THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF OAKLEY WITH WOOTTON

England & Wales · Charity number 1131064

Details

Other names	OAKLEY WITH WOOTTON PCC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-08-10
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	The Church Office St. Leonards Centre Rectory Road Oakley Basingstoke RG23 7ED
Phone	01256782724
Email	OFFICE@OWW.CHURCH
Website	www.oakleywithwootton.org.uk

Activities

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

Activities: Activities associated with the village parish church and support in the community.

Classification

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

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1131064

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£442,489	£392,164	-	-
2024-12-31	£429,417	£392,122	-	-
2023-12-31	£398,342	£306,873	-	-
2022-12-31	£359,145	£298,906	-	-
2021-12-31	£303,468	£238,855	-	-
2020-12-31	£282,312	£223,119	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Ann Elizabeth Wilson		2024-04-22
Barbara Robson		2023-03-27
Catherine Goucher		2021-03-28
Claire Bowers		2024-04-22
Erika Conti		2024-04-22
Helen Miller		2017-03-28
MARK PERYER		
Rev Ben Kautzer		2019-04-30
Rev Ceri Deosun		2023-09-17
Richard John Edwards		2025-04-28
SIMON JOHN CONSTANTINE		2017-03-28
Selina Craig		2022-03-28
Serena Catherine Worthington		2024-04-22
Teresa Bates		2021-03-28
Thomas Favell		2022-03-28

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1131064

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1131064

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF OAKLEY WITH WOOTTON

England & Wales - Charity number 1131064

Accounts



United Parish of
Oakley with Wootton St Lawrence

Annual Report 2025

ST LEONARD'S OAKLEY

ST LAWRENCE WOOTTON

Charity Registration Number 1131064

Contents

- Rector's Report 3-7
- Curates's Report 8
- PCC Report 9-10
- Financial Report 11
- Safeguarding 12
- Church Warden's Report 13
- Church Administrator 14
- Building Projects 15-16
- Wootton St Lawrence 17
- St Leonards Pre-School 18
- Ministry Areas: 19
    - Worship 19-22
    - Discipleship 22
    - Fellowship 23
    - Prayer 24
    - Pastoral Care 25-28
    - Community Engagement 29
    - CAS (Children and Families) 30-33





Rector's Report

If I were to summarise all my thoughts and feelings into one word as we approach this year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting, it would be **ANTICIPATION**.

Looking back, 2025 focused on renewing our vision, reframing our values, reorienting our priorities, restructuring our ministries, recruiting new leadership, and above all responding to that still small voice of the Holy Spirit – our advocate, comforter, and guide. In other words, last year was both a time of significant change and preparation for new things yet to come.

At last year's APCM we set out our **vision** (living the love of Jesus at the heart of our community) and core **values** (becoming a people of encounter, depth, compassion, generosity & belonging).

As the church grows and opportunities for mission expand, our task has been to reimagine a new way of approaching ministry which will equip us to keep pace with the ever-increasing rate of change.



(1) Ministry Areas

Following last year's APCM, the PCC launched a strategic plan to restructure our core church ministries into seven interconnected areas: *worship, discipleship, fellowship, prayer, pastoral care, community engagement, and children & youth*. Each of these is led by a ministry area coordinator and is developing its own team. The aim of the coordinator roles is to:

- provide broad oversight ('sight' over) each ministry area;
- work with the Rector and the PCC to shape the vision and strategy for their ministry area;
- represent the 'public face' of their ministry area within the wider church;
- establish intentional relationships of encouragement, prayer and support for their leaders, volunteers, and teams;
- serve as a first point of contact for pastoral concerns within their area, signposting to the pastoral or clergy team as needed;
- support the welcome of newcomers and encourage people to get stuck into the life of the church;
- help facilitate the safer recruitment of new volunteers within their area in collaboration with the parish safeguarding team;
- encourage forward planning and effective communication between church leadership and their ministry area and promote creative collaboration wherever ministry areas overlap.

A significant task of this year has been mapping out the content, shape, and calendar rhythm of each new ministry area. A second was the recruitment of the coordinators. I am very pleased to report that we now have six of seven in post:

Worship: Ben Kautzer (with Chris Greenhalgh)
Discipleship: Jeanne Johnson (with Erika Conti)
Fellowship: TBC
Prayer: Ceri Deosun (with Derrick & Heather Norton and Harry Slinger)
Pastoral: Katey Butler
Community: Penny Brown
Children & Youth: Sochi Ezeanowai (with Alfie Wells)

(2) Strategic Vision

As the shape of each ministry area has come into greater focus, so has the strategic vision and missional priorities:

- **Worship**: growing and equipping teams (preaching, service leading, music, welcome), celebrating and cultivating the distinctiveness of each congregation, launching termly nights of worship, promoting 'life event' services within the community (esp. christenings, baptisms, confirmations, and weddings);

- **Discipleship:** expanding the number, diversity and accessibility of Connect Groups, establishing a sustainable rhythm of seasonal open-access discipleship events (Lent course, Summer Nights film sessions, annual Advent Gallery), exploring creative new expressions of Alpha, encouraging a robust offering of short courses across the year (e.g. The Bible Course, The Prayer Course, Sanctuary, The Way), creating new opportunities for going deeper into Scripture, developing an annual series of public facing 'forum talks' on faith and the big topics of our time;

- **Fellowship:** expanding newcomers welcome, rebuilding robust men's and women's ministries within the church, establishing termly rhythms of social events and gatherings, launching an annual church BIG Weekend Away;

- **Prayer**: developing robust prayer ministry teams within each congregation (esp. the 8:00 and WSL), establishing a rhythm for quiet day retreats and/or mini-pilgrimage walks, relaunching the parish-wide ecumenical Prayer Clusters project;

- **Pastoral**: developing and equipping pastoral visiting and home communion teams, consolidating our ministry presence at Oak Lodge and Dashwood Manor, expanding Holiday@Home, creating a new community-facing bereavement service in May for anyone who has experienced the loss of a child, expanding Kintsugi Hope's outreach amongst men;

- **Community**: cultivating strategic community partnerships through the Oakley Wellbeing Forum, broadening our 'pastoral outreach' through partnership with the Social Prescriber team at Watership Down Health, hosting 'neighbourhood welcome' events for new housing areas and 'loving your neighbour' events for neglected areas within the parish;

- **Children & Youth**: through the 'Growing Faith' grant awarded to us by the Church of England … recruiting a new children & families worker, connecting all our disparate contacts with children and young families into single unified children's ministry, consolidating new projects like 'Who Let the Dads Out' and 'The Welcome Club', building stronger Christian links with St Leonard's Pre-School, re-establishing bridges between village uniform groups and Sunday Fun Days, at the centre of it all launching a brand new worshipping community specifically for young families (involving the participation of parents and the active voice of children).



(3) Infrastructure

Just as we have needed to restructure our ministry areas to keep up with our growing church, so we have also needed to update and improve the systems, structures, and infrastructure that underlies it all.

In that regard, 2025 was a year defined by tackling a range of more behind-the-scenes challenges: **Human Resources** (new dashboard system and employee contracts), **Communication** (parish-wide rebranding project and the launch of our new church website), **Digital Infrastructure** (rollout of ChurchSuite), **Safeguarding** (transitioning a large single role into a series of manageable tasks held within a team), **Finance** (renegotiating Centre contracts, securing VAT reimbursement, gaining grant funding for capital projects), **AV** (reviewing sound equipment requirements in both churches), **Buildings & Maintenance** (major roof repair at St Leonard's and range of actions in the St Leonard's Centre), **Church For Our Time** (progressing the St Leonard's building project to planning permission negotiations; completing water access improvements at Wootton St Lawrence and launching proposals for the reordering of St Lawrence).

All of this work was part of a process of consolidation and rescaling for the growing size and complexity of church life.

(4) Recruitment

Whilst the first half of 2025 focused on mapping ministry areas, improving infrastructure, and discerning strategic priorities, the second half of the year required a fairly dramatic shift toward the recruitment of staff and volunteers.

Back in September 2024, the church staff team was at its peak with Rector, Associate Minister, two Curates, Youth Worker, Pastoral Coordinator, Evergreen Advocate, two Churchwardens, and two Administrators. By September 2025, our team had been reduced by four (Associate Minister, one Curate, Evergreen Advocate, and one Churchwarden). In addition, our Pre-School Manager, Pre-School Administrator, Parish Safeguarding Officer, and a member of the PCC announced their retirement from their roles. When Penny was appointed as our new Evergreen Pastoral Coordinator in December 2025, the Office Administrator post was added to the list of key roles needing to be filled.

Needless to say, this amounted to a whole lot of change all at once!

With a much-reduced team, we put our heads down and did our best to keep the momentum going until we could begin to close the gap.

Derek Felton took up the vacancy on PCC. As a former Churchwarden, he has brilliantly supported Mark Peryer whilst Helen Miller has stepped back from her responsibilities due to personal family circumstance. Alfie Wells joined Sochi's CAS team as our first MES Intern. Samantha Reeves was given a fixed-term contract to support the rollout of ChurchSuite across the parish.

In the last few weeks, we have successfully appointed a new Parish Administrator and a new Pre-School Administrator. We have strong candidates standing for PCC, Parish Safeguarding Officer, and Churchwarden. After Easter, we will begin the recruitment process for our new children & families worker.



This brings me back around to my one big word: ***ANTICIPATION***. As we stand on the threshold of a new season, I cannot wait to see what the Lord will bring. So much work and thought and preparation has gone into the last year. As each of these big roles gets filled, as each of our ministry areas comes into greater focus, as our underlying infrastructure begins to function properly, we will be increasingly ready to lean into the new adventures that are opening out before us.

This is my prayer …

- that 2026 will be the year in which we experience such an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, that none of us are left the same.
- that 2026 will be the year in which the Lord is adding to our number daily those who are encountering Jesus Christ for themselves;
- that 2026 will be the year that our work with children and young families unifies under a single banner and steps boldly into uncharted territory;
- that 2026 will be the year that our Evergreen ministry moves from strength to strength, flourishing under Penny's leadership;
- that 2026 will be the year that Christians of every kind reunite once again in faithful prayer over every street, every institution, every house, and corner of our parish;
- that 2026 will be the year in which many big roles in church turn into teams and that these teams release the gifts and potential of the whole people of God;
- that 2026 will be the year that Church For Our Time breaks through bureaucratic barriers to become a living breathing reality for St Leonard's and Wootton St Lawrence;
- that 2026 will be a year of healing and reconciliation, hope and freedom, gathering and scattering, loving, and proclaiming … all in the mighty name of Jesus.

We pray with hope-filled ***anticipation*** that this will be a year of significance for our church. With renewed faith and longing we are bold to pray … *Come, Holy Spirit … Thy Kingdom come even here in this place as it is in heaven … May your grace overwhelm us and set us free. Amen.*





Before I conclude my report, I want to take this opportunity to thank those who have given so much to support the mission and ministry of our church.

First and foremost, I want to thank our Churchwardens, Helen Miller, and Mark Peryer. After six years of faithful service, Helen is finishing her term of office this year. I am so grateful for all that Helen has given in service of our church, and Jo and I are especially thankful for all the ways that Helen has supported us as a family.

This summer we bid a fond farewell to Ed and Sarah Haycock and their girls and released them to lead a new church planting project on the Townsend estate in Bournemouth. Though Ed's time with us was brief, his impact was significant. Thank you, Ed!

I also want to say a special thank you to Teresa Bates. For seven years, Teresa has served as our Parish Safeguarding Officer. She has been there for our church through thick and thin. We owe Teresa a debt of gratitude for the time, energy, wisdom, and care she has committed to her role.

Caroline Edwards has invested years and years supporting the children and young families of our church and our community through Sunday School, Pippins, Scouts, School Governance, and above all St Leonard's Pre-School. As Caroline prepares to retire from her responsibilities this year, I wanted to thank her for her faithful service, her leadership, and her passion to see young people flourish.

My role would be impossible without the brilliant team at my side. I want to thank our amazing staff team: Ceri, Sochi, Katey, and Alfie; our office team: Penny and Victoria; our ministry area coordinators and team leaders: Chris & Naomi, Marilyn & Rodney, Erika, Jeanne, Tom, Derrick & Heather, and Harry; our treasurer Simon and his finance team; our pre-school manager Caroline and her staff; the members of the PCC; our Church For Our Time champions: Mark, Derek, and the Friends of Wootton St Lawrence.

Yours in Christ,
Ben



Curate's Report – Ceri Deosun

I can't believe another year has gone by already, meaning I am more than halfway through my time in Oakley and Wootton. There have been many exciting things in the last year but also a number of challenges, and I thank you all for your support through everything. It is such a blessing to be part of such a loving community.

We are seeing wonderful things happening in some of the ministries I have been involved with. Prayer Space in our Junior School is going from strength to strength with an influx of new volunteers, and Naomi Sworder and I have had a big sort out of all the resources to set us up for the future. Hymns of Hope in Oak Lodge has grown from six residents when Anna and I started it in Autumn 2024 to now regularly having 25-30 residents coming along to sing classic hymns. We are building connections between the school and the care home too, something that we hope will continue and grow in the future.

The MAG committee was overwhelmed with worthy charities to support, and we are planning to raise more awareness of these amazing organisations in the coming months. With short courses, the new book club, the usual hatch, match and dispatch services to plan (baptisms, weddings and funerals), and the never-ending PhD, my diary can feel very full at times, so Lent this year has been a wonderful reset, of making time for reflection and creativity.

With curacy sign off approaching and the prospect of looking for my own parish on the horizon, I am thinking seriously about legacy. I would love to be sure that the ministries I am involved with will continue to grow and flourish without me here, so I am starting to have conversations with people about making that happen. I am keen to 'leave well', knowing that I have made a difference but that it will be lasting. If this is my last APCM with you all, I want you to know that I am so immensely grateful for all the love and care you have shown over the last three years, and for all the opportunities you have given me and friendships we have built here.



Parochial Church Council Report

Summary

Oakley with Wootton Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the operation and maintenance of two Centres: St Leonard's and St John's.

The parish has two churches: St Leonard's in Oakley and St Lawrence in Wootton. The churchyard at St Lawrence's is the only one open for burials.

One of the main themes over the last year has been change and the composition of the PCC has reflected this theme. We said goodbye to our Assistant Curate Ed Haycock and his family in July. Erika Conti resigned in July and Helen Miller stepped back as Church Warden in September. However, at the same time, the PCC has been joined by Sam Reeves who is ex-officio as the Deanery Synod Secretary, whilst Derrick Norton and Derek Felton were co-opted onto the PCC.

The PCC has spent much time over the last few years considering how we manage the changes associated with church growth. A momentum is now building towards having a core staff team to support the key ministries of the church. One example of this was the appointment of our first Ministry Experience Scheme (MES) intern, Alfie Wells, who has been working alongside Sochi since September, but has also got involved with other aspects of ministry as the opportunity has arisen. In December, we appointed Penny Brown as Evergreen Pastoral Co-Ordinator, and we are looking forward to her taking up that position.

The start of 2026 has seen a focus on the recruitment of a new Church Administrator, to release Penny, and a new Pre-School Manager as Caroline Edwards is retiring. Both of these roles are significant to the church as well as to the wider community. Cathy Clewer took on the post of Pre-School Chair and has been working with Caroline and Derek Felton to effect a smooth transition for the Pre-School.

As PCC meetings are typically focussed on business and decision making, we hold an annual away day to spend some time on bigger picture discussion. This year we got together at the end of January to talk about how we should nurture the 5 values of the church and to start to tackle some 'knotty questions.' One outcome was the recognition that in these times we cannot necessarily expect individuals to take on significant responsibilities alone, and that we need to find ways to distribute responsibilities across teams.

Safeguarding has a dedicated agenda item at each PCC meeting and this year we have spent time reviewing safeguarding standards and values at alternate meetings. Teresa Bates will be retiring as the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) at this year's APCM and we have been preparing for that by considering how we spread the load across a team consisting of a PSO and two, or more, administrators to look after DBS certification, Safeguarding training and Safer Recruiting.

Another change that was introduced during the year was the timing of the later Sunday morning service at St Leonards from 10:00 am to 10:30 am and to change the ordering of services to allow Communion to be taken somewhere in the Parish every Sunday. The buffer between services allows more time for post-service clergy presence; has enabled prayer before the 10:30 services; and has allowed time for short meetings such as Baptism preparation and 'This is us' to be held at this time. We thank everyone for accepting the change gracefully.

An important topic that has been discussed by the PCC at some length is that of prioritising outreach and ministry to families and children. Ben and Sochi led a successful application for a 'Growing Faith Learning Hub' grant which we plan to use to seed fund a Children and Families worker. One of the objectives for this post is to launch a new family orientated worshipping community that meets at a different time than Sunday morning.

Structure, governance and management

The procedures for appointing PCC members are set out in the Church Representation Rules. In Oakley with Wootton parish, the membership of

the PCC in 2025 consisted of the Rector, Curates, Churchwardens, Treasurer, Administrator, Deanery Synod representatives and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

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 full PCC met 6 times during the year. The average level of attendance was 82%

Given its wide responsibilities, the PCC has a number of committees dealing with different aspects of parish life. The Leadership Team, which includes clergy, church wardens, the church administrator, and the lead for Pastoral Care, meets once every two weeks to support short-term decision making.

Teams responsible for Safeguarding, Finance, Buildings and Maintenance, A Church for Our Time, Centre Management, outward giving (Mission Action Group) report to the PCC as necessary.

Safeguarding

The Parish Safeguarding Officer is Teresa Bates. Teresa leads a team that supports all church activities with policy, policy compliance, procedures and advice.

The PCC has complied with the duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure of 2016.

Administrative information

The United Parish of Oakley with Wootton includes two churches (St Leonard's and St Lawrence) and a Garden of Remembrance on the site of the chapel of St John in East Oakley. It is part of the Diocese of Winchester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is:

The Church Office, St Leonard's Centre Rectory Road,
Oakley, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG23 7ED.

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and is registered as a charity (number 1131064).

Our Independent Examiner is Paul Sherrington, MBA FCCA

PCC members at 31/12/25

Ex Officio PCC members: Incumbent: Rev'd Ben Kautzer; Associate Minister Sue Colman; Curate: Rev'd Ceri Deosun

Treasurer: Simon Constantine; PCC Secretary: Penny Brown

Churchwardens: Helen Miller; Mark Peryer

Deanery Synod PCC members: Rev'd Ben Kautzer, Helen Miller, Mark Peryer, Sam Reeves

Elected PCC members:

- Annie Wilson (1st term ends 2027), Serena Worthington (1st term ends 2027)
- Teresa Bates (2nd term ends 2026), Kate Goucher (2nd term ends 2026), Claire Bowers (1st term ends 2026), Barbara Robson (1st term ends 2026)
- Selina Craig (1st term ends 2028), Tom Favell (1st term ends 2028), Richard Edwards (1st term ends 2028)

Co-Opted PCC members:

- Derrick Norton, Derek Felton

PCC Report Approved by the PCC on 16th March 2026

Financial Review

The Church Accounts are presented primarily with two categories of Unrestricted and Restricted Funds. Unrestricted funds represent the day-to-day operations of the two churches and centres and include St Leonard's Pre-School, which operates out of St Leonard's Centre. Restricted funds are those designated for specific activities with the youth and older people and for building improvements.

The Church and Centres together showed a total surplus for the year of £17,364 (2024: £3,306) and the Pre-School a surplus of £24,992 (2024: £19,840); both are included in Unrestricted Funds. Restricted Funds increased by £3,768.
The most significant income for the Church and Centres at 71% of total income is gifts, primarily from our worshipping community. These were 3% lower than in 2024. However, income from the hire of our buildings and from interest earned on our cash deposits held up well and overall costs were well covered for the year.

On the expenditure side, underlying costs increased by 3% when adjusting for the significant £25,000 estimated costs on roof repairs at St Leonard's Church that were accrued in the 2024 accounts. Our requested contribution to the Diocese Common Mission Fund increased by 13% and we met this in full once again; this is by far our largest outgoing at 44% of total costs and pays for our local ministers as well as contributing to some central Church of England costs. Other costs were controlled well, which resulted in the overall modest 3% increase in the year. We gave £12,000 to 18 other charities through Mission Action Giving.

St Leonard's Pre-School once again generated a significant surplus in the year following the increase in weekly hours offered in 2024.

The financial systems and controls were reviewed during the year, having been redesigned in 2021. They continue to provide an efficient and effective framework within which both the monthly management and annual statutory accounts are prepared on a timely and accurate basis. The PCC continues to have full visibility of all activities regularly, including Pre-School, Youth, Evergreens and church building projects, where significant funds are involved.

The full Financial Statements are included in the Annual Report.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the PCC to maintain sufficient unrestricted operating reserves (those not relating to property) to cover the normal ministry, management and administration costs of the Church for a minimum of six months. Additional reserves are set aside where, in the view of the PCC, it is prudent to allow for future planned spending.

Unrestricted operating reserves as at 31 December 2025 were £202,108 (2024: £162,487), which represents approximately nine months of normal expenditure.

Simon Constantine, Treasurer



Safeguarding

This parochial church council adopts the Church of England Safeguarding Policies and Practice Guidance. In particular, our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people, and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

Over this past year:

We use the Parish Dashboard, an audit tool that we regularly update to ensure that the mandatory responsibilities of the parish are complied with. This tool also has assisted the PCC to review safeguarding standards, encouraging additional good practice in promoting a healthy and safe culture.

There is now some new software provided – the Safeguarding Hub, will make the record keeping of DBS, training and recruitment more straightforward.

We continue to recruit new volunteers to roles in the church. We are committed to the CofE safer recruitment process to ensure that everyone in a leadership or volunteer role has the support and checking they need. This includes obtaining references, DBS checks where appropriate, having clear role descriptions and safeguarding training. Thank you to all those who give up their time to volunteer and complete the training to ensure we are keeping people safe.

There have been some safeguarding concerns raised this year. Where appropriate we have referred to the Diocesan safeguarding team who are able to give some valuable advice. Thanks are due to our volunteers/leaders who highlight and report concerns and the leaders who have shown great care in dealing with situations, delivering safe and appropriate support.

Moving forward:

I have been in the role of PSO since 2019, and in that time the role has expanded. The time has come for me to step back and I would like to thank all those that have supported me in the role.

To maintain high standards and to not overload any one volunteer, a team is needed to share the workload. A new team is coming together and I wish them your support in promoting our church as a safe and supportive place for all.

I would like to thank all the leaders and helpers of our groups for the work they do. Without their commitment to provide safe spaces, policies and procedures alone would be ineffective.

Teresa Bates (PSO)



Church Wardens

I would like to start this year's report by paying tribute to my fellow Church Warden Helen Miller whose term ends at this year's APCM. When I started working alongside Helen, I quickly realised that we complemented each other and although we approached life in different ways, we shared a common passion and commitment to serve and further the kingdom of God in Oakley and Wootton. Helen would see things that I remained blind to, get a feeling that something was amiss that I was too numb to pick up and have a vision that I would have to run fast to catch up with. I am also aware of some, but by no means all, of the unseen ways the hand of Helen was in action.

