

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARGARET'S WOLSTON

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
		General	Designated		2023	2022
		£	£	£	£	£
INCOME FROM:						
Donations and legacies	2(a)	67,458	-	-	67,458	73,500
Other voluntary income	2(b)	4,884	1,000	7,310	13,194	10,076
Investments	2(c)	957	338	116	1,411	103
Income earned from operating activities	2(d)	8,814	10,365	-	19,179	15,367
Income from Writeoff of Aged Cheques		-	0	0	-	282
Total Income		82,113	11,703	7,426	101,243	99,327
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Grants	3(a)	4,423	-	-	4,423	3,998
Charitable activities: directly relating to the work of the Church	3(b)	76,334	1,468	14,018	91,820	78,991
Church management & administration	3(c)	9,765	-	-	9,765	8,499
Total Expenditure		90,522	1,468	14,018	106,008	91,488
Net Income/(Expenditure)		-8,409	10,236	- 6,592	- 4,765	7,840
Transfers between Funds		8,500	-10,175	1,675	-	0
Net movement in funds		91	60	- 4,917	- 4,765	7,840
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		30,272	10,690	7,858	48,819	40,979
Total funds carried forward		30,363	10,750	2,941	44,054	48,819

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St Margaret's Church Wolston, Brandon and Bretford

Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council

For the financial year ended
31 December 2023
and the PCC year ended March 2024

APCM to be held on
Thursday March 21st 2024 @ 19.30

Legal and administrative information:

Clergy: Vacancy
Associate Minister: Revd Paul Simmonds
Church Administrator: Mrs Jayne Hayward
Children's Team Leader: Mrs Ellie Gallant
Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Josie Gadsby

Bank: HSBC Bank, Church Street, Rugby
Independent Examiner: Mr Keith Francis
Church Architect: Mr Simon Bird

PCC Members:

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio, elected by the Annual Church Parochial Meeting (APCM), co-opted in accordance with the Church Representation Rules or represent the parish on a Synod.

Incumbent: Vacancy
Wardens: Mrs Ruth McCartney Mr Simon Mulley

Elected Members:

Miss Naomi Brown, Mr Graham Clark, Mrs Josie Gadsby,
 Mrs Jain Galliford, Mrs Dawn Webb, Mr Derek Leaf,
 Mrs Jenny Lumsden, Mr John Marlow, Mrs Kate Willis

Co-opted members :

Dr Stephen Wigmore

Ex officio: Revd Paul Simmonds

Representatives on the Diocesan Synod:

Mrs Melissa Ralph

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:

Mr David Gadsby, Mrs Jayne Hayward,
 Mrs Melissa Ralph & Mrs Helen Simmonds [Lay Dean]

Officers: Mr David Gadsby (Church Secretary & Lay Chair)
 Dr Stephen Wigmore (Treasurer)
 Mrs Jayne Hayward [Electoral Roll Officer & minute secretary]

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARGARET'S WOLSTON

BALANCE SHEET AT 31st DECEMBER 2023

	Note	TOTAL FUNDS	
		2023	2022
		£	£
Debtors	6	3,546	4,124
Short term deposits		35,000	40,000
Cash at bank and in hand		13,583	8,665
Current Assets		52,129	52,789
Liabilities: Amounts due within one year	7	8,075	3,970
Net Current Assets		44,054	48,819
Funds	8		
Unrestricted		41,113	40,961
Restricted		2,941	7,857
Total		44,054	48,818

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 22nd February 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

D.Gadsby

The notes on pages 3 to 9 form part of these accounts.

Messy Church is currently suspended

Pastoral Care 2023/24

We have had a very busy year, our team continues to give support both to the church and the community. We have been stretched to the limit at times as we have had particularly complex problems to deal with.

Our greatest joy is to have links with the school, the children entertain the people we look after at all our socials. To this end we are in discussions with the school to develop greater links which we hope will benefit both parties. We look after around 50 people within the villages and greater community, the work is hard, but our team are committed wholeheartedly. To give us strength we all give support and care for each other.

Sue Marlow / Sue Burdett.

(Ephesians 6 v10-12)

Sue Marlow & Sue Burdett - on behalf of the PCT



Mission Statement

We, as the Parish church of Wolston, Brandon and Bretford, exist to:-

Worship God.

Be and make disciples.

Serve and care for those around us.

Vision Statement

We have a vision to see: -

A people who are encountering God in their day to day lives.

A people that are being set free by the power of the Holy Spirit.

A people who are learning and are equipped to live Jesus' way.

A people who are courageous, who take risks for Jesus.

A people who are reaching out to a new generation.

