Safeguarding Training Portal](#). We regularly review risk assessments and ensure that those supervising activities are adhering to the [Code of Safer Working Practice](#). We are using the Parish Safeguarding Hub to keep records in a consistent, accessible format. Thank you to Jean Simmons, our DBS Administrator, for her attention to detail.

A range of concerns and queries have been raised to the PSO and Team Rector, with advice and support sought from the Diocese and other agencies as required. Where a safeguarding concern is raised, it is expected that advice will be sought directly from the Diocesan Safeguarding Team, and it is for them to discern whether further action is needed. Our area safeguarding adviser is Erica Hegg who can be contacted directly on 01865 208295.

Safeguarding Roles

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Linda Hull safeguardingwallingford@gmail.com

DBS Recruiter and Verifier: Jean Simmons

Our focus in the coming months will be:

- Developing our shared understanding of responding well to victims and survivors of abuse.
- Considering the strengths and weaknesses of our culture of safeguarding.

*Linda Hull
Parish Safeguarding Officer*

6. PCC Vision Groups & Sub Committees

6.1 Worship & Spirituality Group

The Worship & Spirituality PCC subgroup met on four occasions in 2024, quietly planning and delivering a variety of services and activities to support our individual and corporate needs.

Key highlights from this year include:

- a full programme of worship through Lent and Holy Week with some special reflective services of word and music on Good Friday
- regular Care Home Communion services at Rush Court and Westgate House, alongside Home Communion for those unable to get to church
- participation in the ecumenical Good Friday service in Wallingford Market Place
- a particular emphasis on the church seasons and festivals, with specific liturgy and orders of service reflecting a variety of spirituality and worship.
- our Family Services: the ‘Heroes of Faith’ theme continued until July; in August we held a ‘Love your Church’ service to bless and say thank you for everyone who helps in any way with our church: worship, outreach, nurture, buildings, flowers, cleaning, hospitality, bellringing, welcoming and more.
- the learnings from the BunkFest prayer space in the sanctuary, with a beautifully restored votive candle stand alongside the other prayer activities
- the ‘blessing of the bags’ for the return to school and work following the summer holiday season. September also saw the reintroduction of our All-Age Communion, beginning with our Harvest Festival.
- the introduction of prayers and anointing for Wholeness and Healing during the Team service at the end of September.
- the season for the online ‘Prayer with the Heart’ came to an end during the summer, but Morning Prayer in St Mary’s at 8.30am was reintroduced
- the Advent Group gathering to study ‘Forgiving and Forgetting’ by Nick Fawcett
- the prayer tree has not been particularly well used this year, but is important for those who do take the time to write their prayers, so will be reviewed

The following table explains our service provision:

St Leonard’s	Every Sunday	08:00	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
	Every Sunday	18:30	Sung or Choral Evensong (Book of Common Prayer)
St Mary’s	Mondays – Thursdays	08:30	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)
	1 st and 3 rd Sundays	10:15	Parish Communion (Common Worship) with Children’s Church JAM (Jesus & Me)
	2 nd Sunday	10:15	Family Service, preceded by crafts at 09:45
	2 nd Sunday	11:30	Said Communion (Common Worship)

	4 th Sunday	10.00	All Age Communion (Common Worship)
	5 th Sunday	10:00	Team Communion (Common Worship) rotating around the three parishes
	Every Thursday	11:00	Holy Communion (Common Worship)

*Revd Sarah Nesbitt
Team Rector*

6.2 Outreach & Nurture Group

6.2.1 Outreach & Nurture Group – General

At the start of 2024, the group organised several events in St Mary’s to help foster a sense of community. This included a pancake breakfast at the Family Service before Lent, and an Easter Egg hunt for children on Easter morning. The Collation Service for Sarah’s licensing in March involved a wide range of groups and individuals, including the Outreach and Nurture group.

As the days became warmer and longer, we could start to organise outdoor events. This year this included:

- A team picnic in Liz’s beautiful riverside garden, followed by Evensong
- Hymns and Pimm’s in the churchyard at St Leonard’s.

The Outreach and Nurture group helped facilitate links between our churches and our community, by supporting events such as:

- Hustings in St Mary’s, ahead of the July General Election.
- Activities for children in St Mary’s, as part of the town’s Curfew Bell event.

To support the choir’s singing in St Alban’s Cathedral (see 6.6 below) we organised a parish coach trip to St Alban’s. Feedback from the bring-and-share Harvest Lunch we organised, suggested that it may have worked better as a sit-down meal, with revised timing.

Christmas and Advent allowed us to bring back some popular features such as the Tree of Remembering at St Mary’s, along with sharing mulled wine after selected services. A highlight this year was the lantern making workshop and parade we ran for children, as part of the town’s Christmas Event at the start of December, which was incredibly popular.

I would like to record my thanks to the other members of the group and also thanks to those beyond the group who support this vital aspect of our church life.

*Charlie Brampton
On behalf of the Outreach & Nurture Group*

6.2.2 Children, Young People and Families

Our children, young people and families are an important part of our church community. Since the departure of our Children's Worker in September 2023, the activities for young people have continued through a team of wonderful volunteers with some hugely creative sessions. Key highlights include:

- JAM (Jesus and Me), where children spend time engaging with bible stories on three Sunday mornings a month, reducing to two when the All-Age Communion was reintroduced on the fourth Sunday of the month from September. There is occasionally JAM on fifth Sundays if the Team service is at St Mary's.
- Family Service on the second Sunday of each month, preceded by crafts relating to the topic which are enthusiastically received.
- Baby Singing and Tiny Toes on Wednesday mornings in term-time continue to be well supported.
- Collective Worship (CW): we offer CW at St Nicholas' School every two weeks and led CW at Fir Tree School on three seasonal occasions in the autumn term. St John's School enjoyed a whole-school Carol Service in church and discussions have been initiated at Wallingford School to improve engagement.
- We have enjoyed 8 baptisms with home visits for baptism preparation.
- The Brownies came into church to make bouquets for Mothering Sunday and will be joining our flower arranging rota in the New Year.
- Confirmation preparation sessions began in December.
- Two Christmas Eve Nativity services were beautifully chaotic and well-attended

A huge thank you to the team of very capable and enthusiastic volunteers who encourage our young people to explore faith through scripture, craft and song.

*Revd Sarah Nesbitt
Team Rector*

6.3 Social Responsibility Group

The Social Responsibility Group aims to raise awareness of social and justice concerns and to balance our church giving between international emergency appeals and other national and local charities, particularly those known to us here in Wallingford. We welcome any suggestions or recommendations from members of the congregation.

This year the church has donated £9,636.25. The PCC increased its donations to our two nominated charities (Sue Ryder Hospice Care and the Sharp Memorial School for the Blind in India) to £2,000 each.

We also supported two Red Cross Appeals for the war in the Middle East and for Gaza, MSF (Doctors without Borders) and the UNHCR (World Refugee Week). Nationally we supported Cruse Bereavement Care and Crisis at Christmas. Locally we helped PACT (Parents and Children Together), Wigod Way Family Centre, Style Acre and Open the Book.

Charlie Hughes organized Christian Aid week collections and spoke about its work at a Parish Communion service at St Mary's. We also welcomed Kelsey Proctor, Manager of the Wigod Way Family Centre to tell us about the work of the Centre at Parish Communion in November.

We held two cake sales in St Mary's, to mark Refugee Week and Harvest Festival. Many thanks for everyone who contributed delicious homemade goodies!

*Elizabeth Gordon
On behalf of the Social Responsibility Group*

6.4 Fabric, Buildings and Churchyards

Phase 1 leadwork replacement project involving St Mary's and St Leonard's churches was completed in March by our appointed contractor Warren and Neale. This project, which stemmed from the 2021 Quinquennial Inspection (QI), involved lead replacement to the south roof and the tower roof at St Mary's, alongside the tower abutment at St Leonard's. It included remedial plaster work in the south aisle at St Mary's due to the plaster failure in 2023 caused by historical water ingress.

St Mary's chancel movement 'live-with-it' option completed – This required a purlin condition inspection by a structural engineer to progress the 'live-with-it' option. The inspection took place on 19 March 2024 by Matt Groves of Seabrook Groves. Faculty approval was gained and the work involving the installation of a steel sleeve and remedial plaster work took place on 9 April 2024 by Warren and Neale through the Phase 1 leadwork replacement project. This situation now needs to be monitored.

The Standing Committee and the Fabric Committee organised an interim QI meeting with Henry Sanders, quinquennial architect, in June. There were two aims: 1) To gain direction from Henry Sanders on which actions we should prioritise; 2) To gather information on the likely significant repairs needed in the next 5-20 years to develop a long-term strategy for both churches and to support the work of the Friends of St Mary's and St Leonard's.

Phase 2 leadwork progression at St Mary's – There is outstanding lead replacement work required to the north aisle at St Mary's. We have obtained grants of £20,750 and fundraised £6,215. We opened discussions with the architect in October 2024 to enable progression of the work in 2025.

St Mary's boiler replacement project – following approval by the PCC and agreement by the Diocese on the approved replacement of the gas boiler by air source heat pumps, we have progressed the project by employing a structural engineer and acoustics expert to carry out further preparatory work.

St Leonard's structural assessment of the apse and tower – There is a quotation in place for Matt Groves (structural engineer) to inspect the Apse and Tower at St Leonard's – this is linked to a QI action and required due to the visible crack in the Apse. Step one is a CCTV survey of the drains..

St Mary's East End Window condition assessment – Chapel Studio stained glass specialists were due to re-assess the condition of the East End window in December. This was cancelled due to personal reasons and is planned for January 2025.

St Mary's security enhancements – We have improved the security of the building through the installation of several mortice locks following the break-ins in 2024.

Buildings, fabric and churchyards Committee (formally known as the Fabric Committee) has delivered a number of activities required by the QI alongside reactive activities. This includes responding to the many issues with St Mary's boiler some of which were caused by flooding linked to a problem with a nearby downpipe. It also includes the remedial works to the south aisle wall in St Mary's following an incident on Ash Wednesday. The committee has developed a monitoring and maintenance programme for both churches.

Monitoring and maintenance of church buildings – This includes service of the boiler, annual fire extinguishers inspections, PAT testing and 6-monthly maintenance of fire alarm and emergency lighting, routine health and safety inspections.

Churchyards – SODC completed minor remedial works to the paving in the front churchyard at St Mary's to reduce the risk of slips, trips and falls. They also carried out tree maintenance in St Leonard's which required faculty permission. We had to provide evidence of not being able to find any living relatives for graves in St Mary's and All Hallows to progress remedial works to gravestones.

I am indebted to the many people who have given their time and talents, and help and support to enable this work to be achieved in 2024. Since 2021, we have had a very significant church building workload due to the urgent and important issues that were identified through the Quinquennial Inspections alongside the many unknown problems that have arisen on the way.

*Emma Cross
On behalf of the Fabric, Buildings and Churchyards Ctee.*

6.5 Communication Group

The website <http://www.wallingfordcofe.org.uk>, covers all three parishes in the Team (Wallingford, Crowmarsh Gifford and Brightwell-cum-Sotwell). It continues to meet the needs of locals, visitors and newcomers by promoting upcoming services and events as well as providing information about what we offer.

The distribution list for the Weekly News email continues to grow, and Weekly News is now sent to over 300 email addresses every week. This email details the services and events for the coming week and beyond. A handful of paper copies are made available at both churches for those who do not have access to the internet.

The livestreamed Sunday morning service at St Mary's still attracts a number of regular viewers and is a vital link to the church for these members of our parish and beyond who cannot attend the service in person. The monthly Zoom sessions for TWHAS (The Wallingford Historical and

Archaeological Society) continue, thus allowing people at home to join the presentation being held in St Mary's.

Posters, flyers and invitations were produced throughout the year promoting special services and events, and articles were published in local magazines when appropriate.

We continue to use Facebook to communicate news and promote special services and events; and the TV screen near the door in St Mary's provides visitors and congregation a glimpse of our diverse services and activities.

*Wendy L Muggeridge
On behalf of the Communications Group*

6.6 Choir

Extra services this year included Sarah's Collation service in March and a beautiful 1928 prayer book wedding in April. There was more collaboration between juniors and seniors: joint rehearsals and the All-age Communion services.

The choir enjoyed three cathedral visits:

- Two days in Salisbury in May, where we were accompanied by Andrew Prior, and which involved a large number of juniors;
- A weekend in St Alban's in August, where we were accompanied by Mathias Herbst, and welcomed some former choir members back to sing;
- Evensong at Christ Church, Oxford at the beginning of August, joined by a few members of Christ Church Cathedral Singers and Dorchester Abbey Choir.

There was a Good Friday evening performance of choruses and arias from Handel's Messiah, accompanied by Gaby Clements.

Remembrance Sunday included a performance of Walford Davies's Requiem in D, written in 1915. With a liturgy from a 1913 draft of a revised Book of Common Prayer, it was paired with the Communion Service in C minor by Wood and accompanied by Sue Huntingford-Ledger.

Christmas was very busy, as ever, but we enjoyed some particularly successful carol-singing evenings, thanks to excellent turnout from the choir and welcome additions from the congregation.

The choir committee continues to support Judith and has embarked on a review of the music library to rationalise our resources and make space for new music.

*Judith Ward
Director of Music*

6.7 Bellringers

We have had another good year with a loyal band maintaining all the ringing required for services, as well as continuing our regular Thursday practices. We number 14 paid-up members of the Diocesan Guild. We can ring on 8 bells fairly regularly and sometimes on 10 if numbers permit. The

band continues to make good progress, with individual members progressing well. One of our number (Millie Gall) rang her first full peal during the year, less than a year after starting to learn. We currently have one further member starting to learn. There have been five quarter peals during the year, but no full peals (just one failed attempt!)

We had an enjoyable outing last summer to towers in Buckinghamshire. Repairs have been required: we needed 3 new ropes and the other 7 “tail ends” were replaced at the same time. Also, one clapper sheared off in the middle just before Christmas. We are grateful to the PCC for funding all the work required for this.

We are always pleased to welcome visitors to our practices, and also will be most interested to hear of anyone wishing to learn to ring. Ringing is an activity open to all in the age range 8 to 88+!

*Chris Tuckett
Tower Captain*

7. Cherishing God’s Earth

This continues to be a key part of our mission and we are very proud of the fact that we have been a Silver rated [Eco Church](#) since September 2020. Despite some lack of resource this year, we have accomplished the following:

- achieved RHS Thames & Chilterns in Bloom awards for the two churchyards;
- celebrated the season of Creationtide in September through worship and prayer;
- continued to use Fair Trade coffee, tea and sugar;
- progressed the project to replace the gas boiler at St Mary’s with a more environmentally friendly option;
- worshipped outside in the summer, when we held Evensong in a private garden (see 6.2.1. above)

*Wendy Muggeridge
PCC Secretary*

8. Plans for the Future

Our main aims for 2025 and beyond include the following:

- Planning for the Team Vicar vacancy
- Developing our work with Children, Young People and Families
- Developing our provision of Christian ministry appropriately in a growing community
- Developing the Personal Discipleship programme
- Reviewing previous research and progressing our vision ‘Enabling people to be the best they can be in God’
- Holding a Confirmation service for adults and young people in February 2025
- Extending the confirmation preparation into a youth group meeting regularly
- Building resilience, resources and knowledge to maintain and care for church buildings
- Delivering Phase 2 leadwork project for the north aisle at St Mary’s

- Completing the CCTV survey and structural assessment at St Leonard's
- Completing the planning for St Mary's boiler replacement project
- Endeavoring to find somebody to become our Cherishing God's Earth Champion
- Working with the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust, the Oxford Diocese and local conservation groups to create a strategic plan for the two Churchyards for them to become havens for wildlife, heritage, and people.

9. Structure, Governance & Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. Membership of the Wallingford PCC currently consists of the Team Rector, two Churchwardens, one General Synod representative, Deanery Synod representatives, one Licensed Lay Minister plus lay members elected by those who are on the Electoral Roll of the church. All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Election to the PCC is for a three-year term, although immediate re-election is possible. We are permitted 12 lay members on the PCC, governed by the number of people on the Electoral Roll.

Churchwardens are elected annually and serve for a maximum of six consecutive years. Re-election is possible after at least one year's break.

A Standing Committee is required by law; its purpose is to transact the PCC's business between meetings of the PCC. Our current Standing Committee consists of the Team Rector, two Churchwardens and two other members of the PCC, appointed by the PCC, these are currently the PCC Secretary and PCC Treasurer.

Deanery Synod representatives are elected every three years, according to a schedule set by the Diocese of Oxford and governed by the number of people on the electoral roll in the year preceding the elections. The next date for elections will be at the APCM in 2026. Based on the number of people on our electoral roll in 2022, we are currently entitled to 4 representatives.

General Synod Representatives are elected by lay members of the Deanery Synod every five years, according to a schedule set by the Church of England.

The members of Wallingford PCC are Trustees of the charity and, as such, are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish as well as managing the parish's finances.

The PCC met four times during 2024. Given its wide responsibilities, the PCC has a number of committees and groups, detailed earlier in this report, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These committees and groups are responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly with recommendations of their decisions when appropriate, for approval by the PCC.

10. Administrative Information

The Parish of St Mary-le-More and St Leonard is situated in Wallingford, Oxfordshire. The churches are, together with those in Crowmarsh Gifford and Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, part of the benefice of Wallingford, which is within the Wallingford Deanery in the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England. Wallingford PCC registered as a charity on 21 April 2009. The details are:

<u>Charity Name</u> :	The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary-le-more and All Hallows with St Leonard & St Peter, Wallingford
<u>Noted Working Name:</u>	Wallingford Parochial Church Council
<u>Registered Charity No.:</u>	1129240
<u>Charity Address:</u>	112 The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 8EJ
<u>Bankers:</u>	Lloyds plc., Market Place, Didcot, OX11 7LQ
<u>Independent Examiner:</u>	Caroline Webster. UHY Ross Brooke, Suite I, Windrush Court, Abingdon Business Park. OX14 1SY

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

Name	Office	Elected
Revd Sarah Nesbitt	Team Rector	<i>ex officio</i>
Emma Cross	Churchwarden & Deanery Synod representative	<i>ex officio</i>
Jacque Hughes	Churchwarden (Chair until 06/03/24) due to interregnum	<i>ex officio</i>
Gavin Wood	Licensed Lay Minister	<i>ex officio</i>
Charlie Brampton	Deanery Synod representative	<i>ex officio</i>
Wendy Mugeridge	Deanery Synod representative & PCC Secretary	<i>ex officio</i>
Luke Whitcomb	Deanery Synod representative (resigned 16/12/2024)	<i>ex officio</i>
Prof Helen King	General Synod Representative	<i>ex officio</i>
Jane Anderson		2022
Milli Eaton		2024
Oliver Garland		2022
Stephen Harrison	PCC Treasurer	2023
Peter Howarth		2023 for 2 years
Charlie Hughes		2022

Amanda Simons		2023
Helen Swan		2023

11. Wallingford Team Ministry



The Parish of Wallingford is part of the Wallingford Team Ministry, along with the parishes of Crowmarsh Gifford and Brightwell-cum-Sotwell.

Membership of the Team Council in 2024:

Name	Parish	Role / status
Revd Sarah Nesbitt		Team Rector
Revd Kevin Beer		Team Vicar
Emma Cross	Wallingford	<i>Parish representative</i>
Jacque Hughes	Wallingford	<i>Parish representative</i>
Amanda Simons	Wallingford	<i>Parish representative</i>
Helen Swan	Wallingford	<i>Parish representative</i>
Michael Drury	Brightwell-cum-Sotwell	<i>Parish representative</i>
Andy Lewis	Brightwell-cum-Sotwell	<i>Parish representative</i>
Anna Gordon	Crowmarsh	<i>Parish representative</i>
Linda Parker	Crowmarsh	<i>Parish representative</i>
Stephen Harrison	Wallingford	<i>Treasurer. Co-opted</i>
John Dowling	Brightwell-cum-Sotwell	<i>Treasurer. Co-opted</i>
Frank Sadler	Crowmarsh	<i>Treasurer. Co-opted</i>

The Parish representatives are lay members of their PCC's and are elected at the first PCC meeting following the annual parochial church meeting. Licensed lay ministers are also entitled to be members of the Team Council.

Two Team Council meetings were held in 2024:

- a) 30 May 2024

Last year there was no Parish Share discussion but, because of the Interregnum, they had remained the same as 2023. The 3% deduction applied because of the Interregnum was distributed equally across the 3 parishes. There had been no request for financial support for Crowmarsh. There was discussion concerning the Deprivation level for the 3 parishes; Experian Data makes Crowmarsh wealthier than Brightwell, which is patently wrong. We are told that the Benefice figure we currently pay is for two Clergy Members, if we don't pay, we lose a Vicar.

- Frank reported that, since Covid, fundraising had been negligible, but giving through the Parish Share Giving Scheme (PGS) has increased along with inflation. His forecast is that by the end of this financial year the bank balance could be as low as £800.00 with no reserves, other than ring fenced reserves.
- Mike reported that Brightwell was OK, with Reserve Funds in place. Everything is generally the same as last year with no more contributions – the Spring Fair had realised much the same figure as last year.
- Stephen commented that Wallingford had not so far adopted the PGS, so that means no automatic increases in giving, however he does support regular Stewardship Campaigns.

Mike asked how/when do we resolve to help Crowmarsh and how does it affect us getting another Team Vicar. Sarah said there would be a 'House for Duty', cover for Sundays plus two days. After further discussion it was agreed that Wallingford and Brightwell would go to their respective PCC's and request £2,000 (Wallingford) and £1,000 (Brightwell) be made available to Crowmarsh. Kevin noted that 75% of Crowmarsh income went to pay their Parish Share.

There was some discussion over the House Groups during Lent, with each Group doing their own thing. There was a mixed response to the material used, with some finding the Leadership material difficult.

The Team Council Scheme 2003 lays out Membership as follows: In the first meeting following 1st May: Rector; Vicar; six Members. Jacquie Hughes was appointed Lay Chair appointment (Proposed by Sarah and seconded by Kevin). Margaret Foster was appointed Secretary. There followed a review of dates for Team Services and events until December.

The meeting found the Oxford Deanery proposal about children woolly and non-specific, but there is money to help with youth work if we can access it. Rebecca (Cholsey) and Sarah are sharing ideas across boundaries and Sarah sees us working with Benson and Ipsden too. In September there will be a Deanery presentation; Diocese is putting in time and money; Wallingford was well represented at the last workshop. We need common aims with our youth work: Cholsey predominately focuses on pre-teens but that's less the case in Wallingford. Sarah noted that we have catchment for Wallingford School but we're not strong on resources and we don't have a Team Youth Group. Cholsey is well placed with Volunteer helpers. It'd be good to build more with Wallingford Academy Youth – the Head might be amenable. A bigger 'Open the Book' team would be able to reach more Schools, or we could persuade the current volunteers to become leaders of more groups.

b) 21 November 2024

As expected, the Parish Share increased again this year, and the Deanery Formula assumed Crowmarsh would pay more than Brightwell. Stephen advised the meeting that Wallingford had already accepted their increase, so it was decided that the figures for Brightwell and Crowmarsh should be reversed: the sums for 2025 will therefore be:

Crowmarsh	£32,373.00
Brightwell	£33,350.00
Wallingford	£70,034.00
Total	£135,756.00

- Andy voiced a general concern over the loss of our Team Vicar and how we prepare for the Interregnum. He then gave a summary of this year's events.
- Linda gave an account of Crowmarsh activities, the most important being that a Faculty for the long awaited Toilet and Sundry had at last been granted; and Open the Book was going from strength to strength.
- Jacquie spoke about plans for December, the Junior Choir and the six Candidates for Confirmation this year. The Collection from the Christmas Carol Service will be donated to 'Open the Book'.

Kevin will be making some arrangements for cover during the Interregnum following his retirement, which leaves us to put together a list of jobs which need covering.

Sarah advised that a new Parish Development Advisor (PDA) will be starting in January. She asked the meeting to consider the idea of employing a Parish Admin Officer, who could cover all three Parishes, and be a point of contact during an Interregnum. Such an appointment will need careful consideration and clarity about which tasks would need to be covered.

Sarah proposed that we have a Benefice Away Day sooner rather than later, however we cannot set a date before we get our PDA. There followed a review of services and events up to Easter.

There followed a discussion of how things were going concerning Children's Ministry. The situation was broadly similar to the last meeting and we had not been successful in gaining money from the Development Fund. There are currently no Children worshipping in Crowmarsh and 4-5 children in Brightwell. Sarah will start to work on our children and youth ministry.

Margaret Foster, Minutes Secretary

12. Wallingford Deanery Synod

The Deanery includes parishes in Blewbury, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, Chilton, Cholsey, Crowmarsh Gifford, Didcot, Great Western Park, Hagbourne, Harwell, Moulsoford, the Moretons, the Astons, Upton and Wallingford. The Deanery Synod provides PCCs with an important link between parishes and the wider structures of the church. Meetings are jointly chaired by the Area Dean (Revd Dr Andy Lord) and Lay Chair (Vaughn Lawfull).

Two Deanery Synod meetings and two Standing Committees were held in 2024. The Synods both related to the question of how we perceive 'church' in the modern world:

a) February Deanery Synod meeting

We heard from Revd Pete Wheeler from St Peter's Aylesbury (who is on the Diocesan New Congregations Board), speaking about his ministry on a rather deprived estate.

Before Pete's revitalisation work, St Peter's was run by a few elderly folk and much of the focus was on fundraising. Pete introduced a 'breakfast church', which introduces health/well-being and to inspires families to choose things for themselves. On the first Sunday an 11-year-old turned up, on

the second he brought his brother, on the third they brought their mother. 4-5 years later they now welcome around 80-90 each Sunday, of whom 80-90% are unchurched. All activities are intergenerational, and attendees are welcome to bring their own food. They also bring problems of addiction, abuse, alcoholism, but God is at work breaking chains.

Pete shared several principles for creating a healthy church:

- Mission is not a separate department, rather it runs through all our activities. His church has no intention of inviting people in – they need to want that for themselves.
- Church is usually an attractional model (we expect others to come to us) but we need it to be an incarnational model (people expect us to go to them)
- ‘Appreciative Enquiry’ is the principle that everything we need to grow and thrive is already in the room/in our hands. We need to think about Asset Based Community Development (the ABCD concept). We should ask our PCCs about what we already have and how we can use it.
- We need to consider what our Mission Statement is/should be

b) November Deanery Synod meeting

We heard from Revd Canon Helen Kendrick who had been asked to comment on ‘The Church in Mission’ from her experience in the Damascus parish.

The Damascus parish covers five villages, which border Didcot and Abingdon. Helen has been there for 21 years, in which time the congregations have halved. In 2017 a radical decision was made to become a single parish. This was not an easy process (there were 26 different bank accounts!) but activities such as sorting out paperwork and joining the Parish Giving Scheme has helped stewardship. Numbers are now growing, and the parish has a financial surplus.

There is basically one PCC with churchwardens plus local church committees with co-wardens, and one general fund. Pastorally, there is a key person in each church who calls in members of the clergy when required – they are building up lay teams to become the central contacts. Technology is being enabled in new ways, with increasing use of co-operative Google programs. Practically, church worship moves around between the villages, but each church is unique.

The group’s Mission Statement is ‘nurturing faith, bringing hope, sharing love’. From a PCC Away Day came the idea of ‘5 doors’: using all of the five main church buildings. There are: home groups, lay-led services, the use of ‘Open the Book’ in the primary schools, an assembly in each school weekly. Warm Spaces, emergency food supplies, toddler groups and family engagement afternoons. They encourage regular giving of talents as well as money. Helen reminded us that if everything else seems impossible, just keep praying!

There was time for discussion in small groups and a chance to ask questions. These clarified some of the missional and structural issues faced by parishes and Benefices in the Wallingford Deanery. There was plenty to think and reflect further on!

c) Ongoing Deanery Synod work

At both synods there were discussions about (and commitments to) Parish Share Payments. At the end of 2024 the Deanery had raised the significant sum of £468,341 towards the Share allocated to it.

Gordon Gill stood down as Lay Chair at the beginning of the year and was gratefully thanked for all he had contributed during his years in office. Vaughn Lawfull was voted in as his successor in that role in November. Due to the continued lack of a Deanery Treasurer, the Standing Committee has covered this role again this year.

The Deanery Secretary ran the Diocesan Election process in the Deanery during the Area Dean's Sabbatical (and during the vacancy for Lay Chair). Revd Jason St John Nicolle was elected to one of the two Clergy vacancies; but one Clergy and two Lay places were not filled.

Each Synod heard a report from Prof Helen King in her role as a General Synod Representative, particularly in relation to the Living in Love & Faith process, and to the many aspects of Safeguarding which had featured in the national news during the year.

Inspections took place in several parishes during 2025 particularly in the Churn Benefice. More will take place in 2025, lessening the backlog after the hiatus of the pandemic.

Much work took place around the Deanery on projects related to Children & Youth, ahead of a plan being put together in 2025 alongside the diocesan bid for national funding. It was encouraging to hear stories of the many varied activities taking place each month across the Deanery.

Ali Adams, Deanery Synod Secretary

13. Annual Financial Statements

Wallingford Parochial Church Council
Registered Charity Number 1129240
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Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2024 total funds	2023 total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from: (Note 2)					
Donations and legacies	135,253.80	31,406.59		166,660.39	115,492.40
Charitable activities	19,063.13	-		19,063.13	18,946.11
Other trading activities	20,440.32	-	-	20,440.32	21,809.13
Investments	11,110.00	-		11,110.00	8,174.73
Other incoming resources	-	-	-	-	-
Total income	185,867.25	31,406.59	-	217,273.84	164,422.37
Expenditure on: (Note 3)					
Raising funds	2,602.59	-		2,602.59	2,155.68
Charitable activities	200,359.72	10,444.59		210,804.31	156,771.59
Total expenditure	202,962.31	10,444.59	-	213,406.90	158,927.27
Net incoming / outgoing resources before transfer	- 17,095.06	20,962.00	-	3,866.94	5,495.10
Transfers (Note 12)					
Gross transfers between funds - in	-	-		-	75,000.00
Gross transfers between funds - out	-	-		-	75,000.00
Net incoming/outgoing before other gains/losses	- 17,095.06	20,962.00	-	3,866.94	5,495.10
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Gains and losses on investment assets (Note 14)	933.24		4,694.43	5,627.67	17,895.94
Net movement in funds	- 16,161.82	20,962.00	4,694.43	9,494.61	23,391.04
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	293,281.42	1,883.92	177,187.12	472,352.46	448,961.42
Total funds carried forward	277,119.60	22,845.92	181,881.55	481,847.07	472,352.46

The notes on pages 21 to 29 form part of these financial statements.

Wallingford Parochial Church Council
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Balance Sheet

Statement of Financial Position

	2024 total funds	2023 total funds
	£	£
Fixed assets		
Investments (Notes 7 and 14)	201,095.57	195,467.90
	201,095.57	195,467.90
Current assets		
Debtors (Note 8)	11,327.07	10,448.23
Cash at bank and in hand (Note 9)	279,500.51	272,073.46
	290,827.58	282,521.69
Liabilities		
Creditors: amounts falling due in one year (Note 10)	10,076.08	5,637.13
	280,751.50	276,884.56
Net current assets less current liabilities		
	481,847.07	472,352.46
Total assets less current liabilities		
	481,847.07	472,352.46
Represented by (Note 12)		
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General fund	86,677.44	113,580.63
Designated		
Designated - Choir fund	9,328.94	8,279.43
Designated - Reserve fund	108,915.54	104,881.14
Designated - Rector's discretionary fund	4,106.15	4,106.15
Designated - Jordan legacy	20,456.53	19,523.29
Designated - Ruth Chamberlain memorial trust fund	11,996.68	10,530.32
Designated - Bell ringers' fund	4,808.24	5,119.70
Designated - Youth and children work fund	19,011.25	15,441.93
Restricted		
Restricted - St Mary's tower fund	2,657.35	2,657.35
Restricted - Restricted fund	32,007.40	11,045.40
Endowment		
Endowment - Ruth Chamberlain memorial trust fund	22,452.14	21,949.75
Endowment - St Leonard's Church endowment funds	159,429.41	155,237.37
	481,847.07	472,352.46
Funds of the church		
	481,847.07	472,352.46

Approved by the Parochial Church Council in general meeting on 4 March 2025 and signed on its behalf by Stephen Harrison (PCC Treasurer).



The notes on pages 21 to 29 form part of these financial statements.

Wallingford Parochial Church Council
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Note 1 - Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (effective 1 January 2019 the "SORP (FRS102)"). The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis. Financial statements are based on historical costs, except for investments which are shown at market value.

The financial statements include all transactions, assets, and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law.

Collections and appeals for nominated beneficiaries have not entered the accounts as they were collected on behalf of third parties.

The financial statements do not contain the accounts of informal groups of church members or of other groups which owe their main affiliation to another body.

Funds

The general fund of the PCC is an unrestricted fund. Some of the general fund has been earmarked by the PCC for particular purposes and these are referred to as Designated funds.

Endowment funds are included where the Trustees are the Rector and Church Wardens. These funds are small and their purposes are identified in the accompanying note 12.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income

Collections are recognised when received by the PCC.

Planned giving under gift aid declaration is recognised only when received.

Income tax recoverable on gift aided donations is recognised when the donation is received.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.

Funds raised by appeals, garden parties, social, and other events are accounted for gross. Any associated costs are disclosed under expenditure - raising funds.

Income from investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

Gains and losses on investments and other fixed assets

Realised gains or losses on investments are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are calculated as the difference between opening market value (or purchase price if later) and market value on the 31 December each year.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations, are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC. Other resources expended are accounted for when the liability arises on an accruals basis.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and buildings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s. 96(2)(a) of the 2011 Charities Act.

All expenditure during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings is included in the Statement of Financial Activity (SOFA).

Listings of such expenditure are given in the notes to the accounts.

Other fixtures, fittings, and office equipment

Fixtures, furnishings and equipment used within church premises are written off linearly over four years unless a longer period is appropriate to reflect the useful life of certain assets. Individual items with a purchase price of less than £3,000 are written off when the asset is acquired.

Short term deposits and cash

Short term deposits includes cash held on deposit either with Church of England Central Board of Finance Deposit Fund or at the bank.

Cash includes monies held in bank current accounts.

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Note 2 - Incoming Resources

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2024 total funds	2023 total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies					
Standing order donations	79,564.00			79,564.00	79,195.00
Envelope donations	2,786.00			2,786.00	2,685.00
Loose plate collections	6,085.19			6,085.19	2,639.62
Giving through church boxes	206.00			206.00	128.43
One-off donations	7,742.40	12,156.59		19,898.99	7,595.31
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	22,649.55	2,500.00		25,149.55	21,162.76
Legacies				-	1,000.00
Non-recurring one-off grants	11,922.13	16,750.00		28,672.13	172.00
Other funds generated	4,298.53			4,298.53	914.28
Donations and legacies income subtotals	135,253.80	31,406.59	-	166,660.39	115,492.40
Charitable activities					
Coffee sales	8,613.08			8,613.08	6,810.51
Fees for weddings and funerals	4,835.80			4,835.80	5,133.00
Verger, organ, bells, and choir fees	5,441.00			5,441.00	7,002.60
Toddler group	173.25			173.25	
Charitable activities subtotals	19,063.13	-	-	19,063.13	18,946.11
Other trading activities					
Church lettings and sales - fund raising	20,440.32			20,440.32	21,809.13
Activities for generating funds subtotals	20,440.32	-	-	20,440.32	21,809.13
Investment income					
Dividends	9,814.40			9,814.40	4,829.46
Bank and building society interest	1,295.60			1,295.60	3,345.27
Investment income subtotals	11,110.00	-	-	11,110.00	8,174.73
Income from generated funds totals	185,867.25	31,406.59	-	217,273.84	164,422.37
Other incoming resources					
Other incoming resources subtotals	-	-	-	-	-
Incoming resources grand totals	185,867.25	31,406.59	-	217,273.84	164,422.37

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Note 3 - Resources Expended

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2024 total funds	2023 total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Raising funds					
Costs of fund raising and events	2,602.59			2,602.59	2,155.68
Raising funds expenditure subtotals	2,602.59	-	-	2,602.59	2,155.68
Charitable activities					
Giving - relief and development (Note 6)	2,266.63			2,266.63	1,500.00
Giving - home mission (Note 6)	174.00			174.00	65.00
Secular charities (Note 6)	2,000.00			2,000.00	1,500.00
Parish share	67,371.78			67,371.78	64,512.18
Ministry and mission	6,164.01			6,164.01	6,566.72
Assistant staff costs				-	9,263.00
Rector's working expenses	1,217.71			1,217.71	-
Recoverables verger, organ, choir, bells	4,925.00			4,925.00	5,977.80
Costs of organists and choir	10,949.89			10,949.89	9,779.79
Insurance	8,778.28			8,778.28	8,696.68
Organ and piano tuning	1,215.28			1,215.28	1,157.36
Church maintenance and sundries	12,031.65	156.59		12,188.24	6,597.72
Administration	640.00			640.00	819.00
Bank charges	406.30			406.30	348.42
Thefts				-	190.00
Utilities	14,512.14			14,512.14	21,178.46
Payment card charges	217.07			217.07	203.11
Repairs	66,853.98	10,288.00		77,141.98	13,215.78
Independent examination	636.00			636.00	600.00
Depreciation (Note 7)				-	4,600.57
Charitable activities sub-totals	200,359.72	10,444.59	-	210,804.31	156,771.59
Resources expended grand totals	202,962.31	10,444.59	-	213,406.90	158,927.27

Coffee is purchased both for fellowship (coffee after services) and fund raising (selling coffee in church). As it is not possible to separate these costs, they are all included in "Ministry and Mission".

Costs of "organists and choir" includes expenditure on choir tours.

Note 4 - Statement of Staff Costs

Fees from weddings and funerals due to the Director of Music and to the Verger are paid directly to them by the PCC.

Fees due to the choir and ringers are paid to the choir and ringers.

The organist was paid monthly: the total for the year was £8,210.40 (2023: £7,694).

Since September 2017, the PCC has employed one family worker part-time as part of its mission to families.

The family worker left for a new job at the beginning of September 2023 and has not yet been replaced.

There were therefore no payments made to the family worker in 2024 (2023: £6861).

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Note 5 - Details of Certain Items of Expenditure

Trustees Fees

No trustees were paid in their capacity as trustees nor did they receive any expenses. No trustee received fees for any other services provided to the charity.

The total donations from trustees during the year were £44,065.

Independent Examination

Fees of £530 were paid for the independent examination of the accounts: no other fees were paid to the independent examiner for other services.

Note 6 - Grants to Missions and Charities and Disposal of Special Collections

	2024 total £
Giving - relief and development	
PCC donation to Bartimaeus Chritable Trust (Sharp school for the blind)	2,000.00
PCC donation to British Ukrainian Aid	266.63
Total	2,266.63
 Home mission	
Donation to Christ Church Cathedral	15.00
Church Towers	109.00
Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust	50.00
Total	174.00
 Secular charities	
Donation to Sue Ryder Care	2,000.00
Total	2,000.00
Total giving by the PCC	4,440.63
 Disposal of special collections	
Collections and appeals for nominated beneficiaries have not entered the accounts as they were collected on behalf of third parties.	
Bishope of Oxford Outreach Fund - collections at Sarah Nesbitt's collation service	579.42
Christian Aid - collections and donations	713.76
Churches Conservation Trust - St Peter's Evensong	123.50
Crisis - 9 lessons collections	612.11
CRUSE - All Souls collections	238.87
Friends of St Mary and St Leonard fundraising events	327.99
Medecins sans Frontieres - Remembrance Sunday collections	369.94
Open the Book - Crib service collection	150.00
PACT - Easter collections	375.93
Red Cross - Good Friday and Christmas collections	1,429.54
Style Acre - Advent carol service collections	318.92
Sue Ryder Care - half proceeds of Wallingford Winter Recitals	3,049.94
The Children's Society - J Pengilly collection boxes	496.10
UNHCR - 23 June collections and cake sale	295.15
Wigod Way Family Centre - Harvesy collections, Crib service collection, and cake sale	588.28
Total for special collections	9,669.45

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Note 7 - Fixed assets

	2024 total £
Tangible fixed assets	
Cost	
Balance brought forward	122,069.62
Additions	
Balance carried forward	122,069.62
Accumulated depreciation	
Balance brought forward	122,069.62
Depreciation charge for year	-
Balance carried forward	122,069.62
Net book value	
Brought forward	-
Carried forward	-

All Tangible Fixed Assets had been depreciated to zero by the end of 2023.