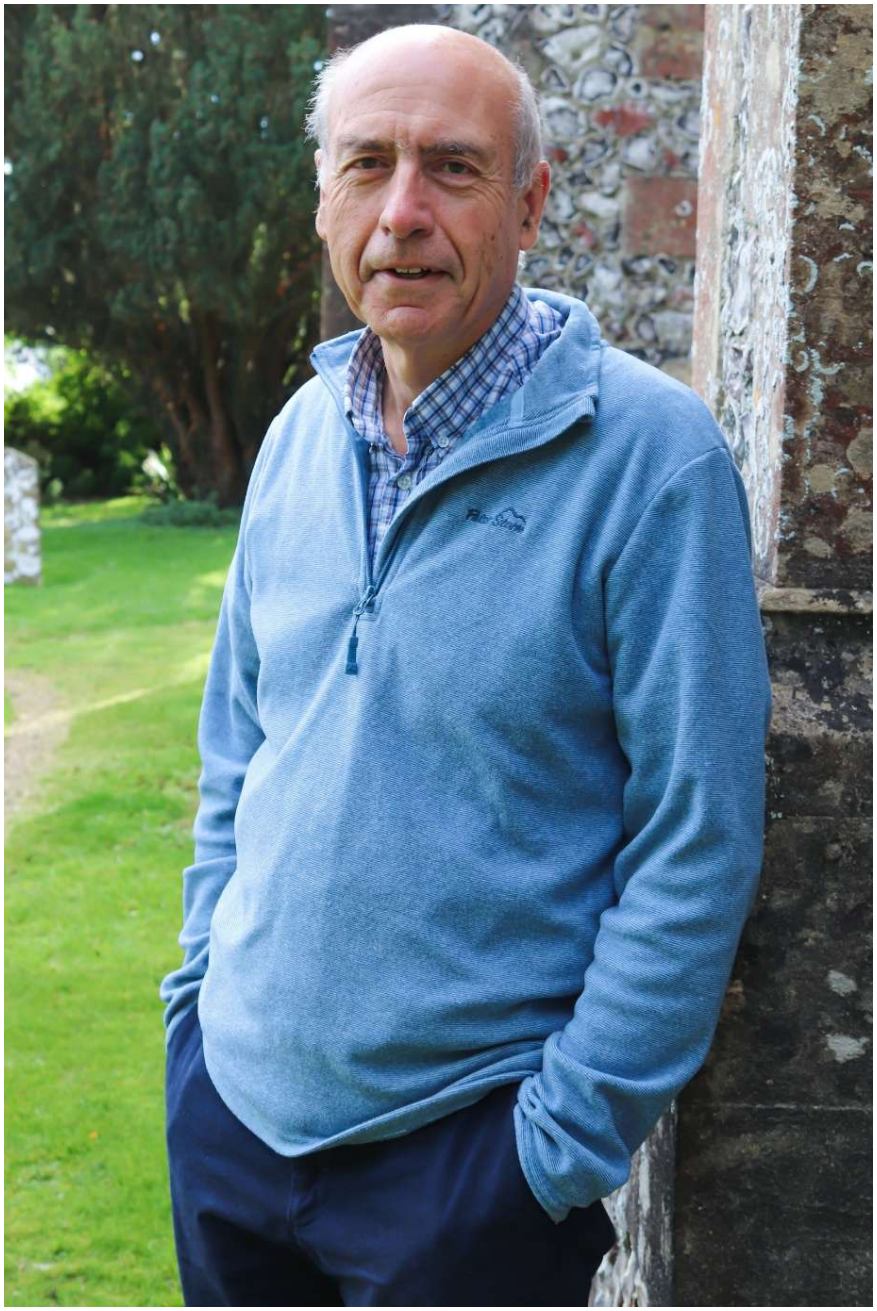
As you are probably aware, Helen stepped down from her role in September to support her family whilst her husband, Andy, went through intense treatment for cancer. That was the right thing to do, and it is wonderful to see Andy recovered and restored to health again.

In the Autumn, Derek Felton offered to come back to the PCC and to take on the responsibility for HR and I immediately accepted as it was becoming clear that we were going to go through a period of intense recruitment for the staff team and the pre-school. Derek's expertise has proved to be extremely useful, and I would like to think that we have laid some good foundations for the future with the appointments that have been made.

You can read elsewhere about the progress made on building projects over the last year. In addition to the headline projects, there is a constant stream of minor projects and for these I rely on the support of Rowland and Harry Tilley to address them in a timely and cost-effective manner.

Nether the less, I am also grateful to every one of you who has rolled up your sleeves; got stuck in to start new initiatives; helped bring projects into land; or have joined in to keep existing things going. I appreciate your support and look forward to the challenges that we will face together in the coming year.

Mark Peryer



Church Administrator

It's been another busy year in the office.

The office continues to be the engine room of the Parish and the Centre is always busy with groups and activities. We have welcomed three new regular hirers this year, with another starting in April. The current hirers keep us busy and it's great to see the Centre being such a valued community space within Oakley.

Vic has reorganised all the archives so that we can have a rolling cycle of shredding each year, and lots of paperwork has left the office as a result.

The Welcome Sheet production has risen in numbers as we welcome more people not formally connected to the church. We email out over 300 each Friday to anyone on our mailing list, so it's helpful if you only take a hard copy at the end of the service, once we know that newcomers have one to take away.

The Office can only function with the help of you all. Rotas need filling, volunteers are needed for everything we do, refreshments are crucial, and the flowers, brass cleaning, tables and chairs etc don't get done without the quiet support of those who give their time behind the scenes.

The quietest of these is Graeme, without whom there would be no colourful Welcome Sheet, no service posters, and all the other countless things he provides each year from a life-sized Jane Austen, to fliers for groups and the Evergreen names and menus. Did you know that he always adds a joke (loose term here!) in the Welcome Sheet in one of the upright margins?! His cheery personality, crazy humour and faithfulness to Friday mornings always brightens up the week, coupled with our alternating purchase of Danish pastries, which are usually accompanied by debates over Tesla and American politics!

Vic holds some of the purse strings and pays bills (boo!) and expenses (hooray!) as well as dealing with all the bookings, keeping an eye out for clashes etc. She is also a handy size when it comes to sorting through the eave cupboards!

This will be my last report as Administrator. It's been a real delight to see Vic flourish in her role. It's been lovely to work alongside 'Techno Gran' Joan Smith, Linda Wain, and the team of office cover staff across this time.





Looking back to the job I took on a decade ago, it's unrecognisable. The Centre usage, links to community organisations, increased services - especially at Wootton, Lockdown and Church@Home, modern furniture, getting rid of 4 overflowing filing cabinets, the 'Hamsters', and of course the arrival of the Kautzers! I could go on….

I've been privileged to serve the Parish in this role and to develop it according to my own skills and interests. As a I step away I just know that you will be amazingly supportive of Sam, as she adapts the role to her strengths too, and leads the Office into its next chapter.

With a nod to the Friday email, whatever your plans are for the year ahead, stay safe.

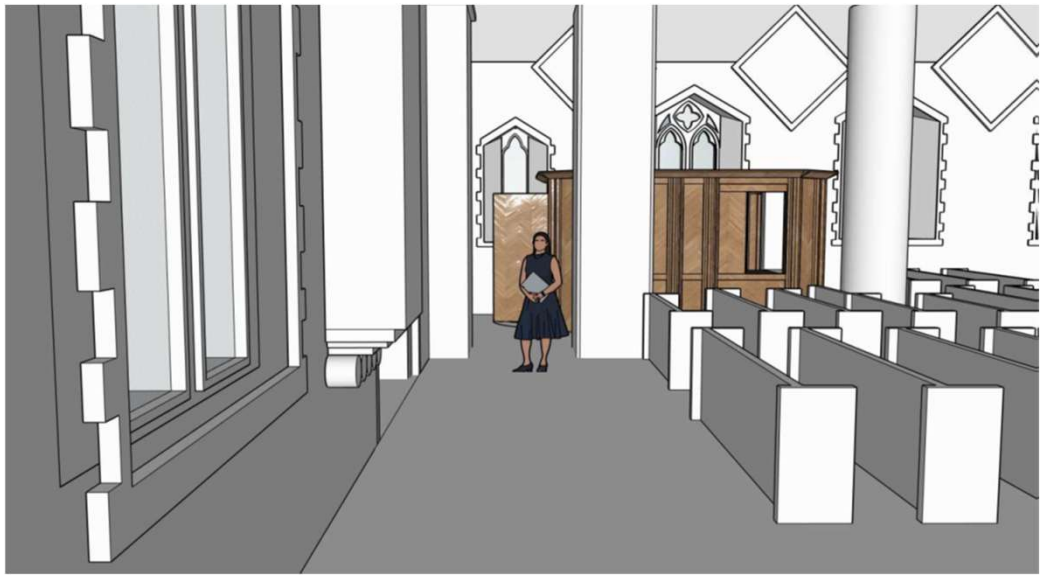
Penny Brown

Building Projects

Church For Our Time – St Leonards

We submitted a planning application for the St Leonards Church for our time project in April last year. In July, we held a meeting with English Heritage, The Victorian Society and The Society for Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) to discuss their objections to our application. The outcome of the meeting, was that they accepted that our proposal for an extension was necessary, but they expressed opinions about the extension roof detail. We have gone through several rounds of responding to comments and objections from council officers and we believe we have made progress. We were to pleased to have some supportive comments from the Conservation Officer late last year. We have recently been asked by the case officer to post a new planning notice and to confirm details of our plans, so it feels like the end is in sight.

Derek Felton, Mark Peryer



Preliminary model view of toilet and kitchen pod at St Lawrence's Church

Church For Our Time – Wootton St Lawrence

Over the last year a water supply has been laid to St Lawrence's church and is currently terminated in a stand-pipe by the west door. We are extremely grateful to the Wootton and Ramsdell Parish council who paid for the work to be done and to Peter Lowndes and Gile Curtis who managed the project. We also installed a temporary path across the churchyard which allows interim access to toilets in the Barn nursery through a temporary gap in the fence and hedge on the north side of the churchyard.

In parallel with these developments, we started work with an architect who has developed a pod concept for locating toilet and kitchen facilities within a church in a sensitive manner. The general idea is that the sound proofed pod has a woodwork wrapper that can be adapted to blend in with its surroundings and look like a piece of church furniture. At its November meeting the PCC gave the go-ahead to engage Mark Penfold as project architect with a brief to provide a pod installation at Wootton. Since then, he has worked with the project team to produce some preliminary plans that were shared in a public meeting in February this year.

The proposal is that the pod will house a disabled toilet and a kitchenette and that it will be located to western end of the north aisle of the church, taking advantage of visual screening by the northern arcade. The pew seating in the north and south aisles will be removed, to allow the facilities to be used for community events in the church building.

We believe that most of the funds for completing the project are in place, but this will be confirmed once we have finalised the plans. All being well and provided there are no surprises we hope to complete the project within a year or so at which point the water supply will have been brought into the church and we will be able to roll up the temporary path.

Teresa Bates, Mark Peryer

St Leonard's Chancel Roof

Last year we completed a project to refurbish the Chancel roof at St Leonards. As far as we can determine, the southern side of the roof had not had any attention since it was first built in 1870 and there was no roof felt under the tiles that were kept in place using wooden pegs. We had known for at least ten years that something had to be done, but when the ceiling underneath started to show signs of water ingress it could be put off no longer.

We started the necessary approval process early in the year, but because a Mytosis Bat was discovered between the door to the basement and its frame during the ecological survey for the C4OT project planning application, we had to involve the Bat Conservation Trust and Natural England to develop a Bat roost mitigation strategy in case there were bats roosting in the void between the tiled roof and the suspended ceiling in the Chancel. This delayed the start of the project until mid-September by which time last years extended dry weather was on its way out. The roof repair was finished in early November and if you look carefully you will notice a 'bat tile' on each side of the roof, these will allow bats access to the roof space.



The project was funded from PCC reserves, but we were fortunate to win a small works grant from the Diocese and to get one of the last Listed Places of Worship scheme VAT refunds, saving around £4,000 for future work.

Mark Peryer



Wootton St Lawrence

Worship at St Lawrence has remained steady throughout the year with a consistent congregation of around 30 people attending each service.
We were delighted to celebrate two baptisms recently and approximately 120 people joined us for the Crib Service on Christmas Eve.

Wootton Fundraising Events

Last year The Friends of St Lawrence (FOSL) held a musical evening, raising £756 towards the 'Church For Our Time' project.

The Wootton St Lawrence Residents' Committee organised a Fete & Dog Show, raising £1,581. Of this, £1,000 was donated to C4OTwith the remaining £581 retained in the Residents' Fund for ongoing village expenses.

The Big Sing, a fun musical and social event took place just before Christmas. Over 50 people attended and donations of approximately £150 were given towards the project.

Looking ahead, FOSL are organising a Bridge Tea on 15th April at Malshangar Social Club with proceeds going towards the improvement project. We will also be planning further musical evenings.

Serena Worthington





St Leonard's Pre-School

A big thank you to everyone who has prayed for the preschool or supported it in any way this year. It is greatly appreciated and has a significant impact on the preschool and staff.

It has been a busy year with lots of families attending the preschool. For the first time ever in the summer term, we had four families with two children attending the setting at the same time.

We have been supported by parents and grandparents coming into the preschool to help with cooking weeks and to talk about their jobs to the children. We had a parent who works for BP and works on the oil rigs, a parent who works for the library service, a parent who is a science teacher and a parent who does voice overs for adverts and animations.

In early summer Sheila Compton, who has been the chair of the management committee, stepped down after 10 years of supporting the preschool. Sheila has been such a valued friend of the preschool and will be greatly missed.





Cathy Clewer has taken over as the new chair of the management committee.

The preschool was 50 years old in September 2025! We had a celebration to mark the occasion. It was very well attended, with past staff coming along including one member of staff who was there when it opened fifty years ago! We had families who had attended the preschool, families who currently attend and families who are planning to attend in the future. A member of staff made a cake, other staff made food for children and adults, there was face painting, craft activities, a range of toys inside and outside for all to enjoy.

There was also a display of photos to look through!

In July we had our Leaver's Concert in church with solos, songs, acting and playing instruments. We also had our Sports Day with lots of races and an ice lolly at the end! In October, we had a Harvest Celebration in the church, and in December we had the Nativity in the church. All the events were very well supported by our parents.

In December we had a sponsored week with activities for the children to take part in. With gift aid we raised a record £1800 for new resources!

Caroline Edwards, Manager

Ministry Areas

In 2025, the PCC undertook the significant task of restructuring our core church teams into seven mission and ministry areas: ***Worship***, ***Discipleship***, ***Fellowship***, ***Prayer***, ***Pastoral Care***, ***Community Engagement***, and ***CAS*** *(children & youth).*



This process began with a mapping exercise to locate groups, gatherings, events and activities under these seven headings. The next stage involved identifying leaders to stand as 'ministry area coordinators'. Six of the seven roles have now been filled. Ministry coordinators will work closely with the Rector to provide strategic and pastoral oversight for their area, as well as help encourage, equip, and safer-recruit volunteers.

(1) Worship

The Worship ministry area is overseen by our Rector Ben Kautzer with the close support of our Curate Ceri Deosun, and our lead worship pastors Chris & Naomi Greenhalgh. It focuses primarily on acts of worship (e.g. Sunday & midweek services, seasonal & special services, and Life Events), music, and the various other teams the support our services (e.g. leading, preaching, all-age, readers, prayers, welcome, AV).

Services

We continue to offer three distinct Sunday morning congregations: 9am at Wootton St Lawrence, 8:00 and 10:30 at St Leonard's. We have seen significant growth in all three congregations. The 9:00 is a more reflective service, and its congregation represents a wonderful mix of folk from Wootton St Lawrence and Oakley. The 8:00 Communion has grown to over 30 members and has nearly pushed post-service breakfast in the Centre to its capacity! The 10:30 continues to welcome newcomers on a weekly basis of all ages and walks of life. An additional midweek service meets twice a month at St Leonard's.

Our all-age services (Café Church and Sunday Funday) continue to be popular. In 2025, we added a second Christingle service for younger children and their families. This worked well and created a bit more capacity to welcome more guests to main Christingle service with Y5 from Oakley Junior School. We are making the best use we can of the St Leonard's Centre, but long for the moment when we will be able to offer all of our all-age services within a freshly reordered St Leonard's.

Life Events

Christenings – It was a great joy to celebrate the baptism of 9 children in 2024. The christening team hosted several 'come and see' preparation events. Our midweek toddler groups – Quackers, New Life, and Pippins – remain popular spaces for building relationship, as have our termly Sunday Fun Days. In September, we held our third annual "Celebration of Christening" all-age service for all the children who had their baptism the previous year.

Adult Baptism and Confirmation – In 2025, five adults were baptised in our church, including a special service on Christmas Day. Three more reaffirmed their baptismal vows. At a stunning service at Winchester Cathedral, James Willis and Ashleigh Jones become the first people to be Confirmed by our new Bishop of Basingstoke.

Marriage – Seven couples celebrated their wedding at St Leonard and Wootton St Lawrence in 2025. In preparation for their big day, we hosted our second Marriage Course at St Leonard's.

Bereavement – Last year, the OWW ministry team conducted around twenty seven funerals, thanksgivings, and interment of ashes services. These services took place at St Leonard's, St John's Garden of Remembrance, Wootton St Lawrence, and Basingstoke Crematorium. Most of our funeral ministry focuses on pastoral care and support to families connected to the wider village community. In Loving Memory, Remembrance Day, and our Blue Christmas bereavement services continue to grow and are highly valued by members of the church and community alike. In September, we offered The Bereavement Journey – a seven week course for anyone who has been bereaved at any time and in any way. This was the sixth time of running the course within the parish. Through the growth of informal support groups (like Men2Mow and Ladies Who Lunch), the Christmas hamper project, and the wonderful work of the pastoral care team, a strong network of ongoing pastoral support is available through our church.

Preaching

We are blessed with a truly remarkable team of preachers in our parish. Each have their own style and approach, and yet everyone is working together to help our church family grow deeper in our faith, engage more intentionally with the scriptures, and live more faithfully the love of Jesus in our lives.

In 2025, we welcomed several new members to the team, including Penny Brown, Hannah Wade, CJ Lazaridis, and Heather Norton – bringing our combined team to about 12-13 people. This year the preaching team led us through numerous inspiring sermon series, including 'Valleys', 'Encounters in the Gospel of Mark', 'Rest // Sabbath', 'Indescribable', 'Have a *Mary* Christmas', and 'The 'Beatitudes'.









Every year the diocese of Winchester offers a special program called the **Bishop's Commission to Preach** (BCP). The PCP is one-year training programme in the art, theology, spirituality and practice of preaching. It Is a fantastic training opportunity. Those who complete the BCP will have opportunities to preach more frequently and in a diverse range of settings. If you're interested in learning a bit more about BCP program or about the ministry of preaching within our church, please do contact Ben.

Ben Kautzer

Music

This past year has been a season of growth for our worship life, driven by a greater call for worship provision. We have intentionally moved beyond our traditional comfort zones to explore musical experimentation, integrating a wider variety of genres, instruments, and liturgical styles, including the introduction of many songs written by our own worship team members. From contemporary arrangements of classic hymns to the introduction of more diverse global worship songs, these changes have brought a new energy to our Sunday gatherings.

Our primary goal this year was to ensure that every member of the congregation feels seen and included in our worship experience. We have worked hard to:

- Vary the pace and "volume" of our services to accommodate different sensory needs.
- Incorporate diverse musical styles that resonate across different generations.
- Ensure that our song selections reflect a broad and inclusive theology.
- Work with the PA and streaming teams to ensure better musical balance within the Church building and the online streaming service.
- Embedded musical toning to try delivering variety within the musical sets.

By focusing on these areas, we have seen a deeper level of engagement from the pews, with many noting that the "spirit of the room" feels more welcoming than ever.

The Well remains a standout success. This additional offering continues to be a popular space for both our musicians and the wider congregation to gather in a more informal, reflective setting. It has become a vital "laboratory" for our musical experimentation, allowing us to try new things in a safe, intimate atmosphere that fosters genuine spiritual connection.

While we celebrate the creative strides we have made, we must also be honest about the challenges ahead. Our dedicated worship team is currently significantly depleted compared with the same period 12 months previous. To sustain the quality and variety of our worship at the current cadence, we are in urgent need of new voices and hands.

We are calling on our Church community for help. Whether you are a vocalist who enjoys singing in a group, or an instrumentalist—no matter your instrument or skill level—we would love to welcome you, and we're a friendly bunch! You don't need to be a professional; you simply need a heart for worship and a willingness to serve. If you feel a nudge to contribute to our musical life, please reach out to any of the worship team. Your contribution could be the key to keeping our "joyful noise" going at its current pace, for the year to come.

Tim Saunders and Ian Pryce

(2) Discipleship

The Discipleship ministry area is overseen by Jeanne Johnson. It focuses primarily on Connect Groups and short courses (Alpha, Faith & Belonging, Study & Equip, Family Life, and Seasonal — Advent, Lent, Summer Nights). But it also involves open-access discipleship gatherings (like Going Deeper, Fellowship Walks, and the St Leonard's Book club) and one-off events (such as special talks, pilgrimage walks and quiet day retreats).

The focus over the last year has been to continue with the development and support of Connect Groups and to raise awareness so people would be able to find out what was offered and available across the Parish.

Connect Groups are a great way for sharing life, building friendships and growing in relationships with God, providing an opportunity for members to grow spiritually and deepen their faith as well as provide support when going through difficult times or facing life challenges.

In October 2025 (after the Morning Services at Oakley and Wootton), we held Autumn Roadshows over a 3-week period. All were well attended. We also produced a booklet and posted Connect Group details to the website. As a result, new members joined existing Connect Groups, and 4 new Connect Groups were created. We also have 2 more in the planning stage.

Currently, Connect Groups span across Film Groups, Fellowship Groups, Home Groups, a Walking Group, a Book Club as well as Bible Study Groups but although each is different, Christian values and fellowship are at their core with Jesus at the Centre. We hope more people will step forward to offer to host and lead new Groups because, as we found in October, once created and made known, members quickly step forward to join! If anyone is interested in doing so, please let me know.

During the coming year, support for Connect Groups will be ongoing alongside progressing other Adult Discipleship areas.

I would like to thank Penny, Erika and Richard for their commitment and support.

Jeanne Johnson



(3) Fellowship

The Fellowship ministry area does not currently have a designated coordinator. This area covers the social life of the church (meals, quizzes, picnics, BBQs … the BIG church weekend away … and future opportunities like participating in a Christian summer festival). It also involves Newcomers Welcome (led by Erika Conti), Men & Women's ministries, and fellowship gatherings like Brief Encounters.

If you love to throw a party, build relationships, plan events, welcome new friends, enabling belonging … then the Fellowship role might be for you!

Men2Mow

Men2Mow frequents the Barley Mow in Oakley twice a month, except in December. We have lunch there on the second Wednesday of each month and an evening meal on the final Tuesday of each month. You are very welcome to join us and in doing so help a local amenity survive. We were appalled to discover that from a £7 pint of beer the landlord only retains 12p to keep his business running.

We would be delighted if you were to join us. Just give your email address to Derek (derekhall956@gmail.com) or Graeme (graemewr09@gmail.com) and they will email you each month with the date of each meal and menu. Let us know your choice by return email and enjoy an evening meal, good company and putting the world to rights. Twice a year we have lunch with the Ladies who lunch when we usually fill the Barley restaurant.

