

# **THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF DUNSTABLE**

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**For the year ended 31st December 2024**

**COMPRISING THE ACCOUNTS OF:**

**THE PCC CENTRAL FUNDS**

**THE DISTRICT CHURCH COUNCILS OF:**

**ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY**

**ST FREMUND THE MARTYR**

**PRIORY CHURCH OF ST PETER**

**Rector:**

**The Revd Rachel Phillips**

**Parish Office, Parish Hall**

**Church Close**

**Church Street**

**Dunstable**

**LU5 4RU**

**Independent Examiner**

**The Revd Alan A. Clements MA, ACIB, FCIE**

**15 Carleton Road**

**Great Knowley**

**Chorley**

**Lancs**

**PR6 8TQ**

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Dunstable**  
**Registered Charity Commission No. 1130250**

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF DUNSTABLE

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31st December 2024

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**Independent Examiner's unqualified report to the members of the P.C.C. of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Dunstable.**

**Charities no. 1131250**

**Independent Examiner's Report on the Financial Statements for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup>. December 2024 as signed on behalf of the P.C.C. on pages two and nineteen of this Report.**

**Respective responsibilities of the P.C.C. and the examiner.**

The P.C.C. members acting as the charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for the year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

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

**Basis of the Independent Examiner's statement.**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission and the guidance published in PCC Accountability (The Charities Act 2011 and the P.C.C. 5<sup>th</sup> edition). An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required for an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement.**

In connection with my examination, no material matter has come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act, or  
the accounts do not accord to the accounting records.

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

Signed. *Alex A Clements*

Date 28th. February 2025.

Name Revd. A. A. Clements.

Fellow Association of Charity Independent Examiners.

Address 15 Carleton Road, Great Knowley, Chorley PR6 8TQ

ACIE PCC CC32

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF DUNSTABLE

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>						
Tangible	6	320,665	0	0	<b>320,665</b>	323,190
Investments	7	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>41,168</u>	<b>41,168</b>	40,085
		<u>320,665</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>41,168</u>	<b>361,833</b>	363,275
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>						
Stock		0	0	0	<b>0</b>	0
Debtors and prepayments	8	36,089	2,572	0	<b>38,661</b>	28,271
Short term deposits	9	72,329	217,361	0	<b>289,690</b>	165,182
Cash at bank and in hand	10	30,146	42,923	7,742	<b>80,811</b>	142,414
		<u>138,564</u>	<u>262,856</u>	<u>7,742</u>	<b>409,162</b>	335,867
<b>LESS: LIABILITIES</b>						
Creditors - Amounts due in one year	11	4,061	270	0	<b>4,331</b>	5,904
		<u>134,503</u>	<u>262,586</u>	<u>7,742</u>	<b>404,831</b>	329,963
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>						
		<u>455,168</u>	<u>262,586</u>	<u>48,910</u>	<b>766,664</b>	693,238
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>						
<b>DCC FUNDS</b>						
Unrestricted	12 (a)	455,168			<b>455,168</b>	421,889
Restricted	12 (b)		262,586		<b>262,586</b>	223,824
Endowment	12 (c)			48,910	<b>48,910</b>	47,525
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<u>455,168</u>	<u>262,586</u>	<u>48,910</u>	<b>766,664</b>	693,238

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on Wednesday 12th February 2025  
and signed on its behalf by:



The Revd Rachel Phillips  
Rector



John Bradley F.C.C.A.  
Treasurer

The notes on pages 4 to 13 form part of these accounts

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF DUNSTABLE**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

**For the year ended 31st December 2024**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds £</b>	<b>Restricted funds £</b>	<b>Endowment funds £</b>	<b>TOTAL 2024 £</b>	<b>TOTAL 2023 £</b>
<b>INCOME</b>						
Voluntary income	2(a)	145,295	115,221	0	<b>260,516</b>	170,677
Church activities	2(b)	70,994	0	0	<b>70,994</b>	62,380
Activities for generating funds	2(c)	8,036	158	0	<b>8,194</b>	10,105
Income from investments	2(d)	16,968	8,729	1,086	<b>26,782</b>	15,329
Other income	2(e)	6,523	0	0	<b>6,523</b>	857
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<u>247,815</u>	<u>124,108</u>	<u>1,086</u>	<u><b>373,009</b></u>	<u>259,348</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>						
Church activities	3(a)	261,268	35,019	0	<b>296,287</b>	283,341
Raising funds	3(b)	152	0	0	<b>152</b>	869
Investment costs	3(c)	3,878	0	0	<b>3,878</b>	2,905
Governance costs	3(d)	350	0	0	<b>350</b>	350
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<u>265,647</u>	<u>35,019</u>	<u>0</u>	<u><b>300,666</b></u>	<u>287,464</u>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>		(17,832)	89,089	1,086	<b>72,343</b>	(28,116)
<b>GAINS/(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS</b>				1,083	<b>1,083</b>	2,852
<b>TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS</b>	5	51,111	(50,327)	(784)	<b>0</b>	0
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<u>33,279</u>	<u>38,762</u>	<u>1,385</u>	<u><b>73,426</b></u>	<u>(25,264)</u>
<b>Total funds b/f at 1 January 2024</b>		<u>421,889</u>	<u>223,824</u>	<u>47,525</u>	<u><b>693,238</b></u>	<u>718,502</u>
<b>Total funds c/f at 31 December 2024</b>		<u><u>455,168</u></u>	<u><u>262,586</u></u>	<u><u>48,910</u></u>	<u><u><b>766,664</b></u></u>	<u><u>693,238</u></u>

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF DUNSTABLE**  
**CASH FLOW STATEMENT**  
**For the year ended 31st December 2024**