Fixed asset investments (see also Note 14)	
Market value at beginning of year	195,467.90
Gain on revaluation	5,627.67
Market value at end of year	201,095.57

Note 8 - Debtors

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024 total	2023 total
	£	£	£	£
Debtors				
Gift aid	11,327.07		11,327.07	10,448.23
Debtors total	11,327.07	-	11,327.07	10,448.23

Note 9 - Cash at Bank

	2024 total	2023 total
	£	£
Cash at Bank		
Lloyds current account	130,171.11	129,540.42
Lloyds 32 day interest bearing account	51,794.74	50,499.14
CBF1003 (Reserve)	80,042.83	76,008.43
CBF1005 (Ruth memorial)	17,491.83	16,025.47
Current assets total	279,500.51	272,073.46

Wallingford Parochial Church Council
Registered Charity Number 1129240
ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 December 2024

Note 10 - Creditors

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024 total	2023 total
	£	£	£	£
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year				
Due to organists			251.00	
Wedding fees taken in advance			325.00	525.00
EEP boiler replacement project			2,400.00	
Acoustics study for boiler replacement project			2,340.00	
Owing for kitchen consumables			171.98	
Agency collections			150.00	518.51
Connect catering (for printing)				155.52
Retention on tower works (Harri-Stone)			3,838.10	3,838.10
Independent examination			600.00	600.00
Creditors total	-	-	10,076.08	5,637.13

Note 11 - Commitments

The PCC recognised no further financial commitments at the end of 2024 other than those disclosed in creditors.

Note 12 Funds

	Balance brought forward	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Gains and losses	Balance carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted - General Fund	113,580.63		26,903.19			86,677.44
Designated - Choir Fund	8,279.43	1,049.51				9,328.94
Designated - Reserve Fund	104,881.14	4,034.40				108,915.54
Designated - Rector's Discretionary Fund	4,106.15					4,106.15
Designated - Jordan Legacy	19,523.29				933.24	20,456.53
Designated - Ruth Chamberlain Memorial Trust Fund	10,530.32	1,466.36				11,996.68
Designated - Bell ringers' fund	5,119.70		311.46			4,808.24
Designated - Youth and children work fund	15,441.93	3,569.32				19,011.25
Restricted - St Mary's Tower Fund	2,657.35					2,657.35
Restricted - Restricted Funds	11,045.40	20,962.00				32,007.40
Endowment - Ruth Chamberlain Memorial Trust Fund	21,949.75				502.39	22,452.14
Endowment - St Leonard's Church Endowment Funds	155,237.37				4,192.04	159,429.41
	<u>472,352.46</u>	<u>31,081.59</u>	<u>27,214.65</u>	-	<u>5,627.67</u>	<u>481,847.07</u>

General Fund - general income and operating expenses.

Choir Fund - for fund raising and expenditure of the choir apart from funds provided by the PCC.

Reserve Fund - to cover cash shortfalls in the event of unforeseen circumstances such as emergency repairs.

Rector's Discretionary Fund - a sum of money donated by a parishioner for use at the Rector's discretion.

Jordan Legacy - shares remaining after the original legacy was fully spent. Now generating income for the PCC.

Ruth Chamberlain Memorial Trust Fund - endowment provides for the designated fund for costs first for altar, then cassocks, surplices, and choir hymnals and psalters.

St Mary's Tower Fund - money collected for the repair and restoration of St Mary's church tower.

Restricted Fund - set up in 2012 for Restricted payments from various sources including the Friends of St Mary and St Leonard.

The current balance of £32,007.40 consists of £30,250 reserved for fabric works at St Mary's,

£1,000 reserved for fabric works at St Leonard's, £337 reserved for organ repairs,

with the balance for costs of electronic collection plates.

St Leonard's Church Endowment Funds - investment income for the PCC General Fund.

Wallingford Parochial Church Council
Registered Charity Number 1129240
ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 December 2024

Note 13 - Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

Current year	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	-	19,214.02	-	181,881.55	201,095.57
Net current assets	86,677.44	159,409.31	34,664.75	-	280,751.50
Total	86,677.44	178,623.33	34,664.75	181,881.55	481,847.07

Previous year	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	-	18,280.78	-	177,187.12	195,467.90
Net current assets	113,580.63	149,601.18	13,702.75	-	276,884.56
Total	113,580.63	167,881.96	13,702.75	177,187.12	472,352.46

Note 14 - Details of Investments

		2024 total	2023 total
		£	£
CCLA Shares - St Leonard's House	St Leonard's Church endowment funds	87,213.27	85,261.77
	<i>Custodian Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance. St Leonard's House; Income to Rector and Churchwardens for yearly expenses of Parish Church. Interest and dividends paid to PCC.</i>		
CCLA Shares - St Leonard's Cottage	St Leonard's Church endowment funds	66,527.96	64,414.70
	<i>Custodian Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance. St Leonard's Cottage; Perpetual trust with object as for St Leonard's House. Recoupment scheme for loan of £4,047 made to Parish in 1974 concluded during 1998 and capital repaid. New recoupment scheme 1999 Charity Commission agreed release of £16,000 to PCC for repairs at St Leonard's or St Mary's. Outstanding loan at 31 December 2023 £640.00. From 2005, accumulated interest and dividends paid to PCC. Recoupment payment £640.00 per year. Loan fully paid off</i>		
CCLA Shares - St Leonard's Lands	St Leonard's Church	5,688.18	5,560.90
	<i>St Leonard's Church Lands: general expenses of the Church. Rector and Churchwarden trustees. Perpetual trust with opening capital, represented by 246 CBF Investment units; income paid to PCC.</i>		
CCLA Shares - Jordan Legacy	Jordan Legacy	19,214.02	18,280.78
	<i>306.14 Central Board of Finance Accumulation Investment Fund units purchased 9 December 1997 at 979.94p.</i>		
CCLA Shares - Ruth Chamberlain Trust	Ruth Chamberlain memorial trust fund	22,452.14	21,949.75
	<i>Wallingford St Mary's Ruth Chamberlain Trust; first for altar, then cassocks, surplices and choir hymnals psalters. Perpetual trust with opening capital of £1,000 represented by CBF Investment units; income paid to PCC.</i>		
Investments subtotal		201,095.57	195,467.90
The realised and unrealised gains on investments in the year are		5,627.67	17,895.94

14. Independent Examiner's Report

Wallingford Parochial Church Council
Registered Charity Number 1129240
Independent Examiner's Report
for the year ended 31 December 2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Wallingford Parochial Church Council

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 21 to 29.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the members of the PCC who are also the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

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

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

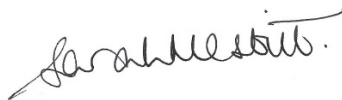


.....
Caroline Webster FCA

UHY Ross Brooke
Suite 1
Windrush Court
Abingdon
OX14 1SY

21 March 2025

Wallingford PCC Annual Report 2024 approved by the PCC on 4 March 2025 and signed on their behalf by Revd. Sarah Nesbitt (PCC Chair)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Nesbitt', with a flourish at the end.

Revd. Sarah Nesbitt, Chair Wallingford PCC

Accounts



The church congregation would like to invite you to a

Newcomers Afternoon tea

Saturday 18 March 2023
3:30 pm in St Mary's, Wallingford

For more information contact
Wendy Mugeridge
07869 167174



St Mary's & St Leonard's
Wallingford
open to God, open to all

Wallingford Parochial Church Council

Annual Report & Financial Statements 2023

Tudor Music Remembrance

Sunday 12th Nov
6:30 pm, St Mary's

A liturgical performance
Parts of Mass for Four Voices
Burial Sentences by M
Psalms 42 & 130 by
...that my Redeemer live

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1. Aim and Purpose

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Mary-le-More's (St Mary's) and St Leonard's has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent to promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. As a parish, we aim to become a living and loving example of Jesus Christ in our community, to be **open to God, open to all**.



The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St Mary's Church and St Leonard's Church.

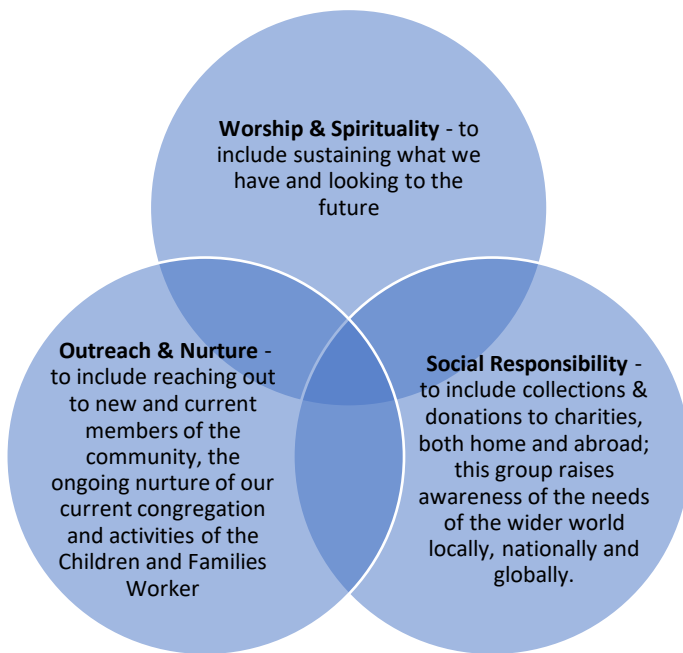
2. Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches (in-person or online) and to become part of our parish community. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament whilst our outreach activities strive to look beyond ourselves to share the love of Christ as we serve and connect with the community.

When planning our activities and priorities for the coming years in 2017, we identified three main priorities, which we have continued to progress:

- Development of our provision of worship, taking into account people's busy lives and their requirements for alternative forms of worship
- Development of ways to encourage local residents to be part of our church, whilst nurturing our current congregation.
- Development of the role of a Children and Families Worker to further attract, support and encourage young people to be lifelong Christians.

To deliver these priorities, the PCC has a number of Vision Groups and sub-groups:



In addition:

- the responsibilities of the **Standing Committee** include finance, buildings and stewardship,
- the **Choir Committee** focuses on the musical aspects of our worship, and
- a **Communication** stream runs through all groups.

These sub-groups meet independently and report back to the PCC when the council meets.



A new focus in 2019 involved '**Cherishing God's Earth**' and is inspiring us to think about how we can express our care for God's world in our lives and through our worship and teaching, buildings and land, our local community engagement and our personal lifestyle choices. This mission aspect of our church continues to run through all our vision groups and resulted in our churches being given an **Eco Church Silver Award** by the A Rocha



foundation in 2020.

Our parish offers many services and activities to reach out to as many people as possible. Services normally include two Eucharist services every Sunday and another on Thursday mornings; sung or choral Evensong on Sunday evenings and a monthly Family Service. In addition, online Morning Prayer is via Zoom from Mondays to Fridays and on Wednesday evenings we have a Prayer with the Heart service for contemplative prayer and reflection, also via Zoom; this service was introduced during Covid when in-person attendance was difficult, but it has proved so popular we have kept it in this format. See Section 6.1 for more details on our worship.

Activities include a robed choir (both adults and juniors), a music group, Emmaus and Bible Study groups, bellringing and various children's activities (Children's Church, JAM - Jesus and Me; Tiny Toes Toddlers' group and Baby Singing) as well as social groups such as The Fellowship, and coffee mornings twice a week.

The hiring of St Mary's helps to make the church a vibrant focus of life in the town. The ability to remove the chairs in the church allows it to be a very flexible space and our diverse hirers in 2023 included the Country Market and Local Producers' Market, monthly meetings for U3A and The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society as well as weekly choir rehearsals, for an additional two choirs to our own, and several concerts and recitals. It is also used as a Polling Station when requested.

We aim to keep St Mary's open daily for both parishioners and visitors, for anyone who wants to find peace at the heart of bustling, everyday life; a place for quiet contemplation and prayer as well as enabling an understanding of the church building in the history of the area.

Finally, we provide two buildings, where life events such as weddings and baptisms are celebrated with joy and thanksgiving, and funerals with respect and compassion, allowing us to give thanks for the loved one, time to reflect and think, and to entrust him or her into God's care.

In 2023 there were 158 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll. We celebrated 9 baptisms, five weddings and one Wedding Blessing. Thirteen funerals were held in our two churches during the year; in addition, our parish clergy officiated at a further funeral at a crematorium.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, fully recognising its duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. See section 5 for a report from our Parish Safeguarding Officer.

The PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and works to provide a welcoming atmosphere and suitable facilities for all people. St Mary's, in particular, is available for wider community use and during the year is normally used by several groups unconnected with the church; further details of activities for the public benefit are given throughout this report.

3. Financial Review

3.1 Financial Summary

As a church we lived within our means during 2023, with income slightly exceeding expenditure. Giving by standing order, envelopes and plate collections was down by about 5% on 2022, but coffee sales are now established back at pre-pandemic levels, and income from church lettings - helped considerably by the Winter Recitals series of concerts - is higher than it has ever been. The sharp rise in utility costs due to the war in Ukraine caught up with us as our fixed price arrangement for electricity and gas is adjusted every September: the cost of heating and lighting our churches was three times higher in 2023 than in previous years. We have also had to start a programme of roof repairs (evidenced by the appearance of scaffolding on a number of occasions) which will continue for a few years.

We have weathered the storm of pandemic, interregnum, high utility bills, and roof repairs in relatively good shape. However, we do need to address the decline in giving and the fact that the first phase of the roof repairs has used up a great deal of our reserves, so now that the interregnum is over a new stewardship campaign will be considered for 2024.

I am very grateful for the support I receive from Jenny Harden and Judith Pengilly: without their help and encouragement it would not be possible for me to look after our church finances.

3.2 Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the Wallingford PCC to maintain as a reserve approximately three months of general running costs (amounting to £30,000) plus a further amount as contingency for quinquennial and other works arising. The target level for this contingency is £90,000 giving a total target for reserves of £120,000.

3.3 Grant making policy

The total of donations made by the PCC, plus collections taken at special services (including Christmas, Easter, Harvest), should approach 10% of the PCC's unrestricted income. The management of this giving is delegated to the Social Responsibility Group. The current practice is to support at least one UK charity and one overseas charity. One of the charities must be Christian based. Collections for emergency disaster appeals and one-off charities are agreed by the PCC.

In 2023 due to reduced income and increased costs in other areas we were not able to achieve quite the level of giving set out in the policy (about 7.5% rather than 10%).

3.4 Stewardship

There was no stewardship campaign during the year.

*Stephen Harrison
PCC Treasurer*

4. Churchwardens' Report

This past year of the interregnum was a time of ups and downs; great challenges and great joys. Through it all, we have enjoyed support and encouragement and there is also a sense of having moved forward as a Team rather than standing still and waiting for a new incumbent. Much of our time has been spent in planning for the appointment of our new Team Rector. The writing of the Team Profile was a collaborative affair, the first meeting to draw up this document took place in January and was well attended by all the parishes and interested parties from our local community. We "brain-stormed" our ideas and then also worked on the "Person Specification" and "Draft Advertisement". Following a number of formal meetings we had all 3 documents drawn up for approval by the Diocese. A small team with excellent IT skills did a great job of making the Team Profile look exciting and interesting.

A large amount of Emma's time has been taken up with planning and preparing our worship. This has included ensuring we have an officiant in place to lead our worship week-in-week out. It has also involved working with the officiant and Director of Music in preparing the orders of service for various times and seasons of the year such as Advent, Lent and Holy Week – and for a second year round! We would like to record our sincere and heartfelt thanks to the Team Vicar, and to the retired clergy in our benefice, licensed lay ministers, visiting diocesan representatives and lay members who have been taking our weekly services. The retired clergy have also covered for weddings, funerals and baptisms. Our Verger has been assisting at funerals and weddings.

It required two rounds of advertisements before we were able to interview, and then appoint, Revd. Sarah Nesbitt following a unanimous decision by the 10 people on the interview panel.

We would like to record our thanks to the members of the PCC for all their help, good ideas and general enthusiasm as we have navigated our way through the interregnum. There are 3 sub committees: Worship and Spirituality, Outreach and Nurture and Social Responsibility. Please take a look at their reports to see all that has been happening in the last year. We have 2 Deanery Synod Reps keeping us in touch with all that is going on in the wider church locally, and also a member of our congregation who serves on the General Synod.

We are grateful for those that do so many unseen activities in serving our church and community: those who take communion to Rush Court, those who visit members of our congregation at home and those who keep an eye on each other through our parish network group leaders. "The Fellowship" group meets monthly; they have enjoyed talks on a wide range of interesting subjects. As well as learning, the group provides a social time with delicious tea and cakes in the home of one of our parishioners.

Our 4 Service Wardens check that everyone and everything is in place at the start and end of each service. We have 2 sacristans who keep things in order at St. Leonard's, preparing for the services and locking up the church. We have 2 volunteers who manage the health and safety checks and another who arranges the bi-annual checks of our electrical equipment, emergency lighting and fire extinguishers. In addition there have been those who have diligently planned our rotas and co-ordinated our volunteers to help as readers, intercessors, sidespeople, welcomers, sacristans, sound desk and livestream operators, cake and coffee makers and servers/"washer uppers", brass, linen and general cleaners, flower arrangers, money counters, DIY fixers, and more Please forgive us if we have missed any activities out - there is always so much going on to make our church life run smoothly! We are so grateful to all who offer to help in any practical way but also to those who pray for us; this too is an important part of how we live out our faith and our mission day by day. We're grateful to the small team who has led and sustained our Morning Prayer during this interregnum and for those who lead and attend Prayer with the Heart.

Our Safeguarding Officer has overseen everything to do with training, safer recruitment and any safeguarding concerns. She works closely with the Diocesan Team to ensure that we remain committed to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults to worship and grow in Christ safely. Assisting her is our DBS administrator.

Our Children and Families Worker moved on to pastures new in the summer and so we have needed the help of more volunteers to continue to offer JAM (Jesus And Me - Children's Church), Tiny Toes, Baby singing and the craft activities before the family services. All activities have continued and are a vital part of our role within the church but also the local community and we very much hope to build on these foundations in the future.

Our Director of Music and the choir have had a successful year with a visit to Coventry in the summer but also with outreach activities involving children from our local schools who have performed in concerts at St. Mary's. Christmas is always a highlight of the year for the choir, and this year was no exception; they had a hectic schedule of carol concerts in church and in the community. As well as their special activities, they share the joy of music at all our regular services together with the band at our Family Services. We are blessed indeed to have such a rich musical heritage and we thank all those in the choir who help enhance our worship with music and singing and those who play instruments in the band. Emma has been very grateful for the ongoing help, support and wisdom offered by our Director of Music in planning and preparing for our services.

Our accounts have been monitored by our PCC Treasurer who has given sound advice and guidance on all our finances. Our Treasurer's Assistant gives invaluable support by managing the week to week handling and banking of money, and much more besides. With our Treasurer's advice we have taken some big decisions on how to spend our financial resources this year, of particular importance as we have embarked on some major building work. Emma has been overseeing the repair work of our ancient buildings during the interregnum; it has been challenging and time consuming but we are making progress.

The Friends of St Mary's & St Leonard's have been a constant source of support financially for the upkeep and work required on our ancient buildings. After many years of dedication and hard work the chairman and secretary have retired and others stepped up. We are enormously grateful to those who give of their time in this way.

Our PCC secretary is our "go-to person" concerning the day to day church diary. She's had a busy year with paperwork, meeting organisation, minute taking, IT installation (we have Wi-Fi now), managing the church rentals, communications, and much morenot to mention the Christmas Tree festival which took a lot of planning but brought many smiling faces through our doors.

The Rectory has been visited weekly during the vacancy and is now being let to new tenants so responsibility has now passed back to the Diocese.

The Bellringers have had a busy year with extra ringing for the Coronation, as well as the regular bells that we love to hear before our Sunday services.

So it's been a year of "pulling together " and now we hope we have firm foundations on which to build and grow. One of our volunteers described her service to us all as "a privilege". We echo her sentiment and look forward with joyful anticipation to the year ahead.

*Jacquie Hughes & Emma Cross
Churchwardens*

5. Report from Parish Safeguarding Officer

Linda Hull has been in the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) since June 2022. In order to fulfil the role effectively, she has completed a range of training included basic, foundation and leadership training, as well as PSO induction training and modules on both safer recruitment and domestic abuse. Safeguarding is a standing item on PCC agendas, and at each meeting Linda provides an updated Action Plan taken from the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard. The PCC continues to comply with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and clergy discipline measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults) and to ensure both policy and practice are set in line with the most recent guidance from the Church of England and Diocese of Oxford.

Safeguarding Policy, Guidance and Information: Our Parish Safeguarding Policy is reviewed annually following the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and is in line with Promoting a Safer Church. This year we have also reviewed our procedures in response to allegations or concerns. We make good use of materials provided both by the Diocese and by the Church of England in ensuring our Safeguarding procedures are appropriate. We are working on collating information on the Parish Safeguarding Hub provided by the Diocese, which will ensure that records are kept in a consistent and accessible format and can be reviewed as necessary. This year has seen a significant amount of safeguarding training amongst our volunteers; for example, all PCC members are required to complete basic and foundation level training, as are those working closely with children or vulnerable adults. For most other roles within the church, basic training is appropriate. Online training is accessible to anyone who may be interested via the [Church of England Safeguarding Training Portal](#) and can be completed at your own convenience.

Safer Recruitment and People Management: We have made considerable progress with this area of work over the year, with volunteer role descriptions, a wider set of activity risk assessments and procedures which are followed for new appointments, both paid and voluntary, such as the taking up of references. Again, ensuring the correct training is in place for volunteers is crucial and ongoing, along with ensuring appropriate checks are in place for all new appointments. Emma Cross (Churchwarden) and Linda have completed the Safer Recruitment training pathway and have worked together, particularly since Hannah Smith moved on from her role as Children and Families worker, to ensure that all activities running for children and young people are run in line with safeguarding requirements.

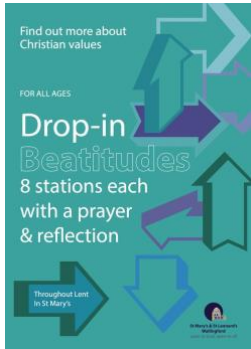
A range of concerns and queries have been raised to the PSO, with advice and support sought from the Diocese as required. On occasions it is simply a matter of checking guidance on the Diocesan website, such as to ensure an appropriate format for risk assessment is being used. However, where a safeguarding concern is raised/shared, it is expected that advice will be sought directly from the Diocesan Safeguarding Team, and it is for them to discern whether further action is needed. For example, we have ensured that appropriate information is clearly displayed in church for people to access if they are concerned about the safety and wellbeing of a member of the public, as we know that people will visit a church in times of distress and when they need assistance.

*Linda Hull
Parish Safeguarding Officer*

6. PCC Vision Groups & Sub Committees

6.1 Worship & Spirituality Group

We began the year with planning and preparing for Lent and Easter. Due to being in vacancy, the group decided that it was best to follow the Diocese of Oxford's *Come and See* Lent material – and that in doing so it would bring a sense of newness as we had not followed *Come and See* in this way before. This initiative focused on the Beatitudes; a guide for living a Christian life given by Jesus during his Sermon on the Mount. The *Come and See: the Beatitudes* leaders guide was used as a basis for the weekly group meetings held on a Monday evening via Zoom. Each session included time for reading the Beatitudes and then learning, sharing, and reflecting on them, alongside watching a film by Bishop Steven. The weekly session was well attended and run by Emma Cross and Gavin Wood.



Hannah Smith and Janine Bailey created an 'all-age' Beatitudes prayer trail in St Mary's to accompany our *Come and See: the Beatitudes* journey. The trail had a number of stations, each of which was designed to engage with one of the Beatitudes through prayer but also through offering a reflection on what it might mean to our lives today.

As part of *Come and See: the Beatitudes*, a 'Stations of the Beatitudes' service was held in St Mary's. This involved journeying together around each of the Beatitudes stations and stopping to meditate at each station. At each station, there was a scripture reading, a reflection and a concluding prayer. This service was designed and led by Emma.



Despite being in vacancy, we were able to follow our normal pattern of worship throughout Lent and Eastertide thanks to Christopher Evans, John Hutchinson, Chris Tuckett and Kevin Beer. Emma, the priests (officiants) and Judith Ward worked together to produce the service booklets for Holy Week. John Hutchinson wrote some beautiful reflections for our Good Friday Final Hour service based on Archbishop Stephen Cottrell's 2023 Lent and Holy Week book entitled *Godforsaken: The Cross - The Greatest Hope of All*.

During ordinary time, the Worship and Spirituality group returned its focus on what it could do to progress its vision: '*We enable people to be the best they can be in God*'. Despite being in vacancy, the group felt it was important to consider one of the ambitions of our vision: The offer of 'personal discipleship plans'. We invited the Revd Tina Molyneux, who was the then Diocesan Head of Discipleship and Social Justice, to a special meeting to inform us more about what personal discipleship plans were about and how we could offer it to our parish, given that we were in vacancy. Gavin Wood created a plan for this and promoted the initiative in September, including a display board in St Mary's. We have subsequently decided to put this initiative on hold, as we did not get a huge response, and due to the continued vacancy.

We used our special order of service for the Season of Creation in September to reflect how we live our lives and the choices we can make to continue to 'Cherish God's Earth'. We also created a 'Creationtide' display in St Mary's sharing information about this year's theme of "Let Justice and Peace Flow".

During Kingdom Season in November, we supported the running of various services, including the All Souls service. At a subsequent meeting, we discussed how fitting, reflective and spiritually uplifting the Remembrance Sunday liturgical performance of Tudor music was. Thank you to John Hutchinson, Judith Ward and the choir for all their work in their careful uniting of worship and music.

We also supported the development of our new Family Service 'Heroes of Faith' theme which started in September. Thank you to Christopher Evans and Linda Hull who led and supported this act of worship following Hannah's departure, alongside others, including Jean and David Simmons.



Our attention then focused on Advent and Christmas; our second of the vacancy. We selected the Archbishop of York's Advent book, *Stick with Love* by Arun Arora. Janine Bailey, Charlie Brampton and Emma Cross designed the 'Way of Love' Advent course which was held in St Mary's on a Wednesday evening. This involved a reflection from *Stick with Love* before spending some time reflecting and discussing it, followed by a short period of silent prayer, and closing with Compline.

We were able to follow our normal pattern of worship in Advent and Christmas with many thanks to Christopher Evans, John Hutchinson, Chris Tuckett and lay ministers and lay members of our church. We were very kindly supported by Archdeacon David Tyler and Bishop Gavin who took our Eucharist at Midnight and Christmas Day.

Emma, the officiants, and Judith Ward worked together to produce the Advent Carols, Nine lessons and Carols and the Crib service booklets. The Longest Night service was kindly prepared and lead by Luke Whitcomb who involved a number of members of our congregation in reading and leading prayer. It was a joy and delight to witness the church bursting at the seams at our two Crib services, led by Gavin Wood.

Throughout the vacancy, Morning Prayer has been sustained thanks to the faithfulness of Clare Stephenson and those who attend this church office via Zoom. The leadership of Prayer with the Heart is now being carried out by Janine Bailey and Charlie Brampton. The weekly Prayer with Heart on zoom is being sustained, however, a break has been taken from the monthly Prayer with the Heart Vigil service in St Leonard's.

The following table explains our service provision:

St Leonard's	Every Sunday	08:00	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
		18:30	Sung or Choral Evensong (Book of Common Prayer)
	4 th Saturday	20:00	Prayer with the Heart Vigil
St Mary's	2 nd Sunday	10:15	Family Service, preceded by crafts at 09:45
		11:30	Said Communion (Common Worship)
	All other Sundays	10:00	Parish Communion (Common Worship) with Children's Church JAM (Jesus & Me)
	Every Thursday	11:00	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
Zoom	Every morning (Mon - Fri)	08:30	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)
	Every Wednesday	20:00	Prayer with the Heart

*Emma Cross
On behalf of the Worship and Spirituality group*

6.2 Outreach & Nurture Group

6.2.1 Outreach & Nurture Group – General

The group were very conscious that our activities in 2023 would be influenced by the fact that we were in a vacancy. It was clear that both our outreach to the wider community and the nurture of our parishioners would be more critical than normal.

We considered the diagram on the right, which had been introduced to us by Revd Charles Chadwick, Parish Development Advisor for Oxford Diocese. The circles illustrate how close people are to church activities and services and how frequently they attend church; those in the outer circles attend rarely (e.g. marriages, funerals, Easter & Christmas) whilst those in the centre are regular attendees. We considered the question: **How can we encourage/help people to move towards the centre?**



With these two thoughts as backdrop, we looked at how we could respond better to life's big moments: baptisms, marriages and funerals. Some initiatives were implemented in 2023, whilst others await our new Team Rector for further discussion. We now provide Godparents with a special Godparent's card at baptisms and invite wedding couples to special services (such as Easter and Christmas) and the reading of their Banns as well as send them a wedding day card. Small steps but which may lead to something.

An Afternoon Tea for Newcomers was held in April, which was appreciated by all; we believe it helps them both to feel part of our community and also to integrate and build relationships.

We also linked in to the Town Council to understand events that were being planned and to work out how we could interface to these events. We created presentations for their "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle" and "Wallingford for All" initiatives early in the year. In addition we helped to organise the Curfew Bell Celebration in July, when the bell ringers and the choir also played key roles.



We felt it was important to hold more team events than normal, to support each other during the interregnum, and therefore organised a Team Picnic with Evensong in June and a Team Pilgrimage in July. The latter was led by Revd Kevin Beer, Team Vicar, and followed the St Birinus Way from Blewbury to Dorchester; it was a very enjoyable occasion, despite the very wet weather!

The day trip in August, to support the choir singing Evensong at Coventry, was also very enjoyable, and also quite wet! As always, it was very special.

Team Picnic – July 2023

The big event for the year, was the "Christmas Tree Festival with a difference". Instead of real trees, we took the environmentally friendlier option of using cones made from stiff paper and invited diverse groups to decorate them. There were some very imaginative entries and some very positive comments from people who came to see them. Groups who decorated the cones covered a wide range from nursery schools and Brownies to care homes including shops, local



associations, choir, bell ringers, a charity etc. As well as the launch of the festival on the town's Christmas shopping day, we also organised a Story Time For Children, Carols For Care Home Residents and an informal, cabaret-style concert. Thanks to Judith Ward, our Director of Music for organising the concert for us. With the Worship and Spirituality group, we created a Nativity Trail around the windowsills of St Mary's during Advent. The Tree of Remembering, where people can hang a star on the tree to remember a loved one, seemed more successful in its new position just outside the clergy vestry, particularly on the day of the town event. The Festival was a catalyst for a large number of people (adults and children) to enter the Church. Although the whole



group participated in making this event such a success in the planning and execution, special thanks must go to Jane Anderson for the initial idea and her creativity throughout.

To encourage fellowship after the services, mulled wine was served after the three carol services (Advent Carols, Nine Lessons & Carols and Epiphany Carols), which was very well received.

This year, the group took on a new responsibility, Caring for Carers in the Community, run by Val Wolsey. This group, which meets monthly, had been funded by Wallingford Medical Practice. However when the practice decided they wished to withdraw, the group was taken under the umbrella of the Outreach and Nurture group. Carers Oxfordshire speak very highly of the group, which provides a valued service to the community.

I would like to record my thanks to the other members of the group and also thanks to those beyond the group who support this vital aspect of our church life.

Wendy L Muggeridge
On behalf of the Outreach & Worship Group

6.2.2 Children and Families

Hannah Smith, our Children and Families Worker, left our parish at the very start of September, to take up a new post as the Children and Families Ministry Leader for the churches in Thame and Towersey. This report outlines some of the Children and Families ministry we have enabled to happen as a parish before and after Hannah's departure, and during this period of continued vacancy.

- Hannah visited St Nicholas' school to carry out assemblies. Following Hannah's departure, this sadly was not something that we could enable. We are grateful to Linda Hull and Jane Evans for their work in continuing important links as Foundation Governors.
- The vacancy gave Hannah the opportunity to lead our Family Services on theme of the parables. This included preparing the service booklets and talk for each of the Family Services.
- During Lent, Hannah worked with the PCC Outreach and Nurture group to plan and prepare an all-age *Come and See: the beatitudes* prayer trail in St Mary's. Hannah also incorporated the *Come and See: the beatitudes* family resources into Jesus and Me (JAM).
- Mothering Sunday involved our local Brownie group helping us make posies and these were distributed during our Mothering Sunday Family Service, which was also led by Hannah.
- Tiny Toes, our toddler group, enjoyed an Easter party in church, with a treasure hunt, themed games and an Easter story gift, together with invitations to our Easter activities in church.
- In the summer, we ran our annual children and families Wildlife Discovery event at St Leonard's. Once again, it involved a nature trail, discovery stations and craft activities working alongside Wild about Wallingford.
- Craft activities were available to children and families who visited as part of the Curfew Bell event and for the Bunkfest weekend thanks to Hannah, the Outreach and Nurture group and volunteers.
- We started this year's 'Heroes of Faith' themed Family Services in September. We invited children to dress-up as superheroes, and extended the invitation to those families of children that have been baptised.
- We decided to continue reaching out to our children and families through a monthly newsletter, Hannah produced one weekly. The new monthly newsletter was timed to be issued just before our Family Service.
- We have been able to continue JAM thanks to offers of support Hannah had put in place before she left. We are very grateful to the continued support of members of our congregation – you are all stars!
- Following Hannah's departure, we were able to secure a volunteer to help continue our important outreach into our local community through Tiny Toes toddler group. Baby Singing continued too.

- We enjoyed celebrating Christingle, and supporting the Children's Society, as part of our light themed December Family Service. We enjoyed the larger than life Christingle!
- The Outreach and Nurture group involved children and families craft activities into our Christmas Tree Festival with the support of volunteers.
- This year we reverted to offering two crib services, as the church was very full last year – as it was this year too. Thanks to the team who made this happen.

After prayer and reflection, we decided not to backfill Hannah's role. This wasn't an easy decision. However, we only have around 18 months of funding left in the children and families worker's budget. A reminder that this role was funded through a generous gift. We felt that any new appointment must involve our new incumbent. Also, that we as a church must be clear about what it is that we want to achieve with the remaining months of funding.

It goes without saying that it has been a challenging year due to the continued vacancy and Hannah's departure. Despite this, we have been able to continue to engage with children and families through our love of God, giving of our time and talents and strengthening of our network of volunteers.

I have opted not to put many names into this report because I simply do not wish to miss anyone. It is also because there have been so many who have enabled our children and families work throughout the last year. Through doing so, we have given children and families within our church, local community and schools the opportunity to connect their story with God's story, and in some way growing them in faith as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Emma Cross
On behalf of Children and Families work.

6.3 Social Responsibility Group

The Social Responsibility Group aims to raise awareness of social and justice concerns and to link these with our charitable giving. Our chief concern this year has been to respond to international emergencies while also supporting local Oxfordshire charities, particularly those known personally to us. We are always open to suggestions and recommendations from members of the congregation.

Our two nominated charities supported by the PCC were Sue Ryder (our local Hospice) and the Sharp Memorial School for the Blind in India (with whom Jeanette Sharp has a special connection). Both charities keep us updated on their work.

Pat Griffiths took the lead in coordinating collections for Christian Aid Week and arranged for a speaker at the Morning Service in St Mary's. Pat also organized envelopes to be available in the churches for two weeks in November to raise money for Christian Aid's Middle East Crisis Appeal. Charlie Hughes has agreed to relieve her of this responsibility from now on. We are all grateful for the very many years that Pat has fulfilled this role and for her enthusiasm and dedication.

Our group has organised special collections throughout the year in aid of the UNHCR, Prison Phoenix Trust, Children on the Edge, British Ukraine Aid, The Gatehouse, Cruse Bereavement Support, Amnesty International, Wallingford Emergency Food Bank, Style Acre, See Saw and the Red Cross Emergencies Appeal. We held cake sales for Fair Trade week and at Harvest Festival and were grateful for the many and delicious home-made cakes contributed.

We welcomed a speaker from the Prison Phoenix Trust and had hoped that Hannah Smith, our former Children and Families Worker, might be able to come and talk about The Gatehouse where she used to work, but unfortunately her new job keeps her busy every Sunday.

In total £9,453.44 was donated to charitable causes in 2023, including £3,000 from the PCC for our nominated charities. This does not include donations made directly to charities by members of the congregation via their websites. The card reader at the back of the church makes it easier for those who come to church without cash to contribute to the special collections. We are also endeavouring now to give direct to charities by bank transfer and so do away with the more complicated process of issuing cheques.

A Christmas food collection for the Food Bank was carried out during November so that the needy could be given their Christmas goods in time for Christmas, and our annual 'Reverse Advent Calendar' collected more "day-to-day" supplies during Advent for delivery in early January. Thanks to Gavin Wood for organising these, and other collections, throughout the year.

We are very grateful for the work of Philippa Bomford who has now retired from the Committee. I am glad to be helped in my role by Jacquie and Charlie Hughes, Jo O'Reilly (who kindly looked after the bank transfers of the Christmas collections) and Pat Griffiths.

Elizabeth Gordon
On behalf of the Social Responsibility group

6.4 Standing Committee

6.4.1 Fabric

6.4.1.1 General

A great deal of 2023 saw the Standing Committee, Emma Cross in particular, progressing a significant project to deliver priority actions from the 2021 Quinquennial Inspections (QIs) of the two churches by our Architect, Henry Sanders of Hestia Architects. The QIs raised concerns about the condition of the leadwork on the roofs of both churches. At St Mary's, this has caused water ingress into the nave and the aisles, at several locations, as well as falling plaster from height. Water ingress was also occurring in the west end of St Leonard's. Also identified in the QI for St Mary's was the condition of the tower roof timber beams.

As part of the QI actions for St Mary's, and as communicated in the 2022 APCM report, a structural engineer completed an inspection in August 2022, following a competitive tender process. This included a detailed inspection of the tower roof which determined that it was in poor condition, with decaying beams due to water ingress. He recommended and designed a 'prop' to be installed just above the steel frame supporting some of the bells. The prop design is such that it will not support the beam currently, only in the case of the beam moving or collapsing. In this event the prop and steel frame would support the failed beam. All these actions were of high priority for us to address, and required careful thinking, planning and consideration.

As communicated in the 2022 APCM, our architect had just completed the initial design phase to scope the potential roof repairs at St Mary's – again in response to the 2021 QI actions. Early in 2023, we moved into Stage 3 of the project; the technical design. This involved our architect managing a tender process for the work required; the tender was sent to five companies, of which one returned a proposal. Due to this we had to re-tender, which led to a delay of 4-6 weeks. The architect reviewed the proposals and gave his recommendation, and the PCC Standing Committee did the same – especially given the lessons learnt from previous building work. After this review and following up of the references, and some intelligence gathering concerning the financial firmness of the company, the PCC approved the project and the choice of contractor, Warren & Neale Roofing & Conservation Ltd. This was all completed by late summer.

However, following the receipt of the tender we did not have sufficient funds to carry out all the programmed works. The PCC Standing Committee decided to split the project into two phases. Phase 1 of the project will include, in summary, St Mary's tower roof, south aisle roof and internal boarding plus St Leonard's roof abutment. Phase 2 of the project will include St Mary's north aisle roof. Phase 1 will impact on our reserves, despite receiving a generous donation from The Friends of St Mary's & St Leonard's. We will need to apply for grants to help us progress Phase 2. The contract for Phase 1 of this work was signed in October and the roof prop was installed in November. The roof works were due to start in October, but there was a problem with the lead supply chain, and a new start date of January 2024 was agreed. List B faculty approvals from the Archdeacon of Dorchester for the work to be carried out were obtained.

Dealing and achieving all of this during a continued vacancy has been very challenging for many reasons, especially when the PCC Standing Committee members were carrying additional responsibilities.

