THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF SHERBORNE WITH CASTLETON

England & Wales · Charity number 1130082

Details

Other names	SHERBORNE PCC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-06-10
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Sherborne Abbey The Parish Office 3 Abbey Close Sherborne DT9 3LQ
Phone	01935812452
Email	parishsecretary@sherborneabbey.com
Website	www.sherborneabbey.com

Activities

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

Activities: Parochial Church Council for the Parish of Sherborne with Castleton and St Paul's - Church of England

Classification

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

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Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£983,539	£1,043,221	£7,694,003	12
2023-12-31	£1,191,598	£1,217,875	£7,635,828	11
2022-12-31	£1,231,549	£1,251,370	£7,396,285	11
2021-12-31	£598,794	£600,999	£7,975,959	8
2020-12-31	£734,356	£604,592	£7,309,787	8

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Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Martin Lee	Chair	2021-09-17
Alexandra Mackenzie		2024-05-26
Christopher Gordon Buesnel Hamon		2019-04-28
David James Fifield		2017-04-23
Deborah Carrington		2025-05-11
Dr David George Ferguson		2019-11-07
Dr JOHN CROSSMAN		2021-05-23
Henrietta Susan Paul		2024-05-26
John Nicholas Keating		2024-05-26
Jonathan Massey		2025-05-11
Katherine Pinsent		2025-05-11
Leigh Fisher		2025-05-11
MR MIKE KEATINGE		
Neil Grenyer		2017-04-23
Nicholas Pascoe		2023-05-07
Owen Richard Hinder		2024-05-26
PAUL BOYD LEE		
Peter Edward Neal		2024-05-26
Rev Hugh Richmond Lowry Bonsey		2019-04-28
Rev James Edie		2021-09-01
Rosanna Whittock		2025-05-11
Steve Drew		2021-05-23
Timothy Michael Farr		2022-05-10
Yvonne Francine Libbey		2017-04-23

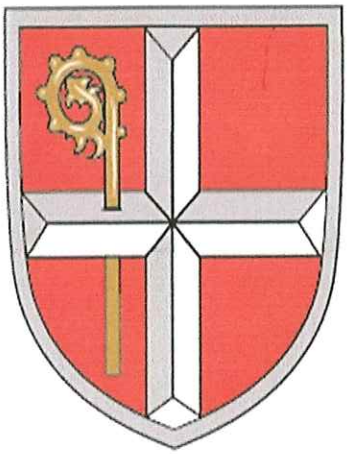
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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF SHERBORNE WITH CASTL

England & Wales - Charity number 1130082

Accounts

Charity registration number: 1130082



The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Lanham & Francis
Chartered Accountants
Church House
Church Street
Yeovil
Somerset
BA20 1HB

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

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The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Trustees' Report

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The object of the charity is to promote in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church.

Objectives, strategies and activities

The objectives and strategies of the charity include:

The advancement of the Church of England by means of broadcasting messages of a teaching nature, within our five churches and three parishes.

To see a greater celebration of diversity and a wider integration of all God's people into his family.

The provision of facilities for the celebration of Christian worship. Also, the maintenance and improvement of those facilities for future generations to carry on the Christian traditions.

The maintenance and support of rectors, team vicars and others engaged in charitable works. Special consideration to developing lay ministry across the benefice, encouraging and facilitating greater lay involvement with pastoral care, mission and ministry.

The support of all charitable works carried out within the Sherborne Abbey community.

The continued support of local, national and international organisations engaged in Christian or other philanthropic activity, through our Faith in Action Committee.

Outside of Covid-19 restrictions the Holy Eucharist is offered daily in the Abbey, and at least twice on Sundays. There is at least one service in both Castleton Church and at the Gryphon School - STPAULS@THEGRYPHON - every Sunday. Castleton Church uses only the Book of Common Prayer for the Eucharist and Mattins.

The PCC also has maintenance responsibilities for the Digby Memorial Church Hall, the Sherborne Abbey Shop, 2 Abbey Close and 'The Cottage' at 4 Abbey Close. The PCC rents the Parish Office and 67 Acreman Street from the Sherborne Castle Estates and has a 50/50 Equity Share Agreement with the Diocese for 69 Granville Way, Sherborne.

Fundraising disclosures

The charity benefits from a number of areas, which enable us to raise funds to meet our objectives, namely the Abbey shop, the Church Hall, the music committee and the social committee. We are committed to using these assets to help support our mission, locally and on a wider scale.

The annual Abbey Music Festival has specific objectives to promote music within the parish, with any funds raised being used for that aim, namely the financing of the choir and general music within the Abbey.

Any other specific fundraising requirements will be engaged as necessary.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.
The reports that follow this report are testament to the wide range of activities carried out in the Parish for the benefit of the whole of our community.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Reference and Administrative Details

Principal Office:	The Parish Office 3 Abbey Close Sherborne Dorset DT9 3LQ
Auditor:	Lanham & Francis Chartered Accountants Church House Church Street Yeovil Somerset BA20 1HB
Bankers and investment managers:	NatWest Bank plc 2 Hendford Yeovil Somerset BA20 1TN
	Lloyds Bank plc 75 Cheap Street Sherborne Dorset DT9 3BD
	CAF Bank Limited 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
	CCLA Investment Management Limited Senator House London EC4V 4ET
	M&G Securities Limited Laurence Pountney Hill London EC4R 0HH

Trustees' Report (continued)

Trustees and officers
The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Trustees:	The Revd Hugh Bonsey
	The Revd Martin Lee
	The Revd James Edie
	Mrs Sandra Graves
	Dr David Ferguson
	Mr Neil Grenyer
	Mr Robert Harris (died 24 October 2024)
	Mr Jonathan Rodd (resigned 26 May 2024)
	Mr Paul Boyd-Lee
	Mr Michael Keatinge
	Mrs Yvonne Libbey
	Mr David Fifield
	Dr Christopher Hamon
	Mr David Rayner
	Mrs Sue Bradshaw (resigned 17 October 2024)
	Dr John Crossman
	Mrs Jacqueline Baker (resigned 26 May 2024)
	Dr John Bradshaw (resigned 17 October 2024)
	Mrs Sue Hawkett (resigned 26 May 2024)
	Mr Andrew Horsey (resigned 26 May 2024)
	Mr Steve Drew
	Mrs Julie-Ann Soul (resigned 26 May 2024)
	Mrs Julie Mahony (resigned 26 May 2024)
	Mrs Harriet Chappell (resigned 17 October 2024)
	Mr Tim Farr
	Mrs Rebecca McDonnell
	Mr Nicholas Pascoe
	Mr Owen Hinder (appointed 26 May 2024)
	Mrs Alex Mackenzie (appointed 26 May 2024)
	Mrs Henrietta Paul (appointed 26 May 2024)
	Mrs Leigh Fisher (appointed 26 May 2024)
	Mr John Keating (appointed 26 May 2024)
	Mr Peter Neal (appointed 26 May 2024)

Trustees' Report (continued)

Structure, governance and management

In 2024 there were seven meetings of the full Council during the year and five meetings of the Standing Committee. Reports from Committees and Working Parties were received by the Council and discussed where necessary. Fabric matters, concerning all the properties for which the PCC has maintenance responsibilities, were regular agenda items. The Council is very grateful to the Friends of Sherborne Abbey for their financial support in funding major projects and the ongoing routine maintenance at the Abbey.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting for the Parish of the Abbey Church of St Mary the Virgin, St Mary Magdalene, Castleton and St Paul's Church was held on 26th May 2024.

At the meeting to elect Churchwardens held on 26th May 2024, the following were elected to serve as Churchwardens: Mrs. Alex Mackenzie, Mrs. Henrietta Paul, Mr. Robert Harris, Mr. Owen Hinder, Mr. Nick Pascoe and Mrs. Sandra Graves. Mrs. Alex Mackenzie and Mrs. Henrietta Paul were welcomed as the new Churchwardens for The Abbey and Mr. Owen Hinder was welcomed as the new Churchwarden for St. Mary Magdalene Church, Castleton.

Grateful thanks were extended to Mr. Jonathan Rodd for his work and long-standing as a Churchwarden in the Abbey for 12 years, and also to Mr. David Ferguson.

Dr. Hamon was elected as Electoral Roll Officer.

Mr. Steve Drew, Mr. John Keating, Mr. Peter Neal and Mrs. Leigh Fisher were duly elected to serve for a three-year term ending in 2027. Mr. David Ferguson was elected to serve for 1 year until 2025 to fill a vacancy.

Elections were held for laity to serve on the Sherborne Deanery Synod for one year. Dr. John Bradshaw and Mrs. Sue Bradshaw were duly elected.

At the PCC Meeting held on 20th June 2024 the following elections took place:-

Mr. David Fifield was elected as Lay Chair and Mrs. Susan Lee was elected as Secretary.

Mr. Nigel Chappell agreed to continue in his role as Treasurer for the Abbey.

Co-opted member Rev. Hugh Bonsey was elected to serve for another year.

Mr. Mike Keatinge was appointed Chairman of the Fabric Committee.

In October 2024 Dr. John Bradshaw, Mrs. Sue Bradshaw and Mrs. Harriet Chappell resigned from the PCC.

On a very sad note, on 24th October 2024 Mr. Robert Harris, Churchwarden of St. Mary Magdalene, Castleton passed away. Robert will be very sadly missed. This leaves a vacancy at St. Mary Magdalene.

Nature of governing document

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton (Sherborne Abbey PCC) is a body corporate established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC's Registered Charity Number is 1130082.

The United Benefice of Sherborne with Castleton and Lillington was created by an Order in Council in 1927. It was further expanded in 2006 with the addition of the Parish of Longburton, which was transferred from the Benefice of Dungeon Hill by a Pastoral Scheme made by the Church Commissioners in pursuance of the Pastoral Measure 1983. The Parishes of Lillington and Longburton retain their own Parochial Church Councils and publish their own Annual Reports.

Trustees' Report (continued)

From 1 December 2016 the Benefice of Sherborne with Castleton, Lillington and Longburton was established as the Sherborne Team Ministry by a Pastoral Scheme made by the Church Commissioners in pursuance of the Pastoral Measure 2011.

In September 2017 St Paul's Church (dedicated in 1957) was designated by the Bishop as a "Parish Centre of Worship" rather than a "Mission Church".

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. A full list of members of the Council is contained in this report.

The PCC operates through a number of committees and working parties between full meetings of the Council. The reports of their work during the year follow this report and should be read as part of this report.

There are many different groups working within the parish for the benefit of church members and the wider community. Their reports, which follow, should also be read as part of this report.

Relationships with related parties

Sherborne Local Ecumenical Partnership
The Parish is a full member of the LEP, operating as Sherborne Churches Together.

Major risks and management of those risks

Risk management
The trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces. This involved prioritising the potential impact and likelihood of occurrence, together with identifying means of mitigation.

The charity continues to develop its policies and procedures to reduce fire and health and safety risk, and train all personnel as appropriate.

Our safeguarding policy continues to develop protection policies for children, young persons and vulnerable adults, and maintains the training of all engaged individuals working within the charity.

Specific importance is placed on events held within the Abbey's community, over and above normal worshipping services, where procedures and detailed insurance are reviewed to mitigate any possible risk areas.

Achievements and performance

Details of activities undertaken during the year, as well as future plans are contained within the individual reports that follow.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Trustees' Report (continued)

Rector's report

In writing this report to you, it is important to stop and reflect on the year that has passed. As I write this report, I give thanks for the tremendous amount of dedication given to our benefice in such a myriad of ways and there is much to celebrate. This report enables us to not only celebrate the life of our Church in the past year, but also, to express on behalf of the parish my most sincere thanks for all that is done and continues to be done.

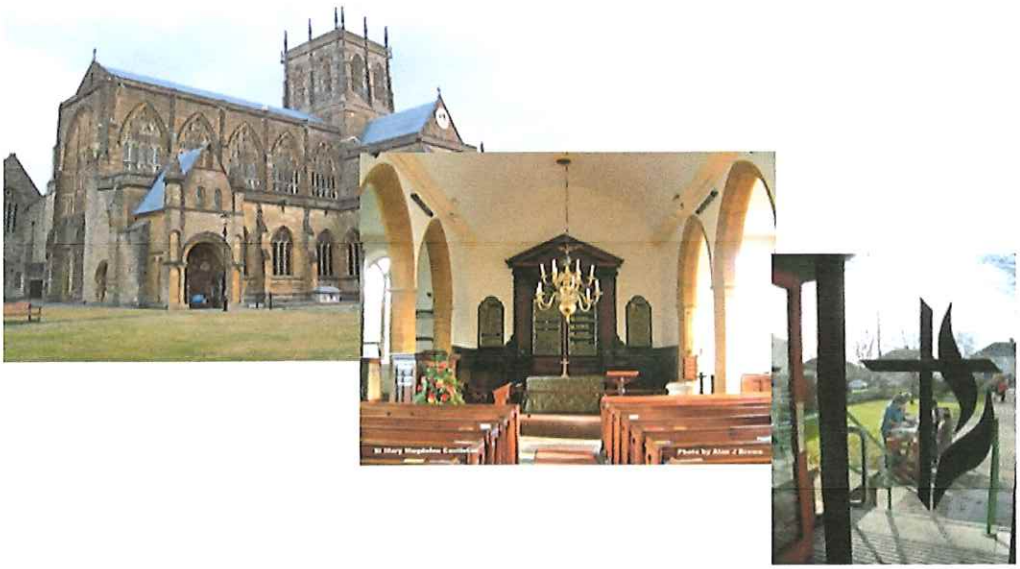
On a more personal note, I am sure that you will want to join me in this, to express our deep sense of gratitude to all our retired priests who have given unstintingly during the past year. On a sad note, we also remember with great affection Robert Harris our churchwarden at Castleton, who sadly died in October. On a joyful note, it was wonderful to see The Reverend Rebecca McDonnell our curate, ordained as a Priest. I would like also to express our sincere thanks to all our Churchwardens, Vergers, and office staff.

It is always dangerous to pull out things in the past year that have been particularly special, for you easily miss something, so I won't do that, but to all who have contributed to the various wonderful events in the past year please know how much you are appreciated. It is though, appropriate that we remember during the last year the momentous occasions as well as some of the sadder moments.

Whilst an annual report is very much a time to look back and reflect, it is also a time to ponder for a moment on the journey that lies ahead of us. From the many discussions that I have been able to have, I know that there is real excitement and enthusiasm for the future. We continue to be very active in endeavouring to build a toilet facility here in the Abbey. This is a journey on which we continue to be committed, and would like to suggest that we may well be seeing the end in sight of gaining permission to do so. There are many things ahead, which I hope we will be able to look back on next year with great excitement. It is a journey that we will take together. As a benefice we endeavour to discern the direction in which God is calling us and how he wants us to serve him and those around us in the community in which we are so fortunate to live.

So, to the year ahead, we look forward with enthusiasm and excitement, and I thank God that we will walk this journey together, seeking to grow in understanding of the nature of God's abundant love, and the grace he pours upon us as we serve him in this beautiful place.

The Reverend Martin Lee



Trustees' Report (continued)

Parish Safeguarding Report

The PCC is committed to the promotion within the parish of a safe environment for children, young people and adults and to respond promptly to safeguarding concerns or allegations. It has managerial oversight of Safeguarding and in their capacity as trustees, PCC members are required to hold Enhanced DBS certificates and complete safeguarding training. Safeguarding is an item on all PCC Agendas.

Support and guidance

In 2024 a number of significant safeguarding matters arose which required reference to and support from the Diocesan Safeguarding Team. Further matters were dealt with locally in accordance with the Abbey's policy and procedures. In 2023 five safeguarding matters arose which were of enough significance to require the advice and support of the Diocesan Safeguarding Team, which was readily given. A further two matters were dealt with locally in accordance with the Abbey's policy and procedures.

Choir

In conjunction with the Director of Music and the new Assistant Director we have reviewed the safeguarding policies and procedures surrounding choir activities (practices, lessons and services). Revised arrangements have been to put in place, including the appointment of Choir Chaperones who have received the necessary Safeguarding training and DBS certificates. The Choral Scholars here for 2024/25 have received Safeguarding clearance (DBS and training) from their positions at Sherborne School.

Parish Dashboards

We are still awaiting formal agreement to the creation of an individual Dashboard for St Paul's. This online resource is designed to enable PCC's to easily oversee the current position of Safeguarding requirements (display of posters, review of policies, etc) by a "traffic light" display which identifies where action is necessary.

Training

There is no automated reminder system for Training renewals (due every 3 years) and therefore PSOs throughout the Diocese are required to keep manual records. Towards the end of 2024 the CofE national Online system was enhanced so that PSO's could have visibility of training undertaken by those requiring it. By the end of the year 37 people had linked their records and this number will increase as people renew their training through 2025.

Areas for review in 2025

As part of a programme to cover safeguarding issues of the various activities in the churches we intend to review support for the Abbey Welcomers (formerly Guardians), Servers, Shop helpers and documentation for Hall rentals. There will also be a need to review procedures covering the Abbey's activities undertaken in the Almshouse.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Statistics

The Church of England's "Safer Recruitment" practice guidance defines those roles for which Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) Certificates are required.. The CofE policy is that Certificates must be renewed every 3 years if the holder is still in a role which requires it. Within the Parish the numbers during 2024 were as follows:-

	No of DBS at 1 Jan	Deletions & expiries	Expiries	Renewals	New DBS	No of DBS at 31 Dec
Abbey	40	(10)	(6)	9	7	40
Castleton	2	(1)			1	2
St Paul's	34	(11)	(4)	4	3	26
TOTAL	**76**	**(22)**	**(10)**	**13**	**11**	**68**

Notes:
• Deletions includes those no longer in roles, & those with roles no longer requiring DBS.
• Numbers above EXCLUDE Clergy, Licensed Lay Ministers (LLMs) and Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPAs) for whom records are managed centrally by the Diocese.

In addition to managing Parish DBS applications & renewals, the PSO's also continue to verify applications on behalf of Salisbury Diocese in respect of Clergy /LLMs/LPAs living in the area.

David and Lyn Rayner, Parish Safeguarding Officers

Sherborne Abbey Churchwardens

Our Abbey Church continues to be as busy as ever with the usual mix of regular events and services that are the 'norm' for us, but also nicely peppered with some different plans and events as our outreach continues to grow.

On June 17th we hosted the Archdeaconry Visitation which was very well attended by church wardens from across the diocese. Later in June we were hugely proud to witness Becca, our wonderful Curate's, ordination at Salisbury Cathedral on Saturday 29th. This was followed by her first Eucharist the following day, both of which we celebrated with a post-service party in the Lady Chapel, with food supplied by our wonderful and ever-generous Social Committee, topped up with contributions from our Abbey family.

July witnessed the Abbey's production of The Sound of Music, which ran for three nights, was free to the public and enabled further much-needed outreach throughout our community. The feedback has been wonderful and the opportunity for the younger members of the community to hone their theatrical skills was well rewarded by amazing performances and bonds being well forged between young and old - and every age in between. It should also be noted that though the performances were free to attend, post-performance audience donations raised over £3000 which we were able to put towards the production cost.

On a sadder note, on August 7th we were made aware of an overnight burglary in the Abbey with the loss of valuable and significant pieces of our history. Apart from the shock at the intrusion and shameless act of greed, it has led to much soul-searching and a realisation that when you welcome people into your spiritual home seven days a week, you never really know what their agendas are and while we appreciate that the vast majority come to our Abbey Church to enjoy all that it has to offer, there is a need for us to be mindful of the need for heightened security going forwards. This has been a lesson learned and to this end, plans are in place to heighten security significantly.

In September we welcomed Dr Charlie Gurnham, in the new role of Assistant Director of Music to further the musical outreach of our Abbey Church. Among the various duties, Charlie is working with members of the clergy team throughout the Sherborne schools, and we warmly welcome the contribution Charlie has already made to our talented Abbey musical team.

On October 20th a pre-Eucharist service presentation was made to the outgoing Churchwardens, David Ferguson and Jonathan Rodd, both of whom have worked tirelessly on behalf of our Abbey Church for many years, in Jonathan's case since 2012. We are very grateful to the much cherished member of our Abbey family, Joan Biles, for making beautiful personalised commemoration plates for both Jonathan and David. The service was then followed by a party with coffee, tea and homemade cake which gave the congregation the opportunity to thank them in person and acknowledge the contribution they have both made to our church community over the years.

Another new addition to the Abbey in the last year is the introduction of QR codes. In what appears to be an ever more cashless society, these have been put into every pew to encourage further giving. It's a simple but exciting innovation which we hope will help with our much-needed fundraising and it's gratifying to see they have been put to good use.

The Abbey church continues to grow as a popular visitor attraction thanks to our Welcomers and Guides the Abbey has been awarded a 2024 Travelers Choice Award by Tripadvisor for destinations that consistently earn five star reviews and demonstrate a commitment to hospitality excellence with the Abbey now being the top attraction in Sherborne. In 2024 we welcomed 64,469 visitors, this contrasts with 56,077 in 2023. We thank Jennifer Huitson profusely for collating the figures for us since 2012, but we're sad to report that she is stepping down from this important role, however we're pleased that Jennifer will retain her role as knowledgeable Abbey Guide. Similarly, Sue Morgan also retired at the end of 2024 and we sincerely thank her for all her support over the years running the Guardians' Rota. Not an easy task and one for which we thank her sincerely.

2025 has seen another rise in visitor numbers, being 1250 ahead of this time last year. We are confident that the addition of the tearooms will also significantly help with enhancing the Abbey's reputation as a tourist destination for all, let alone the most wonderful place to worship our God.

Trustees' Report (continued)

We would like to acknowledge the incredible work and continued support the Friends continue to give to the Abbey, which I know the Fabric Committee Report covers. Among all the projects the Friends have and continue to support, the transformation of the Abbey Shop has been very exciting to witness and it is gratifying to see that all the hard work is being paid off by a healthy growth in sales. Thank you to one and all involved with this project, masterminded by our own and much appreciated Dr Chris Hamon.

December 2024 saw an even busier attendance than in previous years, From Christmas Eve to St Stephen's Day alone, we had over 2,000 people of all ages attend services.

We held our annual Lent Lunch on 2nd March. The wonderful Social Committee cooked the most delicious lunch and the FIAC's chosen charities for this year are Confident Children Out Of Conflict and the local charity is the Hilfield Community, both of which were represented and the talks given were most illuminating to all present and brought both good causes to life. The lunch raised £500 which the Social Committee were delighted to give to FIAC.

On the 12th March we opened our Sherborne Abbey Tearooms in the Almshouse. Championed and hard fought for by our Rector and the SATRCP committee, it is very gratifying to see the plans come into fruition. It is exciting to see God's work being performed and his word being shared with those in need of help, in this innovative way. In addition, last week it was confirmed that the Committee had been successful in their grant application to help with the renovation of the Community Rooms Project.

As directed by the PCC, the Tearooms (SATRCP) Committee works independently of the PCC, but the symbiotic nature of both entities is obvious and the SATRCP Committee are hugely grateful for the £50k loan that was offered and agreed to help get the project up and running. The original concerns of the PCC were allayed by the severing of the financial 'connection' between the Abbey and the SATRCP project, it's important that the tearooms are self-supporting at the very least, and going forwards that they will pay for the community outreach work that will go on in the three Community Rooms.

We very much hope to complete The Abbey Relief Project this year. As with all matters Fabric in our Abbey Church, Mike Keatinge leaps the metaphorical hurdles with great aplomb and incredible diligence and is doing all he and his committee can do to get the project over the line and created. In 2025 it does seem a matter of huge shame that we as an Abbey family cannot offer accessible facilities to young and old and those with disabilities.

Henrietta Paul and Alex Mackenzie

Fabric Committee Report

The provision of Toilets in the Abbey has again been the main issue of the year. Enquiries from visitors, old and young, repeatedly emphasise the need for these facilities. After an exhaustive consideration of options during 2022 and 2023, led by our Architect Marcus Chantrey, we submitted in January 2024 a full Faculty Petition for the 'Abbey Facilities Upgrade' with three main elements:

- Conversion of the existing vestries to toilets, making use of an existing. main drain immediately outside;
- Reordering of the north transept under the organ loft to create a new vestry, including relocation of the Horsey Monument to the north quire aisle;
- Creation of a permanent hospitality unit in the Lady Chapel to service the successful use of this as a multi-purpose area, with a wheelchair lift to the north quire aisle.

Early in the year we published details of monuments and memorials which will be affected and received much interest, particularly from descendants of the Horsey and Wyatt families. However, hopes of early approval for the project were frustrated by dilatory responses from statutory consultees. Wishing to make every effort to avoid formal objections, we encouraged discussion including site visits and it was not until the end of October that we were finally able to return to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) with a full response to the comments received. With their endorsement, the formal public notice was displayed through December and decision thereafter lies with the Chancellor of the Diocese. We would hope to start work in the spring of 2025.

Our PhD researcher Mr Francis Brown continued his work towards preparation of a Conservation Management Plan (CMP). His Heritage Statements have been a valuable contribution to documents for the Abbey Facilities Upgrade and other planned work. He conducted a series of consultation interviews in late May and we hope to have a draft of the CMP early in 2025.

Among smaller matters, the chandelier in the Lady Chapel has been repaired and refurbished following an accident with the winch. It will shortly be reinstated with a new winch. We continue to use the Lady Chapel for a range of smaller services, but its use as a flexible multi-purpose area, for coffee on Sunday mornings and various other gatherings, has been generally welcomed. On an entirely different hospitality thread, a set of nesting boxes for Swifts was installed in a window of the tower. In the autumn a pair were spotted on the monitoring camera preparing a nest, and we hope to see a family in the spring.

A small fall of stone at the southwest corner of the Abbey prompted a detailed examination of this area, where a decorated balustrade is heavily decayed. Loose material was removed and a detailed condition report has been received. We also commissioned a condition report on the gates to the porch and the west door. We hope to carry out the recommended work on masonry and ironwork in the coming year.

Plans to turn the cottages in the Close into a tea room were superseded by plans for the Almshouse. No 2 has been refurbished and is now occupied by the Assistant Director of Music. No 1, formerly the Shop, will require more radical work to return it to residential use; but we retain it for the time being as a base for contractors working in the Abbey.

The Abbey Close is subject to Victorian legislation for closed churchyards under which the Abbey retains the freehold but Sherborne Town Council is responsible for maintenance. It thus fell to the Council to implement the replanting of the historic lime tree avenue, reduced by mid-2024 to just six heavily decayed survivors. While some regrets are recognised about the value of those survivors for wildlife, there has been overwhelming support for replanting a complete avenue, which was carried out in November. The Abbey invited contributions, and we are grateful for a wholehearted response, to be recognised in a memorial book.

Mike Keatinge

Castleton Churchwardens

For Castleton, 2024 has been a year that is tinged with sadness. In October Robert Harris, one of our Churchwardens, passed away. We will miss him and the contribution that he made to Castleton Church. Several other members of our congregation have also passed away and will be sadly missed.

There are other members of our congregation who are no longer able to worship with us on a regular basis due to age and infirmity. We are an aging congregation but do our best to keep up with technological changes; most recently a smart meter has been installed. We are also trialing the use of digital tags to help with the location and identification of ashes which have been interred in our churchyard.

The chandelier has also been repaired. We continue to hold fellowship Sundays and are extremely fortunate to have a hard-working team of volunteers, including flower arrangers and committee members who make a valuable contribution to the upkeep of the church.

We are also blessed to have a talented organist, John Mathew, a verger, Gordon Taylor and an experienced chaplain in Rev. Hugh Bonsey. All these people contribute a great deal to make Castleton the church that it is today.

Owen Hinder

St Paul's Churchwardens

At the heart of St Paul's Church is the welcoming, inclusive and growing community of people who come together to 'do life' in the week through Life Groups and various activities and meet to worship Jesus collectively on a Sunday. St Paul's draws people from different walks of life and different church traditions from within Sherborne and beyond and over the last year has seen some growth as new faces have joined. The congregation continues to meet weekly on a Sunday at the Gryphon School, to whom we are grateful for their continued hospitality.

Worship & Discipleship

Sunday services continue to have a pattern of Morning Worship, All Age Worship and Holy Communion over a month delivered in a relaxed contemporary style. In 2024, Sunday attendance has been about 95-100 on average and the total numbers of those in the community sits at 130 adults and 22 children. Young people share feedback to the congregation on their activities carried out at COSMIC (Sunday School). The services are live streamed so that those who cannot make the journey to church from home or within our local care homes still feel a part of the church family and community.

Many visitors to St Paul's often comment on the atmosphere and welcome they receive, but Sunday morning could not happen without a dedicated team of around 25 volunteers each week who offer their gifts and time to set up, welcome, arrange flowers, serve refreshments, read, pray, lead COSMIC and lead us in sung worship, run the audio and visuals desk and live stream. A great example of every member ministry which is what makes St Paul's the family it is. A big thank you to all!

One of the blessings at St Paul's is the different voices we hear from due to a marvellous team of lay preachers who open up God's Word on a Sunday. Along with them this year we have also heard from visiting speakers including the Team Rector Reverend Martin Lee who preached at our Patronal Service at the beginning of the year (which was followed by a packed church lunch!). We have also heard from Reverend Becca McDonnell (Team Curate), Paul Gill from Christians Against Poverty, Harry Vincent from Youth for Christ, Reverend Hugh Bonsey (PTO) and Reverend Martin Turner. Over the year we have had sermon series with the themes of 'The way of the Lord' and 'Conflict and calling' drawn from the Lectionary (Year B - Mark's Gospel), 'The resurrection and us', a mini-series on the letter the Ephesians, an Olympic 'Going for Gold' series over the summer. In the autumn a series on the Book of Revelation culminated in a joint service with Cheap Street Church for an 'All Age' Remembrance Sunday service with Reverend Kate Konrad, which was then followed by Advent. Amongst all this, fifth Sundays have been used to hear more from the congregation as we have heard personal experience and testimony from individuals in June and December.

Discipleship through COSMIC on a Sunday (see report) for the churches young people and Life Groups for adults during the week continue to be an important focus (see report). This year Sherborne Churches Together also offered Lent Groups which gave the opportunity for individuals from churches across Sherborne to come together and learn. The course was 'Finding a Voice' which reflected on the film 'The Kings Speech'. At the end of April, Jim and Becca Edie led an Alpha Course at the Mermaid Pub which had ten participants. It was wonderful to see God working in all who attended (including the leaders) as we reflected on what it is to be a follower of Jesus. This group became its own Life Group following the course.

In May St Paul's relaunched Men's Breakfasts which hadn't happened since before Lock Down in 2020. We've had two gatherings held at the Mermaid Pub with just under 20 men from across the Benefice attending at each. It has been a great opportunity to share testimony and to provide support along with eating some great grub!

On Sunday 7th July, a number of church members took steps in their discipleship journey through a service of Baptism and Confirmation. It was a blessing to welcome The Right Reverend Karen Gorham, the Bishop of Sherborne, to a Sunday morning service at St Paul's for this. The service started at the Gryphon School where Bishop Karen preached and then the service moved to the beach in Weymouth where four children and one adult were baptised in the sea, followed by five children and two adults being confirmed. More than 50 people from the congregation joined in the celebration with a picnic on the beach, it was a wonderful day!

In the summer New Wine returned to the Bath and West show Ground and St Paul's booked a plot. There were about 25 campers and some day visitors. A particular blessing was the preaching from The Right Reverend Ruth Bushyager, the Bishop of Horsham, who expounded the Gospel of Mark bringing new insight to this well-known Gospel.

Mission and Outreach

Our regular groups; Tea & Chat, Meet & Eat, and Tums Tots & Tinies (see reports below) continue and the Friday Fareshare larder provides an average of 25 households (or so) a week with food at a much-reduced price, along with a developing place of fellowship as larder members take advantage of coffee, tea and a bacon butty and a space to chat in St Paul's Church. All weekly activities rely on a team of volunteers, many of whom worship at St Paul's, but some who do not have a connection. Other groups using St Paul's as a base include Rainbows, Brownies and Guides which help to support young people with activities outside of the school environment.

The Community Fun Day in early July was very successful. The rain held off and it was once again a wonderful opportunity to engage with people in our area and build relationships. Then, this time at the end of August, the Dream Scheme took place again. Various projects were undertaken by the young people attending and once again we had a mix of church and local community participants and volunteers. Activities included bike maintenance in partnership with Hope2Cycle, Minecraft Church, prayer flag making, baking, filming, gardening, outdoor spirituality using the 'space maker' programme, the building of a huge 'bug hotel' to encourage insects in the grounds of the local primary school garden. On the final day all those who took part celebrated with pizza from Tamburinos, and ice cream from Eco Gelato, plus smoothies from the smoothy making bike from Dorset Council.

In September, two members of St Paul's; Sandra Miller and Becca Edie, were commissioned by Bishop Karen as Lay Pioneer Ministers. We look forward to seeing how God uses their calling to this ministry in the future.
As Christmas approached, St Paul's hosted our annual Crafts and Carols, a resounding success and packed to capacity. Then the following Sunday our COSMIC team delivered a wonderful Nativity service (with particular thanks to Andrew Broadley who produced it).

St Paul's continues to seek a church youth worker to support Sunday young peoples' work and support youth work across the town. Despite two rounds of advertising, there hasn't been success yet.
The Pastoral Team continues to quietly oversee, support and pray for both church members and those in the community experiencing difficulties in their lives whatever they might be. Documentation for the five Lay Pastoral Assistants was renewed at the end of the year.

As per parish policy, 10% of St Paul's income gets directed toward the Faith in Action Committee (FIAC) each year and through this missional organisations local and international are supported. Saying this, one member of our congregation undertook a 72km run for Christian Aid and raised over £5,000 - what an achievement!

Finance

In 2024, St Paul's Committee has stepped out in faith and increased its financial contribution to the parish central fund with the aim of contributing £50,000 in 2025 to subsidise Parish Share.

Governance and Operations

April again saw a slight change in the leadership at the St Paul's AGM as some committee members and PCC members stood down and others were elected on/nominated.

In November we were delighted to welcome Angela (Suter) as a part time administrator to work alongside Sarah, this has enabled us to have someone in the office every day. With this extra support we hope to launch Church Suite early in the New Year, this platform will enable our members to communicate more effectively and efficiently. 2024 has also seen a review of St Paul's vision and, sitting alongside this, the St Paul's website.

Therefore, watch for exciting changes and busy times are ahead for St Paul's in 2025!

Reverend Jim Edie, Mrs Sandra Graves and Mr Nick Pascoe

Chaplaincy at the Gryphon Secondary School

In 2024, Jim continued to balance the two roles of vicar and chaplain, leading and speaking at fortnightly acts of worship, mentoring, class support, developing the Christian Union (CU) and supporting the Gryphon Adventure Training (DofE and Ten Tors) department on occasion. During Lent, it was great to see the school respond to an appeal to twin the school toilets through Toilet Twinning. Pupils raised enough to twin 15 of the school toilets which was far beyond anyone's expectations. Jim also continued to support the acting head teacher and other staff and was particularly pleased to see the acting headteacher appointed a new Headteacher in April.

In late May it was outlined to Jim that, due to the financial situation the Gryphon School and academy trust were in, they were going to have to cut the Chaplain's funding to a third for the approaching academic year. This was rather a blow but has meant that Jim has had more time to focus on the life of St Paul's Church and on community activities within the Sherborne community.

Jim would like to express particular thanks to the Churchwardens and to Bishop Karen for their support during this period of transition.

September brought the launch of the Gryphon School's 'LIFE' vision and school values (Leadership, Integrity, Fellowship, Exploration) which was a development of the school's vision taken from John 10:10. It was great to see this come to fruition particularly because, along with others, the CU had had a key input into it. Since September, fortnightly Acts of Worship have then had a focus on these values which Jim co-delivers with members of school's Senior Leadership Team.

The 2025 autumn finished on a high as Jim led the Gryphon Carol Service once again followed by a last day of back-to-back assemblies covering the whole school and the opportunity to reflect on the wonder of Emmanuel 'God with us' with a Helium ballon and a cardboard box.

Reverend Jim Edie

St Paul's Church "COSMIC" (Sunday School) and Creche

With the exception of the monthly All Age Services and other special seasonal All Age Services, COSMIC ("Children on Sunday Meeting in Church") meets every Sunday morning at StPauls@TheGryphon. We have 21 on the register between the ages of 2 and 16. Attendance has varied between 9 and 16 each week. We run three groups: Rockets (school years Reception to year 3), Excel (school years 4-6) and Revelation (school years 7+). We also run a crèche, as required.

We have continued to use the Energise material this year, produced by Urban Saints, covering, for the older children, thematic topics such as guilt, doubt, evangelism, the influence of music, and bullying. The younger group has been looking at Old Testament characters and the miracles of Jesus. From time-to-time members of COSMIC take part in the monthly All Age services and Communion Services, and all of our children and young people took a role in this year's Nativity play.

We have been delighted to welcome new members to our team this year which has enabled us to have a leader and a helper in all three groups every week. As always, we are indebted to our dedicated team of leaders and helpers who devote their time, energy and enthusiasm week by week to give the children and young people a well-founded and biblical understanding of the scriptures and of what it means to be a Christian.

Kim Dunning

St Paul's Life Groups

Through its life groups, St Pauls provides the opportunity for fellowship, bible study, prayer and pastoral care for its own members and folk from other churches too.

We have seven life-groups, each meeting at different times and on various days in the week. Some meet weekly, others fortnightly. Currently group leaders steer their study topics to meet the needs of their own group.

Each meeting across the groups has a similar format of refreshments, with sharing of news and prayer needs, followed by study and prayer, or prayer and study.

Groups meet for 90 minutes to a couple of hours.

During 2024 our groups variously studied: Ecclesiastes, Luke with Tom Wright, The Bible Course, Psalms, Integrity, whole Life Worship, Ruth and John's gospel.

We have a library of resources that all can borrow.

During Lent, most groups joined in with the Sherborne Churches Together Lent Course studying 'The Kings Speech' movie.

We like to think that, with encouragement, more church members would participate in a group with the obvious benefits to the Christian journey for the individual and an enriched church family as relationships are deepened and strengthened.

If anyone is interested in joining a life-group, they should please make themselves known to Jim or our Church Wardens Sandra & Nick.

Sarah Fricker

St Paul's Church Community Groups

Meet and Eat Lunches

Food prices continue to rise but we have managed, just, to balance the books again this year and keep the price of our two-course lunch at £4 a head. We have provided meals to around 24 people on term-time Mondays with the menus ranging from the somewhat adventurous Moroccan lamb with chickpeas and rice to the rather more traditional cottage pie. Our members tell us that they appreciate the variety of food on offer.

There are now four of us sharing the planning, shopping and cooking. Many thanks to Sarah Kempson and Kim Dunning who have brought new energy (and recipes!) to the team. We also extend our thanks to all our wonderful volunteers who cheerfully chop, stir and wash up, each week.

The lunch club is at capacity for numbers but if you would like to join our waiting list, do contact St Paul's Church Office. New volunteers are always welcome - contact Jill or Hester via the office for more information.

Jill Thorley and Hester Greenstock

Tea and Chat

Tea & Chat is a group for over 60's. We meet every Monday afternoon between 2 & 4pm at St Paul's Church (except for August & a couple of weeks around Christmas & Easter).

The group started in November 2007 and has a focus on health & activity. On average 10 - 20 people attend.

We begin each meeting with a cup of tea or coffee & then once a fortnight Norma Purnell leads us in an hour of line dancing.

On the alternate weeks we participate in a variety of activities, in 2024:
- The ukulele band came to entertain us twice and great fun was had by all.
- We have heard fascinating & entertaining talks about: The Pod with Lynn Heaton
- Ridgewater Energy with Chris Denman,
- Prison Volunteering & Bavaria with Sandra Cutting,
- Herbs and potions with Bridget Kitley,
- Planning funerals, wills & POA's with Silvertime,
- Ballroom Dancing with Rachael Harding,
- Nutcrackers with Carol Northover,
- Cycling across Europe with John Crossman
- Sherborne Abbey Part 1 with Roger & Harold
- We did chair exercises with Connie & had a Beetle Drive
- We made Easter sock rabbits & Christmas table decorations
- We were delighted to have an outing again this year, visiting Edward Heath's home, Arundells in Salisbury on a glorious afternoon in May. And we also enjoyed afternoon tea at the home of the Broadley's.

We conclude our afternoons with a second cuppa & a delicious slice of cake, supplied by Pam Taylor.

Every week we have out books to borrow, a jigsaw puzzle to have a go at. And there is always a word search or quiz to get the brain cells working.

I am helped in the kitchen by Becky Brake & Pat Batten.

We charge £2/week.

Do come and join us, we'd love to see you.

We'd also love to hear from you if you would like to come and speak to us about what you do or an adventure you've been on, or if you have photos or newspaper cuttings for the St Paul's archive.

Sarah Fricker

Tums, Tinies and Tots

It is a joy and delight to have parents, grandparents and carers arriving with their pre-school children, to enjoy 2 hours of play and interaction.

Everyone is welcome to attend the whole session, which starts at 10am. Tea/coffee and toast are offered until 10.30am when the Mothers Union Ladies in the kitchen have a break from serving to prepare the snacks for later.

The morning continues with a themed craft activity offered from 11am, in 2024 the themes were Colours, The Body & Shapes.

Snack time of fresh fruit & toast follows for the children and the adults and after further free play the session ends with 15 minutes of singing and story time.

At the end of the summer term, we held the session outside with a bouncy castle.

The leaders and helpers, whilst providing peer support, as well as a shoulder to lean on when needed, continue to encourage the families to speak to their health visitors if they have any concerns about their children. More volunteers are always being sought to help spread the work (this can be from half an hour to all morning), and so if anyone is interested in joining the group please do get in touch.

We regularly pass on baby and toddler clothing plus toys and equipment to families in need, so donations are always gratefully received at the St Paul's Church Office.

Thanks, as always, must go to all the volunteers who help before, during and after the session, to the Sherborne Mothers Union volunteers who work in the kitchen every week providing hot drinks, toast and healthy snacks throughout the morning.

As TTT enters its nineteenth year we give thanks to God for all the families that have passed through St Paul's doors since it first started, and we place the continued success of the group into His hands. We always value prayer for the group, especially on Wednesday mornings during term time.

Sarah Fricker

Ecumenical Bible Study

Regular bible study is a wonderful way of keeping our faith alive and sharing and deepening our knowledge of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Our ecumenical bible study group was started, organised and hosted by Ann Smart and her husband, David for over 50 years. Ann's illness and subsequent passing in November was a time of great sadness but we shall continue. The group will now meet, at 117 Lenthay Road and, along with its sister group which meets on Friday afternoons, we will continue to craft our studies to the needs of the group, inspired by Ann and David. During the year we also sadly lost Margreta Andrews of Reborn Church.

This year we have studied Malachi and Habakkuk, then the passion in Mark's telling, and in the Autumn the first of two courses on the Acts of the Apostles (chapters 1 -12). We were also delighted to hold a house communion, presided over by the Rector.

If you would like to join us in 2025 then please ask the office to put you in touch with me for a chat.

John Crossman

Sherborne Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod met thrice during the year, twice face to face and once by Zoom. On 20th April they gathered at Thornford School a few days prior to the Coronation so members were encouraged not only to mark the occasion with music and readings on the day following, but also to do something else in their communities such as bellringing. The Bishop of Salisbury had been present at a recent meeting of Lay Chairs where he reminded members that a previous Diocesan Plan had received a low rating and needed to be improved. Towards this end he intended to meet with civic organisations to work together in meeting our objectives.
In 2024 Sherborne Deanery held three meetings.

The April meeting was the last to be chaired by our Rural Dean, Tony Gilbert. It was a lovely opportunity to recognise his contribution to the life of the church, both in the Three Valleys Benefice and more widely in the Sherborne Deanery, and for us to express our thanks and best wishes to both him and Nicola in their retirement. Tony reflected on the challenges of rural ministry in the face of declining congregation sizes and financial pressures.

At the same meeting, Richard Kirlew and Canon Richard Hancock brought us up to date with the latest developments within agricultural chaplaincy. Agricultural chaplains are now well known and a regular presence at several markets. Farmers, both young and old, are increasingly taking the opportunity to engage with their ministry.

The July meeting began with Bishop Karen licensing Tim Greenslade as our new Rural Dean. We were also delighted to welcome AD Antony Macrow-wood who gave us a report on the financial situation in the Diocese and explained the new method for calculating Parish Share. Parish Treasurers were invited to this meeting. Every opportunity was given to all in attendance to seek clarification from Antony. We were grateful to him for his open and frank engagement.

The new method for calculating parish share, which will be phased in over 4 years beginning 2025, will be based not only on congregation size, but also on clergy deployment. Rural benefices require more clergy per parishioner because benefices have many parishes, and their worshipping communities are more widely distributed than in larger urban churches. Anthony challenged those parishes who are in a stronger financial situation to use their "savings" under the new scheme to assist their struggling neighbours.

At our third and final meeting, in November we were blessed to welcome Brother John and Richard Thornbury from Hilfield Friary. They brought us up to date with the wonderful environmental work which they are doing, not only on the land owned by the Friary, but also in partnership with their neighbours. They re-iterated their open invitation to everybody to visit them and engage with what they are doing.

The Diocese continues to encourage parishes to use the Energy Footprint Tool and to register with Eco Church. Across the Deanery 8 churches have bronze awards and 1 has a silver award. Hilfield Friary has received a gold award.

The Deanery continues to be active in its support - spiritual, moral and financial - for Bishop Isaac and the Ezo Diocese in South Sudan. Andrew Tomkins is an indefatigable link and we are grateful to him for his efforts. We are inspired by the news from Ezo in the face of all their difficulties.

Parish share payments across Sherborne Deanery in 2024 registered a welcomed improvement on previous years. Though the Deanery as a whole was 82.4% paid up, there was nonetheless a shortfall of £105,000, equivalent to the cost of employing 1.5 full time clergy.

John and Sue Bradshaw

Faith in Action Committee (FIAC) 2022

FIAC is the sub-committee of the Parochial Church Council responsible for handling our giving, especially our support for charities, both Christian and secular, locally, nationally and internationally: just one part of our parish witness of Christian love and support for people, especially those in need. The three churches in the parish allocate ten percent of their income to this purpose. We are responsible for identifying suitable organisations to support, evaluating applications, making donations, building partnerships and understanding with those we support and hearing about how our donations have been used. Any parishioner is welcome to join us.

FIAC has long-standing relationships with particular organisations at local, national and international level, making regular donations to support them, as well as supporting others engaged in Christian or other philanthropic activity. In line with our declared policy over the past two years we are generally giving out fewer, larger donations. We also make occasional one-off donations to eligible organisations and individuals.

Our work is only possible because of the generosity of present and earlier members of the parish and the immense work done by staff and volunteers in creating income. We thank them all profusely. This year has seen our turnover return to near pre-Covid levels. The 2024 grant was £47,000 of which £7,400 was contributed by St Paul's Church and £39,600 by the Abbey, including a contribution from St Mary's Church, Castleton. Generally our giving has been in line with expectations. However the demand for funding continues to grow, reflecting the increasing levels of demand abroad and continuing levels of hardship in the UK.

This was the first full year of our support for Sam Malish, our mission partner at CMS Africa, who works in Uganda, as did Helen, our previous partner. We decided also to make his work the overseas beneficiary of our Lent appeal as well, cementing the relationship which we hope will grow in the coming years. We are planning to hold a Zoom meeting early in 2025 with personnel from CMS Africa, including Joan Busolo, CMS Regional Manager for Africa, who visited Sherborne in 2023. We have continued to give moral and prayer support to Helen, who is now settled back in this country and we were delighted to catch up with her earlier in the year.

Our links with St Saviour's Anglican Church, Latvia continue to flourish. The Reverend Eliza Zikmane was able to visit us while in the UK for a conference, and in the summer one of our members took our greetings in person to St Saviour's, reporting back on an active church, but one feeling the threat of its Russian neighbour as we reported last year. We sent them £5,000 for their Seniors Club, their soup kitchen outreach and the upkeep of their church.

South Sudan remains an unstable country, with conflict and nearly 10 million people in need of support, including 5 million children and 300,000 displaced people from the civil war in Sudan, its neighbour to the North. You can find out more about the situation at Human Rights Watch. https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2024/country-chapters/south-sudan. Robert Hayward has again been active and took out donations to Juba Diocesan Model Secondary School twice during the year (One was a late donation from 2023). In addition Robert took a donation to Confident Children out of Conflict, which was our Lent appeal charity in 2020. In South Sudan we continue to support the Bishop Alison Theological College and the Salisbury Diocese Medical Link to train nurses.

For many years FIAC made annual donations to the deanery EZO appeal: that has been reinstated and we donated £1030 (raising the figure in line with inflation). The parish separately contributed to the deanery Christmas appeal for Ezo.

We continue to allocate substantial funds to support Ukrainians affected by the conflict. This year we switched our support to two charities who are partners of Christian Aid in Moldova which has been overwhelmed with Ukrainian refugees. Our donations will help specifically those who need diabetes testing and medication (through DIA, Asociația Tinerilor cu Diabet) and disabled people, especially those with visual or aural impairments. (AudiViz: https://www.facebook.com/audiviz.md/). We have budgeted for a further £5,000 to support Ukrainians during 2025.

Trustees' Report (continued)

At our November meeting we had an excellent presentation by students from Leweston School who will be the latest students to visit their partner school, Shree Jana Jyoti Secondary School in the Gandaki Province in Nepal in late 2025. This is a partnership going back over 30 years. We have given them £1,500 towards the cost of materials and resources they are buying for the school (while they fund their own travel and other costs). You can find out more at https://www.partnersforprogress.co.uk/. We supported a request from a parishioner to support International China Concern, https://chinaconcern.org/, a small organisation working with children with disabilities, especially those who have no families.

One of the national charities we support is Farming Community Network. We attended a presentation in the vicarage about their work during the year and have ensured that our donations are applied within Dorset where there is considerable hardship, especially poor mental health, within the farming community.

During 2024 the Abbey and St Paul's Church received their bronze ECOchurch award, this involved hard work by volunteers in both churches, ably supported by the committee led by Sue Bradshaw who did an amazing job getting this up and running. Part of our commitment as ECOchurches is to support charities working to promote sustainability. Arocha is a very active Christian charity that does excellent work, including setting up the ECOchurch scheme so our donation will be the first of our annual contributions.

Locally we make regular contributions to a number of organisations, including those working with young people, Street Pastors, the Food Bank and Christians Against Poverty. For a second year we are holding funds to help relieve local hardship. Council figures show that 2 in 5 people in our town - about 4,000 people, have difficulty paying all their bills. £2,500 of this fund has been given to the Christmas Box appeal run by Sherborne Primary School PTA, ably promoted by Dave Burley and Ian Bartle. Since the latter's promotion to head of several primary schools, the boxes were distributed more widely with nearly 200 being distributed at Christmas 2024, all to families who are identified through their schools as in greatest need. This year we were delighted to be present at the launch by Lord and Lady Fellowes.

Every year FIAC underwrites the cost of buying leavers presents (books) for those leaving Sherborne Abbey Primary School. Payment for this and for 2025, which will include presentations for all leavers from both our primary schools, will be made in 2025.

The Lent appeal raised an excellent £4,467 to be shared between Sherborne Food Bank and CMS Africa. This is a little less than in previous years, no doubt reflecting the current financial climate. On the other hand the Harvest collections, lunch and appeal raised a magnificent £2,262, up from £732 in 2023. Both of these events are much enhanced by a parish lunch (Shrove and Harvest) we are mightily indebted to the Social Committee and all their volunteers. All three donations were rounded up to £2,500.

During 2024 the committee agreed to integrate our bank account into the parish Xero system. This makes it easier for the treasurer to monitor overall finances. We have two further issues to manage during 2025. The closure of the last bank in Sherborne will make it more difficult to resolve some issues (for example a personal visit is sometimes needed to progress overseas payments) and we have been informed that our treasury account will be reclassified and that transaction charges may apply. However our level of activity is unlikely to incur very much cost, if any. We have also added a third signatory to the account giving us more flexibility and ensuring we are not stranded should one of us not be available.

I finish my report by noting the sad passing of Ann Smart. Ann was a great supporter and friend to FIAC, especially in the many years her husband, David was chair. She was a friend and supporter to many of those we funded and only recently hosted a guest for us. She will be greatly missed.

John Crossman
Chair Faith in Action Committee

Trustees' Report (continued)

Donations International	**£**
China International Concern (for parishioner)	500
Christian Aid (from harvest 2023)	205
Church Mission Society (Sam Malish CMS Africa partner)	5,700
EZO Deanery Fund	1,030
Latvia St Saviour's Church, Riga	5,000
Leprosy Mission	515
Lewiston School Appeal for Nepali School partner	1,500
S Sudan: Confident children out of conflict	800
S Sudan: Juba Diocesan Model Sec School (inc for 2023)	4,500
Salisbury Diocese - Sudan General Fund	1,150
Salisbury Diocese - Bishop Alison Training College	1,240
Salisbury Diocese Sudan Medical Link (Nurse training)	1,450
Ukraine support (DIA and AudiViz Moldova £2,500 each)	5,000
TOTAL	**28,590**

Donations National	**£**
Arocha ECOchurch	500
Bible Society	400
Children's Society	400
Church Homeless Trust	400
Farming Community Network	1,250
TOTAL	**2,950**

Donations Local	**£**
Christians Against Poverty	1,250
Dorset Historic Churches Trust	570
Friends of Guys Marsh	520
Future Roots	2,500
Mothers' Union (subsidised holiday)	350
RendezVous Sherborne	2,500
SAYCC (Tinneys Youth Centre)	2,500
Sherborne Area Refugee Support	1,030
Sherborne P.S. parcels (hardship fund - £2,500 still to allocate)	2,500
Weldmar Hospice	1,250
Yeovil Street Pastors	310
TOTAL	**15,280**

The Abbey Shop

After many years of stalwart service Phil Prout relinquished his role as Shop Manager on the 31 December 2023 having seen the shop flourish and masterminding its move from 1 Abbey Close to its new location in the back of the Abbey. His hard work has been much appreciated, and we wish him well in his retirement. He was replaced by Mark Prideaux who had lots of ideas to take the shop forward but for personal reasons he was unable continue as manager and ceased role at the end of May.

The shop continued trading with the Abbey Treasurer ordering stock and the band of volunteers continuing the day to day running. The situation was not ideal and after discussion and a full stock take the shop passed over to The Friends of Sherborne Abbey on the 1st of August with a statement of understanding and the residual stock was bought by the Friends.

The trading up to the 1st August shown in these accounts is income of £31,899 (including £7,916 for the 'sale' of stock to the Friends) and expenditure of £20,531 - a surplus of £11,368. That and the cash balances relating to the Shop were transferred to the Parish General Fund.

A Report on the period 1 August to 31 December will be presented at the Friends AGM and will be available for public examination after their AGM.

