



ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST ANDREW,
SERVING CHARVIL, SONNING AND SONNING EYE
SUNDAY 19 MAY 2024

Written Reports for the year ended 31 December 2023



Annual Parochial Church Meeting

St. Andrews Church, Sonning

19th May 2024 at 11.30am

A G E N D A

1. Opening prayers
2. Appointment of Secretary
3. Election of Churchwardens and Deputy Church Wardens
4. Apologies
5. Minutes of 2023 Annual Parochial Church Meeting
6. Matters arising from Minutes
7. Vicar's Report
8. Treasurer's Report and PCC Financial Statements
9. Churchwardens' Report and presentation of Terrier
10. Safeguarding Report
11. Election of members to the PCC
12. Electoral Roll
13. PCC Committee Reports
 - a) Buildings and Maintenance Committee
 - b) Social Committee
 - c) The Parish Magazine
14. Other Reports
 - a) Messy Church
 - b) Sunday Club
 - c) Alpha Course
 - d) Sunday at Six
 - e) STAY on Sunday
 - f) STAY on Monday
 - g) Wednesday at 8
 - h) Thursday at 8
 - i) STAY on Friday
 - j) Music at St. Andrew's
 - k) Rendezvous Lunch Club
 - l) Bell ringers
 - m) Friends of St. Andrew's Church
 - n) Stewardship
 - o) Giving outside the Parish
15. Appointment of independent examiner
16. Any other business
17. Closing prayers

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)
OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF SONNING
For the year ended 31st December 2023
Incumbent: The Revd. Jamie Taylor,
The Vicarage, Thames Street, Sonning, RG4 6UR
Independent Examiner: Banks & Co, Newbury, Berkshire**

Aim and Purpose

To provide:

- Regular public worship that is open to all
- Sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation
- Pastoral work which includes visiting the sick and the bereaved
- The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups
- The leadership of religious assemblies in schools
- The promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and meetings, and in the distribution of literature
- Promotion of the mission of the Church through provision of activities for all ages in our Parish
- Support of other charities in the UK and overseas

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship in our parish and to become part of our parish community within Sonning, Sonning Eye and Charvil. The PCC vision is to:

- Serve better those who choose to worship with us and share a journey in faith
- Reach out and draw others to the knowledge and love of God
- Attend to the pastoral needs of those around us (As individuals and as an organisation)
- Preserve our Anglican heritage
- Engage with our local community and find new ways to serve it

When planning our activities for the year, the Incumbent and the PCC have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and in particular the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship – Learning about the Gospel and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus
- Mission and pastoral care – Giving to others and the provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
- Buildings and Maintenance - To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of our church
- Social – Arranging social events throughout the year

Administrative Information

The Parish of Sonning encompasses the thriving communities of Sonning, Sonning Eye and Charvil, located between Reading and Henley-on-Thames in a beautiful section of the Thames Valley. We have a growing congregation and are welcoming and uplifting, embracing the broad Anglican tradition.

The correspondence address is:
St Andrew's Church Office
Thames Street
Sonning
READING
Berkshire
RG4 6UR

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity registered with the Charity Commission. (Registered Charity Number: 1130763)

During the year to 31 December 2023, the following served the Parish:

Incumbent (and Chairman)	Revd. Jamie Taylor
Associate Vicar	Revd. Kate Toogood (resigned 29 October 2023)
Licensed Lay Minister	Bob Peters
Youth Minister	Chris West

Churchwardens	Liz Nelson Stuart Bowman
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Deputy Churchwardens	Sue Peters Simon Darvall Molly Woodley (Emeritus Deputy Warden)
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Treasurer	Jerry Wood
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Secretary	Hilary Rennie
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Other PCC Members (normally 3 year term)	Rachel Argent (resigned 28 May 2023) Indra Biddulph Helen Craig Heather Hexter Terence Hunt Ruth Jeffery Nicola Riley (appointed 28 May 2023) Jenny Sawyer Alison Smyly (re-appointed 28 May 2023) Kevin Wilson (appointed 28 May 2023)
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The PCC met on 4 occasions during the year and the average attendance at these meetings was 82%

COMMITTEES

The PCC operates through a number of committees, which meet between the full meetings of the PCC. These are:

Standing and Finance

This is the only committee required by law and has power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. Members are the Incumbent, the Churchwardens, the Treasurer and the Secretary.

Buildings and Maintenance

This committee attends to matters relating to stewardship of the church buildings and fabric. Chairman: Terry Hunt

Mission and Pastoral

This committee attends to matters concerning external giving from the Parish. Chairman: Revd Jamie Taylor

Social

This committee is responsible for arranging social events.
Chairman: Sue Peters

The Parish Magazine

Delivered free to every house in the parish.

Editor: Bob Peters

Advertising: Harriet Nelson

Distribution: Gordon Nutbrown

ELECTORAL ROLL

At the APCM on 28th May 2023 there were 240 people on the Electoral Roll. The total number on the 2024 Electoral Roll is 241.

THE VICAR'S REPORT

I can't make comment on the first 4 months of 2023 as I was on compassionate leave. I well remember my return to duties, sitting in the congregation during Holy Week and then taking the service on Easter Day, which was an emotional and uplifting experience after a very bleak period. I reflected at the time how fortunate we all were that we had able wardens and deputies, a committed ministry team and, last but certainly not least, Hilary in the office. They all worked together to keep the 'show on the road', and I am immeasurably grateful.

It was wonderful to welcome Lord and Lady Carey once again for our special Coronation service in May. The music, under Hannah Towndrow, was a dream come true for me, with Zadok the Priest a particular highlight. We really are so blessed with the standard of music that is now being achieved. A new post was created at Hertford College, Oxford, especially for Hannah as Director of Music, and so she very understandably accepted it. I am very grateful to all she accomplished with us. The fact that Richard Meehan was free to takeover the week after she left was tremendous and I have been heartened with all he has so far brought to the role, not least the launch of our choral scholarships and the appointment of a junior organ scholar, in addition to Noah Toogood as the senior scholar.

The Revd Kate Toogood was appointed as Vicar of Earley St Peter's towards the end of the year, and we rightly gave her a fond farewell in October. Kate had been with us for 6 years and I valued her support and pastoral ministry. She touched many lives, from within the congregation, schools and wider community, and we look back with gratitude on her ministry among us. Another significant change was the appointment of Corinne Robertson as our children and family minister, and we welcomed her and Matt in December and it has been a delight to see her new ministry established. Alison Smyly has ably led our Sunday Club for some years, and I am so grateful to her for all she contributed. Corinne has now taken on this work and Messy Church as well. Much of her work, as with Westy's, is done behind the scenes, one to one in school mentoring, and I know how much this is appreciated by local headteachers, especially considering the mental health epidemic being suffered by teenagers.

