THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

England & Wales · Charity number 1129833

Details

Other names	THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ABINGDON, ABINGDON PCC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-05-27
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Parish Office The Church Centre St. Helen's Court ABINGDON-on-THAMES Oxfordshire OX14 5BS
Phone	01235520144
Email	administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk
Website	https://abingdonparish.org.uk/index.html

Activities

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

Activities: Regular public worship open to all. The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation. Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved. Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups. Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and meetings, and the distribution of literature. Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas.

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1129833

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **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	£376,173	£327,667	-	-
2023-12-31	£357,280	£398,446	-	-
2022-12-31	£326,228	£327,595	-	-
2021-12-31	£328,163	£334,596	-	-
2020-12-31	£295,001	£356,902	-	-

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1129833

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alexandra Elizabeth Green		2016-04-28
Alexandra Rachel Chloe Scott		2017-09-21
Christine BROWN		2026-04-30
David James Pope		2023-04-20
Dr Roger Bertram Cox		2025-05-08
Gwendoline Mary Bevington		2018-11-18
Hilary Mary Clare		2024-04-18
Jennifer Ann Smith		2023-04-20
Jennifer Elaine Fishpool		2022-04-28
John CLARE		2015-04-23
Joyce Elizabeth Kelly		2019-04-04
LINDA MAY HOBBS		2026-04-30
Louise Heffernan		2021-04-29
MARGARET RUTH HORTON		2024-04-18
Mari Eluned Hallas		2011-10-31
Patricia Ann Hudson		2026-04-30
Rev Rosalind Elisabeth Rutherford		2022-07-01
Revd Dr Andrew Keith Malcolm Adam		2024-01-30
Revd Dr Jennifer Elizabeth Brown		2019-03-17
Susan Frances Scott		2014-04-10

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1129833

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

England & Wales - Charity number 1129833

Accounts

THE PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

ANNUAL REPORT

For year ending 31st December 2024

(As required by Church Accounting Regulations 2006)

Registered Charity Number 1129833

Website: https://www.abingdonparish.org.uk/

PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
ANNUAL REPORT
FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2024

Table of Contents

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION **2**

AIMS AND PURPOSES **3**

1 ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE **3**

1a Team Clergy Report *3*

1b Church Electoral Roll [Richard Kirby] *4*

1c PCC [Eluned Hallas, PCC Secretary] *6*

1d Safeguarding [Patricia Hudson, PSO] *7*

1e Abingdon Deanery Synod [Sue Scott] *8*

1f Abingdon Diocesan Synod [Sue Scott] *9*

1g St Nicolas School and Education Trust Abingdon [Eluned Hallas] *9*

2 STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MEMBERSHIP **10**

3 PROPERTY **11**

3a The Rectory [Linda Hobbs] *11*

3b Enock House, Musson Close [Linda Hobbs] *11*

3c Fairacres Road [Rob Bough] *12*

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES **12**

PUBLIC BENEFIT **12**

TREASURER'S REPORT ON THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2024 ..... **14**

Appendix 1 St Helen's Church Church Wardens' & Fabric Reports **28**

Appendix 2 St Michael and All Angels' Church Church Wardens' & Fabric Reports **31**

Appendix 3 St Nicolas' Church Church Wardens' & Fabric Reports **33**

Appendix 4 Faith Forum **36**

Appendix 5 A Candle in the Window **37**

Appendix 6 Abingdon Society of Bellringers **38**

Appendix 7 Report on the activities of the Church in Abingdon **39**

Appendix 8 Report on St Nicolas School **42**

Appendix 9 Report on the Abingdon Foodbank **43**

PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
Annual Report (Continued)
FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2024
(As required by Church Accounting Regulations 2006)

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames is a registered charity, Charity Registration Number 1129833.

The Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames is situated in the town of Abingdon, Oxfordshire. It is part of the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is:

The Hon Secretary, Abingdon-on-Thames PCC
c/o The Parish Centre, St Helen's Court, Abingdon OX14 5BS

The Parish comprises the churches and congregations of St Helen, St Michael & All Angels and St Nicolas.

PCC members

PCC members are the Trustees of the Charity. PCC members who have served from 1st January 2024 until the date that this report and the financial statements were approved are:

Stipendiary Team clergy:
The Revd Dr E C Miller (to 30 November)
The Revd P A Smith

Non-stipendiary clergy:
The Revd Dr J Brown
The Revd A K M Adam (from 1 Feb 2024)

Licensed Lay Minister Representative
Mrs G Bevington

Churchwardens:
Mrs E Hallas
Mrs L Heffernan
Mrs L Hobbs (to April 2024)
Miss M Horton (from July 2024)
Miss J Kelly
Mr D Pope
Mr P Rast-Lindsell

Ex-Officio
– representatives on Diocesan Synod:
Miss A Scott
Mrs S Scott (Bishop's Council Member)

– representatives on Deanery Synod:
The Revd R Rutherford

Elected representatives - Deanery Synod:
Miss A E Green
Mrs E Hallas
Miss A Scott
Mrs S Scott
Dr H Glennie

Elected PCC members:
Mrs M Anderson (from April 2024)
Mrs K Burland
Mrs H Clare (from April 2024)
Mr J Clare
Dr H Glennie
Mrs J Fishpool
Dr G Lewis
Mrs J Smith
Mrs S E M Read (to June 2024)

Officers (from April 2024):

Chairman	The Revd Dr E C Miller (to October 2024)
Vice Chairman	Mrs S Scott Acting Chair from Oct 2024
Secretary	Mrs E Hallas
Treasurer	Mrs S Read (to June 2024)

Auditors
Mercer Lewin Ltd, Chartered Accountants
6-7 Citibase, New Barclay House
234 Botley Rd
Oxford, OX2 0HP

AIMS AND PURPOSES

Under the PCC (Powers) Measure 1956, the parish of Abingdon-on-Thames Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Each DCC is similarly required to co-operate with the minister in charge of the district church. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Parish Centre (in St Helen's Court) and Enock House (2 Musson Close).

1 ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

1a Team Clergy Report

As the parish is currently in vacancy, there is no Rector's report. At the request of the church wardens, this brief report from the team clergy has been prepared to summarise notable events and accomplishments across the parish in 2024.

Sunday services

Regular provision of Sunday services has continued across all three churches. St Helen's and St Nic's continue to live-stream services on Zoom for those who are unable to attend in person. In September and October, the Rector presided in each of the three churches across the parish as a farewell in preparation for his retirement in November. A corporate Eucharist at 3pm on All Saints' Sunday marked the Revd Dr Charles Miller's last Sunday and was a joyful celebration of both the feast of All Saints and of Charles' ministry in and service to the parish during his time as Rector.

The licensed team clergy, the Revd Paul Smith, the Revd Dr A.K.M. Adam (AKMA), and the Revd Dr Jen Brown, continue to lead services regularly, supported by the honorary assistant clergy. We are grateful to the honorary assistant clergy for all that they do, and for their willingness to take on additional services during the vacancy period.

We are particularly grateful to the honorary assistant clergy for their commitment to the 8am BCP Holy Communion service, held in St Helen's and St Nic's in alternate months. We would also like to express thanks to the Revd Richard Pyke for taking the lead on Taizé services in St Helen's. These have been very successful and at the end of the year, one of these services took place on the eve of Advent at St Michael's. This was well attended and it was considered that they may be room for it to be developed in that venue occasionally – a project for 2025! A decision was taken at St Helen's to reinvigorate the First Sunday Eucharist, with its aim of being more accessible to children and those who attend church infrequently. This was begun with the Epiphany service in January. Revd Jen has taken the lead on this, and it is hoped that this service will be attractive to families with young children.

Ministry team

As noted above, Charles Miller retired as Rector in November. Charles was thanked for his ministry in the parish at a parish lunch in September. There have been no other changes in personnel among the licensed clergy (Team Vicar, Fr Paul Smith, and Associate Priests, Fr AKMA and Revd Jen). We were delighted that Linda Hobbs began training for Licensed Lay Ministry (LLM).

Outreach

Outreach to the wider parish continued in various forms in 2024.

St Helen's Easter Garden in the west porch provided an opportunity to engage with passers-by, particularly families with children. The parish centre hosted Agnostics Anonymous, a talk followed by Q&A and discussion on a range of topics, which is open to all. The Christingle service at St Helen's again attracted a large number of families, as did the Epiphany carol service and Tea.

St Michael's continued to see encouraging attendance both at its Good Friday Children's Liturgy and Christmas Crib Service for children and young families. Although, the project has not made the progress it would have like to have achieved during 2024, a small group of people have been meeting to set up a Children's Church which shall meet during the Mass on the first Sunday of the month. At the time of writing this report Children's Church has met twice since February and is moving on apace. Welcoming people into church during the Spring and Summer for Cream Teas has been a wonderful way of meeting new people from near and far as well as making a good contribution to the very significant sum of money which was brought in by the hard work of volunteers from within the congregation during the year.

St Nic's is open regularly on a Monday morning by the kindness of a few volunteers and receives visitors who enjoy the space for prayer and stillness. We have also had opportunities to welcome children from different schools giving them an insight into the treasure of St Nic's as an historic place of worship. Our South Porch featured its usual Nativity tableau, but new this year was a Lent display based on the Cross, updated week by week with key reminders of Holy Week.

As we go forward into 2025, we are grateful to the wardens at each of the churches for their support and hard work, and to the congregations of St Helen's, St Michael's, and St Nic's for their prayers and faithful witness in this place.

Paul Smith, Team Vicar
Jen Brown, Associate Priest
A.K.M. Adam, Associate Priest

1b Church Electoral Roll [Richard Kirby]

There is a Parish Electoral Roll Officer (ERO) for Abingdon-on-Thames, but each of the three churches in the parish maintains a section of the Roll.
Richard Kirby retired as ERO during 2024 and we thank him for his work over a number of years.

Report to the 2024 Annual Meeting

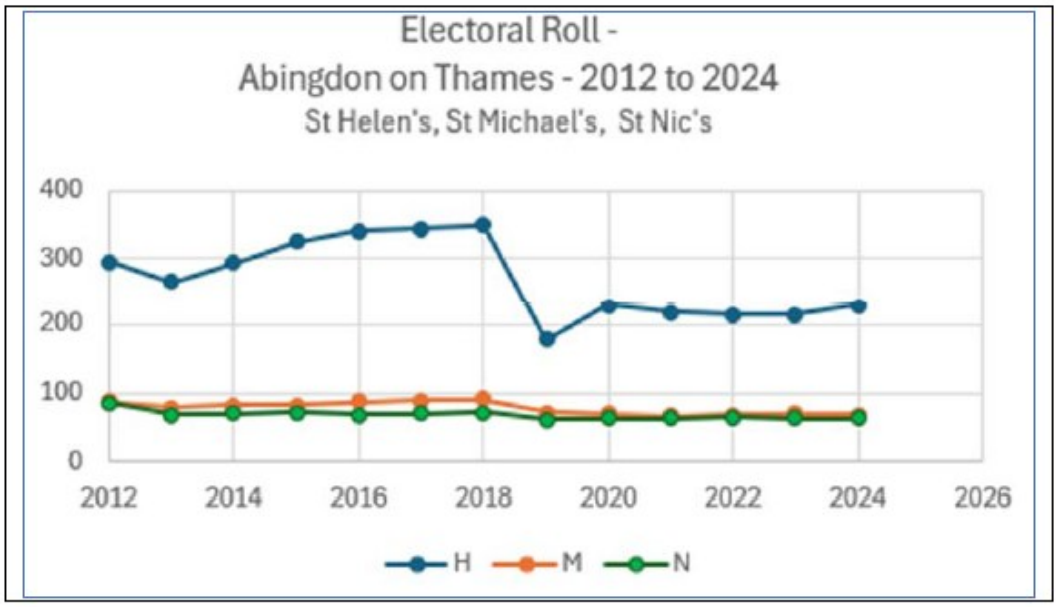
Stability is a state that I love to see in any set of data, as it means no big surprises and we have enjoyed stability for a few years. I still hesitate to consider making any prediction, but whatever the Parish is doing at present to maintain membership, seems to be working, which is better than we hear is happening elsewhere, albeit anecdotally. Let's be clear, the stability in our Parish is down to the good work to enrol new members to replace those which naturally leave.
The deletions and additions, as a percentage of the individual rolls, have not been significantly different year to year nor between the three churches. We are consistent in about a 5% deletion and a 5% addition each year. This percentage varies from year to year for both, but is not significantly different. St Helen's additions of 21 this year is very welcome, but no one will know what we have done differently to achieve this good result. It is likely to be the attention paid by the CERO to identify new members and her persuasive character to ensure them to join the roll.

PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
Annual Report (continued)
FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2024

Next year, 2025, we shall start the roll from scratch again, a time traditionally we see change to the stability we have enjoyed over recent years.

Thank you to the three Church Electoral Roll Officers that have worked on the rolls and produced the data for this report: Keith Bowman, Eluned Hallas and Kate Burland. I do believe stability is in part down to their good work.

Richard Kirby
Parish Electoral Roll Officer, April 2024



	2023	2024				
	roll	deletions	additions	change	roll	% change
St Helen	214	6	21	15	229	7%
St Michael	69	3	1	-2	67	-3%
St Nicolas	63	6	5	-1	62	-2%
Abingdon on Thames	346	15	27	12	358	3%

1c PCC [Eluned Hallas, PCC Secretary]

The business of the PCC concerns those issues best approached on a Parish, rather than Church, basis. It is also a useful forum for communications throughout the Parish, including details of Parish and Church sponsored events, staff updates and feedback on Deanery and Diocesan issues.

The PCC of the Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames met in person seven times during 2024, with the Standing Committee / Clergy & Wardens Group meeting regularly during the year.

In January we welcomed the Revd Dr Andrew Adam to the Parish and the PCC.

A joint meeting of PCC, DCC and invited congregation members in June launched the Parish's Eco-Church initiative – with nominated representatives in each church tasked with taking this forward, and the Revd Dr Jen Brown taking the lead at PCC.

PCC discussions during the year focussed on

- Safeguarding with the appointment of a new Parish Safeguarding Officer driving the introduction of new policies and procedures across the Parish. Work is now starting on role descriptions and risk assessments for the many activities carried out across the Parish.
- Finance including regular monitoring and budget setting. Susan Read stepped down as Parish Treasurer during the year, and we thank her for all her work. Susan remains Treasurer of St Helen's, sits on the Finance Working Group, and continues to produce the end of year consolidated accounts. The St Nicolas' and St Michael's Treasurer is a member of PCC, as is a member of the St Helen's finance team, allowing informed discussion of finance across the three churches. The PCC continues to scrutinise quarterly reports and budget proposals. That these are submitted as one per church (rather than consolidated) makes understanding each church's position easier to understand.
- Eco-Church – including the adoption of a Parish Eco Policy, and procedures to promote best practice across the parish.
- Children, Young People and Family (CYPF) work across the Parish.
- Clergy welfare.
- Health & Safety Governance – beginning a new initiative to establish, consolidate and standardise H&S practices across the Parish. There is much work still to be done on this.
- Publicity for Christmas & Easter Services, and other church organised events, aiming to reduce date conflict and improve awareness within the community.
- Opportunities for education and discipleship.

The PCC continues to review and approve faculty applications and other fabric matters across the Parish, and GDPR and Parish Policies remain regular items on the PCC agendas

From the retirement of the Rector in November, and continuing into 2025, much effort has been given to the process of recruiting a new Rector for the Parish, and Team Vicar for St Helen's. This has involved consultation within the PCC and DCCs, an Open Parish Meeting (January 2025), and discussions with stakeholders both within and without the Parish. Individuals were encouraged to submit their views to Church Wardens (in writing or aurally) and all submissions were shared with the relevant parties. A Working Group drawn from all three churches was tasked with drawing up a profile of the Parish for refinement and approval by the PCC. Wardens worked together to combine the various contributions into a Person Profile, also for approval by PCC.

PCC members were asked to approve the composition of the Selection Panel, based on recommendations from the Diocese, which has been supporting us through the process. We hope an advertisement will be placed in early May 2025.

1d Safeguarding [Patricia Hudson, PSO]

There are no known current concerns in the parish which is good, some more pastoral issues have been addressed.

The positive attitude towards Safeguarding across the parish is very encouraging and productive

Since becoming PSO last Summer, with much help from too many people to name, my initial priority has been to establish an accurate and complete list of everyone in a role which needs DBS and/or some level of training. Thank you all for your patience as I'm learning to match faces to names and clarify roles

I'm very grateful that Catherine Kimber is DBS verifier. A discrete Safeguarding email account has also been set up. I'm looking forward to working with Kate Burland on the overlaps with Health and Safety.

I have led F2F Basic Awareness and Foundation training sessions for anyone who prefers that to doing e-learning and they went well. I'm very willing to hold anymore required and/or to support anyone on an individual basis to access e-learning

Safeguarding Posters – giving contact details - are now going up in all church buildings

I have drafted both role descriptions and risk assessments for the following – coffee, flowers, vergers, childrens' workers, toddler group, stewards/sidespeople, cleaning, wardens, bell ringing, pastoral team. Choir to follow. The aim is to have one simple document that works for both team leaders and team members as a common baseline for the whole parish but with capacity for specifics to each church to either be inserted or added as an attachment for detailed instructions that are site specific. It is important that the distinct individual character of each church is celebrated. These documents are out for consultation at the time of writing and final agreed drafts will follow soon.

We need these documents not to tick boxes but because of our respect, care and love for each other as a Christian community, to facilitate effective safe working practice and as a foundation for growth so newcomers can take on roles.

The parish dashboard which is a useful tool for checking progress and structuring next steps stands at 63 % now, progress from 41% a few months ago

To progress further we need to

- Complete the list of church activities, and those involved in leadership / support roles in each
- Record all volunteers' Basic Awareness and Foundation Training, and DBS

To my knowledge, we have 63 officers across the parish (wardens, PCC members, vergers and children/vulnerable adults workers - not counting coffee, flowers and cleaning vitally important as they are.) Most are trained for the role but not everyone has yet completed Foundation level Safeguarding training

Our main area for improvement (as in many parishes) is recruitment and people management. We will start from where we are, no retrospective action. We may need to look at the paid parish roles especially in this time of vacancy.

My thanks to Jenny Fishpool for all her work at St Nicolas and to Emmanuel Chukwuma for support at St Helens. It would be good to recruit a DSCO for St Michael's

1e Abingdon Deanery Synod [Sue Scott]

Abingdon Deanery Synod is part of the Diocese of Oxford and is one of 11 deaneries within the Archdeaconry of Dorchester whose membership represents 26 churches in 10 benefices.

The Synod is a vehicle to discuss key issues and to look at the church's ministry and mission in a geographical area. The Deanery Synod sits between the Parishes with their PCCs and the Diocese with the Diocesan Synod. It is a key channel of communication.

The Synod is a place to support each other in difficult times and a place to celebrate the good things happening in our churches. It is also a place where the views of the Parishes can be brought together. Proposals can be made to Diocesan Synod for discussion if the Deanery feels this is necessary/appropriate. Clergy and Laity have equal status in the Synod.

The Parish currently has 5 elected members from the House of Laity:-

Alexandra Green (St Helen's)
Hazel Glennie (St Helen's)
Alexandra Scott (St Michael and All Angels) ex officio Diocesan Synod
Sue Scott (St Michael and All Angels) Lay Chair and ex officio Diocesan Synod
Eluned Hallas (St Nicolas)

This has been a challenging year for many of our churches and things continue to be difficult for many. The aim has been to create a balance between providing information, giving time for discussion and also responding to common concerns. The Synod met 4 times in 2024 (February, May, October and November). In response to feedback some of the meetings now take place on zoom and some in person. Some of the business covered has included: -

- Finance issues including the Budget, Parish Share, The Deanery Parish Support Fund and Mission Grants
- Opportunities to share good practice and expertise to develop Parish Mission Action Plans – with a particular focus on work with Children,Young people and Families which is part of a 5 year focus for all parishes and deaneries in the Diocese.
- Outside speakers – including a report back from the General Synod and finding out about the work of Parish Development Officers.
- Raising awareness of Diocese resources and how to access services eg Churchwarden Training, use of Safeguarding Dashboards and Church Energy Audits
- New Congregations/New initiatives/ Eco church/Children and families/LLF updates

A key role of the Deanery Synod is to represent the views of the Parishes and to seek ways to support the work of the Church in this place. Please speak to your Parish representatives so that they can raise issues questions or concerns on your behalf. Churchwardens are also very welcome to attend.

Minutes of all Synod meetings and Standing Committee meetings can be found on the website at abingdondeanery.org.uk together with other news and information about the work of the Deanery Synod.

Please could you pray for the work of the Deanery Synod as it strives to seek God's guidance to support the work of the Church in this place.

Sue Scott, St Michael and All Angels representative and Lay Chair Abingdon Deanery Synod

1f Abingdon Diocesan Synod [Sue Scott]

The Diocesan Synod is the governing body of the Church of England in Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes. The bishop has a duty to consult the Diocesan Synod on matters of general importance and concern to the diocese and in turn, Diocesan Synod provides a connection to Deanery Synods and PCCs.

We currently have full representation for the House of Laity (3) and only 1 representative from the House of Clergy in the Dorchester Archdeaconry. Two of the House of Laity representatives are from within our Parish. An election took place in 2024 and so the current membership will cover the period 2024 to 2027.Members of Diocesan Synod are ex Officio members of Deanery Synod and PCC for the duration of the term of office to Diocesan Synod.

The Synod meets 3 times a year usually on a Saturday to consider issues facing the church in the Diocese - to share experience from across the diocese and to consider issues which face the national church. Members can also be elected to boards and committees including Bishop's Council which is the executive committee of the Diocesan Synod. The Parish currently has representation at this level.

Synod met in March, June and November 2024.Two of these meetings were online and one in person.

The Church is facing a time of great challenge. Some of the issues which have been discussed are: -

- Living in Love and Faith
- Eco church
- Common Vision
- Environmental issues and steps needed to achieve net zero by 2035
- Finance, Parish Share, SSM/LLM fees
- Ukrainian Crisis
- How parishes can more easily access diocesan resources – what is out there?

Further information about the work of the Synod can be found at www.oxford.anglican.org
The pathway to follow is – homepage>who we are>How we are governed>Diocesan Synod> documents

The Synod does not always speak as one voice. But the aim is that together we can work towards being a more Compassionate, Courageous and Contemplative Church.

Sue Scott, Diocesan Synod Representative

1g St Nicolas School and Education Trust Abingdon [Eluned Hallas]

The St Nicolas School and Education Trust Abingdon is a CIO incorporated, in 2022, to take over the assets and activities of an existing exempt charity: Abingdon St Nicholas Church of England Primary School charity.

The four ex-officio Trustees are: the Team Rector of the Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames, and the Team Vicar and Churchwardens of St Nicolas Church, Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames. The charity trustees may appoint up to two trustees provided that such appointment(s) are approved by the

Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames in the County and Diocese of Oxford. The Oxford Diocesan Board of Education (ODBE) may appoint one charity trustee. Following the retirement of the Team Rector, the Diocese approved the appointment of Mr Robert Bough as interim Trustee.

During 2024 discussions mostly covered negotiations with the Charity Commission over the legal transfer of assets from the old to the new charitable organisation. At the same time discussions were opened over the formal transfer of investments and cash to the investment managers appointed by the Trustees.

The objects of the CIO are for the public benefit within the parish of Abingdon-on-Thames in the County and Diocese of Oxford:

- To advance education in such ways as the trustees shall from time to time think fit
- To advance the Christian faith in accordance with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England:
- To further the objects and work of the Church of England in the said Parish in such ways as the trustees shall from time to time think fit.

The retirement of the Team Rector, who had the lead in many of the discussion, temporarily slowed progress, but it is hoped that transfer of funds will be complete in 2025-26, freeing the Trustees to begin to determine how best to meet the Trust's objectives.

In 2024 the Trust (though the Diocesan Trustees) supported St Nicolas CE School, Abingdon through the provision of Bibles for new entrants, and class bibles to assist with class based worship.

2 STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MEMBERSHIP

The Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames is served by a Team Rector, based at St Helen's (currently in vacancy), and a Team Vicar shared between St Nicolas' and St Michael's.

The Parochial Church Council of Abingdon-on-Thames is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure, and was formally registered with the Charity Commission on 27 May 2009.

Lay members of the PCC are appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Church Representation Rules, as originally authorized as Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 and subsequently amended by the General Synod. All eligible church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

In addition to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the parish of Abingdon-on-Thames, there are three District Church Councils (DCCs). The PCC has delegated to the DCCs responsibility for detailed implementation of most of its functions, in a continuation of a Scheme approved by the Bishop. The PCC is therefore able to concentrate on those matters which cannot be delegated, or are of common concern. It has two committees:

The *Standing* Committee (comprising the Team Rector & Team Vicar, church wardens, the secretary, the treasurer, and the vice-chairman) has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC.

The *Finance Working Group* (comprising the Parish Treasurer, the Treasurers of the DCCs and a limited number of co-opted members) oversees the financial activities of the parish, including the annual budget and financial statements. It meets as required. The budget and financial statements

are approved by the PCC after individual church finances have been considered by individual DCCs. In addition to meeting the statutory requirements of the Charities Commission, the immediate aims of the Group are, firstly, to provide a forum at which the Treasurers can discuss common problems and learn from each other. Secondly, the Group is attempting to develop key performance indicators that provide early warnings of potential difficulties. Third, the Group expects to undertake risk analysis which will include longer term projections of our financial status.

PCC members (and DCC members) are encouraged to attend training sessions as appropriate. Most often these are courses organised by the Diocese of Oxford.

The PCC is exposed to risks associated with buildings, finances and availability of volunteer effort. Buildings are insured and regularly inspected, finances are overseen by the PCC, and DCCs, and volunteers are constantly sought to carry the administrative burden of the PCC and DCCs. The maintenance of ancient buildings is a heavy responsibility for the PCC, but this is not unusual in the Church of England. Health and Safety, Child Protection and other pertinent legislation is adhered to, and there are policies in place to this effect. DCCs operate within a budget and financial envelope determined by their annual income and reserves and approved by the PCC. Special appeals are launched for special projects (typically capital projects) as appropriate. To say 'The Lord will provide' may not be an acceptable approach to financial risk management in the secular world; but seeking the Will of God through constant prayer and responding to His Will moment by moment are key instruments by which the PCC manages risk in labour and financial matters.

3 PROPERTY

3a The Rectory [Linda Hobbs]

The Rectory is a 4 bedroom house, linked to the Parish Centre. The property offers flexible, spacious family accommodation, with a large rear garden which should be attractive to us attracting a new Rector, whom we anticipate will join us in 2025.

The Rectory became vacant in October 2024. The Diocese had planned to carry out extensive property improvements and repairs prior to it again being used as a residence. The opportunity unexpectedly arose for a short term let resulting in all planned work being delayed until the current tenancy has terminated. All required works will be completed prior to any new tenancy commencing.

3b Enock House, Musson Close [Linda Hobbs]

2 Musson Close

Musson Close is a 4 bedroomed Town house situated close by the river Thames, within easy walking distance of Abingdon town centre, St Helens Church and the other 2 churches, St Nicolas and St Michaels and all Angels.

The Parish purchased the property in 2015. The property is currently used as a main residence by the Associate Priest, Rev AKMA Adams and his wife Margaret.

AKMA and Margaret have been resident since November 2023, a short while before commencing his position as House for Duty Priest. At termination of the License, the property will be returned to the use of the Church.

Currently it is anticipated that the property will continue to be used as residence for the House for

Duty position, however if the position were vacant, consideration could be made to the house being rented on the open market, which would generate a considerable return each month.

Under the terms of the License, (agreed by the Diocese) the Associate Priest has no liability to pay rent, water rates, Council Tax or Insurance. All costs associated with the upkeep and of the property being met by Church funds. All costs incurred by the Associate Priest in fulfilling his post, are also met by Church funds.

Since Akma and Margaret took up residence there has been minimal requirement for repairs to the property. Since the writing of the last report the annual Gas Certificate, (required by law for all properties under license or tenancy) has been carried out, having passed all safety requirements there was no requirement for additional repair costs.

Late summer 2024, a need arose to replace the faulty shower, this work was out by a private plumber at a cost of £360.

The property continues to be managed by Linda Hobbs

3c Fairacres Road [Rob Bough]

Pursuant to a bequest from Mr Derek Enock in 2009, each church in the parish has an interest in a residential property in Fairacres Road, Oxford, which is held on a trust. The current occupant of the property has the right to reside there for as long as she wishes. If the property is sold, she will be entitled to the income from the invested sale proceeds. Upon her death the property or proceeds from the sale will pass to the five beneficiaries of Mr Enock's estate. The trust is administered for the beneficiaries by Freeths Solicitors. The position remains the same as last year, with the occupant continuing to reside at the premises.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The following Vision Statement was agreed by the PCC on 22nd November 2000 and continues to apply to the Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames:

"A single unified parish with a Team Ministry in which clergy and laity work together to serve interdependent congregations, within an active ecumenical organisation where:

- The Gospel of Christ is celebrated through worship and fellowship, with individual congregations providing a spectrum of traditions
- The life of the Church is built up through teaching, preaching, evangelism, pastoral care and ecumenical co-operation
- God's love is made known in mission and service to the community and society as a whole."

The activities undertaken to enable the PCC to achieve these objectives are described in the Achievements & Performance section, and in the reports from the constituent churches.

The PCC is heavily dependent upon the contribution of volunteers to drive forward the mission of the church and the Kingdom of God.

Public Benefit

The PCC is aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in "The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit" and have regard to it in their administration of the Parish. The PCC believes that, by fulfilling its responsibility to work together with the incumbent in the Parish and

co-operate in all matters of concern and importance for the promotion of the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, it provides a benefit to the public by:

- providing resources and facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers;
- promoting Christian values, and service by members of the churches in the Parish to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

Reports from individual churches are attached as Appendices to this report.

TREASURER'S REPORT ON THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2024

The Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames consists of three churches (St Helen's, St Michael's and St Nicolas') which have separate treasurers and accounts. The Parish accounts are produced by consolidating the accounts of the three churches.

Income and Expenditure

The "bottom line" for the Parish in the year 2024 was a surplus of £48k (2023: deficit £41k). This was an excellent outcome, and considerably better than the £90k loss set as the budget for 2024. Considerable efforts at fundraising contributed to the outcome, particularly at St Helen's and St Michael's Churches.

It is pleasing to see that the voluntary income received was significantly more than the budget we set for the year. The unrestricted funds (encompassing the day-to-day income and costs of our churches) had a surplus of £16.5k before transfers.

Church fabric costs in 2024 included £18k building insurance costs, £3k of repairs to the Blacknall Tomb in St Nicolas and £2k in organ repairs for St Helen's.

Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet shows fund and investments held at the end of the year, i.e.£1,318k (£1,252k in 2023).

The largest component of this is investments valued as at 31 December 2024: £541k, (2023: £553k). The reduction in value is partly due to the sale of £28k worth of St Michael's property investments and their conversion into short term deposits. But this was partially offset by gains in value of the other investments.

The Parish owns two freehold properties, the Parish Centre and the House for Duty property purchased in 2015. Legal title of both is held by the Diocesan Trustees (Oxford) Ltd as custodian trustees on behalf of the Parish. Both are held for the mission of the church. The two properties appear in the balance sheet as Tangible Fixed Assets.

In 2024 we purchased a printer/photocopier for office use. It is proving much cheaper to run without the expensive lease costs we paid on previous printers.

Short term deposits increased during the year, partly at St Michael's from the sale of investments and partly by St Nicolas' taking advantage of the higher interest rates available to open a bank deposit account for cash holdings.

PCC policy is that unused fund balances should be invested with CBF Church of England funds.

Restricted Funds

Restricted funds are often for long term projects, so may be built up over several years and spent over a short period of time. Surpluses and deficits on these funds are not necessarily unexpected or worrying.

In 2024 St Nicolas received a legacy of £39k toward the work needed on the Blacknall Aisle.

Grants received included £3.5k of VAT refunded on church repairs under the Listed Places of Worship Scheme.

St Nicolas' Church is the beneficiary of the Blacknall Trust, administered by Christ's Hospital. Every year the church receives a proportion of the dividends received from the substantial investments of the Trust. The income may only be spent on the fabric of St Nicolas' Church. In 2024 St Nicolas received £11.5k from the Blacknall Trust.

Going Concern

The PCC is required to operate on a going concern basis. The Parish has a policy to hold at least two months of average expenditure in liquid form. All three churches had sufficient liquidity at the year end

The Parish also aims to have reserves, appropriate to each church, to cover the future demands of building maintenance. This is less easy to evaluate and needs further consideration. I do not consider there to be risk of any of the churches being unable to pay for their building maintenance in the next three years, but we need to keep this under review.

Susan Read,
Treasurer, St Helen's Church, Abingdon

24 March 2025

Appendix 1
St Helen's Church
Church Wardens' & Fabric Reports

2024 was a year of two halves - with a Rector and without one. As I took up the post of warden in June I can report only on the latter half of the year, much of which was spent preparing for Charles' retirement and then adjusting to a new regime. We gave Charles a protracted farewell season including the fine parish lunch at the Garden Hilton hotel in September, a last 10.30am service at St. Helen's and then the splendid final service in November with a church packed to the rafters.

By December we had settled down into the new regime of a vacancy, largely thanks to the ministry of our two part time Associate Priests, Akma and Jen and the work of our retired clergy with PtO. They have been most generous with their time and efforts. It is a measure of how blessed we are with clergy that Low Sunday will be the first time we will have needed to call on a priest from outside our team of clergy to take the 10.30 Eucharist at St. Helen's.

Everyone has pulled together; the DCC has been most supportive throughout this period and we are grateful to Geoff Meen for taking on the role of Chair. No matters have been allowed to slip during the vacancy and with the clear and helpful support of Pat Hudson we have managed to make a bit of progress in improving our attention to safeguarding and to Health and Safety. Norman Gee has done sterling work in installing new office computers and a small group has been looking into the office phone system. This will need renewing in the near future. The Events team have continued to work very hard in putting on a series of concerts last year and the barn dance in Feb, helping to raise money for the church but also to bring us together as a congregation.

Do, please, look at our Church Report for the ADCM to find out about all the activities which have been taking place in 2024, but to highlight a few: it was good to be able to continue the initiative of having a 'presentation' in the west porch of the church over Easter and Christmas. Sue Pemberton produced a lovely Easter garden which was on display and stewards handed out sheets giving details of Easter services, and mini eggs to passersby. At Christmas we had our usual nativity scene and again greeted those walking past with good wishes.

We have been able to continue with some more newcomers' lunches, giving those comparatively new to the church the chance to meet and get to know others who have been around a while.

Thanks to Jen who arranged further series of Faith Forum last year at the later time of 12.30, with a light lunch beforehand. The later time enables our friends at St Michael's to attend as their Sunday service clashed with the earlier time of 9.15am.

I personally was delighted to pass the management of the Christmas market to Jeanette Thomas and Pat Hudson last year. They did a tremendous job and well over £3,000 was raised in total for church funds. It is also an occasion when we can welcome townsfolk into our building.

The Choir has continued to grow in size and skill under the masterful leadership of Peter Foster, ably assisted by Andrew Shouler. The quality of the singing and music over the Christmas period was some of the best I have heard at St. Helen's; thank you, Peter.

Like so many churches, our congregation is aging which means that active volunteers are thinner on the ground. Our Junior Church, Quest and Senior Quest have reduced in numbers but we still have quite a few children and young people in our congregation, some of whom it is lovely to welcome back in university vacations.

It is good to report that our finances are sound with a welcome net income of a few thousand over expenditure in the General Fund at the end of 2024. As we move into 2025, we are gearing up for a

big fundraising campaign to pay for new lighting and wiring throughout the church and the redecoration of some of the walls. Much of the groundwork has now been done and we are awaiting the approval of the DAC before entering a formal Faculty application. A substantial amount has already been pledged to the campaign.

Finally, a large thank you to all those who help to keep the church up and running whether it's behind the scenes in preparing for services, stewarding the church, pastoral care and visiting the housebound, the Friends of St Helen's etc.; we are all parts of the one body which maintains a spiritual presence and a beautiful building for the people of Abingdon and beyond.

Margaret Horton & David Pope, Churchwardens

FABRIC REPORT

One of the priorities for 2024 has been the investigation and repair of roof leaks, both for the Church and the Parish Centre. There had been a problem for some time with damp in a corner of the Parish Office near where the Office roof adjoins the wall of the Rectory. The damp had caused damage to plaster and paint in the corner. The contractor discovered that there was a fault in the construction of the lead step flashing on the roof. The lower layer of waterproofing (lead soakers) had been omitted when the Centre was built. The contractor lifted the tiles and the existing flashing, and fitted new soakers underneath. This appears to have fixed the leak, however it will take some time for the wall to dry out completely before it is redecorated.

There was a second leak in the Centre, near the top of the dormer. The location made it difficult to reach, because of the corrugated PVC roofing in the area, blocking access from ground level. The contractor put a crawling board on top of the PVC and was able to inspect the lead flashing, finding a small crack in the lead. This has been filled with a sealant.

For the Church, there had been a persistent roof leak near the organ. Despite repeated visual inspections, there was no obvious sign of cracks in the lead in that area or nearby. The leak was located by squirting water onto the roof from a hosepipe, working upwards until water started leaking into the Church. There had been a failure underneath the edge of a lead repair patch, which made the crack very difficult to see.

The Tower notice board had been suffering from rotting of the wood in some areas, along with unsightly discolouration of the back board. Our thanks go to the Church Caretaker Robin Day for undertaking extensive woodwork repairs. The refurbished board is now mounted on spacers, slightly offset from the church wall, to reduce the risk of water getting trapped behind the board.

There has been progress with the monitoring of the Archives Room, as reported last year. There had been concern from a professional archivist about the risk of damp in the unheated room. The measurements now cover a full year and show that Relative Humidity is within or close to the recommended range in all weather conditions. There has been no risk of condensation or mould growth on the archives during this extended period.

There has been a problem for some time with the mechanism for opening and closing the high clerestory windows in the Nave. The window cords have frayed over the years and no longer run smoothly over the pulleys. It is possible for the cord to come off the pulley wheel and get stuck at the side of the wheel, so the window becomes jammed, open or closed. It would be possible to replace the cords, but it has been decided to leave the windows permanently closed. There have been problems with pigeons entering the Church by these windows, if they are left open for any length of time.

Other fabric work has included the replacement of a leaking water heater in the Church Servery, also a continuation of the regular roof maintenance, clearing gutters and downpipes.

Stephen Thomas, Fabric Officer

Appendix 2
St Michael and All Angels' Church
Church Wardens' & Fabric Reports

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

Worship and Services:

During 2024 we held our regular pattern of services with a Sung Mass on Sunday at 09.30 and a Said Mass on Thursday (although during the winter months we changed this to a Tuesday for reasons of energy economy). In addition, we celebrated certain Holy Days, such as Ash Wednesday, Dedication Festival, All Souls Day. The average attendance on Sundays is 39 and the average attendance for the midweek Mass is 8.

Lent and Easter: During Lent each Tuesday evening there was an opportunity to walk the Stations of the Cross. In Holy Week, Mass was celebrated on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday led by the Revd Canon Richard Pyke. On Maundy Thursday we observed the Mass of the Lord's Supper with the Washing of the Feet. On Good Friday morning Carol Bowman led a short interactive children's service which was attended by 38 adults and 18 children, and which was followed by a variety of craft activities whilst refreshments were served.

Christmas: Our Christmas celebrations commenced with our popular Crib Service led by Maggie Davis and Carol Bowman and was attended by 54 adults and 39 children. The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols took place on Christmas Eve with an attendance of 135. Many thanks to Glynne Butt and the choir for their superb contribution to this beautiful service. Christmas Morning Mass was attended by 38 people.

We had 3 baptisms and 2 services of Thanksgiving in 2024. Two weddings were celebrated. Additionally, there were 7 funerals which included one held at the Crematorium. One interment of ashes was held for our dear friend Adrienne Compton-James.

We are very grateful to our honorary clergy and to our clergy for their continued dedication and commitment to service which enables us to worship at St Michael's.

Community:

Abingdon School held 3 services during 2024. A Leavers' service, in June, with 272 in attendance; and Lower School and Parents and Boarders' Carol Services in December with a total of 560 in attendance. St Nicolas School held their Easter Service with an attendance of 187.

In April we were fortunate enough to enjoy a Service in which Cothill Boys Choir led the singing. Many thanks to Graham Howell for arranging this lovely service.

The Oxford Diocese Ride and Stride was held as usual. We opened the church to meet and greet the cyclists and offered refreshments as part of our cream teas series. Two keen cyclists rode to and from Oxford to support the causes of Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust and St Michael's.

The Albert Park Singers continue to use the church for their rehearsals and held two concerts during the year; both were splendid, joyful occasions.

During the year, the church was hired out to various organisations to hold concerts: Abingdon Music Festival, The Abingdon Chorale Choir, Bella's Family Choir.

The church room is used by one group on a regular basis. It has also been hired on an ad hoc basis during the year.

We have continued to support various charities throughout the year: TAB, Tariro, Flexicare, Be Free Young Carers, Abingdon Foodbank, The Porch, Homeless Oxfordshire.

Volunteers:

One of the strong characteristics of St Michael's is the way that members of the congregation come together to help in so many ways. We should like to thank all our volunteers who contribute to keep things running smoothly. We could not manage without those who clean the church and church room; those who arrange the flowers; those who do vital odd jobs – small repairs, cleaning and repairing the linen or sorting out the heating or sound; those who make the coffee; the vergers at weddings and funerals; our sidepersons; those who manage publicity on the website. Nor should we forget to express our gratitude to our fund-raising team whose efforts have improved our financial situation and brought more music and people into the church. And we shouldn't forget our DCC whose members meet regularly for the benefit of St Michael's. We thank them for their commitment. We thank you all.

We would like to thank those who help in our worship: those who serve at the altar, our sacristans, our organists, readers and intercessors, our dedicated choir members, our bell ringers. Much work goes on behind the scenes; we must thank David Duce who prepares our service booklets for all our worship, and faithfully creates the pew leaflet each week so keeping us all informed. We are also blessed to have members of the congregation who are happy to lead worship, for instance in Silent Reflections, walking the Stations of the Cross, Advent walks.

Finally, a big thank you to Fr Paul for his leadership, support, kindness and love. Let us continue to pray for the Lord's blessing on him.

Louise Heffernan and Joyce Kelly, March 2025

FABRIC & ENERGY REPORT 2024

Routine Maintenance was conducted as usual in 2024. The boilers were serviced, PAT testing carried out, the organ tuned, fire extinguishers and alarms maintained.

In the heavy storms of the autumn and winter we had a major leak in the South Aisle. We have had 2 companies out to give us advice and quotes for any work which would need to be undertaken. The matter is ongoing and we hope to get it rectified before any damage occurs.

The DCC is keen for us to get a security light above the North Door and we have got 2 quotes for this work and hope to get DAC approval for this to be done.

The Fabric and Energy Committee are actively looking at ways in which we can heat St Michael's Church both effectively and efficiently. This is, obviously, an ongoing project.

Louise Heffernan and Joyce Kelly March 2025

Appendix 3
St Nicolas' Church
Church Wardens' & Fabric Reports

Services:

Our Sunday Services followed the normal pattern in 2024, with the 8.00am Parish Holy Communion (1662), alternating monthly with St Helen's, and our main morning service at 11.15am.

St Nicolas also hosted the Parish Ascension Day evening Communion and St Nicolas Evensong – both with the support of musicians from our sister churches and wider afield. At our St Nicolas Evensong we welcomed our Bowles Lecturer and Chaplain of Trinity College, the Reverend Joshua Brocklesby as Preacher. It was good to be able to make this connection which we hope will continue. We aim to zoom all 11:15 (and celebration) services, and also to make the sermons available on line.

In June it was good to be able to host a short Service for pilgrims at the start of their second day of the St Frideswide's Way walk. This new pilgrim route between Christ Church Cathedral and Reading Abbey follows the Thames for much of its route, and a booklet of the route and prayers / mediations for use by pilgrims features many of the churches passed – including St Nicolas' & St Helen's.

Our monthly Services of Communion by Extension at Bridge House and Old Station House continued, and during good weather it was good to welcome residents and carers from Old Station House to St Nic's for a short service followed by a time of fellowship.

We again provided the venue for the Church in Abingdon week of lunch time prayers for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This year the theme was Caring for the Planet with each session focussing on an aspect of ecological concern – plastic pollution; transport, effects on climate change on biodiversity etc. The after service refreshments offered further time to explore the topics. Many thanks to all who helped by stewarding and providing lunch.

It was a privilege to host the funerals of two long standing members of the congregation – David Howard and Andrew Birks. Both of whom had given many years of service on the DCC and as Warden (David) and Treasurer (Andrew).

Activities:

During the year a small group (headed by Roger Cox and Patrick Holligan) focussed on our environmental footprint – looking at how we use the building, energy consumption, travel to church, the consumables we use in cleaning, printing etc, how the garden is looked after, and the impact of environmental concerns in our prayers and services etc. You may have noticed some changes – the use where possible of locally grown flowers (many from congregation members' gardens); less use of (non-recyclable) oasis in flower arranging; turning unnecessary lights off etc; the 'blister pack' recycling point at the back of church. The Annexe refurbishment last year included improved insulation, double glazing, efficient heating and hot water etc.
At the end of the exercise we were delighted to be awarded the Silver A Roche Eco Award. But this is an ongoing process as we continue to seek to minimise our environmental impact.

For many years we have displayed a Nativity Scene in the south porch in the run up to Christmas which has caught the eye of many passers-by. In 2024 we arranged a Lent Display, consisting of a stark wooden cross with symbols of Holy Week being added week by week during Lent. This too

seemed to attract attention, and will be repeated in 2025, we are thinking of other innovative ways in which we could use the porch as outreach even when we are closed.

Throughout the year the church was open Church to visitors – primarily on Monday mornings, but also for the OHCT Ride & Stride Day, Heritage Open Days, and to coincide with Saturday events in the Market Place. We often have other visits from various groups, both local and from further afield. Thank you to all who have assisted in Stewarding at these events. During Heritage Open Days we were also the venue for a 'Picture in a Day' art exhibition which we hope will be repeated in 2025.

The after-service coffee on Third Sundays offers the opportunity for the congregation to talk and get to know each other more. This was extended in September when our Harvest Festival service was followed by a Bring & Share lunch in Church. The traditional St Nicolas Day Lunch at Coseners House in December was attended by members from all three churches in the Parish.

There have been a few fundraising concerts for St Nic's plus other Sunday afternoon concerts by Abbey Chamber Concerts. We also hosted two art sales by Abbey Artists and a couple of evening events by Mostly Books. In the run up to Christmas we welcomed back Cards for Good causes – selling charity cards and goods. Cards for Good Causes very kindly 'shuffled up' to enable us to be open for the Abingdon Extravaganza – with a sale of donated knitted goods, a tombola and a raffle featuring as star prize another of Julia's magnificent Christmas Cakes.
Many thanks to all who organised and supported these events.

Thanks:

On behalf of the congregation, I'd like to give thanks to all those (ordained and lay) who have led services at St Nic's over the year. Also, to Jenny for all her work as Treasurer. Thank you too, to those who have led our prayers and our music, and to the people who provide flowers.

Especially, I would like to thank everyone who has supported St Nicolas throughout the year. Whether through prayer, donations, or practical work week by week - doing those small tasks which we would only notice if they were not done.

FABRIC REPORT 2024

Twenty twenty-four has mainly been a year of preparation fabric wise. We reported last year we had started consultations on the refurbishment of the Blacknall Memorial / Blacknall Aisle. In 2024 we invited specialist conservators to look at and quote for work to both the Memorial & Aisle, and started discussions with the Diocesan Advisory Committee (essentially the Diocesan Planning Authority). It is good to be able to report that we have now received permission to move ahead with restoration of the Monument. We have also received permission to undertake some external drainage and guttering works which we hope will make the Aisle less susceptible to damp.

We commissioned a full report on the wall paintings, which concluded that they are Victorian, and suggested how they might be preserved into the future. We are now awaiting permission to conserve the walls of the Blacknall Aisle, after which we will need to decide on future conservation / preservation.

As a first step the wiring running along the edge of the painted wall was rerouted and placed in trunking.

We are very honoured that the family of Dr Andrew Birks, longtime Treasurer for St Nicolas and the parish, has decided to make a substantial donation in his memory towards the tri-partite project. Donations made at his funeral have also been designated for the work.

With conservation work on the monument planned to take place in early summer, we are now planning on a commemorative Service on 21 August 2025 - the 400th Anniversary of John & Jane's death.

During the year we also commissioned a Diocesan Sponsored Energy Audit to identify ways of lowering our energy usage. The main short term project suggested was to fit lower energy lights, and install motion detectors in areas where lights can sometimes be left on unnecessarily. Approval for this has now been achieved, and work should take place in spring 2025.

The final part of our Annexe project was completed with a number of badly eroded grave markers being moved into the old boiler room under the organ chamber. This required some repointing to the retaining wall by the steps down.

Routine testing of the lightening conductor, central heating, automatic doors and fire extinguishers was carried out during the year. The organ and piano were retuned regularly.
Eluned Hallas

Appendix 4
Faith Forum

Faith Forum is part of the parish's adult education provision, and gives an opportunity for members of the congregations and others in the parish to hear talks on aspects of the Christian faith and how Christian faith relates to other areas of life and culture. Beginning with the Spring 2024 series, the timing of Faith Forum meetings was moved from before to after the St Helen's 10.30 service, to make it more accessible to members of all three congregations. A buffet lunch is provided from 12.30pm, and the talks run from 12.45pm to 1.30pm (including Q&A time). The change of time, while not without some drawbacks, most notably the gap between the end of the St Helen's service and the start of Faith Forum, has provided popular, with 30 to 40 attendees at each talk. Thanks to Linda Hobbs, Hazel Glennie, and Elizabeth Simpson for their work in providing hospitality for Faith Forum.

The Faith Forum planning group continues to meet at the end of each Faith Forum 'season', to review the most recent programme and plan for future talks.

Faith Forum talks continue to be streamed on Zoom and recorded. Recordings are then made available on the parish website.

Topics covered in 2024 were the Sacraments (Spring 2024) and Ways to Engage with the Bible (Autumn 2024). Topics being covered in 2025 are 'Big Topics' in Theology (Spring 2025) and Personal Spirituality (Autumn 2025). Other topics being considered for future series include Environmental Theology, the Language of Liturgy, and Denominational Identities.

The planning group is next due to meet following the conclusion of the spring 2025 series, to agree speakers for the autumn series and to agree topics for 2026.

I would like to express my thanks to the members of the planning group: Norman Gee, Eluned Hallas, Linda Hobbs, Margaret Hoskins, David Pope, Rob Rutherford and Roderick Smith. I would also like to thank Nick Hallas for Zoom hosting, and Steve Thomas for ensuring recordings of Faith Forum make it onto the parish website. Thanks are also due to the speakers who provided talks in 2024.

Revd Dr Jennifer Brown
Associate Priest, Faith Forum Lead

Appendix 5
A Candle in the Window

You will remember that this online version of the Parish Magazine was started in April 2020 as one means by which members of the Parish could keep in touch during the pandemic. We are still going.

Our guiding principles for the Parish magazine remain the same:

- To represent the whole Parish by encouraging as many as possible to contribute
- To encourage a wide readership
- To inform, educate and entertain.

Is it fulfilling those purposes? It is hard to answer that – what would you say? We don't get much feedback! The only statistic we have is to look at the number of downloads. It is about 100 and printed copies are also available at St Nicolas and at the Parish Office for those who need them. Thanks to those who organise that. However, this raw statistic doesn't tell us if the magazine is being enjoyed or even read! A survey might help but I think someone else should take that on!

Thank you to all contributors and to you the readers. Please continue to contribute and to read! We think that the magazine provides a rich mixture. Please tell us how to improve it! Email candle@abingdonparish.org.uk

Rob Rutherford, Louise Heffernan and Eluned Hallas

Appendix 6
Abingdon Society of Bellringers

Tower Bell Ringers

The bells are rung every Sunday morning at St Helen's and St Nicolas', while Tuesday evening practices alternate at the two towers. On Friday afternoons we welcome boys from Abingdon School for their practice. This is followed by a lively session for our own youngsters, who are making excellent progress. Some are able to qualify for the Oxford Diocesan team in the annual National Youth Contest.

As part of the Oxon Ringing School (along with Dorchester-on-Thames, Witney and Kirtlington), adults are taught basic bell handing on Saturday mornings. This is possible with the generous help of volunteer experienced teachers from a wide area of Oxfordshire.

In 2024 we organised two Association of Ringing Teachers (ART) day courses to train new teachers of bell ringing. Quite a few new teachers attend the Ringing School to be mentored and gain experience in order to achieve accreditation.