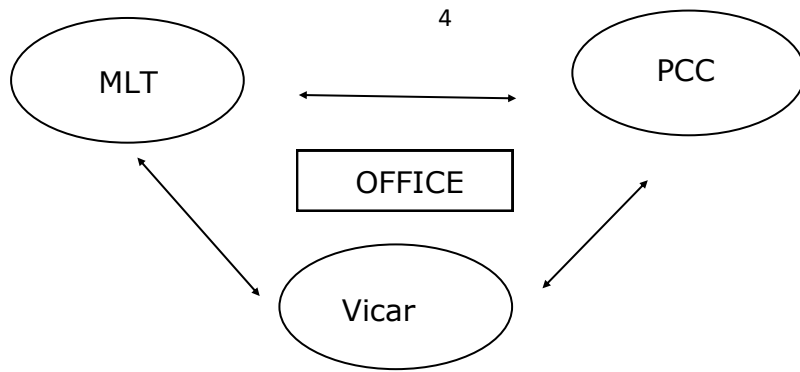
A people who will serve and care for those around them (at home, in the street, at work, and in the wider world).

Church Organisation

At the centre of the church leadership structure is the three way organisational link of the Vicar, the PCC and the MLT [Ministry Leadership Team], all ably supported by the church office.

However, we believe that everyone should be involved in different aspects of ministry, in whatever way suits their skills, gifts and temperaments, both inside and outside the church building itself.

Each Anglican church has in place a series of groups and processes which enable the safe and smooth running of a church within the Church of England.



Other groups exist which are individual to each church. Here at St Margaret's these groups have been in existence for many years, to enable the church to meet its aims.

For the sake of clarity, we will deal with these different reports in two different sections:- Church Organisation and Structure, and St Margaret's Group reports.

Vicar's Report March 20 23/24

Paul Simmonds (Associate Minister) writes:

I hope you will grab a cup of something and sit down and read these reports with thankfulness to God for one another. They make inspiring reading. Behind every report is a great deal of hard work and commitment. We all want to thank everyone in each team for what they do.

Just before the last Annual meeting some of us went to Meriden on a snowy night to see Kevin made vicar of Meriden, and we now know he and Jayne are settled happily in their new church.

Meanwhile back in Wolson we have discovered what the New Testament calls 'the priesthood of all believers.' We have continued to be God's people in this community sharing God's love and concern with those around us.

Worship and Prayer

At the heart of our Christian community is our worship and prayer together; learning, praying, sharing and listening to God – on Sunday mornings and in our small groups. We have seen a steady trickle of people joining us and our numbers are slowly but surely moving towards pre Covid levels. Some significant things have happened this year.

Finding faith

We always want to give people the opportunity to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed group and this year's Alpha course did just that. Each evening a group of about 10 people sat round Derek and Eva's dining table to enjoy a good meal provided by various volunteers and then watched the Alpha talk on video and spent time thinking about questions of life. Some of the group have continued to meet using a follow on course.

Information about services is available¹⁷ on the tables and also activities provided by St Margaret's are advertised to make the community aware of all that is on offer by the church.

We are always looking for help to assist with baking and delivering orders to tables as recent illness has highlighted the advantage of having others who can be drawn on to help when numbers are low. So even if you are not free on a regular basis a reserve list of volunteers would be really useful, please get in touch.

On behalf of the Maggie's Team - Ruth McCartney

Who let the Dads Out (WLTD0) 2023/24

This is a group for Dads/male carers and their children. We run the group on the second Saturday of the month and provide tea & coffee, bacon batches, squash and biscuits. There are plenty of toys to entertain the children and there is also a bouncy castle. The group is attended regularly by 12+ Dads and their children, with more than 30 Dads having attended at some stage. The group also offers Dads a chance to socialise with other Dads and some lasting friendships have been formed in this safe space. Many Dads have offered their help in clearing away/setting up and have also made donations of pre-loved toys to the group.

Please pray for this time will be a blessing to all who come.

Sam Gallant on behalf of the WLTD0 team

**WHO LET THE
DADS OUT?**

Little Stars - stay & play baby & toddler group 2023/24

Team: Eva Leaf, Ellie Gallant, Ginny Haw, Pauline Caldicott, Maddy Wigmore

We thank God for the steady growth this year, despite 10 of the Little Stars children moving on to reception or fulltime nurseries this past July. The remaining mums and carers have been wonderful recruiters, so our numbers are increasing again.



In September the team attended an excellent training day with Care for the Family and as a result we implemented something new in Little Stars - 'TEAPOT PRAYERS'.

Adults have the opportunity to write down their anonymous prayer requests and the team will faithfully pray for them.

So, thanks to a wonderful team:

Ginny and Pauline oversee the snack time and make sure everyone is okay. Ellie and Maddy lead music, chat with adults and children, and help everywhere.

Eva coordinates Little Stars and leads the early learning Bible stories, because Little Stars is all about children growing socially, emotionally, and spiritually.

Chris Carter and Derek Leaf always come an hour early to help set up. Thank you.

Last, we thank the mums/carers who are so supportive. Without them Little Stars wouldn't be what it is, and they are always ready to help where needed. As for content, in 2023 we did Bible stories about ANIMALS, OPPOSITES and EMOTIONS. Each story session started with an early learning concept which was linked to a puppet Bible story. It always ended with a theme-related bean-bag prayer.

As a team, we thank God for Little Stars and this precious opportunity to serve our community.