6.4.1.2 St Leonard's

Despite having had its annual service during the summer, the boiler failed to start in the autumn, this was fixed by the heating engineer.

SODC, who are responsible for maintaining the churchyard and perimeter walls, have repaired the gate to the churchyard, which had come off its hinges, and have cut back some trees, including the one that was cutting into the corner of the Apse. We are waiting for them to come back and prune the cherry tree and to cut back some trees which are impacting a neighbour of the churchyard.

Members of The Wallingford Green Gym continue to visit the churchyard twice a year to maintain the churchyard. We are also grateful to the St Mary's churchyard working group who supplement their work when appropriate and to Wallingford Town Council who maintain the grassed areas.

6.4.1.3 St Mary's

As reported in the 2022 Annual Report, the structural engineer also considered the condition of the chancel due to the ongoing failing plaster issue from the purlins. His recommendation was to complete monitoring using tilt meters to understand the reason for the movement in the purlins. Receiving a quote from structural engineers for the tilt meters became a very projected exercise, which resulted in us making a complaint to the company. With the allocation of a new structural engineer, we were advised to go with a "live with it" situation. This is where we allow the building to move and for the purlins to slide in and out of the wall, depending on the season or weather conditions, without the fear of falling plaster. The feasibility of this "live with it" option was subject to a high-level inspection to examine the condition of the purlins. Our architect advised us to incorporate this work into our contract with Warren and Neale. In the meantime, we had to deal with a chancel that was out of action to the choir due to the risk of failing plaster. So we employed a contractor to make the purlins safe through removing further plaster until we had awarded the contract for the leadwork. Again, dealing and achieving all of this during a continued vacancy has been very challenging. This work also required List B faculty approvals from the Archdeacon.

Due to historic water ingress, we also suffered a failure of plaster at height in the kitchen area just before a Sunday morning service. Thankfully, nobody was injured and we immediately closed the kitchen area. We had to employ a contractor to remove further plaster to make safe and be able to re-open the kitchen. The area will be re-plastered once the leadwork in the south aisle is

completed. It took us some time to organise and secure a professional as we do not have a builder on our books. It was this contractor who removed further plaster from the chancel.

The following tasks were also actioned:

- Service of the boiler
- Failure of boiler
- Failure of downlights in the south side of the nave
- Failure of motion detector in accessible toilet
- Problem with emergency lighting
- Handle attached to the wall in the accessible toilet came away from the wall

In addition, the following situations were raised with SODC, who are responsible for maintaining the churchyard and perimeter walls:

- west wall of the churchyard
- north pathway, including one of the ground level memorial stones which is cracked and broken.
- concern with the gate in the churchyard, which was swinging into the road; SODC subsequently installed a stopper to prevent this

We are grateful to the St Mary's churchyard working group who do so much to care for and maintain the churchyard throughout the year – including both the north and south areas of the church

6.4.2 Health & Safety (H & S)

Regular weekly checks are being carried out by Helen Swan in St Mary's and Andrew Harvey in St Leonard's. These cover floors, stairs, carpets - looking for anything in poor condition, trip hazards etc. A more detailed check takes place once a month to include fire extinguishers and paths and steps outside. Every three months a general check of the whole of both building takes place, including all plugs and sockets, as well as a review of the accident book.

Annual fire extinguishers and PAT testing of both churches took place and 6-monthly maintenance of fire alarm and emergency lighting was carried out. Thanks to Charlie Hughes for leading on this, and also dealing with any of the remedial works required. The emergency evacuation procedures were tested via 6-monthly fire drills.

We had 2 thefts in St Mary's, both from the Clergy Vestry.

*Emma Cross
On behalf of the Standing Committee*

6.5 Communication Group

The new team website www.wallingfordcofe.org.uk, covering all three parishes in the Team (Crowmarsh Gifford and Brightwell cum Sotwell as well as Wallingford), was successfully launched towards the end of 2022; it is modern & dynamic, and designed to meet the needs of locals, visitors and newcomers alike. It is used to good effect to promote upcoming services and events as well as a source of information for congregation, newcomers and visitors to find out more about what we offer. Thanks to Jane Anderson for designing and creating this website.

The distribution list for the Weekly News email continues to grow and it is now sent to over 290 email addresses every week. This email details the services and events for the coming week and beyond. A handful of paper copies are made available at both churches for those who do not have access to the internet.

Following the successful introduction of livestreaming Sunday services and Funeral services as well as Zoom functions for some of our hirers, broadband was installed in St Mary's to provide a more consistent service and to allow us the possibility of further developing what we offer via this technology. The livestreamed Sunday morning service at St Mary's still attracts a number of regular viewers and is a vital link to the church for these members of our parish and beyond. We also ran Zoom sessions for TWHAS (The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society) monthly meetings, thus allowing people at home to join the presentation being held in St Mary's.

Posters, flyers and invitations were produced throughout the year promoting special services and events, and articles were published in local magazines when appropriate. Thanks to an early start in our planning for Advent and Christmas (see Section 6.2.1 Outreach & Nurture Group), we were able to give those who attended our All Souls service, at the end of October, invitations to The Longest Night service and the Tree of Remembering.

Our social media platform (Facebook) continues to be used to communicate latest news and promote special services and events; and the TV screen near the door in St Mary's provides visitors and congregation alike a glimpse at our diverse services and activities.

Unfortunately, despite extensive testing, the connectivity problems at St Leonard's remain and it is therefore very unlikely that we will be able to livestream any services from there until we have broadband installed.

Wendy L Muggeridge
On behalf of the Communications Group

6.6 Choir

With the parish spending all of 2023 in a vacancy, a feature of this year has been working with different clergy from both within and outside the parish. The Director of Music and the choir are very grateful to all of them for maintaining the opportunity for us to continue to enjoy making music for the parish. More frequent team services have brought more trips to the other churches within the team, which have also given us the opportunity to be accompanied by Tom Blackburn, the organist at Crowmarsh.



The major focus for the early part of the year was the performance of *Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo* by Michael Flanders and Joseph Horowitz. This was a wonderful collaboration between the Wallingford Parish Junior Church Choir and the choirs of St John's Primary School, Fir Tree Junior School, and St Nicholas Infant School. Thanks to the hard work of the school staff and our own Linda Hull the whole team put on a fantastic show, involving 60 children, complete with stage set and choreography. Older junior choir members also played an important supporting role, as did Pete Orton in providing extra accompaniment. Thanks also go to the choir committee for their support, including managing a far larger audience than we were ready for! The church was completely packed, and we raised £289.15 for the Wallingford Food Bank.

Meanwhile, the senior choir prepared for a Good Friday performance of *The Passion of Christ* by Arthur Somervell. This rather neglected work features choruses, solos and hymns for the congregation. Soloists from the choir were joined by Robin Barry as the Evangelist and Andrew Darke as Jesus. We were accompanied by Sue Huntingford-Ledger on the piano.

Summer brought a new event to the town – the celebration of the Curfew Bell. The choir were requested to sing a song to bless the bell, in words written by one of the organisers, Jason Debney, to a new arrangement of the medieval tune "Orientis partibus". This was all part of a pageant including a new Mummings' play and brass fanfare, complete with blessing from Archdeacon David Tyler. It was all such a success that next year's event is already in the diary!

The choir's summer tour took them to Coventry Cathedral, a new venue for many of them. With Introits as well as the usual Evensong and Eucharist music to prepare, there was plenty to challenge the choir and they more than rose to the occasion, drawing these comments from clergy and congregation: "great sound", "could hear every word of the psalms – the mark of a good choir", "great to hear light and shade", "choir is stupendous" and "please come again!" We were accompanied by Mathias Herbst and were joined by his wife, Heike, plus a couple of extra singers in the tenor and bass line. There were a good number of juniors too, several of whom had never done a cathedral weekend before. They did us proud. Overall, there was a lovely family feel to the weekend, which included a fun evening at the Cosy Club – many thanks to Cath Lidbetter for organising this.



A highlight of the autumn was a wedding at which we shared the music-making with a certain Howard Goodall, who happened to be a family friend of the groom. We were treated to a live performance of *Loving Kindness: an Eastern Blessing* for soprano, cello and organ, which was very special.

Following the success of last year's liturgical performance of the *Requiem* by Fauré, on Remembrance Sunday the choir sang a Tudor Service of Remembrance combining music from the Mass for Four Voices by William Byrd with settings of parts of the Burial Service from the 1549 Book of Common Prayer. While marking the 400th anniversary of the death of William Byrd, our aim was to draw attention to how the religious divisions and resulting oppressions of his time are still present in many parts of the world today. Grateful thanks go to John Hutchinson for his enthusiasm, sensitivity and wisdom in helping to put this service together.

The Advent and Christmas Season brought the usual round of carol services, which brought the choir some new music and were very well-received. The juniors, helped by a couple of seniors, performed in the Christmas Tree Festival Showcase concert, joined again by the St John's School choir. Numbers for carol-singing were stronger this year, helped by some congregation members whom we were delighted to have joining us. We were blessed to have the Archdeacon at Midnight Mass and Bishop Gavin on Christmas morning, wrapping up the year of visiting clergy in style, and we look forward to the arrival of our new Rector, Sarah, in March 2024.

Judith Ward
Director of Music

6.7 Bellringers

We have had a good year, maintaining the ringing for all services and extra ringing requested. Numbers have remained strong. We have had three new ringers start with us, one starting to learn to ring from scratch, two others joining us having learnt to ring elsewhere and now living in Wallingford. Numbers at practice nights have been generally high with the chance now to do at least some ringing on 10 bells on most Thursdays. Good progress has been made by our “learners”.

At the time of writing this report, we have rung 5 quarter peals during the past year. One of these was for the coronation, an occasion also marked by general ringing at which every member of the band (including learners who were just starting to handle a bell) had the chance to ring. A quarter peal was also rung on the occasion of the town’s celebration of the curfew bell in July. We were delighted that the tower has now been declared safe for peal attempts. By the time of the APCM, there will have been at least one attempt at a full peal and we hope to be able to restart peal attempts on a regular basis (after Covid and also safety concerns for the tower).

A successful outing in Hampshire involving a number of ringers from our tower ,as well as a number from elsewhere, took place last summer and everyone was very grateful to Karen for making all the arrangements. We also entered a band for the Branch 6-bell striking competition and were placed a very creditable 4th.

All the ringers are very grateful to the PCC for their support in funding all the required maintenance to keep the ringing going.

*Chris Tuckett
Tower Captain*

7. Cherishing God’s Earth

We have had a quiet year with Cherishing God’s Earth due to the continued vacancy and my time commitment and role in this, along with the significant building works. I have very much enjoyed being your Cherishing God’s Earth champion. During the season of Creationtide, I communicated that it was my intention to step down from this leadership role in view of my capacity. Nobody has stepped forward as yet but I am grateful to the person who offered their support. I have not been in a position to take forward this offer of support due to the continued vacancy.

As you will read throughout this report, we have managed to make some small but positive contributions to Cherishing God’s earth through our PCC vision groups. These have included the following:

- Working with Wild about Wallingford to organise the nature discovery trail for children and families in St Leonard’s churchyard.
- Celebrating the Season of Creationtide through worship and prayer.
- Making our Christmas Tree festival as a green as possible

*Emma Cross
Cherishing God’s Earth Lead*

9. Plans for the Future

Our main aims for 2024 and beyond include the following:

- **Welcome the Team Rector** – following the Church of England’s recruitment process during 2023, Revd Sarah Nesbitt was appointed as the new Team Rector for the Wallingford Team. She will be licensed on 6 March 2024 to start her ministry in the benefice.
- **Safeguarding** – we will continue to raise the profile of Safeguarding within our community, ensuring that volunteers for activities with children and vulnerable adults have the training required and developing our use of the Parish Safeguarding Hub to record information consistently.
- **Safeguarding** – Prof Helen King, who in her work on General Synod has taken a particular interest in safeguarding, will be talking at both the 10:00 and 18:30 services on 4th February.
- **St Mary’s** - Carry out Phase 1 of the lead replacement project and continue to apply for grants for Phase 2.
- **St Mary’s** – As the boiler is c. 20 years old and therefore nearing the end of its life, we hope to pick up the report done by the Building Services Engineer in 2022 and progress it with the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC).
- **St Leonard’s** – Appoint a Structural Engineer to review cracks in the Apse.
- **General** – hold a Stewardship campaign to address the issue of declining giving and the need to increase our reserves
 - embed a monitoring and maintenance schedule
 - develop a long-term strategy for our buildings i.e. 5-20+ years
 - work with SODC to resolve some maintenance issues associated with boundary walls and gravestones
- **Lent** – it is anticipated that a Lent study group will be run, in-person and/or online via Zoom.

- **Choir Tour** – the choir will be visiting Salisbury Cathedral and St Albans in May and August respectively. It is anticipated that at least one parish outing will be organised for parishioners to attend a service.
- **Communication** - we hope to investigate the possibility of further developing the use of our broadband.
- **Outreach & Nurture** - A programme of events will be planned, including a Newcomers' Morning Coffee or Afternoon Tea to welcome new residents. Also, following the success of mulled wine after the carol services, we hope to plan a program of food and drink events for the congregation throughout the year, starting with a Pancake Breakfast just before Pancake Day!

10. Structure, Governance & Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. Membership of the Wallingford PCC consists of the Incumbent (Team Rector) when appointed, two Churchwardens, Deanery Synod representatives, one Licensed Lay Minister plus lay members elected by those who are on the Electoral Roll of the church. All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Election to the PCC is for a three-year term, although immediate re-election is possible. We are permitted 12 lay members on the PCC, governed by the number of people on the Electoral Roll.

Churchwardens are elected annually and serve for a maximum of six consecutive years. Re-election is possible after at least one year's break.

Deanery Synod representatives are elected every three years, according to a schedule set by the Diocese of Oxford and governed by the number of people on the electoral roll in the year preceding the elections. The next date for elections will be at the APCM in 2026. Based on the number of people on our electoral roll in 2022, we are entitled to 4 representatives.

The members of Wallingford PCC are trustees of the charity and, as such, responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish as well as managing the parish's finances.

The PCC met five times during 2023, via a mixture of Zoom videoconferencing and in-person. Given its wide responsibilities, the PCC has a number of committees and groups, detailed earlier in the report, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These committees and groups are responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly with recommendations of their decisions when appropriate, for approval by the PCC.

11. Administrative Information

The Parish of St Mary-le-More and St Leonard is situated in Wallingford, Oxfordshire. The churches are, together with those in Crowmarsh Gifford and Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, part of the benefice of Wallingford, which is within the Wallingford Deanery in the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England. Wallingford PCC registered as a charity on 21 April 2009. The details are:

Charity Name :	The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary-le-more and All Hallows with St Leonard & St Peter, Wallingford
Noted Working Name:	Wallingford Parochial Church Council
Registered Charity No.:	1129240
Charity Address:	30 Castle Street, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 8DL
Bankers:	Lloyds plc., Market Place, Didcot, OX11 7LQ
Independent Examiner:	Caroline Webster. UHY Ross Brooke Suite I, Windrush Court, Abingdon Business Park. OX14 1SY

Trustees of the charity (PCC members) who have served at any time from 1st January 2023 until the date this report was approved are:

Name	Office	Elected
Vacancy	Team Rector	<i>ex officio</i>
Emma Cross	Churchwarden & Deanery Synod representative	<i>ex officio</i>
Jacque Hughes	Churchwarden (<i>Chair since 20/11/22</i>) due to <i>interregnum</i>	<i>ex officio</i>

Stephen Harrison	PCC Treasurer	2023
Wendy Muggeridge	PCC Secretary & Deanery Synod representative	<i>ex officio</i>
Gavin Wood	Licensed Lay Minister	<i>ex officio</i>
Prof Helen King	General Synod Representative	<i>ex officio</i>
Jane Anderson		2022
Marie Amey		2021
Philippa Bomford	<i>Resigned March 2023</i>	2021
Charlie Brampton		2023
Milli Eaton		<i>2023 for 1 year</i>
Oliver Garland		2022
Peter Howarth		<i>2023 for 2 years</i>
Charlie Hughes		2022
Amanda Simons		2023
Hannah Smith	<i>Resigned August 2023</i>	2021
Helen Swan		2023
Luke Whitcomb		2021

12. Wallingford Team Ministry



The parish of Wallingford is part of the Wallingford Team Ministry, along with the parishes of Crowmarsh Gifford and Brightwell-cum-Sotwell. The team clergy representatives of the Team Council are The Team Rector and the Team Vicar. Our previous Team Rector retired on 16 December 2022; the Team Vicar is the Reverend Kevin Beer.

The parish representatives of the Team Council are lay members of their PCCs and are elected at the first PCC meeting following the APCM; in 2023 these were: Emma Cross & Jacque Hughes (Wallingford), Michael Drury (Brightwell-cum-Sotwell) and Margaret Foster, Eva Thompson and Linda Parker (Crowmarsh Gifford). Licensed Lay Ministers are also entitled to be members of the Team Council, but none currently attend. In the absence of the Team Rector during the interregnum, Jacque Hughes has been chairing meetings.

In addition, the PCC Treasurers of the three parishes are normally invited to the meeting in the autumn to discuss the Parish Share.

The Team Council discusses and acts upon matters of general interest to the three parishes and also any specific matter that might be delegated to it by the Parochial Church Councils. There were three Team Council Meetings in 2023:

19th January 2023;

Items discussed included the introduction of the new Website and the duties which would be carried out by Clergy and Lay People during the Interregnum.

The Churchwardens each gave a resumé of the recent events and services over the Christmas Period, the comments were all quite positive.

In addition Brightwell advised that they had held their services in the small room during the very cold weather; an informal meeting reference the Interregnum had given some useful feedback.

Crowmarsh advised that the mystery of online Faculty applications had been sorted and now the Faculty for the Servedy and Loo can be dealt with. There had been a large lump of plaster fall from the ceiling over the south aisle; the privet hedge destroyed by the fire had been replaced.

Wallingford reported that following a wonderful Advent Season, Christmas had gone very well, with people volunteering and had been a good start to the Interregnum.

Kevin advised that Revd Sue Booy is a new PTO (Permission to Officiate) for the Archdeaconry and our Team.

There followed a review of options for Lent and House Groups; and services for the next four months were determined.

Kevin advised that Mission Statistics were in hand across the Team.

1st June 2023

Jacque thanked everyone across the Team for their input to the Team Profile, and felt that it had been a real collaborative Team effort, and that the Section 11 and 12 meeting had been challenging.

Kevin informed the meeting that Margaret Foster had stepped down as Churchwarden after 21 years which left just Linda Parker as the only Warden in Crowmarsh. The plaster repairs to the roof in St Mary Magdalene had been completed at a cost of £9,800.

Revd Sue Booy recently covered the Sunday services in Brightwell and Crowmarsh and had found it difficult. Following the installation of Smart Meters, St Mary Magdalene had been fortunate to receive a refund of overpaid DD's. Michael informed the meeting that Margo had stepped down as Churchwarden leaving him as the only one; also the Safeguarding Officer had stepped down, so Brightwell is looking for another one. There had been a fantastic Church Fete, possibly boosted by the attendance of Mr B Johnson. Emma re-iterated that the decision to delegate to the 'Team' the work of the Profile had been a good one. Although they had split the work between them Emma doing the Building work and Service Planning and Jacquie doing Safeguarding, Health and Safety and all the rest it was still proving hard work, but their working methods complemented each other. It was noted that they had been advised that attendance numbers could drop during the Interregnum – this hasn't happened, due mainly to the work of the retired clergy. Come and See – was well received as were the 'Beatitudes' which Emma had organised around the Church in St Mary's. In Crowmarsh and Brightwell the 'Come and See' video by Bishop Steven was used during the Sunday Services. House Groups also used the Come and See material. The Advert went out 12th May with a closing date of 11th June; the shortlisting meeting will be in St Mary le More on 14th June. Kevin asked the question regarding Safeguarding – is it possible to have just one Officer for the whole Benefice? Unfortunately not, each Officer comes under the auspices of each P.C.C.

16th November 2023;

As yet still no definite Parish Share figure from Deanery. Wallingford Standing Committee will send over to Kevin details of occasional Service/Organist Fees; Mike will send Brightwell Fees to Wallingford and Crowmarsh – standardise Fees across the Benefice. Wedding Pack details need updating; send downloadable pack to Wallingford, though there is no set format, details down to the individual Church PCC. Linda reported - that the Harvest Art Competition had had some success with a number of Entries. The 'Open the Book' initiative has been well received with Adults reading, and the children at schools in both Crowmarsh and Brightwell showing an enthusiastic response. Mike - reported that at least 3 Leavers had received Bibles and are now reading them. One from Brightwell coming to Confirmation classes; 1 Family adamant that they will only be confirmed in St Agatha's – the Bishop is agreeable to a Morning service. Michael reported the Quinquennial Inspection had shown that there is water damage to St Agatha's tower. The PCC are hoping very soon to be able to say they have a 'Parish Safeguarding Officer'. A Prayer Space for School in Church coming soon; a Mini Art Sale raised nearly £1,000; the Village Choir were currently rehearsing for a Concert to raise Funds; recently paid £120 for Organist, and received an electricity bill for £800. The 8am Service at St James Brightwell is likely to be shelved; make the Church just a Festival Church; the Quinquennial Inspection is due. Emma – reported that work on the Tower was due to water ingress and required replacement of lead etc. Remarked that the Interview for Team Rector had been very good, this comment was agreed by all those present. Noted that a busy Christmas period to come. Some people still very willing, but getting tired. Volunteers were helping with the children now that Hannah has left. Kevin led the Harvest service and attended at Fir Tree School. Kevin led the Remembrance Day Service, and said that the whole had been very stressful, he feels that a conversation between all Organisations involved needs to be had before next year; he noted that 10 people had fainted and were looked after by St John's Ambulance people.

Margaret Foster, Temporary Team Council Secretary

13. Wallingford Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod provides PCCs with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church. Meetings are jointly chaired by the Area Dean (Revd Dr Andy Lord) and the Lay Chair (Gordon Gill). The Deanery includes parishes in Didcot, Great Western Park, Harwell, Chilton, Cholsey, Moulsoford, Hagbourne, Blewbury, Upton, the Moretons, the Astons, Wallingford, Crowmarsh Gifford and Brightwell-cum-Sotwell.

Four Deanery Synod meetings were held in 2023, with three meetings of the Standing Committee. Meetings continued to focus on the Wallingford Deanery Mission Action Plan (MAP) which has four key focus areas:

1. *Development of ministry to children, young people & families*
2. *Developing our outreach to new & settled communities*
3. *Development of appropriate patterns of worship*
4. *Development of the Ministry in the Greater Didcot Garden Town area, both financially & structurally.*

The first Deanery Synod meeting in February focussed on the third area – worship. Representatives from across the Deanery spoke about different forms of worship that incorporate music to inspire potential ideas for other parishes. Information was shared about choirs, organs, orchestras, '2nd Sundays', worship services led by guitar and keyboards, family services, 'open mike' sessions, contemporary music, recorded music, intergenerational services, videos, etc. Feedback from subsequent group discussions included recommendations for the use of worship in outdoor situations and care homes, and that bellringing should also be seen as part of worship.

Items of business included thanks to Wendy Muggeridge, who was standing down as Deanery Synod Secretary. Ali Adams was elected to take over the role. Jason St John Nicolle was elected to the role of Clergy Rep. The Area Dean asked for a volunteer as Deanery Treasurer. Malcolm Edge and Nigel White had accepted roles as Deanery Environmental Leads.

The second Deanery Synod meeting in June started with the re-election of Gordon Gill as Lay Chair. Revd Rebecca Peters was introduced as new Vicar of Cholsey & Moulsoford, and Revd Jeremy Parsons as the new Vicar of Harwell & Chilton. Debbie Lord was elected as the PTO Rep to Synod. A report was received from Professor Helen King, the deanery's linked General Synod Rep.

The meeting was about sharpening our focus towards intentional mission, and led to thoughts about relationships, invitations, small group sessions, going out into the community, baptisms/marriages/funerals drawing people into church, initiatives outside of Sunday morning services, and the need for prayer and theology. It was also noted that we need to rethink our ideas of what church is, given our changing times. Our finances are set up to bring people into existing church, but mission requires us to go out. This particular area of thought will be followed up at the February 2024 Synod.

There was discussion about future financial planning, based on the discussions at Synod the previous April. Votes were held on The Future Financial Plan and the Share Allocation for 2024 and were carried.

The third Synod in July was focussed on the Environment, with Bishop Olivia attending as the lead speaker. It started with a video clip from the April 2023 Climate Action march in London. Bishop Olivia's keynote talk covered pollution and loss of biodiversity, and she showed a scarf knitted for the diocese with different coloured stripes showing temperatures for Reading 1863-2022, reflecting the impact of El Nino and global heating. The Church of England is aiming for net zero across all activities by 2030. Much of the problem is due to our actions, but there is still time for us to help, with the years to 2030 seen as crucial. For individuals, consume in moderation (need rather than want), recycle-reclaim-refill). Be far-sighted and see this as a thing of faith, discipleship, duty.

The focus moved to local examples – Wallingford's Wildlife Discovery Programme, Cholsey's Forest Church, Church Churches Climate Action Group, the Diocese's Ecochurch programme.

Professor Helen King gave an update on her role/time at the latest General Synod.

The fourth Synod was in November. Yvonne Morris, the Discipleship Enabler for the Dorchester and Oxford Archdeaconries, gave a follow-up talk to a previous one on Children, Young People and Families, asking 'where are we now?' post-pandemic. The Church of England intention is to double the number of active young disciples in the church by 2030. The diocese is looking at a transformational increase – from existing small numbers via a series of shifts. How will the national church enable new volunteers? (27,000 needed nationally, with 3000 new staff). We need to explore options locally with churches where there is currently no children's work, through to churches where children's work has continued from pre-Covid.

Yvonne's talk was followed by local examples of working with children and youth, e.g. invitations to non-church children to decorate Christmas trees, various different styles of services in schools, the ECHO youth project, prayer spaces in the local library. This was followed by Yvonne reminding everyone that working in 1:1s or 1:2s brings excellent results: we should not be concerned about small numbers.

Revd Mark Bodeker was on sabbatical, and the Area Dean would be taking a sabbatical from April 2024. Revd Hugh Boorman had just retired from his time at the Ladygrove church (which coincided with its 30th anniversary): recruitment is for a House for Duty role. Deanery Synod members were invited to join a group discussing ideas for the Diocese's 'Youth bid' for national funding.

Ali Adams, Deanery Synod Secretary

14. Annual Financial Statements

Wallingford Parochial Church Council
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Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2023 total funds	2022 total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from: (Note 2)					
Donations and legacies	111,742.40	3,750.00		115,492.40	139,781.01
Charitable activities	18,946.11	-		18,946.11	16,282.52
Other trading activities	21,809.13	-	-	21,809.13	10,626.05
Investments	8,174.73	-		8,174.73	5,931.51
Other incoming resources	-	-	-	-	-
Total income	160,672.37	3,750.00	-	164,422.37	172,621.09
Expenditure on: (Note 3)					
Raising funds	2,155.68	-		2,155.68	1,410.14
Charitable activities	156,771.59	-		156,771.59	145,037.64
Total expenditure	158,927.27	-	-	158,927.27	146,447.78
Net incoming / outgoing resources before transfer	1,745.10	3,750.00	-	5,495.10	26,173.31
Transfers (Note 12)					
Gross transfers between funds - in	75,000.00	-		75,000.00	
Gross transfers between funds - out	- 75,000.00			- 75,000.00	
Net incoming/outgoing before other gains/losses	1,745.10	3,750.00	-	5,495.10	26,173.31
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Gains and losses on investment assets (Note 14)	2,040.67		15,855.27	17,895.94	- 22,447.44
Net movement in funds	3,785.77	3,750.00	15,855.27	23,391.04	3,725.87
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	289,495.65	- 1,866.08	161,331.85	448,961.42	445,235.55
Total funds carried forward	293,281.42	1,883.92	177,187.12	472,352.46	448,961.42

The notes on pages 19 to 27 form part of these financial statements.

Wallingford Parochial Church Council
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Balance Sheet

Statement of Financial Position

	2023 total funds	2022 total funds
	£	£
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets (Note 7)	-	4,600.57
Investments (Notes 7 and 14)	195,467.90	177,571.96
	195,467.90	182,172.53
 Current assets		
Debtors (Note 8)	10,448.23	11,169.56
Cash at bank and in hand (Note 9)	272,073.46	261,636.46
	282,521.69	272,806.02
 Liabilities		
Creditors: amounts falling due in one year (Note 10)	5,637.13	6,017.13
	276,884.56	266,788.89
 Net current assets less current liabilities	472,352.46	448,961.42
 Total assets less current liabilities	472,352.46	448,961.42
 Represented by (Note 12)		
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General fund	113,580.63	184,178.03
 Designated		
Designated - Choir fund	8,279.43	6,626.05
Designated - Reserve fund	104,881.14	27,520.78
Designated - Rector's discretionary fund	4,106.15	4,106.15
Designated - Jordan legacy	19,523.29	17,482.62
Designated - Ruth Chamberlain memorial trust fund	10,530.32	9,444.57
Designated - Bell ringers' fund	5,119.70	5,424.44
Designated - Youth and children work fund	15,441.93	22,894.18
 Restricted		
Restricted - St Mary's tower fund	2,657.35	2,657.35
Restricted - Restricted fund	11,045.40	7,295.40
 Endowment		
Endowment - Ruth Chamberlain memorial trust fund	21,949.75	20,062.22
Endowment - St Leonard's Church endowment funds	155,237.37	141,269.63
	472,352.46	448,961.42
Funds of the church	472,352.46	448,961.42

Approved by the Parochial Church Council in general meeting on 12 March 2024 and signed on its behalf by Stephen Harrison (PCC Treasurer).



The notes on pages 19 to 27 form part of these financial statements.

Wallingford Parochial Church Council
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Note 1 - Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (effective 1 January 2019 the "SORP (FRS102)"). The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis. Financial statements are based on historical costs, except for investments which are shown at market value.

The financial statements include all transactions, assets, and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. Collections and appeals for nominated beneficiaries have not entered the accounts as they were collected on behalf of third parties. The financial statements do not contain the accounts of informal groups of church members or of other groups which owe their main affiliation to another body.

Funds

The general fund of the PCC is an unrestricted fund. Some of the general fund has been earmarked by the PCC for particular purposes and these are referred to as Designated funds.

Endowment funds are included where the Trustees are the Rector and Church Wardens. These funds are small and their purposes are identified in the accompanying note 12.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income

Collections are recognised when received by the PCC.

Planned giving under gift aid declaration is recognised only when received.

Income tax recoverable on gift aided donations is recognised when the donation is received.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.

Funds raised by appeals, garden parties, social, and other events are accounted for gross. Any associated costs are disclosed under expenditure - raising funds.

Income from investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

Gains and losses on investments and other fixed assets

Realised gains or losses on investments are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are calculated as the difference between opening market value (or purchase price if later) and market value on the 31 December each year.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations, are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC. Other resources expended are accounted for when the liability arises on an accruals basis.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and buildings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s. 96(2)(a) of the 2011 Charities Act.

All expenditure during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings is included in the Statement of Financial Activity (SOFA).

Listings of such expenditure are given in the notes to the accounts.

Other fixtures, fittings, and office equipment

Fixtures, furnishings and equipment used within church premises are written off linearly over four years unless a longer period is appropriate to reflect the useful life of certain assets. Individual items with a purchase price of less than £3,000 are written off when the asset is acquired. The write off period of certain assets is:

The grand piano purchased in 2013 has been written off linearly over ten years.

Short term deposits and cash

Short term deposits includes cash held on deposit either with Church of England Central Board of Finance Deposit Fund or at the bank.

Cash includes monies held in bank current accounts.

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Note 2 - Incoming Resources

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2023 total funds	2022 total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies					
Standing order donations	79,195.00			79,195.00	80,719.00
Envelope donations	2,685.00			2,685.00	3,819.04
Loose plate collections	2,639.62			2,639.62	4,411.67
Giving through church boxes	128.43			128.43	195.16
One-off donations	4,595.31	3,000.00		7,595.31	16,011.83
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	20,412.76	750.00		21,162.76	24,021.40
Legacies	1,000.00			1,000.00	5,000.00
Non-recurring one-off grants	172.00			172.00	1,720.00
Other funds generated	914.28			914.28	3,882.91
Donations and legacies income subtotals	111,742.40	3,750.00	-	115,492.40	139,781.01
Charitable activities					
Coffee sales	6,810.51			6,810.51	6,373.02
Fees for weddings and funerals	5,133.00			5,133.00	5,651.00
Verger, organ, bells, and choir fees	7,002.60			7,002.60	4,258.50
Charitable activities subtotals	18,946.11	-	-	18,946.11	16,282.52
Other trading activities					
Church lettings and sales - fund raising	21,809.13			21,809.13	10,626.05
Activities for generating funds subtotals	21,809.13	-	-	21,809.13	10,626.05
Investment income					
Dividends	4,829.46			4,829.46	4,784.20
Bank and building society interest	3,345.27			3,345.27	1,147.31
Investment income subtotals	8,174.73	-	-	8,174.73	5,931.51
Income from generated funds totals	160,672.37	3,750.00	-	164,422.37	172,621.09
Other incoming resources					
Other incoming resources subtotals	-	-	-	-	-
Incoming resources grand totals	160,672.37	3,750.00	-	164,422.37	172,621.09

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Note 3 - Resources Expended

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2023 total funds	2022 total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Raising funds					
Costs of fund raising and events	2,155.68			2,155.68	1,410.14
Raising funds expenditure subtotals	2,155.68	-	-	2,155.68	1,410.14
Charitable activities					
Giving - relief and development (Note 6)	1,500.00			1,500.00	3,000.00
Giving - home mission (Note 6)	65.00			65.00	2,300.00
Secular charities (Note 6)	1,500.00			1,500.00	-
Parish share	64,512.18			64,512.18	67,943.70
Ministry and mission	6,566.72			6,566.72	8,664.63
Assistant staff costs	9,263.00			9,263.00	11,818.83
Rector's working expenses				-	823.44
Recoverables verger, organ, choir, bells	5,977.80			5,977.80	2,805.50
Costs of organists and choir	9,779.79			9,779.79	9,929.12
Insurance	8,696.68			8,696.68	8,101.49
Organ and piano tuning	1,157.36			1,157.36	1,071.64
Church maintenance and sundries	6,597.72			6,597.72	4,831.14
Administration	819.00			819.00	640.00
Bank charges	348.42			348.42	362.58
Thefts	190.00			190.00	
Utilities	21,178.46			21,178.46	9,686.62
Payment card charges	203.11			203.11	165.35
Repairs	13,215.78			13,215.78	6,543.60
Independent examination	600.00			600.00	600.00
Depreciation (Note 7)	4,600.57			4,600.57	5,750.00
Charitable activities sub-totals	156,771.59	-	-	156,771.59	145,037.64
Resources expended grand totals	158,927.27	-	-	158,927.27	146,447.78

Coffee is purchased both for fellowship (coffee after services) and fund raising (selling coffee in church). As it is not possible to separate these costs, they are all included in "Ministry and Mission".

Costs of "organists and choir" includes expenditure on choir tours.

Note 4 - Statement of Staff Costs

Fees from weddings and funerals due to the Director of Music and to the Verger are paid directly to them by the PCC.

Fees due to the choir and ringers are paid to the choir and ringers.

The organist was paid monthly: the total for the year was £7,694 (2022: £6,995).

Since September 2017, the PCC has employed one family worker part-time as part of its mission to families.

The family worker left for a new job at the beginning of September 2023 and has not yet been replaced.

The total paid to the family worker in 2023 was £6,861 (2022: £9,460).

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Note 5 - Details of Certain Items of Expenditure

Trustees Fees

No trustees were paid in their capacity as trustees nor did they receive any expenses. No trustee received fees for any other services provided to the charity.

The total donations from trustees during the year were £27,580.

Independent Examination

Fees of £500 were paid for the independent examination of the accounts: no other fees were paid to the independent examiner for other services.

Note 6 - Grants to Missions and Charities and Disposal of Special Collections

	2023 total £
Giving - relief and development	
PCC donation to Bartimaeus Chritable Trust (Sharp school for the blind)	1,500.00
Total	1,500.00
 Home mission	
Donation to Christ Church Cathedral	15.00
Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust	50.00
Total	65.00
 Secular charities	
Donation to Sue Ryder Care	1,500.00
Total	1,500.00
Total giving by the PCC	3,065.00
 Disposal of special collections	
Collections and appeals for nominated beneficiaries have not entered the accounts as they were collected on behalf of third parties.	
Amnesty International - Remembrance Sunday collections	395.66
British-Ukrainian Aid - collection on 16 April	266.63
Children on the Edge - Easter collections	566.75
Christian Aid - collections, envelopes, coffee	1,210.79
Churches Conservation Trust - St Peter's Evensong	179.35
CRUSE - All Souls collections	138.99
Fair Trade - cake stall	51.80
Oxford Gatehouse - Harvest collections and cake sale	500.31
Prison Phoenix Trust - Good Friday collections	506.04
Red Cross - Midnight Mass collection	518.51
See Saw - Crib service collection	556.56
Style Acre - 9 lessons collection	325.67
Sue Ryder Care - half proceeds of Wallingford Winter Recitals	2,701.91
The Children's Society - Christingle and J Pengilly collection boxes	883.15
Wallingford Food Bank - Captain Noah performance and Advent carols collection	557.02
Total for special collections	9,359.14

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Note 7 - Fixed assets

		2023 total £
Tangible fixed assets		
Cost		
Balance brought forward		122,069.62
Additions		
Balance carried forward		122,069.62
Accumulated depreciation		
Balance brought forward		117,469.05
Depreciation charge for year		4,600.57
Balance carried forward		122,069.62
Net book value		
Brought forward		4,600.57
Carried forward		-
Tangible Fixed Assets includes the LED lighting in St Mary's.		
Its net book value at the end of 2022 was £4600.57: it was depreciated to zero in 2023.		
Fixed asset investments (see also Note 14)		
Market value at beginning of year		177,571.96
Gain on revaluation		17,895.94
Market value at end of year		195,467.90

Note 8 - Debtors

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023 total	2022 total
	£	£	£	£
Debtors				
J Wiley (publisher)			-	72.21
Gift aid	10,448.23		10,448.23	11,097.35
Debtors total	10,448.23	-	10,448.23	11,169.56

Note 9 - Cash at Bank

	2023 total	2022 total
	£	£
Cash at Bank		
Lloyds current account	129,540.42	173,048.67
Lloyds 32 day interest bearing account	50,499.14	
CBF1003 (Reserve)	76,008.43	73,648.07
CBF1005 (Ruth memorial)	16,025.47	14,939.72
Current assets total	272,073.46	261,636.46

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for the year ended 31 December 2023

Note 10 - Creditors

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023 total	2022 total
	£	£	£	£
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year				
Junior choristers' pay				215.50
Wedding fees taken in advance			525.00	500.00
Ridge and partners structural engineers				360.00
Agency collections			518.51	503.53
Connect catering (for printing)			155.52	
Retention on tower works (Harri-Stone)			3,838.10	3,838.10
Independent examination			600.00	600.00
Creditors total	-	-	5,637.13	6,017.13

Note 11 - Commitments

The PCC recognised no further financial commitments at the end of 2023 other than those disclosed in creditors.

Note 12 Funds

	Balance brought forward	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Gains and losses	Balance carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted - General Fund	184,178.03	152,255.57	147,852.97	75,000.00		113,580.63
Designated - Choir Fund	6,626.05	1,886.28	232.90			8,279.43
Designated - Reserve Fund	27,520.78	2,360.36		75,000.00		104,881.14
Designated - Rector's Discretionary Fund	4,106.15					4,106.15
Designated - Jordan Legacy	17,482.62				2,040.67	19,523.29
Designated - Ruth Chamberlain Memorial Trust Fund	9,444.57	1,085.75				10,530.32
Designated - Bell ringers' fund	5,424.44	1,218.66	1,523.40			5,119.70
Designated - Youth and children work fund	22,894.18	1,865.75	9,318.00			15,441.93
Restricted - St Mary's Tower Fund	2,657.35					2,657.35
Restricted - Restricted Funds	7,295.40	3,750.00				11,045.40
Endowment - Ruth Chamberlain Memorial Trust Fund	20,062.22				1,887.53	21,949.75
Endowment - St Leonard's Church Endowment Funds	141,269.63				13,967.74	155,237.37
	448,961.42	164,422.37	158,927.27	-	17,895.94	472,352.46

General Fund - general income and operating expenses.