Chris Hamon, Shop Manager

Digby Memorial Church Hall

I have no idea where 2024 went to but it has. It has been very busy, once again, in the Digby Memorial Church Hall with a variety of classes, lectures, meetings and other events.

The new cooker, dishwasher and fan system were installed during the year, and these have been well received and well used.

The Parking Area outside the hall has been levelled and retarmacked with very smart white lines.

Inside the Main Hall Floor was reoiled in the summer and there is now "Mood Lighting" in The Studio. The latter is much appreciated by the Yoga and Pilate's classes, as they no longer have to stare up into bright lights when lying on their mats.

We would like to thank David Ferguson for his support over the last few years and wish him well as he steps down a Chairman of the Hall committee. We welcome Etta Stickland and Alex Mackenzie as joint chairmen and we very much look forward to working with them both.

Kate Bray, Manager

Sherborne Abbey Mother's Union

MU Committee
Secretary/Leader Jo Higgs
Chaplain Rev Lesley McCreadie
Treasurer: Christine Byfield
Others: Jakki Dickson - Smith and Marilyn Davies

Membership
Started the year with 32 ended with 41.
Enrolled 10.
Deceased - Sylvia Brick 29.11.2024

Branch Activities

Involvement overseas
We have maintained our connection with the Sudans - Gizo in S Sudan via the Diocese and both Sudan and South Sudan via Robert Hayward. To both these areas we have sent monetary gifts and other items.

Local
The Wave of Prayer - this is a worldwide event in which the MU prays round the clock. Our slot for prayer came on Feb 5th.: we are indebted to The Rector for the use of the Vicarage.

Mothering Sunday: 100 primroses obtained from the Garden Centre were wrapped in ECO friendly plastic and distributed at the Mothering Sunday Service in the Abbey.

Mary Sumner Day Aug 9th A quite day was held in the Vicarage Garden.

The Carol service and Christingle making: 175 oranges were purchased from The market Town Garden and the Christingles prepared after our Carol Service. Well attended and with visitors from Yeovil MU.

The Christmas Tree Festival - we obtained a tree which was decorated with our usual white angles and this time had the addition of Crosses with the MU logo placed centrally.

St.Pauls' Church . Members have continued to help with the church's outreach to young families by assisting in the kitchen, at the Wednesday morning sessions.

The MU board in the Abbey. This has been much appreciated by visitors form far and near. Elizabeth Prichard has changed the displays to fit with the seasons and the situations round the world.

Activities in the Diocese
Spring and Autumn Councils - not well attended due largely to transport issues and ageing membership.

Salisbury Cathedral Service during the 16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence. This was well attended and followed by an excellent lunch in Sarum College. Gifts for the Salisbury Women'' Refuge were taken. Nov. 19th.

Away From It All Holiday (AFIA). The MU Salisbury Diocese now has a new caravan. It was fully booked during the holiday season. Those using it are families who have been referred and would not be able to afford a holiday otherwise. Out of season the holiday home can be rented at a realistic price by anyone.

The Virtual Baby project. Salisbury Diocese now owns 12 virtual babies which are taken into a number of schools in the area. The purpose of this is to help youngsters realise that babies need a lot of attention - day and night! A Trustees' member brought several babies to one of our meetings and demonstrated how they work.

In addition to the above our members are actively involved in many of the charitable organisations in the town.

We also make a point of visiting those who live alone, are in care homes or hospitals and anyone else who is brought to our attention.

At our AGM on 24.1.2025 two of the Committee announced their retirement:-
Christine Byfield due to relocating to Yorkshire, Marilyn Davies after many years of service.

Both were thanked and presented with gifts.

Sarah White and Elizabeth Prichard have accepted to come onto the committee for 2025.

Now we look forward to 2025 and the theme of Join US and Join In

PROGRAMME 2024
Jan 26 AGM with Eucharist
Feb 5 Wave of Prayer 2.30 - 3.30. Venue TBC
Feb 23 Museum Talk - Luke
(March 10 - Mothering Sunday)
March 22 Nick Pascoe (retired prison Governor). Prisons
March 31 (Easter Sunday)
April 26 Quiz (Elizabeth in the absence of Lesley, Christine and JO)
May 24 (Suzanne Waters Trustee and Diocesan Treasurer). MU activities - Virtual babies and AFIA.
June 28 Music and Sue Bradshaw's poetry
July 26 MU Summer Lunch. St. Paul's Church Hall
Aug 9 Mary Sumner Day. Possible TBA by Lesley
Sept 27 Friends of the Yeatman. John Stokoe
Oct 25 Illustrated talk of the Walk to Rome
Nov 22 Creative Day
Dec 13 Carol Service and Christingle making

Jo Higgs Branch Leader

Trustees' Report (continued)

The Social Committee

Our first event of 2024 was serving tea, coffee and biscuits for the Wedding Conference on Saturday 13th January. It was a pleasure to meet all the happy couples who were planning their weddings in the Abbey this year.

Sunday 11th February: Shrove Lunch The numbers were lower than usual because the menu was not popular, but we managed to top up the profits from our own funds so that we could give £500 to FIAC for the Lent Projects.

Saturday 24th March: Messy Church We provided tea and coffee to welcome parents who brought their children to enjoy the crafts at this very well-attended event.

Sunday 26th May: APCM home-made scones, jam and clotted cream were served with tea and coffee at the APCM in the Digby Memorial Hall.

Sunday 30th June: Celebration for Rev. Becca McDonnell's Ordination to the Priesthood Rosé wine and canapés were served on the green outside the Abbey after the Eucharist for a very happy celebration of this special occasion.

July 18th, 19th, 20th The Sound of Music Soft drinks and biscuits were served during the interval of each performance of this year's very successful production. The Abbey was packed full of parents and children every night and it was a delight to watch their enjoyment and the enthusiasm of the entire cast.

Sunday 29th September: Harvest Lunch We decided that we would have to increase the cost of the tickets for our parish lunches if we were to provide interesting menus as well as wine and soft drinks, and make a profit to donate to charitable causes. The cost increased from £10 to £12.50 for adult tickets.

The menu proved popular and once again we served lunch for 90 people. Unfortunately two members of our committee had resigned, so we were struggling for cooks, but luckily two members of the congregation responded to Martin's plea on our behalf and a third offered to clear and wash up. This was invaluable, and saved the day.

As well as our profits from the lunch and the raffle, there were a number of generous donations for the Sudan Medical Link, so that the final amount was well over £1,500.

Monday 14th October: Pack Monday Café Once again, we were delighted by the generous response for helpers at this all-day event. It is a huge task to order all the supplies, to prepare the food, set up the hall, cook the food to order, keep the hot water urns topped up, clear tables, wash up, take the money etc. but the community spirit which keeps everyone going and creates such a welcoming atmosphere is tremendous, and being able to hand over profits of £1,000 at the end of the day makes it all worthwhile. This year the profits went towards setting up the area of the Alms House which is to be used as a space for young people of the town.

Cooker and Dishwasher The Committee would like to record their appreciation of the new cooker and dishwasher in the Hall kitchen which have improved the facilities enormously.

Frances Walker (Chairman)
Jo Hague (Treasurer), Jane Colman, Helen Coombs, Etta Paul, Suzanne Short

Director of Music's Report

There are now four choirs in the Abbey; the boys' choir, girls' choir, children's choir, and the adult choir that sings under the name "adult members of the back rows" but might in future be considered to be Sherborne Abbey Chamber Choir.

The number of boy choristers was this year maintained at the same level (14) with the addition of three boys from Leweston when two choristers left in the summer of 2024 to go to their secondary schools-and a third left the area. The Abbey seems to be bucking the national trend with its number of boy choristers, and they sing magnificently. Elsewhere boys' choirs have merged with girls' choirs or at the very least the church has struggled with recruitment. Of course, this positive situation could change at any moment and there is still increased recruitment work to be undertaken in the primary schools where the pupils are always very willing, eager and enthusiastic, but their parents are not citing the size and length (all year) of the commitment as being something of an impasse.

A CD delayed in manufacture that should have been released at Easter 2024 finally appeared in November 2024. Missa Brevis: choral music from Sherborne Abbey includes several well-known anthems by Wesley and Stanford; the famous Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in G by Stanford; and the setting of the mass by Matthew O'Donovan. The choir's repertoire has continued to expand, most notably with two further sixteenth century Eucharist settings, Herbert Howells's beautiful Gloucester Service canticles, contemporary music by Judith Bingham and Judith Weir, and various compositions by me. I consider myself to be fortunate that a choir as good as ours is ready and willing to perform music hot off my press!

The Abbey Girls' Choir is now well established and goes from strength to strength. The repertoire is beginning to approach that of the boys, although numbers attending still varies a little-and of course, that affects progress. A small but incredibly loyal congregation turns out in all weather conditions! Often, the girls are joined by most of the back row singers. Four girls left in the summer of 2024 for their secondary schools, which is not a necessity because their voices don't 'break', but for now they and their parents seem happy to follow the tradition of the boys' choir in that respect. A rotation of boys and girls over weekends and Thursdays has not found favour with the girls' parents who do not [yet] wish to commit to Sundays-but in any case, the current mood of the boys' parental body is supportive and happy as long as the commitment is not grown! We enjoy an incredibly supportive and very loyal parent body.

The appearance in the Abbey Festival of the Abbey Choir for a second year running saw an opportunity to perform plainchant from the Sherborne Missal-and a CD recording was made of the concert that contained music possibly being performed in the Abbey for the first time since being written here in the early fifteenth century. The Abbey Choir's concert is a ticketed event that is cost-free, providing the choir with an opportunity to raise some revenue for the Abbey Festival/PCC that has done so much to support the Choir's development through paying for singing lessons and providing chorister pocket-money/RSCM medal-associated pay.

As always, the back rows deserve special mention for the very high quality singing that they produced during 2024, with a wonderful blend and musical phrasing to match. Largely volunteers, they give many hours to the Abbey's music, but they are gradually decreasing in number because it seems that the next generation of good mature singers tend to be fee-based in their expectations. Meanwhile the gap-year Organ Scholar and three Choral Scholars-a scheme that I personally put in place back in 2005, and which Sherborne School has unfailingly and entirely funded (and provided accommodation for)-do much for the quality of the back row singing. Magnus Bushby, Louis Fletcher and Liam Atherton sang magnificently throughout the year and went on, respectively, to Edinburgh to read English; Lincoln College, Oxford, to read Music; and Durham to read Music. Arthur Hope Barton, our Organ Scholar for the year and who went on to be Organ Scholar of The Queen's College, Oxford, proved to be an exceptional organist and we will no doubt hear more of him in the future. The VE Award-Holders Jacob, Oscar and Danny, continue to lead the superb-but very young-bass section of the Abbey Choir whilst benefitting financially from the scheme that was created from interest on the legacy left by Vincent Evans. We continue to be very grateful for both schemes.

A significant addition to the team in late 2024 took place with the arrival of Dr Charlie Gurnham in the newly created 'Assistant Director of Music' role, a post with specific responsibility for musical Outreach. We are very grateful to the PCC for this excellent appointment being made possible. Charlie, who is on a full-time fixed-term contract of 2 years, and who lives in Cottage 3, is an ex-Cambridge Choral Scholar who now provides the vast majority of one-to-one singing lessons for all choristers, some piano lessons for choristers, and who above all has started the new Children's Choir as part of the Abbey's Musical Outreach programme. Charlie deputises in early morning chorister rehearsals occasionally and is also a good organist who holds the FRCO diploma. So far, he has undertaken some fine accompanying in the Abbey and given some exceptional organ recitals-most notably of a Messiaen nativity cycle. Peter Bray, with the assistance of the highly talented Organ Scholar and more recently with that of Charlie Gurnham, has continued to play throughout the year and our thanks go to him-as always-for his support and his very considerable commitment. Peter has now been the Assistant Organist in the Abbey for 23 years.

The appointment of voluntary Choir Chaperones, drawn from the back rows and the parent body, has seen all rehearsals of both girls' and boys' choirs now covered by a rota of chaperones. In addition to a DBS check, all members of the Choir aged 18 and above have also undertaken Basic Level Safeguarding Training provided by the CofE. Although many teachers and some other back row members already had a significantly higher level of training through other organisations, all found it to be very helpful as extra support. David and Lyn Rayner kindly provided an excellent briefing session for the new Chaperones; the session was found to be very helpful and reassuring.

Looking ahead, Music Outreach needs to continue to be grown throughout 2025, and probably the size of the Children's Choir increased in tandem. Consideration needs to be given to contributing to Choral Scholar pay, whilst also there will be an increasing need to consider paying back row singers a small stipend in order to attract similarly high level musicians to those who in the past were happy to be volunteers.

James Henderson
Director of Music & Organist

Festival 2024 Report

The beautifully designed Festival brochure, bearing the stunning cover photograph of headline artist Leia Zhu, landed on doormats, shop shelves and information points around the Sherborne area at the end of January, giving everyone a heads-up of the varied and exciting array of concerts in place for the 2024 Festival.

For those lucky enough to hear 16 year old prodigy Leia play Brahms' Violin Concerto, the memory will live long; that night the Abbey hosted a future musical star in the making, and we will hear much more of her in the coming years. The Festival's long-established relationship with the Leader of the London Mozart Players, Ruth Rogers, continues to ensure that the very best and most exciting concerto soloists perform in Sherborne, and all are very grateful to Ruth for her hard work and dedication to our Festival. As well as leading the orchestra for the concerto concert, Ruth performed a stunning programme of chamber music with her Aquinas Piano Trio in a completely sold-out Gransden Hall. Meanwhile Ex-Cathedra presented the ever-popular Rachmaninov Vespers in the Abbey, with the beautiful addition of off-stage tubular bells proving to be a haunting and powerful experience. Sherborne Abbey Choir made history by performing newly transcribed plainchant from the Sherborne Abbey Missal, written for the Abbey between 1399 and 1407: the concert was an illustration of the Abbey's musical heritage performed by the Choir that continues to this day musically to educate young people of the town whilst singing for services throughout most of the year. The evening concerts in the Abbey were bookended by a rousing opening concert performed by the Sherborne Festival Chorus and an engrossing performance by the world-renowned baroque orchestra, The Academy of Ancient Music.

The Festival continues to strive to offer as many free concerts as possible and is enormously grateful to the local schools that take part and make this possible: as always, ensembles from The Gryphon, Sherborne School, Sherborne Girls and Leweston School offered wonderful music from many varied ensembles, once again highlighting the significant musical talent so obviously thriving locally.

There was a wonderful buzz of energy and excitement around the Abbey throughout the entire Festival, and this was driven and carried in no small part by the many volunteers who contributed so much of their time in order to ensure that the Festival worked well and ran smoothly. Our grateful thanks goes to all of the volunteers, as also it does to the staff of the Abbey and the vergers in particular. In addition to the many concerts in the Abbey, the Festival also presented concerts in Cheap Street Church, the church of St Aldhelm and Sacred Heart, Sherborne School Big School Room, the Gransden Hall at Sherborne Girls and, of course, in The Plume of Feathers for the incredibly popular opera dinners. It is this coming together of all the venues that makes the Festival truly unique in the town.

The aim of the Festival is to raise money in order to support music-making and musicians in the Abbey and local area. This year grants were awarded to the Abbey choristers for singing lessons, to the youth section of the Sherborne Town Band for development costs, the Sherborne Douzelage for the event held in Sherborne in the early part of April, and to the parents of a local school pupil to defray the costs of participation in a holiday singing course.

The Festival was founded 25 years ago by Chairman John Baker and it cannot go unmentioned that, without his vision, drive and determination, the event would not be where it is today. His retirement at the end of the 2024 Festival, together with that of Assistant Artistic Director Sammy Henderson, was marked by some touching speeches with presentations. With Chairman John Jenkins now in place, alongside new Artistic Director Ana Manero, the future of the Festival is undoubtedly secure and will surely continue to go from strength to strength.

Samantha Henderson

Sherborne Abbey Company of Ringers
Tower Captains Report 2024

2024 has been another busy year with extra teaching being provided to both adult learners and another tranche of six schoolboys, and the usual range of social and ringing events. It was with great pleasure that we welcomed back Catherine Cooper after a few years away. 42 people paid a subscription to the Guild. While eight young people in their A-level year left school for University and other delights, and one or two other learners gave up, we still have sufficient dedicated ringers for the wider ringing events we support. Up to 20 people are available on Sundays and we almost always ring all eight bells.

The overhead of teaching remains high and I am particularly grateful to Richard, Tim, David and John Fry for their support with the learners. Apart from the Abbey, we have, through Richard and John, been able to support regular Wednesday practices and Sunday Service ringing at Longburton. This year too, on a few occasions, there has been a sufficient supply to ring at Lillington and it is hoped to continue in 2025. The Abbey Ringers have also supported two teaching half-days at Longburton organised by the West Dorset Branch of the Guild, where members of the bands at Shipton Gorge and South Perrott have been helped through Plain Hunt.

We rang for 8 weddings, including one at Longburton, and scored two quarters (although several more were attempted!). Four peal attempts took place by visiting bands, with three successfully brought round, including one of 12-spliced Major, with all the methods named after pubs in Bristol. The events leading up to the choice of methods are probably the stuff of legend….

Talking of quarter peals, it would be wrong if I didn't mention one rung at Yeovilton in September to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Jan's joining the WRNS. The method was Jenny Wren Delight Minor!

The Doubles and Minor Group has met fortnightly at Longburton and some recent progress has been made with a defined program of learning.

Book sales have been light as most are now sold through the Abbey Shop, but £45 has been realised and we have just 3 copies remaining unsold from a total of 769. £22.50 has been distributed to each Charity.

The social side of life for the Abbey band followed a by now familiar pattern, with our "Christmas" meal in January at the Rose & Crown in Longburton, a Ringers' Supper in Holy Week, our summer barbecue at David and Barbara's home in Acreman Street where Nick cooked burgers and sausages on the barbie and much food and drink was consumed in the lovely rear garden. Some of us also gathered at Gainsborough Drive in December. Our outing this year was in East Devon and South Somerset, when around 30 people came. Grateful thanks are due to Jan, as ever, for organising another wonderful day!

And finally, I must make mention of our latest trip abroad to Dordrecht. Organised by Andy, around ten of us from the Abbey band and friends from Upwey met in Holland to ring the ten bells in the Cathedral and the eight in the Clock House, a small building in the Cathedral courtyard. Another great adventure to foreign lands.

All in all, another successful year, from which we can look forward with confidence to 2025.

Tim Phillips

Abbey Guides

The year 2024 has proved to be a busy year for the guides, who showed over 1,200 visitors around our beautiful building. I should also like to welcome Justin Chapman to our 'merry band'. Justin is a practicing architect and lectures at the School of Architecture, Oxford Brookes University.

Between 2nd April and 29th November, guided tours were offered on Tuesday mornings, Wednesday afternoons, Thursday mornings and Friday afternoons, and 781 visitors attended these tours. This was an increase of 446 when compared to 2023. The increase in numbers can be directly related to the increase in the number of weekday tours on offer. In previous years tours were only offered on Tuesday mornings and Friday afternoons. Leaflets advertising Abbey tours were again distributed to local hotels and tourist attractions. I would like to thank the guides as they took an active role in the distribution of these leaflets.

During July and August and on the first weekend of September tours were offered on Saturday mornings and on Sundays (after the 9.30 service), and 73 visitors attended. Numbers were down compared to 2023 - this may well reflect a general downturn in numbers due to the mixed summer weather. Wherever possible when there was a baptism immediately following the Sunday morning service the tour was moved to the afternoon.

There were 17 private booked tours during the year, with a total of 257 visitors.

In addition to the above:

1. Guides have also assisted with visits to the Abbey by local schools and youth organisations. In these five visits 205 young people attended. The largest group consisted of 60 children from a local primary school which is part of Sherborne Area Schools' Trust (SAST).

2. Sherborne Abbey participated in Dorset Architectural Heritage Week with reserved places for each of the tours being 'sold-out'. The Abbey received a high number of votes from visitors, indicating it was one of the most enjoyed events during the week.

3. On Monday 14th October 2024 as part of the Pack Monday Fair celebrations guides were on duty in the Abbey to welcome visitors, show people around, and generally answer any questions.

4. Sherborne Abbey, along with Sherborne Castle & Gardens, has received the Travellers' Choice Award for 2024. The Travellers' Choice awards are based on the reviews and opinions collected from travellers around the world on Tripadvisor over a 12-month period and recognise destinations that earn consistently five-star reviews and demonstrate a commitment to hospitality excellence. The award-winners are among the top 10 per cent of listings on Tripadvisor, reflecting the enthusiasm and professionalism shown by both guides and Abbey welcomers alike.

5. Guides have also given illustrated talks at local organisations, including history groups and a luncheon club.

6. Journalists from national newspapers and magazines have toured the Abbey, a top regional tourist attraction, as part of a promotional campaign for the area.

I would like to thank all the guides for their support during 2024 and for their continued professional and enthusiastic approach to the role of Sherborne Abbey Guides.

I would also like to register my appreciation for the support received from the vergers, from Joanna Sams and Sue Lee in the Parish Office, and from the welcomers who actively promote our tours.

Harold Clarke
Head Guide

Abbey Servers

"We are the servants of the servants of God" St Gregory

Despite having lost almost half of its members either during or in the aftermath of the Pandemic, the Serving Team has continued to fulfil its core requirement to support worship events in the Abbey during the past year.

The addition of several new recruits of school age has helped the Team enormously in meeting the Abbey's needs and the enthusiasm, quick learning and efficient service of these young people has impressed and been heartily welcomed by all.

We continue to look for new volunteers to join the team and encourage anyone with an interest to contact the Head Server. Training will be provided, and the frequency of duty days is entirely in accordance with the wishes of the volunteer. All of us in the Team consider Serving to be both an honour and a privilege.

John Keating
Head Server

Abbey Guardians

2024 has been another developing year for the Guardians whose numbers have peaked at just under one hundred. This is against a considerable increase in visitor numbers, brought about by some clever marketing and television programmes which featured the Abbey. We were most fortunate as well, to have the opportunity to host Jacqui Parkinson's Threads Through Creation exhibition, which proved hugely popular, if something of a challenge to supervise.

The Abbey has followed fashion in allowing pet dogs to accompany visitors, happily with no canine dramas to date. The Christmas tree (even larger than usual) was a must see with all ages whilst the tasteful expansion of the Abbey Shop has proved a great attraction for visitors, especially over the festive season.

The training of Guardians has been greatly assisted by the Abbey Guides who have kindly provided special focused tours throughout the year to ensure everyone is reminded of the Abbey's history.

In April we were treated to a most informative and moving talk by Professor Andrew Tompkins on the Children in South Sudan, followed as ever by a delicious tea.

October saw a well-attended Coffee morning for both Guardians and Abbey Guides and further small meetings with newly appointed Guardians have taken place over the year.

Guardians stepped in to undertake sidesperson duties when the new Girls' Choir was established, attending sung evensong services on Thursdays. Guardians have frequently been on hand to assist visitors with their purchases in the absence of shop staff, whilst several, when on duty, have happily helped the Vergers with cleaning and tidying.

At the end of the year, retiring after over six very memorable years as Head Guardian, Sue Morgan handed over the reins to Suzanne Short and Philip Langridge. Sue thanks all the Guardians for their wonderful support to her and devoted work for the Abbey during her tenure.

Sue Morgan.
Head Guardian.

Head Verger's Report

The Abbey continues to be as busy as always with services, concerts and other events. It is becoming more and more the centre of the community showing itself to support many causes and being far more a part of local events such as Pack Monday Fair and the various markets, charities and events that take place throughout the year.

Visitor numbers continue to increase and attendance numbers for many special services at Christmas and Easter have shown a sharp rise, particularly our Crib services, the Midnight Mass and Parish Eucharist on Christmas Day. 4,133 people attended services during the Christmas week, we hosted twenty carol services and almost 7000 people attended school carol services during December. The Abbey appears to be welcoming more and more young people, which can only be a good thing as that is where the future lies.

The verger team comprises of myself, Chris Hamon, Graham Winter, Catherine Zvengintzov, Tim Lee and Stuart McCreadie who looks after the Boys School services on a voluntary basis for which we are extremely grateful. We are all part-time but strive to provide continuity of care and support for the Abbey.

Swift boxes have been installed in the bell chamber and there are cameras, and a live feed linked to a computer so that in the event of the Swifts nesting they can be observed.

The Abbey Festival was a big success as always, as was the production of 'The Sound of Music' which encouraged many young people into the Abbey, some of whom have joined the serving team or the choir as a result.

The West End of the Abbey has undergone a small reorganization in order to tidy it up, reducing the clutter and making various leaflets etc. easier to find. The shop has undergone a complete transformation thanks to Chris Hamon and is proving to be a huge success.

At present we are waiting for the granting of a faculty to build a new vestry and toilets for the Abbey, much needed and long overdue. At present many members of our community are prevented from coming to church due to the lack of facilities and we are one of the few, if not only, Greater Churches remaining that doesn't provide modern and accessible facilities for its congregation and visitors. Once the faculty is granted and work begins it will be a big upheaval but well worth it in the long run.

Dogs are now welcome in the Abbey which has also made a huge difference to visitors. No longer must someone wait outside with their dog while their partner looks round the Abbey then swap over. Visitors have often arrived with a dog in the past but left as the dogs were not welcome. Yet another positive step forward in the welcoming ministry.

It is always a privilege to serve the Abbey and its community as a verger and to support Fr Martin in his endeavors to bring the Abbey into the 21st century.

Andrew Cross

Abbey Flower Arrangers

We welcomed two new members to our team during 2024 and we now have four groups of arrangers.

We change the flowers every Friday and the groups follow a rota.

The teams have had the joy of doing large pedestals for several weddings and we always have fun at Easter, Harvest and Christmas, allowing each arranger to create their own style.

From now on, we are offering to do special arrangements for those who wish to remember the anniversary of a departed loved one and are very much looking forward to this privilege.

We continue to be as environmentally friendly as possible, only using oasis when absolutely necessary which is also financially beneficial.

Our thanks, as ever, go to all those ladies who give their time to decorate the Abbey, to the Vergers who are very patient coping with our constant requests and "mess" each Friday and to Occasions Florist for their continued support.

Barbara Fifield

Employment Working Group
Purpose:

The EWG convened in its new format in September 2024 to address outstanding HR issues, following initial work carried out by the Diocesan HR Consultant, and to ensure recommendations were implemented. In addition, the group's remit was to conduct a wider review of HR practices, some of which necessitated immediate change to comply with employment legislation and Diocesan policy.

Aims and Objectives:
- Ensure all staff have an up-to-date job description and contract of employment.
- Review salaries and ensure alignment with current market rate for relevant roles.
- Review pension scheme contributions to confirm compliance with regulator.
- Implement best practice for recruitment and selection to evidence fair process.
- Create and implement best practice documentation for induction of new starters to facilitate clarity around role requirements and retention.
- Support the recruitment process when the need for a new role is identified and approved.
- Address employment issues when raised to ensure compliance with legislation and Diocesan policy.

Progress:
Contractual Paperwork
- Forming part of the consultation process, members of the EWG met with all staff to outline the next steps following initial discussions with the HR Consultant.
- The new Staff Handbook was introduced to staff and each member of staff received an online version of the Handbook following the meeting.
- All staff were sent drafts of their job descriptions for discussion and update, along with a copy of their Contract of Employment for perusal, ahead of individual meetings where any queries could be raised and changes agreed, prior to signing all documentation.
- Signed contracts are now being held securely on the relevant personnel files, in accordance with GDPR.

Salary Review
- Further to a review of salaries against similar roles within and outside of the Diocese, the EWG recommended that the PCC approve a 5% staff salary uplift for the 2024/25 FY, backdated to 1st January 2024. A proposal to bring the date for staff salary reviews into line with the clergy was also approved and will ensure there is no further drift on salary reviews. All salary uplifts for 2024 were actioned accordingly.
- As part of the salary review process, issues around compliance were identified and steps have been taken to ensure that all the churches in the benefice are in line with HMRC rules and employment law.

Pension Scheme
- To assist with recruitment, the benefits package has been enhanced to open the auto-enrolment pension scheme to all staff, with no exceptions.
- A review of the pension scheme has confirmed that it is compliant with regulatory requirements.

Recruitment and Induction
- A new recruitment and interview process has been implemented to ensure fairness and transparency in the selection process thus protecting against potential discrimination claims.
- A new induction process has been rolled out for use during the new starter's probationary period to ensure there is clarity around expectation (enabling performance to be managed effectively) and to maximise the likelihood of retention. This includes a formal end of probation meeting to confirm employment.
- The following appointments have all been subject to the new HR practices throughout parts or all the selection process, engagement, and induction: Assistant Director of Music; Bookkeeper.

Miscellaneous Issues
- Issues around overtime and time off in lieu for members of the verger team have been addressed and a new system put in place, effective 1st January 2025. Regular monthly reviews will provide a sense-check to determine whether any further changes need to be implemented.

Going Forward

- Staff salaries are to be reviewed in line with market rate and any suggested guidelines, with a view to applying an agreed uplift in April 2025.
- Liaise with staff and devise a relevant and fair appraisal system for roll out in 2026.

EWG: Rector; Nicholas Pascoe; Alex Mackenzie; Deborah Carrington

Trustees' Report (continued)

Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31 December 2024

2024 was a very busy year for the PCC with work on core activities and on new projects. I started as bookkeeper in November 2024 and was very pleased to be recently elected Treasurer. It has been a steep learning curve but I was struck by the start by the vibrancy of the PCC Community and I love being able to walk up the aisle of the beautiful Abbey when all the figures get too much.

The audit has gone well with a clean audit report and I would like to thank the staff of Lanham and Francis for their patience and historical knowledge of the charity. There are definitely improvements that I would like to make for the 2025 financial statements in conjunction with the auditors in order to increase the clarity of the figures. The auditors are fully in agreement with this approach.

Financial review
The PCC has ended the year with net assets of £7.7 million , an increase of £58k on 2023. The composition of the net assets is shown on the Balance Sheet on page 47 of the financial statements. 50% of the net assets are unrestricted: 6% are restricted and the remaining 44% held as endowment funds.

The PCC is fortunate at 31 December 2024 to have substantial assets mainly comprising £1.5m buildings, £5.7m of investments with CCLA and M&G, and cash of £652k. The buildings comprise The Digby Memorial Hall; St Paul's Church; a 50% share in a property at Glanville Way in Sherborne and Numbers 1,2 and 4 Abbey Close. £59k of investments were sold in the year realizing cash of £62k to fund the creation of the Sherborne Abbey tearooms at the Almshouses in Sherborne and to pay for the chandelier repair at Castleton Church. £2.1m are held with M&G and £3.6m with CCLA with M&G outperforming CCLA in 2024. £224k of income was generated in the year from these investments - a very significant part of the total income of the year of £983k. £2.46m (2023 : £2.45m) of these investments are held as endowment funds by the Salisbury Diocesan board of finance as custodian trustee.

Highlights of the year- Income and Expenditure
Looking at the Statement of Financial Activities on page 45 the net movement in funds of £58k includes overall gain in investments of £117k so if that is removed then there is an excess of expenditure over income of £59k compared to £27k in 2023.

There are a number of funds contributing to the overall performance of the PCC - these are highlighted in note 22 - Income and Expenditure by Fund. They are summarized into General; Designated; Restricted and Endowment Funds - an explanation of the different types is at the bottom of the report.

The General Fund benefited from a gain in investments of £53k and the transfer of reserves from the Shop of £48k - without these the underlying performance showed an excess of expenditure over income of £92k (2023 : £48k) . The slight worsening in position was primarily due to a fall in income from giving and a rise in costs, predominantly in utilities and staff costs. However the PCC is immensely grateful that in difficult times the giving figures have held up so well and would like to thank all donors for all the very generous contributions made. The Friends very kindly pay for much of the fabric repair to the Abbey and this figure can vary substantially from year to year, distorting the other donations and the repair costs in the financial statements. The Utilities billing from SSE has been nothing short of appalling in 2024 and the accounts for electricity and gas held within SSE are being reviewed at the highest level currently within SSE. There should be a substantial refund in 2025. The Parish Share continues to be the major expense of the General Fund. Share was paid in full in 2024 and 2023 by the PCC.
These costs are included in Ministry in note 7 of the accounts.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Designated Funds
There were a number of new funds in 2024 - The Almshouses, Lime Trees and Swifts over Sherborne.

It was agreed in 2024 that the PCC would loan £50k to the project to convert the Almshouses into tearooms in 2024. This was funded by a drawdown from Endowment Investments of £50k. The PCC also paid for some start-up costs - £5k - for this project towards the end of 2024, while the company and bank account were being set up. In 2025 Sherborne Abbey Tearooms Ltd was incorporated and trading started in March 2025. Any payments made on its behalf by the PCC have been repaid in 2025 so that the only involvement of the PCC in this venture going forward is the initial agreed loan of £50k.

Generous donations towards the Lime Trees Projects were received in 2024 and 2025 - this project is now complete and the monies received will be paid to the Council in April 2025 towards the costs of the project. Monies were also received with thanks towards the Swifts Over Sherborne project.

Otherwise the Sherborne Abbey Festival; the Digby Hall and FIAC continued their very good work.

The Shop was taken over by the Friends during 2024 following the retirement of the shop manager and is shown as a discontinued operation in the SOFA. Any residual reserves were transferred to the General Fund.

Restricted Funds
Work on the AFU project continued during 2024 with very generous donations from the Friends; from a bequest and from individuals. The project is currently on hold while an objection from the Victorian Society is addressed.

Endowment Funds
This comprises the increase in the market value of Endowment investments and the transfer to the Almshouse Tearooms project as described above.

Looking towards the future
I am looking to improve budgeting and cashflow reporting. There will be a considerable call on cash and investments if permission for the AFU project is granted. Draw down on investments will significantly impact on the investment income and there will be a lot of work to do on grant applications and improving giving. A financial strategy is needed to try to increase income and reduce costs where appropriate. The PCC is fortunate to have a strong financial basis at the end of 2024. It would be good to create a financial strategy for 2025 and 2026.

Liz Ashmead
Treasurer

Appendix to Treasurer's report : Explanation of terms

Unrestricted funds - split into General and Designated.
• General funds - there are no restrictions as to the use of these funds and the PCC is free to use these within its charity policies
• Designated funds - these are funds earmarked for specific purposes but there are no legal restrictions as to the use of these funds and these can be transferred back to the General Fund at any time

Restricted funds - the use of these funds is restricted to purposes set by the Donor and these funds cannot be used for other purposes

Permanent endowment funds - are created when a sum of money is received from a donor who specifies that it must not be spent as if it were income. Usually the donor will instruct that the sum of money (the 'capital' or the 'permanent endowment') must be invested and the income generated must be spent on certain specified purposes.

Financial review

The parish accounts show a net surplus in funds for 2024 of £58,175 (2023 : £239,543).

At 31 December 2024 total funds amounted to £7,694,003 (2023 : £7,635,828). Of these funds £ (2023 : £433,460) were restricted funds. The specific use of these funds is outlined in note 22.

The total funds also include endowment funds of £3,409,858 (2023 : £3,402,826), which comprise investments held by the Diocesan Board of Finance, as custodian trustee, for any future Abbey investment- namely for the upkeep of the Chancel and the Abbey. Funds from those investments are used during the year to cover directly related expenditure, mainly the insurance of the Abbey.

Unrestricted funds are available for the PCC to use within its charity policies.

Policy on reserves

It is the charity's policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds. These reserves allow interest and dividends to form a major part of the income generated in any given year, which is essential to cover core expenditure incurred.

The reserves held also allow maintenance and improvement of the buildings under the charity's control.

Principal funding sources

The principal funding sources of the charity are donations through parish collections, planned giving and other donations and legacies. The charity also benefits from gift aid relief on certain donations.

There are 514 members of the Church Electoral Roll.

Investment policy and objectives

The investment assets comprise units / shares in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund and the M&G Charifund and M&G Charibond charity funds. These funds aim to generate capital appreciation and rising income and a total return in excess of their benchmarks, whilst adopting an appropriate Ethical Investment Policy.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities requires the trustees 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 incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Disclosure of information to auditor

Each trustee has taken steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information. The trustees confirm that there is no relevant information that they know of and of which they know the auditor is unaware.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 2nd April and signed on its behalf by:

Dr Christopher Hamon
Trustee

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2024, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement, and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising Charities SORP - FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and applicable law (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the original financial statements were authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton (continued)

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Report) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities , the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:
We have considered the nature of the sector, control environment and financial performance;

We have considered the results of enquiries with management and members in relation to their own identification and assessment of the risk of irregularities within the entity and

We have reviewed the documentation of key processes and controls and performed walkthroughs of transactions to confirm that the systems are operating in line with documentation.

For any matters identified we have obtained and reviewed the charity's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:

Identifying, evaluating, and complying with laws and regulations whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;

Detecting and responding to the risk of fraud and whether they have knowledge of actual, suspected, or alleged fraud;
and of the internal controls established to mitigate the risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton (continued)

We have considered the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and potential indicators of fraud. As a result of these procedures, we have considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the highest area of risk to be in relation to revenue recognition. In conjunction with all audits under ISAs (UK) we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We have also obtained understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the Charities Act 2011, Charity SORP 2019, FRS 102 and the terms and conditions attaching to material grants received by the charity.

In addition, we considered the provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charity's ability to operate or avoid a material penalty. These included data protection regulations, health and safety regulations and employment legislation. Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

Reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;

Performing analytical procedures to identify unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;

Reviewing Trustees' meeting minutes;

Enquiring of management in relation to actual and potential claims or litigations;

Performing detailed transactional testing in relation to the recognition of revenue, specifically grants, and:

In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls:

testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments;
assessing whether the judgments made in accounting estimates are indicative of potential bias and;
evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all members of the engagement team and remained alert to possible indicators of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.
A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton (continued)

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the trustees those matters we are required to state to trustees in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Ian Dodds (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Lanham & Francis, Statutory Auditor

Church House
Church Street
Yeovil
Somerset
BA20 1HB

30 April 2025

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Continuing operations 2024 £	Discontinued operations 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Income and Endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	2	374,240	96,625	-	470,865	-	470,865
Charitable activities	3	186,113	18,863	-	204,976	-	204,976
Other trading activities	4	33,423	45	-	33,468	31,807	65,275
Investment income	5	230,038	12,293	-	242,331	92	242,423
Total income		823,814	127,826	-	951,640	31,899	983,539
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	6	(40,609)	-	-	(40,609)	(20,531)	(61,140)
Charitable activities	7	(874,229)	(107,852)	-	(982,081)	-	(982,081)
Total expenditure		(914,838)	(107,852)	-	(1,022,690)	(20,531)	(1,043,221)
Gains/(losses) on investment assets		52,592	8,233	57,032	117,857	-	117,857
Net (expenditure)/income		(38,432)	28,207	57,032	46,807	11,368	58,175
Net transfers between funds		40,000	10,000	(50,000)	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		1,568	38,207	7,032	46,807	11,368	58,175
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		3,799,542	433,460	3,402,826	7,635,828	-	7,635,828
Total funds carried forward	22	3,801,110	471,667	3,409,858	7,682,635	11,368	7,694,003

The notes on pages 49 to 64 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (continued)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Continuing operations 2023 £	Discontinued operations 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	2	662,695	17,897	-	680,592	-	680,592
Charitable activities	3	194,952	18,123	-	213,075	-	213,075
Other trading activities	4	35,644	45	-	35,689	35,227	70,916
Investment income	5	218,435	8,494	-	226,929	86	227,015
Total income		1,111,726	44,559	-	1,156,285	35,313	1,191,598
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	6	(32,356)	-	-	(32,356)	(27,056)	(59,412)
Charitable activities	7	(1,121,782)	(36,681)	-	(1,158,463)	-	(1,158,463)
Total expenditure		(1,154,138)	(36,681)	-	(1,190,819)	(27,056)	(1,217,875)
Gains/(losses) on investment assets		28,173	26,487	211,160	265,820	-	265,820
Net (expenditure)/income		(14,239)	34,365	211,160	231,286	8,257	239,543
Net transfers between funds		1,298	(1,298)	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(12,941)	33,067	211,160	231,286	8,257	239,543
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		3,804,226	400,393	3,191,666	7,396,285	-	7,396,285
Total funds carried forward	22	3,791,285	433,460	3,402,826	7,627,571	8,257	7,635,828

The notes on pages 49 to 64 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

(Registration number: 1130082)
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	1,505,035	1,506,245
Investments	15	5,609,975	5,554,118
		7,115,010	7,060,363
Current assets			
Stocks	16	-	11,935
Debtors	17	32,882	25,378
Cash at bank and in hand	18	652,158	594,816
		685,040	632,129
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	19	(106,047)	(56,664)
Net current assets		578,993	575,465
Net assets		7,694,003	7,635,828
Funds of the charity:			
Endowment funds	22	3,409,858	3,402,826
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds	22	471,667	433,460
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds	22	3,812,478	3,799,542
Total funds	22	7,694,003	7,635,828

The financial statements on pages 45 to 64 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on ..... and signed on their behalf by:

D J A Fifield

Mr David Fifield
Trustee

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Cash Flow Statement for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash income		58,175	239,543
Adjustments to cash flows from non-cash items			
Depreciation	9	1,210	1,210
Investment income	5	(242,423)	(227,015)
Profit on disposal of investments		(2,204)	-
Revaluation of investments		(115,653)	(265,820)
		(300,895)	(252,082)
Working capital adjustments			
Decrease in stocks	16	11,935	2,461
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	17	(7,504)	57,421
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	19	49,383	(20,910)
Net cash flows from operating activities		(247,081)	(213,110)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest receivable and similar income	5	242,423	227,015
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	14	-	(8,467)
Sale of investments		62,000	-
Net cash flows from investing activities		304,423	218,548
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		57,342	5,438
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January		594,816	589,378
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December		652,158	594,816

All of the cash flows are derived from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The notes on pages 49 to 64 form an integral part of these financial statements.

1 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation
The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiatical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

These financial statements are prepared in Sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £1.
These financial statements are prepared in Sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £1.

Going concern
The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Reclassification of comparative amounts
Income from the Sherborne Festival totalling £100,288 has been reclassified as income from charitable activities, rather than from other trading activities. The principal reason is that the main aim of the Festival is to raise funds for Sherborne Abbey. The reclassification has had no effect on the result for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Income and endowments
Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Gift aid

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the Statement of Financial Activities at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

Investment income

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Expenditure
All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the proportion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees' meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Consecrated and beneficed land and property and inalienable church furnishings and equipment are excluded from the financial statements. All expenditure incurred on maintenance or improvement of such property or furnishings is written off in the financial statements.

Other land and buildings in the beneficial ownership of the charity are included in the financial statements at cost. Under the transitional rules of FRS102 paragraph 35.10, the land and buildings were revalued at the date of transition. The basis of this valuation was market value, which was established by the charity. This value has been carried forward as the deemed cost. Annual reviews of the properties are undertaken to determine whether or not there has been any impairment, which would reduce the market value of the land and buildings.

The value of all office and miscellaneous equipment is written off in the financial year in which it is acquired, except for assets costing in excess of £5,000, which are capitalised and depreciated. The value of consumable goods in hand is considered immaterial.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rate in order to write off each asset over its expected useful life:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Furniture and fittings	7 years straight line

Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments, other than programme related investments, are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their market value at the start of the year, or their subsequent cost, and are charged or credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are credited or charged to the Statement of Financial Activities based on the market value at the year end.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Stock
Stock is valued at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell, after due regard for obsolete and slow moving stocks. Cost is determined using the first-in, first-out (FIFO).

Trade debtors
Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Borrowings
Interest-bearing borrowings are initially recorded at fair value, net of transaction costs. Interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost, with the difference between the proceeds, net of transaction costs, and the amount due on redemption being recognised as a charge to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period of the relevant borrowing.

Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in interest payable and similar charges.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the charity has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

Fund structure
Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.
Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.
Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations
The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Financial instruments

Classification

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.
Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

Recognition and measurement

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the charity intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the charity transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the charity, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Investments

Investments in non-convertible preference shares and non-puttable ordinary or preference shares (where shares are publicly traded or their fair value is reliably measurable) are measured at fair value through profit or loss. Where fair value cannot be measured reliably, investments are measured at cost less impairment.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted	Total
	Designated	General	funds	2024
	£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies;				
Parish giving	61,478	178,635	-	240,113
Church collecting	1,820	16,162	17,219	35,201
Donations to appeals	6,654	-	78,640	85,294
Gift aid reclaimed	14,643	29,133	766	44,542
Other income from donations and legacies	3,712	62,003	-	65,715
	88,307	285,933	96,625	470,865

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted	Total
	Designated	General	funds	2023
	£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies;				
Parish giving	57,321	199,452	-	256,773
Church collecting	1,133	67,944	4,460	73,537
Donations to appeals	410	950	10,905	12,265
Gift aid reclaimed	18,761	36,635	-	55,396
Regular giving and capital donations	-	-	50	50
Other income from donations and legacies	2,397	277,692	2,482	282,571
	80,022	582,673	17,897	680,592

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted	Total
	Designated	General	funds	2024
	£	£	£	£
Parochial services	10,565	64,489	18,863	93,917
Festival	111,059	-	-	111,059
	121,624	64,489	18,863	204,976

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted	Total
	Designated	General	funds	2023
	£	£	£	£
Parochial services	15,905	78,759	18,123	112,787
Festival	100,288	-	-	100,288
	116,193	78,759	18,123	213,075

4 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds Designated £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Trading income;			
Sales of goods and services	31,807	45	31,852
Digby Memorial Church Hall	29,412	-	29,412
Other events	4,011	-	4,011
	65,230	45	65,275

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
	Designated £	General £		
Trading income;				
Sales of goods and services	35,227	-	45	35,272
Digby Memorial Church Hall	32,286	-	-	32,286
Concerts	1,766	-	-	1,766
Other events	455	1,137	-	1,592
	69,734	1,137	45	70,916

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
	Designated £	General £		
Interest receivable and similar income;				
Interest receivable on bank deposits	8,603	1,130	431	10,164
Other income from fixed asset investments	-	212,897	11,862	224,759
Income from rents	-	7,500	-	7,500
	8,603	221,527	12,293	242,423

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
	Designated £	General £		
Interest receivable and similar income;				
Interest receivable on bank deposits	5,805	235	257	6,297
Other income from fixed asset investments	-	204,981	8,237	213,218
Income from rents	-	7,500	-	7,500
	5,805	212,716	8,494	227,015

6 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds Designated £	Total 2024 £
Fundraising trading costs;		
Cost of goods sold	18,547	18,547
Shop overheads	1,984	1,984
Digby Memorial Church Hall	23,856	23,856
Membership subscriptions	784	784
Staff costs	15,969	15,969
	61,140	61,140

	Unrestricted funds Designated £	Total 2023 £
Fundraising trading costs;		
Cost of goods sold	18,756	18,756
Shop overheads	1,874	1,874
Digby Memorial Church Hall	18,780	18,780
Music Committee	60	60
Staff costs	19,942	19,942
	59,412	59,412

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total 2024
	Designated	General		
	£	£	£	£
The Ministry	-	237,133	660	237,793
Worship	5,597	25,719	21,654	52,970
Faith in Action Committee - grants paid	54,893	-	-	54,893
Church in the Community	7,985	-	-	7,985
Fabric	17,675	182,035	30,347	230,057
Management and Administration	7,302	44,897	2,516	54,715
Flower arrangers	-	-	3,519	3,519
Other events	3,188	-	652	3,840
Projects	5,017	(17,161)	48,504	36,360
Festival	99,955	-	-	99,955
Staff costs	5,910	174,572	-	180,482
Governance costs	-	19,512	-	19,512
	207,522	666,707	107,852	982,081

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total 2023
	Designated	General		
	£	£	£	£
The Ministry	2,885	221,654	983	225,522
Worship	1,671	24,471	16,915	43,057
Faith in Action Committee - grants paid	64,097	-	-	64,097
Church in the Community	22,048	-	-	22,048
Fabric	17,692	447,548	12,559	477,799
Management and Administration	1,863	56,943	3,039	61,845
Flower arrangers	-	-	2,680	2,680
Other events	-	-	505	505
Festival	94,191	-	-	94,191
Staff costs	6,209	141,348	-	147,557
Governance costs	-	19,162	-	19,162
	210,656	911,126	36,681	1,158,463

8 Analysis of governance and support costs

Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £
Audit fees		
Audit of the financial statements	9,532	9,532
Other fees paid to auditors	2,000	2,000
Other governance costs	7,980	7,980
Total for 2024	19,512	19,512
Total for 2023	19,162	19,162

9 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net outgoing resources for the year include:

	2024 £	2023 £
Audit fees	9,532	9,162
Other non-audit services	2,000	2,000
Profit on disposal of investments	(2,204)	-
Depreciation of fixed assets	1,210	1,210

10 Trustees remuneration and expenses

During the year the charity made the following transactions with trustees:

Mrs Joanne Hague

Mrs Joanne Hague received remuneration of £Nil (2023: £1,966) during the year.

She was remunerated for accounting services provided to the charity prior to her resignation in March 2023.

Dr Christopher Hamon

Dr Christopher Hamon received remuneration of £12,725 (2023: £13,364) during the year.

He was paid for his services as a verger.

Payment for these services is permitted under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure.

During the year 6 trustees were reimbursed expenses totalling £12,225 (2023 : 7 trustees were reimbursed £9,346).

No trustees have received any other benefits from the charity during the year.

11 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	187,666	156,717
Social security costs	6,015	8,533
Pension costs	2,770	2,249
	196,451	167,499

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2024 No	2023 No
Worship	6	5
Management and administration	6	6
	12	11

7 (2023 - 4) of the above employees participated in the Defined Contribution Pension Schemes.

Contributions to the employee pension schemes for the year totalled £2,770 (2023 - £2,249).

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year

12 Auditors' remuneration

	2024 £	2023 £
Audit of the financial statements	9,532	9,162
Other fees to auditors		
All other non-audit services	2,000	2,000

13 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings £	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 January 2024	1,498,988	8,467	1,507,455
At 31 December 2024	1,498,988	8,467	1,507,455
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2024	-	1,210	1,210
Charge for the year	-	1,210	1,210
At 31 December 2024	-	2,420	2,420
Net book value			
At 31 December 2024	1,498,988	6,047	1,505,035
At 31 December 2023	1,498,988	7,257	1,506,245

15 Fixed asset investments

Other investments

	Listed investments £	Total £
Cost or Valuation		
At 1 January 2024	5,554,118	5,554,118
Revaluation	115,653	115,653
Disposals	(59,796)	(59,796)
At 31 December 2024	5,609,975	5,609,975
Net book value		
At 31 December 2024	5,609,975	5,609,975
At 31 December 2023	5,554,118	5,554,118

16 Stock

	2024 £	2023 £
Stocks	-	11,935

17 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Prepayments	3,962	-
Other debtors	28,920	25,378
	32,882	25,378

18 Cash and cash equivalents

	2024	2023
	£	£
Cash on hand	1,166	1,311
Cash at bank	305,758	428,096
Short-term deposits	345,234	165,409
	652,158	594,816

19 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	-	2,629
Other creditors	24,094	36,035
Accruals	81,953	18,000
	106,047	56,664

20 Obligations under leases and hire purchase contracts

Operating lease commitments

Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Land and buildings		
Within one year	3,900	2,288
Between one and five years	15,600	-
After five years	6,825	-
	26,325	2,288

21 Pension and other schemes

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £2,770 (2023 - £2,249).

22 Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2024 £
Unrestricted funds						
General						
Parish Central Funds	3,506,259	571,949	(666,707)	50,703	52,592	3,514,796
Designated						
St Paul's Church	122,791	95,785	(44,589)	(45,973)	-	128,014
Digby Memorial Church Hall	22,863	29,957	(39,825)	-	-	12,995
Sherborne Abbey Shop	43,654	31,899	(20,531)	(55,022)	-	-
Sherborne Festival	75,518	115,195	(99,955)	(12,310)	-	78,448
FIAC	20,970	124	(55,169)	54,189	-	20,114
Social Fund	-	4,011	(784)	(3,148)	-	79
Music Fund	7,487	107	(10)	-	-	7,584
Almshouse	-	-	(5,017)	50,000	-	44,983
Lime Trees	-	4,405	-	-	-	4,405
Swifts Over Sherborne	-	2,281	(2,782)	1,561	-	1,060
	293,283	283,764	(268,662)	(10,703)	-	297,682
Total unrestricted funds	3,799,542	855,713	(935,369)	40,000	52,592	3,812,478
Restricted funds						
Castleton Church	404,958	34,573	(34,805)	-	8,233	412,959
Abbey Choir Fund	13,015	8,111	(18,971)	10,000	-	12,155
Abbey Floral Fund	1,743	3,639	(3,519)	-	-	1,863
Sherborne Abbey Bellringers	2,874	2,984	(2,053)	-	-	3,805
AFU	10,870	78,519	(48,504)	-	-	40,885
Total restricted funds	433,460	127,826	(107,852)	10,000	8,233	471,667
Endowment funds						
Permanent						
Endowment Fund	3,402,826	-	-	(50,000)	57,032	3,409,858
Total funds	7,635,828	983,539	(1,043,221)	-	117,857	7,694,003

22 Funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
Unrestricted funds						
General						
Parish Central Funds	3,514,889	875,285	(911,126)	(962)	28,173	3,506,259
Designated						
St Paul's Church	122,062	98,014	(52,285)	(45,000)	-	122,791
Digby Memorial Church Hall	22,554	32,605	(32,296)	-	-	22,863
Sherborne Abbey Shop	28,762	35,313	(27,056)	6,635	-	43,654
Sherborne Festival	76,692	102,859	(94,191)	(9,842)	-	75,518
FIAC	35,693	1,197	(64,180)	48,260	-	20,970
Music Fund	3,574	1,766	(60)	2,207	-	7,487
	289,337	271,754	(270,068)	2,260	-	293,283
Total unrestricted funds	3,804,226	1,147,039	(1,181,194)	1,298	28,173	3,799,542
Restricted						
Castleton Church	377,926	20,296	(17,780)	(1,971)	26,487	404,958
Abbey Choir Fund	17,988	8,473	(13,918)	472	-	13,015
Abbey Floral Fund	1,827	2,236	(2,721)	401	-	1,743
Sherborne Abbey Bellringers	2,652	2,684	(2,262)	(200)	-	2,874
AFU	-	10,870	-	-	-	10,870
Total restricted funds	400,393	44,559	(36,681)	(1,298)	26,487	433,460
Endowment funds						
Permanent						
Endowment Fund	3,191,666	-	-	-	211,160	3,402,826
Total funds	7,396,285	1,191,598	(1,217,875)	-	265,820	7,635,828

22 Funds (continued)

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

Castleton Church
Fund restricted to the general purposes and objects of the Castleton Committee.

Abbey Choir Fund
Fund restricted to the general purposes and welfare of the Abbey Choir.