Maggie's Café 2023/24

Over this last year Maggie's has gone from strength to strength welcoming regulars from the village and local area as well as members of the church family. Ages range from babies and toddlers with their parents through to older members of the community. This growth has been due to the hard work of the regular team of about 7 who turn out every week to make and serve drinks and cake, those who set up ready for the Wednesday mornings and also others who arrive to put tables etc away afterwards. There is also a group of 10 or so who bake the cakes. Thankfully the team of bakers has increased this year with a couple of members of the WI generously agreeing to help as well as it was becoming difficult to meet the demand. More help is always gratefully accepted.

Children and young people

The PCC took the bold decision that we needed to invest in work among children and asked Ellie to join the staff as a Children's work team leader. That title is deliberate. Parents and others take it in turns to run the children's groups on Sundays. We are very encouraged that the number of children coming each week is increasing. It's a team effort!

We've had several Baptisms this year and have sometimes had up to seventy people at the Baptism services in the afternoon. It has been great to welcome these families to church on Sunday mornings, especially for the family service.

It is always good to hear what God is doing in other churches and the vacancy has given us the opportunity to hear from visiting preachers once a month.

A lot of preparation goes on for every service. Sermon preparation takes many hours, the music group get up early on a Sunday and go through the music before the service.

As we look forward to Malcolm Ingham joining us as our new vicar, let's all recommit ourselves to the roles we have and the jobs we do. Someone described the work of a vicar as like the conductor of an orchestra. They can't possibly do all the jobs themselves, neither should they, but they can co-ordinate us so that we work efficiently and effectively for God. We look to them for spiritual leadership in helping us work out our priorities as a Christian community - what things we should continue to put effort into and what things we need to set aside. We will need to accept that we have to say 'No' to certain things so that when we say 'Yes' we have the resources to do things well.

Malcolm also brings with him gifts of teaching and preaching, but with Ryton joining us at some time in the future, we will need to continue to work as teams to lead services.

This booklet shows how many people are involved and how much work they do for St Margaret's. Finally, I am sure you would want to put on record our huge debt to so many people who have worked hard week after week in the various teams described in this booklet. Let's give thanks for the Holy Spirit's leading and energising of all these activities.

I said last year that the MLT is just that – a Ministry Leadership Team. It's a Team because ministry in the church is never solo. From Moses in the Old Testament to Paul in the New, responsibility is shared. Jesus' first job before he began his mission was to pull together a disciple team.

The MLT supports the vicar in the week by week running of the church, and in an interregnum ensures there is continuity and 'continuing service'. During this year the MLT has met every two weeks to do just that. We spend the first half of our meeting in prayer, listening to God and dwelling on a Bible passage to help us.

A constant on our agenda this year has been the needs of children and young people and in particular how we can rebuild our children's ministry post pandemic. These are some of the other areas we worked on: Alpha, Small groups, Holiday Bible Club, Sunday services especially Christmas, Easter and other festivals as well as national days like Remembrance and the Coronation.

The MLT regularly reports to the PCC who are legally responsible for the church.

The members of the MLT during the past year were: Naomi Brown, Jayne Hayward, Derek Leaf, Chris Mulley and Paul Simmonds. We are sure Malcolm will bring fresh thinking to our church life and we are prepared for creative change!

Rev. Paul Simmonds

A development this year has taken the form of a special holiday film event for children, so last year, in the week after Christmas, we showed 'Finding Nemo'. This was so well received that we hope to arrange similar events during future school holidays.

We are grateful for our updated projector and eagerly anticipate the installation of the new wide screen.

Peter Bridges on behalf of Caleb Cinema Club

Foodbank 2023/24

St Margaret's continues to deliver food, personal hygiene, laundry & baby items etc to the food bank in Willenhall, in Coventry, every week. From reports received from the team there, the last year has proved to be a difficult year for many people, and the numbers attending the food bank is still increasing.

We now have two different sites which are established as drop off points, the St Margaret's church in Wolston & "Fourways", Station Rd, Brandon. It has been a real blessing, in particular, to see the amount of food dropped off at St Margaret's increase as Maggie's Café has become more popular. Some people who struggle to get out to shop have also supported the food bank financially.

Thank you to everyone for your incredible generosity during the past year, and I hope it will continue during the year to come.

Keith Hayward



Brenda Reeves has now taken up the editing reins - again we are very grateful to her. The magazine remains available on line and in print. The annual subscription remains at to £6 per year for 10 issues.

Jayne Hayward

Bells Report 2023/24

The bells have been rung on the following occasions.

15th February	Stoke St. Michael Coventry bellringers.
25th February	Coventry Diocesan Guild of Bellringers.
25th March	Coventry Diocesan Guild of Bellringers.
3rd June	Visiting ringers from Cannock.
20th June	Coventry Diocesan Guild of Bellringers, Coventry Spires youth team.
27th June	Coventry Diocesan Guild of Bellringers, Coventry Spires youth team.
4th July	Coventry Diocesan Guild of Bellringers, Coventry Spires youth team.
23rd September	Coventry Diocesan Guild of Bellringers.
7th October	Visiting ringers from Daventry
25th November	Coventry Diocesan Guild of Bellringer
9th December	Coventry Diocesan Guild of Bellringers annual carol service.