Choir Fund - for fund raising and expenditure of the choir apart from funds provided by the PCC.

Reserve Fund - to cover cash shortfalls in the event of unforeseen circumstances such as emergency repairs.

Rector's Discretionary Fund - a sum of money donated by a parishioner for use at the Rector's discretion.

Jordan Legacy - shares remaining after the original legacy was fully spent. Now generating income for the PCC.

Ruth Chamberlain Memorial Trust Fund - endowment provides for the designated fund for costs first for altar, then cassocks, surplices, and choir hymnals and psalters.

St Mary's Tower Fund - money collected for the repair and restoration of St Mary's church tower.

Restricted Fund - set up in 2012 for Restricted payments from various sources including the Friends of St Mary and St Leonard.

The current balance of £11,045.40 consists of £10,000 reserved for fabric works, £625 reserved for organ repairs, with the balance for costs of electronic collection plates.

St Leonard's Church Endowment Funds - investment income for the PCC General Fund.

Wallingford Parochial Church Council
Registered Charity Number 1129240
ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 December 2023

Note 13 - Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

Current year	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	-	18,280.78	-	177,187.12	195,467.90
Net current assets	113,580.63	149,601.18	13,702.75	-	276,884.56
Total	113,580.63	167,881.96	13,702.75	177,187.12	472,352.46

Previous year	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	4,600.57	16,240.11	-	161,331.85	182,172.53
Net current assets	179,577.46	77,258.68	9,952.75	-	266,788.89
Total	184,178.03	93,498.79	9,952.75	161,331.85	448,961.42

Note 14 - Details of Investments

			2023 total	2022 total
			£	£
CCLA Shares - St Leonard's House	St Leonard's Church endowment funds	Endowment	85,261.77	77,929.84
<i>Custodian Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance. St Leonard's House; Income to Rector and Churchwardens for yearly expenses of Parish Church. Interest and dividends paid to PCC.</i>				
CCLA Shares - St Leonard's Cottage	St Leonard's Church endowment funds	Endowment	64,414.70	58,257.09
<i>Custodian Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance. St Leonard's Cottage; Perpetual trust with object as for St Leonard's House. Recoupment scheme for loan of £4,047 made to Parish in 1974 concluded during 1998 and capital repaid. New recoupment scheme 1999 Charity Commission agreed release of £16,000 to PCC for repairs at St Leonard's or St Mary's. Outstanding loan at 31 December 2023 £640.00. From 2005, accumulated interest and dividends paid to PCC. Recoupment payment £640.00 per year.</i>				
CCLA Shares - St Leonard's Lands	St Leonard's Church endowment funds	Endowment	5,560.90	5,082.70
<i>St Leonard's Church Lands: general expenses of the Church. Rector and Churchwarden trustees. Perpetual trust with opening capital, represented by 246 CBF Investment units; income paid to PCC.</i>				
CCLA Shares - Jordan Legacy	Jordan Legacy	Designated	18,280.78	16,240.11
<i>306.14 Central Board of Finance Accumulation Investment Fund units purchased 9 December 1997 at 979.94p.</i>				
CCLA Shares - Ruth Chamberlain Trust	Ruth Chamberlain memorial trust fund	Endowment	21,949.75	20,062.22
<i>Wallingford St Mary's Ruth Chamberlain Trust; first for altar, then cassocks, surplices and choir hymnals psalters. Perpetual trust with opening capital of £1,000 represented by CBF Investment units; income paid to PCC.</i>				
Investments subtotal			195,467.90	177,571.96
The realised and unrealised gains on investments in the year are			17,895.94	- 22,447.44

15. Independent Examiner's Report

Wallingford Parochial Church Council
Registered Charity Number 1129240
Independent Examiner's Report
for the year ended 31 December 2023

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Wallingford Parochial Church Council

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 19 to 27.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the members of the PCC who are also the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

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

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


.....
Caroline Webster FCA

UHY Ross Brooke
Suite 1
Windrush Court
Abingdon
OX14 1SY

18 April 2024

Wallingford PCC Annual Report 2023 approved by the PCC on 8 April 2024 and signed on their behalf by Revd. Sarah Nesbitt (PCC Chair)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Nesbitt', with a flourish at the end.

Revd. Sarah Nesbitt, Chair Wallingford PCC

Accounts



St Mary's & St Leonard's
Wallingford
open to God, open to all

Wallingford Parochial Church Council Annual Report & Financial Statements 2022



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1. Aim and Purpose

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Mary-le-More's (St Mary's) and St Leonard's has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent to promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. As a parish, we aim to become a living and loving example of Jesus Christ in our community, to be **open to God, open to all**.



The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St Mary's Church and St Leonard's Church.

2. Objectives and Activities

Revd. David Rice retired in December 2022 after 22 years' service as our Team Rector. Therefore one of the main objectives of the PCC for 2023 will be to create a Team Profile, which is a crucial part of the recruitment process for a new incumbent.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches (in-person or online) and to become part of our parish community. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament whilst our outreach activities strive to look beyond ourselves to share the love of Christ as we serve and connect with the community.

When planning our activities and priorities for the coming years, we identified three main priorities in 2017, which we have continued to progress:

- Development of our provision of worship, taking into account people's busy lives and their requirements for alternative forms of worship
- Development of ways to encourage local residents to be part of our church, whilst nurturing our current congregation.
- Development of the role of a Children and Families Worker to further attract, support and encourage young people to be lifelong Christians.

To deliver these priorities, the PCC has a number of Vision Groups and sub-groups:



In addition:

- the responsibilities of the **Standing Committee** include finance, buildings and stewardship,
- the **Choir Committee** focuses on the musical aspects of our worship, and
- a **Communication** stream runs through all groups.

These sub-groups meet independently and report back to the PCC when the council meets.



in 2019 involved 'Cherishing God's Earth' and is inspiring us to think about how we can express our care for God's world in our lives and through our worship and teaching, buildings and land, our local community engagement and our personal lifestyle choices. This mission aspect of our church continues to run through all our vision groups and resulted in our churches being given an **Eco Church Silver Award** by the A Rocha

foundation in 2020.

A new focus



Our parish offers many services and activities to reach out to as many people as possible. Services normally include two Eucharist services every Sunday and another on Thursday mornings; sung or choral Evensong on Sunday evenings and a monthly Family Service. In addition, online Morning Prayer is via Zoom from Mondays to Fridays and on Wednesday evenings we have a service for contemplative prayer and reflection, also via Zoom; this service was introduced during Covid when in-person attendance was difficult, but it has proved so popular we have kept it in this format. See Section 6.1 for more details on our worship.

Activities include a robed choir (both adults and juniors), a music group, Emmaus and Bible Study groups, bellringing and various children's activities (Children's Church, JAM - Jesus and Me; Tiny Toes Toddlers' group and Baby Singing) as well as social groups such as The Fellowship, and coffee mornings twice a week.

The hiring of St Mary's helps to make the church a vibrant focus of life in the town. The ability to remove the chairs in the church allows it to be a very flexible space and our diverse hirers in 2022 included the Country Market and Local Producers' Market, monthly meetings for U3A and The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society as well as weekly choir rehearsals, for an additional two choirs to our own, and several concerts and recitals.

We aim to keep St Mary's open daily for both parishioners and visitors, for anyone who wants to find peace at the heart of bustling, everyday life; a place for quiet contemplation and prayer as well as enabling an understanding of the church building in the history of the area.

Finally, we provide two buildings, where life events such as weddings and baptisms are celebrated with joy and thanksgiving, and funerals with respect and compassion, allowing us to give thanks for the loved one, time to reflect and think, and to entrust him or her into God's care.

In 2022 there were 164 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll. We celebrated 27 baptisms and five weddings as well as six confirmations. Thirteen funerals were held in our two churches during the year; in addition, our parish clergy officiated at a further ten funerals, either at a crematorium or at a cemetery.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, fully recognising its duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. See section 5 for a report from our Parish Safeguarding Officer.

The PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and works to provide a welcoming atmosphere and suitable facilities for all people. St Mary's, in particular, is available for wider community use and during the year is normally used by several groups unconnected with the church; further details of activities for the public benefit are given throughout this report.

3. Financial Review

3.1 Financial Summary

In 2022 the church finances continued to return towards a pre-Covid situation, with a noticeable increase in plate collections and some recovery in income from coffee sales and church lettings. Expenditure was close to budget, slightly lower than in 2021. Overall, the value of church funds was very close to the 2021 value: a decline of around £22,000 in the value of investments held by Oxford diocese on our behalf was balanced by increases in value of the other funds - in particular the General fund which is used for the running costs of the church. This will allow us to start rebuilding reserves.

However, there will be some extra costs this year. If we continue using energy at the same rate as previous years, our utility bills will triple from around £7,000 in 2021 to £21,000 in 2023. But significant savings have been made by adjusting heating levels and timings in St Mary's which will reduce the impact of high bills. There are also some fabric works to be undertaken in 2023 on both our churches for which we are still assessing the costs. We are fortunate that, due to the generosity of our congregation, we are in a good position to face these challenges.

I am very grateful for the support I receive from Jenny Harden and Judith Pengilly: without their help and encouragement it would not be possible for me to look after our church finances.

3.2 Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the Wallingford PCC to maintain as a reserve approximately three months of general running costs (amounting to £30,000) plus a further amount as contingency for quinquennial and other works arising. The target level for this contingency is £90,000 giving a total target for reserves of £120,000.

3.3 Grant making policy

The total of donations made by the PCC, plus collections taken at special services (including Christmas, Easter, Harvest), should approach 10% of the PCC's unrestricted income. The management of this giving is delegated to the Social Responsibility Group. The current practice is to support at least one UK charity and one overseas charity. One of the charities must be Christian based. Collections for emergency disaster appeals and one-off charities are agreed by the PCC.

3.4 Stewardship

There was no stewardship campaign during the year.

*Stephen Harrison
PCC Treasurer*

4. Churchwardens' Report

In 2022 we finally started to emerge from the restrictions of the Covid pandemic. Our Team Rector, Revd David Rice, had steered the path with compassion and dedication to the community he served. He planned his retirement only when he was sure that the life of our church could finally move forwards with more freedom. As churchwardens, he prepared us carefully, taking the time to reflect on lessons learnt during his 22-year tenure as our priest and also from the adaptations demanded by the pandemic.

So, with him, we reflected on the plans required for the interregnum, keeping the positive outcomes from Covid such as Zoom meetings and live streaming of our services. We divided the responsibilities between us and, in broad terms, Emma took on worship planning and Jacquie the oversight of all pastoral activities. David had depended on information provided by leaders of the parish network groups during Covid, to support and inform him. We seek to continue this pastoral care as we continue to support and care for each other.

Towards the start of the year, we received the Quinquennial Inspection reports for both churches. The actions resulting from the inspection by our newly appointed architect highlighted several immediate challenges that required careful understanding and navigation before they could be investigated and progressed. This has taken-up a considerable amount of Emma's time, as she leads on church buildings (and churchyards). Emma is very grateful to the support, guidance and encouragement provided by David, and Wendy, Jacquie and Steve – as members of the Standing Committee

It has been wonderful to see the numbers of people in church gradually increase throughout the last year. Easter was such an example – it was a joyful celebration. In August, we welcomed Bishop Gavin to Baptise and Confirm members of our church family. In October, we held our first Harvest Supper since before the pandemic – it was an uplifting experience to come together. At Christmas we were moving towards the pre-pandemic figures at services. In addition, there is a small but consistent number of our congregation who watch the services on the livestream. Life, including the life and work of our church, is feeling more normal again but at the same time we are not losing the flexibility introduced during the pandemic.

During the interregnum, Hannah, supported by Emma, has been doing a fantastic job with our children and families. She worked hard during Advent with a number of different outreach activities and the Crib service she planned and led was “bulging at the seams”.

Kevin, together with our retired clergy, lay ministers and visiting clergy have all offered themselves willingly and regularly to enable our services to continue in David's absence. We are enormously grateful for the time they have committed to help us to keep a sense of normality and enthusiasm for worship together.

We have been buoyed by the love and support of so many others who work tirelessly behind the scenes to help us stay efficient in our work and resilient through all the challenges that an interregnum brings. So, thank you all for drawing to our attention the important practical issues, for sharing the load in important decisions, and for being willing to step in and help when we are feeling stretched to fill in the gaps.

We have also received help and guidance from David Tyler (Archdeacon of Dorchester). He has outlined and explained the process towards reappointment, informed us prior to the decision we had to take around keeping or selling the Rectory (we are keeping it) and he has always been available to us concerning any pastoral matters and quick to respond. We would like to record our thanks to him for all that he has done to date in pointing us in the right direction.

Linda Hull was appointed as our Parish Safeguarding Officer prior to David's retirement. She has been invaluable in her role: visible, efficient, approachable and professional in all she does. We are grateful to have her in post and we continue to work closely with her to ensure a safe environment for all.

The Choir, as well as enhancing our own church services, found many exciting outreach opportunities during the year. We continue to work closely with Judith and share the joy of our wonderful musical heritage and we hope and plan to continue its development under her inspirational leadership.

As we look towards appointing our new incumbent, we give thanks for all that David has done and meant to each one of us. We commit ourselves to continue working hard on behalf of the Parish of Wallingford and the Benefice.... And to keep smiling.

*Jacquie Hughes & Emma Cross
Churchwardens*

5. Report from Parish Safeguarding Officer

Linda Hull took up the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) in June 2022. Her first jobs were to understand the current issues and development areas, and to ensure her own training was fully up to date; this included undertaking basic, foundation and leadership training, as well as PSO induction training and modules on both safer recruitment and domestic abuse. A full handover of safeguarding information took place on David Rice's retirement, with a report made to the Diocese.



Safeguarding is a standing item on PCC agendas, and at each meeting Linda provides an updated Action Plan taken from the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard. The PCC continues to comply with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and clergy discipline measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults) and to ensure both policy and practice are set in line with the most recent guidance from the Church of England and Diocese of Oxford.

Safeguarding Policy, Guidance and Information: Our Parish Safeguarding Policy is reviewed annually following the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and is in line with *Promoting A Safer Church*. A policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders, based on the Church of England model, was agreed in November 2022. We make good use of materials provided both by the Diocese and by the Church of England in ensuring our Safeguarding procedures are appropriate.

We are currently auditing safeguarding training held by volunteers in our churches – many people completed training prior to the pandemic and so need to review that training. All PCC members are required to undertake basic and foundation level training. For most other roles within the church, basic training is appropriate.

Safer Recruitment and People Management: This is a significant piece of work with which we are making progress. Hannah Smith, our Children & Families Worker, has produced some volunteer role descriptions and we are able to ensure that correct procedure is followed for new appointments, both paid and voluntary, such as the taking up of references. Our focus for development is on broadening the range of role descriptions, ensuring the correct training is in place for volunteers, and ensuring appropriate checks are in place for all new appointments. We also need to ensure paperwork and procedures are as straightforward as possible to meet safeguarding requirements without being so onerous that genuine volunteers are discouraged from stepping forward. Hannah, Emma Cross (Churchwarden) and Linda have completed the Safer Recruitment training pathway.

A number of concerns and queries have been raised to the PSO, with advice and support sought from the Diocese as required. On occasions it is simply a matter of checking guidance on the Diocesan website; for example whether a particular role requires a DBS check. However, where a safeguarding concern is raised/shared, it is expected that advice will be sought directly from the Diocesan Safeguarding Team, and it is for them to discern whether further action is needed.

*Linda Hull
Parish Safeguarding Officer*

6. PCC Vision Groups & Sub Committees

6.1 Worship & Spirituality Group

We began the year with planning and preparing for Lent and Easter. As part of this, we reflected on the importance of coming together in Lent as a benediction to encourage each other on our own faith journey and to remember the Christian life is one which is shared. With this in mind, we came-up with the idea of a Lent course looking at pilgrimage and the importance of journeying in faith.

This was inspired, in part, by the *Sacred Places* series of 'Prayer with the Heart' services.

- Session 1 – What is a pilgrimage?
- Session 2 – Why do we make a pilgrimage?
- Session 3 – How do we change when we make a pilgrimage?
- Session 4 - Where is God when we make a pilgrimage?
- Session 5 - Who are our companions on the road?

The Worship and Spiritually group was very grateful to Clare Stephenson for putting this idea into fruition through the development of our Team Ministry *The Pilgrim Path* Lent course. *The Pilgrim Path* focused on Jesus' last and most important journey made with his disciples from Galilee to Jerusalem in the days leading up to the crucifixion.

The Pilgrim Path was delivered over five weekly sessions (see left) and offered on Zoom during the day and evening on a Thursday. The sessions built on the format of previous years and included time for learning, sharing, and reflecting on scriptures through art. Each session was led by members of the Worship and Spiritually group using materials developed by Clare but allowing for flexibility and the incorporation of their own faith

experience. *The Pilgrim Path* was very well attended and received.

To accompany *The Pilgrim Path*, we developed a display board in St Mary's for parishioners to share their 'Sacred Places' - places significant to them in their faith journey. The Worship and Spiritually group was grateful to Luke Whitcomb for this idea and for making this hugely popular expression of faith happen in our church.



During Lent, *Prayer with the Heart*, held on Wednesday evenings by Zoom, followed their own journey of the soul through poems written by George Herbert. This series was entitled *The Sour-Sweet Days* of George Herbert. The idea was borne out of a George Herbert anthology book written by Mark Oakley, *My Sour-Sweet Days*. Since Easter, *Prayer with the Heart* has continued to meet using readings set for the previous Sunday as the theme for each Wednesday evening service. We're so grateful to those that lead these services.

Over the summer, we re-focussed on planning for the future by re-visiting our vision developed in 2019 using the Diocese of Oxford's Parish Planning tool. The group came to a decision that it would re-run the planning tool in light of Covid. The planning tool is a process that aims to help a church appreciate the strengths in what they are already doing, and to discover new opportunities and directions for God's call. Through this process, we developed the following shared vision: *'We enable people to be the best they can be in God'*. The change envisaged by the Worship and Spirituality group for the future was incremental and evolutionary, building on what we do well now. The over-arching goal developed by the group was *'to sustain the mature and varied ministry of St Mary's and St Leonard's over the next three years'* - especially given the interregnum. Helping to achieve this goal, the following three emphases were identified in addition to maintaining the pattern and rhythm of public worship in our parish:

- *The offer of 'personal discipleship plans'*
- *A church-wide small group course*
- *Fellowship opportunities to enable people to get to know each other*

At the same time, Janine Bailey and the Outreach & Nurture Group ran a small groups survey, with the help of David Rice, to better understand how we can support parishioners in their faith journey. Using the information gained from this survey, coupled with the goal of this group, during the Autumn, David Rice put into motion The Bible Society's *The Bible Course* and gathered the support of Clare Stephenson, Gavin Wood and Jonathon and Susie Wilmot to lead three groups between them. We are so grateful to them for their support and commitment – again these groups were very well attended and received, and provided opportunities for fellowship.

David handed over the leadership of the Worship and Spirituality group to Emma Cross, group member and Churchwarden leading on worship during the interregnum, approaching his retirement in November. The group offered their sincere thanks to David for his wisdom, encouragement and enabling in everything he had done with supporting the life and work of the Worship and Spirituality group over so many years.

The attention of the group was drawn to Advent and Christmas. We reflected on the Church of England's theme for Christmas, *Follow the Star: the Great Invitation*, and in response decided to continue with our familiar pattern of worship but make close links with the Outreach and Nurture group. As part of this, Clare Stephenson and Luke Whitcomb, kindly agreed to plan and prepare the Longest Night service this year due to the interregnum – our thanks to them.

We are so grateful to all clergy and laity who led and supported our services over Advent and Christmas – especially as this concurred with the start of the interregnum. Behind the scenes, Emma Cross, had to make several changes to the planned clergy rota due to sickness. This included two tier standby cover for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day! Advent and Christmas showed the importance of lay ministry within our parish through, for example, the Family Service, Christingle, Crib service and Longest Night service. It was a joy and delight to witness the church bursting at the seams at the Crib service – and thanks to Hannah Smith, our Children and Families worker, for preparing and leading this service.

The following table explains our service provision:

St Leonard's	Every Sunday	08:00	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
		18:30	Sung or Choral Evensong (Book of Common Prayer)
St Mary's	2 nd Sunday	10:15	Family Service, preceded by crafts at 09:45
		11:30	Said Communion (Common Worship)
	All other Sundays	10:00	Parish Communion (Common Worship) with Children's Church JAM (Jesus & Me)
	Every Thursday	11:00	Holy Communion (Common Worship)
Zoom	Every morning (Mon - Fri)	08:30 or 09:00	Morning Prayer (Common Worship) on Zoom; also in person on Wednesdays & Fridays at other churches in the benefice
	Every Wednesday	20:00	Prayer with the Heart

*Emma Cross
On behalf of the Worship and Spirituality group*

6.2 Outreach & Nurture Group

6.2.1 Outreach & Nurture Group - General

Early in 2022, we completed our work on the Parish Planning Tool and determined that:

We are a church which looks outwards to draw others in, where a diverse range of people of all ages worship and have a sense of belonging.

Based on this, we developed four priorities for the group for 2022:

- * Review and develop the provision of a Bible study/prayer group across all ages and needs
- * Review provision of activities or events for older children/teenagers
- * Plan & develop a regular pattern of events to welcome newcomers
- * Develop a regular pattern of activities linked with town and community events.

Under these priorities, a number of activities took place throughout the year including an afternoon tea for newcomers, a parish picnic followed by Evensong held outdoors, and four trails for children including one at Easter, one in the summer (in partnership with "Wild about Wallingford") in St Leonard's churchyard, a Light Trail at the end of October in St Mary's church and one in Advent around the town. See the next section for more information on these.



Parish Picnic



Harvest Supper

We also organised a Harvest Supper in October, our first since before Covid, which was very enjoyable.

Also, in partnership with Wallingford Deanery, a Pilgrim Path walk was organised, which included a visit to the church in the neighbouring parish of Cholsey, and this was followed by a Deanery Evensong where choristers from across the Deanery came together, along with the Area Dean and the Associate Archdeacon, who preached at the service.

We also reviewed the services and activities leaflet given to new arrivals to Wallingford by the Tourist Information Centre and now ensure that they have always have a good supply.

Responding to feedback from a number of parishioners, an online survey was carried out in the summer to discover how we can support people in our parish in their faith and to discover if the groups currently in place met people's requirements or whether they needed to be developed further. The results of this survey clearly demonstrated that there was a demand for a small study group and this initiative was then passed to the Worship & Spirituality group for implementation.

Following the sad death of Queen Elizabeth II in September, a Book of Condolences was provided in St Mary's, as well as the opportunity for grievors to light a candle. This was welcomed by people in the town.

For the first time since before Covid, we were able to plan a full programme of services and activities during Advent and Christmas. We decided to follow the Church of England's theme for Christmas, *Follow the Star: the Great Invitation*. All our promotional material (posters, flyers etc) included this theme at its heart. St Mary's was decorated with lights and stars, including a huge star over the font - these were much appreciated by everyone, from visitors to the church to those attending the special services and events throughout the season. A framework was created and fixed outside St Mary's, to which people could add stars, and corner boards with large posters were attached to the church for the attention of passers-by and drivers. The charity Style Acre was able to return to St Mary's for their Christmas Service, which a real delight. The Tree of Remembering was in the chancel from the start of Advent and throughout December, giving everyone the opportunity to light a star for their loved ones who are no longer with them.



Other outreach opportunities included participating in the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, BunkFest and the Christmas Shopping Event.

I would like to record my thanks to Revd. David Rice who led us through 2022, as well as the other members of the group and also thanks to those beyond the group who support this vital aspect of our church life.

*Wendy L Muggeridge
On behalf of the Outreach & Worship Group*

6.2.2 Children and Families

This year, our Tiny Toes Toddler Group and Baby Singing have grown significantly in number, with over 80 total visitors each week towards the end of the year. On the second Sunday of each month, we continue to hold our Family Services and on all other Sundays, we offer our Jesus and Me (JAM) group for children during our 10:00 Parish Communion; both of these have maintained stable numbers. Our weekly family newsletter reaches out to those who cannot join us with reflections and crafts, as well as keeping all up to date with upcoming events. We have continued to work with our local schools and community groups and have warmly welcomed them to our wider church activities.



In March, our local Brownie group helped us to assemble posies for the Mothering Sunday service. The Brownies were invited to our upcoming services, and were given an activity booklet to talk them reflectively and engagingly through the Easter story. In April, our toddler group enjoyed an Easter party in church, with a treasure hunt, themed games and an Easter story gift, together with invitations to our Easter activities in church. This year, our Easter trail followed our main church theme and took the form of a short, reflective 'pilgrimage' around the church. Visitors required beady eyes to spot the signs that they needed to find on their journey. They would then find a QR code to scan to hear an audio reflection. For those a little less technologically equipped, there were written reflections available too. In later April and May, we held a weekly craft lunch time drop-in for children of St Nicholas' School. These crafts were themed on Christian based values and children were also invited to our church services and crafts.



Jubilee celebrations

At the beginning of June, we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with craft activities for children in Castle Gardens, as part of the larger local Jubilee activities. Participants received invitations to upcoming church activities. We also held our annual Wildlife Discovery event in St. Leonard's churchyard in June in collaboration with the Wild about Wallingford group. This was a popular event again this year and feedback from participants was very positive. In July, we held a Teddy Bear's Picnic in the Castle Gardens for our baby and toddler groups. There were bubbles, games, treasure hunts, toys, music and stories.



Bunkfest crafts

We kickstarted this year's parable themed Family Services in September with a Lost Coin hunt and picnic in the Castle Gardens after our first service. September also saw a busy Bunkfest, and we offered crafts and refreshments in church on the Sunday afternoon after our Parish Communion.



Light Trail

In October, we had our Harvest Festival Family Service, with pre-service crafts and also our annual Light Trail. This trail took a more reflective and prayerful approach this year, with five engaging and prayerful reflection stations around the church. Children enjoyed poppy themed crafts at our Family Remembrance Service in November. Also in November, we said goodbye to Revd David Rice, and the children suggested words describing him for an art piece keep-sake from the children. After David's leaving, Hannah Smith, our Children & Families Worker, picked up the roles of planning and leading Family Services, working more closely with the local schools and supporting families with the preparation for Baptism.



Gift from the children

The Nativity Trail this year took the form of windows, created by our congregation, that told the story of the nativity as they 'followed the star' map around the town. Participants would collect letters from each window to unscramble and make the title of a Christmas carol. Our toddler group had a Christmas party, with games and crafts, as well as a visit from Santa, who brought each of them a Christmas story gift. We also held an afternoon craft session in December to decorate clay stars and create star-wands as part of the Wallingford Christmas Shopping Day. The local schools received invitations to all of our family activities, which they could include in their newsletters. St. Nicholas' School received a pre-Christingle assembly to introduce the theme, and to invite children into the church for this special service. The Christingle service began with pre-service Christingle-making. The Crib service was themed on this year's starry-theme, with some speaking roles. Actors did exceptionally well with these, and every attending child was welcomed to dress up and join in with the service.

Thank you to all who supported our work with children and families this year.

Hannah Smith
Children & Families Worker

6.3 Social Responsibility Group

The Social Responsibility Group aims to raise awareness of social and justice concerns of the wider world locally, nationally and globally, linking this with our charitable giving.

The PCC endorsed our commitment to support one local charity (Refugee Resource) and one overseas charity (The Sharp Memorial School for the Blind, India) and £1,500 was given to each charity from Parish funds. A long-term relationship helps strengthen our links and understanding of the charities' work. We receive regular updates from the Sharp Memorial School via a member of the congregation who used to work there; Refugee Resource also send us regular news letters.

Pat Griffiths continues to take the lead for Christian Aid Week. She organised speakers to tell us about their current project at the morning service in St. Mary's and at Evensong in St. Leonard's and a collection was held for the charity. Pat is keen to find someone to take over the leadership role in 2023.

During the year the Group also organised special collections for the following charities: Fair Trade Foundation, Children on The Edge, The Porch Oxford), Cruse, Combat Stress, The Children's Society, See-Saw, and Parents and Children Together (PACT). Harvest produce was given to The Wallingford Food Bank and to Style Acre. A Christmas collection for the Food Bank was carried out during November so that the needy could be given their Christmas goods in time for Christmas, and our annual 'Reverse Advent Calendar' collected more "day-to-day" supplies during Advent for delivery in early January.

In addition the Group was proactive in highlighting worldwide issues including the situation in Ukraine when we responded to the appeal by UK for UNHCR to aid refugees fleeing from the conflict. We also held a collection in response to the Disasters Emergency Committee's Appeal to help those in desperate need following the floods in Pakistan.

In total £9,654.66 was donated to charitable causes in 2022. This does not include donations made direct to the charities via their websites by members of the congregation. Gift aid envelopes are not used by many charities nowadays so donating direct is the only way to add the gift aid element to the amount donated.

We are delighted to welcome Liz Gordon, Charlie Hughes and Jo O'Reilly as members of the Group.

*Philippa Bomford
On behalf of the Social Responsibility group*

6.4 Standing Committee

6.4.1 Fabric

6.4.1.1 General

As reported in the annual report for 2021, we appointed Henry Sanders of Hestia Architects as our Quinquennial Inspector for St Mary's and St Leonard's churches. The inspections were carried out in early autumn 2021 but we did not receive the reports until early 2022.

We met with Henry Sanders to discuss the priorities in March (St Mary's) and May (St Leonard's). Progressing the priority actions from the Quinquennial Inspection has formed the focal point of the work of the Standing Committee over the last year.

Alongside, routine activities such as, the six-monthly checks of the emergency lighting and the fire alarm took place in St Mary's; fire extinguishers at both churches were checked and the annual PAT testing carried out at both churches. We're very grateful to Charlie Hughes for co-ordinating these checks.

6.4.1.2 St Leonard's

Henry Sanders reported that the building is in reasonable condition reflecting the care undertaken by the PCC for the church. The priority 1 (urgent) actions have been carried out and we are now well underway with the priority 2 (within 12 months) actions.

One of the actions relates to cutting back a tree damaging the masonry of the Apse. The Standing Committee has gained Faculty List B consent from the Diocese of Oxford to complete this work. We are waiting for South Oxfordshire District Council to undertake the work as the maintenance of the churchyard sits with them, given that it is closed.

When inspecting the church, Henry Sanders noted signs of water ingress to the fabric of the internal west wall. Through initial investigations, the cause is thought to be linked to failed verge leadwork relating to the nave roof, and its abutment with the tower. This remedial work will be incorporated into St Mary's lead replacement project – see below.

The Wallingford Green Gym continue to visit the churchyard twice a year to maintain it. We are also grateful to the St Mary's churchyard working group who supplement their work when appropriate and to Wallingford Town Council who maintain the grassed areas.

6.4.1.3 St Mary's

Henry Sanders acknowledged that the church was well looked after, and this is a testament to the hard work of the PCC. The Quinquennial Inspection flagged concerns that require careful and thorough investigation and guidance from professional experts. We have, where reasonably and practically possible, completed the priority 1 (urgent) actions. This has included the removal of a piece of loose nave ceiling boarding on the south of the nave.

Henry Sanders was able to access the nave and aisle roofs when inspecting the church as we had scaffolding in place for roof maintenance. The inspection showed that the leadwork is failing in the valley gutters on both the north and south aisles, and in the tower roof, causing water ingress into the fabric of the building. We now have in place the St Mary's lead replacement project being led by Henry Sanders. In December, we received the initial designs, and are re-grouping in January to progress the tendering phase. The replacement of the leadwork will be very costly. It is hoped that we will complete, some or all of this work, in 2023 but this will be subject to cost and Faculty permissions.

Henry Sanders also recommended that we employ a structural engineer to investigate the condition of the tower roof timbers (impaired due to water ingress) and the structural stability of the chancel (due to falling plasterwork). We completed a tendering process for this in the early summer and appointed William Morris of Ridge and Partners LLP our structural engineer. William completed the survey in August and provided his report in October. We are working with William Morris and Henry Sanders to progress the survey recommendations– including specialist monitoring and mitigation works to the tower roof timbers.

We are grateful to the St Mary's churchyard working group who do so much to maintain the churchyard throughout the year – including both the north and south areas of the church. We are also grateful to Wallingford Town Council for maintaining the grassed areas.

6.4.1.4 St Mary's Boiler

The recommendation of the Building Services Engineer, that we had employed in 2021 to advise us on a replacement to the gas boiler in St Mary's, was challenged by the Diocesan Advisory Committee. Further investigations needs to take place before we can agree a way forward.

6.4.2 Health & Safety (H & S)

Weekly Health and Safety checks continued throughout the year. These cover floors, stairs, carpets - looking for anything in poor condition, trip hazards etc. A more detailed check takes place once a month to include fire extinguishers and paths and steps outside. Every three months a general check of the whole of both building takes place, including all plugs and sockets, as well as a review of the accident book.

*Emma Cross
On behalf of the Standing Committee*

6.5 Communication Group

The most significant change in communications during 2022 was the total rewrite of the church website by Jane Anderson. This was launched in November 2022, with a new name www.wallingfordcofe.org.uk, ready for promoting the services and activities during Advent and Christmas. The goal was to have a website which covered all three parishes in the Team (Crowmarsh Gifford and Brightwell cum Sotwell as well as Wallingford), which was modern & dynamic, and which met the needs of locals, visitors and newcomers.

The Weekly News email was distributed to nearly 260 email addresses every week. This email details the services and events for the coming week and beyond. A handful of paper copies are made available at both churches for those who do not have access to the internet.

Live-streaming of the Sunday morning service at St Mary's continued throughout the year and this still attracted a number of regular viewers. However, significant issues with the internet signal meant that we had to halt the livestreaming of Evensong at St Leonard's from April 2022. Along with Communion at St Mary's, we have also livestreamed four funerals, which were watched by people from across the world who couldn't travel to the funeral itself. We also ran Zoom sessions for U3A monthly meetings during the first half of the year and TWHAS (The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society) monthly meetings throughout the year, thus allowing people at home to join the presentation being held in St Mary's. Huge thanks to those who volunteered to help with the livestreaming, without whom it would not be possible.

Posters, flyers and invitations were produced throughout the year promoting special services and events, and articles were published in local magazines when appropriate. Thanks to an early start in our planning for Advent and Christmas (see Section 6.2.1 Outreach & Nurture Group), we were able to give those who attended our All Souls service, at the end of October, an invitation to The Longest Night service and the Tree of Remembering.

Our social media platforms (Facebook and Twitter) continue to be used to communicate latest news and promote special services and events; and the TV screen near the door in St Mary's provides visitors and congregation alike a glimpse at our diverse services and activities.



*Wendy L Muggeridge
On behalf of the Communications Group*

6.6 Choir Committee

2022 was a year in which the choir began to get back to their pre-pandemic pattern of events, with a full range of services. We had weddings with full choirs again, allowing some younger juniors to sing at weddings for the first time. It was lovely to be able to sing evensong in the Well House garden and at St Peter's again, as well as in St Leonard's. Towards the end of the year the choir led the introduction of a mass setting for the congregation to sing in parish communion services, and most movements have now been sung.

The choir resumed rehearsals of Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*, which had been intended for Good Friday 2020, and performed it on Good Friday this year (see picture), accompanied by Gaby Clements on the organ. This was an arrangement for full 4-part choir and several choir members sang solo numbers.

In May the choir teamed up with the choirs of St. Peter's and All Saints churches from Didcot at a Deanery Evensong in St Mary's. We were accompanied by Mark Stanley, the Director of Music at St Peter's. This service was David Rice's final service as Area Dean, and we marked the occasion with Stanford in Bb and Henry Ley's choral setting of *The strife is o'er*.





In August the choir sang a week of services at Durham Cathedral. We were joined by Mathias Herbst, who has accompanied the choir on several tours, and his wife Heike, together with a few extra singers. With limited time to rehearse in the cathedral stalls, we were fortunate to have access to the church of St Oswald (see picture to left). The walk between church and cathedral kept us fit and gave great views of the city and river. The choir received several compliments on their singing, with some congregation members expressing surprise that we were “only a parish choir”. We sang parish favourites *Lord, give me faith* and *I give to you a new commandment*, as well as cathedral-filling works such as *O quam gloriosum* and *Stainer* in Bb.

On the day off from Durham, while some went off to the beach and elsewhere, several went to sing evensong in Hexham Abbey, where Henry Hope (who had completed some of his ordinand’s training in Wallingford) is now a curate. We were treated to a tour and an excellent tea!

Not long after returning to Wallingford, the choir marked the death of Queen Elizabeth II with a special service of prayer and reflection. This included the *Nunc dimittis* by Gibbons and hymns from the service of thanksgiving held at St Paul’s Cathedral.

On the evening of Remembrance Sunday the choir sang the Requiem by Gabriel Fauré in a communion service. Arranging the movements of the Requiem carefully within a pared-down liturgical framework created a moving experience for choir and congregation alike. Gaby Clements played the organ and solos were sung by Will Lidbetter, Emma Parr and David Boddaert.

In November, we had to say farewell to Revd David Rice as our Team Rector. The choir has been very fortunate to have had someone so supportive of choral music. We held a drinks party for him after choir one evening to say thank you. For his final evensong, we sang a setting of *Even-song*, a poem by his favourite poet George Herbert. David chose Brewer in D and Moore’s *The Song of Christ’s Glory*, for which we were accompanied by Sue Huntingford-Ledger, the Director of Music in Wallingford parish for many years.

The resumption of pre-pandemic events was particularly marked in December. We were able to sing carols in care homes and Wallingford Hospital for the first time in 3 years. There was a further event in the Market Place (see right), a carol service for Style Acre Charity and a service for the Longest Night, as well as the Advent Service of Light and the Nine Lessons and Carols. Junior choristers played a big part in most of these and had their own services with Christingle and the Crib Service. The latter was enhanced by several junior soloists and other children performing carols as people arrived, which created a wonderful atmosphere.



All in all, it’s been a year to celebrate singing again with greater freedom. One restriction that the choir has had to work around is the reduced space in the choir stalls in St Mary’s, due to loose plaster in the chancel ceiling. This problem has had a positive side-effect in that it has sometimes been necessary to sing next to the piano or on the dais. Most people have noticed that the choir sounds better in front of the screen!

Judith Ward
Director of Music

6.7 Bellringers

We have had a successful year consolidating the ringing of the band following the lifting of all Covid restrictions. Mercifully, the band as a whole appears to have escaped any mass infection of flu or Covid (although one or two individuals have succumbed).

We have rung for all services and extra ringing as requested. Numbers have stayed firm post-Covid. One person has stopped ringing for a while, but two others have returned to the band from a time away. We are also currently teaching two new learners to ring. Numbers at practice nights have been good with some ringing on all 10 bells taking place most practices and generally at least 12 people present. Sunday service ringing has also been well attended with ringing on 8 more often than not.

We have rung 11 quarter peals during the year, each lasting about 45 minutes. These included one at the time of the [Platinum Jubilee](#) in June, one just after the death of Queen Elizabeth (half muffled on the back 6), and one for the proclamation of the new King Charles. There was also special ringing involving all members of the band both for the Jubilee and at the time of the Queen's death. A peal attempt in June for the Platinum Jubilee sadly foundered half way (after 90 minutes), but a very fine quarter peal was rung afterwards. Unfortunately no peal attempts are currently allowed (on the advice of the structural engineer). It is hoped that we may be allowed to restart peals soon.

A very enjoyable outing took place in August, visiting four towers in the Cotswolds, and finishing with a gargantuan tea (!). We are very grateful to Jo Gamester for making all the arrangements, and to the small corporate body which provided the tea.

We entered the Branch 6-bell striking competition in 2022, held at North Moreton; the general standard was very high and we were placed a very creditable 4th.