Last year we rang for the occasional wedding and tolled for a number of funerals.

Visitors are very welcome to come up the tower to see the bells and ringing. We are happy to teach girls and boys (from age 10) who may be interested in learning to handle a bell and join in.

Brian Read, Tower Captain *March 2025*

Handbell Ringers

In 2024 our team had eleven members, enough for all the events at which we were asked to perform.

We held ten weekly practices starting on 13th October. We again met in the Parish Centre each Sunday evening.

We provided background music at three church Christmas fairs this year (St Michael's, St Helen's and Dorchester Abbey). We entertained at three clubs, two church carol services and one care home. I also gave a talk on handbells to the Trefoil Guild.

I'd like to thank all the handbell ringers again this year for their helpfulness and for the fun we have had.

Susan Read, Handbell Group Leader *March 2025*

www.abingdonbells.org.uk

Appendix 7
Report on the activities of the Church in Abingdon

Parish Representatives:

St H: Alexandra Green
St M: John Clare
St N: Sue Holligan

Staff Changes:

There have been a few changes in the clergy over the past year: Revd David Masters was appointed as the new minister for the Peachcroft Christian Centre; Revd Ian Griffiths left Trinity and All Saints and Revd Georgina Bondzi-Simpson was appointed; Revd James Whymark was appointed Associate Vicar at Christ Church; Revd Dr A K M Adam (AKMA) joined the staff at St Helen's as the new House-for-Duty minister, and Revd Dr Charles Miller retired as Team Rector and Team Vicar for St Helens in November; Michael Ivey left Abingdon Community Church - Assistant Pastor Robin Howard and Duncan Graham will cover until a new minister is appointed.

Task groups and associated projects:

The CiA has continued to support a number of community projects and working groups that concentrate on specific areas of cooperation. These include:

Task groups

- The Christian Aid group held the Christian Aid Week.
- The Christian Forum column continues to appear in the Abingdon Round & About monthly magazine under the direction of the CiA Administrator Debra Mcknight.
- Several exchange visits of the Church Twinning group have taken place – one to Abingdon, one to Sint Niklaus and one to Argentan.
- The work of Desire continues.
- An Alpha launch night took place at Christ Church and St Edmund as a prelim to their Alpha courses.
- The work of Prayer Spaces continues in Abingdon schools with Ellie Ball in charge of schools in south Abingdon and Heather Hughes leading those in schools in north Abingdon.

Associated projects

- 35 Ock Street, a hospitality centre for the community offering a café and a listening ear, and meeting rooms for local groups and agencies.
- The Abingdon Bridge, which has continued to reach out to the youth of Abingdon, providing support, advice and guidance to an increasing number of vulnerable young people in the community.
- Abingdon Street Pastors who are out on the streets of Abingdon on Saturday nights
- Experience Easter, which now offers both live and online versions at Trinity Church.

United activities 2024

January

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, theme: Caring for the Planet
Midday prayers at St Nic's Church.
The Inter-church quiz, at Christ Church, was won by Abingdon Baptist Church, and raised £104.37 for the charity SeeSaw.
The United Service at Our Lady and St Edmund's Church raised £90 for the John Ray Initiative.

February

CiA AGM
Connect youth weekend at Youlbury.

March

The World Day of Prayer service at All Saints Church organised by the CiA Administrator and volunteers from the previous WDP committee. The service for 2024 was prepared by the women of Palestine with the theme 'I beg you, bear with one another in love'. Revd Ian Griffiths led the service.
TrinityLearning's Easter Experience at Trinity Church offering both live and online workshops to KS2 school children to access the Easter story.
The procession of witness on Good Friday stopping in the Market Place for a short outdoor service led by Pastor Ellie Bal and joined by the fellowship group singers from Christ Church and musicians from the Abingdon Baptist Church. Mini Easter eggs and an Easter Tract were given out.

April

A Connect event at Christ Church.
Church Twinning Group arranged a visit to Abingdon for a group of women from Schongau.

May

Christian Aid week market place sale and a street collection raised £1024

June

The 4th Abingdon Passion Play in the Abbey Gardens.
Church Twinning invited visitors from Sint Niklaas to attend the Abingdon Passion Play.
Pre-election hustings for the General Election in July at Abingdon Baptist Church.

July

The South Abingdon Play & Activity Day event in Southern Town Park with Abingdon Community Church taking place. AVC and ABC had to pull out at late notice.

September

Christ Church and St Edmund both held Alpha launch nights, prior to the start of their Alpha courses.
A Connect event at Christ Church.

October

The Michaelmas fair service with Deacon Selina Nisbett leading.

December

People from all the churches gathered in the Market Place to sing carols and give out leaflets detailing all the Christmas services taking place across Abingdon. Children's crafts, festive nibbles were also on offer.
The Peachcroft Christian Centre hosted a Christmas Day lunch for about 60 people from around Abingdon.

Finance

The grants paid in 2024 were:

- The Abingdon Bridge £2000 for their work with disadvantaged young people
- DESIRE youth network £1500 to help run schools weeks and larger events
- Abingdon Street Pastors £1000 to fund their ongoing help for people out at night
- Experience Easter £750 to help school children and their teachers explore the Easter story
- Archway £750 for their work with the lonely in and around Abingdon

Debra McKnight CiA Administrator

Appendix 8
Report on St Nicolas School

St Nicolas CE Primary continues to flourish and serve the children and families of the parish and beyond. The connection with the Parish is very much valued, not least through Father Paul's ongoing commitment to take regular assemblies in school and the whole school church services at Christmas (Trinity Church), Easter (St Michael's) and at the end of the school year (St Helen's). This connection helps to enhance the school's commitment to its Christian ethos and values which are celebrated in the whole school assemblies on Mondays and in class collective worship during the week.

In accordance with the government's requirement for all Governing Bodies, the three core strategic functions of the school's Governing Body are: to ensure the clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school; to hold the head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils; and to oversee the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent. During the 2023/24 school year, Staff and Governors spent time looking improving children's outcomes in writing, embedding the vision and values into school life, and improving school attendance across all year groups. The budget continues to be challenging as funding for education across the country is squeezed and so support from charities, like Christ's Hospital and from the St Nicolas School Association has been invaluable. The full Governors' report can be read here which provides further information.

At the end of the year, Governors and staff expressed their sincere thanks to Eluned Hallas who stepped down as Foundation Governor after 18 years. Although it was hoped that Father Paul Smith would take on this role, the demands of the Parish's interregnum have not made this possible. As a result there is a current vacancy and the Chair of Governors would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in learning more about this opportunity to serve the children of the Parish and wider community in this way.

Finally, it is with great pleasure that we also share the news of the very positive SIAMS inspection (for Church of England schools, in addition to OFSTED) that took place at the start of this academic year. The inspection was an opportunity to highlight the impact that the school's Christian vision has on the flourishing of the whole school community. The findings reflected the school's positive values, inclusive ethos, and high expectations where everyone is valued as an individual. The full report can be found here

Katrina Hancock, Chair of Governors

Appendix 9
Report on the Abingdon Foodbank

Abingdon Food Bank continues to be an important lifeline for many families in need within our community. In the last year a new Manager has been appointed, he is initiating additional staff training to ensure Foodbank users have access to assistance with Benefit advice. The food bank is under Trussel Trust management.

Abingdon has two food banks, the Christchurch hub opens Tuesday and Friday mornings, South Abingdon Foodbank at Preston Road food opens Wednesday afternoon.
There is an ever increasing demand for support with an increasing need from refugee families, these families and individuals have no recourse to public funds, therefor until employment is found there is a need for short term food support. The Christ Church hub also offers a regular language café aimed to integrate families and improve language skills.

The Parish of Abingdon continues to actively support the work of the Food banks. Regular donations of tinned foods as well as monetary donations help to support this important work and ministry.

We would like to offer thanks to all who have contributed in any way to the work of Food Banks locally and nationally. Without the work of paid employees, volunteers and those who donate, clients would be facing even more difficult situations.

Linda Hobbs
Food Bank volunteer (St H)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

I report on the accounts of the above parish for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the 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 parish's accounts carried out under s145 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

The parish's gross income exceeds £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by virtue of being a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an Independent Examination.

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

A Churchill Stone FCA DChA

Mercer Lewin Ltd
Chartered Accountants
6-7 Citibase, New Barclay House
234 Botley Rd
Oxford OX2 0HP

17 April 2025

THE PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	2024 Unrestricted funds £	2024 Restricted funds £	2024 Endowment Funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
INCOME						
Voluntary income	2a	239,914	49,201	-	289,115	289,156
Activities for generating funds	2b	30,589	52	-	30,641	16,716
Investment income	2c	10,309	24,236	-	34,546	32,385
From church activities	2d	19,834	1,842	-	21,676	18,283
Other income		195	0	-	195	739
		300,842	75,332	-	376,173	357,280
EXPENDITURE						
Fundraising costs		4,251	-	-	4,251	3,735
Church activities	3a	279,896	43,409	-	323,306	392,921
Other expenditure		110	-	-	110	1,790
		284,257	43,409	-	327,667	398,446
Net Income (Expenditure) before Investment Gains		16,584	31,922	-	48,507	(41,166)
Gains and losses on investment assets on revaluation		9,151	4,164	4,460	17,775	46,823
Transfers between funds		(11,280)	11,280	-	(0)	(0)
Net movement in funds		14,456	47,366	4,460	66,282	5,657
Total funds brought forward		723,915	233,597	294,092	1,251,603	1,245,946
Total funds carried forward		738,371	280,963	298,552	1,317,885	1,251,603

THE PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	2024 Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total £	2023 Total £
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible assets	5	389,092	14,437	83,185	486,714	491,328
Investments	6	202,323	139,070	199,866	541,260	553,375
		591,415	153,507	283,052	1,027,974	1,044,703
CURRENT ASSETS						
Stocks		3,851	-	-	3,851	272
Debtors	7	36,777	18,349	-	55,126	54,659
Short term deposits		98,893	121,390	15,500	235,783	151,531
Cash at bank and in hand		20,206	960	0	21,166	31,829
		159,727	140,699	15,500	315,926	238,291
CREDITORS						
Amounts due within one year	8	(12,772)	(13,243)	-	(26,015)	(31,390)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		146,956	127,456	15,500	289,912	206,900
NET ASSETS		738,371	280,963	298,552	1,317,885	1,251,603
FUNDS OF THE CHURCH						
Unrestricted funds	9	738,371	-	-	738,371	726,180
Restricted funds	10	-	280,963	-	280,963	231,332
Endowment funds	11	-	-	298,552	298,552	294,092
		738,371	280,963	298,552	1,317,885	1,251,603

These accounts were approved by the PCC on ..... and are signed on its behalf by:

S F Scott — Susan Read — J A Smith

Sue Scott
PCC Chairman

Susan Read, FMAAT
Treasurer, St Helen's DCC

Dr J Smith (a.k.a. Dr J Metcalfe)
Treasurer St Michael's & St Nicolas DCCs

THE PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a. Basis of preparation

The Parish is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared under The Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions, together with FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standard and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP (FRS 102)).

b. Funds

Unrestricted funds are general funds available for the general objectives of the church. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

Restricted funds can only be used for the purposes for which thy have been given, within the objectives of the church. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against those specific funds.

Endowment funds represent endowments, of which the capital must be maintained, and the dividend income used only for the restricted purposes arising from the establishment of the endowments.

c. Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities ("SoFA") when the church becomes legally entitled to the income and when the amount can be quantified with reasonable certainty.

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving is recognised only when received. Grants and legacies are recognised as soon as the PCC becomes aware of its legal entitlement and the amount due is quantifiable with reasonable certainty.

Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is accounted for when the gift is received.

When incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising income and sales of book sand magazines) the incoming resources and the related resources expended are accounted for gross in the SoFA.

Interest is accounted for when receivable and includes any recoverable tax.

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

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31st December.

d. Resources expended

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis and is recognised when there is a legal or constructive obligation to pay for goods or services and settlement is probable and quantifiable.

As the church is not registered for VAT, all the expenditure is shown inclusive of VAT.

Governance costs include the costs of the preparation of the annual accounts, the cost of PCC meetings and the legal cost of advice on governance or constitutional matters.

Grants and charitable giving are accounted for when paid over or when awarded, if the award creates a binding obligation on the PCC, provided that there are no conditions to be met relating to the grant which remain in the control of the church.

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2) of the Charities Act 2011. All expenditure incurred during the year on such property is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed

e. Pensions

The PCC encourages its employees to join the a Pension Scheme which is a defined contribution pension scheme. The PCC matches contributions made by employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the PCC. The contributions payable by the PCC are charged to the SoFA as they are incurred.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

f. Fixed assets

The Parish owns various freehold properties, the majority of which were acquired prior to the requirement to capitalise such expenditure. These properties have therefore not been included in cost. Freehold property acquired more recently is included at cost.

No depreciation is provided on buildings with a current estimated residual value of not less than their carrying value, otherwise the cost of buildings acquired is depreciated over a period of 100 years.

Office equipment is depreciated on a straight line basis over 3 to 5 years.
Other equipment is depreciated on a straight line basis over 20 years.

Investments are valued at Market Value.

g. Current assets

Amounts owed to the Parish at the year end in respect of fees, rents and other income are shown as debtors.

Short term deposits include cash on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

	2024				2023
2. INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total
a. Voluntary income	£	£	£	£	£
Planned regular giving	169,413	-	-	169,413	170,959
Income tax recoverable	45,086	2,644	-	47,730	45,459
Other giving	-	-	-	-	-
Collections (open plate)	13,233	-	-	13,233	12,142
Legacies	-	39,284	-	39,284	20,145
Grants, Govt, Local Authorities	527	2,647	-	3,174	5,250
Grants, other	6,447	1,818	-	8,265	14,352
Sundry donations	5,207	2,809	-	8,016	20,850
	239,914	49,201	-	289,115	289,156
b. Activities for generating funds	£	£	£	£	£
Fetes & other fund-raising	30,589	52	-	30,641	16,716
	30,589	52	-	30,641	16,716
c. Income from investments	£	£	£	£	£
Dividends & Interest	10,309	12,677	-	22,987	19,560
Rent from land or other buildings	-	-	-	-	-
Share of income from Blacknall legacy	-	11,559	-	11,559	12,825
	10,309	24,236	-	34,546	32,385
d. Income from Church activities	£	£	£	£	£
Bookstall	-	-	-	-	57
Church hall lettings	12,595	1,520	-	14,115	12,654
Magazines	-	-	-	-	-
Fees	7,240	322	-	7,562	5,573
	19,834	1,842	-	21,676	18,283

3. RESOURCES EXPENDED	2024 Unrestricted Funds	2024 Restricted funds	2024 Endowment Funds	2024 Total	2023 Total
a. Church Activities	£	£	£	£	£
Church overseas	-	-	-	-	-
Relief & Development agencies	2,105	-	-	2,105	1,839
Home missions, other church societies	2,789	-	-	2,789	2,489
Secular charities	7,800	-	-	7,800	4,280
Ministry Parish share	157,450	-	-	157,450	158,371
Incumbents' expenses	2,691	-	-	2,691	3,939
Assistant staff	259	-	-	259	428
Church fuel	25,817	525	-	26,342	36,426
Church running expenses, other	8,772	15,568	-	24,340	26,291
Church maintenance	2,080	12,408	-	14,488	32,893
Upkeep of services	7,988	1,429	-	9,417	8,122
Bookstall	-	-	-	-	-
Support costs	492	-	-	492	442
Parish Centre running costs	7,702	-	-	7,702	6,992
House for Assistant Cleric	-	3,516	-	3,516	5,131
Salaries, wages and honoraria	36,916	-	-	36,916	34,905
Major repairs & replacements (installations	-	3,043	-	3,043	52,720
Printing, stationery etc.	5,630	-	-	5,630	6,100
General administration	-	170	-	170	147
Lease of office equipment	3,845	-	-	3,845	5,101
Depreciation	6,209	6,750	-	12,959	5,599
Bank charges	1,350	-	-	1,350	706
	279,896	43,409	-	323,306	392,921
b. Analysis of other costs	£	£	£	£	£
Independent examination	110	-	-	110	1,790
	110	-	-	110	1,790

4. STAFF COSTS	2024 £	2023 £
Organists	12,266	11,736
Vergers	5,949	5,237
Parish administrator	16,247	14,858
Cleaners	2,082	1,833
Other staff costs	373	1,240
	36,916	34,905
The average no of employees was as follows:		
Organists	2	2
Vergers	1	1
Parish administrator	1	1
Cleaner	1	1
	5	5

None of the Trustees received any remuneration or employee benefits during the year. The lay trustees, where applicable, who acted as agents to the PCC in making approved payments on its behalf, were reimbursed for these expenses on presentation of suitable documentary evidence.

Clergy working expenses were reimbursed in accordance with Church of England guidelines.

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Property	Office Equipment	Other Equipment	2024 Total
Cost				
At 1 January 2024	512,450	-	30,785	543,235
Written off	(7,500)	-	-	(7,500)
Additions	-	8,345	-	8,345
At 31 December 2024	504,950	8,345	30,785	544,080
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2024	36,750	-	15,157	51,907
Written off	(750)	-	-	(750)
Charge for the year	2,000	1,361	2,848	6,209
At 31 December 2024	38,000	1,361	18,005	57,366
Net book value at 1 January 2024	475,700	-	15,628	491,328
Net book value at 31 December 2024	466,950	6,984	12,780	486,714

The market value of the freehold properties are considered to be in excess of the above carrying value, however, it is not considered practicable or cost effective to quantify the difference.

6. INVESTMENTS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
CBF Investment Fund	3,029	134,945	156,703	294,676	287,080
CBF Fixed Interest Securities	62,969	4,126	-	67,095	65,009
CBF Global Equity Income Fund	108,768	-	-	108,768	102,362
CBF Property Fund	-	-	-	-	29,509
CBF UK Equity Income Fund	27,557	-	-	27,557	27,205
COIF Investment Fund	-	-	43,164	43,164	42,210
	202,323	139,070	199,866	541,260	553,375

Market value	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
At 1 January	223,062	134,906	195,406	553,375	506,552
Investments purchased	-	-	-	-	-
Investments transferred	(27,686)	-	-	(27,686)	-
Dividends reinvested	-	-	-	-	1,084
Surplus/(deficit) on revaluation	6,947	4,164	4,460	15,571	45,740
At 31 December	202,323	139,070	199,866	541,260	553,375

7. DEBTORS

	2024 £	2023 £
Income tax recoverable	12,200	15,770
Prepayments and accrued income	42,926	38,888
	55,126	54,659

8. CREDITORS

	£	£
Sundry creditors and accruals	26,015	31,390

9. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	Brought forward	Income	Expend-iture	Inv movement	Transfer	Carried forward
General funds	479,457	299,429	(283,970)	8,963	(10,188)	493,691
Designated funds						
St Helen's Church						
Archivist fund	4,807	186	-	-	-	4,993
Babies & toddlers	4,235	560	-	-	-	4,794
Clerical housing (designated)	207,379	-	-	-	-	207,379
Hospitality fund	1,092	-	-	-	(1,092)	-
Strategic Fund	23,400	38	-	189	-	23,627
Christmas dinner club	-	231	(163)	-	-	67
Vicar & Wardens fund	3,545	398	(124)	-	-	3,819
Total unrestricted funds	723,915	300,842	(284,257)	9,151	(11,280)	738,371

10. RESTRICTED FUNDS						
St Helen's Church						
Bell fund	23,226	1,226	(587)	585	-	24,450
Centre fabric fund	5,382	11	-	360	-	5,753
Choir fund	93	-	-	-	(93)	-
Church fabric fund	47,679	5,058	(18,564)	1,359	-	35,532
Church roof fund	996	260	-	-	-	1,256
Clerical housing (restricted)	12,030	1,734	(10,266)	-	259	3,758
Development fund	1,253	1,566	(1,566)	-	-	1,253
Flower fund	637	887	(723)	-	-	801
Lady aisle fund	7,373	564	-	-	-	7,937
PR fund	875	-	(170)	-	-	705
Sanctuary & choir fund	590	929	(582)	-	-	938
Special Music fund	5,133	-	-	-	93	5,226
St Michael's Church						
Fabric fund	-	76	(1,096)	-	1,020	-
Heating fund	-	525	(525)	-	-	-
Roof fund	-	130	-	-	-	130
Vernon Butt Fund	-	2,819	-	-	10,000	12,819
St Nicolas' Church						
Altar Linen	3,060	146	-	-	-	3,206
Bell fund	30	126	(91)	-	-	65
Blacknall maintenance	112,210	15,980	(4,386)	1,860	-	125,665
Blacknall tomb repair	10,743	41,224	(3,550)	-	-	48,417
Church lands	922	1,360	(496)	-	-	1,787
Churchyard repair	1,327	517	(684)	-	-	1,160
Fabric Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Flower fund	37	106	(124)	-	-	19
Organ Fund	-	88	-	-	-	88
Total restricted funds	233,597	75,332	(43,409)	4,164	11,280	280,963

11. ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	Brought forward	Income	Inv movement	Transfer	Carried forward
St Helen's Church					
16/18 Ock St proceeds	15,500	-	-	-	15,500
A Challenor Bequest	22,470	-	514	-	22,984
Abingdon Oldfield Bequest	83,185	-	-	-	83,185
Backhus Trust	8,952	-	205	-	9,157
Church Fabric Fund (endowment)	28,867	-	661	-	29,528
Church Repair Trust	9,381	-	215	-	9,596
E Hawkins Charity	12,953	-	296	-	13,249
Elderfield Trust	294	-	7	-	301
Hyde Trust	4,860	-	111	-	4,971
North Bequest	10,670	-	244	-	10,914
PCC Trust	8,115	-	186	-	8,301
Preston Trust	20,300	-	465	-	20,764
St Michael's Church					
Challenors & Halcombe	8,409	-	192	-	8,602
Fabric fund	2,441	-	56	-	2,497
Harris Trust	5,538	-	127	-	5,665
Roof fund	4,679	-	107	-	4,786
St Nicolas' Church					
Altar Linen	5,267	-	121	-	5,388
Church Lands Charity	42,210	-	954	-	43,164
	294,092	-	4,460	-	298,552

12. ANALYSIS OF ASSETS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total
Tangible fixed assets	389,092	14,437	83,185	486,714
Investments	202,323	139,070	199,866	541,260
Current assets	159,727	140,699	15,500	315,926
Current liabilities	(12,772)	(13,243)	-	(26,015)
	738,371	280,963	298,552	1,317,885

13. DESCRIPTION OF FUNDS

Designated funds - set aside by the PCC

St Helen's Church

Archivist fund	Funds earned by the church archivist from research on behalf of family historians used for archivist's materials
Babies and Toddlers	Funds earned by running a club for mothers of young children used for equipment for the club
Clerical Housing Fund	Funds received from legacies and fund raising. Partly used toward the purchase of Enock House for the House For Duty priest. Remainder held for future projects.
Hospitality fund	Donations received for the provision of refreshments at events in the church and hall. Surplus donated to St Helen's Church
Vicar and wardens' fund	Funds for use at the discretion of the Rector
Window Publisher	Income and expenditure publishing a book by the Rector some years ago.

St Nicolas' Church

Reordering fund	In 2022 this fund was designated to be used for the refurbishment of the toilet and kitchen block.

13. DESCRIPTION OF FUNDS (continued)

Restricted funds, given for a particular purpose

St Helen's Church

Bell fund	From a legacy of Edgar Humfrey and donations by ringers for the repair and renewal of the bells and fittings.
Centre fabric fund	Donations received for the repair of the church centre.
Choir fund	Income from donations and wedding choir fees. Expenditure on music and choir equipment
Church fabric fund	Endowment income and donations for the repair and renewal of church fabric.
Church roof fund	Endowment income for the repair of the church roof except that of Lady Aisle.
Clerical housing fund	Endowment income for the capital costs of clerical housing.
Development fund	Funds restricted to the work described by the 1999 Development Plan.
Flower fund	Donations made by members of the congregation for church flowers
Lady aisle fund	Endowment income for the repair of the roof of the Lady Aisle.
PR fund	Donations received toward the cost of publicity for church events
Sanctuary and choir fund	Endowment income for furniture, linen, etc. for the sanctuary and choir.
Special music fund	Donations for use at the discretion of the Director of Music to further the music ministry of St Helen's beyond what budgeted funds allow.

St Michael's Church

Fabric fund	Endowment income and donations received for the repair and maintenance of the church buildings
Heating Fund	Donations solely for the cost of heating the church building
Roof fund	Endowment income received for the repair of the church roof
Vernon Butt Fund	For specific, one-off, special expenses approved by the DCC

St Nicolas' Church

Altar Linen fund	Endowment income for the provision of altar linen and choir robes
Bell fund	Funds raised or donated towards the maintenance of the bells and their fittings.
Blacknall maintenance	Endowment income received from the Charity of John Blacknall for 'maintaining, repairing and insuring against fire the fabric, ornaments and furniture'.
Blacknall Tomb Repair Fund	For repairs to the Blacknall memorial and the area around the memorial
Churchyard Fund	For the maintenance of the churchyard and garden.
Church Lands	The income from an historic endowment fund for the upkeep of the church building and the running of services.
Fabric Fund	Income raised for the repair and maintenance of the church buildings.
Flower Fund	Donations made by members of the congregation for church flowers
Organ Fund	For the repair and upkeep of the organ

13. DESCRIPTION OF FUNDS (continued)

Endowment funds

St Helen's Church	
Abingdon Oldfield Bequest	Income restricted to housing for the assistant clergy of the parish
A Challenor Bequest	Income for vesture, furnishings and fittings in the sanctuary and choir
Church repair trust	Income for the repair of the church roof except that of Lady Aisle.
Preston Trust	Income for the upkeep of the roof and ancient paintings of the Lady Aisle.
16/18 Ock Street proceeds, Church fabric fund, Hyde Trust	Income for the upkeep and maintenance of the fabric of St Helen's Church.
All other St Helen's endowment funds	Endowment income to be used for general purposes of St Helen's Church
St Nicolas' Church	
Altar Linen	Endowment for the provision of 'new altar linen, surplices and cassocks'.
Church Lands Charity	Endowment for the 'repairing, maintenance and benefit' of St Nicolas Church.
St Michael's Church	
Challenors and Holcombe Bequests	Unrestricted income for the use of the church.
Harris Trust	Income for the benefit of St Michael's Church, by way of upkeep, adornment or in any manner as the vicar and church wardens deem expedient.
Fabric fund	Income for the general upkeep of the Church
Church repair trust	Income for the repair of the church roof

14. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year the Trustees made donations to the charity as members of the congregations. These donations totalled £29157 (2023: £17442).

15. LEGACIES

The parish is a beneficiary of the will of DJ Enock and funds have been received in prior years. The Parish is aware that a further sum is due under this legacy however the property in question is subject to a life tenancy and therefore neither the sum involved nor the timing of receipt is yet known. For these reasons no additional amount has been accrued in respect of this further income.

16. COMPARATIVE SOFA FOR PREVIOUS YEAR

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £
INCOME				
Voluntary income	247,276	41,880	-	289,156
Activities for generating funds	16,672	45	-	16,716
Investment income	9,553	22,833	-	32,385
From church activities	18,283	-	-	18,283
Other income	525	214	-	739
	292,308	64,972	-	357,280
EXPENDITURE				
Fundraising costs	3,735	-	-	3,735
Church activities	310,146	82,775	-	392,921
Other expenditure	1,790	-	-	1,790
	315,671	82,775	-	398,446
Net Income (Expenditure) before Investment Gains	(23,363)	(17,803)	-	(41,166)
Gains and losses on investment assets on revaluation	17,564	12,475	16,784	46,823
Transfers between funds	(4,938)	4,938	-	(0)
Net movement in funds	(10,736)	(390)	16,784	5,657
Total funds brought forward	736,916	231,723	277,307	1,245,946
Total funds carried forward	726,180	231,332	294,092	1,251,603

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

I report on the accounts of the above parish for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the 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 parish's accounts carried out under s145 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

The parish's gross income exceeds £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by virtue of being a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an Independent Examination.

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

A Churchill Stone FCA DChA

Mercer Lewin Ltd
Chartered Accountants
6-7 Citibase, New Barclay House
234 Botley Rd
Oxford OX2 0HP

17 April 2025

THE PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	2024 Unrestricted funds £	2024 Restricted funds £	2024 Endowment Funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
INCOME						
Voluntary income	2a	239,914	49,201	-	289,115	289,156
Activities for generating funds	2b	30,589	52	-	30,641	16,716
Investment income	2c	10,309	24,236	-	34,546	32,385
From church activities	2d	19,834	1,842	-	21,676	18,283
Other income		195	0	-	195	739
		300,842	75,332	-	376,173	357,280
EXPENDITURE						
Fundraising costs		4,251	-	-	4,251	3,735
Church activities	3a	279,896	43,409	-	323,306	392,921
Other expenditure		110	-	-	110	1,790
		284,257	43,409	-	327,667	398,446
Net Income (Expenditure) before Investment Gains		16,584	31,922	-	48,507	(41,166)
Gains and losses on investment assets on revaluation		9,151	4,164	4,460	17,775	46,823
Transfers between funds		(11,280)	11,280	-	(0)	(0)
Net movement in funds		14,456	47,366	4,460	66,282	5,657
Total funds brought forward		723,915	233,597	294,092	1,251,603	1,245,946
Total funds carried forward		738,371	280,963	298,552	1,317,885	1,251,603

THE PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	2024 Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total £	2023 Total £
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible assets	5	389,092	14,437	83,185	486,714	491,328
Investments	6	202,323	139,070	199,866	541,260	553,375
		591,415	153,507	283,052	1,027,974	1,044,703
CURRENT ASSETS						
Stocks		3,851	-	-	3,851	272
Debtors	7	36,777	18,349	-	55,126	54,659
Short term deposits		98,893	121,390	15,500	235,783	151,531
Cash at bank and in hand		20,206	960	0	21,166	31,829
		159,727	140,699	15,500	315,926	238,291
CREDITORS						
Amounts due within one year	8	(12,772)	(13,243)	-	(26,015)	(31,390)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		146,956	127,456	15,500	289,912	206,900
NET ASSETS		738,371	280,963	298,552	1,317,885	1,251,603
FUNDS OF THE CHURCH						
Unrestricted funds	9	738,371	-	-	738,371	726,180
Restricted funds	10	-	280,963	-	280,963	231,332
Endowment funds	11	-	-	298,552	298,552	294,092
		738,371	280,963	298,552	1,317,885	1,251,603

These accounts were approved by the PCC on ..... and are signed on its behalf by:

S F Scott — Susan Read — J A Smith

Sue Scott
PCC Chairman

Susan Read, FMAAT
Treasurer, St Helen's DCC

Dr J Smith (a.k.a. Dr J Metcalfe)
Treasurer St Michael's & St Nicolas DCCs

THE PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a. Basis of preparation

The Parish is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared under The Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions, together with FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standard and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP (FRS 102)).

b. Funds

Unrestricted funds are general funds available for the general objectives of the church. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

Restricted funds can only be used for the purposes for which thy have been given, within the objectives of the church. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against those specific funds.

Endowment funds represent endowments, of which the capital must be maintained, and the dividend income used only for the restricted purposes arising from the establishment of the endowments.

c. Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities ("SoFA") when the church becomes legally entitled to the income and when the amount can be quantified with reasonable certainty.

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving is recognised only when received. Grants and legacies are recognised as soon as the PCC becomes aware of its legal entitlement and the amount due is quantifiable with reasonable certainty.

Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is accounted for when the gift is received.

When incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising income and sales of book sand magazines) the incoming resources and the related resources expended are accounted for gross in the SoFA.

Interest is accounted for when receivable and includes any recoverable tax.

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

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31st December.

d. Resources expended

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis and is recognised when there is a legal or constructive obligation to pay for goods or services and settlement is probable and quantifiable.

As the church is not registered for VAT, all the expenditure is shown inclusive of VAT.

Governance costs include the costs of the preparation of the annual accounts, the cost of PCC meetings and the legal cost of advice on governance or constitutional matters.

Grants and charitable giving are accounted for when paid over or when awarded, if the award creates a binding obligation on the PCC, provided that there are no conditions to be met relating to the grant which remain in the control of the church.

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2) of the Charities Act 2011. All expenditure incurred during the year on such property is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed

e. Pensions

The PCC encourages its employees to join the a Pension Scheme which is a defined contribution pension scheme. The PCC matches contributions made by employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the PCC. The contributions payable by the PCC are charged to the SoFA as they are incurred.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

f. Fixed assets

The Parish owns various freehold properties, the majority of which were acquired prior to the requirement to capitalise such expenditure. These properties have therefore not been included in cost. Freehold property acquired more recently is included at cost.

No depreciation is provided on buildings with a current estimated residual value of not less than their carrying value, otherwise the cost of buildings acquired is depreciated over a period of 100 years.

Office equipment is depreciated on a straight line basis over 3 to 5 years.
Other equipment is depreciated on a straight line basis over 20 years.

Investments are valued at Market Value.

g. Current assets

Amounts owed to the Parish at the year end in respect of fees, rents and other income are shown as debtors.

Short term deposits include cash on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

	2024				2023
2. INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total
a. Voluntary income	£	£	£	£	£
Planned regular giving	169,413	-	-	169,413	170,959
Income tax recoverable	45,086	2,644	-	47,730	45,459
Other giving	-	-	-	-	-
Collections (open plate)	13,233	-	-	13,233	12,142
Legacies	-	39,284	-	39,284	20,145
Grants, Govt, Local Authorities	527	2,647	-	3,174	5,250
Grants, other	6,447	1,818	-	8,265	14,352
Sundry donations	5,207	2,809	-	8,016	20,850
	239,914	49,201	-	289,115	289,156
b. Activities for generating funds	£	£	£	£	£
Fetes & other fund-raising	30,589	52	-	30,641	16,716
	30,589	52	-	30,641	16,716
c. Income from investments	£	£	£	£	£
Dividends & Interest	10,309	12,677	-	22,987	19,560
Rent from land or other buildings	-	-	-	-	-
Share of income from Blacknall legacy	-	11,559	-	11,559	12,825
	10,309	24,236	-	34,546	32,385
d. Income from Church activities	£	£	£	£	£
Bookstall	-	-	-	-	57
Church hall lettings	12,595	1,520	-	14,115	12,654
Magazines	-	-	-	-	-
Fees	7,240	322	-	7,562	5,573
	19,834	1,842	-	21,676	18,283

3. RESOURCES EXPENDED	2024 Unrestricted Funds	2024 Restricted funds	2024 Endowment Funds	2024 Total	2023 Total
a. Church Activities	£	£	£	£	£
Church overseas	-	-	-	-	-
Relief & Development agencies	2,105	-	-	2,105	1,839
Home missions, other church societies	2,789	-	-	2,789	2,489
Secular charities	7,800	-	-	7,800	4,280
Ministry Parish share	157,450	-	-	157,450	158,371
Incumbents' expenses	2,691	-	-	2,691	3,939
Assistant staff	259	-	-	259	428
Church fuel	25,817	525	-	26,342	36,426
Church running expenses, other	8,772	15,568	-	24,340	26,291
Church maintenance	2,080	12,408	-	14,488	32,893
Upkeep of services	7,988	1,429	-	9,417	8,122
Bookstall	-	-	-	-	-
Support costs	492	-	-	492	442
Parish Centre running costs	7,702	-	-	7,702	6,992
House for Assistant Cleric	-	3,516	-	3,516	5,131
Salaries, wages and honoraria	36,916	-	-	36,916	34,905
Major repairs & replacements (installations	-	3,043	-	3,043	52,720
Printing, stationery etc.	5,630	-	-	5,630	6,100
General administration	-	170	-	170	147
Lease of office equipment	3,845	-	-	3,845	5,101
Depreciation	6,209	6,750	-	12,959	5,599
Bank charges	1,350	-	-	1,350	706
	279,896	43,409	-	323,306	392,921
b. Analysis of other costs	£	£	£	£	£
Independent examination	110	-	-	110	1,790
	110	-	-	110	1,790

4. STAFF COSTS	2024 £	2023 £
Organists	12,266	11,736
Vergers	5,949	5,237
Parish administrator	16,247	14,858
Cleaners	2,082	1,833
Other staff costs	373	1,240
	36,916	34,905
The average no of employees was as follows:		
Organists	2	2
Vergers	1	1
Parish administrator	1	1
Cleaner	1	1
	5	5

None of the Trustees received any remuneration or employee benefits during the year. The lay trustees, where applicable, who acted as agents to the PCC in making approved payments on its behalf, were reimbursed for these expenses on presentation of suitable documentary evidence.

Clergy working expenses were reimbursed in accordance with Church of England guidelines.

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Property	Office Equipment	Other Equipment	2024 Total
Cost				
At 1 January 2024	512,450	-	30,785	543,235
Written off	(7,500)	-	-	(7,500)
Additions	-	8,345	-	8,345
At 31 December 2024	504,950	8,345	30,785	544,080
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2024	36,750	-	15,157	51,907
Written off	(750)	-	-	(750)
Charge for the year	2,000	1,361	2,848	6,209
At 31 December 2024	38,000	1,361	18,005	57,366
Net book value at 1 January 2024	475,700	-	15,628	491,328
Net book value at 31 December 2024	466,950	6,984	12,780	486,714

The market value of the freehold properties are considered to be in excess of the above carrying value, however, it is not considered practicable or cost effective to quantify the difference.

6. INVESTMENTS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
CBF Investment Fund	3,029	134,945	156,703	294,676	287,080
CBF Fixed Interest Securities	62,969	4,126	-	67,095	65,009
CBF Global Equity Income Fund	108,768	-	-	108,768	102,362
CBF Property Fund	-	-	-	-	29,509
CBF UK Equity Income Fund	27,557	-	-	27,557	27,205
COIF Investment Fund	-	-	43,164	43,164	42,210
	202,323	139,070	199,866	541,260	553,375

Market value	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
At 1 January	223,062	134,906	195,406	553,375	506,552
Investments purchased	-	-	-	-	-
Investments transferred	(27,686)	-	-	(27,686)	-
Dividends reinvested	-	-	-	-	1,084
Surplus/(deficit) on revaluation	6,947	4,164	4,460	15,571	45,740
At 31 December	202,323	139,070	199,866	541,260	553,375

7. DEBTORS

	2024 £	2023 £
Income tax recoverable	12,200	15,770
Prepayments and accrued income	42,926	38,888
	55,126	54,659

8. CREDITORS

	£	£
Sundry creditors and accruals	26,015	31,390

9. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	Brought forward	Income	Expend-iture	Inv movement	Transfer	Carried forward
General funds	479,457	299,429	(283,970)	8,963	(10,188)	493,691
Designated funds						
St Helen's Church						
Archivist fund	4,807	186	-	-	-	4,993
Babies & toddlers	4,235	560	-	-	-	4,794
Clerical housing (designated)	207,379	-	-	-	-	207,379
Hospitality fund	1,092	-	-	-	(1,092)	-
Strategic Fund	23,400	38	-	189	-	23,627
Christmas dinner club	-	231	(163)	-	-	67
Vicar & Wardens fund	3,545	398	(124)	-	-	3,819
Total unrestricted funds	723,915	300,842	(284,257)	9,151	(11,280)	738,371

10. RESTRICTED FUNDS						
St Helen's Church						
Bell fund	23,226	1,226	(587)	585	-	24,450
Centre fabric fund	5,382	11	-	360	-	5,753
Choir fund	93	-	-	-	(93)	-
Church fabric fund	47,679	5,058	(18,564)	1,359	-	35,532
Church roof fund	996	260	-	-	-	1,256
Clerical housing (restricted)	12,030	1,734	(10,266)	-	259	3,758
Development fund	1,253	1,566	(1,566)	-	-	1,253
Flower fund	637	887	(723)	-	-	801
Lady aisle fund	7,373	564	-	-	-	7,937
PR fund	875	-	(170)	-	-	705
Sanctuary & choir fund	590	929	(582)	-	-	938
Special Music fund	5,133	-	-	-	93	5,226
St Michael's Church						
Fabric fund	-	76	(1,096)	-	1,020	-
Heating fund	-	525	(525)	-	-	-
Roof fund	-	130	-	-	-	130
Vernon Butt Fund	-	2,819	-	-	10,000	12,819
St Nicolas' Church						
Altar Linen	3,060	146	-	-	-	3,206
Bell fund	30	126	(91)	-	-	65
Blacknall maintenance	112,210	15,980	(4,386)	1,860	-	125,665
Blacknall tomb repair	10,743	41,224	(3,550)	-	-	48,417
Church lands	922	1,360	(496)	-	-	1,787
Churchyard repair	1,327	517	(684)	-	-	1,160
Fabric Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Flower fund	37	106	(124)	-	-	19
Organ Fund	-	88	-	-	-	88
Total restricted funds	233,597	75,332	(43,409)	4,164	11,280	280,963

11. ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	Brought forward	Income	Inv movement	Transfer	Carried forward
St Helen's Church					
16/18 Ock St proceeds	15,500	-	-	-	15,500
A Challenor Bequest	22,470	-	514	-	22,984
Abingdon Oldfield Bequest	83,185	-	-	-	83,185
Backhus Trust	8,952	-	205	-	9,157
Church Fabric Fund (endowment)	28,867	-	661	-	29,528
Church Repair Trust	9,381	-	215	-	9,596
E Hawkins Charity	12,953	-	296	-	13,249
Elderfield Trust	294	-	7	-	301
Hyde Trust	4,860	-	111	-	4,971
North Bequest	10,670	-	244	-	10,914
PCC Trust	8,115	-	186	-	8,301
Preston Trust	20,300	-	465	-	20,764
St Michael's Church					
Challenors & Halcombe	8,409	-	192	-	8,602
Fabric fund	2,441	-	56	-	2,497
Harris Trust	5,538	-	127	-	5,665
Roof fund	4,679	-	107	-	4,786
St Nicolas' Church					
Altar Linen	5,267	-	121	-	5,388
Church Lands Charity	42,210	-	954	-	43,164
	294,092	-	4,460	-	298,552

12. ANALYSIS OF ASSETS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total
Tangible fixed assets	389,092	14,437	83,185	486,714
Investments	202,323	139,070	199,866	541,260
Current assets	159,727	140,699	15,500	315,926
Current liabilities	(12,772)	(13,243)	-	(26,015)
	738,371	280,963	298,552	1,317,885

13. DESCRIPTION OF FUNDS

Designated funds - set aside by the PCC

St Helen's Church

Archivist fund	Funds earned by the church archivist from research on behalf of family historians used for archivist's materials
Babies and Toddlers	Funds earned by running a club for mothers of young children used for equipment for the club
Clerical Housing Fund	Funds received from legacies and fund raising. Partly used toward the purchase of Enock House for the House For Duty priest. Remainder held for future projects.
Hospitality fund	Donations received for the provision of refreshments at events in the church and hall. Surplus donated to St Helen's Church
Vicar and wardens' fund	Funds for use at the discretion of the Rector
Window Publisher	Income and expenditure publishing a book by the Rector some years ago.

St Nicolas' Church

Reordering fund	In 2022 this fund was designated to be used for the refurbishment of the toilet and kitchen block.

13. DESCRIPTION OF FUNDS (continued)

Restricted funds, given for a particular purpose

St Helen's Church

Bell fund	From a legacy of Edgar Humfrey and donations by ringers for the repair and renewal of the bells and fittings.
Centre fabric fund	Donations received for the repair of the church centre.
Choir fund	Income from donations and wedding choir fees. Expenditure on music and choir equipment
Church fabric fund	Endowment income and donations for the repair and renewal of church fabric.
Church roof fund	Endowment income for the repair of the church roof except that of Lady Aisle.
Clerical housing fund	Endowment income for the capital costs of clerical housing.
Development fund	Funds restricted to the work described by the 1999 Development Plan.
Flower fund	Donations made by members of the congregation for church flowers
Lady aisle fund	Endowment income for the repair of the roof of the Lady Aisle.
PR fund	Donations received toward the cost of publicity for church events
Sanctuary and choir fund	Endowment income for furniture, linen, etc. for the sanctuary and choir.
Special music fund	Donations for use at the discretion of the Director of Music to further the music ministry of St Helen's beyond what budgeted funds allow.

St Michael's Church

Fabric fund	Endowment income and donations received for the repair and maintenance of the church buildings
Heating Fund	Donations solely for the cost of heating the church building
Roof fund	Endowment income received for the repair of the church roof
Vernon Butt Fund	For specific, one-off, special expenses approved by the DCC

St Nicolas' Church

Altar Linen fund	Endowment income for the provision of altar linen and choir robes
Bell fund	Funds raised or donated towards the maintenance of the bells and their fittings.
Blacknall maintenance	Endowment income received from the Charity of John Blacknall for 'maintaining, repairing and insuring against fire the fabric, ornaments and furniture'.
Blacknall Tomb Repair Fund	For repairs to the Blacknall memorial and the area around the memorial
Churchyard Fund	For the maintenance of the churchyard and garden.
Church Lands	The income from an historic endowment fund for the upkeep of the church building and the running of services.
Fabric Fund	Income raised for the repair and maintenance of the church buildings.
Flower Fund	Donations made by members of the congregation for church flowers
Organ Fund	For the repair and upkeep of the organ

13. DESCRIPTION OF FUNDS (continued)

Endowment funds

St Helen's Church	
Abingdon Oldfield Bequest	Income restricted to housing for the assistant clergy of the parish
A Challenor Bequest	Income for vesture, furnishings and fittings in the sanctuary and choir
Church repair trust	Income for the repair of the church roof except that of Lady Aisle.
Preston Trust	Income for the upkeep of the roof and ancient paintings of the Lady Aisle.
16/18 Ock Street proceeds, Church fabric fund, Hyde Trust	Income for the upkeep and maintenance of the fabric of St Helen's Church.
All other St Helen's endowment funds	Endowment income to be used for general purposes of St Helen's Church
St Nicolas' Church	
Altar Linen	Endowment for the provision of 'new altar linen, surplices and cassocks'.
Church Lands Charity	Endowment for the 'repairing, maintenance and benefit' of St Nicolas Church.
St Michael's Church	
Challenors and Holcombe Bequests	Unrestricted income for the use of the church.
Harris Trust	Income for the benefit of St Michael's Church, by way of upkeep, adornment or in any manner as the vicar and church wardens deem expedient.
Fabric fund	Income for the general upkeep of the Church
Church repair trust	Income for the repair of the church roof

14. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year the Trustees made donations to the charity as members of the congregations. These donations totalled £29157 (2023: £17442).

15. LEGACIES

The parish is a beneficiary of the will of DJ Enock and funds have been received in prior years. The Parish is aware that a further sum is due under this legacy however the property in question is subject to a life tenancy and therefore neither the sum involved nor the timing of receipt is yet known. For these reasons no additional amount has been accrued in respect of this further income.

16. COMPARATIVE SOFA FOR PREVIOUS YEAR

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £
INCOME				
Voluntary income	247,276	41,880	-	289,156
Activities for generating funds	16,672	45	-	16,716
Investment income	9,553	22,833	-	32,385
From church activities	18,283	-	-	18,283
Other income	525	214	-	739
	292,308	64,972	-	357,280
EXPENDITURE				
Fundraising costs	3,735	-	-	3,735
Church activities	310,146	82,775	-	392,921
Other expenditure	1,790	-	-	1,790
	315,671	82,775	-	398,446
Net Income (Expenditure) before Investment Gains	(23,363)	(17,803)	-	(41,166)
Gains and losses on investment assets on revaluation	17,564	12,475	16,784	46,823
Transfers between funds	(4,938)	4,938	-	(0)
Net movement in funds	(10,736)	(390)	16,784	5,657
Total funds brought forward	736,916	231,723	277,307	1,245,946
Total funds carried forward	726,180	231,332	294,092	1,251,603

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

England & Wales - Charity number 1129833

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT

For year ending 31st December 2023

(As required by Church Accounting Regulations 2006)

Registered Charity Number 1129833

PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
ANNUAL REPORT
FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2022

Table of Contents

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION **2**

AIMS AND PURPOSES **3**

1 ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE **3**

1a Team Rector's Report [Charles Miller] *3*

1b Church Electoral Roll [Richard Kirby] *7*

1c PCC [Eluned Hallas] *8*

1d Safeguarding [The Rector] *8*

1e Abingdon Deanery Synod [Sue Scott] *9*

1f Abingdon Diocesan Synod [Sue Scott] *10*

2 STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MEMBERSHIP **10**

3 PROPERTY **11**

3a Enock House, Musson Close [Linda Hobbs] *11*

3b Fairacres Road [Rob Bough] *12*

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES **12**

PUBLIC BENEFIT **13**

TREASURER'S REPORT ON THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2023 ..... **14**

Appendix 1 St Helen's Church Church Wardens' & Fabric Reports **16**

Appendix 2 St Michael and All Angels' Church Church Wardens' & Fabric Reports **20**

Appendix 3 St Nicolas' Church Church Wardens' & Fabric Reports **22**

Appendix 4 Faith Forum **24**

Appendix 5 Abingdon Society of Bellringers **25**

Appendix 6 Report on the activities of the Church in Abingdon **26**

Appendix 7 Report on St Nicolas School **29**

Appendix 8 Report on the Abingdon Foodbank **30**

PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
Annual Report (Continued)
FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2021
(As required by Church Accounting Regulations 2006)

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames is a registered charity, Charity Registration Number 1129833.

The Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames is situated in the town of Abingdon, Oxfordshire. It is part of the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is:

The Hon Secretary, Abingdon-on-Thames PCC
c/o The Parish Centre, St Helen's Court, Abingdon OX14 5BS

The Parish comprises the churches and congregations of St Helen, St Michael & All Angels and St Nicolas.

PCC members

PCC members are the Trustees of the Charity. PCC members who have served from 1st January 2023 until the date that this report and the financial statements were approved are:

Stipendiary Team clergy:
The Revd Dr E C Miller
The Revd P A Smith

Non-stipendiary clergy:
The Revd J Brown
The Revd P T C Masheder (to 1 Sept 2023)

Licensed Lay Ministers
Mrs G Bevington

Churchwardens:
Mrs E Hallas
Mrs L Heffernan
Mrs L Hobbs
Miss J Kelly
Dr G Meen (to April 2023)
Mr D Pope (from April 2023)
Mr P Rast-Lindsell (from April 2023)

Ex-Officio
– representatives on Diocesan Synod:
Miss A Scott
Mrs S Scott
– representatives on Deanery Synod:
The Revd R Rutherford

Elected representatives - Deanery Synod:
Miss A E Green
Mrs E Hallas
Miss A Scott
Mrs S Scott
Dr H Glennie

Elected PCC members:
Mrs K Burland (from April 2023)
Mr J Clare
Dr H Glennie
Mrs J Fishpool
Dr G Lewis
Dr J Metcalfe (from April 2023)
Mrs S E M Read

Officers (from April 2023):

Chairman	The Revd Dr E C Miller
Vice Chairman	Mrs S Scott
Secretary	Mrs E Hallas
Treasurer	Mrs S E M Read

Auditors
Mercer Lewin Chartered Accountants
41 Cornmarket Street,
Oxford,
OX1 3HA

Weblinks:
http://www.abingdonparish.org.uk/

AIMS AND PURPOSES

Under the PCC (Powers) Measure 1956, the parish of Abingdon-on-Thames Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Dr Charles Miller, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Each DCC is similarly required to co-operate with the minister in charge of the district church. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Parish Centre (in St Helen's Court) and Enock House (2 Musson Close).

1 ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

1a Team Rector's Report [Charles Miller]

The Year began with preparations for my second sabbatical leave agreed with the diocesan sabbatical committee in mid-2022. I left the parish and the UK for three months in France to fulfil the Oxford diocese's three desiderata for a clergy sabbatical: retreat, rest and study. In my case the element of study dominated in so far as I used the majority of the time for research and writing of my book on the Chapel of the Rosary in Vence. My interest had been pricked in the course of my Church-in-Abingdon Lent Lectures a number of years before on the Dominican friar and artist Fra Angelico; in a different way the Vence chapel had its own Dominican connection. The retreat time took me to the women's Benedictine community of Ste-Francoise Romaine in Bec, Normandy, the sister community to the men's community at the ancient monastery of Bec Hellouin with its long and rich ties to the Church in and of England. The rest came chiefly from freedom from the relentless multi-tasking of parochial ministry together with the endless enjoyable distractions at hand in Paris and (in the third month of the sabbatical) Nice – voluble and at times violent manifestations against the reform of France's retirement rules notwithstanding!