The bells and fittings remain in good condition.

Tower Captain - Keith Chambers

Caleb Cinema Club 202/24

The Cinema Club has continued to meet on the second Friday of each month in the Church Rooms. The organization being undertaken by Peter and Sheila Bridges, with help from Carol and Bernard Fry.

We continue to operate under the rules dictated by The Church Video License. This allows us to browse the products of numerous film producers, but unfortunately not all, and we are further restrained by the length of the running time of films, being limited to about 120 minutes.

The shows begin at 1.30, and the afternoon ends with cups of tea and a selection of delicacies. This affords the opportunity to join in the most important element of the afternoon, a good chat with new and old friends.

Our audience is drawn mainly from local people, a group of ladies from Binley Woods have become regular attenders as are a group from Bedworth, our fame has even spread as far as Coundon and Thurlaston.

By and large the film chosen for each month is done by the filmgoers from a selection which they are offered.

There is a small charge for all of this, £2, which covers costs, any accrued surplus being donated to the Church Funds.

PCC Report 2023/24

Since the APCM was held in March last year the PCC has met 9 times.

Regular items have been:

Monitoring of all aspects of Church finance and agreeing actions to improve them.

Regular updates on safeguarding policy and procedures, to ensure all our practice is compliant with what is needed.

Agreeing and monitoring of Church maintenance as outlined in the fabric report.

Consideration of Deanery Synod issues, particularly the Parish share and plans for potential changes to benefices.

Specific items which the PCC have discussed, approved and subsequently supported include:

- Management of the interregnum.
- Producing the Parish Profile.
- With the Diocese setting up and carrying out the advertising, interviewing and appointment of a new incumbent.
- Appointing a part time children and family worker to develop our outreach to young families.
- Setting up financial appeal (prayer and giving) to close our deficit.

In addition, we have received reports on all the ongoing ministries of the church, and discussed/ agreed actions to support and develop them.

Thanks to all members who have contributed to discussion and decisions this year.

David Gadsby Lay Chair & Church Secretary

Treasurer's Report year ending 31st Dec 2023

In 2023, we maintained three types of fund – the General Fund (covering regular income and expenditure of the Church), Designated Funds (which the PCC has set aside for specific purposes) and Restricted Funds (where the donor has specified the purpose on which the funds must be spent).

2023 saw the Church record an unexpected General Fund surplus of £91, compared to a surplus of £1,754 in 2021. Expenditure increased by £5,000 due to significant inflation, particularly affecting utilities, insurance and wages. By October, we were facing a £4,000 deficit, but thanks to increased income from Maggie's Café and a very generous response to our Financial Appeal towards the end of the year, this was turned around. In the end, our income increased by £3,000 over the year, resulting in that £91 overall surplus.

Our grants to support other Christian ministries and needs in the local community and abroad were £4,400; with regular donations made to Coventry Youth For Christ, Interface Uganda, OMF International, Scripture Union and Coventry Foodbanks.

The church received grants from the diocese of £2,950 towards our work on the Lady Chapel and a £1,950 to help with energy costs. A £1,500 grant was also received from Warwickshire County Council towards refurbishing the Church Rooms Kitchen. Pursuing more grants, particularly towards building repair costs, is an important part of our financial strategy for the next years. If anyone can volunteer to help with that work, it would be of real benefit to the church.

In terms of expenditure, these grants, along with generous donations, helped fund £11,700 of expenditure on repairs and improvements to our church buildings and churchyard, including laying the path to the Garden of Remembrance, repairing and repainting the Lady Chapel ceiling, installing new speakers at the front of church, and purchasing a dishwasher for the Church Rooms kitchen.

Another significant financial decision this year was to recruit Eleanor Gallant as a part-time Children's Work, Team Leader for 2 years from June 2023, using the £5,000 bequest left by Lorrie Brown in 2022, and £4,000 in existing funds for youth and kids work. She was paid £1,500 in total in 2023.

The net result of the above is that we now have £30,400 in the General Fund and £13,700 in Designated/Restricted funds. The policy of the PCC is to keep at least 3 months running costs in the General Fund, and the current figure is 4 months.

The 2024 forecast is for the church to see a small deficit of £1,200 due to continuing inflation in costs, and a matching boost in income following our successful financial appeal. Of course, these figures are only our best estimates, and are entirely dependent on the continuing generosity of our community, successful fundraising from operations, and the development of ministry in the coming year. My thanks to everyone who donates to our church, or works to support the Café and other operations; and particularly to everyone who started a regular donation, or increased their regular donation, in response to our financial appeal.

Honorary Treasurer - Dr Stephen Wigmore

Arise! Men's Breakfast 2023/24

This group continues to flourish, new men joining quite frequently. We meet, usually on the 3rd Saturday of each month, starting at 9.00am.