*Chris Tuckett
Tower Captain*

7. Cherishing God's Earth

This year has turned out to be a year where our focus has been on connecting with people, groups and networks and in doing so sharing our experiences and journey of cherishing God's earth and learning how others have journeyed through theirs. I want to use this as an opportunity to share some highlights from the year.

In the early part of the year, the Diocese of Oxford launched its Greenshoots Network. The aim of this network is to connect with others doing the same thing, for mutual support and information. Greenshoots meets monthly via Zoom and invites a variety of guest speakers to the event. Through sharing our Cherishing God's Earth journey with Greenshoots, Emma Cross was invited to give a telephone interview with the Diocese's communications team. This was shared on the [Diocesan website](#) and promoted on social media too.

Following the success of our Children and Families' Wildlife Discovery event at St Leonard's churchyard last year, we were really pleased to work again with Wild with Wallingford (was called Wallingford Wildlife Group) in hosting the event for a second year. The event corresponded once again with the Churches Count on Nature week in June. It included another wildlife trail and craft activities, as well as a local moth expert and river ecology experts from the Environment Agency.



The event took a different direction just before the planned date in that we were approached to be part of the Earthrise documentary series by Al Jazeera – which is an award-winning environment show. Earthrise were looking to explore the power of three global systems - the law, faith and the economy - to help enable positive environmental change. For the faith episode, they were looking to include a section on churches protecting their biodiversity – and our wildlife discovery event was a good match! They came across our work through discussions with the Diocese and reading our aforementioned article on the Diocese's website.

So we had a film crew present as part of our Children and Families' Wildlife Discovery event! A Thank You needs to be extended to David Rice for his support and encouragement in agreeing to this opportunity. A couple of our church families took part in a recorded interview in St Leonard's churchyard, as did David Rice and Emma. It was a super outreach day and it was well attended, some returning for a second year – which is great. I am grateful to Hannah Smith, the Wallingford Wildlife Group, local experts and our own volunteers who gave up their time to outreach into our community.

Hannah and Emma were invited to share their experience of running the Children and Families' Wildlife Discovery event at the July Deanery Synod meeting. However, this was cancelled due to the heatwave that we experienced. We look forward to returning in June 2023.

*Emma Cross
Cherishing God's Earth Lead*

9. Plans for the Future

Our main aims for 2023 and beyond include the following:

- **Appoint a new Team Rector** – the Church of England process of appointment is a lengthy one, but the Team Ministry started the process before the end of 2022 and we very much hope that a suitable candidate will be steered this way by the Holy Spirit at the interviews, hopefully in mid-2023.
- **Safeguarding** – we will continue to audit safeguarding training and ensure that volunteers have the basic training required, and continue to develop role descriptions, checking and induction procedures to ensure we are fully compliant with the Safer Recruitment and People Management guidance.
- **Lent** – it is anticipated that a Lent study group will be run, either in-person or online via Zoom.
- **Bible Study Group** – following the success of the Bible study course held in late 2022, a further group will be investigated, potentially to start after Lent.
- **St Mary's & St Leonard's** – the programme of works resulting from the QI inspections of both churches in late 2021 will continue throughout 2023. We plan to set up a Fabric Committee to manage the various sub-projects of work.
- **Choir Tour** – During August, the choir will be singing in Coventry Cathedral and it is anticipated that a parish outing will be organized for parishioners to attend a service.
- **Communication** – following the successful introduction of livestreaming Eucharist and Funeral services as well as Zoom functions for some of our hirers, it is anticipated that broadband will be installed in St Mary's to provide a more consistent service and to allow us the possibility of further developing what we offer via this technology. We will also try to resolve the connectivity problem at St Leonard's in order to restart livestreaming Choral Evensong.
- A programme of events will be planned, including a **Newcomers' Morning Coffee** or **Afternoon Tea** to welcome new residents in early 2023. This was very successful in 2022 and we believe this helps them both to feel part of our community and also to integrate and build relationships.

10. Structure, Governance & Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. Membership of the PCC consists of the Incumbent (Team Rector) when appointed, two Churchwardens, Deanery Synod representatives, one Licensed Lay Minister plus lay members elected by those who are on the Electoral Roll of the church. All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Election to the PCC is for a three-year term, although immediate re-election is possible. We are permitted 12 lay members on the PCC, governed by the number of people on the Electoral Roll.

Churchwardens are elected annually and serve for a maximum of six consecutive years. Re-election is possible after at least one year's break.

Deanery Synod representatives are elected every three years, according to a schedule set by the Diocese of Oxford and governed by the number of people on the electoral roll in the year preceding the elections. The next date for elections will be at the APCM in 2023. Based on the number of people on our electoral roll in 2022, we are entitled to 4 representatives.

The members of Wallingford PCC are trustees of the charity and, as such, responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish as well as managing the parish's finances.

The PCC met five times during 2022, via a mixture of Zoom videoconferencing and in-person. Given its wide responsibilities, the PCC has a number of committees and groups, detailed earlier in the report, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These committees and groups are responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly with recommendations of their decisions when appropriate, for approval by the PCC.

11. Administrative Information

The Parish of St Mary-le-More and St Leonard is situated in Wallingford, Oxfordshire. The churches are, together with those in Crowmarsh Gifford and Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, part of the benefice of Wallingford, which is within the Wallingford Deanery in the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England. Wallingford PCC registered as a charity on 21 April 2009. The details are:

Charity Name : The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary-le-more and All Hallows with St Leonard & St Peter, Wallingford

<u>Noted Working Name:</u>	Wallingford Parochial Church Council
<u>Registered Charity No.:</u>	1129240
<u>Charity Address:</u>	30 Castle Street, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 8DL
<u>Bankers:</u>	Lloyds plc., Market Place, Didcot, OX11 7LQ
<u>Independent Examiner:</u>	Caroline Webster. UHY Ross Brooke Suite I, Windrush Court, Abingdon Business Park. OX14 1SY

Trustees of the charity (PCC members) who have served at any time from 1st January 2022 until the date this report was approved are:

Name	Office	Elected
The Revd David Rice	Team Rector (<i>retired 16/12/22</i>)	<i>ex officio</i>
Emma Cross	Churchwarden & Deanery Synod representative	<i>ex officio</i>
Jacquie Hughes	Churchwarden (<i>Chair since 20/11/22</i>) due to <i>interregnum</i>	<i>ex officio</i>
Stephen Harrison	PCC Treasurer	2020
Wendy Muggeridge	PCC Secretary & Deanery Synod representative	<i>ex officio</i>
Prof Amy Smith	Deanery Synod representative (<i>resigned 15/5/22</i>)	<i>ex officio</i>
Gavin Wood	Licensed Lay Minister	<i>ex officio</i>
Prof Helen King	General Synod Representative	<i>ex officio</i>
Jane Anderson		2022
Marie Amey		2021
Philippa Bomford		2021
Charlie Brampton		2020
Oliver Garland		2022
Peter Howarth		<i>Co-opted 23/6/22</i>
Charlie Hughes		2022
Amanda Simons		2020
Hannah Smith		2021
Helen Swan		2020
Jane Tuckett	<i>Resigned 15/5/22</i>	2019
Luke Whitcomb		2021

12. Wallingford Team Ministry



The parish of Wallingford is part of the Wallingford Team Ministry, along with the parishes of Crowmarsh Gifford and Brightwell-cum-Sotwell. The Team Rector, until his retirement on 16 December 2022 was the Reverend David Rice and the Team Vicar is the Reverend Kevin Beer. The Team Rector's focus is mainly in Wallingford, whilst the Team Vicar focuses on Crowmarsh Gifford and Brightwell-cum-Sotwell; the aim is that once a month they officiate in the other parishes.

The parish representatives of the Team Council are lay members of their PCCs and are elected at the first PCC meeting following the APCM. Licensed Lay Ministers are also entitled to be members of the Team Council. Membership of the Team Council during 2022 included the two clergy, Revd. David Rice and Revd. Kevin Beer, as well as the following lay members from each of the three parishes: Emma Cross & Jacquie Hughes (Wallingford), Margot Shawyer & Michael Drury (Brightwell-cum-Sotwell) and Margaret Foster, Eva Thompson and Linda Parker (Crowmarsh Gifford). In addition, the PCC Treasurers of the three parishes were invited to the meeting in October 2022 to discuss the Parish Share: Stephen Harrison (Wallingford), John Dowling (Brightwell-cum-Sotwell) and Frank Sadler (Crowmarsh Gifford).

The Team Council discusses and acts upon matters of general interest to the three parishes and also any specific matter that might be delegated to it by the Parochial Church Councils. There were three Team Council Meetings in 2021.

17th February 2022 – [Zoom Meeting]

Brightwell reported that they had recently discussed fund-raising by a “Friends of” scheme and the closure of St James’, which although is a lovely church, has no amenities and no parking, but there is a steady, albeit small, congregation with a lot of affection for the building. They reported they may contact the Churches Conservation Trust to discuss.

Crowmarsh reported on the difficulties of getting SODC to carry out necessary work to the churchyard and problems with overlarge trees. They also advised they would be reaching out to the “Wallingford Reach” new estate.

Wallingford reported that their Sunday numbers had returned to pre-Covid levels, although the crib and Christmas services were not so well attended as in previous years.

A Team-wide Lent series “The Pilgrim Path” was discussed. This would explore places that people had visited.

The following Team Services were agreed:

2 nd March	20:00 Ash Wednesday - Communion, St Leonard’s
16 th April	20:00 Easter Eve - St Mary Magdalene’s
26 th May	19:30 Ascension Day - St Agatha’s
4/5 th June	Jubilee W/End
19 th June	09:30 Team Service - St Agatha’s
20 th November	11:00 Christ the King - St Mary Magdalene’s

14th July 2022 – [Zoom Meeting]

Brightwell advised that they were not happy with the last QI of St James’ and that they would be looking to find someone else to carry out a survey of the building.

Wallingford have received QI reports for both St Leonard’s and St Mary’s and work is being planned on both churches. The Children and Families Worker had organised, as part of the Church’s Count on Wildlife initiative, a ‘Wild about Nature’ trail at St Leonard’s, in conjunction with ‘Wild about Wallingford’. She had also provided a craft activity for the Jubilee celebrations in Castle Gardens.

Crowmarsh reported they had initiated a project to install a survey and toilets in St Mary Magdalene’s; this will require fundraising. David reported that he had received positive feedback following the Lent series - **The Pilgrim Path** and that people had enjoyed hearing of the favourite places of pilgrimage of others at the meetings. He added that the Team Service planned for the 20th of November may need a change of venue as that is his last day as Team Rector. An additional Team Service for the 1st of January 2023 was added to the list. He also briefed that the Team Council will be the coordinating body to appoint the new Team Rector and the first action was to create a Team Profile.

19th October 2022 - [Zoom Meeting]

Brightwell briefed that the Diocesan Buildings Team had visited St James’s in August and that careful thought will be needed, given the scale and number of issues that need to be addressed.

The diocese has created a new formula to calculate Parish Share and this has caused some problems in the Deanery, so a ceiling of 2% has been applied. Kevin asked if it was possible to show the breakdown of the calculations as the new formula showed an apparent discrepancy between Brightwell and Crowmarsh. Subsequent to the meeting the following figures were agreed with the Area Dean and Deanery Treasurer:

Brightwell cum Sotwell	£ 32,579	24.97%
Crowmarsh Gifford	£ 29,247	22.42%
Wallingford	<u>£ 68,630</u>	<u>52.61%</u>
	£130,456	100%

Interregnum

Jacque Hughes agreed to be nominated as the chair of the Team meetings during the interregnum; proposed Mike, seconded Margot. The following team services were agreed

New Year’s Day 11:00 St Mary Magdalene’s

22 January 2023 10:00 St Mary’s, Wallingford, presided by Acting Archdeacon David Tyler

26 February 2023 10:00 St Mary’s, Wallingford, presided by Bishop Gavin

26 March 2023 10:00 St Mary’s, Wallingford

David stressed that regularity and continuity of services will be important. Mike commented that we should do everything we could to encourage attendance at Team services.

The new Team website was discussed and ratified and it was commented that it was very user friendly and easy to navigate

Margaret Foster, Temporary Team Council Secretary

13. Wallingford Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod provides PCCs with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church. Meetings are jointly chaired by the Area Dean and the Lay Chair. The Revd. Dr. Andy Lord is the Area Dean for the Wallingford Deanery and Gordon Gill is the Lay Chair. The Deanery includes St Peter’s Didcot, All Saints’ and Ladygrove Didcot, Great Western Park, Harwell, Chilton, Cholsey, Moulsoford, Hagbourne, Blewbury, Upton, South Moreton, North Moreton, Aston Tirrold & Aston Upthorpe, Wallingford, Crowmarsh Gifford and Brightwell-cum-Sotwell.

Two Deanery Synod meetings were held in 2022, though a third was scheduled in July but cancelled due to extreme heat. Five meetings of the Standing Committee were held.

The Wallingford Deanery Mission Action Plan (MAP), which was approved at the end of 2019 by the Dorchester Mission and Pastoral committee, has four key focus areas:

1. **Development of ministry to children, young people & families**
2. **Developing our outreach to new & settled communities**
3. **Development of appropriate patterns of worship**
4. **Development of the Ministry in the Greater Didcot Garden Town area, both financially & structurally.**

The first Deanery Synod meeting in April 2022 began with a short act of worship with hymns. This was followed by the licensing of Revd. Dr. Andy Lord as the new Area Dean by Bishop Gavin Collins. The role of Area Dean is held for five years and appointed by the Bishop of Dorchester; the previous Area Dean was our Team Rector, Revd. David Rice who was thanked for all his care and hard work. The main focus for the rest of the meeting was the presentation of the Greater Didcot Garden Town Mission and Ministry Report and subsequent discussion of the Summary Proposal; both documents written by Revd. Dr. Andy Lord, who had been appointed in 2019 as the Vicar of All Saints' Didcot but also as Bishop's Advisor on Mission to the Designated Didcot Garden Town. This is the 4th focus area in the MAP.

The report detailed a number of options, all seeking to be collaborative with space for growth and with an on-going process of evolution. The Standing Committee with guidance from the Associate Archdeacon, David Tyler, proposed that we adopt option GD2 : creation of a Wider Didcot group consisting of All Saints' Didcot, St Peter's Didcot, Ladygrove, Great Western Park, St Matthew's Harwell & All Saints' Chilton; to include incumbents but also other ministers and representatives from each church.

The aims of this Group over the next 5-10 years will be to:

- develop a prayerful mission vision for Greater Didcot
- enable mission (with ecumenical partners) in the Valley Park development
- encourage a greater sharing of ministry (ordained and lay) and mission across the area.

This approach will be supported by FP1 (Financial Proposal 1), which sets out the mechanism to follow in an interregnum to determine the ministry available.

The Summary Proposal was put to the vote and it was accepted.

The main focus of the second Deanery Synod meeting, in September 2022, was the new Parish Share formula for 2023 onwards. Anomalies in the new formula were discussed and the Area Dean briefed that a paper had been submitted to the diocese on behalf of the Deanery highlighting issues. The main implication of the new way of calculating the parish share is that the Deanery will not be able to pay its full share in 2023. After a great deal of discussion it was agreed that we would apply a 2% ceiling and a floor of 0%, compared to 2022 figures, to all parishes.

Revd. Dr. Andy Lord commented that we cannot run forever in deficit and that ministry received by a parish or benefice is to be dependent on the share they contribute, effective as ministers retire or move on. Further discussion is underway with the diocese and finance team for a Deanery Future Plan.

Outside the meetings, a Deanery Choral Evensong was held in May 2022 with choristers from across the Deanery coming together at St Mary's, Wallingford, and three Pilgrim Path walks were held between May and September.

Three benefices ended the year in an interregnum: Cholsey & Moulsoford, Harwell & Chilton and Wallingford (Wallingford, Crowmarsh Gifford and Brightwell cum Sotwell). Cholsey and Moulsoford have appointed Revd Rebecca Peters and her licensing is on 20th February 2023.

Wendy L Muggeridge
Wallingford Deanery Synod Secretary

14. Annual Financial Statements

Wallingford Parochial Church Council
Registered Charity Number 1129240
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Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2022 total funds	2021 total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from: (Note 2)					
Donations and legacies	131,361.01	8,420.00		139,781.01	126,126.26
Charitable activities	16,282.52			16,282.52	10,001.00
Other trading activities	10,626.05			10,626.05	5,364.03
Investments	5,931.51			5,931.51	4,658.73
Other incoming resources					
Total income	164,201.09	8,420.00		172,621.09	146,150.02
Expenditure on: (Note 3)					
Raising funds	1,410.14			1,410.14	16.70
Charitable activities	129,898.81	15,138.83		145,037.64	149,147.83
Total expenditure	131,308.95	15,138.83		146,447.78	149,164.53
Net incoming / outgoing resources before transfer	32,892.14	(6,718.83)		26,173.31	(3,014.51)
Transfers (Note 12)					
Gross transfers between funds - in					
Gross transfers between funds - out					
Net incoming/outgoing before other gains/losses	32,892.14	(6,718.83)		26,173.31	(3,014.51)
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Gains and losses on investment assets (Note 13)	(1,638.93)		(20,808.51)	(22,447.44)	26,049.71
Net movement in funds	31,253.21	(6,718.83)	(20,808.51)	3,725.87	23,035.20
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	258,242.44	4,852.75	182,140.36	445,235.55	422,200.35
Total funds carried forward	289,495.65	(1,866.08)	161,331.85	448,961.42	445,235.55

The notes on pages 18 to 26 form part of these financial statements.

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Balance Sheet

Statement of Financial Position

	2022 total funds	2021 total funds
	£	£
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets (Note 7)	4,600.57	10,350.57
Investments (Notes 7 and 14)	177,571.96	200,019.40
	182,172.53	210,369.97
Current assets		
Debtors (Note 8)	11,169.56	10,225.37
Cash at bank and in hand (Note 9)	261,636.46	231,336.97
	272,806.02	241,562.34
Liabilities		
Creditors: amounts falling due in one year (Note 10)	6,017.13	6,696.76
	266,788.89	234,865.58
Net current assets less current liabilities	448,961.42	445,235.55
Total assets less current liabilities	448,961.42	445,235.55
Represented by (Note 12)		
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General fund	184,178.03	160,629.32
Designated		
Designated - Choir fund	6,626.05	4,195.05
Designated - Reserve fund	27,520.78	26,564.70
Designated - Rector's discretionary fund	4,106.15	1,516.15
Designated - Jordan legacy	17,482.62	19,121.55
Designated - Ruth Chamberlain memorial trust fund	9,444.57	8,656.66
Designated - Bell ringers' fund	5,424.44	2,709.44
Designated - Youth and children work fund	22,894.18	34,849.57
Restricted		
Restricted - St Mary's tower fund	2,657.35	2,657.35
Restricted - Restricted fund	7,295.40	2,195.40
Endowment		
Endowment - Ruth Chamberlain memorial trust fund	20,062.22	22,738.98
Endowment - St Leonard's Church endowment funds	141,269.63	159,401.38
Funds of the church	448,961.42	445,235.55

Approved by the Parochial Church Council in general meeting on 1 March 2023 and signed on its behalf by Stephen Harrison (PCC Treasurer).



The notes on pages 18 to 26 form part of these financial statements.

Wallingford Parochial Church Council
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Note 1 - Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (effective 1 January 2019 the "SORP (FRS102)"). The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis. Financial statements are based on historical costs, except for investments which are shown at market value.

The financial statements include all transactions, assets, and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law.

Collections and appeals for nominated beneficiaries have not entered the accounts as they were collected on behalf of third parties.

The financial statements do not contain the accounts of informal groups of church members or of other groups which owe their main affiliation to another body.

Funds

The general fund of the PCC is an unrestricted fund. Some of the general fund has been earmarked by the PCC for particular purposes and these are referred to as Designated funds.

Endowment funds are included where the Trustees are the Rector and Church Wardens. These funds are small and their purposes are identified in the accompanying note 12.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income

Collections are recognised when received by the PCC.

Planned giving under gift aid declaration is recognised only when received.

Income tax recoverable on gift aided donations is recognised when the donation is received.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.

Funds raised by appeals, garden parties, social, and other events are accounted for gross. Any associated costs are disclosed under expenditure - raising funds.

Income from investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

Gains and losses on investments and other fixed assets

Realised gains or losses on investments are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are calculated as the difference between opening market value (or purchase price if later) and market value on the 31 December each year.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations, are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC. Other resources expended are accounted for when the liability arises on an accruals basis.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and buildings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s. 96(2)(a) of the 2011 Charities Act.

All expenditure during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings is included in the Statement of Financial Activity (SOFA).

Listings of such expenditure are given in the notes to the accounts.

Other fixtures, fittings, and office equipment

Fixtures, furnishings and equipment used within church premises are written off linearly over four years unless a longer period is appropriate to reflect the useful life of certain assets. Individual items with a purchase price of less than £3,000 are written off when the asset is acquired. The write off period of certain assets is:

The grand piano purchased in 2013 has been written off linearly over ten years.

Short term deposits and cash

Short term deposits includes cash held on deposit either with Church of England Central Board of Finance Deposit Fund or at the bank.

Cash includes monies held in bank current accounts.

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Note 2 - Incoming Resources

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2022 total funds	2021 total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies					
Standing order donations	80,719.00			80,719.00	78,774.00
Envelope donations	3,819.04			3,819.04	4,340.32
Loose plate collections	4,411.67			4,411.67	1,655.67
Giving through church boxes	195.16			195.16	94.24
One-off donations	8,841.83	7,170.00		16,011.83	15,771.25
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	22,771.40	1,250.00		24,021.40	23,460.68
Legacies	5,000.00			5,000.00	
Non-recurring one-off grants	1,720.00			1,720.00	675.00
Other funds generated	3,882.91			3,882.91	1,355.10
Donations and legacies income subtotals	131,361.01	8,420.00		139,781.01	126,126.26
Charitable activities					
Coffee sales	6,373.02			6,373.02	1,578.00
Fees for weddings and funerals	5,651.00			5,651.00	4,641.00
Verger, organ, bells, and choir fees	4,258.50			4,258.50	3,782.00
Charitable activities subtotals	16,282.52			16,282.52	10,001.00
Other trading activities					
Church lettings and sales - fund raising	10,626.05			10,626.05	5,364.03
Activities for generating funds subtotals	10,626.05			10,626.05	5,364.03
Investment income					
Dividends	4,784.20			4,784.20	4,613.74
Bank and building society interest	1,147.31			1,147.31	44.99
Investment income subtotals	5,931.51			5,931.51	4,658.73
Income from generated funds totals	164,201.09	8,420.00		172,621.09	146,150.02
Other incoming resources					
Insurance claims					
Other incoming resources subtotals					
Incoming resources grand totals	164,201.09	8,420.00		172,621.09	146,150.02

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Note 3 - Resources Expended

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2022 total funds	2021 total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Raising funds					
Costs of fund raising and events	1,410.14			1,410.14	16.70
Costs of stewardship campaign					
Raising funds expenditure sub-totals	1,410.14			1,410.14	16.70
Charitable activities					
Giving - relief and development (Note 6)	3,000.00			3,000.00	2,500.00
Giving - home mission (Note 6)	2,300.00			2,300.00	2,050.00
Secular charities (Note 6)					20.00
Parish share	67,943.70			67,943.70	67,013.10
Ministry and mission	6,494.63	2,170.00		8,664.63	2,502.55
Assistant staff costs		11,818.83		11,818.83	11,532.44
Rector's working expenses	823.44			823.44	888.37
Recoverables verger, organ, choir, bells	2,805.50			2,805.50	1,726.00
Costs of organists and choir	9,929.12			9,929.12	8,022.30
Flowers					
Insurance	8,101.49			8,101.49	7,926.80
Organ and piano tuning	1,071.64			1,071.64	1,030.40
Church maintenance and sundries	4,831.14			4,831.14	19,699.45
Administration	640.00			640.00	640.00
Bank charges	362.58			362.58	250.14
Bad debts					
Utilities	9,686.62			9,686.62	6,918.33
Payment card charges	165.35			165.35	159.18
Repairs	6,543.60			6,543.60	8,115.77
Independent examination	600.00			600.00	600.00
Depreciation (Note 7)	4,600.00	1,150.00		5,750.00	7,553.00
Charitable activities sub-totals	129,898.81	15,138.83		145,037.64	149,147.83
Resources expended grand totals	131,308.95	15,138.83		146,447.78	149,164.53

Coffee is purchased both for fellowship (coffee after services) and fund raising (selling coffee in church). As it is not possible to separate these costs, they are all included in "Ministry and Mission".

Costs of "organists and choir" includes expenditure on choir tours.

Note 4 - Statement of Staff Costs

Fees from weddings and funerals due to the Director of Music and to the Verger are paid directly to them by the PCC.

Fees due to the choir and ringers are paid to the choir and ringers.

The organist was paid monthly: the total for the year was £6,995 (2021: £6,758).

Since September 2017, the PCC has employed one family worker part-time as part of its mission to families.

The total paid to the family worker in 2022 was £9,460 (2021: £8,849).

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Note 5 - Details of Certain Items of Expenditure

Trustees Fees

No trustees were paid in their capacity as trustees nor did they receive any expenses. No trustee received fees for any other services provided to the charity.

The total donations from trustees during the year were £40,505.

Independent Examination

Fees of £500 were paid for the independent examination of the accounts: no other fees were paid to the independent examiner for other services.

Note 6 - Grants to Missions and Charities and Disposal of Special Collections

	2022 total £
Giving - relief and development	
PCC donation to Refugee Resource	1,500.00
PCC donation to Bartimaeus Chritable Trust (Sharp school for the blind)	1,500.00
Total	3,000.00
Home mission	
Subsidy for Crowmarsh Parish Share	2,000.00
Donation from the choir to St Oswalds Durham	250.00
Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust	50.00
Total	2,300.00
Total giving by the PCC	5,300.00

Disposal of special collections

Collections and appeals for nominated beneficiaries have not entered the accounts as they were collected on behalf of third parties.

Bishop of Oxford outreach fund - confirmation service collection	235.52
Children on the Edge - Easter collections	536.78
Christian Aid collections	1,130.29
Churches Conservation Trust - St Peter's Evensong	94.60
Combat Stress - Remembrance collection	457.00
CRUSE - All Souls collections	333.73
DEC Pakistan floods appeal - 12 September collections	503.53
Fair Trade - coffee collections	74.37
PACT - Christmas midnight and morning collections	743.45
Porch - Harvest collections	708.46
See Saw - Crib service collection	334.88
Sue Ryder Care - half proceeds of Wallingford Winter Recitals	1,600.00
The Children's Society - Christingle and J Pengilley collection boxes	638.14
UNHCR for Ukraine - 7 March, 28 March, Good Friday, and 9 lessons collections	2,263.41
Total for special collections	9,654.16

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Note 7 - Fixed assets

		2022 total
		£
Tangible fixed assets		
Cost		
Balance brought forward		122,069.62
Additions		
Balance carried forward		122,069.62
Accumulated depreciation		
Balance brought forward		111,719.05
Depreciation charge for year		5,750.00
Balance carried forward		117,469.05
Net book value		
Brought forward		10,350.57
Carried forward		4,600.57
Tangible Fixed Assets includes the LED lighting in St Mary's.		
Its net book value at the end of 2022 was £4600.57 (2021: £9,200.87).		
The Yamaha C3 grand piano (2021 value £1,150.00) was depreciated to zero in 2022.		
Fixed asset investments (see also Note 14)		
Market value at beginning of year		200,019.40
Gain on revaluation		(22,447.44)
Market value at end of year		177,571.96

Note 8 - Debtors

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2022 total	2021 total
	£	£	£	£
Debtors				
J Wiley (publisher)	72.21		72.21	
Gift aid	11,097.35		11,097.35	10,225.37
Debtors total	11,097.35		11,169.56	10,225.37

Note 9 - Cash at Bank

	2022 total	2021 total
	£	£
Cash at Bank		
Lloyds current account	173,048.67	144,493.17
CBF1003 (Reserve)	73,648.07	72,691.99
CBF1005 (Ruth memorial)	14,939.72	14,151.81
Current assets total	261,636.46	231,336.97

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Note 10 - Creditors

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2022 total	2021 total
	£	£	£	£
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year				
Junior choristers' pay			215.50	
Wedding fees taken in advance			500.00	100.00
Ridge and partners structural engineers			360.00	6.00
Agency collections			503.53	
Uniheat (repairs to St Mary's boiler)				2,152.66
Retention on tower works (Harri-Stone)			3,838.10	3,838.10
Independent examination			600.00	600.00
Creditors total			6,017.13	6,696.76

Note 11 - Commitments

The PCC recognised no further financial commitments at the end of 2022 other than those disclosed in creditors.

Note 12 Funds

	Balance brought forward	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Gains and losses	Balance carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted - General Fund	160,629.32	153,733.60	130,184.89			184,178.03
Designated - Choir Fund	4,195.05	3,258.50	827.50			6,626.05
Designated - Reserve Fund	26,564.70	956.08				27,520.78
Designated - Rector's Discretionary Fund	1,516.15	2,590.00				4,106.15
Designated - Jordan Legacy	19,121.55				(1,638.93)	17,482.62
Designated - Ruth Chamberlain Memorial Trust Fund	8,656.66	787.91				9,444.57
Designated - Bell ringers' fund	2,709.44	2,875.00	160.00			5,424.44
Designated - Youth and children work fund	34,849.57		11,955.39			22,894.18
Restricted - St Mary's Tower Fund	2,657.35					2,657.35
Restricted - Restricted Funds	2,195.40	8,420.00	3,320.00			7,295.40
Endowment - Ruth Chamberlain Memorial Trust Fund	22,738.98				(2,676.76)	20,062.22
Endowment - St Leonard's Church Endowment Funds	159,401.38				(18,131.75)	141,269.63
	<u>445,235.55</u>	<u>172,621.09</u>	<u>146,447.78</u>	-	<u>(22,447.44)</u>	<u>448,961.42</u>

General Fund - general income and operating expenses.

Choir Fund - for fund raising and expenditure of the choir apart from funds provided by the PCC.

Reserve Fund - to cover cash shortfalls in the event of unforeseen circumstances such as emergency repairs.

Rector's Discretionary Fund - a sum of money donated by a parishioner for use at the Rector's discretion.

Jordan Legacy - shares remaining after the original legacy was fully spent. Now generating income for the PCC.

Ruth Chamberlain Memorial Trust Fund - endowment provides for the designated fund for costs first for altar, then cassocks, surplices, and choir hymnals and psalters.

St Mary's Tower Fund - money collected for the repair and restoration of St Mary's church tower.

Restricted Fund - set up in 2012 for Restricted payments from various sources including the Friends of St Mary and St Leonard.

The current balance of £7,295.40 consists of £6,250 reserved for fabric works, £625 reserved for organ repairs, with the balance for costs of electronic collection plates.

St Leonard's Church Endowment Funds - investment income for the PCC General Fund.

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Note 13 - Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

Current year	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	4,600.57	16,240.11	-	161,331.85	182,172.53
Net current assets	179,577.46	77,258.68	9,952.75	-	266,788.89
Total	184,178.03	93,498.79	9,952.75	161,331.85	448,961.42

Previous year	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	10,350.57	17,879.04	-	182,140.36	210,369.97
Net current assets	150,278.75	79,734.08	4,852.75	-	234,865.58
Total	160,629.32	97,613.12	4,852.75	182,140.36	445,235.55

Note 14 - Details of Investments

		2022 total	2021 total	
		£	£	
CCLA Shares - St Leonard's House	St Leonard's Church endowment funds	Endowment	77,929.84	88,327.45
<i>Custodian Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance. St Leonard's House; Income to Rector and Churchwardens for yearly expenses of Parish Church. Interest and dividends paid to PCC.</i>				
CCLA Shares - St Leonard's Cottage	St Leonard's Church endowment funds	Endowment	58,257.09	65,313.08
<i>Custodian Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance. St Leonard's Cottage; Perpetual trust with object as for St Leonard's House. Recoupment scheme for loan of £4,047 made to Parish in 1974 concluded during 1998 and capital repaid. New recoupment scheme 1999 Charity Commission agreed release of £16,000 to PCC for repairs at St Leonard's or St Mary's. Outstanding loan at 31 December 2021 £1,920.00. From 2005, accumulated interest and dividends paid to PCC. Recoupment payment £640.00 per year.</i>				
CCLA Shares - St Leonard's Lands	St Leonard's Church endowment funds	Endowment	5,082.70	5,760.85
<i>St Leonard's Church Lands: general expenses of the Church. Rector and Churchwarden trustees. Perpetual trust with opening capital, represented by 246 CBF Investment units; income paid to PCC.</i>				
CCLA Shares - Jordan Legacy	Jordan Legacy	Designated	16,240.11	17,879.04
<i>306.14 Central Board of Finance Accumulation Investment Fund units purchased 9 December 1997 at 979.94p.</i>				
CCLA Shares - Ruth Chamberlain Trust	Ruth Chamberlain memorial trust fund	Endowment	20,062.22	22,738.98
<i>Wallingford St Mary's Ruth Chamberlain Trust; first for altar, then cassocks, surplices and choir hymnals psalters. Perpetual trust with opening capital of £1,000 represented by CBF Investment units; income paid to PCC.</i>				
Investments subtotal			177,571.96	200,019.40
The realised and unrealised gains on investments in the year are			-22,447.44	26,823.88

15. Independent Examiner's Report

Wallingford Parochial Church Council
Registered Charity Number 1129240
Independent Examiner's Report
for the year ended 31 December 2022

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Wallingford Parochial Church Council

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 18 to 26.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the members of the PCC who are also the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

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

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



.....
Caroline Webster FCA

UHY Ross Brooke
Suite 1
Windrush Court
Abingdon
OX14 1SY

Date: ...6 April 2023

Wallingford PCC Annual Report 2021 approved by the PCC on 26th March 2023 and signed on their behalf by the Jacquie Hughes (PCC Chair)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacquie Hughes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jacquie Hughes, Chair Wallingford PCC

Accounts



St Mary's & St Leonard's
Wallingford
open to God, open to all

Wallingford Parochial Church Council Annual Report & Financial Statements 2021



*Christ
Risen!*

*Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks
to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise
to his name.*

*Jesus is Lord of all the Earth:
he is the king of creation:*

Alleluia, alleluia

*Spread the good news o'er all
the Earth:*



Breathe on me,
Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou
dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.



Registered Charity No. 1129240

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1. Aim and Purpose

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Mary-le-More's (St Mary's) and St Leonard's has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, The Reverend David Rice, to promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. As a parish, we aim to become a living and loving example of Jesus Christ in our community, to be **open to God, open to all**.

The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St Mary's Church and St Leonard's Church.

2. Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches and to become part of our parish community. When planning our activities and priorities for the coming years, we identified three main priorities in 2017, which we have continued to progress:

- Development of our provision of worship, taking into account people's busy lives and their requirements for alternative forms of worship
- Development of ways to encourage local residents to be part of our church, whilst nurturing our current congregation.
- Development of the role of a Children and Families Worker to further attract, support and encourage young people to be lifelong Christians.

To deliver these priorities, the PCC has a number of vision groups and sub-groups:

- (i) **Worship & Spirituality** - to include sustaining what we have and looking to the future
- (ii) **Outreach & Nurture** - to include reaching out to new and current members of the community, the ongoing nurture of our current congregation and activities of the Children and Families Worker
- (iii) **Social Responsibility** - to include collections & donations to charities, both home and abroad, ensuring that 10% of the parish's unrestricted income is contributed; this group raises awareness of the needs of the wider world locally, nationally and globally.

In addition, the responsibilities of the **Standing Committee** include finance, buildings and stewardship, the **Choir Committee** focuses on the musical aspects of our worship and a **Communication** stream runs through all groups.

These sub-groups meet independently and report back to the PCC when the council meets.

A new focus in 2019 involved '**Cherishing God's Earth**' and is inspiring us to think about how we can express our care for God's world in our lives. This mission aspect of our church continues to run through all our vision groups.

Our parish offers many services and activities to reach out to as many people as possible; however, these were severely curtailed by the Covid-19 pandemic during a good part of 2021. Services normally include: two Eucharist services every Sunday and another on Thursday mornings, sung or choral Evensong on Sunday evenings and a monthly Family Service. Activities range from a robed choir, a music group, Emmaus groups, bellringing and various children's activities (including Children's Church, JAM - Jesus and Me, Tiny Toes Toddlers' group and Baby Singing) to social groups such as The Fellowship, and coffee mornings twice a week.

The hiring of St Mary's (where we host the Friday Country Market and the U3A monthly meeting as well as various concerts & choir rehearsals) help to make St Mary's a vibrant focus of life in the town.

We aim to keep St Mary's open daily for both parishioners and visitors, for anyone who wants to find peace at the heart of bustling, everyday life; a place for quiet contemplation and prayer as well as enabling an understanding of the church building in the history of the area. Unfortunately, this was also not possible for a large part of 2021 due to the pandemic, although we were open from the end of April for two hours twice a week for people to come into the church for private prayer.

Finally, we provide two buildings, where life events such as weddings and baptisms are celebrated with joy and thanksgiving, and funerals with respect and compassion, allowing us to give thanks for the loved one, time to reflect and think and to entrust him or her into God's care.

In 2021 there were 164 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll. We celebrated four Baptisms and three weddings. Seventeen funerals were held in our two churches during the year; in addition, our parish clergy officiated at a further three funerals, either at a crematorium or at a cemetery.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, fully recognising its duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

The PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and works to provide a welcoming atmosphere and suitable facilities for all people. St Mary's, in particular, is available for wider community use and during the year is normally used by several groups unconnected with the church; further details of activities for the public benefit are given throughout this report.

3. Financial Review

3.1 Financial Summary

Because of the ongoing pandemic, 2021 was another unusual and difficult year. Overall income was similar to 2020, but expenditure was higher, largely due to planned survey work on a more environmental way to heat St Mary's and to roof maintenance works. As a result, 2021 was essentially a break-even year in cash terms, although the value of investments owned by the church increased by about 13%.

I am very grateful for the support I receive from Jenny Harden and Judith Pengilly: without their help and encouragement it would not be possible for me to look after our church finances.

3.2 Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the Wallingford PCC to maintain as a reserve approximately three months of general running costs (amounting to £30,000) plus a further amount as contingency for quinquennial and other works arising. The target level for this contingency is £90,000 giving a total target for reserves of £120,000.

3.3 Grant making policy

The total of donations made by the PCC, plus collections taken at special services (including Christmas, Easter, Harvest), should approach 10% of the PCC's unrestricted income. The management of this giving is delegated to the Social Responsibility Group. The current practice is to support at least one UK charity and one overseas charity. One of the charities must be Christian based. Collections for emergency disaster appeals and one-off charities are agreed by the PCC. Because of the pandemic, the number of special services was severely curtailed so it was impossible to adhere to this policy in 2021.

3.4 Stewardship

There was no stewardship campaign during the year and, due to the lack of services, no opportunity to present the church finances to the congregation as in normal years. It is hoped that these activities will be able to recommence soon.

*Stephen Harrison
PCC Treasurer*

4. Team Rector's Report

2020 had been a year in which we rapidly learned new skills to respond to the pandemic. 2021 has been a year in which we have had to apply those skills in a very flexible way. We ended 2020 being able to hold some services with a booking system but rapidly went into Covid-19 Tier 4 and then another complete lockdown at the very start of 2021. It wasn't until Easter Day that we were able to hold public services once more. This ebbing and flowing seems to have set a pattern for the year. As the year progressed, however, the range of services we were able to offer increased. It was good to welcome back to church a growing number of people. This gradual return, however, was threatened again with the highly contagious omicron variant and was certainly a shadow over our Christmas services. The progress of the pandemic has once again certainly been a major influence on church life this year.

Despite all the stops and starts of the year, it has been possible to offer worship each Sunday. I would like to thank all who have made this possible whether your help has been in church or enabling the live streamed services. As always this has involved a large number of people – from those who helped to keep our churches Covid-secure to those who have filmed services for the live stream. Thank you.

There have also been a number of comings and goings with people. At the start of the year, we welcomed Gavin Collins as our new Bishop of Dorchester. In the course of the year, he came to lead one of our Deanery Pilgrimages and also led a Team Service for us in St Mary's. We look forward to welcoming him on future occasions.