When we were planning the building of the Ark in 2013, discussing its possible uses, one aspiration I voiced was for it to host some form of contemporary, informal worship service, reaching out to those not necessarily attracted to our more formal worship in church. I must confess to feeling a little foolish as I had absolutely no idea how any such service could ever be established here, and I knew I was not the person to

lead it. Well, thanks be to God, we now have Sunday at 6, and I am always encouraged to see a full Ark, to hear excellent music for worship and to hear relevant and thought-provoking talks. I counted 55 adults and 20 teenagers at the last one and most of the adults I don't yet know! I want to pay tribute to the team who have founded this work and who plan each session. Indeed, I am heartened that we have recovered so strongly from the Covid hiatus, and the recently published 2022 national church attendance statistics show that we are in the 95th percentile in 10 of the 11 categories. However, we take nothing for granted and will always prioritise projects such as Alpha which are successfully bringing people to Christ. I must say what a wonderful evening we had in October 2023 when the Revd Nicky Gumbel and his wife joined us to meet over 50 of our recent Alpha attendees and they then participated in a special Sunday at 6 in church with over 200 present. For this and so much besides, I express my gratitude to all those who serve God, in voluntary and paid capacities in our parish. May the Lord continue to bless all our work done in His name.

Jamie

TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial Review

The PCC ended the year with a total net expenditure (deficit) in funds of £54,668, compared to a total net deficit of £29,586 for the previous year. This was mainly due to a decrease in the value of our investments, which in keeping in with many other organisations, was caused by the current worldwide uncertainties.

Total income for the year was £314,242. There were grants received of £133,019, which included £113,000 from The Bull Inn Ecclesiastical Trust. Planned Giving increased over the prior year, although the net number of planned givers declined slightly over the year. One-off giving in 2023 was £22,739 much of which was directed to supporting youth work. Income from collections and fees was up due to the full return of services in place during the year. Investment Income of £12,613 was received, mostly from endowments for the Churchyard and St Andrew's building maintenance and interest deposits which increased with higher interest rates.

Expenditure relating to services, mission and running costs increased to £392,336 including £31,248 on repairs to the church building.

The Parish Share contribution increased to £95,795.

The cost of producing the Parish Magazine continues to be covered by the revenue from advertising and the cost of distribution continues to be funded from General Funds.

£4,862 was spent on noise reduction panels for the Ark.

Depreciation for the Ark, the Youth Minister's House and Equipment was £32,750.

Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a Reserves balance, which equates to at least three months normal Unrestricted payments (if possible) to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. Approximately £60,000 has been held in a Designated General Reserve Fund for this. The Reserve increased in 2023 to £61,869, mainly due to an increase in the value of underlying investments. With the increase in expenditure in 2023, albeit including exceptional items for repairs, the Reserves figure is under review.

Jerry Wood - Honorary Treasurer

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

When compiling the annual report it is always surprising to realise what has been achieved over the previous twelve months; it also presents the opportunity not just to reflect on the previous year, but also an opportunity to look to the future.

So firstly, looking back, this year we have said goodbye to an amazing Head of Music and we thank Hannah for all she did for the development of musical praise at St Andrews. I, like many I am sure, thought she would be a hard act to follow, but Richard has taken up the mantle in true Sonning fashion and we are extremely grateful for how the choir – both junior and senior - continue to flourish. The services at both Christmas and Easter were outstanding, and a real testimony to the hard work of the choral team.

STAY, Sunday Club, Sunday at Six, Messy Sunday, Luncheon Club and the weekly Prayer Groups all continue to be reasons for celebration, with them serving both congregation and the wider community. The Alpha course is now an integral part of the year at St Andrews, and it was so pleasing to hear the wonderful feedback from Nicky Gumble following his visit in the autumn.

Nicky's key observation was how blessed we are at St Andrews to have such an amazing team – Jamie, Westy, Kate and Bob all supported by Hilary. I couldn't echo that better – an amazing team indeed. Of course that team has evolved and we have seen our Associate Vicar, Kate Toogood, leave the parish after 6 years. She will be remembered for her great kindness, wonderful sermons (often with a bit of maths thrown

in too), the setting up of Messy Church and the regular Tuesday Morning Prayer.

We are all processing and feeling the loss of our Emeritus Warden Molly, she touched so many and will be greatly missed, thank you dear Molly for all you gave to St Andrew's.

As we look to the future, we were blessed when Corinne Robertson joined the parish team in December as Female Youth Worker; she hit the ground running and brings such a valuable new dimension to our youth work. It is truly uplifting to see so many teenagers from STAY and children from Sunday Club come in and join us for Communion at the end of the 10.30 Sunday service.

It is said in every report, but there are so many other people to thank who give service to St Andrews: the Welcome Team, Deputy Wardens, Pro Wardens, the Servers, Bell Ringers, Coffee Makers and those involved in the 'tidy up' days, again thank you all for helping make St Andrews the truly special place it is for us all to worship and contemplate.

Stuart Bowman and Liz Nelson - Churchwardens

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

St Andrews remains committed to Safeguarding Children, young people and vulnerable adults within its care and encourages a positive safeguarding environment. Safeguarding is an essential part of our core faith and an integral feature of Christian life in our parish. It remains a standing discussion item at all PCC meetings. The PCC takes seriously their duty of care to enable the protection of the vulnerable in the church community. As a church St Andrews works within Oxford Diocesan Safeguarding practice and policy guidelines.

We follow the safer recruitment guidelines, DBS guidance and safeguarding training. As a church we also sign up to the safeguarding Hub and Dashboard in order to review and keep updated on all of our practices. A safeguarding development plan has been reviewed and submitted to the diocese. The revised House of Bishop guidance is implemented in this plan. The PCC remains committed to enabling all staff visitors and congregation to feel safe with safeguarding being everyone's responsibility. Everyone is encouraged to contribute to prompting a safer culture and building good safeguarding practices in St Andrews.

The Parish Safeguarding Officer is Mrs. Nicola Riley who alongside the PCC continues to look at and work on developing areas in St Andrews local context and parish for improving safeguarding in the action plan.

There have been no safeguarding allegations or concerns reported since the last AGM.