Derek Hall and Graeme Wheeler

Ladies Who Lunch

Ladies who Lunch was formed after the success of the Men at Mow. Penny suggested that we should try and start something similar for the Ladies and we started the group in August 2024. We meet at the Barley Mow on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 12.30pm.

Currently, we have 27 members from both the Church, and from other groups and ladies in the village. Each month, I send out a WhatsApp group message out reminding ladies of the date and asking them to let me know if they are interested in joining us and what they would like from the lunch time menu which is included as an attachment. I let the Barley Mow know in advance what has been pre ordered. We have anything from 10 to 18 ladies each month.

Twice a year we join up with the 'Men at Mow' for a summer buffet lunch and a Christmas Lunch which are both held at the Barley Mow and are well supported.

We are a friendly group and the lunch gives us a chance to catch up with one another and to meet new ladies who join us.

If you would be interested in joining us we would very pleased to welcome you, there is an open invitation to join in, you do not need to come along every month but when you do we will be very pleased to see you.
If you are interested please contact me on my email: margaretbunkle@hotmail.com or telephone no. 07880733029 or you could leave a message in the office for me so that I can get in touch.

Margaret Bunkle



(4) Prayer

The Prayer ministry area is led by our curate Ceri Deosun. Its primary focus is on the prayer ministry team (led by Derrick & Heather Norton and Harry Slinger). But it also covers prayer gatherings, prayer walks, our ecumenical network of Prayer Clusters, and our annual 'Thy Kingdom Come' big week of prayer.

Prayer is a foundational aspect of what we do as a church, so it has been great to be involved in this area of ministry. The Sunday morning Prayer Ministry team has become a well-established part of the 10:30 service, with wonderful words and pictures shared and more people taking up the opportunity to be prayed for. Thanks to Derrick and Heather Norton and Harry Slinger, with help from Alison, for stepping up to lead that team, especially for the great training sessions they have put on. We are always in need of more people to support this ministry, and to lead intercessions in our services, so please do let me know if you would like to help.

Looking ahead, we will have our next week of prayer for Thy Kingdom Come in the summer, so planning has started for that with lots of opportunities to get involved. We are also hoping to relaunch Prayer Clusters in the next year, so watch this space for more news on that. As with everything that happens in our church, it all comes down to the dedication of so many church members making everything happen, so thank you to those who give their time and effort to support the prayer life of the church and please do get in touch if you are not yet involved but would like to be.

Ceri Deosun



(5) Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care ministry area is overseen by Katey Butler. It includes our pastoral visiting and Home Communion teams, pastoral courses like Kintsugi Hope, bereavement ministry, pastoral outreach into the community, Holiday@Home, Evergreen Fellowship, and our work within local residential care homes.

We are extremely blessed to have a skilled and willing pastoral care team, who give generously of their time and talents to fulfil a variety of roles. Some team members make regular Pastoral visits or administer Home Communion to those who find it difficult to access church due to lack of mobility, age, or health issues. These visits are important as they create the space for meaningful conversations, prayer, spiritual and emotional support, and ensure people remain part of the church family. Others make meals, cooking and delivering delicious food to people in need. Volunteers also support Oak Lodge services and Holiday@Home.

Christmas 2025 saw a big increase in the number of families the schools requested support for. Your incredible generosity and kindness enabled us to bless families from the school, church, and parish with food vouchers. A huge thank you for all your financial contributions, and also to members of the Gap for the chocolate treats they donated.

We continue to provide support for the bereaved through pastoral visits, The Bereavement Journey, In Loving Memory, Blue Christmas and signposting to appropriate regular meeting points. For example, Men2Mow and Brief Encounters.

Our work in partnership with the local Social Prescribers continues as we look at ways to further support and build community around some of our more isolated residents.

At the end of July, a team of volunteers welcomed twenty guests to St Leonard's Centre for three days of Holiday@Home, an opportunity for fun, fellowship, and friendship.

The guests were entertained by a variety of groups and participated in a range of interesting activities. The warm atmosphere showed in their faces as they relaxed, chatted, and got to know one another.

Guests were treated to delicious meals cooked by our volunteer team, and Community Care very kindly provided transport.



Some of the feedback from Holiday@Home 2025:

'What a wonderful few days we have just enjoyed – A resounding success'
'Three days of companionship and enjoyment'
'A special time for all'
'I had such a happy time'

Plans are well underway for Holiday@Home 2026

If you feel a calling to any aspect of this rewarding ministry and would like more information, or to join the team, please contact me.

Katey Butler - Pastoral Care Co-Ordinator
pastoralcare@oww.church



Oak Lodge

Oak Lodge welcomed us into their home for the first time three years ago in March 2023 to provide four Communion Services a year We recognised a spiritual need and within a short space of time we were also providing a monthly Service of the Word which very quickly became our Messy Vintage Service.

Messy Vintage provides a way into worship for older people regardless of their faith background and opens the way to share God's love. The carefully chosen monthly theme supports and encourages the residents in their faith journey, and the craft activity provides the space for meaningful conversations, friendship and prayer between volunteers and residents. We were blessed again this year to have a group of children from Oakley Junior School participate in the Christmas Service. They delighted the residents with their carol singing and with the conversations that took place during the craft activity.

The service to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day was a very moving and meaningful service for the residents and volunteers, with many of the residents sharing vivid memories of the day. They were able to reflect on the joyous occasion but also contemplate their sadness during their conversations with volunteers.

For those wishing to grow deeper in their faith, Ceri runs Hymns of Hope, a discipleship and discussion group twice a month.

The services are all very well attended and appreciated by the residents and staff. They are immensely rewarding, mutually beneficial, and a blessing to all.

Thank you to all the volunteers who give their time and talents so generously to support this invaluable ministry. We are incredibly blessed to have the opportunity to share God's love with these wonderful people. If you would like to find out more, or be part of this exciting ministry, please contact me.

Katey Butler - Pastoral Care Co-ordinator

Evergreen Fellowship

A small group of church members, who lived on their own, began to meet in our lounge for a cup of tea and cake in the year 2000 and Evergreens was born. Since then, we have met on the first Monday of every month and as we grew, we had to transfer into St Leonard's Centre. Currently we have a group of 58 members, helpers and drivers.

In June 2025 Evergreens celebrated its Silver Anniversary with a party, including entertainment from the Purple Company Singers and much reminiscing.
We began 2025 with a New Year Party, including delicious cakes and pastries and entertainment from our resident Magician, Dave Rundle, up to his usual tricks!!

Our Rector, Ben, led us in a Holy Communion Service for Easter and in a 'Loving Memory' Service for all who are bereaved.

Our Table-Top Gardening afternoon is always a great success, kindly organised by Ian Pryce. Members take great delight in getting their hands in the soil. The resulting planters give great pleasure for many months.

August saw us boarding a coach for our Annual Outing to Hilliers Garden Centre at Aldermaston for Afternoon High Tea. Mervyn's Coaches now provide a coach with a hydraulic lift for those with mobility aids.

During the year we have enjoyed a speaker from the Willis Museum; talks on Mischievous Jackdaws, Malshanger Mint Harvest and chocolate production.

The year 2025 ended with another delightful afternoon at the Junior School with entertainment from the older children and good conversation between them and the Evergreen audience. We so enjoyed tea and mince pies, served by the children.

Each Half-Term we arrange a lunch for our group.

We would like to take this opportunity to say 'Thank You' to all our helpers and drivers, without whom Evergreens could not function.

Rodney and Marilyn Scott



Kintsugi Wellbeing Course

We are delighted to say that the Kintsugi Wellbeing Course is running for a third year starting again in January 2026.

Our passion is to reduce stress levels in people's busy days so they can live happier and healthier lives. Inevitably things go wrong - relationship breakdowns, financial problems, health issues, work issues etc and we can get stuck in a downward spiral.

We are helping people discover how to handle the ups and downs of life through our 10-week course including overcoming stress, worries and fears, how to nurture special relationships and how to deal skilfully with the increasing demands of modern life

Our Kintsugi course is a safe and confidential place for a group of 12 people to strengthen resilience, courage and wellbeing.



A testimonial from a previous member of a group:

"Taking the Kintsugi course has been transformative. I feel more resilient and empowered than before and it has been so wonderful to share this self-discovery with such a fantastic supportive and understanding group, whose stories and experiences have been inspiring and whose encouragement has been so valuable"

Lou Eley

(6) Community Engagement

The Community Engagement ministry area has been led by Ben Kautzer. After Easter Penny Brown will be taking on this responsibility in her new role as our Evergreen Pastoral Coordinator.

Our church has built strong integrated partnerships within our villages. This has taken lots of creative forms over the years from the Hub project to the COVID Oakley Support Network to our eco church 'Love Oakley Go Green' initiatives. A significant focus of this year has been supporting the work of '**Our Oakley**' and the **Oakley Wellbeing Forum**.

Bringing together the church, Oakley & Deane Parish Council, OCA and Rural West Primary Care Network's Social Prescribers, the Wellbeing Forum gathers leaders and volunteers from our community to identify and promote the strengths and assets of our community. The aim is to build collaborative relationships and encourage local partnerships by raising the profile of the amazing things that are already taking place, discerning gaps in provision, and exploring creative solutions – all in an effort to combat loneliness and promote the flourishing of our villages.

One initiative which has emerged from the **Wellbeing Forum** is the Welcome Club – a special group for SEND children and their families which gathers each week of the school holidays. This project was launched in October as a community partnership between St Leonard's and the Oakley SEND support network and has been supported by the Parish Council. Our first full session took place in the February half-term. The Centre had a wonderful atmosphere as families came together to enjoy games, activities, conversations, and a chance to connect with one another.

If you have a heart for partnership, service, listening, bridge-building, opportunity spotting, connection-making, loving the neighbourhoods of our parish with everything you've got … then Ben and Penny would love to have that conversation.

Ben Kautzer





(7) CAS | Children and Youth

Our Children and Youth ministry area is overseen by our youth worker Sochi Ezeanowai. This ministry area ranges from CAS Tots (age 0 to 3) to CAS Kids (age 3 to 10) to CAS Youth (age 11 to 18). It covers everything from Sunday services, midweek groups, events and activities, engagement with our local schools, and networks with other children and youth ministries across Basingstoke. Under Sochi's dynamic and energetic leadership, our outreach to young people continues to develop and grow.

The Come and See (CAS) Children and Youth Ministry has experienced a remarkable year in 2025. Reflecting on this period, we are profoundly grateful to God for His continuous guidance and for using CAS to bless and inspire the children and young people of Oakley and beyond. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our incredible volunteers, whose daily dedication, time, and energy sustain this vital ministry.

We also thank everyone within our church and community for your generous support, prayers, and encouragement. Your partnership is instrumental in enabling us to serve our children and youth effectively.

Weekly Outreach and Activities

Each week, CAS continues to reach numerous children and young people through the **CAS Youth Café**—an engaging outreach space designed for connection, conversation, and community building. We are thankful to see participation at the Youth Café expand to children from Oakley Infant School, Oakley CofE Primary School, and young people from various secondary schools, who drop in to connect and share.

Our midweek groups, **CAS+** and **TRIBE**, have become vibrant hubs for discipleship, meaningful conversations, and fostering genuine community. Our volunteer community continues to grow and thrive, and we are grateful for everyone involved—those who dedicate their time, skills, homes, and resources to support CAS. This year, we hosted three volunteer training programs—**AFRESH**—a space dedicated to equipping and empowering our volunteers with the necessary skills and spiritual foundation.

Youth Engagement and Community Partnerships

The **GAP** Youth Group continues to flourish, meeting every first Friday of the month. It provides a safe space for young people to connect, support one another, and grow in faith. The dedication of the GAP team has been instrumental in nurturing this vibrant community.

Our **partnerships** within the local community have strengthened our mission. Collaborations with local businesses, Oakley Methodist Chapel, and the Oakley Community Association (OCA) have played a significant role in supporting our youth initiatives. Additionally, The Community Food Link in Basingstoke and The Oakley Co-op have provided invaluable assistance by supplying food for our events.







School Engagements

Our relationship with Oakley Church of England Junior School and Oakley Infant School remains strong. We actively participate in activities such as prayer spaces, Open the Book, collective worship, well-being clubs, school trips, and Religious Education support.

This year, children from Oakley Junior School participated in various projects with the Church of England, including a notable trip to Church House, London, where they and the CAS community led worship as part of the Growing Faith Strategic Leadership Program. The students also welcomed the new Bishop of Basingstoke, Bishop Kelly, at her welcome service at St Mary's Church, Andover, demonstrating confidence, courage, and respect.

We sincerely appreciate the warm support from both teaching and non-teaching staff, which enables us to serve the students effectively.

Special Events & Prayer Ministry

The **CAS Big Sunday** outreach service has been a highlight since its inception. With over 60 participants at each session, these events have fostered community and spiritual growth. Notable sessions include Youth Alpha Big Sunday, Silent Disco, and Best Friends Night, all of which received enthusiastic participation and engagement.

Our **events calendar** has been packed with exciting activities—weekend trips, community outreach events, Who let the Dads Out, camps, outdoor hangouts, parties, and trampoline park visits—each designed to encourage fun, fellowship, and faith.

The CPR (CAS Prayer Room) has become a vital source of spiritual strength. Meeting monthly, our prayer group has experienced the power of collective prayer and witnessed answered prayers, thereby strengthening our faith community.

Faith and Baptism
This year, we saw several young people grow deeply in their faith and walk with God. We continued to run discipleship spaces and Youth Alpha sessions. There has been a noticeable increase in interest regarding the knowledge of God, faith, and the Bible among the young people. We also witnessed a few children and youth baptisms and christenings this year, which fills our hearts with great joy.

Internship Program
This year, we launched the CAS Internship Program in partnership with the Church of England's Ministry Experience Scheme. **Alfie Wells** joined us as our first intern, and it has been a privilege to support, train, and mentor him. Alfie has integrated seamlessly into our church community and has been a significant blessing to our team. We are grateful to the Diocese of Winchester and Christ Church Winchester for their support and partnership in this initiative.

Young Adults and Broader Engagement
The Young Adult Community, known as **The Bridge**, continues to thrive under the leadership of CJ, Dimitri, and Sochi. Their dedication encourages connection, spiritual growth, and mutual support among young adults.

We have also **strengthened partnerships** with various youth organizations across Basingstoke, facilitating joint sessions that promote relationship-building beyond our immediate community. Our collaborations include national organizations such as Youth Alpha, Urban Saints, Bunited, Youthscape, Growing Faith, the 30K Project, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Rotary Sport UK, and the UK Parliament.

Looking Ahead
As we look to the future, we encourage everyone to continue praying for the children and youth of Oakley. Your ongoing support, love, and dedication are vital to our mission. Together, we are making a meaningful difference in the lives of young people and their families, nurturing faith, hope, and community.

Thank you for being an essential part of this journey.

Sochi Ezeanowai



Who Let The Dads Out?

Who Let the Dads Out? continues to provide a friendly, informal space for dads and male carers to spend time with their children and connect with one another. The group meets monthly on the morning of the second Saturday and offers a relaxed atmosphere with coffee, bacon rolls, and plenty of conversation. This simple hospitality has helped create a welcoming environment where men feel comfortable chatting, sharing experiences, and building supportive relationships.

Children enjoy a range of activities, including games, crafts, toys, and the PlayStation, giving them a fun and engaging space while their dads have time to talk. The balance of adult conversation and children's play remains one of the group's strengths.

Attendance is currently small but steady. Awareness is gradually increasing through church notices and community word-of-mouth, and we hope to see numbers grow over the coming months as more families hear about the group. Our focus is not only on increasing attendance but also on deepening the sense of community among those who already come.

A small, committed team continues to run the sessions each month, preparing food, setting up activities, and welcoming newcomers. Their support is vital, and we are grateful for their ongoing dedication.

Looking ahead, we hope to continue strengthening our presence in the community and exploring opportunities to develop the group further. We remain thankful for the positive impact the group is already having and look forward to seeing it grow in the year ahead.

Tim Saunders












St Leonard's
Church
Rev. Ben Kautzer
Tel: 01256 420803
Church Office
Rectory Road
RG23 7ED
01256 782724

United Parish of Church Oakley with Wootton St Lawrence

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Charity Registration Number 1131064

CONTENTS

Independent Examiner's Report	3
Statement of Financial Activities	4
Balance Sheet	5
Notes to the Financial Statements	6 to 9

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Oakley with Wootton Parochial Church Council ("the PCC")

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the PCC are not required to be audited and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC 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 accounting requirements of 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 a part of an independent examination; or
4. The accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

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.

Paul Sherrington FCCA, membership number 1326429
Weller Mackrill
Chartered Certified Accountants
South Building
Upper Farm
Wootton St Lawrence
Basingstoke
Hampshire
RG23 8PE

16 March 2026

UNITED PARISH OF CHURCH OAKLEY WITH WOOTTON ST LAWRENCE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ended 31st December 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2025	2024
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Incoming Resources from Donors	2a	153,102	51,027		204,129	210,492
Income from investments	2b	6,331	18,625	31	24,986	26,495
Gains / (Losses) on investments	2c		1,082		1,082	159
Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading	2d	56,550	8,121		64,671	61,688
Income from Designated Activities	2e	147,621			147,621	130,584
		363,604	78,854	31	442,489	429,417
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Church Activities	3a	195,627	73,548		269,175	281,018
Governance Costs	3b	360			360	360
Costs of Designated Activities	3c	122,630			122,630	110,745
		318,616	73,548	0	392,164	392,122
NET INCOMING RESOURCES		44,987	5,306	31	50,325	37,295
DEPRECIATION	5	2,632	1,538		4,170	3,136
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		42,356	3,768	31	46,155	34,160
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2025		920,793	476,626	2,164	1,399,582	1,365,423
Balance carried forward at 31 December 2025		963,149	480,394	2,195	1,445,737	1,399,582

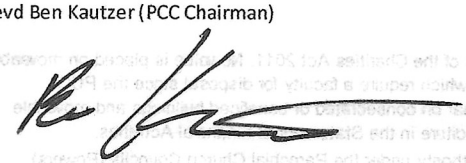
UNITED PARISH OF CHURCH OAKLEY WITH WOOTTON ST LAWRENCE

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2025	2024
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	5	763,236	897		764,133	762,905
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors	6	6,383	7,243		13,626	10,195
Investments		0	7,325		7,325	6,243
Short Term Deposits		165,000	435,000		600,000	600,000
Cash at Bank and in Hand		46,727	26,947	2,195	75,869	51,615
		218,111	476,515	2,195	696,820	668,053
LIABILITIES						
Amounts falling due within one year	7	-18,198	0		-18,198	-31,376
NET CURRENT ASSETS		199,913	476,515	2,195	678,622	636,677
LIABILITIES						
Amounts falling due after more than one year	7	0	0		0	0
TOTAL NET ASSETS		963,149	477,412	2,195	1,442,755	1,399,582
PARISH FUNDS						
Unrestricted - Operating Reserves	8	208,341			208,341	165,985
Unrestricted - Relating to Property	8	754,808			754,808	754,808
Restricted	8		477,412		477,412	476,626
Endowment	8			2,195	2,195	2,164
		963,149	477,412	2,195	1,442,755	1,399,582

Approved by the PCC on 16 March 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Revd Ben Kautzer (PCC Chairman)



The notes on pages 6 to 9 form part of these accounts

UNITED PARISH OF CHURCH OAKLEY WITH WOOTTON ST LAWRENCE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31st December 2025

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 01/01/2015) - (Charity SORP (FRS102)) and the Charities Act 2011.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of certain fixed assets and investments, 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.

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue operating.

Funds

Unrestricted Funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated by the PCC for the operation of St Leonard's Pre-School are also unrestricted.

Restricted Funds comprise donations or grants intended for a specific PCC activity.

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 depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Incoming Resources

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

Planned giving under gift aid is recognised when the income is received. Income Tax recoverable on gift aid is recognised at the same time as giving is received.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.

Income relating to other activities is recognised as the activities occur. Income and expenditure are recognised separately.

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

The diocesan Common Mission Fund is accounted for when payable. Other expenditure is accounted for when it is incurred.

Taxation

As a Charity the PCC does not undertake any activity which falls within the scope of UK Income taxation.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011. No value is placed on moveable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers these to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Other fixed property is vested in the Diocesan Board of Finance as Diocesan Authority under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, effectively in trust for the PCC, with the PCC acting as managing trustees. Under the Charities Act, such property is included in the accounts notwithstanding the PCC's lack of title. Such properties are valued by the PCC using the best available advice as to free market value for the current usage less any provision for restrictions on such a sale.

Fixtures, fittings and office equipment used within the church premises is capitalised at cost and depreciated on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, subject to the initial purchase price being greater than £1,000. Purchases with an initial value less than or equal to £1,000 are written off in the year of purchase.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31st December 2025

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Current Assets
Amounts owing to the PCC at 31st December are shown as debtors less any provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund or at a bank.

Any sums legally due and payable by the PCC are included in the accounts as creditors and reflect the full value deemed likely to be paid. Contingent assets and liabilities are not brought into the accounts but may be reflected by way of note.

Financial Instruments
The PCC only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Reserves
Reserves act as a buffer to smooth fluctuations from month to month and protect against unforeseen significant reductions in giving or increases in expenditure. The PCC aim to hold the equivalent of approximately six months of Unrestricted Fund annual expenditure in the form of net current assets.

Agency Income and Expenditure
Voluntary donations received by the PCC, purely as agent, for specified objects over which the PCC has no discretion are not included in either the income or expenditure of these account.

2 INCOMING RESOURCES

2a Incoming resources from Donors
Substantially all of the donations received into both Unrestricted and Restricted Funds were from individual donors with income tax recovered under Gift Aid or from charitable trusts. As a total for the year, the largest such gift from one source was £10,500 (2023: £7,500) into Unrestricted Funds and £12,500 (2023: £20,000) into Restricted Funds.

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2025	2024
2b Income from Investments					
Interest on bank deposits and Church of England Deposit Fund	6,331	18,224	31	24,586	26,113
Dividends on M&G Charifund holding		401		401	382
	6,331	**18,625**	**31**	**24,986**	26,495
2c Gains / (Losses on investments					
Change in market value of units held in M&G Charifund		**1,082**		**1,082**	159
2d Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading					
Hire of St Leonard's and St John's Centres	42,716			42,716	40,265
Weddings and funerals	11,655			11,655	12,915
Other	2,179	8,121		10,300	8,507
	56,550	**8,121**		**64,671**	61,688

Included in the hire of St Leonard's Centre is £15,108 (2024: £15,295) charged to the Pre-School, which appears in the costs of Designated Activites (Note 3c)

2e Income from Designated Activities
Substantially all of the income received is from Hampshire County Council and individuals to fund places for children in pre-school.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31st December 2025

3 RESOURCES EXPENDED

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2025	2024
3a	**Activities Directly Relating to the work of the Church**				
	Common Mission Fund	85,464		85,464	75,314
	Fees paid to Diocese for weddings and funerals	5,865		5,865	6,212
	Payroll costs	41,689	34,862	76,551	88,981
	Donations to charities	12,000		12,000	11,000
	Utilities	14,122		14,122	15,062
	Insurance	7,025		7,025	6,880
	Other Churches & Centres Expenses	26,642	12,410	39,052	38,047
	Buildings maintenance	2,820		2,820	34,345
	Architect and Planning expenditure		26,276	26,276	5,177
	TOTAL RESOURCES USED	**195,627**	**73,548**	**269,175**	281,018
3b	**Governance Costs**				
	Independent Examiner's fees	360		360	360
		360	**0**	**360**	360
3c	**Costs of Designated Activities**				
	Payroll costs	100,372		100,372	86,186
	Rent	15,108		15,108	15,295
	Other pre-school costs	7,150		7,150	9,264
	TOTAL RESOURCES USED	**122,630**	**0**	**122,630**	110,745

Rent is paid to St Leonard's Centre and appears in Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading (Note 2d).