Abbey Floral Fund
Fund restricted to purposes associated with the floral decoration of the Abbey.

The company of Sherborne Abbey Bellringers
Fund restricted to the general purposes of the company of ringers.

AFU
Fund restricted to the project to instal toilets in the Abbey. If the project does not proceed, these donations are to be refunded.

The designated funds are shown separately to highlight the contribution of each fund and the purpose to which the funds are designated to be used. The funds held may be used for any purpose deemed suitable by the trustees.

23 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds at 31 December 2024
	General	Designated		Permanent	
	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	557,755	-	-	947,280	1,505,035
Fixed asset investments	2,791,767	-	355,630	2,462,578	5,609,975
Current assets	255,440	306,763	122,837	-	685,040
Current liabilities	(90,166)	(9,081)	(6,800)	-	(106,047)
Total net assets	3,514,796	297,682	471,667	3,409,858	7,694,003

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds at 31 December 2023
	General	Designated		Permanent	
	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	558,965	-	-	947,280	1,506,245
Fixed asset investments	2,739,175	-	359,397	2,455,546	5,554,118
Current assets	257,153	299,148	75,828	-	632,129
Current liabilities	(49,034)	(5,865)	(1,765)	-	(56,664)
Total net assets	3,506,259	293,283	433,460	3,402,826	7,635,828

24 Analysis of net funds

	At 1 January 2024	Financing cash flows	At 31 December 2024
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	594,816	57,342	652,158
Net funds	594,816	57,342	652,158

	At 1 January 2023	Financing cash flows	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	589,378	5,438	594,816
Net funds	589,378	5,438	594,816

25 Related party transactions

During the year the charity made the following related party transactions:

Mrs Susan Lee
(Mrs Susan Lee is the wife of the Reverend Martin Lee, a trustee.)
During the year Mrs Lee received remuneration from her employment as the rector's PA amounting to £23,992 (2023 : £17,745).

Mr Timothy Lee
(Son of the Reverend Martin Lee, a trustee)
During the year Mr Lee received remuneration from his employment by the charity amounting to £10,565 (2023 : £4,360)..

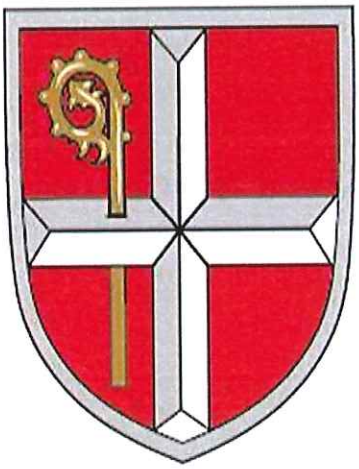
Trustees
Expenses reimbursed to trustees are shown in note 10. These were for travel and subsistence, as well as for expenses necessarily incurred in carrying out their duties.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF SHERBORNE WITH CASTL

England & Wales - Charity number 1130082

Accounts

Charity registration number: 1130082



The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Lanham & Francis
Chartered Accountants
Church House
Church Street
Yeovil
Somerset
BA20 1HB

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

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The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Trustees' Report

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The object of the charity is to promote in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church.

Objectives, strategies and activities

The objectives and strategies of the charity include:

The advancement of the Church of England by means of broadcasting messages of a teaching nature, within our five churches and three parishes.

To see a greater celebration of diversity and a wider integration of all God's people into his family.

The provision of facilities for the celebration of Christian worship. Also, the maintenance and improvement of those facilities for future generations to carry on the Christian traditions.

The maintenance and support of rectors, team vicars and others engaged in charitable works. Special consideration to developing lay ministry across the benefice, encouraging and facilitating greater lay involvement with pastoral care, mission and ministry.

The support of all charitable works carried out within the Sherborne Abbey community.

The continued support of local, national and international organisations engaged in Christian or other philanthropic activity, through our Faith in Action Committee.

Outside of Covid-19 restrictions the Holy Eucharist is offered daily in the Abbey, and at least twice on Sundays. There is at least one service in both Castleton Church and at the Gryphon School - STPAULS@THEGRYPHON - every Sunday. Castleton Church uses only the Book of Common Prayer for the Eucharist and Mattins.

The PCC also has maintenance responsibilities for the Digby Memorial Church Hall, the Sherborne Abbey Shop, 2 Abbey Close and 'The Cottage' at 4 Abbey Close. The PCC rents the Parish Office and 67 Acreman Street from the Sherborne Castle Estates and has a 50/50 Equity Share Agreement with the Diocese for 69 Granville Way, Sherborne.

Fundraising disclosures

The charity benefits from a number of areas, which enable us to raise funds to meet our objectives, namely the Abbey shop, the Church Hall, the music committee and the social committee. We are committed to using these assets to help support our mission, locally and on a wider scale.

The annual Abbey Music Festival has specific objectives to promote music within the parish, with any funds raised being used for that aim, namely the financing of the choir and general music within the Abbey.

Any other specific fundraising requirements will be engaged as necessary.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.
The reports that follow this report are testament to the wide range of activities carried out in the Parish for the benefit of the whole of our community.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Reference and Administrative Details

Principal Office:	The Parish Office 3 Abbey Close Sherborne Dorset DT9 3LQ
Auditor:	Lanham & Francis Chartered Accountants Church House Church Street Yeovil Somerset BA20 1HB
Bankers and investment managers:	NatWest Bank plc 2 Hendford Yeovil Somerset BA20 1TN
	Lloyds Bank plc 75 Cheap Street Sherborne Dorset DT9 3BD
	CAF Bank Limited 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
	CCLA Investment Management Limited Senator House London EC4V 4ET
	M&G Securities Limited Laurence Pountney Hill London EC4R 0HH

Trustees' Report (continued)

Trustees and officers
The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Trustees:	The Revd Hugh Bonsey
	The Revd Martin Lee
	The Revd James Edie
	Mrs Sandra Graves
	Dr David Ferguson
	Mr Neil Grenyer
	Mr Robert Harris
	Mr Jonathan Rodd
	Mr Paul Boyd-Lee
	Mr Alan Gillard (resigned 7 May 2023)
	Mrs Susan Gillard (resigned 7 May 2023)
	Mr Michael Keatinge
	Mrs Yvonne Libbey
	Mr David Fifield
	Mrs Catherine Graham (resigned 20 March 2023)
	Dr Christopher Hamon
	Mr David Rayner
	Mrs Sue Bradshaw
	Dr John Crossman
	Mrs Jacqueline Baker
	Dr John Bradshaw
	Mrs Sue Hawkett
	Mrs Joanne Hague (resigned 20 March 2023)
	Mr Andrew Horsey
	Mr Steve Drew
	Mrs Julie-Ann Soul
	Mrs Julie Mahony
	Mrs Harriet Chappell
	Mr Tim Farr
	Mrs Rebecca McDonnell (appointed 2 July 2023)
	Mr Nicholas Pascoe (appointed 7 May 2023)

Structure, governance and management

In 2023 there were six meetings, and two extraordinary meetings of the full Council during the year and seven meetings of the Standing Committee. Reports from Committees and Working Parties were received by the Council and discussed where necessary. Fabric matters, concerning all the properties for which the PCC has maintenance responsibilities, were regular agenda items. The Council is very grateful to the Friends of Sherborne Abbey for their financial support in funding major projects and the ongoing routine maintenance at the Abbey.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting for the Parish of the Abbey Church of St Mary the Virgin, St Mary Magdalene, Castleton and St Paul's Church was held on 7 May 2023.

At the PCC meeting to elect Churchwardens held on 7 May 2023, the following were elected to serve as Churchwardens: David Ferguson, Jonathan Rodd, Robert Harris, Frances Hastings, Nick Pascoe and Sandra Graves. Nick Pascoe was welcomed as the new Churchwarden for St. Pauls' church.

At the first meeting of the new PCC on 15th June 2023, the following decisions were made:

David Fifield was elected as Lay Chair and Julie-Ann Soul was elected as Secretary.

It was agreed that Nigel Chappell should take on the role as Treasurer for the Abbey. This post was agreed in principle.

John Crossman, Tim Farr and Harriett Chappell were elected to the PCC for 3 years.

Co-opted members Rev. Hugh Bonsey, Julie Mahony and Julie Ann Soul were elected to serve until 2024.

Elections were held for laity to serve on the Sherborne Deanery Synod for three years. Mike Keatinge, Yvonne Libbey and Paul Boyd-Lee were elected, leaving 4 vacancies.

Mike Keatinge was appointed Chair of the Fabric Committee.

In September 2023 Francis Hastings and Robert Harris resigned as Churchwardens, both on the grounds of ill health. Mr. Paul White has been appointed as Churchwarden of St. Mary Magdalene, Castleton.

Nature of governing document

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton (Sherborne Abbey PCC) is a body corporate established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC's Registered Charity Number is 1130082.

The United Benefice of Sherborne with Castleton and Lillington was created by an Order in Council in 1927. It was further expanded in 2006 with the addition of the Parish of Longburton, which was transferred from the Benefice of Dungeon Hill by a Pastoral Scheme made by the Church Commissioners in pursuance of the Pastoral Measure 1983. The Parishes of Lillington and Longburton retain their own Parochial Church Councils and publish their own Annual Reports.

From 1 December 2016 the Benefice of Sherborne with Castleton, Lillington and Longburton was established as the Sherborne Team Ministry by a Pastoral Scheme made by the Church Commissioners in pursuance of the Pastoral Measure 2011.

In September 2017 St Paul's Church (dedicated in 1957) was designated by the Bishop as a "Parish Centre of Worship" rather than a "Mission Church".

Trustees' Report (continued)

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. A full list of members of the Council is contained in this report.

The PCC operates through a number of committees and working parties between full meetings of the Council. The reports of their work during the year follow this report and should be read as part of this report.

There are many different groups working within the parish for the benefit of church members and the wider community. Their reports, which follow, should also be read as part of this report.

Relationships with related parties

Sherborne Local Ecumenical Partnership
The Parish is a full member of the LEP, operating as Sherborne Churches Together.

Major risks and management of those risks

Risk management
The trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces. This involved prioritising the potential impact and likelihood of occurrence, together with identifying means of mitigation.

The charity continues to develop its policies and procedures to reduce fire and health and safety risk, and train all personnel as appropriate.

Our safeguarding policy continues to develop protection policies for children, young persons and vulnerable adults, and maintains the training of all engaged individuals working within the charity.

Specific importance is placed on events held within the Abbey's community, over and above normal worshipping services, where procedures and detailed insurance are reviewed to mitigate any possible risk areas.

Achievements and performance

Details of activities undertaken during the year, as well as future plans are contained within the individual reports that follow.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Rector's report

In writing this report to you again, it does, as always, cause me to stop and reflect on the year that has passed.

This year I give thanks for the tremendous amount of dedication given to our benefice in such a myriad of ways and there is much to celebrate. This report provides a wonderful opportunity to not only celebrate the life of our Church in the past year, but also, to express on behalf of the parish my most sincere thanks for all that is done and continues to be done.

On a more personal note, I am sure that you will want to join me in this, to express our deep sense of gratitude to all our retired priests who have given unstintingly during the past year. It has been very special to welcome The Reverend Rebecca MacDonnell as our new curate. In this diaconal year, Becca is already giving so much to us, and I am delighted to have her as our curate and look forward to working with her over the 3 years. I would like also to express our sincere thanks to all our Churchwardens, Vergers, and office staff. We have been delighted to hold services in the Abbey with the Dorset County Council this year as well as many memorial services for people of Dorset and of course funerals for members of our church family.

It is always dangerous to pull out things in the past year that have been particularly special, for you easily miss something, so I won't do that, but to all who have contributed to the various wonderful events in the past year please know how much you are appreciated. It is though, appropriate that we remember during the last year the momentous occasions as well as some sadness.

Whilst an annual report is very much a time to look back and reflect, it is also a time to ponder for a moment on the journey that lies ahead of us. From the many discussions that I have been able to have, I know that there is real excitement and enthusiasm for the future. We continue to be very active in endeavouring to build a toilet facility here in the Abbey. It is our hope that this year will see the project complete, there are many thanks owed to so many who have joined us in our work to achieve this project. There are many things ahead, which I hope we will be able to look back on next year with great excitement. It is a journey that we will take together; as a benefice we endeavour to discern the direction in which God is calling us and how he wants us to serve him and those around us in the community in which we are so fortunate to live.

So, to the year ahead, we look forward with enthusiasm and excitement, and I thank God that we will walk this journey together, seeking to grow in understanding of the nature of God's abundant love, and the grace he pours upon us as we serve him in this beautiful place.

The Reverend Martin Lee

Parish Safeguarding Report

Support and guidance

The PCC is committed to the promotion within the parish of a safe environment for children, young people and adults and to respond promptly to safeguarding concerns or allegations. The PCC has a managerial oversight of Safeguarding and in their capacity as Trustees, members are required to hold Enhanced DBS and complete "Basic" Safeguarding training.

In 2023 five safeguarding matters arose which were of enough significance to require the advice and support of the Diocesan Safeguarding Team, which was readily given. A further two matters were dealt with locally in accordance with the Abbey's policy and procedures.

The Choral Scholars here for 2023/24 received their necessary Safeguarding clearance from their positions at Sherborne School. When the choir sang at Westminster Abbey they were required to have a nominated and qualified person (i.e. with DBS & Training) with them. Our thanks go to Graham Best, a member of the choir, who agreed to fulfil that role.

In 2023 the Diocese asked Parishes to use an online "Parish Dashboard" to enable PCC's to easily oversee the current position of Safeguarding requirements etc and to identify where actions are necessary to correct omissions. We did not sign up to this in 2023, but have discussed the matter with the Diocese, specifically over the question of whether St Paul's could have their own Dashboard whilst not having their own a PCC. A decision has been deferred to 2024.

Training

There is no automated reminder system for Training renewals (due every 3 years) and therefore PSOs throughout the Diocese are required to keep manual records.

In 2023 several people renewed the training appropriate to their roles. Most of these renewals were done by accessing the CofE online sessions.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Statistics

The Church of England's "Safer Recruitment" practice guidance defines those roles for which Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) Certificates are required.. The CofE policy is that Certificates must be renewed every 3 years if the holder is still in a role which requires it. Within the Parish the numbers during 2023 were as follows:-

	No of DBS at 1 Jan	Deletions & expiries	Expiries	Renewals	New DBS	No of DBS at 31 Dec
Abbey	43	(8)	(8)	8	5	40
Castleton	2	(1)			1	2
St Paul's	31	(2)	(10)	10	5	34
TOTAL	**76**	**(22)**	**(18)**	**18**	**11**	**76**

Notes:

- Deletions includes those no longer in roles, & those with roles no longer requiring DBS.
- Numbers above EXCLUDE Clergy, Licensed Lay Ministers (LLMs) and Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPAs) for whom records are managed centrally by the Diocese.

In addition to managing Parish DBS applications & renewals, the PSO's also continue to verify applications on behalf of Salisbury Diocese in respect of Clergy /LLMs/LPAs living in the area.

David and Lyn Rayner, Parish Safeguarding Officers

Sherborne Abbey Churchwardens

2023 was a very busy year in the life of Sherborne Abbey.

In January, we celebrated Epiphany and marked Plough Sunday. In February, we celebrated Candlemas and had our annual Shrove Lunch in the Church Hall. We heard about the Footprints project, which works with offenders and ex-offenders to help them re-establish themselves on release. Our overseas project was the Chernobyl Children's Life Line.

In March, we celebrated Mothering Sunday and ladies in the congregation were given beautiful polyanthus, kindly prepared by members of the Mothers' Union. In April, we welcomed The Bishop of Salisbury to the Parish Eucharist for Easter Day. May saw many people coming to the Abbey to enjoy concerts and recitals as part of the Sherborne Abbey Festival.

In July, we welcomed our Assistant Curate, The Reverend Becca McDonnell and her family, following her Ordination to the Diaconate in Salisbury Cathedral. During August, we welcomed some visiting Choirs during our own Choir's summer break.

In September, we celebrated Harvest Festival. The collection supported both the Sudan Medical Link and Christian Aid, and the fresh food, tins and packets were given to the Food Bank. After the service, many people enjoyed Harvest Lunch in the Digby Memorial Church Hall which was prepared by the Social Committee.

In October, there was a Friends' Coffee Morning in the Church Hall. Once again, there was a Pack Monday Café. This year, a short Pack Monday service was held in the Abbey at 2.30pm. The month ended with our annual Day of Prayer and Gifts.

During November, we had the United Service of Remembrance and Toy Sunday. Thanks to worshippers' generosity, we were able to donate many new toys, puzzles and games to the North Dorset Women's Refuge.

December was an extremely busy month! The Abbey hosted many Carol Services for local schools, the Mothers' Union and the Freemasons. The Advent Carol Service was well attended and was preceded by a mulled wine and mince pies reception for the Friends of Sherborne Abbey. The Shoppers' Carol Services were particularly popular this year and attracted even more people. There was no steam train this year, but a diesel locomotive from Peterborough brought many passengers to Sherborne for a Carol Service led by The Reverend Hugh Bonsey. The Abbey Carol Service was as popular as ever and held in candlelight. Both Crib Services were packed with approximately 900 at the first and almost as many at the second. The Midnight Eucharist drew another large congregation. In addition to the formal services, many people gathered in the Lady Chapel once again for an evening of mulled wine and carol singing and it was good to welcome people of all ages.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the Clergy team for all of their hard work during the year. In addition, we must thank the Vergers, Sidesmen, bellringers and flower arrangers for all of their hard work. Some people may only come to the Abbey once a year or may have been visiting for the first time - we hope that through the Liturgy, the wonderful music and the hospitality, that they may have experienced the glory of God; entering as visitors, perhaps, but leaving as pilgrims.

David Ferguson and Jonathan Rodd Abbey Churchwardens

Trustees' Report (continued)

Fabric Committee Report

We recognise a national responsibility for the care of Sherborne Abbey and Castleton Church as important listed buildings, Grades I and II* respectively. Ecclesiastical exemption generally frees us from Local Authority control and the alternative of Faculty Jurisdiction, while sometimes tedious and frustrating, does at least keep us in the hands of people who understand churches. We retain excellent relations with the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) whose members include both our current Inspecting Architect and his immediate predecessor. We were pleased to be named as runner-up for the DAC Environmental Award in recognition of the 2022 Heating Project.

We started 2023 with two major projects carried over from the previous year. The new Air Source Heat Pumps awaited installation of a new cable across the Close and new switchgear to give us the required increased electrical capacity. After numerous administrative issues, the cable was finally laid in May. Our archaeologist collected a couple of boxes of random human bones, which were decently reinterred by the Rector. The switchgear was enclosed in an elegant new cupboard in September. We were therefore able to use the ASHPs for the start of the heating season.

With much less hassle, the upgraded lighting was completed in February with energy-efficient LED bulbs and a new control system which gives us much greater flexibility. The results have been widely applauded.

Arising from the 2022 Quinquennial Survey, we undertook three small contracts to address defects in cast-iron downpipes, decaying masonry and various leadworks. The building is basically sound, but we must plan for some major roof renewals in the next 5-10 years with a potential cost of some £200k. We have also been advised that the motor for the organ blower is showing its age and may need to be rewound.

The main issue of the year has been planning to provide toilets in the Abbey. The proposal for a new wing on the All Hallows site received approval in principle. But with a greater recognition of the time required for archaeological investigations and potential objections, attention turned to a revised brief to provide toilets within the existing building. Our Architect, Marcus Chantrey, developed an imaginative scheme to convert the existing vestry block to toilets, with a new vestry created in the north transept under the organ loft. As part of the overall project, we plan to move the Horsey Monument to a more prominent position in the north quire aisle, to create a hospitality unit in the Lady Chapel and to install a lift to give wheelchair access to the Ambulatory. The proposals have been on display in the Lady Chapel since August and comments have been welcomed. There are numerous issues of details, approvals and, not least, funding to be addressed; but we hope to be able to start work during 2024.

Approval for such major work is contingent on our commissioning a Conservation Management Plan (CMP). Arrangements have been made with Exeter University under which Mr Francis Brown embarked in January on a 3-year PhD project to provide a comprehensive record of the Abbey, its history and its future development. He has produced detailed studies of areas affected by the Toilets Project and will be giving a talk on his work to the Friends of the Abbey, who are kindly funding this, as they do for so much of our fabric expenditure.

The Abbey Close is valued as a green space in the centre of the town. Under the provisions for closed churchyards, it is maintained for us by Sherborne Town Council. It has featured an avenue of lime trees at least since 1729, but the survivors are now heavily decayed and progressively becoming unsafe. Approvals have been obtained to replant with sixteen new lime trees to reinstate the historic avenue.

The Fabric Committee also oversees work on other parish properties. Much work was done on a proposal to convert the former Shop and the adjacent cottage into a tea room, but this was shelved until a possible alternative in the Almshouse is determined. Quinquennial work, mostly external, was carried out on the Digby Memorial Hall; and renewal of the office roof at St Paul's demonstrated the value of good insulation. At Castleton we discovered that burial of ashes in a closed churchyard requires faculty approval. After many years of technical infringement, we have applied for Castleton Churchyard to be approved as a 'Garden of Remembrance' for the parish.

Mike Keatinge

Castleton Churchwardens

It has been an eventful and fast-moving year at Castleton.

We began the year with Frances Hasting resigning as Churchwarden after many years of faithful service. Much gratitude was expressed by the congregation at a most happy occasion.

Robert Harris was re-elected as Churchwarden at the Annual Meeting. Due to ill health, Robert stepped back from his duties as Churchwarden in the Summer. Three people stepped into the breach in September: Paul White as Churchwarden, who was accompanied by Roger Billings and Sarah White as Deputy Churchwardens. Our thanks go especially to Roger for his help in running the parish during the Autumn and Winter.

Also, during the Summer, in June, we welcomed Gordon Taylor as our new Verger. Gordon has taken on the role of Verger with professionalism and dedication. He brings with him a wealth of experience in Church management, including work in cathedrals and having been a Churchwarden for ten years. Gordon's interest and support in high-quality, effective Anglican worship stands us in good stead for the future.

As mentioned in last year's report, Owen Hinder has stepped down from being our Honorary Treasurer, but he has been working tirelessly all year supporting Alan Gillard, appointed in May, who has had to resign due to ill health. Additionally, Owen has assisted our new Treasurer, Nigel Chappell from the Abbey. Our Church accounts are now managed centrally at the Abbey by Nigel since his appointment in the Autumn.

In the late Autumn, we were supported by three organists, who assisted in our worship while our excellent John Mathew was indisposed briefly. Our thanks go to Huw Ridgeway, Louis Fletcher (a Choral Scholar from the Abbey) and Jon Riding for their immediate and willing help in ensuring that our worship was accompanied by the organ. We owe John an enormous debt of gratitude for his regular musical accompaniment: especially sung Mattins. John's expertise and knowledge spans a period of over 40 years, which has resulted in faultless and fully supportive organ playing at the heart of all our services. We are proud to know that we are among a handful of Churches in our Diocese and beyond who experience such splendid Anglican worship from the Book of Common Prayer.

The Church Committee met four times during the year. In addition to normal running activities, three special projects were discussed:

1. Defibrillator. The project was put on hold during the year and will be brought to completion in 2024. A defibrillator will be installed on the wall of the Church, subject to the relevant permissions, to serve both the Church and local communities.
2. The Church Committee has been granted permission to refurbish the brass chandelier. Financial systems have been put in place to enable the work to be undertaken and completed during the early part of 2024.
3. The Churchyard has been the subject of a retrospective Faculty, to enable ashes to be interred in the future, and for its closure to be recognised formally. The management of our Churchyard has been overseen by the Committee, with particular work having been undertaken by Brian Phillips and Mike Keatinge, which has been crucial in this project. The upkeep of the Churchyard will soon be supported financially by the Town Council to our considerable advantage.

The 'flower ladies' have worked effectively with notable commitment and expertise to enable visitors and worshippers to enjoy their beautiful creations.

Special services in 2023 with attendance higher than normal were as follows:
9 April Easter Day. Festal Mattins + Holy Communion 50.
30 April Festal Mattins sung by The Becket Consort 55.
23 July Patronal Festival. The Reverend Martin Lee 34.
12 November Remembrance Sunday. The Reverend Robert Green 45.
25 December Christmas Day. Lessons & Carols + Holy Communion 47.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Trustees' Report (continued)

During the year there were five Baptisms, 12 Funerals / Memorial services and one Wedding. We had three Guest Preachers on six occasions: The Reverends Christopher Huitson, John Townend and Robert Green. The Reverend Martin Lee officiated and preached at the Patronal Festival in July.

The lessons at Mattins have been read throughout the year by the following people: Roger Billings, Frances Hastings, Owen Hinder, Nick Kettlewell, Elizabeth Prichard, Jean Thomson, Paul White and Sarah White. The readers' diligence and commitment are appreciated enormously by the Mattins congregation.

There were six Fellowship Sundays, on which members of the congregation enjoyed excellent refreshments managed most efficiently by Roger Billings and his helpers.

Hugh Bonsey and Robert Harris, Churchwardens
St. Mary Magdalene, Castleton

St Paul's Churchwardens

What an action-packed year 2023 has been!

St Paul's continues to be a welcoming community of people from different walks of life and different church traditions who come together to meet with God in worship and to 'do life', with all its challenges, together. Along with our regular groups Tea & Chat, Meet & Eat, and Tums Tots & Tinies we have enjoyed church lunches and a Newcomers supper. It goes without saying that none of our events would have happened if it hadn't been for the dedicated band of volunteers who so generously give of their time week on week. 2023 saw the launch of several new initiatives pioneered by Jim Edie our vicar to engage with our local community, it feels as though he, Becca and the children have been with us years not months!!

In February the decision was made to end the warm space provision following very poor uptake, however this led to a lengthy discussion as to how we might better serve those in need in our area. As a result, we now partner with Fareshare to provide a weekly larder on a Friday morning where people can obtain food at a heavily subsidised rate. In addition, there is an opportunity for those who come to enjoy a bacon butty with tea and coffee when they collect their shopping. This has proved to be hugely successful with numbers growing so much another larder has started in the West End of the town.

April saw a change in the leadership team as several committee members, including Neil Grenyer our Churchwarden, stepped down. We are grateful for all the time and expertise they have so willingly given to St Paul's over the years, and we are thankful for those who have stepped up to replace them on the team, in particular Nick Pascoe who has replaced Neil as Churchwarden.

Summer launched with the Coronation of our new King Charles III on 6th of May followed by a flurry of activities. As part of the Archbishop of Canterbury's visit to the Diocese in June, Jim was particularly delighted to have the opportunity to work with Chris Andrew in Sherborne Primary School and Sherborne Abbey CE Primary School. Chris is one of the Archbishops' College of Evangelists and works across the UK in delivering sports ministry in schools. On the 10th June, through tag rugby games, Chris and Jim spent time with Year 5s looking at values and team work and in particular how we can learn good values through sport. In each setting a cherry tree was planted to mark a space set aside for prayer in school.

The Community Fun Day in early July was very successful, blessed by the weather it was a wonderful opportunity to engage with people in our area and build relationships. Following on from this at the end of July we hosted a Dream Scheme for 3 days, partnering with our local primary school we supported children to learn new skills, serve the community and provide space for prayer and reflection. Over the 3 days there were opportunities to build bird and insect houses, plant out flowers, make bunting and aprons for the new school café, bake, and learn how to upcycle old/worn clothes to name a few. The children earned points for their efforts which were converted to cash which they could then spend on a treat on the final day. This ended up being a picnic with Pizza from Tamburino and ice cream from Ecco Gelato in town. During July, we also hosted members from the Church Mission Society to learn of their work in Sudan, their testimonies were inspiring and we look forward to supporting them in the future through FIAC.

Autumn came and 60 plus travelled to Ammerdown Retreat Centre to spend a time of fellowship, study and reflection on our hopes for the future of St Paul's going forward. It was wonderful to welcome back the Reverend Dr John Rennie and his wife Sheelagh as facilitators and we were blessed to have two Youth workers from Youth for Christ to lead our young people in their study and worship. A great time was had by all, a highlight being the 'St Paul's got Talent' concert ably hosted by Master of Ceremonies churchwarden Nick Pascoe. Feedback was so positive we have already booked a repeat for the Spring of 2025. At the end of October building on the success of last Halloween Jim and Becca hosted another 'light stop', with hot chocolate, lucky dip and shelter, at the Vicarage on Kings Road. All who supported were amazed by the 200 plus visitors inspite of appalling weather, a real blessing to the Community, in particular the sodden parents.

In November, we were delighted to welcome an ambassador from the Alzheimer Society. This was an open meeting, facilitated by the Pastoral Team to which some 30 people attended from local churches and community. This interactive session demonstrated how we can support those in our community living with Dementia. All who attended felt they learned a great deal about the challenges of the condition and how we can, with knowledge, greatly improve the quality of life of those who are affected.

Remembrance Day 2023 was marked for the first time in a joint service with Cheap St Church led by Jim and Reverend Kate Conrad the Methodist minister in charge of Cheap St. This provided a less formal opportunity for our families and our parading Youth groups to give thanks for those who made the ultimate sacrifice, giving their lives for the freedom we enjoy today.

As the end of the year approached the pace picked up as we hosted our annual Crafts and Carols, a resounding success packed to capacity. Our Cosmic team delivered a wonderful Nativity service and this year we held a service of quiet reflection on Christmas Eve in addition to our family celebration on Christmas Day, all were well attended.

Looking back over the year we have so much to be thankful for, our church family has increased (with an average of 87 people attending between Sept and Dec) and we have up to 20 children attending on a regular basis. They are an absolute joy and keep us adults on our toes. In order to best support our young people, the Cosmic (children on Sunday meeting in church) Team and Jim's work as Chaplain of the Gryphon School it is our hope to appoint a youth worker in 2024.

The Pastoral Team continue their work in supporting, encouraging and befriending people in a variety of places and settings. This is undergirded by prayer and a desire for people to feel cared for and to know and walk with Jesus more closely. Over 2023 they made 786 contacts visiting in homes, care homes, hospital, phone calls, coffee shop visits and walking. One member is also part of the hospital chaplaincy team.

Over 2023, a number of individuals have also taken on lay training, including two people undertaking Diocesan Lay Pioneer courses, a soon to be new Lay Pastoral Assistant (LPA) who has joined the Pastoral Team and the same person considering Local Lay Minister (LLM) training.'

People have been generous in their giving which has enabled us to subsidise our Weekend Away, replace the office roof, support projects through FIAC, purchase new AV equipment which has included a new projector and a piano and microphones for our Worship group. Moving forward, due to the increase in church activity it is our aim to update our administrative system and increase our admin hours early in the New Year. On the horizon for the coming year is Alpha, New Wine and a repeat of the Dream Scheme to name but a few, as they say 'Watch this Space'!

Worship & Discipleship

In 2023, Sunday services at St Paul's have continued (in general) the usual pattern of one All Age, one Holy Communion and two Morning Worship services each month.

There were several preaching series over the year, some that (roughly) followed the lectionary readings of Year A (Matthew) and others that didn't. In particular were the series on Romans 8, Mission, Culture and Church, All Age service that focused on St Paul in the summer holidays and from September to Advent a series called Little Book, Big Message which helped us explore some of the (often) less explored books of the Bible. Further teaching was received in Life Groups (see report), but over Lent groups were encouraged to run the Lectio course by Pete Greig. Jim also ran the course virtually which was attended by St Paul's Church members and others from the Parish.

After Easter Becca Edie took over the coordination of the Worship Group and has worked to offer more of a breadth of music from all age action songs to traditional worship. Regular practices outside Sunday morning have been difficult to arrange due to people availability, but they have met twice. The group has seen one pianist stand down after many years of playing but is still reasonably well resourced with people. Saying this, new musicians and singers are always welcome to find out how they might get involved.

Worship at St Paul's on a Sunday would not happen without the many people who help. Therefore, to all those who welcome, set up and pack down, prepare and serve refreshments, pray, lead, sing, play instruments, run the A/V and live stream, preach, run COSMIC, hoover up the cake crumbs(!) and open and lock up a BIG thank you!

Reverend Jim Edie, Mrs Sandra Graves, Mr Nick Pascoe

Chaplaincy at the Gryphon Secondary School

2023 has not been the most straight-forward year for the Gryphon Secondary School, with Jim getting to grips with school life (balancing the two roles of vicar and chaplain) and providing pastoral support of staff. Becoming familiar with the governance of a secondary school that sits in a multi-academy trust has been at the forefront of Jim's work from early March to the summer holidays. Along with this, Jim has been involved in the mentoring and support of young people, running Acts of Worship and launching a fledgling Christian Union. He managed to get away on one of the Gold Duke of Edinburgh training weekends and hopes to do more in 2024.

The new academic year brought an increase in the Acts of Worship requested at the Gryphon. These have had a focus on 'the Key teaching of Jesus' and have looked at themes of compassion, justice, inclusivity, radical love, generosity, along with the usual focuses on Harvest, Advent and Christmas.

In the summer term, Jim started working with some of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) around a strategic plan for chaplaincy at the Gryphon. This has involved consultation with a number of departments in school that provide pastoral support, plus working with a small chaplaincy team. The plan sets a vision for chaplaincy of 'Make Jesus known through words and actions' and breaks chaplaincy into three strands; Spirituality, Pastoral Care and Outreach and looks at measuring the impact in various areas of school where these are implemented. Along with this, Jim has worked with some in school leadership to think about what it means to be a Church of England school.

Reverend Jim Edie

Bible Study

Ecumenical Bible Study

Our two bible study groups met throughout the year, either on Wednesday evening or Friday afternoon, and we were joined in spirit by a number of people across the country who also receive the notes. We look to understand and apply the bible in our everyday lives, and to cover most sections of the bible over a number of years.

We started 2023 with a study of 1 and 2 Thessalonians, applying Paul's positivity and teaching to our own church situations. This was followed by a brief excursion into the early chapters of Isaiah, concentrating on God's commitment to his people and looking forward to the coming of Jesus. In the autumn term Jon Riding again challenged us deeply with a series on faith developing the theme from the Old Testament into the New, with an emphasis on God's faithful love for us, a theme across all three terms really.

We are very grateful to Rev Martin Lee for leading our summer house communion and enjoyable afternoon tea at the Vicarage. We are always open to new members.

John Crossman

St Paul's Life Groups

Through its life groups, St Paul's provides the opportunity for fellowship, bible study, prayer and pastoral care for its own members and folk from other churches too.

We have several life-groups, each meeting at different times and on various days in the week. Some meet weekly, others fortnightly. Currently group leaders steer their study topics to meet the needs in their own group.

The current leaders have all been volunteering their time and gifting for quite some time and there is a need for succession planning although none have indicated a desire to step down right now.

The groups are mostly at full capacity so if anyone feels called to start something new there is certainly scope to do so. Please have a non-committal chat with Jim or ourselves in the first instance.

We like to think that, with encouragement, more church members would participate in a group with the obvious benefits to the Christian journey of the individual and an enriched church family as relationships are deepened and strengthened.

If anyone is interested in joining a life-group, they should please make themselves known to Natalie or Adrian Morgan.

Natalie and Adrian Morgan

St Paul's @ The Gryphon "Cosmic" (Sunday School) and Creche

With the exception of the monthly All Age Services and other special seasonal All Age Services, COSMIC ("Children on Sunday Meeting in Church") meets every Sunday morning at St Pauls@TheGryphon. We have 22 on the register between the ages of 2 and 15. Attendance varies between 8 and 15 each week. This September we have been able to increase to three groups (from two): Rockets (school years Reception to year 3), Excel (school years 4-6) and Revelation (school years 7+). We also run a crèche, as required.

In September we began using some new, on-line, material called Energise, produced by Urban Saints. Using this material we have covered, for the older children, thematic topics such as temptation, anger, image and self-worth, friendship and anxiety. The younger group has been looking at Old Testament characters. From time to time members of COSMIC take part in the monthly All Age services and Communion Services, and nearly all of our children and young people took a role in this year's Nativity.

As always, we are indebted to our dedicated team of leaders and helpers who devote their time, energy and enthusiasm week by week to give the children and young people a well-founded and biblical understanding of the scriptures and of what it means to be a Christian.

Kim Dunning and Hester Greenstock

St Paul's Church Community Groups

Meet and Eat Lunches

The lunch club has once again been providing hot, two-course meals on term-time Mondays throughout the year and we have still managed to maintain the price at £4 a head. The meals included celebration lunches in the summer and before Christmas which were much appreciated.

We have a wonderful, friendly group of cooks and helpers but we would welcome anyone who enjoys cooking to join our team. This normally means helping out at four sessions each term. We have had a number of new members joining us during the year so at present we have no vacancies for further members, but anyone wishing to go on the waiting list should contact Sarah at St Paul's Church Office.

We would like to thank all our volunteers for giving their time and energy to ensure that Meet and Eat is able to continue to offer food and chat in a warm and relaxed setting.

Kim Dunning and Hester Greenstock

Tea and Chat

Tea & Chat is a group for over 60's. We meet every Monday afternoon between 2 & 4pm at St Paul's Church (except for August & a couple of weeks around Christmas & Easter.

The group started in November 2007 and has a health & activity focus. On average 10 - 20 people attend.

We begin each meeting with a cup of tea or coffee & then once a fortnight Norma Purnell leads us in an hour of line dancing. On the alternate weeks we participate in a variety of activities, in 2023:

- The ukulele band came to entertain us twice and great fun was had by all.
- We have heard fascinating & entertaining talks about Dorset with Bonny Sartin, Leprosy Mission with Chris Stratta, how to avoid computer scams with Clive Miller, New Zealand with Cathy Broadley, being a prison governor with Nick Pascoe, travelling with Chris Cain, Russia with Jim Edie & Latvia with Sandra Cutting.
- We did chair exercises with Connie and heard from the social prescriber Vicky Morland.
- We made Easter crafts with Helen Isbell & Christmas decorations with Christine Howes
- We were delighted to have an outing again this year, visiting Lytes Cary for the afternoon. And we also enjoyed afternoon tea at the home of the Broadley's.

We conclude our afternoons with a second cuppa & a delicious slice of cake, supplied by Pam Taylor.

Every week we have our books to borrow, a jigsaw puzzle to have a go at. And there is always a word search or quiz to get the brain cells working.

I am helped in the kitchen by Becky Brake & Pat Batten.

We charge £2/week. Do come and join us, we'd love to see you.

We'd also love to hear from you if you would like to come and speak to us about what you do or an adventure you've been on, or if you have photos or newspaper cuttings for the St Paul's archive.

Sarah Fricker

Tums, Tinies and Tots

It is a joy and delight to have parents, grandparents and carers arriving with their pre-school children, to enjoy 2 hours of play and interaction.

Everyone is welcome to attend the whole session, which starts at 10am. Tea/Coffee and toast is offered until 10.30am when the Mothers Union Ladies in the kitchen have a break from serving to prepare the snacks for later. The morning continues with a themed craft activity offered from 11am, in 2023 the themes were The Weather, Food & Counting.

Snack time or fresh fruit & toast follows for the children and the adults and after further free play the session ends with 15 minutes of singing and story time.

At the end of the summer term, we held the session outside with a bouncy castle.

The leaders and helpers, whilst providing peer support, as well as a shoulder to lean on when needed, continue to encourage the families to speak to their health visitors if they have any concerns about their children. More volunteers are always being sought to help spread the work, (this can be from half an hour to all morning), and so if anyone is interested in joining the group please do get in touch.

We regularly pass on baby and toddler clothing plus toys and equipment to families in need, so donations are always gratefully received at the St Paul's Church Office.

Thanks, as always, must go to all the volunteers who help before, during and after the session, to the Sherborne Mothers Union volunteers who work in the kitchen every week providing hot drinks, toast and healthy snacks throughout the morning.

In May of 2023 we were very sad to lose Dorothy Davidson, who had been a very much-loved member of the volunteer team for many years. She is much missed by the children and their carers.

As TTT enters its eighteenth year we give thanks to God for all the families that have passed through St Paul's doors since it first started and we place the continued success of the group into His hands. We always value prayer for the group, especially on Wednesday mornings during term time.

Sarah Fricker

Fareshare Larder and Drop In

In January 2023, in partnership with North Dorset Poverty Action Group and Fareshare, St Paul's Church became the location for a weekly larder supplied by the national charity Fareshare. Alongside this in March, St Paul's Church also become a drop-in providing free refreshments and bacon or sausage rolls and pastries. On average, the larder provides between 20-25 households a week. It is run as a membership scheme, where members provide a small contribution (which goes to Farehare to cover their costs) depending on the size of their household and in return receive a large supply of food. The food is usually end of shelf or products supermarkets are unable to sell and would otherwise go into landfill. Although Fareshare have had some logistical challenges over the last year, there is usually a good supply of fresh, ambient and long life food. In the July, a second larder was set up in the West End of Sherborne, at the West End Community Hall and, although it is not providing refreshments etc, it is again providing for 20-25 household a week. The larders are staffed with volunteers from St Paul's Church and the wider community.

Reverend Jim Edie and Maggie Walker

Sherborne Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod met thrice during the year, twice face to face and once by Zoom. On 20th April they gathered at Thornford School a few days prior to the Coronation so members were encouraged not only to mark the occasion with music and readings on the day following, but also to do something else in their communities such as bellringing. The Bishop of Salisbury had been present at a recent meeting of Lay Chairs where he reminded members that a previous Diocesan Plan had received a low rating and needed to be improved. Towards this end he intended to meet with civic organisations to work together in meeting our objectives.

The Deanery Treasurer reported that the level of giving this year in the Deanery was toward the bottom end of giving in the Diocese. He pointed out that a major shortfall in this respect may lead to a reduction in clergy numbers and even larger numbers of parishes in a benefice. George Moody gave a presentation on the Living in Love and Faith report. He pointed out that there is growing pressure on the church to offer blessings to same-sex couples but equally to maintain the orthodox position of marriage between one man and one woman, in fact a contradictory position. He commented further that 'Blessing services often look similar to wedding ceremonies, but the liturgy is or should be different'. Following this talk the Deanery broke into discussion groups after which members confidentially put their opinions on 'post it' notes which enabled the Chair to produce a snapshot of opinions which has been sent on to the Diocesan Synod. This snapshot showed that 5 people were against same-sex blessings and/or marriage, 12 were in favour and 14 were undecided.

There was discussion about valuing volunteers and it was pointed out that unlike other organisations, the church rarely acknowledges their service Bishop Isaac and his wife Nora from the Sudan had visited the deanery recently and had expressed gratitude for making them so welcome. Back home their situation was now in a state of civil war but collections at Melbury and a fund-raising concert at Cattistock had raised several thousand pounds towards the church's aid there. It is humbling that when the Synod meets there, they pray for us.

The 17 June meeting was held at Glanvilles Wooton Village Hall where the subject of volunteers continued to be discussed. It is thought that surveys will show the huge number of volunteers in each parish, some not considering themselves as regular churchgoers. The thinking is that the Rural Church is not failing as it is supported by so many, both directly and indirectly. In fact, in July the Three Valleys Benefice held a service, with Bishop Karen in attendance, to celebrate the work of volunteers.

A major part of the Deanery meeting was Mark Addison leading a study on Prayer; why we should do it, how to pray and how to encourage others to do likewise. The meeting then broke into a number of discussion groups who later provided useful feedback to the whole meeting. This included that Prayer should be consistent though not constricted by what 'are the right words to say'. It should also top the agenda before meetings such as PCCs for without prayer it's not worth turning up. Silent prayer has value as well as other people's faith and prayers.

The final meeting of the year on 2nd November was held by zoom and attracted a surprisingly good number of attendees. During this, James Cowan gave a Power Point presentation on the work of the Halo Trust who describe their work as, helping 'countries recover after conflict. Clearing land mines, to save lives, is at the heart of what we do. We work with communities that are too often forgotten once the fighting has ended'. As far as the Deanery are concerned, their needs are several; prayer for the mine clearers, publicity for their work, approaches to MPs and the Government because the Overseas Aid budget has been cut resulting in a reduction in Halo Trust's funding.

Discussion next turned to a 'Making Jesus Known' workshop attended by the Lay Chairman. This had stressed the need for wider engagement and liaison within the Benefices leading to incorporation into the Deanery Plan. It was pointed out that by making Jesus known widely a benefit would be an increase in church attendance and consequent rise in funds though it was also said that it should not just be seen as a way to increase revenue. In respect of this a comment suggested that there was value in creative partnerships with education and the wider community.

Lastly the Deanery was told of the Three Valleys Benefice that had held a study Day on Making Jesus Known. With regard to churches providing a Social Hub, the Lay Chair had initiated a 'Buildings Committee' discussing Church buildings being used for non-church activities. The subject of the financial report arose again revealing that Sherborne Deanery was the worst in the Diocese for paying Parish Share which is likely to have an impact on any request for replacing clergy who may move or retire. The £75,000 annual cost to fund a stipendiary priest has to be seen in the light of most of the Deanery not being able to remit a full Parish Share.

On a more positive note Lesley McCreadie described the great success of Longburton Café Church meeting fortnightly on Tuesday mornings. Its original focus was on inviting non-church men but has grown beyond that. In essence it now provides a community hub without overt church activities. To aid it, various agencies such as Community Police, Weldmar Hospice as well as workshops have been part of its programme.

A further outreach was the setting up of a Men's Breakfast Club in the Three Valleys Benefice where 25 men now meet monthly. Finally, at the 17 July meeting Jenny Nelson queried whether there would be interest in forming a Deanery Climate group. Since then this has born fruit and now an Eco group exists. Its first meeting considered what was already being done such as climate change awareness, Recycling and the Eco awards for churches which one member commented was not hard to achieve. There is a need though, not only to tie these activities in with the Diocesan vision, but in order for it to be a truly Deanery Group, for all benefices to have a representative on the group.

Paul Boyd-Lee

Sherborne Deanery Treasurer's Report
The Deanery held its usual three meetings in the year. A number of important topics were discussed.

Living in Love and Faith
In April this issue was fully covered in a presentation by the Revd George Moody and discussed at some length, both in small groups and by the Synod as a whole. PCCs were encouraged to continue the discussion. We were reminded that Bishop Stephen has said that 'unity does not imply uniformity' and that we could stand together 'in difference'.

Prayer
In June the Revd Tim Greenslade reminded us all of the centrality of prayer. Following his presentation, small group discussions were quite animated, leading to a general discussion. Whilst we all understand the importance of prayer, it was recognised that church committees too often get bogged down by the business of running the church, and it is not always obvious that our faith is as prominent as perhaps it ought to be.

Ezo Diocese, South Sudan
The Deanery continues to have a close relationship with Bishop Isaac. We continue to send funds to assist, primarily with education at Masumba School. It has 700+ pupils. In addition, funds were sent to assist with internally displaced people, by improving facilities in camps where they have sought shelter. The security situation in South Sudan deteriorated during the year. It is always humbling to hear that they hold us in their prayers, as we do them. Andrew Tomkins continues to be our energetic link.

Making Jesus Known
There was an ongoing discussion during the year on Bishop Stephen's initiative to 'make Jesus known'. The Synod encouraged PCCs to discuss Bishop Stephen's vision. It was generally recognised that this plan is encouraging us to reinvigorate our present congregations, to seek new members and generally to bring a greater awareness of Jesus Christ in parts of our community which have little or no Christian understanding.

Eco Group
This year the Revd Jenny Nelson started a Deanery Eco Group both to encourage and coordinate environmental awareness in all churches within the Deanery. There has been ongoing discussion as regards reducing energy costs as well as highlighting sustainability practices within various churches, e.g. the wild flower meadow at the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Holnest. All PCCs have been encouraged to complete the survey towards achieving an Eco award.

Finance
Church finances continue to occupy a core part of the Deanery's discussion. Many of our small rural parishes are struggling to meet their parish share request as their congregation numbers continue to decline. Sherborne Deanery has continued to underpay its collective parish share significantly, although the situation in 2023 was improved compared to 2022. Our small number of clergy (8) spread over a large number of churches (42) makes for infrequent services. Fewer services makes it harder to grow congregations and to increase revenue. Underpayment of parish share will ultimately force the Diocese to reduce clergy numbers still further. We are grateful to many retired clergy and LLMs who shoulder a significant workload.

In conclusion, I would like it noted that the Revd Tony Gilbert, our Rural Dean, retires in the middle of 2024. We are grateful for his efforts and wish him and Nicola health and serenity in their retirement.

John Bradshaw

Trustees' Report (continued)

Faith in Action Committee (FIAC) 2022

FIAC is the sub-committee of the Parochial Church Council responsible for handling our giving, especially our support for charities, both Christian and secular, locally, nationally and internationally, and which articulates our Christian love and support for people in need. The three churches in the parish allocate ten percent of their income to this purpose. We are responsible for identifying suitable organisations to support, evaluating applications, making donations, building partnerships and understanding with those we support and hearing about how our donations have been used. Any parishioner is welcome to join us.

FIAC has long-standing relationships with particular organisations at local, national and international level, making regular donations to support them, as well as supporting others engaged in Christian or other philanthropic activity, or supporting individuals in need.

Our work is only possible because of the generosity of present and earlier members of the parish and the immense work done by staff and volunteers in creating income, especially through the Abbey and shop. While we have not recovered to pre-Covid income levels we are still able to make significant contributions.

Our 2023 grant was £41,000, the same as 2022. Of this £7,000 was paid by St Paul's church £1,358 from the congregation at St Mary Castleton, with the balance from Abbey central funds. It was an unusual year as is reflected in the figures. We started the year with higher than usual reserves, which included extra payments from St Paul's Church, a reserve fund for support for Ukraine, and a number of delayed payments from 2022. The apparent loss of £14,800 is a result of making these extra and delayed payments. Additional giving this year was very generous, but rather less than in previous years. Partly this was because we had no special appeals, but also I think the financial situation is having an effect.

Using our revised guidelines we focused on supporting fewer, small and medium sized charities but giving them more. The demands on all charities in the UK and for Africa have grown and we have tried to grow our support for our key partners and causes, while also including a few new areas of support. For example, we have increased or maintained our donations to Sudan-based recipients, CMS, and local youth charities but also made new donations to charities working with prisoners and ex-offenders.

Helen Kisakye, our CMS partner retired in August after ten years of service. We have been in touch with her, wishing her the very best for the future and there are plans for her to visit Sherborne soon. We had a wonderful visit from three senior members of CMS in August, Joan Busolo, CMS Regional Manager for Africa, based in Nairobi, the Revd Canon Moses Bushendich - Director of CMS Africa, and Karobia Njogu - cross cultural mission manager in CMS Africa. They spoke with passion and energy at St Paul's during a Sunday service. We have now agreed to support Sam Malish, as our new mission partner, he is a member of the CMS Africa team working in refugee camps for South Sudanese people in Arua, Uganda. This approach is in keeping with the shift over many years by CMS to train and empower local people to be effective in their own communities. Please pray for Sam and the CMS Africa team and for the longevity of this partnership.

We continue to support the Diocesan work in South Sudan and are extremely grateful for the informed commitment of Robert Hayward, who was again able to visit Juba and the Diocesan Model Secondary School. As in previous years we have supported the continuing training of nurses, the Bishop Allison Theological College and the Diocesan Sudan General Fund. This year we also supported the Sherborne Deanery Christmas appeal for the EZO diocese and have decided to make this the first of a continuing support for that diocese, which is one of the poorest in S. Sudan, itself in the five poorest countries in the world. With average income of less than $1,000 pa and the absolute lowest human development index of any country, (SS=0.385: = UK 0.94), South Sudan's health and education resources and standard of living are the lowest in the world.

St Saviour's Riga, Latvia, and their minister Eliza Kikmane, continue to be in our prayers. We now pay them one lump sum, reducing transfer costs and allowing them to divide it between church, seniors club and soup kitchen as best suits their need. Please pray for them as they face the threat of their belligerent neighbours.

Trustees' Report (continued)

FIAC earmarked £4000 to support the victims of the war in Ukraine. We used £1000 of this to assist SHARES to support its work with Ukrainian Families in our town and sent £3000 to a charity delivering household items (beds white good etc) to those dispossessed as a result of the continuing war in that country. One special donation this year was the £5,000 sent to the Anglican Province of Sudan. This was to help with the relocation from Khartoum to Port Sudan following the seizure of church assets in the capital by rebel forces. We also supported St John's Church Grenada, so they could buy a keyboard for their worship group.

Nationally we continue to support charities including the Bible Society, the Church Homeless Trust and the Farming Community Network. Locally we support SAYCC (Tinney's), RendezVous and Future Roots all working with young people in the town. We have increased our giving to CAP (Church Action on Poverty), based in Yeovil, which has a case worker in our town and unsurprisingly is extremely busy, successfully helping people budget and manage their finances.

With the reserves we had at the beginning of the year and awareness of the financial pressures on local families (Food Bank use in Sherborne was at record levels at the end of 2023), we committed £5,000 as a local cost-of-living fund to help out. This was used to support the Sherborne Primary School Christmas box appeal, initiated by Ian Bartle, now head of both Sherborne Primary Schools, benefitting needy families at both schools. Further money was used to help a local resident with no carpets and the balance of £3000 has been donated to enable primary children whose parents cannot afford it, to go on their annual school residential trip. We believe this to be an important contribution as missing out on bonding experiences like this is a very real form of social deprivation.

Our Lent project for 2023 was launched at a very successful Shrove lunch, for which we thank all those who helped organise it - and which made a profit of £455 for FIAC! Our home Lent project for 2023 was Footprints, working with offenders and ex-offenders to help them re-establish themselves on release. We will continue to support work like this, now funding the Friends of Guys Marsh Prison. Work of this nature is hugely important as so many support services have been lost. Our overseas project was CCLL Chernobyl Children's Life Line, a locally based charity which used to bring families affected by the lasting health effects of the disaster in 1986 to the UK, but since the pandemic is now working to support families in their home environment, within Ukraine, near the border with Belorussia; especially we supported the re-equipping of the local school, damaged in the war.

We extend our thanks to all who organised and participated in a very successful Harvest lunch and the appeal raised over £1070. Inadvertently this money was split unevenly, FIAC sent £740 to the Diocesan Sudan Medical Fund, and the central fund sent £331 to Christian Aid. This imbalance will be redressed by a further FIAC donation to Christian Aid early in 2024. Other charitable donations made by the parish and recorded elsewhere include Weldmar Hospice £1741and £2000 from St Paul's to the Barnabas Trust.

FIAC ends the year with £20,892. Some of this is earmarked: £2,000 for Juba Diocesan Model School, £1,200 for the discretionary fund and expenses, and £5000 for Ukraine relief. That leaves a reserve of £6,000 and £6,700 to allocate before our next regular income in late 2024.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all those whose regular and occasional contributions to the parish enable us to further support all these excellent causes. I wish also to express my thanks for the support FIAC and I personally have received from the clergy, officers and especially to members of the Faith in Action Committee. FIAC is only one aspect of the work that the parish does in supporting those in need. Many other activities help people directly or fund-raise. Much pastoral work goes on privately and every act of kindness and support for those who are ill or need is important. FIAC is proud and delighted to be part of that rich tapestry of love and witness.