Nicola Riley - Safeguarding Officer

BUILDINGS & MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

There were no major infestations of birds, bats, worms, beetles or insects. Careful inspection of worm activity has been maintained. No major outbreak has been found.

A number of minor electrical and plumbing issues have been rectified.

Tree work has been undertaken where necessary. The Deputy Warden was admonished for failure to comply with the Diocese's full paperwork in one case!

The flintwork of part of the Vicar's Vestry wall has been rebuilt. The lead roof valley above is to be replaced shortly. The associated rainwater services have been improved. The internal dampness has been and is being carefully monitored. The interior restoration will await a satisfactory moisture level. The Friends of St Andrew's has funded this significant project.

The internal lighting in the Tower has been brought up to current standards. It now has emergency standby and a very good level of illumination particularly on the spiral staircase.

The Bell ringers met the cost of the work in the Belfry and Ringing Room.

Work will start in May on the wall between the Lych Gate and the Church. The flintwork and some of the brickwork is in a parlous state. The Fire Station Trust has made a generous contribution towards the cost.

Future work is being planned on the Ground Water and Rainwater systems around the Church and on the electrical switch gear and protection circuits.

Our thanks are due to the Friends of St Andrew's, the Fire Station Trust and the Bellringers for their huge help in undertaking works.

Terry Hunt Deputy Warden

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

We have enjoyed providing homemade cakes for the afternoon tea after Choral Evensong, as always, we cater for special dietary needs – gluten free, dairy free and vegan. The Easter BBQ was a great success. Wine was served after the All Souls Service and Nine Lessons and Carols along with

the traditional mince pies. Sincere thanks to all who volunteer for the Coffee Rota, those who shop, help set up, serve and clear away for events – we couldn't do it without you!

Sue Peters

THE PARISH MAGAZINE

Hopefully for the readers of The Parish Magazine, it has continued to provide an entertaining, interesting, and useful read for all the Church members, visitors, and for the residents of Charvil, Sonning and Sonning Eye.

Behind the scenes there has been one major staff change following the gradual handing over of the management of the advertising from Gordon Nutbrown to Harriet Nelson at the end of 2023. Gordon is still playing an important part behind the scenes by managing the printing and distribution of the magazine and offering us the benefit of his extensive publishing business knowledge, therefore he remains an essential part of our team.

For the record, in 2023, the magazine retained the National Parish Magazine Awards title for being the overall best magazine of its kind in the country. It was our ninth national award since 2018 when we first entered the competition. While there are two independent award schemes for church magazines in the UK, we are not allowed to enter the other one because I am one of the judges!

Bob Peters

MESSY CHURCH

On the third Sunday of each month, we welcome families to join us for fun activities and learning, including craft making, teaching and songs, followed by a meal for the children and sometimes for the adults too! Our helpers at Messy Church this year have ranged from 14-year-olds to 90+ and each one of them helps to create the happy vibrant space for young children and their families to learn about Jesus. With this gentle welcoming introduction to St Andrew's, we are seeing families grow in confidence with their faith and joining with us as regular attendees at the 10.30am Sunday service and Sunday at Six.

Liz Nelson

SUNDAY CLUB

As I come to the end of my time leading Sunday Club it has been a real privilege to have this time on a Sunday morning to learn about and respond to God with the children, and often their parents too. While numbers have been small a committed number of children attend each session.

We have been using an online resource from Urban Saints, Energize, as a basis for our sessions. Over the year we have looked at the Psalms, Influences on our lives and how we respond to these, and the life of Jesus. Christmas and Easter are special points in the year marked by the Crib Service and making the Easter Garden, which went ahead as usual. A huge thank you to everyone involved in Sunday Club who so willingly give of their time and who have faithfully supported and encouraged me and this ministry; I am extremely grateful to them and without whom Sunday Club would not be possible.

Alison Smyly & The Sunday Club Team

ALPHA COURSE

The Alpha Team ran the third successful Alpha course in 2023. We met every Tuesday on zoom for 12 weeks, we watched the insightful and interesting alpha videos together, then discussed some questions afterwards. It is the perfect combination of comfort, ease and a relaxed environment for people to be in their own homes, ask any questions and not feel judged. We saw several people come to faith or renew their faith in Jesus. It has also meant people have made new friends and felt more at home in St Andrews church.

Chris West

SUNDAY AT SIX

Sunday at Six met, in the Ark, 11 times on the last Sunday of each month and in December we started the brand new 'Beers & Carols' at the Bull Pub. (We don't meet in August as so many people are away). We also had the privilege of hosting the founder of the Alpha Course, Nicky Gumbel and his wife Pippa at the October Sunday at Six service. The Sunday at Six service is a relaxed environment with modern worship songs, biblical teaching and space for prayer. All ages are welcome.

Chris West

STAY ON SUNDAY

Our bi-weekly Sunday group is always a highlight for many young people. We meet in the upper room of the Ark where we focus on our Christian faith. We watch videos, play games, read scripture, eat donuts and pray. We also welcome in guest speakers some weeks and we had Naomi from Open Doors come and speak to us about the secret church. In parts of the world it is completely illegal to be a Christian and if caught worshipping, you can be beaten up, thrown in jail or sometimes worse.

Chris West

STAY ON MONDAY

Our bi-weekly small group on Monday nights still meets in the young peoples homes. We get to hang out, play games, watch videos and read stories of how people connect with God across the world. We have used the STIR cards in 2023 and these have been so useful in creating a safe space for the young people to explore the Christian faith.

Chris West

WEDNESDAY AT EIGHT

Following on and being created from our second Alpha course, Wednesday at 8 continues every other Wednesday on zoom from 8-9pm. We have been watching the Bible Project videos on 'Books of the Bible Overviews'. These have been packed with fantastic insight, discussion points and angles on things that offer helpful guidance for discussion. We then discuss the videos afterwards and pray to finish. It is another great way to deepen friendships and feel part of the St Andrews church family.

Chris West

THURSDAY AT EIGHT

We follow a course to help steer our discussion (we have done The Creed and are just finishing off The Beatitudes). You don't need to know lots about the Bible to come along - the purpose is to explore God's word and think about how it applies to our daily lives. We ask questions and seek to know God's word better, learning from one another. There is an opportunity to share pray requests and pray together if you would like to (not mandatory).

The group is a wonderful support for its members and we have a group WhatsApp so that we can be there for each other practically and emotionally when needed during the week.