4 STAFF COSTS

	2025	2024
The average number of staff on the payroll (most part time)	**15**	16
Gross Salaries and wages	170,439	167,625
Employer's National Insurance Costs	3,322	4,100
Employer's Contributions to Pension Schemes	3,162	3,442
	176,923	175,167

The stipend and pension of the Rector and Curates are paid by the Church Commissioners who receive money via the Diocese as part of the Common Mission Fund paid and are therefore not included in the numbers here. Expenses were reimbursed to a number of members of the PCC for materials and expenses incurred on Church Activities.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31st December 2025

5 FIXED ASSETS

	Unrestricted Funds Land and Buildings	Unrestricted Funds Fittings and Equipment	Restricted Funds Fittings and Equipment	TOTAL
Actual / Deemed Cost				
As at 1st January 2025	754,808	76,198	7,690	838,696
Additions	0	5,398	0	5,398
As at 31st December 2025	754,808	81,596	7,690	844,094
Accumulated Depreciation				
As at 1st January 2025	0	70,536	5,255	75,791
Charge for the year		2,632	1,538	4,170
As at 31st December 2025	0	73,168	6,793	79,961
Net Value				
As at 31st December 2025	**754,808**	**8,428**	**897**	**764,133**
As at 31st December 2024	754,808	5,662	2,435	762,905

Land and buildings comprise two separate sites. The first is St Leonard's Centre, Rectory Road, Oakley, which is held at £729,808 being its cost of redevelopment in 2009 and improvement in 2022.
The second is adjacent to St Johns Garden of Remembrance and St John's Centre in Oakley but is not part of the Church consecrated grounds. The area is approximately 0.7 acres and its value is deemed to be £25,000. It should be noted that, if sold for building land, its current market value could exceed £700,000.

6 DEBTORS

	2025	2024
Income tax recoverable	3,132	1,082
Gifts and Interest Receivable	6,657	7,397
Other debtors and prepayments	3,837	1,716
	13,626	10,195

7 LIABILITIES

Amounts falling due within one year		
Fees payable to Diocese for weddings and funerals	1,633	1,346
Independent Examiner's fees payable	360	360
Donations to charities	0	500
Building Maintenance accrual for roof repairs	11,520	25,000
Other creditors and accruals	4,685	4,170
	18,198	31,376
Amounts falling due after one year	**0**	**0**

8 PARISH FUNDS

8a Unrestricted funds comprise funds for use at the discretion of the PCC; those relating to property are shown separately as they are not readily realisable.

8b Restricted funds represent donations and a legacy for the redevelopment of St Leonard's Church, the maintenance and redevelopment of St Lawrence Church and the provision of community services.

8c Endowment funds are for chancel repairs, the maintenance of certain graves and the running of Sunday school at St Lawrence Church.

9 STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a charity (registered number 1131064) registered with the Charity Commission.

United Parish of Church Oakley with Wootton St Lawrence

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Charity Registration Number 1131064

CONTENTS

Independent Examiner's Report	3
Statement of Financial Activities	4
Balance Sheet	5
Notes to the Financial Statements	6 to 9

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Oakley with Wootton Parochial Church Council ("the PCC")

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the PCC are not required to be audited and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC 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 accounting requirements of 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 a part of an independent examination; or
4. The accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

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.

Paul Sherrington FCCA, membership number 1326429
Weller Mackrill
Chartered Certified Accountants
South Building
Upper Farm
Wootton St Lawrence
Basingstoke
Hampshire
RG23 8PE

16 March 2026

UNITED PARISH OF CHURCH OAKLEY WITH WOOTTON ST LAWRENCE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ended 31st December 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2025	2024
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Incoming Resources from Donors	2a	153,102	51,027		204,129	210,492
Income from investments	2b	6,331	18,625	31	24,986	26,495
Gains / (Losses) on investments	2c		1,082		1,082	159
Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading	2d	56,550	8,121		64,671	61,688
Income from Designated Activities	2e	147,621			147,621	130,584
		363,604	78,854	31	442,489	429,417
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Church Activities	3a	195,627	73,548		269,175	281,018
Governance Costs	3b	360			360	360
Costs of Designated Activities	3c	122,630			122,630	110,745
		318,616	73,548	0	392,164	392,122
NET INCOMING RESOURCES		44,987	5,306	31	50,325	37,295
DEPRECIATION	5	2,632	1,538		4,170	3,136
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		42,356	3,768	31	46,155	34,160
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2025		920,793	476,626	2,164	1,399,582	1,365,423
Balance carried forward at 31 December 2025		963,149	480,394	2,195	1,445,737	1,399,582

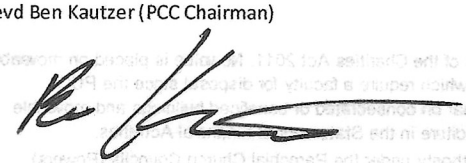
UNITED PARISH OF CHURCH OAKLEY WITH WOOTTON ST LAWRENCE

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2025	2024
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	5	763,236	897		764,133	762,905
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors	6	6,383	7,243		13,626	10,195
Investments		0	7,325		7,325	6,243
Short Term Deposits		165,000	435,000		600,000	600,000
Cash at Bank and in Hand		46,727	26,947	2,195	75,869	51,615
		218,111	476,515	2,195	696,820	668,053
LIABILITIES						
Amounts falling due within one year	7	-18,198	0		-18,198	-31,376
NET CURRENT ASSETS		199,913	476,515	2,195	678,622	636,677
LIABILITIES						
Amounts falling due after more than one year	7	0	0		0	0
TOTAL NET ASSETS		963,149	477,412	2,195	1,442,755	1,399,582
PARISH FUNDS						
Unrestricted - Operating Reserves	8	208,341			208,341	165,985
Unrestricted - Relating to Property	8	754,808			754,808	754,808
Restricted	8		477,412		477,412	476,626
Endowment	8			2,195	2,195	2,164
		963,149	477,412	2,195	1,442,755	1,399,582

Approved by the PCC on 16 March 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Revd Ben Kautzer (PCC Chairman)



The notes on pages 6 to 9 form part of these accounts

UNITED PARISH OF CHURCH OAKLEY WITH WOOTTON ST LAWRENCE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31st December 2025

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 01/01/2015) - (Charity SORP (FRS102)) and the Charities Act 2011.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of certain fixed assets and investments, 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.

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue operating.

Funds

Unrestricted Funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated by the PCC for the operation of St Leonard's Pre-School are also unrestricted.

Restricted Funds comprise donations or grants intended for a specific PCC activity.

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 depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Incoming Resources

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

Planned giving under gift aid is recognised when the income is received. Income Tax recoverable on gift aid is recognised at the same time as giving is received.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.

Income relating to other activities is recognised as the activities occur. Income and expenditure are recognised separately.

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

The diocesan Common Mission Fund is accounted for when payable. Other expenditure is accounted for when it is incurred.

Taxation

As a Charity the PCC does not undertake any activity which falls within the scope of UK Income taxation.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011. No value is placed on moveable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers these to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Other fixed property is vested in the Diocesan Board of Finance as Diocesan Authority under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, effectively in trust for the PCC, with the PCC acting as managing trustees. Under the Charities Act, such property is included in the accounts notwithstanding the PCC's lack of title. Such properties are valued by the PCC using the best available advice as to free market value for the current usage less any provision for restrictions on such a sale.

Fixtures, fittings and office equipment used within the church premises is capitalised at cost and depreciated on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, subject to the initial purchase price being greater than £1,000. Purchases with an initial value less than or equal to £1,000 are written off in the year of purchase.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31st December 2025

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Current Assets
Amounts owing to the PCC at 31st December are shown as debtors less any provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund or at a bank.

Any sums legally due and payable by the PCC are included in the accounts as creditors and reflect the full value deemed likely to be paid. Contingent assets and liabilities are not brought into the accounts but may be reflected by way of note.

Financial Instruments
The PCC only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Reserves
Reserves act as a buffer to smooth fluctuations from month to month and protect against unforeseen significant reductions in giving or increases in expenditure. The PCC aim to hold the equivalent of approximately six months of Unrestricted Fund annual expenditure in the form of net current assets.

Agency Income and Expenditure
Voluntary donations received by the PCC, purely as agent, for specified objects over which the PCC has no discretion are not included in either the income or expenditure of these account.

2 INCOMING RESOURCES

2a Incoming resources from Donors
Substantially all of the donations received into both Unrestricted and Restricted Funds were from individual donors with income tax recovered under Gift Aid or from charitable trusts. As a total for the year, the largest such gift from one source was £10,500 (2023: £7,500) into Unrestricted Funds and £12,500 (2023: £20,000) into Restricted Funds.

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2025	2024
2b Income from Investments					
Interest on bank deposits and Church of England Deposit Fund	6,331	18,224	31	24,586	26,113
Dividends on M&G Charifund holding		401		401	382
	6,331	**18,625**	**31**	**24,986**	26,495
2c Gains / (Losses on investments					
Change in market value of units held in M&G Charifund		**1,082**		**1,082**	159
2d Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading					
Hire of St Leonard's and St John's Centres	42,716			42,716	40,265
Weddings and funerals	11,655			11,655	12,915
Other	2,179	8,121		10,300	8,507
	56,550	**8,121**		**64,671**	61,688

Included in the hire of St Leonard's Centre is £15,108 (2024: £15,295) charged to the Pre-School, which appears in the costs of Designated Activites (Note 3c)

2e Income from Designated Activities
Substantially all of the income received is from Hampshire County Council and individuals to fund places for children in pre-school.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31st December 2025

3 RESOURCES EXPENDED

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2025	2024
3a	**Activities Directly Relating to the work of the Church**				
	Common Mission Fund	85,464		85,464	75,314
	Fees paid to Diocese for weddings and funerals	5,865		5,865	6,212
	Payroll costs	41,689	34,862	76,551	88,981
	Donations to charities	12,000		12,000	11,000
	Utilities	14,122		14,122	15,062
	Insurance	7,025		7,025	6,880
	Other Churches & Centres Expenses	26,642	12,410	39,052	38,047
	Buildings maintenance	2,820		2,820	34,345
	Architect and Planning expenditure		26,276	26,276	5,177
	TOTAL RESOURCES USED	**195,627**	**73,548**	**269,175**	281,018
3b	**Governance Costs**				
	Independent Examiner's fees	360		360	360
		360	**0**	**360**	360
3c	**Costs of Designated Activities**				
	Payroll costs	100,372		100,372	86,186
	Rent	15,108		15,108	15,295
	Other pre-school costs	7,150		7,150	9,264
	TOTAL RESOURCES USED	**122,630**	**0**	**122,630**	110,745

Rent is paid to St Leonard's Centre and appears in Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading (Note 2d).

4 STAFF COSTS

	2025	2024
The average number of staff on the payroll (most part time)	**15**	16
Gross Salaries and wages	170,439	167,625
Employer's National Insurance Costs	3,322	4,100
Employer's Contributions to Pension Schemes	3,162	3,442
	176,923	175,167

The stipend and pension of the Rector and Curates are paid by the Church Commissioners who receive money via the Diocese as part of the Common Mission Fund paid and are therefore not included in the numbers here. Expenses were reimbursed to a number of members of the PCC for materials and expenses incurred on Church Activities.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31st December 2025

5 FIXED ASSETS

	Unrestricted Funds Land and Buildings	Unrestricted Funds Fittings and Equipment	Restricted Funds Fittings and Equipment	TOTAL
Actual / Deemed Cost				
As at 1st January 2025	754,808	76,198	7,690	838,696
Additions	0	5,398	0	5,398
As at 31st December 2025	754,808	81,596	7,690	844,094
Accumulated Depreciation				
As at 1st January 2025	0	70,536	5,255	75,791
Charge for the year		2,632	1,538	4,170
As at 31st December 2025	0	73,168	6,793	79,961
Net Value				
As at 31st December 2025	**754,808**	**8,428**	**897**	**764,133**
As at 31st December 2024	754,808	5,662	2,435	762,905

Land and buildings comprise two separate sites. The first is St Leonard's Centre, Rectory Road, Oakley, which is held at £729,808 being its cost of redevelopment in 2009 and improvement in 2022.
The second is adjacent to St Johns Garden of Remembrance and St John's Centre in Oakley but is not part of the Church consecrated grounds. The area is approximately 0.7 acres and its value is deemed to be £25,000. It should be noted that, if sold for building land, its current market value could exceed £700,000.

6 DEBTORS

	2025	2024
Income tax recoverable	3,132	1,082
Gifts and Interest Receivable	6,657	7,397
Other debtors and prepayments	3,837	1,716
	13,626	10,195

7 LIABILITIES

Amounts falling due within one year		
Fees payable to Diocese for weddings and funerals	1,633	1,346
Independent Examiner's fees payable	360	360
Donations to charities	0	500
Building Maintenance accrual for roof repairs	11,520	25,000
Other creditors and accruals	4,685	4,170
	18,198	31,376
Amounts falling due after one year	**0**	**0**

8 PARISH FUNDS

8a Unrestricted funds comprise funds for use at the discretion of the PCC; those relating to property are shown separately as they are not readily realisable.

8b Restricted funds represent donations and a legacy for the redevelopment of St Leonard's Church, the maintenance and redevelopment of St Lawrence Church and the provision of community services.

8c Endowment funds are for chancel repairs, the maintenance of certain graves and the running of Sunday school at St Lawrence Church.

9 STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a charity (registered number 1131064) registered with the Charity Commission.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF OAKLEY WITH WOOTTON

England & Wales - Charity number 1131064

Accounts



United Parish of
Oakley with Wootton St Lawrence

Annual Report 2024

www.oakleywithwootton.org.uk

Charity Registration Number 1131064

Contents

- Rector’s Report 3-6
- PCC Report 7-8
- Financial Report 9
- Safeguarding 10
- From The Wardens 11
- Curates Corner 12-13
- St Leonards Pre-School 14
- Life Events 15-16
- Pastoral Care 17
- Worship Group 18
- Prayer Ministry 19
- Wootton St Lawrence 20
- Evergreen Advocate 21
- Church For Our Time 22
- Youth and Young People 23-24
- Discipleship and small groups 25





Rector's Report

When I became Rector of our parish in April 2019, the church's parish profile identified several areas in which we discerned the Spirit calling us to develop and grow:

- Recentring our life together in Spirit-led worship
- Regaining our confidence in mission, witness, and sharing our faith
- Reinvigorating our small group discipleship and spiritual growth
- Reimagining our men's ministry
- Renewing our pastoral care
- Rebuilding our ministry with children and youth
- Reaffirming our partnership with our local schools
- Reengaging our local community with the love of Jesus
- Reordering our church buildings

In the early years of my incumbency, I kept this document close to hand. The parish profile not only mapped the church's vision for growth, but it gave me a clear mandate to lead through the changes that would help get us there.

Five years on, the PCC decided the time had come to review those priorities. Where has journey taken us thus far? Where have we seen signs of God at work? What has changed in our context? Where might the Spirit be leading us from here?

Looking Back
What a different place we now find ourselves as a church!

Look around church on a given Sunday, and you'll see that the place is full of people who have been joyfully welcomed as members of our church family. Nothing has brought more vitality and blessing than those whom God has gathered into our fellowship.

Look down the list of all that goes on each week, and you'll see activities, projects, groups, courses, services … even entire ministries, which simply didn't exist five years ago. It is amazing to see the vibrant and creative work the Spirit is constantly stirring up in our midst.

Look under the surface, and you'll see the Spirit on the move all over the place. *Where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them (Mt 18:20).* The word 'encounter' has become increasingly significant for me when I think of our church. Whenever we gather, I come *expecting* to *encounter* the living presence of God. And we do. All the time. Do we not? I see these moments of encounter taking us into greater depth in our faith, raising us to higher places in our worship, challenging us to bolder witness in our everyday lives. There are deep currents of the Spirit flowing in this place.

Look out into our wider community, and you'll see a radically reconfigured spiritual and relational landscape. Who we are and how we are in relation to the neighbourhood has changed in all sorts of life-giving ways. Openness, connection, compassion, partnership, and service have become defining features of our church's presence in our villages.

As we reviewed the last five years, the PCC could only give thanks for how God has been answering our prayers, often in surprising ways we could have never imagined possible.

Looking Around
The PCC also noticed how much progress has been made in each of the strategic areas mapped out in the parish profile. For some of the context has changed. For many the goal has already been realised. Either way, we find ourselves in a new place with new challenges and new opportunities. The PCC felt this required of us a new vision and a fresh way forward.

To keep up with the growth of our church, we have had to restructure how we organise ourselves. This has meant building our staff and ministry teams whilst also scaling up our infrastructure (around finance, HR, comms, safeguarding, and administration). It has also meant being bold to try new things and 'have a go.' As a result, we've seen an explosion of activity, a broadening of participation, and an increasing number of people willing to step up into new forms of leadership.





In my previous Report, I described 2023 as the year 'when good things began to run wild' (borrowing a phrase from +Philip). 2024, by contrast, has been the year when we have sought to rediscover our core purpose and begin to consolidate this groundswell of energy and growth into a new way of being church.

For a start, the PCC recognised that all the expressions of mission and ministry in our church were beginning to cluster around seven key ministry areas: Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship, Prayer, Pastoral Care, Community Engagement, and Children & Youth.

As evidenced by the various reports below, we have seen significant developments in each of these areas this year: **Worship** (with the introduction of Café Church and the development of midweek services), **Fellowship** (with Newcomers Welcome and the expansion of groups like Men2Mow, Ladies Who Lunch, and Brief Encounters), **Discipleship** (with Alpha, Going Deeper, Kintsugi Hope, the Prayer Course, the Marriage Course, and the reimagining of 'Connect Groups'), **Prayer** (with Thy Kingdom Come, the 24/7 Prayer week, and the relaunch of the prayer ministry team), **Pastoral Care** (with projects like Holiday@Home and our work with Oak Lodge Care Home), **Community Engagement** (with the launch of the Oakley Wellbeing Forum), and **Children & Youth** (with CAS Tots, CAS Kids, CAS+, the Big Sunday, Sunday Creche, Who Let the Dad's Out).

In the coming year, the aim is for each of these ministry areas to have its own leadership structure, its own team(s), a more intentional pattern of pastoral support for leaders and volunteers, a clearer framework for safe recruitment and accountability, an operational budget, etc.

Looking Ahead

It has been very helpful for us to reimagine the structure of church life around these seven ministry areas. However, to discern where we are going, the PCC recognised the need to step back and return to first principles: our vision and our values. Who are we? Why are we here? What is our purpose and our vocation for this new season?

After much prayer and reflection, we believe the 'vision' our church is called to embody is this: ***Living the love of Jesus at the heart of our community.***

This simple statement captures so much of the journey undertaken these last few years. Again and again, we have felt the Lord calling us to be present ***'at heart of our community'***. This is not just about proclaiming something or talking about something, it is about ***living*** in our everyday lives the ***love*** of Jesus. And at the centre of it all is ***Jesus***. Christ is our centre of gravity, and we are a people centred in his name.

We believe that four 'values' are forming us into the people God is calling us to be:

Encounter: a place of worship, prayer, openness, and expectancy – centred in the presence of Jesus.

Belonging: a place of welcome and connection – where everyone of every age matters and has something to give.

Depth: a place of growing faith, brave conversations, and real relationships discovering together who we are called to be.

Compassion: a place of care for one another and joyful service of others – loving those around us with everything we've got.

As we look ahead, it is important to reflect on what we are being called to ***do***. But it is perhaps more important still to understand who we are called to ***be.*** My prayer is that these four values would fire our imagination and inspire us on that journey. My prayer is this simple unifying vision would give us confidence to live the love of Jesus wherever God has placed us.

A Word of Thanks

With the publication of the Makin Report in November and its current implications for Sue and her ministry, this has also been a challenging year for our church family. We have all sought to navigate our way as best we can through this painful time of uncertainty. I wanted to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to every member of our leadership team, and to all of you who





give so generously of your time and resources to serve and support the mission and ministry of our church. Your steadfast love and encouragement in the good times and the hard times remains an invaluable gift to me.

A special word of thanks goes to our faithful churchwardens, Helen and Mark. These two have committed so much of themselves to the life and flourishing of our parish. This year more than any other, they have gone the extra mile again and again and again. I am immensely grateful for their wisdom, leadership, support, and encouragement. I also want to thank our curates, Ceri and Ed; our ministry team leaders: Katey, Sochi, Chris & Naomi, Marilyn & Rodney, Erika, Jeanne, and Anna; our office team: Penny and Victoria; our treasurer Simon and his finance team; our preschool manager Caroline and her staff; the members of the PCC; our Church For Our Time champions: Mark, Derek, and the Friends of Wootton St Lawrence.

It has been brilliant having Anna Knight as our Evergreen Advocate for Older people. As you'll see from the Evergreen report below, Anna has left an inspiring legacy from her time in this role. We will miss her proactive and passionate presence on the team.

After many years leading and coordinating children's ministry, Helen Miller officially stepped down from that role this summer. Her impact in this area has been immense. Every family in our church – and just about every family in our village – has benefited from ministries that Helen has either led or initiated. I also wanted to acknowledge the faithful, sacrificial, committed team of volunteers who continue to serve our young people: Christine, Helen F, Jeni, Tiff, Melanie, Jenny, and Linda – not to mention the army of volunteers working alongside Sochi with CAS, the GAP, Youth Café and schools ministry.

I want to thank Teresa for her work as our parish safeguarding officer. Teresa has worked tirelessly to help ensure that our church is a safe, welcoming, and inclusive church for all. The level of support she has provided me and the various ministries of our church is above and beyond every expectation. Wherever there have been challenges, Teresa has been there with advice and help. Whever there has been scrutiny, we have been able to respond with confidence and clarity because of her diligence. We owe her a debt of gratitude.

Finally, I want to thank you, my brothers and sisters, for being such a wonderful church in which to serve. On behalf of the Kautzer family, Jo and I are ever thankful for who you are and all you do. Your love and care for our family is a precious gift. We consider it a privilege and a joy to call this place our home.

As we set our eyes to the horizon with hopeful expectancy, may we be bold to pray over one another and over our community these two life-transforming, mountain-moving prayers of Jesus:

Come, Holy Spirit!

Thy kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven!

Yours in Christ,

Ben



Parochial Church Council Report

Summary

Oakley with Wootton Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the operation and maintenance of two Centres: St Leonard's and St John's.

The parish has two churches: St Leonard's in Oakley and St Lawrence in Wootton. The churchyard at St Lawrence's is the only one open for burials.