	2024	2023
	£	£
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	<b>36,122</b>	<b>(48,514)</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Dividends, interest and rent from investments	26,782	15,329
Interest paid	0	0
Proceeds from the sale of: Tangible fixed assets	0	0
Proceeds from the sale of: Tangible fixed investments	0	0
Purchase of: Tangible fixed assets	0	0
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	0	0
Fixed asset investments	0	0
<b>Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities</b>	<b>26,782</b>	<b>15,329</b>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>	<b>62,905</b>	<b>(33,185)</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January 2024</b>	<b>307,596</b>	<b>340,781</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2024</b>	<b>370,501</b>	<b>307,596</b>
<b>Reconciliation of net income / (expenditure) before investment gains</b>		
<b>Net income before investment gains at 31 December</b>	<b>72,343</b>	<b>(28,116)</b>
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	2,525	2,525
Dividends, interest and rent investments	(26,782)	(15,329)
Decrease / (increase) in stocks	0	0
Decrease / (increase) in debtors	(10,391)	(5,706)
(Decrease) / increase in creditors	(1,573)	(1,888)
<b>Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities</b>	<b>36,122</b>	<b>(48,514)</b>
<b>Analysis of cash and cash equivalents</b>		
CAF Bank	73,934	133,570
NatWest	3,977	6,743
Barclays	1,983	1,983
Lloyds	657	0
Cash in hand	259	119
	<b>80,811</b>	<b>142,414</b>
<b>Notice deposits (less than 3 months)</b>		
CCLA - CBF Church of England Deposit Fund	256,028	150,282
NatWest Reserve	33,662	14,900
	<b>289,690</b>	<b>165,182</b>
	<b>370,501</b>	<b>307,596</b>

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF DUNSTABLE**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 31st December 2024**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs with the Regulations' "True and fair view" provisions and applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS102)).

**ASSETS**

**Consecrated and benefice property**

In so far as consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the statutory definition of 'charity' by Section 10(2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 such assets are not capitalised in the financial statements.

**Moveable church furnishings**

These are capitalised at cost and depreciated over their useful economic life other than where insufficient cost information is available. In this case the item is not capitalised, but all items are included in the Church's inventory.

**Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity**

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £2,000 each. They are valued at cost or else, for gifts-in-kind, at a reasonable estimate of their open market on receipt.

Depreciation is calculated to write off the capitalised cost of fixed assets over their estimated useful lives depending on the type of asset as follows:

Office equipment                      5 years

Land and buildings - the PCC adopts the policy regarding the clergy house (temporarily let) at 95 Evelyn Road, Dunstable of accounting at 'current market value' based on valuations within the last 3 years.

**Investments**

Investments quoted on a recognised stock exchange or whose value derives from them are valued at market value at the year end.

**Short term deposits**

These are the cash held deposits either with the CCLA or at the bank.

**FUNDS**

**Unrestricted Funds**

These represent the remaining income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC, including amounts designated by the PCC for fixed assets for its own use or for spending on a future project and which are therefore not included in its 'free reserves' as disclosed in the trustees report.

**Restricted Funds**

These are income funds that must be spent on restricted purposes and details of the funds held and restrictions provided are shown in the notes to the accounts.

**Endowment Funds**

These are restricted funds that must be retained as trust capital either permanently or subject to a discretionary power to spend capital as income, and where the use of any income or any other benefit derived from the capital may be restricted or unrestricted. Full details are shown in the notes to the accounts

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF DUNSTABLE**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 31st December 2024**

**2 INCOME**

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2023
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
<b>2(a) Voluntary income</b>						
Planned giving:						
Gift aid donations		66,360	200		<b>66,560</b>	68,232
Income tax recoverable		20,144			<b>20,144</b>	20,710
Sponsorship		235			<b>235</b>	370
Other planned		10,799			<b>10,799</b>	12,142
Collections - open plate		9,421			<b>9,421</b>	9,661
Donations		11,562	215		<b>11,777</b>	8,527
Legacies		4,421	84,389		<b>88,810</b>	14,568
Grants	15	4,844	30,417		<b>35,261</b>	19,015
Chaplaincy services to academies		17,509			<b>17,509</b>	17,452
		<u>145,295</u>	<u>115,221</u>	<u>0</u>	<u><b>260,516</b></u>	<u>170,677</u>
<b>2(b) Income from church activities</b>						
Church hall lettings		57,623			<b>57,623</b>	53,112
Publications and souvenir sales		20			<b>20</b>	35
Fees - weddings and funerals		13,351			<b>13,351</b>	9,233
		<u>70,994</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u><b>70,994</b></u>	<u>62,380</u>
<b>2(c) Activities for generating funds</b>						
Fund raising		8,036	158		<b>8,194</b>	10,105
		<u>8,036</u>	<u>158</u>	<u>0</u>	<u><b>8,194</b></u>	<u>10,105</u>
<b>2(d) Income from investments</b>						
Rental income		14,388			<b>14,388</b>	7,200
Dividends - CBF investment funds		0		1,086	<b>1,086</b>	996
Bank and CCLA deposit interest		2,580	8,729		<b>11,308</b>	7,133
		<u>16,968</u>	<u>8,729</u>	<u>1,086</u>	<u><b>26,782</b></u>	<u>15,329</u>
<b>2(e) Other income</b>						
Electricity Feed in Tariff		491			<b>491</b>	477
Sale of assets		0	0		<b>0</b>	0
Insurance claims		5,908			<b>5,908</b>	0
Other		124			<b>124</b>	380
		<u>6,523</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u><b>6,523</b></u>	<u>857</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<u><u>247,815</u></u>	<u><u>124,108</u></u>	<u><u>1,086</u></u>	<u><u><b>373,009</b></u></u>	<u><u>259,348</u></u>



**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF DUNSTABLE**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 31st December 2024**

**3 EXPENDITURE**

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL	TOTAL
		funds	funds	funds	2024	2023
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
<b>3(a) Church activities</b>						
Missionary/charitable giving	16	855			855	799
Ministry:						
Diocesan parish share		144,778			144,778	157,074
Clergy expenses		1,545			1,545	1,575
Clergy vacancy		0			0	0
Staff costs	4	19,538			19,538	18,211
Church running expenses		27,167			27,167	30,940
Church maintenance		21,754	4,789		26,542	46,433
Upkeep of services		8,619	15,167		23,786	12,845
Church hall		30,329	15,000		45,329	9,324
Training and education		0	64		64	69
Depreciation		2,525			2,525	2,525
Printing and stationery		1,056			1,056	361
Office equipment rental		0			0	0
Office equipment maintenance		0			0	0
Telephone		1,986			1,986	1,922
Postage		14			14	80
Bank charges		159	0		159	156
Hall bad debts		0			0	0
Sundry expenses		943	0		943	1,026
		<u>261,268</u>	<u>35,019</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>296,287</u>	<u>283,341</u>
<b>3(b) Raising funds</b>						
Fund Raising Events		152			152	869
Stewardship costs		0			0	0
		<u>152</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>152</u>	<u>869</u>
<b>3(c) Investment costs</b>						
Maintenance costs		2,281	0	0	2,281	2,905
Agent fee		1,597	0	0	1,597	0
		<u>3,878</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3,878</u>	<u>2,905</u>
<b>3(d) Governance costs</b>						
Independent examiner's remuneration		350	0	0	350	350
		<u>350</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>350</u>	<u>350</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<u>265,647</u>	<u>35,019</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>300,666</u>	<u>287,464</u>

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF DUNSTABLE**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 31st December 2024**

<b>4(a) STAFF COSTS</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Average number of employees	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
Wages and salaries	<b>£ 18,894</b>	£ 17,599
Pension	<b>£ 643</b>	£ 613
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 19,538</b>	£ 18,211

Employer's NIC was not chargeable as the total for the Parish was less than the HMRC allowance of £3,000 p.a.