It was a privilege and relief to leave St Helen's in the able hands of Canon Charles Masheder who had selflessly lengthened his period of ministry among us to smooth the way for my sabbatical (I remain very grateful to him and Felicity for that), and the parish under the careful eye of Team Vicar Paul Smith. Jen Brown, and with her honorary assistant clergy and Lay Ministers, all stepped up in helpful ways. Ruth and Richard Pyke were good to arrange PTOs before my departure so that they could aid and abet the ministerial efforts.

All of that support meant that the return after Easter in time for the APCM was as smooth as any such re-entry can be. I was thankful that able warden Dr Geoff Meen was succeeded by Mr David Pope at St Helen's, and that St Nicolas was able to fill its decanal ranks at the same APCM.

As settling back into the Team Rector's role gained traction I was able to turn to some especially important areas of parish life which I knew would be my concern through the rest of 2023. I remark briefly about each of them in what follows.

1. The appointment of the next House-for-Duty priest

As mentioned on previous occasions both spoken and written, our Diocese of Oxford has made it its policy that the protocols and procedures for all House-for-Duty appointments follow the pattern used for the appointment of incumbents, that is, full-time stipendiary 'vicars' and 'rectors'. That change of approach (changed, that is, since our previous two appointments of Mary Williamson and Charles Masheder) was explained to the PCC Standing Committee when we first turned to the Archdeacon of Dorchester to progress Charles Masheder's successor.

What did that mean?

It meant adhering to numerous additional statutory meetings of the PCC and the parish required by the diocese; drawing up a not-quite-full new parish profile for all three churches and shuffling it back and forth between DCCs and the PCC; involving the Deanery leadership; arranging the post advertisement content and schedule of publication with diocesan approval; and, most significantly, scheduling the interview days for a large panel of interviewers including: the Area Bishop, the Archdeacon, a member of the Deanery; a select set of parish wardens, and the relevant clergy of the parish Team. In addition – as is rightly the case for an incumbent vacating post – no interviewing could begin until Canon Masheder was off the scene.

So although it had been hoped that progress could be made during my sabbatical leave, in fact the summer and early autumn were spent taking forward the particulars related to such a protocol and process and those involved with it.

We were fortunate to have three respondents to our advertisement and felt confident in short-listing two of them. Interviews took place in early October and, as they say, the rest is history. The Bishop offered the post to the Revd Dr Andrew Adam (known as AKMA) based on the interview panel's agreement. The personal circumstances of him and his wife Margaret prompted us to give them access to Enock House in November (a generous move amply appreciated by AKMA and Margaret!); residence in Abingdon enabled a relaxed period of adjustment before the formal licensing service by the Bp of Dorchester on January 30th 2024.

It is gratifying that we have a H-f-D priest who brings both a sensitive pastoral heart and a well-honed skill as teacher and preacher to our mix of clergy and other ministers. AKMA is by training a New Testament scholar, but has a long track-record with parish-related ministry, and so he will worthily amplify the array of expertise our clergy bring to the parish. Taking into account our honorary clergy and others, we must surely be one of the most theologically well-resourced parishes in the country if not the whole Anglican Communion! (I caution against the sin of pride.)

2. Working Agreement and Enock House protocols

Through the late winter, spring and continuing still (!) was the issue of settling the required Working Agreement for and with the next H-f-D priest. It is important to remember the origin of the post: a decision by the St Helen's DCC as part of its strategic plan which evolved after much discussion and consideration beginning around 2011. (At that time, remember, the parish was not split (2013) and the joint workings of all of our congregations was much less advanced than it is now.) The resignation of Associate Tim Hewes had made the issue of clergy support for the Team Rector a priority in consideration of the size of St Helen's electoral roll and the scale and scope of pastoral ministry and congregational worship and programmes. The DCC therefore made the acquisition of a house a priority as a preliminary to the appointment of either a H-f-D priest or a curate.

For that reason the original post description was cast in terms of the needs of St Helen and support for the Team Rector's ministry. From the start I realized that there would be occasions when the H-f-D would support the Team Vicar and his congregations, but such support, gladly offered, would be occasional to aid in extremis, to relieve stress, to fill unexpected gaps.

The Working Agreement still honours the priority of post commitments at St Helen's but has over the years led to an expectation of ministry exercised by the H-f-D priest in the other two congregations. That expectation led St Nicolas and St Michael's to ask that the Working Agreement text be less 'St Helen's focused', and that, in turn, led to a complicated and protracted discussion about how many of the 24 hours give to the parish the H-f-D priest would spend in ministry in those two congregations beyond time given to St Helen's. You may feel the quicksand thickening! It became a case of a free-will grant of ministry time to the two smaller congregations changing from

ad hoc provision to a defined expectation – something the original conception of the role by St Helen's and the first Working Agreement never anticipated.

So the summer and autumn were spent going back and forth on these questions with views moving between PCC and the DCCs. Of course Fr Paul and I discussed these matters regularly at the weekly chapter and never (I think I can safely say) being convinced that the highly definitional approach to the ministry time of the H-f-D was suitable. Secular habits of time-sheets and clocking in and out are inimicable to the pastoral spirit. I know very few clergy who 'watch the clock' in the course of their ministries; their problem is rarely doing too little and usually doing too much. If you doubt me, then ask one of our honorary assistants how it's worked for them through their years of formal ministry.

As I write, alas, the matter is still not settled.

From where I sit, and knowing our H-f-D priest as I have already come to know him, the problem, if there is one, will be his doing too much all 'round the parish and not too little. My job is to protect him from that.

3. Enock House – who pays for what?

The complexities related to the Working Agreement that took time and energy through the summer and autumn have been exceeded by debate about costs associated with Enock House (3 Musson Close). In this case there was no expressed basis for covering costs associated with the house between the three congregations when the H-f-D arrangement began for reasons linked to the original aims of the post described in 2 above. The St Helen's (and now Parish) treasurer allotted portions for payments against costs to our three churches on terms she thought reasonable. The financial arrangement vis-a vis the three congregations grew as organically as the deployment of the H-f-D in St Michael's and St Nicolas. (Remember that there was at least one months-long period when Fr Paul's medical issues required a major provision of ministry to his congregations. It thus became 'normal' to see the H-f-D leading worship.) As to finance, though, it was right for the other churches to want to review those terms and work out liabilities between the three churches on an equitable footing.

It would be pointless in this report to recount the divergent views that have dominated PCC discussions of this matter. It is relevant to say how much time and energy some of our able church leaders have put into the question and, from my point of view, how challenging I have found it to chair discussions about the matter at our PCC and Standing Committee meetings.

We will, of course, get to resolution, but, as I see it, these mundane matters, however relevant to some leaders in our congregations, have distracted from the more urgent business which was the PCC's valuable theme at its summer Away Day, namely, welcome and initiation into our spiritual communities. But then, I recall what years ago, in another pastoral context, I came to call 'Miller's Law', namely, that the Church is only as strong as it deserves to be'.

4. The St Nicolas School and Education Trust (CIO) Abingdon

The summer period saw a rebuilding of initiative with the work of the new Trust, moving forward as lead trustee with the other ex officio trustees: the Team Vicar and the two St Nicolas wardens. We faced three important and time consuming tasks:

1. Working through solicitors, we submitted a proposal to the Charity Commissioners to set aside the so-called 'recoupment schemes' which have been in place since 2005.
2. Again following the lead of our solicitors, we settled on three investment firms to manage the trust's assets and then arranged a day-long interview process to assess each firm's suitability. We unanimously and confidently chose Investec-Rathbones to take our portfolio in hand.

3. Following that decision, a key meeting was scheduled for early 2024 to create an investment policy, taking into account the trust's short- and mid-term prospective financial needs.
4. The ex officio trustees also began discussion of bringing the trustee group to its full complement (6).

I led that four-fold agenda well supported by trustee (warden) Eluned Hallas acting as the trustees' minute-taker and by Alison Talbot's legal assistant at Winckworth Sherwood, Ruo Wu.

Amidst all of the above we had the task of preparing for the farewell of Canon Charles and Felicity Masheder. All three of our congregations took time and action to show deep appreciation for their almost four years with us. I felt proud of the generous spirit that prevailed throughout the parish in their regard.

Departure at the start of September meant, though, that through the intensely busy autumn and early winter season we were 'one man down' in the Team. Honoraries helped with the load but there were a few crunch points when it was my job to fill gaps. It meant a heavy round of day and evening duties:

- the 3-evening Circle of Love preparation for Holy Matrimony
- 4 Faith Forum Sunday morning sessions about my sabbatical
- Organizing children's First Communion preparation with Canon Gordon Oliver
- Undergoing my annual Ministerial Development Review
- Chairing DCC and PCC meetings and Standing Committee meetings
- Preparing and leading the intense period of special services between All Saints' Sunday and Christmas
- Writing Newsletter covers
- Preparing rotas for the Wednesday HC services, the sacrists, and funeral and baptism officiating
- Developing the new First Sunday Eucharist order and preparing young people to take part in liturgical roles
- Monthly meetings with wardens
- Weekly clergy chapter meetings
- Attending C-i-A staff and governing body meetings
- Dealing with safe-guarding issues
- Exercising pastoral care
- Performing rota-ed presiding and preaching
- Engaging with lay staff on a day-by-day basis
- Attending to matters related to the Friends of St Helen (FoSH) trust
- Participating in regular and special meetings of Christ's Hospital governors
- Completing preparation for publication of the new book on Matisse's chapel

By the time Christmas came and went (which included five successive services), I was spent.

The late summer saw annual review of our Parish administrator, Jackie Cunningham, and other particularly St Helen's staff.

Volunteers are not reviewed, of course, but thanks need to be registered to parish treasurer Susan Read and her helpers Ann Murdoch and Kate Burland for their persevering work on parish finances. Jenny Smith is also to be thanked for her assiduous taking in hand of the St Nicolas finances. Eluned Hallas continues her careful work as PCC secretary.

Amidst this I have been well supported by St Helen's wardens. I salute Linda Hobbs since, with the close of 2023, she enters the final leg of seven years of robust service as warden. I am also thankful for the smooth transition as David Pope stepped into the shoes of Geoff Meen. Each warden brings

his or her personality and gifts to the task and over time the role re-shapes itself accordingly. That is how it should be. As 2024 dawns we look forward to a successor to Linda Hobbs at St Helen's and, perhaps, to new wardens in our other congregations. Let's see how the Spirit moves.

The Revd Dr Charles Miller, Team Rector

1b Church Electoral Roll [Richard Kirby]

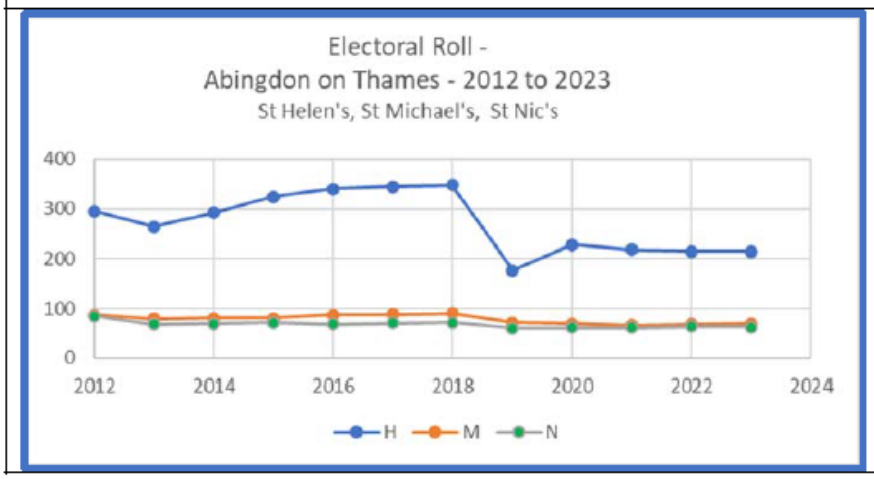
There is a Parish Electoral Roll Officer for Abingdon-on-Thames, but each of the three churches in the parish maintains a section of the Roll.

Electoral Roll Numbers 2022 to 2023

	2022	2023				
	roll	deletions	additions	change	roll	% change
St Helen	214	17	17	0	214	0%
St Michael	68	3	4	1	69	1%
St Nicolas	64	5	4	-1	63	-2%
Abingdon on Thames	346	25	25	0	346	0%

History

	St Helen's	St Michael	St Nic's		Total	% change
2012	295	87	85		467	
2013 new roll	264	79	68		411	-12%
2014	292	81	69		442	8%
2015	324	81	71		476	8%
2016	340	87	68		495	4%
2017	344	88	70		502	1%
2018	348	91	71		510	2%
2019 new roll	177	71	60		308	-40%
2020 (Oct)	228	69	62		359	17%
2021	218	66	62		346	-4%
2022	214	68	64		346	0%
2023	214	69	63		346	0%



It is the nature of my character to speak with data, rather than emotion or subjective views. Hence there is nothing I can say for either the optimists who would like to read improvement nor the pessimists who would like to read deterioration.

In statistical terms, looking at the past few years there is stability in the numbers.

Returning further, to 2019 we understood the influences that caused the change in St Helen's. Try not look at the numbers as a competition between the churches; the influences are many and complex and largely beyond the control of an individual church (death, illness, moving, transfers, ...)

I am not aware of any significant events that will influence the impending revision, so the 2024 figures are likely to be similar to 2023. This year will be a normal revision of the roll. In 2025 we have the excitement of starting from scratch again (every six years).
I am not sure whether the Electoral Roll Officers, Eluned (St Nic's), Kate (St Helen's) and Keith (St Michael's) perceive the work as excitement, but the rest of us are very appreciative of their hard work, to complete this very necessary work. A huge thank you to the threesome (perhaps in this context trinity would be a better word?)
Richard Kirby, Parish Electoral Roll Officer, 23rd Jan 2024

1c PCC [Eluned Hallas]

The business of the PCC concerns those issues best approached on a Parish, rather than Church, basis. It is also a useful forum for communications throughout the Parish, including details of Parish and Church sponsored events, staff updates and feedback on Deanery and Diocesan issues.

The PCC of the Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames met in person seven times during 2023, with the Standing Committee / Clergy & Wardens Group meeting regularly during the year. A successful Away Day – looking at Welcome and Initiation – was held in June.

Discussions during the year focussed on

- The appointment of a new House-for-Duty Priest, including the appointment process, and the allocation of costs and time between the three Churches in the Parish;
- Safeguarding in the Parish, especially in light of personnel changes during the year;
- Finance – including regular monitoring and budget setting;
- Clergy availability for out of hours emergency cover;
- Opportunities for education and discipleship;
- The A-Rocha Eco-church awards scheme;
- The Deanery Action plan – looking at post-covid changes, opportunities and challenges in the parish.

The September meeting started with a presentation from Joshua Townson, Diocesan Generous Giving Adviser on Congregational Giving and Fundraising to which all DCC members (and others with a particular interest) were invited. Suggestions made are being followed up by the Parish and individual churches.

The PCC continues to review and approve faculty applications and other fabric matters across the Parish, and GDPR, Safeguarding, Health & Safety and Parish Policies remain regular items on the PCC agendas. Individual DCC minutes are circulated to PCC members to improve communication within the parish, and PCC members receive regular updates on the work of the Deanery & Diocesan Synods and the Church in Abingdon.

We were also delighted this year to be endorse the candidacy of Linda Hobbs (St H Churchwarden) for Licensed Lay Minister (LLM) training. We wish her well.

1d Safeguarding [The Rector]

Through 2023 the parish has not had a full complement serving on its safe-guarding team.
St Nicolas (Jenny Fishpool) and St Helen's (Emmanuel Chukwuma) have congregational officers (and St Helen's has a safe-guarding rep for its choir, Norman Dawson), and we have a 'dash-board'

manager (warden David Pope). Fr Paul Smith acts as officer at St Michael's until a lay officer can be found, and I and warden Linda Hobbs have functioned at a parish level when required. So bases have been covered.
While concerns have arisen through the year no issues properly speaking have been raised.
In 2023 Erica Hegg (former Thames Valley Police) was appointed diocesan team officer for our episcopal area and we have been in positive correspondence with her at times through the year. She is knowledge, balanced and supportive.
2024 will see me aiming to identify a parish SGO and an DBS Verifier. Please pray and consider offering to fill one of these posts.

Charles Miller, Rector

1e Abingdon Deanery Synod [Sue Scott]

Abingdon Deanery Synod is part of the Diocese of Oxford and is one of 11 deaneries within the Archdeaconry of Dorchester whose membership represents 25 churches in 9 benefices.

The Synod is a vehicle to discuss key issues and to look at the church's ministry and mission in a geographical area. The Deanery Synod sits between the Parishes with their PCCs and the Diocese with the Diocesan Synod. It is a key channel of communication.

The Synod is a place to support each other in difficult times and a place to celebrate the good things happening in our churches. It is also a place where the views of the Parishes can be brought together. Proposals can be made to Diocesan Synod for discussion if the Deanery feels this is necessary/appropriate. Clergy and Laity have equal status in the Synod.

The Parish currently has 5 elected members from the House of Laity:-

Alexandra Green (St Helen's)
Hazel Glennie (St Helen's)
Alexandra Scott (St Michael and All Angels) ex officio Diocesan Synod
Sue Scott (St Michael and All Angels) Lay Chair and ex officio Diocesan Synod
Eluned Hallas (St Nicolas)

This has been a challenging year for many of our churches and things continue to be difficult for many. The aim has been to create a balance between providing information, giving time for discussion and also responding to common concerns. The Synod met 4 times in 2023 (February, May, October and November). In response to feedback some of the meetings now take place on zoom and some in person. Some of the business covered has included: -

- Finance issues including the Budget, Parish Share, The Deanery Parish Support Fund and Mission Grants
- Opportunities to share good practice and expertise to develop Parish Mission Action Plans
- Prayer and Party meeting – an opportunity to pray about the Mission initiatives of each of our churches/Parishes and to share some social time.
- Raising awareness of Diocese resources and how to access services eg Churchwarden Training, use of Safeguarding Dashboards and Church Energy Audits
- New Congregations/New initiatives/ Eco church/Children and families/LLF updates

A key role of the Deanery Synod is to represent the views of the Parishes and to seek ways to support the work of the Church in this place. Please speak to your Parish representatives so that they can raise issues questions or concerns on your behalf. Churchwardens are also very welcome to attend.

Minutes of all Synod meetings and Standing Committee meetings can be found on the website at abingdondeanery.org.uk together with other news and information about the work of the Deanery Synod.

Please could you pray for the work of the Deanery Synod as it strives to seek God's guidance to support the work of the Church in this place.

Sue Scott, St Michael and All Angels representative and Lay Chair Abingdon Deanery Synod

1f Abingdon Diocesan Synod [Sue Scott]

We currently have full representation for the House of Laity and no representation from the House of Clergy in Abingdon Deanery.

The Synod meets 3 times a year to consider issues facing the church and also to share experience from right across the diocese.

Synod met in March, June and November 2023.

The Church is facing a time of great challenge. Some of the issues which have been discussed are : -

- Living in Love and Faith
- Eco church
- Common Vision
- Environmental issues and steps needed to achieve net zero by 2035
- Finance, Parish Share, SSM/LLM fees
- Ukrainian Crisis
- How parishes can more easily access diocesan resources – what is out there?

Further information about the work of the Synod can be found at oxford.anglican.org.
The pathway to follow is – homepage>who we are>How we are governed>Diocesan Synod> documents

The Synod does not always speak as one voice. But the aim is that together we can work towards being a more Compassionate, Courageous and Contemplative Church.

Sue Scott, Diocesan Synod Representative

2 STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MEMBERSHIP

The Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames is served by a Team Rector, based at St Helen's, and a Team Vicar shared between St Nicolas' and St Michael's.

Abingdon has a Local Ecumenical Project – the Church in Abingdon (CiA) – to which all the Anglican churches belong.

The Parochial Church Council of Abingdon-on-Thames is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure, and was formally registered with the Charity Commission on 27 May 2009.

Lay members of the PCC are appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Church Representation Rules, as originally authorized as Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 and subsequently amended by the General Synod. All eligible church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

In addition to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the parish of Abingdon-on-Thames, there are three District Church Councils (DCCs). The PCC has delegated to the DCCs responsibility for detailed implementation of most of its functions, in a continuation of a Scheme approved by the Bishop. The PCC is therefore able to concentrate on those matters which cannot be delegated, or are of common concern. It has two committees:

The *Standing* Committee (comprising the team clergy, church wardens, the secretary, the treasurer, and the vice-chairman) has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC.

The *Finance Working Group* (comprising the Parish Treasurer, the Treasurers of the DCCs and a limited number of co-opted members) oversees the financial activities of the parish, including the annual budget and financial statements. It meets as required. The budget and financial statements are approved by the PCC after individual church finances have been considered by individual DCCs. In addition to meeting the statutory requirements of the Charities Commission, the immediate aims of the Group are, firstly, to provide a forum at which the Treasurers can discuss common problems and learn from each other. Secondly, the Group is attempting to develop key performance indicators that provide early warnings of potential difficulties. Third, the Group expects to undertake risk analysis which will include longer term projections of our financial status.

PCC members (and DCC members) are encouraged to attend training sessions as appropriate. Most often these are courses organised by the Diocese of Oxford.

The PCC is exposed to risks associated with buildings, finances and availability of volunteer effort. Dealing with the secular aspects first: buildings are insured and regularly inspected, finances are managed by the parish treasurer, and DCC treasurers and volunteers are constantly sought to carry the administrative burden of the PCC and DCCs. The maintenance of ancient buildings is a heavy responsibility for the PCC, but this is not unusual in the Church of England. Health and Safety, Child Protection and other pertinent legislation is adhered to, and there are policies in place to this effect. DCCs operate within a budget and financial envelope determined by their annual income and reserves and approved by the PCC. Each church has an annual stewardship programme to invite donors to respond to the income targets. Special appeals are launched for special projects (typically capital projects) as appropriate. To say ‘The Lord will provide’ may not be an acceptable approach to financial risk management in the secular world; but seeking the Will of God through constant prayer and responding to His Will moment by moment are key instruments by which the PCC manages risk in labour and financial matters.

3 PROPERTY

3a Enock House, Musson Close [Linda Hobbs]

Enock House was purchased in 2015 to be used as accommodation for the “House for Duty” Associate Priest. Until October 2023 the property was the home of Rev. Canon Charles Masheder and Felicity his wife, until they vacated the house to “retire” to the Cotswolds.

The property is now occupied by Rev.Akma, the new House for Duty Associate Priest, and his wife Margaret.

The property was well cared for by Charles and Felicity, they carried out many improvements at no cost to the Parish, for which we are very grateful. The result of their care meant that on vacating the property, very little work was required.

This last year has seen very little work being required to the property, except for the water tanks in the roof needing to be replaced, (as detailed in the 2023 report) This work took longer to complete than expected, but we now have confidence that there should be no further expense due to water tanks.

The only remedial work required to enable Akma and Margaret to take up residence, was the painting of a ceiling damaged by water ingress when the roof required extensive remedial work. The re-painting of the ceiling was carried out at no charge to the church or Parish.

As always any expenses required to maintain the property will be kept to a minimum, it must be understood that all expenses cannot be predicted or budgeted for, all properties need maintenance, if regular maintenance is not carried out the value of the property will be adversely affected.

The property continues to be managed by Linda Hobbs

3b Fairacres Road [Rob Bough]

Pursuant to a bequest from Mr Derek Enock in 2009, each church in the parish has an interest in a residential property in Fairacres Road, Oxford, which is held on a trust. The current occupant of the property has the right to reside there for as long as she wishes. If the property is sold, she will be entitled to the income from the invested sale proceeds. Upon her death the property or proceeds from the sale will pass to the five beneficiaries of Mr Enock's estate:- The trust is administered for the beneficiaries by Freeths Solicitors, who have reported:

> It has been a quiet 12 months following the completion of the administrative work in relation to the change of trustees and dealing with registration of the trust on HMRC's Trust Registration Service.
> The life tenant continues to live in the property, and the insurance was renewed this month for a further 12 months.
> The cash balance is £6,302.80. This is slightly less than the balance last year on the basis the annual trust administration expenses and the insurance premium were paid in August 2023 and February 2024 respectively. There was also a small amount of interest received in the period.
> A schedule of condition on the property will not be due until around 2025/26.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The following Vision Statement was agreed by the PCC on 22nd November 2000 and continues to apply to the Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames:

"A single unified parish with a Team Ministry in which clergy and laity work together to serve interdependent congregations, within an active ecumenical organisation where:

- The Gospel of Christ is celebrated through worship and fellowship, with individual congregations providing a spectrum of traditions
- The life of the Church is built up through teaching, preaching, evangelism, pastoral care and ecumenical co-operation
- God's love is made known in mission and service to the community and society as a whole."

The following objectives for the Team Rector appeared in the Parish Profile agreed by the PCC in November 2005.

- In liaison and collaboration with the Church in Abingdon, to refresh and progress the strategy for the development of a Christian presence in south Abingdon.

- To encourage, enable and release lay leadership and ministry to enable the Parish to be better equipped to respond to the changing patterns of stipendiary ministry.
- To continue to develop joint working within the churches and across the team, to ensure we use our resources effectively in the propagation of the gospel.

The activities undertaken to enable the PCC to achieve these objectives are described in the Achievements & Performance section, and in the reports from the constituent churches.

The PCC is heavily dependent upon the contribution of volunteers to drive forward the mission of the church and the Kingdom of God.

The PCC delegates to DCCs the matter of policy for making grants and donations from their income. The financial statements record donations made during the reporting year.

Public Benefit

The PCC is aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in "The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit" and have regard to it in their administration of the Parish. The PCC believes that, by fulfilling its responsibility to work together with the incumbent in the Parish and co-operate in all matters of concern and importance for the promotion of the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, it provides a benefit to the public by:

- providing resources and facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers;
- promoting Christian values, and service by members of the churches in the Parish to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

Reports from individual churches and the Church in Abingdon are attached as Appendices to this report.

TREASURER'S REPORT ON THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2023

The Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames consists of three churches (St Helen's, St Michael's and St Nicolas') which have separate treasurers and accounts. The Parish accounts are produced by consolidating the accounts of the three churches.

Income and Expenditure

The "bottom line" of our Parish shows a net movement in funds of £6k surplus (2022 £74k deficit), but this is largely caused by movements in the global investment markets. We should instead look at the figures before the investment gains and losses where we show a £41k deficit (2022: £1k deficit).

St Nicolas raised some funds in 2022 in readiness for a big project redeveloping the church annexe. In 2023, £46k, was spent converting the annexe into a much-needed kitchen and disabled toilet with a ramp to enable disabled access.

Giving and collections provide the biggest part of our Parish unrestricted income, but the amounts have not risen as hoped (2023: £226k, 2022: £227k, 2021: £216k). This is attributable to the excellent fund-raising efforts at St Nicolas Church in 2022.

The Parish was happy in 2023 to receive a legacy of £20k for church fabric split equally between St Helen's and St Nicolas' Churches.

Fund raising income at St Michael's was exceptional, exceeding their efforts the previous year (2023: £9k, 2022: £7k). St Helen's Church, impressed by St Michael's success, increased its fund raising efforts (2023: £7k, 2022: £5k).

The Parish Share makes up more than half of the costs on the General Fund, but the diocese maintained the previous year's overall charge and our share reduced slightly compared with the previous year (2023: £158k, 2022: £168k, 2021: £162k).

PCC policy on liquidity, i.e. the amount easily available for spending is that each church should hold the equivalent of at least two months of average expenditure at all times. St Helen's and St Nicolas churches have higher liquidity ratios but St Michael's is too low and will need to sell some of its investments soon. (St Helen's 5.9 m, St Michael's 1.6 m, St Nicolas 7.5 m)

Balance Sheet

The Parish owns two freehold properties, the Parish Centre and the House for Duty property purchased in 2015. Legal title of both is held by the Diocesan Trustees (Oxford) Ltd as custodian trustees on behalf of the Parish. Both are held for the mission of the church. The two properties appear in the balance sheet as Tangible Fixed Assets.

PCC policy is that unused fund balances should be invested with CBF Church of England funds. At the end of 2023 92% (2022: 92%) of Parish investments were with CBF Church of England funds. The value of the Parish investments increased by 9% in the year but still exceeded their value in 2020 (2023: £553k, 2022: £507k, 2021: £587k, 2020: £472k).

Going Concern

The PCC is required to operate on a going concern basis. Liquidity is a currently a concern where St Michael's is concerned. Also that there should be reserves, appropriate to each church, to cover the

future demands of building maintenance. This is less easy to evaluate and needs further consideration. I do not consider there to be risk of any of the churches being unable to pay for their building maintenance in the next three years, but we need to keep this under review.

Susan Read, PCC Treasurer, 7 March 2024

Appendix 1
St Helen's Church
Church Wardens' & Fabric Reports

It has been encouraging to new families and individuals regularly attending worship. We are pleased to report that Sunday congregational numbers are now approaching those pre-covid. We hope this will enable some of the budget deficit to be addressed through an increase in Planned Giving and through the loose plate.

Two very successful "Newcomers" lunches have been hosted in the last year, formally welcoming many of those new to the congregation. The importance of these occasions cannot be over emphasised, the aim is to continue these outreach opportunities.

District Church Council

The DCC met regularly in 2023, managing the budget and business of the church. Recently the budget has been a discussion priority, looking at how the budget deficit can be addressed.

A DCC Away Day enabled attendees an opportunity to discuss how to grow the church, congregation, mission, and outreach.

Pastoral Team

The Pastoral Team under the leadership of the Rev. Canon Charles Masheder continued to meet regularly until his departure as House for Duty Priest; in the absence of a post holder the team continued its work led by Linda Hobbs; Akma as the new House for Duty Priest will now lead the team.

Home communion is offered to those who are "house bound" with regular monthly services at Cygnet Court.

Finance

Unfortunately, the financial position of the church continues to be an area of concern. We must all be aware without financial stability, activities and outreach will be adversely affected. Financial stability ensures we can pay our Parish Share obligation, heat the church, fund charitable giving, plan to grow the services we offer to both town and congregation.

Currently budget forecasts indicate we will once again be in deficit, despite rigorous and successful fund raising. It is important that the finance of the church again returns to a surplus, the church can not continue to sell investments to meet its obligations. The outgoings of the church are closely monitored by our Treasurer Susan Read to whom thanks must be given for her time, diligence, and expertise.

Stewardship

The church continues to be open each day, appreciated by our many visitors and those who come to spend time in prayer. Between Easter and September, we aim to have Stewards on duty for part of the day. Our stewards enable visitors to enjoy and appreciate the history of our building, whilst appreciating its important role in the town of Abingdon.

Friends Of St. Helens Shop

The shop is now under new management. Revenue from the shop helps support repairs to the fabric of the church.

The Christmas period saw the shop having available an extensive range of cards and goods, with good sales being achieved. It is anticipated new and varied goods will continue to be introduced.

Friends Of St. Helen's (FoSH)

A small team of volunteers continues to arrange events and talks for members and non-members, these events are important opportunities for learning and fellowship.

The summer AGM culminated with a tea enjoyed by all who attended. All event proceeds support the work of FoSH, whilst offering opportunities to explore topics of interest. The team hope events will increase in number with more involvement from those in the town interested in the church, its history, and its role as the Civic Church.

Macmillan COFFEE MORNING

The church again hosted a successful coffee morning, the event being supported by volunteer cake and coffee makers and of course all who attended and consumed large amounts of cake! raising in excess of £650 for this wonderful cause.

Faith Forum

The Rev Dr. Jen Brown continues to lead and organise talks. Talks continue to be varied and well supported by congregation members from all three churches, but mainly from St Helens.

As an experiment, February saw talks scheduled to follow the Sunday Eucharist, this is aimed to enable those from our sister churches to attend. The result from this experimental change will be reviewed and a decision taken as to the most appropriate timing.

Christmas Market

November again saw the Christmas market, its aim being to raise funds for the church. The event was again well supported with over £2,000 being raised.

Mission And Outreach

The West Porch again opened prior to Christmas and Easter, volunteers valiantly "battling" adverse winter weather. Despite these difficulties the Christmas services welcomed several people with whom conversations had been had.

Late December saw volunteers from the three churches outside St. Nicholas handing out free chocolates and mince pies, whilst also handing out Christmas service details.

It is important that mission and outreach continues, growing opportunities for our churches to be seen as available, open, and relevant to all.

Safeguarding

Our Safeguarding officer, Maria Gibbson, has stepped down after serving for 10 years in this important role, we thank Maria for her time. The role will now be facilitated by 3 members of the congregation.

Safeguarding ensures clergy, lay ministers, wardens and all volunteers have current DBS clearance, with appropriate safeguarding training.

Re-Ordering

The long process of designing and approving a new church lighting scheme has continued, led by Chris Jefferies. It is anticipated the finalising of plans is imminent. Once finalised, permissions will be sought from the Diocese to enable work to commence. It is anticipated that the process of obtaining permissions will be protracted. Whilst awaiting permission, a team will "spear head" fund raising. If you are interested in being involved or have experience, please speak to Chris or the Rector.

Parish Centre

The Centre facilities continues to be available to hire, unfortunately hire of the Centre has not recovered post-covid, resulting in reduced revenue. To make hire of the Centre more attractive, we have ensured competitive hire rates, so hope underutilisation of this facility will improve.

The Centre and church office continue to be efficiently managed by Jackie Cunningham, we must thank her for her efficiency.

Mothers And Toddlers

The group continue to meet each Monday morning, offering a warm and stimulating welcome to all who attend. Many attendees are from the town, this important outreach must be supported, and thanks must go to all volunteers.

Candle in the Window

This monthly "magazine" continues to be edited by Rob Rutherford, thanks go to Rob for ensuring it is always an inspiring and varied read. Each edition continues to offer articles which challenge and inform. Each edition is available to download, with hard copies available from the office.

Celebration Services

We have been privileged this past year to host celebration services for the Rector, The Rev Canon Charles Masheder and Professor John Barton, respectively, they were celebrating 40th, 50th and 50th years of Ordination! Congratulations are offered to all, All occasions being marked with our customary hospitality.

Linda Hobbs & David Pope, Churchwardens

FABRIC REPORT

We have continued in 2023 with the implementation of recommendations from the Quinquennial Report of 2022. This included an investigation of the fire alarm system for the church. The system had been installed in 1991 to provide protection for the Painted Ceiling and the organ, but the smoke sensors had not been tested for some time. The system was found to be fully functional, despite its age, and is now included in the six-monthly fire maintenance schedule.

There has been a programme of improvement for the Parish Centre which had been in a poor decorative state. External doors and woodwork have been sanded back and varnished and the iron gate has been repainted. Our thanks go to the church caretaker Robin Day for taking on a significant amount of additional work in this area. The Centre had suffered in the past from rats in the gardens, both front and back. A pest control contract seems to have been effective, but we will need to monitor this closely. The gardens have been tidied up to reduce the number of potential rat nesting sites, with wire netting added under fences to block easy access routes for rats.

The regular church roof maintenance has continued, primarily to keep the rainwater system clear, but also to fix minor problems such as repairs to pointing. One of the Nave eaves gutters was uneven, with considerable backfall. The gutter has been repositioned so that the downpipe now collects the water correctly.

There was a major problem with the church heating system in November, with a leak in the heat exchanger for one of the boilers. The system has two boilers working in a cascade configuration, but unfortunately it wasn't possible to isolate the failed boiler. The church had a few weeks without any heating until a new heat exchanger could be fitted.

There has been discussion with a professional archivist about the storage conditions for the church archives. The archive room is not heated, so there is concern about cold and damp. I have started recording values of relative humidity and temperature via a data-logging hygrometer. The results so far (after two months) show that humidity is slightly above the recommended range, but not sufficiently high to cause condensation or mould growth in the archive room. The logging will continue over a few more months so it covers the full range of weather conditions. If there is a problem with humidity, we will look at the options for conservation heating or dehumidification of the room.

Stephen Thomas, Fabric Officer

Appendix 2
St Michael and All Angels' Church
Church Wardens' & Fabric Reports

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

Worship and Services:

During 2023 we held our regular pattern of services with a Sung Mass on Sunday at 09.30 and a Said Mass on Thursday at 12.30 (although during the winter months we changed this to a Tuesday for reasons of energy economy).
In addition, we celebrated certain Holy Days, such as Ash Wednesday, Dedication Festival, All Souls Day.
The average attendance on Sundays is 44 and the average attendance for the midweek mass is 10.

Easter: in Holy Week, Mass was celebrated on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.
On Maundy Thursday we observed the Mass of the Lord's Supper with the Washing of the Feet.
On Good Friday morning Carol Bowman led a short inter-active children's service which was attended by 27 adults and 18 children, and which was followed by a variety of craft activities whilst refreshments were served. This was followed by the Liturgy of the Passion in the afternoon.
The Lighting of the New Fire and Easter Vigil was celebrated on Holy Saturday, and this was followed on Easter Day by The Sung Mass of the Resurrection.

Christmas: our Christmas celebrations commenced with our popular Crib Service, led by Carol Bowman, and was attended by 62 adults and 40 children.
The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols took place on Christmas Eve with an attendance of 178. Many thanks to Glynne Butt and the choir for their very significant contribution to a beautiful service.
Christmas Morning Mass was held at 10.00 and attended by 40 people.
We had 4 Baptisms, 3 Weddings, and 5 Funerals in 2023
We are incredibly grateful to our honorary clergy and our clergy for enabling us to worship at St Michael's.

Outreach:

Abingdon School held 4 services during the 2023. A Leavers' Service in June, with 200 in attendance; and Lower School and Parents and Boarders' Carol Services in December with a total of 440 in attendance. A Choral Evensong Service was also held with an attendance of 45 people.
St Nicolas School held their Easter Service for the first time in several years.
The Oxford Diocese Ride and Stride was held as usual. We opened the church to meet and greet the cyclists and offered refreshments.
The Albert Park Singers continue to use the church for their rehearsals and held 2 concerts during the year; both were splendid occasions.
Abingdon Passion Play held a Come and Sing of Handel's Messiah Part 2 in aid of fundraising for the 2024 Passion Play.
During the year, the church was hired out to various organisations to hold concerts: The East Oxford Community Choir, Abingdon Music Festival, The Abingdon Chorale Choir.
The church room is used by one group on a regular basis. It has been hired on an ad hoc basis during the year.

We have continued to support various charities throughout the year: TAB, Tariro, Oxfordshire Homeless, Be Free Young Carers, Abingdon Foodbank.

Volunteers

As usual, we would like to thank all our volunteers who help keep things running smoothly: those that come in and do the cleaning, the flower arrangers, the safeguarding officer, those who do the odd vital jobs – fixing things or sorting out the heating or sound, those who make the coffee, the vergers at weddings and funerals, the faithful creator of the pew leaflet and contributors to the website. We thank you all.

Many thanks

To all who help in our worship – those who serve at the altar, our sacristans, our organists, readers and intercessors, our dedicated choir members, our bellringers, to the DCC members, and all our sidepersons.

Finally, a big thank you to Fr Paul for his leadership, support, kindness, and love. Let us continue to pray for the Lord's blessing on him.

Joyce Kelly and Louise Heffernan February 2024

FABRIC & ENERGY REPORT 2023

Routine maintenance was conducted as usual during 2023. The organ was tuned, the PAT testing carried out, the fire alarms and extinguishers maintained, the heating system serviced.

As a result of the Quinquennial Inspection 2021 the urgent work was carried out in early 2023.

In early November, the boilers failed, and initial inspection suggested that there was a problem that could not be repaired. However, a second opinion was sought from Uniheat with a positive outcome. The boilers were fixed and the Uniheat engineer, at Ming's request, also investigated and sorted out a problem with the underfloor heating which has been much more efficient since then. The Fabric and Energy committees (combined) will research options to replace the boilers in due course, so that we can be more prepared to deal with future issues.
Since September, our electricity contract has been brokered for us by the Parish Energy Basket. In December we were able to join the Parish Energy Basket for gas. This gives us some security against fluctuating prices and also lower unit prices though higher standing charges. Our gas and electricity usage has been faithfully monitored each week by David Duce, to whom we owe a debt of gratitude. The change in service times over the winter has resulted in a reduction in usage and the monthly cost is lower than the equivalent period last year, though admittedly it has been a mild winter so far.

Louise Heffernan and Joyce Kelly February 2024

Appendix 3
St Nicolas' Church
Church Wardens' & Fabric Reports

This has been the first year of my second stint as St Nicolas Churchwarden. My thanks go to Rev. Paul Smith; my fellow warden, Eluned Hallas; the St Nicolas DCC and the church congregation for their support.

Services:

Our Sunday Service conforms to the normal pattern, with the 8.00a.m. Parish Holy Communion (1662 rite), alternating monthly with St Helen's, and our main morning service at 11.15a.m.

Despite Covid no longer being at the forefront of our minds, some echoes remain. At Communion, both bread and wine are offered, but some communicants still prefer to receive in one kind only. It is rare to see a mask being worn, though the Peace is still more generally exchanged without contact. We also still offer the opportunity to join our services via the Zoom video system.

As well as our usual range of 8.00a.m. and 11:15a.m. Services, St Nicolas provided an Ascension Day evening Communion and St Nicolas Evensong to the Parish (with the support of musicians from our sister churches and wider afield). Our Carol Service and Crib Service were also well attended.

In October, it was a delight to welcome the Diocesan Deputy Warden of Readers who licensed congregation member Sue Holligan as a Lay Reader with Permission to Officiate in the Parish.

At our St Nicolas Evensong we welcomed the Archdeacon of Dorchester, the Venerable David Tyler, who both preached and blessed the Annexe. Towards the end of the Service the Archdeacon welcomed congregation members Gwyneth Lewis and Colin Sanderson into the Fellowship of St Birinus, in recognition of their work towards the refurbishment of the Annexe. The post service refreshments appeared to be enjoyed by all.

It has also been good to be able to restart our monthly Services of Communion by Extension in Bridge House, and to be able to welcome residents of Old Station House to a monthly Service in Church, followed by a time of fellowship.

We again provided the venue for the Church in Abingdon week of lunch time prayers for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – each session focussing on the activities of one or two of the CiA Task Groups.

Activities:

Throughout the year the church was open Church to visitors - primarily on Monday mornings, but also for the OHCT Ride & Stride Day, Heritage Open Days, and to coincide with Saturday events in the Market Place. We often have other visits from various groups, both local and from further afield. Thank you to all who have assisted in Stewarding at these events.

The after-service coffee on Third Sundays offers the opportunity for the congregation to talk and get to know each other more. A lunch social was held at Pizza Express, and the usual St Nicolas Day Lunch at Coseners House in December was attended by members from all three churches in the Parish.

There have been a few fundraising concerts for St Nic's plus other Sunday afternoon concerts by Abbey Chamber Concerts. We also organised a book-sale which gave folks good opportunities for socialising as well as raising funds. The church has been open to visitors for other events such as

those organised by Mostly Books and Abbey Artists. Thanks to all who organised and supported these events.

Fabric:

In general, the church building is in good repair though a few floor tiles are loose. However, we also have a problem with water ingress in the wall at the West end. It has been looked at but requires further investigation. The Lightning conductor was tested and passed.
Thank you to the team who, during the year, worked so hard to complete the Toilet Block refurbishment.

Thanks:

On behalf of the congregation, I'd like to give thanks to all those (ordained and lay) who have led services at St Nic's over the year. Also, to Jenny for all her work as Treasurer. Thank you too, to those who have led our prayers and our music, and to the people who provide flowers.
Especially, I would like to thank everyone who has supported St Nicolas throughout the year. Whether it is practical work week by week; by doing those small tasks which we would only notice if they were not done or offering donations and prayers.

FABRIC REPORT 2023

Twenty twenty-three saw the fulfilment of plans to refurbish the Annexe (toilet / kitchen block) to give St Nicolas facilities fit for the 21st Century. Thanks to the hard work of a small team, and the generous financial support of the whole congregation, we now have a welcoming space comprising a uni-sex equal access toilet cubicle, with baby change facilities; and a refitted kitchenette with cupboards, white goods and separate sinks for food and flowers. There is hot water to all sinks, and space heaters. Funds raised also permitted the building to be reroofed and all doors / windows to be replaced with double glazed units. The building is accessed via a freestanding ramp, bridging the existing in-situ gravemarkers.
We are already enjoying the benefits of the new facilities and thank all those whose hard work, generosity and prayers made it all possible.

In the spring we were also able to complete the various high level works identified in our 2021 Quinquennial (five-yearly) inspection – some retiling, work to the tower roof and repairs and repainting of rain goods.

Routine testing of the lightening conductor, central heating, automatic doors, fire extinguishers and portable and electric installations was carried out during the year, the latter requiring some small upgrades. The organ and piano were retuned regularly.

As reported last year we have started consultations on the refurbishment of the Blacknall Memorial / Blacknall Aisle. To this end the stalls have been moved to the Sanctuary to enable access to the aisle walls. We were delighted to receive a legacy from the will of Mrs Doreen Barnes, with the stipulation that it be put towards the restoration of the memorial.
Eluned Hallas

Appendix 4
Faith Forum

Faith Forum is part of the parish's adult education provision, and gives an opportunity for members of the congregations and others in the parish to hear talks on aspects of the Christian faith and how Christian faith relates to other areas of life and culture. The pattern of Faith Forum has been to meet in the parish centre hall on the first Sunday of the month in seven or eight months of the year (whether or not there is a Faith Forum in April depends on the date of Easter) before St Helen's 10.30am service, with a buffet breakfast provided.

A newly formed Faith Forum planning group met in the autumn of 2022 to plan the Faith Forum talks for Spring 2023. Unusually, there were only two Faith Forum sessions in the spring, on the subject of the theology of hospitality and welcome. Speakers were Revd Canon Charles Chadwick and Esther de Waal.

The planning group met again in June 2023 to plan for the autumn series and beyond. The Rector, Revd Dr Charles Miller, provided the talks for the autumn series, 'Faith in France', based on his experiences and study during sabbatical.

Since the pandemic, Faith Forum talks have been available on Zoom. This has had two advantages – those unable to attend in person for reasons such as mobility issues or illness could still 'attend' the talks live and participate in Q&A; the Zoom session can be recorded and posted to the parish website, allowing those unable to attend in person or for the live Zoom to watch later.

The planning group agreed that future Faith Forum series will cover:

The Sacraments (Spring 2024)
Ways to Engage with the Bible (Autumn 2024)
'Big Topics' in Theology (Spring 2025)

The planning group is next due to meet following the conclusion of the spring 2024 series, to review the new time and luncheon format, and to agree speakers for future series.

Revd Dr Jennifer Brown
Associate Priest, Faith Forum Lead

Appendix 5
Abingdon Society of Bellringers

Tower Bell Ringers

Abingdon has one of the largest and most proficient bands of ringers in the district. This reflects the commitment to sustained effort over the years in training and building the band. It's pleasing that now there are younger members taking over responsibility for managing and running the ringing. This includes learning to conduct.

The bells are rung every Sunday morning at both St Helen's and St Nicolas', while Tuesday evening practices alternate between the two towers. On Friday afternoons we welcome a large group of boys from Abingdon School to St Helen's for their practice. This is followed by a session for our own youngsters, who are a lively group and really progressing.

For adults, the Saturday morning basic teaching and mentoring of trainee teachers has evolved. Abingdon has been joined by similar centres at Dorchester, Kirtlington and Witney to form the Oxon Ringing School.

Last year the Christmas period was busy as usual with extra services, including ringing for school carol services. For the coronation, we arranged special extra ringing in the town to accompany the traditional bun throwing. We made sure that all of our younger ringers were able to participate in this historic occasion.

We have welcomed various visitors to see the ringing, including local cubs and brownies. Visitors are very welcome to come up the tower to see the bells and ringing. We are happy to teach girls and boys (from age 10) who may be interested in learning to handle a bell and join in.

www.abingdonbells.org.uk
Brian Read

Handbell Ringers

In 2023 we welcomed three new members to our team, making us 13 people. This put us in the excellent position of being able to put on a performance even when some of our members weren't available.
We held eleven weekly practices starting on 1st October. We again met in the Parish Centre each Sunday evening.
We provided background music at three church Christmas fairs this year (St Michael's, St Helen's and Dorchester Abbey). We entertained at two clubs for the handicapped, two care homes and two church carol services. We also gave a talk on handbells to a WI group.
I'd like to thank all the handbell ringers again this year for their helpfulness and for the fun we have had.

Susan Read, 5 March 2024

Appendix 6
Report on the activities of the Church in Abingdon

Parish Representatives:

St H: Alexandra Green
St M: John Clare
St N: Sue Holligan

Member churches and staff:

Member churches and staff: Much of the life and work of the CiA returned to pre-Covid operation but with some lasting effects on congregation numbers. There have been a few changes in the clergy over the past year: Peachcroft Christian Centre have been going through the process of finding a new minister; Kath and Phil Cooke left Christ Church; Charles Masheder left St Helen's; Alex Devine of the Salvation Army is now covering both Oxford and Abingdon Salvation Army; Christ Church appointed a new youth worker Abigail Pike after the departure of Bea Ellaby.

Task groups and associated projects:

Task groups

- The Christian Aid group in Abingdon held several fundraising activities as well as Christian Aid Week.
- The Christian Forum column continues to appear in the Abingdon Round & About monthly magazine under the direction of the CiA Administrator Debra Mcknight.
- Several exchange visits of the Church Twinning group have taken place – one to Abingdon, one to Sint Niklaus and one to Argentan.
- The work of Desire continues in a slightly different format having been limited by a lack of youth workers and leader.
- An Alpha launch night took place at Christ Church to which other churches were invited and several churches ran both in-person and online Alpha courses.
- The work of Prayer Spaces in Abingdon schools is recovering after Covid.

Associated projects

- 35 Ock Street, a hospitality centre for the community offering a café and a listening ear, and meeting rooms for local groups and agencies.
- The Abingdon Bridge, which has continued to reach out to the youth of Abingdon, providing support, advice and guidance to an increasing number of vulnerable young people in the community.
- Abingdon Street Pastors who are out on the streets of Abingdon on Saturday nights
- Experience Easter returned live to Trinity Church although the popular online version continued to be on offer.

United activities 2023

January

During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the usual events took place: the Inter-church quiz, which took place at Peachcroft Christian Centre, was won by the Long Furlong team, and raised £177.40 for Tearfund's Hunger Crisis appeal.

PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
Annual Report (continued)
FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2023

February

The CiA AGM took place, at which the need for a debt advice centre in Abingdon hosted by the CiA was carefully explored. However, it was later concluded we didn't have the resources in place at this point in time.

March

The World Day of Prayer service took place at St Michael's organised by the CiA Administrator and volunteers from the previous WDP committee. The service for 2023 was prepared by the women of Taiwan with the theme 'I have heard about your faith'. Revd Charles Masheder led the service. £315 was raised for WDP.

TrinityLearning's Easter Experience returned live to Trinity Church; the popular online version was also available.

Many churches ceased their 'warm spaces' scheme, except St Edmund's, which continues to run as 'Open Door'.

April

The procession of witness took place on Good Friday stopping in the Market Place for a short outdoor service led by Revd Paul Smith.

Church Twinning arranged a visit to Sint Niklaus in Belgium.

A CONNECT event took place at Christ Church.

May

The Christian Aid week activities took place with adaptations.

June

July

The South Abingdon Play & Activity Day event took place in Southern Town Park with Abingdon Vineyard and Abingdon Baptist Church taking part.

August

September

A CONNECT event took place at Christ Church.

Christ Church held an Alpha launch night, which was open to other churches. Several churches ran Alpha courses both in person and online.

October

The Michaelmas fair service took place with Deacon Selina Nisbett leading.

To celebrate 20 years of Church Twinning, Argentan, our Normandy twin town, invited 15 people from Abingdon to commemorate this link.

November

The Annual Bereavement Service took place at Christ Church in collaboration with their Footprints Bereavement group.

Church Twinning ran a local long weekend event in Abingdon with people invited from all its twin towns.

December

People from all the churches gathered in the Market Square to sing carols and give out leaflets detailing all the Christmas services taking place across Abingdon. Children's crafts, festive nibbles and a nativity scene were also on offer this year.

PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
Annual Report (continued)
FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2023

Finance

The grants paid in 2023 were:

The Abingdon Bridge	£2500	for their work with disadvantaged young people
DESIRE youth network	£1000	to help run schools weeks and larger events
DESIRE prayer spaces	£150	to provide prayer spaces in schools
Abingdon Street Pastors	£1000	to fund their ongoing help for people out at night
Experience Easter	£750	to help school children and their teachers explore the Easter story
Salvation Army Drop-in Centre	£100	to provide drop-in centre for the homeless and needy
Passion Play 2024	£1000	

Debra McKnight CiA Administrator

Appendix 7
Report on St Nicolas School

The Parish continues to be represented on the Governing Body of St Nicolas School by Eluned Hallas (Foundation Governor) and the Revd Paul Smith (Associate Governor)
Fr Paul takes regular assemblies in school, and the whole school Church Services at Christmas (Trinity Church), Easter (St Michael's) & end of school year (St Helen's).
We are delighted to report that the School was OFSTED inspected in February 2023 receiving a Good outcome
In accordance with the government's requirement for all Governing Bodies, the three core strategic functions of St Nicolas CE Primary School's Governing Body are: 1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school 2. Holding the head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils 3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.
During the year Staff and Governors spent time looking at how our school vision and mission are embedded into school life, both inside and outside of the classroom.
Based on Jesus' words in John 10:10 "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full", we recognise that we are all on a journey together and we are here to serve our local community.
The 'NICS' approach adopted last year, is now firmly embedded in our school life, and is easily memorable and applicable for all pupils, even from Reception:

The Governors full annual report to parents may be found on the school website: https://www.stnicolasprimary.co.uk/meet-the-governors/ Annual Governance Statement

Appendix 8
Report on the Abingdon Foodbank

Abingdon food bank continues to see an increase in referrals for families and individuals. Two food banks continue to operate in Abingdon, Preston Road Community Centre serves South Abingdon, North Abingdon being served by Christ Church.

As inflation affects many families in Abingdon more referrals are anticipated. Clients continue to require referral, ensuring only families or individuals currently in need receive assistance, each client being interviewed by volunteers trained to assist and advise on benefit entitlement.

Refugee families continue to receive support; to aid integration, a Friday "Language Café" offers facilities for children, whilst their parents learn.

This year saw the retirement of Hillary Beale after many years as volunteer manager, with a new manager now appointed.

Christmas saw the preparation of approximately 300 Christmas parcels, these being distributed to clients in need

As always additional donations are required, some supermarkets in Abingdon as well as Millets Farm, now donate surplus food, these donations being freely available to clients. Regular monitory donations enable specific food items to be purchased as required.

The Community Fridge and Community Larder continue operating, supporting those who are vulnerable in the community.

Parish congregation continue to donate generously, food being collected and delivered. It's important that support for food bank continues, by contributing, we support those in our community who are vulnerable.

Thank you to all who have contributed to this cause in the last year.

Linda Hobbs
Church Warden and Food Bank volunteer.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

I report on the accounts of the above parish for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the 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 parish's accounts carried out under s145 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

The parish's gross income exceeds £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by virtue of being a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an Independent Examination.

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

A Churchill Stone FCA DChA

Mercer Lewin Ltd
Chartered Accountants
41 Cornmarket Street
Oxford OX1 3HA

21 March 2024

THE PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

		2023				2022
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME						
Voluntary income	2a	247,276	41,880	-	289,156	264,643
Activities for generating funds	2b	16,572	45	-	16,617	13,261
Investment income	2c	9,553	22,833	-	32,385	31,989
From church activities	2d	18,383	-	-	18,383	16,128
Other income		525	214	-	739	206
		292,308	64,972	-	357,280	326,228
EXPENDITURE						
Fundraising costs		3,735	-	-	3,735	3,490
Church activities	3a	310,146	82,775	-	392,921	323,735
Other expenditure		1,790	-	-	1,790	370
		315,671	82,775	-	398,446	327,595
Net Income (Expenditure) before Investment Gains		(23,363)	(17,803)	-	(41,166)	(1,367)
Gains and losses on investment assets on revaluation		17,564	12,475	16,784	46,823	(73,059)
Transfers between funds		(4,938)	4,938	-	(0)	-
Net movement in funds		(10,736)	(390)	16,784	5,657	(74,426)
Total funds brought forward		736,916	231,723	277,307	1,245,946	1,320,372
Total funds carried forward		726,180	231,332	294,092	1,251,603	1,245,946

THE PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

		2023				2022
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible assets	5	386,956	21,187	83,185	491,328	489,427
Investments	6	223,062	134,906	195,406	553,375	506,552
		610,019	156,093	278,592	1,044,703	995,978
CURRENT ASSETS						
Stocks		272	-	-	272	272
Debtors	7	37,476	17,183	-	54,659	49,652
Short term deposits		66,686	69,346	15,500	151,531	169,440
Cash at bank and in hand		34,761	(2,932)	(0)	31,829	65,723
		139,194	83,597	15,500	238,291	285,088
CREDITORS						
Amounts due within one year	8	(23,033)	(8,358)	-	(31,390)	(35,120)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		116,161	75,239	15,500	206,900	249,968
NET ASSETS		726,180	231,332	294,092	1,251,603	1,245,946
FUNDS OF THE CHURCH						
Unrestricted funds	9	726,180	-	-	726,180	737,849
Restricted funds	10	-	231,332	-	231,332	230,789
Endowment funds	11	-	-	294,092	294,092	277,307
		726,180	231,332	294,092	1,251,603	1,245,946

These accounts were approved by the PCC on 7th Mar 2024 and are signed on its behalf by:

Rev'd Dr EC Miller
Chairman

Susan Read
PCC Treasurer

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a. Basis of preparation

The Parish is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared under The Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions, together with FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standard and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP (FRS 102)).

b. Funds

Unrestricted funds are general funds available for the general objectives of the church. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

Restricted funds can only be used for the purposes for which thy have been given, within the objectives of the church. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against those specific funds.

Endowment funds represent endowments, of which the capital must be maintained, and the dividend income used only for the restricted purposes arising from the establishment of the endowments.

c. Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities ("SoFA") when the church becomes legally entitled to the income and when the amount can be quantified with reasonable certainty.

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving is recognised only when received. Grants and legacies are recognised as soon as the PCC becomes aware of its legal entitlement and the amount due is quantifiable with reasonable certainty.

Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is accounted for when the gift is received.

When incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising income and sales of book sand magazines) the incoming resources and the related resources expended are accounted for gross in the SoFA.

Interest is accounted for when receivable and includes any recoverable tax.

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

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31st December.

d. Resources expended

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis and is recognised when there is a legal or constructive obligation to pay for goods or services and settlement is probable and quantifiable.

As the church is not registered for VAT, all the expenditure is shown inclusive of VAT.

Governance costs include the costs of the preparation of the annual accounts, the cost of PCC meetings and the legal cost of advice on governance or constitutional matters.

Grants and charitable giving are accounted for when paid over or when awarded, if the award creates a binding obligation on the PCC, provided that there are no conditions to be met relating to the grant which remain in the control of the church.

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2) of the Charities Act 2011. All expenditure incurred during the year on such property is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed

e. Pensions

The PCC encourages its employees to join the a Pension Scheme which is a defined contribution pension scheme. The PCC matches contributions made by employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the PCC. The contributions payable by the PCC are charged to the SoFA as they are incurred.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

f. Fixed assets

The Parish owns various freehold properties, the majority of which were acquired prior to the requirement to capitalise such expenditure. These properties have therefore not been included in cost. Freehold property acquired more recently is included at cost.

No depreciation is provided on buildings with a current estimated residual value of not less than their carrying value, otherwise the cost of buildings acquired is depreciated over a period of 100 years.

Office equipment is depreciated on a straight line basis over 3 to 5 years.
Other equipment is depreciated on a straight line basis over 20 years.

Investments are valued at Market Value.

g. Current assets

Amounts owed to the Parish at the year end in respect of fees, rents and other income are shown as debtors.

Short term deposits include cash on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

2. INCOMING RESOURCES	2023 Unrestricted Funds	2023 Restricted funds	2023 Endowment Funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
a. Voluntary income	£	£	£	£	£
Planned regular giving	170,574	385	-	170,959	168,419
Income tax recoverable	43,534	1,925	-	45,459	46,675
Other giving	-	-	-	-	-
Collections (open plate)	12,132	10	-	12,142	12,428
Legacies	10,145	10,000	-	20,145	2,000
Grants, Govt, Local Authorities	929	4,321	-	5,250	4,164
Grants, other	4,799	9,553	-	14,352	17,239
Sundry donations	5,164	15,686	-	20,850	13,718
	247,276	41,880	-	289,156	264,643
b. Activities for generating funds	£	£	£	£	£
Fetes & other fund-raising	16,572	45	-	16,617	13,261
	16,572	45	-	16,617	13,261
c. Income from investments	£	£	£	£	£
Dividends & Interest	9,553	22,833	-	32,385	31,989
Rent from land or other buildings	-	-	-	-	-
Share of income from Blacknall legacy	-	-	-	-	-
	9,553	22,833	-	32,385	31,989
d. Income from Church activities	£	£	£	£	£
Bookstall	157	-	-	157	207
Church hall lettings	12,654	-	-	12,654	9,491
Magazines	-	-	-	-	-
Fees	5,573	-	-	5,573	6,429
	18,383	-	-	18,383	16,128

3. RESOURCES EXPENDED	2023 Unrestricted Funds	Restricted funds	Endowment Funds	Total	2022 Total
a. Church Activities	£	£	£	£	£
Church overseas	-	-	-	-	-
Relief & Development agencies	1,839	-	-	1,839	3,322
Home missions, other church societies	2,489	-	-	2,489	2,763
Secular charities	4,280	-	-	4,280	5,567
Ministry Parish share	158,371	-	-	158,371	168,208
Incumbents' expenses	3,939	-	-	3,939	4,216
Assistant staff	428	-	-	428	441
Church fuel	35,930	-	-	35,930	17,813
Church running expenses, other	12,105	27,377	-	39,482	22,168
Church maintenance	599	19,102	-	19,702	15,438
Upkeep of services	7,274	848	-	8,122	10,495
Bookstall	-	-	-	-	90
Support costs	442	-	-	442	489
Parish Centre running costs	6,992	-	-	6,992	8,602
House for Assistant Cleric	-	5,131	-	5,131	3,525
Salaries, wages and honoraria	34,905	-	-	34,905	31,633
Major repairs & replacements (installations	23,733	29,483	-	53,216	10,958
Printing, stationery etc.	6,100	-	-	6,100	7,522
General administration	63	84	-	147	-
Lease of office equipment	5,101	-	-	5,101	4,980
Depreciation	4,849	750	-	5,599	5,013
Bank charges	706	-	-	706	492
	310,146	82,775	-	392,921	323,735
	£	£	£	£	£
b. Analysis of other costs					
Independent examination	1,790	-	-	1,790	370
	1,790	-	-	1,790	370

4. STAFF COSTS	2023 £	2022 £
Organists	11,736	11,078
Vergers	5,237	4,911
Parish administrator	14,858	13,774
Cleaners	1,833	1,719
Other staff costs	1,240	152
	34,905	31,633
The average no of employees was as follows:		
Organists	2	2
Vergers	1	1
Parish administrator	1	1
Cleaner	1	1
	5	5

None of the Trustees received any remuneration or employee benefits during the year. The lay trustees, where applicable, who acted as agents to the PCC in making approved payments on its behalf, were reimbursed for these expenses on presentation of suitable documentary evidence.

Clergy working expenses were reimbursed in accordance with Church of England guidelines.

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Property	Office Equipment	Other Equipment	2023 Total
Cost				
At 1 January 2023	504,950	-	30,785	535,735
Written off	-	-	-	-
Additions	7,500	-	-	7,500
At 31 December 2023	512,450	-	30,785	543,235
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2023	34,000	-	12,308	46,308
Written off	-	-	-	-
Charge for the year	2,750	-	2,849	5,599
At 31 December 2023	36,750	-	15,157	51,907
Net book value at 1 January 2023	470,950	-	18,477	489,427
Net book value at 31 December 2023	475,700	-	15,628	491,328

The market value of the freehold property is considered to be in excess of the above carrying value, however it is not considered practicable or cost effective to quantify the difference.

6. INVESTMENTS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
CBF Investment Fund	2,882	131,002	153,196	287,080	261,393
CBF Fixed Interest Securities	61,105	3,905	-	65,009	61,478
CBF Global Equity Income Fund	102,362	-	-	102,362	89,084
CBF Property Fund	29,509	-	-	29,509	31,438
CBF UK Equity Income Fund	27,205	-	-	27,205	24,555
COIF Investment Fund	-	-	42,210	42,210	38,604
	223,062	134,906	195,406	553,375	506,552

Market value	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
At 1 January	205,498	122,431	178,622	506,552	579,610
Investments purchased	-	-	-	-	-
Investments transferred	-	-	-	-	-
Dividends reinvested	93	990	-	1,084	-
Surplus/(deficit) on revaluation	17,471	11,484	16,784	45,740	(73,059)
At 31 December	223,062	134,906	195,406	553,375	506,552

7. DEBTORS

	2023 £	2022 £
Income tax recoverable	15,770	14,250
Prepayments and accrued income	38,888	35,402
	54,659	49,652

8. CREDITORS

	£	£
Sundry creditors and accruals	31,390	35,120

THE PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

9. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	Brought forward	Income	Expend-iture	Inv movement	Transfer	Carried forward
General funds	479,046	279,680	(291,800)	17,188	(2,392)	481,722
Designated funds						
St Helen's Church						
Archivist fund	4,807	-	-	-	-	4,807
Babies & toddlers	3,919	454	(28)	-	(111)	4,235
Clerical housing (designated)	207,379	-	-	-	-	207,379
Hospitality fund	472	1,327	(557)	-	(150)	1,092
Strategic Fund	12,857	10,167	-	376	-	23,400
Vicar & Wardens fund	3,218	377	(50)	-	-	3,545
Window Publisher	-	-	-	-	-	-
St Nicolas' Church						
Reordering Fund	25,217	305	(23,237)	-	(2,285)	(0)
Total unrestricted funds	736,916	292,308	(315,671)	17,564	(4,938)	726,180

10. RESTRICTED FUNDS						
St Helen's Church						
Bell fund	21,076	1,157	(663)	1,657	-	23,226
Centre fabric fund	4,567	25	-	790	-	5,382
Choir fund	93	-	-	-	-	93
Church fabric fund	60,497	3,537	(19,338)	2,983	-	47,679
Church roof fund	739	256	-	-	-	996
Clerical housing (restricted)	16,093	487	(5,881)	-	(933)	9,765
Development fund	2,109	6,314	(7,169)	-	-	1,253
Flower fund	717	555	(635)	-	-	637
Lady aisle fund	6,818	555	-	-	-	7,373
PR fund	909	50	(84)	-	-	875
Sanctuary & choir fund	-	632	(42)	-	-	590
Special Music fund	22	5,111	-	-	-	5,133
St Michael's Church						
Fabric fund	3,718	3,607	(12,159)	-	4,834	-
Lent Appeal	-	-	-	-	-	-
Roof fund	127	128	(1,292)	-	1,037	-
St Nicolas' Church						
Altar Linen	2,916	144	-	-	-	3,060
Bell fund	166	230	(366)	-	-	30
Blacknall maintenance	97,909	17,219	(9,964)	7,045	-	112,210
Blacknall tomb repair	743	10,000	-	-	-	10,743
Church lands	318	1,159	(554)	-	-	922
Churchyard repair	1,098	500	(271)	-	-	1,327
Fabric Fund	1,873	-	(1,873)	-	-	(0)
Flower fund	108	100	(171)	-	-	37
Toilet Block Fund	9,108	13,206	(22,313)	-	-	-
Total restricted funds	231,723	64,972	(82,775)	12,475	4,938	231,332

11. ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	Brought forward	Income	Inv movement	Transfer	Carried forward
St Helen's Church					
16/18 Ock St proceeds	15,500	-	-	-	15,500
A Challenor Bequest	20,537	-	1,932	-	22,470
Abingdon Oldfield Bequest	83,185	-	-	-	83,185
Backhus Trust	8,182	-	770	-	8,952
Church Fabric Fund (endowment)	26,385	-	2,482	-	28,867
Church Repair Trust	8,574	-	807	-	9,381
E Hawkins Charity	11,839	-	1,114	-	12,953
Elderfield Trust	269	-	25	-	294
Hyde Trust	4,442	-	418	-	4,860
North Bequest	9,752	-	918	-	10,670
PCC Trust	7,417	-	698	-	8,115
Preston Trust	18,554	-	1,746	-	20,300
St Michael's Church					
Challenors & Halcombe	7,686	-	723	-	8,409
Fabric fund	2,231	-	210	-	2,441
Harris Trust	5,062	-	476	-	5,538
Roof fund	4,277	-	402	-	4,679
St Nicolas' Church					
Altar Linen	4,810	-	457	-	5,267
Church Lands Charity	38,604	-	3,607	-	42,210
	277,307	-	16,784	-	294,092

12. ANALYSIS OF ASSETS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total
Tangible fixed assets	386,956	21,187	83,185	491,328
Investments	223,062	134,906	195,406	553,375
Current assets	139,194	83,597	15,500	238,291
Current liabilities	(23,033)	(8,358)	-	(31,390)
	726,180	231,332	294,092	1,251,603

13. DESCRIPTION OF FUNDS

Designated funds - set aside by the PCC

St Helen's Church

Archivist fund	Funds earned by the church archivist from research on behalf of family historians used for archivist's materials
Babies and Toddlers	Funds earned by running a club for mothers of young children used for equipment for the club
Clerical Housing Fund	Funds received from legacies and fund raising. Partly used toward the purchase of Enock House for the House For Duty priest. Remainder held for future projects.
Hospitality fund	Donations received for the provision of refreshments at events in the church and hall. Surplus donated to St Helen's Church
Vicar and wardens' fund	Funds for use at the discretion of the Rector
Window Publisher	Income and expenditure publishing a book by the Rector some years ago.

St Nicolas' Church

Reordering fund	In 2022 this fund was designated to be used for the refurbishment of the toilet and kitchen block.

13. DESCRIPTION OF FUNDS (continued)

Restricted funds, given for a particular purpose

St Helen's Church

Bell fund	From a legacy of Edgar Humfrey and donations by ringers for the repair and renewal of the bells and fittings.
Centre fabric fund	Donations received for the repair of the church centre.
Choir fund	Income from donations and wedding choir fees. Expenditure on music and choir equipment
Church fabric fund	Endowment income and donations for the repair and renewal of church fabric.
Church roof fund	Endowment income for the repair of the church roof except that of Lady Aisle.
Clerical housing fund	Endowment income for the capital costs of clerical housing.
Development fund	Funds restricted to the work described by the 1999 Development Plan.
Flower fund	Donations made by members of the congregation for church flowers
Lady aisle fund	Endowment income for the repair of the roof of the Lady Aisle.
PR fund	Donations received toward the cost of publicity for church events
Sanctuary and choir fund	Endowment income for furniture, linen, etc. for the sanctuary and choir.
Special music fund	Donations for use at the discretion of the Director of Music to further the music ministry of St Helen's beyond what budgeted funds allow.

St Michael's Church

Fabric fund	Endowment income and donations received for the repair and maintenance of the church buildings
Lent appeal	Donations received in response to an appeal for charity in lent
Roof fund	Endowment income received for the repair of the church roof

St Nicolas' Church

Altar Linen fund	Endowment income for the provision of 'new altar linen, surplices and cassocks'.
Bell fund	Funds raised or donated towards the maintenance of the bells and their fittings.
Blacknall maintenance	Endowment income received from the Charity of John Blacknall for 'maintaining, repairing and insuring against fire the fabric, ornaments and furniture'.
Blacknall tomb repair	Funds raised or donated towards the repair and maintenance of the Blacknall Memorial.
Churchyard fund	Funds raised or donated towards the maintenance of the church yard and garden
Church lands	The income from an historic endowment fund for the upkeep of the church building and the running of services.
Fabric Fund	Income raised for the repair and maintenance of the church buildings.
Flower Fund	Donations made by members of the congregation for church flowers
Toilet Block Fund	This fund was created in 2022 to receive money donated solely for use on the refurbishment of the kitchan and toilet block.

13. DESCRIPTION OF FUNDS (continued)

Endowment funds

St Helen's Church	
Abingdon Oldfield Bequest	Income restricted to housing for the assistant clergy of the parish
A Challenor Bequest	Income for vesture, furnishings and fittings in the sanctuary and choir
Church repair trust	Income for the repair of the church roof except that of Lady Aisle.
Preston Trust	Income for the upkeep of the roof and ancient paintings of the Lady Aisle.
16/18 Ock Street proceeds, Church fabric fund, Hyde Trust	Income for the upkeep and maintenance of the fabric of St Helen's Church.
All other St Helen's endowment funds	Endowment income to be used for general purposes of St Helen's Church
St Nicolas' Church	
Altar Linen	Income to be used for the provision of 'new altar linen, surplices and cassocks'.
Church Lands Charity	Income for the 'repairing, maintenance and benefit' of St Nicolas Church.
St Michael's Church	
Challenors and Holcombe Bequests	Unrestricted income for the use of the church.
Harris Trust	Income for the benefit of St Michael's Church, by way of upkeep, adornment or in any manner as the vicar and church wardens deem expedient.
Fabric fund	Income for the general upkeep of the Church
Church repair trust	Income for the repair of the church roof

14. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year the Trustees made donations to the charity as members of the congregations. These donations totalled £22399 (2022: £17442).

15. LEGACIES

The parish is a beneficiary of the will of DJ Enock and funds have been received in prior years. The Parish is aware that a further sum is due under this legacy however the property in question is subject to a life tenancy and therefore neither the sum involved nor the timing of receipt is yet known. For these reasons no additional amount has been accrued in respect of this further income.

16. COMPARATIVE SOFA FOR PREVIOUS YEAR

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £
INCOME				
Voluntary income	244,274	20,370	-	264,643
Activities for generating funds	12,893	368	-	13,261
Investment income	9,287	22,703	-	31,989
From church activities	16,128	-	-	16,128
Other income	509	(303)	-	206
	283,090	43,137	-	326,228
EXPENDITURE				
Fundraising costs	3,490	-	-	3,490
Church activities	272,790	50,945	-	323,735
Other expenditure	370	-	-	370
	276,650	50,945	-	327,595
Net Income (Expenditure) before Investment Gains	6,440	(7,807)	-	(1,367)
Gains and losses on investment assets on revaluation	(34,005)	(15,297)	(23,757)	(73,059)
Transfers between funds	233	(233)	-	0
Net movement in funds	(27,332)	(23,337)	(23,757)	(74,426)
Total funds brought forward	765,181	254,127	301,064	1,320,372
Total funds carried forward	737,849	230,789	277,307	1,245,946

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

I report on the accounts of the above parish for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the 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 parish's accounts carried out under s145 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

The parish's gross income exceeds £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by virtue of being a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an Independent Examination.

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

A Churchill Stone FCA DChA

Mercer Lewin Ltd
Chartered Accountants
41 Cornmarket Street
Oxford OX1 3HA

21 March 2024

THE PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

		2023				2022
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME						
Voluntary income	2a	247,276	41,880	-	289,156	264,643
Activities for generating funds	2b	16,572	45	-	16,617	13,261
Investment income	2c	9,553	22,833	-	32,385	31,989
From church activities	2d	18,383	-	-	18,383	16,128
Other income		525	214	-	739	206
		292,308	64,972	-	357,280	326,228
EXPENDITURE						
Fundraising costs		3,735	-	-	3,735	3,490
Church activities	3a	310,146	82,775	-	392,921	323,735
Other expenditure		1,790	-	-	1,790	370
		315,671	82,775	-	398,446	327,595
Net Income (Expenditure) before Investment Gains		(23,363)	(17,803)	-	(41,166)	(1,367)
Gains and losses on investment assets on revaluation		17,564	12,475	16,784	46,823	(73,059)
Transfers between funds		(4,938)	4,938	-	(0)	-
Net movement in funds		(10,736)	(390)	16,784	5,657	(74,426)
Total funds brought forward		736,916	231,723	277,307	1,245,946	1,320,372
Total funds carried forward		726,180	231,332	294,092	1,251,603	1,245,946

THE PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

		2023				2022
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible assets	5	386,956	21,187	83,185	491,328	489,427
Investments	6	223,062	134,906	195,406	553,375	506,552
		610,019	156,093	278,592	1,044,703	995,978
CURRENT ASSETS						
Stocks		272	-	-	272	272
Debtors	7	37,476	17,183	-	54,659	49,652
Short term deposits		66,686	69,346	15,500	151,531	169,440
Cash at bank and in hand		34,761	(2,932)	(0)	31,829	65,723
		139,194	83,597	15,500	238,291	285,088
CREDITORS						
Amounts due within one year	8	(23,033)	(8,358)	-	(31,390)	(35,120)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		116,161	75,239	15,500	206,900	249,968
NET ASSETS		726,180	231,332	294,092	1,251,603	1,245,946
FUNDS OF THE CHURCH						
Unrestricted funds	9	726,180	-	-	726,180	737,849
Restricted funds	10	-	231,332	-	231,332	230,789
Endowment funds	11	-	-	294,092	294,092	277,307
		726,180	231,332	294,092	1,251,603	1,245,946

These accounts were approved by the PCC on 7th Mar 2024 and are signed on its behalf by:

Rev'd Dr EC Miller
Chairman

Susan Read
PCC Treasurer

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a. Basis of preparation

The Parish is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared under The Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions, together with FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standard and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP (FRS 102)).

b. Funds

Unrestricted funds are general funds available for the general objectives of the church. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

Restricted funds can only be used for the purposes for which thy have been given, within the objectives of the church. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against those specific funds.

Endowment funds represent endowments, of which the capital must be maintained, and the dividend income used only for the restricted purposes arising from the establishment of the endowments.

c. Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities ("SoFA") when the church becomes legally entitled to the income and when the amount can be quantified with reasonable certainty.

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving is recognised only when received. Grants and legacies are recognised as soon as the PCC becomes aware of its legal entitlement and the amount due is quantifiable with reasonable certainty.

Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is accounted for when the gift is received.

When incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising income and sales of book sand magazines) the incoming resources and the related resources expended are accounted for gross in the SoFA.

Interest is accounted for when receivable and includes any recoverable tax.

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

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31st December.

d. Resources expended

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis and is recognised when there is a legal or constructive obligation to pay for goods or services and settlement is probable and quantifiable.

As the church is not registered for VAT, all the expenditure is shown inclusive of VAT.

Governance costs include the costs of the preparation of the annual accounts, the cost of PCC meetings and the legal cost of advice on governance or constitutional matters.

Grants and charitable giving are accounted for when paid over or when awarded, if the award creates a binding obligation on the PCC, provided that there are no conditions to be met relating to the grant which remain in the control of the church.

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2) of the Charities Act 2011. All expenditure incurred during the year on such property is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed

e. Pensions

The PCC encourages its employees to join the a Pension Scheme which is a defined contribution pension scheme. The PCC matches contributions made by employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the PCC. The contributions payable by the PCC are charged to the SoFA as they are incurred.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

f. Fixed assets

The Parish owns various freehold properties, the majority of which were acquired prior to the requirement to capitalise such expenditure. These properties have therefore not been included in cost. Freehold property acquired more recently is included at cost.

No depreciation is provided on buildings with a current estimated residual value of not less than their carrying value, otherwise the cost of buildings acquired is depreciated over a period of 100 years.

Office equipment is depreciated on a straight line basis over 3 to 5 years.
Other equipment is depreciated on a straight line basis over 20 years.

Investments are valued at Market Value.

g. Current assets

Amounts owed to the Parish at the year end in respect of fees, rents and other income are shown as debtors.

Short term deposits include cash on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

2. INCOMING RESOURCES	2023 Unrestricted Funds	2023 Restricted funds	2023 Endowment Funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
a. Voluntary income	£	£	£	£	£
Planned regular giving	170,574	385	-	170,959	168,419
Income tax recoverable	43,534	1,925	-	45,459	46,675
Other giving	-	-	-	-	-
Collections (open plate)	12,132	10	-	12,142	12,428
Legacies	10,145	10,000	-	20,145	2,000
Grants, Govt, Local Authorities	929	4,321	-	5,250	4,164
Grants, other	4,799	9,553	-	14,352	17,239
Sundry donations	5,164	15,686	-	20,850	13,718
	247,276	41,880	-	289,156	264,643
b. Activities for generating funds	£	£	£	£	£
Fetes & other fund-raising	16,572	45	-	16,617	13,261
	16,572	45	-	16,617	13,261
c. Income from investments	£	£	£	£	£
Dividends & Interest	9,553	22,833	-	32,385	31,989
Rent from land or other buildings	-	-	-	-	-
Share of income from Blacknall legacy	-	-	-	-	-
	9,553	22,833	-	32,385	31,989
d. Income from Church activities	£	£	£	£	£
Bookstall	157	-	-	157	207
Church hall lettings	12,654	-	-	12,654	9,491
Magazines	-	-	-	-	-
Fees	5,573	-	-	5,573	6,429
	18,383	-	-	18,383	16,128

3. RESOURCES EXPENDED	2023 Unrestricted Funds	Restricted funds	Endowment Funds	Total	2022 Total
a. Church Activities	£	£	£	£	£
Church overseas	-	-	-	-	-
Relief & Development agencies	1,839	-	-	1,839	3,322
Home missions, other church societies	2,489	-	-	2,489	2,763
Secular charities	4,280	-	-	4,280	5,567
Ministry Parish share	158,371	-	-	158,371	168,208
Incumbents' expenses	3,939	-	-	3,939	4,216
Assistant staff	428	-	-	428	441
Church fuel	35,930	-	-	35,930	17,813
Church running expenses, other	12,105	27,377	-	39,482	22,168
Church maintenance	599	19,102	-	19,702	15,438
Upkeep of services	7,274	848	-	8,122	10,495
Bookstall	-	-	-	-	90
Support costs	442	-	-	442	489
Parish Centre running costs	6,992	-	-	6,992	8,602
House for Assistant Cleric	-	5,131	-	5,131	3,525
Salaries, wages and honoraria	34,905	-	-	34,905	31,633
Major repairs & replacements (installations	23,733	29,483	-	53,216	10,958
Printing, stationery etc.	6,100	-	-	6,100	7,522
General administration	63	84	-	147	-
Lease of office equipment	5,101	-	-	5,101	4,980
Depreciation	4,849	750	-	5,599	5,013
Bank charges	706	-	-	706	492
	310,146	82,775	-	392,921	323,735
	£	£	£	£	£
b. Analysis of other costs					
Independent examination	1,790	-	-	1,790	370
	1,790	-	-	1,790	370

4. STAFF COSTS	2023 £	2022 £
Organists	11,736	11,078
Vergers	5,237	4,911
Parish administrator	14,858	13,774
Cleaners	1,833	1,719
Other staff costs	1,240	152
	34,905	31,633
The average no of employees was as follows:		
Organists	2	2
Vergers	1	1
Parish administrator	1	1
Cleaner	1	1
	5	5

None of the Trustees received any remuneration or employee benefits during the year. The lay trustees, where applicable, who acted as agents to the PCC in making approved payments on its behalf, were reimbursed for these expenses on presentation of suitable documentary evidence.

Clergy working expenses were reimbursed in accordance with Church of England guidelines.

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Property	Office Equipment	Other Equipment	2023 Total
Cost				
At 1 January 2023	504,950	-	30,785	535,735
Written off	-	-	-	-
Additions	7,500	-	-	7,500
At 31 December 2023	512,450	-	30,785	543,235
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2023	34,000	-	12,308	46,308
Written off	-	-	-	-
Charge for the year	2,750	-	2,849	5,599
At 31 December 2023	36,750	-	15,157	51,907
Net book value at 1 January 2023	470,950	-	18,477	489,427
Net book value at 31 December 2023	475,700	-	15,628	491,328

The market value of the freehold property is considered to be in excess of the above carrying value, however it is not considered practicable or cost effective to quantify the difference.

6. INVESTMENTS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
CBF Investment Fund	2,882	131,002	153,196	287,080	261,393
CBF Fixed Interest Securities	61,105	3,905	-	65,009	61,478
CBF Global Equity Income Fund	102,362	-	-	102,362	89,084
CBF Property Fund	29,509	-	-	29,509	31,438
CBF UK Equity Income Fund	27,205	-	-	27,205	24,555
COIF Investment Fund	-	-	42,210	42,210	38,604
	223,062	134,906	195,406	553,375	506,552

Market value	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
At 1 January	205,498	122,431	178,622	506,552	579,610
Investments purchased	-	-	-	-	-
Investments transferred	-	-	-	-	-
Dividends reinvested	93	990	-	1,084	-
Surplus/(deficit) on revaluation	17,471	11,484	16,784	45,740	(73,059)
At 31 December	223,062	134,906	195,406	553,375	506,552

7. DEBTORS

	2023 £	2022 £
Income tax recoverable	15,770	14,250
Prepayments and accrued income	38,888	35,402
	54,659	49,652

8. CREDITORS

	£	£
Sundry creditors and accruals	31,390	35,120

THE PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

9. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	Brought forward	Income	Expend-iture	Inv movement	Transfer	Carried forward
General funds	479,046	279,680	(291,800)	17,188	(2,392)	481,722
Designated funds						
St Helen's Church						
Archivist fund	4,807	-	-	-	-	4,807
Babies & toddlers	3,919	454	(28)	-	(111)	4,235
Clerical housing (designated)	207,379	-	-	-	-	207,379
Hospitality fund	472	1,327	(557)	-	(150)	1,092
Strategic Fund	12,857	10,167	-	376	-	23,400
Vicar & Wardens fund	3,218	377	(50)	-	-	3,545
Window Publisher	-	-	-	-	-	-
St Nicolas' Church						
Reordering Fund	25,217	305	(23,237)	-	(2,285)	(0)
Total unrestricted funds	736,916	292,308	(315,671)	17,564	(4,938)	726,180

10. RESTRICTED FUNDS						
St Helen's Church						
Bell fund	21,076	1,157	(663)	1,657	-	23,226
Centre fabric fund	4,567	25	-	790	-	5,382
Choir fund	93	-	-	-	-	93
Church fabric fund	60,497	3,537	(19,338)	2,983	-	47,679
Church roof fund	739	256	-	-	-	996
Clerical housing (restricted)	16,093	487	(5,881)	-	(933)	9,765
Development fund	2,109	6,314	(7,169)	-	-	1,253
Flower fund	717	555	(635)	-	-	637
Lady aisle fund	6,818	555	-	-	-	7,373
PR fund	909	50	(84)	-	-	875
Sanctuary & choir fund	-	632	(42)	-	-	590
Special Music fund	22	5,111	-	-	-	5,133
St Michael's Church						
Fabric fund	3,718	3,607	(12,159)	-	4,834	-
Lent Appeal	-	-	-	-	-	-
Roof fund	127	128	(1,292)	-	1,037	-
St Nicolas' Church						
Altar Linen	2,916	144	-	-	-	3,060
Bell fund	166	230	(366)	-	-	30
Blacknall maintenance	97,909	17,219	(9,964)	7,045	-	112,210
Blacknall tomb repair	743	10,000	-	-	-	10,743
Church lands	318	1,159	(554)	-	-	922
Churchyard repair	1,098	500	(271)	-	-	1,327
Fabric Fund	1,873	-	(1,873)	-	-	(0)
Flower fund	108	100	(171)	-	-	37
Toilet Block Fund	9,108	13,206	(22,313)	-	-	-
Total restricted funds	231,723	64,972	(82,775)	12,475	4,938	231,332

11. ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	Brought forward	Income	Inv movement	Transfer	Carried forward
St Helen's Church					
16/18 Ock St proceeds	15,500	-	-	-	15,500
A Challenor Bequest	20,537	-	1,932	-	22,470
Abingdon Oldfield Bequest	83,185	-	-	-	83,185
Backhus Trust	8,182	-	770	-	8,952
Church Fabric Fund (endowment)	26,385	-	2,482	-	28,867
Church Repair Trust	8,574	-	807	-	9,381
E Hawkins Charity	11,839	-	1,114	-	12,953
Elderfield Trust	269	-	25	-	294
Hyde Trust	4,442	-	418	-	4,860
North Bequest	9,752	-	918	-	10,670
PCC Trust	7,417	-	698	-	8,115
Preston Trust	18,554	-	1,746	-	20,300
St Michael's Church					
Challenors & Halcombe	7,686	-	723	-	8,409
Fabric fund	2,231	-	210	-	2,441
Harris Trust	5,062	-	476	-	5,538
Roof fund	4,277	-	402	-	4,679
St Nicolas' Church					
Altar Linen	4,810	-	457	-	5,267
Church Lands Charity	38,604	-	3,607	-	42,210
	277,307	-	16,784	-	294,092

12. ANALYSIS OF ASSETS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total
Tangible fixed assets	386,956	21,187	83,185	491,328
Investments	223,062	134,906	195,406	553,375
Current assets	139,194	83,597	15,500	238,291
Current liabilities	(23,033)	(8,358)	-	(31,390)
	726,180	231,332	294,092	1,251,603

13. DESCRIPTION OF FUNDS

Designated funds - set aside by the PCC

St Helen's Church

Archivist fund	Funds earned by the church archivist from research on behalf of family historians used for archivist's materials
Babies and Toddlers	Funds earned by running a club for mothers of young children used for equipment for the club
Clerical Housing Fund	Funds received from legacies and fund raising. Partly used toward the purchase of Enock House for the House For Duty priest. Remainder held for future projects.
Hospitality fund	Donations received for the provision of refreshments at events in the church and hall. Surplus donated to St Helen's Church
Vicar and wardens' fund	Funds for use at the discretion of the Rector
Window Publisher	Income and expenditure publishing a book by the Rector some years ago.

St Nicolas' Church

Reordering fund	In 2022 this fund was designated to be used for the refurbishment of the toilet and kitchen block.

13. DESCRIPTION OF FUNDS (continued)

Restricted funds, given for a particular purpose

St Helen's Church

Bell fund	From a legacy of Edgar Humfrey and donations by ringers for the repair and renewal of the bells and fittings.
Centre fabric fund	Donations received for the repair of the church centre.
Choir fund	Income from donations and wedding choir fees. Expenditure on music and choir equipment
Church fabric fund	Endowment income and donations for the repair and renewal of church fabric.
Church roof fund	Endowment income for the repair of the church roof except that of Lady Aisle.
Clerical housing fund	Endowment income for the capital costs of clerical housing.
Development fund	Funds restricted to the work described by the 1999 Development Plan.
Flower fund	Donations made by members of the congregation for church flowers
Lady aisle fund	Endowment income for the repair of the roof of the Lady Aisle.
PR fund	Donations received toward the cost of publicity for church events
Sanctuary and choir fund	Endowment income for furniture, linen, etc. for the sanctuary and choir.
Special music fund	Donations for use at the discretion of the Director of Music to further the music ministry of St Helen's beyond what budgeted funds allow.

St Michael's Church

Fabric fund	Endowment income and donations received for the repair and maintenance of the church buildings
Lent appeal	Donations received in response to an appeal for charity in lent
Roof fund	Endowment income received for the repair of the church roof

St Nicolas' Church

Altar Linen fund	Endowment income for the provision of 'new altar linen, surplices and cassocks'.
Bell fund	Funds raised or donated towards the maintenance of the bells and their fittings.
Blacknall maintenance	Endowment income received from the Charity of John Blacknall for 'maintaining, repairing and insuring against fire the fabric, ornaments and furniture'.
Blacknall tomb repair	Funds raised or donated towards the repair and maintenance of the Blacknall Memorial.
Churchyard fund	Funds raised or donated towards the maintenance of the church yard and garden
Church lands	The income from an historic endowment fund for the upkeep of the church building and the running of services.
Fabric Fund	Income raised for the repair and maintenance of the church buildings.
Flower Fund	Donations made by members of the congregation for church flowers
Toilet Block Fund	This fund was created in 2022 to receive money donated solely for use on the refurbishment of the kitchan and toilet block.

13. DESCRIPTION OF FUNDS (continued)

Endowment funds

St Helen's Church	
Abingdon Oldfield Bequest	Income restricted to housing for the assistant clergy of the parish
A Challenor Bequest	Income for vesture, furnishings and fittings in the sanctuary and choir
Church repair trust	Income for the repair of the church roof except that of Lady Aisle.
Preston Trust	Income for the upkeep of the roof and ancient paintings of the Lady Aisle.
16/18 Ock Street proceeds, Church fabric fund, Hyde Trust	Income for the upkeep and maintenance of the fabric of St Helen's Church.
All other St Helen's endowment funds	Endowment income to be used for general purposes of St Helen's Church
St Nicolas' Church	
Altar Linen	Income to be used for the provision of 'new altar linen, surplices and cassocks'.
Church Lands Charity	Income for the 'repairing, maintenance and benefit' of St Nicolas Church.
St Michael's Church	
Challenors and Holcombe Bequests	Unrestricted income for the use of the church.
Harris Trust	Income for the benefit of St Michael's Church, by way of upkeep, adornment or in any manner as the vicar and church wardens deem expedient.
Fabric fund	Income for the general upkeep of the Church
Church repair trust	Income for the repair of the church roof

14. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year the Trustees made donations to the charity as members of the congregations. These donations totalled £22399 (2022: £17442).

15. LEGACIES

The parish is a beneficiary of the will of DJ Enock and funds have been received in prior years. The Parish is aware that a further sum is due under this legacy however the property in question is subject to a life tenancy and therefore neither the sum involved nor the timing of receipt is yet known. For these reasons no additional amount has been accrued in respect of this further income.

16. COMPARATIVE SOFA FOR PREVIOUS YEAR

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £
INCOME				
Voluntary income	244,274	20,370	-	264,643
Activities for generating funds	12,893	368	-	13,261
Investment income	9,287	22,703	-	31,989
From church activities	16,128	-	-	16,128
Other income	509	(303)	-	206
	283,090	43,137	-	326,228
EXPENDITURE				
Fundraising costs	3,490	-	-	3,490
Church activities	272,790	50,945	-	323,735
Other expenditure	370	-	-	370
	276,650	50,945	-	327,595
Net Income (Expenditure) before Investment Gains	6,440	(7,807)	-	(1,367)
Gains and losses on investment assets on revaluation	(34,005)	(15,297)	(23,757)	(73,059)
Transfers between funds	233	(233)	-	0
Net movement in funds	(27,332)	(23,337)	(23,757)	(74,426)
Total funds brought forward	765,181	254,127	301,064	1,320,372
Total funds carried forward	737,849	230,789	277,307	1,245,946

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

England & Wales - Charity number 1129833

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT

For year ending 31st December 2022

(As required by Church Accounting Regulations 2006)

Registered Charity Number 1129833

PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
ANNUAL REPORT
FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2022

Table of Contents

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION **2**

AIMS AND PURPOSES **3**

1 ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE 3

1a Team Rector's Report [Charles Miller] ***3***

1b Church Electoral Roll [Richard Kirby] ***5***

1c LLM Report [Gwen Bevington] ***7***

1d PCC [Eluned Hallas] ***7***

1e Safeguarding [Maria Gibson] ***7***

1f Abingdon Deanery Synod [Sue Scott] ***8***

1g Abingdon Diocesan Synod [Sue Scott] ***9***

2 STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MEMBERSHIP 9

3 PROPERTY 10

3a Musson Close [Linda Hobbs] ***10***

3b Fairacres Road [Rob Bough] ***11***

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES 11

PUBLIC BENEFIT 12

TREASURER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2021 **13**

APPENDIX 1 ST HELEN'S CHURCH CHURCH WARDENS' & FABRIC REPORTS **14**

APPENDIX 2 ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS' CHURCH CHURCH WARDENS' & FABRIC REPORTS **17**

APPENDIX 3 ST NICOLAS' CHURCH CHURCH WARDENS' & FABRIC REPORTS **19**

APPENDIX 4 ABINGDON SOCIETY OF BELLRINGERS **21**

APPENDIX 5 REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHURCH IN ABINGDON **22**

APPENDIX 6 REPORT ON THE ABINGDON FOODBANK **25**

PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
Annual Report (Continued)
FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2021
(As required by Church Accounting Regulations 2006)

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames is a registered charity, Charity Registration Number 1129833.

The Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames is situated in the town of Abingdon, Oxfordshire. It is part of the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is:

The Hon Secretary, Abingdon-on-Thames PCC
c/o The Parish Centre, St Helen's Court, Abingdon OX14 5BS

The Parish comprises the churches and congregations of St Helen, St Michael & All Angels and St Nicolas.

PCC members

PCC members are the Trustees of the Charity. PCC members who have served from 1st January 2022 until the date that this report and the financial statements were approved are:

Stipendiary Team clergy:
The Revd Dr E C Miller
The Revd P A Smith

Non-stipendiary clergy:
The Revd J Brown
The Revd P T C Masheder

Licensed Lay Minister
Mrs G Bevington

Churchwardens:
Mrs E Hallas
Mrs L Heffernan
Mrs L Hobbs
Miss J Kelly
Dr G Meen

Ex-Officio
– representatives on Diocesan Synod:
Miss A Scott
– representatives on Deanery Synod:
The Revd R Rutherford (from July 2022)

Elected representatives - Deanery Synod:
Miss A E Green
Mrs E Hallas
Miss A Scott
Mrs S Scott
Dr H Glennie (from July 2022)

Elected PCC members:
Dr A Birks (to December 2022)
Mr J Clare
Mrs H Clare (to April 2022)
Dr H Glennie (from April 2022)
Mrs J Fishpool (from April 2022)
Dr G Lewis
Mrs S E M Read

Officers (from April 2022):

Chairman	The Revd Dr E C Miller
Vice Chairman	Mrs S Scott
Secretary	Mrs E Hallas
Treasurer	Mrs S E M Read

Auditors
Mercer Lewin Chartered Accountants
41 Cornmarket Street,
Oxford,
OX1 3HA

Weblinks:
http://www.abingdonparish.org.uk/

AIMS AND PURPOSES

Under the PCC (Powers) Measure 1956, the parish of Abingdon-on-Thames Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Dr Charles Miller, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Each DCC is similarly required to co-operate with the minister in charge of the district church. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Parish Centre (in St Helen's Court) and Enock House (2 Musson Close).

1 ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

1a Team Rector's Report [Charles Miller]

Introduction

2022 has been a year of slow but steady recovery in the life of the parish. By 'recovery' I mean the return of patterns of worship, volunteer teams and programmes that characterized our congregations before the pandemic. Whereas I thought that more and quicker progress would be made in 2021 that did not materialize; instead there were starts and stops, something that made 2021 a frustrating year for me and for many. In relation to St Helen's at least, beginning in August 2022 an unanticipated surge of energy and newcomers happened which took us pleasantly by surprise. Still, the volunteer corps was (and at time of writing still is) diminished so the 'recovery' is hindered by the challenges of recruitment – a slow process. Of course that issue varies from congregation to congregation, so reports will vary. Overall, though, there is the problem: more is done by fewer.

Staffing

It has been a challenging year for the Team and associates. As the round of pastoral ministrations has grown, and as we have sought to meet them with customary care and quality, there has been an unfortunate debilitation owing to sickness, medical procedures and convalescences. The 14 week sabbatical period of Fr Paul Smith (delayed for several years, alas, by Covid) followed a stretch of clergy absence and illness so that when extending our coverage was required there was less energy and more uncertainty about the ability to do that. In that challenge our honorary clergy stepped-up. In addition we were ably supported by the acquisition of a Licence to minister by LLM Sue Holligan (based at St Nicolas) and by already standing LLM Gwen Bevington and Beryl Clements who is licensed to preach.

Fortunately, our parish-wide corps of organists and musicians stood firm so that worship was able to continue and, on the musical side, see welcome enhancements.

The Parish Office continued to work through 2022 in customary ways though the year. There was something of a 'learning curve' for Administrator Jackie Cunningham. Beginning her role during the pandemic meant that she had something like a 'false start' since many aspects of parish life were in abeyance. As recovery has occurred the multi-tasking magnitude of the part-time post has become apparent and at points has proved challenging. More direction and oversight from me has been necessary and (I hope) helpful. For Christmas 2022 office operations were in good order since that was 'the second time around' for our Administrator and she knew what was coming.

Leadership

Our team of five parish wardens – alas, St Nicolas only elected one at the ADCM-APCM in 2022, – has shown resilience and solidarity through the year. The positive esprit in the PCC Standing Committee and at PCC meetings is one signal result of that, and something I appreciate. In addition,

St Michael's DCC member Sue Scott is also the Lay Chair of the Deanery Synod and Alex Scott (her daughter) is a member of the Diocesan Synod, so we have the benefit of their "finger on the pulse" perspectives about policies and planning as they relate to parochial life.

This year the PCC returned to its recent pattern of an annual 'away day'. This year we enjoyed the excellent facility of the River Room at All Saints, Sutton Courtenay. The theme of 'WELCOME' was a major discussion point with much to follow-on from that at the DCC level in the immediate and mid-term. The concerning deficit in parish finances was also discussed.

I end the year with sincere thanks to our PCC officers: vice-chair Sue Scott, Treasurer Susan Read and Secretary Eluned Hallas all of whom in their appropriate ways keep 'the ship of state' afloat and moving forward!

The 'Team Review'

In this exercise by which the Diocese is picking-up its oversight of and care for team ministries throughout the whole Episcopal area we were first in the queue (for the simple reason that the Associate Archdeacon who conducted it lives in the parish!).

The review made two recommendations especially relevant to me as Team Rector: 1. To visit each congregation on a Sunday at least once a quarter; and 2. To re-start TEAMword on a quarterly basis as a vehicle to speak to the parish. On point 1 the rota for the late spring and summer period included such visits, but the collapse of clergy support in the late summer meant that I had to re-deploy clergy to fill sudden gaps; that resulted in cancelling a quarterly visit to St Nicolas; the period of the Team Vicar's sabbatical made folding such visits into a 'normal' quarterly routine difficult. On point 2 an issue of TEAMword appeared at Trinity and then at the end of the year. (By then there were enough matters to note about clergy, the Team and our parish ministry to justify an issue.) Another issue will need to wait until return from sabbatical in the spring of 2023.

The Ministry

A positive development in 2022 was the return of Prof John Barton to our Sunday rota in a preaching role. This was a very satisfying turn both for the congregants and for John. I hope that in 2023 John can return to his preaching links with the other congregations, and as I work on the Sunday rota for January – April 2023 that is one of my aims.

Our worship pattern through 2022 was planned by me in advance, taking cues from the Team Vicar, and then shared with the PCC – another recommendation of the 'Review'. That pattern was followed closely though a few changes were made and negotiated with individual congregations. The plan is to provide a similar document, key for planning, for 2023.

In the last quarter of 2023 two clergy obtained PTO to join our honorary clergy in the parish and to serve in the Deanery as needed. Ruth and Richard Pyke are retired clergy from the St Alban's diocese now resident in Abingdon. I was delighted to support their interest in joining us, and conversations occurred that helped me understand when and how they can happily offer their priestly minister and pastoral expertise and gifts starting at a point that seems right to me in 2023.

Also in the final quarter the PCC approved a few changes to Canon Charles Masheder's 'Working Agreement' for 2023 which was extended for another twelve-month period starting November '22 by Bp Gavin Collins. I was pleased also to ask the PCC to re-affirmed its support for Beryl Clements' Preaching License and Sue Holligan's PTO as LLM (as previously noted).

Christmas 2022 signalled a return to more-or-less normal services and attendance patterns after the challenges of the pandemic and its immediate aftermath. St Michael's and St Nicolas did not have a 'midnight mass' (as had been the case also in 2021) so a more St Michael's style Sung Eucharist was provided at St Helen's on Christmas Eve. A respectable core of St Michael's worshippers

attended and actively served appreciatively and the congregation included some who would usually (they said) attended at St Nicolas on Christmas Eve. Live and learn.

The St Nicolas School & Education Trust, Abingdon

The year began with good momentum on this score. By the autumn of 2021 the new trust had been approved by the Charity Commission and I expected that 2022 would see major steps forward in the provision of the non ex officio trustees, robust continuation of discussion with our solicitors to complete the process, and key decisions about asset investment. None of this has happened. A main part of the hold-up was non-responsiveness from the solicitors' firm, where legal staff changed. Our portfolio seemed to have got lost in the process. Finally in mid-November, after numerous approaches, our designated solicitor responded and some momentum began to be built up. However, as the lead trustee, and with only two other trustees to date, and with my sabbatical absence planned for the first quarter of 2023, it is hard to see that 2022 and the first half of 2023 will see much advance.

Christ's Hospital, Abingdon

As an ex officio governor of the charity I join in monthly meetings so far as my schedule allows. After 16 years I am now among the longest-standing governors! The charity has seen robust and creative changes in the way it appoints new governors, and the current Master, parishioner Laurence King (St Michael's) has steadily, sure-footedly and effectively opened up new horizons for the charity to benefit the people of Abingdon. It has been and will continue to be a gratifying 'journey' to be on! Obviously, looking ahead, I will offer standing apologies for the first quarter of 2023.

Sabbatical

I finally decided to take a sabbatical (tenth year since 2013) in the first quarter of 2023. That meant gaining approvals and applying for grants to make the period possible, especially for the proposed 'study' aspect of the sabbatical leave (Henri Matisse's part in the creation of the Dominican chapel in Vence, France). Permissions, support and funding came through as hoped (thanks chiefly to St Helen's, the Diocese, Ecclesiastical Insurance and the Clergy Support Trust). But all that took time, as did the organizing of liturgical, administrative and pastoral work during my absence from ministry in the parish.