This year one of the main areas of focus for the PCC was an update to the vision and priorities of the church from that outlined in the 2018 Parish Profile which Ben had been using as a template for his ministry in the Parish. The PCC drew lots to divide itself up into five teams to look at what was going on in areas of ministry identified as priorities, namely Welcome, Prayer, Children's work, Small groups and Discipleship, and Community Engagement. At the PCC Away Day in September the teams reported back their findings as part of a larger discussion of vision and strategy.

An outcome of the Away Day was that the priority areas were confirmed with the addition of younger men's ministry and since then work has been progressing. You will read, or hear, something from Ben concerning how he has synthesised the discussion into a renewed vision.

In July we were joined by Ed Haycock, at the time serving a Curacy in Basingstoke Church, for a short placement with the Parish. In September, Ed transferred to the Parish to complete his Curacy with us. Ed will be with us until some time this summer and in the meantime we are responsible for nurturing his ministry and being blessed by his gifts.

Anna Knight's work as our Evergreen Advocate initiated some good initiatives which you can read about elsewhere in this report. The PCC expects that these will continue to develop now that her tenure has ended.

The PCC made some minor repairs and incremental improvements to the buildings within the Parish. The churchyard at Wootton was subject to some major tree surgery in November and we look forward to seeing how the affected parts of churchyard recover. The Chancel roof at St Leonards has reached the point where it needs repair and there is a project in progress to address this. The St Leonards Church for Our Time project made progress towards obtaining local planning permission and work is in progress on a new faculty application. Plans for the Wootton St Lawrence project continue to take shape as we tackle practical challenges, such as water access, and explore new proposals for improving facilities within the church.

The publication of the Makin report in November has had significant repercussions for the whole Church of England. In our context, it has also impacted Sue Colman and her ministry within the parish. As a PCC, we have worked to support Ben and the leadership team as they help our church navigate through the challenges and uncertainties of this complex situation. This has been an intense and often stressful time, and we recognize the toll these last months have taken on all those involved. We are grateful for the prayer, encouragement, care, and support of our church family. The PCC thanks everyone for their patience and understanding. Above all, we stand in prayer for survivors of abuse – especially for those perpetrated by John Smyth – and also for those for whom this situation has stirred up difficult and painful experiences from the past.

The PCC has continued to prioritize safeguarding within the Parish, and we are extremely fortunate for the commitment of Teresa Bates, our Parish Safeguarding officer. Thanks is also due to all our volunteers for being conscientious in keeping up to date and complying with the latest requirements.

Structure, governance and management

The procedures for appointing PCC members are set out in the Church Representation Rules. In Oakley with Wootton parish, the membership of

the PCC in 2024 consisted of the Rector, Curates, Churchwardens, Treasurer, Administrator, Deanery Synod representatives and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

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 full PCC met 5 times during the year. The average level of attendance was 74%

Given its wide responsibilities, the PCC has a number of committees dealing with different aspects of parish life. The Leadership Team, which includes clergy, church wardens, the church administrator, and the lead for Pastoral Care, meets once a week to support short-term decision making.

Teams responsible for Safeguarding, Finance, Buildings and Maintenance, A Church for Our Time, Centre Management, outward giving (Mission Action Group) report to the PCC as necessary.

Safeguarding

The Church Safeguarding Officer is Teresa Bates. Teresa leads a team that supports all church activities with policy, policy compliance, procedures and advice.

The PCC has complied with the duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure of 2016.

Administrative information

The United Parish of Oakley with Wootton includes two churches (St Leonard's and St Lawrence) and a Garden of Remembrance on the site of the chapel of St John in East Oakley. It is part of the Diocese of Winchester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is:

The Church Office, St Leonard's Centre Rectory Road,
Oakley, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG23 7ED.

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and is registered as a charity (number 1131064).

Our Independent Examiner is Paul Sherrington, MBA FCCA

PCC members at 31/12/24

Ex Officio PCC members: Incumbent: Rev'd Ben Kautzer; Curate: Rev'd Ceri Deosun; Assistant Curate: Rev'd Ed Haycock

Treasurer: Simon Constantine; PCC Secretary: Penny Brown

Churchwardens: Helen Miller; Mark Peryer

Deanery Synod PCC members: Rev'd Ben Kautzer, Helen Miller, Mark Peryer, Sochi Ezeanowi

Elected PCC members:

- Erika Conti (1st term ends 2027), Annie Wilson (1st term ends 2027), Serena Worthington (1st term ends 2027)
- Teresa Bates (2nd term ends 2026), Kate Goucher (2nd term ends 2026), Claire Bowers (1st term ends 2026), Barbara Robson (1st term ends 2026)
- Katey Butler (2nd term ends 2025), Selina Craig (1st term ends 2025), Tom Favell (1st term ends 2025)

PCC Report Approved by the PCC on 17th March 2025

Financial Review

The Church Accounts are presented primarily with two categories of Unrestricted and Restricted Funds. Unrestricted funds represent the day-to-day operations of the two churches and centres and include St Leonard's Pre-School, which operates out of St Leonard's Centre. Restricted funds are those designated for specific activities with the youth and older people and for building improvements.

The Church and Centres together showed a total surplus for the year of £3,306 (2023: £25,580) and the Pre-School a surplus of £19,840 (2023: deficit £465); both are included in Unrestricted Funds. Restricted Funds increased by £11,013.

The most significant income for the Church and Centres at 71% of total income is gifts, primarily from our worshipping community. Following an appeal at the start of the year, giving increased by some £21,000 compared to 2023. This, together with modest increases in income from the hire of our buildings and from interest earned on our cash deposits, covered expenditure and creates a firm funding base going forward.

Whilst covered by total income, Church and Centres expenditure increased significantly over the year primarily due to two factors. Firstly in 2023 almost £10,000 was received as a one-off exceptional amount from our energy supplier as a rebate of VAT charged at the incorrect rate for the previous 10 years and so 2024 shows an artificial increase in utility costs by this amount. Second it is expected to incur some £25,000 of costs on roof repairs at St Leonard's Church in 2025 and these were accrued in the 2024 accounts. We met our requested contribution to the Diocese Common Mission Fund in full once again; this is by far our largest outgoing and pays for our local ministers as well as contributing to some central Church of England costs.

St Leonard's Pre-School generated a significant surplus in the year following an increase in weekly hours offered, which resulted in additional children and therefore income whilst expenditure was kept under control well.

The financial systems and controls were reviewed during the year, having been redesigned in 2021. They continue to provide an efficient and effective framework within which both the monthly management and annual statutory accounts are prepared on a timely and accurate basis. The PCC continues to have full visibility of all activities regularly, including Pre-School, Youth, Evergreens and church building projects, where significant funds are involved.

The full Financial Statements are included in the Annual Report.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the PCC to maintain sufficient unrestricted operating reserves (those not relating to property) to cover the normal ministry, management and administration costs of the Church for a minimum of six months. Additional reserves are set aside where, in the view of the PCC, it is prudent to allow for future planned spending.

Unrestricted operating reserves as of 31 December 2024 were £162,487 (2023: £140,424), which represents approximately seven months of normal expenditure.

Simon Constantine, Treasurer



Safeguarding

This parochial church council adopts the Church of England Safeguarding Policies and Practice Guidance. In particular, our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people, and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The Diocese provide an online Parish Dashboard that we use to record a review of our safeguarding policies and practices regularly. There is an increasing amount of detail needed to ensure we can prove best practice. It is a continual work in progress, however important in current times for this to be done.

Over the year, some of our valuable long term volunteers may have been surprised to be asked to complete application forms and provide referees to continue in their work. This has been requested as we need to back record the safe recruitment of all volunteers and be able to show evidence of this if required. We appreciate the understanding of you all.

There have been a number of safeguarding concerns raised this year. Thanks are due to our volunteers/leaders who have highlighted and reported these concerns. We have obtained advice from the diocese which has been valuable in assisting us and the leaders who have shown great care in dealing with situations, delivering safe and appropriate support.



Teresa Bates
Parish Safeguarding Officer



Kate Goucher
Assistant Parish Safeguarding Officer



Dave Rundle
Assistant Parish Safeguarding Officer

The Diocese have been complimentary of the way we have handled these situations.

As a church family we need to be alert to safeguarding, it is the responsibility of all of us. We must ensure that all taking part in church activities can be confident that they are in a safe protective space led by people willing and able to deal appropriately with any concerns. We stress the importance that all volunteers complete the required safeguarding training and renew this every 3 years to ensure they stay up to date.

I would like to thank all the leaders and helpers of our groups for the work they do. Without their commitment to provide safe spaces, policies and procedures alone would be ineffective.

For information and links to diocesan or CofE advice, go to https://www.oakleywithwootton.org.uk/safeguarding

Teresa Bates (PSO)

From The Wardens

Another busy one for us two! A year that has seen growth, change, progress, and great challenges. You will see elsewhere in this report details of all the activities, events and initiatives that have taken place, evidence of a busy, thriving church community. As wardens, much of our work and service takes place behind the scenes, encouraging and supporting all the wonderful work we see around us and enabling Ben's vision for our church to emerge and flourish. The role is varied, and we would certainly struggle to name all the responsibilities and random things we end up doing alongside the above! The year always concludes with checking the inventory and making sure everything in both our churches is present and correct.

For Mark he has again given an incredible amount of time, effort, and hard work to move us on with Church for our time. This involved meetings with Conservation Officers, Ecology Consultants and Heritage Consultants amongst others, and then collaborating with the architects to get the plans and documents prepared for a planning application and a faculty application. However, we are so excited that this has led us to a place that the coming year may be the one. Anyone who has attended services this year, Christmas services, weddings, funerals, and cafe church to name a few will understand our need. It is a wonderful problem to have when you regularly run out of room, so let's do this! Obviously following Autumn and winter last year it will also be nice to be warm, comfortable and be able to hear everything in church.

Another big piece of work for us last year was our HR project. As a growing church our staff numbers have also grown and with that we need to ensure that we are a good employer taking great care of them. We are now working alongside an HR company to ensure that we do just that. As wardens we work closely alongside the leadership team, paid staff and volunteers ensuring positive wellbeing for all. It was amazing last year to welcome Ed to that team.

We have been working alongside many teams within our church this year, including safeguarding, Alpha, the Kintsugi Hope team, prayer ministry team, worship, the office team and youth and children work teams. Mark leads the AV and Communion team, and I have regularly led and preached in services. Our job is to facilitate, encourage and try to fix problems and challenges before anyone notices.

The most important aspect of our role is to care for our Rector! And one every year that is both a privilege and a challenge. Ben's commitment and dedication to our church family ensures that we have to keep a close eye on him, protecting some family time, a work life balance and care for his mental health and wellbeing. We work together closely, as well as the wider leadership team, the PCC and standing committee. Last year came with perhaps greater challenges than we have faced before and was costly to us both in time and wellbeing. Thank you to all those who have supported and prayed for us. It was greatly appreciated.

It remains the greatest privilege to serve you, our church community and family.

Helen Miller and Mark Peryer



Curates Corner – Ceri Deosun

It has been a busy year in the life of our church and that has definitely been reflected in the life of this particular curate! Of course, we had my priesting last June - thanks to everyone who came down to Winchester Cathedral to support that service, it was such a special time. And following on from that I am now able to preside at communion which has quickly become a favourite part of my ministry.





It was a great joy last August to take my first wedding for a lovely couple from Wootton village, Chris and Sophie. The bride was fashionably late, as is traditional, but otherwise, the day went without a hitch, and it was a wonderful occasion. I am now also taking funerals regularly. This is perhaps the most difficult part of the job for me because I feel the weight of supporting families through their bereavement. I recently had the honour of being asked to take a gentleman's funeral, having taken his wife's funeral in the autumn and to provide pastoral care for that lovely family was an incredibly special to me.

I am continuing to work with the village schools, heading up the Prayer Space team, supporting RE lessons and church visits with the Junior School and coordinating assemblies with the Infants. Prayer Space is always a wonderful time, and we are always in need of volunteers to make it happen so please do let me know if you would like to learn more! We recently hosted Year 4 in St Leonard's, and they enjoyed learning a bit more about the history of the church and seeing me robed up!

Another area of my ministry where we are starting to see real flourishing is with Oak Lodge. Anna and I took the Hymns We Love resource in to use with a small group starting in the autumn, and I am now continuing this with the support from volunteers as Hymns of Hope. We regularly have up to a dozen residents joining us to discuss the meaning behind some of their favourite hymns and singing together. We always stay for a cup of tea and a chat too!



One of my main focuses for the coming year is developing our offering of short courses to support discipleship within the church. This began with the Prayer Course last autumn and Galatians at the start of this year, and Sanctuary for Lent. These provide an opportunity for those not currently in Connect groups or those who want a break or to try something different to dig into a topic or Bible book with others but without a long commitment. Watch this space for what is coming up next.

Deniyi and I are grateful for your continued support and friendship. We feel well settled into church and village life, so we are trying not to think too much about the fact that I am nearly halfway through my curacy now.

Ceri Deosun

Curates Corner – Ed Haycock

I was able to join the Church for my final year of curacy training in September 2024, with the intention of experiencing a different context to the Resource Churches which I had trained and been ordained into. My time with the church has been such a blessing in countless ways, from the support when my wife was ill and through the birth of my third daughter to name a few.

I have been able to engage with many different areas of the life of the church with a particular emphasis on:

Who Let the Dads Out
Launched in March 2025, and long awaited by some members of the church who investigated the potential for a similar group many years ago. The aim of the group is to gather dads and their kids together on a Saturday morning, to build community and create a space for dads to come together. We launched with 6 families coming along, and we are exploring different ways to advertise and develop the session.



Mens Group
After identifying the missing engagement of young working men in the life of the church we are launching a mens working lunch, weekly 12 till 1, where men who work from home or locally can gather together at one of their houses, to have lunch, share a short reflection and spend time together. The aim not only being to build community and friendships inside this group but also offer a wellbeing incentive to get away from the desk and take a lunch break together.

Cafe Church (all age worship)
Having previously been involved in planting and running all age congregations I have loved being able to get involved more and more with the direction of cafe church. This has been about learning the journey of cafe church, and getting to understand the resources and setup.

With this learning in mind, I have been able to implement a new shape of service with the hope that in the coming months we can continue to develop this service structure to be relevant and engaging to all ages during cafe church services. I have also been working with Sochi to explore the opportunities for cross pollination of service structure into the Sunday morning kids ministry sessions.

As well as the above areas of focus I have been involved in Oak Lodge, the schools, service leading and preaching, pastoral care, home communion, implementing church suite and sharing my learning from the Resource Church in various areas of church life.

Ed Haycock

St Leonard's Pre-School

Summary

Thank you to everyone who has prayed for the preschool, the staff and our families, it is greatly appreciated. We have been busy with lots of children and an additional member of staff joining us in September due to our increased intake.

One Monday morning in July we had a phone call at 11.20am to say that we would be having our OFSTED inspection the next day. After Pippins several members of staff came down to the Centre to set up the room. The inspector came at 8.20am and left just after 2pm. We were judged to be good in all areas.

We had a busy Sport Day and a very well attended Leaver's Concert in July to end the summer term.

Our autumn term was the busiest we have had since I have been Manager, which resulted in the preschool being full for the year by October. We had a Harvest Celebration and Nativity in the church. Preschool families raised over a £1,000 for new resources in a fundraising sponsor week of Christmas activities in December.

Our parents and grandparents have been very supportive in cooking activities and here is a photo of the jam thumbprints that were made during cooking week this term.





This term we had a week on dinosaurs and here are photos of our dinosaur display.



Caroline Edwards, Manager

Life Events

Christenings

It was a great joy to celebrate the baptism of 10 children in 2024. The aim this year was to be more intentional and creative about how we help these new families connect into the life of the church. In January, the team hosted another fantastic “Christening Journey” breakfast for groups of parents and their children, with home visits by Ben or Ceri for those unable to attend. Our midweek toddler groups – Quackers, New Life, and Pippins – remain popular spaces for building relationship, as have our termly Sunday Fun Days. In September, we held our second annual “Celebration of Christening” all-age service for all the children who had their baptism the previous year. The creation of a regular Sunday creche and the launch of Café Church at the 10:00 has been brilliant for welcoming many new families into our church family. Richard has been championing all our digital communication to promote the many groups and activities on offer across the year.

Christening Team – Ben, Ceri, Ed Christine, Margaret and Richard



Adult Baptisms and Confirmation

Inspired by the Christenings of their children, two mums made the decision to be baptised themselves this year. On 3 June 2024+David Williams led a beautiful confirmation service for three candidates. +David returned at the end of the summer to lead a second confirmation service on 31 August. Witnessing the transforming work the Spirit of God in people’s lives, these services are a highlight of the year.

Ben Kautzer

Marriage

In 2024, six couples celebrated their wedding at St Leonard and Wootton St Lawrence. We had the opportunity to celebrate the renewal of vows of couples in the church and the wider community as well. It was an absolute delight to mark the 75th anniversary of Ken and Mavis from the 8 o'clock congregation! As mentioned in last year's APCM report, we had a fantastic relaunch of The Marriage Course at St Leonard's with about a dozen couples taking part. From nearly-weds to newly-weds to those about to celebrate their 50th anniversary, whatever age or stage the Marriage Course is a wonderful opportunity to invest in one of the most important relationships in your life.

Ben Kautzer





Bereavement

Last year, the OWW ministry team conducted 37 funerals, thanksgivings, and interment of ashes services. These services took place at St Leonard's, St John's Garden of Remembrance, Wootton St Lawrence, and Basingstoke Crematorium. The majority of our funeral ministry focuses on pastoral care and support to families connected to the wider village community. This year, our curate Ceri began presiding over funeral services at St Leonard's, and has been doing such a wonderful job offering love and support to the families in her care. In Loving Memory, Remembrance Day, and our Blue Christmas bereavement services continue to grow and are highly valued by members of the church and community alike. In September, we offered a newly updated version of The Bereavement Journey – a 7-week course for anyone who has been bereaved at any time and in any way. This was the fifth time the course has taken place within the parish. Through the growth of informal support groups (like Men2Mow and Ladies Who Lunch), the Christmas hamper project, and the wonderful work of the pastoral care team, a strong network of ongoing pastoral support is available through our church.

Ben Kautzer

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care takes many forms both within the church and community, and we are extremely blessed to have in excess of twenty dedicated and skilled volunteers who regularly give generously of their time and talents. However, pastoral care is something we are all part of, every time we show God's love and compassion to others. When I visit people, often in difficult circumstances, it's amazing to hear how blessed they feel by the cards, messages, prayers and words of hope and encouragement they receive from church members.

It has been another busy year but as a team we have managed to respond sensitively to the many requests received. Providing meals in times of joy, the arrival of a new baby for example, but also in less fortunate circumstances. Praying for people in times of need, visiting and supporting people in hospital, at home and through the Oak Lodge services.

The team make regular pastoral visits and administer home communion to those who find it difficult to access church, for example through lack of mobility, age, or health issues. These visits create the space for meaningful conversations, prayer, and spiritual and emotional support. The visits are as much a blessing to the pastoral visitor as they are to the recipient.

We continue to support the bereaved through pastoral visits, offering The Bereavement Journey, In Loving Memory and Blue Christmas, and signposting to appropriate regular meeting points. For example, Men2Mow and Brief Encounters.

Our work in partnership with the local Social Prescribers is increasing as we provide friendship and pastoral support to some of the more isolated and vulnerable members of our community.

Once again, your generosity and kindness enabled us to bless families from the local schools, church, and parish at Christmas. A big thank you to everyone for supporting this ministry, and a huge thank you to the young people from the Gap who contributed boxes full of chocolate treats.

To support individuals in their ministry, we provided two workshops this year. Boundaries and Confidentiality which was offered to the pastoral care team by an outside provider, and Active Listening which was offered in house to people in roles where listening is key. More workshops are being planned, so watch this space!

Thank you to everyone for your commitment to care for others demonstrating God's love. Your kindness will have made a positive difference to someone's life.

Katey Butler
Pastoral Care Co-ordinator



Worship Team

Naomi and I feel so privileged to be leading the worship team at St Leonard's. It's so encouraging being part of such a caring, humble and supportive group of musicians and singers who love Jesus and each other from the bottom of their hearts. It's a delight to be able to share with you a bit of what we've been up to over the past year!

One major highlight was the "Worship and Prayer" night we held as part of the week of prayer last May. This felt like a springboard into something really special - combining extended, passionate worship with space for prophetic and prayer ministry. We are looking forward to building on this in the coming months with another evening devoted to prayer and worship - so watch this space!

Chris also loved the opportunity to speak on worship as part of our "Elements" series, sharing his heart behind why and how we worship together as a church family.

As a team we have held some intentional, practical workshops which have provided a space to try different musical ideas and new songs - many of which we have introduced into the life of the church. They've also provided an opportunity to simply worship and pray together as well as eat and have fun together. These times have been pivotal in aiding our musical and spiritual growth, as well as building community and deepening relationships. It is therefore very much our intention to keep these going.

The 'Well' has also remained a special, refreshing, unhurried space that I know that many of the team and wider church love—I personally can't think of a better way to start the week than simply spending time in God's presence with other worshippers.

The Carol Service was another highlight. There's something incredibly powerful hearing multiple voices in harmony declaring "Hope has a name, Emmanuel, the Light of the World who broke through the darkness!" over our church family and wider community!

It has also been fantastic in recent months seeing many in the team work on some new homegrown songs too—this year has definitely brought with it a fresh wave of creativity! Naomi and I are particularly keen to see this area of worship in church continue to grow and thrive.

We are always on the lookout for new musicians and singers to join the team, so if you play an instrument or sing and are interested in getting involved, we'd really love to hear from you! You can get hold of us at: worship@oww.church

Chris and Naomi Greenhaugh



Prayer Ministry

We relaunched our prayer ministry this year and it was wonderful to be offering regular prayer again at the end of the services. With planned changes in the leadership of the prayer ministry and a need to encourage others to get involved, we held an evening for all those involved or interested to come along and talk about all things prayer ministry. This was a blessed meeting and wonderful to see fresh faces there. We were able to talk, learn and pray together. It also gave time to look at revised guidelines for prayer ministry and share information about safeguarding within our roles.



We took part in a prayer week last year. A really special time within our church to allow time and resources to do just that. To pray and be present. To call upon the holy spirit. This time included us joining many other churches in the 24/7 prayer movement also. This saw a range of creative initiatives taking place among our church and out into our community. We also ran the prayer course last year which many members of our church attended. Our sermon series too have all had an important emphasis on the importance of prayer. Our Elements series, Perspectives, Gravity and of course Soundcheck all include sermons on our need and call to live lives grounded in prayer.

As a leadership team we recognise the need for our church to be one built on a solid foundation of deep-rooted prayer and we are prioritising all aspects of prayer as we approach this coming year. We are at a time of change and need church members to step forward to lead and be a part of a team looking at ways that we can become prayerful people in all aspects of our church and lives.

Helen Miller

Wootton St Lawrence

Church Services
The church is open daily for private prayer and visitors.
There are services on Sunday, twice a month at 9am, and the attendance has slowly increased through the year.

Special Services
On the 17th November there was a Beekeepers service followed by a tree planting. Canon John Owen attended along with members of the Hampshire Beekeepers Association. To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the association and to commemorate Charles Butler's time as Rector of Wootton a tree was planted on the church meadow.