During the year the PCC employed the following staff (all part-time):

1 x Administrator	PCC
1 x Cleaner	St Peter/St Fremund
1 x Musician	St Peter

**4(b) RELATED PARTIES**

A congregation collection of £691 was received and paid to our departing curate the Revd Jenna Dearden (PCC trustee) through the PCC bank account but not using any PCC funds.

No payments were made to any PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties (2023: None) during the year

<b>5 TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>Endowment funds</b>
<b>Priory Church of St Peter:</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Cheshire Fund dividends to Building Development Fund	481		(481)
Blackwell Fund dividends to Future Curacy Fund	188		(188)
Barnard Fund dividends to Easter Lilies Fund		77	(77)
MacKonochie Fund dividends to High Altar Christmas Flowers Fund		38	(38)
Special collections to donations	442	(442)	
AJ Ward Bequest to general funds	50,000	(50,000)	
	<u>51,111</u>	<u>(50,327)</u>	<u>(784)</u>

<b>6 FIXED ASSETS</b>	<b>Freehold Land &amp; Buildings</b>	<b>Church Moveable Furn/Equip</b>	<b>Church Fixtures &amp; Fittings</b>	<b>Office Equipment</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Cost/Revaluation</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Cost at 1 January 2024	92,500	18,632	9,236	2,659	<b>123,028</b>
Revaluation at 1 Jan 2024	227,500				<b>227,500</b>
Additions	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Disposals	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
At 31 December 2024	<u>320,000</u>	<u>18,632</u>	<u>9,236</u>	<u>2,659</u>	<u><b>350,528</b></u>
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 January 2024		15,442	9,236	2,659	<b>27,338</b>
Charge for the year		2,525	0	0	<b>2,525</b>
Disposals		0	0	0	<b>0</b>
At 31 December 2024	<u>0</u>	<u>17,967</u>	<u>9,236</u>	<u>2,659</u>	<u><b>29,863</b></u>
<b>Net book value</b>					
At 31 December 2024	<u>320,000</u>	<u>665</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u><b>320,665</b></u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>320,000</u>	<u>3,190</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u><b>323,190</b></u>

Freehold land and buildings represent the house located at 95 Evelyn Road, Dunstable. This property was purchased prior to 1998 at an original cost of £92,500. The property was last valued at 31st December 2019.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF DUNSTABLE**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 31st December 2024**

**6 FIXED ASSETS (Continued)**

Functional charitable land and buildings are not included in the balance sheet. This comprises the Priory Church Hall which has a valuation of approximately £200,000 (1997). The land was acquired by deed of grant from The Crown Estate in 1839 to be used as a school and later in 1923 the use was changed to that of church and similar meetings. Should this change, outside those permitted by the grants, there would be a right of re-entry to the Crown Estate. Therefore no commercial gain would be realised.

**7 INVESTMENTS (ALL ENDOWMENT FUNDS)**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Market value at 1 January 2024</b>	<b>40,085</b>	37,233
<b>Net gains/(losses)</b>	<b>1,083</b>	2,852
<b>Market value at 31 December 2024</b>	<b><u>41,168</u></b>	<u>40,085</u>

**Represented by:**

	<b>No.</b>		
	<b>of shares</b>		
<b>CCLA - CBF INVESTMENT FUND</b>			
Barnard	122.00	<b>2,821</b>	2,758
Flory	430.38	<b>9,952</b>	9,729
Herington	50.51	<b>1,168</b>	1,142
MacKonochie	60.93	<b>1,409</b>	1,377
		<b><u>15,349</u></b>	<u>15,006</u>

Share value at 31 December 2024 was £23.1227 (2023: £22.6053)

**CCLA - CBF FIXED INTEREST SECURITIES FUND**

Cheshire	12,858.00	<b><u>19,174</u></b>	<u>18,612</u>
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Share value at 31 December 2024 was £1.4912 (2023: £1.4475)

**CCLA - COIF CHARITIES**  
**ETHICAL INVESTMENT FUND - INCOME UNITS**

	<b>No.</b>		
	<b>of units</b>		
Blackwell	2,148.67	<b><u>6,645</u></b>	<u>6,468</u>

Share value at 31 December 2024 was £3.0926 (2023: £3.0100)

<b>TOTAL INVESTMENTS</b>		<b><u>41,168</u></b>	<u>40,085</u>
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**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF DUNSTABLE**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 31st December 2024**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL	
				2024 £	2023 £
<b>8 DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS</b>					
HMRC -income tax recoverable	20,144	0	0	<b>20,144</b>	8,617
VAT reclaim	544	0	0	<b>544</b>	4,344
Schools - Chaplaincy services	2,918	0	0	<b>2,918</b>	1,427
Hall Lettings	6,070	0	0	<b>6,070</b>	2,229
Prepayments & Accrued Income	6,062	2,572	0	<b>8,634</b>	8,955
Other debtors	352	0	0	<b>352</b>	2,699
	<u>36,089</u>	<u>2,572</u>	<u>0</u>	<u><b>38,661</b></u>	<u>28,271</u>
<b>9 SHORT TERM DEPOSITS</b>					
CCLA - CBF C of E Deposit Fund	41,693	214,335		<b>256,028</b>	150,282
Nat West Bank - Reserve Account	30,636	3,026		<b>33,662</b>	14,900
CAF Bank - Gold Account	0	0		<b>0</b>	0
	<u>72,329</u>	<u>217,361</u>	<u>0</u>	<u><b>289,690</b></u>	<u>165,182</u>
<b>10 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND</b>					
Nat West Bank	3,977	0	0	<b>3,977</b>	6,743
CAF Bank	24,226	41,966	7,742	<b>73,934</b>	133,570
Barclays Bank	1,026	957	0	<b>1,983</b>	1,983
Lloyds Bank	657	0	0	<b>657</b>	0
Cash in hand	259	0	0	<b>259</b>	119
	<u>30,146</u>	<u>42,923</u>	<u>7,742</u>	<u><b>80,811</b></u>	<u>142,414</u>
<b>11 LIABILITIES</b>					
Creditors: falling due in one year:					
Accruals	2,183	200		<b>2,383</b>	2,532
Creditors for goods and services	0	0		<b>0</b>	1,177
Accountancy/Independent Exam.	350	0		<b>350</b>	350
Staff Pension costs	643	0		<b>643</b>	1,185
Special collections	290	70		<b>360</b>	489
Charity Grants	345	0		<b>345</b>	121
Hall advance lettings/deposits	250	0		<b>250</b>	50
Other creditors	0	0		<b>0</b>	0
	<u>4,061</u>	<u>270</u>	<u>0</u>	<u><b>4,331</b></u>	<u>5,904</u>