General

The amount of flux and change in the conduct of the ministry and in responding to clergy absences has meant that I have spent more time managing rotas than I ever have in the course of my ministry here. It's not something I do well. In addition there is an ever-growing influx of e-mail business which demands. Lack of volunteers has put numerous tasks in my hands so that multi-tasking has increased. The result has been a blurring of focus and in a number of spheres a loss of 'grip' on aspects of my ministry. I have become especially conscious of this in 2022. It pains me that my ministry is not of the quality that I would like and that the parish deserves. Whether 2023 will see a rectification of this remains to be seen. A sabbatical can engender surprising results!

Respectfully,

The Revd Dr Charles Miller, Team Rector

1b Church Electoral Roll [Richard Kirby]

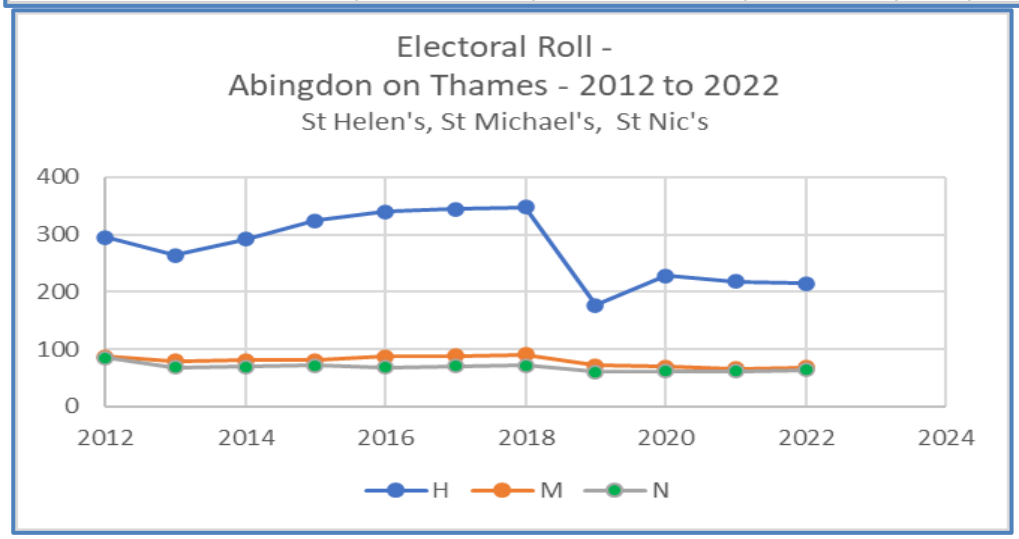
There is a Parish Electoral Roll Officer for Abingdon-on-Thames, but each of the three churches in the parish maintains a section of the Roll.
Electoral Roll Numbers 2021 to 2022

PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
Annual Report (continued)
FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2022

	2021	2022				
	roll	deletions	additions	change	roll	% change
St Helen	218	9	5	-4	**214**	-2%
St Michael	66	1	3	2	**68**	3%
St Nicolas	62	0	2	2	**64**	3%
Abingdon on Thames	346	10	10	0	**346**	0%

History

	St Helen's	St Michael's	St Nic's		Total	% change
2012	295	87	85		467	
2013 new roll	264	79	68		411	-12%
2014	292	81	69		442	8%
2015	324	81	71		476	8%
2016	340	87	68		495	4%
2017	344	88	70		502	1%
2018	348	91	71		510	2%
2019 new roll	177	71	60		308	-40%
2020 (Oct)	228	69	62		359	17%
2021	218	66	62		346	-4%
2022	214	68	64		346	0%



I could not make this report without mentioning our dear friend and CERO, Gill Titcombe, who did such a great job in bringing together the St Helen's roll in recent years; it hurt to remove her name from the roll, and we shall miss her always. We welcome Kate Burland to the team.
The unstable nature of this data means we should not use it to try and make predictions; the influences on the numbers are complex and many.

1c LLM Report [Gwen Bevington]

It is a cause for rejoicing for the whole parish, especially for St Nicolas' Church, that Sue Holligan came on board as LLM (like me, with PtO) from August 2022. Sue comes to us with long experience as a Reader in Winchester diocese. During Fr Paul's sabbatical she led several services. Nearer the end of the year, application was made to renew Beryl Clements' licence as an authorised preacher. Thus, three lay members of the parish are authorised to preach.
In March the annual diocesan LLM Forum (in abeyance during times of Covid) resumed, with an excellent day led by Dr Andrea Russell on addressing doubt, with help from Richard Hooker. Old Testament scholar and translator John Goldingay was the speaker at the LLM residential weekend in June but, alas, this clashed with a weekend dominated by clergy illness in Abingdon, so that I was unable to go. Those who did attend bade farewell to Dr Phillip Tovey, who retired in July after several years as Warden of Readers (and previously Deputy Warden) for the diocese. Bishop Gavin is now undertaking this role on an interim basis.

1d PCC [Eluned Hallas]

The business of the PCC concerns those issues best approached on a Parish, rather than Church, basis. It is also a useful forum for communications throughout the Parish, including details of Parish and Church sponsored events, staff updates and feedback on Deanery and Diocesan issues.

The PCC of the Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames met in person or on zoom seven times during 2022, with the Standing Committee / Clergy & Wardens Group meeting regularly during the year. A successful Away Day – looking at Challenges and Opportunities post-Covid – was held in June.

Discussions during the year focussed on

- Governance – including the preparation and issue of a Trustees Pack, and discussions on the role and responsibilities of Church Wardens as seen in the Parish and individual churches;
- Outreach, Welcome & Retention – in the Parish and individual churches, and including Warm Spaces.
- Communication and Education, including Services
- Finance – including regular monitoring, budget setting and a review of fees
- Staffing

The PCC continues to review and approve faculty applications and other fabric matters across the Parish, and GDPR, Safeguarding, Health & Safety and Parish Policies remain regular items on the PCC agendas. Individual DCC minutes are circulated to PCC members to improve communication within the parish.

1e Safeguarding [Maria Gibson]

The PCC has complied with its 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).

The annual review of the Parish Safeguarding Policy was completed in July 2022.

In 2022 there have not been any new incidents at St. Helen's that required Safeguarding assistance or intervention from the Diocese. During the year, the Team Vicar and Church Safeguarding Officer for St Michael's made two requests to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team, for advice on safeguarding issues relating to vulnerable adults.

Progress has been made on producing role descriptions for church officers, in line with the models published by the diocese.

DBS Status:
In 2022 the Diocese confirmed that DBS renewals need to be done every 3 years, there have been a number of DBS renewals in the Parish.

Training
Safeguarding training, appropriate to the level required for individual posts, is up to date for all but a very few people within the parish

Safeguarding Officers within the Parish:

Maria Gibson – St. Helen's
Carol Bowman – St. Michael's
Jenny Fishpool – St. Nicolas'

Maria Gibson (Parish Safeguarding Officer & Parish verifier), March 2023

1f Abingdon Deanery Synod [Sue Scott]

Abingdon Deanery Synod is part of the Diocese of Oxford and is one of 11 deaneries within the Archdeaconry of Dorchester whose membership represents 25 churches in 9 benefices. The Synod is a vehicle to discuss key issues and to look at the church's ministry and mission in a geographical area. The Deanery Synod sits between the Parishes with their PCCs and the Diocese with the Diocesan Synod. It is a key channel of communication.
The Synod is a place to support each other in difficult times and a place to celebrate the good things happening in our churches. It is also a place where the views of the Parishes can be brought together. Proposals can be made to Diocesan Synod for discussion if the Deanery feels this is necessary/appropriate. Clergy and Laity have equal status in the Synod.

The Parish currently has 5 elected members from the House of Laity:-
Alexandra Green (St Helen's)
Hazel Glennie (St Helen's)
Alexandra Scott (St Michael and All Angels) ex officio Diocesan Synod
Sue Scott (St Michael and All Angels) Lay Chair and ex officio Diocesan Synod
Eluned Hallas (St Nicolas)

This has been a challenging year for many of our churches and things continue to be difficult for many. The aim has been to create a balance between providing information, giving time for discussion and also responding to common concerns. The Synod met 4 times in 2022 (January, May, September and November) and once so far in 2023 (February). In response to feedback some of the meetings now take place on zoom and some in person. Some of the business covered has included: -

- Finance issues including the Budget, Parish Share, the Deanery Parish Support Fund and Mission Grants
- Opportunities to share good practice and expertise to develop Parish Mission Action Plans
- Address followed by Q and A session with Andrew Anderson Gear Diocesan Head of Mission and Ministry
- Raising awareness of Diocese resources and how to access services eg Churchwarden Training, use of Safeguarding Dashboards and Church Energy Audits
- New Congregations/New initiatives

In addition to the usual business meeting format of Synod we are planning other opportunities for

representatives to meet to share - an example of this is the Prayer and Party meeting scheduled for May in Milton.

A key role of the Deanery Synod is to represent the views of the Parishes and to seek ways to support the work of the Church in this place. Please speak to your Parish representatives so that they can raise issues questions or concerns on your behalf. Churchwardens are also very welcome to attend.
Minutes of all Synod meetings and Standing Committee meetings can be found on the website at abingdondeanery.org.uk together with other news and information about the work of the Deanery Synod.
Please could you pray for the work of the Deanery Synod as it strives to seek God's guidance to support the work of the Church in this place.
Sue Scott
St Michael and All Angels representative and Lay Chair Abingdon Deanery Synod

1g Abingdon Diocesan Synod [Sue Scott]

We currently have full representation for the House of Laity and we have one casual vacancy in the House of Clergy.

The Synod meets 3 times a year to consider issues facing the church and also to share experience from right across the diocese.

Synod met in March, June and November 2022. There are meetings planned for March, June and November 2023.

The Church is facing a time of great challenge. Some of the issues which have been discussed are : -

- Living in Love and Faith
- Common Vision
- Environmental issues and steps needed to achieve net zero by 2035
- Finance, Parish Share, SSM/LLM fees
- Ukrainian Crisis
- How parishes can more easily access diocesan resources – what is out there?

Further information about the work of the Synod can be found at oxford.anglican.org.

The pathway to follow is – homepage>who we are>How we are governed>Diocesan Synod> documents

The Synod does not always speak as one voice. But the aim is that together we can work towards being a more Compassionate, Courageous and Contemplative Church.

Sue Scott, Diocesan Synod Representative

2 STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MEMBERSHIP

The Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames is served by a Team Rector, based at St Helen's, and a Team Vicar shared between St Nicolas' and St Michael's.

Abingdon has a Local Ecumenical Project – the Church in Abingdon (CiA) – to which all the Anglican churches belong.

The Parochial Church Council of Abingdon-on-Thames is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure, and was formally registered with the Charity Commission on 27 May 2009.

Lay members of the PCC are appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Church Representation Rules, as originally authorized as Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 and subsequently amended by the General Synod. All eligible church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

In addition to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the parish of Abingdon-on-Thames, there are three District Church Councils (DCCs). The PCC has delegated to the DCCs responsibility for detailed implementation of most of its functions, in a continuation of a Scheme approved by the Bishop. The PCC is therefore able to concentrate on those matters which cannot be delegated, or are of common concern. It has two committees:

The *Standing* Committee (comprising the team clergy, church wardens, the secretary, the treasurer, and the vice-chairman) has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC.

The *Finance Working Group* (comprising the Parish Treasurer, the Treasurers of the DCCs and a limited number of co-opted members) oversees the financial activities of the parish, including the annual budget and financial statements. It meets as required. The budget and financial statements are approved by the PCC after individual church finances have been considered by individual DCCs.

In addition to meeting the statutory requirements of the Charities Commission, the immediate aims of the Group are, firstly, to provide a forum at which the Treasurers can discuss common problems and learn from each other, for example, attempting to move towards a standardisation of accounts across the three churches. Secondly, the Group is attempting to develop key performance indicators that provide early warnings of potential difficulties. Third, the Group expects to undertake risk analysis which will include longer term projections of our financial status.

PCC members (and DCC members) are encouraged to attend training sessions as appropriate. Most often these are courses organised by the Diocese of Oxford.

The PCC is exposed to risks associated with buildings, finances and availability of volunteer effort. Dealing with the secular aspects first: buildings are insured and regularly inspected, finances are managed by the parish treasurer, and DCC treasurers and volunteers are constantly sought to carry the administrative burden of the PCC and DCCs. The maintenance of ancient buildings is a heavy responsibility for the PCC, but this is not unusual in the Church of England. Health and Safety, Child Protection and other pertinent legislation is adhered to, and there are policies in place to this effect. DCCs operate within a budget and financial envelope determined by their annual income and reserves and approved by the PCC. Each church has an annual stewardship programme to invite donors to respond to the income targets. Special appeals are launched for special projects (typically capital projects) as appropriate. To say ‘The Lord will provide’ may not be an acceptable approach to financial risk management in the secular world; but seeking the Will of God through constant prayer and responding to His Will moment by moment are key instruments by which the PCC manages risk in labour and financial matters.

3 PROPERTY

3a Musson Close [Linda Hobbs]

The Parish “House for Duty” was purchased in 2015. The current occupiers are the Rev. Canon Charles Masheder, Associate Priest and his wife Felicity. We are aware that sometime this year the house will be vacated by Charles and Felicity following retirement.

The property has been extremely well cared for whilst Charles and Felicity have been in post, with many improvements carried out at their personal expense, for which we are very grateful.
When the property was purchased, it had been "privately let" for many years, we were able to purchase the house doing as little remedial work as possible.
Until this year repairs have been minimal; regrettably, following inspection of the roof, the decision had to be made to re-roof, holes were found in the felt and boarding beneath the roof tiles.
Following a recent requirement to clear the drains, there is now a possibility that remedial work may be required to one of the drains, we await a report from the drainage company. Additionally, it has now been found that the water tanks in the roof space need replacing.
Whilst these expenses are obviously regrettable at this time of financial restraint, we must be aware that all property requires regular maintenance, and until this year, the property had cost relatively little in maintenance.
We anticipate that once the repairs we have become aware of, are completed, the property will once again be ready to pass onto the next House for Duty Priest.
The property continues to be managed by Linda Hobbs
Linda Hobbs, Church Warden

3b Fairacres Road [Rob Bough]

Pursuant to a bequest from Mr Derek Enock in 2009, each church in the parish has an interest in a residential property in Fairacres Road, Oxford, which is held on a trust. The current occupant of the property has the right to reside there for as long as she wishes. If the property is sold, she will be entitled to the income from the invested sale proceeds. Upon her death the property or proceeds from the sale will pass to the following beneficiaries of Mr Enock's estate:-

1. St Michael and All Angels Church;
2. St Helen's Church;
3. St Nicolas Church;
4. Trinity Church; and
5. The Churchill Hospital.

The trust is administered for the beneficiaries by Freeths Solicitors, who have confirmed that the life tenant continues to live in the property, and the insurance is in place for the coming year."

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The following Vision Statement was agreed by the PCC on 22nd November 2000 and continues to apply to the Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames:

"A single unified parish with a Team Ministry in which clergy and laity work together to serve interdependent congregations, within an active ecumenical organisation where:

- The Gospel of Christ is celebrated through worship and fellowship, with individual congregations providing a spectrum of traditions
- The life of the Church is built up through teaching, preaching, evangelism, pastoral care and ecumenical co-operation
- God's love is made known in mission and service to the community and society as a whole."

The following objectives for the Team Rector appeared in the Parish Profile agreed by the PCC in November 2005.

- In liaison and collaboration with the Church in Abingdon, to refresh and progress the strategy for the development of a Christian presence in south Abingdon.

- To encourage, enable and release lay leadership and ministry to enable the Parish to be better equipped to respond to the changing patterns of stipendiary ministry.
- To continue to develop joint working within the churches and across the team, to ensure we use our resources effectively in the propagation of the gospel.

The activities undertaken to enable the PCC to achieve these objectives are described in the Achievements & Performance section, and in the reports from the constituent churches.

The PCC is heavily dependent upon the contribution of volunteers to drive forward the mission of the church and the Kingdom of God.

The PCC delegates to DCCs the matter of policy for making grants and donations from their income. The financial statements record donations made during the reporting year.

Public Benefit

The PCC is aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in "The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit" and have regard to it in their administration of the Parish. The PCC believes that, by fulfilling its responsibility to work together with the incumbent in the Parish and co-operate in all matters of concern and importance for the promotion of the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, it provides a benefit to the public by:

- providing resources and facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers;
- promoting Christian values, and service by members of the churches in the Parish to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

Reports from individual churches, St Nicolas CofE School and the Church in Abingdon are attached as Appendices to this report.

TREASURER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2021

The Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames consists of three churches (St Helen's, St Michael's and St Nicolas') which have separate treasurers and accounts. The Parish accounts are produced by consolidating the accounts of the three churches.

Income and Expenditure

In 2022, our churches were open for the whole year, unlike 2021. The net movement in funds looked much worse (2022: deficit £74k; 2021: surplus £47k), but these figures were largely caused by the movements in the global investment markets before and after the start of the war in Ukraine. The more important figures were those before the investment gains and losses, which showed a mildly improving trend (2022: deficit £1k; 2021: deficit £7k)

Giving and collections provided over 85% of our churches' income in the Unrestricted Funds and it was reassuring to see that regular giving by standing order and envelope increased slightly (2022: £225k, 2021: £216k).

Sundry donations included a £10k donation in 2021, so we expected a lower figure in 2022 but were pleased to find that the donations received in total were not as different as might have been expected (2022: £14k; 2021: £18k). This was partly because in 2022 St Nicolas church planned and sought donations toward the renovation of their toilet block, which is to be completed in 2023.

Where expenditure is concerned, around 60% of the costs on the General Fund are in the Parish Share, and that rose by 4% (2022: £168k, 2021: £162k).

Balance Sheet

The Parish owns two freehold properties, the Parish Centre and the House for Duty property purchased in 2015. Legal title of both is held by the Diocesan Trustees (Oxford) Ltd as custodian trustees on behalf of the Parish. Both are held for the mission of the church. The two properties appear in the balance sheet as Tangible Fixed Assets.

PCC policy is that unused fund balances should be invested with CBF Church of England funds. At the end of 2022 92% of Parish investments were with CBF Church of England funds. The value of the Parish investments dropped by 14% in the year but still exceeded their value in 2020 (2022: £507k 2021: £587k, 2020: £472k).

Going Concern

The PCC is required to operate on a going concern basis, and considers that each church should aim to maintain a minimum reserve of two months expenditure in hand in Unrestricted Funds (months of average expenditure: 2022: 5.8, 2021: 5.4). Also that there should be reserves, appropriate to each church, to cover the future demands of building maintenance. This is less easy to evaluate and needs further consideration. I do not consider there to be risk of any of the churches being unable to pay for their building maintenance in the next few years, but we need to keep this under review.

Susan Read, PCC Treasurer, 17 March 2023

Appendix 1
St Helen's Church
Church Wardens' & Fabric Reports

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

We are pleased to report that 2022 has been a year of growth and recovery following previous periods of lockdown. The congregation, for the most part, has returned to regular worship with several new families and individuals joining. Major services took place during the course the year, notably the commemoration for the life of the Queen, the Remembrance Sunday service and, we are pleased to report, a return to more traditional numbers – around 500 - for Christingle.

DCC meets at approximately two-month intervals and an Away Day in June gave time to look at ideas for increasing both church revenue and congregation numbers. DCC meetings provide an important way for the congregation to support the church and its challenges in this time of financial restraints.

Finance

However, finance continues to be an area of concern and led to renewed efforts in the autumn stewardship campaign. The campaign stressed not only the need for an increase in planned giving but also the need to increase the giving of time to support Church activities. 2022 again registered a modest deficit on General Funds (which was an improvement on expectations at the start of the year) but, on current trends, 2023 is likely to show yet another deficit. Reliance on church reserves cannot continue and DCC and the finance team are actively exploring ways in which this can be turned round. The improved Contactless machine, which can be used both for donations and for purchases from the shop, is beginning to make a useful contribution. In November, the annual Christmas Market, efficiently organised again by Margaret Horton, raised approximately £2,500. In September a Macmillan coffee morning, held in the Parish Centre, raised in excess of £560. The occasion was well supported by both congregation members and town folks.

Quinquennial Inspection and Repairs

The Church and Parish Centre underwent their five-yearly architect's inspections in 2022. Although a significant programme of regular maintenance will be required (as in all medieval churches), the inspection did not reveal the need for major repairs. These can be largely financed from the annual donation from the Friends of St Helen. Repairs have already been carried out to the Parish Centre fire escape, which was causing cracks to the pointing in one of the walls. In addition, the metal gates to the parish centre are now fully operational for the first time in many years. Repairs were also needed to the organ and have now been carried out. A major issue arose from the presence of rats in the grounds of the Parish Centre. Contractors have been appointed to keep the problem under control.

Welcoming

'Welcoming' has been one of the main discussion issues at DCC, its Away Day and other forums in 2022 and is one of our priority areas. Whilst we believe that St Helen's is welcoming to the established congregation, visitors and new worshipers we must not be complacent. A document has been drawn up by a small team highlighting ways in which improvements can be implemented to ensure a consistent welcome to all who come. There is now a new Welcome leaflet available for visitors to our church and discussions are on-going about the establishment of a welcoming team.

Church Opening and Stewarding

An important part of welcoming is the daily opening of the church which continues to prove a success with the building being treated with love and respect. The continued opening of the church is an important outreach to the town; many people visit the church regularly, some just for a few minutes, others to sit and enjoy the tranquillity of the building. The church is appreciated by many as a place of peace as well as a beautiful historic building. In times of financial hardship, the building being available for prayer is important, offering comfort and hope. Volunteers continue to steward the church between Easter and September; their role is to meet and greet visitors enabling them to enjoy the building and its history.

Hospitality

The hospitality team continues to provide refreshments, providing an opportunity for fellowship and enhancing our welcome. Newcomers' lunches have been reinstated following the lockdown. These are held to welcome those new to the congregation, giving an opportunity for fellowship and familiarisation. A Christmas lunch served to the Wednesday Communion group was again an occasion of fellowship. The Winter Warmer event raised money for Abingdon Food bank and for the hospitality fund. The event was well supported by the congregation, friends and family. Coffee following the Sunday Eucharist continues to be a time of 'catching up' and an exchange of information and ideas.

Outreach

The West Porch displays again opened prior to Christmas, Easter and Harvest, organised by the Rev. Canon Charles Masheder. The initiative sees the church open and welcoming and invites the town to join in our celebrations. In addition, each Monday Mothers and Toddlers continue to meet, although numbers, following Covid, are still reduced.

Pastoral team

The Pastoral team continues to meet regularly, aiming to support those members of the congregation who are unwell or unable to attend church in person. Regular services are held in residential homes with visits also made to individual homes. It has been rewarding, post-Covid, to recommence these visits.

Communication

The new parish website is working well and has enabled users to view upcoming events and services over the three churches. Services continue to be both streamed and recorded, being available on the website. The Candle in the Window continues to be published and is available on the website. Contributions are many and cover a wide variety of subjects. Paper copies are also available for those without electronic access.

FoSH and the Shop

FoSH events continued throughout the year, frequently consisting of a talk followed by hospitality. These events have proven to be popular, the talks being both inspiring and thought provoking. A summer tea held in June followed the AGM and was enjoyed by all.

Faith Forum

Faith Forum continued through 2022, led by the Rev. Jen Brown. Talks have been varied and appreciated by those who attended. Breakfast continues to be served, provided by a small team.

Church Re-ordering and Lighting

The re-ordering team, liaising with the architects, is progressing with the design of a new lighting scheme. This is a complex and technically challenging task and, once the details are available, there will be an opportunity to view and comment. To finance the scheme, we will begin to institute fund raising over the coming year.

Parish Centre

The Parish Centre office continues to be managed by Jackie Cunningham with a team of volunteer helpers. Use of the Parish Centre as a venue has not fully recovered post-Covid and, in the coming year, we aim to expand usage as far as possible.

Linda Hobbs and Geoff Meen, St Helen's Churchwardens

FABRIC REPORT

The Quinquennial Inspection of the Church and Parish Centre went ahead in June 2022. There were no major problems reported for the Church, but there was concern about movement in some of the brickwork for the Centre. There is evidence of previous vertical movement, with significant historic cracking in mortar joints and sections which have been repointed. However, the area of concern this time included bricks which had been displaced horizontally. Further investigation by a Structural Engineer identified that the displacement had been caused by rusting of the steel landing plate of the fire escape. Bricks in contact with the plate had been pushed outwards because of the increase in volume of the plate as it rusted. The plate has been replaced.

There had been a problem for some time with the iron gate for the Parish Centre. Misalignment of the two sides meant that the gate didn't close or lock correctly. The gate hinges have been cut back and rewelded to create a wider gap, so the mechanism now works perfectly.

There has been more work on the electrics for the Parish Centre. The wiring had previously passed the electrical inspections, but this had been achieved by disconnecting a section of the lighting circuit which had failed the insulation resistance test. This meant it wasn't possible to switch on the lights in three of the upstairs cupboards. The fault was found to be due to degradation of an insulating washer in the outside light by the fire escape. The washer has been replaced and the circuit retested successfully.

Two new music stands have been installed on the choir pews. There were originally six pews, each with a wooden music stand in front, stretching the full width of the pew. An increase in size of the choir had required two additional pews to be relocated to the choir area, but these pews did not have associated stands. The two new stands were constructed to match the style of the other six.

The humidifier inside the organ case had been suffering from corrosion and a build-up of limescale deposits, resulting in failure of the motor. The humidifier has been replaced by a reconditioned unit fitted with a water softener to reduce limescale in the future. There have also been repairs to the windchest for one of the organ pedal stops. The entrances to some of the pipes did not close properly, with the result that the sound did not completely stop when notes were not being played. The repairs have improved the sealing of the pipework, so the background wind noise from the organ is now much reduced.

An external light has been installed outside the South Porch of the Church, in the same style as the other porch lights. This porch door is designated as a fire exit for large events, so it is important to have external illumination, particularly as there are steps downwards just outside the door.

Stephen Thomas, Fabric Officer

Appendix 2
St Michael and All Angels' Church
Church Wardens' & Fabric Reports

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

Worship and services

Thankfully, we were able to continue our services in 2022 without any Covid restrictions. We held a Sung Mass at 09.30 on a Sunday and a Said Mass on Thursday at 12.30. In addition we held services on certain Holy Days (e.g. Epiphany, Dedication Festival, All Souls Day,)

Holy Week was celebrated with Mass on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. On Maundy Thursday we observed the Mass of the Lord's Supper and on Good Friday morning a short inter-active children's service was held, this was followed by the Liturgy of the Passion in the afternoon. The Lighting of the New Fire and Easter Vigil was celebrated on Holy Saturday, and this was followed on Easter Day by The Sung Mass of the Resurrection.

For the first time in 3 years our Christmas celebrations commenced with a Crib Service and was followed by our Carol Service. Mass was celebrated on Christmas morning.

We had 1 Baptism, 2 Weddings and 6 Funerals in 2022.

We are incredibly grateful to our honorary clergy and our clergy for enabling us to worship at St Michael's.

Outreach

Abingdon School were able to hold their Leavers' Service for the first time in 3 years, and also held their Lower School and Parents and Boarders' Carol Services. They also held Choral Evensong Service.

St Nicolas School held their Christmas Service, and it was lovely to see all the children enjoying themselves, some with Christmas hats and jumpers.

The Oxford Diocese Ride and Stride was held as usual. We opened the church to meet and greet the cyclists and offered refreshments.

The Albert Park Singers continue to use the church for their rehearsals and held 2 concerts during the year; both were enjoyable occasions.

Abingdon Passion Play held a Come and Sing of *Handel's Messiah Part 1* in aid of fundraising for the 2024 Passion Play.

During the year, concerts were given at the church by the East Oxford Community Choir, Oxford Pro Musica, Abingdon Music Festival, Harmony InSpires.

We held a very successful Autumn Fair which raised funds for both the church and the Abingdon Foodbank. Many thanks to both Louise and Nicola for organising it and to the volunteers who helped. There were also several fundraising initiatives in aid of church funds. We held a very successful Floral Extravaganza, The Dog Café after Mass on Sundays in the summer, and a Piano Recital. Thank you to Helen, Hilary, John, and Nicola for all their efforts in organising these events.

The church room is used by one group on a regular basis. It has been hired on an ad hoc basis during the year, but we have not gone back to pre-pandemic hiring of the room.

Fundraising

We continue to support:

The Abingdon Bridge (a local charity that provides support and guidance for young people) and Tariro (a youth charity in Zimbabwe),

The Porch Day Centre (supporting homeless people in Oxford) to whom we gave money this year instead of Harvest gifts,

Oxfordshire Historic Churches by sponsoring Louise Heffernan for the Oxford Ride and Stride.

Volunteers

As usual, we would like to thank all our volunteers who help keep things running smoothly. The folks that come in and do the cleaning, the flower arrangers, the safeguarding officer, those who do the odd vital jobs – fixing things or sorting out the heating or sound, those who make the coffee, the vergers at weddings and funerals, the writers or contributors of the pew leaflet and website. We thank you all.

Many thanks

To all who help in our worship – those who serve at the altar, our sacristan, our organists, readers and intercessors, our dedicated choir members, our bellringers (who now ring us in before Mass as well as during the Eucharist), to the DCC members, and all our sidepersons.

We are especially grateful to all the honorary clergy, clergy, and members of the congregation who helped during Fr Paul's sabbatical.

Finally, a big thank you to Fr Paul for his leadership, support, kindness, and love. Let us continue to pray for the Lord's blessing on him.

Joyce Kelly and Louise Heffernan February 2023

FABRIC REPORT 2022

Routine maintenance was conducted as usual during 2022. The organ was tuned, the PAT testing carried out, the fire alarms and extinguishers serviced, the heating system maintained.

Our gas contract was up for renewal in November and after much hard work, the Fabric Committee finalised a new contract. As will have been seen in the updates in our pew leaflet, the energy bills have increased considerably due to the energy crisis. We also finalised a new contract for electricity and hope to work with the Parish Energy Basket next year, which may give us a more favourable rate

As a result of the Quinquennial Inspection 2021, the replacing of the beam filling at the end of the North Aisle was undertaken by Donkins. There is of course still further work to be carried out due to the Quinquennial Inspection.

Joyce Kelly and Louise Heffernan 2022

Appendix 3
St Nicolas' Church
Church Wardens' & Fabric Reports

Services:

During 2022 life began to return to normal post–covid, but echoes still remain. At Communion, both bread and wine are now offered – although many congregation members still prefer to receive in one kind only. Mask wearing has declined, though some Officiants / Servers still mask for the giving of Communion involving contact with large numbers. The Peace is still more generally exchanged without contact.

One positive is the production of Orders of Service for each Service, which although this is an extra demand on resources (both time and consumables) allows service planners to take advantage of the wealth of liturgical material provided by the CofE to enhance our worship. Officiants have been happy to look at the opportunities this approach offers.

We were pleased to be able to hold our usual range of 8am and 11:15am Services, and to offer an Ascension Day evening Communion and St Nicolas Evensong to the Parish (with the support of musicians from our sister churches and wider afield). Our Carol Service and Crib Service were also well attended. In addition it was a pleasure to be able to host a Memorial Service for former councillor Jeanette Stone, and the annual Mothers' Union Service highlighting gender based violence. We continue to 'zoom' both our 11:15am and other Services, for those who are unable, for whatever reason, to join the congregation in person.

Other Sundays allowed us to receive the Church Recorders' Record of St Nicolas (compiled pre-Covid, and giving a wonderful snapshot of the church, its fixtures and fittings) and to bless the new Votive Stand and acknowledge the generous legacy which allowed its purchase.

Activities:

It was good to be able to open Church to visitors – on Monday mornings, for the OHCT Ride & Stride Day, for Heritage Open Days, and for visits from local groups. My thanks to all who have assisted in Stewarding these events.

On a sadder note we were also able to be open for private prayer following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The St Nicolas bells were rung to mark phases of the mourning, but also the celebration of the accession of King Charles III, as they had marked the Jubilee earlier in the year.

A bring and share lunch at St Ethelwolds in July was well attended, and after-service coffee on Third Sundays also offers opportunities for getting to know each other more. The St Nicolas Day Lunch at Coseners House in December was also well attended by members from all three churches in the Parish.

We were delighted when two congregation members offered to organise fundraising concerts for St Nic's – resulting in delightful afternoon concerts by Arco Strings and Claudia Martin. We thank all in volved.

We also organised a book sale (August) and a booksale plus (in November – as part of the Abingdon Extravaganza), both of which offered good opportunities for socialising as well as raising funds. Thanks to all who organised and supported these events.

The use of the Church by Abbey Chamber Concerts, Mostly Books and by the Abbey Arts Group gave opportunities for the church to be open to visitors and generated income for the church.

Thanks

On behalf of the congregation I would like to thank all those (ordained and lay) who have led Services at St Nic's over the year. Also to those who have led our prayers, led our music, or provided flowers to beautify the church. My thanks also to Jenny for all her work as Treasurer, and to Paul for arranging the rotas month by month.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your support of St Nicolas throughout the year – through practical work week by week, at Services, in opening the church for visitors, by doing all those small tasks which we would only notice if they were not done, and for your continued support through donations and prayers. In particular this year, especial thanks to the small group whose work has got us so far with the Toilet Block refurbishment.

FABRIC REPORT 2022

2022 was a quiet year, we obtained permission for the various high level works identified in in our 2021 Quinquennial (five-yearly) inspection – some retiling, work to the tower roof and repairs and repainting of rain goods – but delays at our contractors, compounded by poor weather in December has delayed the work to 2023.

We were surprised, and delighted to receive a legacy from a former congregation member – Graham Gingell. The DCC agreed to use some of the funds for a votive candle stand. This was designed by a congregation member, to fit into the space available in the crossing, and made by a local craft forge. A further tranche of the legacy was spent on some 'dollies' which make moving the piano easier, and reduce damage to the tiles in the crossing.

The main work during the year was on the Kitchen / Toilet Block. A small team drew up plans to strip out the existing fittings and create one uni-sex equal access toilet cubicle, with baby change facilities, and a refitted kitchenette with cupboards, white goods and separate sinks for food and flowers. There will be hot water to all sinks, and space heaters. To allow for this the doorway will be moved to the east, and the old doorway blocked in to form a window. The building will be accessed via a freestanding ramp, bridging the existing in-situ gravemarkers. Once plans were agreed we sought approval from the Diocese, identified a contractor, obtained quotes and started fundraising. The response was so positive that the DCC felt able to include re-roofing, and replacement windows in the scheme.
With a start date in early spring, we hope the new facilities will be complete by Easter 2023.

Our old block had served us for over 60 years, but was showing its age. During the winter 2022/23 pipework froze twice – but luckily with no serious consequential damage. The lack of facilities, including no running hot water to the toilet sinks, was a serious drawback to inviting people to St Nic's. We look forward to having a fit for purpose facility which will enable us to use our church more fully. Grateful thanks to all those who have worked so hard to get us to this stage, and to all who have donated time, money or resources.

We remain in contact with the developers of 1 Stert Street, as we await works to complete their development project.

Routine tuning of piano and organ was carried out, along with essential safety checks to the boilers, fire extinguishers and lightening conductor. The fixed electrical systems and portable equipment are due to be tested in 2023.

In 2023 we hope to start work on the west wall and on the restoration of the Blacknall memorial / Blacknall Aisle.
Eluned Hallas

Appendix 4
Abingdon Society of Bellringers

Tower Bell Ringers

The Covid restrictions of the previous years are now mostly behind us and ringing has returned to full numbers and activity. The bells are rung every Sunday morning at St Helen's and St Nicolas', while Tuesday evening practices alternate at the two towers. On Friday afternoons we welcome an increased number of boys from Abingdon School for their practice. This is followed by a session for our own youngsters, which is thriving. For adults, the Saturday morning basic teaching remains popular while providing practical mentoring of trainee teachers too.

Last year we arranged special extra ringing in the town in connection with the Queen's diamond jubilee. Later we rang marking her death and proclamation of the King. We now look forward to ringing for the coronation.

Visitors are very welcome to come up the tower to see the bells and ringing. We are happy to teach girls and boys (from age 10) who may be interested in learning to handle a bell and join in.

Brian Read

Handbell Ringers

Every autumn, the team of handbell ringers starts practising tunes for Christmas season performances. In 2022 we were able again to run a normal programme of practices and performances. We had performances at two clubs for the handicapped, two Church Christmas markets and the carol service at St Helen's.

Susan Read
www.abingdonbells.org.uk

Appendix 5
Report on the activities of the Church in Abingdon

Member churches and staff:

Much of the life and work of the CiA, and the individual churches, has resumed slowly in 2022 following the COVID-19 pandemic dating back to March 2020, with some people still reticent to attend church and activities in person.

There have been a few changes in the clergy over the past year: Revd Rachel Hughes was appointed as the new minister of Abingdon Baptist Church in November 2022. Revd Rebecca Peters left Peachcroft Christian Centre in December 2022 - a new minister is yet to be appointed. Nessa Watts left Christ Church in June 2022 having completed her term there. Andrew Gilmour and Ros Steel started their curacies at Christ Church in July 2022.

One new church has joined the CiA: the Lighthouse Parish, part of the Redeemed Christian

Task groups and associated projects:

The CiA has continued to support a number of community projects and working groups that concentrate on specific areas of cooperation. These include:

- 35 Ock Street, a hospitality centre for the community offering a café and a listening ear, and meeting rooms for local groups and agencies.
- The Abingdon Bridge, which has continued to reach out to the youth of Abingdon, providing support, advice and guidance to an increasing number of vulnerable young people in the community.
- Abingdon Street Pastors who are out on the streets of Abingdon on Saturday nights
- The Christian Aid group in Abingdon held several fundraising activities as well as Christian Aid Week.
- The Christian Forum column continues to appear in the Abingdon Round & About monthly magazine under the direction of the CiA Administrator Debra Mcknight.
- Several exchange visits of the Church Twinning group have taken place – one to Abingdon and one to Schongau.
- The work of Desire continues in a slightly different format having been limited by a lack of youth workers.
- A ‘virtual’ Experience Easter was again organised by Trinity Learning.
- The Alpha launch-type event could not take place but various online Alpha courses took place.
- The work of Prayer Spaces in Abingdon schools is slowly starting up now the pandemic is largely over.

United activities 2022

January

Christian Aid had their annual New Year’s Day walk which was self-directed. £880 + 197.50 GiftAid was raised for the Christian Aid Christmas Appeal. Christian Aid also organised a post-Christmas online quiz, which raised £690 + 162.50 GiftAid.

During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, no in-person events took place but a prayer leaflet

was prepared by the CiA Administrator for use during the week instead of the usual midday prayers.

February

The CiA AGM took place.

March

The CiA Lent Lectures did not take place in person due high risk aversion among congregations but the CiA Administrator prepared a list of various online courses and other resources for people to follow at home as people so wished singly or in groups.

The World Day of Prayer service took place at the Salvation Army organised by the CiA Administrator and volunteers from the previous WDP committee. The service for 2022 was prepared by the women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland with the theme 'I know the plans I have for you'.

April

The procession of witness took place on Good Friday stopping in the Market Place to sing a hymn before proceeding to St Nic's for a united service led by Deacon Selina Nisbett.

TrinityLearning again ran a 'virtual' Easter Experience which allowed children to take part from their classrooms supported by resource packs and teacher packs.

May

The Christian Aid week activities took place with adaptations, raising just over £4000.

Christians across Abingdon were encouraged to join in 'prayer walking' as part of the Thy Kingdom Come initiative.

June

Abingdon's Fun in the Park event was replaced by the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in Rye Meadow in which various churches came together as normally done for Fun in the Park.

July

The South Abingdon Play & Activity Day event took place in Southern Town Park with Abingdon Vineyard and Abingdon Community churches taking part.

October

The Michaelmas fair service took place with Revd Kath Cooke leading.

Church Twinning ran their 'eco' event in Abingdon for visitors from twinned towns.

November

The Annual Bereavement Service took place at Christ Church in collaboration with the Footprints Bereavement group who usually hold an annual bereavement service for their members.

Several churches started offering warm spaces as part of the Warm Welcome campaign.

December

People from all the churches gathered in the Market Square to sing carols and give out leaflets detailing all the Christmas services taking place across Abingdon.

Finance

The agreed policy on the General Fund is to limit the retained balance to a maximum of one year's expenditure, but maintain an amount that covers all agreed salaries and associated costs for the year ahead.

Grants paid in 2022 were:

• The Abingdon Bridge	£2500 for their work with disadvantaged young people
• DESIRE youth network	£1000 to help run schools weeks and larger events
• DESIRE prayer spaces	£150 to provide prayer spaces in schools
• Abingdon Street Pastors	£1000 to fund their ongoing help for people out at night
• Experience Easter	£750 to help school children and their teachers explore the Easter story
• Salvation Army Drop-in Centre	£100 to provide drop-in centre for the homeless and needy

Appendix 6
Report on the Abingdon Foodbank

In the last year Abingdon Food Bank has seen a sharp increase in the number of people being referred to its service; a commitment to help support refugee families and families from the Ukraine as they wait for benefit entitlement to be received, has also increased use.
As more families and individuals face financial difficulties due to increased inflation, it is anticipated that more people will require help.
Both Abingdon Food banks have seen an increase in demand, Christ Church Food bank remains the busiest, opening two days a week on a Tuesday and Friday.

A recent initiative now requires that new clients are interviewed, we aim to ensure that clients are receiving or have applied for all benefits to which they may be entitled. Staff, (volunteers), have received additional training to advise clients, if necessary, referrals are made to the CAB for additional assistance. In the last year, several volunteers have trained for C.A.P. (Christians Against Poverty).

As always, additional donations are required, regular weekly deliveries are now received from several local supermarkets, as well as Millets Farm. All donations help alleviate food poverty for the most vulnerable in Abingdon.
Abingdon Community Fridge is another avenue to which clients are directed, they can pick up free fruit and vegetables without requiring a referral; clients can continue to utilise the Community Fridge even when they no longer require Food bank support.
Fresh food left at the end of a Food bank session is transferred to the Community Fridge, ensuring as little wastage as possible.

As in previous years, Christmas “hampers” were distributed to clients, this year again saw an increase in the number required, a worrying trend, which at this present time, looks unlikely to change.

The Parish of Abingdon has continued to support both Abingdon Food banks; whilst food continues to be donated, many people now choose to make regular monitory donations by Standing Order. These gifts allow additional supplies to be purchased, as required.
Thanks are due to all who have supported Food banks over the previous year, our Food banks ensure that many vulnerable people within our community receive the help required.

Linda Hobbs
Church Warden and Food Bank volunteer.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

I report on the accounts of the above parish for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the 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 parish's accounts carried out under s145 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

The parish's gross income exceeds £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by virtue of being a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an Independent Examination.

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

A Churchill Stone FCA DChA

Mercer Lewin Ltd
Chartered Accountants
41 Cornmarket Street
Oxford OX1 3HA

THE PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

		2022				2021
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME						
Voluntary income	2a	244,274	20,370	-	264,643	280,834
Activities for generating funds	2b	12,893	368	-	13,261	6,660
Investment income	2c	9,287	22,703	-	31,989	28,814
From church activities	2d	16,128	-	-	16,128	13,435
Other income		509	(303)	-	206	(1,580)
		283,090	43,137	-	326,228	328,163
EXPENDITURE						
Fundraising costs		3,490	-	-	3,490	658
Church activities	3a	272,790	50,945	-	323,735	331,325
Other expenditure		370	-	-	370	2,700
		276,650	50,945	-	327,595	334,683
Net Income (Expenditure) before Investment Gains		6,440	(7,807)	-	(1,367)	(6,520)
Gains and losses on investment assets on revaluation		(34,005)	(15,297)	(23,757)	(73,059)	53,889
Transfers between funds		233	(233)	-	(0)	0
Net movement in funds		(27,332)	(23,337)	(23,757)	(74,426)	47,369
Total funds brought forward		765,181	254,127	301,064	1,320,372	1,273,003
Total funds carried forward		737,849	230,789	277,307	1,245,946	1,320,372

THE PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

		2022				2021
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible assets	5	391,805	14,437	83,185	489,427	493,909
Investments	6	205,498	122,431	178,622	506,552	586,608
		597,303	136,868	261,807	995,978	1,080,516
CURRENT ASSETS						
Stocks		272	-	-	272	824
Debtors	7	27,938	21,715	-	49,652	30,538
Short term deposits		82,336	71,604	15,500	169,440	177,936
Cash at bank and in hand		50,999	14,724	0	65,723	64,112
		161,544	108,043	15,500	285,088	273,409
CREDITORS						
Amounts due within one year	8	(20,998)	(14,122)	-	(35,120)	(33,553)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		140,546	93,921	15,500	249,968	239,856
NET ASSETS		737,849	230,789	277,307	1,245,946	1,320,372
FUNDS OF THE CHURCH						
Unrestricted funds	9	737,849	-	-	737,849	765,181
Restricted funds	10	-	230,789	-	230,789	254,127
Endowment funds	11	-	-	277,307	277,307	301,064
		737,849	230,789	277,307	1,245,946	1,320,372

These accounts were approved by the PCC on 23 March 2023. and are signed on its behalf by:

Rev'd Dr EC Miller
Chairman

Susan Read
PCC Treasurer

THE PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a. Basis of preparation

The Parish is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared under The Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions, together with FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standard and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP (FRS 102)).

b. Funds

Unrestricted funds are general funds available for the general objectives of the church. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

Restricted funds can only be used for the purposes for which thy have been given, within the objectives of the church. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against those specific funds.

Endowment funds represent endowments, of which the capital must be maintained, and the dividend income used only for the restricted purposes arising from the establishment of the endowments.

c. Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities ("SoFA") when the church becomes legally entitled to the income and when the amount can be quantified with reasonable certainty.

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving is recognised only when received. Grants and legacies are recognised as soon as the PCC becomes aware of its legal entitlement and the amount due is quantifiable with reasonable certainty.

Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is accounted for when the gift is received.

When incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising income and sales of books and magazines) the incoming resources and the related resources expended are accounted for gross in the SOFA.

Interest is accounted for when receivable and includes any recoverable tax.

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

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31st December.

d. Resources expended

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis and is recognised when there is a legal or constructive obligation to pay for goods or services and settlement is probable and quantifiable.

As the church is not registered for VAT, all the expenditure is shown inclusive of VAT.

Governance costs include the costs of the preparation of the annual accounts, the cost of PCC meetings and the legal cost of advice on governance or constitutional matters.

Grants and charitable giving are accounted for when paid over or when awarded, if the award creates a binding obligation on the PCC, provided that there are no conditions to be met relating to the grant which remain in the control of the church.

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2) of the Charities Act 2011. All expenditure incurred during the year on such property is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed

e. Pensions

The PCC encourages its employees to join the a Pension Scheme which is a defined contribution pension scheme. The PCC matches contributions made by employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the PCC. The contributions payable by the PCC are charged to the SoFA as they are incurred.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

f. Fixed assets

The Parish owns various freehold properties, the majority of which were acquired prior to the requirement to capitalise such expenditure. These properties have therefore not been included in cost. Freehold property acquired more recently is included at cost.

No depreciation is provided on buildings with a current estimated residual value of not less than their carrying value, otherwise the cost of buildings acquired is depreciated over a period of 100 years.

Office equipment is depreciated on a straight line basis over 3 or 4 years.
Other equipment is depreciated on a straight line basis over 20 years.

Investments are valued at Market Value.

g. Current assets

Amounts owed to the Parish at the year end in respect of fees, rents and other income are shown as debtors.

Short term deposits include cash on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

Amounts held by the Traidcraft stall at the year end are valued at net realisable value, after due regard for obsolete and slow moving stock.

	2022				2021
2. INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total
a. Voluntary income	£	£	£	£	£
Planned regular giving	167,499	920	-	168,419	171,672
Income tax recoverable	45,114	1,561	-	46,675	38,198
Other giving	-	-	-	-	-
Collections (open plate)	12,418	10	-	12,428	6,750
Legacies	2,000	-	-	2,000	1,500
Grants	10,105	11,299	-	21,403	44,888
Sundry donations	7,137	6,580	-	13,718	17,827
	244,274	20,370	-	264,643	280,834
	£	£	£	£	£
b. Activities for generating funds					
Fetes & other fund-raising	12,893	368	-	13,261	6,660
	12,893	368	-	13,261	6,660
	£	£	£	£	£
c. Income from investments					
Dividends & Interest	9,287	8,098	-	17,384	13,993
Rent from land or other buildings	-	-	-	-	-
Share of income from Blacknall legacy	-	14,605	-	14,605	14,821
	9,287	22,703	-	31,989	28,814
	£	£	£	£	£
d. Income from Church activities					
Bookstall	207	-	-	207	-
Church hall lettings	9,491	-	-	9,491	4,206
Magazines	-	-	-	-	10
Fees	6,429	-	-	6,429	9,219
	16,128	-	-	16,128	13,435

3. RESOURCES EXPENDED	2022 Unrestricted Funds	2022 Restricted funds	2022 Endowment Funds	2022 Total	2021 Total
a. Church Activities	£	£	£	£	£
Church overseas	-	-	-	-	3,998
Relief & Development agencies	3,197	125	-	3,322	3,230
Home missions, other church societies	2,763	-	-	2,763	5,976
Secular charities	5,442	125	-	5,567	9,662
Ministry Parish share	168,208	-	-	168,208	161,189
Incumbents' expenses	4,216	-	-	4,216	668
Assistant staff	441	-	-	441	482
Church fuel	16,949	864	-	17,813	11,073
Church running expenses, other	5,698	27,675	-	33,373	31,325
Church maintenance	384	3,849	-	4,233	6,071
Upkeep of services	6,676	3,819	-	10,495	5,756
Bookstall	90	-	-	90	-
Support costs	489	-	-	489	86
Parish Centre running costs	8,602	-	-	8,602	4,343
House for Assistant Cleric	(203)	3,728	-	3,525	7,038
Salaries, wages and honoraria	31,633	-	-	31,633	29,021
Major repairs & replacements (installations	197	10,760	-	10,958	39,589
Printing, stationery etc.	7,522	-	-	7,522	3,267
General administration	-	-	-	-	332
Lease of office equipment	4,980	-	-	4,980	4,879
Depreciation	5,013	-	-	5,013	2,919
Bank charges	492	-	-	492	423
	272,790	50,945	-	323,735	331,325
	£	£	£	£	£
b. Analysis of other costs					
Independent examination	370	-	-	370	2,700
	370	-	-	370	2,700

4. STAFF COSTS	2022 £	2021 £
Organists	11,078	10,618
Vergers	4,911	3,388
Parish administrator	13,774	13,272
Cleaners	1,719	1,674
Other staff costs	152	69
	31,633	29,021
The average no of employees was as follows:		
Organists	2	2
Vergers	1	1
Parish administrator	1	1
Cleaner	1	1
	5	5

None of the Trustees received any remuneration or employee benefits during the year. The lay trustees, where applicable, who acted as agents to the PCC in making approved payments on its behalf, were reimbursed for these expenses on presentation of suitable documentary evidence.

Clergy working expenses were reimbursed in accordance with Church of England guidelines.

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Property	Office Equipment	Other Equipment	2022 Total
Cost				
At 1 January 2021	504,950	821	30,255	536,026
Written off	-	-	-	-
Additions	-	-	530	530
At 31 December 2021	504,950	821	30,785	536,556
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2021	32,000	656	9,460	42,116
Written off	-	-	-	-
Charge for the year	2,000	165	2,848	5,013
At 31 December 2021	34,000	821	12,308	47,130
Net book value at 1 January 2021	472,950	165	20,795	493,910
Net book value at 31 December 2021	470,950	-	18,477	489,427

The market value of the freehold property is considered to be in excess of the above carrying value, however it is not considered practicable or cost effective to quantify the difference.