John Crossman
Chair Faith in Action Committee

Donations International	**£**
Church Mission Society Sam Malish CMS Africa partner	5,500
EZO deanery Christmas appeal (will be regular)	1,000
Latvia St Saviour's Church, Riga (Inc 2022 payment £4,500)	9,220
Leprosy Mission	500
Parish of St John, Grenada, West Indies -worship resources	1,088
Province of Sudan emergency support (loss of office etc)	5,000
Salisbury Diocese - Sudan General Fund	1,100
Salisbury Diocese -Bishop Allison Training Coll., S. Sudan	1,200
Salisbury Diocese Sudan Medical Link (Nurse training)	1,400
S. Sudan: Confident children out of Conflict/Juba School)	3,000
Ukraine support (2022 reserve) Hope and Aid direct	3,000
TOTAL	**32,008**

Donations National	**£**
Bible Society	350
Children's Society	350
Church Homeless Trust	350
Farming Community Network	1,100
Family Counselling Trust	1,100
TOTAL	**3,250**

Donations Local	**£**
Christians Against Poverty	1,200
Dorset Historic Churches Trust	550
Friends of Guys Marsh	500
Sherborne Primary Schools (Christmas Boxes Appeal)*	1,500
Future Roots	2,400
Open House Shaftesbury (Sherborne Resident)*	500
RendezVous Sherborne	2,400
Resources for RE Teaching	78
SAYCC (Tinneys Youth Centre)	2,400
SAST Sherborne Primary School residentials	2,000
Sherborne Area Refugee Support	1,000
Sherborne Open Gate	1,000
Sherborne Parish Shop - books for Abbey School leavers	149
Sherborne Primary Schools - residential support for 2024*	3,000
Weldmar Hospice	1,200
Yeovil Street Pastors	300
TOTAL	**20,177**

The Abbey Shop

The Abbey Shop has had a much better year with more tourists and visitors. Cards still seem to create the biggest sales, Easter & Christmas cards nearly all sold as did Advent Calendars. All of the Advent Candles went this year.

I was fortunate to get a new range of Eco cards from a Company in Cornwall, they have been a great success. Other new lines, church mice and doorstops carved in sustainable wood from Indonesia, these just keep selling!

As we moved nearer to Christmas, we had two shoppers' weekends with carols in the Abbey plus the annual train trip with a Carol service in the Abbey. This year they started out from Peterborough. The new Choir Christmas CD sold around 300 copies, all helping bumper festive sales.

As you read this report I have retired from the shop after around 15 years, my successor is Mark Prideaux, please support him in his new role.

Philip Prout, Shop Manager

Digby Memorial Church Hall

Another very busy year for The Digby Memorial Church Hall with a "Turn Over" of over £33,000.

It has taken a while to get everyone's confidence back to meeting in larger numbers, after Covid.

On the maintenance front all the building work, recommended in the Quinquennial Report has been completed this year.

Most remaining lights are now LED and have automatic switch offs, as do the sound system and the water heaters, all in order to keep our energy bills to a minimum.

During the summer the Studio floor was sanded and oiled and the chairs in The Griffiths Room have been recovered.

Plans for next year include the upgrade of the kitchen with a new Dishwasher and Cooker.

Once again we would like to thank the Parish Office and David Ferguson for their support over the year and we look forward to another year.

Kate Bray, Manager

Sherborne Abbey Mother's Union

MU Sherborne Branch Report (2023) for the PCC

MU Committee
Secretary/Leader: Jo Higgs
Treasurer: Christine Byfield
Chaplains: Lesley McCreadie
Others: Elaine Little and Marilyn Davies

Membership
Started with 34 finished with 33.
Enrolled 2 (included in the 34) at the beginning of the year and 1 at the end.
Deaths - 2. Mr and Mrs Rowe

Branch Activities
A full programme (attached) including talks and activities. We have strengthened our links with The Sudans, and the two Women's Refuges in our area.

Once again we wrapped 100 potted primulae for Mothering Sunday. (Purchased from the Garden Centre who kindly gave a small reduction).

Summer Lunch was held at St.Paul's Church and this year was provided by our Syrian friends who introduced us to their delicious Syrian food.

Craft day was lead by Shirley Fooks who had us all making Christmas cards with varied success.

Our Carol Service followed by Christingle making (150 oranges purchased at Market Town Garden) was a happy occasion. Once again, we were in the Lady Chapel and the Ambulatory. Three visitors from Dorchester MU joined us. Unlike the previous year the Christingle Service on the Sunday was well attended, due largely to the fact that Lesley McCreadie promoted it in the schools and all oranges were taken!

We booked a tree for The Christmas Tree Festival held in Cheap Street Church. Two of our members decorated it with our usual white angles and added red stars with YFC (Youth For Christ) and Open Gate Club written on them: these were the charities supported by the Festival.

Tums Tots and Tinies at St.Paul's Church: We continue our involvement in this venture by at least two of our members helping in the kitchen.

Action and Outreach
The MU board in the Abbey: as in previous years Elizabeth Prichard has kept the MU in the public eye with wonderful and varied displays (a total of nine in 2023). This board stands in the South Isle and is well worth studying. We hope that visitors to the Abbey and members of our congregation will take time to read, enjoy and reflect on these displays.

Involvement in our local community. In addition to the above-mentioned activities our members continue to be involved in the community in various ways, particularly by volunteering in the existing charitable organizations - to name a few, Food Bank, The Pod, Open the Book, the Abbey Shop, Abbey Guardians, SHARE and refugees, Soroptimists, visiting those unwell or house bound etc.

Activity in the Diocese

Spring and Autumn Councils
Once again these were poorly attended. This is partly due to the age of our membership in the Diocese and the travel involved. Public transport is not good and many members do not want to drive great distances. These meetings are however an encouragement and a reminder that we are not alone.

Salisbury Cathedral Service
During 16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence. Only two of us attended from this Branch. It was generally well attended however and followed by an excellent lunch in Sarum College. Gifts for the Salisbury Women's Refuge were collected.

Away From It All Holiday (AFIA)
The caravan in Rockley Park was very well booked with waiting lists for the holiday slots. The finances are in fine order. However, the existing caravan will need replacing, probably this year.

The Virtual Baby Project
The MU in Salisbury Diocese owns 12 babies which are taken into nine schools. Youngsters learn what it is to have a crying baby who needs feeding, nappy changes and attention over a weekend!!

Annual Conference in York
This was attended by 770 + delegates from UK and Ireland. Our World Wide President, Sheran Harper of Guatemala and our Chaplain, Emma Innes, both spoke memorably. Sheran started her presentation with "Don't give up the habit of meeting together". She then took us on a world tour: The MU is thriving overseas and making a big difference in people's lives. Emma based her talk on the Cross of Wales on the back of which is written in Welsh - Be Joyful, Keep the Faith, Do the little things.

So I end this report with a reminder that we the committee and all the members are in this together as we try to follow Mary Sumner's example. We live in very different times, face different problems, but our prayer is the same:-

"All this day O Lord, let us touch as many lives as possible for Thee and every life we touch do Thou by Thy Spirit quicken, whether through the words we speak, the prayers we breathe or the lives we Live"

Jo Higgs Branch Leader

Trustees' Report (continued)

The Social Committee

2023 began for us with the organisation of food for the very successful parish party with country dancing in the Digby Memorial Hall on Saturday 21st January. We were very grateful for the contributions of delicious puddings brought to the party.

On Saturday, 28th January we served tea, coffee and biscuits to the couples who attended the Wedding Conference in the Abbey.

The Shrove Lunch on Sunday, 19th February was well attended and with another successful raffle we were able to contribute £500 to FIAC for the lent projects.

On Tuesday April 4th we served tea, coffee and cakes during the delightful Messy Church holiday activity in the Digby Memorial Hall.

The Reverend Robert Green celebrated the 50th anniversary of his priesting on Sunday 4th June. Wine and finger food was served outside the Abbey in the sunshine after the morning Eucharist.

Parish barbecues were organised for July, August and September. Unfortunately,the first barbecue had to be cancelled because of stormy weather, but the August and September barbecues went ahead very successfully. The committee was extremely grateful to Tim Lee for his skill on the barbecue.

We fed a record 90 people at the Harvest lunch on Sunday 24th September. In an effort to cope with rising food prices, we opted for a roasted vegetable lasagne, which thankfully was popular, so we were pleased to be able to make a donation of £400 to the Sudan Medical Link.

We were able to run the Pack Monday Café again this year thanks largely to the band of willing volunteers who signed up to help. It was a long and busy day, but a happy occasion as everyone worked together enthusiastically. We were thrilled to make just over £1,000 profit and to be able to donate £1,000 towards the new Abbey toilets scheme.

Coffee, tea and biscuits were served during the Abbey gift day on Saturday, 28th October.

We would like to thank the Parish Hall Committee for their decision to provide the Digby Memorial Hall kitchen with a commercial dish washer and a new gas cooker. It will be a huge benefit to us.

Frances Walker (Chairman and Secretary)
Jo Hague (Treasurer)
Helen Coombes, Jane Colville, Frances Gomme-Duncan, Etta Stickland, Suzanne Short, Anne Cave-Browne-Cave

Director of Music's Report

2023 turned out to be an even better year for the Abbey Choir than the previous one, which I would not have thought possible. The boy choristers, increasing in number again, were on particularly good form-sounding, in most cases, stronger and more musical than on many Radio 3 Choral Evensong broadcasts from cathedrals around the UK. Two CD recordings (one of Christmas music and the other to be launched for Easter 2024) were made in addition to several new settings of the Renaissance era being introduced for Sunday worship. No choristers left in 2023. This is unusual and is a key factor in the high quality singing that they provide for us.

The Abbey Girls' Choir also started at the beginning of 2023 and quickly increased in number beyond that of the boys. By September their fortnightly Choral Evensongs on Thursdays involved the back rows and the standard achieved is definitely beginning to approach that achieved by the boys. A rotation of weekends and Thursdays, reducing the commitment so often discussed by parents, to something certainly easier if not more manageable, might well be an option for the future.

The Abbey Choir's visit to Westminster Abbey over a long weekend in early August was a resounding success and much enjoyed by all; it was rather magical to be singing within yards of the spot where the King had been crowned just weeks earlier. Particularly touching was the enormous support received from the Abbey Family in the form of a coach load of the congregation and many individuals from Sherborne attending all four services. The ambitious Music List was received with acclaim by the Westminster Abbey clergy and staff who were fulsome in their praise of the musical standards achieved by Sherborne Abbey Choir-and there were verbal and written invitations for a return visit.

A first for the Abbey Choir was a concert slot in the Abbey's own Festival. "Byrd 400", celebrating the music of William Byrd, received a large audience and, because it was a ticketed concert that was largely cost-free, created good feeling in being able to raise some revenue for the PCC/Abbey Festival that does so much to support the Choir's development.

The back rows deserve special mention for the very high quality singing they have produced during 2023, with a wonderful blend and phrasing to match. We couldn't do it without them! Largely volunteers, they give many hours to the Abbey's music. The gap-year Organ Scholar and three Choral Scholars-a scheme that I personally put in place back in 2005, and which Sherborne School has unfailingly and entirely funded for all of that time-do much for the quality of the back row singing. Kotaro Blake remained in Sherborne as a Choral Scholar and is now at Royal Holloway; Joe Travis (the baritone who features extensively on both CDs) is now singing at Jesus College, Cambridge and reading Music; Elliot Hampton is reading Music at Manchester and Guy Hepher is reading History as an Organ Scholar in Durham. The VE Award-Holders increased in number by one (there were two in 2023 until September) when old chorister Oscar Boswall returned as a bass: he is also a Music Scholar next door in the school. The VE Awards, which arise from interest on the legacy left by Vincent Evans, provide superb opportunities for choristers to continue into the back rows when their voices have broken. We continue to be very grateful for both schemes.

I am grateful to Peter Bray who, with the assistance of some highly talented Organ Scholars, needs continued thanks for his organ playing-particularly each September and October when the gap-year Organ Scholar is very much on a learning curve.

Chorister singing lessons for girls and boys, provided by the singing teachers in Sherborne School Music School, and paid for by the PCC/Abbey Festival and Sherborne School itself, are as always very much appreciated and undoubtedly have a very positive effect on the quality of the choristers' singing.

James Henderson
Director of Music & Organist

Festival 2023 Report

For the first time, a wonderful tie-in with the Sherborne Times meant that the colourful Festival brochure was artfully designed and banded together with the main magazine and distributed throughout 6000 letterboxes and community information points in the town and surrounding villages. The design and print of the new-style programme was also in conjunction with the Sherborne Times and we celebrate this building of links with local businesses.

The concert performed in the Abbey by The Sixteen directed by Harry Christophers was sold out some time in advance and those who got tickets were certainly not disappointed! Yet another treat was the performance by Steven Isserlis of Saint-Saëns Cello Concerto no 1 with the Iuventus Chamber Orchestra led by Festival Artistic Adviser Ruth Rogers. The Abbey Choir, whose commitment to the music in the Abbey is heard every Sunday throughout the year, performed a glorious concert as part of the Festival for the first time and the lunchtime organ recital by Matthew Owens was hugely well attended and enjoyed.

The Festival evening concerts were bookended by a rousing opening concert performed by the Sherborne Festival Chorus and a welcome return to the Abbey by the wonderfully charismatic clarinettist Julian Bliss and Friends. Another highlight was the stunning performance of Parisian jazz, tango and latin arrangements by vocalist Gabrielle Ducomble at the Gransden Hall. Having raised the funds to purchase the beautiful new grand piano for the Abbey in 2022, the recital to celebrate the arrival of the piano by the legendary pianist John Lenehan was simply breathtaking!

The Festival is proud to offer many free performances and opportunities for local ensembles to perform. As ever, we are immensely pleased and grateful that some of the local schools took part in the Festival; the Gryphon School, Sherborne School, Sherborne School for Girls, and Leweston School offered wonderful performances from many varied ensembles showcasing the talent and hard work that is obviously thriving in the schools.

Sherborne Town Band and Wessex Strings both performed fabulous concerts too. There was a wonderful buzz of energy and excitement around the Abbey throughout the whole week as the many volunteers who help to run the festival, from stewarding and programme selling to proof-reading and copy-writing, contributed their invaluable time with enthusiasm and ran between the several venues involved in the busy festival. Our thanks go to each and every one of them as it also does to the staff of the Abbey.

As well as the many varied concerts in the Abbey itself, this year we were hosted for two concerts in the beautiful church of St Aldhelm and the Sacred Heart and we are most grateful to Father Robert Draper for his support with this. Other venues included Cheap Street Church, Sherborne School Chapel and the Grandsen Hall at Sherborne Girls, not forgetting the two final opera dinners providing entertaining evenings at The Plume of Feathers.

Given that the aim of the Festival is to support music making in the Abbey and the local area, the Festival was delighted to continue their financial support of the youth section of the Sherborne Town Band, and award a grant to award-winning young composer Elliott Park, as well as paying for Abbey Choristers singing lessons and fees.

Samantha Henderson

Concerts in The Abbey

Weekly organ recitals have run in the Abbey throughout the year during term time on Monday lunchtimes, given by the Abbey's Music staff, local and visiting organists. They attract a loyal, regular and enthusiastic audience, along with many visitors to the Abbey, who have enjoyed an added bonus of hearing the Abbey's organ during their visit. There have also been a number of lunchtime recitals by visiting ensembles, including St Andrews Madrigal Group and Farnborough Hill Choir.

In February the Schools' Choral Society gave its annual performance in the Abbey and a large choir of 170 singers which flowed into the Digby Chapel was accompanied by orchestra to perform Mendelssohn's Elijah, conducted by Dan Marks.

In March Sherborne Chamber Choir gave its fortieth anniversary concert (postponed from March 2020): a performance of Bach's great Mass in B minor, to a packed Abbey, accompanied by a period orchestra. The conductor was Paul Ellis and soloists included Robin Blaze and Morgan Pearse.

In May Sherborne Abbey Festival took place. Large audiences enjoyed a wide variety of concerts and recitals, including concerts by The Sixteen, cellist Steven Isserlis with Iuventus Chamber Orchestra, clarinettist Julian Bliss, organist Matthew Owens, and Sherborne Festival Chorus, as well as performances by local ensembles. A more detailed report is elsewhere.

In June Sherborne Abbey Choir performed its annual concert to a large audience, with a selection of anthems from the choir's repertoire. The choir was directed by James Henderson, with Peter Bray at the organ.

In July Sherborne Chamber Choir performed the Brahms Requiem, in its piano duet accompaniment form, using the Abbey's new piano, as part of a Grand Tour of European music. The following week South West Baroque Orchestra performed in the Abbey for the first time, with a tea-time programme of Grand Concerti of the Baroque.

In September the band of the Grenadier Guards proved very popular, with a fundraising concert in aid of Pancreatic Cancer UK and The Colonel's Fund Grenadier Guards. Later in the month the London Welsh Male Voice Choir came to perform in aid of charity, the Rotary Club of Sherborne Castles and Hidden Needs Trust being the beneficiaries.

Sherborne Chamber Choir gave its regular Advent concert on the eve of Advent Sunday, with a programme ranging from plainsong chant to the present day, conducted by Paul Ellis, with Simon Clarkson, organist.

In December, in addition to the many carol services, the Salamanca Band of the Rifles from Exeter performed a Christmas concert, directed by Bandmaster WO1 Richard Cregan. The Abbey's own Christmas concert also took place, with performances from Sherborne Abbey Choir, the Gryphon School and Sherborne Town Band.

Rachel Greaves
Concerts Administrator

The Bellringers

2023 has been an exceptionally busy year, the main features being the King's Coronation on 6th May and the continual flow of new people wanting to learn to ring or improve. The Abbey band is thriving. Although Catherine Cooper, sadly, has not returned to ringing since the death of her mother and Helen Hitchins is concentrating her efforts now in Stalbridge where she has taken over as Tower Captain, 43 members paid a subscription to the Salisbury Guild and two more schoolboys arrived in September from the Boys School. There are 17 learners on our list, some of whom were elected at the West Dorset Branch AGM in mid-November as full Ringing Members. Others should follow in 2024. I am very grateful for the help provided by Richard, David and young Tim in teaching them and to the others who help regularly.

The events around the Coronation were filmed by a TV crew making the second programme in the series "Dorset: Country and Coast" which aired on Channel 5 on 2nd August. They filmed two sessions - one, a practice on the Thursday before and the second on the Great Day, when no less than 27 ringers, 1 guest and 3 film crew crowded into the tower. The star of the show, Sue, has continued to progress but sadly has had to take a break from ringing which we all hope will be temporary.

We have also welcomed many visitors over the year, a few of whom return fairly regularly. Whether it is the excitement of ringing our bells or the refreshment afterwards is difficult to judge, but a friendly atmosphere and ringing so ably managed by Nick help no end.

Apart from the Abbey, we have, through Richard, been able to support Sunday Service ringing at Longburton too. Perhaps in years to come, we may be able to extend that to Lillington, where we are always made so welcome anytime we can ring for them.

We rang for 9 weddings, including two at Longburton, and for four funerals, three of which were at the Abbey, the first of a good friend and neighbour of mine, the second for Margaret's husband, Steve and the third for Bridget Hill, an Abbey Server. We also rang at Queen Camel for Ron Repton's funeral, a real gentleman and a former Worcester Cathedral ringer, who rang with us for many years pre-Covid. All are very sadly missed. Several quarters were rung including one for Ron, a few at the request of the Bath Abbey band, and three peals, two of which were successful.

The Doubles and Minor Group has made good progress with several successful attempts to ring Kent and Cambridge.

Book sales have been light as most are now sold through the Abbey Shop, but £50 has been realised and we have just 13 copies remaining unsold from a total of 769 £25 has been distributed to each Charity.

The social side of life for the Abbey band followed a by now familiar pattern, with our "Christmas" meal in January at the Rose & Crown in Longburton, a Ringers Supper in Holy Week, our summer barbecue at Richard's new home in Longburton where Nick again did his magic with the barbie and masses of salads and puds skilfully made by several of our ringers were eagerly consumed, and a couple of informal gatherings in Gainsborough Drive in December.

A final highlight has been the new ropes with sally colours designed by Jan. The ringing room has never looked brighter and it is so good not to have to hoover up the woolly bits from the carpet every other week!

May I end by expressing my gratitude to you all for your support and practical help over the year. This band would not be doing so well without the commitment of all of you, for which I am very thankful.

Tim Phillips

Abbey Guides

With the success of running tours from Easter to the end of November in 2022, it was decided to adopt the same arrangement for 2023. This included the weekend tours on Saturdays and Sundays during July, August and early September.

The figures in brackets are 2022 numbers.

Between April 4th and November 28th 2023 tours were offered on Tuesdays and Fridays.

In total 335 (203) visitors attended these tours, with 186 (106) on Tuesday mornings and 149 (97) on Friday afternoons. This was an increase of 132 visitors when compared to 2022. The increase in numbers may be a consequence of the Channel 5 series Dorset: Country and Coast. Episode 2 was transmitted on 2nd August 2023, and featured the Abbey bellringers. In addition, a leaflet advertising Abbey tours designed by Liz Murray was distributed to tourist information centres, hotels and tourist attractions such as Milton Abbey and the Bovington Tank Museum. I would like to thank the guides as they took an active role in the distribution of these leaflets.

Our tours on Saturdays and Sundays during July, August and the first weekend in September were successful, with 9 (7) tours on Saturday mornings bringing in 60 (22) visitors, and 6 (11) tours on Sundays after the 9.30 service attended by 36 (46) visitors. The reduction in the number of Sunday tours is a pleasant consequence of an increase in the number of baptisms taking place in the Abbey in 2023. Where possible the Sunday morning tours were moved to the afternoon. But on several occasions the afternoon session had to cancelled as well, due to both morning and afternoon baptismal services.

16 (17) private booked tours took place during the year with a total of 277 (278) visitors.

In addition to the above:

1. Guides have also assisted with school and youth organisation visits to the Abbey. 250 young visitors attended these 5 visits. The largest group consisted of 120 children from a local Roman Catholic school. The day was enjoyed by all, and the guides were complimented not only on their knowledge but also on their skills in managing such a large group. For the first time the local Beavers group visited the Abbey after dark and had a floodlit tour of the building. Several parents in attendance asked that we consider offering evening tours. Full-time employment together with busy weekend schedules diminishes their opportunities to visit the Abbey.

2. Firmer links have been established with Sherborne Museum by offering Abbey tours for museum volunteers, with a reciprocal tour of the museum offered to Abbey guides.

3. On 16th October 2023, as part of the Pack Monday Fair celebrations, guides were on duty within the Abbey to welcome visitors, show people around or generally answer any questions.

4. Mrs. Joan Biles visited Trinity Manor Care Home and gave an illustrated talk to the residents on the history of Sherborne Abbey.

I would like to thank all the guides for their continued support during my first year as Head Guide and for their professional and enthusiastic approach to their roles as Sherborne Abbey Guides.

I would also register my appreciation for the support received from the all the vergers, and Joanna Sams and Sue Lee in the Parish Office. Also, the Guardians who actively promote our tours.

Harold Clarke
Head Guide

Abbey Servers

"We are the servants of the servants of God" St Gregory

The serving team are privileged to have a role in the preparation of worship and assisting the clerical team during services.

The team started the year with 15 members. The three younger members who were under training at the end of 2022 have become a very valued addition to the serving team. During 2023 Dennis Porter left us at Easter when he moved away to be near family. Daphne Furey decided to leave the team as she has become more involved with her local church and was finding it increasingly difficult to get to the Abbey for services. Sadly, Bridget Hill died in November having struggled bravely with cancer for a number of years. They are all greatly missed as they had been valued servers for many years.

We welcomed one new adult server to the team, Alex Wandless, who has been regularly acting as Crucifer for Evensong and is getting involved in other services.

As in previous years, we struggled to provide a full team for all the Christmas services due to illness and members of the team being away with family, in the end we managed to provide a full team for every service.

We have one young man currently being trained but would ask anyone who would like to join the team, even if they can only serve occasionally, to contact us (Rector or Parish Office). Full training will be given and there is no age barrier, currently the 2024 team age ranges from 9 to 80 plus!!

As a team we would not be able to function without the support of the vergers who work tirelessly behind the scenes and for that we thank them. I would also thank my fellow servers for their support and commitment throughout the year.

John Keating
Head Server

Abbey Guardians

I am delighted to be able to report that this year has seen the highest annual number of visitors since 2013(excluding the year of Luke Jerram's moon exhibition) reaching over 56,000. Thank you Jennifer Huitson for another year of meticulous number crunching. The increase in visitors throughout 2023 is in part due to extra publicity, improved handouts and new posters. A visitor surge followed the memorable BBC television programme in August which featured the Abbey bell ringers. The Monday organ recitals have also been very popular. The Visitors book has been reinstalled and this has given an indication of the appreciation of visitors from both home and abroad.

The number of Guardians has remained steady at around 85. This covers the hours from 10am to 4pm. We need further volunteers to completely cover the final hour until 5pm, so far this has proved very hard but we live in hope! It is always a joy to welcome families with young children and this year Guardians are reporting a significant increase in these. The larger than ever tree this Christmas has been a great draw. 'Better than the one in Trafalgar square !' one small boy announced. Guardians have appreciated having the Abbey shop alongside them and to be able to point to publications that can enhance a visitor's experience.

Guardians continue to welcome and advise visitors when special services are in progress, weddings, funerals, school services and concerts restrict the general access to visitors who can decide whether to sit quietly at the back or return later. Guardians have also been able to assist as sidesmen during the Girls Choral evensong services.

As ever over the year, we have had the inevitable retirement of several long standing and valued Guardians whose experience and knowledge are much missed. New appointees are very welcome however as they take over the Guardian's medallion.

We have enjoyed two social afternoons in the newly renovated Digby memorial hall. Firstly, in April, our head guide Harold Clarke gave us a very original and colourful look at the emblems used on the King's Coronation invitation card relating them to designs seen around the Abbey. Everyone much appreciated this most original and unusual talk.

In November Luke Mouland, Chairman of Sherborne Museum, treated us to a very entertaining and enlightening look at the history of the museum with some fascinating accompanying photos. This was very well received. Luke also discussed the ongoing cooperation between Abbey and Museum and encouraged everyone to use the Museum to extend their knowledge of the historical relationship between town and Abbey. Both meetings were followed by an excellent tea generously provided by the Guardians.

Our sincere thanks as ever to the Vergers for their support and encouragement over this year. To the Parish Office staff for a huge amount of tireless assistance. Lastly, to our many visitors, who bring with them such an inspiring interest in the Abbey. It is hoped that the welcome given to them by the Guardians further enhances their experience of this wonderful Church.

Sue Morgan.
Head Guardian.

Head Verger's Report

2023 has been another busy year for the team of Vergers.

The electrical upgrade took place in May, which included new meters and a 200 amp cable. The six air-source pumps on the roof are fully operational, though at this point it is unknown how much they are saving us, but the gas and electric bills are expected to be lower. We are awaiting a new switch and interface for the heating system. The electricity consumption for the upgraded lighting system is expected to be reduced by up to 50%. We are still awaiting more programming and additional settings for the lighting. The emergency lighting is now fully compliant, the fire alarm is checked and serviced regularly, as are the fire extinguishers.

All safety equipment is checked regularly, we are Health & Safety compliant, and all electrical equipment has been PAT tested. All the electric meters and cables in the SE corner have been hidden by purpose-built cupboards. A superb job was done by Fullers, the ecclesiastical church furnishers, beautifully constructed in oak. We now await the next major works which will be the installation of long-overdue toilets where the current Vestry is and a new, modern, vestry in the N Transept. Much work has already been carried out in preparation, and the latest plans are available to see in the Lady Chapel. We look forward eagerly to the next chapter in our new purpose-built home.

The cleaning of the Abbey is a never-ending task for the vergers, but as a team we are pleased to receive many compliments about how beautifully it is cared for. We liaise closely with the Team of Guardians, some of whom are very supportive in this respect.

The Vergers continue to oversee approximately 1000 services a year, some of which have seen unprecedented numbers, such as the two Crib Services at Christmas, which saw a combined congregation of around 1600.

Concerts continue to play a large part in the Abbey calendar, some of the highlights being The Band of the Grenadier Guards in September and The Band of the Rifles in December. We now have a team of stewards prepared to volunteer for these events, which is a huge support for the vergers. As usual, the Abbey Festival was a huge success but is a big undertaking for the verging team. Thanks to Sammy Henderson for liaising with us so effectively, and all the volunteers who worked so hard to make it the success it is.

One of the main events of the year was the Civic Service for the Coronation, attended by the Lord Lieutenant and local dignitaries. We were, with difficulty, able to show the Coronation on a big screen in the Abbey, which was enjoyed by those who came.

The team has remained unchanged apart from the fact that Tim Lee has joined us on a part-time basis, and we are lucky to have our volunteers Stuart McCreadie, Alex Wandless, Bill McDermott and Rick Churchill, all of whom step in to help busy times.

It is always a privilege to serve this beautiful Abbey Church and its community, and we look forward to a busy year ahead.

Andrew Cross

Abbey Flower Arrangers

The Abbey Flower team continues to number about 16 ladies and enormous thanks go to them for keeping the Abbey flowers looking good each week and for watering daily.

More bespoke arrangements were done for Memorial services than for weddings during the year, but we had the joy of the Coronation flowers.

Julie Mahony, our Chairman, has worked very hard for the team. However, she has decided to stand down and her quiet efficiency will be missed.

Many thanks are due to Andrew and his team of Vergers for always being so helpful.

We are already in touch with 2024's brides and look forward to all the special services the year will bring.

Julie Mahony

Trustees' Report (continued)

Treasurer's Report

2023 has been a challenging year in terms of the Treasury role in the PCC. Jo Hague left the role officially in February but continued to provide adhoc support for which we were grateful and express our thanks. It wasn't until the end of Summer that I was fully in post, and it has been a steep learning curve getting to understand the nuances of the financial operations that constitute the running of the PCC. I undertook this role on the basis of being able to appoint an Accountancy Firm to support the introduction of the Xero Accounting package with the aim to streamline the current volumes of paperwork and better support the auditing process. It is fair to observe that this has been a much bigger task than first anticipated but hopefully the work will prove worthwhile in the long run. I believe it will make this role easier to adopt for any other person taking up the Treasurer position in the future. Having not had a full year in post, there is still work on my part understanding the trends across the year that make up the full picture of the PCC finances, so I still find myself in learning mode, but I am now hopeful that there are no further spurious accounts to come out of the woodwork!

In terms of the audit, it was identified quite early on that there was a gap in some of the paperwork for the period where the Treasurers role was vacant. In that respect, it was a known issue going into the audit process. This primarily relates to the recording of the weekly collections from the Abbey. Monies were being banked during that period and the paying in books provide records to that level of detail. There is now a much more robust process in place to record collection values which has also been observed as part of this audit.

During 2023, the PCC formed a Finance Committee which meets monthly to review expenditure. At this time, it is quite focussed on the day to day running of the PCC with a medium term aim to produce a multiyear plan to include a contingency plan/reserves policy for continued operation in the event of the unforeseen.

There has been much focus on the financial implications concerning two significant project opportunities; the Toilet Project and the Almshouse Project. The former being the most likely to go ahead first. The Faculty has been submitted with a build cost of £715,000. The plan is to raise as much as possible through focussed fund-raising activities. At year end and including a significant contribution pledged by the Friends of Sherborne Abbey, the fund stands at £112,600 including Gift Aid. This represents a significant contribution to what would be the first phase of this project and provides time to focus on various fund giving bodies to determine what grants might be forthcoming. There is going to be a requirement to draw down on the investment portfolio and it is anticipated that this may be required to support up to 50% of the project costs. The Almshouse project supporting Outreach into the local community will not progress further until 2024 and from a financial perspective remains under review.

2023 Finances

The numbers summarised later in this report detail the financial position of the PCC, so I will just highlight a couple of areas.

The Parish Share was paid in full and continues to be the major cost. The return on the investments was significant in covering this due. At the time of writing this report the PCC has not yet received the official letter from the Diocese but does have an understanding that there will be an 8% increase on the previous year which represents an increase close to £18,000.

The PCC was fortunate to receive bequests totalling £68,517 which provided a significant contribution to the overall income and helped to balance some of the extraordinary costs incurred. One such cost was for the remedial work carried out on the Memorial Hall at a little over £38,000. The PCC passed a resolution to commit up to £30,000 to support initial relating to the Toilet project for the Abbey. By the end of 2023 £28,503 of that budget has been spent. Similarly, there has been expense incurred exploring the possibility of adopting the Almshouse in support of community outreach objectives of £3,620.

The Friends of Sherborne Abbey continue to provide their financial support in maintaining the fabric of the Abbey which of course is hugely beneficial to the overall demands on the funds of the PCC and for which we express our gratitude.

Looking ahead to 2024 the priorities will continue to focus around the financial implications for the Toilet Project and the Almshouse project and their associated ongoing costs. We are aiming to better understand the impact that the air heat source pumps are having on our utilities expenditures. This is very much work in progress with Sue Bradshaw proving a great deal of support and analysis with more to come on this in future reports. General giving remains the backbone of PCC income and as with the general position in Church it ebbs and flows making it difficult to predict and therefore plan for financially. The Finance Committee will have particular focus in this area with the aim of maximising fund-raising opportunities in support of the full objectives of the PCC.

Finally, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Jill Thorley for all the tireless work she does in relation to claiming Gift Aid from HMRC. This element of income is significant and supports much of the operational costs. I am very grateful for her support.

Nigel Chappell, Treasurer

Financial review

The parish accounts show a net surplus in funds for 2023 of £239,543 (2022 : deficit of £579,674). This surplus is solely due to a rise in the value of investments at 31 December 2023 of £265,820.

At 31 December 2023 total funds amounted to £7,635,828 (2022 : £7,396,285). Of these funds £433,460 (2022 : £400,393) were restricted funds. The specific use of these funds is outlined in note 22.

The total funds also include endowment funds of £3,402,826 (2022 : £3,191,666), which comprise investments held by the Diocesan Board of Finance, as custodian trustee, for any future Abbey investment- namely for the upkeep of the Chancel and the Abbey. Funds from those investments are used during the year to cover directly related expenditure, mainly the insurance of the Abbey.

Unrestricted funds are available for the PCC to use within its charity policies.

Policy on reserves

It is the charity's policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds. These reserves allow interest and dividends to form a major part of the income generated in any given year, which is essential to cover core expenditure incurred.

The reserves held also allow maintenance and improvement of the buildings under the charity's control.

Principal funding sources

The principal funding sources of the charity are donations through parish collections, planned giving and other donations and legacies. The charity also benefits from gift aid relief on certain donations.

There are 514 members of the Church Electoral Roll.

Investment policy and objectives

The investment assets comprise units / shares in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund and the M&G Charifund and M&G Charibond charity funds. These funds aim to generate capital appreciation and rising income and a total return in excess of their benchmarks, whilst adopting an appropriate Ethical Investment Policy.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities requires the trustees 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 incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Disclosure of information to auditor

Each trustee has taken steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information. The trustees confirm that there is no relevant information that they know of and of which they know the auditor is unaware.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 16.5.24 and signed on its behalf by:

.....

Dr Christopher Hamon
Trustee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the basis for qualified opinion section of our report, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for qualified opinion on financial statements

The financial statements include revenue of £50,745, for which no records were available prior to the cash received being recorded in the charity's electronic accounting software. Specifically, this relates to weekly Abbey service collections during the first quarter of the year. There were no practical procedures available to us to confirm the completeness of this revenue, and accordingly, we were unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence in this regard. Consequently, we were unable to determine whether any adjustment to the amount of donations revenue recorded was necessary.

Qualified opinion on the financial statements

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the original financial statements were authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton (continued)

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Except for the matter described in the basis for qualified opinion section of our report, in the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Report) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities (set out on page 40), the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:
We have considered the nature of the sector, control environment and financial performance;

We have considered the results of enquiries with management and members in relation to their own identification and assessment of the risk of irregularities within the entity and

We have reviewed the documentation of key processes and controls and performed walkthroughs of transactions to confirm that the systems are operating in line with documentation.

For any matters identified we have obtained and reviewed the charity's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:

Identifying, evaluating, and complying with laws and regulations whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;

Detecting and responding to the risk of fraud and whether they have knowledge of actual, suspected, or alleged fraud;
and of the internal controls established to mitigate the risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton (continued)

We have considered the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and potential indicators of fraud. As a result of these procedures, we have considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the highest area of risk to be in relation to revenue recognition. In conjunction with all audits under ISAs (UK) we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We have also obtained understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the Charities Act 2011, Charity SORP 2019, FRS 102 and the terms and conditions attaching to material grants received by the charity.

In addition, we considered the provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charity's ability to operate or avoid a material penalty. These included data protection regulations, health and safety regulations and employment legislation. Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

Reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;

Performing analytical procedures to identify unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;

Reviewing Trustees' meeting minutes;

Enquiring of management in relation to actual and potential claims or litigations;

Performing detailed transactional testing in relation to the recognition of revenue, specifically grants, and:

In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls:

testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments;
assessing whether the judgments made in accounting estimates are indicative of potential bias and;
evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all members of the engagement team and remained alert to possible indicators of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.
A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton (continued)

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the trustees those matters we are required to state to trustees in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Ian Dodds

Ian Dodds (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Lanham & Francis, Statutory Auditor

Church House
Church Street
Yeovil
Somerset
BA20 1HB

Date: 16.5.24

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income and Endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	2	692,821	17,897	-	710,718	834,345
Charitable activities	3	96,256	18,123	-	114,379	65,022
Other trading activities	4	139,441	45	-	139,486	118,308
Investment income	5	218,521	8,494	-	227,015	213,874
Total income		1,147,039	44,559	-	1,191,598	1,231,549
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	6	(153,603)	-	-	(153,603)	(174,354)
Charitable activities	7	(1,027,591)	(36,681)	-	(1,064,272)	(1,077,016)
Total expenditure		(1,181,194)	(36,681)	-	(1,217,875)	(1,251,370)
Gains/(losses) on investment assets		28,173	26,487	211,160	265,820	(559,853)
Net (expenditure)/income		(5,982)	34,365	211,160	239,543	(579,674)
Net transfers between funds	22	1,298	(1,298)	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(4,684)	33,067	211,160	239,543	(579,674)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		3,804,226	400,393	3,191,666	7,396,285	7,975,959
Total funds carried forward	22	3,799,542	433,460	3,402,826	7,635,828	7,396,285

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.
The funds breakdown for 2022 is shown in note 22.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

(Registration number: 1130082)
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	1,506,245	1,498,988
Investments	15	5,554,118	5,288,298
		7,060,363	6,787,286
Current assets			
Stocks	16	11,935	14,396
Debtors	17	25,378	82,799
Cash at bank and in hand	18	594,816	589,378
		632,129	686,573
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	19	(56,664)	(77,574)
Net current assets		575,465	608,999
Net assets		7,635,828	7,396,285
Funds of the charity:			
Endowment funds	22	3,402,826	3,191,666
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds	22	433,460	400,393
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds	22	3,799,542	3,804,226
Total funds	22	7,635,828	7,396,285

The financial statements on pages 45 to 64 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 16.5.24 and signed on their behalf by:

Jonathan Rodd

.....

Mr Jonathan Rodd
Trustee

D J Fifield.

.....

Mr David Fifield
Trustee

The notes on pages 48 to 64 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Cash Flow Statement for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash income/(expenditure)		239,543	(579,674)
Adjustments to cash flows from non-cash items			
Depreciation	9	1,210	-
Investment income	5	(227,015)	(213,874)
Revaluation of investments		(265,820)	559,853
		(252,082)	(233,695)
Working capital adjustments			
Decrease/(increase) in stocks	16	2,461	(1,696)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	17	57,421	(53,986)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	19	(20,910)	65,633
Net cash flows from operating activities		(213,110)	(223,744)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest receivable and similar income	5	227,015	213,874
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	14	(8,467)	-
Net cash flows from investing activities		218,548	213,874
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		5,438	(9,870)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January		589,378	599,248
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December		594,816	589,378

All of the cash flows are derived from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The notes on pages 48 to 64 form an integral part of these financial statements.

1 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation
The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiatical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

These financial statements are prepared in Sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £1.

Going concern
The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income and endowments
Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Gift aid

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the Statement of Financial Activities at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

Investment income

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Expenditure
All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees' meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Consecrated and beneficed land and property and inalienable church furnishings and equipment are excluded from the financial statements. All expenditure incurred on maintenance or improvement of such property or furnishings is written off in the financial statements.

Other land and buildings in the beneficial ownership of the charity are included in the financial statements at cost. Under the transitional rules of FRS102 paragraph 35.10, the land and buildings were revalued at the date of transition. The basis of this valuation was market value, which was established by the charity. This value has been carried forward as the deemed cost. Annual reviews of the properties are undertaken to determine whether or not there has been any impairment, which would reduce the market value of the land and buildings.

The value of all office and miscellaneous equipment is written off in the financial year in which it is acquired, except for assets costing in excess of £5,000, which are capitalised and depreciated. The value of consumable goods in hand is considered immaterial.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rate in order to write off each asset over its expected useful life:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Furniture and fittings	7 years straight line

Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments, other than programme related investments, are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their market value at the start of the year, or their subsequent cost, and are charged or credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are credited or charged to the Statement of Financial Activities based on the market value at the year end.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Stock
Stock is valued at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell, after due regard for obsolete and slow moving stocks. Cost is determined using the first-in, first-out (FIFO).

Trade debtors
Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Borrowings
Interest-bearing borrowings are initially recorded at fair value, net of transaction costs. Interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost, with the difference between the proceeds, net of transaction costs, and the amount due on redemption being recognised as a charge to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period of the relevant borrowing.

Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in interest payable and similar charges.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the charity has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

Fund structure
Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.
Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.
Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations
The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Financial instruments

Classification

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.
Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

Recognition and measurement

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the charity intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the charity transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the charity, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Investments

Investments in non-convertible preference shares and non-puttable ordinary or preference shares (where shares are publicly traded or their fair value is reliably measurable) are measured at fair value through profit or loss. Where fair value cannot be measured reliably, investments are measured at cost less impairment.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted	Total
	Designated	General	funds	2023
	£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies;				
Parish giving	57,321	199,452	-	256,773
Church collecting	1,133	67,944	4,460	73,537
Donations to appeals	410	950	10,905	12,265
Festival sponsorship	30,126	-	-	30,126
Gift aid reclaimed	18,761	36,635	-	55,396
Regular giving and capital donations	-	-	50	50
Other income from donations and legacies	2,397	277,692	2,482	282,571
	110,148	582,673	17,897	710,718

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted	Total
	Designated	General	funds	2022
	£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies;				
Parish giving	54,390	94,291	-	148,681
Church collecting	1,094	91,269	8,089	100,452
Donations to appeals	9,537	30,078	393	40,008
Legacies	-	-	(375)	(375)
Festival sponsorship	20,033	-	-	20,033
Gift aid reclaimed	12,772	31,224	-	43,996
Other income from donations and legacies	1,315	473,742	6,493	481,550
	99,141	720,604	14,600	834,345

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds Designated £	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Fees for weddings, funerals and related income	455	79,896	18,123	98,474
St Paul's Community Project	15,905	-	-	15,905
	16,360	79,896	18,123	114,379

	Unrestricted funds Designated £	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Fees for weddings, funerals and related income	-	32,327	24,948	57,275
St Paul's Community Project	7,747	-	-	7,747
	7,747	32,327	24,948	65,022

4 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds Designated £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Trading income;			
Sales of goods and services	35,227	45	35,272
Events income;			
Other events income	70,162	-	70,162
Digby Memorial Church Hall	32,286	-	32,286
Concerts	1,766	-	1,766
	139,441	45	139,486

	Unrestricted funds Designated £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Trading income;			
Sales of goods and services	26,355	411	26,766
Events income;			
Other events income	60,766	-	60,766
Digby Memorial Church Hall	28,486	-	28,486
Concerts	2,290	-	2,290
	117,897	411	118,308

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total 2023
	Designated £	General £	£	£
Interest receivable and similar income;				
Interest receivable on bank deposits	5,805	235	257	6,297
Other income from fixed asset investments	-	204,981	8,237	213,218
Income from rents	-	7,500	-	7,500
	5,805	212,716	8,494	227,015

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total 2022
	Designated £	General £	£	£
Interest receivable and similar income;				
Interest receivable on bank deposits	1,434	-	95	1,529
Other income from fixed asset investments	-	193,874	10,046	203,920
Income from rents	-	8,425	-	8,425
	1,434	202,299	10,141	213,874

6 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds Designated £	Total 2023 £
Fundraising trading costs;		
Cost of goods sold	18,756	18,756
Shop overheads	1,874	1,874
Digby Memorial Church Hall	18,780	18,780
Festival - event expenditure and grants	94,191	94,191
Music Committee	60	60
Staff costs	19,942	19,942
	153,603	153,603

	Unrestricted funds Designated £	Total 2022 £
Fundraising trading costs;		
Cost of goods sold	15,675	15,675
Shop overheads	4,478	4,478
Digby Memorial Church Hall	21,997	21,997
Festival - event expenditure and grants	117,901	117,901
Music Committee	768	768
Staff costs	13,535	13,535
	174,354	174,354

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted	Total
	Designated	General	funds	2023
	£	£	£	£
The Ministry	2,885	221,654	983	225,522
Worship	1,671	24,471	16,915	43,057
Faith in Action Committee - grants paid	64,097	-	-	64,097
Church in the Community	22,048	-	-	22,048
Fabric	17,692	447,548	12,559	477,799
Management and Administration	1,863	56,943	3,039	61,845
Flower arrangers	-	-	2,680	2,680
Other events	-	-	505	505
Staff costs	6,209	141,348	-	147,557
Governance costs	-	19,162	-	19,162
	116,465	911,126	36,681	1,064,272

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted	Total
	Designated	General	funds	2022
	£	£	£	£
The Ministry	2,901	252,209	-	255,110
Worship	-	29,848	20,943	50,791
Faith in Action Committee - grants paid	38,966	-	-	38,966
Church in the Community	5,534	734	-	6,268
Fabric	12,075	511,371	16,889	540,335
Management and Administration	449	45,036	2,833	48,318
Flower arrangers	-	-	3,409	3,409
Other events	-	1,634	-	1,634
Staff costs	8,564	108,578	-	117,142
Governance costs	-	15,043	-	15,043
	68,489	964,453	44,074	1,077,016

8 Analysis of governance and support costs

Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £
Audit fees		
Audit of the financial statements	9,162	9,162
Other fees paid to auditors	2,000	2,000
Other governance costs	8,000	8,000
Total for 2023	19,162	19,162
Total for 2022	15,043	15,043

9 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net outgoing resources for the year include:

	2023 £	2022 £
Audit fees	9,162	15,043
Other non-audit services	2,000	-
Depreciation of fixed assets	1,210	-

10 Trustees remuneration and expenses

During the year the charity made the following transactions with trustees:

Mrs Joanne Hague

Mrs Joanne Hague received remuneration of £1,966 (2022: £11,419) during the year.

She was remunerated for accounting services provided to the charity prior to her resignation in March 2023.

Dr Christopher Hamon

Dr Christopher Hamon received remuneration of £13,364 (2022: £22,428) during the year.

He was paid for his services as a verger.

Payment for these services is permitted under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure.
No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

11 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	156,717	126,364
Social security costs	8,533	2,551
Pension costs	2,249	1,762
	167,499	130,677

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2023 No	2022 No
Worship	5	5
Management and administration	6	6
	11	11

4 (2022 - 4) of the above employees participated in the Defined Contribution Pension Schemes.

Contributions to the employee pension schemes for the year totalled £2,249 (2022 - £1,762).

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year

12 Auditors' remuneration

	2023 £	2022 £
Audit of the financial statements	9,162	15,043
Other fees to auditors		
All other non-audit services	2,000	-

13 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings £	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 January 2023	1,498,988	-	1,498,988
Additions	-	8,467	8,467
At 31 December 2023	1,498,988	8,467	1,507,455
Depreciation			
Charge for the year	-	1,210	1,210
At 31 December 2023	-	1,210	1,210
Net book value			
At 31 December 2023	1,498,988	7,257	1,506,245
At 31 December 2022	1,498,988	-	1,498,988

15 Fixed asset investments

Other investments

	Listed investments £	Total £
Cost or Valuation		
At 1 January 2023	5,288,298	5,288,298
Revaluation	265,820	265,820
At 31 December 2023	5,554,118	5,554,118
Net book value		
At 31 December 2023	5,554,118	5,554,118
At 31 December 2022	5,288,298	5,288,298

16 Stock

	2023 £	2022 £
Stocks	11,935	14,396

17 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Other debtors	25,378	82,799

18 Cash and cash equivalents

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash on hand	1,311	1,116
Cash at bank	536,959	501,924
Short-term deposits	56,546	86,338
	594,816	589,378

19 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	2,629	-
Other creditors	36,035	69,574
Accruals	18,000	8,000
	56,664	77,574

20 Obligations under leases and hire purchase contracts

Operating lease commitments

Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Land and buildings		
Within one year	2,288	3,050
Between one and five years	-	2,288
	2,288	5,338

21 Commitments

Other financial commitments

The total amount of other financial commitments not provided in the financial statements was £Nil (2022 - £68,906).

22 Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
Unrestricted funds						
General						
Parish Central Funds	3,514,889	875,285	(911,126)	(962)	28,173	3,506,259
Designated						
St Paul's Church	122,062	98,014	(52,285)	(45,000)	-	122,791
Digby Memorial Church Hall	22,554	32,605	(32,296)	-	-	22,863
Sherborne Abbey Shop	28,762	35,313	(27,056)	6,635	-	43,654
Sherborne Festival	76,692	102,859	(94,191)	(9,842)	-	75,518
FIAC	35,693	1,197	(64,180)	48,260	-	20,970
Music Fund	3,574	1,766	(60)	2,207	-	7,487
	289,337	271,754	(270,068)	2,260	-	293,283
Total unrestricted funds	3,804,226	1,147,039	(1,181,194)	1,298	28,173	3,799,542
Restricted funds						
Castleton Church	377,926	20,296	(17,780)	(1,971)	26,487	404,958
Abbey Choir Fund	17,988	8,473	(13,918)	472	-	13,015
Abbey Floral Fund	1,827	2,236	(2,721)	401	-	1,743
Sherborne Abbey Bellringers	2,652	2,684	(2,262)	(200)	-	2,874
Toilets Fund	-	10,870	-	-	-	10,870
Total restricted funds	400,393	44,559	(36,681)	(1,298)	26,487	433,460
Endowment funds						
Permanent						
Endowment Fund	3,191,666	-	-	-	211,160	3,402,826
Total funds	7,396,285	1,191,598	(1,217,875)	-	265,820	7,635,828

22 Funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 January 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2022 £
Unrestricted funds						
General						
Parish Central Funds	3,733,643	955,230	(964,453)	14,872	(224,403)	3,514,889
Designated						
St Paul's Church	120,179	77,151	(29,339)	(45,929)	-	122,062
Digby Memorial Church Hall	23,152	28,616	(29,214)	-	-	22,554
Sherborne Abbey Shop	33,858	26,375	(26,471)	(5,000)	-	28,762
Sherborne Festival	122,843	82,250	(117,901)	(10,500)	-	76,692
FIAC	11,737	9,537	(39,150)	53,569	-	35,693
Music Fund	3,552	2,290	(768)	(1,500)	-	3,574
	315,321	226,219	(242,843)	(9,360)	-	289,337
Total unrestricted funds	4,048,964	1,181,449	(1,207,296)	5,512	(224,403)	3,804,226
Restricted						
Castleton Church	412,290	28,179	(18,914)	(4,220)	(39,409)	377,926
Abbey Choir Fund	14,925	13,108	(16,995)	6,950	-	17,988
Abbey Floral Fund	2,026	3,210	(3,409)	-	-	1,827
Sherborne Abbey Bellringers	1,805	5,603	(4,756)	-	-	2,652
Central Fund	8,242	-	-	(8,242)	-	-
Total restricted funds	439,288	50,100	(44,074)	(5,512)	(39,409)	400,393
Endowment funds						
Permanent						
Endowment Fund	3,487,707	-	-	-	(296,041)	3,191,666
Total funds	7,975,959	1,231,549	(1,251,370)	-	(559,853)	7,396,285

22 Funds (continued)

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

Castleton Church
Fund restricted to the general purposes and objects of the Castleton Committee.

Abbey Choir Fund
Fund restricted to the general purposes and welfare of the Abbey Choir.

Abbey Floral Fund
Fund restricted to purposes associated with the floral decoration of the Abbey.

The company of Sherborne Abbey Bellringers
Fund restricted to the general purposes of the company of ringers.

Toilets Fund
Fund restricted to the project to instal toilets in the Abbey. If the project does not proceed, these donations are to be refunded.

The designated funds are shown separately to highlight the contribution of each fund. The funds held may be used for any purpose deemed suitable by the trustees.

23 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds at 31 December 2023
	General	Designated		Permanent	
	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	558,965	-	-	947,280	1,506,245
Fixed asset investments	2,739,175	-	359,397	2,455,546	5,554,118
Current assets	257,153	299,148	75,828	-	632,129
Current liabilities	(49,034)	(5,865)	(1,765)	-	(56,664)
Total net assets	3,506,259	293,283	433,460	3,402,826	7,635,828

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds at 31 December 2022
	General	Designated		Permanent	
	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	551,708	-	-	947,280	1,498,988
Fixed asset investments	2,711,002	-	332,910	2,244,386	5,288,298
Current assets	318,535	296,432	71,606	-	686,573
Current liabilities	(66,356)	(7,095)	(4,123)	-	(77,574)
Total net assets	3,514,889	289,337	400,393	3,191,666	7,396,285

24 Analysis of net funds

	At 1 January 2023 £	Financing cash flows £	At 31 December 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	589,378	5,438	594,816
Net funds	589,378	5,438	594,816

	At 1 January 2022 £	Financing cash flows £	At 31 December 2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	599,248	(9,870)	589,378
Net funds	599,248	(9,870)	589,378

25 Related party transactions

During the year the charity made the following related party transactions:

Mrs Susan Lee
(Mrs Susan Lee is the wife of the Reverend Martin Lee, a trustee.)
During the year Mrs Lee received remuneration from her employment as the rector's PA amounting to £17,745 (2022 : £17,114).

Mr Timothy Lee
(Son of the Reverend Martin Lee, a trustee)
During the year Mr Lee received remuneration from his employment by the charity amounting to £4,360 (2022 : £nil).

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF SHERBORNE WITH CASTL

England & Wales - Charity number 1130082

Accounts

Charity registration number: 1130082

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Lanham & Francis
Chartered Accountants
Church House
Church Street
Yeovil
Somerset
BA20 1HB

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

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The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Trustees' Report

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The object of the charity is to promote in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church.