The morning begins with an informal gathering and a chance to chat, followed by a substantial breakfast. The morning continues with either a presentation from a visiting speaker, or an 'in house' activity of some kind.

Our speakers this year have included Theresa Burton, soon after her establishment at The Baptist Chapel, Nigel Malka gave us a presentation about Mission. In May Davide Valentine invited us to 'Come see the Fireworks', followed in June by Paul Gask, then in July Darren Burgess from CCM gave us some insights into his world. In October we listened to Daniel Burke from Open Doors, followed in November by an in-house discussion entitled 'The Future'. The year ended with our own Christmas entertainment. The New Year began with an inspirational presentation from Mattie Lote from Willenhall Men's Support Group.

In the Autumn the men decided that the price of attendance should be raised, and unanimously agreed that it should be priced at £5.00.

Since our foundation in 2012 about 170 men have been members at one time or another, but the membership is constantly changing. Currently we have about fifty active members with a regular attendance of 25.

Our urgent need is for men of younger hearts to step forward into leadership roles. My thanks go to our volunteers who continue despite increasing age and infirmity.

As always, the aim of the group remains, which is to encourage the men in their walk with Christ.

Peter Bridges



St Margaret's School Chaplaincy 2023/24

Our close links with the school continue and our team of Josie Gadsby, Chris Mulley and Eva Leaf have led weekly assemblies. These consist of Bible stories from both the Old and New Testament which are linked to the school values. We are blessed with presenting these to children who listen, remember and act on what they have heard. It is a pleasure for each one of us. Chaplain's Chat in the school's newsletter Brookside continues to be hosted by Eva Leaf, Helen Simmonds and Paul Simmonds. Classes from Wolston St Margaret's School and Binley Woods Primary School have visited the church as part of their RE lessons. They have become more aware of the building, its contents, and the significance of some of our services. Josie spent time with Year 6 children using the Scripture Union book Your Move to support them as they prepared to move to secondary school. The school have held Easter, Harvest, and Christmas services in church. Parents were invited to the Christmas service which was the first time since Covid.

Josie Gadsby on behalf of the Chaplaincy team

Sunday Morning Children's Groups 2023/24

Sunday morning groups for children are going very well. Sparklers runs every week alongside the main service and has a regular attendance of around five to eight children. This is attended by pre-school and primary aged children. We have also seen many new children attend the group over the year when their families are visiting St Margaret's or attending to prepare for baptisms. The sessions are planned by Ellie Gallant. They usually teach the same theme of the main church service and are delivered by a core group of volunteers; Sam and Ellie Gallant, Maddy and Stephen Wigmore, Paul and Melissa Ralph, Dawn Webb and Gemma Jenkins. The Explosion group still runs once a month on the 4th Sunday and is planned for and run by Chris Mulley and Lisa. This is usually attended by one to three young people of secondary school age. Although there is not a group for the older children every week, they are welcome in sparklers every week where they can still access material and conversations with the leaders.

Ellie Gallant - On behalf of the Children's Work Team -



Fabric Report & Church Maintenance Group 2023/24

The Lady Chapel has been the major project for the last year with the repairs to the ceiling completed in 2023, then the walls painted, and recently the floor has been tiled with matching tiles to the Nave. Fortunately, we have received a Diocesan grant to help us with the project.

Several other minor jobs have been carried out over the year including a new dishwasher in the church rooms and looking shortly at replacing the fridge and cookers, which should be complete before summer. Fortunately, we have received a grant towards this from Warwickshire County Council. In the church rooms we have also fitted a new projector and blue ray player, and hopefully a new screen is to be fitted shortly. The lights in the church room storage cupboard, toilets and kitchen were replaced with energy efficient LED units.

In the church, new speakers have been fitted on the walls in the Nave to improve the sound quality and over the year we have had several issues with the heating systems both in the church and church rooms that have been dealt with.

Outside the church, ivy has finally been removed from the wall and a small team continue to work hard to keep the churchyard neat and tidy. The main entrance path has been levelled with improved drainage to prevent the large puddle forming through the entrance.

In the next few years, we will have to start on some repairs to the external stonework around the windows and doors that could be very costly. We will shortly be looking to see what grants we can raise to help with this.

Outstanding is the need to upgrade the outside path lights and we have had difficulty in finding a contractor who will give us quotes and do the work at sensible price. Work is also ongoing to see if we can find ways to fund improvements to the road access to the church, which is in urgent need of repair.

Thanks to all those who have helped keep the church safe and fit for all our services, and a special thanks to Keith Hayward who gives so much of his time to helping with the upkeep of the church.

Why not come and give a helping hand this Saturday, March 23rd to help inside or outside and let's get the church looking it's best for Malcolm's arrival.

Simon Mulley & Ruth McCartney - Churchwardens

A working party was arranged to help¹⁰ with the larger items in the churchyard and maintenance of the churchyard but sadly numbers available on that date were not enough to complete the tasks, so please look at dates offered this coming year if you would be able to offer help.