6. INVESTMENTS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
CBF Investment Fund	2,560	118,814	140,019	261,393	302,178
CBF Fixed Interest Securities	57,860	3,618	-	61,478	70,872
CBF Global Equity Income Fund	89,084	-	-	89,084	103,627
CBF Property Fund	31,438	-	-	31,438	35,617
CBF UK Equity Income Fund	24,555	-	-	24,555	30,632
COIF Investment Fund	-	-	38,604	38,604	43,682
Scottish Widows UK Growth Fund	-	-	-	-	-
	205,498	122,431	178,622	506,552	586,608

Market value	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
At 1 January	239,503	137,729	209,376	586,608	472,802
Investments purchased	-	-	(6,997)	(6,997)	58,889
Investments transferred	-	-	-	-	-
Dividends reinvested	-	-	-	-	1,030
Surplus/(deficit) on revaluation	(34,005)	(15,297)	(23,757)	(73,059)	53,887
At 31 December	205,498	122,431	178,622	506,552	586,608

7. DEBTORS

	2022 £	2021 £
Income tax recoverable	14,250	18,072
Prepayments and accrued income	35,402	12,466
	49,652	30,538

8. CREDITORS

	£	£
Sundry creditors and accruals	35,120	33,553

9. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	Brought forward	Income	Expend-iture	Inv movement	Transfer	Carried forward
General funds	516,281	276,397	(275,466)	(33,660)	(3,574)	479,979
Designated funds						
St Helen's Church						
Archivist fund	4,807	-	-	-	-	4,807
Babies & toddlers	3,516	403	-	-	-	3,919
Clerical housing (designated)	207,379	-	-	-	-	207,379
Hospitality fund	262	843	(632)	-	-	472
Strategic Fund	13,193	9	-	(345)	-	12,857
Vicar & Wardens fund	2,857	361	-	-	-	3,218
Window Publisher	513	-	(552)	-	39	-
St Nicolas' Church						
Reordering Fund	16,373	5,077	-	-	3,767	25,217
Total unrestricted funds	765,181	283,090	(276,650)	(34,005)	233	737,849

10. RESTRICTED FUNDS						
St Helen's Church						
Bell fund	22,756	1,033	(324)	(2,390)	-	21,076
Centre fabric fund	5,164	41	-	(639)	-	4,567
Choir fund	-	93	-	-	-	93
Church fabric fund	82,855	2,509	(22,454)	(2,413)	-	60,497
Church roof fund	484	255	-	-	-	739
Clerical housing (restricted)	19,080	(192)	(3,728)	-	(0)	15,160
Development fund	2,416	9,376	(9,683)	-	-	2,109
Flower fund	537	425	(245)	-	-	717
Lady aisle fund	6,267	552	-	-	-	6,818
PR fund	909	-	-	-	-	909
Sanctuary & choir fund	2,505	639	(3,358)	-	215	-
Special Music fund	1,812	60	(1,850)	-	-	22
St Michael's Church						
Fabric fund	6,210	675	(3,168)	-	-	3,718
Lent Appeal	-	250	(250)	-	-	-
Roof fund	-	127	-	-	-	127
St Nicolas' Church						
Altar Linen	2,772	143	-	-	-	2,916
Bell fund	51	191	(76)	-	-	166
Blacknall maintenance	94,896	17,291	(4,423)	(9,855)	-	97,909
Blacknall tomb repair	743	-	-	-	-	743
Church lands	1,164	1,154	-	-	(2,000)	318
Churchyard	1,295	500	(697)	-	-	1,098
Fabric Fund	2,158	189	(475)	-	-	1,873
Flower fund	52	219	(216)	-	53	108
Toilet Block Fund	-	7,608	-	-	1,500	9,108
Total restricted funds	254,127	43,137	(50,945)	(15,297)	(233)	230,789

11. ENDOWMENT FUNDS	Brought forward	Income	Inv movement	Transfer	Carried forward
St Helen's Church					
16/18 Ock St proceeds	15,500	-	-	-	15,500
A Challenor Bequest	23,278	-	(2,740)	-	20,537
Abingdon Oldfield Bequest	83,185	-	-	-	83,185
Backhus Trust	9,274	-	(1,092)	-	8,182
Church Fabric Fund (endowment)	29,905	-	(3,520)	-	26,385
Church Repair Trust	9,719	-	(1,144)	-	8,574
E Hawkins Charity	13,419	-	(1,580)	-	11,839
Elderfield Trust	304	-	(36)	-	269
Hyde Trust	5,035	-	(593)	-	4,442
North Bequest	11,053	-	(1,301)	-	9,752
PCC Trust	8,407	-	(990)	-	7,417
Preston Trust	21,029	-	(2,476)	-	18,554
St Michael's Church					
Challenors & Halcombe	8,712	-	(1,025)	-	7,686
Fabric fund	2,529	-	(298)	-	2,231
Harris Trust	5,737	-	(675)	-	5,062
Roof fund	4,848	-	(571)	-	4,277
St Nicolas' Church					
Altar Linen	5,449	-	(639)	-	4,810
Church Lands Charity	43,682	-	(5,078)	-	38,604
	301,064	-	(23,757)	-	277,307

12. ANALYSIS OF ASSETS	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total
Tangible fixed assets	391,805	14,437	83,185	489,427
Investments	205,498	122,431	178,622	506,552
Current assets	161,544	108,043	15,500	285,088
Current liabilities	(20,998)	(14,122)	-	(35,120)
	737,849	230,789	277,307	1,245,946

13. DESCRIPTION OF FUNDS

Designated funds - set aside by the PCC

St Helen's Church

Archivist fund	Funds earned by the church archivist from research on behalf of family historians used for archivist's materials
Babies and Toddlers	Funds earned by running a club for mothers of young children used for equipment for the club
Clerical Housing Fund	Funds received from legacies and fund raising. Partly used toward the purchase of Enock House for the House For Duty priest. Remainder held for future projects.
Hospitality fund	Donations received for the provision of refreshments at events in the church and hall. Surplus donated to St Helen's Church
Vicar and wardens' fund	Funds for use at the discretion of the Rector
Window Publisher	Income and expenditure publishing a book by the Rector some years ago.

St Nicolas' Church

Reordering fund	In 2022 this fund was designated to be used for the refurbishment of the toilet and kitchen block

13. DESCRIPTION OF FUNDS (continued)

Restricted funds, given for a particular purpose

St Helen's Church

Bell fund	From a legacy of Edgar Humfrey and donations by ringers for the repair and renewal of the bells and fittings.
Centre fabric fund	Donations received for the repair of the church centre.
Choir fund	Income from donations and wedding choir fees. Expenditure on music and choir equipment.
Church fabric fund	Endowment income and donations for the repair and renewal of church fabric.
Church roof fund	Endowment income for the repair of the church roof except that of Lady Aisle.
Clerical housing fund	Endowment income for the capital costs of clerical housing.
Development fund	Funds restricted to the work described by the 1999 Development Plan.
Flower fund	Donations made by members of the congregation for church flowers
Lady aisle fund	Endowment income for the repair of the roof of the Lady Aisle.
PR fund	Donations received toward the cost of publicity for church events.
Sanctuary and choir fund	Endowment income for furniture, linen, etc. for the sanctuary and choir.
Special music fund	Donations for use at the discretion of the Director of Music to further the music ministry of St Helen's beyond what budgeted funds allow.

St Michael's Church

Fabric fund	Endowment income and donations received for the repair and maintenance of the church buildings.
Lent appeal	Donations received in response to an appeal for charity in lent.
Roof fund	Endowment income received for the repair of the church roof.

St Nicolas' Church

Altar Linen fund	Endowment income for the provision of 'new altar linen, surplices and cassocks'.
Bell fund	Funds raised or donated towards the maintenance of the bells.
Blacknall maintenance	Endowment income received from the Charity of John Blacknall for 'maintaining, repairing and insuring against fire the fabric, ornaments and furniture'.
Blacknall tomb repair	Funds raised or donated towards the repair and maintenance of the Blacknall Memorial.
Churchyard Fund	Funds raised or donated towards the maintenance of the church yard and garden.
Church lands	Income from an historic endowment fund for the upkeep of the church building and the running of services.
Fabric Fund	Income raised for the repair and maintenance of the church buildings.
Flower Fund	Donations made by members of the congregation for church flowers.
Toilet Block Fund	Created in 2022 to receive money donated solely for use on the refurbishment of the kitchen and toilet block.

13. DESCRIPTION OF FUNDS (continued)

Endowment funds

St Helen's Church	
Abingdon Oldfield Bequest	Income restricted to housing for the assistant clergy of the parish
A Challenor Bequest	Income for vesture, furnishings and fittings in the sanctuary and choir
Church repair trust	Income for the repair of the church roof except that of Lady Aisle.
Preston Trust	Income for the upkeep of the roof and ancient paintings of the Lady Aisle.
16/18 Ock Street proceeds, Church fabric fund, Hyde Trust	Income for the upkeep and maintenance of the fabric of St Helen's Church.
All other St Helen's endowment funds	Endowment income to be used for general purposes of St Helen's Church
St Nicolas' Church	
Altar Linen	Income to be used for the provision of 'new altar linen, surplices and cassocks'.
Church Lands Charity	Income for the 'repairing, maintenance and benefit' of St Nicolas Church.
St Michael's Church	
Challenors and Holcombe Bequests	Unrestricted income for the use of the church.
Harris Trust	Income for the benefit of St Michael's Church, by way of upkeep, adornment or in any manner as the vicar and church wardens deem expedient.
Fabric fund	Income for the general upkeep of the Church
Church repair trust	Income for the repair of the church roof

14. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year the Trustees made donations to the charity as members of the congregations. These donations totalled £17241 (2021: £17313).

15. LEGACIES

The parish is a beneficiary of the will of DJ Enock and funds have been received in prior years. The Parish is aware that a further sum is due under this legacy however the property in question is subject to a life tenancy and therefore neither the sum involved nor the timing of receipt is yet known. For these reasons no additional amount has been accrued in respect of this further income.

16. COMPARATIVE SOFA FOR PREVIOUS YEAR

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment Funds	Total
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Voluntary income	238,712	42,122	-	280,834
Activities for generating funds	6,533	127	-	6,660
Investment income	8,648	20,166	-	28,814
From church activities	13,435	-	-	13,435
Other income	(1,580)	-	-	(1,580)
	265,749	62,414	-	328,163
EXPENDITURE				
Fundraising costs	658	-	-	658
Church activities	271,367	59,958	-	331,325
Other expenditure	2,700	-	-	2,700
	274,725	59,958	-	334,683
Net Income (Expenditure) before Investment Gains	(8,976)	2,456	-	(6,520)
Gains and losses on investment assets on revaluation	25,123	9,549	19,217	53,889
Transfers between funds	(28,463)	22,415	6,048	-
Net movement in funds	(12,317)	34,421	25,265	47,369
Total funds brought forward	777,498	219,706	275,799	1,273,003
Total funds carried forward	765,181	254,127	301,064	1,320,372

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

I report on the accounts of the above parish for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the 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 parish's accounts carried out under s145 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

The parish's gross income exceeds £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by virtue of being a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an Independent Examination.

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

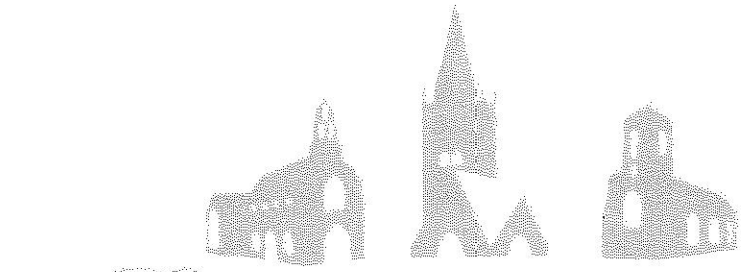
A Churchill Stone FCA DChA

Mercer Lewin Ltd
Chartered Accountants
41 Cornmarket Street
Oxford OX1 3HA

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

England & Wales - Charity number 1129833

Accounts



THE PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

ANNUAL REPORT

For year ending 31st December 2021

(As required by Church Accounting Regulations 2006)

Registered Charity Number 1129833

PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
ANNUAL REPORT
FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2021

Table of Contents

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION 2

AIMS AND PURPOSES 3

1 ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE 3

1a Team Rector's Report [Charles Miller] *3*

1b Church Electoral Roll [Richard Kirby] *5*

1c LLM Report [Gwen Bevington] *6*

1d PCC [Eluned Hallas] *6*

1e Safeguarding [Maria Gibson] *7*

1f Communications [Margaret Horton / Robert Rutherford] *7*

1g Abingdon Deanery Synod [Sue Scott] *8*

2 STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MEMBERSHIP 9

3 PROPERTY 10

3a Musson Close [Linda Hobbs] *10*

3b Fairacres Road [Rob Bough] *11*

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES 11

PUBLIC BENEFIT 12

TREASURER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2021 13

STATEMENT OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PCC 14

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES 15

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES 16

BALANCE SHEET 17

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS 18

APPENDIX 1 ST HELEN'S CHURCH CHURCH WARDENS' & FABRIC REPORTS 28

APPENDIX 2 ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS' CHURCH CHURCH WARDENS' & FABRIC REPORTS 31

APPENDIX 3 ST NICOLAS' CHURCH CHURCH WARDENS' & FABRIC REPORTS 33

APPENDIX 4 ST NICOLAS' C E PRIMARY SCHOOL 35

APPENDIX 5 REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHURCH IN ABINGDON 37

APPENDIX 6 REPORT ON THE ABINGDON FOODBANK 39

PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
Annual Report (Continued)
FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2021
(As required by Church Accounting Regulations 2006)

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames is a registered charity, Charity Registration Number 1129833.

The Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames is situated in the town of Abingdon, Oxfordshire. It is part of the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is:

The Hon Secretary, Abingdon-on-Thames PCC
c/o The Parish Centre, St Helen's Court, Abingdon OX14 5BS

The Parish comprises the churches and congregations of St Helen, St Michael & All Angels and St Nicolas.

PCC members

PCC members are the Trustees of the Charity. PCC members who have served from 1st January 2021 until the date that this report and the financial statements were approved are:

Stipendiary Team clergy:
The Revd Dr E C Miller
The Revd P A Smith

Non-stipendiary clergy:
The Revd J Brown
The Revd P T C Masheder

Licensed Lay Minister
Mrs G Bevington

Churchwardens:
Mr A Coker (until March 2021)
Mrs E Hallas (from April 2021)
Mrs L Heffernan (from April 2021)
Mrs L Hobbs
Miss J Kelly
Dr G Meen
Mr P Rast-Lindsell (until September 2021)
Mr P Squire (until September 2021)

Officers (from April 2021):

Chairman	The Revd Dr E C Miller
Vice Chairman	Mrs S Scott
Secretary	Mrs E Hallas
Treasurer	Mrs S E M Read

Weblinks:
http://www.abingdonparish.org.uk/

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:
Miss A E Green
Mrs E Hallas
Mr P Penfold (to April 2021)
Miss A Scott
Mrs S Scott

Ex-Officio
– representatives on Diocesan Synod:
Miss A Scott
Mrs C Worthington (to July 2021)

Elected PCC members:
Mr J Clare
Mrs H Clare
Dr R Cox (to April 2021)
Miss M Horton (to April 2021)
Dr G Lewis (from April 2021)
Dr A R Birks

Independent Examiner
Andrew Churchill Stone
Mercer Lewin Chartered Accountants
41 Cornmarket Street,
Oxford,
OX1 3HA

PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
Annual Report (continued)
FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2021

AIMS AND PURPOSES

Under the PCC (Powers) Measure 1956, the parish of Abingdon-on-Thames Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Dr Charles Miller, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Each DCC is similarly required to co-operate with the minister in charge of the district church. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Parish Centre (in St Helen's Court) and Enock House (2 Musson Close).

1 ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

1a Team Rector's Report [Charles Miller]

I said at the end of last year's report (that is, for the year 2020) that our task was to re-group in 2020 and to re-build in 2021. The wave of variants on Covid-19 that succeeded that first very deadly on-set of 2019 have slowed the hoped-for 're-building' but have not stopped it. Indeed through 2021 good, significant steps were taken by our three congregations to re-build and, where possible, enhance our parish's life and witness in search of a 'new normal'.

With the recognition that tactile transmission of the virus was less likely than through the air, and with less severe succeeding variants "out there", the rigorous and burdensome protocols for church cleansing were relaxed; that in turn made it possible to return to something like our regular sequence of services in customary places through 2021 – a welcome 'return' by us all and especially by those who felt that their needs were not being catered for. By the middle of the year that was no longer an issue. Sadly, dealing with the issue of worship spaces and the provision of in-person and on-line services had by late winter of 2021 resulted in some combustive exchanges among the parish leadership – a sign at the very least of the fractious results of an ambient unhappiness which afflicted us all during the continuing pandemic and its baleful impact.

It was very satisfying to return to almost customary patterns of worship in the summer so that we could look forward to a robust church life come September. To some extent that happened; I for one was pleased at how many were ready and willing to return to worship in church and I was impressed by the overall commitment to the protocols expected both from the church centre (Church House and Diocesan Church House), which by now had recognized the rightness of making local decisions, and from our congregational leaders. In some cases remarkable, unexpected explosions of interest took place (I think here of the St Helen's Choir), whereas in others a serious lack of volunteers made the steps toward normalcy hard and tiring.

The pastoral offices revived (funerals, weddings and baptisms) but not on the scale we would normally expect, especially through the summer months. Where we could minister, we did, and we ministered well to the satisfaction of those involved. Equally, the 'behind the scenes' work picked-up with 'Circle of Love' preparation for Holy Matrimony and one-on-one baptism preparation taking place. Some congregational programming began, though in a mixed-economy of in-person and Zoom.

In the course of the autumn and early winter new ministerial faces appeared. On All Saints' Sunday our Area Bishop, Gavin Collins, visited St Helen's where he presided and preached and administered Baptism and Confirmation to a former Abingdon School pupil who had "come to faith" (I had been preparing him through the pandemic – at a distance!). The Revd Elizabeth Birch, former Chaplain at the School of St Helen & St Katharine, came 'on board' as an honorary assistant in Advent. (She had already ministered in the parish on an occasional basis, so we knew her worth!)

In the early summer I hosted a dinner for the Team and honorary clergy (and spouses) to help rebuild our sense of ministerial solidarity. Our clergy rota was only slowly returning to full force of participation and, in fact, at time of writing there are still valued members of our wider team who cannot yet join in the work of priestly ministry. May 2022 see that change.

Zoom meetings notwithstanding, leading PCC meetings and working with our Secretary and Treasurer have been satisfying. Our Secretary is hugely efficient and proactive, and so is our new parish Treasurer, Susan Read. At the 2021 APCM we said "Thank you" to Dr Andrew Birks, Treasurer of decades-long standing, and welcomed Susan on board. She had already begun to assemble an able team of local church treasurers and /or bookkeepers and made quick progress in bringing district church accounting into a parish-wide coherent pattern. A chief result will be that the PCC will have quarterly reports of the financial state of churches and the parish as a whole, and so will be better equipped to think strategically about financing the parish's maintenance, ministry and mission.

Some of you will have caught wind of the 'Save the Parish' movement in respond to reports and proposals flowing from Church House, Westminster. Whatever merits or de-merits there may be to the proposals, discussions and debates (I don't follow it closely), the shrinking financial base of the CoE at parish level is relentless; only well-managed, well-ministering, well-worshipping, learning and sharing congregations will survive (and should it be otherwise?). We have a solid base in those regards to build on and build we must. Part of that will be strategic planning and, in my view, consolidating financial resources to make the most of what we have and what previous generations have given us.

As to resources 2021 saw advances in bringing the St Nicolas School Abingdon Land Trust into the parish as a Charitable Independent Organisation (CIO). As lead trustee of the Land Trust I have been working with successive wardens of St Nicolas' Church and the Team Vicar to take forward this change. It has been slow going but 2022 should see it consummated, and I look forward to speaking more about this development at the 2022 APCM.

The 2021 APCM saw both continuity and change among our parish wardens. Paul Rast-Lindsell came to the end of his six years in office; he had been working 'solo' after the resignation of Andrew Coker earlier in the year. Eluned Hallas returned to the role in Andrew's stead. Peter Squire stepped down but Louise Heffernan took his place to work with Joyce Kelly who continues in office. Linda Hobbs and Geoff Meen continued at St Helen's (with Chris Jefferis and Rob Bough as Pro-Wardens). So we have an excellent team of wardens which has aided the work of the PCC greatly. Sue Scott (St Michael's) was elected as PCC Vice-Chair; she has already proved a very valuable asset in our discussions and decision-making not least because she also wears the 'hat' of Lay Chair of the Abingdon Deanery Synod! All of us wish to see the PCC move to a more strategic posture in the months and years ahead. Issues raised in relation to 'Save the Parish' point in that direction too, if we even needed an external prompt.

At an early summer meeting of the Parochial Church Council we welcomed the Associate Archdeacon, the Revd David Tyler, who explained that the Diocese was reviewing of all Team Ministries, and the process in our Archdeaconry would begin with our parish. The format of the review was a 'work-in-progress' and David Tyler shared how he planned to proceed with his review through the summer months. Various interviews followed and by late November he submitted a draft report to me which he then presented to the PCC in November. He reported that on the whole the Team works well but also pointed out a few areas which would benefit from attention. Follow-up began in January 2022 with discussion of the review document by the Team members; discussion will move back to the PCC in 2022. It is encouraging that through the changes and challenges of recent years the Team is functioning well and is taking steps to function better!

PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
Annual Report (continued)
FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2021

In 2021 annual Ministerial Development Reviews took place for the Team clergy. We have all emerged unscathed! The Diocese is keen that we attend carefully to 'flourishing' in ministry, so there is attention – especially after the hardships of the pandemic – to clergy wellness, the importance of annual retreats and Continuing Ministerial Development. Those are matters raised in MDRs which will be agenda items for 2022.

I owe thanks to all my colleagues and lay officers who enable the parish to function smoothly and well. Quality volunteer support – the exercise of lay ministry – is vital to our life, worship and witness. In the aftermath of the dark days of the pandemic we need to be refreshed and recommitted in appropriate ways to filling and expanding the many volunteer roles in our churches. But we need to remember that despite all the institutional and business apparatus which characterizes parochial life, the church is more like a family than anything else; therefore it is always in a state of flux, growth and change. It never stands still; there is ebb, there is flow.

As 2021 ends and the New Year begins I pray hard that flow will overtake ebb, and that the theme of flourishing will character all aspects of our life in Christ.

Respectfully,

The Revd Dr Charles Miller, Team Rector

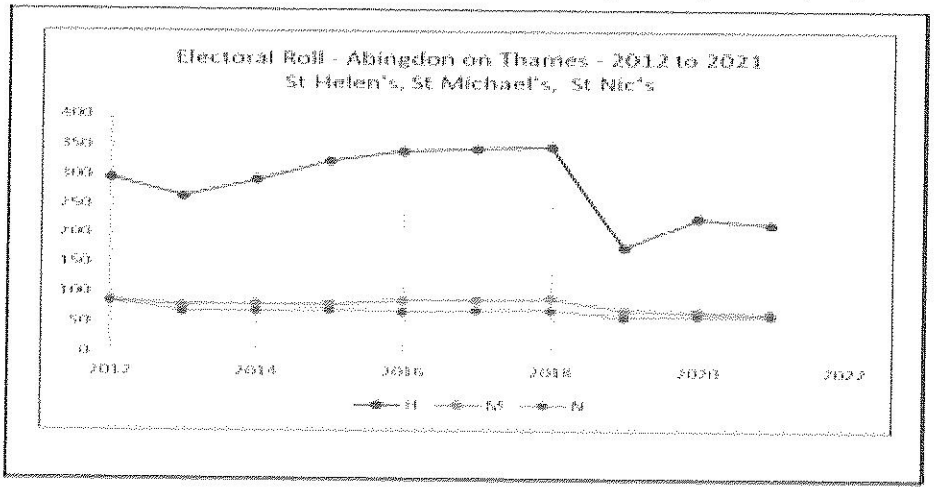
1b Church Electoral Roll [Richard Kirby]

There is a Parish Electoral Roll Officer for Abingdon-on-Thames, but each of the three churches in the parish maintains a section of the Roll.

Looking at figures compiled in 2021, we see typically a very slow decline in numbers over the years at St Michael's and St Nicolas', both having dropped by about 10% over the last 10 years.

St Helen's is different with less stability, showing increases each year from the years of the new roll (2013, 2019) then a significant drop when the new roll is constructed. There are those more qualified to explain this, but my perception is that St Helen's is a church in the town to where newcomers may naturally migrate, the team are experienced at encouraging new faces to enrol, but these are transitory people.

We should not make predictions without having data on all the influences on the final roll number (such as age, time on the roll, community faith, …), so we can only wait to see the outcome of this year's electoral roll revision; but we shall be tempted to guess anyway!



PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
Annual Report (continued)
FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2021

We are just about to start the annual revision of the Electoral Roll for the Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames. With all the restrictions we have endured over the last 12 months, my prediction is that we shall see a further decrease in the roll, purely because there has been little face-to-face activity to enrol new members.

Electoral Roll Numbers 2020 to 2021

	2020	2021				
	roll	deletions	additions	change	roll	% change
St Helen	228	12	2	-10	218	-4%
St Michael	69	3	0	-3	66	-4%
St Nicolas	62	3	3	0	62	0%
Abingdon on Thames	359	18	5	-13	346	-4%

GILL TITCOME

We could not collect this vital data without the support of a brilliant team (Eluned, Keith and our latest team member Jackie).

But I must say a huge thankyou to Gill. Gill took over as the St Helen's Church ER officer a couple of years ago and with her energy and positive character, unsurprisingly did a fabulous job putting her own stamp on the work. We all miss her so much, but will be saying for many years to come 'Can you remember when Gill …' Thanks Gill

1c LLM Report [Gwen Bevington]

I remained the sole LLM in the parish through 2021. I have loved having opportunities once more to preach in all three churches (zoom alone, in person and live-streamed), and to lead one or two non-eucharistic services in St Nicolas' Church.

The usual diocesan LLM events were largely suspended in 2020 and 2021, but are now set to restart in 2022.

I'm very aware that all the congregations are blessed with lay members who are long-standing Christian disciples, deep thinkers and theologically well informed. It seems crazy for me to be the LLM, but such is the state of play. I keep in mind that this ministry is a privilege, and not a right.

1d PCC [Eluned Hallas]

The business of the PCC concerns those issues best approached on a Parish, rather than Church, basis. It is also a useful forum for communications throughout the Parish, including details of Parish and Church sponsored events, staff updates and feedback on Deanery and Diocesan issues.

The PCC of the Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames met in person or on zoom seven times during 2021, with the Standing Committee / Clergy & Wardens Group meeting as necessary to during the year.

The discussion of Covid mitigation protocols in our three churches was, necessarily, of major importance during the year – with precautions being tailored to the individual church situation.

Preparation for, and feedback from, the Parish Review by Associate Archdeacon David Tyler was a focus for several meetings, and discussions on the recommendations made will continue into the new year. It was also good to be able to discuss Christmas Service patterns, and the role of Faith Forum

in the Parish education programme, across the three churches. Work by the Communications Group should see the launch of a new website early in 2022.

During the year the PCC agreed to focus on three key themes in 2022 – Pastoral; Outreach; and Financial Strategy. Discussion and implementation will continue at both PCC and DCC level, with parish and church initiatives working together and complementing each other. Work on the new co-ordinated approach to church accounts has allowed greater financial oversight, and changes to the Finance Working Group (p10) will continue this progress.

The PCC continues to review and approve faculty applications and other fabric matters across the Parish, and GDPR, Safeguarding, Health & Safety and Parish Policies remain regular items on the PCC agendas.

1e Safeguarding [Maria Gibson]

The PCC has complied with its 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).

In 2021 there were no new incidents within the Parish that required Safeguarding assistance or input.

The annual review of the Parish Safeguarding Policy was completed in June

As from January 2022, individuals' DBS status will be renewed every 3 years, in accordance with revised church safer recruitment and people management guidance.

Training
It is a Diocesan requirement that all volunteers should comply with the Church of England and government safeguarding regulations, and the three churches carry out regular reviews to ensure this.

Other issues
As is best practice, the Parish Safeguarding Officer, Maria Gibson, is looking for another person to share the role as Parish Verifier.

Safeguarding Officers within the Parish:
Maria Gibson – St. Helen's
Carol Bowman – St. Michael & All Angels
Jenny Fishpool – St. Nicolas'

Maria Gibson (Parish Safeguarding Officer & Parish verifier), February 2022

1f Communications [Margaret Horton / Robert Rutherford]

For the first three months of 2021, most communication across the parish was once again reduced to being electronic as we went through another lockdown. Fortunately all three churches by this point were able to offer live streamed and recorded Sunday services (St. Helen's) a live streamed Sunday morning service and recorded sermons (St. Nicolas) and Mass celebrated online via Zoom at St. Michael's. As well as this, our websites offered a wide variety of home grown and outside resources, and links to Diocesan services and other online offerings. It is interesting to note that at the time of writing (Feb 2022) there is still a live streamed offering every Sunday from St. Nicolas

and St. Helen's, with small but very loyal followings, suggesting the ongoing need for such provision.

Once we were able to meet again in person and to look at a screen together, the parish website group met again to continue our work in creating a new website for the parish as a whole. We have met 6 times since June 2021 and are on the verge of launching it. A massive thank you must go to Stephen Thomas who has done the bulk of the work in writing and creating it, but thanks are also due to Nick Hallas for assistance on the technical side and to Eluned Hallas and Louise Heffernan for providing the content for St Nicolas and St Michael's church respectively, whilst I have provided the content from St. Helen's. One thing I have learned from the process is that a website is never 'finished', there is always more to add or to alter, so when it goes live, please consider it as a work in progress. In particular, we would like to have as many photos as possible of activities and people in our churches, so if you have any please send them to the parish office, to be forwarded to me. In a similar vein, we cannot put information about events and activities on the website if we don't know about them, so please let us know! *Margaret Horton*

A Candle in the Window

You will remember that this online version of 'The Window' was started in April 2020 as one means by which members of the Parish could keep in touch during the pandemic. It still seems to be fulfilling a need - so as long as the writers, editors and compilers have enough energy, it will continue for the time being. It sometimes has themes which are words that can be interpreted in a number of ways. Some writers find this helpful, others find it unhelpful but we never stick rigorously to the theme anyway.

Our guiding principles remain the same:

- To represent the whole Parish by encouraging as many as possible to contribute
- To encourage a wide readership
- To inform, educate and entertain.

We continue to monitor the number of downloads to check that it is still being read – as far as we can tell, it is. In round numbers about 200 copies are 'picked up'.

Thank you to contributors and to readers. Please continue to contribute and to read! Thanks too to those that make printed copies available to those without connectivity. *Robert Rutherford*

1g Abingdon Deanery Synod [Sue Scott]

Abingdon Deanery Synod is part of the Diocese of Oxford and is one of 11 deaneries within the Archdeaconry of Dorchester. And its membership includes 25 churches in 9 benefices.

The Synod is a vehicle to discuss key issues and to look at the church's ministry and mission in a geographical area. The Deanery Synod sits between the Parishes with their PCCs and the Diocese with the Diocesan Synod. It is a key channel of communication.

The Synod is also a place to support each other in difficult times and a place to celebrate the good things happening in our churches. It is also a place where the views of the Parishes can be brought together. Proposals can be made to Diocesan Synod for discussion if the Deanery feels this is necessary/appropriate.

The Parish currently has 4 elected members from the House of Laity:-

Alexandra Green (St Helen's)
Alexandra Scott (St Michael and All Angels) ex officio Diocesan Synod
Sue Scott (St Michael and All Angels) Lay Chair and ex officio Diocesan Synod
Eluned Hallas (St Nicolas)

There are currently 2 vacancies for the Parish because of the ex officio status of two of the current elected Lay representatives.

The Parish currently has 4 members from the House of Clergy:-

Revd Charles Miller
Revd Paul Smith
Revd Charles Masheder
Revd Rosalind Rutherford (PTO rep)

The Synod met 4 times in 2021 (February, May, September and November) and so far once in 2022 (January). Some of the business included: -

- Finance including the Budget, Parish Share, Contingency Fund and Mission grants
- Episcopal visitation visits
- Opportunities to share in Break-out Rooms
- Address followed by Q and A session with Bishop Gavin Collins Bishop of Dorchester
- Living in Love and Faith and how this course might be used in Parishes
- New Congregations/New initiatives

A key role of the Deanery Synod is to represent the views of the Parishes and to seek ways to support the work of the Church in this place. Please speak to your Parish representatives so that they can raise issues questions or concerns on your behalf.

Minutes of all Synod meetings and Standing Committee meetings can be found on the website at https://www.abingdondeanery.org.uk together with other news and information about the work of the Deanery Synod.

Please could you pray for the work of the Deanery Synod as it strives to seek God's guidance to support the work of the Church in this place.

Sue Scott, Deanery Synod representative, Lay Chair Abingdon Deanery

2 STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MEMBERSHIP

The Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames is served by a Team Rector, based at St Helen's, and a Team Vicar shared between St Nicolas' and St Michael's.

Abingdon has a Local Ecumenical Project – the Church in Abingdon (CiA) – to which all the Anglican churches belong.

The Parochial Church Council of Abingdon-on-Thames is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure, and was formally registered with the Charity Commission on 27 May 2009.

Lay members of the PCC are appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Church Representation Rules, as originally authorized as Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 and subsequently amended by the General Synod. All eligible church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

In addition to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the parish of Abingdon-on-Thames, there are three District Church Councils (DCCs). The PCC has delegated to the DCCs responsibility for

detailed implementation of most of its functions, in a continuation of a Scheme approved by the Bishop. The PCC is therefore able to concentrate on those matters which cannot be delegated, or are of common concern. It has two committees:

The *Standing* Committee (comprising the team clergy, church wardens, the secretary, the treasurer, and the vice-chairman) has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC.

The *Finance Working Group* (comprising the Parish Treasurer and the Treasurers of the DCCs) oversees the financial activities of the parish, and prepares the annual budget and financial statements for the parish. It meets as required. The budget and financial statements are approved by the PCC after individual church finances have been considered by individual DCCs.
Over the coming year, the intention is to expand both the membership and the activities of the Group to reflect the changing needs of the parish. In additional to meeting its statutory requirements, the Group will develop methods of financial control in order to better monitor outcomes throughout the year. The Group will also aim to produce budgets that look towards the medium term and that align more closely to the stated priorities of the PCC.

PCC members (and DCC members) are encouraged to attend training sessions as appropriate. Most often these are courses organised by the Diocese of Oxford.

The PCC is exposed to risks associated with buildings, finances and availability of volunteer effort. Dealing with the secular aspects first: buildings are insured and regularly inspected, finances are managed by the parish treasurer, and DCC treasurers and volunteers are constantly sought to carry the administrative burden of the PCC and DCCs. The maintenance of ancient buildings is a heavy responsibility for the PCC, but this is not unusual in the Church of England. Health and Safety, Child Protection and other pertinent legislation is adhered to, and there are policies in place to this effect. DCCs operate within a budget and financial envelope determined by their annual income and reserves and approved by the PCC. Each church has an annual stewardship programme to invite donors to respond to the income targets. Special appeals are launched for special projects (typically capital projects) as appropriate. To say 'The Lord will provide' may not be an acceptable approach to financial risk management in the secular world; but seeking the Will of God through constant prayer and responding to His Will moment by moment are key instruments by which the PCC manages risk in labour and financial matters.

3 PROPERTY

3a Musson Close [Linda Hobbs]

Two Musson Close was purchased in 2015 for use as a House for Duty, the property is currently occupied by Rev. Canon Charles Masheder, Associate Priest and his wife Felicity.
The property is a 4 bedroom Town House situated within walking distance of the town and therefore the three Parish churches.
The property has been occupied by the Rev. Canon Masheder since his appointment in 2019, the current License to occupy will continue until the end of the current P.T.O. from the Diocese.
Currently the property is expected to remain in use as a House for Duty residence.
Since the last report all repairs to the property have been met from Parish funds, as agreed under the License to Occupy.
Repairs have been minimal, with the exception of the need to replace the heating boiler and water

tank. It's not anticipated that any further major repairs will be required to the fabric or interior of the building in the near future, but any required repairs will be dealt with as necessary.
The property continues to be managed by Linda Hobbs, Church Warden.
Linda Hobbs

3b Fairacres Road [Rob Bough]

Pursuant to a bequest from Mr Derek Enock in 2009, each church in the parish has an interest in a residential property in Fairacres Road, Oxford, which is held on a trust. The current occupant of the property has the right to reside there for as long as she wishes. If the property is sold, she will be entitled to the income from the invested sale proceeds. Upon her death the property or proceeds from the sale will pass to the following beneficiaries of Mr Enock's estate:-

1. St Michael and All Angels Church;
2. St Helen's Church;
3. St Nicolas Church;
4. Trinity Church; and
5. The Churchill Hospital.

The administrative changes to the trusteeship of the trust reported to the last APCM have been taken forward in this past year, but otherwise there is nothing further to report.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The following Vision Statement was agreed by the PCC on 22nd November 2000 and continues to apply to the Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames:

"A single unified parish with a Team Ministry in which clergy and laity work together to serve interdependent congregations, within an active ecumenical organisation where:

- The Gospel of Christ is celebrated through worship and fellowship, with individual congregations providing a spectrum of traditions
- The life of the Church is built up through teaching, preaching, evangelism, pastoral care and ecumenical co-operation
- God's love is made known in mission and service to the community and society as a whole."

The following objectives for the Team Rector appeared in the Parish Profile agreed by the PCC in November 2005.

- In liaison and collaboration with the Church in Abingdon, to refresh and progress the strategy for the development of a Christian presence in south Abingdon.
- To encourage, enable and release lay leadership and ministry to enable the Parish to be better equipped to respond to the changing patterns of stipendiary ministry.
- To continue to develop joint working within the churches and across the team, to ensure we use our resources effectively in the propagation of the gospel.

The activities undertaken to enable the PCC to achieve these objectives are described in the Achievements & Performance section, and in the reports from the constituent churches.

The PCC is heavily dependent upon the contribution of volunteers to drive forward the mission of the church and the Kingdom of God.

The PCC delegates to DCCs the matter of policy for making grants and donations from their income. The financial statements record donations made during the reporting year.

Public Benefit

The PCC is aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in "The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit" and have regard to it in their administration of the Parish. The PCC believes that, by fulfilling its responsibility to work together with the incumbent in the Parish and co-operate in all matters of concern and importance for the promotion of the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, it provides a benefit to the public by:

- providing resources and facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers;
- promoting Christian values, and service by members of the churches in the Parish to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

Reports from individual churches, St Nicolas CofE School and the Church in Abingdon are attached as Appendices to this report.

PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
Annual Report (continued)
FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2021

TREASURER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2021

The Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames consists of three churches (St Helen's, St Michael's and St Nicolas') which have separate treasurers and accounts. The Parish accounts are produced by consolidating the accounts of the three churches.

Income and Expenditure

In 2021, our churches were open for much more of the year than in 2020, but the pandemic still took its toll on our finances. The accounts for 2021 show a deficit on unrestricted funds of £9k (2020 deficit £43k). But with a small surplus on restricted funds of £2k (2020 deficit £19k), the overall deficit was less, £7k (2020:£62k).

Giving and collections provided nearly 90% of our churches' income on the General Fund and it was disappointing to see that regular giving by standing order and envelope dropped slightly (2021: £157k, 2020: £163k).

Sundry donations included a generous donation to St Michael's in memory of a congregant. That donation made a considerable difference to the overall "bottom line" but we cannot rely on such donations every year.

Where expenditure is concerned, around 60% of the costs on the General Fund are in the Parish Share, and that dropped as predicted compared with 2020 (2021: £161k, 2020: £166k).

2021 expenditure included much less spending on repairs to our churches than in 2020 or 2019 and the result shows on the Unrestricted Funds report below.

Balance Sheet

The Parish owns two freehold properties, the Parish Centre and the House for Duty property purchased in 2015. Legal title of both is held by the Diocesan Trustees (Oxford) Ltd as custodian trustees on behalf of the Parish. Both are held for the mission of the church. The two properties appear in the balance sheet as Tangible Fixed Assets.
PCC policy is that all unused fund balances should be invested with CBF Church of England funds. At the end of 2021 over 90% of Parish investments were with CBF Church of England funds and efforts were made in 2021 to transfer the remainder of our investments. The value of the Parish investments rose by 24% overall in the year (2021: £587k, 2020: £472k, 2019 £440k). This looks good, but the value is affected by the state of the stock market. It is likely that the war in Ukraine will adversely affect the value of our investments in 2022.

Going Concern

The PCC is required to operate on a going concern basis, and considers that each church should A) aim to maintain a minimum reserve of two months expenditure in hand in Unrestricted Funds and B) to have reserves, appropriate to each church, to cover the future demands of building maintenance. A) is easy to calculate, as shown on the Unrestricted funds report below. I will ask the Finance Group to recommend a way of evaluating B).

Susan Read,
PCC Treasurer, 14 March 2022

STATEMENT OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PCC

We are required under charity law to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements we are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in operation.

We are also responsible for:

- keeping proper accounting records;
- safeguarding the charity's assets;
- taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud.

The Annual Report and Treasurer's Report were approved by the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames and signed on its behalf by

.....
The Revd Dr Charles Miller, Chairman

Date:...17 March 2022.....

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

I report on the accounts of the above parish for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the 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 parish's accounts carried out under s145 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

The parish's gross income exceeds £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by virtue of being a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an Independent Examination.

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

A Churchill Stone FCA DChA

Mercer Lewin Ltd
Chartered Accountants
41 Cornmarket Street
Oxford OX1 3HA

THE PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

		2021				2020
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME						
Voluntary income	2a	238,712	56,943	-	295,655	245,620
Activities for generating funds	2b	6,533	127	-	6,660	21,708
Investment income	2c	8,648	5,344	-	13,993	15,340
From church activities	2d	13,435	-	-	13,435	7,024
Other income		(1,580)	-	-	(1,580)	5,308
		265,749	62,414	-	328,163	295,001
EXPENDITURE						
Fundraising costs		658	-	-	658	1,257
Church activities	3a	271,280	59,958	-	331,238	351,924
Other expenditure		2,700	-	-	2,700	3,720
		274,638	59,958	-	334,596	356,902
Net Income (Expenditure) before Investment Gains		(8,889)	2,456	-	(6,433)	(61,901)
Gains and losses on investment assets on revaluation		25,123	9,549	19,217	53,889	31,878
Transfers between funds		(23,197)	12,917	10,280	-	-
Net movement in funds		(6,964)	24,923	29,497	47,456	(30,022)
Total funds brought forward		772,145	229,204	271,567	1,272,916	1,302,938
Total funds carried forward		765,181	254,127	301,064	1,320,372	1,272,916

THE PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Note	2021 Unrestricted funds £	2021 Restricted funds £	2021 Endowment Funds £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible assets	5	396,287	14,437	83,185	493,909	488,979
Investments	6	246,500	137,729	202,379	586,608	472,802
		642,787	152,165	285,564	1,080,516	961,781
CURRENT ASSETS						
Stocks		824	-	-	824	835
Debtors	7	29,295	1,243	-	30,538	81,309
Short term deposits		90,311	72,125	15,500	177,936	271,575
Cash at bank and in hand		34,196	29,915	0	64,112	55,156
		154,626	103,283	15,500	273,409	408,875
CREDITORS						
Amounts due within one year	8	(32,232)	(1,321)	-	(33,553)	(97,740)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		122,394	101,962	15,500	239,856	311,135
NET ASSETS		765,181	254,127	301,064	1,320,372	1,272,916
FUNDS OF THE CHURCH						
Unrestricted funds	9	765,181	-	-	765,181	772,145
Restricted funds	10	-	254,127	-	254,127	229,204
Endowment funds	11	-	-	301,064	301,064	271,567
		765,181	254,127	301,064	1,320,372	1,272,916

These accounts were approved by the PCC on 28 April 2022 and are signed on its behalf by:

Rev'd Dr EC Miller
Chairman

Susan Read
PCC Treasurer

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a. Basis of preparation

The Parish is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared under The Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions, together with FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standard and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP (FRS 102)).

b. Funds

Unrestricted funds are general funds available for the general objectives of the church. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

Restricted funds can only be used for the purposes for which thy have been given, within the objectives of the church. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against those specific funds.

Endowment funds represent endowments, of which the capital must be maintained, and the dividend income used only for the restricted purposes arising from the establishment of the endowments.

c. Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities ("SoFA") when the church becomes legally entitled to the income and when the amount can be quantified with reasonable certainty.

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving is recognised only when received. Grants and legacies are recognised as soon as the PCC becomes aware of its legal entitlement and the amount due is quantifiable with reasonable certainty.

Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is accounted for when the gift is received.

When incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising income and sales of book sand magazines) the incoming resources and the related resources expended are accounted for gross in the SoFA.

Interest is accounted for when receivable and includes any recoverable tax.

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

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31st December.

d. Resources expended

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis and is recognised when there is a legal or constructive obligation to pay for goods or services and settlement is probable and quantifiable.

As the church is not registered for VAT, all the expenditure is shown inclusive of VAT.

Governance costs include the costs of the preparation of the annual accounts, the cost of PCC meetings and the legal cost of advice on governance or constitutional matters.

Grants and charitable giving are accounted for when paid over or when awarded, if the award creates a binding obligation on the PCC, provided that there are no conditions to be met relating to the grant which remain in the control of the church.

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2) of the Charities Act 2011. All expenditure incurred during the year on such property is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed

e. Pensions

The PCC encourages its employees to join the a Pension Scheme which is a defined contribution pension scheme. The PCC matches contributions made by employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the PCC. The contributions payable by the PCC are charged to the SoFA as they are incurred.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

f. Fixed assets

The Parish owns various freehold properties, the majority of which were acquired prior to the requirement to capitalise such expenditure. These properties have therefore not been included in cost. Freehold property acquired more recently is included at cost.

No depreciation is provided on buildings with a current estimated residual value of not less than their carrying value, otherwise the cost of buildings acquired is depreciated over a period of 100 years.

Office equipment is depreciated on a straight line basis over 3 or 4 years.
Other equipment is depreciated on a straight line basis over 20 years.

Investments are valued at Market Value.

g. Current assets

Amounts owed to the Parish at the year end in respect of fees, rents and other income are shown as debtors.

Short term deposits include cash on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

Amounts held by the Traidcraft stall at the year end are valued at net realisable value, after due regard for obsolete and slow moving stock.

2. INCOMING RESOURCES	2021 Unrestricted Funds	2021 Restricted funds	2021 Endowment Funds	2021 Total	2020 Total
a. Voluntary income	£	£	£	£	£
Regular giving	156,642	30	-	156,672	162,773
Income tax recoverable	38,001	198	-	38,198	33,465
Other giving	-	-	-	-	425
Collections (open plate)	6,750	-	-	6,750	3,315
Legacies	1,500	-	-	1,500	-
Grants	5,676	54,033	-	59,709	35,117
Sundry donations	30,144	2,683	-	32,827	8,692
	238,712	56,943	-	295,655	243,787
	£	£	£	£	£
b. Activities for generating funds					
Fetes, bazaars, etc	6,533	127	-	6,660	21,708
	6,533	127	-	6,660	21,708
	£	£	£	£	£
c. Income from investments					
Interest, dividends etc	8,648	5,344	-	13,993	15,340
Rent from land and buildings	-	-	-	-	-
	8,648	5,344	-	13,993	15,340
	£	£	£	£	£
d. Income from Church activities					
Bookstall	-	-	-	-	2,347
Church hall lettings	4,206	-	-	4,206	2,457
Magazines	10	-	-	10	60
Fees	9,219	-	-	9,219	2,160
	13,435	-	-	13,435	7,024

3. RESOURCES EXPENDED	2021 Unrestricted Funds	2021 Restricted funds	2021 Endowment Funds	2021 Total	2020 Total
a. Church Activities	£	£	£	£	£
Church overseas	3,998	-	-	3,998	1,200
Relief and development agencies	3,230	-	-	3,230	1,200
Home missions, other church societies	5,976	-	-	5,976	5,383
Secular charities	8,424	1,238	-	9,662	4,419
Ministry Parish share	161,189	-	-	161,189	166,106
Incumbents' expenses	668	-	-	668	1,470
Assistant staff	482	-	-	482	22
Church running costs	30,752	6,332	-	37,085	28,683
Church maintenance	1,469	45,763	-	47,232	56,912
Upkeep of services	6,993	807	-	7,800	1,139
Bookstall	-	-	-	-	227
Support costs	16	70	-	86	614
Church centre and hall running	5,989	52	-	6,041	11,117
Other PCC property upkeep	1,432	5,606	-	7,038	5,292
Salaries, wages and honoraria	29,021	-	-	29,021	38,108
Major repairs and replacements	-	-	-	-	11,072
Printing stationery, etc	3,267	-	-	3,267	2,760
General administration	154	91	-	245	6,733
Lease of office equipment	4,879	-	-	4,879	4,779
Depreciation	2,919	-	-	2,919	3,727
Bank charges	422	1	-	423	963
	271,280	59,958	-	331,238	351,926
	£	£	£	£	£
b. Analysis of other costs					
Education and evangelism	-	-	-	-	-
Independent examination	2,700	-	-	2,700	3,720
	2,700	-	-	2,700	3,720

4. STAFF COSTS	2021 £	2020 £
Organist	10,618	10,858
Verger	3,388	9,102
Parish administrator	13,272	16,357
Cleaners	1,674	1,669
Other staff costs	69	123
	29,021	38,109
The average no of employees was as follows:		
Organists	2	8
Vergers	1	2
Parish administrator	1	1
Cleaner	1	1
	5	12

None of the Trustees received any remuneration or employee benefits during the year. The lay trustees, where applicable, who acted as agents to the PCC in making approved payments on its behalf, were reimbursed for these expenses on presentation of suitable documentary evidence.

Clergy working expenses were reimbursed in accordance with Church of England guidelines.

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Property	Office Equipment	Other Equipment	Total
Cost				
At 1 January 2021	504,950	13,134	22,054	540,138
Written off	-	(12,313)	-	(12,313)
Additions	-	-	8,200	8,200
At 31 December 2021	504,950	821	30,254	536,025
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2021	30,000	12,806	8,355	51,161
Written off	-	(12,314)	-	(12,314)
Charge for the year	2,000	165	1,103	3,268
At 31 December 2021	32,000	657	9,458	42,115
Net book value at 1 January 2021	474,950	328	13,699	488,977
Net book value at 31 December 2021	472,950	164	20,796	493,910

The market value of the freehold property is considered to be in excess of the above carrying value, however it is not considered practicable or cost effective to quantify the difference.