Objectives, strategies and activities

The objectives and strategies of the charity include:

The advancement of the Church of England by means of broadcasting messages of a teaching nature, within our five churches and three parishes.

To see a greater celebration of diversity and a wider integration of all God's people into his family.

The provision of facilities for the celebration of Christian worship. Also, the maintenance and improvement of those facilities for future generations to carry on the Christian traditions.

The maintenance and support of rectors, team vicars and others engaged in charitable works. Special consideration to developing lay ministry across the benefice, encouraging and facilitating greater lay involvement with pastoral care, mission and ministry.

The support of all charitable works carried out within the Sherborne Abbey community.

The continued support of local, national and international organisations engaged in Christian or other philanthropic activity, through our Faith in Action Committee.

Outside of Covid-19 restrictions the Holy Eucharist is offered daily in the Abbey, and at least twice on Sundays. There is at least one service in both Castleton Church and at the Gryphon School - STPAULS@THEGRYPHON - every Sunday. Castleton Church uses only the Book of Common Prayer for the Eucharist and Mattins.

The PCC also has maintenance responsibilities for the Digby Memorial Church Hall, the Sherborne Abbey Shop, 2 Abbey Close and 'The Cottage' at 4 Abbey Close. The PCC rents the Parish Office and 67 Acreman Street from the Sherborne Castle Estates and has a 50/50 Equity Share Agreement with the Diocese for 69 Granville Way, Sherborne.

Fundraising disclosures

The charity benefits from a number of areas, which enable us to raise funds to meet our objectives, namely the Abbey shop, the Church Hall, the music committee and the social committee. We are committed to using these assets to help support our mission, locally and on a wider scale.

The annual Abbey Music Festival has specific objectives to promote music within the parish, with any funds raised being used for that aim, namely the financing of the choir and general music within the Abbey.

Any other specific fundraising requirements will be engaged as necessary.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.
The reports that follow this report are testament to the wide range of activities carried out in the Parish for the benefit of the whole of our community.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Reference and Administrative Details

Principal Office:	The Parish Office 3 Abbey Close Sherborne Dorset DT9 3LQ
Auditor:	Lanham & Francis Chartered Accountants Church House Church Street Yeovil Somerset BA20 1HB
Bankers and investment managers:	NatWest Bank plc 2 Hendford Yeovil Somerset BA20 1TN
	Lloyds Bank plc 75 Cheap Street Sherborne Dorset DT9 3BD
	CAF Bank Limited 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
	CCLA Investment Management Limited Senator House London EC4V 4ET
	M&G Securities Limited Laurence Pountney Hill London EC4R 0HH

Trustees' Report (continued)

Trustees and officers
The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Trustees:	The Revd Hugh Bonsey
	The Revd Jane Craw
	The Revd Martin Lee
	The Revd Lesley McCreadie
	Mrs Sandra Graves
	Dr David Ferguson
	Mr Neil Grenyer
	Mrs Frances Hastings
	Mr Robert Harris
	Mr Jonathan Rodd
	Mr Paul Boyd-Lee (appointed 1 January 2022)
	Mr James Craw
	Mr Alan Gillard
	Mrs Susan Gillard
	Mr Michael Keatinge
	Mrs Yvonne Libbey
	Mr Joshua Tregale (resigned 31 March 2022)
	Mr David Fifield
	Mrs Catherine Graham (resigned 20 March 2023)
	Dr Christopher Hamon
	Mr David Rayner
	Mrs Sue Bradshaw (resigned 20 March 2023)
	Dr John Crossman
	Mr Michael Hayton
	Mrs Jennifer Huitson (resigned 31 March 2022)
	Mrs Jacqueline Baker
	Dr John Bradshaw
	Mrs Sue Hawkett
	Mrs Joanne Hague (resigned 20 March 2023)
	Mr Andrew Horsey
	Mr Steve Drew
	Mrs Julie-Ann Soul (appointed 4 August 2022)
	Mrs Julie Mahony (appointed 10 May 2022)
	Mrs Harriet Chappell (appointed 10 May 2022)
	Mr Tim Farr (appointed 10 May 2022)

Trustees' Report (continued)

Structure, governance and management

There were seven meetings, and two extraordinary meetings of the full Council during the year and six meetings of the Standing Committee. Reports from Committees and Working Parties were received by the Council and discussed where necessary. Fabric matters, concerning all the properties for which the PCC has maintenance responsibilities, were regular agenda items. As always, the Council is grateful to the Friends of Sherborne Abbey for their financial support in funding major projects and the ongoing routine maintenance at the Abbey.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting for the Parish of the Abbey Church of St Mary the Virgin, St Mary Magdalene, Castleton and St Paul's Church was held on 8 May 2022 and the following were elected to serve for three years on the PCC: David Fifield, Chris Hamon and David Rayner.

The following PCC members who had been co-opted onto the PCC in the previous year put themselves forward to be elected onto the PCC: Steve Drew, Jo Hague and Andrew Horsey.

At the first meeting of the new PCC the following decisions were made:
Lay Chair - David Fifield
Secretary - Sue Bradshaw
Treasurer - Jo Hague

At the PCC meeting to elect Churchwardens held on 8 May 2022, the following were elected to serve as Churchwardens: David Ferguson, Jonathan Rodd, Robert Harris, Frances Hastings, Neil Grenyer and Sandra Graves.

At the July PCC Meeting, Julie-Ann Soul was co-opted for 2022-2023 as Secretary to the PCC replacing Sue Bradshaw in this role.

At the September PCC Meeting, James Craw stepped down from Deanery Synod.

At the APCM scheduled for 7 May 2023 there will be an election for six members of the laity to serve on the Council for three years. Sue Bradshaw and John Crossman have come to the end of their service period as elected members of the PCC and may stand again if they so wish. Timothy Farr, Julie Mahony, Harriet Chappell and Julie-Ann Soul have all been co-opted onto the PCC for a term of one year, ending in 2023. There are currently two vacancies on the Deanery Synod for which there will be an election.

Nature of governing document

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton (Sherborne Abbey PCC) is a body corporate established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC's Registered Charity Number is 1130082.

The United Benefice of Sherborne with Castleton and Lillington was created by an Order in Council in 1927. It was further expanded in 2006 with the addition of the Parish of Longburton, which was transferred from the Benefice of Dungeon Hill by a Pastoral Scheme made by the Church Commissioners in pursuance of the Pastoral Measure 1983. The Parishes of Lillington and Longburton retain their own Parochial Church Councils and publish their own Annual Reports.

From 1 December 2016 the Benefice of Sherborne with Castleton, Lillington and Longburton was established as the Sherborne Team Ministry by a Pastoral Scheme made by the Church Commissioners in pursuance of the Pastoral Measure 2011.

In September 2017 St Paul's Church (dedicated in 1957) was designated by the Bishop as a "Parish Centre of Worship" rather than a "Mission Church".

Trustees' Report (continued)

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. A full list of members of the Council is contained in this report.

The PCC operates through a number of committees and working parties between full meetings of the Council. The reports of their work during the year follow this report and should be read as part of this report.

There are many different groups working within the parish for the benefit of church members and the wider community. Their reports, which follow, should also be read as part of this report.

Relationships with related parties

Sherborne Local Ecumenical Partnership
The Parish is a full member of the LEP, operating as Sherborne Churches Together.

Major risks and management of those risks

Risk management
The trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces. This involved prioritising the potential impact and likelihood of occurrence, together with identifying means of mitigation.
The charity continues to develop its policies and procedures to reduce fire and health and safety risk, and train all personnel as appropriate.

Our safeguarding policy continues to develop protection policies for children, young persons and vulnerable adults, and maintains the training of all engaged individuals working within the charity.

Specific importance is placed on events held within the Abbey's community, over and above normal worshipping services, where procedures and detailed insurance are reviewed to mitigate any possible risk areas.

Achievements and performance

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a lasting effect on the financial results for Sherborne Abbey. Visitor numbers have improved, but are still lower than 2019. Regular giving income levels are still approximately 10% less than 2019, although this fall is caused mainlly by much lower than expected income from Gift Day. We hope that this improves moving into 2023.

Investment income has increased by 12% compared with 2021, but a fall in the stock market during the year resulted in a significant fall in value of the underlying investments, although the markets have recovered somewhat since the year end.

Our largest expense was the Diocesan Share, which increased by 9% in 2022 and will rise a further 3% in 2023. This payment to the diocese is used largely to fund clergy stipends, pensions and housing. This means that some of the cost is effectively returned to the parish in supporting our stipendiary clergy.

The Friends of Sherborne Abbey continued to provide funds to cover the cost of several Abbey projects relating to the fabric of the building during this year. Without such financial support, these costs would have fallen upon the parish. In 2022 the contribution covered the heating project as well as the electrical installation upgrade and amounted to almost £500,000. Further contributions to these projects has been agreed for 2023. The Friends also contributed £12,000 to the insurance premium for the Abbey.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Rector's report

As I write this to you, I am aware of how quickly time flies, there is nothing in a year it seems, can I really be writing this again!

The tremendous amount of dedication given to our benefice in such a myriad of ways is much to celebrate. This report provides a wonderful opportunity to not only celebrate the life of our Church in the past year, but also, to express my most sincere thanks for all that you have done and continue to do.

On a more personal note, I am sure that you will want to join me in this, to express our deep sense of gratitude to all our retired priests who have given unstintingly during the past year. It has been very special to welcome The Reverend Jim Edie and his family, as the new Team Vicar of St Paul's and part time Chaplin at The Gryphon School. This year we have said goodbye to Jane Craw and expressed our sincere thanks to her for the ministry she offered at Castleton Church. Lesley McCreadie also retired at Longburton. I am delighted that after a nice holiday in France, she has returned to us, joined the Greater Chapter and continues to offer a lovely ministry to us. I would like also to express our sincere thanks to all our retired clergy, our Churchwardens, Vergers, and office staff. We have been delighted to hold services in the Abbey with the Dorset County Council this year as well. It is then fitting that we express our sincere thanks to everyone who worked so hard during the past year.

It is always dangerous to pull out things in the past year that have been particularly special, for you easily miss something, so I won't do that, but to all who have contributed to the various wonderful events in the past year please know how much you are appreciated. It is though, appropriate that we remember during the last year the momentous moments as well as some sadness. In the summer it was wonderful to celebrate our late Queen's Platinum Jubilee, sadly, not long after, we held services to mark her death and celebrate her magnificent reign. All of us will have some special memories of Her Majesty which will be with us forever.

Whilst an annual report is very much a time to look back and reflect, it is also a time to ponder for a moment on the journey that lies ahead of us. From the many discussions that I have been able to have, I know that there is real excitement and enthusiasm for the future. We continue to be very active in endeavouring to build a toilet facility here in the Abbey, this is a very urgent need and exercises our minds. There are many things ahead, which I hope we will be able to look back on next year with great excitement. It is a journey that we will take together; as a benefice we endeavour to discern the direction in which God is calling us and how he wants us to serve him and those around us in the community in which we are fortunate to live.

So, to the year ahead, we look forward with enthusiasm and excitement, and I thank God that we will walk this journey together, seeking to grow in understanding of the nature of God's abundant love, and the grace he pours upon us as we serve him in this beautiful place.

The Reverend Martin Lee

Parish Safeguarding Report

Support and guidance

The PCC is committed to the promotion within the parish of a safe environment for children, young people and adults and to respond promptly to safeguarding concerns or allegations.

The PCC has a managerial oversight of Safeguarding and in their capacity as Trustees, members are required to hold Enhanced DBS and complete "Basic" Safeguarding training.

In 2022 we held discussions with the organisers of the Music Festival and of the "Oliver" production and gave safeguarding guidance for those involved with stewarding & backstage.

All new adult members of the Abbey choir, and vergers also received DBS on appointment. The Choral Scholars here for 2022/2023 have the necessary Safeguarding clearance from their positions at Sherborne School.

The primary schools in Sherborne were pleased to welcome back the "Open The Book" (OTB) teams in 2022. Members are drawn from the Abbey and St Paul's, together with St James Longburton, Cheap Street Church and Reborne Church. The schools do not require team members to hold DBS, but all members have signed Confidential Declarations as part of "Safer Recruitment" guidelines from the CofE.

Training

In 2022 several members renewed the training appropriate to their roles, in accordance with the requirement to refresh it every 3 years. Most of these renewals were done by online sessions.

Our thanks go to Cathie Graham for following up training renewals for St Paul's members.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Statistics

The Church of England's "Safer Recruitment" practice guidance defines those roles for which Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) Certificates are required. The CofE policy now is that a Certificate must be renewed every 3 years (previously 5yrs) if the holder is still in a role which requires it. Within the Parish the numbers during 2022 were as follows:-

	No of DBS at 1 Jan	Deletions & expiries	Renewals	New DBS	No of DBS at 31 Dec
Abbey	43	(15)	4	11	43
Castleton	3	(1)			2
St Paul's	29	(6)	4	4	31
TOTAL	**75**	**(22)**	**8**	**15**	**76**

Notes:

- Deletions includes those no longer in roles, & those with roles no longer requiring DBS
- Numbers above EXCLUDE Clergy, Licensed Lay Ministers (LLMs) and Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPAs) for whom records are managed centrally by the Diocese.

In addition to managing Parish DBS applications & renewals, the PSO's also continue to verify applications on behalf of Salisbury Diocese in respect of Clergy /LLMs/LPAs living in the area.

David and Lyn Rayner, Parish Safeguarding Officers

Trustees' Report (continued)

Sherborne Abbey Churchwardens

It has been a year of great change. At the beginning of January, we had a visit from a delegation of the DAC to look at the perennial problem of where we could put toilets in the Abbey! This proved to be a most fruitful visit, and since then many ideas have been developed. The following day, we had a visit from the Town Council Conservation Officer, and Case Officer, to look at the possible change of use of the Abbey Bookshop and Number 2 Abbey Close, to consider developing them into a tearoom.

It was announced that the Very Reverend Stephen Lake was to be elected as the Bishop of Salisbury. Stephen served his title in the Abbey and is remembered with great affection by many in the Parish.

In February, we held a candlelit service to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second's accession to the throne. Also in February, we celebrated Miss Mary Hatt's 100th birthday, a long serving member of our congregation. On February 24th, the Russians invaded Ukraine and the Abbey raised the Ukrainian flag to show our support for our Ukrainian brothers and sisters. On February 29th, we had an inspiring lecture from Charles Dorman O'Gowan on his experiences in Afghanistan as a member of the Red Cross. Our Shrove Lunch was a great success, and we launched our Lent projects: 'Save Afghans from Hunger' and 'Support for our local Harbour Vale school'.

As a result of more people attending Abbey services, festivals, and other events, and to meet Health and Safety regulations, we trained some of our volunteers in First Aid and Fire Safety procedures.

The Sherborne Abbey Music Festival restarted in its traditional format and ran from 29th April to 6th May. It was with great sadness that Mr Dick Berry died on 16th April. He was a long serving member of our congregation, a former Churchwarden and a pillar of the church. Ascension Day was celebrated at 7.15am on the Abbey Close. It was a very moving service led by the Team Rector and the choir. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee was marked by a Civic Service in the Abbey on the 3rd June and there was a party in the Abbey Close on 5th June.

We celebrated our Patronal Festival on 3rd July. Following Festal Evensong, there was a party on the Close. Our new Team Vicar for St Paul's was announced, the Reverend Jim Edie and he was licensed on 6th September.

On 21st August, Bishop Isaac, and his wife, from the Ezo Diocese of South Sudan visited. A service was held in the Abbey, followed by a reception in the Memorial Hall. The Bishop gave a talk on his work and mission. Also on 21st August, the Reverend Lesley McCreadie preached her last sermon in the Abbey prior to retiring. This was followed by a presentation from the church. Following Evensong, there was a barbecue to celebrate Lesley's service to the Abbey.

On the 8th September, Her Majesty the Queen's death was announced. On the 18th September, a Civic Service was held in the Abbey to give thanks for the Queen's life and reign. The officiants were Bishop Karen and the Team Rector.

On 16th September, Mr Mike Hayton passed away after a long illness. Despite being unwell, Mike oversaw the installation of the air source heat pumps on the roof of the Abbey. They were commissioned on the day of his death. The Abbey owes him a great debt of thanks for all that he did for us.

On 18th September, the Reverend Jane Craw preached her last sermon in the Abbey. There was a presentation at the end of the Parish Eucharist where she was warmly thanked for her service to the Benefice. She retired on 25th September, following a service at Castleton.

On 24th September, there was a Vicarage coffee morning in support of the breast cancer unit at Yeovil Hospital which raised £400.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Pack Monday was on October 17th and we ran our Pack Monday cafe. The cafe was, as ever, a great success. Professor Bob Eccleshall has retired, after many years, as Chairman of the Social Committee. We thank him for all the work he has done over the years. Mrs Frances Walker has succeeded him and will carry forward the wonderful work of the committee.

The United Service of Remembrance took place on 13th November. It was a moving occasion, preceded by wreath laying at the War Memorial.

17th -19th November brought the musical 'Oliver!' to the Abbey. There was a cast of 50+ children from the local schools. It proved to be a great success, drawing many people into the Abbey, approximately 1200 over the three days. This was a clear example of the Abbey reaching out into the wider community, which is very much our mission.

20th November was Toy Sunday, which was wonderfully supported by our congregation. The donated toys were given to the North Dorset Women's Refuge and bring much joy and hope to those who may have little at Christmas time.

Advent began on 27th November. The Advent Carol Service was well attended, as were all subsequent services throughout December. We had 28 services and some of the highlights were Christingle on the 11th, where the Reverend Jim Edie brought a whole new meaning to the Christingle orange, much to the delight of the children and adults! The Festival of Lessons and Carols was very well attended and the Blessing of the Crib services on Christmas Eve were an enormous success. The first service at 3pm had some 800 people and the 5pm service around 500. All our Christmas services were very well attended, and we look forward to the New Year as we continue to reach out to our community.

David Ferguson and Jonathan Rodd, Churchwardens

Fabric Committee Report

The main fabric issue of 2022 was the installation of the new heating system, building on the 1962 scheme. The under-floor heating, closed off for at least 40 years, was recommissioned as the base provision with the big fans used as top-up, allowing the boiler to be run at a lower temperature. This has given substantial savings in both gas and electricity use. The next step was the replacement of the old boiler with a set of smaller ones, allowing more economical running. The third element has been the installation of six air-source heat pumps on the roof of the north quire aisle. These are complete, but cannot be effectively used until we have an upgraded electricity supply requiring a new cable from Half Moon Street, which we hope to see in February. We must pay tribute to Mike Hayton, who was the indomitable driving force behind this project, sometimes from his hospital bed, until his untimely death.

The second major exercise has been the replacement of obsolete high-energy lighting with Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) which will give lower power consumption and much longer life. The scheme includes much improved emergency lighting and a new control system. After a suspension over Christmas, this will be completed in February.

The third major issue has been the proposal for a new wing on the former All Hallows site at the back of the car park, to provide toilets, a much improved shop, and a multi-purpose room for meetings and visitor facilities. Set out in a comprehensive Options Appraisal, this has been endorsed in principle by the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) and Historic England. However, archaeological and other investigations have some way to go to prove the feasibility and there will be much debate in the church and the wider community about the architectural design.

We also plan to establish a tea room, combining the former Abbey Shop with the next-door cottage.

These major developments have triggered the need for a Conservation Management Plan (CMP), a comprehensive record of the Abbey, its history and its future development which is now a requirement for cathedrals and major churches. This is being arranged as a 3-year PhD project with Exeter University, and will be under way from early in 2023.

2022 also saw the Quinquennial Survey and Report. The building is in good heart with no urgent or structural issues, but we are putting in hand a range of priority work on lead roofing, repairs to masonry and downpipes, and enhanced measures for safe working at height. 2023 will also see quinquennial work on the Digby Memorial Hall, particularly on the masonry of the chimney.

The vergers have acquired various items of equipment in the last few years to improve their capabilities. Most recently they have a tower scaffold which has been used for the lighting work. Using a long vacuum tube from the top of the scaffold, Chris can now sweep the fan vault in the nave.

We would like to extend our thanks to all those people who give freely of their time to serve the Abbey in a myriad of ways. Your efforts are much appreciated by us all.

David Ferguson and Jonathan Rodd
Abbey Churchwardens

Trustees' Report (continued)

Castleton Churchwardens

It has been a busy year at Castleton with some big landmarks.

First and foremost, The Revd. Jane Craw retired after ten years as Team Vicar at Castleton, at Harvest Festival on 25th September 2022. A congregation of 74 turned out to thank her for all her care and wish her a happy retirement. We were able to present Jane and James Craw with gifts, which we hope they will be able to enjoy. Everyone gathered outside in the sunshine to enjoy canapés and prosecco with a professional photographer to mark the occasion.

Since Jane Craw left, we have been most happily nurtured by the Revd. Hugh Bonsey. We hope he is enjoying his new role, we are certainly benefitting from his stimulating sermons and we very much look forward to the future together.

Sadly, we lost our much-valued verger Mark Prideaux in September and are currently looking to replace him.

We have held several enjoyable Fellowship Sundays, when we gathered after the service.

In July the Churchwardens went to Westbury for their Visitation. The Revd. David Marl was our preacher at the Patronal Festival, also in July.

The Revd. Charles Mitchell-Innes conducted our Remembrance Service on 13th November and, as in previous years, Katrina Evans played a haunting Last Post and Reveille from the gallery.

Christmas Day saw a joyful congregation of 68 for a Festival of Lessons and Carols, followed by Holy Communion.

The Castleton Committee decided some months ago to have our chandelier renovated. Permissions are now in place and the chandelier will be taken away for the work shortly.

During the year, there have been 17 funerals, 4 Baptisms, Interment of Ashes, Memorial Services and 2 Weddings at our church.

Finally, we are sad to report that after many years as Churchwarden, Frances Hastings is standing down at our AGM on 26th March. At the same time our long serving Treasurer, Owen Hinder, will also retire but remain a member of the Castleton Committee. We are so grateful for their long and generous service to Castleton.

With all its ups and downs, the year has been a time when we have greatly valued our faith together, and the joy of worshipping our Creator and Redeemer each week.

Frances Hastings and Robert Harris, Churchwardens
St. Mary Magdalene, Castleton

St Paul's Churchwardens

What an exciting year 2022 has been, the year started off with us still in interregnum with services led by our dedicated Preaching and Leading Team supported by occasional guest preachers. During this period, we were blessed to have the Rev Canon Jonathan Triffitt on hand to advise and be a listening ear.

After Easter we hosted Oddments Theatre company who performed their new production 'Road to the Cross'. Then following consultation with Martin our Team Rector, a job description was drawn up for the post of Team Vicar. Following the process of short-listing, meeting the candidates and interviews, the Rev Jim Edie was offered and accepted the post, a dual role as Chaplain of the Gryphon School and Vicar of St Paul's.

A busy summer then followed: on 5th June we had a street party planned as part of the weekend's celebrations of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, unfortunately bad weather forced us indoors but it didn't dampen spirits and a good time was had by all. The 9th July saw the welcome return of our Community Fun Day, the first in 3 years. We were blessed with wonderful weather and a great turnout from our local community, no doubt attracted by the delicious smells from the barbecue and great music provided by the 'Wriggle Valley Jazz Band'.

On the 18th August Jim, Becca, Elizabeth, Nellie and Sam moved into the Vicarage on Kings Road. The official celebration took place at Jim's induction on the evening of 6th September at the Gryphon School followed by a party in St Paul's. It was wonderful to welcome many people from across the Benefice, Jim and Becca's family, as well as congregation members from Jim's previous church. Sadly, what was to be Jim's first service on the 11th September was overshadowed by the death of our beloved Queen on 8th September. It was fitting that we should join together to mourn and pay tribute in a combined service in the Abbey.

With autumn came a flurry of activities as Jim immersed himself in getting to know us, the community at large, and his school family. It has been a tall order, but he has thrown himself into everything with vigour and enthusiasm. At Halloween where previously we held a light party at St Paul's, Jim and Becca spearheaded a 'Light' alternative at the Vicarage on Kings Road. Gazebos erected, hot chocolate, a lucky dip and information on Christmas services with a booklet 'Jesus Light of the World' were given to families as they went about Trick or Treating. Inspite of appalling weather just under 100 hot chocolates were served (much appreciated by frozen parents) and bags with information handed out. Following on from that, our community crafts and carols were well received and our young people and Cosmic team produced a wonderful Nativity. Over this period our numbers continued to increase with new members embracing life at St Paul's and swelling not only our Cosmic and Worship groups but our Preaching and Refreshment teams too.

In recent months Jim's previous experience in delivering care in the community has proved invaluable. With rising inflation, increased fuel costs and the cost-of-living increasing month on month we at St Paul's felt called to action. Following a meeting with the Town Council it was agreed that St Paul's would take part in the government initiative to provide a warm space. On the 6th December we opened the church on Tuesday and Friday afternoons between 2-5pm and this is ongoing. In addition, through FIAC we have supported financially our local primary school breakfast club.

None of this would have been possible without the generosity and support of all those who, inspite of current challenges, continue to give sacrificially both financially and with their time and gifts. Community outreach is an important part of our mission, alongside our regular activities of Meet & Eat, Tea and Chat and Tums,Tots & Tinies we have actively supported various projects. These include the Pod run by Cheap St Church, the Summer Youth event at Tinney's Lane, the Christmas Tree Festival and the production of Oliver in the Abbey. Over the year we have supported different appeals most notably that of Ukraine. The war has highlighted for many that in spite of the challenges we may face we are truly blessed to live in freedom and be part of a loving caring community. Going into 2023 we have much to look forward to and pray that God will lead us to where we can most effectively serve him in our community.

Sandra & Neil (Church Wardens)

Bible Study

Ecumenical Bible Study

Our two bible study groups met throughout the year, either on Wednesday evening or Friday afternoon, and we were joined in spirit by a number of people across the country who also receive the notes. We look to understand and apply the bible in our everyday lives, and to cover most sections of the bible over a number of years. The group has records back to 1974!

This year we studied Paul's letter to the Ephesians, with its encouraging messages and emphasis on the unity of the church. Our two other studies were more thematic. Jon Riding kindly designed and led us through a study of key bible themes, following them through from the Old Testament to the New, via the Apochrypha. We looked at themes such as Resurrection, "Abba" and Holy Wisdom. The studies greatly increased our understanding of how these ideas developed throughout the bible. We finished the year looking at Jesus' interactions with women, based on Kristi McLelland's "Jesus and Women" materials.

We are very grateful to Rev Hugh Bonsey for leading our summer house communion for the groups.

John Crossman

St Paul's Life Groups

St Paul's continues to provide opportunities for fellowship, bible study, prayer and pastoral care for its own members and some from other churches too.

We currently have 6 groups, each at a different time, day, meeting frequency and membership sort - single gender or mixed.

The current leaders have all been in post for quite some time and we feel that there is a need for succession planning although none has indicated a desire to step down right now.

The groups are all full to capacity and there is a need for at least one more group for which we urgently need a leader in order to meet current interest.

We believe that, with encouragement, more church members would try a group with the obvious benefits to the individual Christian journey and a deepened sense of being part the church family. We are at somewhat of a 'chicken and egg' situation!

If anyone is interested in leading, hosting or joining a group they should make themselves known to Natalie or Adrian Morgan.

admin@spcsherborne.co.uk.

St Paul's @ The Gryphon "Cosmic" (Sunday School) and Creche

With the exception of the monthly All Age Services and other special seasonal All Age Services, COSMIC ("Children on Sunday Meeting in Church") meets every Sunday morning at StPauls@TheGryphon. We have 20 on the register between the ages of 1 and 12. The average attendance is around 15. We run two groups: Rockets (school years Reception to year 4) and Excel (school years 5-8). We continue to use the Scripture Union 'Light' programme which enables everyone to follow the same topic, but in an age appropriate way. From time to time members of COSMIC take part in the monthly All Age services and many of the children and young people took a role in this year's Nativity Service.

As always, we are indebted to our dedicated team of leaders and helpers who devote their time, energy and enthusiasm week by week to give the children and young people a well-founded and biblical understanding of the scriptures and of what it means to be a Christian.

Kim Dunning

St Paul's Church Community Groups

Tea and Chat 2022

Tea & Chat is a group for over 60's. We meet every Monday afternoon between 2 & 4pm at St Paul's Church (except for August & a couple of weeks around Christmas & Easter).

The group started in November 2007 and has a health & activity focus. On average 10 - 20 people attend.

We begin each meeting with a cup of tea or coffee & then once a fortnight Norma Purnell leads us in an hour of line dancing. On the alternate weeks we participate in a variety of activities, in 2022:
- We had games afternoons with cards, beetle drives & board games.
- The ukulele band came to entertain us twice and great fun was had by all.
- We have heard fascinating & entertaining talks about the National Trust, with Andrew MacElwey, the CAB with William Christopher, the Yeovil Breast Cancer Unit with Maggie Hague, Royal Residences with Hester & Mark Greenstock, the history of the flute with John Crossman, gardening with Bonny Sartin & Holistic Health with Sandra Miller.
- We did chair exercises with Connie and Carol came to show us how to make beautiful floral arrangements.
- We made Easter cards and decorations & felt brooches with Helen Isbell.
- We were delighted to have an outing again this year, visiting Athelhampton House for lunch and the afternoon. And we also enjoyed afternoon tea at the home of the Broadley's.

We conclude our afternoons with a second cuppa & a delicious slice of cake, supplied by Jo Osment of Sherborne WI and now by Pam Taylor.

Every week we have out books to borrow, a jigsaw puzzle to have a go at. And there is always a word search or quiz to get the brain cells working.

I am helped in the kitchen by Becky Brake, Pat Batten & Anthony Henry. We charge £2/week.

Do come and join us, we'd love to see you.

We'd also love to hear from you if you would like to come and speak to us about what you do or an adventure you've been on, or if you have photos or newspaper cuttings for the St Paul's archive.

Sarah Fricker

Tums, Tinies and Tots

TTT has been running at full strength for the whole of 2022. It is a joy and delight to have parents, grandparents and carers arriving with their pre-school children, to enjoy 2 hours, of play and interaction. Post Covid lockdowns, we are thankfully all back to normal.

Everyone is welcome to the whole session, which starts at 10am. Tea/Coffee and toast is offered until 10.30am when the Mothers Union Ladies in the kitchen have a break from serving to prepare the snacks for later.

The morning continues with a themed craft activity offered from 11am, in 2022 the themes were Colours, The Body & Shapes. Snack time follows for the children and the adults and after further free play the session ends with 30 minutes of singing and story time. At the end of the summer term, we held the session outside with a bouncy castle.

The leaders and helpers, whilst providing peer support, as well as a shoulder to lean on when needed, continue to encourage the families to speak to their health visitors if they have any concerns about their children. More volunteers are always being sought to help spread the work, (this can be from half an hour to all morning), and so if anyone is interested in joining the group please do get in touch.

We regularly pass on baby and toddler clothing plus toys and equipment to families in need, so donations are always gratefully received at the St Paul's Church Office.

Thanks, as always, must go to all the volunteers who help before, during and after the session, to the Sherborne Mothers Union volunteers who work in the kitchen every week providing hot drinks, toast and healthy snacks throughout the morning.

As TTT enters its seventeenth year we give thanks to God for all the families that have passed through St Paul's doors since it first started and we place the continued success of the group into His hands. We always value prayer for the group especially on Wednesday mornings during term time.

Sarah Fricker

Meet and Eat Lunches 2022

The lunch club has once again been providing hot, two-course meals on term-time Mondays throughout the year and we have managed to maintain the price at £4 a head. We have a wonderful, friendly group of cooks and helpers - Kim Dunning and Sarah Kempson now lead sessions regularly - but we would welcome anyone who enjoys cooking to join our team. This normally means helping out at four sessions each term. The same welcome is extended to anyone wishing to come along for lunch, as we do have a few spaces now. The varied menu is available at the start of each term from St Paul's church office. Please contact Sarah in the office to book in by the Thursday of the previous week. We would like to thank all our volunteers for giving their time and energy to ensure that Meet and Eat is able to continue to offer food and chat in a warm and relaxed setting.

Hester Greenstock
Jill Thorley

Sherborne Deanery Synod

During the Covid 19 restrictions the Deanery used Zoom meetings for its business but in April 2022 it met again in person for the first time in two years. The meeting opened with worship led by Richard Kirlew the Rural Officer for Dorset which was particularly moving both because we were the Body of Christ, assembled together under one roof again but also because most of us are closely connected with the countryside in one way or another. The new Deanery plan drawn up before the Pandemic was now in operation and it was helpful to have Andrew Graham the vice-chair's view of how this was being applied. Meetings later in the year picked up this subject in relation to the new Bishop of Salisbury's arrival and the Lay Chairs' meeting looking at Vision and Strategy. A concern applying to both was that decisions should include being attuned to rural needs because it was felt that the Diocese does not always appear to be sympathetic to the issues facing country churches. In this respect one person focused on the importance of local initiatives compared with Diocesan bureaucracy. Also, during the year, being particularly relevant to rural churches, were the discussions on Fairer Share and the ability of parishes to pay this. In essence it was made clear that both the parish share financing and other aspirations of the Deanery Plan need to be set to be achievable.

As the meetings of the year progressed it was heartening to hear of what the Deanery has achieved as well as how things might continue to progress in the future.

In April, Helen de Silva Wood talked about the 25 year old charity, the Rendezvous at Sherborne set up by local people to help 13-25 year olds with a variety of difficulties. Her talk not only showed the good work being done but she wanted to make all the deanery parishes aware of the facilities available for young people in need, as well as to encourage volunteers to help this outreach. Richard Kirlew has played an important part in local Rural chaplaincy where he has ministered in the Three Valleys Benefice until retiring recently but he continues part-time chaplaincy at Salisbury market. Meanwhile Canon Revd Richard Hancock has been appointed the Rural Mission Enabler and is based at Stalbridge.

Like elsewhere the crisis in Ukraine has been acted upon by the many parishes supplying items of basic use for the people still there. Although accommodation has been offered to refugees this has largely not been taken up due to the rural nature of the Sherborne area. From the spiritual aspect the Ukraine situation was the subject of a 24-hour prayer vigil held at Holnest church which was supported throughout and in addition others with Covid prayed in their homes.

In July, members good at orienteering found their way to Batcombe church which is a beautiful grade 1 listed building lying on the northern slope of the Dorset Downs. In fact an ideal setting for a midsummer rural Deanery meeting. It is such a pity that in a century and a half the churchgoers of this village have reduced dramatically, thus reflecting the increased challenges facing country parishes. Not surprisingly the main subject of the evening meeting was finance with a valuable presentation given by the Diocesan Giving Advisor, Anna Hardy. She explained some modern ways of donating as well as stressing the importance of planned giving.

Also included was a section on being honest, building trust and inspiring people to give. Not only that, but hospitality was important as well, for example inviting people to events. Later in the evening John Bradshaw, the Deanery Treasurer, updated members about finances. Sherborne Deanery as a whole is requested to make a contribution to the Diocese, by way of its collective fairer share payments, of £546,141. Of this, Sherborne Abbey with St Paul's and Castleton pays £206,461, 37.7% of the total Deanery request. As in previous years the Abbey again was able to fully settle its fairer share. In 2022 the Deanery made payments equal to 75.6% of the full amount. It is good that the Abbey is able to fully pay its fairer share and thereby make a significant contribution to the Deanery's total payments, as many small, rural parishes are finding it very difficult to satisfy the payments requested.

The last meeting of the year was by way of Zoom and majored on the Cost-of-Living Crisis where a range of ideas to mitigate the situation were considered. First was to implement a Village Telephone Help line. Experience of this had been gained pre-Covid with a Helping Hands initiative and this could be developed for the new situation. Warm spaces during the winter months were considered, so was serving food in our churches to the needy. Food banks were an existing initiative that could be developed further with an addition say of Emergency Boxes, perhaps in church porches. Making plans for power cuts such as portable generators, pumps, camping cookers and other useful items was thought important.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Overall, not only would funding be needed but also information services such as leaflets to make people aware of what was available. Mention was made of Bishop Stephen Lake's message at the recent Diocesan Synod that included, 'if we continue to do the same things all the time and with the same people, we will shrink - our numbers will diminish.' In referring to the parable of 'The Talents' members were reminded, 'We can do this and this should be our rallying cry'.

During the year a number of parishes reported on initiatives they had taken to reach out to their local communities and beyond. For example, George Moody related how specific Sunday services at Yetminster and Holwell had attracted many new people, both adults and children. Another highlight of the year was the week-long visit of Bishop Isaac and his wife Nora from the Sudan. Not only was this a valuable time to welcome him and learn first-hand about the general situation in his country but also of how much his team were doing with so little. Needless to say, members of the Deanery had helped towards the Church needs in the Sudan with clergy here donating clothing for clergy there and a Christmas appeal was organised to provide for seeds and training so that they can feed themselves. The Archbishop of Canterbury is expected to be in the diocese 9-11 June and amongst other things, we need to be in readiness for that.

Paul Boyd-Lee

Faith in Action Committee (FIAC) 2022

FIAC is the sub-committee of the Parochial Church Council responsible for handling our giving, especially our support for charities, both Christian and secular; locally, nationally and internationally, and which articulates our Christian love and support for people in need. The three churches in the parish allocate ten percent of their income to this purpose. We are responsible for identifying suitable organisations to support, evaluating applications, making donations, building partnerships and understanding with those we support and hearing about how our donations have been used.

FIAC has long-standing relationships with particular organisations at local, national and international level, making regular donations to support them, and supporting others engaged in Christian or other philanthropic activity, or supporting individuals in need.

The loyal and generous giving of our church members as well as the immense work done by staff and volunteers creating income, especially through the Abbey and shop, makes this giving possible, even during this period of financial pressure. I would like to note also that FIAC is only one part of the range of charitable activity undertaken by the parish. From individual pastoral support, donating, use of our facilities and office support for the SCT Christmas Lunch, through to social activities such as Warm Spaces, Tea and Chat, and
St Paul's brunch to activities such as the production of Oliver! The parish contributes much in many ways to local well-being.

Our 2022 grant was £41,000. Of this £5,431 was paid by St Paul's church and the rest came from central funds. As from 2023 each church will donate to FIAC directly, based on its income. I will comment on the regular giving before mentioning other income and donations. FIAC is paid its grant in the final third of the year, necessitating a rapid disbursement of donations.

FIAC ends the year with £35,693. Some of this is earmarked: £4,500 for reserve, £4,500 for St Saviour's Riga, Latvia, £3,000 for our next donations to support Ukraine and £1,200 for the discretionary fund and expenses. That leaves £22,493 to allocate before our next regular income. This year we agreed to make certain donations within the end of year, but to go into 2023 with a larger balance. The reasons are:

- FIAC has revisited its priories and focus of giving, within the parameters laid down by the PCC.
- A further donation of £10,369 was received from St Paul's Church in December 2022. It makes sense to take this together with the other surplus and plan a coherent budget for distribution.
- The squeezes on charity income everywhere are accompanied by extra demands on their services while costs have risen dramatically. We expect there will be greater demands on our resources in 2023.

We are focused on supporting fewer, small and medium sized charities but giving them more. For example we have increased or maintained our donations to Sudan-based recipients, CMS, and local youth charities. We are also prioritising those meeting mental health needs and those supporting those who do not have enough money. The spread of our donations is within PCC guidelines.

We have continued to support the missionary work of Helen Kisakye in Uganda. She has been in the UK this year, visiting us in June and speaking at St Paul's church. We continue our support for the Diocesan work in South Sudan and are extremely grateful for the informed commitment of Robert Hayward, who was able to visit Juba and convey our donation to the Diocesan Model Secondary School. We also supported the continuing training of nurses, the Bishop Allison Theological College and the Diocesan Sudan General Fund.

We are continuing our support for St Saviour's Church, Riga, Latvia, with the grant to be paid early in 2023, once we have confirmation of bank account details. In the summer we welcomed Eliza Zikmane and Irma Kalnina (who incidentally is now a Latvian MP) with whom the parish has a long and close relationship. We are maintaining the level of support for them and this year plan to make the donation to the church and let them decide their priorities for the split within their parish. Latvia is under intense pressure from the belligerence of its eastern neighbour.

Trustees' Report (continued)

FIAC has earmarked funds to support the victims of the war in Ukraine. We funded SHARES to support its work with Ukrainian Families in our town and we have a further allocation of £3,000 to distribute in addition to the very successful local appeal (see below).

Nationally we support charities including the Bible Society, the Church Homeless Trust and the Farming Community Network. The latter is facing increasing demand to support the mental health of the Farming Community who are experiencing unprecedented levels of anxiety and illness, through a combination of the financial situation, weather, and the financial implications of leaving the EU.

Locally we support smaller charities that are doing excellent work. There is a huge need to support young people in Sherborne and we support SAYCC (Tinney's), RendezVous and Future Roots working in this field. We have given also to CAP (Church Action on Poverty), based in Yeovil, which has a case worker in our town and unsurprisingly is extremely busy, helping people budget and manage their finances.

In addition, FIAC, on behalf of the parish, distributed £11,739 in extra appeals and donations, demonstrating again the concern within the parish for the welfare and safety of others. These included our Lent projects, Harvest giving and special Ukraine appeal.

Our home Lent project for 2022 was the Harbour Vale School, which provides alternative education for students aged 11-16 who are unable to access mainstream schools. Students there have had considerable disruption to their education over the past three years and the school is providing extra mental health support. Some students need further support and intervention if they are to go on to be responsible adults, and your donations enabled us to give £3,261 to support extra counselling and support.

Our overseas Lent project was Save Afghans from Hunger, working primarily in Kabul to provide bread and flour to those in need. This excellent organisation was recommended to us by the son of a parishioner, and he has close links in Afghanistan, and we were delighted to support it and send £3,327. This will enable them to feed many more families every day. (The slight difference on amounts is accounted for by one donation being distributed unevenly as requested, and a late small donation going to one only of the two causes as its value was less that the cost of sending half of it to Afghanistan.)

Harvest saw high levels of giving and we sent £1,241 to the Diocesan Sudan Medical Fund. £510 of this came from the Harvest Lunch, which was the swansong for Bob Eccleshall, chair of the Social Committee. We join with others in our appreciation of all that Bob has done, especially in our case, in supporting the work of FIAC and the Lent projects. Collections in the Abbey for Ukraine raised £1,710 which has been sent directly to DEC for disaster relief in that country. At the time of writing the amount has risen to over £2,000. FIAC also processed a payment of £2,200 from St Paul's Church to Sherborne Primary School to support the provision of additional breakfast and after school places for pupils who cannot afford them.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all those whose regular and occasional contributions to the parish enable us to further support all these excellent causes. I wish also to express my thanks for the support FIAC and I personally have received from the clergy, officers and especially the members of the Faith in Action Committee.

John Crossman
Chair Faith in Action Committee

Trustees' Report (continued)

Donations International	£
Church Mission Society for Helen Kisakye Mission Partner	5,000
Juba Diocesan Model Secondary School, South Sudan	2,000
Latvia St Saviour's Church, Riga (£4,500 allocated see text)	-
Leprosy Mission	500
Salisbury Diocese - Sudan General Fund	1,000
Salisbury Diocese - Bishop Allison Training College, South Sudan	1,100
Sudan Medical Link (Nurse training for Covid)	1,200
TOTAL	**10,800**

Donations National	£
Bible Society	300
Children's Society	250
Church Homeless Trust	250
Farming Community Network	1,000
Family Counselling Trust	1,000
TOTAL	**2,800**

Donations Local	£
Christians Against Poverty	1,100
Dorset Historic Churches Trust	500
Future Roots (including Lent appeal £2,950)	2,200
RendezVous Sherborne	2,200
SAYCC (Tinneys Youth Centre)	2,600
SAST Sherborne Primary School extra accommodation	2,000
Sherborne Area Refugee Support	1,208
Sherborne Community Land Trust	500
Sherborne Parish Shop - books for Abbey School leavers	119
Weldmar Hospice	900
Yeovil Street Pastors	300
TOTAL	**13,627**

The Abbey Shop

After a period of over 20 years in the cottage on 'The Green', the Abbey Shop was moved to the Northwest area of the Abbey. Plans are underway to convert No. 1 and No. 2 Abbey Close into Tea Rooms, hopefully there will be more news soon. Since our move to the Abbey, the shop has a much better feel with more visitors and parishioners browsing, rather than walking across 'The Green' after their Abbey visit. The new Abbey Lighting Scheme has enhanced the Northwest area of the Abbey and the shop has benefitted with a much brighter space. I have done my best to utilise a much-reduced shop display area than we had in the cottage, however the Abbey is a much more pleasant and safer environment for our shop volunteers.

Yet again, all our Christmas cards and Advent calendars sold out, also just a handful of Advent candles remained. The UK Railway Tours Carol Service returned after a couple of years' absence due to Covid. We normally did very well in the previous shop, however sales were a little disappointing this time. It is noticeable that with the soaring cost of living, people are cutting back on non-essential things, a lot of shops are suffering including ours. We probably have the best selection of cards in the town and have several suppliers who can provide the type of cards people want, so please use us.

Friends Publication sales have increased as people have a choice to come to the shop area to pay by cash or card, or just use the two Friends Publication card stations in the Abbey. We look for better sales during 2023, please support your shop as much as you can.

Philip Prout, Shop Manager

Digby Memorial Church Hall

At Last! we have had a "normal year" and as a consequence it has been a very busy one for the hall. On average we have had approx. 22 exercise classes, 12 educational groups per week. Social gatherings have taken longer but already bookings for next year are up, as too are Saturday Markets and Fairs.

Marcus now has an assistant in Tony Upsher, he helps with general cleaning, assists with set up for lectures etc and stands in for Marcus when he is away and is proving invaluable.

On the Maintenance front the Fire Alarms have been upgraded and the lights in the Main Hall have been replaced with LED lights, now one needs sunglasses if they are all on at the same time! The Main Hall floor was re oiled in the summer and we are hoping to sand and oil the Studio floor this summer.

Work on the exterior masonry, as recommended in the Quinquennial Report is due to start on 23rd January, hopefully without too much disruption to the events taking place in the hall.

Marcus and I would both like to thank the Committee and everyone in the Parish Office for their support during this last year.

Onward and Upwards!

Kate Bray, Manager

Education Officer

Education Report 2022
2022 saw the beginnings of a return to normal service offered to schools by Sherborne Abbey. Many schools are still reluctant to commit to visits, but I hope things will continue to improve.

Open the Book
Going into our two primary schools with Open the Book is one of our most rewarding activities and I am pleased to say we were able to resume our activities in September. I am most grateful to Lyn Rayner for agreeing to take on the organization for this following my retirement in September. This simple activity has just the most profound effect on our children who have become so well acquainted with stories from the Bible.

Abbey Trails
Our trails continue to be well used by visitors to the Abbey and are really appreciated by the families that use them. I am very grateful to Chris Hamon for ensuring there are always adequate stocks available, updated and new trails devised.

School and Group Visits
Of course, we have a wonderful relationship with Sherborne Abbey Primary School where I often lead lessons and take assemblies. It was lovely to welcome Year 7 from the Gryphon; their visits spread over two days. We have made a good connection with a pre-school in Axminster. These little people arrived on the train, enjoyed their stay in The Abbey and then returned by train to Axminster. A wonderful day out!
We were able to welcome many of our local schools for services in 2022. Sherborne Abbey School held their Leaver's Service in July and their Carol Service in December after a gap of 3 years. I was invited to give the blessing at Leweston Carol Service.

Confirmation
We held a Confirmation Service in March with Bishop Karen officiating. Our candidates were made up from a group of students from Leweston School, where I am the Hon Anglican Chaplain, and from our choir. Martin and I spent many a happy Friday evening preparing the boys and then cementing the experience over pizza and chocolate!

My retirement in September meant that new people needed to be found to run our Education activities. I have already expressed my thanks to Lyn Rayner for taking on Open the Book and Sally Ann Prout has agreed to be the contact point for school visits. Making contact with, and welcoming schools and young people to The Abbey is a very important part of our work here at Sherborne Abbey.

I have really enjoyed my 12 years as Education Officer and my thanks to all those who have made my job so enjoyable.

Revd Leslie McCreadie

Sherborne Abbey Mother's Union

MU committee
Secretary: Jo Higgs. Treasurer: Marilyn Davies. Chaplain: Lesley McCreadie

Others - Elaine Little, Linda Rowe, (who hosted our Committee meetings). Daphne (who moved away at the end of the year).

Membership: 36 members at the end of the year.

In 2022 we were able to return to post Covid normality having only one meeting (March) cancelled. Attendance ranged from 14 - 25 /meeting.

Branch Activities
These were much as normal with a full programme prepared by the Committee and printed out for us by Elizabeth Prichard.

Mothering Sunday
We reverted to wrapping up potted primulae (100 purchased at a discount from the Castle Garden Centre). These were well received and very few were left over for visitors to pick up if they wished.

Summer Lunch
This was sourced from Sainsbury's and was held In the Griffiths Room.

Craft day
Once again Helen Isbell had us making felt objects with a Christmas theme.

We are indebted to Brenda Guy (non member) for playing for us for our **Songs of Praise** and our **Carol Service**.

The making of **Christingles**: 100 oranges were purchased from our local greengrocer, Market Town Garden. Preparing the Christingles in the Ambulatory after our Carol Service was great fun (helped with a cup of coffee and mince pies). Regrettably the actual service on the following Sunday was not as well attended as one would wish and thought will need to be given to its future. Do we prepare fewer oranges?

Christmas Tree Festival in Cheap Street Church. This year the festival was organised by Churches Together and was a great success. The theme for our tree was "Stars of Hope" to reflect the Advent Board in the Abbey. It was decorated with our knitted white angels and stars with words reflecting what people hope for written on them. Thanks to the ladies who did the work of decorating for us.

Tums Tots and Tinies at St. Paul's. This ran as normal with thanks to Kathy Bowen for organising the rota. More volunteers to help on the day would be welcome.

The MU Board in The Abbey. This has continued to be admired and commented upon by visitors to the Abbey and Parishioners. It is a form of outreach and we are indebted to Elizabeth Prichard for using her skill on our behalf. There were 8 different displays in 2022.

Activity in the Diocese

Spring and Autumn Councils - These were interesting but not well attended by our group. Spring at Market Lavington: Autumn at St. Francis, Salisbury.

Salisbury Cathedral Service (Nov 29th) during 16 days of awareness of Gender Based Violence, was very well attended and followed by an excellent lunch in Sarum College - Christmas crackers and all!

AFIA - The caravan at Rockley Park - Occupancy picked up during the year but better advertising needed.

Virtual Baby Project - very limited access into Schools in 2021 due to Covid but picked up towards the end of 2022. Salisbury Diocese MU has 10 babies going into schools in our own locality. Our new CDC has made a big impact already in both this and the AFIA project.

In addition to the activities above mentioned, members of our group are involved in our locality in many different ways - with the Food Bank, SHARE and refugee work, the Pod, Soroptomists, The Abbey Shop and Abbey Guardians, Open The Book etc. We hope that wherever we get involved we reflect our founder, Mary Sumner's Prayer - " All this day O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for Thee and every life I touch, do Thou by Thy Spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breath or the life I live".

Our theme last year was 'Transformation' and it is the same for the year ahead: we pray for transformation in ourselves, our MU, our community, our world. One small pebble dropped into a pond creates many ripples.

We, as a committee, need to thank each one of our members for help and encouragement given in different ways. We thank those who are unable to attend meetings but pray for us. There is so much talent within the group. We look back on the year and are grateful for God's constant love and for the joy of friendship. We live in difficult times, not so much due to the aftermath of Covid but due to other pressures, principally financial, resulting from the rise in the cost of living. We believe that we can make a difference.

Jo Higgs, Secretary

The Social Committee

We are grateful for the use of the small store room vacated by the Country Market and cleared out for us by Marcus Bray. We now have a secure place to keep our pans, glasses etc. Three new large stainless steel pans were purchased to replace the missing ones.

This year the cost of the Shrove Lunch rose to £10 for adults and £5 for children. This includes two courses plus wine, soft drinks, tea and coffee. The raffle made £200 and £500 was donated to the Lent projects.

The committee arranged the refreshments for the wake after the Requiem Mass for the Reverend William Cave-Browne-Cave on 10th May. There was a celebration after choral evensong on Sunday June 5th to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Wine and canapés were served in the ambulatory and a party was held outside on the close after choral evensong on Sunday 3rd July to mark the patronal festival.

Another successful Harvest Lunch raised £510 for FIAC and was enjoyed by more than 60 people.

Professor Robert Eccleshall announced his retirement at the Harvest lunch. He had been a member of the committee since 2004, Treasurer since 2005 and Chairman since 2014. Bob worked tirelessly to keep the committee going even when numbers of volunteers were low. He was committed to our aim to contribute to charitable causes and to promote successful and enjoyable parish events and we thank him for his many years of dedicated service.

Frances Walker is the new Chairman and we are grateful to Jo Hague who has taken over the Treasurer's responsibilities on the committee.

We were delighted to be able to run the Pack Monday Café this year, after a two-year Covid interruption. Thanks to the many kind volunteers who signed up on our board at the back of the Abbey we were able to serve tea and coffee, hot food, sandwiches and delicious home-made cakes and biscuits all day long, making a profit of just over £1,000.

It was a delight to be able to contribute to the success of the Rector's production of Oliver! by serving refreshments during the interval.

The Band of the Rifles returned for another successful concert in December. The committee prepared home-made soup and mince pies for their refreshment before the concert.

Our Committee is currently made up of 8 hard-working ladies who give generously of their time and resources. We are always happy to hear from anyone who might be interested in joining us, men included!

Frances Walker

Trustees' Report (continued)

Director of Music's Report

2022 turned out to be a superb year for the Abbey Choir who, having completely recovered from the constraints imposed by Covid, began to sing once again as a blended ensemble with much colour, light and shade, musical variety and a particularly strong treble line. The performance of Renaissance Mass settings increased with the addition of those by Palestrina and Victoria, whilst other new repertoire was enjoyed by the congregation and frequently and favourably commented upon.

The Platinum Jubilee weekend, and series of Bank Holidays, marking the 70th year on the throne of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, afforded the opportunity for the performance of coronation music, including the ubiquitous Zadok the Priest (Handel), and a well-attended Civic Service. Later in the year, another civic service honoured the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and provided the Abbey Choir with another opportunity to sing at occasions for which all involved, and perhaps particularly the young choristers, will remember for ever. Quite a bit of illness amongst both adults and choristers saw the Choir slightly depleted in the early weeks of December, though thankfully on form both for the Advent Carol Service, and almost all for the Carol Service, and then full strength for Christmas Day itself. A CD recording of Christmas music, to have been recorded in early December, was therefore postponed to early 2023. Midnight Mass, as with any other weddings, memorial services and funerals over the year, were sung by the adults of the Abbey Choir with the addition of one or two sopranos; there is effectively now a choir within a choir.