We meet in members homes currently Charvil, Woodley and Sonning depending on who is available to host. We regularly have between 8 and 12 people.

Thursday @ 8 is open to anyone from St Andrews, and if you would like more information please speak to either Ruth Jeffery or Helen Craig or you can email Helen on helen.craig50@gmail.com.

Helen Craig and Ruth Jeffery

STAY ON FRIDAY

Our weekly youth club in the Ark was very popular in 2023. Half way through the year we gave the young people a suggestion box, which they filled with some wonderful ideas. Go kart track, flood lights and boxing ring were amongst the more extravagant ones. Besides the impossible ideas we did have some great suggestions of new games, new board games, wide games, new tuck shop ideas and a basketball hoop. Lots of these we implemented and number went up as a result. STAY on Friday also feeds into our STAY for Holiday Activities, where we take groups of young people out on trips to trampoline parks, theme parks, cinemas, ice skating rinks, rock climbing walls, paddleboarding lakes and pottery painting workshops...to name just a few.

Chris West

MUSIC AT ST. ANDREW'S

The choir saw a change in leadership in October 2023, as I took over from Hannah Towndrow, who took a post at Oxford University. I have been very grateful for the support and goodwill I have encountered since taking over.

The two choirs continue to sing five regular services a month, supporting and enhancing worship of the church, as well as adding festive flair to the special services, such as the Carol Service and Remembrance.

Since taking over, I am pleased to have recruited more than 10 new full-time members, and several additional occasional singers. This, together with the Choral Scholarship programme has allowed us access to standard 4-voice and 5-voice music, thus greatly expanding the choir's repertoire.

The expanded repertoire has started the long-term project of replacing the sizeable portion of existing photocopied repertoire with official copies

of music, a plan which will take around 5 years to complete based on the existing library.

We have also been able to make links with young instrumentalists, developing working relationships with two university-age organists and developing the organ playing and experience our two organ scholars, both of whom achieved merits in their Grade VI, with the intention to now move them on to service music as soon as possible. We have also invited brass into our Carol Service and Easter Day service to give a suitably festive lift.

Our principal focus will now need to be to recruit and develop the singing of new children into the choir, as the current generation age out. To do this we have started a new scheme, "Intrepid Voices" which we hope will provide an excellent introduction to choral singing.

Richard Meehan - Director of Music

RENDEZVOUS LUNCH CLUB

Our twice monthly lunch club provides not only an enjoyable meal cooked by the fabulous Emma Saville and Serena Goodwin, but also a chance to catch up with old friends and meet new people. It always amazes me how often people attend the lunch club for the first time and are a little nervous about arriving on their own, who immediately spot someone they haven't seen for 30 years or more! It's a delight to see old school friends reunited and immediately pick up a friendship that started in the playground more than 60 years ago. I would like to thank everyone who helps out to make these lunches run so smoothly, particularly Thelma and Ian Hutton-Penman who diligently lay up the tables before each lunch. We have been particularly conscious of the cost of living crisis this year and have made the decision to keep the cost at £10 per person and thankfully Emma has been able to continue with great skill and inventive cooking to provide interesting and nutritious menu for us all to enjoy.

Liz Nelson

BELL RINGERS

We now have 13 members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild. The youngest is only 12 years old and learning very quickly. We ring regularly for the 10.30am Sunday morning service and some of us continue to support Wargrave who are short of ringers.

We follow a ringing progress scheme called 'Learning the Ropes' and one of our young ringers worked hard and passed levels 3, 4 and 5 during the year.

On Easter Saturday afternoon we again opened the tower for tours to see the ringing room and view from the roof.

On the 6th May we rang before and after the coronation of King Charles III. One of our ringers, Geoff Harvey also rang for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.

The Tower inspection pointed out that we needed emergency lighting in the belfry, the ringing room and on the stairs. We are very pleased that Terry Hunt arranged for this to be installed.

Pam Elliston - Tower Captain

THE FRIENDS OF ST ANDREW'S CHURCH (FoStAC)

THE FRIENDS OF ST ANDREW'S CHURCH (FoStAC) FoStAC exists as a separate registered charity (number 1101944) to support the fabric of our beautiful St. Andrew's Church building by making grants to St. Andrew's Church PCC for specific projects.

In 2023 we granted over £13,300 to fund the works to the vestry wall repairs (see March 2024 edition of The Parish Magazine for a full explanation and picture). Our income for 2023 was under £12,000, so after administrative expenses, we made a loss for the year and had to draw upon our limited reserves. Since FoStAC started in 2003, we have in total made grants of well over £400k, and including our current cash assets, have raised over half a million pounds for the benefit of St. Andrew's Church.

FoStAC raises these funds primarily via a combination of (1) regular donors – a big thank you to all those who donated during 2023, and (2) fundraising community events. Additionally, in some years although not in 2023 we (3) receive grants from other local charities for specific projects, which in recent years have included our funding of replacement heating and lighting systems in St. Andrew's Church. These were well timed given energy price increases since 2022. Lastly, we (4) receive legacies from time to time, including one in 2023.

For FoStAC events in 2023, March saw our AGM and accompanying Quiz Night hosted by our ongoing Honorary Secretary Sally Wilson – a very entertaining evening for all. In July we held a very successful Garden Tea Party by our kind hosts Jill & Richard Brighton. In September we held a stall at the 2023 Sonning Show and then Trustee Bob Hine arranged our very enjoyable first curry night in The Village Hamper on the High Street in Sonning in December. Trustee Keith Hawkins' production of our Christmas Card design was widely acclaimed and led to a sell-out. Beyond fundraising, we also coordinated the Annual Church Clean in October before the seasons of Remembrance and Advent.

I am very grateful to Trustees Ian McCann and Rosemarie Rixon for their work on our new FoStAC website – www.fostac.org – with allied ‘QR Code’



being used to now help market our events. In parallel, our ongoing Honorary Treasurer Keith Nichols has done sterling work in supporting FoStAC’s embracing of SumUp card payment technology and actively managed us to having online charity current account access.

Beyond my thankfulness for such a dedicated and talented team of Trustees, I am also very grateful to all those of you who support us through regularly donating or supporting our events (or both). I warmly encourage you to participate in our future events or support us financially (even £10 a month adds up very welcomingly for FoStAC across its membership base with Gift Aid) – details on our website.

Further detail on FoStAC’s activities in 2023 are in our Annual Report. If you would like a copy, please contact a Trustee or FoStAC via our website. I conclude with the words of a visitor from Western Australia on 29 December 2023 in the comments book for St. Andrew’s Church, which neatly sums up the purpose of FoStAC: “This is a beautiful church, and you can really feel God’s presence here. Thank you for taking such good care of it here!”