6. INVESTMENTS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
CBF Investment Fund	9,818	133,663	158,697	302,178	232,175
CBF Fixed Interest Ssecurities	66,807	4,065	-	70,872	75,582
CBF Global Equity Income Fund	103,627	-	-	103,627	89,111
CBF Property Fund	35,617	-	-	35,617	30,688
CBF UK Equity Income Fund	30,632	-	-	30,632	-
COIF Investment Fund	-	-	43,682	43,682	38,310
Scottish Widows UK Growth Fund	-	-	-	-	6,936
	246,500	137,729	202,379	586,608	472,802

Market value	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2021 £	2020 £
At 1 January	248,851	46,835	177,116	472,802	439,921
Investments purchased	30,000	28,889	-	58,889	-
Investments transferred	(52,193)	52,193	-	-	-
Dividends reinvested	92	938	-	1,030	1,002
Surplus/(deficit) on revaluation	19,751	8,873	25,263	53,887	31,878
At 31 December	246,501	137,728	202,379	586,608	472,801

7. DEBTORS

	2021 £	2020 £
Income tax recoverable	21,664	22,392
Prepayments and accrued income	8,874	58,917
	30,538	81,309

8. CREDITORS

	£	£
Sundry creditors and accruals	33,552	97,740

9. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	Brought forward	Income	Expend-iture	Inv movement	Transfer	Carried forward
General funds	508,110	264,560	(261,291)	24,767	(19,470)	516,677
Designated funds						
St Helen's Church						
Archivist fund	4,796	11	-	-	-	4,807
Babies & toddlers fund	3,544	131	(158)	-	-	3,516
Hospitality fund	1,141	593	(472)	-	(1,000)	262
Strategic fund	219,772	92	-	294	414	220,572
Vicar & Wardens' fund	2,716	341	(200)	-	-	2,857
Window Publisher	504	20	(11)	-	-	513
St Michael's Church						
DJ Enock legacy	2,822				(2,822)	-
St Nicolas' Church						
Donations fund	12,278	-	(11,919)	-	(359)	-
Mrs Margetts fund	7,440	-	-	-	(7,440)	-
Reordering Fund	9,021	-	(673)	61	7,963	16,373
Total unrestricted funds	772,145	265,749	(274,638)	25,123	(23,197)	765,577

10. RESTRICTED FUNDS						
St Helen's Church						
Bell fund	20,632	612	(269)	1,780	-	22,756
Centre fabric fund	4,135	175	-	855	-	5,164
Church fabric fund	49,726	13,014	(5,601)	3,229	22,488	82,855
Church roof fund	238	247	-	-	-	484
Clerical housing fund	24,668	4	(5,606)	-	13	19,080
Development fund	280	2,136	-	-	-	2,416
Flower fund	616	248	(327)	-	-	537
Lady aisle fund	5,733	534	-	-	-	6,267
PR fund	-	1,000	(91)	-	-	909
Sanctuary and choir fund	2,225	592	(312)	-	-	2,505
Special music fund	1,927	35	(150)	-	-	1,812
St Michael's Church						
Fabric fund	17,878	479	(2,166)	-	(9,981)	6,210
Lent appeal	-	1,238	(1,238)	-	-	-
Roof fund	-	193	(420)	-	227	-
St Nicolas' Church						
Altar linen fund	2,634	138	-	676	(676)	2,772
Bell fund	65	51	(65)	-	-	51
Blacknall maintenance	93,360	14,825	(16,298)	3,010	-	94,896
Blacknall tomb repair	743	-	-	-	-	743
Church lands fund	39	1,125	-	-	-	1,164
Churchyard repair fund		500	(52)	-	846	1,295
Congregation day fund	70	-	(70)	-	-	-
Fabric fund	4,234	200	(2,276)	-	-	2,158
Flower fund	-	70	(18)	-	-	52
Historic England tower grant	-	25,000	(25,000)	-	-	-
Total restricted funds	229,204	62,414	(59,958)	9,549	12,917	254,126

11. ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	Brought forward	Income	Inv movement	Transfer	Carried forward
St Helen's Church					
16/18 Ock St Proceeds	15,500	-	-	-	15,500
Abingdon Oldfield Bequest	83,184	-	-	1	83,185
Backhus Trust	8,113	-	1,161	-	9,274
Challenor Bequest	20,364	-	2,913	-	23,278
Church Fabric Fund	26,162	-	3,743	-	29,905
Church Repair Trust	8,502	-	1,216	-	9,719
E Hawkins Charity	11,739	-	1,679	-	13,419
Elderfield Trust	266	-	38	-	304
Hyde	4,405	-	630	-	5,035
N Bequest	9,670	-	1,383	-	11,053
PCC Trust	7,355	-	1,052	-	8,407
Preston Trust	18,398	-	2,632	-	21,029
St Michael's Church					
Challenors & Halcombe	7,606	-	1,105	-	8,712
Fabric fund	2,208	-	321	-	2,529
Harris Trust	5,009	-	728	-	5,737
Roof fund		-	615	4,232	4,847
St Nicolas' Church					
Altar Linen	4,774	-	-	676	5,449
Church Lands Charity	38,310	-	-	5,372	43,682
	271,567	-	19,217	10,280	301,064

12. ANALYSIS OF ASSETS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total
Tangible fixed assets	396,287	14,437	83,185	493,909
Investments	246,500	137,729	202,379	586,608
Current assets	154,626	103,283	15,500	273,409
Current liabilities	(32,232)	(1,321)	-	(33,553)
	765,181	254,127	301,064	1,320,372

13. DESCRIPTION OF FUNDS

Designated funds - set aside by the PCC

St Helen's Church

Archivist fund	Funds earned by the church archivist from research on behalf of family historians used for archivist's materials
Babies and Toddlers	Funds earned by running a club for mothers of young children used for equipment for the club
Hospitality fund	Donations received for the provision of refreshments at events in the church and hall. Surplus donated to St Helen's Church
Strategic Fund	Funds received from legacies and fund raising. Partly used toward the purchase of Enock House for the House For Duty priest. Remainder held for future projects.
Vicar and wardens' fund	Funds for use at the discretion of the Rector

St Michael's Church

DJ Enock Legacy	The remaining funds have been transferred for fabric repair.

13. DESCRIPTION OF FUNDS (continued)

Designated funds - set aside by the PCC

St Nicolas' Church

Donations fund	This fund contained sums set aside for particular charities over the years. In 2021 the donations were all paid to the charities concerned.
Mrs Margetts fund	The fund was formed from historic bequests and had no known restrictions. In 2021 the fund's value was transferred to the General fund.
Reordering fund	In 2015 the contents of the designated fabric fund, the Enoch Legacy and the Chaplaincy fund were combined to form this fund. It is used for projects concerning the fabric and fixtures in the church.

13. DESCRIPTION OF FUNDS (continued)

Restricted funds, given for a particular purpose

St Helen's Church

Bell fund	From a legacy of Edgar Humfrey and donations by ringers for the repair and renewal of the bells and fittings.
Centre fabric fund	Donations received for the repair of the church centre.
Church fabric fund	Endowment income and donations for the repair and renewal of church fabric.
Church roof fund	Endowment income for the repair of the church roof except that of Lady Aisle.
Development fund	Funds restricted to the work described by the 1999 Development Plan.
Flower fund	Donations made by members of the congregation for church flowers
Clerical housing fund	Endowment income for the capital costs of clerical housing.
Lady aisle fund	Endowment income for the repair of the roof of the Lady Aisle.
Window publisher	Income and costs of publishing religious books
PR fund	Donations received toward the cost of publicity for church events
Sanctuary and choir fund	Endowment income for furniture, linen, etc. for the sanctuary and choir.
Special music fund	Donations for use at the discretion of the Director of Music to further the music ministry of St Helen's beyond what budgeted funds allow.

St Michael's Church

Fabric fund	Endowment income and donations received for the repair and maintenance of the church buildings
Lent appeal	Donations received in response to an appeal for charity in lent
Roof fund	Endowment income received for the repair of the church roof

St Nicolas' Church

Altar Linen fund	Endowment income for the provision of 'new altar linen, surplices and cassocks'.
Bell fund	Funds raised or donated towards the maintenance of the bells.
Blacknall maintenance	Endowment income received from the Charity of John Blacknall for 'maintaining, repairing and insuring against fire the fabric, ornaments and furniture'.
Blacknall tomb repair	Funds raised or donated towards the repair and maintenance of the Blacknall Memorial.
Churchyard repair	Funds raised or donated towards the maintenance of the church yard and garden.
Congregation day	Funds given towards the costs of the planned congregation day, used in 2021
Church lands	Income from Church Lands endowment to be used for repairs to the church.
Fabric Fund	Income raised for the repair and maintenance of the church buildings.
Flower Fund	Donations made by members of the congregation for church flowers
Historic England grant	Grants received for the repair of the church tower and used in 2020 and 2021
War stocks income fund	Income from some 3.5% War Stock now transferred to the general fund

13. DESCRIPTION OF FUNDS (continued)

Endowment funds

St Helen's Church	
Abingdon Oldfield Bequest	Income restricted to housing for the assistant clergy of the parish
A Challenor Bequest	Income for vesture, furnishings and fittings in the sanctuary and choir
Church repair trust	Income for the repair of the church roof except that of Lady Aisle.
Preston Trust	Income for the upkeep of the roof and ancient paintings of the Lady Aisle.
16/18 Ock Street proceeds, Church fabric fund, Hyde Trust	Income for the upkeep and maintenance of the fabric of St Helen's Church.
All other St Helen's endowment funds	Endowment income to be used for general purposes of St Helen's Church
St Nicolas' Church	
Altar Linen	Income to be used for the provision of 'new altar linen, surplices and cassocks'.
Church Lands Charity	Income for the 'repairing, maintenance and benefit' of St Nicolas Church.
St Michael's Church	
Challenors and Holcombe Bequests	Unrestricted income for the use of the church.
Harris Trust	Income for the benefit of St Michael's Church, by way of upkeep, adornment or in any manner as the vicar and church wardens deem expedient.
Fabric fund	Income for the general upkeep of the Church
Church repair trust	Income for the repair of the church roof

14. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year the Trustees made donations to the charity as members of the congregations. These donations totalled £17313 (2020: £22743).

During the year the Parish received a restricted grant of £10,000 from the Friends of St Helen, Abingdon (Registered Charity No. 296638) which has Trustees in common with the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Abingdon.

15. LEGACIES

The parish is a beneficiary of the will of DJ Enock and funds have been received in prior years. The Parish is aware that a further sum is due under this legacy however the property in question is subject to a life tenancy and therefore neither the sum involved nor the timing of receipt is yet known. For these reasons no additional amount has been accrued in respect of this further income.

16. COMPARATIVE SOFA FOR PREVIOUS YEAR

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment Funds	Total
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Voluntary income	213,257	32,363	-	245,620
Activities for generating funds	3,586	18,122	-	21,708
Investment income	10,417	4,923	-	15,340
From church activities	7,024	-	-	7,024
Other income	4,322	986	-	5,308
	238,607	56,394	-	295,000
EXPENDITURE				
Fundraising costs	1,257	-	-	1,257
Church activities	277,003	74,922	-	351,925
Other expenditure	3,600	120	-	3,720
	281,860	75,042	-	356,902
Net Income (Expenditure) before Investment Gains	(43,253)	(18,648)	-	(61,902)
Gains and losses on investment assets on revaluation	19,225	2,872	9,871	31,878
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	(24,028)	(15,776)	9,871	(30,022)
Total funds brought forward	796,173	244,980	261,786	1,302,938
Total funds carried forward	772,145	229,204	271,657	1,272,916

Appendix 1
St Helen's Church
Church Wardens' & Fabric Reports

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

2021 was inevitably, again, a year of uncertainty, and the pandemic heavily influenced the deliberations of the six DCC meetings, (administered by Gwen Bevington). Nevertheless, it was also a year of some progress and hope for the future; it is on these aspects that our report concentrates.

The year began with the completion of repairs to the North Aisle and Nave; consequently, most of the work on the fabric this year has concerned the more routine work that is always an on-going feature of a mediaeval church, with work once again being overseen by Steve Thomas. Work has included repairs to the lightening conductor, repairs to the electrics, and permission obtained to install an external light at the South Porch.

Financially, 2020 had been a difficult year with a loss of approximately £25,000; this was no surprise and most churches suffered badly, but, clearly, we could not continue in that position. Although 2021 is still likely to have recorded a further loss, it will be much lower than in the previous year. Since income from hiring the church and parish hall is still very low, we continue to rely on the generosity of our congregation through the Planned Giving scheme. Financial control has also been improved with major work to standardize the accounting practices of the three churches in the parish; this has been a time-consuming activity for the Parish Treasurer, Susan Read, to whom our thanks must go.

Given the restrictions on congregation numbers that were in place for much of the year, there was considerable concern whether attendance would recover, as restrictions eased in the autumn. But, despite the need to be aware of social distancing and the continuing and valuable streaming of our services - a crucial (and probably permanent) feature of our worship - we have been delighted with the numbers who have returned to worship in person; numbers are now approaching pre- pandemic levels, indicating the centrality of St Helen's in the community.

The electronic provision within the church has continued to be improved; an important addition has been an internet network link from the Parish Centre to a new hub at the amplifier box near the West door of the church. This has, for example, allowed the streaming of wedding ceremonies to external audiences. We are extremely fortunate in having a highly competent technical team consisting of Norman Gee, Rob Rutherford and Steve Thomas (although they would appreciate new volunteers). In addition, work by a joint team is taking place on a new parish-wide website which is due to come into operation shortly. Margaret Horton and Steve Thomas are heavily involved from St Helen's.

Concern for the wider community, lay behind the decision in the summer to open the church for prayer and to visitors each day between 10.00 am and 3.00 pm. This extended period means that the church is open even when stewards are not available to welcome visitors. Nevertheless, our stewarding team, led by Elizabeth Simpson, continues to play an important role. The longer opening hours involved some risk and was originally introduced for a monthly trial period. However, we have been delighted with the response and the respect with which the church has been treated; therefore, the church still remains open daily at these times. To have the church open is an important outreach initiative which we hope to continue. Further outreach initiatives in the community included the West Porch displays at Christmas, Easter and Harvest (supported by a team of volunteers) and an input on church history during Abingdon's Heritage Day. This year, in November, we were pleased to reinstate

the Christmas market, organised by Margaret Horton, producing a valuable surplus of more than £2,000 for church funds.

Faith Forum was once again able to take place in the Parish Centre; the Rector led a short series of discussions on the topic 'Living in Love and Faith'. It is anticipated and hoped that the coming year will allow these popular Sunday morning lectures to be enjoyed by more participants.

The important work of the Pastoral team has continued, led by the Reverend Canon Charles Masheder; the team has continued to meet regularly, either in person or by zoom. The requirement to observe Covid restrictions necessitated, on occasions, that contact with our more vulnerable members was by phone, but this important contact continued to provide a much-appreciated link with the life of the church. It is hoped in the months ahead, as restrictions ease or are lifted, that home visits and visits to care homes will, once again, be possible.

As part of the re-ordering scheme, it has been agreed that improvements in the lighting should be the priority. The re-ordering team, led by Chris Jefferis, has visited a number of churches in the area and has seen how good lighting can transform the atmosphere. This is an exciting development and the team is currently in consultation with our architects. However, a high-quality scheme will not come without cost; we hope that this is an initiative that our congregation will, in due course, wish to support financially.

On a smaller scale, new seating cushions have been ordered for all the pews (they are wine-coloured) and should be in place in the next month. They should afford greater comfort, both during services and external events such as concerts. The cushions have been financed from the annual grant we receive from the Friends of St Helen. With the easing of lock down restrictions, the Friends has been able to restart its activities.

St Helen's DCC has discussed its priorities for the coming year. In addition to the lighting proposals, two developments are considered particularly important, which require a parish-wide approach. The first is, inevitably, financial stability. Financial strength is not an objective in its own right, but it facilitates the activities that we believe are central to church life. If we are able to reach a position where we can maintain a modest surplus each year, it allows us scope for expansion into new areas. The second priority involves promotion of church membership.

The Parish Office, ably and efficiently managed by Jackie Cunningham, supported by a small team of volunteers, Alexandra Green, Susan Scott and Rosemary Smith, has been instrumental in enabling us to move smoothly through the many changes in services and protocols necessitated by Covid. The weekly Newsletter, produced both in paper and electronic forms, has enabled everyone, whether able to attend church or not, to stay connected with the life of the church.

A small banking team of volunteers (Mike Austin, Jeff Dale, Linda Hobbs, Geoff Meen, John Thompson, Alex Titcombe) meets each Monday to count and bank all monies received; this help is appreciated by the Parish Treasurer Susan Read and her assistant Ann Murdoch.

We should in addition note and thank Jenny Balshaw and Phil Atkinson for their years of service as administrator and caretaker respectively; Jenny left us to be married, Phil to enjoy a well-deserved retirement. They are both missed, but we welcome Jackie Cunningham and Robin Day who have quickly and efficiently settled into their new roles, making the lives of the wardens much easier.

Finally, there are many people in the congregation who need to be thanked for their support over the last year. St. Helens continues to offer a supportive and varied 'church life' and we are very blessed by the staff, clergy and volunteers who work to support all aspects of the work of the church.

Linda Hobbs, Geoff Meen

FABRIC REPORT

The priority for fabric work in 2021 has been repairs and modifications of the electrics in the Church and Parish Centre to correct unsatisfactory conditions which had been identified in the 2019 Electrical Installation Reports. In some cases, it was possible to reduce the overall cost of the repairs by choosing to lower the capacity of the system. For example, one of the modifications was to add residual current devices for 32A sockets, which would have required an expensive upgrade to the distribution board. These sockets had been fitted some time ago, with the expectation that they might be needed for stage lighting operating at high power. We now have the option of lower-power LED lighting rigs, plugged into standard 13A sockets, so there is no longer any need for 32A capability. The 32A sockets have therefore been removed, avoiding the cost of an upgrade.

The electrical modifications also included the installation of an earth bonding cable for the lightning conductor, intended to reduce the likelihood of a sideways flashover into the church tower electrics, with the associated risk of fire. The lightning bond would normally be connected to the incoming mains earth terminal, but the large distance (over 50 metres) would have made the bonding ineffective because of the propagation delay for current along the cable. The electrician instead fed the cable through an existing hole in the church wall, following the route of wiring for the slype external light, with a connection then to the earth of the nearby distribution board.

For the Parish Centre, there were measurements of low insulation resistance for the circuits connecting to fluorescent emergency lights. The faulty lights have been disconnected and will be replaced with LED emergency lights.

There was a problem with the church lightning conductor where it crossed the tower parapet walkway. The fixings into mortar joints were working loose and an unsupported section of the conductor was flexing during windy conditions, with a risk of developing cracks. This section has been cut out, with a new section bonded in, now anchored firmly into mortar along its whole length.

Stephen Thomas

Appendix 2
St Michael and All Angels' Church
Church Wardens' & Fabric Reports

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

Worship and services:

2021 started of with the country in Lockdown 3. It was decided by the PCC though Places of Worship did not have to close this time, that our churches in the Parish would do so. This was done to protect the safety of our congregations and the NHS. So on the 17th of January we commenced our worship over Zoom. The average number of attendees was 25. We would like to thank all who helped or participated in any in our Zoom services.

This continued until 28th March, Palm Sunday, when we recommenced our services in person. Thankfully, we were able to keep the church open for the remainder of the year, but still with restrictions in place.

For the first time in 2 years we were able to celebrate Easter. We held our Patronal Mass on the 26th of September followed by lunch and entertainment. We also held a Mass on 29th September, our actual Patronal Day. We celebrated Christmas with a Carol Service on Christmas Eve and Mass on Christmas Day. Said Mass recommenced on the 9th of May. We have not recommenced our Tuesday evening Said Mass.

We had 3 weddings, 2 baptisms, 1 thanksgiving service, 11 funerals, and 1 internment of ashes in 2021.

The pandemic continues to affect us in many ways, but it has been good to be able to gather in church for the Eucharist, meeting our friends, and coffee.

We are most grateful to our honorary clergy and our clergy for enabling us to worship at St Michael's.

Outreach:

Unfortunately, due to continued restrictions Abingdon School were unable to hold their Leavers' Service in June, but we welcomed them back to the church for their Carol Services in December.

The Oxford Diocese Ride and Stride did go ahead. We opened the church to meet and greet the cyclists and offered refreshments'

Bookings for the Church and Church Room commenced in September, and we welcomed back the Albert Park Singers, AA, and NA. The Albert Park Singers were able to give their Christmas Concert which was a most enjoyable occasion.

During the autumn 2 Sunday afternoon concerts were organised by our Director of Music. The East Oxford Community Choir also held a Sunday Afternoon Concert. These were well received and very much enjoyed. We are incredibly grateful to Glynne for her organisation and for her musical talent which enriches our experience both in our concerts and in our services through her leadership of the choir.

We were able to hold our Christmas Fair, which was successful. We thank everyone who contributed in any way to its success.

Fundraising:

We continue to support:

Abingdon Bridge (a local charity that provides support and guidance for young people) and Tariro (a youth charity in Zimbabwe),

The Porch Day Centre (supporting homeless people in Oxford) to whom we gave money this year instead of Harvest gifts,
Oxfordshire Historic Churches by sponsoring Louise Heffernan and Nicola Ng for the Oxford Ride and Stride.

Volunteers:
When things run smoothly, we don't always notice or appreciate all the work that goes on behind the scenes. We owe thanks to all our many volunteers: the folks that come in and do the cleaning, the flower arrangers, those who do the odd vital jobs – fixing things or sorting out the heating or sound, those who make the coffee, the gardeners, the writers or contributors of the pew leaflet and website. We thank you all.

Many thanks:
To all who help in our worship – those who serve at the altar, our sacristan, our organists, and dedicated choir members. To the DCC members, and all our sidepersons.
We would also like to particularly to thank Peter Squire, who stepped down as Church Warden in 2021 though he continues to work hard behind the scenes. His help has been invaluable, and he has served the Church faithfully in his 4 years as a Warden.
Finally, a big thank you to Fr Paul who in another difficult year has given leadership, support, kindness, and love. Let us continue to pray for the Lord's blessing on him.
Joyce Kelly and Louise Heffernan February 2022

FABRIC REPORT

2021 again saw the church closed for worship at the beginning of the year, the need has remained to keep the building and its contents safe, secure and in good order. Routine maintenance of the heating system, fire alarm, emergency lighting, fire extinguishers, PAT testing, and organ all took place as usual.

Last year's report made mention that the Quinquennial Review would take place, and this did indeed happen. The Fabric Committee has met and now needs to action what is required.

At the end of 2021 there was again a problem with the heating, and we decided that during the month of December that we needed to keep the heating on 24/7 to ensure the comfort of both the congregation and anyone using the building.

Joyce Kelly February 2022

Appendix 3
St Nicolas' Church
Church Wardens' & Fabric Reports

Services:
2021 was another year in which activities have been limited by Covid. Almost immediately after Christmas we entered 'lockdown' again, and our Services went back online. We were able to host both 11:15am and occasional 8am Services. We were back in Church for Easter, but with a shortened and constrained liturgy. Over the year constraints were gradually lifted (and more and more elements reintroduced into the Services), but the end of the year still saw mask wearing (including during hymns) recommended. Despite these limitations we were still able to celebrate St Nicolas Evensong (when we were ably supported by the St Helen's Choir and Organists), an evening Carol Service (for which the choir was augmented by friends from the congregation and further afield), and the traditional young people led Crib Service – which this year was zoomed too and included an international audience.

Activities:
As Covid precautions were relaxed it was good to be able to arrange a Harvest Lunch outside at Pizza Express which was enjoyed by some 30 congregation members and friends. The St Nicolas Day Lunch at Coseners House in December was also well attended by members from all three churches in the Parish.
"EAT - Edible Abingdon on Thames" - a free exhibition looking at the growing, preparation and consuming of food and drink in Abingdon through the ages, hosted as part of Abingdon's Heritage Open Days programme, was well received and attracted over 500 visitors on the Saturday of HODS weekend. A spring Art Exhibition by the Abbey Art Group was also very successful. It was also good to be able to welcome back the Abbey Chamber Recitals' Sunday afternoon concerts.
In Autumn we were able to hold a couple of fundraising events – a successful book sale (sadly without the coffee and cake this year) and a very enjoyable concert from Arco Strings.

Finance
During the year Dr Andrew Birks, Treasurer for many years, handed over responsibility to Jenny Metcalfe as Treasurer and Nick Hallas as Stewardship Recorder. The year has seen all financial recording move online, to an integrated system used by all three Churches. This has been a major task, but one which we hope will reap rewards in the years to come – both for St Nic's and the parish. My grateful thanks to Jenny for all her work on this, and, of course, to Andrew for his many years as both St Nicolas' and parish Treasurer.

Ministry of welcome:
Many thanks to all who support our Services and weekly activities, through stewarding, reading the lessons, leading the prayers, flower arranging, helping in the garden or with cleaning & tidying, and organising, and attending, fund raising and social events etc. Visitors often comment on the prayerful and cared for feel of the church, to which everyone contributes.

In this my first year as Warden (second term) I would like to thank my predecessors – Paul Rast-Lindsell and Andrew Coker - and DCC members for all their support and work, and to all those who cheerfully offer help week by week.

Thank you too, to all who support St Nicolas through donations and prayers.

FABRIC REPORT

Work on the Tower repairs finally started in April 2021 – after several Covid disruptions. The delays did however, give us more time to fundraise, and we acknowledge with grateful thanks a generous grant from the Government / Historic England Culture Recovery Fund towards the costs. The works were completed in May, and the bells soon rang out for Services and our first post-Covid wedding. It was good to hear them ring again.

During the year we worked with the owners of the former TSB building as they redeveloped the ground floor. A coffee shop opened at the street end in May, and plans were put forward for two flats in the back of the building which have now received planning permission. St Nicolas' did write in comment on the plans which will see new windows facing the north church door and vestry extension. As part of the building process both parties have appointed surveyors under party wall legislation to oversee works affecting the party wall, and negotiate on areas of mutual interest.

Uncertainty over how much work was needed on the party wall, delayed work on the reordering of the Toilet/Kitchen Block. However plans are now being drawn up, and we are hoping to start work on site soon.

Our Quinquennial (five-yearly) inspection in November identified a number of projects (guttering, re-decorating, some roof and floor repairs etc) which need to be undertaken in the next couple of years. However nothing was flagged as urgent, and indicative costs are not frightening.

Longer term we would like to restore the Blacknall memorial / Blacknall Aisle in time for 2025 – four hundred years from the death of John Blacknall. The organ, too, now in place for over 50 years would benefit from a major restoration. We are very fortunate in receiving an annual legacy (the Blacknall Fund) which is restricted to works to the church fabric to help us keep our lovely building in good repair.

Eluned Hallas

Appendix 4
St Nicolas' C E Primary School

St Nicolas CE Primary School is a two-form entry primary school in the heart of Abingdon and has on roll 420 pupils aged from 4-11 (Reception to Year 6). Pupils are taught and supported by over 50 staff, many of whom have been at the school for five years or more. The school has a strong relationship with the Pre School that independently operates on the same site, and has active links with both Abingdon Parishes, and with other members of the Church-in-Abingdon.

Following the challenges of COVID-19 in 2020, it was hoped that 2021 would see the school reverting to "normal". However, that was not to be the case, and the year started with a second lockdown resulting in the majority of pupils not returning to school until March 8th. During that time, home learning resources continued to be offered to all year groups, and children from vulnerable or keyworker homes were still taught in school. We celebrate the ongoing dedication of staff in continuing to teach and engage with their classes during this time, the commitment of parents and carers who continued to help their children access learning during this challenging time, and the pupils themselves for adapting once again to the necessary changes.

Despite this uncertain start to the year, once pupils returned, they settled back into the classroom very quickly, with teachers focused on helping their classes catch up on missed learning both academically and socially, supporting them in the classroom and outside in the playground. The additional "catch up" funding provided by the Government was invaluable to being able to provide small group and individual catch up sessions that had a swift and positive impact on the children. In addition, after school clubs resumed to offer additional extra-curricular activities and the Year 5 pupils have returned to swimming lessons. However, as a result of ongoing restrictions, school trips were unable to take place.

Although Collective Worship restarted with the return to school, these were limited to being on Zoom or within the classroom. They remained an important part of school life to finding ways to continue to promote the "value of the month" and reflect on what these values meant as a school, class, or individual – this required some creative thinking by the staff and pupils themselves. The tradition of celebrating achievements, including where pupils had demonstrated the living out of the value of the month, continued on Friday afternoons – even if done by Zoom. The start of 2022 has seen these assemblies and collective worship times revert to being in person where possible which has been a great joy.

Towards the end of the 2020/21 academic year, priority was giving to helping the Year 6 pupils prepare for the move to secondary school while also being able to celebrate their time at St Nic's, albeit in COVID-friendly ways! This included presenting them with a copy of the Scripture Union "Moving On" book, creating bespoke year group hoodies and a photobook of their memories at school. The 'Leavers Service' creatively took place on the school playground where Year 6 parents were invited to attend a service that was primarily led by our Year 6 children. This proved both very personal and emotional for everyone involved and we were delighted that there was an opportunity to officially celebrate our Year 6 cohort.

Throughout the year, staff and pupil wellbeing has been a priority as it is recognised that everyone has had a different – and often challenging – experience of COVID-19 and that it continues to affect

day to day life as well as physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing. Parent Teacher Interviews have continued online making engagement between staff and parents easier and reducing footfall on-site, staff absences have been covered in-house where possible to ensure continuity of teaching for pupils from teachers they know, hot meals have returned at lunchtime and are available to staff and pupils, and the school gates continue to close at 5pm to ensure that teachers go home on time to help maintain work-life balance.

At the start of the new academic year, and as we head into 2022, the focus has been to review and refresh the school's vision and mission. As a Church of England School, St Nic's is to be a school with a distinctively Christian culture and ethos that is reflected in its Christian values based on the life of Jesus Christ. Inspired by Jesus' words in John 10, the team at St Nic's are committed to ensuring that each member of the school family can "live life to the full" – pupils, staff, and families. They recognise that we are all on our journey and as we prepare for the next step (in our learning, in our schooling, in our lives), we want to make the most of every opportunity – and that these opportunities should be accessible to all. Pupils and staff will be encouraged on this journey using a framework of "navigate, inspire, challenge, succeed" (NICS), to help them best determine what "living life to the full" looks like for them.

There is much to give thanks for not least for the dedication and hard work of the whole school community – pupils, teachers, teaching assistants, admin staff, specialists, cooks, cleaners, and families and carers. The school community has in reality been a school family with each member taking care of other members. But please do continue to pray: COVID-19 is still very present and we are only just beginning to grasp the emotional and mental impact it has had on us all as well as on our children's learning. Please also pray for all schools and educational establishments, children and their families, teachers and all who work in education, and governors and other volunteers who give their time to support the future.

Katrina Hancock, Chair of Governors

Appendix 5
Report on the activities of the Church in Abingdon

Member churches and staff:

Much of the life and work of the CiA, and the individual churches, has not been able to take place in 2021 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic dating back to March 2020.
There has been one main change in the clergy: Steve Millard left Abingdon Baptist Church in November 2021. Until a new minister is assigned, the Church Secretary Ian Millgate, who is also a retired minister, is acting as the temporary lead.

Task groups and associated projects:

The CiA has continued to support a number of community projects and working groups that concentrate on specific areas of cooperation. However, many of these were affected by the coronavirus pandemic and could not operate as normal, if at all.

- The Abingdon Bridge continued to reach out to the youth of Abingdon, providing support, advice and guidance to an increasing number of vulnerable young people in the community due to the effects of the ongoing pandemic. They moved to larger premises in the Market Place and launched two new projects.
- Abingdon Street Pastors have been out on the streets whenever possible. More Street Pastors are urgently needed.
- The Christian Aid group in Abingdon held several fundraising activities but with a difference.
- The Christian Forum column continues to appear in the Abingdon Round & About monthly magazine
- The usual exchange visits of the Church Twinning group could not take place.
- The work of Desire has continued in secondary schools but has shrunk as schools stopped all visitors.
- A 'virtual' Experience Easter was organised by Trinity Learning, and new projects include the Toolkit for Happiness - to support 'well-being' in schools.
- The Alpha launch-type event could not take place but various online Alpha courses took place.
- The work of Prayer Spaces has continued in Abingdon schools where possible.

Communication:

The CiA News and a newly launched website have continued under the direction of the Debra Mcknight, while publication of the Christian Focus magazine under the direction of the editor, Ben Jeapes, with assistance from Margaret Langsford and others has been reduced to one issue this year.

United activities 2021

Most churches were closed for the first quarter of 2021, offering live streaming services, until the relaxation of rules in May when churches started to resume on-site services following Covid guidelines.

The following events took place:

- Christian Aid annual New Year's Day walk raised £1077 and their online quiz £853. Christian Aid week activities took place with adaptations and raised £7074, the afternoon in St

Ethelwold's House and garden £410, the Walk for Water £600, the online autumn quiz £420 and carol singing in the Farmers Market raised a further sum.

- The Baptist Thrive Network prepared a service on You Tube for the World Day of Prayer
- Trinity learning launched a virtual Easter Experience which children took part in from their classrooms.
- The Michaelmas fair service took place with Revd Dr Charles Miller leading.
- The Annual Bereavement Service took place at Trinity Church with Deacon Selina Nisbett leading but this was poorly attended. Many churches also had their own individual services to remember those in their congregations who had died as a result of the Covid pandemic.
- Desire delivered a well-being course in Fitzharrys School.
- People from all the churches gathered in the Market Square to sing carols and give out leaflets detailing all the Christmas services taking place across Abingdon.

The following events could not take place:

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the CiA AGM, the Lent Lectures, the shoe cleaning event on Maundy Thursday, the procession of witness/united service on Good Friday, Fun in the Park, an Alpha launch, the South Abingdon Play & Activity Day, The Abingdon Extravaganza.

Finance

A new three-year phase of funding (£6K) for 2021-2023 had been agreed and the following grants paid:

The Abingdon Bridge people.	£2000 / year	for their work with disadvantaged young
DESIRE youth network	£1000 / year	to help run schools' weeks and larger events.
DESIRE prayer spaces	£150 / year	to provide prayer spaces in schools.
Abingdon Street Pastors	£1000 / year	to fund their ongoing help for people out at night.
Experience Easter	£750 / year	to help school children and teachers explore the Easter story.
Thrive South Abingdon	£1000 / year	for their work reaching out to young people.
Salvation Army Drop-in Centre	£100	to provide drop-in centre for the homeless and needy.

Julia Bishop January 2022

Appendix 6
Report on the Abingdon Foodbank

Abingdon Food Bank continues to be an important lifeline for many families in need within our community. The food bank is now under the management of the Trussel Trust, although local management remains unchanged.

There are now two food banks within Abingdon, the Christchurch hub operates on a Tuesday and Friday morning with the Preston Road food bank operational on Wednesday afternoons.

There is an ever increasing demand for support, recent changes in the rates of Universal Credit payments, whilst seeming small, have had a negative impact, increasing food poverty in the area.

The Parish of Abingdon has continued to actively support the work of the Food banks, with regular donations of tinned foods and gifts of money. Harvest Festival saw a large quantity of food donated to this local cause, a cause which many people feel needs to be actively supported.

Thanks must go to all who have contributed in any way to the work of Food Banks, both locally and nationally. Staff, volunteers and of course "clients" appreciate the support given at a time when everyone is facing increased demands on their resources.

Linda Hobbs
Church Warden and Food Bank volunteer.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

England & Wales - Charity number 1129833

Accounts

THE PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

ANNUAL REPORT

For year ending 31st December 2020

(As required by Church Accounting Regulations 2006)

Registered Charity Number 1129833

PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
ANNUAL REPORT
FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2020

Table of Contents

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION **2**

AIMS AND PURPOSES **3**

1 ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE 3

1a Team Rector's Report [Charles Miller] *3*

1b Church Electoral Roll [Richard Kirby] *6*

1c LLM Report [Gwen Bevington] *7*

1d PCC [Eluned Hallas] *7*

1e Safeguarding [Maria Gibson, Parish Verifier] *8*

1f Communications [Margaret Horton] *8*

1g Abingdon Deanery Synod [Sue Scott] *9*

2 STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MEMBERSHIP 10

3 PROPERTY 11

3a Musson Close [Linda Hobbs] *11*

3b Fairacres Road [Rob Bough] *11*

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES 12

PUBLIC BENEFIT 12

TREASURER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020 ..... **14**

STATEMENT OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PCC **16**

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES **17**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES **18**

BALANCE SHEET **19**

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS **20**

APPENDIX 1 ST HELEN'S CHURCH CHURCH WARDENS' & FABRIC REPORTS **29**

APPENDIX 2 ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS' CHURCH CHURCH WARDENS' & FABRIC REPORTS **32**

APPENDIX 3 ST NICOLAS' CHURCH CHURCH WARDENS' & FABRIC REPORTS **34**

APPENDIX 4 ST NICOLAS' C E PRIMARY SCHOOL **36**

APPENDIX 5 REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHURCH IN ABINGDON **38**

APPENDIX 6 REPORT ON THE ABINGDON FOODBANK **39**

PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
Annual Report (Continued)
FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2020
(As required by Church Accounting Regulations 2006)

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames is a registered charity, Charity Registration Number 1129833.

The Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames is situated in the town of Abingdon, Oxfordshire. It is part of the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is:

The Hon Secretary, Abingdon-on-Thames PCC
c/o The Parish Centre, St Helen's Court, Abingdon OX14 5BS

The Parish comprises the churches and congregations of St Helen, St Michael & All Angels and St Nicolas.

PCC members

PCC members are the Trustees of the Charity. PCC members who have served from 1st January 2020 until the date that this report and the financial statements were approved are:

Stipendiary Team clergy:
The Revd Dr E C Miller
The Revd P A Smith

Non-stipendiary clergy:
The Revd J Brown
The Revd P T C Masheder

Licensed Lay Minister
Mrs G Bevington

Churchwardens:
Mr A Coker
Mrs L Hobbs
Miss J Kelly
Dr G Meen
Mr P Rast-Lindsell
Mr P Squire

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:
Dr A R Birks (to 22 October)
Miss A E Green
Mrs E Hallas
Mr P Penfold
Miss A Scott
Mrs S Scott (St M)

Ex-Officio
– representatives on Diocesan Synod:
Miss A Scott
Mrs C Worthington

Elected PCC members:
Mr J Clare
Mrs H Clare
Dr R Cox
Miss M Horton
Dr A R Birks (from 22 October)
Dr H Bishop (to 22 October)
Mrs J Collins (to 22 October)
Mrs S Scott (St H) (to 22 October)

Officers:

Chairman	The Revd Dr E C Miller
Vice Chairman	Miss A E Green (to 22/10)
Secretary	Mrs E Hallas
Treasurer	Mrs S E Read (from 29/04/21)
	Dr A R Birks (to 29/04/21)

Independent Examiner
Mercer Lewin Chartered Accountants
41 Cornmarket Street,
Oxford,
OX1 3HA

Weblinks:
St Helen's: https://www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/homepage.html
St Nicolas': https://www.stnicolasabingdon.org.uk/
St Michael & All Angels: http://www.stmichaels-abingdon.org.uk/

PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
Annual Report (continued)
FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2020

AIMS AND PURPOSES

Under the PCC (Powers) Measure 1956, the parish of Abingdon-on-Thames Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Dr Charles Miller, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Each DCC is similarly required to co-operate with the minister in charge of the district church. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Parish Centre (in St Helen's Court) and Enock House (2 Musson Close).

1 ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

1a Team Rector's Report [Charles Miller]

Introduction

The past calendar year was the stuff of history books. In so far as 'books' survive the IT revolution now underway, there will be an almost bottomless well of information which researchers wish to access to build-up accurate pictures of "what happened". Our own Annual Parochial Report is a tiny contribution to that sea of information. In that light, what I write here, and what others contribute to this report, will serve less to inform us than those who might wish to learn how a parish like ours lived through this pandemic. I am aware, of course, that as I write this in January 2021 the pandemic is far from over – the Covid-related total of deaths in Britain is sure to rise above 100,000 before effective intervention occurs – so the report for 2021 for next year's APCM will tell more of the story.

Re-cap

We almost reached the end of the first quarter of 2020 before the first and total lock-down began. The Church-in-Abingdon's annual Lent Lectures were in full flow with many from all our congregations attending them at St Helen's. St Helen's experienced major interior damage in early March. But apart from those two notable occurrences the life of the parish and its congregations were moving on course, like the Titanic steaming through untroubled waters!

Suddenly all our plans and planning screeched to a halt.

It was rather like the occurrence with a sudden 'major incident': no one knew quite what was going on or into what we were headed. It reminded me of 9/11 and the days, even weeks following, when we slowly pieced together what had happened, by whom, and with what consequences. It took much longer to grasp the extent of the damage. I was in Manhattan at the time and travelled emotionally and practically with the traumatized population of the city as everything ground to a halt. The start of the pandemic was like that. I discovered some things about myself: I'm not a good lateral thinker, I find it hard to change course quickly and decisively; I'm not necessarily 'the right man for the moment'. This struck me with the arrival of a single e-mail one day within a week of the lock-down: "Charles, where are you?!". As if to say, "Don't just stand there, do/say something!"

But what was to be done or said. So much was still unclear; anyway, pronouncements were coming from higher quarters; I was content to listen, assess, and consult with clergy colleagues and other operatives on site.

As to communications, the congregations were unequally equipped. Two (smaller) congregations already had e-lists in place to communicate with their constituencies. St Helen's, with several hundred on its Roll, had not yet graduated to that level of electronic communication. It was clear,

though, that now was the time. And that took time. I commend and thank our Administrator, and those working with her, who created a congregational list-serve so that it would be possible not just to communicate electronically with St Helen's folk but with the whole parish. That was a key first step.

Communications

After that communication from 'the centre' was possible, and those who were not electronically equipped to benefit from the internet and social media could receive hard copies.

Soon Holy Week and Easter were upon us. For that audio-visual 'broadcast' capacities had to be found and embraced. That too was a learning curve for most of our clergy Team. It meant having suitable equipment, apps and programmes, and know-how. Preparation for the presentation of recorded services via the congregation's websites was a priority for Holy Week and Easter; the clergy and LLM worked collaboratively to make that happen. Steven Thomas was essential at this stage in moving recorded materials onto the St Helen's and other websites. We are in his debt!

In addition to the various Zoomed social gatherings (on Sundays chiefly), two further communication initiatives arose.

- An e-version of the monthly parish magazine, named 'A Candle in the Window' provided a way to share news, views and creativity from within the parish community. We owe Rob Rutherford, Eluned Hallas and Louise Heffernan thanks for initiating and continuing that effort. (Here too hard copies have been delivered to the non internet-connected members of our congregations in so far as possible.)
- Through Eastertide, at the initiative of Warden Andrew Coker, the members of the Team and associate clergy contributed a 'Thought for the Day' to our town, linked with the Abingdon Blog and accessible through the congregations' websites. Like the national programme 'Thought for the Day', these were communications of just a few minutes aimed at reflecting Christian-ly on our situation. Of course they varied greatly, just as the presenters themselves do. I was very impressed by the quality of both presentation and content.

In the late spring we were able to offer a recorded said Eucharist with sermon from the South Aisle of St Helen's (the only accessible part of the building since repair work had not yet begun. The Team joined in this effort and, in so doing, we felt very much part of a team.

Re-opening

With the arrival of late July it was possible for churches to be open again. In preparation for that point the wardens, the Team Vicar and I consulted to devise a parish-wide plan. That involved opening first St Nicolas (in the market square) for prayer, and then fashioning a round of services that served three interests.

Keeping clergy and people safe; opening each church for worship on some regular basis; taking account of the smaller number of clergy willing to participate in our rota in light of virus risks.

Challenges faced us with regard to sanitizing our churches after use - a requirement as per diocesan regulation throughout the pandemic - when it came to the provision of an 8 am Holy Communion (BCP) service. It was unworkable to expect that a cleaning team would operate each week between an 8 am and later service in any of our congregations. After consideration, we settled on using St Nicolas for the 8 am HC alternating on a weekly basis with the 11.15 am service there.

At the same time, the other churches would mount one service on a Sunday at their usual time but with restricted congregational numbers (for the sake of 'social distance') and with reduced

participants in the provision of the service. We sought to provide a sense of return while working within the continuing limitations of the pandemic and relevant regulations.

But we were on a roller-coaster of sorts.

By the autumn infection numbers had increased (though, note, Abingdon was still well below the national average in numbers of infections) so that by later November a pre-Christmas lock-down was imposed. That didn't affect our worship routine but other aspects of daily life were once again constrained. There was an expectation of a Christmas break in restrictions, but as cases of infection rose the Government's message was more and more forceful: "Have as less to do with others as possible" (my words not theirs).

The clergy thought hard about how to celebrate Christmas as close to 'normal' as possible. In the end there were creative adaptations in all of our churches. Creativity popped its head up at St Helen's with the idea of a 'Christingle Kit' for children distributed from its mostly unused West Porch. St Nicolas' held a virtual Lessons & Carols with recorded music by professional choirs. St Helen's mounted two Lessons & Carols Services to allow for social distancing; St Michael's merged its Carol service with its Sunday Mass. In all our churches Eucharists for Christmas took place. In all instances attendance was lower than hoped for (the Government's warnings had, it seems, been heeded.)

Despite that, as we came out of Christmas and moved toward the New Year there was plenty of mixing throughout the population, and, more ominously, a new 'strain' of virus appeared in the UK. As we stepped into 2021 we could expect a continuation of the pre-Christmas tire-ed lock-down. And so it was.

Pastoral Ministrations

Those year-long scenarios have heightened our attention to one another (in so far as possible) within the parish community of worshippers but they have severely limited our capacity to engage outwardly. National statistics about people engaging with 'church' and worship on-line don't necessarily translate into pastoral contact and connection.

However, the provision of on-line programmes (e.g. Faith Forum, Desiring Life) have drawn in participants who are at a distance and who wouldn't otherwise be involved. That's a blessing to them and us.

Through 2020 almost no weddings took place; no baptisms were celebrated; and a few funerals have been held, mostly in crematoria. Aside from the loss of revenue associated with the first and the third, pastoral engagement has been severely limited for safety's sake. Each of our congregations has lost long-standing members within this period (though few if any to Covid-19) and yet we have not been able to celebrate their lives or commend them to God in death as we would like. That is a continuing grief; maybe 2021 will help us rectify that, but only maybe.

It was a satisfaction to support the renewal of Beryl Clements' license to preach during 2020; her ministry is welcomed and appreciated in the parish and especially at St Michael's.

Daily Prayer

This too has been a casualty of the pandemic. Evening Prayer (at St Helen's) has completely ceased since mid-March; Morning Prayer has continued intermittently either in St Helen's Lady Chapel or in the Parish Centre Hall. A rota of officiants has operated, and the time together, worshipping with Common Worship: Daily Prayer has been the occasion of intercession for one another, for parishioners and for the needs of the world. When that important routine will begin again is uncertain. It can only be when "the coast is clear".

So, my experience has been that of two opposing dynamics. On one side, closer coming together in the face of shared challenges; on the other, a feeling of fragmentation and distance with the limitations on face-to-face meeting, congregational worship and fellowship, and general social interactions.

In the face of this we Christians are challenged and called to find strength in the reality of the 'mystical Body of Christ', that is, in a togetherness which is gracious and real but not founded on affection, emotion or physical sensation. While at best its out-workings include such experiences, this Mystical Body is, by contrast, founded on invisible ligatures by which Christ, through his Spirit, weaves us into a Body and into members one of another (1 Corinthians 12). That is a challenge to Christians who think of 'the church' chiefly as earthly fellowship. But the pandemic has surely pushed us – the marvels of technology notwithstanding – to a deeper and higher, indeed more spiritual posture. A posture, I mean, by which alone or with others we know ourselves to be bound to one another in the bond of agape love, supported by the prayers of the living and the dead (saints and sinners both), and joined to our compassionate Lord and Head of whose body we are blessed to be a part by faith, baptism and sacramental gift.

In my report to the PCC's November 2020 meeting, looking ahead to a hoped-for PCC Away Day in the summer of 2021, I suggested we take up a theme like 'crisis and creativity'. All of us, I think, can fruitfully look back and look forward in terms of crisis and creativity both in our personal lives and relationships, and as towns-people and as members of our parish's spiritual fellowship.

I propose that as an agenda for us all as together we re-group from 2020 and re-build in 2021.

Respectfully,

The Revd Dr Charles Miller, Team Rector

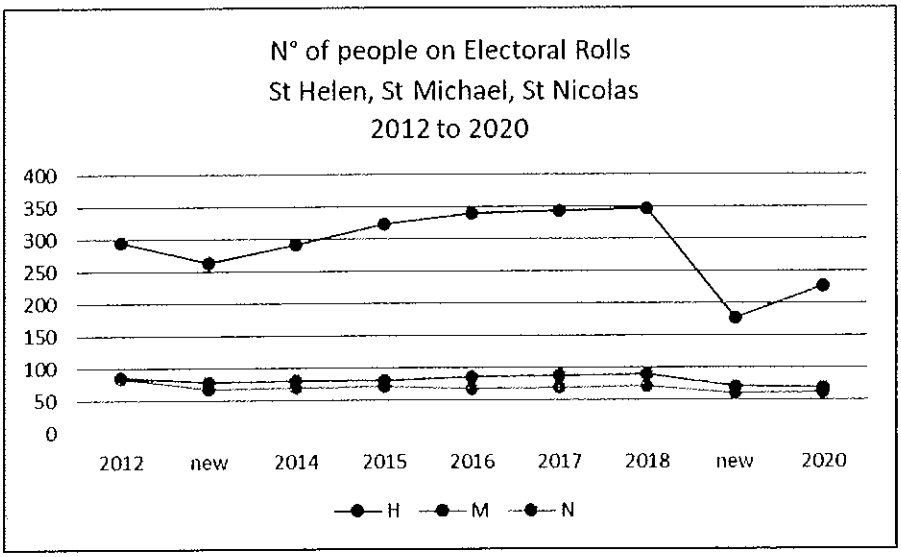
1b Church Electoral Roll [Richard Kirby]

There is a Parish Electoral Roll Officer for Abingdon-on-Thames, but each of the three churches in the parish maintains a section of the Roll. The table below gives the changes from 2019 to 2020 for the three churches in the Parish.

The review in 2020 was completed in October to coincide with the Covid delayed APCM.

Electoral Roll Numbers 2020

	2020 roll	2019 New roll	%age change	2013 Previous new roll
St Helen	228	177	+29%	264
St Michael	69	71	-3%	79
St Nicolas	62	60	+3%	68
Abingdon on Thames	359	308		411



1c LLM Report [Gwen Bevington]

As with all ministries, clerical and lay, my ministry as LLM has been changed by the pandemic. Preaching, first to an almost-empty south aisle and then (in August) to a distanced congregation of 50, was a different experience. I got used to commitments being rather provisional: three dates I had for preaching were unavoidably cancelled. Preaching by zoom lies in store, but will be a subject for the 2021 report. It has been strange to lose the contact I used to have with young families via the much-missed monthly "Morning Praise".

I was honoured to be included among those who delivered regular "Thoughts" to the website and Abingdon blog early in the first lockdown; and also to be counted in the ministry team for our phone-round of all on the St Helen's electoral roll. In both cases, the prospect was a little daunting; but the reality was rewarding.

Like all church members, I've had to find different ways of "taking in" during this strange time. In addition to the material on our own websites, I've appreciated some of the diocesan services. I "attended" a Church Times Advent retreat, and have been enjoying an online Festival of Preaching, with great advice and example from some excellent speakers.

I'm grateful to the clergy team for their encouragement of my ministry; I hope that, as post-pandemic life unfolds, there will be ways for me appropriately to support them.

1d PCC [Eluned Hallas]

The PCC of the Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames met in person three times in January – March 2021, the last meeting taking place just before the first Covid 19 lockdown. During the initial stages of the pandemic day to day decision making was carried out by the Clergy Team and Church Wardens, acting for the Parish and individual churches. During this period a number of decisions (particularly regarding essential faculties and grant applications) were taken via email – with members responding with their position (For, Against, Abstain).

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting, delayed under a Bishop's Instrument, was held – under social distancing constraints – in person in St Michael's in October.

The new PCC met for the first time – online - in November.

The business of the PCC concerns those issues best approached on a Parish, rather than Church, basis. It is also a useful forum for communications throughout the Parish, including details of Parish and Church sponsored events, staff updates and feedback on Deanery and Diocesan issues.

The PCC continues to review and approve faculty applications across the Parish, and consideration of GDPR, Safeguarding, Health & Safety and the finances of the Parish remain regular items on the PCC agendas. Work by the Communications Group on a new Parish website has not progressed as much as was hoped, but the creation of a Parish Resources page allowed information from all three churches to be accessed in one place.

During the year the Parish has started working towards a more unified and co-ordinated approach to the handling and recording of accounts, introducing more attentive financial management by the PCC.

1e Safeguarding [Maria Gibson, Parish Verifier]

The PCC is complying and will comply with its duty under Section 5 (reporting any clergy misconduct towards parishioners or church staff) of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, in line with the House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.
In 2020 there have been a couple of safeguarding incidents that required referral to the Diocese for more formal input and procedures.
Individual safeguarding training, outstanding at the start of 2020, has been completed online.
One aspect of safeguarding is the provision of a safe environment. During this pandemic every effort has been made by the churchwardens and others throughout the Parish to ensure the health and safety of worshippers when the church has been allowed to open for worship or for private prayer. We record our thanks to all concerned for the high standard achieved.
At St Michael's, following on from the preparatory work done by the churchwardens and church safeguarding officer in 2019, the production of the safeguarding requirements associated with the updated church/church room hire agreement was completed. For multiple bookings this involves the hirer declaring either that they have their own up to date safeguarding policies and procedures to which they must adhere or that they agree to abide by the church's policy and code of practice for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. By the end of February, just before lockdown began, organisations had started to respond and several safeguarding declarations had been signed, accompanied where appropriate by copies of safeguarding policies. This process will be continued as soon as it is possible to start taking bookings again.
Safeguarding Officers within the Parish:

Maria Gibson – St. Helen's
Carol Bowman – St. Michael's
Jenny Fishpool - St. Nicolas'

1f Communications [Margaret Horton]

Having made a good start on a new parish website last year, things ground to a halt when the pandemic struck - partly because it would have been more challenging to discuss plans and look at examples remotely and partly because the time and energy of some key players had to be diverted elsewhere in recording services and putting materials online. So, although the specific website didn't make much progress, the parish's online offering did. By lockdown 3 in winter 2021, the three churches were able to offer live streamed and recorded Sunday services (St. Helen's) a live streamed Sunday morning service and recorded sermons (St. Nicolas) and Mass celebrated online via Zoom at St. Michael's. As well as this, our websites offered a wide variety of home grown and

outside resources, and links to Diocesan services and other online offerings. It is hoped that once we can meet again in person, we can progress with a parish website.

The pandemic did offer a rich opportunity to revive the Window magazine in online form, and Rob Rutherford reports further on this below.