The gap-year Organ Scholar and three Choral Scholars - a scheme that has been in place with Sherborne School since 2005, funded by the School, and with the gap-year Scholars living in School accommodation in the town and working during the day in the Music School - saw a particularly talented group playing and singing for us during 2022. Daniel Blaze, the Organ Scholar, played with almost unrivalled skill as Organ Scholars go, and left in June 2022 to become the Organ Scholar of Clare College, Cambridge. Hugo Williamson, a tenor, delighted the congregation with many superb solos and joined the choir of Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge. Two altos, Lingling Bao-Smith and Alicia Hunt, were spectacular in their singing for the Abbey Choir and respectively went to The Guildhall School of Music & Drama, and Royal Holloway College, London. The VE Award holders were Kotaro Blake (who became a Choral Scholar in September 2022), Jacob Dike, Angus Evans and Danny Mitchell (the youngest ever VE Award holder, being already a low bass yet still in Year 9 at The Gryphon). The VE Awards, which come from a legacy left by Vincent Evans, provide superb opportunities for choristers to continue into the back rows when their voices have broken. We are very grateful for the scheme.

Three choristers left the choir during 2022, variously for emigration or as a result of finding the commitment too large in this post-Covid era. There are many more opportunities for youngsters in Sherborne and the surrounding area than was the case just four years ago, with Sherborne Rugby and Sherborne Football directly now clashing with the Parish Eucharist (and several all-Sunday sports tournaments to boot). Friday nights - the traditional Full Choir Practice night - now also clash with several new sporting/scout opportunities for youngsters. This is as true of the independent school choristers as those attending the two primary schools and/or The Gryphon. Three choristers passed the audition but were unable to commit beyond attending a handful of early-morning rehearsals. There is undoubtedly an issue here, with a pattern that might be seen to be replicating elsewhere in the UK in cathedrals, abbeys and greater parish churches. Conversely plans were put in place for a new girls' choir, towards the end of 2022, and at the time of writing (March 2023) the girls' choir now outnumbers the boys' choir but has yet to progress beyond rehearsals to singing in services.

As ever, I am extremely grateful to the back row singers whose commitment, as volunteers, is outstanding. Peter Bray, too, needs continued thanks for his excellent organ playing, particularly when a gap-year Organ Scholar is very much on the learning curve, as has been much more the case since September 2022 than for some considerable time.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Chorister singing lessons, provided by the singing teachers in Sherborne School Music School, and paid for by the PCC/Abbey Festival, are very much appreciated and undoubtedly have a very positive effect on the quality of the boys' singing. It is hoped that the scheme might be extended to the girl choristers at some point in 2023, when they have begun singing at some of the services.

James Henderson
Director of Music & Organist

Festival 2022 Report

The first full festival since the pandemic was greeted with great enthusiasm and support by the many concertgoers who attended. It was launched with a newly designed full-colour brochure and brand new website which, with the loss of the Tourist Information Centre to sell face to face tickets, helped to encourage people to buy tickets online and on the 'phone.

The opening evening concert was a stunning performance by multi award-winning saxophonist Jess Gillam with the Iuventus Orchestra led by Ruth Rogers and the following evening we welcomed back the beautiful voices of Tenebrae to a packed Abbey.

In a 'first' for the Festival, we put on a semi-staged performance of Jonathan Dove's opera 'Mansfield Park' at Leweston School which, owing to the weather, was moved inside to the Chapel, but nevertheless offered up a treat!

An outstanding recital by composer, conductor and organist Matthew Martin was incredibly well attended and in our continuing programme of supporting students at music colleges, we welcomed Sylva Winds from the Royal Academy of Music to perform a varied and exciting concert.

Our final Abbey concert with Michael Collins and the Ruth Rogers quartet provided a challenge when Michael became ill the day before, but we were very grateful to clarinetist Julian Bliss who stepped in at 24 hours notice and wowed the audience with his incredible playing.

Two entertaining events of Dinner and Opera were hosted at the Plume of Feathers and a fabulous Jazz Evening was held at the Cross Keys.

The Festival is proud to offer many free performances and opportunities for local ensembles to perform. As ever, we are immensely pleased and grateful that some of the local schools took part in the Festival; Sherborne School, Sherborne School for Girls, and Leweston School offered wonderful performances from many varied ensembles showcasing the talent and hard work that is obviously thriving in the schools. Sherborne Town Band and Wessex Strings both performed fabulous concerts and Sherborne Festival Chorus was finally able to perform the majestic oratorio The Kingdom by Elgar which had been planned for the 2020 Festival.

In early autumn the Festival was awarded a Silver Award at the Dorset Tourism Awards in the Tourism Event/Festival of the year category who wrote "The support of local musicians, guests artists, supporting business in the town, grants for local musicians, half price tickets for under 18s, engagement through social media, and the festival itself run entirely by volunteers, is all absolutely amazing." Thanks must go to the many volunteers who help to run the festival, from stewarding and programme selling to proof reading and copy writing - their contribution is invaluable.

Given that the aim of the Festival is to support music making in the Abbey and the local area, and despite some recent challenging years, the Festival was delighted to fund the purchase of a much needed new grand piano for the Abbey as well as paying for Abbey choristers' singing lessons and fees, and making a grant to the Sherborne Town Band youth section.

Samantha Henderson

Concerts in The Abbey

After all the restrictions over the last two years, Abbey audiences have finally been able to enjoy a full programme of concerts during 2022.

Weekly organ recitals have run throughout the year, now taking place on Monday lunchtimes, and given by the Abbey's Music staff, local and visiting organists. They have attracted a loyal, regular and enthusiastic audience, along with many visitors to the Abbey, who have enjoyed an added bonus of hearing the Abbey's organ during their visit.

In February the Schools' Choral Society gave its first performance in the Abbey since 2020 and a large choir of 170 singers which flowed into the Digby Chapel was accompanied by an orchestra to perform Fauré's Requiem and Haydn's Paukenmesse conducted by John Jenkins, with soloists Lucinda Cox, Amy Lyddon, James Robinson and Edmund Saddington.

In March Sherborne Chamber Choir performed a programme of German Baroque music with an ensemble of period players, with works including the Biber Requiem.

In May Sherborne Abbey Festival was finally able to take place in its full form for the first time since 2019. Large audiences returned to enjoy a wide variety of concerts and recitals, including concerts by Tenebrae, clarinettist Julian Bliss, saxophonist Jess Gillam, Ruth Rogers and the Iuventus Chamber Orchestra, organist Matthew Martin, and Sherborne Festival Chorus, as well as performances by local ensembles. A more detailed report is elsewhere.

In June Sherborne Abbey Choir performed its first annual concert since 2019 to a large audience, with a selection of anthems from the choir's repertoire. The choir was directed by James Henderson, with Peter Bray at the organ.

In July Sherborne Chamber Choir celebrated the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a popular programme of Royal-themed works, performed on a hot summer's evening with the West door fully open.

In a first, in November the Abbey was transformed into a stage set and students from local schools performed a fully staged production of Oliver on three nights to a packed audience: a memorable occasion for both performers and audience. The production was produced and directed by the Rector, with Musical Director James Henderson.

Sherborne Chamber Choir gave its regular Advent concert on the eve of Advent Sunday, which included the first full performance of a setting of the Advent Antiphons by David Bednall, commissioned for the choir's fortieth anniversary, conducted by Paul Ellis, with Simon Clarkson, organist.

In December, in addition to the many carol services, the Salamanca Band of the Rifles from Exeter performed a Christmas concert, directed by Captain Lee Clayson. The Abbey's own Christmas concert also took place, with performances from Sherborne Abbey Choir, the Gryphon School, Sherborne Singers and Sherborne Town Band.

Rachel Greaves
Concerts Administrator

The Bellringers

It is fair to say that the year was dominated by events linked to Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II and by the number of learners we now find ourselves teaching at the Abbey. But to start at the beginning:

Following a very pleasant evening at John and Carolyn Cawood's house, we rang the New Year in to the delight of the people gathered on the Abbey Green just before midnight. Fizz was enjoyed afterwards in the Ringing Room.

After the death late in 2021 of Jenny Barnett, Tower Captain at Longburton, Richard and I met with Helen and Gordon Pharoah and with Lesley McCreadie's blessing, we arranged for Richard to restart practices in the village with the aim of ringing for Sunday Services which has proved a success, as he may mention separately.

We rang a quarter of Grandsire Triples on 6th February to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the Accession of HM Queen Elizabeth, and followed that with two weddings in February, the first of nineteen during the year.

Channel 4 visited in March when David very kindly showed the "4 In A Bed" contestants our bells and introduced them to the delights of bellringing. This event was followed shortly afterwards by our AGM, hosted for the first time by Reverend Martin and Mrs Sue Lee.

During the Spring and early Summer, our numbers were swelled by an ever-increasing number of learners. On one occasion in May, we had ten learners including five students. Subsequent special learners' sessions on Thursday evenings have been equally well attended and we now have several adults and six regular attendees from the private schools, ably marshalled by Tim Filtness. Two of our learners were promoted to full membership at the West Dorset Branch AGM in November, and more will follow in 2023.

In June, Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations began with the Town's festivities at the Jubilee Copse on the Terraces, where the Beacon was lit at 21:45 after an informal concert by the Town Band. We rang beforehand to herald those events, and also on the following day, June 3rd, a quarter peal was rung for the Civic Service in the Abbey. Subsequently, several Abbey ringers were involved in quarters at Stalbridge and Yetminster.

Twenty two ringers and other halves enjoyed a barbeque cooked by Nick at our house on 7th August, an incredibly hot and sunny afternoon, when we were delighted to see Mike and Carrie Hayton, neither in the best of health.

The 8th September dawned bright but by the end of the day, the world had lost one of it's greatest ever Heads of State. The plans carefully prepared under Operation London Bridge were hastily checked and arrangements made for ringing the following day and subsequently. The tenor was tolled 96 times from 11am and at midday, all eight bells rang out fully muffled except for the tenor's backstroke which was open. Our first rounds were used by BBC Radio Solent as the 12pm pips! Filming took place during the hour's ringing and BBC South Today carried an extremely short piece showing the bells turning and a glimpse past the photograph of Her Majesty of the altar beyond. We were obviously not dressed smartly enough to make it onto the BBC!

Two quarters were rung, one open on 11th for the Accession of King Charles III and the other fully muffled on 18th, the day before Her Late Majesty's State Funeral. On the following day, the tenor was tolled 111 times, finishing at 5 minutes to 11, leaving just enough time to lower the tenor before the clock sounded the hour.

The ringers were deeply saddened to learn that Mike Hayton had died in mid-September and were pleased to be asked to ring for his funeral. He will be sorely missed. His time as steeple-keeper included the replacement of the carpet in the Ringing Room, a permanent reminder of his contribution not just to ringing but also to the wider Abbey community. Subsequent tragic news that Carrie had also died was sadly received, but again, we rang for her funeral on 29th December.

Trustees' Report (continued)

On a brighter note, it is fair to say that the ringers have enjoyed many social events during the year, including our annual post-Christmas meal at the Rose & Crown in Longburton, an Easter meal at the Britannia, the afore-mentioned barbecue, pizza in the Plume in December, drinks in the Vicarage Garden and pre-Christmas drinks at the Vicaage accompanied by handbells. Most important of all, I must mention our wonderful Outing on 29th October organised by Jan. Many of us were able to enjoy a day's socialising with a bit of ringing and it was a very great success. I for one am looking forward to the next one!

The Doubles & Minor Group has made some progress during the year, having included Stedman and Little Bob Minor in the repertoire. We have also welcomed John Fry into the group. There will be more homework in 2023!

Sales of the book, The Bells of Sherborne Abbey, have recovered from the Covid years with 122 copies sold, 100 of which were to the Abbey Shop. Since the launch in late 2018, 743 have either been sold or given as complimentary copies, raising almost £1,100 for our two chosen Charities. With just 26 copies left, the opportunity was taken to hand control of the reordering process to the Manager of the Abbey Shop, to provide ongoing continuity.

May I conclude by thanking Nick for running our ringing so brilliantly, to Jan for keeping us all in order (mainly me), for organising our Outing and everything else she does largely unseen, all those who help with the learners and everyone else for putting up with me!

Tim Phillips

Abbey Guides

Based on experience in the previous year, this year it was decided that the season for tours would run from Easter to the end of November. We also decided to trial extra tours on Saturdays and Sundays during July and August.

Between 5th April and 29th November we offered tours on Tuesdays and Fridays. 203 visitors attended these tours,106 on Tuesday Mornings and 97 on Friday Afternoons.

17 private booked tours took place during the year with a total of 278 visitors.

Our tours on Saturdays and Sundays during July, August and the first weekend in September were successful with 7 tours on Saturday mornings bringing in 22 visitors and 11 tours on Sundays after the 9.30 service attended by 46 visitors. We will be planning a similar exercise in 2023.

Towards the end of the year we had several tours booked through the Parish Office at short notice, this produced another 12 visitors.

Two gentlemen have joined the guiding team, Bill McDermott and Derek Rigby. Derek has previous experience as a guide at Exeter Cathedral. They have been studying hard over the winter and will be taking visitors round this coming season.

After six years, I have stepped down as Head Guide and the role has been taken over by Harold Clarke who has been guiding at the Abbey for a number of years and is also a guide at Salisbury Cathedral. He will bring new enthusiasm and professionalism to the role.

I would like to thank all the guides for their support during the last six years and for their professional and enthusiastic approach to the role as Sherborne Abbey Guides.

I would also register my appreciation for the support received from the all the vergers, Joanna Sams in the Parish Office and the Guardians who actively promote our tours.

John Keating, Head Guide

Abbey Servers

"We are the servants of the servants of God" St Gregory

As a group, the servers are privileged to have a role in the preparation of worship and assisting the celebrant during services.

The serving team were able to provide servers for all the services during the year.

We started the year with eleven servers. During the year we lost Michael Blackstaff who moved away and Tom Griffiths who left to emigrate to Malaysia with his family. Fortunately, Fr. Martin's wish to have more young servers was realised with the recruitment of three young servers, Tom Malley, Henry MacKenzie and Tilly Rose who are currently undergoing training.

We also increased our numbers with two adult servers who moved into the Benefice, Ron Dudley and Adrian Whittlesea. Both gentlemen gained experience elsewhere and are a great asset to the team.

At Christmas we struggled to provide a full team for all the services due to some members being away for Christmas and others falling by the wayside with Covid, flu and other respiratory ailments. We did, however, manage to provide basic cover for every service.

To enable us to provide enough servers for every service we would still like to recruit more people to the team, age is not important, the age of the current team is from 11 to 80+. Please come and talk to us, we would be delighted to welcome you to our happy band.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all my fellow servers for their commitment and support. I would also like to thank the verger team who make sure everything runs smoothly.

John Keating
Server

Trustees' Report (continued)

Abbey Guardians

Post Covid, this year has gradually seen the welcome increase in visitor numbers with a bumper crowd of families with young children especially around Christmas and the New Year. The position of the nativity tableau in the transept brings younger visitors into the body of the Church, enticing them to explore further. The splendid 'Lego' Abbey created by the Gryphon School has also been greatly admired and appreciated.

Sadly, several long serving Guardians have retired this year leaving with our immense gratitude and blessings. Their places have been taken by a new cohort of Guardians whom we welcome with open arms.

Socially this year the Rector and Mrs Lee generously opened their home to the Guardians with a very jolly Garden party in August. In December Guardians met for afternoon tea with an excellent and amusing talk by Guide Jennifer Huitson on people memorialised in the Abbey. We also thank Jennifer for keeping an immaculate count of our visitor numbers.

As ever, thanks to the Vergers for their assistance to us and understanding when there are the occasional unintended gaps in the rota! Of course a big thank you as well for the immense help of Sue Lee and Joanna Sams in the Parish Office. Finally, my enduring thanks for the support of the eighty two volunteers who hourly provide a smiling welcome to the Abbey.

We all look forward to an exciting and busy year ahead as the Rector's visionary expansion of the Abbey draws in yet more visitors.

Sue Morgan.
Head Guardian.

Verger's Report

Following a lengthy period of disruption with Covid lockdowns and uncertainty with various appointments on the team the Abbey, and the team of vergers have now achieved some stability. Thanks are due to Graham, Chris and Cath for seeing the Abbey thorough what was a very difficult time, especially with the amount of further disruption caused by the installation of new boilers, changing various aspects of the lighting system and the discovery of a leak under the Vestry floor, which involved numerous contractors.

The four new boilers, running on a cascade, replaced the 40 year old boiler which had been converted from oil to gas. Six air source heat pumps were also installed on the roof. The system is 20% more efficient than the previous system and at the time of writing we are awaiting an electrical upgrade which is due to begin on 15th May.

The upgrade of the lighting system involved replacing the halide lamps with LEDs and also upgrading the emergency lighting. The LEDs have transformed the way the Abbey is lit and like the heating is vastly more efficient. Spectrum, the contractors who carried this out, were very respectful of the building and always keen to achieve the various effects we wanted. It couldn't have been easy for them trying to work around the number of services and events that take place in the Abbey on a regular basis, but they did so with good grace and a sense of humour.

While all this work was taking place the Abbey continued to function as the important centre of Christian worship that it is along with other major events. Not least was the Civic Service held for Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The Verging team were on duty for almost one thousand services over the last year as well as numerous concerts and other events.

October saw the staging of the musical 'Oliver' with a large cast of young people drawn from the various schools of the town. Although a huge undertaking for the team of vergers, namely Graham & Chris, the production was a huge success and resulted in some new young members of the serving team.

The annual music festival is always a big undertaking, particularly with the erection of the staging for the Festival Chorus. This year the Festival Chorus will be the first concert of the program meaning that it will only need to be erected once going up on the Wednesday for the rehearsal and coming down after the performance on the Thursday. Previously it would be built and dismantled for the rehearsal and then again for the performance. The vergers are very grateful to Sammy Henderson for negotiating this change with the organisers of the Festival Chorus.

Cleaning of the Abbey is a bit like painting the Forth Bridge, it never stops and while the scaffolding was up for the work on the lighting, Chris took the opportunity to do some high-level cleaning with a vacuum cleaner strapped to his back. He did a first-rate job of removing all the cobwebs from the windowsills and ledges.

The Lego model of the Abbey, constructed by the students from the Gryphon School, was given a home in the Abbey and is much admired by visitors.

The Abbey vergers were ably assisted over the last year by three volunteers, Bill McDermot, Stuart McCreadie and Mark Prideaux to whom we owe a great debt of thanks. We also said goodbye to one of our part timers, Alex Morley-Smith, who returned to his previous job in London. He was a great asset to the team, and it was sad to see him go.

It is a great privilege to be a verger in this beautiful place and to work alongside Fr Martin who is always so appreciative of everything we do. We look forward to the future and to serving this Abbey Church and its people.

Andrew Cross, *Acting Head Verger*

Abbey Flower Arrangers

We can look back on last year as a very busy year for our Flower Teams. So many weddings took place after the delays, which were imposed by the uncertainties during two Covid years. It meant that the Abbey had to look good, at all times for the many different events that took place.

We were delighted to arrange bespoke flowers for five weddings and four memorial/funeral services, along with H.M. the late Queen's Jubilee and Funeral services.

We are pleased to welcome new arrangers to our teams this year, but at the same time, sadly, we have lost some of our long-standing members, who have worked with us for several years. It is an ever-changing challenge to maintain beautiful flowers in the Abbey, one that we hope to achieve again with our group of dedicated ladies in 2023. We are very proud to be a part of Abbey life.

Julie Mahony

Trustees' Report (continued)

Financial review

The parish accounts show a deficit from all activities of £579,674 compared with a surplus in 2021 of £666,172. The deficit includes unrealised losses on investments of £559,853. Without these, the parish accounts would have shown a deficit of £19,821.

At 31 December 2022, total funds amounted to £7,396,285 (2021 : £7,975,959), of which £3,592,059 (2021 : £3,926,995) were restricted funds. The restricted funds include investments held by the Diocesan Board of Finance, as custodian trustee, for the benefit of the Parish, identified as endowment funds. These funds, together with the income derived from them, may only be used for the upkeep of the Chancel of the Abbey, and the charity's policy is to use the income to contribute to the overall cost of insuring the Abbey. Other restricted funds amount to £400,393 (2021 : £439,288) and have been designated for specific purposes, detailed in the notes to the accounts. The unrestricted funds amount to £3,804,266 (2021 : £4,048,964). These funds are required to be maintained as free reserves in accordance with the PCC's reserves policy.

Policy on reserves

It is the charity's policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds. These reserves allow interest and dividends to form a major part of the income generated in any given year, which is essential to cover core expenditure incurred.

The reserves held also allow maintenance and improvement of the buildings under the charity's control.

Principal funding sources

The principal funding sources of the charity are donations through parish collections, planned giving and other donations and legacies. The charity also benefits from gift aid relief on certain donations.

There are 512 members of the Church Electoral Roll.

Investment policy and objectives

The investment assets comprise units / shares in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund and the M&G Charifund and M&G Charibond charity funds. These funds aim to generate capital appreciation and rising income and a total return in excess of their benchmarks, whilst adopting an appropriate Ethical Investment Policy.

Trustees' Report (continued)

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities requires the trustees 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 incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Disclosure of information to auditor

Each trustee has taken steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information. The trustees confirm that there is no relevant information that they know of and of which they know the auditor is unaware.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 15/6/23 and signed on its behalf by:

.....

Dr Christopher Hamon
Trustee

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2022, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement, and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising Charities SORP - FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and applicable law (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the original financial statements were authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton (continued)

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Report) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities (set out on page 39), the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:
We have considered the nature of the sector, control environment and financial performance;

We have considered the results of enquiries with management and members in relation to their own identification and assessment of the risk of irregularities within the entity and

We have reviewed the documentation of key processes and controls and performed walkthroughs of transactions to confirm that the systems are operating in line with documentation.

For any matters identified we have obtained and reviewed the charity's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:

Identifying, evaluating, and complying with laws and regulations whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;

Detecting and responding to the risk of fraud and whether they have knowledge of actual, suspected, or alleged fraud;
and of the internal controls established to mitigate the risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton (continued)

We have considered the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and potential indicators of fraud. As a result of these procedures, we have considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the highest area of risk to be in relation to revenue recognition. In conjunction with all audits under ISAs (UK) we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We have also obtained understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the Charities Act 2011, Charity SORP 2019, FRS 102 and the terms and conditions attaching to material grants received by the charity.

In addition, we considered the provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charity's ability to operate or avoid a material penalty. These included data protection regulations, health and safety regulations and employment legislation. Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

Reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;

Performing analytical procedures to identify unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;

Reviewing Trustees' meeting minutes;

Enquiring of management in relation to actual and potential claims or litigations;

Performing detailed transactional testing in relation to the recognition of revenue, specifically grants, and:

In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls:

testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments;
assessing whether the judgments made in accounting estimates are indicative of potential bias and;
evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all members of the engagement team and remained alert to possible indicators of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.
A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton (continued)

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the trustees those matters we are required to state to trustees in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Ian Dodds

Ian Dodds (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Lanham & Francis, Statutory Auditor

Church House
Church Street
Yeovil
Somerset
BA20 1HB

Date: 27.7.23

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Income and Endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	2	819,745	14,600	-	834,345	379,047
Charitable activities	3	40,074	24,948	-	65,022	34,507
Other trading activities	4	117,897	411	-	118,308	70,232
Investment income	5	203,733	10,141	-	213,874	190,250
Total income		1,181,449	50,100	-	1,231,549	674,036
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	6	(174,354)	-	-	(174,354)	(57,276)
Charitable activities	7	(1,032,942)	(44,074)	-	(1,077,016)	(618,965)
Total expenditure		(1,207,296)	(44,074)	-	(1,251,370)	(676,241)
Gains/(losses) on investment assets		(224,403)	(39,409)	(296,041)	(559,853)	668,377
Net (expenditure)/income		(250,250)	(33,383)	(296,041)	(579,674)	666,172
Net transfers between funds	18	(2,730)	2,730	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(252,980)	(30,653)	(296,041)	(579,674)	666,172
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		4,048,964	439,288	3,487,707	7,975,959	7,309,787
Total funds carried forward	18	3,795,984	408,635	3,191,666	7,396,285	7,975,959

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.
The funds breakdown for 2021 is shown in note 18.

The notes on pages 47 to 62 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

(Registration number: 1130082)
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	1,498,988	1,498,988
Investments	11	5,288,298	5,848,151
		6,787,286	7,347,139
Current assets			
Stocks	12	14,396	12,700
Debtors	13	82,799	28,813
Cash at bank and in hand	14	589,378	599,248
		686,573	640,761
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	15	(77,574)	(11,941)
Net current assets		608,999	628,820
Net assets		7,396,285	7,975,959
Funds of the charity:			
Endowment funds	18	3,191,666	3,487,707
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds	18	400,393	439,288
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds	18	3,804,226	4,048,964
Total funds	18	7,396,285	7,975,959

The financial statements on pages 44 to 62 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 15/6/23. and signed on their behalf by:

Jonathan Rodd

.....

Mr Jonathan Rodd
Trustee

D J Fifield

.....

Mr David Fifield
Trustee

The notes on pages 47 to 62 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Cash Flow Statement for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash (expenditure)/income		(579,674)	666,172
Adjustments to cash flows from non-cash items			
Investment income	5	(213,874)	(190,250)
Revaluation of investments		559,853	(668,377)
		(233,695)	(192,455)
Working capital adjustments			
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	12	(1,696)	2,724
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	13	(53,986)	159,959
Increase in creditors	15	65,633	5,761
Net cash flows from operating activities		(223,744)	(24,011)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest receivable and similar income	5	213,874	190,250
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	10	-	(170,000)
Net cash flows from investing activities		213,874	20,250
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(9,870)	(3,761)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January		599,248	603,009
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December		589,378	599,248

All of the cash flows are derived from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The notes on pages 47 to 62 form an integral part of these financial statements.

1 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation
The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiatical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

These financial statements are prepared in Sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £1.

Going concern
The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Prior period errors
During the year ended 31 December 2021 the charity undertook contracts relating to the upkeep of the Abbey, for which payment was made by the Friends of Sherborne Abbey. The cost of these contracts amounting to £75,242 has now been included in Fabric, with the corresponding payments by the Friends of Sherborne Abbey being shown as donations.

Income and endowments
Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Gift aid

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the Statement of Financial Activities at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

Investment income

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Expenditure
All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Consecrated and beneficed land and property and inalienable church furnishings and equipment are excluded from the financial statements. All expenditure incurred on maintenance or improvement of such property or furnishings is written off in the financial statements.

Other land and buildings in the beneficial ownership of the charity are included in the financial statements at cost. Under the transitional rules of FRS102 paragraph 35.10, the land and buildings were revalued at the date of transition. The basis of this valuation was market value, which was established by the charity. This value has been carried forward as the deemed cost. Annual reviews of the properties are undertaken to determine whether or not there has been any impairment, which would reduce the market value of the land and buildings.

The value of all office and miscellaneous equipment is written off in the financial year in which it is acquired, except for assets costing in excess of £5,000, which are capitalised and depreciated. The value of consumable goods in hand is considered immaterial.

Research and development

Research and development expenditure is written off as incurred.

Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments, other than programme related investments, are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their market value at the start of the year, or their subsequent cost, and are charged or credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are credited or charged to the Statement of Financial Activities based on the market value at the year end.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Stock
Stock is valued at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell, after due regard for obsolete and slow moving stocks. Cost is determined using the first-in, first-out (FIFO).

Trade debtors
Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Borrowings
Interest-bearing borrowings are initially recorded at fair value, net of transaction costs. Interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost, with the difference between the proceeds, net of transaction costs, and the amount due on redemption being recognised as a charge to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period of the relevant borrowing.

Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in interest payable and similar charges.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the charity has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

Fund structure
Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.
Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.
Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations
The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Financial instruments

Classification

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.
Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

Recognition and measurement

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the charity intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the charity transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the charity, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Investments

Investments in non-convertible preference shares and non-puttable ordinary or preference shares (where shares are publicly traded or their fair value is reliably measurable) are measured at fair value through profit or loss. Where fair value cannot be measured reliably, investments are measured at cost less impairment.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted	Total
	Designated	General	funds	2022
	£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies;				
Parish giving	54,390	94,291	-	148,681
Church collecting	1,094	91,269	8,089	100,452
Donations to appeals	9,537	30,078	393	40,008
Legacies	-	-	(375)	(375)
Festival sponsorship	20,033	-	-	20,033
Gift aid reclaimed	12,772	31,224	-	43,996
Other income from donations and legacies	1,315	473,742	6,493	481,550
	99,141	720,604	14,600	834,345

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted	Total
	Designated	General	funds	2021
	£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies;				
Parish giving	43,287	84,510	-	127,797
Church collecting	1,977	49,553	3,865	55,395
Donations to appeals	7,511	44,456	661	52,628
Legacies	-	-	4,000	4,000
Festival sponsorship	15,348	-	-	15,348
Gift aid reclaimed	9,528	27,594	-	37,122
Other income from donations and legacies	10,974	75,242	541	86,757
	88,625	281,355	9,067	379,047

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds Designated £	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Fees for weddings, funerals and related income	-	32,327	24,948	57,275
St Paul's Community Project	7,747	-	-	7,747
	7,747	32,327	24,948	65,022

	Unrestricted funds Designated £	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £
Fees for weddings, funerals and related income	-	16,567	11,487	28,054
St Paul's Community Project	2,148	-	-	2,148
HMG grants	-	4,055	-	4,055
Other events	250	-	-	250
	2,398	20,622	11,487	34,507

4 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds Designated £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Trading income;			
Sales of goods and services	26,355	411	26,766
Events income;			
Other events income	60,766	-	60,766
Digby Memorial Church Hall	28,486	-	28,486
Concerts	2,290	-	2,290
	117,897	411	118,308

	Unrestricted funds Designated £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £
Trading income;			
Sales of goods and services	28,766	70	28,836
Events income;			
Other events income	7,695	-	7,695
Digby Memorial Church Hall	29,779	-	29,779
Concerts	642	-	642
Government grants	3,280	-	3,280
	70,162	70	70,232

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted	Total
	Designated	General	funds	2022
	£	£	£	£
Interest receivable and similar income;				
Interest receivable on bank deposits	1,434	-	95	1,529
Other income from fixed asset investments	-	193,874	10,046	203,920
Income from rents	-	8,425	-	8,425
	1,434	202,299	10,141	213,874

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted	Total
	Designated	General	funds	2021
	£	£	£	£
Interest receivable and similar income;				
Interest receivable on bank deposits	184	-	3,920	4,104
Other income from fixed asset investments	-	176,694	9,452	186,146
	184	176,694	13,372	190,250

6 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds Designated £	Total 2022 £
Fundraising trading costs;		
Cost of goods sold	15,675	15,675
Shop overheads	4,478	4,478
Digby Memorial Church Hall	21,997	21,997
Festival - event expenditure and grants	117,901	117,901
Music Committee	768	768
Staff costs	13,535	13,535
	174,354	174,354

	Unrestricted funds Designated £	Total 2021 £
Fundraising trading costs;		
Cost of goods sold	10,030	10,030
Shop overheads	3,789	3,789
Digby Memorial Church Hall	9,440	9,440
Festival - event expenditure and grants	17,154	17,154
Music Committee	75	75
Staff costs	16,788	16,788
	57,276	57,276

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds Designated £	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
The Ministry		2,901	252,209	-	255,110
Worship		-	29,848	20,943	50,791
Faith in Action Committee - grants paid		38,966	-	-	38,966
Church in the Community		5,534	734	-	6,268
Fabric		12,075	511,371	16,889	540,335
Management and Administration		449	45,036	2,833	48,318
Flower arrangers		-	-	3,409	3,409
Other events		-	1,634	-	1,634
Staff costs		8,564	108,578	-	117,142
Governance costs		-	15,043	-	15,043
		68,489	964,453	44,074	1,077,016

	Note	Unrestricted funds Designated £	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £
The Ministry		6,268	220,068	-	226,336
Worship		-	29,107	14,680	43,787
Faith in Action Committee - grants paid		56,837	-	-	56,837
Church in the Community		3,475	1,370	-	4,845
Digby Memorial Church Hall		-	1,424	-	1,424
Fabric		11,249	116,479	12,419	140,147
Management and Administration		1,825	35,792	2,966	40,583
Flower arrangers		-	-	4,149	4,149
Other events		-	730	-	730
Staff costs		7,468	88,369	-	95,837
Governance costs		-	4,290	-	4,290
		87,122	497,629	34,214	618,965

8 Trustees remuneration and expenses

During the year the charity made the following transactions with trustees:

Mrs Joanne Hague
Mrs Joanne Hague received remuneration of £11,419 (2021: £2,460) during the year.

She was remunerated for accounting services provided to the charity.

Dr Christopher Hamon
Dr Christopher Hamon received remuneration of £22,428 (2021: £13,094) during the year.

He was paid for his services as a verger.

Payment for these services is permitted under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure.
No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

9 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	126,364	109,477
Social security costs	2,551	1,447
Pension costs	1,762	1,701
	130,677	112,625

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2022 No	2021 No
Worship	5	3
Management and administration	6	5
	11	8

4 (2021 - 5) of the above employees participated in the Defined Contribution Pension Schemes.

Contributions to the employee pension schemes for the year totalled £1,762 (2021 - £1,701).

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 January 2022	1,498,988	1,498,988
At 31 December 2022	1,498,988	1,498,988
Depreciation		
At 31 December 2022	-	-
Net book value		
At 31 December 2022	1,498,988	1,498,988
At 31 December 2021	1,498,988	1,498,988

11 Fixed asset investments

Other investments

	Listed investments £	Total £
Cost or Valuation		
At 1 January 2022	5,848,151	5,848,151
Revaluation	(559,853)	(559,853)
At 31 December 2022	5,288,298	5,288,298
Net book value		
At 31 December 2022	5,288,298	5,288,298
At 31 December 2021	5,848,151	5,848,151

12 Stock

	2022 £	2021 £
Stocks	14,396	12,700

13 Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Other debtors	82,799	28,813

14 Cash and cash equivalents

	2022	2021
	£	£
Cash on hand	1,116	1,050
Cash at bank	501,924	462,136
Short-term deposits	86,338	136,062
	589,378	599,248

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Other creditors	69,574	7,941
Accruals	8,000	4,000
	77,574	11,941

16 Obligations under leases and hire purchase contracts

Operating lease commitments

Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Land and buildings		
Within one year	3,050	3,050
Between one and five years	2,288	5,338
	5,338	8,388

17 Commitments

Other financial commitments

The total amount of other financial commitments not provided in the financial statements was £68,906 (2021 - £Nil).

18 Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2022 £
Unrestricted funds						
General						
Parish Central Funds	3,733,643	955,230	(964,453)	14,872	(224,403)	3,514,889
Designated						
St Paul's Church	120,179	77,151	(29,339)	(45,929)	-	122,062
Digby Memorial Church Hall	23,152	28,616	(29,214)	-	-	22,554
Sherborne Abbey Shop	33,858	26,375	(26,471)	(5,000)	-	28,762
Sherborne Festival	122,843	82,250	(117,901)	(10,500)	-	76,692
FIAC	11,737	9,537	(39,150)	53,569	-	35,693
Music Fund	3,552	2,290	(768)	(1,500)	-	3,574
	315,321	226,219	(242,843)	(9,360)	-	289,337
Total unrestricted funds	4,048,964	1,181,449	(1,207,296)	5,512	(224,403)	3,804,226
Restricted funds						
Castleton Church	412,290	28,179	(18,914)	(4,220)	(39,409)	377,926
Abbey Choir Fund	14,925	13,108	(16,995)	6,950	-	17,988
Abbey Floral Fund	2,026	3,210	(3,409)	-	-	1,827
Sherborne Abbey Bellringers	1,805	5,603	(4,756)	-	-	2,652
Central Fund	8,242	-	-	(8,242)	-	-
Total restricted funds	439,288	50,100	(44,074)	(5,512)	(39,409)	400,393
Endowment funds						
Permanent						
Endowment Fund	3,487,707	-	-	-	(296,041)	3,191,666
Total funds	7,975,959	1,231,549	(1,251,370)	-	(559,853)	7,396,285

18 Funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 January 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2021 £
Unrestricted funds						
General						
Parish Central Funds	3,442,885	478,671	(497,629)	2,888	306,828	3,733,643
Designated						
St Paul's Church	108,895	67,236	(30,180)	(25,772)	-	120,179
Digby Memorial Church Hall	11,517	31,869	(20,234)	-	-	23,152
Sherborne Abbey Shop	28,704	29,967	(19,813)	(5,000)	-	33,858
Sherborne Festival	126,603	23,894	(17,154)	(10,500)	-	122,843
FIAC	20,818	7,761	(56,942)	40,100	-	11,737
Music Fund	3,485	642	(75)	(500)	-	3,552
	300,022	161,369	(144,398)	(1,672)	-	315,321
Total unrestricted funds	3,742,907	640,040	(642,027)	1,216	306,828	4,048,964
Restricted						
Castleton Church	366,669	18,388	(16,363)	(3,000)	46,596	412,290
Abbey Choir Fund	15,445	5,656	(11,876)	5,700	-	14,925
Abbey Floral Fund	2,079	4,096	(4,149)	-	-	2,026
Sherborne Abbey Bellringers	1,691	1,940	(1,826)	-	-	1,805
Central Fund	8,242	3,916	-	(3,916)	-	8,242
Total restricted funds	394,126	33,996	(34,214)	(1,216)	46,596	439,288
Endowment funds						
Permanent						
Endowment Fund	3,172,754	-	-	-	314,953	3,487,707
Total funds	7,309,787	674,036	(676,241)	-	668,377	7,975,959

18 Funds (continued)

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

Castleton Church
Fund restricted to the general purposes and objects of the Castleton Committee.

Abbey Choir Fund
Fund restricted to the general purposes and welfare of the Abbey Choir.

Abbey Floral Fund
Fund restricted to purposes associated with the floral decoration of the Abbey.

The company of Sherborne Abbey Bellringers
Fund restricted to the general purposes of the company of ringers.

The designated funds are shown separately to highlight the contribution of each fund. The funds held may be used for any purpose deemed suitable by the trustees.

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds at 31 December 2022
	General	Designated		Permanent	
	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	551,708	-	-	947,280	1,498,988
Fixed asset investments	2,711,002	-	332,910	2,244,386	5,288,298
Current assets	318,535	296,432	71,606	-	686,573
Current liabilities	(66,356)	(7,095)	(4,123)	-	(77,574)
Total net assets	3,514,889	289,337	400,393	3,191,666	7,396,285

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds at 31 December 2021
	General	Designated		Permanent	
	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	551,708	-	-	947,280	1,498,988
Fixed asset investments	2,935,405	-	372,319	2,540,427	5,848,151
Current assets	257,662	316,006	67,093	-	640,761
Current liabilities	(9,529)	(2,288)	(124)	-	(11,941)
Total net assets	3,735,246	313,718	439,288	3,487,707	7,975,959

20 Analysis of net funds

	At 1 January 2022 £	Financing cash flows £	At 31 December 2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	599,248	(9,870)	589,378
Net funds	599,248	(9,870)	589,378

	At 1 January 2021 £	Financing cash flows £	At 31 December 2021 £
Cash at bank and in hand	603,009	(3,761)	599,248
Net funds	603,009	(3,761)	599,248

21 Related party transactions

During the year the charity made the following related party transactions:

Mrs Susan Lee
(Mrs Susan Lee is the wife of the Reverend Martin Lee, a trustee.)
During the year Mrs Lee received remuneration from her employment as the rector's PA amounting to £17,114 (2021 : £2,817)..

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF SHERBORNE WITH CASTL

England & Wales - Charity number 1130082

Accounts

Charity registration number: 1130082



The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

Lanham & Francis
Chartered Accountants
Church House
Church Street
Yeovil
Somerset
BA20 1HB

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

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The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees

Clergy	The Revd Hugh Bonsey	Associate Priest
	The Revd Jane Craw	Team Vicar
	The Revd Martin Lee	Team Rector
	The Revd Lesley McCreadie	Team Vicar
Ex Officio Members	Mrs Sandra Graves	Churchwarden
	Mr David Ferguson	Churchwarden
	Mr Neil Grenyer	Churchwarden
	Mrs Frances Hastings	Churchwarden
	Mr Robert Harris	Churchwarden
	Mr Jonathan Rodd	Churchwarden
Deanery Synod Members	Mr Paul Boyd-Lee	Elected to 2023
	Mr James Craw	Elected to 2023
	Mr Alan Gillard	Elected to 2023
	Mrs Susan Gillard	Elected to 2023
	Mr Michael Keatinge	Elected to 2023
	Mrs Yvonne Libbey	Elected to 2023
Elected Members	Mr David Fifield	Elected to 2022
	Mrs Catherine Graham	Elected to 2022
	Dr Christopher Hamon	Elected to 2022
	Mr David Rayner	Elected to 2022
	Mrs Sue Bradshaw	Elected to 2023
	Dr John Crossman	Elected to 2023
	Mr Michael Hayton	Elected to 2023
	Mrs Jacqueline Baker	Elected to 2024
	Dr John Bradshaw	Elected to 2024
	Mrs Sue Hawkett	Elected to 2024
Co-opted Members	Mrs Joanne Hague	Elected to 2022
	Mr Andrew Horsey	Elected to 2022
	Mr Steve Drew	Elected to 2022

Charity Registration Number 1130082

Principal Office

The Parish Office
3 Abbey Close
Sherborne
Dorset
DT9 3LQ

Auditors

Lanham & Francis
Chartered Accountants
Church House
Church Street
Yeovil
Somerset
BA20 1HB

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Reference and Administrative Details

Bankers and Investment Managers

NatWest Bank plc
2 Hendford
Yeovil
Somerset
BA20 1TN

Lloyds Bank plc
75 Cheap Street
Sherborne
Dorset
DT9 3BD

CAF Bank Limited
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

CCLA Investment Management Limited
Senator House
London
EC4V 4ET

M&G Securities Limited
Laurence Pountney House
London
EC4R 0HH

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Trustees' Report

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The object of the charity is the promotion in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church.

Objectives, strategies and activities

The objectives and strategies of the charity include:

The advancement of the Church of England by means of broadcasting messages of a teaching nature, within our five churches and three parishes.

To see a greater celebration of diversity and a wider integration of all God's people into his family.

The provision of facilities for the celebration of Christian worship. Also, the maintenance and improvement of those facilities for future generations to carry on the Christian traditions.

The maintenance and support of rectors, team vicars and others engaged in charitable works. Special consideration to developing lay ministry across the benefice, encouraging and facilitating greater lay involvement with pastoral care, mission and ministry.

The support of all charitable works carried out within the Sherborne Abbey community.

The continued support of local, national and international organisations engaged in Christian or other philanthropic activity, through our Faith in Action Committee.

Outside of Covid-19 restrictions the Holy Eucharist is offered daily in the Abbey, and at least twice on Sundays. There is at least one service in both Castleton Church and at the Gryphon School - STPAULS@THEGRYPHON - every Sunday. Castleton Church uses only the Book of Common Prayer for the Eucharist and Mattins.

The PCC also has maintenance responsibilities for the Digby Memorial Church Hall, the Sherborne Abbey Shop, 2 Abbey Close and 'The Cottage' at 4 Abbey Close. The PCC rents the Parish Office and 67 Acreman Street from the Sherborne Castle Estates and has a 50/50 Equity Share Agreement with the Diocese for 69 Granville Way, Sherborne.

Fundraising disclosures

The charity benefits from a number of areas, which enable us to raise funds to meet our objectives, namely the Abbey shop, the Church Hall, the music committee and the social committee. We are committed to using these assets to help support our mission, locally and on a wider scale.

The annual Abbey Music Festival has specific objectives to promote music within the parish, with any funds raised being used for that aim, namely the financing of the choir and general music within the Abbey.

Any other specific fundraising requirements will be engaged as necessary.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.
The reports that follow this report are testament to the wide range of activities carried out in the Parish for the benefit of the whole of our community.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Trustees' Report

Trustees and officers
The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Trustees:	The Revd Hugh Bonsey
	The Revd Jane Craw
	The Revd Martin Lee (appointed 17 September 2021)
	The Revd Lesley McCreadie
	Mrs Sandra Graves
	Dr David Ferguson
	Mr Neil Grenyer
	Mrs Frances Hastings
	Mr Robert Harris (appointed 23 May 2021)
	Mr Jonathan Rodd
	Mr Paul Boyd-Lee (appointed 1 January 2022)
	Mr James Craw
	Mr Alan Gillard
	Mrs Susan Gillard
	Mr Michael Keatinge
	Mrs Yvonne Libbey
	Mr David Fifield
	Mrs Catherine Graham
	Dr Christopher Hamon
	Mr David Rayner
	Mrs Sue Bradshaw
	Dr John Crossman (appointed 23 May 2021)
	Mr Michael Hayton
	Mrs Jacqueline Baker (appointed 23 May 2021)
	Dr John Bradshaw (appointed 23 May 2021)
	Mrs Sue Hawkett (appointed 23 May 2021)
	Mrs Joanne Hague (appointed 15 July 2021)
	Mr Andrew Horsey (appointed 23 May 2021)
	Mr Steve Drew (appointed 23 May 2021)
	The Revd Diane Tregale (resigned June 2021
	The Revd Jono Tregale (resigned June 2021)
	Mr Josh Tregale (resigned March 2022)
	Mrs Jennifer Huitson (resigned March 2022)

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton (Sherborne Abbey PCC) is a body corporate established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC's Registered Charity Number is 1130082.

The United Benefice of Sherborne with Castleton and Lillington was created by an Order in Council in 1927. It was further expanded in 2006 with the addition of the Parish of Longburton, which was transferred from the Benefice of Dungeon Hill by a Pastoral Scheme made by the Church Commissioners in pursuance of the Pastoral Measure 1983. The Parishes of Lillington and Longburton retain their own Parochial Church Councils and publish their own Annual Reports.

From 1 December 2016 the Benefice of Sherborne with Castleton, Lillington and Longburton was established as the Sherborne Team Ministry by a Pastoral Scheme made by the Church Commissioners in pursuance of the Pastoral Measure 2011.

In September 2017 St Paul's Church (dedicated in 1957) was designated by the Bishop as a "Parish Centre of Worship" rather than a "Mission Church".

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Trustees' Report

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. A full list of members of the Council is contained in this report.

The PCC operates through a number of committees and working parties between full meetings of the Council. The reports of their work during the year follow this report and should be read as part of this report.

There are many different groups working within the parish for the benefit of church members and the wider community. Their reports, which follow, should also be read as part of this report.

Relationships with related parties

Sherborne Local Ecumenical Partnership
The Parish is a full member of the LEP, operating as Sherborne Churches Together.

Major risks and management of those risks

Risk management
The trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces. This involved prioritising the potential impact and likelihood of occurrence, together with identifying means of mitigation.
The charity continues to develop its policies and procedures to reduce fire and health and safety risk, and train all personnel as appropriate.

Our safeguarding policy continues to develop protection policies for children, young persons and vulnerable adults, and maintains the training of all engaged individuals working within the charity.

Specific importance is placed on events held within the Abbey's community, over and above normal worshipping services, where procedures and detailed insurance are reviewed to mitigate any possible risk areas.

Achievements and performance

Once again, the Covid-19 pandemic has greatly affected the financial results for Sherborne Abbey. Visitor numbers suffered with more lockdowns early in the year, as did parish income in all its forms. Later, the results have improved greatly and we are very pleased, however, income levels are still approximately 30% less than 2019. We hope that normality resumes moving into 2022.

Investment income has been the exception to the norm this year, seeing a very healthy increase in value. This has certainly strengthened our balance sheet at the end of the year, however we should be aware that the economy is still uncertain and there is a distinct possibility that the coming year will see a shift downwards in stock market valuations.

Our largest expense was the Diocesan Share of £196,630. This payment to the diocese is used largely to fund clergy stipends, pensions and housing. This means that some of the cost is effectively returned to the parish in supporting our stipendiary clergy.

Our second largest cost is the annual grant to the Faith and Action Committee amounting to £40,100 this year (2020 £50,000) and represents a tithe of the previous years' giving and investment income of the three churches in the parish.

The Friends of Sherborne Abbey continued to provide funds to cover the cost of several Abbey projects relating to the fabric of the building during this year. Without such financial support, these costs would have fallen upon the parish. The Friends also covered the entire insurance premium for the Abbey of £23,006.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Trustees' Report

2021 saw the end of the interregnum which did impact our parish costs. Housing costs increased as the running costs for the Vicarage were incurred by the parish as well as the improvements that were necessary before the new Rector and his family could move in.

There were costs incurred, in 2021, for technology improvements (to air online services, to offer streaming of funerals) to update the telephone system and update computers in the parish office.

In 2021, we were bequeathed No2 Abbey Close for the use of the parish. This has incurred running costs and will continue to do so although we hope to make full use of the space and beautiful position in 2022.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Trustees' Report

Rector's report

As I write this to you, I am keenly aware that I am still the new boy in town! And as such, there are many gaps in my knowledge of the life of our benefice.

I am, though, clearly aware of the tremendous amount of dedication given to our benefice in such a myriad of ways, and this report provides a wonderful opportunity to not only celebrate the life of our Church in the past year, but also, to express my most sincere thanks for all that you have done and continue to do.

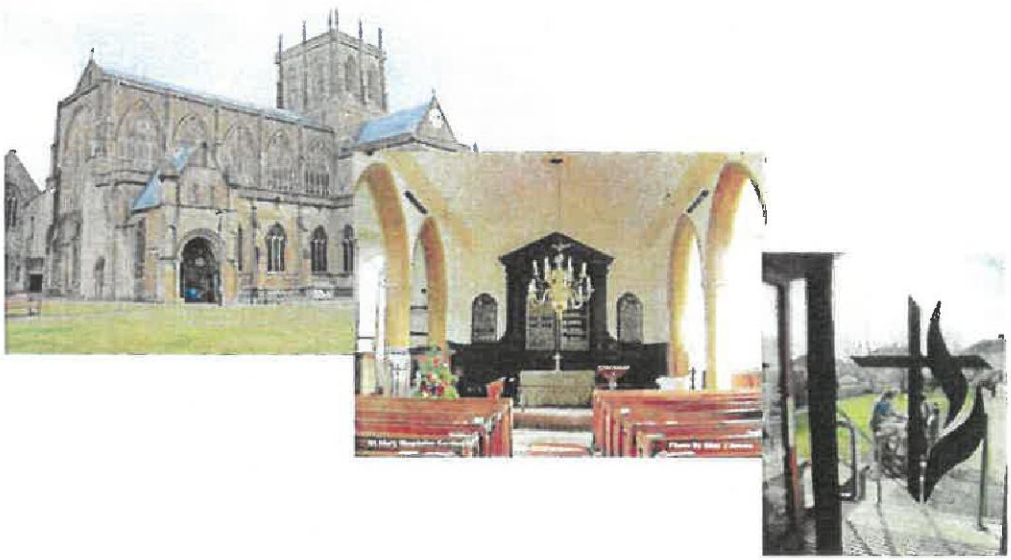
On a more personal note, I am sure that you will want to join me in this, to express our deep sense of gratitude to all our retired priests who have given unstintingly during the past year. I am, of course, mindful that vacancies are never easy, and the burden of this has fallen on our Team Vicars and Retired clergy, our Churchwardens, Vergers and office staff. It is then fitting that we express our sincere thanks to everyone who worked so hard, particularly Lesley and Jane, who did so much during this difficult time.

Sue and I are also very grateful to everyone for the warmth of welcome that we have received as we have moved and begun to settle in this beautiful town. Our heartfelt thanks to everyone.

Whilst an annual report is very much a time to look back and reflect, it is also a time to ponder for a moment on the journey that lies ahead of us. From the many discussions that I have been able to have, I know that there is real excitement and enthusiasm for the future. Not only as we once again start to live in a post covid world, but also to identify some of the exciting challenges that lie ahead. It is a journey that we will take together; as a benefice we endeavour to discern the direction in which God is calling us and how he wants us to serve him and those around us in the community we are fortunate to live.

So to the year ahead, we look forward with enthusiasm and excitement, and I thank God that we will walk this journey together, seeking to grow in understanding of the nature of God's abundant love and the grace he pours upon us as we serve him in the beautiful place.

The Reverend Martin Lee



Trustees' Report

Parish Safeguarding Report

Support and guidance

The PCC is committed to the promotion within the parish of a safe environment for children, young people and adults and to respond promptly to safeguarding concerns or allegations

In 2021 the Church of England continued its review of policies and procedures, following earlier national reports on historic abuse cases. One of the outcomes was that from 2021 all members of PCC's with an annual income of more than £100,000 must hold a Disclosure and Barring Services (DBS) certificate. This is in recognition that the PCC has a managerial oversight of Safeguarding within the Benefice. The PCC has 26 lay members, of whom 10 already held appropriate DBS for other roles. The remaining 16 members received their DBS certificates before the 2021 APCM.

During 2021 all new adult members of the Abbey choir, and Vergers also received DBS on appointment. The four Choral/Organ Scholars here for 2021/2022 have the necessary Safeguarding clearance from their positions at Sherborne School.

Training

In 2021 several members renewed the training appropriate to their roles, in accordance with the requirement to refresh it every 3 years. Most of these renewals were done by online sessions.

There is a national initiative for all PCC members to complete at least the Safeguarding Basic Awareness course. 82% of the current PCC have now taken at least the Basic Awareness course. Several will need to refresh their training in 2022 under the "3 year refresh" rule.

Our thanks go to Cathie Graham for following up training renewals for St Pauls members.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Statistics

The Church of England's "Safer Recruitment" practice guidance defines those roles for which Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) Certificates are required. The CofE policy is that a Certificate must be renewed every 5 years if the holder is still in a role which requires it. Within the Parish the numbers in 2021 were as follows:-

	No of DBS at 1 Jan	Deletions & expiries	Renewals	New DBS	No of DBS at 31 Dec
Abbey	29	(6)	2	18	43
Castleton	-	-	-	3	3
St Paul's	25	(3)	1	6	29
TOTAL	**54**	**(9)**	**3**	**27**	**75**

Notes:

- Deletions includes those no longer in roles, those with roles requiring DBS
- Numbers above EXCLUDE Clergy, Licensed Lay Ministers (LLMs) and Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPAs) for whom records are managed centrally by the Diocese.

In addition to managing Parish DBS applications & renewals, the PSO's also continue to verify applications on behalf of Salisbury Diocese in respect of Clergy /LLMs/LPAs living in the area.