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF DUNSTABLE**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 31st December 2024**

**12 FUND DETAILS**

**12(a) UNRESTRICTED FUNDS**

	<b>PCC</b>	<b>St</b>	<b>St</b>	<b>Priory</b>		
	<b>Central</b>	<b>Augustine</b>	<b>Fremund</b>	<b>Church of</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>St Peter</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>General Funds:</b>						
General Purposes	4,393	30,741	12,969	31,409	<b>79,512</b>	35,167
Bequests, Legacies				0	<b>0</b>	0
Property Revaluation Reserve				320,000	<b>320,000</b>	320,000
	<u>4,393</u>	<u>30,741</u>	<u>12,969</u>	<u>351,409</u>	<u><b>399,512</b></u>	<u>355,167</u>
<b>Designated Funds:</b>						
<b>Sub groups</b>						
Church Hall				15,806	<b>15,806</b>	24,651
Choirs				578	<b>578</b>	1,295
Bellringers				3,614	<b>3,614</b>	3,514
Flowers				486	<b>486</b>	546
Publications				1,443	<b>1,443</b>	1,443
<b>Total Sub groups</b>	<u><b>0</b></u>	<u><b>0</b></u>	<u><b>0</b></u>	<u><b>21,928</b></u>	<u><b>21,928</b></u>	<u><b>31,450</b></u>
<b>Other Designated</b>						
Education Fund - PCC	627				<b>627</b>	596
Projects For 'Living God's Love'	3,025				<b>3,025</b>	2,877
Parish Sinking Fund	9,678				<b>9,678</b>	9,204
Community Coffee		971			<b>971</b>	834
Special Events		31			<b>31</b>	31
Flowers			0		<b>0</b>	85
Garden			0		<b>0</b>	0
Altar Frontals				464	<b>464</b>	464
Bells				5,507	<b>5,507</b>	5,257
Building Development				1,661	<b>1,661</b>	1,661
Future Curacy				2,127	<b>2,127</b>	2,127
Equipment				419	<b>419</b>	400
Heating System				9,219	<b>9,219</b>	9,025
Organ				0	<b>0</b>	2,712
<b>Total Other Designated</b>	<u>13,329</u>	<u>1,002</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>19,397</u>	<u><b>33,729</b></u>	<u>35,272</u>
<b>Total Designated Funds</b>	<u>13,329</u>	<u>1,002</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>41,325</u>	<u><b>55,656</b></u>	<u>66,722</u>
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	<u>17,722</u>	<u>31,743</u>	<u>12,969</u>	<u>392,734</u>	<u><b>455,168</b></u>	<u>421,889</u>

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF DUNSTABLE**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 31st December 2024**

**12(b) RESTRICTED FUNDS**

			2024	2023
	<b>Donor</b>	<b>Specified Purpose of Fund</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>St Augustine</b>	Mary Townsend legacy	Paschal candles	171	208
	Mrs Jane Cart Trust	Work with young people	520	840
	Mrs Jane Cart Trust	Mental Health Project	2,153	2,288
	Donations	Messy church	69	0
	Dunstable Town Council	Badminton	27	0
	St Albans DBF	Asylum seekers	7	101
	St Augustine congregation - variou	Carpet & Maintenance	78	113
<b>St Fremund</b>	Vicky Faulkner bequest	Church hall interior/garage refurbishment	274	795
	St Fremund Ladies Group	Notice boards	0	1,227
<b>Priory Church</b>	Special collections	Various	0	442
<b>of St Peter</b>	AJ Ward Bequest	For use by the Vicar and Churchwardens	48,101	96,044
	Mary McKeand	In Memory of Winifred Guymer for education	2,199	2,161
	Family of Olive Leech	Re-planting church garden	173	173
	Church Choirs	Boys' and girls' choirs' singing visits	2,450	2,178
	Phyllis Blake legacy	Mobile font, fabric and upkeep of church	3,673	3,507
	Joe Kendrick grant	School visits	75	71
	Anonymous	Servers' albs and accessories	356	356
	Various	20/20 Vision for church refurbishment	1,666	1,666
	Various	Easter and Christmas flowers	522	511
	Audrey Rees legacy	Church Flower Fund	650	650
	Anonymous	Church hall heating system maintenance	1,027	980
	Priory Society of Bellringers	Maintenance/ repair of bells and other		
		restrictions for ringing as minuted	17,805	16,998
	Anonymous	Curate's Expenses	4,617	5,000
	Sue Read	Church linen	100	100
	St Albans Diocese	Chaplaincy expenses	1,757	0
	R R Barlow - Bequest 2022	Dunstable Priory Church	58,054	55,423
	R R Barlow - Bequest 2022	Music at the Priory Church	21,994	31,994
	Mrs Jane Cart Trust	Choral Scholarship	6,867	0
	David Fowler - Bequest 2024	Specific items	1,500	0
	David Fowler - Bequest 2024	Dunstable Priory Church	85,699	0
			<b>262,586</b>	<b>223,824</b>

**12(c) ENDOWMENT FUNDS**

These are permanent endowments for the Priory Church of St Peter, Dunstable, which allow for the income arising to be spent on specified purposes as noted.