Ivy has been cut through on the adjoining wall with the Stables as it was a concern that it may cause damage during the winter months and the area behind the church rooms is in need of attention.

From the Churchwardens **Simon Mulley & Ruth McCartney**

Electoral Roll 2023/24

The Electoral Roll has 103 members, with 28 living outside the parish.

Jayne Hayward - Electoral Roll officer.

Safeguarding 2023/24

As a church we are committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children and adults. The PCC and all church leaders are aware of their safeguarding role.

The PCC play a key role and receive a safeguarding report at each meeting. During the year the PCC have reviewed several safeguarding documents including being aware of the recruitment of ex-offenders by making sure that everyone is treated fairly. From the Parish Safeguarding Dashboards, we have been able to review the Action Plan which shows our progress with safeguarding requirements and what more needs to be done. At present we are at 92% on Level 3. DBS certificates are now being renewed every 3 years as is Safeguarding Training. The majority of these are in date.

The PCC and all church leaders have been asked to do the online Domestic Abuse Course to make us more aware of what is involved and our part in understanding and responding to concerns. Reviewing our non-church activities makes us more aware of our service to the wider community who use our facilities. They receive a copy of our Safeguarding Policy and their agreement includes a safeguarding statement.

There have been no safeguarding concerns during the past year. At all times we are aware of providing a safer environment for all.

Our grateful thanks go to all those who give their time to nurture and support all our children, young people and adults.

Josie Gadsby - Safeguarding Officer

Rugby Deanery Synod 2023/24

Area Dean Revd Steve Gold

Lay Dean Helen Simmonds

St Margaret's representatives David Gadsby, Melissa Ralph (also a member of Diocesan Synod), Helen Simmonds & Jayne Hayward

Our church is part of Rugby Deanery.¹⁴ We have 29 church communities and 10.8 clergy posts.

To provide support and to encourage the clergy, they meet in regular Chapter meetings.

To keep an overall eye on the delights and challenges in the deanery, 4 clergy and 4 laity meet as the Deanery Leadership Team. Helen Simmonds is part of the team which at times is a challenging job. We recommend parish boundary changes to the Bishop and his team. St Margaret's is aware of this as we know Ryton will join our benefice once the legal changes are completed. We are also responsible for planning the 3 synod meetings each year aiming to make them interesting and informative for all who come. Last week our synod was here to find out 'How our church buildings can achieve, or move towards, net zero.' I wonder what we learned. At last we have Standing Orders for the Deanery Synods in the diocese. This may sound trivial but it has been a major piece of useful work. At each synod meeting we worship – and eat cake!

We also recommend the Parish Share and this is verified at the last synod of the year once Diocesan Synod has met and we are certain of the amount we need to pay. Not all churches are able to pay for their clergy but the deanery works together to try to pay the full amount. The Area and Lay Deans often have to work with churches to encourage them to allocate their money wisely.

Helen Simmonds on behalf of our Deanery Reps

St Margaret's School, Governors Report 2023/24

There are three Foundation Governors on the Governing Body of Wolston St. Margaret's Primary School. They are all representatives of St Margaret's Church and this reflects the fact that it is a Church of England School. This year they were Jenny Lumsden and David Gadsby and Jen Hawker until the summer. Our thanks go to her for several years of outstanding service. Newly appointed is Sam Gallant who is beginning to get into the role.

They have taken a full role in assisting the school in its work of educating the children within a Christian framework, monitoring, questioning and where able advising on finance, curriculum and learning outcomes.

Specifically Jen has reported on how the Christian ethos of the school is developed and maintained; David has had an overview of safeguarding policies and procedures. Jenny is Looking at the English provision within the school.

They are pleased to report that the recent OFSTED inspection gave the school a rating of Good. Under Headteacher, Michelle Clemons, the school is moving forward and providing, in our view, a good education underpinned by Christian values.

David Gadsby - on behalf of the Foundation Governors.



The Parochial Church Council
of
St. Margaret's Wolston

Financial Accounts
Year ended 31st December 2023

Registered as a charity in England and Wales (No. 1130693)

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARGARET'S WOLSTON

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023**

	Note	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		<u>Restricted Funds</u>	TOTAL FUNDS	
		<u>General</u>	<u>Designated</u>		2023	2022
		£	£	£	£	£
INCOME FROM:						
Donations and legacies	2(a)	67,458	-	-	67,458	73,500
Other voluntary income	2(b)	4,884	1,000	7,310	13,194	10,076
Investments	2(c)	957	338	116	1,411	103
Income earned from operating activities	2(d)	8,814	10,365	-	19,179	15,367
Income from Writeoff of Aged Cheques		-	0	0	-	282
Total Income		82,113	11,703	7,426	101,243	99,327
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Grants	3(a)	4,423	-	-	4,423	3,998
Charitable activities: directly relating to the work of the Church	3(b)	76,334	1,468	14,018	91,820	78,991
Church management & administration	3(c)	9,765	-	-	9,765	8,499
Total Expenditure		90,522	1,468	14,018	106,008	91,488
Net Income/(Expenditure)		-8,409	10,236	- 6,592 -	4,765	7,840
Transfers between Funds		8,500	-10,175	1,675	-	0
Net movement in funds		91	60	- 4,917 -	4,765	7,840
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		30,272	10,690	7,858	48,819	40,979
Total funds carried forward		30,363	10,750	2,941	44,054	48,819