At our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) we thanked Richard Carling for the time he served as our churchwarden. As we thanked Richard, we welcomed Jacquie Hughes as our new churchwarden. I would like particularly to thank Richard, Emma Cross and Jacquie along with Wendy Muggerridge for all they have done this year to help navigate us through the various Covid-19 restrictions. Each of them has given incredibly generously of their time and skills. Thank you from all of us.

At the APCM we also appointed Sally Eccleston to the important role of Parish Safeguarding Officer in succession to Jacqui Norbury.

In the summer we were sad to say farewell to Henry Hope who had been a student on placement with us from Ripon College Cuddesdon, training for ordination. He is now a Curate at Hexham Abbey. As he was with us for some months, we had a good opportunity to get to know him. In particular I know that many of you were inspired by the Lent series he arranged.

The Lent series was part of the work of our Worship and Spirituality group. This is one of a number of groups set up by the PCC to develop the life of our church. Later in the report you will find reports from each of them. The work of these groups has certainly been influenced this year by the events of the pandemic and it has been difficult to develop their long-term plans. We have needed to use these groups to make plans on a much more short-term basis.

In common with other churches and groups it has at times been difficult to keep in touch with children and young people when this was largely only possible via digital means. When schools were closed, lessons went online and young people spent many hours doing this, so further time on the screen was not an attractive proposition. I am very grateful for Hannah Smith's imaginative work. With the support of Jennie Bispham, we have continued to send out 'craft packages' (to tie in with the Family Service theme) each month to families. These have been well received and have been a good way of keeping in touch with families. Additionally, there was a weekly letter to families, and online activities.

A real highlight of our work with families was the Wildlife Discovery Event in St Leonard's churchyard. It was wonderful to see so many young people discovering the beautiful space around St Leonard's and the natural habitat there. The event obviously links with our eco church work and was done in partnership with the Wallingford Wildlife group.

As the year progressed it was possible to reopen our Tiny Toes group and the Baby Singing group. Initially this had to be done in a limited way but both are growing rapidly and show a real need which we can play a part in meeting.

Unfortunately, it was not so easy to maintain visits to Residential homes during the year. This only became possible again late in the year. Even then, for example, all our Christmas visits by the choir were cancelled. It was possible, however, to keep some 'digital contact'. Our live-streamed Carols from St Mary's were well received at the homes and also the Community Hospital. Some residents watch the live-streamed services. Personal contact remains hugely important and I hope this will increase in 2022.

A real highlight in 2021 was the October Sunday when we had a focus on music. Each of the services had a strong musical element. The morning service included music newly composed by Judith Ward, our Director of Music. In the evening there was a Songs of Praise service with an opportunity to introduce and sing favourite hymns. After such a long time during which music was so limited it was a joyous occasion with real signs of new life. I am grateful to Judith and the choir for the lengths to which they went in order to make it such a wonderful Sunday, and throughout the year. There were many signs of new life that day and 2021 has been very much about encouraging those signs of growth as the pandemic had progressed.

This is by no means a complete account of the life of our parish but presents both some highlights over the past year and also some of the challenges we face as we seek to live out our faith and share it with those around us. In conclusion, my thanks to all who have contributed so generously (both in terms of time and resources) to the life of our parish. This includes all our church officers and those who do so much in less visible ways. Each of you plays an important part in making possible all that we are and do. Thank you.

*The Revd David Rice
Team Rector*

5. PCC Vision Groups & Sub Committees

5.1 Worship & Spirituality Group

Back in 2019/ start of 2020 we began a process of re- thinking the priorities for this group through our use of the Parish Planning Tool. This tool has been developed by the Diocese of Oxford and is based on appreciative inquiry. i.e. it tries to discern what is positive and characteristic of a parish and discover how these strengths might be developed. Here is how it is described;

Local churches aren't a problem that needs fixing. The new Parish Planning Tool, developed by the Diocese of Oxford, helps people to focus on the positive core that's there in every church, discern where God is already at work in their community, and discover how they can best join in.

This has led us to think more carefully about the purpose of the group and where we might best place our energy. In the light of this we have defined our task as to develop:

A church that equips us in our walk with God to cherish ourselves, our community and the world.

This process was interrupted early in 2020 by the pandemic but we began 2021 hoping that we might return to this longer-term process and set ourselves some appropriate priorities. Unfortunately, plans changed with a further period of lockdown. In the light of this, much of the group's work in the early part of the year focussed on our provision for Lent in the light of rapidly changing circumstances. An outcome of this is that Prayer with the Heart has continued online throughout the year.

The Diocese produced an initiative for Lent called '**Come and See**' which was devised in particular to meet the needs of 'enquirers' who had emerged during lockdown. We looked at this very carefully. We decided to make this available but use it as an 'umbrella' and expand it with our own plans for Lent. So, we offered our Lent series (developed by Henry Hope) called '*Exploring Faith: Following Jesus*', along with a series within 'Prayer with the Heart' based on the Lord's Prayer. The local initiatives were much appreciated and I am very grateful for all who contributed to making them so rich.

Much of the remaining part of the year was then taken up planning worship to meet the needs of the varying circumstances of the pandemic. In particular a huge amount of effort has been expended to enable physical worship to take place again e.g. Evensong. Given the complex Covid-19 restrictions this was an involved process but by the end of the year basically all services were restored with both the 10 am Eucharist and Evensong services live streamed.

I would like to record my thanks to all who were members of the group in the course of the year and all who have supported the work of the group.

The following table explains our service provision:

St Leonard's	Every Sunday	08:00	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
		18:30	Sung Evensong (Book of Common Prayer); approximately once a month Choral Evensong replaces Sung Evensong
St Mary's	2 nd Sunday	10:00	Family Service
		11:15	Said Communion (Common Worship)
	Every other Sunday	10:00	Parish Communion (Common Worship) with Children's Church JAM (Jesus & Me)
	Every morning (Mon - Fri)	08:30	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)
	Every Wednesday	20:00	Prayer with the Heart on Zoom
	Every Thursday	11:00	Holy Communion (Common Worship)

*The Revd David Rice
Team Rector*

5.2 Outreach & Nurture Group

5.2.1 Outreach & Nurture Group - General

In common with the Worship and Spirituality group (see above for fuller details), we have been using the Parish Planning Tool since 2019/2020. Our use of the tool has been similarly delayed by the varying effects of the pandemic.

An ongoing part of the work of the group has been communication, which has been so important during the pandemic e.g. the Weekly News sheet, distribution of Palm Crosses with an Easter message across the parish. In addition to this ongoing work the early part of the year saw some overlap with the Worship and Spirituality group in putting together our '**Come and See**' initiative.

In the later part of the year, we made plans for Advent and Christmas. For example, this year it was possible to return the Tree of Remembering to the Chancel of St Mary's and this was used by a large number of people. Additionally, we offered the online Advent calendars.

At the end of the year and start of the new, we returned to our use of the Parish Planning Tool and are working on this key question:

To discover how we might make ourselves more open and accessible to those who are seeking a greater understanding of God.

We have now developed four priorities as follows:

1. Review and develop the provision of a Bible study/prayer group across all ages and needs; this to be either/or/both online and in-person
2. Review provision of activities or events for older children/teenagers
3. Plan & develop a regular pattern of events to welcome newcomers
4. Develop a regular pattern of activities linked with town and community events e.g. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, Bunkfest.

We are now in the process of planning to meet these priorities.

I would like to record my thanks to members of the group and also, on behalf of the group, thanks to those beyond the group who support this vital aspect of our life.

*The Revd David Rice
Team Rector*

5.2.2 Children and Families

The last year has seen cautious steps towards the return of some more of our pre-covid provisions, as well as the continuation of some initiatives that began during the pandemic.

Our monthly Family Services have returned on the second Sunday of the month. In advance of each of these services, craft packs have been circulated to church families on the chosen theme. We have also invited our wider church family to these events: we have circulated invitations on social media, through our links with schools and through our outreach activities such as Tiny Toes Toddlers. We have included related activities with our invitations to schools and have led themed crafts in our Tiny Toes Toddler sessions to encourage these groups to attend. Nevertheless, attendance at these services has not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels.



On other Sundays, our previously online family session slowly returned to in-person, Jesus and Me (or JAM), held in the Tower Room. This group is preceded with candle lighting in church and is concluded with the children receiving a blessing and, where possible, showing their crafts. JAM sessions follow the same theme as the main service, making it accessible and fun for all ages. Some highlights have included fishing games, while discussing the meaning of 'fishers of men', spreading encouragement to others through rock painting and making paper aeroplanes to spread the message of the gospel.



We have enjoyed reaching out to our local community. We offer Baby Singing on a Tuesday morning and Tiny Toes Toddlers on a Wednesday morning: these are both groups aimed at nurturing young children and supporting their parents or carers. These groups are both very popular and we have received good feedback about these activities from those attending.

We have also had four themed trails this year: Easter trail, Nature trail, Light Trail and Advent trail. These have been popular events that have reached out to the local community, with invitations shared on social media, through schools and the toddler group. We have seen new faces engaging with our church through these provisions. We have also tried some new all-age initiatives, to support our building of community; on Mothering Sunday, we shared our love with the congregation through the



making and distribution of paper flowers and on Shrove Tuesday, we had an all-age online pancake party. The Christmas season at St Mary's saw themed JAM and Tiny Toes sessions, a Christingle Service, an Advent Trail with Craft session and our two Crib Services.

We have created two new leaflets: one on Baptism and the other on Children and Families work, to inform and encourage new families to take up these activities. The leaflets were given out at the Crib services, family services and outreach events including Tiny Toes; they were also made available for anyone coming into the church.

Networking with other children's workers and the diocesan children's team has been a great way of sharing ideas and developing current provisions. This network has also led to training on BeSpace prayer spaces in schools: an offer that we hope to develop in the future. Our weekly families' newsletter has continued to help us to keep people updated with any new initiatives, events and changes over the year.

Challenges this year have included Covid-19 and subsequent limited access to schools. We are still working on setting up Open the Book in schools. We are also challenged by the continued need for more volunteers in this area. Despite these challenges, we have seen some positive signs of families returning to church. We look forward to continuing to develop and grow our work in this area.

Thank you to everyone who support our children and families at St Mary's.

*Hannah Smith
Children & Families Worker*

5.3 Social Responsibility Group

The Social Responsibility Group aims to raise awareness of social and justice concerns of the wider world locally, nationally and globally, linking this with our charitable giving.

The PCC endorsed our commitment to support one local charity (Refugee Resource) and one overseas charity (The Sharp Memorial School for the Blind, India) and £1,250 was given to each charity from Parish funds. A long-term relationship helps strengthen our links and understanding of the charities' work. We receive regular updates from the Sharp Memorial School via a member of the congregation who used to work there; Refugee Resource also send us regular newsletters. We hope to visit their headquarters in Oxford during 2022.

For most of the year there were no special collections due to Covid-19 restrictions. This has meant, for the second year running, that the PCC has been unable to meet its former target that charitable giving should match 10% of the Parish unrestricted income. However, from October onwards special collections were held in support of Style Acre, Cruse, The Children's Society, PACT (Parents and Children Together) and UNHCR (The UN Refugee Agency). Also, the Group through the medium of The Rector's weekly 'Keeping in Touch' emails highlighted the following charities: Fair Trade, Children on the Edge, British Red Cross, and the Halo Trust encouraging parishioners to contribute direct. Christian Aid was the focus of the Lent Appeal and during Christian Aid Week and speakers were invited to St. Mary's and St. Leonard's. Another speaker was the Revd. Helen Dearnley, HM Prison and Probation Service Anglican Advisor, who gave a very informative talk about prisons and the issues of prison life.

Philippa Bomford

5.4 Standing Committee

5.4.1 Fabric

5.4.1.1 General

A number of outstanding maintenance, repairs and minor works were carried out on both churches, including roofs and gutters and some internal decorating in St Mary's. Both boilers were serviced and regular roof maintenance carried out.

Six-monthly checks of the emergency lighting and the fire alarm took place in St Mary's; fire extinguishers at both churches were checked and the annual PAT testing carried out.

The five yearly electrical inspections (EICR) were carried out in both churches and identified some remedial actions, which have been dealt with.

Our finances were carefully monitored throughout the year, particularly in relation to the impact of Covid-19.

We are very grateful to all our volunteers who keep the interior of the two churches looking clean and welcoming, as well as to volunteers and The Green Gym who help maintain our churchyards and to the Town Council gardening staff who keep the main grass areas tidy.

5.4.1.2 Quinquennial Inspections

Under the provisions of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018, all parish churches must be inspected at least once in any five-year period; this is termed a quinquennial inspection (QI) and it must be carried out by a suitably qualified and experienced professional. In the middle of 2021, the Standing Committee went through a very thorough Invitation To Tender process to select an architect to carry out this work. This resulted in the appointment of Henry Sanders of Hestia Architects and the inspections were duly carried out in the autumn of 2021. These reports list remedial work with a priority ranking; as both our churches are old and historic Grade II* buildings, there is always a list of jobs to be done as a result of these inspections. Due to illness of the architect, the publication of the reports for the two churches was delayed at the end of 2021.

5.4.1.3 St Mary's Boiler

The boiler at St Mary's is approximately 18 years old and is therefore coming to the end of its life. Following advice from the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC), an Invitation to Tender process was followed to appoint a Building Services Engineer to carry out an investigation and identify a suitable replacement. Environmental Engineering Partnership was duly appointed and a report delivered in the summer with conclusions and recommendations. Environmentally-friendly options were investigated but unfortunately all were ruled out, mainly due to the position of the church within the town and the confined space surrounding the church. A way forward is being discussed with the DAC and this will be progressed in due course.

5.4.2 Health & Safety (H & S)

The H & S Policy was significantly refreshed and a H & S action plan created. Weekly checks continued throughout the year; these cover floors, stairs, carpets - looking for anything in poor condition, trip hazards etc. A more detailed check takes place once a month to include fire extinguishers and paths and steps outside. Every three months a general check of the whole of both building takes place, including all plugs and sockets, as well as a review of the accident book. A number of actions have been taken where a risk was identified; these included a thorough cleaning of the paths in St Mary's churchyard and white tape, replacing the black tape, being applied to the dais at St Mary's and also to the chancel steps in St Leonard's. A fire evacuation drill was carried out at the end of a Sunday Parish Communion in St Mary's in the autumn.

A H & S concern occurred with the chancel arch above the rood screen, where loose plaster had appeared at the top of the arch. Immediate measures were taken to isolate the area and this issue is being monitored.

Our thanks to Charlie Hughes who carries out many of the regular health and safety checks.

Wendy Muggerridge
PCC Secretary

5.5 Choir Committee

After some welcome live singing over Christmas, the lockdown at the start of 2021 forced the choir back on Zoom. The juniors in particular found this hard, but those adults and children who attended enjoyed a bit of a sing and a chat at the end of the week, and even learned some new music. The adult sessions were improved by Helen Swan's discovery of the JamKazam app which enabled a small group of singers to be heard together with minimal delay, when the technology worked...

With no singers allowed in church, we were back to recording hymns for services. However, the experience of the previous year gave us a head start, with some hymns already recorded. More singers came forward to record and have a go at mixing, so there was a lot of singing and many hours of music editing going on in homes across Wallingford! Over the course of the pandemic we have built up an impressive collection of 71 beautifully varied hymns. In this lockdown, we also recorded seven anthems, the highlight of which was "Hallelujah" from the *Messiah* with organ accompaniment by Gaby Clements and a wonderful video by Helen Swan.

Finally, government guidelines at the end of March allowed us to have small groups of singers at services on a rota basis. We were delighted to get back all together for rehearsals on 23rd April and felt fortunate that preparing music for worship enabled us to do so. However, the day after all other amateur arts and sports activities were back in May came the news that choirs were limited to six singers indoors. While the juniors could continue meeting, the adults got around this by a mix of outdoor rehearsals (many thanks to Anna and Olly Garland and David Rice for the use of their gardens!) and streaming a church rehearsal with six adults in church to everyone else on Zoom.

Streaming outdoor rehearsals as well enabled guests from elsewhere to join us as we prepared for our weekend at Norwich Cathedral. We were very fortunate to be accompanied by James Anderson-Besant who, as a young organist in Benson, had played for the choir at Windsor, and was now about to take up the post of Assistant at Exeter Cathedral. We were the first visiting choir to sing in Norwich Cathedral since the start of the pandemic and our visit memorably coincided with the residence of the Natural History museum's Dippy the diplodocus skeleton!

September brought the welcome return of evensong to St Leonard's. At our first choral evensong in 18 months we sang Stanford in C and Chilcott's *Be thou my vision*, accompanied by Gaby Clements.



The choir rehearsing at Norwich Cathedral

Zoom rehearsals had featured choir members talking about their favourite hymns, which we would all then sing. The Songs of Praise in October brought this to the whole congregation and included Boyce's *Te Deum* to celebrate being able to sing again. Thanks to Roger Morgan and Anna Garland for their ideas. On the same day, the choir premiered *Go before us, Lord* which was commissioned by Emma Cross in memory of her late father.

With careful spacing and some mask-wearing, we were able to sing a full Advent Carol Service and a full Nine Lesson and Carols service this year, as well as sing at the Saturday morning market and the Churches Together outdoor carol services. Our planned visits to care homes were cancelled, but we sang from St Mary's again and streamed carols via the church's YouTube channel. The choir is not quite back to full strength, as a range of needs keeps some people away from some situations, but their strong family spirit, adaptability, musical talent, and technological ingenuity have kept the music going.

Judith Ward
Director of Music

5.6 Communication Group

During 2021, the weekly 'Keeping in Touch' email was renamed to 'Weekly News', with a slight change of format, and is now distributed to over 230 email addresses every week. A handful of paper copies are available at both churches for those who do not have access to email.

Live-streaming of the 10:00 Parish Communion at St Mary's continued throughout the year, even during the lockdown in the first three months of 2021. We applied for a grant from Oxford Diocese in the spring and were successful in receiving some money, which along with some donations, enabled us to buy some kit and upgrade the sound system at St Leonard's so that we could live-stream Evensong; this we streamed for the first time in October 2021. Along with the Parish Communion and Evensong, we also livestreamed several funerals, which were watched by people from across the world who couldn't travel to the funeral itself.

We were also asked to run zoom sessions for U3A monthly meetings and a TWHAS (The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society) meeting, thus allowing people at home to join the presentation being held in St Mary's.

Huge thanks to those who volunteered to help with the livestreaming, without whom it would not be possible.

The website was modified throughout the year as the Covid-19 situation and regulations changed and special pages were created for Advent & Christmas. Our social media platforms (Facebook and Twitter) continue to be used to communicate latest news and promote special services and events and the TV screen near the door in St Mary's continues to show visitors and congregation alike a glimpse at our services and activities.

*Wendy L Muggeridge
PCC Secretary*

6. Cherishing God's Earth

We have supported the work of the Standing Committee with investigating and identifying a suitable replacement for the gas boiler at St Mary's. This is important to our Cherishing God's earth mission as we want to cut our carbon footprint and to do our bit to support the Church of England reach its 'net zero carbon' target by 2030. Further information relating to this project and its next steps are found in the Standing Committee report.

In June, we jointly hosted a Wildlife discovery event for children and families at St Leonard's church with the Wallingford Wildlife Group. This was in support of the Churches Count on Nature week. Around 40 children attended this event. Each child left with a big smile and a real eagerness to share something they had learnt on being handed their certificate! It was great to work with the Wallingford Wildlife Group for the first time too. I am grateful to Hannah Smith, the Wallingford Wildlife Group and our own volunteers who gave up their time to outreach into our community in a new and different way.



In the run-up to COP26, we took part in the Great Big Green Week in September by being present in the Market Place as part of a wider community event. We also participated in the Climate Sunday initiative. We welcomed Martin Hodson who preached at our Parish Communion on the science of climate change and the urgent need for all to take action. I then preached at Evensong on the theology of creation care and the actions we could consider taking leading up to COP26. I would like to thank David Rice for giving me this opportunity and for his continued support to 'Cherishing God's Earth'.

*Emma Cross
Churchwarden*

7. Plans for the Future

Our main aims for 2022 and beyond include the following:

- **Lent** – the theme for the Lent groups in 2022 will be Christian pilgrimage.
- **Children & Families** – we are hoping to launch the Open the Book initiative and develop BeSpace prayer spaces at our local schools.
- **Children & Families** – more trails are planned for 2022, including a Nature Trail, working with the Wallingford Wildlife Group under our Cherishing God's Earth umbrella
- **The Social Responsibility Group** hope to visit the headquarters of Refugee Resource in Oxford.

- **Gas boiler project** – The investigation into a replacement boiler at St Mary’s will be pursued by the Standing Committee with assistance from the DAC.
- **QI (Quinquennial Inspection) reports** – the reports, from the inspections of both churches, will be received in early 2022 and a programme of works will be created to manage the actions arising from them by the Standing Committee.
- **Choir Tour** – as in previous summers, the choir will be visiting a cathedral while the resident choir take a summer break. During August, they will be at Durham Cathedral for a week to sing Evensong most evenings and Eucharist on Sunday morning.
- **Communication** – all the services that we have live-streamed to date live on our YouTube channel. They are numerous now and so we will be implementing some changes to structure the videos into ‘playlists’ so that, when visiting the channel, people can more easily find what they’re looking for.
- **Communication** – we plan to create some videos which newcomers, or those new to Christianity, can watch to give them a better insight into what to expect at our church. For example “What is the difference between Evensong and Choral Evensong?”, “What happens at a Eucharist service?” or “What do the children do in JAM?”
- **Parish Planning Tool** - We look forward in 2022 to returning to our use of the Parish Planning Tool to develop the long-term aim of the Worship & Spirituality Group.
- **Parish Planning Tool** – The Outreach & Nurture Group will develop a plan to implement the actions generated from our use of the Parish Planning Tool.
- One action resulting from the use of this tool in the Outreach & Nurture Group is to hold a Newcomers’ Afternoon Tea to welcome new residents, This is targeted for the first quarter of 2022. We are hoping this will help them both to feel part of our community and also to integrate and build relationships.
- **Churchyards** – We are planning to explore how we can work with our wider community and organisations in caring and nurturing our churchyards as part of our Cherishing God’s Earth mission. We will also consider how we might use our churchyards for outside worship and teaching.
- **Going for Gold with our Eco Church Award** – We will be creating an action plan through our PCC subgroups to help us to continue our response to ‘Cherishing God’s Earth’ and to create our pathway to ‘going for gold’.
- Oxford Diocese is to set up a **Greenshoots Network** to connect those keen to take environmental action in their churches and communities. We will be part of this group to help us build a more environmentally sustainable church.

8. Administrative Information

The parish of St Mary-le-More and St Leonard is situated in Wallingford, Oxfordshire. The churches are, together with those in Crowmarsh Gifford and Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, part of the benefice of Wallingford, which is within the Wallingford Deanery in the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England. Wallingford PCC registered as a charity on 21 April 2009. The details are:

<u>Charity Name</u> :	The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary-le-more and All Hallows with St Leonard & St Peter, Wallingford
<u>Noted Working Name</u> :	Wallingford Parochial Church Council
<u>Registered Charity No.:</u>	1129240
<u>Charity Address</u> :	The Rectory, 22 Castle Street, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 8DW
<u>Bankers</u> :	Lloyds plc. 4 Market Place, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 0EH
<u>Independent Examiner</u> :	Caroline Webster. UHY Ross Brooke Suite I, Windrush Court, Abingdon Business Park. OX14 1SY

Wallingford PCC is governed by the Church Representation Rules. PCC members are Trustees of the charity.

Trustees of the charity (PCC members) who have served at any time from 1st January 2020 until the date this report was approved are:

Name	Office	Elected
The Revd David Rice	Team rector	<i>ex officio</i>
Richard Carling	<i>Churchwarden; stood down at APCM on 23/5/2021</i>	<i>ex officio</i>

Emma Cross	Churchwarden & Deanery Synod representative	<i>ex officio</i>
Jacquie Hughes	Churchwarden	<i>ex officio</i>
Stephen Harrison	PCC Treasurer	2020
Wendy Muggeridge	PCC Secretary & Deanery Synod representative	<i>ex officio</i>
Prof Amy Smith	Deanery Synod representative	<i>ex officio</i>
Gavin Wood	Licensed Lay Minister	<i>ex officio</i>
Prof Helen King	General Synod representative	<i>ex officio</i>
Marie Amey		2021
Philippa Bomford		2021
Charlie Brampton		2020
Amanda Simons		2020
Hannah Smith		2021
Helen Swan		2020
Jane Tuckett		2019
Luke Whitcomb		2021
Jan Ridley	<i>Resigned 29th June 2021</i>	2019

Election to the PCC is for a three-year term, although immediate re-election is possible. We are permitted 12 lay members on the PCC, governed by the number of people on the Electoral Roll. There are four vacancies.

Churchwardens are elected annually and serve for a maximum of six consecutive years. Re-election is possible after at least one year's break.

Deanery Synod representatives are elected every three years, according to a schedule set by the Diocese of Oxford and governed by the number of people on the electoral roll. Three representatives were elected at the APCM on 4th October 2020, these being Emma Cross, Wendy Muggeridge and Professor Amy Smith. The next date for elections will be at the APCM in 2023.

9. Structure, Governance & Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. Membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (Team Rector), two Churchwardens, three Deanery Synod members plus lay members elected by those who are on the Electoral Roll of the church. All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The members of Wallingford PCC are trustees of the charity and, as such, responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish as well as managing the parish's finances. The PCC met four times during 2020, via zoom videoconferencing. Given its wide responsibilities, the PCC has a number of committees and groups, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These committees and groups are all responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly with recommendations of their decisions when appropriate, for approval by the PCC.

10. Wallingford Team Ministry



The parish of Wallingford is part of the Wallingford Team Ministry, along with the parishes of Crowmarsh Gifford and Brightwell-cum-Sotwell. The Team Rector is the Reverend David Rice and the Team Vicar is the Reverend Kevin Beer. The Team Rector's focus is mainly in Wallingford, whilst the Team Vicar focuses on Crowmarsh Gifford and Brightwell-cum-Sotwell; the aim is that once a month they officiate in the other parishes.

The parish representatives of the Team Council are lay members of their PCCs and are elected at the first PCC meeting following the APCM. Licensed Lay Ministers are also entitled to be members of the Team Council. Membership of the Team Council during

2021 included the two clergy, Revd. David Rice and Revd. Kevin Beer, as well as the following lay members from each of the three parishes: Richard Carling (Wallingford, until May 2021), Emma Cross (Wallingford), Margot Shawyer, Michael Drury and Andy Lewis (Brightwell-cum-Sotwell) and Margaret Foster, Eva Thompson and Linda Parker (Crowmarsh Gifford). In addition, the PCC Treasurers of the three parishes were invited to the meeting in November 2021 to discuss the Parish Share: Stephen Harrison (Wallingford), Robin Shawyer and John Dowling (Brightwell-cum-Sotwell) and Frank Sadler (Crowmarsh Gifford).

The Team Council discusses and acts upon matters of general interest to the three parishes and also any specific matter that might be delegated to it by the Parochial Church Councils. There were three Team Council Meetings in 2021.

26th January 2021 – [Zoom Meeting]

David welcomed Revd Henry Hope – a Student from Cuddesdon College.

Special prayers were said to mark the passing of over 100,000 people to the Covid-19 virus, and for all those who mourned them. It was noted that there had not been a Churchwarden meeting for a long time due to Lockdown restrictions. It was found that most people had adapted rather well and understood about the different services and times, and were glad that the church had found a way of taking the service to the people via Zoom – but that there was a general feeling of weariness now. There was an issue with the fact that some people were not able to access services due to lack of media facilities or capabilities, and were not being informed as to what was available. Parish Networkers had been keeping up their contacts, and were able to fill in some gaps, and Parish magazines were still being distributed round the Villages.

We all watched Bishop Steven's video 'Come and See', a course to be followed during the Lenten Season. The theme had been suggested by the fact that, during the pandemic, 1 in 5 people who logged onto services were not regular worshippers. Discussion followed as to the merits of the video, and we were told that there was a whole range of other things on offer for children and young people. The following Team Service was agreed:

17th February 2021 11.00am Ash Wednesday - A Communion, Live Streamed from St Mary Magdalene

Other services such as Churches Together for Good Friday, and Easter Weekend will have to be planned later, as we need flexibility regarding the Covid-19 situation.

27th April 2021 – [Zoom Meeting]

We were advised that the latest dates for the APCMs to be held was 31st July 2021, and the following dates were given;

Wallingford Parish	23 rd May 2021
Brightwell cum Sotwell Parish	25 th July 2021
Crowmarsh Gifford Parish	Still to be decided (probably last Sunday in May)

We were advised that Richard would be standing down, but a candidate was waiting in the wings – Brightwell and Crowmarsh did not have any candidates waiting in the wings.

Margot stated that services were now being held in church with Live Streaming on alternate Sundays with Crowmarsh and it appeared to be going well.

Margaret agreed with Margo's statement, and that Crowmarsh folk were enjoying the return, albeit in a structured form.

Richard said that Livestreaming would continue, and that St Leonard's would be reopening soon. Children's church had restarted, and St Mary's would be open soon for Private Prayer. The Wallingford Churchwardens were in the process of taking over from Mavis Bolton on buildings and churchyards, as she is standing down after many years' work.

David thanked the Churchwardens for all their hard work over the course of the Pandemic.

There was a review of the "Come and See" provision; it had been good to see people from all three parishes joining together. The Bible Studies from Henry Hope were much appreciated, and had been well prepared, and the whole had been a good opportunity to meet with others.

Prayer with the Heart proved to be a good initiative. The "Come and See" course had not been joined up on social media, so there was no feedback from participants or organisers.

Bishop Steven's "Come and See" reflections relayed during Sunday Morning Services were good.

The following Team Services were agreed:

Ascension Day 13 th May	11.00am Thursday Morning Said Holy Communion - St Mary Le More, Wallingford
	7.30pm Team Service. St Agatha's, Brightwell.
Pentecost	4.30pm Evening Prayer, St Mary's, Newnham Murren.

Social Event/Deanery Pilgrimages

10.00am Team Service with Bishop Gavin. St Mary Le More.

This will be followed by a Bring and Share Lunch – possibly with a short walk in the afternoon, but at the development stage at the moment.

Emma proposed a vote of thanks to David and Kevin for all they had done during the pandemic which was heartily endorsed by those present.

16th November 2021 - [Zoom Meeting]

This meeting was to decide the apportionment of the Parish Share. David advised that the Deanery had followed the Diocesan formula for the last two years and had done so again this year. Kevin had on inspection of the spreadsheets from the Deanery Treasurer found that the Electoral Roll figures were incorrect for Wallingford and Brightwell and so the share figures were slightly different now after recalculation, to those from the Deanery Treasurer.

The revised figures are as follows:-

Brightwell cum Sotwell	£ 32,579	24.97%
Crowmarsh Gifford	£ 29,247	22.42%
Wallingford	£ 68,630	52.61%
	£130,456	100%

Frank and Stephen agreed with the recalculated figures, and Margot was happy with the adjustment to the Electoral Roll and Share. Frank said that it was right and fair to follow the formula, but that Crowmarsh will probably need help again this year, as Crowmarsh had already transferred from their Reserves, and will probably end the year with £4,500 in the bank. Kevin noted that the gas supplier had been changed, but that already this year charges had increased three times recently. David noted that the Deanery was aware of the stress and strain put upon Parishes to pay the Share; the Diocese is also aware of how money is apportioned. David asked if the subsidies paid to Crowmarsh by Brightwell and Wallingford are realistic for the year. Margot replied that it would have to go to the PCC but thought it would be a positive result, and Stephen agreed with her comments; Frank gave his thanks.

David stated that with great caution we would pay the tweaked sums, but that we should let the Deanery Treasurer know as soon as possible if difficulties are foreseen. Covid-19 had highlighted cash flow problems. David said huge thanks were due to Stephen, Robin/John and Frank for all their hard work, especially in this last difficult year.

Future Events

Team /Services 2021

21 st November	Team Service	09.30am	St Agatha's
26 th December	Boxing Day	11.00am	St Mary Magdalene

Team Services 2022

16 th January	Team Service	10.00am	St Mary's
2 nd March	Ash Wednesday	8.00pm	St Leonard's
16 th April	Easter Eve	8.00pm	St Mary Magdalene
22 nd May	Rogation Sunday	Kevin to arrange	
26 th May	Ascension Day	7.30pm	St Agatha's
4/5 th June	Jubilee Weekend		
19 th June	Team Service	9.30am	St Agatha's
20 th November	Christ The King	11.00am	St May Magdalene

- Social Events were again up and running with the Community Café in Crowmarsh now open; Margot reported a good fundraising event during the summer with a change of location to the churchyard, mixed reaction to this setting.
- Emma reported that the re-gathering was going well with new faces in the congregation at Evensong; Children/Family Service/Tiny Toes/Lettings all going well, and the Saturday Coffee morning is also back.
- Kevin advised not to leave Sanitiser out in unsupervised areas, as it is an accelerant and so easy to start a fire.
- David said that Covid-19 had left its mark, we're only about 80% of what we were, and it has impacted more in towns than in the rural communities.
- Kevin reported – Bell ringing with Brightwell and Wallingford forming good Teams, creating good practise, good activity, good model of Team.

Margaret Foster, Temporary Team Council Secretary

11. Wallingford Deanery Synod

Three lay members of the Wallingford PCC sit on the Deanery Synod. The Deanery Synod provides PCCs with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church. The Revd. David Rice is the Area Dean for the Wallingford Deanery, which includes St Peter's Didcot, All Saints' and Ladygrove Didcot, Great Western Park, Harwell, Chilton, Cholsey, Moulsoford, Hagbourne, Blewbury, Upton, South & North Moreton, Aston Tirrold & Aston Upthorpe, Wallingford, Crowmarsh Gifford and Brightwell-cum-Sotwell.

Meetings of the Deanery Synod in 2021 were once again impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Consequently, only two Deanery Synod meetings were held and four meetings of the Deanery Synod Standing Committee. In addition, a 24-hour deanery conference was held to progress the Mission Action Plan (MAP).

The first Deanery Synod meeting in March 2021, held via Zoom, focused on 'unlocking' children, youth and family ministry'. The guest speaker was Yvonne Morris, who has worked for many years as the Diocesan Children and Family Ministry Advisor. She spoke about the report "Disciples Together" which was published in 2020 by Oxford Diocese.

The purpose of the conference, which was held in October 2020, was to bring together a number of clergy and lay people across the deanery to work out how to move the MAP forward. The MAP, which had been approved at the end of 2019 by the Dorchester Mission and Pastoral committee, has four key focus areas:

1. **Development of ministry to children, young people & families**
2. **Developing our outreach to new & settled communities**
3. **Development of appropriate patterns of worship**
4. **Development of the Ministry in the Greater Didcot Garden Town area, both financially & structurally,**

There were a number of key speakers at the conference, including Bishop Gavin and Associate Archdeacon David Tyler as well as Yvonne Morris and Revd. Charles Chadwick, Parish Development Adviser. In addition to further exploring the MAP, we spent some time thinking about the future of the deanery and its sustainability. Some key points emerged from the conference, these being: relationship building, networking (cross-fertilisation of ideas, sharing experiences, working together), welcoming, hospitality, follow-through and the fact that parish boundaries are not important to people, especially the young.

There was a great deal of talk and support for online church, not just to deliver services to those at home but also for meetings, house groups, Bible and Alpha courses, prayer meetings etc. However it was felt there was a general problem getting children and teenagers back. And it was felt that children's ministry had been hard-hit since the start of the Covid-19 situation.

The conference was generally seen as refreshing and stimulating and the chance for clergy and lay reps from all over the deanery to meet and reflect on the shared nature of mission was very valuable. It highlighted the benefit of exchanging ideas and identified how collaboration and networking within the deanery structure would support and facilitate this.

One initiative emerging from the MAP was the creation of a programme of Pilgrim Path walks across the deanery, to link parishes and benefices. This initiative had been started in 2020 but the walks were unable to go ahead as planned due to Covid-19. Fortunately, we were able to hold two of these walks in 2021, the first being between Wallingford and Cholsey, attended by Bishop Gavin, and the other being at Blewbury, visiting Churn Hill, where St Birinus preached to the local tribes c. 634AD. It is anticipated that a full programme of walks will be launched in 2022.

The Deanery Synod meeting in November 2021, held 'in-person' at All Saints' Didcot, focused on developing the next steps of the MAP. Each of the four focus areas now has a 'champion' who will help to drive it forward. These are:

- 1) **Development of Ministry to Children, Young People and Families;** *Revd Kevin Beer, Vicar of Crowmarsh Gifford and Brightwell cum Sotwell*
- 2) **Development of Appropriate Patterns of Worship;** *Revd David Rice, Rector of Wallingford & Wallingford Area Dean*
- 3) **Developing our Outreach to New and Settled Communities;** *Revd Mark Bodeker, Vicar at GWP*
- 4) **Development of Ministry in the Greater Didcot Garden Town area, both financially and structurally;** *Revd Dr Andy Lord, Vicar of All Saints' Didcot and also Bishop's Adviser on Mission to the Designated Didcot Garden Town,*

Finally, the Parish Share for 2022 was negotiated; this highlighted that some parishes are struggling financially. For some parishes this is an ongoing problem, for others it is a direct result of the pandemic. A working party has been set up to look at Parish Share.

*Wendy L Muggeridge
Wallingford Deanery Synod Secretary*

12. Annual Financial Statements

Wallingford Parochial Church Council
Registered Charity Number 1129240
ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 December 2021

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2021 total funds	2020 total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from: (Note 2)					
Donations and legacies	126,126.26			126,126.26	129,067.89
Charitable activities	10,001.00			10,001.00	8,002.26
Other trading activities	5,364.03			5,364.03	3,274.14
Investments	4,658.73			4,658.73	4,800.52
Other incoming resources					
Total income	146,150.02			146,150.02	145,144.81
Expenditure on: (Note 3)					
Raising funds	16.70			16.70	2,331.54
Charitable activities	145,802.14	3,345.69		149,147.83	127,751.67
Total expenditure	145,818.84	3,345.69		149,164.53	130,083.21
Net incoming / outgoing resources before transfer	331.18	(3,345.69)		(3,014.51)	15,061.60
Transfers (Note 12)					
Gross transfers between funds - in					11,250.00
Gross transfers between funds - out					(11,250.00)
Net incoming/outgoing before other gains/losses	331.18	(3,345.69)		(3,014.51)	15,061.60
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Gains and losses on investment assets (Note 13)	2,658.28		23,391.43	26,049.71	12,261.95
Net movement in funds	2,989.46	(3,345.69)	23,391.43	23,035.20	27,323.55
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	255,252.98	8,198.44	158,748.93	422,200.35	394,876.80
Total funds carried forward	258,242.44	4,852.75	182,140.36	445,235.55	422,200.35

The notes on pages 18 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

Wallingford Parochial Church Council
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Balance Sheet

Statement of Financial Position

	2021 total funds	2020 total funds
	£	£
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets (Note 7)	10,350.57	17,903.57
Investments (Notes 7 and 14)	200,019.40	173,969.69
	210,369.97	191,873.26
 Current assets		
Debtors (Note 8)	10,225.37	10,174.40
Cash at bank and in hand (Note 9)	231,336.97	226,387.79
	241,562.34	236,562.19
 Liabilities		
Creditors: amounts falling due in one year (Note 10)	6,696.76	6,235.10
	234,865.58	230,327.09
Net current assets less current liabilities		
	234,865.58	230,327.09
 Total assets less current liabilities		
	445,235.55	422,200.35
 Represented by (Note 12)		
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General fund	160,629.32	152,620.11
 Designated		
Designated - Choir fund	4,195.05	3,585.35
Designated - Reserve fund	26,564.70	23,926.86
Designated - Rector's discretionary fund	1,516.15	1,356.15
Designated - Jordan legacy	19,121.55	16,463.27
Designated - Ruth Chamberlain memorial trust fund	8,656.66	8,072.45
Designated - Bell ringers' fund	2,709.44	2,709.44
Designated - Youth and children work fund	34,849.57	46,519.35
 Restricted		
Restricted - St Mary's tower fund	2,657.35	2,935.14
Restricted - Restricted fund	2,195.40	5,263.30
 Endowment		
Endowment - Ruth Chamberlain memorial trust fund	22,738.98	19,893.17
Endowment - St Leonard's Church endowment funds	159,401.38	138,855.76
	445,235.55	422,200.35
Funds of the church		
	445,235.55	422,200.35

Approved by the Parochial Church Council in general meeting on 8 March 2022 and signed on its behalf by Stephen Harrison (PCC Treasurer).