<b>Name of Bequest</b>	<b>Specified Purpose</b>	<b>Permanent Endowment</b>	<b>Income Fund</b>	<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
				<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Flory	Upkeep of the Lady Chapel	9,952	6,453	16,405	15,912
MacKonochie	High altar flowers at Christmas	1,409	-	1,409	1,377
Barnard	Easter lilies	2,821	-	2,821	2,758
Herington	Unrestricted	1,168	528	1,695	1,638
Cheshire	Upkeep of church and services	19,174	-	19,174	18,612
Blackwell	Augmentation of stipend for assistant priest	6,645	761	7,406	7,229
		<b>41,168</b>	<b>7,742</b>	<b>48,910</b>	<b>47,525</b>

**13 INSURANCE**

The church buildings and contents are insured with the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group at the following sums insured:

	2024	2023
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
St Augustine of Canterbury	3,330,000	3,330,000
St Fremund the Martyr	3,330,000	3,330,000
Priory Church of St Peter	29,250,000	29,250,000
Priory Church Hall	730,028	711,338
House at 95 Evelyn Road, Dunstable	403,085	397,130
	<b>37,043,113</b>	<b>37,018,468</b>

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF DUNSTABLE**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 31st December 2024**

**14 CONNECTED CHARITY - THE NASH BEQUEST FUND**

The Nash Bequest Fund is restricted towards payments to curates.  
At 31st December 2024 the fund comprised the following:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Administered by St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance:		
CCLA - CBF C of E Investment Fund	31,632	30,924
CCLA - CBF C of E Deposit Fund	3,671	3,671
	<u>35,303</u>	<u>34,595</u>
Administered by the Rector and Parish Churchwardens:		
Nat West Bank - Current account	10,023	8,974
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u><u>45,326</u></u>	<u><u>43,569</u></u>

**15 GRANTS RECEIVABLE**

	Specified Purpose	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
<b>PCC</b>				
Masonic Charitable Foundation	General Maintenance	3,785		3,785
<b>St Augustine</b>				
Dunstable Town Council	Badminton		500	500
Asda	Catering Equipment	400		400
<b>St Fremund</b>				
Mrs Jane Cart Trust	Lighting	0	2,902	2,902
<b>Priory Church of St Peter</b>				
Dunstable Town Council	Floodlighting	76		76
Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust	General Maintenance	79		79
St Albans Diocese	Reaching New People (Youth)	250		250
Mrs Jane Cart Trust	Church Clock	254		254
Mrs Jane Cart Trust	Church Hall Toilets		15,000	15,000
Mrs Jane Cart Trust	Choral Scholarship		10,000	10,000
St Albans Diocese	Chaplaincy Fund		2,015	2,015
<b>TOTAL GRANTS RECEIVABLE</b>		<u><u>4,844</u></u>	<u><u>30,417</u></u>	<u><u>35,261</u></u>

**16 GRANTS PAYABLE - CHARITABLE**

	2024	2023
	£	£
<b>St Augustine</b>		
Smile Train	173	
RNIB	173	
Bishop's Harvest Appeal		297
Beds & Herts Historic Churches	40	40
<b>Priory Church of St Peter</b>		
Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust	40	40
Bedfordshire Association of Bellringers	70	63
Dunstable Food Bank	360	360
<b>TOTAL GRANTS PAYABLE</b>	<u><u>855</u></u>	<u><u>799</u></u>



## **THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF DUNSTABLE**

**REGISTERED CHARITY No. 1130250**

### **ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CHARITY COMMISSIONERS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

#### **Aim and Purposes**

The primary object of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the promotion of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The statutory function of the PCC is to co-operate with its ministers in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish of Dunstable the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

#### **Objectives and activities**

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to join in worship and mission and to become part of our parish community. The PCC maintains an overview of worship and mission throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how activities can reach and involve people throughout the parish and beyond. Worship puts faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning activities in 2024, the PCC considered the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and in particular the guidance on charities seeking the advancement of religion. Primarily, the PCC tried to help ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community, with activity that addressed this need through:

- Worship and prayer
- Pastoral care and support for people living in the Parish
- Mission and outreach work

To facilitate the activities, it was and is important to maintain the fabric of the church buildings and premises for which the PCC is responsible.

#### **Achievements and Performance**

##### *Worship and prayer*

The PCC worked to support as many people as possible to worship at our churches and to become part of the Parish community in Dunstable. The PCC maintained an overview of worship throughout the Parish and looked to improve on how our services could involve the many communities and groups



that live within the Parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer, scripture, music and sacrament.

All three churches also continued to offer online worship. Newsletters and social media enabled contact to continue and new contacts to be made, helping the PCC to fulfil its objectives in new ways and changing circumstances.

During Lent members of our churches joined with people from other churches in Dunstable for shared Bible study in different contexts and traditions. In Eastertide our clergy led a well-attended parish quiet day in a neighbouring parish church. Through the year our churches offered various courses studying the Bible, prayer and spirituality, which were well supported.

#### *Pastoral care and support for people living in the Parish*

In 2024 the clergy conducted occasional offices for those living in the Parish, or connected with it:

Baptisms (up to age 12)	11	(2023: 21)
Baptisms (over age 12)	2	(2023: 14)
Confirmations	11	(2023: 32)
Marriages	6	(2023: 8)
Funerals in church	29	(2023: 33)
Funerals at cemetery or crematorium	12	(2023: 14)

#### *Mission and outreach*

The Revd Tim Davis continued to provide chaplaincy services to two local diocesan secondary school academies - All Saints Academy and Manshead Academy. Our clergy regularly led collective worship with the two church schools affiliated with our churches - Ashton St Peter's Primary School and St Augustine's Academy - and our clergy and lay people served as governors in those schools.

Our churches continued to support asylum seekers staying temporarily in Dunstable, several of whom worshipped regularly in our churches, though by the end of 2024 nearly all of them had moved (or been moved) elsewhere.

All three churches continued to let their halls to external users, raising income and strengthening links with the local community.

***Further details of activities in each of our three churches appear in the Appendix to this Report.***

#### **Parish Electoral Roll**

Adults and young people involved in the churches' worship and activities are encouraged to join the Parish Electoral Roll and vote for churchwardens and officers of the PCC and DCCs. As at the annual meeting in March 2024, the number on the Electoral Roll was 237, an overall increase of 17 from 2023, distributed as follows:

Priory Church of St Peter	155 (2023: 132)
St Augustine	58 (2023: 61)
St Fremund	24 (2023: 27)

## **Structure, governance and management**

The Parish of Dunstable is part of the Diocese of St Albans in the Church of England. It comprises the PCC and the three District Church Councils (DCCs) of the Priory Church of St Peter, St Augustine of Canterbury and St Fremund the Martyr.