On Remembrance Sunday, Ceri led a much appreciated service at the Wootton war memorial.

Leading up to Christmas, residents and the Barn Nursery decorated the church with bunting, paper chains and baubles to make the church festive. The Barn Nursery held their Christmas performance in the church for the first time, which was a great encouragement.





The Big Sing took place in the run-up to Christmas. This is a social event with mulled wine, mince pies and children's activities prior to some great performances and audience participation at the Big Sing. This is a lively event, well attended by local residents as well as regular church members.

The much loved Christmas Eve Crib service was attended by over 100 people this year.

Churchyard
For the past few years, the churchyard has been maintained solely by Wootton volunteer working parties with substantial input from Scott Childs. However, this year, we have had the benefit of the Community Payback scheme assisting, which has been of great help and should be ongoing.

The trees in the churchyard had become significantly out of control. Stage one of major tree work has now been completed with further work to be carried out Autumm 2025.

St Lawrence Church for Our Time project
An architect visited in February, and we are awaiting further quotes.

As a temporary solution to our lack of facilities, we now have access to the toilets at the Barn Nursery for key services and events. A plan is in progress for a new path from the West door of the church to the nearby footpath for easier access.

Progress is also being made towards a water supply and tap being brought to the churchyard.

On 3rd August the Wootton Residents Association held a fete and dog show. It was a very successful day, and will be repeated. They kindly donated the profit to the St Lawrence Church for Our Time project.

Serena Worthington & Teresa Bates

Evergreen Advocate

Anna Knight was appointed as our Evergreen Advocate in September 2023. Building on the strong foundations of the 'Oakley Evergreen Fellowship,' the purpose of this role has been to serve the spiritual and pastoral needs of older adults in the parish. This was a busy and fruitful year for our Evergreen ministry with expansion of ministry in the local care home, the launch of several exciting initiatives in the community, and the development of the pastoral team.

Every month the team from St Leonard's leads services of Holy Communion as well as 'messy vintage' craft and conversation services for residents at Oak Lodge Care Home. Over time it became clear that several members of this new congregation were keen to continue the conversation and wanting to grow deeper in their faith. In response, Anna and Ceri launched a fortnightly discipleship discussion group in the care home called 'Hymns of Hope.' In collaboration with Oakley Junior School, a group of students participated in our Christmas service, singing carols, helping with the crafts, sharing hand-made Christmas cards, and having the most precious intergenerational encounters with residents.

During the summer, Anna and her team hosted our first 'Holiday@Home' event at Malshanger. Holiday@Home is an opportunity for older people to experience the fun and fellowship of a change of scenery without having to pack a bag or stay away overnight in a strange place. This popular two-day event was full of activities, good company, fantastic food, and a beautiful setting and the team are already deep into the planning for next summer.

Another major development this year has been the formation and launch of the 'Oakley Wellbeing Forum.' Bringing together the church, Oakley & Deane Parish Council, OCA and Rural West Primary Care Network's Social Prescribers, this collaborative project is all about gathering leaders and volunteers from our community around the table to map the strengths and assets of our community. The aim is help build relationships and encourage local partnerships by raising the profile of the amazing things that are already taking place, discerning gaps in provision, and exploring creative solutions – all in an effort to combat loneliness and promote the flourishing of our village.

In February, Anna concluded her role as Evergreen Advocate. She wrote: "*It has been a privilege to serve in this role and to work alongside such dedicated volunteers. I thank God and I'm so grateful for the time we've shared in ministry and for all the love and care the volunteers bring to the lives of older adults in our community. A huge thank you to the volunteers and clergy who have dedicated their time and energy to Oak Lodge Care Home services/discipleship spaces, Holiday at Home, Oakley Wellbeing Forum, midweek services, and Workshops.*"



When Anna first took up her role a year and a half ago, we knew that God was calling our church to expand its ministry within the community, but we did not yet know what that might look like or what shape it might take. Step back and survey the landscape now ... and it is just brilliant to see what is emerging.

In her time as our Evergreen Advocate, Anna has helped nurtured into growth an entirely new ministry amongst older people in our parish. Her passion, commitment, and care have been an inspiration to us all. We are so grateful for all Anna has contributed to our life together.

PCC will be discerning the future shape of this role as we seek to develop the many initiatives Anna helped set in motion and as we look ahead to the new things that are yet to take shape.

Ben Kautzer

Church For Our Time – St Leonards

The objective of the Church For Our Time project is to reorder St Leonards church to bring it up to date with 21st century expectations of heating, lighting and flexibility and to add an extension to house toilets, a vestry, a small kitchen/servery and a small hall.

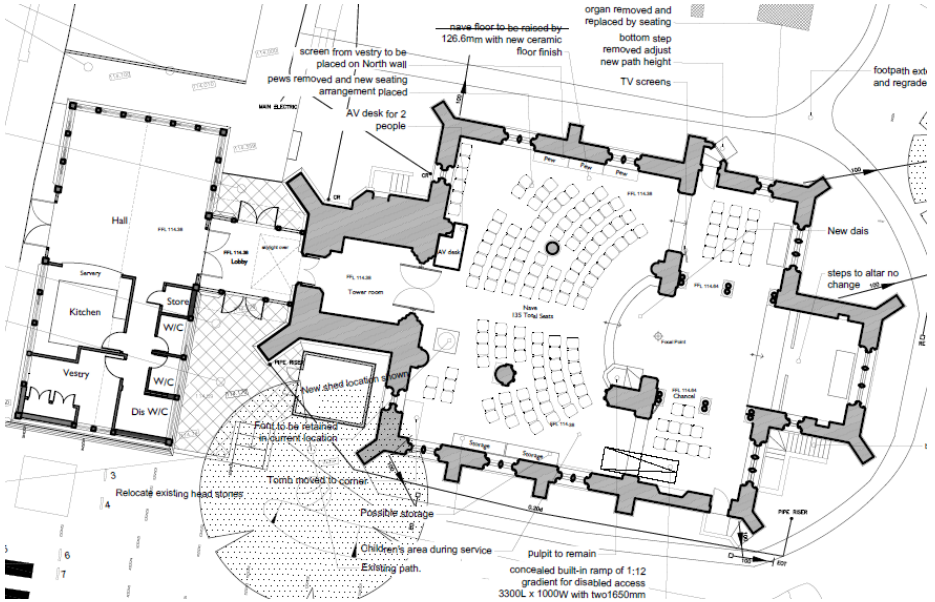
Following an unsuccessful faculty application which was turned down on the basis that planning permission was unlikely for the extension in its proposed form, we have been working with the local planning authorities to revise the extension design. The problem stems largely from the fact that St Leonards is a grade II* listed building in the Church Oakley Conservation area. We started by consulting with the local Conservation Officer who worked with us and Jeremy Bell, our architect, to come up with an extension design that was more sympathetic to the locality taking its cue from the Lytch gate.

In the summer, once that design was finalised, we went through a pre-application process with the local planning authority. The result was positive, with a recommendation that we went to a full planning application.

With the approval and support of the PCC, we have been working with various planning, landscape, ecological and heritage consultants to get the necessary set of documents in place for the planning application. We have also started work on a faculty application that will run in parallel. As part of the process, we have been sharing our plans with the Parish Council, our near neighbours, and have hosted a public exhibition in the church.

We expect to be ready to submit both these applications within the coming months and anticipate a decision by the end of the summer.

Derek Felton, Mark Peryer





Youth and Children

The Come and See (CAS) youth ministry has truly been a blessing in our community, and I am continually inspired by what God is doing among our young people. I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone for their prayers and generosity, which have played a vital role in making our ministry a success.

Each week, CAS youth groups reach over 300 young individuals in Oakley and beyond. The **Youth Café** has experienced remarkable growth, fostering strong relationships among attendees. It has been uplifting to witness the connections formed through this initiative. Our various groups, including **CAS+ Teens Soirée and TRIBE**, cater to youth aged 10-17, and they have been meeting weekly for food, fellowship, and life-changing conversations.

The dedication of our CAS volunteers has been nothing short of incredible. Their commitment to our mission is inspiring, and we are proud to grow and train our volunteers every quarter. Recently, we hosted a thank-you dinner to honor their exceptional support, and it was a wonderful evening of appreciation and fellowship.

The **GAP** youth group continues to flourish, meeting every first Friday and providing a space for young people to connect and support one another. The GAP team has done an outstanding job in nurturing this community.

Our partnerships within the community have strengthened our mission. Collaborations with local businesses and the Oakley Community Association (OCA), have been instrumental in supporting our youth initiatives. Food link Basingstoke has also provided invaluable assistance by supplying food for our CAS events.

Our relationship with **Oakley Church of England Junior Schoo**l remains robust, with our presence felt through various activities such as prayer spaces, collective worship, well-being clubs, school trips, and RE support. We appreciate the warm welcome and support from both teaching and non-teaching staff, which enables us to serve the students effectively.









The young adult community, known as **The Bridge**, has been thriving under the leadership of CJ, Dimitri, and Sochi. Their dedication to fostering connection and growth among young adults has been commendable.

In our Kids Ministry, we have reimagined our approach to engaging children and toddlers, launching the **CAS Kids** and **CAS Tots** ministries. We are excited about developing a robust program that nurtures our youngest members.

Furthermore, we have established partnerships with various youth groups across Basingstoke, facilitating collaborative youth sessions that encourage our youths to build relationships beyond our community.

This quarter, we launched **The Big Sunday** outreach project, providing an opportunity for young people to connect with CAS and engage with the Gospel. We partnered with the Life Bus team at St Mary's Andover, and it has been a joy to have over 80 young people attend these events.

Our events calendar has been filled with exciting activities, including weekend trips, camps, outdoor hangouts, parties, and trampoline park visits, all designed to foster fun and fellowship.

CPR - CAS Prayer Room, has become a source of strength and spiritual growth for our group. Meeting monthly to pray for our ministry has allowed us to witness the power of God answering our prayers.

As we look ahead, I encourage everyone to continue praying for the youth of Oakley and to support our ministry in any way possible. Your love and dedication mean the world to us, and we are incredibly grateful for each and every one of you. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of young people in our community.

Sochi Ezeanowai

Discipleship

Adult Discipleship covers almost every aspect of Church Life and what it means to be a Christian. While what falls within the Adult Discipleship remit is still working itself out, we (Penny Brown, Erika Conti, Richard Cripps and latterly myself) have been looking at the changes that have been taking place within the various mid-week Small Groups over the past few years, their structure, aims, are they open to new members and how we can grow and develop. We have also been thinking about 'follow on' groups for those who have been part of other Groups such as Alpha and wish to continue their faith journey.

Penny, Erika and Richard's vision and enthusiasm has driven a re-imagining of how we can '**connect'** within Church and the wider community and it is exciting. I would pay tribute to the Group Leaders who have faithfully continued to provide Group Leadership. New Groups have also come into being during this time. We currently have 10 Groups, giving us different study approaches to discuss and deepen faith, looking at what it means to live a Christian life and support one another. These include the Film Groups, Fellowship Groups, Home Groups, Life Groups and Bible Study Groups.

We have brought them all together under the title of **'Connect Groups'**. Why? Well, with different names and styles of Groups it can be confusing but the common ground is their approach to '**connect'** People, the Church and the Community.

This is a **'Connect Group'** description:
Connect Groups are a great way for sharing life, building friendships and growing in relationships with God, providing an opportunity for members to grow spiritually and deepen their faith as well as provide support when going through difficult times or facing life challenges.

The idea is simple. It takes a group of people and connects them to other members of the congregation where they can create deeper, more meaningful relationships offering each other support and encouragement on their faith journey. It encourages deeper community and accountability within Church and develops leaders that can help grow the Church.

We have met twice with current Group Leaders (or nominated representatives) in September 2024 and February 2025 and (as Penny says) we were chuffed with the response. There will be a further Leaders Lunch in June to continue to share, support and learn from one another.

We will also run 3 **Connect Group** Roadshows in late Spring/early Summer (after the 8 O'clock Service and during Coffee after the 10 o'clock Service) so we can share what a **Connect Group** is and what is available for those looking for a Group as well as generating further ideas.

All continues in the light of the PCC Small Group Feedback (September 2024).

Jeanne Johnson (with thanks to Penny, Erika and Richard)











www.oakleywithwootton.org.uk





United Parish of Church Oakley with Wootton St Lawrence

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Charity Registration Number 1131064

CONTENTS

Independent Examiner's Report	3
Statement of Financial Activities	4
Balance Sheet	5
Notes to the Financial Statements	6 to 9

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Oakley with Wootton Parochial Church Council ("the PCC")

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's trustees of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').
Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the PCC are not required to be audited and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC 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 accounting requirements of 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 a part of an independent examination; or
4. The accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

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.

WELLER MACKRILL

Paul Sherrington FCCA, membership number 1326429
Weller Mackrill
Chartered Certified Accountants
South Building
Upper Farm
Wootton St Lawrence
Basingstoke
Hampshire
RG23 8PE

17 March 2025

UNITED PARISH OF CHURCH OAKLEY WITH WOOTTON ST LAWRENCE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ended 31st December 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2024	2023
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Incoming Resources from Donors	2a	157,716	52,776		210,492	230,401
Income from investments	2b	5,744	20,751		26,495	23,092
Gains / (Losses) on investments	2c		159		159	-213
Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading	2d	57,411	4,277		61,688	61,841
Income from Designated Activities	2e	130,584			130,584	83,221
		351,455	77,962	0	429,417	398,342
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Church Activities	3a	215,607	65,411		281,018	222,856
Governance Costs	3b	360			360	330
Costs of Designated Activities	3c	110,745			110,745	83,686
		326,711	65,411	0	392,122	306,873
NET INCOMING RESOURCES		24,744	12,551	0	37,295	91,469
DEPRECIATION	5	1,597	1,538		3,136	3,115
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		23,146	11,013	0	34,160	88,354
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2024		897,647	465,612	2,164	1,365,423	1,277,069
Balance carried forward at 31 December 2024		920,793	476,626	2,164	1,399,582	1,365,423

UNITED PARISH OF CHURCH OAKLEY WITH WOOTTON ST LAWRENCE

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2024	2023
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	5	760,470	2,435		762,905	763,359
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors	6	3,725	6,470		10,195	10,595
Investments		0	6,243		6,243	6,084
Short Term Deposits		173,320	426,680		600,000	495,439
Cash at Bank and in Hand		13,236	36,216	2,164	51,615	94,653
		190,281	475,609	2,164	668,053	606,771
LIABILITIES						
Amounts falling due within one year	7	-29,957	-1,419		-31,376	-4,707
NET CURRENT ASSETS		160,323	474,190	2,164	636,677	602,063
LIABILITIES						
Amounts falling due after more than one year	7	0	0		0	0
TOTAL NET ASSETS		920,793	476,626	2,164	1,399,582	1,365,423
PARISH FUNDS						
Unrestricted - Operating Reserves	8	165,985			165,985	142,839
Unrestricted - Relating to Property	8	754,808			754,808	754,808
Restricted	8		476,626		476,626	465,612
Endowment	8			2,164	2,164	2,164
		920,793	476,626	2,164	1,399,582	1,365,423

Approved by the PCC on 15 April 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Revd Ben Kautzer (PCC Chairman)

UNITED PARISH OF CHURCH OAKLEY WITH WOOTTON ST LAWRENCE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31st December 2024

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 01/01/2015) - (Charity SORP (FRS102)) and the Charities Act 2011.
The Parochial Church Council (PCC) constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of certain fixed assets and investments, 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.
There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue operating.

Funds
Unrestricted Funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated by the PCC for the operation of St Leonard's Pre-School are also unrestricted.
Restricted Funds comprise donations or grants intended for a specific PCC activity.

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 depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Incoming Resources
Donations are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving under gift aid is recognised when the income is received. Income Tax recoverable on gift aid is recognised at the same time as giving is received.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.
Income relating to other activities is recognised as the activities occur. Income and expenditure are recognised separately.

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

Resources Expended
Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

The diocesan Common Mission Fund is accounted for when payable. Other expenditure is accounted for when it is incurred.

Taxation
As a Charity the PCC does not undertake any activity which falls within the scope of UK Income taxation.

Fixed Assets
Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011. No value is placed on moveable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers these to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.
Other fixed property is vested in the Diocesan Board of Finance as Diocesan Authority under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, effectively in trust for the PCC, with the PCC acting as managing trustees. Under the Charities Act, such property is included in the accounts notwithstanding the PCC's lack of title. Such properties are valued by the PCC using the best available advice as to free market value for the current usage less any provision for restrictions on such a sale.
Fixtures, fittings and office equipment used within the church premises is capitalised at cost and depreciated on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, subject to the initial purchase price being greater than £1,000. Purchases with an initial value less than or equal to £1,000 are written off in the year of purchase.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31st December 2024

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Current Assets
Amounts owing to the PCC at 31st December are shown as debtors less any provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund or at a bank.

Any sums legally due and payable by the PCC are included in the accounts as creditors and reflect the full value deemed likely to be paid. Contingent assets and liabilities are not brought into the accounts but may be reflected by way of note.

Financial Instruments
The PCC only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Reserves
Reserves act as a buffer to smooth fluctuations from month to month and protect against unforeseen significant reductions in giving or increases in expenditure. The PCC aim to hold the equivalent of approximately six months of Unrestricted Fund annual expenditure in the form of net current assets.

Agency Income and Expenditure
Voluntary donations received by the PCC, purely as agent, for specified objects over which the PCC has no discretion are not included in either the income or expenditure of these account.

2 INCOMING RESOURCES

2a Incoming resources from Donors
Substantially all of the donations received into both Unrestricted and Restricted Funds were from individual donors with income tax recovered under Gift Aid or from charitable trusts. As a total for the year, the largest such gift from one source was £7,500 (2023: £7,500) into Unrestricted Funds and £20,000 (2023: £35,000) into Restricted Funds.

In the year ended 31st December 2023 £11,193 was received into Unrestricted Funds from utility providers primarily in respect of the overcharge of VAT from 2013 to 2022.

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2024	2023
2b Income from Investments					
Interest on bank deposits and Church of England Deposit Fund	5,744	20,369	0	26,113	22,729
Dividends on M&G Charifund holding		382		382	363
	5,744	**20,751**	**0**	**26,495**	23,092
2c Gains / (Losses on investments					
Change in market value of units held in M&G Charifund		159		**159**	(213)
2d Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading					
Hire of St Leonard's and St John's Centres	40,265			40,265	38,215
Weddings and funerals	12,915			12,915	10,534
Other	4,231	4,277		8,507	13,092
	57,411	**4,277**		**61,688**	61,841

Included in the hire of St Leonard's Centre is £15,295 (2021: £12,985) charged to the Pre-School, which appears in the costs of Designated Activites (Note 3c)

2e Income from Designated Activities
Substantially all of the income received is from Hampshire County Council and individuals to fund places for children in pre-school.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31st December 2024

3 RESOURCES EXPENDED

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024	2023
3a	**Activities Directly Relating to the work of the Church**				
	Common Mission Fund	75,314		75,314	76,618
	Fees paid to Diocese for weddings and funerals	6,212		6,212	5,409
	Payroll costs	39,478	49,503	88,981	72,917
	Donations to charities	11,000		11,000	11,000
	Utilities	15,062		15,062	3,223
	Insurance	6,880		6,880	6,618
	Other Churches & Centres Expenses	27,316	10,730	38,047	38,854
	Buildings maintenance	34,345		34,345	3,582
	Architect and Planning expenditure		5,177	5,177	4,637
	TOTAL RESOURCES USED	215,607	65,411	281,018	222,856
3b	**Governance Costs**				
	Independent Examiner's fees	360		360	330
		360	0	360	330
3c	**Costs of Designated Activities**				
	Payroll costs	86,186		86,186	63,836
	Rent	15,295		15,295	12,985
	Other pre-school costs	9,264		9,264	6,866
	TOTAL RESOURCES USED	110,745	0	110,745	83,686

Rent is paid to St Leonard's Centre and appears in Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading (Note 2d).

4 STAFF COSTS

	2024	2023
The average number of staff on the payroll (most part time)	16	13
Gross Salaries and wages	161,016	126,781
Employer's National Insurance Costs	4,100	2,826
Employer's Contributions to Pension Schemes	10,051	7,146
	175,167	136,753

The stipend and pension of the Rector and Curates are paid by the Church Commissioners who receive money via the Diocese as part of the Common Mission Fund paid and are therefore not included in the numbers here. Expenses were reimbursed to a number of members of the PCC for materials and expenses incurred on Church Activities.

UNITED PARISH OF CHURCH OAKLEY WITH WOOTTON ST LAWRENCE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31st December 2024

5 FIXED ASSETS

	Unrestricted Funds Land and Buildings	Unrestricted Funds Fittings and Equipment	Restricted Funds Fittings and Equipment	TOTAL
Actual / Deemed Cost				
As at 1st January 2024	754,808	73,517	7,690	836,015
Additions	0	2,681	0	2,681
As at 31st December 2024	754,808	76,198	7,690	838,696
Accumulated Depreciation				
As at 1st January 2024	0	68,939	3,717	72,656
Charge for the year		1,597	1,538	3,136
As at 31st December 2024	0	70,536	5,255	75,791
Net Value				
As at 31st December 2024	**754,808**	**5,662**	**2,435**	**762,905**
As at 31st December 2023	754,808	4,578	3,973	763,359

Land and buildings comprise two separate sites. The first is St Leonard's Centre, Rectory Road, Oakley, which is held at £729,808 being its cost of redevelopment in 2009 and improvement in 2022.
The second is adjacent to St Johns Garden of Remembrance and St John's Centre in Oakley but is not part of the Church consecrated grounds. The area is approximately 0.7 acres and its value is deemed to be £25,000. It should be noted that, if sold for building land, its current market value could exceed £700,000.

6 DEBTORS

	2024	2023
Income tax recoverable	1,082	691
Gifts and Interest Receivable	7,397	7,284
Other debtors and prepayments	1,716	2,619
	10,195	10,595

7 LIABILITIES

Amounts falling due within one year		
Fees payable to Diocese for weddings and funerals	1,346	1,079
Independent Examiner's fees payable	360	330
Donations to charities	500	0
Building Maintenance accrual for roof repairs	25,000	0
Other creditors and accruals	4,170	3,298
	31,376	4,707
Amounts falling due after one year	**0**	**0**

8 PARISH FUNDS

8a Unrestricted funds comprise funds for use at the discretion of the PCC; those relating to property are shown separately as they are not readily realisable.

8b Restricted funds represent donations and a legacy for the redevelopment of St Leonard's Church, the maintenance and redevelopment of St Lawrence Church and the provision of community services.

8c Endowment funds are for chancel repairs, the maintenance of certain graves and the running of Sunday school at St Lawrence Church.

9 STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a charity (registered number 1131064) registered with the Charity Commission.

United Parish of Church Oakley with Wootton St Lawrence

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Charity Registration Number 1131064

CONTENTS

Independent Examiner's Report	3
Statement of Financial Activities	4
Balance Sheet	5
Notes to the Financial Statements	6 to 9

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Oakley with Wootton Parochial Church Council ("the PCC")

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's trustees of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').
Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the PCC are not required to be audited and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC 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 accounting requirements of 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 a part of an independent examination; or
4. The accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

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.