David Rayner, Safeguarding Officer

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Trustees' Report

Sherborne Abbey Churchwardens

2021 marked a new chapter in the life of Sherborne Abbey. On Thursday 16 September, we welcomed The Reverend Martin Lee as our new Team Rector with a service of Institution, Induction and Installation. The Archdeacon of Sherborne and the Bishop of Sherborne were in attendance and it was lovely to be joined by fellow Churchwardens from the Benefice as well as worshippers, members of local community groups and organisations and Martin and Sue's family and friends. After a protracted Vacancy, we were delighted to welcome Martin and we are enjoying his Ministry amongst us. We are indebted to the retired Clergy who helped cover services during the Vacancy, particularly The Revd Canon Charles Mitchell-Innes, The Revd Christopher Huitson and Robert Green. The Team Vicars worked many additional hours during the Vacancy and we must also extend our thanks to them.

As the Covid restrictions were gradually relaxed, we were able to return to our 'normal' pattern of Christmas services. As expected, attendance was lower than in pre-Covid years, but it was lovely to have our Carol Service, The First Eucharist of Christmas and both the Parish Eucharist and Mattins on Christmas Day. A particular highlight was hearing what the children had to say during the Crib Services and the Parish Eucharist!

During 2021, Linda Woods retired as Parish Secretary. We thank her for her dedication and loyal service over many years. Nicola Gilbert succeeded Linda for a few months and we also welcomed Joanna Sams to the Office team who, later in the year, was joined by Sue Lee. After five years, Duncan Withers left as Head Verger having secured a new position in Taunton. Chris Hamon and Graham Winter are currently sharing the role of Head Verger and we appreciate all of their hard work and it has been good to welcome Catherine Zvegintzov to the Vergers team. Sadly, our Honorary Treasurer, Bernard Brown passed away in 2021. Bernard was a great custodian of the Abbey Finances and is much missed. We are immensely grateful to Jo Hague who agreed to take on this mammoth role.

The main fabric concern in 2021 has been the heating system. In January we had a serious leak in the pipework under Church Path. This was efficiently dealt with,but led on to other matters. We removed from the boiler room the long-redundant oil tank. With recognition that the old boiler was living on borrowed time, we set out to replace it, but the project grew. The underfloor heating was installed in 1962 but had been switched off for at least 40 years. Pressure testing and a short trial suggested that it had simply been unnecessary. We are now using this, with the boiler running at much lower temperature and the main units used as a secondary source. In accordance with the Church of England mandate to regard electricity as zero-carbon energy, we developed a scheme to add a set of air-source heat pumps. They will be installed on the roof of the north quire aisle this summer, at the same time as new and much more efficient boilers. The overall result will be to use less gas but more electricity.

Implementation of the Fire Safety review has been slow in the light of Covid restrictions. Marshalling and control of the very large assemblies is to be addressed with training in first-aid, emergency evacuation management and basic fire-fighting. Modest fire compartmentation works should be implemented in 2022. Fire and Emergency Safety recommendations for the much simpler context of our other churches and the Digby Memorial Hall will also be addressed to bring key people up to a base level in training as above. This will also cover the Sherborne Festival staff where the responsibility for emergency management rests with them.

Discussions continued on measures to upgrade the anchorages and other provisions for safe working at high level. We still have no satisfactory answer for access to the roof of the north nave aisle where the roof space contains electrical and fire alarm equipment.

Recognising that the 2010 light bulbs are no longer in production, we have spoken with three lighting contractors with a view to replacing with Light Emitting Diodes (LED). As the control system is becoming unreliable and some areas are clearly under-lit, we anticipate a major upgrade to the lighting system.

Looking ahead, we are developing two major projects. The first would create tea rooms in the ground floor of the Shop and the adjacent property in the Close. The second will address the old chestnut of toilets in the Abbey, for which all options are being studied. The bold course would provide a substantial new wing with a room for meetings and information display, and much improved premises for the Shop.

We are blessed to have a great team of people, both paid staff and volunteers, who help to ensure that the Abbey runs smoothly. There are too many to mention here but please know that your efforts are appreciated by us all. We look forward to 2022 and the return of the Music Festival and a production of Oliver which will involve children from local schools.

David Ferguson and Jonathan Rodd, Churchwardens

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Trustees' Report

Castleton Churchwardens

Re-reading our report for 2020, I am strongly reminded of what effect Covid had on all our lives in 2020 and of what we lost as a result. January 2021 saw us all in lockdown and it was not till the 14th March that Castleton was able to open again for worship. Seating was spaced out to fulfil regulations, masks were worn, and hands sanitized; it was a joy to be back together again. Whilst our church was closed and indeed beyond, Rev Jane Craw sent out uplifting services over the internet for us all for worship at home, with a spoken sermon and links to the Venite, Te Deum and Jubilate. Here in Castle Cary, we sat round our table, with a lit candle, and at the usual time of 11am followed either Mattins or Holy Communion in our prayer books, and with sung hymns, our less than strong voices swelled by versions found on YouTube. It was not the same as being in Castleton, but it maintained our sense of fellowship that there were others of our congregation doing the same in their homes.

With restrictions eased, thus we found ourselves in church for Mothering Sunday and were able to give out the posies in celebration: spring flowers and roses, with a hope for a better, Covid free future for us all in the year ahead. As it turned out, it was a series of ups and downs and the virus was with us for the whole year, turning our lives on their heads. Easter took place at the very beginning of April, and the team of flower arrangers sprang into action to fill the church with white and yellow blooms. Our services were well attended, and it was with joy we were able to raise Alleluias in memory of Christ's resurrection, sadly spoken and not sung.

Good news followed: Robert Harris came forward to be church warden and at our AGM, was given a resounding vote of approval, followed by the same at the APCM. The Visitation was held in person during 2021, and as the two wardens, we attended the service in Dorchester in the Summer, thus becoming officially elected for the year.

On a lovely sunny day, we celebrated our Patronal Festival. The Reverend Lesley McCreadie preached the sermon around St. Mary Magdalene, and James Craw was available and came to Castleton to sing for us. After Fellowship drinks on the grass outside the West door, and with the weather set fair, we were able to entertain Lesley and Stuart to lunch, in the garden in Castle Cary to conform to regulations. Not in time but the very next day, on the 19th July, regulations were lift and we were all once again allowed to sing in church. It was with great joy that the following Sunday we were able to raise our voices with Psalms and Hymns.

There was more good news at the end of August, and Mark Prideaux re-joined us as verger. He had been sorely missed and it was a wonderful help to have him back on board again.

We again held a Fellowship Sunday in August, and shortly afterwards were able to welcome Rev Martin Lee and his wife, Sue, when they moved to life in Sherborne as our new Rector, ahead of being installed in September. On the 10th October, we held further Fellowship outside after a lovely service of Holy Communion when we welcomed them to our church on the occasion of Martin Lee's first service with us.

Remembrance Sunday fell on the 14th November, and we held our special service in memory of the fallen. Once again, the gardens of remembrance were put in place at the back of the church, with a row of wooden crosses outside the West door placed by the congregation to remember family and friends who had lost their lives. Katrina Evans hauntingly played the Last Post and Reveillé on her trumpet. We will never forget them and what we owe to their sacrifice of life.

The year ended with Christmas celebrations, when Castleton was filled to capacity and it was wonderful to see our church once again filled with families and excited children in memory of Christ's birth.

During the year, our team of flower arrangers have filled our church with wonderful arrangements on Sundays with a pulpit pedestal, and on festivals with a range of displays. Castleton's hardworking committee and team of volunteers make the church run smoothly: the team of sides men and gate welcomers, bell ringers, our longstanding organist, John Mathew, Mark Prideaux, our verger, and our Team Vicar, Jane Craw. A huge thanks go to them. All those who come to our services contribute to make Castleton church what it is, with it's warm fellowship, and we would like to say a huge thank you to each and every one of them.

Frances Hastings and Robert Harris, Churchwardens
St. Mary Magdalene, Castleton

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Trustees' Report

St Paul's Churchwardens

2021 has been an eventful year in the life of St Paul's, like many churches Covid -19 impacted on the style and shape of our ministry. We started the year with live services at 9am alternating between Holy Communion and Celtic Prayer, and a pre-recorded service at 10.30am which was preceded by a zoom coffee morning. The coffee morning was a great way of keeping connected and it was amazing how people rose to the challenge even our members in their nineties! Many of us gained an appreciation of technology as we engaged in life groups and prayer meetings via zoom.

Easter brought a move back to our regular 10.30am service, which thanks to our technical team was able to be accessed live on You Tube. This enabled those who were still anxious about social mixing or had to remain shielding, to engage in the service as it was happening. Over the summer term a measured return of some of our groups took place with Tea and Chat taking place in the church garden when the weather permitted and limited numbers of our Tums Tots and Tinies allowed to return.

In June we said goodbye to the Tregale family after 10 years of Jono serving as our vicar and Diane as Chaplin of the Gryphon school. Sadly, the pandemic didn't allow a church party but a small number of us were able to get together to mark the occasion with a barbecue, and the weather was kind! We will miss them but wish them joy in their new ministry together in St Paul's St Albans, we were delighted that a good number of us were able to attend their induction in September.
June also saw the departure of our youth worker Hannah to pastures new, we were very blessed having Hannah who worked hard to engage with our young people in the difficult circumstances of lockdown. Not only did she work within the church family she was a great support to Diane in her ministry in school. We hope in the future when life returns to some semblance of normality, that once again we as a church may support a youth worker, who will work across the church, school and the wider community.

In September to everyone's delight all of our usual groups were able to restart, and a church away day was held in Cerne Abbas, which was well supported. This was an opportunity to share fellowship and look back over the last 10 years, we looked at our journey during Jono and Diane's ministry, the challenges of the Covid pandemic and our vision moving forward. We were delighted that Martin our new Team Rector and his wife Sue were able to join us for lunch on the day. Subsequently many of us joined in his service of induction in the Abbey and the celebration afterwards.
As the year drew to a close, we returned for Sunday worship from the Gryphon school to our church building in the St Paul's estate for a 3 week period due to restrictions imposed by the school. It proved a delight to be back worshipping in the community we serve, the fact that restrictions had eased sufficiently to allow us to raise our voices in worship made the joy palpable. During this period, we held our first community event since the start of the pandemic, 'Community Crafts & Carols' was well supported and enjoyed by all the local families who attended.

As we look forward to 2022, we have much to be thankful for, a wonderful pastoral team who have cared and kept us connected as a church family, our vibrant life groups, the generosity of our congregation not only financially but in the giving of their time and talents. Our particular thanks go to the committee, Andrew (our lay chair), Sarah our church administrator and all those who have stepped up and taken on extra responsibilities during this time of interregnum.

We enter an exciting phase of our journey, as the benefice led by our Team Rector moves to engage more widely within the local community. We prayerfully hope that God will send us the person we need as our Team Vicar to lead us forward.

Sandra & Neil (Church Wardens)

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Trustees' Report

Bible Study

Ecumenical Bible Study

Our two bible study groups have continued to meet throughout 2021, by Zoom, in person and sometimes both! We study a different bible book each term, concentrating on understanding the passages and applying them in our lives. We accompany our study with prayer for a wide range of issues. Members take turns to lead our sessions. During the year we studied the Epistle to the Galatians, parts of Ezekiel and Matthew 5 - 10.

In July in compliance with the Covid rules at the time we held an open air service of communion, led by Rev Hugh Bonsey. The weather was very kind. Just before omicron struck we were able to hold a very pleasant Christmas get-together but we do look forward to normal service during 2022!

We have welcomed a number of new members and look forward to others joining us too. Do contact me if interested. john.crossman@btinternet.com

John Crossman

Life Groups

St Paul's Church continues to be blessed with seven life groups, meeting on various days and at various times, some weekly, some fortnightly.

A number of groups include members from churches other than St. Pauls. The life groups study the bible, using various study guides, have fellowship and pray together. We are most grateful to the leaders who all give of their time so willingly to facilitate this vital life-enriching ministry among us. In particular we would like to express our gratitude to Dr Huw and Mrs Claire Ridgeway who have dedicated many years to running life groups but are now taking a well-earned break.

Natalie and Adrian Morgan have taken temporary oversight of the groups during the vacancy and can be contacted by anyone wishing to join a group, via the St Paul's Church office. admin@spcsherborne.co.uk.

St Paul's @ The Gryphon "Cosmic" (Sunday School) and Creche

We were delighted to resume face-to-face contact with our COSMIC children ("Children on Sunday Meeting in Church") and young people from the end of April, having not met together as a group for a year. During lockdown, we were able to keep in contact with the younger children via online resources, and by hand delivering cards and gifts at festival times (Christmas and Easter). We also did this at the beginning of the Autumn term, as the children returned to school after such a long time distance-learning from home. Our teenage groups met online throughout lockdown, monthly for our younger teenagers and twice a week for our older teenagers.

Since April, with the exception of the monthly All Age Services and other special seasonal All Age Services, COSMIC has met every Sunday morning at StPauls@TheGryphon. We currently have 15 on the register. Since September we have run two groups: Rockets (Reception to year 4) and Excel (years 5-8). Members of Excel also meet on a Sunday afternoon, three times a term, at leaders'/parents' homes, for games, a Christian message/discussion and food. On a Sunday morning we use the Scripture Union 'Light' programme, which enables everyone to follow the same topic, but in an age appropriate way. From time-to-time members of COSMIC take part in the monthly All Age services and most of the children and young people took a role in this year's Nativity Service.

We were blessed to be able to work with Hannah Levitt who joined us in September 2020 as our Youth Trainee. Hannah is on a Youth Training and Degree Programme with South West Youth Ministries (SWYM). Hannah left us in the summer to continue her training in Liskeard, Cornwall.

Kim Dunning

St Paul's Church Community Groups

Tea and Chat 2021

Tea & Chat is a group for over 60's. We meet every Monday afternoon between 2 & 4pm at St Paul's Church (except for August & a couple of weeks around Christmas & Easter. However, for most of 2020 & 2021 we have only been able to meet in small groups outside or inside when allowed, when we have enjoyed catching up with each other over tea and cake.

We had a full programme of events in the spring of 2020 and then again in the autumn of 2021. The group started in November 2007 and has a health & activity focus. On average 15 - 20 people attend.

We begin each meeting with a cup of tea or coffee & then once a fortnight Norma Purnell leads us in an hour of line dancing. On the alternate weeks we participate in a variety of activities, in 2021:

- We have games afternoons with cards, beetle drives & board games.
- The ukulele band came to entertain and great fun was had by all.
- We have heard fascinating & entertaining talks about the Yeovil Hospital Radio with Roger Cowley and life at No. 10 in the 60's and early 70's with Meredith Christopher.
- We did chair exercises with Connie and Carol, who came to show us how to make a beautiful floral arrangement
- We've had a go at making Christmas decorations for the table with candles, foliage & baubles, and sang carols with Peter at the piano.

We conclude our afternoons with a second cuppa & a delicious slice of cake, supplied by Jo Osment of Sherborne WI.

Every week we have books to borrow, a jigsaw puzzle to have a go at. And there is always a word search or quiz to get the brain cells working.

I am helped in the kitchen by Becky Brake, Pat Batten & Anthony Henry.

We charge £2/week. Do come and join us, we'd love to see you.

We'd also love to hear from you if you would like to come and speak to us about what you do or an adventure you've been on, or if you have photos or newspaper cuttings for the St Paul's archive.

Sarah Fricker

Tums, Tinies and Tots

The last 2 years have been challenging for Tums, Tinies and Tots. We closed the doors back in March 2020 and didn't re-start until June 2021. During the lockdowns we sent out 4 mailings to the children who had been to the group in the term before lockdown 1. Each time 45 envelopes were posted or hand delivered in Sherborne containing all the bits and pieces for a craft activity to do at home.

In June 2021 we re-opened with a shorter session of free play, with a craft activity available for the whole hour. We offered hot drinks but no snack time, to avoid gathering around a table. To begin with we had 4 families attend, but gradually word spread and more families returned. In September we extended the session to 2 hours and we now have between 10 & 15 families per week, many with new babies! The children are really benefitting from the social interaction.

Everyone is welcome to the whole session, which starts at 10am. Tea/Coffee and toast is offered until 10.30am when the Mothers Union Ladies in the kitchen have a break from serving to prepare the snacks for later.

The morning continues with a themed craft activity offered from 11am, in the autumn term of 2021 the theme was counting. Snack time follows for the children and the adults and after further free play the session ends with 30 minutes of singing and story time. At the end of the summer term, we held the session outside with a bouncy castle.

The leaders and helpers, whilst providing peer support, as well as a shoulder to lean on when needed, continue to encourage the families to speak to their health visitors if they have any concerns about their children. More volunteers are always being sought to help spread the work, (this can be from half an hour to all morning), and so if anyone is interested in joining the group please do get in touch.

We regularly pass on baby and toddler clothing plus toys and equipment to families in need, so donations are always gratefully received at the St Paul's Church Office.

Thanks, as always, must go to all the volunteers who help before, during and after the session, to the Sherborne Mothers Union volunteers who work in the kitchen every week providing hot drinks, toast and healthy snacks throughout the morning.

As TTT enters its sixteenth year we give thanks to God for all the families that have passed through St Paul's doors since it first started and we place the continued success of the group into His hands. We always value prayer for the group especially on Wednesday mornings during term time.

Sarah Fricker

Meet and Eat Lunches 2021

Cooking of lunches obviously came to a halt over lockdown but we were pleased to be able to provide meals again from June. We continued into the summer, longer than we would have done normally, as everyone was enjoying sharing food and chat again. We started the new term at the end of September and nearly all of our regular attendees returned, with social distancing observed and mask-wearing when possible. We have had to restrict the number of people to each table, but it doesn't seem to have made a difference to the volume of conversation. Our price remains at £4 a head for two courses, despite rising food prices. A huge thank-you to all the members of our team who worked hard at each session to ensure that everyone received a hot and tasty meal during a difficult time.

Hester Greenstock
Jill Thorley

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Trustees' Report

Sherborne Deanery Synod

In the Deanery Synod there are 42 Churches divided into 4 Benefices: Melbury, Three Valleys, Sherborne and Queen Thorne. We met by Zoom last year but look forward to meeting together in Trent in April 2022. We have built on the Deanery plan of mission, worship, support and getting to know each other better. Following Parish interviews which highlighted imaginative ways to serve and engage with their communities, Phillipa Toulson interviewed 3 Rural Rectors who shared their journeys of faith and calling. We continue supporting Richard Kirlew, as Rural Officer for Dorset, who works with 3 Chaplains in this ministry by coming alongside farmers, rural workers and their families and supporting them through very challenging times from Brexit to ELMS with all the anxieties of finance to isolation. He has been involved in a video for the General Synod about Chaplaincy and the Deanery seeks to raise funds so he can continue this supportive work.

We support Ezo Province in South Sudan where their new Bishop Isaac was Installed this year. They take a keen interest in our meetings and pray for us as we meet. The Masumba Primary School of 786 pupils are taught by 11 teachers and 110 nursery school children are taught by 2 teachers! The school closed for a time owing to Covid. There is also a clinic and Theological College. The target for our Christmas Appeal was to raise £3,500 for basic teaching materials, solar panels to drive teaching displays and equipment for the garden and to ward off wild animals. It's not too late to make donations: atomkins@gmailcom

In April 2021 we enjoyed a presentation by Brother Hugh from Hilfield Friary on Eco Church, which has been awarded Gold under the Rocha scheme. Hilfield celebrated its Centenary in 2021 with events, which could be viewed on their web site. Longburton has gained the Bronze award. The Abbey is very aware of eco issues, especially when considering the new heating system. These matters were a good celebration of Bishop Nicolas who retired in the summer of 2021. Synod members were asked for their views on the attributes they would like to see in a new Bishop and we are delighted and thankful that Dean Stephen Lake has been chosen as our new Bishop, especially as he was a Curate in Sherborne and a Priest in Poole.

In June David Pain, Diocesan Secretary, presented a talk about Diocesan Finances. He asked "How can we be more effective?" Lay ministry should be encouraged. Covid had resulted in a projected £2M deficit. The sale of some Salisbury properties and other economies would be made. The "Generous Giving" video was shown. The effects of Covid were also reflected in our financial reports throughout the year, where it was noted that some rural parishes find it extremely difficult to meet the Parish Share. Mike Keatinge pointed out that as the majority of the Parish Share was spent on Clergy and their housing, it should be renamed "Ministry Fund" and this was noted. We were reassured that Clergy reductions will not affect the Sherborne Deanery.

Jono and Diane Tregale left for St Albans Diocese in the summer of 2021. In October we welcomed the Rev Martin Lee, who had been appointed Team Rector of Sherborne. The Rev Hilary Bond gave an account of how she had been called to join Christian Climate Action and how, on a demonstration, she was able to engage in debate with those who disagreed with that organisation's actions. She pointed out that Jesus as an activist. Questions and comments followed; it was recognised that environmental issues should be high on personal and community agendas. There was ambivalence about what form activism should take that did not either divert attention from or harm the cause.

An article from The Economist, "Go Forth and Multiply More", was discussed. It set out challenges for the church as to membership, use of buildings and parish life, presenting itself to a wider audience. Discussion points on the article were that the Archbishops supported "traditional" parishes and there was no plan to reduce parishes by stealth. Clergy are charged with "the Cure of all souls" i.e. all the population. Churches should not look inwards. It is hoped that General Synod will not merely 'take sides' but work towards Mission in reaching out through clergy and lay people; being a Christian presence by actions and behaviour, perhaps in an existing non-church organisation, and engaging people beyond the church building.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

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Deanery Synod members had the opportunity to vote for candidates to the General Synod. Many candidates were standing under the banner of "Save the Parishes" and it was recognised that there had been some varying views. They were not reassured by the Archbishops' statement that rural parishes were not under threat of closure. Six Lay members were elected to the General Synod from the Diocese.

We have regular up-dates on Safeguarding from David Rayner to whom we are tremendously grateful. We also have reports from our Representatives on the Diocesan Synod.

Our Lay Chairman, Andrew Graham, drew up a questionnaire as to how the Deanery Plan was working. Responses were mixed but he felt Synod was a useful body for keeping parishes informed and sharing expertise and knowledge. It was felt that Synod would like to mark the Queen's Platinum Anniversary. Holnest held a Rural Activities Day and Countryside Activity Day in partnership with Future Roots; such events are open to all and could bring parishes and people closer together. The Sherborne Deanery Synod web site has details of such events. Two-way communication between PCC, Deanery and Diocesan Synods is the key and should be an enriching experience.

Yvonne Libbey

Photos of ECSS Masumbu Primary School, Ezo, South Sudan







Trustees' Report

Faith in Action Committee (FIAC) 2021

FIAC is the sub-committee of the Parochial Church Council responsible for handling our giving, especially our support for charities, run by both Christian and secular organisations, (locally, nationally and internationally), and missions, which further our Christian witness and demonstrate our love and support for people in need. The parish allocates ten percent of its income to this purpose. We are responsible for evaluating applications, identifying suitable organisations to support, making donations, and building links, partnerships, and understanding with those we support. We keep the parish informed through news sheets and pew sheets.

We do this by supporting organisations in the neighbourhood, nationally and internationally. FIAC has long-standing relationships with organisations at local, national and international level, making donations to support them, and supporting others engaged in Christian or other philanthropic activity, and individuals in need.

The fact that we can be so generous, even in a time of financial constraint is down to the loyal and generous giving of our church members as well as the immense work done by staff and volunteers creating income, especially through the Abbey and shop.

Our grant this year was £40,000: 80% of the 2020 figure. For nearly all charities the past two years have been extremely difficult for fund-raising. Despite the efforts during the early pandemic, overall support for the sector has fallen (mainly due to the cancellation of fund-raising events) while demand for services has increased substantially. We therefore made the decision to continue to support all those whom we have regularly supported. In the case of major partners such as CMS we kept support at our 2020 levels; for the rest we reduced it by 20%

Our total giving for the calendar year was £48,976. The excess over income results from the decision to limit our reserves to no more than 15% of our annual grant. In 2020 this was £7,500 falling to £6,000 for 2021. At the end of the year we hold £11,737, with £6,000 of that identified as reserves and the rest to be distributed before the next grant in the later part of 2022. The classification of our donations is within PCC guidelines.

Some of the £11,737 is earmarked. SHARES (Sherborne Area Refugee Support) have ongoing needs for example. The committee has also ensured that the Rector has access to discretionary funding as was previously the case.

In Uganda, we support the missionary work of Helen Kisakye who works predominantly educating young girls, and we have also given donations to the training of nurses in Covid procedures, as well as a donation to the Nsumbi Trust for the Stephen Jota Centre. Internationally we give most support to South Sudan, a country where the World Bank estimates over 82% of the population are living in extreme poverty and mean life expectancy is just 57.3 years. We support an excellent model school, a training college and also give to the Salisbury Diocese Sudan general fund and its related medical link.

We continued our support for St Saviour's Church, Riga, Latvia, with whom we have a long and close relationship. Again this year we supported their soup kitchen and Senior's Klub.

Nationally we support charities including USPG, Good News for Everyone (formerly The Gideons), the Church Army, the Church Homeless Trust and the Farming Community Network, some of whom have activities locally as well. Church Army were deprived of our funds in 2020, Barclays Bank took the money from us but lost the audit trail and despite considerable pressure refused to compensate them: they lost over £20,000 and so we felt it right to repeat our payment. We are still awaiting a refund from Barclays.

Trustees' Report

Locally we support smaller charities that are doing excellent work. Yeovil Street Pastors resumed duties in the Autumn - a particular difficult mission during the pandemic. There remains a huge need to support young people in Sherborne and we support SAYCC (Tinney's), RendezVous and Future Roots working in this field. We have given also to Pilsdon House and Footprints (resettling offenders). One interesting case is Church Action on Poverty, CAP, who help people to plan and negotiate their way out of debt. They now have a volunteer working in Sherborne.

In January 2021 we gave money to help the Abbey Primary School's appeal to provide laptops to pupils who did not have them for use while school was closed and they were learning from home. They were very well used and continue to be useful in school and for home working.

In 2020 we paid over £2,000 to the Gryphon School to bring the Diocese of Manchester "God and the Big Bang" programme into the school, encouraging young people to see that religion and science are compatible. The evaluation of these sessions has been very positive. This year we encouraged the school to raise funds itself by offering matched funding so our contribution fell to £1,300 and they were able to raise the rest against our promise.

Our Lent projects for 2021 were St Saviour's soup kitchen and Future Roots at Holnest both of which operated throughout lockdowns. We expected our appeal to yield less during lockdown and had allocated resources from our reserves, but parishioners responded magnificently, raising a near record amount! Like many other bodies we had to adapt and much of our income came from responses to an email appeal linked to a YouTube promotional video and the ability to donate online.

Harvest also saw high levels of giving and we sent £2,000 to the Diocesan Sudan Medical Fund. We also emailed out lists of those to whom we give and encouraged individuals to consider making extra donations at this tough time We extend our heartfelt thanks to all those who responded to the Lent, Harvest and email appeals, which enabled the parish to further support these excellent causes.

In 2022 we are reviewing all those to whom we give and are considering making bigger donations to fewer regulars and supporting smaller charities, start-ups, and making our money work harder.

John Crossman
Chair Faith in Action Committee

Donations International	**£**
Church Mission Society for Helen Kisakye Mission Partner	5,000
Jerusalem and the Middle East Church Association	720
Juba Diocesan Model Secondary School, South Sudan	1,000
Latvia St Saviour's Church, Riga (£2,500 soup kitchen, £1,000 Seniors' Klub)	3,500
Latvia - Lent appeal (see also below)	2,950
Leprosy Mission	720
Minds of Good Health South Africa	500
Nsumbi Trust, Uganda (Children's Centre)	1,000
Ruach, Nicaragua	400
Salisbury Diocese - Sudan General Fund	2,000
Salisbury Diocese - Bishop Allison Training College, South Sudan	1,000
Sudan Medical Link (Nurse trtaining for Covid)	1,700
Sudan Medical Link (top up harvest donations)	40
USPG	2,000
TOTAL	**22,530**

Donations National	**£**
Bible Society	900
Children's Society	720
Church Army (inc £900 from previous year)	1,620
Church Homeless Trust	320
Farming Community Network	800
Family Counselling Trust	800
Good News for Everyone (formerly The Gideons)	880
Stable Family Homes Trust	800
TOTAL	**6,840**

Donations Local	**£**
Christians Against Poverty	1,000
Dorset Historic Churches Trust	500
Footprints (supporting ex-offenders)	800
Future Roots (including Lent appeal £2,950)	5,050
God and the Big Bang (matched funding)	1,300
Julia's House (children's hospice)	720
Pilsdon Community	720
RendezVous Sherborne	2,100
SAYCC (Tinneys Youth Centre)	2,100
Sherborne Area Schools Trust (laptops)	2,200
Sherborne Food Bank (including £500 Covid donation)	800
Sherborne Parish Shop - books for Abbey School leavers	116
Weldmar Hospice	1,800
Yeovil Street Pastors	400
TOTAL	**19,606**

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Trustees' Report

The Abbey Shop

After a slow start to the year due to Covid restrictions that kept the Abbey and Shop closed for long periods, sales began to pick up. A Tim Biles book and the fifth Barton Mystery by Rosie Lear have proved good sellers. Up until last June the Abbey Shop only accepted cash and cheque payments, this was really affecting sales as people just did not want to handle money. After some careful thought and looking at various card machines I purchased 'Sum Up' for the shop. It has been a revelation as around 80% of the shop sale transactions are done by card. The first three months we took £900 by card payment, I would guess that at least one third of this would not have happened using cash/cheque only. The book stall is still a very important part of the operation as visitors just simply bring goods over and pay at the shop by card if they wish to. The Guardians are very helpful in encouraging people to do this and pointing them in the right direction.

A disappointing decision with Covid restrictions meant that the Cathedral Express Steam Train Carol Service did not run, I gather it is booked for December of this year.

Christmas Cards- We completely sold out of them all, I think people just felt the need to send a card to friends and relatives at this special time. We had a couple of new lines for the shop this Christmas - Glass tree baubles, festive plum, sticky toffee and lemon puddings, all have been popular and sold well.

Thanks to all the shop volunteers who help keep things going especially during the long winter months when it is very quiet.

Philip Prout, Shop Manager

Digby Memorial Church Hall

Once again it has not been an easy year beginning with yet another lockdown, they are beginning to blur into one!

This one lasted until the 17th May when we, tentatively, opened up for exercise classes, under the same strict protocols as before. Many thanks to all those concerned for their continued diligence and support with this.
The U3As and other lecture groups did not return until September but have enjoyed a fairly full program since.

Saturday Markets/Fairs etc. did not really return, but we did hold 2 Book Fairs in October and November and the Christmas Festive Shopping Day, all went well, despite some apprehensions.

The big news is that we now have a Hall Committee and have met twice this year. During the first meeting Phil Prout and Sylvia Brick were, at last, able to formally step down. We thank them both for the service they have given the hall over many years. We now have a new committee and would like to thank Jo Hague for stepping forward as Treasurer and Julie-Ann Soul for taking on the mantle of Secretary. The main thing on our agenda, at present, is to implement the various recommendations of the Quinquennial Report which will also include updating the Fire Alarm System. Work will be carried out through 2022.

The other big news is that the hall now has Wi Fi very much welcomed by everyone, thank you.

So we look forward to 2022.....

Marcus Bray, Manager

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Trustees' Report

Education Officer

Once again this year our work with children has been limited by what we have been able to do under Covid regulations.

Open the Book
Unfortunately, we have not been able to get back into schools with this initiative because both our primary schools have not been holding whole school assemblies. Assemblies are of course still taking place but in smaller groups. Our Open the Book teams are becoming a little depleted and we will need to look to recruit new volunteers before we can run a similar programme in both our primary schools in the future. We were able to hold a Harvest Festival at The Abbey School just before yet another set of restrictions came into play.

Abbey Trails
The Abbey Trails continue to be very well enjoyed by younger visitors to The Abbey and I am very grateful to Chris Hamon for ensuring there are always adequate stocks available, updated and new trails devised.

School and Group visits
Despite the difficulties of Covid we have been able to welcome school groups to the Abbey. A group from Leweston Pre-prep were hosted by Sally and Phil Prout and really enjoyed their visit. My thanks to Phil and Sally. We have had visits from both Sherborne Abbey Primary School and Sherborne Primary and I took 'The Abbey' into Sherborne Primary School when staff off sick with Covid meant they couldn't visit us!

It was pleasing to run a zoom meeting with our local Beaver Colony earlier in the year and then to welcome them in person in November. They very much enjoyed their visit with us especially hearing about 'the fire!'.

Unfortunately, we were not able to hold the Sherborne Abbey School Leavers' Service in the Abbey at the end of the summer term, but I did lead the service outside in the grounds of the school. It was a wonderful celebration of our young peoples' achievements. We were able to give them a copy of Mark's gospel and a Moving Up book.

Sherborne Primary School were able to hold their Carol Service in The Abbey and it was a real pleasure to be asked to officiate at this service. Wonderful singing, great readings; a night to remember.

As honorary Anglican chaplain of Leweston School I have been able to lead one assembly this year where I was able to speak to the young people about Confirmation classes to begin in 2022. I was also pleased to be able to give the Blessing at their Carol Service in The Abbey.

On reflection 2021 has been a better year for us in terms of our schools' work, but we look forward to being able to offer a fuller programme in 2022.

Revd Lesley McCreadie - Sherborne Abbey Education Officer



Sherborne Abbey Leavers' Service

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Trustees' Report

Sherborne Abbey Mother's Union

Membership at the end of 2021 - 34.
Committee: Chaplain, Lesley McCreadie. Secretary, Jo Higgs. Treasurer, Marilyn Davies.
Three other members.

Activities were limited due to Covid restrictions. We would normally have had a full programme of meetings on the 4th Friday of each month. The first event however was our Summer lunch held in the Digby Church Hall in July (observing Covid rules). This was followed by our monthly meetings in September, October, and November. In December we enjoyed our Carol service in the Lady Chapel followed, in the ambulatory, by coffee and mince pies and the making of Christingles for the service on Sunday December 12th. At this gathering we welcomed officially and enrolled three new members of which one was our Rector's wife. Sadly, one long term member, Gwen Hooper had died in November.

Mothering Sunday occurred during strict Covid restrictions and we therefore distributed daffodils at the Abbey door on the day instead of the usual "posies" prepared on the Friday before. This was well received and may become the pattern for the future.

Spring and Autumn Councils were held on Zoom.

As restrictions were lifted we were able to help, once again, at Tums Tots and Tinies at St.Paul's, and participate in the Christmas Tree Festival at Cheap Street Church.
The MU board in the Abbey has been kept up to date, once the Abbey was opened up following Covid closure, with excellent displays prepared by Elizabeth Prichard.

We look forward to the year ahead.

Jo Higgs
M.U. Secretary

The Social Committee

The Shrove lunch in February 2020 raised £500 for the Lent projects of that year. Our next scheduled task was to provide refreshments in May to celebrate the Revd Christopher Huitson's golden anniversary as a priest. By then, however, we were in lockdown and his party/gathering was held virtually instead.

Towards the end of lockdown the Country Market took the decision to cease trading after more than fifty years because of the dwindling number of volunteers. Some of us miss the trek to the Hall on Thursday mornings to buy home-grown and made produce- a favourite of mine were the Easter simnel cakes made by stalwart of the Market Jo Osment. Their departure enabled the Committee to move much of its equipment to a locked room behind the stage that had been allocated to them. In the last few years various items, including all the saucepans, had been stolen by people wandering into the kitchen unobserved.

There was a gap of more than eighteen months between the Shrove lunch and our next event, a party on 16 September 2021 following the induction of the Revd Martin Lee as Rector. The Hall was packed with about 250 people, judging by the number of glasses washed, many of whom had travelled from afar. But there was ample finger food, provided by parishioners and the Committee, as well as generous supplies of wine- so much so that younger visitors, some of whom were staying in the Vicarage, took a lot of persuasion to depart!

A couple of weeks later more than 60 people enjoyed the Harvest lunch which raised £250 for the Sudan Medical Link.

Although Pack Monday Fair was revived in October, the Committee decided not to host our usual cafe which brings in funds to support our activities during the year. With the Hall full for much of the day, requiring numerous volunteers, we were reluctant to risk spreading Covid.

The year ended in December with lunch for more than 30 members of the Band of the Rifles before their performance in the Abbey.

Members of the Committee are generous with time and provisions to ensure that people enjoy the various social activities. We are always eager to recruit new members.

Professor Bob Eccleshall, Chairman.

Trustees' Report

Director of Music's Report

2021 turned out to be almost as unusual for the Abbey Choir as was 2020. Various different government regulations relating to Covid saw the choristers returning to Zoom rehearsals in January, whilst alternating groups of six adult singers from the 'back rows' sang for the Eucharists on Sunday mornings - and YouTube services, of course, continued as before Christmas. Thankfully, the opportunity to record a 'bank' of hymns 'live' in the Abbey during December 2020, whilst it was permitted, had not been missed, and so the need for individual mobile phone recordings - a major staple of the Abbey's choral music throughout 2020 - became much less frequent. In any case, by Passion Sunday 2021 the Abbey Choir had completed a full year's worth of recordings one way or another.

Easter Day involved just one choral service, with a reduced choir, but the end of restrictions was in sight, we thought, and so YouTube services ceased to be created and 'broadcast' in late April. Then another change in regulations made it possible for the [paid] choristers, but not the 'back rows', to return to 'live' singing in the summer term - not long after Easter - and from the end of May the long awaited return of Evensong on Sunday evenings was a real joy for all, even if it meant that the choristers had to learn new repertoire to sing on their own. It had turned out to be yet another strange period, following government announcements, when only paid singers were permitted to sing in churches and, because our 'back rows' are unpaid volunteers, we were not permitted to have a full Abbey Choir. This was at a time when cathedrals and abbeys who paid their choirs enjoyed a return to full choral singing - albeit socially distanced choral music.

All restrictions were eased in time for the summer holidays, though, so the full Abbey Choir returned on an occasional basis, throughout the six week summer break, to sing for the quite significant number of weddings that had been transferred from the previous year. Repertoire, in addition to the Rutter favourites, frequently included Zadok the Priest and Parry's I was glad.

September saw the return of 'choral normality' and the Abbey Choir on good form - the trebles making a particularly fine sound and once again benefiting from weekly singing lessons generously paid for by the PCC and the Abbey Festival. The arrival of the new Rector, Rev Martin Lee, in October, afforded the opportunity for the choir to sing at his splendid Induction and Installation Service, and Choral Evensong was then established as being at 6.00pm every Sunday throughout the [sung] year. Martin Lee is a choral enthusiast and a keen supporter of the Abbey Choir, and this was much felt and appreciated by the choir from his earliest days.

The Christmas services were a highlight for the Abbey Choir and some new repertoire, the first since Covid struck, was learnt in time for the Carol Service. The Christmas Concert featured the Town Band, and musicians from The Gryphon, in addition to the Abbey Choir, and was a very welcome return after its absence in 2020.

Recruitment of new choristers continued to be difficult in 2021 until September, not least because visitors were not permitted in schools - but online recruitment was remarkably successful in the circumstances. An article about the Abbey Choir in the November Sherborne Times caused considerable interest for chorister membership amongst parents, and one chorister from Sherborne Abbey Primary School joined in time for Christmas, but there is a growing concern (possibly very much as a result of changed lifestyles during Covid) about the regular commitment involved with being a chorister (by parents), and three other successful auditionees eventually declined the offer of a place. We were fortunate, therefore, that only one chorister's voice broke in 2021 (Oscar Boswall) and only two of the six newest choristers had found the online Zoom experience restrictive enough not to stick with it long enough to enjoy the experience of singing in the Abbey. Oliver Chappell remained Head Chorister throughout 2021 - September marking the beginning of his third year in post and now aged 14 (with no sign of his voice changing). Jacob Dike (The Gryphon) moved seamlessly from being Deputy Head Chorister to being a bass in the 'back rows', as did Angus Evans (Bruton) to counter-tenor - both as newly appointed VE Award-Holders. In the Organ/Choral Scholar gap year scheme run in conjunction with Sherborne School since 2005, Daniel Baker, after two years as our Organ Scholar in the Abbey, left to become Organ Scholar of Christ Church, Oxford, and the two gap year Choral Scholars started university life at Manchester University and Royal Holloway reading Music. We welcomed Daniel Blaze (Organ Scholar), Alicia Hunt, Hugo Williamson and Lingling Bao-Smith (Choral Scholars) in September and all made a very strong start to their year with us.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Trustees' Report

As always, I am immensely grateful to Peter Bray (our Assistant Organist) for his superb organ playing - and it was good to hear him again in 2021, after many months of home-generated organ accompaniment for the YouTube services -and to the talented team of volunteer singers known as 'the back rows'. Without the volunteers the Abbey Choir would not exist in its present cathedral/greater parish church form, and their contribution is hugely appreciated. One small advantage to the Covid experience is that the 'back row' singers rehearsed and performed in many different formations of differing size, and therefore now exist as a well balanced adult choir - an adult Abbey Choir, essentially - when the choristers are on holiday. Additionally, a system of 'deputies' is now firmly in place within the Abbey Choir for those weekends when a volunteer singer elects to take time off. This has led to a greater consistency in the size of the choir - and therefore a greater consistency in the quality of the choir's singing.

James Henderson
Director of Music and Organist

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Trustees' Report

Festival 2021 Report

After two terrible years caused by Covid, Festival 22 will hopefully provide our first full festival since that period.

During 2021, after trying three times to get a festival organised, we finally had some success by organising our first mini festival, basically as a trial, using mainly local artists. Although it felt good to experience live music again, and we did manage to more than cover our costs, it wasn't the same as a normal year with the crowds and excitement that a full festival generates.

Due to the generosity of an altruistic supporter of the festival and of course our fantastic Patrons we still managed to make several large grants to young musicians and the Abbey in 2021. Thanks goes to them for their continued support of the festival even when times get tough.

Thanks goes to our amazing volunteers who were there when needed to ensure that our mini festival in 2021 ran smoothly, what would we do without them?

Hopefully we will have much more positive things to report next year, especially if we can get back to the sort of numbers coming to enjoy the concerts again. We can then hope to get back to being one of the largest festivals of its type in the South West bringing joy, as well as value for money, to hundreds of our supporters

Thank you all.

John Baker,
Chairman/Artistic Director

Concerts in The Abbey

After a gap of over eighteen months, the easing of national restrictions meant that live musical performances were finally able to resume in the Abbey. Sherborne Abbey Festival (reported on elsewhere) started performances off with their Mini Festival, held over a weekend in September 2021; a celebration of the return of live music and enjoyed by large and appreciative audiences. Concerts included performances from saxophonist Mark Lockheart and organist Roger Sayer of 'Salvator Mundi', guitarist Felix Stickland and the Iuventus Ensemble led by Ruth Rogers.

Regular weekly organ recitals recommenced in the autumn, now taking place on Monday lunchtimes, and given by the Abbey's Music staff, local and visiting organists. The loyal, regular audience have returned enthusiastically, along with many visitors to the Abbey enjoying an added bonus of hearing the Abbey's organ during their visit.

Sherborne Chamber Choir gave its first public performance in two years in early December 2021 to a large audience, with a programme of Advent music from across the ages, conducted by Paul Ellis, with Simon Clarkson, organist. The Abbey's own Christmas concert was also able to take place, with performances from Sherborne Abbey Choir, the Gryphon School, Sherborne Singers and Sherborne Town Band.

We look forward to a full programme of concerts in 2022.

Rachel Greaves
Concerts Administrator

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Trustees' Report

The Bellringers

In common with most Abbey activities Covid prevented all normal ringing for the first five months of the year.

There was no change required in our elected officers, so we were able to conclude our necessary AGM business in February online without actually meeting in person.

On Easter Day we rang handbells outside the Abbey porch before the 9.30am service.

On April 10th following the death of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh we tolled the tenor bell at approximately 30 second intervals for 99 strokes corresponding to his years of life. We repeated this but with the bell half-muffled on April 17th, finishing at 3pm, the time of his funeral in Windsor.

Ringing on six bells only was permitted in late May and on all eight bells from July 20th. Unfortunately, it was then obvious that our numbers had become depleted during the previous 18 months of lockdowns. 3 ringers were incapacitated though illness and accidents, three did not wish to return to regular ringing and one had moved away. Happily, we have been joined by one experienced ringer, but the overall number of regular ringers has fallen to only 12. In spite of this we have been ringing all eight bells regularly since then on Sundays and at our usual Tuesday practice. We now have two adults learning to ring, and also two boys from Sherborne School during term time.

We have rung for just four weddings during the summer and all four of the peals booked by visitors were cancelled. Our own ringers have completed three quarter peals at the Abbey, one to commemorate the life of the Duke of Edinburgh on what would have been his 100th birthday, one to mark the institution of Reverend Martin Lee and one rung half muffled on Remembrance Sunday.

We have been permitted to practise on the light ring of six bells at Longburton under the guidance of Tim Phillips fairly regularly but sadly because of deaths and illness they now have no ringers of their own. Consequently, we rang there for special occasions such as the first service there of Reverend Lee and the funeral of their former tower captain, Jennie Barnett.

We rang for many of the Abbey Christmas services, including the Carol service on Dec 19th, and also at Lillington immediately afterwards but unfortunately did not have the number of ringers to ring at Longburton at the same time. However, on Christmas Eve we were pleased to be able to ring at Longburton for the Crib Service, which took place between our ringing for both of the Abbey Crib services.

We are anticipating several imminent changes in our elected officers but are fortunate that our long- established ringing master, Nick Baker, will be continuing, and a lot of the progress, which the band is definitely making, is due to his guidance. I will soon be stepping down from the tower captain's position and I would like to record thanks on behalf of all the ringers to all the Abbey staff who have always been most helpful, encouraging and seemingly grateful for our efforts.

John Cawood, Sherborne Abbey Tower Captain.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Trustees' Report

Abbey Guides

Due to the covid pandemic causing closure of the Abbey at the beginning of the year and the mandatory requirement to wear masks and keep socially distanced, we were not able to start Abbey Tours until the end of July.

Between 27th July and 8th October we offered two weekly tours totalling twenty two regular public tours. Three of these tours were cancelled due to weddings taking preference. Eighty Nine visitors undertook tours. The tours varied in size from one person to fifteen people per tour. There was clearly an interest for tours all through October, which will be addressed in 2022.

At the beginning of the year we had five private booked tours, four of these were cancelled due to the uncertainties of covid restrictions, the fifth tour due to take place in April was cancelled because the Blue Badge Guide who booked the tour was not prepared to pay the £4.00 per head requested. His tour of the Abbey was to be part of a general tour of Sherborne and we do not think Blue Badge Guides give the Abbey the thought and time that it deserves.

Gilly Gibbons retired from guiding at the end of 2020 and we welcomed William Newsome as a new guide, he carried out two tours during the summer.

As always, I would like to thank all the guides for their support and their professional and enthusiastic approach to the role.

I would also register my appreciation of the support received from the Vergers, Joanna Sams in the Parish Office and the Guardians who actively promote our tours.

To date we have five tours booked for this year.

John Keating, Head Guide

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Trustees' Report

Abbey Servers

"We are the servants of the servants of God" *St. Gregory*

As a group, the servers are privileged to have a role in the preparation of worship and assisting the priest during the services.

At the start of the year with a covid lockdown we were restricted to Sunday Services via You Tube. When the Abbey opened again for Sunday Services a nucleus of servers provided a Crucifer to lead the procession for the Parish Eucharist.

We were able to provide a Crucifer and Acolytes for the Induction and Installation of our new Rector and in November following a meeting with Rev. Martin our team of loyal servers was re-established.

When we re-established the serving team, Tony Lumby finally retired having been persuaded to stay on by Linda in 2019 and we lost Daniel Dearing who did not feel ready to return to serving. We also lost Helen Coombs and Julie-Ann Soul who now have full-time commitment to The Abbey Choir.

Since this time we have assisted at all the main services through Advent and Christmas and have adapted to the wishes of the Rector.

The Rector is keen to encourage some younger people to become involved as servers and the first young man, Tom Griffiths joined the team this January, bringing our numbers up to twelve. We look forward to having more new members join us during the coming months.

At times the pressure on the existing team is such that we cannot provide a full team for every service. We would be delighted to welcome new members - young, not so young, male or female. Come and join our happy band! Full training given!

I would like to thank my fellow servers for their support and encouragement. I would also like to thank the Vergers who make sure everything runs smoothly.

John Keating
Server

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Trustees' Report

Abbey Guardians

The past two years for Abbey Guardians has been very much a stop start world. Following the complete closure of the Abbey for many weeks at the beginning of the pandemic, we were then asked to provide Guardian cover for limited periods as the Abbey gradually stuttered back into life. Thanks to the meticulous organisation by Head Verger Duncan Withers in arranging Abbey security it was possible to work in complete confidence with a strict masking and hand sanitising programme for both Guardians and visitors. During these early months we relied on a cohort of incredibly dependable Guardians who put up with constant changes of schedule and we are indebted to them all. It was not until May 2021 that Abbey opening hours returned to near normal and a full rota of Guardians was again required. There was a sudden need to recruit and I am delighted to report that we now number 80 in total, thanks to some advertising and by word of mouth, A big welcome to all who have joined recently. The search for new people never stops however!

We were able to organise a jolly 'welcome back 'and thank you party for all Guardians in the Digby Memorial hall in August, which was well attended. In November we had a tea party to welcome our new Rector Martin and his wife Sue, giving everyone a chance to meet up, whilst Martin gave us a delightful talk to introduce himself.

We endeavour to give all new guardians sufficient information on the Abbey, it's history and points of interest and draw attention to important safeguarding matters. They are expected to shadow a fellow Guardian before taking up their duty and are encouraged to join one of the guided tours as soon as possible. We try to keep the Guardians' desk stocked with as much up to date information as possible.

Guardians are conscious of their role as the welcoming face of the Abbey and are aware of their responsibility for dealing with any problems that may arise. To this end we are always extremely grateful for the back up support given to us by the Vergers.

I should like to take this opportunity to offer my thanks to David Ferguson for his continuing warm support of and interest in the Guardians. To Joanna Sams for her patient help with all our office needs and to Chris Hamon for sorting out IT problems. Special thanks too to Jennifer Huitson for her wise help and encouragement on all Guardian matters.

Sue Morgan.
Head Guardian.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Trustees' Report

Verger's Report

This year saw the Abbey gradually re-start post lockdown and it was good to see the regular pattern of services gradually re-emerge from the shadows. This left the Verger team scratching their heads on occasions, as we tried to remember how we used to do things pre Covid, including isolating the fire alarm when using incense. Generally, our memories have been good backed up with careful note taking on previous occasions and hopefully the restart has seemed flawless to the person in the pew.

During Lockdowns we had the opportunity to do a good deal of deep cleaning, reaching those places which are normally not reached. These included scrubbing and waxing the floors in the Nave, cleaning on top of monuments, Reredos, high ledges etc, which resulted in letters of complaints from the numerous spiders whose webs were disturbed. Since lockdown footfall has been greater but we have continued to do our best to keep on top of the general dirt and cobwebs.

The year was punctuated by two significant events: The arrival of Martin, our new Rector, and the departure of Duncan, our Head Verger for 5 years. The former has fitted in almost seamlessly where Eric left off and the verger team were able to just train him into the ways of the Abbey. We have been grateful to be invited to the regular staff meetings and it is always nice to welcome him into the vestry for a cup of tea a natter and a joke from him - how very Dibley! Duncan's departure was a sad loss to the team. He was very good at knowing exactly what needed to be done, how and when and during his tenure always worked well beyond the hours laid out in his contract. It was only after he departed that we discovered the many things he did and it was a steep learning curve to work out how to do some of them. Duncan served the Abbey well and St Mary Magdalene in Taunton's gain is very much our loss. After Duncan's departure we were glad to welcome Catherine and Mark, albeit briefly, to the team, and currently we have Alex on a temporary basis.

The current verger team of 4 is in good heart and we continue to work hard to maintain the prayerful, tranquil beauty which is Sherborne Abbey.

Chris Hamon and Gordon Winter, Vergers

Abbey Flower Arrangers

It has been a been a strange and unusual year for Abbey flower arrangers. Having been caught up in the maelstrom of Covid 19.

When the Abbey reopened with reduced hours and resumed services our wonderful volunteers were able to bring some floral cheer, albeit on a reduced scale to the Abbey. This was all master minded by our secretary Eileen Fort.

As a result of the pandemic many weddings were cancelled once, sometime twice or relocated to other churches. However we did manage to arrange bespoke flowers for 6 Weddings, 1 Wedding Blessing, 1 Memorial Service and 1 Funeral in addition to weekly flower arrangements.

Thankfully things are slowly returning to normal and we look forward to another year of making a contribution to Abbey life.

Sheilagh Hollingsworth

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Trustees' Report

Financial review

The parish accounts show a surplus from all activities of £666,172 compared with a deficit in 2020 of £12,598. This surplus includes unrealised gains on investments of £668,377. Without these, the parish accounts would have shown a deficit of £2,205.

At 31 December 2021, total funds amounted to £7,975,959, of which £3,926,995 were restricted funds. The restricted funds include investments held by the Diocesan Board of Finance, as custodian trustee, for the benefit of the Parish, identified as endowment funds. These funds, together with the income derived from them, may only be used for the upkeep of the Chancel of the Abbey, and the charity's policy is to use the income to contribute to the overall cost of insuring the Abbey. Other restricted funds amount to £439,288 and have been designated for specific purposes, detailed in the notes to the accounts. The unrestricted funds amount to £4,048,964. These funds are required to be maintained as free reserves in accordance with the PCC's reserves policy.

Policy on reserves

It is the charity's policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds. These reserves allow interest and dividends to form a major part of the income generated in any given year, which is essential to cover core expenditure incurred.

The reserves held also allow maintenance and improvement of the buildings under the charity's control.

Principal funding sources

The principal funding sources of the charity are donations through parish collections, planned giving and other donations and legacies. The charity also benefits from gift aid relief on certain donations.

There are 512 members of the Church Electoral Roll.

Investment policy and objectives

The investment assets comprise units / shares in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund and the M&G Charifund and M&G Charibond charity funds. These funds aim to generate capital appreciation and rising income and a total return in excess of their benchmarks, whilst adopting an appropriate Ethical Investment Policy.

Disclosure of information to auditor

Each trustee has taken steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information. The trustees confirm that there is no relevant information that they know of and of which they know the auditor is unaware.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 8 May and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Mrs Joanne Hague
Trustee

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities requires the trustees 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 incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on 8 May and signed on its behalf by:

.....

Mrs Joanne Hague
Trustee

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2021, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement, and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising Charities SORP - FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and applicable law (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the original financial statements were authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities (set out on page 35), the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:
We have considered the nature of the sector, control environment and financial performance;

We have considered the results of enquiries with management and members in relation to their own identification and assessment of the risk of irregularities within the entity and

We have reviewed the documentation of key processes and controls and performed walkthroughs of transactions to confirm that the systems are operating in line with documentation.