The ministry team in 2024 comprised: Team Rector, the Revd Rachel Phillips; Team Vicars the Revd Ricky Turner and the Revd Tim Davis; Assistant Curate the Revd Jenna Dearden (until July); Parish Reader Keith King, who was licensed in 2023 and based at St Augustine's Church; towards the end of 2024, he began to explore funeral ministry. The parish also benefited from the ministry of Iain Grant, an ordinand on placement at St Augustine's for 18 months until his ordination in June.

In July we were sad to say goodbye to the Revd Jenna Dearden as she completed her curacy with us and moved to her new ministry as Priest in Charge of a group of parishes elsewhere in Bedfordshire.

The Annual Parish Church Meeting was held on 3 March 2024 in the Priory Church, to approve the accounts and various reports for 2023, together with elections of PCC members.

## **PCC**

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. PCC members include the clergy and churchwardens; representatives to the deanery and diocesan synods; and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the parish. All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The full PCC held four ordinary meetings during the year, receiving reports from the churchwardens of the three churches and discussing matters for which the PCC is responsible, including finance, safeguarding, health & safety and data protection. There were a further four meetings of the PCC's Standing/Finance Committee.

The PCC devoted its June meeting to considering the long-term sustainability of St Fremund's Church, in the light of declining numbers and finances. St Fremund's undertook to conduct wide consultation and to work towards a new vision for the church and its mission in the parish.

At its meeting in October the PCC discussed the Church of England's guidance for blessing same-sex relationships and unanimously agreed to affirm the Church's desire to bless same-sex relationships and to support clergy who conduct such blessings in our churches.

## **Safeguarding**

Throughout the year, the PCC complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

## **Trustees**

PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2024 until the date this report was approved are:

### ***Ex officio members***

#### *Clergy*

The Revd Rachel Phillips	Incumbent/Team Rector
The Revd Tim Davis	Team Vicar
The Revd Ricky Turner	Team Vicar
The Revd Jenna Dearden	Assistant Curate (until 7 July 2024)

#### *Licensed Reader*

Keith King

#### *Churchwardens*

Shauna Dyke	Churchwarden (Priory Church of St Peter)
Pam Ingram	Churchwarden (St Fremund) from 3 March 2024
Nicola Kershaw	Churchwarden (St Augustine) from 3 March 2024
Jackie Prince	Churchwarden (St Augustine) until 3 March 2024
Gill Short	Churchwarden (Priory Church of St Peter) until 3 March 2024
Rosemary Turley	Churchwarden (St Augustine)
Georgina West	Churchwarden (St Fremund)

### ***Elected members***

Keren Bonner	
John Bradley	also PCC Treasurer
Pam Ingram	until 3 March 2024
Kate Klimaytys	
Janet Morton	
Jamie Murray	also PCC Secretary
Jackie Prince	from 3 March 2024
Judy Read	
Gill Short	from 3 March 2024
Veronica Yates	from 3 March 2024
Christopher Young	from 3 March 2024

The PCC remains thankful to the large number of volunteers who give generously of their time and talents, supporting mission and growth throughout the Parish.

## Financial review

The PCC Treasurer coordinated the volunteer treasurers of the three DCC's and to ensure that financial records were maintained for the preparation of annual accounts for the individual churches and the consolidated accounts for the Parish.

The net Parish assets increased by £73,426 to £766,664 (2023: £693,238).

Total income of all funds for the year was £373,009 which increased by £113,661 from £259,348 in 2023. This was made up as follows:

- Legacies were £88,810 for the year which was £74,242 higher than 2023
- Grants received were £35,261, up from 2023 by £16,246. The Mrs Jane Cart Trust gave 2 grants to the Priory Church, £15,000 to support the refurbishment of the church hall toilets, and £10,000 for a choral scholarship programme, and a 3<sup>rd</sup> grant to St Fremund church for their lighting. The Masonic Charitable Foundation gave £3,785 to the PCC for the general maintenance of the charity, and the St Albans Diocese gave £2,015 to support the Chaplaincy work
- The total of all donations and tax recovered was £109,515 in line with 2023
- Open plate collections were £240 lower than 2023 at £9,421
- Hall hire was up by £4,511 at £57,623 with a further £5,908 insurance claim to cover lost income at St Fremund
- Fees for weddings and funerals rose by £4,118 to £13,351
- Fund raising fell by £1,912 to £8,194
- Rental income rose by £7,188 to £14,388
- Interest increased by £4,176 to £11,308

Total expenditure of all funds for the year was £300,666, an increase of £13,201 on 2023 although it included exceptional costs of £34,545 relating to the St Peter's church hall toilet refurbishment, £10,511 for Organ repairs, and £4,174 at St Fremund for the lighting and notice Board, which were paid for by a grant and a restricted donation.

Excluding the exceptional items in each year, the regular costs decreased by £4,561. The key changes were a £12,296 reduction in parish share paid, £3,773 decrease in running costs caused by the drop in energy prices and prudent energy management. Upkeep of services were up £10,941 mainly due to the £10,000 (£3,333 in 2023) being spent on our Choir Leader at St Peter from the Ray Barlow bequest for music, and the £2,333 for the choral scholarship from the Mrs Jane Cart Trust.

Of the total, income for unrestricted funds was £247,815 of which £145,295 came from voluntary income including planned giving of gift aid donations, income tax recoverable, other planned giving, sundry donations, chaplaincy contributions, grants and legacies. Church activities included £57,623 for hall lettings and £13,351 fees received for weddings and funerals. Fund raising brought in £8,036 and rental income from the freehold property £14,388.

Expenditure on unrestricted funds was £265,647 of which the major cost was £144,778 being the Parish's quota contribution to the Diocese of St Albans. This was £12,296 lower than last year due to the St Fremund share only being paid for 6 months of the year. Other expenditure incurred was £19,538 for Staff Costs, £3,112 for Organ repairs, £54,428 for church running, maintenance and upkeep of services, £19,548 for the hall toilet refurbishment and £10,781 for church halls running/maintenance costs.

Restricted funds income of £124,108 came mainly from £30,417 of grants, £84,389 from a legacy and £8,729 interest.

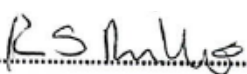
Restricted funds expenditure of £35,019 was mainly made up of St Fremund lighting and signage of £4,754, Choir honoraria and scholarship costs of £13,133. And Church Hall toilet refurbishment of £15,000.