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARGARET'S WOLSTON

BALANCE SHEET AT 31st DECEMBER 2023

	Note	TOTAL FUNDS	
		2023	2022
		£	£
Debtors	6	3,546	4,124
Short term deposits		35,000	40,000
Cash at bank and in hand		13,583	8,665
Current Assets		52,129	52,789
Liabilities: Amounts due within one year	7	8,075	3,970
Net Current Assets		44,054	48,819
Funds	8		
Unrestricted		41,113	40,961
Restricted		2,941	7,857
Total		44,054	48,818

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 22nd February 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

D.Gadsby

The notes on pages 3 to 9 form part of these accounts.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARGARET'S WOLSTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

31st DECEMBER 2023

2) INCOME:-	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
	General	Designated		2023	2022
	£	£		£	£
2(a) Donations and legacies					
Planned giving	45,033			45,033	48,331
Collections	6,252		-	6,252	3,237
Gift Aid recovered	10,913		-	10,913	11,430
Sundry donations	4,664		-	4,664	9,413
Gift Aid recovered	595		-	595	1,089
	67,458	-	-	67,458	73,500
2(b) Other voluntary income					
Grants - Clerks Close Charity	2,820			2,820	2,809
Amazon Smile & Give-As-You-Live	163			163	240
Building Fund		1,000	7,310	8,310	3,875
Youth & Children's Fund				-	15
Ukraine Appeal				-	2,887
Cost of Living Donation				-	250
Grants for Heating Costs	1,902			1,902	
<i>(from Diocese of Coventry and WPC)</i>	4,884	1,000	7,310	13,194	10,076
2(c) Income from investments					
Interest on CBF deposit account	957	338	116	1,411	103
	957	338	116	1,411	103
2(d) Income from operating activities					
Church (Maggie's) Café	-	10,365	-	10,365	8,114
Sale of magazine	3,404	-	-	3,404	3,406
Fundraising Events	2,304	-	-	2,304	2,102
Fees	1,471	-	-	1,471	2,102
Contribution for use of Church Room	1,566	-	-	1,566	1,457
Reimbursement for photocopying	70	-	-	70	288
	8,814	10,365	-	19,179	15,367
TOTAL INCOME	82,113	11,703	7,426	101,243	99,327

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARGARET'S WOLSTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

31st DECEMBER 2023

3) EXPENDITURE:-

	TOTAL FUNDS				
	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted	2023	2022
	General	Designated	Funds	£	£
	£	£	£		
3(a) Grants/Giving	4,423	-	-	4,423	3,998
3(b) Activities directly relating to the work of the Church					
Ministry : diocesan quota	57,800	-	-	57,800	55,976
: clergy expenses	1,033	-	-	1,033	991
Church - running expenses	11,668	-	-	11,668	7,120
Church - maintenance	1,046	-	-	1,046	1,025
Buildings and equipment	1,000	-	-	1,000	3,100
Printing the magazine	1,743	-	-	1,743	1,510
Upkeep of services	1,728	-	-	1,728	1,188
Training and courses	-	-	-	-	-
Youth & Children Work	-	-	1,608	1,608	29
Garden Walkabout Fund	-	-	672	672	150
Alpha	266	-	-	266	-
Messy Church	50	-	-	50	157
Church (Maggie's) Café	-	1,468	-	1,468	637
Building Fund	-	-	8,985	8,985	2,263
Churchyard	-	-	2,753	2,753	1,907
Ukraine Appeal	-	-	-	-	2,739
Cost of Living	-	-	-	-	200
	76,334	1,468	14,018	91,820	78,991
3(c) Church management & administration					
Administration					
Printing and stationery	1,853	-	-	1,853	1,019
Sundry	2,120	-	-	2,120	2,135
Staff costs - Administrators	5,792	-	-	5,792	5,345
Independent Examiners' Fees	-	-	-	-	-
	9,765	-	-	9,765	8,499
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	90,522	1,468	14,018	106,008	91,488

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARGARET'S WOLSTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

31st DECEMBER 2023

4) STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - Year ended 31st December 2022