For any matters identified we have obtained and reviewed the charity's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:

Identifying, evaluating, and complying with laws and regulations whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;

Detecting and responding to the risk of fraud and whether they have knowledge of actual, suspected, or alleged fraud;
and of the internal controls established to mitigate the risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

We have considered the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and potential indicators of fraud. As a result of these procedures, we have considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the highest area of risk to be in relation to revenue recognition. In conjunction with all audits under ISAs (UK) we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We have also obtained understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charity operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the Charities Act 2011, Charity SORP 2019, FRS 102 and the terms and conditions attaching to material grants received by the charity.

In addition, we considered the provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charity's ability to operate or avoid a material penalty. These included data protection regulations, health and safety regulations and employment legislation. Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

Reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;

Performing analytical procedures to identify unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;

Reviewing Trustees' meeting minutes;

Enquiring of management in relation to actual and potential claims or litigations;

Performing detailed transactional testing in relation to the recognition of revenue, specifically grants, and:

In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls:

testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments;
assessing whether the judgments made in accounting estimates are indicative of potential bias and;
evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all members of the engagement team and remained alert to possible indicators of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.
A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the trustees those matters we are required to state to trustees in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

.....

Ian Dodds (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Lanham & Francis, Statutory Auditor

Church House
Church Street
Yeovil
Somerset
BA20 1HB

Date:.....

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2021 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies		294,738	9,067	-	303,805
Charitable activities		23,020	11,487	-	34,507
Other trading activities		70,162	70	-	70,232
Investment income	5	176,878	13,372	-	190,250
Total income		564,798	33,996	-	598,794
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		(57,276)	(2)	-	(57,278)
Charitable activities		(509,509)	(34,212)	-	(543,721)
Total expenditure		(566,785)	(34,214)	-	(600,999)
Gains/losses on investment assets		306,828	46,596	314,953	668,377
Net income		304,841	46,378	314,953	666,172
Gross transfers between funds		1,216	(1,216)	-	-
Net movement in funds		306,057	45,162	314,953	666,172
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		3,742,907	394,126	3,172,754	7,309,787
Total funds carried forward	20	4,048,964	439,288	3,487,707	7,975,959

The notes on pages 44 to 56 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2020 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies		460,817	20,380	-	481,197
Charitable activities		41,048	2,753	-	43,801
Other trading activities		29,138	23	-	29,161
Investment income	5	167,878	12,319	-	180,197
Total income		698,881	35,475	-	734,356
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		(79,978)	(4)	-	(79,982)
Charitable activities		(499,304)	(25,306)	-	(524,610)
Total expenditure		(579,282)	(25,310)	-	(604,592)
Gains/losses on investment assets		(306,512)	20,958	143,192	(142,362)
Net (expenditure)/income		(186,913)	31,123	143,192	(12,598)
Gross transfers between funds		(946)	946	-	-
Net movement in funds		(187,859)	32,069	143,192	(12,598)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		3,930,766	362,057	3,029,562	7,322,385
Total funds carried forward	20	3,742,907	394,126	3,172,754	7,309,787

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.
The funds breakdown for 2020 is shown in note 20.

The notes on pages 44 to 56 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

(Registration number: 1130082)
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	1,498,988	1,328,988
Investments	14	5,848,151	5,179,774
		7,347,139	6,508,762
Current assets			
Stocks	15	12,700	15,424
Debtors	16	28,813	188,772
Cash at bank and in hand	17	599,248	603,009
		640,761	807,205
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	18	(11,941)	(6,180)
Net current assets		628,820	801,025
Net assets		7,975,959	7,309,787
Funds of the charity:			
Endowment funds		3,487,707	3,172,754
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds	20	439,288	394,126
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		4,048,964	3,742,907
Total funds	20	7,975,959	7,309,787

The financial statements on pages 40 to 56 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on ..... and signed on their behalf by:

Jonathan Rodd

.....

Mr Jonathan Rodd
Trustee

DJ Fifield

.....

Mr David Fifield
Trustee

The notes on pages 44 to 56 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton

Cash Flow Statement for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash income/(expenditure)		666,172	(12,598)
Adjustments to cash flows from non-cash items			
Investment income	5	(190,250)	(180,197)
Revaluation of investments		(668,377)	142,362
		(192,455)	(50,433)
Working capital adjustments			
Decrease in stocks	15	2,724	1,900
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	16	159,959	(184,057)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	18	5,761	(1,060)
Net cash flows from operating activities		(24,011)	(233,650)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest receivable and similar income	5	190,250	180,197
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	13	(170,000)	-
Net cash flows from investing activities		20,250	180,197
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(3,761)	(53,453)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January		603,009	656,462
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December		599,248	603,009

All of the cash flows are derived from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The notes on pages 44 to 56 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

1 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation
The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiatical Parish of Sherborne with Castleton meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

These financial statements are prepared in Sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £1.

Going concern
The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income and endowments
Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Gift aid

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the Statement of Financial Activities at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

Investment income

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Expenditure
All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees's meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Consecrated and beneficed land and property and inalienable church furnishings and equipment are excluded from the financial statements. All expenditure incurred on maintenance or improvement of such property or furnishings is written off in the financial statements.

Other land and buildings in the beneficial ownership of the charity are included in the financial statements at cost. Under the transitional rules of FRS102 paragraph 35.10, the land and buildings were revalued at the date of transition. The basis of this valuation was market value, which was established by the charity. This value has been carried forward as the deemed cost. Annual reviews of the properties are undertaken to determine whether or not there has been any impairment, which would reduce the market value of the land and buildings.

The value of all office and miscellaneous equipment is written off in the financial year in which it is acquired, except for assets costing in excess of £5,000, which are capitalised and depreciated. The value of consumable goods in hand is considered immaterial.

Research and development

Research and development expenditure is written off as incurred.

Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments, other than programme related investments, are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their market value at the start of the year, or their subsequent cost, and are charged or credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are credited or charged to the Statement of Financial Activities based on the market value at the year end.

Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell, after due regard for obsolete and slow moving stocks. Cost is determined using the first-in, first-out (FIFO).

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Trade debtors
Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Borrowings
Interest-bearing borrowings are initially recorded at fair value, net of transaction costs. Interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost, with the difference between the proceeds, net of transaction costs, and the amount due on redemption being recognised as a charge to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period of the relevant borrowing.

Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in interest payable and similar charges.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the charity has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

Fund structure
Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees's discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.
Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.
Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations
The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

Financial instruments

Classification

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.
Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Recognition and measurement

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the charity intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the charity transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the charity, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Investments

Investments in non-convertible preference shares and non-puttable ordinary or preference shares (where shares are publicly traded or their fair value is reliably measurable) are measured at fair value through profit or loss. Where fair value cannot be measured reliably, investments are measured at cost less impairment.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds
	Designated	General		
	£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies;				
Parish giving	43,287	84,510	-	127,797
Church collecting	1,977	49,553	3,865	55,395
Donations to appeals	7,511	44,456	661	52,628
Legacies	-	-	4,000	4,000
Festival sponsorship	15,348	-	-	15,348
Gift aid reclaimed	9,528	27,594	-	37,122
Other income from donations and legacies	10,974	-	541	11,515
Total for 2021	88,625	206,113	9,067	303,805
Total for 2020	82,627	378,190	20,380	481,197

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds
	Designated £	General £	£	£
Fees for weddings, funerals and related income	-	16,567	11,487	28,054
St Paul's Community Project	2,148	-	-	2,148
HMG grants	-	4,055	-	4,055
Other events	250	-	-	250
Total for 2021	2,398	20,622	11,487	34,507
Total for 2020	2,034	39,014	2,753	43,801

4 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds
	Designated £	General £	£	£
Trading income;				
Sales of goods and services	28,766	-	70	28,836
Festival				
Ticket and programme sales	7,695	-	-	7,695
Digby Memorial Church Hall	29,779	-	-	29,779
Concerts	642	-	-	642
Government grants	3,280	-	-	3,280
Total for 2021	70,162	-	70	70,232
Total for 2020	28,977	161	23	29,161

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds
	Designated £	General £	£	£
Interest receivable and similar income;				
Interest receivable on bank deposits	184	-	3,920	4,104
Other income from fixed asset investments	-	176,694	9,452	186,146
Total for 2021	184	176,694	13,372	190,250
Total for 2020	1,194	166,684	12,319	180,197

6 Expenditure on raising funds

Costs of trading activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds Designated £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Fundraising trading costs;				
Cost of goods sold		10,030	-	10,030
Shop overheads		3,789	-	3,789
Digby Memorial Church Hall		9,440	-	9,440
Festival - event expenditure and grants		17,154	-	17,154
Music Committee		75	-	75
Marketing and publicity		-	2	2
Total for 2021		40,488	2	40,490
Total for 2020		63,534	4	63,538

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds
	Designated £	General £	£	£
The Ministry	6,268	220,068	-	226,336
Worship	-	29,107	14,680	43,787
Faith in Action Committee - grants paid	56,837	-	-	56,837
Church in the Community	3,475	1,370	-	4,845
Digby Memorial Church Hall	-	1,424	-	1,424
Fabric	11,249	41,237	12,419	64,905
Management and Administration	1,825	35,792	2,964	40,581
Flower arrangers	-	-	4,149	4,149
Other events	-	730	-	730
Staff costs	7,468	88,369	-	95,837
Governance costs	-	4,290	-	4,290
Total for 2021	87,122	422,387	34,212	543,721
Total for 2020	85,154	414,150	25,306	524,610

8 Analysis of governance and support costs

Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £
Allocated support costs	4,290	4,290
Total for 2021	4,290	4,290
Total for 2020	4,000	4,000

9 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net (outgoing)/incoming resources for the year include:

	2021 £	2020 £
Operating leases - other assets	3,050	3,050
Audit fees	4,290	4,000

10 Trustees remuneration and expenses

During the year the charity made the following transactions with trustees:

Mrs Joanne Hague

Mrs Joanne Hague received remuneration of £2,460 (2020: £Nil) during the year.

She was remunerated for accounting services provided to the charity.

Dr Christopher Hamon

Dr Christopher Hamon received remuneration of £13,094 (2020: £8,584) during the year.

He was paid for his services as a verger.

Payment for these services is permitted under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure.
No trustees have received any other benefits from the charity during the year.

11 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	109,477	111,274
Social security costs	1,447	1,863
Pension costs	1,701	1,334
	112,625	114,471

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2021 No	2020 No
Worship	3	3
Management and administration	5	5
	8	8

5 (2020 - 5) of the above employees participated in the Defined Contribution Pension Schemes.

Contributions to the employee pension schemes for the year totalled £1,701 (2020 - £1,334).

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year

12 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 January 2021	1,328,988	1,328,988
Additions	170,000	170,000
At 31 December 2021	1,498,988	1,498,988
Depreciation		
At 31 December 2021	-	-
Net book value		
At 31 December 2021	1,498,988	1,498,988
At 31 December 2020	1,328,988	1,328,988

14 Fixed asset investments

	2021	2020
	£	£
Other investments	5,848,151	5,179,774

Other investments

	Listed investments	Total
	£	£
Cost or Valuation		
At 1 January 2021	5,179,774	5,179,774
Revaluation	668,377	668,377
At 31 December 2021	5,848,151	5,848,151
Net book value		
At 31 December 2021	5,848,151	5,848,151
At 31 December 2020	5,179,774	5,179,774

15 Stock

	2021	2020
	£	£
Stocks	12,700	15,424

16 Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Other debtors	28,813	188,772

17 Cash and cash equivalents

	2021	2020
	£	£
Cash on hand	1,050	1,344
Cash at bank	462,136	465,693
Short-term deposits	136,062	135,972
	599,248	603,009

18 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Other creditors	7,941	2,180
Accruals	4,000	4,000
	11,941	6,180

19 Obligations under leases and hire purchase contracts

Operating lease commitments

Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Land and buildings		
Within one year	3,050	3,050
Between one and five years	5,338	8,388
	8,388	11,438

20 Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2021 £
Unrestricted funds						
General						
Parish Central Funds	3,442,885	403,429	(422,387)	2,888	306,828	3,733,643
Designated						
St Paul's Church	108,895	67,236	(30,180)	(25,772)	-	120,179
Digby Memorial Church Hall	11,517	31,869	(20,234)	-	-	23,152
Sherborne Abbey Shop	28,704	29,967	(19,813)	(5,000)	-	33,858
Sherborne Festival	126,603	23,894	(17,154)	(10,500)	-	122,843
FIAC	20,818	7,761	(56,942)	40,100	-	11,737
Music Fund	3,485	642	(75)	(500)	-	3,552
	300,022	161,369	(144,398)	(1,672)	-	315,321
Total unrestricted funds	3,742,907	564,798	(566,785)	1,216	306,828	4,048,964
Restricted funds						
Castleton Church	366,669	18,388	(16,363)	(3,000)	46,596	412,290
Abbey Choir Fund	15,445	5,656	(11,876)	5,700	-	14,925
Abbey Floral Fund	2,079	4,096	(4,149)	-	-	2,026
Sherborne Abbey Bellringers	1,691	1,940	(1,826)	-	-	1,805
Central Fund	8,242	3,916	-	(3,916)	-	8,242
Total restricted funds	394,126	33,996	(34,214)	(1,216)	46,596	439,288
Endowment funds						
Permanent						
Endowment Fund	3,172,754	314,953	-	-	-	3,487,707
Total funds	7,309,787	913,747	(600,999)	-	353,424	7,975,959

20 Funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 January 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2020 £
Unrestricted funds						
General						
Parish Central Funds	3,601,516	584,049	(414,150)	(22,018)	(306,512)	3,442,885
Designated						
St Paul's Church	99,825	58,647	(27,149)	(22,428)	-	108,895
Digby Memorial Church Hall	19,717	15,035	(23,235)	-	-	11,517
Sherborne Abbey Shop	31,349	12,405	(15,050)	-	-	28,704
Sherborne Festival	157,602	15,181	(41,180)	(5,000)	-	126,603
FIAC	15,772	13,051	(58,005)	50,000	-	20,818
Music Fund	4,985	513	(513)	(1,500)	-	3,485
	329,250	114,832	(165,132)	21,072	-	300,022
Total unrestricted funds	3,930,766	698,881	(579,282)	(946)	(306,512)	3,742,907
Restricted						
Castleton Church	333,443	29,334	(14,066)	(3,000)	20,958	366,669
Abbey Choir Fund	15,125	1,593	(8,273)	7,000	-	15,445
Abbey Floral Fund	2,341	814	(1,076)	-	-	2,079
Sherborne Abbey Bellringers	2,906	680	(1,895)	-	-	1,691
Central Fund	8,242	3,054	-	(3,054)	-	8,242
Total restricted funds	362,057	35,475	(25,310)	946	20,958	394,126
Endowment funds						
Permanent						
Endowment Fund	3,029,562	143,192	-	-	-	3,172,754
Total funds	7,322,385	877,548	(604,592)	-	(285,554)	7,309,787

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

Castleton Church
Fund restricted to the general purposes and objects of the Castleton Committee.

Abbey Choir Fund
Fund restricted to the general purposes and welfare of the Abbey Choir.

Abbey Floral Fund
Fund restricted to purposes associated with the floral decoration of the Abbey.

The company of Sherborne Abbey bell ringers
Fund restricted to the general purposes of the company of ringers.

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds at 31 December 2021
	General	Designated		Permanent	
	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	551,708	-	-	947,280	1,498,988
Fixed asset investments	2,935,405	-	372,319	2,540,427	5,848,151
Current assets	257,662	316,006	67,093	-	640,761
Current liabilities	(9,529)	(2,288)	(124)	-	(11,941)
Total net assets	3,735,246	313,718	439,288	3,487,707	7,975,959

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds at 31 December 2020
	General	Designated		Permanent	
	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	381,708	-	-	947,280	1,328,988
Fixed asset investments	2,628,577	-	325,723	2,225,474	5,179,774
Current assets	436,600	302,202	68,403	-	807,205
Current liabilities	(4,000)	(2,180)	-	-	(6,180)
Total net assets	3,442,885	300,022	394,126	3,172,754	7,309,787

22 Analysis of net funds

	At 1 January 2021	Financing cash flows	At 31 December 2021
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	603,009	(3,761)	599,248
Net funds	603,009	(3,761)	599,248

	At 1 January 2020	Financing cash flows	At 31 December 2020
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	656,462	(53,453)	603,009
Net funds	656,462	(53,453)	603,009

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF SHERBORNE WITH CASTL

England & Wales - Charity number 1130082

Accounts

SHERBORNE ABBEY
WITH CASTLETON AND SAINT PAUL'S PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Registered Charity No. 1130082

Prepared by
Bernard S Brown FCA
Honorary Treasurer
The Parish Office, 3 Abbey Close, Sherborne, DT9 3LQ

Sherborne Abbey with Castleton and St Paul’s Parochial Church Council

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Sherborne Abbey with Castleton and St Paul’s Parochial Church Council

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Sherborne Abbey with Castleton and St Paul’s Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2020, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows, and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2020 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC’s Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' report other than the financial statements and our auditor’s report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the

work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Sherborne Abbey with Castleton and St Paul’s Parochial Church Council

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Sherborne Abbey with Castleton and St Paul’s Parochial Church Council

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Trustees’ Report; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011, and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor’s report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Sherborne Abbey with Castleton and St Paul’s Parochial Church Council

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Sherborne Abbey with Castleton and St Paul’s Parochial Church Council

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and the regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor’s report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Lanham & Francis
Statutory Auditor
77a Cheap Street
Sherborne
Dorset
DT9 3BA

Date: 27 April 2021

TREASURER'S REPORT

At this time last year, I wrote *"this year, we move into the interregnum with all of its uncertainties. This period of uncertainty might well affect our parish income and will certainly affect our parish costs."* How true this has been, but *not* as a result of the interregnum, but as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

I am writing this report whilst in lockdown 3 and reflecting on the content of the annual accounts for 2020. The effect of the pandemic and the associated restrictions have had a profound effect on parish income. All categories of parish income have been affected – planned giving, collections, visitor donations, parish fees for weddings and funerals, and most importantly investment income all show significant reductions. The Sherborne Abbey Festival was cancelled and both the Abbey Shop and the Digby Memorial Church Hall remained closed for much of the year. At the same time, we have been able to make considerable cost savings and have benefitted from Covid-19 related grants from HM Government. We have also benefitted from legacies, including a most generous bequest by the late Betty Randall of her cottage at number 2 Abbey Close for use by the parish.

This has resulted in the parish accounts showing a surplus from all activities of £129,764 compared with a deficit in 2019 of £20,163. This surplus includes legacies and bequests of £188,500. Without these, the parish accounts would have shown a deficit of £58,736.

Our largest expense was Diocesan Share of £192,697. This payment to the diocese is used largely to fund clergy stipends, pensions and housing. This means that much of the cost is effectively returned to the parish in supporting our stipendiary clergy.

Our second largest cost is the annual grant to the Faith and Action Committee amounting to £50,000 and represents a tithe of the previous years' giving and investment income of the three churches in the parish.

The Friends of Sherborne Abbey have provided funds of £32,404 to cover the cost of several Abbey projects. Without such financial support, these costs would have fallen upon the parish.

This year, we remain in the latter stages of the interregnum which is likely to impact our parish costs. Whilst the Covid-19 vaccinations are being rolled out in Sherborne, there is still considerable uncertainty about the future and how quickly the

pandemic will be brought under control. This period of uncertainty will continue to have an adverse effect on our parish income.

My thanks, as always, go to the treasurers of all the various funds for their help and support throughout the year.

Bernard Brown
Honorary Treasurer

SHERBORNE ABBEY WITH CASTLETON AND ST PAUL'S

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The Statement of Financial Activities summarises the resources received and expended by the whole Parish during the year, and shows by how much expenditure exceeded income.

	2020				2019
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM: (Note 9)					
Donations and legacies	460,817	20,380	-	481,197	392,765
Charitable church activities	41,048	2,753	-	43,801	46,327
Other trading activities	29,138		-	29,161	146,183
Investments	170,932	23 9,265	-	180,197	198,555
TOTAL	**701,935**	**32,421**	**-**	**734,356**	**783,830**
EXPENDITURE ON: (Note 10)					
Charitable church activities	499,304		-	524,610	624,831
Raising funds	79,978	25,306 4	-	79,982	179,162
TOTAL	**579,282**	**25,310**	**-**	**604,592**	**803,993**
NET INCOME (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE INVESTMENT (LOSSES) GAINS	**122,653**	**7,111**	**-**	**129,764**	**(20,163)**
Unrealised (losses) gains on investment assets	(306,512)	20,958	143,192	(142,362)	765,867

NET (EXPENDITURE) INCOME	**(183,859)**	**28,069**	**143,192**	**(12,598)**	**745,704**
Transfers between funds	(4,000)	4,000	**-**	**-**	**-**
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	**(187,859)**	**32,069**	**143,192**	**(12,598)**	**745,704**
Total funds at start of year	**3,930,766**	**362,057**	**3,029,562**	**7,322,385**	**6,576,681**
TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	**3,742,907**	**394,126**	**3,172,754**	**7,309,787**	**7,322,385**

SHERBORNE ABBEY WITH CASTLETON AND ST PAUL'S

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM: (Note 9)				
Donations and legacies	380,968	11,797	-	392,765
Charitable church activities	30,443	15,884	-	46,327
Other trading activities	144,600	1,583	-	146,183
Investments	189,412	9,143	-	198,555
TOTAL	**745,423**	**38,407**	**-**	**783,830**
EXPENDITURE ON: (Note 10)				
Charitable church activities	552,743	49,226	22,862	624,831
Raising funds	178,605	557	-	179,162
TOTAL	**731,348**	**49,783**	**22,862**	**803,993**
NET INCOME BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS	**14,075**	**(11,376)**	**(22,862)**	**(20,163)**
Unrealised gains on investment assets	389,724	48,024	328,119	765,867
NET INCOME	**403,799**	**36,648**	**305,257**	**745,704**
Transfers between funds	(6,100)	6,100	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	**397,699**	**42,748**	**305,257**	**745,704**
Total funds at start of year	**3,533,067**	**319,309**	**2,724,305**	**6,576,681**
TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	**3,930,766**	**362,057**	**3,029,562**	**7,322,385**

SHERBORNE ABBEY WITH CASTLETON AND ST PAUL'S

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

The Balance Sheet shows how the fund balances carried forward at the end of the year are represented by the Parish's assets.

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	2	1,328,988	1,328,988
Investment assets	3	5,179,774	5,322,136
		6,508,762	**6,651,124**
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock		15,424	17,324
Debtors	4	188,772	4,715
Short term deposits		337,699	442,515
Cash at bank		265,310	213,947
		807,205	**678,501**
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors: Amounts falling due in less than one year	5	(6,180)	(7,240)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**801,025**	**671,261**
TOTAL NET ASSETS		**7,309,787**	**7,322,385**
REPRESENTED BY:			
PARISH FUNDS	6		
Unrestricted		3,742,907	3,930,766
Restricted		394,126	362,057
Endowment		3,172,754	3,029,562
TOTAL FUNDS		**7,309,787**	**7,322,385**

Approved by the PCC on 11 February 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

Mr David Fifield (Lay Chairman)

Mr J Rodd (Member and Churchwarden)

The notes and schedules on pages 6 to 26 form part of these financial statements.

SHERBORNE ABBEY WITH CASTLETON AND ST PAUL'S

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020 £	2019 £
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net cash (used in) operating activities	**(233,650)**	**(212,121)**
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Interest and dividends from investments	180,197	198,555
Net cash provided by investing activities	**180,197**	**198,555**
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	**(53,453)**	**(13,566)**
Cash and cash equivalents at start of year	**656,462**	**670,028**
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	**603,009**	**656,462**
Reconciliation of net expenditure before investment gains (losses)		
Net income before investment (losses) gains	129,764	(20,163)
Adjustments for:		
Interest and dividends from investments	(180,197)	(198,555)
(Increase) decrease in debtors	(184,057)	3,600
(Decrease) increase in creditors	(1,060)	1,216
Decrease in stock	1,900	1,781
Net cash (used in) operating activities	**(233,650)**	**(212,121)**
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents:		
Cash at bank	265,310	213,947
Short term deposits	337,699	442,515
	603,009	**656,462**

NOTE 1 – ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates
The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). They also comply with the Charities Act 2011.

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

Basis of preparation
Sherborne Abbey with Castleton and St Paul's Parochial Church Council meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

The financial statements are prepared in Sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in the financial statements are rounded to the nearest £1.

Going concern
These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Trustees have considered the charity's forecast cash flows for a period exceeding 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements and consider that the charity will be able to operate within the bank facilities currently available to it, and hence that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue operations for the foreseeable future.

Funds
Funds are represented as:

Unrestricted funds – funds that are not subject to any known restrictions in application and are available for the charity's general purposes;
Designated funds – unrestricted funds that are for the time being set aside by the charity for particular purposes;
Restricted funds – funds which through the wishes of the donor(s) are restricted to a particular purpose or, in the case of endowments, have restrictions placed on the use of capital.

Funds for church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body are not accounted for.

Incoming Resources

RECOGNITION OF INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS

Collections and donations, including planned giving donations, are recognised on the date received. Legacies are accounted for in the year of receipt, unless the charity has been advised that a legacy has arisen in the year under review and the amount of any such legacy can be established with reasonable certainty.

Tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the donation is received.

Grants are recognised on the due date.

Income from fund-raising events and sales is accounted for gross on the date of the event.

Gifts of goods and services are quantified as intangible income where they are of material value to the charity and not a customary feature of church life.

VAT recoverable on listed building repairs is recognised when claims for repayment are submitted.

Monies that are collected on behalf of other organisations or for presentation to individuals on customary occasions are not accounted for as incoming resources.

INVESTMENTS AND DEPOSITS

Dividends and interest receivable are recognised when due. Notional interest accrued between the last due payment date and the end of the financial year is accounted for on the first due payment date in the following year. Realised gains and losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains and losses are recognised by revaluing investments at market value at the end of the year.

OTHER INCOME

Insurance claim income is accounted for net of losses incurred.

Sales of fixed assets are accounted for net of book value.

Rental income and facility charges are recognised when due.

Statutory fees are recognised when received.

Resources Expended

Payments due, including grants and donations, are accounted for when a binding

liability is incurred, an invoice received or a payment made, whichever is the earliest.

Diocesan Share is accounted for as payable. Any amount unpaid at the end of the financial year is shown as a liability.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and beneficed land and property and inalienable church furnishings and equipment are excluded from the financial statements. All expenditure incurred on maintenance or improvement of such property or furnishings is written off in the financial year in which it is incurred.

Other land and buildings in the beneficial ownership of the charity are included in

the financial statements at cost. Under the transitional rules of FRS102 paragraph 35.10, the land and buildings have been revalued at the date of transition (1/1/15). The basis of this valuation was market value which was established by the charity. This value is then carried forward as the deemed cost. An annual review of the properties will be undertaken to determine whether or not there has been any impairment which would reduce the market value of the land and buildings.

The value of all office and miscellaneous equipment is written off in the financial year in which it is acquired except for assets costing in excess of £5,000 which are capitalised and depreciated. The value of consumable goods in hand is considered immaterial.

Investments are included at their market value on the last working day of the accounting year.

Stock
Stock has been valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Volunteers
Volunteers play an enormous role in all aspects of the life and operations of the charity. There are just eight employees engaged in running the parish office, the Abbey shop, church hall and Abbey vestry. The Parish Report describes the wide range of activities undertaken by the charity and staffed almost exclusively by volunteers.

NOTE 2 – TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS – PROPERTY

In accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the PCC (Powers) Measure 1956, consecrated property, church furnishings etc. and benefice property (eg Vicarage) are excluded from these financial statements. The property included in these financial statements is in the beneficial ownership of the Parish but vested in the Diocesan Board of Finance.

Cost at 1 January and 31 December 2020
£1,328,988

NOTE 3 – INVESTMENT ASSETS

	At 1/1/20	Revaluation	At 31/12/20
Permanent Endowment	**£**	**£**	**£**
CBF Investment Fund			
O'Shea*	1,859,211	127,852	1,987,063
Ashford*	121,072	8,326	129,398
Chancel*	101,999	7,014	109,013
	2,082,282	**143,192**	**2,225,474**
Restricted			
CBF Investment Fund - Castleton	**304,765**	**20,958**	**325,723**
Unrestricted			
CBF Investment Fund - Bequest	609,351	41,903	651,254
M&G - Charifund	2,026,293	(351,550)	1,674,743
M&G - Charibond	299,445	3,135	302,580
	2,935,089	**(306,512)**	**2,628,577**
Total Investments	**5,322,136**	**(142,362)**	**5,179,774**

* Held by the Diocesan Board of Finance, as custodian trustee, for the benefit of the Parish.
Income from the O'Shea and Ashford funds may be used for any of the charity's general purposes. The Chancel fund arises from

capitalising of Lay Rector responsibilities; the income from this fund may be used only for the upkeep of the Chancel of the Abbey, and the charity's policy is to use this income to contribute to the overall cost of insuring the Abbey.

The investment assets comprise units / shares in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund and the M&G Charifund and M&G Charibond charity funds. These funds aim to generate capital appreciation and rising income and a total return in excess of their benchmarks, whilst adopting an appropriate Ethical Investment Policy.

NOTE 4 – DEBTORS

	2020	2019
	£	£
Tax and VAT recoverable	3,518	4,042
Legacies receivable	185,000	-
Other debtors	254	673
	188,772	**4,715**

NOTE 5 – CURRENT LIABILITIES

Creditors – amounts falling due in less than one year	2020	2019
	£	£
Grants (FIAC)	1,000	2,000
Other creditors	5,180	5,240
	6,180	**7,240**

NOTE 6 – ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Central funds	3,442,885	8,242	3,172,754	6,623,881
Castleton Church	-	366,669	-	366,669
St Paul's Church	108,895	-	-	108,895
Digby Memorial Church Hall	11,517	-	-	11,517
Sherborne Abbey Shop	28,704	-	-	28,704
Sherborne Festival	126,603	-	-	126,603
Faith in Action Committee	20,818	-	-	20,818
Abbey Choir	-	15,445	-	15,445
Abbey Music	3,485	-	-	3,485
Abbey Floral	-	2,079	-	2,079
Abbey Bell Ringers	-	1,691	-	1,691

Total Net Assets	**3,742,907**	**394,126**	**3,172,754**	**7,309,787**

Details of current assets and liabilities are shown in the fund details in Note 12.

NOTE 7 – STAFF REMUNERATION

There were eight employees during the year (2019 – ten) and their aggregate remuneration was:

	2020	**2019**
	£	
£		
Salaries	110,184	
129,090		
Employers' N I Contributions	1,862	
4,804		
Employers' pension contributions	1,334	
1,343		
	113,380	
135,237		

No employee received remuneration in excess of £60,000.

NOTE 8 – TRUSTEES' EXPENSES AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year, the clergy members of the charity were reimbursed in respect of their expenses, as clergy, in the sum of £9,251 (2019 - £17,374). During the year there were no related party transactions.

NOTE 9 – INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS

		2020
2019		
Donations and legacies	**£**	**£**
Parish giving and church collections	177,671	226,853
Gift Aid – income tax recoverable	37,510	48,023
Church collecting boxes	7,962	40,033
Donations to special appeals	10,824	8,731
Festival sponsorship	12,838	28,403
Bequests and legacies	188,500	1,750
Other donations	45,892	38,972
Total donations and legacies	**481,197**	**392,765**
Charitable church activities		
Fees for weddings and funerals and related income	10,797	38,988
St Paul's Community Project	837	3,724
Other events	547	3,615
Grants from HMG	31,620	-

Total income from charitable church activities	**43,801**	**46,327**
Other trading activities		
Sherborne Abbey Shop - sales	9,999	30,309
Festival – ticket and programme sales	1,095	77,905
Digby Memorial Church Hall - lettings	11,877	29,519
Concerts and recitals	513	4,168
Education and Training events	520	2,283
Other events		1,583
Social Committee – deficit	(359)	23,416
Grants from HMG	5,493	-
Total income from other trading activities	**29,161**	**146,183**
Investment income		
CBF Investment Fund dividends	89,709	87,104
M&G Charity Funds dividends	88,988	108,024
Interest on deposits	1,500	3,427
Total investment income	**180,197**	**198,555**
TOTAL INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS	**734,356**	**783,830**

NOTE 10 – EXPENDITURE

	2020	2019
Charitable church activities	**£**	**£**
The Ministry	215,073	222,335
Worship	90,146	112,833
Faith in Action Committee – grants paid	58,005	54,750
Church in the Community	14,288	14,283
Digby Memorial Church Hall	280	6,861
Fabric	58,296	103,141
Management and administration	80,750	90,617
Bell ringers	1,891	3,902
Flower arrangers	1,076	4,300
Other events	805	7,809

Governance costs – Auditors' remuneration	4,000	4,000
Total expenditure from charitable church activities	**524,610**	**624,831**
Expenditure on raising funds		
Digby Memorial Church Hall	23,235	32,252
Sherborne Abbey Shop – cost of goods sold	7,327	17,792
Sherborne Abbey Shop – shop overheads	7,723	10,314
Festival – event expenditure and grants	41,180	114,972
Music Committee expenditure	513	1,392
Education and Training events	-	1,499
Advertising and other expenses	4	941
Total expenditure on raising funds	**79,982**	**179,162**

TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**604,592**	**803,993**

NOTE 11 – FRIENDS OF SHERBORNE ABBEY

During the year, the Friends of Sherborne Abbey have funded the costs of several Abbey projects providing total funding of £32,404 (2019 - £57,529).

NOTE 12 – ANALYSIS OF PARISH FUNDS

The detailed analysis by fund of income and endowments and expenditure is shown in the schedules on pages 12 to 26 which are an integral part of this note.

PARISH CENTRAL FUNDS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The Statement of Financial Activities summarises the resources received and expended by the Parish Central Funds during the year, and shows by how much income exceeded expenditure.

	2020				2019
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:	**Unrestricted**	**Restricted**	**Endowment**	**Total**	**Total**
Donations and legacies	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Planned Giving and Gift Day	102,210	-	-	102,210	115,391
Planned Giving envelopes	8,350	-	-	8,350	11,503
Collections (including Gift Aid envelopes)	16,181	-	-	16,181	46,313
Income tax recoverable	28,228	-	-	28,228	40,506
Collecting boxes	7,894	-	-	7,894	35,307
Donations:					
Boys' School	10,800	-	-	10,800	10,500
Girls' School	5,950	-	-	5,950	5,950
FSA contribution to insurance	24,182	-	-	24,182	11,843
Others (including guided tours)	2,395	-	-	2,395	8,778
Bequests	172,000	-	-	172,000	1,750
Other trading activities					
Fund-raising events	161	-	-	161	2,699
Charitable church activities					
PCC fees and related income	7,394	-	-	7,394	19,856
Investments					
Interest and dividends	166,684	3,054	-	169,738	187,035
Grants from HMG	31,620	-		31,620	-
Total direct income	**584,049**	**3,054**	**-**	**587,103**	**497,431**
Transfers from other accounts					
Castleton – contribution to Share	3,000	-	-	3,000	3,000
St Paul's – contribution to Share	29,226	-	-	29,226	28,172
Sherborne Abbey Shop	-	-	-	-	2,000
Music Committee	1,500	-	-	1,500	5,000
TOTAL	**617,775**	**3,054**	**-**	**620,829**	**535,603**
EXPENDITURE ON: – see "Analysis of Expenditure" for further details					
The Ministry	212,787	-	-	212,787	218,40

					7
Worship	79,173	-	-	79,173	91,498
The Church in the Community	5,403	-	-	5,403	8,800
Fabric	46,181	-	-	46,181	55,081
Publicity and fund-raising	-	-	-	-	1,883
Management and Administration	70,606	-	-	70,606	80,592
Total direct expenditure	**414,150**	**-**	**-**	**414,150**	**456,261**
Transfers to other accounts					
St Paul's Church – Donations	6,798	-	-	6,798	7,426
Abbey Choir – Vincent Evans Awards	2,000	-	-	2,000	3,400
Abbey Floral Fund	-	-	-	-	1,000
Faith in Action Committee	50,000	-	-	50,000	49,000
TOTAL	**472,948**	**-**	**-**	**472,948**	**517,087**
NET INCOME	**144,827**	**3,054**	**-**	**147,881**	**18,516**
Transfer between funds	3,054	(3,054)	-	-	-
Unrealised (losses) gains on investment assets	(306,512)	-	143,192	(163,320)	717,843
Net movement in funds	**(158,631)**	**-**	**143,192**	**(15,439)**	**736,359**
Balance b/f at start of year	**3,601,516**	**8,242**	**3,029,562**	**6,639,320**	**5,902,961**
Balance c/f at end of year	**3,442,885**	**8,242**	**3,172,754**	**6,623,881**	**6,639,320**

PARISH CENTRAL FUNDS

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020	2019
FIXED ASSETS	**£**	**£**
Tangible fixed assets – Property	1,328,988	1,328,988
Investment assets	4,854,051	5,017,371
	6,183,039	**6,346,359**
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	173,718	4,042
Short term deposits – CBF Deposit Fund	78,321	140,642
Cash at bank	192,803	152,277
	444,842	**296,961**
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors: Amounts falling due in less than one year	(4,000)	(4,000)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	**440,842**	**292,961**
TOTAL NET ASSETS	**6,623,881**	**6,639,320**
REPRESENTED BY:		
PARISH FUNDS		
Unrestricted	3,442,885	3,601,516
Restricted	8,242	8,242
Endowment	3,172,754	3,029,562
TOTAL FUNDS	**6,623,881**	**6,639,320**

PARISH CENTRAL FUNDS

ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE

	2020 £	2019 £
The Ministry – *our contribution towards the cost of the ordained clergy serving the Parish*		
Diocesan Share	192,697	190,262
Clergy expenses	7,481	15,828
Clergy housing	12,609	12,317
	212,787	**218,407**
Worship – *what we need to spend to use the Abbey as a place of worship*		
Vestments, frontals and plate	-	3,242
Robes – care and replacement	437	468
Altar goods	2,103	4,621
Liturgical material		179
Audio/ CCTV maintenance	123	-
Organists and choir	2,430 22,381	22,145
Abbey staff	51,699	60,843
	79,173	**91,498**
The Church in the Community		
Parish, Deanery and National affiliations		689
Sherborne Young Singers	60 63	1,250
Church Hall	280	6,861
St James Longburton - donation	5,000	-
	5,403	**8,800**
Fabric – The Church Buildings – *maintaining and improving the fabric of our heritage*		
General maintenance and improvements	3,254	9,320
Heating and lighting	12, 300	18,600
Insurance and security	30,627	27,161
	46,181	**55,081**
Publicity and Fund-raising expenses		
Insight lectures, advertising and incidental expenses	-	1,883
	-	**1,883**
Management and Administration – *providing administrative and secretarial support and office facilities*		
Support staff	38,972	50,779
Printing and office goods	7,480	8,982
Postage, Covid-19 and sundries	4,319	2,061
Telephone	3,410	2,893
Office rent, redecoration and utilities	8,222	8,623
Computers and internet	3,471	1,964
Audit fees and bank charges	4,732	5,290
	70,606	**80,592**
Faith in Action – *tangible help for those in need*		
Contribution to FIAC	**50,000**	**49,000**
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**464,150**	**505,261**

CASTLETON CHURCH

Fund restricted to the general purposes and objects of the Castleton Committee

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:		
	2020	**2019**
	£	**£**
Donations and legacies		
COLLECTIONS (excluding envelopes & Gift Aid of £2,091 (2019 - £4,953) paid directly into Parish Central Funds)	2,205	3,974
OTHER DONATIONS AND ALMS BOX	542	1,526
LEGACIES	16,000	-
Charitable church activities		
FEES	1,353	6,385
Investments		
CBF DEPOSIT FUND AND CBF INVESTMENT FUND	9,234	9,077
TOTAL	**29,334**	**20,962**
EXPENDITURE ON:		
Charitable church activities		
CHURCH & CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE	3,355	8,030
INSURANCE AND SECURITY	3,192	3,369
HEAT AND LIGHT	2,256	3,090
HONORARIA	3,277	4,369
OTHER EXPENSES	1,986	3,831
Total direct expenditure	**14,066**	**22,689**
TRANSFER TO PARISH GENERAL FUND – PARISH SHARE	3,000	3,000
TOTAL	**17,066**	**25,689**
NET INCOME (EXPENDITURE)	**12,268**	**(4,727)**
Unrealised gain on investment assets	20,958	48,024
Net movement in funds	**33,226**	**43,297**
Balance brought forward at start of year	**333,443**	**290,146**
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD AT END OF YEAR	**366,669**	**333,443**

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

Current assets		
BANK ACCOUNTS:		
CURRENT ACCOUNT	5,586	2,552
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	20,360	26,126
CBF INVESTMENT FUND SHARES	325,723	304,765
DEBTORS	15,000	-

NET ASSETS	**366,669**	**333,443**

ST PAUL'S CHURCH

Unrestricted fund designated for the general purposes and objects of the St Paul's Committee.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020 £	2019 £
INCOME FROM:		
Donations		
COLLECTIONS	4,228	5,401
PLANNED GIVING	37,970	35,607
TAX RECOVERABLE	8,482	6,494
OTHER DONATIONS	5,585	3,805
Charitable church activities		
HALL LETTING FEES	650	3,248
TODDLER GROUP	78	961
TEA AND CHAT	759	1,057
MEET AND EAT	-	1,706
EVENT INCOME	547	3,615
Investments		
CBF DEPOSIT FUND INTEREST	3	696
Total direct income	**58,648**	**62,590**
TRANSFERS FROM PARISH CENTRAL FUND	6,798	7,426
TOTAL	**65,445**	**70,016**
EXPENDITURE ON:		
Charitable church activities		
WATER, GAS, ELECTRICITY AND INSURANCE	2,854	3,267
OFFICE COSTS, TELEPHONE AND INTERNET	9,539	10,002
MAINTENANCE AND EQUIPMENT	1,726	6,073
CLERGY EXPENSES	2,286	3,928
EVENT EXPENSES	805	7,809
TODDLER GROUP	-	765
TEA AND CHAT	417	1,309
MEET AND EAT	-	1,544
YOUTH INTERN	8,748	8,726
SUNDRY EXPENSES	774	192
Total direct expenditure	**27,149**	**43,615**
TRANSFER TO PARISH CENTRAL FUND – SHARE	29,226	28,172
TOTAL	**56,375**	**71,787**
NET INCOME (EXPENDITURE)	**9,070**	**(1,771)**
Balance brought forward at start of year	**99,825**	**101,596**
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD AT END OF YEAR	**108,895**	**99,825**

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

Current assets		
BANK ACCOUNTS:		
CURRENT ACCOUNT	14,100	5,470
CBF DEPOSIT FUND	94,022	93,674
CASH	7	681
	73	
NET ASSETS	**108,895**	**99,825**

Note: St Paul's Church has made a contribution to the PCC's Parish Share of £29,226. In addition, an estimated further £10,000 of giving by worshippers primarily attending St Paul's is made directly to the Parish Central Fund.

DIGBY MEMORIAL CHURCH HALL

Unrestricted fund designated for the improvement, maintenance and operation of the Church Hall

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020 £	**2019 £**
INCOME FROM:		
Other trading activities		
LETTING AND SUNDRY INCOME	11,877	29,519
Investments		
CBF DEPOSIT FUND INTEREST	65	116
Grants from HMG	3,093	-
TOTAL	**15,035**	**29,635**
EXPENDITURE ON:		
Raising funds		
FURNITURE, FITTINGS AND EQUIPMENT	-	6,096
RUNNING EXPENSES:		
WAGES	5,400	5,750
MAINTENANCE	2,524	2,010
SERVICES	10,267	13,415
OTHER EXPENSES	5,044	4,981
TOTAL	**23,235**	**32,252**
NET (EXPENDITURE)	**(8,200)**	**(2,617)**
Balance brought forward at start of year	**19,717**	**22,334**
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD AT END OF YEAR	**11,517**	**19,717**

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

Current assets		
BANK ACCOUNTS:		
CURRENT ACCOUNT	1,715	7,980
CBF DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	9,802	11,737
NET ASSETS	**11,517**	**19,717**

SHERBORNE ABBEY SHOP
Unrestricted fund

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020 £	2019 £
INCOME FROM:		
Other trading activities		
SALES	9,999	30,309
Investments		
BANK INTEREST	6	7
Grants from HMG	2,400	-
TOTAL	**12,405**	**30,316**
EXPENDITURE ON:		
Raising funds		
COST OF SALES	7,327	17,792
STAFF SALARIES	6,000	7,443
PREMISES AND SHOP EXPENSES	1,723	2,871
Total direct expenditure	**15,050**	**28,106**
TRANSFER TO PARISH CENTRAL FUND	-	2,000
TOTAL	**15,050**	**30,106**
NET (EXPENDITURE) INCOME	**(2,645)**	**210**
Balance brought forward at start of year	**31,349**	**31,139**
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD AT END OF YEAR	**28,704**	**31,349**

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

Current assets		
BANK ACCOUNTS:		
CURRENT ACCOUNTS	8,019	9,106
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	5,091	5,099
CASH	170	170
STOCK	15,424	17,324
Less: Creditors	-	(350)
NET ASSETS	**28,704**	**31,349**

SHERBORNE FESTIVAL
Unrestricted fund designated for purposes associated with the Sherborne Festival of Arts & Music

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020 £	**2019 £**
INCOME FROM:		
Donations		
COMPANY AND TRUST SPONSORSHIP	1,310	15,800
PERSONAL SPONSORSHIP	11,528	12,603
INCOME TAX RECOVERABLE	8 00	1,023
FREE EVENT COLLECTIONS	-	3,663
Other trading activities		
TICKET AND PROGRAMME SALES	1,095	77,905
Investments		
BANK AND CBF DEPOSIT FUND INTEREST	4 48	1,558
TOTAL	**15,181**	**112,552**
EXPENDITURE ON:		
Raising funds		
PERFORMANCE FEES AND INCIDENTAL EXPENSES	12,819	105,781
Grants made		
ABBEY CHOIR FUND	5,000	5,000
ABBEY CHOIR – SINGING LESSONS, COURSES AND COMPUTER	2,048	42
ABBEY ORGAN UPKEEP AND ORGAN HIRE	2,313	1,471
ABBEY ORGAN RECONDITIONING	22,000	5,350
FESTIVAL PIECE FOR 20TH YEAR	-	1,250
SHERBORNE YOUNG SINGERS – CHOIR GOWNS	-	396
DOUZELAGE	1,000	-
INDIVIDUALS	1,000	682
TOTAL	**46,180**	**119,972**
NET (EXPENDITURE)	**(30,999)**	**(7,420)**
Balance brought forward at start of year	**157,602**	**165,022**

BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD AT END OF YEAR	**126,603**	**157,602**

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

Current assets		
BANK ACCOUNTS:		
CURRENT ACCOUNT	6,704	2,847
DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS	40,449	75,462
CBF DEPOSIT FUND	80,630	80,183
CREDITORS	(1,180)	(890)
NET ASSETS	**126,603**	**157,602**

FAITH IN ACTION COMMITTEE
Unrestricted fund designated for Parish giving to mission societies, home and overseas charities and other appeals

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020 £	**2019 £**
INCOME FROM:		
Donations		
DONATIONS TO SPECIAL APPEALS	10,824	8,731
DONATIONS RECREDITED (SEE FIAC REPORT)	1,900	-
Investments		
BANK INTEREST AND REFUND OF CHARGES	327	-
Total direct income	**13,051**	**8,731**
GRANT FROM PARISH CENTRAL FUND	50,000	49,000
TOTAL	**63,051**	**57,731**
EXPENDITURE ON: (SEE FIAC REPORT FOR FULL DETAILS)		
Grants		
INTERNATIONAL	20,808	20,192
NATIONAL	7,800	8,700
LOCAL	18,542	16,712
SPECIAL PROJECTS	10,751	8,649
Management and administration		
EXPENSES	104	497
TOTAL	**58,005**	**54,750**

NET INCOME	**5,046**	**2,981**
Balance brought forward at start of year	**15,772**	**12,791**
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD AT END OF YEAR	**20,818**	**15,772**

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

Current assets		
BANK ACCOUNT	21,818	17,772
Current liabilities		
PLEDGES NOT PAID BEFORE YEAR END	(1,000)	(2,000)
NET ASSETS	**20,818**	**15,772**

ABBEY CHOIR FUND

Fund restricted to the general purposes and welfare of the Abbey Choir

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020 £	**2019 £**
INCOME FROM:		
Donations		
CAROL SERVICE – ABBEY COLLECTION	942	3,271
OTHER SERVICES & CONCERT	-	1,588
DONATIONS	1	375
	23	
Charitable church activities		
WEDDING AND FUNERAL FEES	500	3,619
Other trading activities		
SUNDRY INCOME	-	829
Investments		
CBF DEPOSIT FUND INTEREST		60
	28	
Total direct income		**9,742**
	1,593	
TRANSFERS FROM OTHER PARISH FUNDS:		
FESTIVAL FUND - CHOIRBOYS' PAY AND MUSIC	5,000	5,000
CENTRAL FUND – VINCENT EVANS' AWARDS	2,000	3,400

TOTAL	**8,593**	**18,142**
EXPENDITURE ON:		
Charitable church activities		
CHOIRBOYS' PAY	2,212	2,276
WEDDING AND FUNERAL FEES	500	3,142
MUSIC PURCHASES	1,828	1,957
SOCIAL EVENTS	288	3,131
CHOIRBOYS' MUSIC LESSONS	578	613
VINCENT EVANS' AWARDS	2,000	3,400
PRIZES AND GIFTS	-	515
LIBRARIAN	800	1,560
CHOIR ROBES	-	887
OTHER EXPENSES	67	854
TOTAL	**8,273**	**18,335**
NET INCOME (EXPENDITURE)	**320**	**(193)**
Balance brought forward at start of year	**15,125**	**15,318**
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD AT END OF YEAR	**15,445**	**15,125**

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

Current assets		
BANK ACCOUNTS:		
CURRENT ACCOUNT	8,744	8,354
CBF DEPOSIT FUND	6,647	6,619
DEBTORS		152
	54	
NET ASSETS	**15,445**	**15,125**

ABBEY MUSIC COMMITTEE

Unrestricted fund

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020	**2019**
	£	**£**
INCOME FROM:		
Other trading activities		
CONCERTS AND RECITALS		2,727
	-	
PERFORMING RIGHTS SOCIETY – income	5	916
	13	
VERGER FEES		
STAGING FEES FROM HIRERS	-	375
	-	150

TOTAL	**513**	**4,168**
EXPENDITURE ON:		
Raising funds		
PERFORMING RIGHTS SOCIETY – payments	513	917
ADVERTISING	-	30
VERGER FEES	-	375
STAGING FEES TO VERGERS	-	70
Total direct expenditure	**513**	**1,392**
FACILITY FEE – TRANSFER TO PARISH CENTRAL FUND	1,500	5,000
TOTAL	**2,013**	**6,392**
NET (EXPENDITURE)	**(1,500)**	**(2,224)**
Balance brought forward at start of year	**4,985**	**7,209**
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD AT END OF YEAR	**3,485**	**4,985**

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

Current assets		
BANK ACCOUNT:		
CURRENT ACCOUNT	3,485	4,464
DEBTORS	-	521
NET ASSETS	**3,485**	**4,985**

ABBEY FLORAL FUND
Fund restricted to purposes associated with the floral decoration of the Abbey

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020 £	2019 £
INCOME FROM:		
Donations		
ABBEY FLOWER BOX AND DONATIONS	13	688
LEGACY	500	-
Charitable church activities		
CHARGES FOR WEDDINGS AND OTHER EVENTS	300	3,080
Investments		
BANK INTEREST	1	2
Total direct income	**814**	**3,770**
GRANT FROM PARISH CENTRAL FUND	-	1,000
TOTAL	**814**	**4,770**
EXPENDITURE ON:		
Charitable church activities		
FLOWERS AND SUNDRY PAYMENTS	1,076	4,300
TOTAL	**1,076**	**4,300**
NET (EXPENDITURE) INCOME	**(262)**	**470**
Balance brought forward at start of year	**2,341**	**1,871**
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD AT END OF YEAR	**2,079**	**2,341**

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

Current assets		
BANK ACCOUNTS:		
CURRENT ACCOUNT	651	764
RESERVE ACCOUNT	1,050	1,049
CASH	378	528
NET ASSETS	**2,079**	**2,341**

THE COMPANY OF SHERBORNE ABBEY BELL RINGERS
Fund restricted to the general purposes of the Company of Ringers

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020 £	2019 £
INCOME FROM:		
Donations		
RINGERS BOX AND PEAL FEES	55	375
Charitable church activities		
WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS	600	2,800
BOOK SALES	23	754
Investments		
BANK ACCOUNTS	2	4
TOTAL	**680**	**3,933**
EXPENDITURE ON:		
Charitable church activities		
PAYMENTS TO RINGERS	450	2,250
SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS	7	678
RINGERS PARTY AND EVENTS	12	
MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS	335	527
BOOK EXPENSES	394	447
	4	557
TOTAL	**1,895**	**4,459**
NET (EXPENDITURE)	**(1,215)**	**(526)**
Balance brought forward at start of year	**2,906**	**3,432**
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD AT END OF YEAR	**1,691**	**2,906**

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

Current assets		
BANK ACCOUNTS:		
RESERVE ACCOUNT	1,327	1,924
CURRENT ACCOUNT	341	852
CASH	23	
		130

NET ASSETS	**1,691**	**2,906**

GREAT WEST WINDOW APPEAL FUND
Expendable endowment fund restricted to purposes associated with the replacement and repair of the Abbey's stained glass windows

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020	**2019**
	£	**£**
EXPENDITURE ON:		
MAINTENANCE OF ABBEY WINDOWS AND RELATED WORK	-	22,862
TOTAL	**-**	**22,862**
Balance brought forward at start of year	**-**	**22,862**
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD AT END OF YEAR	**-**	**-**

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

Current assets		
DUE FROM PCC CENTRAL FUND	-	-
NET ASSETS	**-**	**-**

ABBEY SOCIAL FUND
Unrestricted fund under the management of the Social Committee.
It is part of the Parish Central Fund and is shown here for information only.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020 £	2019 £
INCOME FROM:		
Donations		
PACK MONDAY (cancelled in 2020)	-	1,259
OTHER EVENTS	504	1,337
TOTAL	**504**	**2,596**
EXPENDITURE ON:		
Charitable church activities		
PARISH FUNCTIONS AND OTHER EVENTS	363	894
PACK MONDAY EXPENSES	-	286
DONATIONS - FIAC	500	1,000
TOTAL	**863**	**2,180**
NET INCOME	**(359)**	**416**
Balance brought forward at start of year	**2,047**	**1,631**
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD AT END OF YEAR	**1,688**	**2,047**

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

Current assets		
BANK ACCOUNT	1,688	2,047
NET ASSETS	**1,688**	**2,047**