Net movement in Parish funds, after fund transfers (including £50,000 transfer from restricted legacies to cover current losses on general funds) and investment gains, is summarised as follows:

• Unrestricted Funds net surplus	£33,279
• Restricted Funds net surplus	£38,762
• Endowment Funds net surplus	£ 1,385
• Total Net surplus	£73,426

Reserves carried forward at 31 December 2024 for unrestricted funds for general purposes were £455,168 of which £55,656 had been allocated for sub-groups and designated funds, leaving a net balance of £399,512. Fixed assets account for £320,665 of this, leaving current assets of £78,847. It should be noted that fixed assets include a current selling valuation of £320,000 for the clergy house at 95 Evelyn Road, Dunstable which was the curate's residence and is now let out.

**Approved by the PCC on 12 February 2025**  
**and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Rachel Phillips (PCC chair)**

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## **APPENDIX**

*Activities in each of the three churches in the Parish*

## **PRIORY CHURCH OF ST PETER**

*Church Close, Dunstable LU5 4RU*

### **Worship and Prayer**

The Priory Church held special services celebrating Candlemas, Easter, Pentecost, All Souls, Remembrance Sunday, Advent and Christmas. Attendance at all our Christmas services continued to rise, as in each year since the Covid pandemic.

Other special services included:

- The Mayor of Dunstable's civic service.
- A confirmation service led by the Bishop of Bedford, who confirmed 11 adults and young people from the Priory Church and St Augustine's Church.
- The annual thanksgiving service hosted by HM Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, with many VIPs and invited guests from across Bedfordshire.
- Archdeacon's Visitation, with commissioning of 75 churchwardens from across Bedfordshire.
- A pre-recorded service broadcast by the Church of England as its weekly national online service, receiving over 100,000 views worldwide.
- The biennial service of thanksgiving for life and legacy of Mrs Jane Cart, who lived in Dunstable in the 18th century and whose legacy continues to support numerous local charitable activities. The Jane Cart memorial sermon was preached by Canon Professor Elaine Graham.

Services were live-streamed on YouTube every Sunday and on other special occasions. During Lent and Advent, Compline was live-streamed on Facebook every night.

The Priory Church Choir - principally children, joined by adults on special occasions - continued to flourish and grow in confidence. In June, they performed a concert in St Martin in the Fields in London, with St Martin's own children's choir.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Mrs Jane Cart Trust, the Priory Church launched a scheme for teenaged choral scholars, to lead the singing in worship alongside the existing children's choir. The first four choral scholars were commissioned by the Bishop of Bedford at the Mrs Jane Cart thanksgiving service in October.

Over 20 members of the congregation participated in the Bible Society's 8-week Bible course over the summer and a similar number in a 4-week Advent course looking at the Christmas story from different perspectives.

### **Mission and outreach**

The Rector and Assistant Curate led weekly collective worship and twice termly church services for Ashton St Peter's Primary School. The Rector and lay people appointed by the PCC served as governors of the school.

We welcomed groups from a number of local primary schools to learn about history and RE. In June we held an afternoon singing event for children from four local primary schools.

Priory Tots (0-5s) and occasional Messy Church events continued to serve local young families.

The Rector led monthly services for residents in a local care home.

With a local funeral director, we continued to run a monthly group for people who have been bereaved, offered to the whole community.

Throughout the year the Priory Church was open to the public on Wednesdays and Thursdays, staffed by a growing team of volunteers offering a warm welcome with hot drinks and biscuits. Monthly coffee morning on Saturdays continued to draw good numbers of local people.

The Rector was chaplain to both mayors of Dunstable who served during the year.

The Rector and other church officers served as trustees of a number of long-established local charities supporting people in need.

The Priory Church hosted a number of concerts performed by local choirs and ensembles; musical and other events for local schools; a Ukrainian Easter event to support the local Ukrainian community; the annual torchlight procession involving hundreds of local schoolchildren when the town's Christmas lights were switched on; and a very successful Christmas tree festival with trees decorated by many local schools, businesses and community groups.

### **Buildings and Fabric**

In 2024 a Fabric Committee was formed to support the churchwarden and together issues are being accomplished from the Quinquennial report of 2021, the recent Ecclesiastical Risk Assessment and the summer Bedfordshire Fire Service Inspection.

The ongoing pigeon guano problem on a west front ledge is being investigated but the scaffolding is proving a very expensive outlay for the Grade 1 church, but research is ongoing.

The main body of the church building has been provided with a 5 year electrical certificate but the separate, underground boiler room has asbestos so the certificate is incomplete. Ecclesiastical Insurance have given the church 12 months (November 2025) to enable the electrician to finish the inspection after safely decontaminating the boiler room.

Following the Fire Service inspection, fire safety management within the building is being organized, such as the emergency lighting, evacuation plans, signage, staff training and drills.

All these major problems and the consequences are being investigated thoroughly, seeking help and support from the Diocese and reputable companies.



## **ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY**

*Oakwood Ave, Dunstable LU5 4AR*

### **Worship and Prayer**

St Augustine's Church held a good number of special services and study groups in 2024, including:

- A Holocaust Memorial Day service in January
- Messy Church services with growing numbers of children and their families
- The Character Course – a popular study course which took place in May and June at St Augustine's Vicarage
- An All-Age Christingle Service – our first in many years
- A 'Pop Nativity' which was very well attended and featured a good-sized choir from St Augustine's Academy
- A Christmas Carol Service with prayers and a collection for the people of Ukraine
- Advent and Lent Lunch Group – which were very well attended
- Regular church visits from children, staff and parents/carers for services and activity days (E.g. Termly Joint Class Services and RE Active Church)
- In June we held a farewell service for our parish curate The Revd Jenna Dearden and for Iain Grant, who was on placement with us for 18 months whilst training for ordination
- Compline at St Augustine's takes place on the last Sunday of each month and is seeing growing monthly numbers. It is a lovely short, quiet reflective organised by Keith King our Reader.

### **Mission and Outreach**

St Augustine's Church continued to host Dunstable Foodbank. The Revd Ricky Turner is a Trustee, Vice-Chair and Safeguarding Lead of Dunstable Foodbank.

St Augustine's Church's Renew26 (a wellbeing space in partnership with the charity Renew Wellbeing) celebrated its first anniversary in January.

Community Coffee Mornings were held every first and third Friday in the month at St Augustine's and have continued to be well supported. In July it welcomed our Safer Communities Officer who offered advice and personal safety equipment including personal alarms, RFID wallets, and advice about scams and drink spiking.