	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>		<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Designated</u>		<u>£</u>
	£	£		
INCOME FROM:				
Donations and legacies	68,500	5,000	-	73,500
Other voluntary income	3,049	3,100	3,927	10,076
Investments	68	15	19	103
Income earned from operating activities	7,253	8,114	-	15,367
Other	282	-	-	282
Total Income	<u>79,152</u>	<u>16,230</u>	<u>3,946</u>	<u>99,327</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:				
Grants	3,998	-	-	3,998
Charitable activities: directly relating to the work of the Church	71,004	637	7,351	78,991
Church management & administration	8,499	-	-	8,499
Total Expenditure	<u>83,500</u>	<u>637</u>	<u>7,351</u>	<u>91,488</u>
Net Income/(Expenditure)	-	4,349	15,593	-
Transfers between Funds	6,102	-	7,388	1,286
Net movement in funds	<u>1,754</u>	<u>8,205</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,119</u>
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	28,518	2,484	9,976	40,979
Total funds carried forward	<u>30,272</u>	<u>10,690</u>	<u>7,857</u>	<u>48,819</u>

	2023	2022
	£	£
5) Staff Costs		
Wages & Salaries	7,400	5,345
National Insurance	0	0
	<u>7,400</u>	<u>5,345</u>

The PCC employed 1 (2022: 1) part time administrator throughout the year, and recruited 1 part-time children and families team leader in June 2023.

	2023	2022
	£	£
6) Debtors		
Gift Aid Accrual - unrestricted	3,371	3,177
Gift Aid Accrual - restricted	175	477
Prepayments and interest receivable	-	0
Church Lawford wages contribution	-	471
	<u>3,546</u>	<u>4,124</u>

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARGARET'S WOLSTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

31st DECEMBER 2023

7) Liabilities (Creditors)

	2023	2022
	£	£
Diocesan Quota outstanding	5,115	0
Electricity and Gas Bills outstanding	900	900
Vicar's expenses outstanding	0	181
Deposits - Garden of Remembrance	2,060	2,220
Magazine Costs	0	169
WRCC Grant - Deferred Income	0	500
	<u>8,075</u>	<u>3,970</u>

8) Fund Details

Movements in Funds

	Opening Balance	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds					
General Fund	30,272	80,212	88,620	8,500	30,363
	<u>30,272</u>	<u>80,212</u>	<u>88,620</u>	<u>8,500</u>	<u>30,363</u>
Designated funds:					
Building Fund	3,769	1,110	0	-1,675	3,203
Parish Weekend	1,487	48	0	0	1,534
Maggie's Café	428	10,385	1,468	-8,500	846
Youth & Children	5,006	160	0	0	5,166
Total Designated Funds	<u>10,690</u>	<u>11,703</u>	<u>1,468</u>	<u>-10,175</u>	<u>10,750</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>40,962</u>	<u>91,915</u>	<u>90,088</u>	<u>-1,675</u>	<u>41,113</u>
Restricted Funds					
Youth & Children	3,985	102	1,608	0	2,479
Bible Fund	300	10	0	0	309
Building Fund	0	7,310	8,985	1,675	0
Garden of Remembrance	2,753	0	2,753	0	0
Ukraine	148	5	0	-	152
Total Restricted Funds	<u>7,186</u>	<u>7,426</u>	<u>13,346</u>	<u>1,675</u>	<u>2,941</u>
Funds Held In Trust					
Garden Walkabout Fund	672	0	672	0	0
	<u>672</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>672</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Funds	<u><u>48,819</u></u>	<u><u>99,341</u></u>	<u><u>104,106</u></u>	<u><u>0</u></u>	<u><u>44,054</u></u>

9) PCC Expenses and Remuneration

Under the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities, it is now required to report certain information relating to remuneration and expenses paid to members of the PCC and their immediate families.

Of the wages referred to in note 5, £5,792 were paid to Jayne Hayward, who is currently a PCC member, for her 12 hours a week working in the Church Office. The wage rate for her and the families worker is the current National Living Wage.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARGARET'S WOLSTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023

1. Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

The financial statement has been prepared under the historic cost convention except for the valuation of any investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted, but are shown separately in the accounts.

Restricted funds are those that must be spent on restricted purposes and details of these funds are shown in note 9 to the accounts.

Income

Voluntary income and capital sources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for when received.

Funds raised by garden parties, the church café and similar events, or by sales of books and magazines, are accounted for gross.

Investment and other income

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental income is paid. Interest from investments or deposits are accounted for when received.

Expenditure

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Any parish share unpaid at 31st December is provided for in the accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet.

Expired Cheques

From the start of 2021, cheques issued by the Church that have not been cashed for over 1 year will be written off to income (having been originally recorded as expenditure when issued).

Fixed Assets***Consecrated property and moveable church furnishings***

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

Moveable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's Inventory which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since 1st January 2000 have been capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their currently anticipated useful economic life on a straight line basis.

All expenditure incurred in the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings, individual items under £5,000, or on the repair of moveable church furnishings acquired before 1 January 2000 is written off.

Current assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31st December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as a debtor less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectible.

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

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Margaret's Church, Wolston.

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 1 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements, you consider that an audit is not required for this year under the regulations of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

This report, including my statement, has been prepared for and only for the PCC as a body. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the PCC those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the PCC as a body for my examination work, for this report, or for the statements I have made.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met, or to which in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



Mr Keith Francis B.Sc., FCMA, CGMA, MCT
50B Main Street
Wolston
CV8 3HJ

19 February 2024