Our third objective of 2019, to further the use of social media was somewhat limited by having a dearth of activities to put on the Instagram page but we have 135 followers and from Easter 2021 we look forward to opening our churches again with the opportunities for promoting our activities and our faith. A reminder that the contacts for the Instagram account are Roger Cox (St. Helen's), Eluned Harris (St. Nicolas) and Alexandra Scott (St. Michael's)

The Parish magazine, 'The Window' stopped publishing in December 2019. It was described as a pause whilst a review took place. The expense of a paper publication was certainly one problem. Then lockdown happened and suddenly there was an issue – how to keep intact and cherish our community and to help us 'be the church'. Thus an online magazine was born. One of us (RR) had been asked to help with the word processing of the Window after Rachel Shearer moved to Scotland so the format was there already.
Here are the guiding principles we have set ourselves:

- To represent the whole Parish by encouraging as many as possible to contribute to it
- To encourage a wide readership
- To inform, educate and entertain.

Readership - here are some sample figures:

Issue	Downloads from St Helen's website*	Downloads from St Nicolas' website*	Estimated numbers distributed by hand**	Total
2020 Issue 8	101	66	26	193
2020 Issue 9	84	76	26	186
2020 Issue 10	100	71	26	197
2021 Issue 1	78	46	26	150

*Hard to be exact. This is the number of households not people.
**Thanks are due to those who deliver the magazine to people who are 'not connected'

Contributors: To date 74 people have contributed in some way to the content of the magazine. We are helped by having an amazingly rich set of people in our congregations.

Please email candle@abingdonparish.org.uk if you would like to help in some way.
Rob Rutherford, Eluned Hallas and Louise Heffernan

1g Abingdon Deanery Synod [Sue Scott]

The Synod met on three occasions during 2020 – on 30thJanuary, 24th September and 26th November. Due to Covid -19 only one of these meetings took place "in person" the other two meetings being in the form of Zoom meetings which initially made discussions more challenging. Matters for discussion included:-

- The revised criteria for the application of Mission Grants
- PDP Mentor training (Personal Discipleship plans)
- Mission Action Plan (MAP) review

- Pastoral reorganisation and implications for ministry
- Parish Share and the Deanery Contingency Fund

The Synod's role is not just to discuss Parish Share (sometimes contrary to popular belief!). Rather it is an opportunity to develop closer links with our fellow brothers and sisters across the 22 churches and 11 Parishes in the Deanery. The year 2020 has shown that we all as church have had to face challenges in the way that we fulfil our privilege to be a witness to Christ in this place. The Synod has continued to seek ways to support the churches in our Deanery which have faced difficulties both financial and pastoral. In the Synod we continue to strive with God's guidance to help each other by sharing our resources and expertise to become an ever more contemplative, compassionate and courageous church which will continue to grow in the future.

Sue Scott, Deanery Synod representative, Lay Chair Abingdon Deanery

2 STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MEMBERSHIP

The Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames is served by a Team Rector, based at St Helen's, and a Team Vicar shared between St Nicolas' and St Michael's.

Abingdon has a Local Ecumenical Project – the Church in Abingdon (CiA) – to which all the Anglican churches belong.

The Parochial Church Council of Abingdon-on-Thames is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure, and was formally registered with the Charity Commission on 27 May 2009.

Lay members of the PCC are appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Church Representation Rules, as originally authorized as Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 and subsequently amended by the General Synod. All eligible church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

In addition to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the parish of Abingdon-on-Thames, there are three District Church Councils (DCCs). The PCC has delegated to the DCCs responsibility for detailed implementation of most of its functions, in a continuation of a Scheme approved by the Bishop. The PCC is therefore able to concentrate on those matters which cannot be delegated, or are of common concern. It has two committees:

The *Standing* Committee (comprising the team clergy, church wardens, the secretary, the treasurer, and the vice-chairman) has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC.

The *Finance Working Group* (comprising the Parish Treasurer and the Treasurers of the DCCs) oversees the financial activities of the parish, and prepares the annual budget and financial statements for the parish. It meets as required. The budget and financial statements are approved by the PCC after individual church finances have been considered by individual DCCs.

PCC members (and DCC members) are encouraged to attend training sessions as appropriate. Most often these are courses organised by the Diocese of Oxford.

The PCC is exposed to risks associated with buildings, finances and availability of volunteer effort. Dealing with the secular aspects first: buildings are insured and regularly inspected, finances are managed by the parish treasurer, and DCC treasurers and volunteers are constantly sought to carry the administrative burden of the PCC and DCCs. The maintenance of ancient buildings is a heavy responsibility for the PCC, but this is not unusual in the Church of England. Health and Safety, Child Protection and other pertinent legislation is adhered to, and there are policies in place to this effect.

DCCs operate within a budget and financial envelope determined by their annual income and reserves and approved by the PCC. Each church has an annual stewardship programme to invite donors to respond to the income targets. Special appeals are launched for special projects (typically capital projects) as appropriate. To say 'The Lord will provide' may not be an acceptable approach to financial risk management in the secular world; but seeking the Will of God through constant prayer and responding to His Will moment by moment are key instruments by which the PCC manages risk in labour and financial matters.

3 PROPERTY

3a Musson Close [Linda Hobbs]

A 4 bedroom town house purchased in 2015, currently used by St Helen's as the home of Rev. Canon Charles Masheder, Associate Priest, and his wife Felicity.

Since October 2019, the start of the Licence, the house has been used as their residence. At termination of the License, the property is to be returned to the use of the Church. It is currently planned that the property will continue to be used as House for Duty accommodation.

The property 2 Musson Close is situated within easy walking distance of Abingdon town centre, St Helens Church and the other 2 churches, St Nicolas and St Michael's.
Under the terms of the License, agreed by the Diocese, the Associate Priest has no liability to pay rent, water rates, Council Tax or Insurance. All costs associated with the upkeep and of the property are met by Church funds. All costs incurred by the Associate Priest in fulfilling his post, are also met by Church funds.

Repairs necessary to the property since the last report have been minimal.

- The annual Gas Certificate, (required by law for all properties under license or tenancy) was carried out in September 2020. The boiler passed all safety requirements.
- Blocked guttering need to be cleared, this may prove to be a regular maintenance expense.
- In January a problem with a "smell" in the kitchen was experienced, to eliminate the possibility of a gas leak, a plumber attended. The boiler was found not to be at fault.
  To eliminate a potential problem with a blocked drain, a camera survey of the drain was conducted, no problem was found. It was suggested by the engineer that the fault might be with the existing dishwasher plumbing. A plumber attended to assess and remedy the problem, but no fault was found, so no work was carried out.
  At the time of writing, we are still exploring the cause of the " smell" but are relieved that extensive work to the drainage system was not required.

The property continues to be managed by Linda Hobbs.

3b Fairacres Road [Rob Bough]

Pursuant to a bequest from Mr Derek Enock in 2009, each church in the parish has an interest in a residential property in Fairacres Road, Oxford, which is held on a trust. The current occupant of the property has the right to reside there for as long as she wishes. If the property is sold, she will be entitled to the income from the invested sale proceeds. Upon her death the property or proceeds from the sale will pass to the following beneficiaries of Mr Enock's estate:-

1. St Michael and All Angels Church;
2. St Helen's Church;
3. St Nicolas Church;
4. Trinity Church; and

5. The Churchill Hospital.
The following were appointed Trustees in 2009: David Scott (St Helen's), Michael Beach (St Nicolas), Ruth Sillitoe (Trinity) and Jane Maitland a partner of the firm Henmans now Freeths (professional trustee). In the period covered by this report, all four trustees have indicated a desire to retire from their trusteeship. Freeths will replace Ms Maitland with Freeths Trustee Limited, a trust corporation operated by Freeths to act as a professional trustee of the trusts that the firm advises. Having a trust corporation (as opposed to an individual) act as trustee brings certain administrative advantages and cost efficiencies, and removes the need for other trustees. Having assured itself that it will still receive regular updates and be consulted on any decisions to be taken in relation to the trust, St Helen's has therefore decided not to nominate a replacement for David Scott as a formal trustee, but that Rob Bough should be nominated as the contact person for Freeths in their correspondence with St Helen's as a beneficiary.
Other than these administrative changes, the position remains the same.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The following Vision Statement was agreed by the PCC on 22nd November 2000 and continues to apply to the Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames:

"A single unified parish with a Team Ministry in which clergy and laity work together to serve interdependent congregations, within an active ecumenical organisation where:

- The Gospel of Christ is celebrated through worship and fellowship, with individual congregations providing a spectrum of traditions
- The life of the Church is built up through teaching, preaching, evangelism, pastoral care and ecumenical co-operation
- God's love is made known in mission and service to the community and society as a whole."

The following objectives for the Team Rector appeared in the Parish Profile agreed by the PCC in November 2005.

- In liaison and collaboration with the Church in Abingdon, to refresh and progress the strategy for the development of a Christian presence in south Abingdon.
- To encourage, enable and release lay leadership and ministry to enable the Parish to be better equipped to respond to the changing patterns of stipendiary ministry.
- To continue to develop joint working within the churches and across the team, to ensure we use our resources effectively in the propagation of the gospel.

The activities undertaken to enable the PCC to achieve these objectives are described in the Achievents & Performance section, and in the reports from the constituent churches.

The PCC is heavily dependent upon the contribution of volunteers to drive forward the mission of the church and the Kingdom of God.

The PCC delegates to DCCs the matter of policy for making grants and donations from their income. The financial statements record donations made during the reporting year.

Public Benefit

The PCC is aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in "The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit" and have regard to it in their administration of the Parish. The PCC believes that, by fulfilling its responsibility to work together with the incumbent in the Parish and

co-operate in all matters of concern and importance for the promotion of the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, it provides a benefit to the public by:

- providing resources and facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers;
- promoting Christian values, and service by members of the churches in the Parish to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

Reports from individual churches, St Nicolas CofE School and the Church in Abingdon are attached as Appendices to this report.

PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

TREASURER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

The Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames consists of three churches (St Helen's, St Michael's and St Nicolas') which have separate treasurers and accounts. The Parish accounts are produced by consolidating the accounts of the three churches.

Income and Expenditure
The accounts for 2020 show a deficit on unrestricted funds of £43k (2019 £21k). Since 2020 was such an unusual time with the pandemic and the closure of our churches for so much of the year, the loss was not surprising. But it will take some sustained work to rebuild the reserves (savings) of our three churches.

Giving and collections provided over 80% of our churches' income on the General Fund and it was encouraging to see that regular giving by standing order and envelope continued almost unchanged (2020: £163k, 2019: £167k) despite the effects of the pandemic. But the open plate donations were only about 30% of the previous year (2020: £3k, 2019: £10k) because of the cessation of normal church services. The remainder of the additional shortfall was due to building work.

Where expenditure is concerned, around 60% of the costs on the General Fund are in the Parish Share, and that rose 7% compared with 2019 (2020: £166k, 2019: £155k). This big increase was because the Parish Share depends partly on the number of congregants on the Electoral Roll, which had not been revised to reflect lower actual numbers in the congregations. We are confident that within the next few years, the Parish Share cost will subside as a proportion of our spending.

In 2020 St Helen's and St Nicolas' had to undergo serious repairs to their churches, ceiling repairs in St Helen's and tower repairs in St Nicolas'. Some of the expenditure was paid for out of restricted funds, resulting in a deficit of £19k on the restricted funds.

Tangible Fixed Assets
The Parish owns two freehold properties, the Parish Centre and the House for Duty property purchased in 2015. Legal title of both is held by Diocesan Trustees (Oxford) Ltd as custodian trustees on behalf of the Parish. Both are held for the mission of the church. The two properties appear in the balance sheet as Tangible Fixed Assets.

Investments
PCC policy is that all unused fund balances should be invested with CBF Church of England funds. At the end of 2020 over 90% of Parish investments were with CBF Church of England funds and efforts are being made in 2021 to transfer the remainder of our investments. The value of the Parish investments rose by 7% overall in the year (2020: £472k, 2019: £440k, 2018: £384k). This looks good, but of course, the value can fall as well as rise as it is affected by the stock market. We can only realize that value by selling the investments and forfeiting the benefits of the investment income from those investments which is something we try to avoid.

Going Concern
The PCC is required to operate on a going concern basis, and considers that each church should A) aim to maintain a minimum reserve of two months expenditure in hand in Unrestricted Funds and B) to have reserves, appropriate to each church, to cover the future demands of building

maintenance. A) is easy to calculate, and shows that St Helen's and St Michael's have 7 months of expenditure available, and St Nicolas 6 months, so all easily pass test A). I will work toward providing a way of evaluating B) in the future.

Susan Read,
PCC Treasurer, 1st September 2021

STATEMENT OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PCC

We are required under charity law to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements we are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in operation.

We are also responsible for:

- keeping proper accounting records;
- safeguarding the charity's assets;
- taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud.

The Annual Report and Treasurer's Report were approved by the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames and signed on its behalf by

Charles Miller

The Revd Dr Charles Miller, Chairman

Date: 07.11.21

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

I report on the accounts of the above parish for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the 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 parish's accounts carried out under s145 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

The parish's gross income exceeds £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by virtue of being a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an Independent Examination.

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

A Churchill Stone FCA DChA

Mercer Lewin Ltd
Chartered Accountants
41 Cornmarket Street
Oxford OX1 3HA

15 November 2021

THE PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

		2020				2019
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME						
Voluntary income	2a	213,257	32,363	-	245,620	278,171
Activities for generating funds	2b	3,586	18,122	-	21,708	14,498
Investment income	2c	10,417	4,923	-	15,340	16,070
From church activities	2d	7,024	-	-	7,024	29,066
Other income		4,322	986	-	5,308	2,505
		238,607	56,394	-	295,001	340,310
EXPENDITURE						
Fundraising costs		1,257	-	-	1,257	4,742
Church activities	3a	277,003	74,922	-	351,924	324,119
Other expenditure		3,600	120	-	3,720	3,600
		281,860	75,042	-	356,902	332,461
Net Income (Expenditure) before Investment Gains		(43,253)	(18,648)	-	(61,901)	7,849
Gains and losses on investment assets on revaluation		19,225	2,872	9,781	31,878	54,509
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(24,028)	(15,775)	9,781	(30,022)	62,358
Total funds brought forward		796,173	244,980	261,786	1,302,938	1,240,580
Total funds carried forward		772,145	229,204	271,567	1,272,916	1,302,938

THE PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note	2020 Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total £	2019 Total £
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible assets	5	380,779	25,016	83,185	488,979	492,705
Investments	6	253,084	46,835	172,883	472,802	439,921
		633,863	71,851	256,068	961,781	932,626
CURRENT ASSETS						
Stocks		835	-	-	835	841
Debtors	7	45,637	35,671	-	81,309	49,808
Short term deposits		95,355	159,616	16,603	271,575	287,773
Cash at bank and in hand		37,853	18,408	(1,105)	55,156	60,830
		179,681	213,695	15,498	408,874	399,252
CREDITORS						
Amounts due within one year	8	(41,398)	(56,341)	-	(97,740)	(28,939)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		138,282	157,354	15,498	311,135	370,313
NET ASSETS		772,145	229,205	271,566	1,272,916	1,302,938
FUNDS OF THE CHURCH						
Unrestricted funds	9	772,145	-	-	772,145	795,694
Restricted funds	10	-	229,204	-	229,204	245,458
Endowment funds	11	-	-	271,567	271,567	261,786
		772,145	229,204	271,567	1,272,916	1,302,938

These accounts were approved by the PCC on Nov 8 2021 and are signed on its behalf by:

Rev'd Dr EC Miller
Chairman

Mrs SE Read
Treasurer

THE PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a. Basis of preparation

The Parish is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared under The Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions, together with FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standard and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP (FRS 102)).

b. Funds

Unrestricted funds are general funds available for the general objectives of the church. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

Restricted funds can only be used for the purposes for which thy have been given, within the objectives of the church. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against those specific funds.

Endowment funds represent endowments, of which the capital must be maintained, and the dividend income used only for the restricted purposes arising from the establishment of the endowments.

c. Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities ("SoFA") when the church becomes legally entitled to the income and when the amount can be quantified with reasonable certainty.

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving is recognised only when received. Grants and legacies are recognised as soon as the PCC becomes aware of its legal entitlement and the amount due is quantifiable with reasonable certainty.

Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is accounted for when the gift is received.

When incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising income and sales of books and magazines) the incoming resources and the related resources expended are accounted for gross in the SoFA.

Interest is accounted for when receivable and includes any recoverable tax.

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

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31st December.

d. Resources expended

Expenditure is included on an accruals basis and is recognised when there is a legal or constructive obligation to pay for goods or services and settlement is probable and quantifiable.

As the church is not registered for VAT, all the expenditure is shown inclusive of VAT.

Governance costs include the costs of the preparation of the annual accounts, the cost of PCC meetings and the legal cost of advice on governance or constitutional matters.

Grants and charitable giving are accounted for when paid over or when awarded, if the award creates a binding obligation on the PCC, provided that there are no conditions to be met relating to the grant which remain in the control of the church.

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2) of the Charities Act 2011. All expenditure incurred during the year on such property is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed

e. Pensions

The PCC encourages its employees to join the a Pension Scheme which is a defined contribution pension scheme. The PCC contributes 3% and the employee contributes 5% of the total salary of the employee. The assets of the scheme are held separatelyfrom those of the PCC. The contributions payable by the PCC are charged to the SoFA as they are incurred.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

f. Fixed assets

The Parish owns various freehold properties, the majority of which were acquired prior to the requirement to capitalise such expenditure. These properties have therefore not been included in cost. Freehold property acquired more recently is included at cost.

No depreciation is provided on buildings with a current estimated residual value of not less than their carrying value, otherwise the cost of buildings acquired is depreciated over a period of 100 years.

Office equipment is depreciated on a straight line basis over 3 or 4 years.
Other equipment is depreciated on a straight line basis over 20 years.

Investments are valued at Market Value.

g. Current assets

Amounts owed to the Parish at the year end in respect of fees, rents and other income are shown as debtors.

Short term deposits include cash on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

2. INCOMING RESOURCES	2020 General fund	2020 Restricted funds	2020 Endowment Funds	2020 Total	2019 Total
a. Voluntary income	£	£	£	£	£
Regular giving	162,773	-	-	162,773	167,458
Income tax recoverable	33,465	-	-	33,465	42,298
Other giving	905	(480)	-	425	2,680
Collections (open plate)	3,315	-	-	3,315	10,002
Legacies	-	-	-	-	250
Grants	5,117	30,000	-	35,117	30,916
Sundry donations	7,688	1,005	-	8,692	24,567
	213,262	30,525	-	243,787	278,171
	£	£	£	£	£
b. Activities for generating funds					
Fetes, bazaars, etc	3,586	18,122	-	21,708	14,498
	3,586	18,122	-	21,708	14,498
	£	£	£	£	£
c. Income from investments					
Interest, dividends etc	10,417	4,923	-	15,340	16,070
Rent from land and buildings	-	-	-	-	-
	10,417	4,923	-	15,340	16,070
	£	£	£	£	£
d. Income from Church activities					
Bookstall	2,347	-	-	2,347	3,246
Church hall lettings	2,457	-	-	2,457	15,278
Magazines	60	-	-	60	-
Fees	2,160	-	-	2,160	10,542
	7,024	-	-	7,024	29,066

3. RESOURCES EXPENDED	2020 General fund	Restricted funds	Endowment Funds	Total	2019 Total
a. Church Activities	£	£	£	£	£
Church overseas	1,200	-	-	1,200	1,550
Relief and development agencies	1,200	-	-	1,200	3,932
Home missions, other church societies	4,889	494	-	5,383	4,158
Secular charities	4,419	-	-	4,419	4,105
Ministry Parish share	166,106	-	-	166,106	155,446
Incumbents' expenses	1,470	-	-	1,470	4,381
Assistant staff	22	-	-	22	770
Church running costs	28,450	233	-	28,683	29,123
Church maintenance	4,821	52,091	-	56,912	17,914
Upkeep of services	1,050	88	-	1,139	12,005
Bookstall	227	-	-	227	3,128
Support costs	614	-	-	614	240
Church centre and hall running	6,220	4,897	-	11,117	7,348
Other PCC property upkeep	-	5,292	-	5,292	2,358
Salaries, wages and honoraria	38,108	-	-	38,108	41,402
Major repairs and replacements	-	11,072	-	11,072	11,542
Printing stationery, etc	2,760	-	-	2,760	5,022
General administration	6,733	-	-	6,733	10,363
Lease of office equipment	4,779	-	-	4,779	4,608
Depreciation	2,972	755	-	3,727	4,372
Bank charges	963	-	-	963	351
	277,003	74,922	-	351,925	324,118
	£	£	£	£	£
b. Analysis of other costs					
Education and evangelism	-	-	-	-	-
Independent examination	3,600	120	-	3,720	3,600
	3,600	120	-	3,720	3,600

4. STAFF COSTS	2020 £	2019 £
Organist	10,858	13,423
Verger	9,102	9,408
Parish administrator	16,357	15,474
Cleaners	1,669	1,701
Other staff costs	123	1,396
	38,108	41,402
The average no of employees was as follows:		
Organists	8	8
Vergers	2	2
Parish administrator	1	1
Cleaner	1	1
	12	12

None of the Trustees received any remuneration or employee benefits during the year. The lay trustees, where applicable, who acted as agents to the PCC in making approved payments on its behalf, were reimbursed for these expenses on presentation of suitable documentary evidence.

Clergy working expenses were reimbursed in accordance with Church of England guidelines.

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Property	Office Equipment	Other Equipment	Total
Cost				
At 1 January 2020	504,950	13,134	22,054	540,138
Additions	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2020	504,950	13,134	22,054	540,138
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2020	28,000	12,180	7,253	47,433
Charge for the year	2,000	625	1,102	3,727
At 31 December 2020	30,000	12,805	8,355	51,160
Net book value at 31 December 2020	474,950	329	13,699	488,978
Net book value at 31 December 2019	476,950	954	14,801	492,705

The market value of the freehold property is considered to be in excess of the above carrying value, however it is not considered practicable or cost effective to quantify the difference.

6. INVESTMENTS

	General fund £	Restricted funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
CBF Investment Fund	55,006	42,597	134,573	232,175	217,019
CBF Fixed Interest Securities	71,344	4,238	-	75,582	72,288
CBF Global Equity Income Fund	89,111	-	-	89,111	74,870
CBF Property Fund	30,688	-	-	30,688	32,801
COIF Investment Fund	-	-	38,310	38,310	36,007
Scottish Widows UK Growth Fund	6,936	-	-	6,936	6,936
	253,084	46,835	172,883	472,802	439,921

		2020 £	2019 £
Market value	At 1 January	439,921	384,433
	Investments sold	-	-
	Dividends reinvested	1,002	978
	Surplus/(deficit) on revaluation	31,878	54,510
	At 31 December	472,802	439,921

7. DEBTORS

	£	£
Income tax recoverable	22,392	21,737
Prepayments and accrued income	58,917	28,072
	81,309	49,809

8. CREDITORS

	£	£
Sundry creditors and accruals	35,340	33,999
	35,340	33,999

9. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	Brought forward	Income	Expend-iture	Inv movement	Transfer	Carried forward
General funds	531,916	236,531	(280,163)	19,225	(509)	507,000
Designated funds						
St Helen's Church						
Archivist fund	4,710	86	-	-	-	4,796
Babies and toddlers	3,382	262	(100)	-	-	3,544
Choir fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hospitality	425	1,488	(772)	-	-	1,141
Window publisher	478	32	(6)	-	-	504
Strategic fund (inc Enock legacy)	219,497	95	-	-	180	219,772
Vicar and Warden's fund	3,102	103	(819)	-	329	2,715
St Michael's Church						
DJ Enock legacy	2,822	-	-	-	-	2,822
St Nicolas' Church						
Mrs Margetts Fund	7,440	-	-	-	-	7,440
Re-ordering Fund	9,011	10	-	-	-	9,021
Donations	12,278	-	-	-	-	12,278
War Stock Fund	1,112	-	-	-	-	1,112
	796,172	238,607	(281,860)	19,225	-	772,145

10. RESTRICTED FUNDS						
St Helen's Church						
Bell fund	18,952	708	(96)	1,069	-	20,633
Centre fabric fund	8,478	175	(4,897)	378	-	4,135
Church fabric fund	69,825	31,038	(53,272)	1,426	709	49,725
Church roof fund	(440)	-	-	-	678	238
Development fund	280	-	-	-	-	280
Flower fund	457	200	(41)	-	-	616
Clerical housing fund	27,604	2,477	(5,412)	-	-	24,670
Lady aisle fund	5,217	-	-	-	515	5,733
Santuary and choir fund	1,743	(40)	(48)	-	570	2,225
Special music fund	1,927	-	-	-	-	1,927
Traidcraft fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
St Michael's Church						
Fabric fund	19,185	48	(755)	-	(600)	17,878
St Nicolas' Church						
Altar Linen	2,500	134	-	-	-	2,634
Bell fund	66	-	-	-	-	66
Fabric Fund	4,226	8	-	-	-	4,234
Churchyard repair	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blacknall tomb repair	743	-	-	-	-	743
Blacknall maintenance	84,119	18,177	(8,936)	(1)	-	93,359
Chair grant	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congregation day	70	-	-	-	-	70
Church lands	28	11	-	-	-	39
Special collections	-	494	(494)	-	-	-
	244,980	53,430	(73,950)	2,872	1,873	229,205

11. ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	Brought forward	Income	Inv movement	Transfer	Carried forward
St Helen's Church					
A Challenor Bequest	19,054	-	1,310	-	20,365
Abingdon Oldfield Bequest	83,184	-	-	-	83,184
Backhus Trust	7,591	-	522	-	8,113
Church Fabric Fund	24,479	-	1,683	-	26,162
Church Repair Trust	7,955	-	547	-	8,502
Elizabeth Hawkins Charity	10,984	-	755	-	11,739
Elderfield Trust	249	-	17	-	266
Hyde Trust	4,121	-	283	-	4,404
North Bequest	9,048	-	622	-	9,670
16/18 Ock St Proceeds	15,500	-	-	-	15,500
PCC Trust	6,882	-	473	-	7,355
Preston Trust	17,214	-	1,184	-	18,397
St Michael's Church					
Challenors and Halcombe	6,008	-	1,598	-	7,606
Harris Trust	3,956	-	1,053	-	5,009
Fabric fund	5,088	-	(2,880)	-	2,208
St Nicolas' Church					
Altar linen	4,466	-	308	-	4,774
Church lands charity	36,007	-	2,303	-	38,310
	261,786	-	9,780	-	271,566

12. ANALYSIS OF ASSETS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total
Tangible fixed assets	380,779	25,016	83,185	488,979
Investments	253,084	46,835	172,883	472,802
Current assets	179,681	213,695	15,498	408,874
Current liabilities	(41,398)	(56,341)	-	(97,740)
	772,145	229,205	271,566	1,272,916

13. DESCRIPTION OF FUNDS

Designated funds - set aside by the PCC

DJ Enock Legacy
In 2009 three churches received a legacy from D J Enock. Under the terms of his will he requested "(but without imposing any binding trust or legal obligation upon them)" that the funds were used "50% for the general purposes of their respective church" and "50% for the improvement, maintenance or repair of their respective church buildings".

The trustees therefore took the decision to show 50% of the legacy as a designated fund for the improvement, maintenance or repair of the church buildings.

St Helen's Church - Vicar & Wardens fund
A fund arising from legacies and fund raising, for use at the discretion of the Vicar.

St Helen's Church - Strategic fund (Inc D J Enock legacy)
A fund arising from legacies and fund raising, held as long term strategic funds.

Fabric funds
St Helen's Church and St Nicolas' Church both have fabric funds representing income set aside for the repair and maintenance of the church buildings.

St Helen's Church - Activities
The following funds receive fees and donations towards the cost of their activities within the church; Archivist fund, Babies & toddlers, Hospitality fund and Choir fund.

13. DESCRIPTION OF FUNDS (continued)

Designated funds - set aside by the PCC (continued)

St Nicolas' Church - Mrs Margetts fund
This historic legacy is for the general purposes of the church.

St Nicolas' Church - Donations
Funds set aside for donations to external charities.

St Nicolas' Church - Re-ordering Fund
This fund was set up during 2016 after a review by the DCC to combine the Chaplaincy fund, Enock legacy fund and the unrestricted Fabric fund.

Restricted funds, given for a particular purpose

St Helen's Church

Bell fund	From a legacy of Edgar Humfrey and donations by ringers for the repair and renewal of the bells and fittings.
Centre fabric fund	Donations received for the repair of the church centre.
Church fabric fund	Endowment income and donations for the repair and renewal of church fabric.
Church roof fund	Endowment income for the repair of the church roof except that of Lady Aisle.
Development fund	Funds restricted to the work described by the 1999 Development Plan.
Flower fund	Donations are made by members of the congregation for church flowers
Clerical housing fund	Endowment income for the capital costs of curate housing.
Lady aisle fund	Endowment income for the repair of the roof of Lady Aisle.
Window publisher	Donations received for publishing costs.
Sanctuary and Choir fund	Endowment income for furniture, linen, etc. for the sanctuary and choir.
Special music fund	Donations for use at the discretion of the Director of Music to further the music ministry of St Helen's beyond what budgeted funds allow.

St Michael's Church

Fabric fund	Income raised for the repair and maintenance of the church buildings

St Nicolas' Church

Altar Linen	Income from the Altar linen endowment fund, for the provision of 'new altar linen, surplices and cassocks'.
Bell fund	Funds raised or donated towards the maintenance of the bells.
Fabric Fund	Income raised for the repair and maintenance of the church buildings.
Churchyard repair	Funds raised or donated towards the maintenance of the church yard and garden.
Blacknall tomb repair	Funds raised or donated towards the repair and maintenance of the Blacknall Memorial.
Blacknall maintenance	Funds received from the Charity of John Blacknall for 'maintaining, repairing and insuring against fire the fabric, ornaments and furniture of the Church of St Nicolas.
Congregation day	Funds given towards the costs of the planned congregation day.
Church lands	Income from Church Lands endowment to be used for repairs to the church.

13. DESCRIPTION OF FUNDS (continued)

Endowment funds with income restricted

St Helen's Church	
Abingdon Oldfield Bequest	Income is restricted for housing for the assistant clergy of the parish and is received by the Oldfield (clerical housing) fund.
A Challenor Bequest	The Sanctuary & choir fund receives this restricted income for vesture, furnishings and fittings.
Church fabric fund	Income is restricted for general expenses of the upkeep and maintenance of the fabric of St Helen's Church.
Church repair trust	The Church roof fund receives this restricted income for the repair of the church roof except that of Lady Aisle.
Preston Trust	The Lady Aisle fund receives this restricted income for the upkeep of the roof and ancient paintings of Lady Aisle.
St Nicolas' Church	
Altar Linen	Income to be used for the provision of 'new altar linen, surplices and cassocks'.
Church Lands Charity	Income to be used for the 'repairing, maintenance and benefit' of St Nicolas Church.

Endowment Funds with Income for General Purposes

St Helen's Church
The remaining endowment funds are held for the general benefit of St Helen's Church. The exception being the Hyde Trust whose income is used at the discretion of the vicar and church wardens in maintaining the fabric of St Helen's Church.

St Michael's Church

Challenors and Halcombe	A historical bequest providing unrestricted income for the use of the church.
Harris Trust	The object of the fund is to provide income for the benefit of St Michael's Church, by way of upkeep, adornment or in any manner as the vicar and church wardens deem expedient.
Fabric fund	Two separate investments are combined in this fund with the objects of providing income for the repair and maintenance of the church roof and for the general upkeep of St Michael's Church.

14. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year the Trustees made donations to the charity as members of the congregation(s). These donations totalled £22,743 (2019: £26,088).

During the year the Parish received a restricted grant of £10,000 from the Friends of St Helen, Abingdon (Registered Charity No. 296638) which has Trustees in common with the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Abingdon.

15. LEGACIES

The parish is a beneficiary of the will of DJ Enock and funds have been received in prior years. The Parish is aware that a further sum is due under this legacy however the property in question is subject to a life tenancy and therefore neither the sum involved nor the timing of receipt is yet known. For these reasons no additional amount has been accrued in respect of this further income.

16. COMPARATIVE SOFA FOR PREVIOUS YEAR

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total £
INCOME				
Voluntary income	234,579	43,592	-	278,171
Activities for generating funds	13,132	1,366	-	14,498
Investment income	9,508	3,320	3,242	16,070
From church activities	29,066	-	-	29,066
Other income	-	2,505	-	2,505
	286,285	50,783	3,242	340,310
EXPENDITURE				
Fundraising costs	4,482	260	-	4,742
Church activities	299,430	24,688	-	324,119
Other expenditure	3,600	-	-	3,600
	307,512	24,949	-	332,461
Net Income (Expenditure) before Investment Gains	(21,227)	25,834	3,242	7,849
Gains and losses on investment assets on revaluation	23,877	7,515	23,117	54,509
Transfers between funds	8,720	(5,477)	(3,243)	-
Net movement in funds	11,370	27,872	23,116	62,358
Total funds brought forward	784,324	217,586	238,670	1,240,580
Total funds carried forward	795,694	245,458	261,786	1,302,938

Appendix 1
St Helen's Church
Church Wardens' & Fabric Reports

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

The pandemic has affected the life of St Helen's in many ways - cancelled services, financially, socially, and pastorally. In addition to the effects of the pandemic, in mid -March, a plaster fall in the Nave resulted in services being moved to the South Aisle while the architect and builder were consulted. The opportunity was used to prepare a Faculty application for repairs not only to the Nave ceiling, but also to plaster panels in the North Aisle, together with the removal of an unsightly, redundant heating duct.

Work finally commenced in October but, as work progressed, the number of plaster panels requiring repair in the North Aisle was found to be much greater than anticipated. Additionally, timber rot in a main beam over the tower door required urgent repair. These additional works slightly delayed the finish and added to the cost. To help finance the project, a grant application was made to the government's Culture Recovery Fund and we were fortunate to be awarded £20,000, which offset a large proportion of the cost. The balance was forthcoming from the annual support donated by the Friends of St Helens.

Both architect and builders did excellent work, with the majority of the scaffolding being removed in time for Christmas services. As part of the project the whole of the North Aisle ceiling has been repainted and looks magnificent.

The first lockdown permitted time for a working party of volunteers to repaint the Parish Centre. The centre now looks resplendent in fresh paint and we eagerly await a time when, restrictions permitting, we can again use the centre for meetings, worship and fellowship, whilst again being able to hire the hall to recoup some of our lost revenue.

A team of "technically able" members of the congregation met the challenge of installing broadband into the church. This enables live streaming and recording of services. The cost of equipment and wiring was partially met by a grant from the Deanery. We are very grateful to the team whose work is continuing.

Thanks to the combined efforts of Rob Rutherford and a small team of volunteers, the Window magazine has been rejuvenated into The Candle in the Window. This on-line magazine has received support and contributions from many amongst our three congregations.

The" business" of church life continues via zoom and regular meetings with clergy and officers ensure that, at all times, efficient communication is maintained.

PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
Annual Report (continued)
FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2020

WORSHIP

In March, in line with restrictions, services were suspended, with pre-recorded services available via the website. Restrictions also meant that mid-week services were cancelled and only two mid-week services have been held since March. It is anticipated by both clergy and congregation that, once restrictions ease, these much appreciated services will be resumed.

Once restrictions were eased after the first lockdown, regular Eucharist services were permitted in church initially in the South Aisle, with measures introduced to meet COVID-19 guidelines These services continued to be recorded for those unable to come to church.

Christmas saw two carol services, with fewer people attending each service in order to comply with COVID-19 restrictions. Midnight mass was moved to 10.30 pm, in order to allow cleaning in preparation for the following Christmas morning service. A recorded service as well as an interactive Christingle service via zoom was appreciated by many families, both in Abingdon and overseas! To enable preparation for Christingle, bags of sweets, ribbon etc were given out from a suitably decorated west porch, complete with Nativity scene. Appreciation from the public as well as recipients of the "Christingle kits" showed this to be a very positive "out -reach" event.

Restrictions since December have once again necessitated services being recorded or live streamed and the church is currently closed for services. Faith Forum continues via zoom and is well supported.

The office continues to be run efficiently and effectively with Jenny Balshaw working from home, as well as coming into the office on two days a week. Thanks must go to Jenny who has always enabled the business of the churches to continue under very challenging conditions.

MISSION

The restrictions of the pandemic meant that the church was unable to open to visitors in the summer. Whilst this is very regrettable, we have had to focus our mission to "open our doors" in ways previously unavailable. The streaming of services etc enables us to offer a welcome to everybody via our website. We hope that as people access our services, the newsletter, Faith Forum, they will feel drawn and encouraged, once restrictions allow, to join with us in person.

A zoom coffee morning each Sunday after the service enables exchange of news, the ability to "meet" and talk with friends. Even in this restricted way, this has been a welcome and enjoyable way for members of the congregation to feel connected. Our thanks go to Ros and Rob Rutherford who arrange and host each session.

CARING FOR EACH OTHER

Visits to care homes and pastoral care visits have all ceased, contact being maintained by phone. The clergy team has phoned everyone on the Electoral register, an initiative appreciated by many. Contact is always important but, with current restrictions, it vital to ensure that people feel connected and part of our church family.

The Pastoral Care team led by Charles Masheder meet regularly (by zoom); they aim to ensure that all who are in need are offered assistance and support. Lockdown saw volunteers shopping for those who are elderly or shielding, an example of our "church family" continuing to look after its more vulnerable members.

Linda Hobbs
Church Warden

FABRIC REPORT

The main fabric project during 2020 was the repair of plaster ceiling panels in the North Aisle and Nave. There had been a problem for many years with the plaster ceilings in church because of areas of weak bonding between the plaster and the supporting wooden lath structure. A plaster fall in March left a section of loose plaster hanging precariously over the Nave and worship had to be relocated to the South Aisle. The weakness in the plaster bonding is believed to be historic in nature – probably the effects of the old hot-air heating system, along with unstable environmental conditions during church re-ordering in 2004. Every panel in the North Aisle was inspected closely from a scaffolding platform and any loose plaster sections replaced as a precaution, even when the risk of a plaster fall was judged to be very small. The redundant hot-air heating ducting in the North Aisle was removed and the ceiling and walls of the Aisle redecorated.

There was a complication with the repair of the vertical plaster panels by the tower. The wooden supporting beam behind the panels had suffered from significant decay, a combination of damp penetration over many years, along with insect infestation. Dampness tests showed that the beam and surrounding area had completely dried out - the decay was historic and the infestation no longer active. The decayed section of the beam was cut out and replaced with a new oak beam, attached with steel plates to the remaining section of the old beam.

We have continued with the electrical repairs and upgrades recommended in the 2019 Electrical Condition Report. The contractor retested the lighting circuits which had originally failed the test for insulation resistance. The failure was believed to be due to damp in the insulation where the copper cladding of the cables had become corroded. The circuits now comply with the electrical requirements, probably because the lights in question had been switched on for long periods during the North Aisle repairs, which had the effect of drying out the insulation of the cables. However, the problems with insulation resistance are likely to get worse again over time. The intention is to replace these cables as part of the installation of a new lighting system, so this is not a long-term problem.

The two old central heating boilers in the Parish Centre have been replaced with a single condensing boiler. The new control system retains the flexibility of the original system: four separate heating zones with individual thermostats, plus a timer to prevent the heating being left on accidentally overnight.

Stephen Thomas

Appendix 2
St Michael and All Angels' Church
Church Wardens' & Fabric Reports

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

Worship and Services:

2020 started off with our regular pattern of services with Mass at 09.30 on Sunday, a Said Mass at 19.30 on most Tuesdays and a Said Mass at 12.30 on a Thursday. We are most grateful to our honorary clergy and our clergy for enabling us to worship at St Michaels.

In addition we did celebrate certain Holy Days (e.g. Epiphany, Dedication Festival, Ash Wednesday, All Saints Day, All Souls Day, and Christmas Day).

On March 23rd, the United Kingdom went into a national lockdown due to Covid-19 and for the first time Places of Worship had to close. The year, therefore, has been one of constant change and decisions having to be made to ensure that we were keeping people safely distanced and requiring people to book for services so as not to over-subscribe the available seating (fortunately this limit was never reached). Thus complying with government and church guidance.

We were unable to celebrate Easter together.

The church was re-opened on 16th July for Private Prayer, having undertaken a risk assessment prior to this as per Church of England guidelines.

We re-commenced Public Worship on 26th July.

There was a further national lockdown in November and again Places of Worship were closed. Private Prayer and Public Worship resumed in December.

Christmas was a decidedly muted affair as we were unable on Christmas Eve, to hold our usual Crib service, popular Carol service and Midnight Mass. On Christmas morning we held a Mass with 31 attending.

At Private Prayer we had on average 7 attendees and at our Sunday services we averaged 35 attendees.

We held only 1 wedding as all the other couples postponed their weddings due to the pandemic. There was 1 baptism and 8 funerals held during the year.

The pandemic has affected the mission and St Michaels in more ways that we have yet to realise. Just not being able to gather in church, the sung eucharist, the coffee and chat. It must take a toll on our well-being. St Michaels has stood as a rock of faith for 154 years which gives us all hope. Part of that hope is that we will once again be able to meet for sung eucharist and coffee and chat. Hopefully, in the not-too-distant future.

Outreach:

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 St Nicholas Primary School and Abingdon School were unable to hold their usual services at the church.

Also, all the concerts we were due to host had to be cancelled.

The Oxford Diocese Ride and Stride did go ahead, but we were unable to give out our usual refreshments.

All our bookings for the hire of the church room were cancelled.

Fundraising:

We continue to support:

Abingdon Bridge (a charity in town for young people) and Tariro (a youth charity in Zimbabwe);

The Porch Day Centre in Oxford by giving money this year instead of our Harvest gifts.

Oxfordshire Historic Churches by sponsoring Louise Heffernan and Nicola Ng for the Oxford Diocese Ride and Stride.

Volunteers:

When things run smoothly, we don't always notice or appreciate all the work that goes on behind the scenes. The folks that come in to do the cleaning, the flower arrangers, the odd jobs that get done round the church, the garden that gets tended too, the coffee that gets served (when we are allowed), the website and pew leaflet does not get done by itself. So many thanks to all those volunteers.

Many thanks:

To all who help in our worship – those who serve at the altar, our sacristan, our organists, and dedicated choir members.

To the DCC members, and to all the sidepersons.

Thanks must also go to the congregation who have had to endure much and taken on board safe-distancing, facemasks, booking for church.

Finally, a big thanks to Fr Paul who in this difficult year has given leadership, support, kindness, and love. Let us continue to pray for the Lord's blessing on him.

Joyce Kelly and Peter Squire, February 2021

FABRIC REPORT

Although it has not been possible to use the church for worship for much of the year, the need has remained to keep the building and its contents safe, secure and in good order. Routine maintenance of the heating system, fire alarm, emergency lighting, fire extinguishers and organ all took place as usual.

In view of the constraints placed on access to the building, execution of the remaining lower-priority repairs identified in the 2016 Quinquennial Review was deferred. As a new review is due in 2021 this deferment will allow us to target expenditure more appropriately if this later report shows newly-identified urgent repairs to be necessary.

Last year's report made mention of the damage suffered by the statue of St Michael during the Easter Triduum. The faculty authorising the repairs was granted in January and the contractor was then able to start work when their programme permitted. The repair was completed by the beginning of June. Return of the statue to its proper place in church posed certain practical problems so the contractor kindly arranged to keep the statue in safe storage until return was viable in December.

Keith Bowman , February 2021

Appendix 3
St Nicolas' Church
Church Wardens' & Fabric Reports

This has been my sixth year serving as St Nicolas Churchwarden. My thanks go to Rev. Paul Smith; my fellow warden, Andrew Coker; the St Nicolas DCC and the church congregation for their support.

Services:
Our Sunday Service pattern started the year as per normal with the 8.00a.m. Parish Holy Communion, alternating monthly with St Helen's, with our main morning service at 11.15a.m. However, this came to an end towards the end of March when a 'lockdown' was imposed by the Government due to the Coronas virus (Covid-19) pandemic which had started earlier in the year.

During this time, the church was closed, and no worship took place. Then in June it was announced that churches could open for private worship. St Nicolas opened as soon as it was viable and, whilst following the restrictions required, offered a space on a Monday for people to pray and sit in quiet. The restrictions were eased further in July and public worship services were reinstated, again with various restrictions including the mandatory need to wear a face covering and no singing allowed. St Nicolas held 8.00a.m. Communion and 11.15a.m. services on alternate Sundays.

But by November, things changed again. Once more the churches had to close. This led to the development of providing services on-line via the Zoom video system. Using this computer program, the congregation could log in to watch and listen to a minister.

The bright spot amongst all the gloom was that we were able to enjoy a Christmas morning service in the church.

Ministry of welcome:
With services disrupted, there was little opportunity for a full ministry of welcome. However, we continued with our time-honoured tradition with Stewards at the door of the church during services combined with a welcomer during the private worship opening on Mondays. The number of Stewards has remained almost the same during the year and my thanks go to all those involved.

Activities:
The church was not involved in much this year due to the restrictions placed on us by the Corona virus pandemic. We were able to open for private worship during the Summer and at the end of the year we welcomed 'Cards for Good Causes' once more. Unfortunately, their visit was curtailed due to the pandemic and we had to say goodbye to them earlier than expected.
Paul Rast-Lindsell

FABRIC REPORT

Many of the plans we had for 2020 were put on hold. However, we continued to work on the repair of the tower following the fall of masonry back in 2019. After an inspection, the builders informed us that the walls inside the tower required strengthening and the necessary processes were followed to get to the point where work could start. This was postponed due to Covid-19 and it is expected to start in Spring of 2021.

One issue that cropped up at this time was the fact that large lorries were parking on the pavement immediately in front of the church (hitherto we had not realised this). We considered that this might be contributing to the damage to the tower. After consulting with various local Councils, two bell-shaped bollards were set into the pavement to ensure no further vehicles could use the space.

Our work on the Toilet Block also came to a halt. But this did have a silver lining. The contractor who is refurbishing the building next to the church had asked permission to do some surveying in our garden. As a result of a conversation, they asked if they could buy the toilet block to extend their development. After some consultation and a valuation, we were offered a sum to both buy the block and help us with the replacement of the facilities. At the time of writing this report we are in the process of committing to the sale so that the contractor can obtain planning permission.

In general, the church building is in good repair. When the gutters were cleaned, it was noted that a few tiles were loose. We have also have a small problem with some water ingress near the West door and, although it has been looked at, this requires further investigation. The Lightning conductor was tested and passed.
Paul Rast-Lindsell

Appendix 4
St Nicolas' C E Primary School

This report covers the calendar year 2020, when the Covid-19 Pandemic had a significant impact on the school, and its community. It is good to report that despite the difficulties Bibles were presented to Foundation Year pupils as has been customary for at least the past 20 years, and a copy of the Scripture Union 'Moving On' book was presented to each child on leaving Year 6.

St Nicolas is a successful primary school - larger than average with a full pupil roll of some 400 pupils aged from 4+ to 11+, and over 50 staff. The School has active links with both Abingdon Parishes, and with other members of the Church-in-Abingdon. Whole school assemblies are an important part of the school life, and opportunities for class reflection are sought.

In March 2020 all UK schools were closed to most pupils in response to the Covid 19 Pandemic. During this closure, in accordance with Government guidelines, St Nicolas School:

- Remained open (including during some school holidays) to provide schooling to our most vulnerable pupils, and the children of designated key workers.
- Kept in regular contact with our families and pupils – particularly vulnerable and at risk families.
- Provided opportunities for home and blended learning, through the provision of paper based Learn Packs, and a gradual introduction of online teaching and learning resources. Aware that not all families have easy access to online resources, staff worked hard to provide good quality hard copy materials to enable all children to continue with their learning.
- Used the online learning platforms to deliver direct communication between children and their teachers through set tasks, videoed teaching and messages, and uploaded resources and giving the opportunity for families to share, and staff to respond to, the incredible efforts being made at home.
- Continued, where possible, to provide differentiated learning opportunities appropriate to each pupil's needs.
- Arranged for free school meal / voucher provision for eligible families, which continued throughout school holidays.

In June as lockdown eased St Nicolas

- Begun the gradual re-opening of school in accordance with government guidelines and best practice, offering full school provision for children in Foundation and Year 1.
- Welcomed Y6 back 2 days per week, offering transition work that the children to facilitate the children's completing their final year at primary school.
- Continued to provide in-school teaching for vulnerable and key worker children in Years 2-5.

Over the summer staff worked to prepare for a Covid secure opening for the whole school in September 2020. School procedures and curriculum were adapted, in line with Government guidelines, to give each child the best re-introduction to a school based environment – being aware that some pupils returned / joined having had very little or no in-school experience for some 6 months. Transition arrangements for children in school, and for those joining in September ensured a smooth return to school learning. Revised, and staggered, drop off and pick up arrangements saw parents remain off-site. Breaktimes were staggered, and lunch was eaten in classrooms (except for the Reception children who used the hall), although only cold school meals could be offered initially. Regrettably all external trips had to be cancelled after March, and there were some curriculum limitations such as no singing and limited team sports.

Staff and pupil wellbeing was the priority, with greater flexibility introduced where possible, for example Parent Teacher Interviews took place remotely. Teaching of core subjects and the wider curriculum was adapted to take into account the varying experiences of pupils during the Lockdown. A carefully planned Catch-up programme was developed for those pupils identified as 'at need' ready to start from January.

The return to lockdown from the start of January restricted in-school attendance to at-rist and key worker children only. This has put the Catch Up programme, and plans to restart hot meal options hold. However, with staff and pupils' on-line teaching and learning skills now considerably enhanced, it is good to be able to say that St Nicolas' continues to provide a full range of age appropriate, and differentiated, learning opportunities, to pupils at home and in school.

We give thanks for the dedication and hard work of the school community - teachers, teaching assistants, office staff, specialists, cooks and cleaners - at this difficult time,

Please pray for all schools and educational establishments, young people and their families, teachers and all who work in education, and governors and other volunteers who give their time to support the future.

Eluned Hallas, Foundation Governor

Appendix 5
Report on the activities of the Church in Abingdon

Changes in clergy
Captain Alexandra Devine was appointed leader at the Salvation Army
Michael Ivey took over as main leader at Abingdon Community Church.

Projects which were able to continue, if in a limited way:
The Abingdon Bridge staff worked from home to continue providing support, advice and guidance to vulnerable young people.
Christian Aid organised some events online.
The Christian Forum columns appeared in the Round and About magazine.
The work of Desire and the Prayer Spaces have continued in secondary schools where possible.
The monthly CiA News has continued but the work of Christian Focus has been reduced.

United activities in 2020
Christian Aid's annual New Year's Day walk started and ended at Abingdon Baptist Church.
The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was marked by midday prayers at St Nicolas' church, the annual quiz at St Michael's and a United service at Christ Church.
A service for the World Day of prayer took place at Trinity Church, put together by the women of Zimbabwe.
Trinity Learning went into St Nicolas' School to support a group of 8-9 year old children delivering an assembly to the whole school.
The Annual Bereavement Service could not take place in November but Deacon Selina Nesbitt organised an online service that was posted on YouTube and on the Abingdon Facebook page.
"Carols on your doorstep" took place across Abingdon, supported by Abingdon Council.

Groups and activities unable to take place because of the Covid19 restrictions:
The Shoe cleaning event on Maundy Thursday, the procession of witness and Good Friday service at St Nicolas' church, Fun in the Park, South Abingdon Play Day in Southern Park, the Alpha launch, the Michaelmas fair and fair service, the Extravaganza.

5. Financial support was given to the following projects:
The Abingdon Bridge £2000, Desire youth network £1000, Abingdon Street Pastors £1000, Experience Easter £750, 35 Ock Street £500, Back to 35 £150 and Thrive £1000.

Julia Bishop 15.02.2021

Appendix 6
Report on the Abingdon Foodbank

As with all aspects of our lives, the pandemic has had an impact on how Abingdon food bank has had to be managed. In April the food bank transferred to the management of Trussel Trust, this enabled easier access to fresh foods from supermarkets, more training, less responsibility for those managing the food bank. Apart from a slightly different way of measuring the distributed food, clients would have been unaware of the change.

When the country first went into lockdown, many of the older or more vulnerable helpers were "stood down" in a bid to ensure their safety until the relaxation of restrictions, when many again returned to volunteer. Fortunately students and younger helpers were willing to volunteer, so the work of food bank continued.

As the repercussions of lock down were felt, loss of employment, children home from school (no school meals) there was an escalation in "food poverty" resulting in more referrals for assistance.
The people of Abingdon were and continue to be very generous, with increased donations of both food and money, everyone needing assistance received help.

As Christmas approached, plans were again made to distribute Christmas parcels. In excess of 200 parcels of food and toys were handed out, these being appreciated and welcomed.

Unfortunately, with more unemployment and more families in need, it is difficult to see a time in the near future, when the need for food banks will decrease, or even, no longer be required.
The church congregations of Abingdon are very generous in their support of the Abingdon food bank, support which is appreciated by staff, volunteers and of course those given assistance.

Linda Hobbs
Church Warden