St Augustine's Church held a good number of fundraising and social events including a Burn's Supper, a new Summer Cinema for children and families, two boat trips which were very well attended and our Crafty Sewers Group which started in the Autumn.

The Revd Ricky Turner continues to lead Collective Worship at St Augustine's Academy bi-weekly including special Wild Worship services in the Forest School.

The Revd Ricky Turner continues to lead monthly Holy Communion services at two local care homes.

## **Buildings and Fabric**

Repairs to Choir vestry wall damaged by car at St Augustine's Church:

We now have approval from Ecclesiastical Insurance and await a date for the repairs to commence from Castle Building, the delay has been due to obtaining permission, replacement material and Christmas activities.

The repairs to the roof remain an issue. Castle Building have inspected the roof and have noted that it has had multiple repairs none of which seem to have been undertaken to high standard. There are numerous areas of poor construction allowing water to penetrate. It was also noted that the skylight had not been well fitted. Under the terms of the insurance maintenance and poor workmanship are excluded. We have just received settlement terms from the loss adjuster. We are now seeking quotes for a repair.

St Augustine's has achieved Bronze Eco Church Award in recognition of the efforts made to care for God's earth in the areas of Worship and teaching, Management of buildings and land, Community and global engagement and lifestyle.

**ST FREMUND THE MARTYR**  
**185 Westfield Rd, Dunstable LU6 1DR**

**Worship and prayer**

Tim led special services for Mothering Sunday, Palm Sunday, Good Friday (the final hour) and Easter Sunday. He also led the Good Friday Morning service at the Quadrant shopping centre.

We celebrated God's provision for us on Sunday 6th October via our Café Church Harvest service.

The charity we supported for this is Trussell Trust's Dunstable Foodbank.

We celebrated All Saints Day on Sunday 3rd November to remind ourselves of the importance and influence of significant people of the faith that have gone before us.

Coupled with that was All Souls Day (2nd November) where we remembered those better known to us personally, for all that was good in their lives and thanking God for their safe eternal lodging.

We had our Remembrance Sunday Service on 10th November where we celebrated a Holy Communion service with an Act of Remembrance around 11a.m.

Tim led Christmas services of Carol Service 3rd Sunday in December (15th) and Christmas Eve Crib Service (24th) – 4p.m. followed by Carols in the hall with mince pies, tea/coffee/hot chocolate. He also did a Christingle service for year 3 Beecroft Academy on Tuesday 10th December.

A monthly short informal midweek service of Holy Communion is held on Tuesdays prior to 'Come for a Cuppa'.

We continue to have alternate provision between Holy Communion and a Worship for All format and numbers are more or less 17-22 attendees each week.

**Mission and outreach**

Tim ran a 2nd "Be Still" Course in the evenings at 7.30 p.m on Wednesdays in Jan/Feb 2024 which explored the simple, transformative practice of a daily quiet time with God; what it is, and how we might improve the quality of our relationship with God. Resources from 24-7 Prayer.com. This was very interesting and gave us lots to reflect upon.

Whilst not official training, Tim showed us a documentary drama about a safeguarding concern and opened it up for discussion afterwards. This was held on two consecutive Thursday evenings; 10th & 17th of October in the church/hall. The documentary was based on the Bishop Peter Ball case and we discussed its implications. Sunday (17th Nov - 2nd Before Advent) was Safeguarding Sunday giving us an opportunity to have further focus on safeguarding. We also watched a video on The importance of Safeguarding.

We continue to support the local Foodbank and the Co-Op fair Share.

'Come for a Cuppa' continues every Tuesday afternoon and remains popular.

During 2024 we have offered 3 lunches for people who would normally eat alone – hence the name Singles Lunches. We cook and serve a 2 course lunch and are delighted that this is now not just a St

Fremund's group with people from the Priory and Newlands (St Katherine's) Church joining us. We have managed to keep our price (£5) the same. When the church hall was out of action we organised a singles lunch at The Farmers Boy pub in Kensworth on Sunday March 17th.

Tim reports that Schools work continues to be progressing well and is settling into a general routine doing similar things in the two schools but in different ways; reading Collective Worship, writing articles, doing one-to-one work with students and occasionally assisting in lessons as well as being a visible Christian presence.

### **Buildings and fabric**

St Fremund's Year 2024 was really a year of two halves. On 19th January overnight the church hall became flooded from a pipe bursting in the roof space. This rendered the hall un-useable for the next 6 months whilst repairs were carried out.

No hall use was possible, the flood affected the heating, electricity and destroyed a large part of the ceiling needing total replacement.

Our insurance company (Ecclesiastical) were extremely helpful and covered the full costs of the repairs to the hall, ceiling and redecoration. We also received recompense for the loss of hall hire income and the inflated fuel costs for use of dehumidifiers and heating used to dry out the building.

We had to withdraw all our general funds from our CCLA account to make sure our current account did not overdraw with the reduction in income during the months of the claim and refurbishment.

We also received a grant from the Jane Cart Trust which was used to install LED lighting in the hall for better economy.

At our MAP meeting, Rev. Tim presented his vision for the future of St Fremund's Church considering our dwindling congregation and funds. There are a number of options for the future of St Fremund's ranging from minor re-ordering of the internal layout to completely knocking it down and rebuilding. The thoughts of those present were discussed and it was agreed that the wider community's views should be sought too.

A "welcome back" coffee morning was held in October when the hall was fully restored to allow the hall hirers an opportunity to recruit new members by demonstrating and displaying their courses. An impromptu Zumba lesson was held and enjoyed by those who could join in.

The coffee morning also launched a consultation exercise with various residents and stakeholders in the community to get a real feel of what the biggest needs in the community are and if and how we might be able to serve this area of Dunstable more effectively. Attendees and the congregation's views were and are still being sought in the form of a questionnaire. Results have yet to be fully collated. This is a 2-5 year project.

The new notice board outside St Fremund's Church was put up in October 2024 making advertising Church services and other activities more visible.

Once full use of the hall was possible, most hall hirers returned, and we could start fundraising again.

Holding a successful Christmas fayre and offering regular singles lunches for the community.

There are still many jobs to do in the garden and hall so it was agreed that we continue to have a maintenance morning every second Saturday in the month, 10 am -12 MD. We are also hoping to have a Thursday Evening Gardening Group over the Summer 7.30 – 9.30 p.m, weather permitting.