WELLER MACKRILL

Paul Sherrington FCCA, membership number 1326429
Weller Mackrill
Chartered Certified Accountants
South Building
Upper Farm
Wootton St Lawrence
Basingstoke
Hampshire
RG23 8PE

17 March 2025

UNITED PARISH OF CHURCH OAKLEY WITH WOOTTON ST LAWRENCE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ended 31st December 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2024	2023
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Incoming Resources from Donors	2a	157,716	52,776		210,492	230,401
Income from investments	2b	5,744	20,751		26,495	23,092
Gains / (Losses) on investments	2c		159		159	-213
Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading	2d	57,411	4,277		61,688	61,841
Income from Designated Activities	2e	130,584			130,584	83,221
		351,455	77,962	0	429,417	398,342
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Church Activities	3a	215,607	65,411		281,018	222,856
Governance Costs	3b	360			360	330
Costs of Designated Activities	3c	110,745			110,745	83,686
		326,711	65,411	0	392,122	306,873
NET INCOMING RESOURCES		24,744	12,551	0	37,295	91,469
DEPRECIATION	5	1,597	1,538		3,136	3,115
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		23,146	11,013	0	34,160	88,354
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2024		897,647	465,612	2,164	1,365,423	1,277,069
Balance carried forward at 31 December 2024		920,793	476,626	2,164	1,399,582	1,365,423

UNITED PARISH OF CHURCH OAKLEY WITH WOOTTON ST LAWRENCE

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2024	2023
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	5	760,470	2,435		762,905	763,359
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors	6	3,725	6,470		10,195	10,595
Investments		0	6,243		6,243	6,084
Short Term Deposits		173,320	426,680		600,000	495,439
Cash at Bank and in Hand		13,236	36,216	2,164	51,615	94,653
		190,281	475,609	2,164	668,053	606,771
LIABILITIES						
Amounts falling due within one year	7	-29,957	-1,419		-31,376	-4,707
NET CURRENT ASSETS		160,323	474,190	2,164	636,677	602,063
LIABILITIES						
Amounts falling due after more than one year	7	0	0		0	0
TOTAL NET ASSETS		920,793	476,626	2,164	1,399,582	1,365,423
PARISH FUNDS						
Unrestricted - Operating Reserves	8	165,985			165,985	142,839
Unrestricted - Relating to Property	8	754,808			754,808	754,808
Restricted	8		476,626		476,626	465,612
Endowment	8			2,164	2,164	2,164
		920,793	476,626	2,164	1,399,582	1,365,423

Approved by the PCC on 15 April 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Revd Ben Kautzer (PCC Chairman)

UNITED PARISH OF CHURCH OAKLEY WITH WOOTTON ST LAWRENCE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31st December 2024

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 01/01/2015) - (Charity SORP (FRS102)) and the Charities Act 2011.
The Parochial Church Council (PCC) constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of certain fixed assets and investments, 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.
There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue operating.

Funds
Unrestricted Funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated by the PCC for the operation of St Leonard's Pre-School are also unrestricted.
Restricted Funds comprise donations or grants intended for a specific PCC activity.

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 depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Incoming Resources
Donations are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving under gift aid is recognised when the income is received. Income Tax recoverable on gift aid is recognised at the same time as giving is received.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.
Income relating to other activities is recognised as the activities occur. Income and expenditure are recognised separately.

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

Resources Expended
Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

The diocesan Common Mission Fund is accounted for when payable. Other expenditure is accounted for when it is incurred.

Taxation
As a Charity the PCC does not undertake any activity which falls within the scope of UK Income taxation.

Fixed Assets
Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011. No value is placed on moveable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers these to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.
Other fixed property is vested in the Diocesan Board of Finance as Diocesan Authority under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, effectively in trust for the PCC, with the PCC acting as managing trustees. Under the Charities Act, such property is included in the accounts notwithstanding the PCC's lack of title. Such properties are valued by the PCC using the best available advice as to free market value for the current usage less any provision for restrictions on such a sale.
Fixtures, fittings and office equipment used within the church premises is capitalised at cost and depreciated on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, subject to the initial purchase price being greater than £1,000. Purchases with an initial value less than or equal to £1,000 are written off in the year of purchase.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31st December 2024

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Current Assets
Amounts owing to the PCC at 31st December are shown as debtors less any provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund or at a bank.

Any sums legally due and payable by the PCC are included in the accounts as creditors and reflect the full value deemed likely to be paid. Contingent assets and liabilities are not brought into the accounts but may be reflected by way of note.

Financial Instruments
The PCC only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Reserves
Reserves act as a buffer to smooth fluctuations from month to month and protect against unforeseen significant reductions in giving or increases in expenditure. The PCC aim to hold the equivalent of approximately six months of Unrestricted Fund annual expenditure in the form of net current assets.

Agency Income and Expenditure
Voluntary donations received by the PCC, purely as agent, for specified objects over which the PCC has no discretion are not included in either the income or expenditure of these account.

2 INCOMING RESOURCES

2a Incoming resources from Donors
Substantially all of the donations received into both Unrestricted and Restricted Funds were from individual donors with income tax recovered under Gift Aid or from charitable trusts. As a total for the year, the largest such gift from one source was £7,500 (2023: £7,500) into Unrestricted Funds and £20,000 (2023: £35,000) into Restricted Funds.

In the year ended 31st December 2023 £11,193 was received into Unrestricted Funds from utility providers primarily in respect of the overcharge of VAT from 2013 to 2022.

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2024	2023
2b Income from Investments					
Interest on bank deposits and Church of England Deposit Fund	5,744	20,369	0	26,113	22,729
Dividends on M&G Charifund holding		382		382	363
	5,744	**20,751**	**0**	**26,495**	23,092
2c Gains / (Losses on investments					
Change in market value of units held in M&G Charifund		159		**159**	(213)
2d Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading					
Hire of St Leonard's and St John's Centres	40,265			40,265	38,215
Weddings and funerals	12,915			12,915	10,534
Other	4,231	4,277		8,507	13,092
	57,411	**4,277**		**61,688**	61,841

Included in the hire of St Leonard's Centre is £15,295 (2021: £12,985) charged to the Pre-School, which appears in the costs of Designated Activites (Note 3c)

2e Income from Designated Activities
Substantially all of the income received is from Hampshire County Council and individuals to fund places for children in pre-school.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31st December 2024

3 RESOURCES EXPENDED

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024	2023
3a	**Activities Directly Relating to the work of the Church**				
	Common Mission Fund	75,314		75,314	76,618
	Fees paid to Diocese for weddings and funerals	6,212		6,212	5,409
	Payroll costs	39,478	49,503	88,981	72,917
	Donations to charities	11,000		11,000	11,000
	Utilities	15,062		15,062	3,223
	Insurance	6,880		6,880	6,618
	Other Churches & Centres Expenses	27,316	10,730	38,047	38,854
	Buildings maintenance	34,345		34,345	3,582
	Architect and Planning expenditure		5,177	5,177	4,637
	TOTAL RESOURCES USED	215,607	65,411	281,018	222,856
3b	**Governance Costs**				
	Independent Examiner's fees	360		360	330
		360	0	360	330
3c	**Costs of Designated Activities**				
	Payroll costs	86,186		86,186	63,836
	Rent	15,295		15,295	12,985
	Other pre-school costs	9,264		9,264	6,866
	TOTAL RESOURCES USED	110,745	0	110,745	83,686

Rent is paid to St Leonard's Centre and appears in Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading (Note 2d).

4 STAFF COSTS

	2024	2023
The average number of staff on the payroll (most part time)	16	13
Gross Salaries and wages	161,016	126,781
Employer's National Insurance Costs	4,100	2,826
Employer's Contributions to Pension Schemes	10,051	7,146
	175,167	136,753

The stipend and pension of the Rector and Curates are paid by the Church Commissioners who receive money via the Diocese as part of the Common Mission Fund paid and are therefore not included in the numbers here. Expenses were reimbursed to a number of members of the PCC for materials and expenses incurred on Church Activities.

UNITED PARISH OF CHURCH OAKLEY WITH WOOTTON ST LAWRENCE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31st December 2024

5 FIXED ASSETS

	Unrestricted Funds Land and Buildings	Unrestricted Funds Fittings and Equipment	Restricted Funds Fittings and Equipment	TOTAL
Actual / Deemed Cost				
As at 1st January 2024	754,808	73,517	7,690	836,015
Additions	0	2,681	0	2,681
As at 31st December 2024	754,808	76,198	7,690	838,696
Accumulated Depreciation				
As at 1st January 2024	0	68,939	3,717	72,656
Charge for the year		1,597	1,538	3,136
As at 31st December 2024	0	70,536	5,255	75,791
Net Value				
As at 31st December 2024	**754,808**	**5,662**	**2,435**	**762,905**
As at 31st December 2023	754,808	4,578	3,973	763,359

Land and buildings comprise two separate sites. The first is St Leonard's Centre, Rectory Road, Oakley, which is held at £729,808 being its cost of redevelopment in 2009 and improvement in 2022.
The second is adjacent to St Johns Garden of Remembrance and St John's Centre in Oakley but is not part of the Church consecrated grounds. The area is approximately 0.7 acres and its value is deemed to be £25,000. It should be noted that, if sold for building land, its current market value could exceed £700,000.

6 DEBTORS

	2024	2023
Income tax recoverable	1,082	691
Gifts and Interest Receivable	7,397	7,284
Other debtors and prepayments	1,716	2,619
	10,195	10,595

7 LIABILITIES

Amounts falling due within one year		
Fees payable to Diocese for weddings and funerals	1,346	1,079
Independent Examiner's fees payable	360	330
Donations to charities	500	0
Building Maintenance accrual for roof repairs	25,000	0
Other creditors and accruals	4,170	3,298
	31,376	4,707
Amounts falling due after one year	**0**	**0**

8 PARISH FUNDS

8a Unrestricted funds comprise funds for use at the discretion of the PCC; those relating to property are shown separately as they are not readily realisable.

8b Restricted funds represent donations and a legacy for the redevelopment of St Leonard's Church, the maintenance and redevelopment of St Lawrence Church and the provision of community services.

8c Endowment funds are for chancel repairs, the maintenance of certain graves and the running of Sunday school at St Lawrence Church.

9 STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a charity (registered number 1131064) registered with the Charity Commission.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF OAKLEY WITH WOOTTON

England & Wales - Charity number 1131064

Accounts



United Parish of
Oakley with Wootton St Lawrence

Annual Report 2023

www.oakleywithwootton.org.uk

Charity Registration Number 1131064

Contents

- Rector’s Report 3-4
- PCC Report 5-6
- Financial Report 7
- Safeguarding 8
- From The Wardens 9
- Evergreen 10
- Mission Action Group (MAG) 10
- Evergreens Advocate 11
- Youth and Young People 12-13
- The 8 O’Clockers 14
- Curate 15
- Worship Group 16
- St Leonards Pre-School 17
- Discipleship and small groups 18
- Alpha 19
- Prayer Ministry 20
- Men 2 Mow 20
- Life Events 21-23
- Welcome Team 23
- Kintsugi Hope 24
- Womens Ministry 25
- Wootton St Lawrence 26-27



Rector's Report

This year the Diocese of Winchester welcomed the **Rt Revd Philip Mounstephen** as our new bishop. As he has been travelling around and getting to know his new diocese, +Philip is beginning to articulate a fresh vision for the church. A favourite new phrase of +Philip has stayed with me. It is a quote from G.K. Chesterton: *'The more I considered Christianity, the more I found that while it had established a rule and order, the chief aim of that order was to give room for good things to run wild.'*

Did you catch that? The chief aim of Christian life, community, and daily practice is **to give room for good things to run wild**.

I absolutely love this line and I think it is such a fitting description of what we have been experiencing in the life of our parish over the last year.

If 2019 was a year of new beginnings …
If 2020 was a year in lockdown …
If 2021 was a year of rebuilding the walls …
If 2022 was a year of growth, change, loss, renewal …
Then 2023 has been year when good things have begun to run wild.

As I reflect back on the year and look around me, there are so many good things bubbling up that it's rather difficult to know where to begin!

This year has given room for welcoming so many new people joining our church family – almost on a weekly basis. Our staff team has grown as we welcomed Ceri as our curate and Anna as our Evergreen advocate for older people. This year has given room for growth in worship, depth in discipleship, and maturing in faith. It has given room for brave conversations in church about good disagreement, being sent to live and work, confronting hard feelings, enduring patient waiting, and the transformative stories of Philemon, Moses, and Jesus. It has given room for church ministries to reach out into the community and seed new projects – projects which are impacting older people, young people, single people, married couples, those journeying through bereavement, those living with mental health challenges, and those striving to safeguard the environmental sustainability of our beautiful yet fragile world.

This year has given room to new ideas, fresh approaches, missional experiments, creative collaborations.

I think often of those prophetic words spoken over our parish years before I got here: that our church would become a people who love and live like Jesus so that lives would be transformed, and hope restored. Is this not what we are experiencing?

Good things are running wild in this place!

What a joy and a delight it has been to witness the amazing things the Spirit is *stirring up* – and the remarkable people the Spirit is *raising up* – signposts of the Kingdom of God.

I have also spent a lot of time thinking about the strategic vision God has placed in our hearts for this parish. That we would be formed more and more into …

A church for **worship**
A church for **growth**
A church for **belonging**
A church for **depth**
A church for **wellbeing**
A church for **the next generation**
A church for **community**
A church for **our time**

Read through the many reports listed below, and it is so clear that God is unlocking new things in each of these areas.

This April will mark five years since I arrived here. Five years already! Jo and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for the boundless love, generosity, encouragement, and support which you give to us. What a privilege to call this community our home!





We also wanted to thank you for the incredible ways you love and serve both our church family and the people of our parish. I used to be able to call to mind a list of committed church leaders and volunteers to acknowledge at this time of year. However, the longer I'm here, the more impossible this is becoming. You might think that's a problem with my memory, but the reality is that the list itself has grown and grown. I simply can't keep up with the number of people in our church who are actively leading, serving, and supporting the mission and ministry of this church. There is no way we could manage or sustain any of the good things listed in these reports without you.

I do want to offer a special word of thanks for our amazing staff team who work so hard – my clergy colleagues: Sue and Ceri; our wardens: Mark and Helen; our ministry team leaders: Katey, Sochi, Anna, Chris & Naomi, Marilyn & Rodney, and Erika; our office team: Penny and Victoria; our treasurer: Simon and his finance team; our parish safeguarding officer: Teresa and her team; our preschool manager: Caroline and her dedicated staff; our buildings and maintenance experts: Rowland & Harry; Church for Our Time champions: Mark, Derek, and the Friends of St Lawrence.

As we look ahead to the coming year, this is a good time for our PCC to return to those aims and objectives mapped out the parish profile I received upon my arrival in post. We have come a long way since that time. We have changed. The community has changed. The landscape has changed. This is a good time for the whole church to take stock, regroup, and dream big dreams once again.

Where is God calling us for this next season?
What vision is the Spirit stirring in our hearts?
What things have had their season?
What good things do you long to see run wild?

As we head into this next season, may we have eyes to see what God longs for us to see, ears to hear what God longs to speak to us, and hearts to receive the love God longs to show through us.

Yours in Christ,
Ben

Parochial Church Council Report

Summary

Oakley with Wootton Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the operation and maintenance of two Centres: St Leonard's and St John's.

The parish has two churches: St Leonard's in Oakley and St Lawrence in Wootton. The churchyard at St Lawrence's is the only one open for burials, as during the year the PCC was granted a closure order for St John's churchyard.

The PCC year in 2023 started with a change of gear with a revamped APCM meeting aimed at getting the business done but in a more informal and inclusive manner. As the new PCC got to work, several themes started to emerge that will impact the life and mission of the Parish.

The first theme is growth in the staff team, starting with the appointment of Ceri Deosun (nee Webb) as Curate in July. Having a Curate is a new development for Oakley with Wootton and we are keenly interested to see what blessings Ceri's time with us will bring. In September Anna Knight was appointed as the Evergreen Advocate, a paid position aimed at supporting the needs of the elderly in our community. This kind of growth always comes some with challenges, and causese the PCC to look at how it manages staff-based relationships more effectively.

The second theme was the growing realisation that our traditional forms of welcome need to deepen. In July, Erika Conti took on the organisation of the Sunday welcome team and has injected some new thinking into way in which we approach welcoming. Over the year we have experimented with different ways of revamping the welcome process and being more deliberate about signposting. Two major milestones were the "Generous June" series and the inaugural "This is Us" session in February.

Another theme that is emerging from the shadow of the continued success of Sochi's leadership of Youth Work in the parish is how we address the needs of families with younger children in our life together. Last year saw a record number of baptisms and our "Sunday Fun Days" attracted large numbers of families, but there are distinct challenges around transitioning these contacts into more regular connections. How we approach children's work and how we change our culture to engage more effectively with young families is an area of much prayer, thought and discussion.

In September the Diocese issued a Safeguarding directive that safer recruitment had to be applied to all volunteer roles with contact with vulnerable people and where it had not taken place that it should be retrospectively applied. This has added to the workload of the Safeguarding team who have diligently progressed through the backlog that this directive caused. The PCC encourages a supportive culture and strives to ensure that the church is a safe place for all, this foundation should count more than the paperwork but unfortunately as an organisation we do need to have the checks and balances in place.

The PCC oversaw incremental improvements to our centre buildings including some replacement windows in the toilet area of the school room and the start of a program to replace lighting with LED technology. Progress was made on the Church for Our Time projects at both St Leonards and St Lawrence churches.

Structure, governance and management

The procedures for appointing PCC members are set out in the Church Representation Rules. In Oakley with Wootton parish, the membership of the PCC in 2023 consisted of the Rector, Churchwardens, Treasurer, Administrator, Deanery Synod representatives and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the

church. All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

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 full PCC met 5 times during the year. The average level of attendance was 78%

Given its wide responsibilities, the PCC has a number of committees dealing with different aspects of parish life. The Leadership Team, which includes clergy, church wardens, the church administrator, and the lead for Pastoral Care, meets once a week to support short-term decision making.

Teams responsible for Safeguarding, Finance, Buildings and Maintenance, A Church for Our Time, Centre Management, outward giving (Mission Action Group) report to the PCC as necessary.

Safeguarding

The Church Safeguarding Officer is Teresa Bates. Teresa leads a team that supports all church activities with policy, policy compliance, procedures and advice.

The PCC has complied with the duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure of 2016.

Administrative information

The United Parish of Oakley with Wootton includes two churches (St Leonard's and St Lawrence) and a Garden of Remembrance on the site of the chapel of St John in East Oakley. It is part of the Diocese of Winchester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is:

The Church Office, St Leonard's Centre Rectory Road,
Oakley, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG23 7ED.

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and is registered as a charity (number 1131064).

Our Independent Examiner is Paul Sherrington, MBA FCCA

PCC members at 31/12/23

Ex Officio PCC members: Incumbent: Rev'd Ben Kautzer; Associate Minister: Rev'd Sue Colman; Curate: Rev'd Ceri Deosun

Treasurer: Simon Constantine; PCC Secretary, Penny Brown

Churchwardens: Helen Miller; Mark Peryer

Deanery Synod PCC members: Rev'd Ben Kautzer, Helen Miller, Mark Peryer, Sochi Ezeanowei

Elected PCC members:

- Teresa Bates (2nd term ends 2026), Kate Goucher (2nd term ends 2026), Andy Thomas (1st term ends 2026), Claire Bowers (1st term ends 2026), Barbara Robson (1st term ends 2026),
  Tom Favell (1st term ends 2026)
- Abigail Compton-Burnett (2nd term ends 2024), Graeme Wheeler (1st term ends 2024)
- Katey Butler (2nd term ends 2025), Selina Craig (1st term ends 2025)

PCC Report Approved by the PCC on 18th March 2024

Financial Review

The Church Accounts are presented primarily with two categories of Unrestricted and Restricted Funds. Unrestricted funds represent the day-to-day operations of the two churches and centres and include St Leonard's Pre-School, which operates out of St Leonard's Centre. Restricted funds are those designated for specific activities with the youth and older people and for building improvements.

The most significant income for the Church at 70% of total income is gifts, primarily from our worshipping community and whilst this decreased slightly over the previous year, increases in income from the hire of our centres and from interest earned on our cash deposits more than covered this decrease. Expenditure increased only modestly over the year and so was covered well by total income. We met our requested contribution to the Diocese Common Mission Fund in full once again; this is by far our largest outgoing at 43% of total expenditure and pays for our local ministers as well as contributing to some central Church of England costs.

During the year almost £10,000 was received as a one-off exceptional amount from our energy supplier as a rebate of VAT charged at the incorrect rate for the past 10 years. These funds will be used to update the audio visual infrastructure primarily in St Leonard's Church.

The financial systems and controls were reviewed during the year, having been redesigned in 2021. They continue to provide an efficient and effective framework within which both the monthly management and annual statutory accounts are prepared on a timely and accurate basis. The PCC continues to have full visibility of all activities regularly, including Pre-School, Youth, Evergreens and church building projects, where significant funds are involved.

The Church and Centres together showed a total surplus for the year of £26,045 (2022: £8,144) and the Pre-School a deficit of £465 (2022: surplus £5,282); both are included in Unrestricted Funds. Restricted Funds increased by £62,749, primarily due to gifts made to fund potential future building improvements at St Leonard's and St Lawrence Churches.

The full Financial Statements are included in the Annual Report.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the PCC to maintain sufficient unrestricted operating reserves (those not relating to property) to cover the normal ministry, management and administration costs of the Church for a minimum of six months. Additional reserves are set aside where, in the view of the PCC, it is prudent to allow for future planned spending.

Unrestricted operating reserves as at 31 December 2023 were £140,424 (2022: £114,442), which represents approximately seven and a half months of normal expenditure.

Simon Constantine, Treasurer



Safeguarding

This parochial church council adopts the Church of England Safeguarding Policies and Practice Guidance. In particular, our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people, and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

Over the past year, we have continued to recruit helpers for children and youth. Also more volunteers for the Pastoral team, Kintsugi Hope and Prayer ministry.

When the safer recruitment process was instigated around 2017, it was considered that those people already in posts had been recruited safely, though there were not comprehensive written records kept on file.

The CofE and Diocese now are requiring us to back record the safe recruitment of all volunteers. We need to comply with this directive so we can demonstrate/ have evidence, that the church does all that it can to ensure it is a safe space for children and vulnerable adults. We are therefore in the process of asking our many long term volunteers to complete application forms and provide referees. We appreciate the understanding of you all, this is a work in progress.

The Diocese has introduced an online Parish Dashboard, ensuring we record a review of our safeguarding policies, practices and risk assessments as a minimum annually.



The OWW Safeguarding Team
Teresa Bates, Kate Goucher, Dave Rundle (Left to right)

A lot of work has also gone in to producing new, clear role descriptions for volunteers and risk assessments for all our activities with groups involving children, youth and vulnerable adults.

As a church family we need to be alert to safeguarding, it is the responsibility of all of us. We must ensure that all taking part in church activities can be confident that they are in a safe protective space led by people willing and able to deal appropriately with any concerns. We stress the importance that all volunteers are up to date with safeguarding training.