Magnus Smyly - Chairman

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Planned giving increased over the prior year, although the net number of planned givers declined slightly over the year.

Cash giving at services has declined as givers switch to standing orders or use the contactless terminal, which, despite some issues from time to time, has proved a worthwhile addition to our ways of giving. We continue to encourage people to use standing order as the preferred method of giving as this provides the treasurer with a better level of certainty when forecasting our income and involves less work for those doing the weekly bankings.

Also if you are able to give under Gift Aid as a UK tax payer this increases the value of your gift by 25% as we are able to claim the relevant tax from HMRC.

If anyone would like a standing order form or a gift aid form to complete please e-mail me at treasurer@sonningparish.org.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year.

Jerry Wood - Treasurer and Stewardship Co-ordinator

THE PARISH OF SONNING - Giving outside the Parish 2024

It was agreed at the PCC on 18 March 2024 that the list of recipients presented to that meeting would be supported for up to five years. A range of areas are covered, including Christian outreach, children and families and homelessness. The PCC is also committed to supporting the worldwide church and in view of the continuing situation in the Middle East we are supporting Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East (FRRME), a UK based Christian charity which aims to rebuild lives and restore hope in the Middle East. We are also supporting for the first time a charity in Sierra Leone which helps street children in Free Town and provides medical facilities in this politically unstable country.

At the same time, it was agreed to maintain a small reserve, from which specific requests might be met during the year.

Donations made during 2023 were as follows:

Parish and local	£
Woodley Food bank	1,000
Yeldall Christian Centre	1,000
Sonning School and School House Trust	1,500
Sub total	3,500
 Wider/local	
Berkshire Clergy Charity	1,000
Salvation Army	750
Faith Christian Group	750
Parents & Children Together (PACT)	750
Christian Community Action (CCA)	750
Sub total	4,000
 International	
Karun Orphanage	2,000
St George's Foundation , Sierra Leone	1,500
Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East (FRRME)	1,500
Sub total	5,000
 TOTAL	 12,500



THE CHURCH OF ST ANDREW, SERVING
CHARVIL, SONNING AND SONNING EYE

Sonning Parochial Church Council

Registered Charity No 1130763

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS of the **Parochial Church Council** for the year ended **31 December 2023**

INCUMBENT

The Revd. Jamie Taylor
The Vicarage
Thames Street
Sonning

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Banks & Co.
1 Carnegie Road
Newbury

**The Parochial Church Council (PCC)
of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sonning**

During the year to 31 December 2023, the following served the Parish:

Incumbent (and Chairman)	Revd Jamie Taylor
Associate Vicar	Revd Kate Toogood (resigned 29 October 2023)
Licensed Lay Minister	Bob Peters
Youth Minister	Chris West
Churchwardens	Liz Nelson Stuart Bowman
Deputy Churchwardens	Sue Peters Simon Darvall Molly Woodley (Emeritus Deputy Warden)
Treasurer	Jerry Wood
Secretary	Hilary Rennie
Representatives on the Sonning Deanery Synod (normally 5 year term)	Rory Symes Molly Woodley
Other PCC Members (normally 3 year term)	Rachel Argent (resigned 28 May 2023) Indra Biddulph Helen Craig (re-appointed 28 May 2023) Heather Hexter Terry Hunt Ruth Jeffery Nicola Riley (appointed 28 May 2023) Jenny Sawyer Alison Smyly (re-appointed 28 May 2023) Kevin Wilson (appointed 28 May 2023)

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Andrew's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar), churchwardens, the associate vicar, the licensed lay minister and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral role of the church.

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

The PCC met on 4 occasions during the year and the average attendance at these meetings was 82%.

Administrative Information

The Parish of Sonning encompasses the thriving communities of Sonning, Sonning Eye and Charvil, located between Reading and Henley-on-Thames in a beautiful section of the Thames valley. We have a growing congregation and are welcoming and uplifting, embracing the broad Anglican tradition.

The correspondence address is:

St Andrew's Church Office

Thames Street

Sonning

READING

Berkshire RG4 6UR

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity registered with the Charity Commission (Registered Charity Number: 1130763).

Aim and Purpose

To provide:

- Regular public worship that is open to all
- Sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation
- Pastoral work which includes visiting the sick and the bereaved
- The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups
- The leadership of religious assemblies in schools
- The promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and meetings, and in the distribution of literature
- Promotion of the mission of the Church through provision of activities for all ages in our Parish
- Support of other charities in the UK and overseas

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship in our parish and to become part of our parish community within Sonning, Sonning Eye and Charvil. The PCC vision is to:

- Serve better those who choose to worship with us and share a journey in faith
- Reach out and draw others to the knowledge and love of God
- Attend to the pastoral needs of those around us (as individuals and as an organisation)
- Preserve our Anglican heritage
- Engage with our local community and find new ways to serve it

When planning our activities for the year, the Incumbent and the PCC have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and in particular the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship – Learning about the Gospel and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus
- Mission and pastoral care – Giving to others and the provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
- Buildings and Maintenance – To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of our church
- Social – Arranging social events throughout the year

Committees

The PCC operates through a number of committees, which meet between the full meetings of the PCC. These are:

Standing and Finance

This is the only committee required by law and has power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. Members are the Incumbent, the Churchwardens, the Treasurer and the Secretary.

Buildings and Maintenance

This committee attends to matters relating to stewardship of the church buildings and fabric. Chair: Mrs Liz Nelson.

Mission and Pastoral

This committee attends to matters concerning external giving from the Parish. Chairman: Revd Jamie Taylor.

Social

This committee is responsible for arranging social events.
Chair: Mrs Sue Peters.

The Parish Magazine

Delivered free to every house in the parish.

Editor: Bob Peters

Advertising: Harriet Nelson

Distribution: Gordon Nutbrown

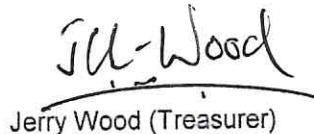
Electoral Roll

At the APCM on 28th May 2023 there were 240 people on the Electoral Roll.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 18th March 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Revd. Jamie Taylor (PCC Chairman)



Jerry Wood (Treasurer)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial Review

The PCC ended the year with a total net expenditure (deficit) of £54,668, compared to a total net expenditure of £29,586 for the previous year.