The notes on pages 18 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

Wallingford Parochial Church Council
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Note 1 - Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (effective 1 January 2019 the "SORP (FRS102)"). The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis. Financial statements are based on historical costs, except for investments which are shown at market value.

The financial statements include all transactions, assets, and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. Collections and appeals for nominated beneficiaries have not entered the accounts as they were collected on behalf of third parties. The financial statements do not contain the accounts of informal groups of church members or of other groups which owe their main affiliation to another body.

Funds

The general fund of the PCC is an unrestricted fund. Some of the general fund has been earmarked by the PCC for particular purposes and these are referred to as Designated funds.

Endowment funds are included where the Trustees are the Rector and Church Wardens. These funds are small and their purposes are identified in the accompanying note 12.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income

Collections are recognised when received by the PCC.

Planned giving under gift aid declaration is recognised only when received.

Income tax recoverable on gift aided donations is recognised when the donation is received.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.

Funds raised by appeals, garden parties, social, and other events are accounted for gross. Any associated costs are disclosed under expenditure - raising funds.

Income from investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

Gains and losses on investments and other fixed assets

Realised gains or losses on investments are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are calculated as the difference between opening market value (or purchase price if later) and market value on the 31 December each year.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations, are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC. Other resources expended are accounted for when the liability arises on an accruals basis.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and buildings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s. 96(2)(a) of the 2011 Charities Act.

All expenditure during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings is included in the Statement of Financial Activity (SOFA).

Listings of such expenditure are given in the notes to the accounts.

Other fixtures, fittings, and office equipment

Fixtures, furnishings and equipment used within church premises are written off linearly over four years unless a longer period is appropriate to reflect the useful life of certain assets. Individual items with a purchase price of less than £3,000 are written off when the asset is acquired. The write off period of certain assets is:

The grand piano purchased in 2013 is being written off linearly over ten years.

Short term deposits and cash

Short term deposits includes cash held on deposit either with Church of England Central Board of Finance Deposit Fund or at the bank.

Cash includes monies held in bank current accounts.

Wallingford Parochial Church Council
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for the year ended 31 December 2021

Note 2 - Incoming Resources

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2021 total funds	2020 total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies					
Standing order donations	78,774.00			78,774.00	71,988.50
Envelope donations	4,340.32			4,340.32	7,327.35
Loose plate collections	1,655.67			1,655.67	2,109.18
Giving through church boxes	94.24			94.24	243.57
One-off donations	15,771.25			15,771.25	15,167.00
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	23,460.68			23,460.68	22,576.84
Non-recurring one-off grants	675.00			675.00	4,566.86
Other funds generated	1,355.10			1,355.10	5,088.59
Donations and legacies income subtotals	126,126.26			126,126.26	129,067.89
Charitable activities					
Coffee sales	1,578.00			1,578.00	2,341.26
Fees for weddings and funerals	4,641.00			4,641.00	3,608.00
Verger, organ, bells, and choir fees	3,782.00			3,782.00	2,053.00
Charitable activities subtotals	10,001.00			10,001.00	8,002.26
Other trading activities					
Church lettings and sales - fund raising	5,364.03			5,364.03	3,274.14
Activities for generating funds subtotals	5,364.03			5,364.03	3,274.14
Investment income					
Dividends	4,613.74			4,613.74	4,437.50
Bank and building society interest	44.99			44.99	363.02
Investment income subtotals	4,658.73			4,658.73	4,800.52
Income from generated funds totals	146,150.02			146,150.02	145,144.81
Other incoming resources					
Insurance claims					
Other incoming resources subtotals					
Incoming resources grand totals	146,150.02			146,150.02	145,144.81

Wallingford Parochial Church Council
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Note 3 - Resources Expended

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2021 total funds	2020 total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Raising funds					
Costs of fund raising and events	16.70			16.70	2,263.81
Costs of stewardship campaign					67.73
Raising funds expenditure subtotals	16.70			16.70	2,331.54
Charitable activities					
Giving - relief and development (Note 6)	2,500.00			2,500.00	3,100.00
Giving - home mission (Note 6)	2,050.00			2,050.00	2,050.00
Secular charities (Note 6)	20.00			20.00	100.00
Parish share	67,013.10			67,013.10	68,019.93
Ministry and mission	2,502.55			2,502.55	3,927.26
Assistant staff costs	11,532.44			11,532.44	8,359.54
Rector's working expenses	888.37			888.37	858.44
Recoverables vergers, organ, choir, bells	1,726.00			1,726.00	2,030.00
Costs of organists and choir	8,022.30			8,022.30	7,242.48
Flowers					
Insurance	7,926.80			7,926.80	8,323.41
Organ and piano tuning	1,030.40			1,030.40	650.20
Church maintenance and sundries	19,699.45			19,699.45	5,291.45
Administration	640.00			640.00	640.00
Bank charges	250.14			250.14	332.86
Bad debts					189.00
Utilities	6,918.33			6,918.33	6,834.79
Payment card charges	43.98	115.20		159.18	41.31
Repairs	7,837.98	277.79		8,115.77	2,388.00
Independent examination	600.00			600.00	
Depreciation (Note 7)	4,600.30	2,952.70		7,553.00	7,373.00
Charitable activities sub-totals	145,802.14	3,345.69		149,147.83	127,751.67
Resources expended grand totals	145,818.84	3,345.69		149,164.53	130,083.21

Coffee is purchased both for fellowship (coffee after services) and fund raising (selling coffee in church). As it is not possible to separate these costs, they are all included in "Ministry and Mission".

Costs of "organists and choir" includes expenditure on choir tours.

Note 4 - Statement of Staff Costs

Fees from weddings and funerals due to the Director of Music and to the Vergers are paid directly to them by the PCC.

Fees due to the choir and ringers are paid to the choir and ringers.

The organist was paid monthly: the total for the year was £6,758.

Since September 2017, the PCC has employed one family worker part-time as part of its mission to families.

The total paid to the family worker in 2021 was £8,849 (2020: £7,486).

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Note 5 - Details of Certain Items of Expenditure

Trustees Fees

No trustees were paid in their capacity as trustees nor did they receive any expenses. No trustee received fees for any other services provided to the charity.

The total donations from trustees during the year were £39,045.

Independent Examination

Fees of £500 were paid for the independent examination of the accounts: no other fees were paid to the independent examiner for other services.

Note 6 - Grants to Missions and Charities and Disposal of Special Collections

	2021 total £
Giving - relief and development	
PCC donation to Refugee Resource	1,250.00
PCC donation to Bartimaeus Chritable Trust (Sharp school for the blind)	1,250.00
Total	2,500.00
 Home mission	
Subsidy for Crowmarsh Parish Share	2,000.00
Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust	50.00
Total	2,050.00
 Secular charities	
Green Gym	20.00
Total	20.00
Total giving by the PCC	4,570.00
 Disposal of special collections	
Collections and appeals for nominated beneficiaries have not entered the accounts as they were collected on behalf of third parties.	
Christian Aid collections	585.32
CRUSE - All Souls collections	245.85
PACT - crib services	218.36
Porch - 9 lessons and carols	375.64
Style Acre - harvest collections	482.04
The Children's Society - Christingle and J Pengilly collection boxes	858.84
UNHCR - Christmas collections	446.32
Total for special collections	3,212.37

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Note 7 - Fixed assets

	2021 total £
Tangible fixed assets	
Cost	
Balance brought forward	122,069.62
Additions	
Balance carried forward	122,069.62
Accumulated depreciation	
Balance brought forward	104,166.05
Depreciation charge for year	7,553.00
Balance carried forward	111,719.05
Net book value	
Brought forward	17,903.57
Carried forward	10,350.57
Tangible Fixed Assets includes the Yamaha C3 piano, and LED lighting in St Mary's.	
Their net book values at the end of 2021 were £1,150.00 and £8,400.57 respectively.	
(2020: piano £2,300.00, lighting £13,800.87.)	
The sound desk in St Leonard's (2020 value £1,802.70) was depreciated to zero in 2021.	
Fixed asset investments (see also Note 14)	
Market value at beginning of year	173,969.69
Gain on revaluation	26,049.71
Market value at end of year	200,019.40

Note 8 - Debtors

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2021 total	2020 total
	£	£	£	£
Debtors				
Gift aid	10,225.37		10,225.37	10,174.40
Debtors total	10,225.37	0.00	10,225.37	10,174.40

Note 9 - Cash at Bank

	2021 total £	2020 total £
Cash at Bank		
Lloyds current account	144,493.17	140,175.04
CBF1003 (Reserve)	72,691.99	72,645.15
CBF1005 (Ruth memorial)	14,151.81	13,567.60
Current assets total	231,336.97	226,387.79

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Note 10 - Creditors

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2021 total	2020 total
	£	£	£	£
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year				
Agency collections				1,425.00
Wedding fees taken in advance			100.00	972.00
Chadwicks overpayment			6.00	
Sundry creditors				
Uniheat (repairs to St Mary's boiler)			2,152.66	
Retention on tower works (Harri-Stone)			3,838.10	3,838.10
Independent examination			600.00	
Creditors total			6,696.76	6,235.10

Note 11 - Commitments

The PCC recognised no further financial commitments at the end of 2021 other than those disclosed in creditors.

Note 12 Funds

	Balance brought forward	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Gains and losses	Balance carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted - General Fund	152,620.11	133,432.97	125,423.76			160,629.32
Designated - Choir Fund	3,585.35	895.00	285.30			4,195.05
Designated - Reserve Fund	23,926.86	11,037.84	8,400.00			26,564.70
Designated - Rector's Discretionary Fund	1,356.15	200.00	40.00			1,516.15
Designated - Jordan Legacy	16,463.27				2,658.28	19,121.55
Designated - Ruth Chamberlain Memorial Trust Fund	8,072.45	584.21				8,656.66
Designated - Bell ringers' fund	2,709.44					2,709.44
Designated - Youth and children work fund	46,519.35		11,669.78			34,849.57
Restricted - St Mary's Tower Fund	2,935.14		277.79			2,657.35
Restricted - Restricted Funds	5,263.30		3,067.90			2,195.40
Endowment - Ruth Chamberlain Memorial Trust Fund	19,893.17				2,845.81	22,738.98
Endowment - St Leonard's Church Endowment Funds	138,855.76				20,545.62	159,401.38
	<u>422,200.35</u>	<u>146,150.02</u>	<u>149,164.53</u>	-	<u>26,049.71</u>	<u>445,235.55</u>

General Fund - general income and operating expenses.

Choir Fund - for fund raising and expenditure of the choir apart from funds provided by the PCC.

Reserve Fund - to cover cash shortfalls in the event of unforeseen circumstances such as emergency repairs.

Rector's Discretionary Fund - a sum of money donated by a parishioner for use at the Rector's discretion.

Jordan Legacy - shares remaining after the original legacy was fully spent. Now generating income for the PCC.

Ruth Chamberlain Memorial Trust Fund - endowment provides for the designated fund for costs first for altar, then cassocks, surplices, and choir hymnals and psalters.

St Mary's Tower Fund - money collected for the repair and restoration of St Mary's church tower.

Restricted Fund - set up in 2012 for Restricted payments from various sources including the Friends of St Mary and St Leonard.

The current balance of £2,195.40 consists of £1,150.00 as the residual value of the Yamaha C3 grand piano purchased in 2013, and £1,045.40 in cash of which £625 is reserved for organ repairs.

St Leonard's Church Endowment Funds - investment income for the PCC General Fund.

Wallingford Parochial Church Council
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Note 13 - Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

Current year	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	10,350.57	17,879.04	-	182,140.36	210,369.97
Net current assets	150,278.75	79,734.08	4,852.75	-	234,865.58
Total	160,629.32	97,613.12	4,852.75	182,140.36	445,235.55

Previous year	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	17,903.57	15,220.76	-	158,748.93	191,873.26
Net current assets	134,716.54	87,412.11	8,198.44	-	230,327.09
Total	152,620.11	102,632.87	8,198.44	158,748.93	422,200.35

Note 14 - Details of Investments

		2021 total	2020 total
		£	£
CCLA Shares - St Leonard's Hous endowment funds	Endowment	88,327.45	77,273.18
<i>Custodian Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance. St Leonard's House; Income to Rector and Churchwardens for yearly expenses of Parish Church. Interest and dividends paid to PCC.</i>			
CCLA Shares - St Leonard's Cott: endowment funds	Endowment	65,313.08	56,542.70
<i>Custodian Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance. St Leonard's Cottage; Perpetual trust with object as for St Leonard's House. Recoupment scheme for loan of £4,047 made to Parish in 1974 concluded during 1998 and capital repaid. New recoupment scheme 1999 Charity Commission agreed release of £16,000 to PCC for repairs at St Leonard's or St Mary's. Outstanding loan at 31 December 2021 £1,920.00. From 2005, accumulated interest and dividends paid to PCC. Recoupment payment £640.00 per year.</i>			
CCLA Shares - St Leonard's Land endowment funds	Endowment	5,760.85	5,039.88
<i>St Leonard's Church Lands: general expenses of the Church. Rector and Churchwarden trustees. Perpetual trust with opening capital, represented by 246 CBF Investment units; income paid to PCC.</i>			
CCLA Shares - Jordan Legacy	Jordan Legacy	17,879.04	15,220.76
<i>306.14 Central Board of Finance Accumulation Investment Fund units purchased 9 December 1997 at 979.94p.</i>			
CCLA Shares - Ruth Chamberlain trust fund	Endowment	22,738.98	19,893.17
<i>Wallingford St Mary's Ruth Chamberlain Trust; first for altar, then cassocks, surplices and choir hymnals psalters. Perpetual trust with opening capital of £1,000 represented by CBF Investment units; income paid to PCC.</i>			
Investments subtotal		200,019.40	173,969.69
The realised and unrealised gains on investments in the year are		26,049.71	26,823.88

13. Independent Examiner's Report

Wallingford Parochial Church Council
Registered Charity Number 1129240
Independent Examiner's Report
for the year ended 31 December 2021

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Wallingford Parochial Church Council

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 16 to 24.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the members of the PCC who are also the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

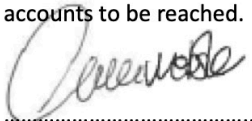
I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

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

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



.....
Caroline Webster FCA

UHY Ross Brooke
Suite 1
Windrush Court
Abingdon
OX14 1SY

Date 6 May 2022

Wallingford PCC Annual Report 2021 approved by the PCC on 2 May 2021 and signed on their behalf by the Reverend David Rice (PCC Chairman)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Rice". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underlining the name.

The Revd. David Rice, Rector Wallingford Parish

Accounts

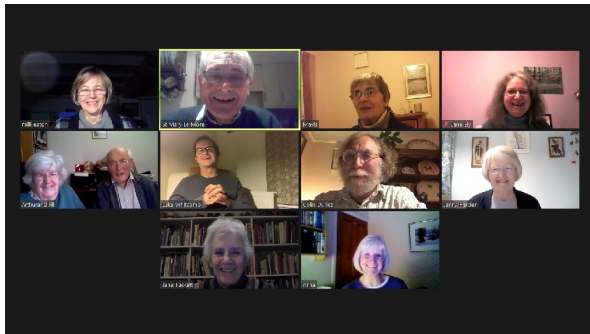


St Mary's & St Leonard's
Wallingford
open to God, open to all

Wallingford Parochial Church Council Annual Report & Financial Statements 2020



YouTube



Registered Charity No. 1129240

Wallingford Parish Annual Report and Financial Statements 2020

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1. Aim and Purpose

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Mary-le-More's (St Mary's) and St Leonard's has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, The Reverend David Rice, to promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. As a parish, we aim to become a living and loving example of Jesus Christ in our community, to be **open to God, open to all**.

The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St Mary's Church and St Leonard's Church.

2. Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches and to become part of our parish community. When planning our activities and priorities for the coming years, we identified 3 main priorities in 2017, which we have continued to progress:

- Development of our provision of worship, taking into account people's busy lives and their requirements for alternative forms of worship
- Development of ways to encourage local residents to be part of our church, whilst nurturing our current congregation.
- Development of the role of a Children and Families Worker to further attract, support and encourage young people to be lifelong Christians.

To deliver these priorities, the PCC has a number of vision groups and sub-groups:

- (i) **Worship & Spirituality** - to include sustaining what we have and looking to the future
- (ii) **Outreach & Nurture** - to include reaching out to new and current members of the community, the ongoing nurture of our current congregation and activities of the Children and Families Worker
- (iii) **Social Responsibility** - to include collections & donations to charities, both home and abroad, ensuring that 10% of the parish's unrestricted income is contributed; this group raises awareness of the needs of the wider world locally, nationally and globally.

In addition, the **Standing Committee** focuses on finance, buildings and stewardship, the **Choir Committee** focuses on the musical aspects of our worship and a **Communication** stream runs through all groups.

These sub-groups meet independently and report back to the PCC when the council meets.

A new focus in 2019 involved '**Cherishing God's Earth**' and is inspiring us to think about what we can do express our care for God's world in our lives. This mission of our church runs through all our vision groups.

Our parish offers many services and activities to reach out to as many people as possible; however, these were severely curtailed by the COVID-19 pandemic from mid-March 2020. Services normally include: a Eucharist service every Sunday and Thursday, sung or choral Evensong on Sunday evenings and monthly Family Service and All Age Communion. Activities range from a robed choir, a music group, Emmaus groups, bellringing, various children's activities (including Children's Church JAM - Jesus and Me, Tiny Toes toddlers' group and baby singing) to social groups such as The Fellowship and coffee mornings. Local schools and a charity normally hold their Christmas carol service at St Mary's.

Coffee mornings are normally held three mornings a week and the hiring of St Mary's (where we host the Friday Country Market, the Saturday Local Producers' Market as well as various concerts & courses etc) help to make St Mary's a vibrant focus of life in the town.

We hope to return soon to keeping St Mary's open daily for both parishioners and visitors, for anyone who wants to find peace at the heart of bustling, everyday life; a place for quiet contemplation and prayer as well as enabling an understanding of the church building in the history of the area.

Finally, we provide two buildings, where life events such as weddings and baptisms are celebrated with joy and thanksgiving, and funerals with respect and compassion, allowing us to give thanks for the loved one, time to reflect and think and to entrust him or her into God's care.

In 2020 there were 162 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll. We celebrated one Baptism and three weddings. Ten funerals were held in our two churches in 2020; in addition, our parish clergy officiated at a further twenty-two funerals, either at a crematorium or committal services only at Wallingford cemetery.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, fully recognising its duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

The PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and works to provide a welcoming atmosphere and suitable facilities for all people. St Mary-le-More, in particular, is available for wider community use and during the year is normally used by several groups unconnected with the church; further details of activities for the public benefit are given throughout this report.

3. Financial Review

3.1 Financial Summary

2020 was, for obvious reasons, a very unusual year but financially we have weathered the storm in good shape. Because of the lack of services, both envelope and collection plate giving were significantly reduced on previous years, but this was partly offset by an increase in standing orders due to a few new members joining the scheme and others transferring their giving from envelopes. There were also - inevitably - significant drops in the income derived from church lettings and coffee in church.

Expenditure in 2019 was heavily influenced by the costs associated with the repairs to the tower. If these are excluded for comparison, 2020 saw a modest reduction in expenditure due to the church closures during lockdown. It may be surprising that this change was not more significant, but the three largest costs we have to meet are the parish share (by far the biggest), insurance, and utilities. Of these, the first two were not affected at all by the pandemic; utilities were only slightly lower than normal because many of the lockdown restrictions were at times of year when our gas and electricity consumption are low anyway.

Overall, in spite of all the difficulties, we finished 2020 with a small surplus which will go towards rebuilding our depleted reserves and will also allow us to undertake some important environmental projects within the church.

I am very grateful for the support I receive from Jenny Harden, Judith Pengilly, and Hannah Leamy: without their help and encouragement it would not be possible for me to look after our church finances.

3.2 Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the Wallingford PCC to maintain as a reserve approximately three months of general running costs (amounting to £30,000) plus a further amount as contingency for quinquennial and other works arising. The target level for this contingency is £90,000 giving a total target for reserves of £120,000.

3.3 Grant making policy

The total of donations made by the PCC, plus collections taken at special services (including Christmas, Easter, Harvest), should approach 10% of the PCC's unrestricted income. The management of this giving is delegated to the Social Responsibility Group. The current practice is to support at least one UK charity and one overseas charity. One of the charities must be Christian based. Collections for emergency disaster appeals and one-off charities are agreed by the PCC. The special circumstances of the past year, in particular the lack of services for taking special collections, made it impossible to adhere to this policy in 2020.

3.4 Stewardship

A financial report was prepared as usual at the beginning of 2020 but because of the pandemic was never presented. There was no stewardship campaign during the year.

Stephen Harrison, Treasurer

4. Team Rector's Report

What is perhaps most remarkable in this most remarkable of years, is that so much of our church life has continued without interruption. So, I want to begin by expressing my thanks to the COVID-19 Continuity Group (Churchwardens, Richard Carling and Emma Cross, and PCC Secretary, Wendy Muggerridge) for all that they have done to enable this to happen. Each of them has given incredibly generously of their time and skills. I am enormously grateful to each of them. Additionally, we have also been well supported by a large number of other individuals and our thanks go to them as well.

2020 has been a steep learning curve! We have learned a great deal as the year has progressed particularly in terms of technology. Apart from just one Sunday, it has been possible to offer an online service every week since Palm Sunday. The delivery of these services has been well received. I am so grateful to those who have developed the technology to make this possible. I am also grateful to Judith Ward and members of the choir for contributing the various hymns and musical items for these services.

Sunday morning coffee has continued by Zoom and this has been an important way for us to stay in contact with each other. Our Parish Network Groups have also been another important way to stay in touch. Thank you to the leaders of the groups. The contact you have made with those in your groups has been greatly appreciated. The weekly update is a further element in keeping in touch and points to the importance of good, clear and regular communications. The Christmas e-Card was hugely appreciated and I am so grateful to Judith Ward for allowing me to use her beautiful composition 'Love came down at Christmas'.

As I write, the pandemic situation sadly continues and it is difficult to evaluate what the long-term effects will be on society in general but more specifically the church. In common with most churches across the Church of England the pandemic has had a very big effect on our finances. Members of our churches here, however, have been hugely supportive in sustaining their giving so generously; this generosity is much appreciated when life is challenging for all of us.

Whilst much has continued without interruption, it has been much harder, for example, to keep in touch with children by digital means. For the most part, school was online and so it was not easy to motivate children to spend yet more time on Zoom. This seems to have been experienced in many churches and I have attended a number of webinars (online conferences) which have highlighted this real concern. We have been able, however, to continue to deliver craft packs to all our family service contacts (thanks both to Jennie Bispham and Hannah Smith) which continue to be warmly received. We managed one Family Service 'physically' in All Hallows Churchyard and one on Harvest Sunday in St Mary's, both of which were well attended. Our Christingle service in December took place both in church and online.

We have learned a great deal during 2020 and there will be much more to discern from what has happened. It will be important, at the right moment, to reflect carefully on all that has taken place and work out very carefully our future priorities.

Amidst all that has been happening we saw a number of comings and goings during 2020. At our (postponed APCM) we thanked in particular Roger Morgan, Christine Dawson and Mavis Bolton as they stepped down from the PCC. Each of them has made a significant contribution to the life of our Parish. We were delighted, however, to welcome Emma Cross as a new churchwarden to work alongside Richard Carling.

We were privileged to have Rachel Meyrick as our Children and Families Worker. Very sadly, she along with her husband George (a student on placement with us and training for ordination) and family left the area in the summer so that George could start his curacy in London. Between them they made such a very big impact on our parish and, in particular Rachel, on many young lives. We wish them every happiness in their new parish.

As Rachel left, we were very fortunate in being able to appoint Hannah Smith as our new Children and Families Worker. It's a delight to have her in post. As you might imagine it was not easy taking up this role when it was not possible to meet in a physical way. Hannah, however, is working very hard to overcome these obstacles and develop our online presence.

We have also been pleased to welcome Henry Hope who is training for ordination at Ripon College Cuddesdon. Henry has immersed himself in parish life and it has been really good to have his insight and support over the last few months. It was great to hear him play the saxophone at our socially distanced picnic in August.

Towards the end of 2020 we also said farewell to Bishop Colin Fletcher. Whilst he was our Bishop for just 7 years or so, he had been Bishop of Dorchester for 20 years. We are very grateful for his ministry and wish him every happiness in retirement. Bishop Colin's successor, the Ven. Gavin Collins (Archdeacon of the Meon) was appointed in November 2020 and begins work here in early 2021. We very much look forward to welcoming him.

2020 also saw us become an Eco Church!



Our churches were given a **silver award** by the A Rocha foundation for our work in expressing our care for God's creation. This is something that we had been working towards since early 2019, being inspired by our 2018 Autumn talks entitled '**Cherishing God's Earth**' in memory of John Gordon.

In achieving this award we have shown how we express our care for God's world through our **worship and teaching** (e.g. Autumn 2018 talks, Live Lent Care for God's Creation and 'Saying Yes to Life' 2020 study group), our **buildings and land** (e.g. installation of LED lights at St Mary's), how we engage with our **local**

community (e.g. 2019 Lent Plastic Challenge, co-organising and hosting a Climate Action Fair in 2020) and the personal **lifestyle** choices we all make (e.g. encouraging everyone to complete an environmental footprint calculator, review our water usage, use Fairtrade). Yes, we've done a lot to reflect on how our lives and the choices we make impact on God's beautiful creation alongside our relationship with God the Creator.



What does being an eco-church mean? It means that we are trying to become a church which takes seriously the implications of this aspect of our faith - that we begin to realise just how central this is in our faith and what its practical implications are.

This is a huge achievement and I would like to thank Emma Cross, and those who have supported her, for their immense efforts in leading this. It is an ongoing part of our life together and I hope the award will stimulate us to further action.

These are just a few highlights from 2020. You will find more details of our activities in the various reports and in particular our vision groups which are responsible for specific areas of our ministry. They are:

- Worship and Spirituality Group
- Outreach and Nurture Group
- Social Responsibility Group

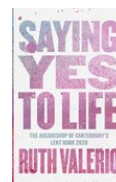
In conclusion, my thanks to all who have contributed so generously (both in terms of time and resources) to the life of our parish. This includes all our church officers and those who do so much in less visible ways. Each of you plays an important part in making possible all that we are and do. Thank you.

The Revd David Rice, Team Rector

5. PCC Vision Groups & Sub Committees

5.1 Worship & Spirituality Group

We began the year, as we do so often, with our provision for Lent. This year we used the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book in the context of Compline. Initially this was held in St Mary's church but moved online once the period of lockdown began. Ruth Valerio's book *Saying Yes to Life* was well received. As a result, we had hoped to hold an outdoor service later in the year to mark Creationtide, unfortunately, COVID-19 restrictions meant this was not possible. We hope, however, to do this, when restrictions are eased in 2021.



Events happened very rapidly at the start of the year in terms of lockdown. Perhaps not surprisingly the group's response to this, i.e. the need to provide online services, has taken up a great deal of its time and energy. We have had to work out ways of offering both Sunday worship and also worship for special occasions: e.g. All Souls' Day, Remembrance Sunday. Even when it has been possible to worship in our churches this has been very time consuming. We have been determined that this has been done as safely as possible.

I would like to record my thanks, to all who have made it possible for the worship of our churches to continue. It seems appropriate at this point to thank all who help lead worship in our churches, those who preach, read, sing, lead intercessions, act as sides people and our cleaners who do a great job keeping our churches ready for worship. This year has not been easy as sometimes our churches have been closed and sometimes open! I am so grateful for your commitment.

Like the Outreach and Nurture group this group has also been using the Parish Planning Tool (see that group report for fuller details about the tool). We have explored the strengths and characterises of our parish in the areas of worship and spirituality. In the light of what we have learned, we have defined our task as to develop:

a church that equips us in our walk with God to cherish ourselves, our community and the world.

We had begun to work out what the next steps might mean for us but, as explained above, our energies have been rather diverted. Once again though there are many opportunities online. A very positive development during the time of pandemic has been the introduction of 'Prayer with the Heart'. One of the issues that lockdown has thrown up for people, is the use of silence. I am very grateful to Clare Stephenson for her skill and insight in introducing this service. It has been greatly appreciated by a good number of people.

Clearly the circumstances associated with the pandemic are changing quite rapidly. This means that the group will also need to adapt and change as the situation evolves. It will be particularly important for us to reflect on the implications and the provision of worship in these changing times. I am very grateful to members of the group for their commitment in this process.

The following table explains our pre-COVID-19 service provision:

Every Sunday	08:00	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)	St Leonard's
	18:30	Sung Evensong (Book of Common Prayer) About once a month Choral Evensong replaces Sung Evensong	St Leonard's
1st & 3rd Sundays and 4th Sunday if 5 Sundays in month	10:00	Parish Communion (Common Worship) with Children's Church JAM (Jesus & Me)	St Mary's
2nd Sunday	09:45	Children's craft activities	St Mary's
	10:15	Family Service	St Mary's
	11:15	Holy Communion (Common Worship)	St Mary's
Last Sunday	10:00	All Age Communion (Common Worship)	St Mary's
Every morning (Mon - Fri)	08:30	Morning Prayer (Common Worship)	St Mary's

Every Thursday	11:00	Holy Communion (Common Worship)	St Mary's
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The Revd David Rice

5.2 Outreach & Nurture Group

During 2019 and into the early part of 2020 priorities for this group focussed on two main areas:

- extending welcome from our church to the new areas of housing in our town, and
- discovering where, as a church, we can mesh in at a deeper level with some of the key community events in our town.

These priorities led, for example to a coffee morning for newcomers in St Mary's church at the start of 2020. Whilst an open invitation had been extended to all, this especially involved those who had recently moved into new housing in the town and those newly associated with our congregations. The morning was very well received and was a great opportunity for people to meet each other and to get to know one another. We had hoped to repeat this but unfortunately due to COVID-19 this has not **yet** been possible.

Also towards the end of 2019 and the start of 2020, we started to reconsider our priorities. To help us do this we used what is called the Parish Planning Tool. This tool was developed by the Diocese of Oxford and is based on appreciative inquiry i.e. it tries to discern what is positive and characteristic of a parish and discover how these strengths might be developed. Here is how it is described: *Local churches aren't a problem that needs fixing. The new Parish Planning Tool, developed by the Diocese of Oxford, helps people to focus on the positive core that's there in every church, discern where God is already at work in their community, and discover how they can best join in.*

This has led us to think more carefully about the purpose of the group and where we might best place our energy. We have been exploring this key question:

how might we make ourselves more open and accessible to those who are seeking a greater understanding of God?

The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly changed radically how we might go about answering this question and a great deal of our initial thinking has gone by the board. At the same time, however, the presence of so many people online has offered untold opportunities.

So, during Advent and Christmas we offered a range of activities. Many of these services and activities derived from the Church of England's Christmas campaign 'Comfort & Joy'. In their words: *'We hope that Comfort and Joy will enable us to build a campaign that both enables us to reconnect with the rich and joyous traditions of the past and to offer God's consoling love in the present.'* We extended this to cover **hope, peace, joy and love**. From the lighting of the candles on the advent wreaths in people's homes, the ribbons on the Tree of Remembering, the All Age Craft sessions, Prayer with the Heart and The Longest Night service through to the Advent Challenge, these themes ran through everything. During this season, our website and social media accounts (Facebook and Twitter) saw a significant increase in engagement from many people, some well beyond our town.

We had also begun to examine our provision for those who recognise that they have little understanding of the Christian faith and want to know more. We have in the past offered nurture courses e.g. Emmaus and Pilgrim. The Diocese are planning to launch **'Come and See'** for Lent 2021. Bishop Steven suggests, this should be an opportunity for all of us to discover more of what faith means and to **invite others to join us** as we explore this question afresh.

The publication of the Parish Planning Tool has enabled us both to affirm the strengths of our churches and to discover new priorities. We hope therefore to continue with what is already happening in a positive way and strike out in new directions.

The activities of this group focused on children & families will be covered below by our Children & Families Worker, Hannah Smith.

I would like to record my thanks to members of the group and also, on behalf of the group, thanks to those beyond the group who support this vital aspect of our life.

The Revd David Rice

5.2.1 Children and Families

This year has seen new challenges for the church presented by the changing face of the pandemic. During these challenges, Wallingford Parish has undergone a handover of the Children and Families Worker role from Rachel Meyrick to Hannah Smith. Hannah has been tasked with the job of building new Covid-friendly initiatives for our families, as well as adapting some of the current provision to meet with the changing conditions.

Services

Before the pandemic, the children and families of St Mary's, would enjoy a variety of worship styles throughout a calendar month: on the first, third (and any fifth) Sunday, the children could access JAM; the second Sunday would be our Family Service and the fourth would be the All-Age Eucharist:

- JAM is the separate provision for children, held in the Tower Room, and follows the general structure of the adult service. This is kindly supported by volunteers and led by the Children and Families Worker. We have been able to continue JAM at some points during the pandemic.
- The All-Age Eucharist had a developing presence with families; we sought to create a Stay and Pray area for children during family eucharists so that children could enjoy a play-altar and liturgical toys. Sadly, it was not felt possible to continue with this All-Age Eucharist during the pandemic. Where possible, this was replaced by an extra JAM session.
- The popular Family Services begin with crafts and are followed by a service on a specific theme which is accessible to children of all ages. Children enjoy songs and a story. These family services continued through the pandemic, adapting to the different legislative changes: one service was held outside, others in church and online. Craft packs were sent out to local families prior to the service for families to enjoy exploring at home. Our popular Christingle service was held with limited numbers in church and also online.



Other Church Family Initiatives

Pandemic restrictions led us to reach out to our church families with a weekly e-newsletter. The newsletter contains information on our ongoing family provision as well as family-accessible and lectionary-based bible extracts, eco-challenges and activities.

Christmas craft sessions were held weekly during Advent. These involved making wreaths, Christingles, painting stones and making table decorations.

Outreach Initiatives

We have also enjoyed reaching out to our local community. Before the pandemic, we offered Tiny Toes on a Wednesday morning: a toddler group for young children and their parents. Sadly, after a risk assessment, it was decided that it was not possible to continue this group safely under COVID-19



restrictions. We had been preparing a project called 'Open the Book' to reach out to schools with God's Word. Again, there was sadly no way of proceeding with this during the pandemic. However, when we were able, we offered free outside activities to the church family, the community and to schools. These included a Light Trail on All Hallows Eve and a Nativity Trail from Christmas Eve. Both events proved to be popular. For those taking part in the Nativity Trail on Christmas Eve, there was an additional activity in church afterwards.



Despite the challenges, we have received recognition of our work: we were pleased to receive the **Silver Eco Church** award, reflecting our whole-church strive for a greener and cleaner community. The children have enjoyed engaging with eco-friendly crafts and challenges.

Hannah Smith, Children & Families Worker

5.3 Social Responsibility Group

The Social Responsibility Group aims to raise awareness of social and justice concerns, linking this with our charitable giving.

The PCC endorsed our commitment to support one local charity (Refugee Resource) and one overseas charity (The Sharp Memorial School for the Blind, India) and £1,250 was given to each charity from Parish funds. We hope that the Parish's income will be sufficient so that we may continue to support them in the future. A long-term relationship helps strengthen our links and understanding of the charities' work. We receive regular updates from the Sharp Memorial School, and a speaker from Refugee Resource gave the address at the 10:00 online service in November.

Due to Covid restrictions the Group has been unable to hold the usual special collections during 2020 and therefore has been unable to meet the former target that charitable giving should match 10% of the Parish unrestricted income. The Group through the medium of The Rector's weekly Keeping in Touch emails has highlighted the following charities throughout the year: Fair Trade, Christian Aid, Prison Week and the Christmas charities of The Children's Society, Crisis, PACT, and UNCHR. We encouraged parishioners to contribute to the Christmas charities through the Advent and Christmas pages on the Church's website and in the Advent Challenge.

Philippa Bomford

5.4 Standing Committee

5.4.1 Fabric

We would like to offer our special thanks and appreciation to Mavis Bolton in gratitude for everything she has done to care for and maintain the fabric of our buildings over many years and for her help and support over the last year.

5.4.1.1 General

Both our churches are thoroughly inspected by an architect, currently West Waddy ADP, every five years, giving rise to a quinquennial inspection (QI) report which lists remedial work with a priority ranking. As both our churches are old and historic buildings, there is always a list of jobs to be done.

We are particularly grateful to the Friends of St Mary's and St Leonard's Churches for their fund raising to help ensure our churches are kept in such good condition.

We are also very grateful to our volunteers who help maintain our churchyards and to the Town Council gardening staff who keep the main grass areas tidy.

5.4.1.2 St Leonard's

Although the church was closed for most of the year, maintenance and repairs continued. The annual boiler service took place, as did annual servicing of fire extinguishers. Regular roof maintenance and minor roof repairs continued. Repairs were made to floor grilles in various places around the building and floor tiles were re-set around the font area. In the bell tower two louvres were re-aligned which included new brackets.

5.4.1.2 St Mary's

Again, although the church was closed for most of the year, maintenance and repairs continued. Six-monthly checks of the emergency lighting and the fire alarm took place; fire extinguishers were serviced as was the boiler; water saving devices were fitted to both toilets and to some taps; internal clear glass was cleaned; regular roof checks and minor roof repairs continued and moss was removed from one of the north facing roofs. A floorboard in the choir stalls was repaired.

There have been, in recent years, a number of concerns about aspects of St Mary's organ. Repairs have been undertaken which we are hoping have resolved matters. Our thanks to Judith Ward and to Roger Morgan for their help with this work.

As mentioned in our 2019 report, the PCC decided to replace the halogen lights in St Mary's with LED lights, as they are low maintenance, offer energy and cost savings, are long lasting and are also eco-friendly. The project finally came to fruition in June 2020 and was a great milestone after a few false starts due to the COVID-19 pandemic delaying the initial start combined with a shortage of lights arriving from China! A huge thank you to the PCC Standing Committee for all their work behind the scenes in making this happen – in particular, thank you to Mavis Bolton, Roger Morgan and Emma Cross. Most importantly, a big thank to those who very kindly funded the work – we are most grateful.

5.4.2 Health & Safety

Weekly Health and Safety checks continued throughout the year. These cover floors, stairs, carpets - looking for anything in poor condition, trip hazards etc. A more detailed check takes place once a month to include fire extinguishers and paths and steps outside. Every three months a general check of the whole of both building takes place, including all plugs and sockets, as well as a review of the accident book.

5.4.3 Churchwardens' Report

We have had the great pleasure and privilege of supporting David as Churchwardens and as members of the COVID-19 Continuity Group, as we have navigated together our response to COVID-19 through our weekly meetings. We were delighted to open our church doors for individual private prayer and public worship over the summer and to come together as a community through other activities. Our priority throughout the pandemic has been to 'keep safe' and to provide Church buildings that are Covid-safe and secure for everyone who uses them. This has involved the COVID-19 Continuity Group in hours of continual planning and preparation especially with the development of risk assessments and supporting method statements for all our worship and activities – such as choir practice. We are grateful for the support of the PCC throughout and in particular, to all of our volunteers who have given so generously of their time in so many different and unique ways.

September saw the 20th anniversary of David's appointment as our Team Rector. Over those 20 years David has worked hard to ensure our churches and parishes are best placed to serve God and his people. During the pandemic, there cannot be many parishes that have been so well and confidently served by their incumbent. He has consistently provided thoughtful and considered leadership as we worked our way through Government, Diocesan and other's guidelines on how to respond to the pandemic. He has helped us work through these challenges, consider our blessings and look to operate in imaginative ways. This has been, and continues to be, no mean feat and is a tribute to his skills, experience and dedication to us all.