Total income for the year was £314,242. There were grants received of £133,019, which included £113,000 from The Bull Inn Ecclesiastical Trust. Planned giving increased over the prior year, although the net number of planned givers declined slightly over the year. One-off giving in 2023 was £22,739 much of which was directed to supporting youth work. Investment income of £12,613 was received, mostly from endowments for the Churchyard and St Andrew's building maintenance and interest on deposits which increased with higher interest rates.

Expenditure relating to services, mission and running costs increased to £392,336 including £31,248 on repairs to the church building.

The Parish Share contribution increased to £95,795.

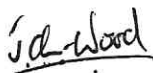
The cost of producing the Parish Magazine continues to be covered by the revenue from advertising and the cost of distribution continues to be funded from General Funds.

£4,862 was spent on noise reduction panels for the Ark.

Depreciation for the Ark, the Youth Minister's House and Equipment was £32,750

Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a Reserves balance, which equates to at least three months normal Unrestricted payments (if possible) to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. Approximately £60,000 has been held in a Designated General Reserve Fund for this. The Reserve increased in 2023 to £61,869, mainly due to an increase in the value of underlying investments. With the increase in expenditure in 2023, albeit including exceptional items for repairs, the Reserves figure is under review.



Jerry Wood - Honorary Treasurer


Parish of Sonning
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

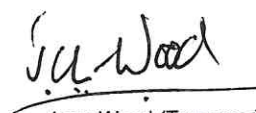
	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
		£	£	£	£	£
<i>Income and endowments from:</i>	2					
Voluntary Income		248,938	12,713	--	261,651	276,825
Activities for Generating Funds		24,764	--	--	24,764	23,003
Income from Investments		5,596	270	6,747	12,613	8,938
Church activities		15,214	--	--	15,214	18,263
Other Income		--	--	--	--	--
Total income		294,512	12,983	6,747	314,242	327,029
<i>Expenditure on:</i>	3					
Church activities		348,546	36,899	6,747	392,192	322,597
Raising Funds		144	--	--	144	161
Total expenditure		348,690	36,899	6,747	392,336	322,758
Net Income/(Expenditure) before Investment Gains		(54,178)	(23,916)	--	(78,094)	4,271
Net Gains/(Losses) on investments		1,075	856	21,495	23,426	(33,857)
Net income/(Expenditure)		(53,103)	(23,060)	21,495	(54,668)	(29,586)
Transfers between Funds		(4,862)	4,862	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(57,965)	(18,198)	21,495	(54,668)	(29,586)
<i>Reconciliation of Funds</i>						
Total funds brought forward		258,553	1,205,577	226,484	1,690,614	1,720,200
Total funds carried forward		200,588	1,187,379	247,979	1,635,946	1,690,614

Parish of Sonning
Balance sheet
As at 31 December 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	This Year Total	Last Year Total
		£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	6					
Tangible assets		70,047	1,086,527	-	1,156,574	1,184,462
Investments		25,750	9,875	247,979	283,604	260,178
		95,797	1,096,402	247,979	1,440,178	1,444,640
Current assets						
Debtors and prepayments	7	8,293	250	-	8,543	5,367
Cash at bank and in hand	8	126,665	93,715	-	220,380	273,807
		134,958	93,965	-	228,923	279,174
Liabilities	9					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		30,167	2,988	-	33,155	33,200
Net current assets / (liabilities)		104,791	90,977	-	195,768	245,974
Total assets less current liabilities		200,588	1,187,379	247,979	1,635,946	1,690,614
Total net assets		200,588	1,187,379	247,979	1,635,946	1,690,614
Represented by	10					
General fund		27,612	-	-	27,612	82,223
Organ		61,036	-	-	61,036	64,711
Choral Foundation		25,700	-	-	25,700	26,000
Mission & Development		4,012	-	-	4,012	4,272
Parish Magazine		15,934	-	-	15,934	16,224
General Reserve		61,869	-	-	61,869	59,948
External Giving		4,425	-	-	4,425	5,175
New Hall		-	636,317	-	636,317	646,334
Youth		-	2,500	-	2,500	124
Frances Cooper		-	3,185	-	3,185	2,909
Jacqueline Hadida		-	6,689	-	6,689	6,110
Ecclesiastical Fund		-	538,688	-	538,688	550,100
Price Davies		-	-	904	904	826
Churchyard Trust		-	-	4,566	4,566	4,171
Dickson Memorial Trust		-	-	115,604	115,604	105,583
Mitchell Trust		-	-	4,521	4,521	4,129
Palmer Charity		-	-	121,029	121,029	110,538
Witherington Trust		-	-	1,198	1,198	1,094
William Payne		-	-	157	157	143
Funds of the church		200,588	1,187,379	247,979	1,635,946	1,690,614

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 18th March 2024 and signed on its behalf by


Revd. Jamie Taylor (PCC Chairman)


Jerry Wood (Treasurer)

The Notes on pages 8 to 12 form part of these accounts

Parish of Sonning
Cash Flow Statement
for the year ended 31 December 2023

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
Net Cash from operating activities		(61,178)		30,664
Cash Flows from investing activities				
Dividends and Interest from investments	12,613		8,938	
Equipment Costs	--		(6,652)	
Buildings Cost	(4,862)		(1,920)	
Net Cash provided by / (used in) investing activities		7,751		366
Change in cash and cash equivalents in reporting period		(53,427)		31,030
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January		273,807		242,777
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December		220,380		273,807
Reconciliation of net income/expenditure				
Net Income before investment gains/(losses) 31 Dec		(78,094)		4,271
Adjustments for:				
Depreciation Charges		32,750		33,184
Dividends, Interest and Rent from investments		(12,613)		(8,938)
Decrease / (increase) in debtors		(3,176)		(1,362)
(Decrease) / increase in creditors		(45)		3,509
Net Cash provided by / (used in) operating activities		(61,178)		30,664
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents				
Cash and Bank		216,344		269,896
Short term deposits (less than 3 months)		4,036		3,911
		220,380		273,807

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' 'true and fair' provisions, together with FRS 102 as the applicable accounting standards and the 2019 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS 102)).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for 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

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be retained either permanently or at the PCC's discretion; the income derived from the endowment is to be used either as restricted or unrestricted income funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established in the first place.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from endowments which is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor and (b) revenue donations or grants received for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor. Where these funds have unspent balances, interest on their pooled investments is apportioned to the individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds (including designated funds) are general funds which are to be spent on the PCC's general purposes.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognized when received. Tax refunds are recognized when the incoming resource to which they relate is received, if necessary by estimated amounts. Grants (including government grants) and legacies are accounted for under the performance model when the PCC is entitled to use of the resources, their ultimate receipt is considered reasonably certain and the amounts due are reliably quantifiable. Dividends and rental income are accounted for when receivable, interest is accrued (where material). All other income is generally recognized when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share expected to be paid over is accounted for when due.

All other expenditure is generally recognized when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s10(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1,000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over an appropriate number of years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when asset is acquired.

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

2 INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
2(a) Voluntary Income					
Planned Giving	85,310	349	--	85,659	82,717
Tax Recoverable	12,831	1,575	--	14,406	18,717
Collections (Open Plate)	5,828	--	--	5,828	6,224
Other Donations	11,950	10,789	--	22,739	45,750
Grants	133,019	--	--	133,019	123,417
	<u>248,938</u>	<u>12,713</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>261,651</u>	<u>276,825</u>
2(b) Activities for Generating Funds					
Magazine Advertising	24,764	--	--	24,764	22,993
Sundry Activities	--	--	--	--	10
	<u>24,764</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>24,764</u>	<u>23,003</u>
2(c) Income from Investments					
Dividends and Interest	5,596	270	6,747	12,613	8,938
	<u>5,596</u>	<u>270</u>	<u>6,747</u>	<u>12,613</u>	<u>8,938</u>
2(d) Income from Church Activities					
Lettings	1,443	--	--	1,443	1,226
Fees	7,789	--	--	7,789	10,874
Sundry Income	5,982	--	--	5,982	6,163
	<u>15,214</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>15,214</u>	<u>18,263</u>
Total Income	<u>294,512</u>	<u>12,983</u>	<u>6,747</u>	<u>314,242</u>	<u>327,029</u>

3 RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
3(a) Charitable Activities					
Missionary & Charitable Giving					
Church Overseas: Missionary Societies	7,250	--	--	7,250	3,000
Church Overseas: Relief and Development Agencies	--	--	--	--	1,750
Home Mission and Other Church Societies	750	--	--	750	4,682
Secular Charities	7,250	--	--	7,250	4,000
Diocesan Parish Share	95,795	--	--	95,795	80,000
Ministry Team Costs	59,259	17,723	--	76,982	70,696
Upkeep of Services	5,052	--	--	5,052	5,710
Parish Training and Mission Costs	12,405	4,027	--	16,432	21,786
St Andrew's Running Costs and Maintenance	61,061	87	3,312	64,460	27,185
Organ, Organist, Choir, Music	19,922	--	--	19,922	18,174
Upkeep of Churchyard	8,321	183	3,435	11,939	13,971
St Saviour Room Running Costs and Maintenance	941	--	--	941	258
The Ark Running Costs and Maintenance	6,107	14,726	--	20,833	20,407
Administration	36,746	153	--	36,899	29,281
Magazine Printing and Other Costs	25,074	--	--	25,074	19,033
Miscellaneous	2,613	--	--	2,613	2,664
New Buildings/Churchyard	--	--	--	--	--
	<u>348,546</u>	<u>36,899</u>	<u>6,747</u>	<u>392,192</u>	<u>322,597</u>
3(b) Cost of Generating Funds					
Cost of Generating Voluntary Income	--	--	--	--	--
Fundraising Trading Cost of Goods Sold & Other Costs	144	--	--	144	161
	<u>144</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>144</u>	<u>161</u>
Total Resources Expended	<u>348,690</u>	<u>36,899</u>	<u>6,747</u>	<u>392,336</u>	<u>322,758</u>

4 STAFF COSTS

The PCC had six employees at the end of the year. Details of costs are as follows:

Salary	71,829
Pension Contribution	3,166
	<u>74,995</u>

The above amounts are included in Ministry Team Costs and Administration Costs in Note 3 above.
Chris West, a trustee, was employed as Youth Minister and his remuneration is included in the above amounts.
Hilary Rennie, a trustee, was employed as Office Administrator and her remuneration is included in the above amounts.

5 PAYMENTS TO PCC MEMBERS

Expenses paid to Clergy, the Youth Minister and the Lay Minister may include a small immaterial proportion which relates to their function as PCC members. No other payments or expenses were paid to any other PCC members or their related parties, except to directly reimburse items paid for on behalf of the PCC.

6 FIXED ASSETS

(a) Tangible

		Freehold Land and Buildings	Church Equipment	Total
		£	£	£
ACTUAL/DEEMED COST	At 1st January 2023	1,231,695	145,882	1,377,577
	Disposals	--	--	--
	Additions at Cost	4,862	--	4,862
	As At 31 December 2023	<u>1,236,557</u>	<u>145,882</u>	<u>1,382,439</u>
DEPRECIATION	At 1st January 2023	126,801	66,314	193,115
	Withdrawn on Disposal	--	--	--
	Charge for the Year	24,731	8,019	32,750
	As At 31 December 2023	<u>151,532</u>	<u>74,333</u>	<u>225,865</u>
NET VALUES	At 1st January 2023	1,104,894	79,568	1,184,462
	Additions at Cost	4,862	--	4,862
	Depreciation for Year	(24,731)	(8,019)	(32,750)
	As At 31 December 2023	<u>1,085,025</u>	<u>71,549</u>	<u>1,156,574</u>

(b) Investments

		2023 £	2022 £
(b) Investments	Market Value at 1 January	260,178	294,035
	Purchases	--	--
	Revaluation Gain	23,426	(33,857)
	As At 31 December 2023	<u>283,604</u>	<u>260,178</u>
The Market Value represents investments for			
	Unrestricted Funds	25,750	24,675
	Restricted Funds	9,875	9,019
	Endowment Funds	247,979	226,484
		<u>283,604</u>	<u>260,178</u>

7 DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

Tax Recoverable	8,543	5,367
Prepayments	--	--
	<u>8,543</u>	<u>5,367</u>

8 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

CAF Bank Acc Balance	192,046	230,214
CAF Bank Mag Acc Balance	21,220	37,275
CCLA (CBF) Deposit Acc	4,036	3,911
Cash in Hand	3,079	2,407
	<u>220,381</u>	<u>273,807</u>

9 LIABILITIES

Magazine Adverts Next Year	5,256	21,051
Other	27,869	12,149
Amounts falling due within one year	<u>33,155</u>	<u>33,200</u>