Richard Carling & Emma Cross, Churchwardens

5.5 Choir Committee

Opportunities for live choral music were few in 2020, but there are still events on which to look back with pleasure and – from the midst of lockdown no. 3 – with gratitude.

The first Sunday of the year brought three services, including a baptism in St Leonard's and the Epiphany Carol Service. The first Choral Evensong of the year was in February at St Mary's, Henley, when the choirs of both parishes joined forces for Noble in B minor and Balfour Gardiner's Evening Hymn. Conducting was shared by Henley's Sebastian Thomson and Wallingford's Judith Ward, and the organist was Ben Giddens.

By mid-March, a growing Junior Choir had sung at three family services, the last of which reprised *Grannies and Grandads*, a favourite from their Dorchester Abbey concert in 2019. The adult choir were preparing for Holy Week, including a performance of Pergolesi's setting of *Stabat Mater*. Both choirs were set to sing *The Lord bless you and keep you* by Rutter on Mothering Sunday when the closure of churches was announced.

What does a choir do when it can't meet up? Thanks to the technology skills of several choristers, the answer is quite a lot, as long as people are happy to use computers and smart phones. We started Zoom rehearsals on 27th March, with the juniors following a week later. It was the beginning of a technological learning curve which was pretty steep for many of us in the early days and still brings challenges: coping with the sound delay, hearing the accompaniment clearly, sharing sheet music and audio on screen.

There were also practicalities such as permission forms for juniors, copyright issues and sourcing sheet music online. While not as good as the real thing, Zoom rehearsals were still an opportunity to meet and chat, as well as sing. We even did a virtual Salisbury cathedral session to make up for missing our summer tour!

Rehearsals in person were finally allowed in September, following Covid-safe guidelines prepared by Emma Cross and the COVID-19 Continuity Group. It was lovely to see choir members who hadn't done Zoom and wonderful to hear all four parts together again. Small groups of safely-distanced choristers were able to sing on Sunday mornings, at the All Souls services and at two Christmas carol services. Thanks are due to Wendy Muggeridge and her team for their skill and patience in balancing the sound. We even managed carol-singing in the market outside Centre 70 and also outside St Mary's on Christmas Eve. From inside the church, we live-streamed carols to care homes and Wallingford Hospital via YouTube. The juniors sang at a Harvest family service and at Christingle. We felt fortunate to be allowed to sing while the congregation was not.

When not able to sing live, choristers have provided hymns for Sunday morning services by recording them at home. Some have made highly creative use of growing technology skills, multi-tracking themselves singing and playing, composing harmonies and filming videos. A few have combined tracks recorded by choristers at home and produced whole-choir recordings. Several of these were part of services in the run up to Christmas and one, *O little town of Bethlehem*, with a wonderful video by Helen Swan, featured in the Rector's Christmas message and Radio Oxford's Christmas Carol Service.

Choir members have contributed to the life of the choir in many other ways too. Clare Stephenson set up a WhatsApp group. Hazel Needham and Barbara Wood co-ordinated Zoom supper evenings, featuring the cuisine of different countries week by week. Jane Ely, Cath Lidbetter and Kate Spence kept in touch with choir members through the Parish Network Groups. Olly Garland and Helen Swan streamed rehearsals in church via Zoom to reach choristers who were shielding at home.

While technology has enabled us to do far more in the circumstances than would have been possible a few years ago, it is sadly a barrier to some. The pandemic has made us treasure the joy of singing together even more than before.

Judith Ward, Director of Music

5.6 Communication Group

Communications took a more digital turn in 2020 due to the closure of the churches and COVID-19 implications. Early on in the first lockdown, March 2020, an email update (Keeping in Touch) was launched and distributed to over 200 email addresses on a weekly basis. A further 36 letters were either posted or hand-delivered to those without the Internet.

The big change on the communication side was the creation of online services, initially pre-recorded and then live streamed from St Mary's Church. From a fairly basic start on Palm Sunday, these services continued to be enhanced throughout the year, missing only one Sunday in September, due to technical problems. We were very lucky to be able to use the sound desk in St Mary's in a way that it had never been used before! My thanks to those who contributed the technical kit required or who volunteered to train as live-streamers. It's been said before in this report, but it was a very steep learning curve! Special thanks to Helen Swan, without whom we would not have achieved so much and so quickly. Thanks also to Alan Streets and Clare Stephenson who volunteered to help with the livestreaming.

The website was enhanced to include helpful advice and suggestions for prayer at home as well as some thoughts and ideas for our health and wellbeing during lockdown. Our social media platforms (Facebook and Twitter) played a big part in communicating latest news to everybody of our services and events, particularly during Advent and Christmas, when we saw high levels of engagement, not just from our congregation but beyond.

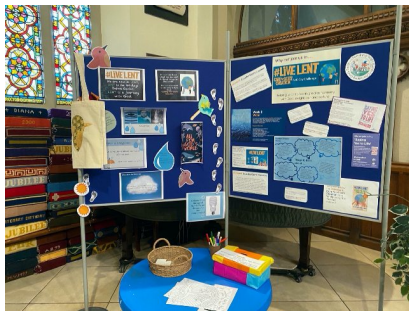
Parish Network Groups came into their own during the year as everybody in the parish was assigned a Parish Network Group leader, whose responsibility was to check on their group members periodically and feed any concerns back to David.

After one edition in early 2020, the bi-monthly Newsletter was put on hold; that and the weekly Pewsheets were effectively replaced by the weekly Keeping in Touch letter.

Wendy L Muggeridge

6. Cherishing God's Earth

The year began with members of the PCC Outreach and Nurture group working with local environmentalists to support the first ever **Wallingford Sustainable Living Fair** in St Mary's. The event, which took place in March, attracted about 120 people – from our local community, surrounding villages and towns and our Councillors. It was wonderful to witness the church buzzing with great conversations as people walked their way around the 20 plus stalls. One highlight of the event was the very popular children's corner organised by Rachel Merrick, our Children & Families Worker at the time – a big thank you. I am extremely indebted to Jan Ridley for the giving of her time and talents and to Amanda Griffin for asking us to be involved in this event. I would also like to extend my thanks to Wendy Muggerridge and Mavis Bolton for their support on the day.



Lent provided us with the opportunity to reflect once again upon our role in Cherishing God's Earth, as we followed *#LiveLent: Care for God's Creation* – the Church of England's Lent campaign. This initiative was inspired and informed by the Archbishop of Canterbury's 2020 Lent Book, *'Saying Yes to Life'* by Dr Ruth Valerio. I am grateful to the PCC Worship and Spirituality group for organising weekly study groups to explore the themes within *'Saying Yes to Life'*. I hope that through our Lenten worship and teaching, our parishioners had the opportunity to consider what we can do more of to care for our earth, with God as our creator and sustainer to guide and strengthen us.

Then in June, we went environmentally-friendly with our lighting in St Mary's as we replaced our halogen lights with LEDs, thanks to the work of the PCC Standing Committee. With the installation of the LEDs lights complete, we made our application to become an Eco Church. I know that David was delighted to announce that we had achieved A Rocha UK Silver Eco Church award – especially as it coincided with Creationtide in September. I am grateful to everyone for the help and support given to enable us to achieve this award and for David's continual support. Gaining the award is a wonderful way to express our care for God's creation and how it is central to living out our faith and practice in this parish.



Shortly after receiving our award, A Rocha UK gave us the opportunity to be part of an online conference entitled *Eco Church: Working together to Net Zero* hosted by St Albans Diocese. I was invited to give a short talk on our recent experience of becoming a Silver Eco Church and to be a Q&A panellist. This was a great opportunity to share our story, and it has resulted in a couple of follow-up emails. I was very pleased that I wasn't able to see the 100 plus people I was talking to – thanks to Zoom Webinar!

In February 2020, the Church of England's General Synod set new targets for all parts of the church to become carbon 'net zero' by 2030. To help achieve this, the Church of England has organised a series of webinars to help us understand and support this very ambitious target. I am very grateful to Wendy Muggerridge for attending the webinars to help formulate our local response. The good news is that the PCC Standing Committee has made a commitment to look into environmentally-friendly options when replacing our heating boilers at St Mary's and St Leonard's in the future.



I ended last year's report with the words "How can we be more contemplative, more compassionate and more courageous about 'Cherishing God's Earth' in 2020?" Despite the challenges of this year, we have certainly lived this out when it comes to our role in Cherishing God's Earth. I am hugely grateful to David for his continued support and encouragement and for giving me the opportunity to share my love of God and his Creation in this unique way.

Emma Cross

7. Plans for the Future

Our main aims for 2021 and beyond include the following:

- **Lent** - during Lent we will be participating in the initiative by the Oxford Diocese 'Come and See', based around the book **'Pilgrim Journeys: the Creeds'**. We will be planning activities produced locally and which also incorporate material from the diocese.
- **Children & Families** – we will be looking to re-establish our Tiny Toes toddler group when possible and seek to continue our outreach to schools as well as participating in the Come and See initiative.
- **Social Responsibility Group** - depending on restrictions in 2021, it is possible that special collections held in Church will become a thing of the past, and the SRG's appeals for donations will be left up to individuals to make direct to the charities, as has been the case in 2020. With this in mind, the SRG will look at its terms of reference, and with the agreement of the PCC, update them.

- **Gas boiler project** - The gas boilers in both churches are nearly 20 years old. We will therefore be initiating a project to investigate the alternatives to the gas boiler at St Mary's, including those which are environmentally friendly and energy efficient.
- **Climate Sunday** – We are hoping to take part in the Climate Sunday initiative during the summer as part of our Cherishing God's Earth mission. This is in response to a calling made on all churches to hold a climate-focused service on any Sunday before 5 September 2021. We will use this opportunity to pray for God's earth and to make a commitment as a local church community to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Online Services** - As our online services are now a vital part of our ministry, we will be looking at ways to enhance the technology and to more fully embrace its potential, thinking particularly of how we can meet the needs of those on the periphery of the church.
- **Five yearly Inspections** - Church rules state that, every five years, church buildings must be inspected by a suitably experienced and qualified professional; this is called a quinquennial inspection (QI). As the last QI for both churches was carried out in 2016, we will be both tendering for an inspector and carrying out the inspections in 2021.
- **Health & Safety** – It is a Health and Safety requirement that we have an Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR) every 5 years. This inspection will be carried out in both churches by a qualified electrician.
- **Health & Safety refresh** – We're planning a refresh of our Health and Safety Action Plan over the coming year and will be implementing some new ways of working to help keep us all safe and well.
- **Churchyards** – We are planning to explore how we can work with our wider community and organisations in caring and nurturing our churchyards as part of our Cherishing God's Earth mission. We will also consider how we might use our churchyards for outside worship and teaching.
- **Going for Gold with our Eco Church Award** – We will be creating an action plan through our PCC subgroups to help us to continue our response to 'Cherishing God's Earth' and to create our pathway to 'going for gold'.
- **Post-pandemic** – It is important to spend some time reflecting on lessons learned during the pandemic; we shall also focus once more on the Parish Planning Tool and will be restarting, when possible, activities such as choir, bell ringers etc.

8. Administrative Information

The parish of St Mary-le-More and St Leonard is situated in Wallingford, Oxfordshire. The churches are, together with those in Crowmarsh Gifford and Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, part of the benefice of Wallingford, which is within the Wallingford Deanery in the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England. Wallingford PCC registered as a charity on 21 April 2009. The details are:

<u>Charity Name</u> :	The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary-le-More & All Hallows with St Leonard & St Peter, Wallingford
<u>Noted Working Name</u> :	Wallingford Parochial Church Council
<u>Registered Charity No.:</u>	1129240
<u>Charity Address</u> :	The Rectory, 22 Castle Street, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 8DW
<u>Bankers</u> :	Lloyds plc. 4 Market Place, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 0EH
<u>Independent Examiner</u> :	Hannah Leamy FCCA, 4 Fitzcount Way, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 8JP

Wallingford PCC is governed by the Church Representation Rules. PCC members are Trustees of the charity.

Trustees of the charity (PCC members) who have served at any time from 1st January 2020 until the date this report was approved are:

Name	Office	Elected
The Revd David Rice	Team rector	ex officio
Richard Carling	Churchwarden	ex officio
Emma Cross	Churchwarden & Deanery Synod representative	ex officio
Stephen Harrison	PCC Treasurer	2020
Wendy Muggerridge	PCC Secretary & Deanery Synod representative	ex officio

Prof Amy Smith	Deanery Synod representative	ex officio
Gavin Wood	Licensed Lay Minister	ex officio
Marie Amey		2018
Philippa Bomford		2018
Charlie Brampton		2020
Jacque Hughes		2018
Jan Ridley		2019
Amanda Simons		2020
Helen Swan		2020
Jane Tuckett		2019
Luke Whitcomb		2018
Christine Dawson	<i>Churchwarden – stood down at APCM 4/10/2020</i>	<i>ex officio</i>
Roger Morgan	<i>Deanery Synod representative - stood down at APCM 4/10/2020</i>	<i>ex officio</i>
Mavis Bolton	<i>Stood down at APCM 4/10/2020</i>	<i>2019</i>

Election to the PCC is for a three-year term, although immediate re-election is possible. We are permitted 12 lay members on the PCC, governed by the number of people on the Electoral Roll. There are two vacancies.

Churchwardens are elected annually and serve for a maximum of six consecutive years. Re-election is possible after at least one year's break.

Deanery Synod representatives are elected every 3 years, according to a schedule set by the Diocese of Oxford and governed by the number of people on the electoral roll. Three representatives were elected at the APCM on 4th October 2020, these being Emma Cross, Wendy Muggerridge and Professor Amy Smith. The next date for elections will be at the APCM in 2023.

9. Structure, Governance & Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. Membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (Team Rector), two churchwardens, three Deanery Synod members plus lay members elected by those who are on the Electoral Roll of the church. All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The members of Wallingford PCC are trustees of the charity and, as such, responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish as well as managing the parish's finances. The PCC met 8 times during 2020, 6 of these via zoom videoconferencing. Given its wide responsibilities, the PCC has a number of committees and groups, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These committees and groups are all responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly with recommendations of their decisions when appropriate, for approval by the PCC.

10. Wallingford Team Ministry



The parish of Wallingford is part of the Wallingford Team Ministry, along with the parishes of Crowmarsh Gifford and Brightwell-cum-Sotwell. The Team Rector is the Reverend David Rice and the Team Vicar is the Reverend Kevin Beer. The Team Rector's focus is mainly in Wallingford, whilst the Team Vicar focuses on Crowmarsh Gifford and Brightwell-cum-Sotwell; once a month, and during non-Covid times, they officiate in the other parishes.

The parish representatives of the Team Council are lay members of their PCCs and are elected at the first PCC meeting following the annual parochial church meeting. Licensed Lay Ministers are also entitled to be members of the Team Council. Membership of the Team Council during 2020 included the two clergy, Revd David Rice and Revd Kevin Beer, as well as the following lay members from each of the three parishes: Christine Dawson (until October 2020), Emma Cross (from October 2020) & Richard Carling (Wallingford), Margot Shawyer and Andy Lewis (Brightwell-cum-Sotwell) and Margaret Foster and Eva Thompson

(Crowmarsh Gifford). In addition, the PCC Treasurers of the three parishes were invited to the meeting in December to discuss the Parish Share: Stephen Harrison (Wallingford), Robin Shawyer (Brightwell-cum-Sotwell) and Frank Sadler (Crowmarsh Gifford).

The Team Council discusses and acts upon matters of general interest to the three parishes and also any specific matter that might be delegated to it by the Parochial Church Councils. There were two Team Council Meetings in 2020:

Meeting on 30th January 2020

Roger Morgan had passed on the details of the Parish Share breakdown to the Deanery Treasurer, and to the Diocese, and this had been agreed by them.

A 'Thank You' from Archdeacon Judy had been sent via email to the Benefice for the full payment of Parish Share 2019.

The APCM dates were shared, and it was given that new Parish Representatives should be appointed at these meetings.

An 'Open Book' Training Day to be held in Wallingford was announced, and would be open to 'Story Teller' volunteers initially once a month to present to Schools.

Team Services

The comment was made that members of the Team were not good at gathering together for Team Services; discussion ensued as to the possible reason for this: is it a timing issue, forgetfulness/change of venue, would an Evening Service have any merit, this and other questions were put forward, in the end it was decided to leave things as they are for now.

Team Service Dates

Team services were arranged as follows:-

26 th February 2020	11.00am Ash Wednesday : St Mary Magdalene's, Crowmarsh Gifford
	8.00pm St Leonard's Wallingford
11 th April 2020	8.00pm Easter Eve : St Mary's, Wallingford
21 st May 2020	7.30pm Ascension Day : St Mary Magdalene's, Crowmarsh Gifford
19 th July 2020	11.00am Team Service: St Mary Magdalene's, Crowmarsh Gifford
15 th November 2020	9.30am Team Service: St Agatha's, Brightwell cum Sotwell
17 th January 2021	10.00am Team Service: St Mary's, Wallingford

Team Council Meetings were arranged as follows:-

Wednesday 22nd July 2020

Thursday 26th November 2020 (Parish Share Discussion)

An email had been received from the Diocese concerning Historical Safeguarding Issues, and the Clergy have been requested to make enquiries within their Parishes of any known issues – both David and Kevin have responded to this.

Meeting on 1st December 2020

APCMs – Due to the restrictions caused by COVID-19 lockdown, no APCM meetings were held at the appointed time, however, Wallingford and Crowmarsh held theirs in October, whilst Brightwell held theirs in November.

Team Services – although it had not been possible to hold any of them, nor as planned, the VE Celebrations, from April to July, there were team services online.

Reflections on Church Life in light of the Pandemic and Lockdown, it was interesting to hear how technology had quickly taken over, with Services on Zoom, Live streaming on You Tube or Facebook; Zoom was widely used for Coffee meetings after the services across the Team. Shortly after the commencement of the Lockdown, our churches were re-opened for private prayer, but this opportunity had a variable response. There was a challenge in keeping up a useful dialogue with children; at Wallingford, craft sessions and lockdown family services were initially well received, but there was a growing risk of 'zoom overload' after a few months.

Parish Share Apportionment for 2021 – As no fundraising activities were possible during the year, a lack of funding was a topic across all Parishes – the Treasurers of both Brightwell and Crowmarsh were grateful for the fact that these congregations had signed up for the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), as it had kept up a flow of income to pay the Parish Share payments. However, the forecast for 2021 does not look too rosy, and reserves will have to be dipped into, and in some cases totally used up, as there was no policy against dipping into reserves, and the Parish Share does have to be paid. It was agreed that we should go as far as we can, and closely monitor the situation. Mr George Curtis, the Deanery Treasurer, would need to be advised of any difficulty, and the Archdeacon should also be advised.

It was decided to sit down again in March to assess the situation, and again in September / October. Meanwhile Direct Debits will be honoured and see how far we can get – hopefully fund raising can start again later next year.

It was proposed that we will commit to the Parish Share payment in full, with the proviso that recognition must be given to the financial difficulties of Crowmarsh and Brightwell. Proposed Richard Carling. Seconded Andy Lewis.

The Team Apportionment for the Parish Share 2021 was agreed as follows:-

Brightwell	£ 32,908.00	[25.31%]
Crowmarsh	£ 29,402.00	[22.62%]
Wallingford	£ 67,690.00	[52.07%]
Total	£130,000.00	

Communication – since the first lockdown, it was recognised that it was increasingly important to use and share best practices. It was agreed that, in the interest of promoting good communication, all churchwardens should be invited to all Team Council meetings, while it is not possible to physically hold churchwardens' meetings.

The appointment of Secretary to the Team was adjourned, and Margaret agreed to stay on in that post.

Margaret Foster, Temporary Team Council Secretary

11. Wallingford Deanery Synod

Three lay members of the Wallingford PCC sit on the Deanery Synod. The deanery synod provides PCCs with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church. Our Rector, Revd David Rice, is the Area Dean for the Wallingford Deanery, which includes Didcot (St Peter's, All Saints', Great Western Park and Ladygrove), Harwell, Chilton, Cholsey, Moulsoford, Hagbourne, Blewbury, Upton, South & North Moreton, Aston Tirrold & Aston Upton, as well as Wallingford, Crowmarsh Gifford & Brightwell-cum-Sotwell.

Meetings of the deanery synod in 2020 were interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, only two deanery synod meetings were held and 4 meetings of the deanery synod standing committee.

The main focus of the year was to progress the mission action plan (MAP). This was an important piece of work, designed to support the mission of individual parishes and guide the life of our synod. The MAP is designed to help the deanery to focus on the issues considered important at PCC level in order to reflect these up to the diocese, providing vital input into Bishop Steven's Common Vision. The MAP was presented to the Dorchester Mission and Pastoral Committee in October 2020 and was well received.

Our MAP has four key focus areas:

- 1. Development of ministry to children, young people & families**
- 2. Developing our outreach to new & settled communities**
- 3. Development of appropriate patterns of worship**
- 4. Development of the Ministry in the Greater Didcot Garden Town area, both financially & structurally,**

One initiative emerging from the MAP was the creation of a program of Pilgrim Path walks across the deanery, to link parishes and benefices. Four walks were planned as part of this program, these being Blewbury, Wallingford, the Astons and Didcot/Hagbourne. Each pilgrimage was planned to start and end with prayers and refreshments would be included. Unfortunately this program was brought to an abrupt halt by the pandemic and will be rescheduled at a later date.

Another initiative to emerge was the Youth Initiative, working to develop a standalone Youth Trust to better equip secondary age youths; this involves churches in the Greater Didcot area and ecumenical partners.

At the meeting on the 11th of March 2020, Rachel Brockie spoke about the work of The Children's Society and how some children today live through some awful experiences. The Children's Society help by campaigning for law changes to make life safer for these children at risk, helping children to access the mental health support they need, striving to stamp out the trafficking of young people and criminal exploitation etc.

The meeting on the 24th of November 2020 focused on developing the church online, acknowledging that most churches had introduced an online service facility at some point since the start of the pandemic. The guest speaker was Revd Matt Hogg from St Albans, Fulham who spoke about online church, particularly social media, and how that can be used to connect with people, including those who attend church physically.

Finally, the Parish Share for 2021 was negotiated; this highlighted that some parishes would not be able to meet their parish share in 2021 and that others would struggle. For some parishes this is an ongoing problem, for others it is a direct result of the pandemic.

Wendy L Muggeridge, Wallingford Deanery Synod Secretary

12. Annual Financial Statements

Wallingford Parochial Church Council
Registered Charity Number 1129240
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Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2020 total funds	2019 total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from: (Note 2)					
Donations and legacies	127,112.89	1,955.00		129,067.89	163,917.32
Charitable activities	8,002.26			8,002.26	22,199.22
Other trading activities	3,274.14			3,274.14	13,079.70
Investments	4,800.52			4,800.52	3,929.47
Other incoming resources					598.73
Total income	143,189.81	1,955.00		145,144.81	203,724.44
Expenditure on: (Note 3)					
Raising funds	2,331.54			2,331.54	3,211.97
Charitable activities	123,184.57	4,567.10		127,751.67	202,314.96
Total expenditure	125,516.11	4,567.10		130,083.21	205,526.93
Net incoming / outgoing resources before transfer	17,673.70	(2,612.10)		15,061.60	(1,802.49)
Transfers (Note 12)					
Gross transfers between funds - in	11,250.00			11,250.00	
Gross transfers between funds - out	(11,250.00)			(11,250.00)	
Net incoming/outgoing before other gains/losses	17,673.70	(2,612.10)		15,061.60	(1,802.49)
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Gains and losses on investment assets (Note 13)	1,408.95		10,853.00	12,261.95	26,823.88
Net movement in funds	19,082.65	(2,612.10)	10,853.00	27,323.55	25,021.39
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	237,310.93	10,810.54	147,895.93	396,616.13	371,594.74
Total funds carried forward	256,393.58	8,198.44	158,748.93	423,939.68	396,616.13

The notes on pages 17 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

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Balance Sheet

Statement of Financial Position

	2020 total funds	2019 total funds
	£	£
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets (Note 7)	17,903.57	6,875.40
Investments (Notes 7 and 13)	173,969.69	161,707.74
	191,873.26	168,583.14
Current assets		
Debtors (Note 8)	10,174.40	24,536.13
Cash at bank and in hand (Note 9)	228,802.12	208,851.96
	238,976.52	233,388.09
Liabilities		
Creditors: amounts falling due in one year (Note 10)	6,910.10	5,355.10
	232,066.42	228,032.99
Net current assets less current liabilities		
	423,939.68	396,616.13
Total assets less current liabilities	423,939.68	396,616.13
Represented by (Note 12)		
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General fund	154,359.44	131,855.20
Designated		
Designated - Choir fund	3,585.35	2,968.85
Designated - Reserve fund	23,926.86	22,057.64
Designated - Rector's discretionary fund	1,356.15	1,256.15
Designated - Jordan legacy	16,463.27	15,054.32
Designated - Ruth Chamberlain memorial trust fund	8,072.45	7,459.38
Designated - Bell ringers' fund	2,709.44	3,100.44
Designated - Youth and children work fund	46,519.35	54,157.68
Restricted		
Restricted - St Mary's tower fund	2,935.14	2,935.14
Restricted - Restricted fund	5,263.30	7,875.40
Endowment		
Endowment - Ruth Chamberlain memorial trust fund	19,893.17	18,613.20
Endowment - St Leonard's Church endowment funds	138,855.76	129,282.73
	423,939.68	396,616.13

Approved by the Parochial Church Council in general meeting on 9 March 2021 and signed on its behalf by Stephen Harrison (PCC Treasurer).

The notes on pages 17 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

Wallingford Parochial Church Council
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Note 1 - Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (effective 1 January 2015 the "SORP (FRS102)"). The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis. Financial statements are based on historical costs, except for investments which are shown at market value.

The financial statements include all transactions, assets, and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law.

Collections and appeals for nominated beneficiaries have not entered the accounts as they were collected on behalf of third parties.

The financial statements do not contain the accounts of informal groups of church members or of other groups which owe their main affiliation to another body.

Funds

The general fund of the PCC is an unrestricted fund. Some of the general fund has been earmarked by the PCC for particular purposes and these are referred to as Designated funds.

Endowment funds are included where the Trustees are the Rector and Church Wardens. These funds are small and their purposes are identified in the accompanying note 12.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income

Collections are recognised when received by the PCC.

Planned giving under gift aid declaration is recognised only when received.

Income tax recoverable on gift aided donations is recognised when the donation is received.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.

Funds raised by appeals, garden parties, social, and other events are accounted for gross. Any associated costs are disclosed under expenditure - raising funds.

Income from investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

Gains and losses on investments and other fixed assets

Realised gains or losses on investments are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are calculated as the difference between opening market value (or purchase price if later) and market value on the 31 December each year.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations, are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC. Other resources expended are accounted for when the liability arises on an accruals basis.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and buildings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s. 96(2)(a) of the 2011 Charities Act.

All expenditure during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings is included in the Statement of Financial Activity (SOFA).

Listings of such expenditure are given in the notes to the accounts.

Other fixtures, fittings, and office equipment

Fixtures, furnishings and equipment used within church premises are written off linearly over four years unless a longer period is appropriate to reflect the useful life of certain assets. Individual items with a purchase price of less than £3,000 are written off when the asset is acquired. The write off period of certain assets is:

The grand piano purchased in 2013 is being written off linearly over ten years.

Short term deposits and cash

Short term deposits includes cash held on deposit either with Church of England Central Board of Finance Deposit Fund or at the bank.

Cash includes monies held in bank current accounts.

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Note 2 - Incoming Resources

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2020 total funds	2019 total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies					
Standing order donations	71,988.50			71,988.50	66,383.00
Envelope donations	7,327.35			7,327.35	18,328.12
Loose plate collections	2,109.18			2,109.18	5,666.08
Giving through church boxes	243.57			243.57	296.70
One-off donations	13,487.00	1,680.00		15,167.00	6,583.03
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	22,451.84	125.00		22,576.84	22,972.62
Non-recurring one-off grants	4,566.86			4,566.86	34,576.75
Other funds generated	4,938.59	150.00		5,088.59	9,111.02
Donations and legacies income subtotals	127,112.89	1,955.00		129,067.89	163,917.32
Charitable activities					
Coffee sales	2,341.26			2,341.26	11,791.22
Fees for weddings and funerals	3,608.00			3,608.00	5,915.00
Verger, organ, bells, and choir fees	2,053.00			2,053.00	4,493.00
Charitable activities subtotals	8,002.26			8,002.26	22,199.22
Other trading activities					
Church lettings and sales - fund raising	3,274.14			3,274.14	13,079.70
Activities for generating funds subtotals	3,274.14			3,274.14	13,079.70
Investment income					
Dividends	4,437.50			4,437.50	3,295.23
Bank and building society interest	363.02			363.02	634.24
Investment income subtotals	4,800.52			4,800.52	3,929.47
Income from generated funds totals	143,189.81	1,955.00		145,144.81	203,125.71
Other incoming resources					
Insurance claims					598.73
Other incoming resources subtotals					598.73
Incoming resources grand totals	143,189.81	1,955.00		145,144.81	203,724.44

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Note 3 - Resources Expended

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2020 total funds	2019 total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Raising funds					
Costs of fund raising and events	2,263.81			2,263.81	3,059.93
Costs of stewardship campaign	67.73			67.73	152.04
Raising funds expenditure subtotals	2,331.54			2,331.54	3,211.97
Charitable activities					
Giving - relief and development (Note 6)	2,500.00	600.00		3,100.00	1,250.00
Giving - home mission (Note 6)	2,050.00			2,050.00	50.00
Secular charities (Note 6)	100.00			100.00	1,250.00
Parish share	68,019.93			68,019.93	67,489.29
Ministry and mission	2,732.86	1,194.40		3,927.26	6,277.84
Assistant staff costs	8,359.54			8,359.54	5,152.83
Rector's working expenses	858.44			858.44	1,235.83
Recoverables verger, organ, choir, bells	2,030.00			2,030.00	3,252.94
Costs of organists and choir	7,242.48			7,242.48	9,839.77
Flowers					18.95
Insurance	8,323.41			8,323.41	8,144.48
Organ and piano tuning	650.20			650.20	1,592.46
Church maintenance and sundries	5,291.45			5,291.45	8,233.56
Administration	640.00			640.00	640.00
Bank charges	332.86			332.86	689.32
Bad debts	189.00			189.00	
Utilities	6,834.79			6,834.79	7,517.30
Payment card charges	41.31			41.31	4.19
Repairs	2,388.00			2,388.00	75,917.09
Depreciation (Note 7)	4,600.30	2,772.70		7,373.00	3,759.11
Charitable activities sub-totals	123,184.57	4,567.10		127,751.67	202,314.96
Resources expended grand totals	125,516.11	4,567.10		130,083.21	205,526.93

Coffee is purchased both for fellowship (coffee after services) and fund raising (selling coffee in church). As it is not possible to separate these costs, they are all included in "Ministry and Mission".

Costs of "organists and choir" includes expenditure on choir tours.

Note 4 - Statement of Staff Costs

Fees from weddings and funerals due to the Director of Music and to the Verger are paid directly to them by the PCC.

Fees due to the choir and ringers are paid to the choir and ringers. The PCC paid honoraria for the verger (£210) and for clerical work (£556). The organist was also paid monthly. The total for the year (organist plus honoraria) was £7,491.

Since September 2017, the PCC has employed one youth worker part-time as part of its mission to families.

The total paid to the youth workers in 2020 was £7,486 (2019: £4,629).

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Note 5 - Details of Certain Items of Expenditure

Trustees Fees

No trustees were paid in their capacity as trustees nor did they receive any expenses. No trustee received fees for any other services provided to the charity.

The total donations from trustees during the year were £34,765.

Independent Examination

No fees were paid for the independent examination of the accounts nor were any other fees paid to the independent examiner for other services.

Note 6 - Grants to Missions and Charities and Disposal of Special Collections

	2020 total £
Giving - relief and development	
PCC donation to Refugee Resource	1,250.00
Individual donation to Bartimaeus Chritable Trust (Sharp school for the blind) via PCC	600.00
PCC donation to Bartimaeus Chritable Trust (Sharp school for the blind)	1,250.00
Total	3,100.00
 Home mission	
Subsidy for Crowmarsh Parish Share	2,000.00
Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust	50.00
Total	2,050.00
 Secular charities	
Wallingford Food Bank	100.00
Total	100.00
Total giving by the PCC	5,250.00
 Disposal of special collections	
Collections and appeals for nominated beneficiaries have not entered the accounts as they were collected on behalf of third parties.	
Children Heard and Seen	100.00
Fair Trade - Coffee collection 8 March	154.25
Sue Ryder Care - Winter recital proceeds	1,500.00
The Children's Society - J Pengilly collection boxes	549.03
Total for special collections	2,303.28

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Note 7 - Fixed assets

		2020 total £
Tangible fixed assets		
Cost		
Balance brought forward		103,668.45
Additions		18,401.17
Balance carried forward		122,069.62
Accumulated depreciation		
Balance brought forward		96,793.05
Depreciation charge for year		7,373.00
Balance carried forward		104,166.05
Net book value		
Brought forward		6,875.40
Carried forward		17,903.57
Tangible Fixed Assets includes the Yamaha C3 piano, the sound desk at St Leonard's, and LED lighting in St Mary's.		
Their net book values at the end of 2020 were £2300.00, £1802.70, and £13,800.87 respectively.		
(2019: piano £3,450 and sound desk £3425.40. The lighting was new in 2020.)		
Fixed asset investments (see also Note 13)		
Market value at beginning of year		161,707.74
Gain on revaluation		12,261.95
Market value at end of year		173,969.69

Note 8 - Debtors

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2020 total	2019 total
	£	£	£	£
Debtors				
Outstanding wedding fees				189.00
Listed places of worship scheme grant				12,446.75
Gift aid	10,174.40		10,174.40	11,900.38
Debtors total	10,174.40		10,174.40	24,536.13

Note 9 - Cash at Bank

	2020 total	2019 total
	£	£
Cash at Bank		
Lloyds current account	142,589.37	123,550.48
CBF1003 (Reserve)	72,645.15	72,346.95
CBF1005 (Ruth memorial)	13,567.60	12,954.53
Current assets total	228,802.12	208,851.96

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Note 10 - Creditors

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2020 total	2019 total
	£	£	£	£
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year				
Agency collections			1,496.00	71.00
Wedding fees taken in advance			972.00	600.00
Owing for junior choristers pay				233.00
Sundry creditors			604.00	613.00
Retention on tower works (Joslin's)				
Retention on tower works (Harri-Stone)			3,838.10	3,838.10
Creditors total			6,910.10	5,355.10

Note 11 - Commitments

The PCC recognised no further financial commitments at the end of 2020 other than those disclosed in creditors.

Note 12 Funds

	Balance brought forward	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Gains and losses	Balance carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted - General Fund	131,855.20	126,261.50	115,007.26	11,250.00		154,359.44
Designated - Choir Fund	2,968.85	731.00	114.50			3,585.35
Designated - Reserve Fund	22,057.64	15,384.24	2,265.02	(11,250.00)		23,926.86
Designated - Rector's Discretionary Fund	1,256.15	200.00	100.00			1,356.15
Designated - Jordan Legacy	15,054.32				1,408.95	16,463.27
Designated - Ruth Chamberlain Memorial Trust Fund	7,459.38	613.07				8,072.45
Designated - Bell ringers' fund	3,100.44		391.00			2,709.44
Designated - Youth and children work fund	54,157.68		7,638.33			46,519.35
Restricted - St Mary's Tower Fund	2,935.14					2,935.14
Restricted - Restricted Funds	7,875.40	1,955.00	4,567.10			5,263.30
Endowment - Ruth Chamberlain Memorial Trust Fund	18,613.20				1,279.97	19,893.17
Endowment - St Leonard's Church Endowment Funds	129,282.73				9,573.03	138,855.76
	<u>396,616.13</u>	<u>145,144.81</u>	<u>130,083.21</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,261.95</u>	<u>423,939.68</u>

General Fund - general income and operating expenses.

Choir Fund - for fund raising and expenditure of the choir apart from funds provided by the PCC.

Reserve Fund - to cover cash shortfalls in the event of unforeseen circumstances such as emergency repairs.

Rector's Discretionary Fund - a sum of money donated by a parishioner for use at the Rector's discretion.

Jordan Legacy - shares remaining after the original legacy was fully spent. Now generating income for the PCC.

Ruth Chamberlain Memorial Trust Fund - endowment provides for the designated fund for costs first for altar, then cassocks, surplices, and choir hymnals and psalters.

St Mary's Tower Fund - money collected for the repair and restoration of St Mary's church tower.

Restricted Fund - set up in 2012 for Restricted payments from various sources including the Friends of St Mary and St Leonard.

The current balance of £5,263.30 consists of £2300.00 as the residual value of the Yamaha C3 grand piano purchased in 2013, £1,802.70 as the residual value of the sound desk in St Leonard's church purchased in 2018, and £1,160 in cash of which £625 is reserved for organ repairs.

St Leonard's Church Endowment Funds - investment income for the PCC General Fund.

Wallingford Parochial Church Council
Registered Charity Number 1129240
ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 December 2020

Note 13 - Details of Investments

			2020 total £	2019 total £
CCLA Shares - St Leonard's House	St Leonard's Church endowment funds	Endowment	77,273.18	72,301.24
<p><i>Custodian Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance. St Leonard's House; Income to Rector and Churchwardens for yearly expenses of Parish Church.</i> <i>Perpetual trust with loan to Parish under 1984 recoupment scheme; outstanding loan at 31 December 2020 £0.00. From 2005, accumulated interest and dividends paid to PCC. Recoupment repayment paid to ODBF by PCC.</i></p>				
CCLA Shares - St Leonard's Cottage	St Leonard's Church endowment funds	Endowment	56,542.70	52,265.89
<p><i>Custodian Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance. St Leonard's Cottage;</i> <i>Perpetual trust with object as for St Leonard's House. Recoupment scheme for loan of £4,047 made to Parish in 1974 concluded during 1998 and capital repaid. New recoupment scheme 1999 Charity Commission agreed release of £16,000 to PCC for repairs at St Leonard's or St Mary's. Outstanding loan at 31 December 2020 £2,560.00. From 2005, accumulated interest and dividends paid to PCC. Recoupment payment £640.00 per year.</i></p>				
CCLA Shares - St Leonard's Lands	St Leonard's Church endowment funds	Endowment	5,039.88	4,715.60
<p><i>St Leonard's Church Lands: general expenses of the Church. Rector and Churchwarden trustees. Perpetual trust with opening capital, represented by 246 CBF Investment units; income paid to PCC.</i></p>				
CCLA Shares - Jordan Legacy	Jordan Legacy	Designated	15,220.76	13,811.81
<p><i>306.14 Central Board of Finance Accumulation Investment Fund units purchased 9 December 1997 at 979.94p.</i></p>				
CCLA Shares - Ruth Chamberlain Trust	Ruth Chamberlain memorial trust fund	Endowment	19,893.17	18,613.20
<p><i>Wallingford St Mary's Ruth Chamberlain Trust; first for altar, then cassocks, surplices and choir hymnals psalters.</i> <i>Perpetual trust with opening capital of £1,000 represented by CBF Investment units; income paid to PCC.</i></p>				
Investments subtotal			173,969.69	161,707.74
The realised and unrealised gains on investments in the year are			12,261.95	26,823.88

13.Independent Examiner’s Report

Wallingford Parochial Church Council
Registered Charity Number 1129240
INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT
for the year ended 31 December 2020

Independent Examiner’s Report to the Trustees of Wallingford Parochial Church Council

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020, which comprises pages 16 to 24 of the annual report.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As members of the PCC who are also the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the account in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Church Accounting Regulations 2006 or under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act")) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

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 financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements present 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner’s statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with my examination 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 have not been met; or
- the financial statements do not accord with those accounting records; or
- the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



Hannah Leamy FCCA
4 Fitzcount Way, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 8JP
Relevant professional body: Association of Chartered Certified Accountants
Date: 1 May 2021

Wallingford PCC Annual Report 2020 approved by the PCC on 9th March, 2021 and signed on their behalf by the Reverend David Rice (PCC Chairman)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Rice". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underlining the name.

The Reverend David Rice