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £
<i>Income and endowments from:</i>	2				
Voluntary Income		273,300	3,525		276,825
Activities for Generating Funds		23,003			23,003
Income from Investments		1,928	269	6,741	8,938
Church activities		18,263			18,263
Other Income					—
Total income		316,494	3,794	6,741	327,029
<i>Expenditure on:</i>	3				
Church activities		278,320	37,536	6,741	322,597
Raising Funds		161			161
Total expenditure		278,481	37,536	6,741	322,758
Net income/(Expenditure) before Investment Gains		38,013	(33,742)	—	4,271
Net Gains/(Losses) on		(2,583)	(1,197)	(30,067)	(33,857)
Net income		35,420	(34,939)	(30,067)	(29,586)
Transfers between Funds		(6,893)	6,893	—	—
Net movement in funds		28,527	(28,046)	(30,067)	(29,586)

11	FUNDS	2023	Notes	Balances Brought Forward	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains and Losses	Balances Carried Forward
	Unrestricted Funds								
	General Fund			82,223	253,650	277,769	(30,492)	—	27,612
	Organ			64,711	—	3,675	—	—	61,036
	Choral Foundation			26,000	—	300	—	—	25,700
	Mission & Development			4,272	15,036	40,920	25,624	—	4,012
	Parish Magazine			16,224	24,819	25,115	6	—	15,934
	General Reserve	10(a)		59,948	1,007	161	—	1,075	61,889
	External Giving			5,175	—	750	—	—	4,425
				258,553	294,512	348,690	(4,862)	1,075	200,588
	Restricted Funds								
	New Hall			646,334	—	14,879	4,862	—	636,317
	Youth	10(b)		124	12,713	10,337	—	—	2,500
	Frances Cooper	10(d)		2,909	87	87	—	276	3,185
	Helen Beison								
	Jacqueline Hadida	10(c)		6,110	183	183	—	580	6,590
	Ecclesiastical Fund			550,100	—	11,413	—	—	538,687
				1,205,577	12,983	36,899	4,862	856	1,187,379
	Endowment Funds								
	Price Davies	10(c)		626	25	25	—	78	904
	Churchyard Trust	10(c)		4,169	94	94	—	397	4,566
	Dickson Memorial Trust	10(c)		105,584	3,160	3,160	—	10,020	115,604
	Mitchell Trust	10(c)		4,129	124	124	—	392	4,521
	Palmer Charity	10(d)		110,538	3,307	3,307	—	10,491	121,029
	Witherington Trust	10(c)		1,094	33	33	—	104	1,198
	Charifond								
	Charifund Young/Welsh								
	Rushby Family								
	William Payne			144	4	4	—	13	157
	Phyllis Palmer			—	—	—	—	—	—
				226,484	6,747	6,747	—	21,495	247,979
	Sundry Funds			—	—	—	—	—	—
				1,690,614	314,242	392,336	—	23,426	1,635,946
10(a)	Reserve of 3 months expenditure	10(c)			Income to be applied to upkeep of graveyard and certain graves				
10(b)	Funds for Youth Work	10(d)			Income to be applied to Repairs and Maintenance of St Andrew's				

11 FUNDS (continued)

Comparatives for movement in funds (2022 figures)

Fund	Notes	Balances Brought Forward	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains and Losses	Balances Carried Forward
Unrestricted Funds							
General Fund		77,083	253,342	196,246	(51,956)	--	82,223
Organ		73,500	--	8,789	--	--	64,711
Choral Foundation		500	25,500	--	--	--	26,000
Mission & Development		2,386	13,441	42,082	30,527	--	4,272
Parish Magazine		12,009	23,293	19,114	36	--	16,224
General Reserve	10(a)	61,623	918	--	--	(2,593)	59,948
External Giving		2,925	--	12,250	14,500	--	5,175
		230,026	316,494	278,481	(6,893)	(2,593)	258,553
Restricted Funds							
New Hall		659,471	--	15,057	1,920	--	646,334
Youth	10(b)	2,697	3,525	11,071	4,973	--	124
Frances Cooper	10(d)	3,295	87	87	--	(385)	2,909
Jacqueline Hadida	10(c)	6,921	182	182	--	(811)	6,110
Ecclesiastical Fund		561,239	--	11,139	--	--	550,100
		1,233,623	3,794	37,536	6,893	(1,197)	1,205,577
Endowment Funds							
Price Davies	10(c)	936	25	25	--	(110)	826
Churchyard Trust	10(c)	4,724	124	124	--	(553)	4,171
Dickson Memorial Trust	10(c)	119,600	3,143	3,143	--	(14,017)	105,583
Mitchell Trust	10(c)	4,677	123	123	--	(548)	4,129
Palmer Charity	10(d)	125,212	3,290	3,290	--	(14,674)	110,538
Witherington Trust	10(c)	1,240	33	33	--	(146)	1,094
William Payne		162	4	4	--	(19)	143
		256,551	6,742	6,742	--	(30,067)	226,484
		1,720,200	327,030	322,759	--	(33,857)	1,690,614
10(a) Reserve of 3 months expenditure	10(c)	Income to be applied to upkeep of graveyard and certain graves					
10(b) Funds for Youth Work	10(d)	Income to be applied to Repairs and Maintenance of St Andrew's					

12 RELATED PARTIES

The Vicar and Churchwardens, who are trustees of the PCC, are also trustees of The Bull Inn Ecclesiastical Trust, from which the PCC received grants of £113,000 during the year (2022 - £113,000) to support the work of the PCC in the Parish.

The Vicar and Churchwardens are also trustees of The Ranmore Trust, to which the PCC made payments of £12,000 during the year (2022 - £12,000) for the use of a house for the Associate Vicar. The PCC also settled certain invoices on behalf of The Ranmore Trust which were directly reimbursed by the Trust during the year.

The Vicar and Churchwardens are also trustees of The Sonning School and School House Trust, to which the PCC made a donation of £1,500 during the year (2022 - £1,500) to help the Trust support the work of Sonning Primary School.

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

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 5 to 12.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

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

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



RML Taylor FCCA
Banks & Co Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
1 Carnegie Road
Newbury
Berkshire
RG14 5DJ

Date: 10 May 2024

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

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Responsibilities and basis of report

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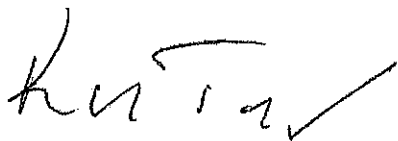
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Date: 10 May 2024