I would like to thank all the leaders and helpers of our groups for the work they do. Without their commitment to provide safe spaces, policies and procedures alone would be ineffective.

For information and links to diocesan or CofE advice, go to https://www.oakleywithwootton.org.uk/safeguarding

Teresa Bates (PSO)

From The Wardens

It is hard to know where to start with a wardens report, mostly because it is a rather wide, ever changing and often slightly random role! Every week comes with new challenges, questions and requirements all of which ensures a life as a warden is never dull! This year has been busy and eventful with Mark and myself overseeing all aspects of church life.

We have been busy with HR as our church team grows which has been such a privilege to be a part of. Much of our role is to oversee the remarkable team we have and all those serving in different roles within our church. This includes the pastoral, financial, welcome, worship, children and youth, AV, PCC and safeguarding teams.

Mark continues to ensure that our buildings are standing, with everything in place, no leaks and wherever possible with the radiators turned down. The Church for Our Time project continues to demand Mark's attention and energy as we strive to see our church building come to its full potential. This has involved reports, visits, faculties, emails and a little more stress for Mark than perhaps anticipated. However, we pray and push forward in faith knowing God knows and hopefully we will too soon.

We continue to work closely alongside Sochi and the team leading our youth and young peoples' ministry. This year has seen our women's ministry start to form and continued growth within our whole church congregation and our welcome team. I have been able to be a part of starting to look forward and plan in these areas as well as supporting the Kintsugi course and team formed this year.

It has been wonderful to lead and preach within our church services also, with Mark being able to turn the volume down whenever needed from the back.

Perhaps the most important role we undertake is to care for Ben, ensuring his wellbeing and that of his wonderful family. We work closely as a team and meet regularly to support and promote Ben's vision for our church. This includes saying yes to the best ideas and a definite no to any ideas that include live animals, canned fish and having to dress up. Just to mention a few!

We are here to help bring projects in to land, support new initiatives, forsee problems and deal with them quickly. We aim to be an encouragement to all, celebrating the good with you all and trying our hardest to make a positive difference in the tricky bits. Saying all that, please know this, being able to work alongside Ben and trying our best to look after all of you as our congregation remains the greatest privilege and brings the greatest joy.

So continue to ask us any question you have, however random it may be and we will always try to come up with an answer, nothing is out of question for a warden!

We look forward to continuing to be your wardens in service, love and faith.

Helen Miller and Mark Peryer



Evergreen

Our Evergreen Fellowship has enjoyed another year of happy activity, socialising, and togetherness.

During the year welcomed 7 new members, including 3 new gentlemen, but sadly 8 members died and 1 moved away from Oakley.

Our programme this year has included talks about the problems encountered by those suffering with Tinnitus; safety and security aspects in the home presented by a representative from the Bobby Scheme Trust; an illustrative lecture about mint production on the Malshanger Estate by Ian Margetts who brought along samples of the finished mint chocolates products for the Evergreens to enjoy.

One highlight of the year was a return visit in March by 'The Land Girls' who entertained us with a programme of songs from the 50's/60's.and beautifully dressed in the dresses of the era. Then came another treat from The Purple Company and Tabletop Gardening, where the answer lies in the soil!

Three times during the year the Evergreens were blessed with a special Evergreen Communion Service in the Centre. Our usual annual visit to the Oakley Junior School in December, where the children practiced their 'waiting' skills and then entertained us with singing and music was well received.

We are so grateful for the faithful commitment of our team of helpers and drivers. Evergreens could not function without them.

Marilyn and Rodney Scott



Mission Action Group

Over the last few months of 2023, the Oakley with Wootton Mission Action Group (MAG) met to discuss and prayerfully consider applications for funds. It was a pleasure to see the variety of fantastic and inspirational charities applying, both locally and globally.

We selected 15 brilliant charities to receive gifts. Please see our "Supported Charities" document which can be found via the link below for a summary of each charity's objectives and how our gifts will support them in the coming year.

http://www.oakleywithwootton.org.uk/money-matters

The Oakley with Wootton MAG Team

Evergreen Advocate

The Evergreen Advocate post came into existence last September, with the purpose to serve the spiritual and pastoral needs of older adults in the Parish. The 'Evergreen' title acknowledges the strong foundations that the 'Oakley Evergreen Fellowship' has in place and aims to extend this ministry out into the community. Collaboration with the Oakley & Dean Parish Council, OCA and Rural West Primary Care Network's Social Prescribers has strengthened relationships in the local community to open doorways for referrals and has started the process of creating an Oakley Wellbeing Forum, soon to be launched.

There are now fifteen wonderful volunteers who have come alongside this ministry to offer Holy Communion in parishioner's homes, pastoral care visits, telephone buddying and visits to Oak Lodge Care Home, all providing Christian fellowship with people wherever that may be. A range of training, focusing on the way ministry can be shaped to honour this demographic is in process, which will be made available to those volunteering in this ministry. Thank you to everyone who has dedicated their time and amazing gifts to building God's kingdom in this way.

The mid-week services at St Leonard's Church have offered a more intimate space for Holy Communion, as well as a time for reflection on the words within popular hymns during the 'Hymns We Love' series which launched last December. At the Community Café, which wraps around the mid-week services, music lovers and chorists have shared their enjoyment in being able to study hymn lyrics in this expression of worship. The consistent presence of helpers at these events has created a warm, welcoming place. Thank you to everyone involved with the services and café from set up/pack down, vergering, offering refreshments and baking cakes.

All your prayers are appreciated immensely as plans are being laid to offer a resource to parishioners to overcome the possibility of 'digital exclusion', in addition to intergenerational activities and seasonal one-off events.

If you know of someone who would welcome input from the Evergreen Advocate Ministry, please feel free to provide them with the Church Office or Anna's contact details. Thank you for all your support.

Anna Knight
Pastoral Care Co-ordinator



Youth And Young People

As I sit down to write this annual report, I am overwhelmed with gratitude to God and to each and every one of you for your unwavering support throughout this past year. Your generosity and prayers have not gone unnoticed, and I am truly blessed to have such a strong community standing behind the youth ministry.

Come and See: CAS continues to reach over 200 young people in Oakley on a weekly basis, providing a safe and welcoming space for them to grow in their faith and build meaningful relationships. This past year has been filled with growth and success in all areas of our youth ministry, and I am excited to share some highlights with you.

Youth Cafe: Our Youth Cafe has been a hub of productivity and connection for the young people of Oakley. We recently made the switch from Jolly Olly's Cafe to Oakley Methodist chapel, and the response from the kids has been amazing. We now meet every Tuesday evening, providing a space for fellowship and fun.

TRIBE: Our new youth group, TRIBE, tailored specifically for Year 9 kids, has become a popular and welcoming space for young people to gather every Tuesday night for food and life-changing conversations.

TEENS SOIRÉE: For our Year 10+ young people, TEENS SOIRÉE meets every Wednesday evening for fellowship, food, and spiritual growth.

CAS AM & CAS PM: Our CAS AM and CAS AM groups continue to meet weekly on Sundays for food, worship, and talks. We are currently in the process of remodeling CAS PM to make it a weekly evening youth group for Year 7 and 8 kids.

Volunteers: I am so grateful for our dedicated team of volunteers who pour their hearts into our youth ministry each week. Our host team also deserves recognition for opening their homes to feed and care for our young people. Our volunteers meet quarterly for team meetings and training sessions, and their commitment is truly inspiring.





CPR- CAS Prayer room: Our newly launched prayer ministry, CPR, has been a source of strength and spiritual growth for our youth group. We gather twice a month to pray for the ministry and witness the power of God answering our prayers.

The Bridge: Our young adult ministry, The Bridge, continues to thrive as a network of support and friendship for young adults in our village and church. It is heartwarming to see such strong connections being built within our community.

Community Relationships: We are grateful for the outstanding support we have received from The Barley Mow, The Co-op, The Basingstoke Food Link and various individuals in our community. Our relationships with these organisations have strengthened our mission and outreach efforts.

School: Our relationship with Oakley Church of England Junior School remains robust, with our presence being felt through various activities and initiatives like the prayer space, collective worship, well-being club, school trips, and RE support. We appreciate the warm welcome and support from the school leadership and both teaching and non-teaching staff in enabling us to serve the students.

In remembrance: On a somber note, we tragically lost one of our members in October 2023. We continue to hold his family and loved ones in our prayers and seek strength for them during this difficult time. We are thankful for the support and love shown by the community during this period.

In addition to our weekly meetings, we have organized and participated in various recreational and outdoor events for our young people, including a summer camp and a mental health outreach event called COLOUR. We are planning to organize COLOUR again this year.

Our youth group is actively connecting with other youth groups in Basingstoke through B:United and across our diocese.

As I look ahead to the future, I encourage everyone to continue praying for the youth of Oakley and to keep supporting our ministry in any way you can. Your love and dedication mean the world to us, and we are grateful for each and every one of you.

Sochi Ezanowai



The 8 O'Clockers

To wake up early, travel through quiet streets, enter a warm church and join with 20 to 30 fellow friendly welcoming worshippers around our Lord's table – well, what better way to enter the Sabbath! Our '8 0'clockers' community continues to gently grow in numbers and in depths of friendship and faith.

We follow the liturgy from Common Worship for our twice monthly Communion services and have just started enjoying the use of Bluetooth technology which allows for choirs such as that from Kings College Cambridge to accompany us in our sung worship! We have enjoyed a range of preachers, following the same series as the 10am but have recently begun a separate 'preaching stream' – we will use either the CofE Lectionary or a tailor made series or dip back into the 10am series as seems most appropriate.

One of the highlights of this past year was to witness and celebrate with Ken and Mavis Howes as they recommitted their vows to each other as they entered their 70th year of marriage.

We continue to enjoy breakfast together in the church centre after the service – and the size of table we now sit round, the overlapping tablecloths and the amount of provision needed are a beautiful visual image of the growth of this congregation. Huge thanks as ever to Richard Edwards for making sure that when we arrive the church is warm and welcoming, and to our team of readers and prayers for their contributions to the spiritual life of this service.

Sue Colman



Curate

I joined St Leonard's and St Lawrence's following my ordination on July 2nd, and Deniyi and I are very grateful for the warm welcome we have received. The first six months of my curacy have mainly been focused on getting to know people, seeing how different things in the church are run, and by getting involved in different activities and ministries. There has been a lot to learn and I really appreciate the graciousness of the church community as I make mistakes and try different things.

One of the great joys for me has been beginning to take Christenings - welcoming precious children and their families into the life of our church, celebrating and giving thanks for these young lives and offering a spiritual home to them and their parents. I am excited and a little nervous to move forward with the other occasional offices. I have been shadowing Ben at a couple of funerals and recently supported a family burying the ashes of a loved one. It is a privilege to walk alongside grieving families, and one that I hope to do justice to. I am booked to take my first wedding in August.

I am enjoying getting involved with our lovely schools through assemblies, class talks and Prayer Space - which I am taking over responsibility for from Helen. I have a background in children's and youth work and in teaching so it is great to be able to draw on that experience to engage with our wider community. Prayer Space is such a gift to the children at the junior school but also, I believe, to the team that support it and to the church - so thank you to all the volunteers who make it possible.

I have been involved in launching some new things. Hymns We Love, our new midweek service, with Anna, is a lovely little community and I am looking forward to seeing how it grows. At time of writing we are a couple of weeks into our Tuesday Lent course on marginalised women in the Bible, which has included some stimulating and challenging conversations about difficult biblical texts. I have also been bringing art supplies to the Well for a couple of months now to encourage people to engage in worship in different ways, and I am keen to see how this develops.



Ceri Deosun

Worship Group

It has continued to be a joy and privilege to lead the worship team at St Leonard's over the past year and Naomi and I are so thankful to be part of such a supportive, humble, and loving community of people.

As a team, it has been wonderful spending intentional time together learning new songs, trying out different arrangements of more well-known ones, working on more practical things like vocal layering & band dynamics and simply being in God's presence together - worshipping, praying, and eating!

A key highlight was when we initially ran through the song "I Speak Jesus" - we found ourselves unable to stop singing it over and over again!

We've loved seeing 'The Well' opened out to the wider church family, providing monthly opportunities for a more informal, unhurried worship space and it's been amazing seeing how this has organically developed, with it now also facilitating a creative space for worship through arts and craft as well as us trying a more ambient and festive "Carols @ The Well" in December.

Most recently, we've been extremely blessed with a purchase of a new keyboard and some much-needed AV equipment, and we are looking forward to seeing how this impacts our worship services in the coming months. Whilst we are aware there is still some work to do with the sound system, we are incredibly grateful for the PA team who continue to do a remarkable job!

Over the next year, our plan is to hold at least 2 team workshops, introduce some more new songs and in particular grow in our creativity and songwriting. Most importantly, we are keen to see us continue to grow in our love for God and continue to discover what whole-life worship looks like.

We are hugely thankful for the community of worship leaders, musicians and singers who serve so faithfully week in and week out with such unswerving joy and commitment.



We would love to see the team grow in numbers, particularly musicians, so if you are a keyboard, guitar, drum, bass player or singer we'd really love to hear from you! You can get in touch at: worship@oww.church

Chris and Naomi Greenhalgh





St Leonards Pre-School

Thank you to everyone who has prayed for the preschool this year, your support is invaluable. Please pray for all our preschool families, staff and the preschool committee in the year ahead.

In January 2024 we extended the opening hours of the preschool. St Leonard's is now open on a Tuesday afternoon so we can offer four full days of 9-3pm. We are also offering an early start of 8.30am every morning to a small group of children.

Before Christmas we had a sponsored fundraising event in which all the children participated in throwing snowballs into numbered buckets, making reindeer antlers and trotting around our running track 5 times and making and decorating salt dough Christmas tree decorations. A member of staff also made some Christmas decorations which we sold outside the Centre. With the help of gift aid we raised an amazing £902!

We held our Leavers' Concert, Harvest Celebration and Nativity in St Leonard's Church. All of these events were very well attended by our parents and their relatives. In July we had our first Sports Day on our outside play area.

With the government extending funding for the working parents of 2 year olds to 15 hours from April 2024 and 30 hours from September 2025 we are receiving lots of enquiries and visits. Please pray for discernment in planning for the year ahead.

Caroline Edwards – Preschool Manager.





Discipleship and Small Groups

Over the last several years we have sought to cultivate a diverse 'ecosystem' of intentional discipleship communities within our parish. These have ended up taking various forms. There are around a dozen small groups that meet regularly to pray, worship, study the Scriptures, and do life together through the good times and the bad. There are two film groups that do much the same but by bringing Scripture and daily life into creative dialogue with modern cinema. In 2023, Barbara Robson and Annie Wilson launched a brand-new type of discipleship group: 'Fields & Fellowship Walks'. The aim of this gathering is to walk together through the beautiful local footpaths around Oakley and Wootton, enjoying each other's company, but also intentionally reflecting about creation and the deep things of God. In 2022, Ben launched a new discipleship project called 'Going Deeper' – a monthly gathering which aims to be a no-holds-barred-ask-all-your-difficult-questions-space for exploring theology, humanity, and the nature of God. The first 'season' of Going Deeper traced the big themes of the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds. From September, the second 'season' has gone for a more organic approach by taking up a different question or theme or Biblical passage each month.

During Lent 2023, St Leonard's offered the Church of England's *Living in Love & Faith* course, which explores Christian teaching and learning about identity, sexuality, relationships, and marriage. There exists within our local church family a broad range of perspectives on these social, moral, relational, and theological issues. The purpose of running this course was never to compel everyone to arrive at the same point on the map or end up thinking in exactly the same way. Rather, this course was intended to begin an open conversation – one that we pray will continue to enable us to listen well to one another, safely share our experiences and honestly wrestle with our questions, and even learn to disagree in a more generous and loving way. Over 80 people took part in this challenging and illuminating Lent course.

During Advent, Ceri and Ben facilitated a short course on Waiting, which studied the characters of Sarah, Isaiah, and John the Baptist.

During Lent 2024, Ceri launched a new pilot project Lent course, designed in collaboration with her colleagues from the Centre for the Study of the Bible & Violence, called 'Misjudged'. This five-week daytime course explores the stories of marginalised women in the Bible. In the evenings, Ben led a series of evening Lent gatherings called 'Encountering God in the Wilderness'. These sessions incorporate music, art installations, video content, live worship, and small group reflection on the Scripture to explore key images and motifs from Exodus, Numbers, Leviticus and the Gospels – images like the burning bush, the tabernacle, the pillars of fire and cloud, and the priesthood of all believers. What new insights do these things reveal about the Triune God, the person of Jesus, the agency of the Holy Spirit, and the identity of the people of God?

At our last PCC Away Day, small group discipleship was identified as one of the key things in our church in need of new focus and intentional development. With so many newcomers joining our church family, the need to launch new small groups is becoming increasingly urgent. God is gathering to this place everything we need for us to journey together into new depths. If you're keen to be part of that small group journey – whether as a helper, a host, a facilitator or a punter, please speak with Ben or Erika Conti or one of the Churchwardens.

Ben Kautzer



Alpha

Our January Alpha meeting last year only attracted a small number of guests split into two groups. The small mix of guests meant that one guest without faith was outnumbered by those that did, and he left early. September 2023 was completely different with two larger groups and Ben being able join us, and most hungry for more, and an Alpha first - we served wine at the last Alpha meal.

Since 2018 we must have had well on the way to 100 people attending Alpha as guests. Many will have come on the course with a faith, though many have found faith there for the first time, and all have reflected that they have experienced for the first time a unity in the church and a life changing interaction with Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Alpha depends upon a sacrificial, loyal and incredibly dedicated team – of around 35 people (who mostly came from the first Alpha in 2018) – who, in addition to those who have attended as guests, have facilitated the hospitality to welcome so many folk. Whether that's to lay up tables so beautifully themed by Laura Thomas, to serve food, to wash up and clear away, all scheduled and organised by Susan and Trevor Stacey, to prepare terrible jokes as Tom does, to co-ordinate prayer, as Selina now does and, probably most importantly, to produce for 10 weeks the best food in Hampshire, now managed by Gill Garner. All of which is orchestrated, guided and hosted on the Alpha Saturday by Jamie.

Having Alpha as a consistent and regular rhythm of church life has been a catalyst for growth and depth in our church and the number of people who have decided to anchor their faith in a public act of commitment because of how God has used Alpha has been humbling.

And it has not only been the central Alpha that has been a feature of this. The Friday mums, Men at Mo, Sochi's bridge group that meets at the Barley Mo, the 8 0'clockers and many life/house groups have also provided informal hospitality centred gatherings where the question 'Is there more to life than this?' has in one way or another been the recurring conversation.

The challenge is in fulfilling Jesus last command – go and make disciples - taking Alpha graduates into effective fellowship through which they can continue their journey, and be emboldened to invite others to start their own.

- Some but not many guests transfer to be helpers in the future.
- There is little or no post Alpha support network in place for those guests that want to carry on their journey within their group.
- A sustainable Alpha would be for a guest to come back with a friend.

Our next evening Alpha is due to start on 24th April and the following day a day time Alpha will commence. Another course will be offered in September.

Tom Favell



Prayer Ministry

The heart of Prayer Ministry is to simply invite the Holy Spirit's presence and activity into someone's life as we pray for them - and in October last year 20 people from OWW went to St Michael's Church Basingstoke to refocus our thoughts and prayers on Prayer Ministry and to receive some refreshing and training from the team there.

Prayer for others has been part of the ministry life of OWW for decades, most recently led by John Eves with his wise and dedicated team. Covid acted as a circuit breaker and as we considered restarting this ministry it seemed good to have a time of reflection. It was noted that there have been different models of prayer ministry embraced by our church and by individuals over the years, the wisdom of which many will carry forward, but there is a real opportunity now, as we have a vision to 'restart' prayer ministry, to come together under a shared understanding and agreement of how we will now exercise this ministry. Also, the CofE have asked that churches ensure that people who offer their gifts in ministering to others are given a role description, are recruited safely and have appropriate levels of Safeguarding training and DBS's where needed. With Teresa Bates' invaluable help Prayer Ministry team members are being duly 'processed' – and we are both so grateful for people's patience and willingness to comply with these guidelines.

We will gather as a team just before Easter to pray for each other and for the church, and to look forward with a unified sense of how we can best make sure that whenever we meet together to worship we can offer a safe space for people to receive prayer in the gentle presence of the Holy Spirit. After Easter, in faith, Prayer Ministry will once again be offered week by week – Praise God!

Sue Colman



Men2Mow

Men 2 Mow is a twice monthly excuse for men of all faiths or none, to meet, to chat and to enjoy a meal together. It meets at the Barley Mow in Oakley on the second Wednesday of each month at lunchtime and on the final Tuesday in the evening.

Numbers attending vary between 8 and 16. Originally intended for men living on their own for whom evenings can be very lonely, this restriction no longer applies.

At least two non church members have attended the church services over Christmas and one has shown interest in attending The Bereavement Course.

If you know of any person who would be interested in the delights of a steak pie or delicious range of similar foods please contact Derek 01256 781006 who looks after the Wednesday lunchtime or Graeme 07870 380226 who books the Tuesday evening. We book the meals in advance to help the Mow's relatively small kitchen, but at least it's our local which has improved massively in recent months.

Derek Hall and Graeme Wheeler

Life Events

Christenings

If 2022 was a bumper year for weddings, 2023 was a bumper year for christenings! 21 children were baptised last year, which reflects an encouraging engagement with local families. We hosted 3 “Christening Journey” breakfasts during the year for groups of parents requesting baptism for their children, with home visits by Ben or Ceri for those unable to attend. These sessions are a good way for local families to meet each other as well as to provide time for discussion with the “Christening Team”. Christine manages the paperwork involved and, as a bonus, already knows many of the parents, which is a great connection. Sometimes families prefer to have their christening service as part of a main church service. Since the pandemic, most christenings typically involve a large number of guests and therefore take place on Sunday afternoons.

We also had our first annual “Celebration of Christening” all-age service in September, which was attended by some of the many families whose children have been baptised since the COVID “hiatus”.

We are keen to affirm our commitment to the families beyond the christening service, and to draw them deeper into the wider church community by responding to their needs in an appropriate and welcoming way. We also want to strengthen the connection with the various children’s groups that meet in the Centre throughout the week. To this end, we keep in regular email contact with the parents to let them know about family friendly services and events at St Leonard’s. For example, it has been encouraging to see some of the families at our termly Sunday Fun Days.

Christening Team – Ben, Ceri, Christine, Margaret and Richard



Adult Baptisms & Confirmation

On 11 June 2023, we had the great joy of gathering by the swimming pool in Malshanger to celebrate the full-immersion baptism / renewal of baptism vows of 3 remarkable members of our church family. On 25 June, we then welcomed +David Williams to preach and preside at a service of confirmation at St Leonard’s. Four candidates were confirmed that day including our own Churchwarden Helen Miller! On 18 February 2024, one of the people who joined that first Alpha in January 2020 was baptised in a wonderful service at Wootton St Lawrence. We now begin every year by booking the Bishop to come for a confirmation service. We don’t start with a list of candidates in hand. We don’t know what God is up to or who might come forward. We just set the date – as a bold act of faith – and pray that the Spirit would come and stir up new depth of faith in the hearts of the people. Every single year, we have become witnesses of God’s faithful work in our midst. As we look to this coming summer, let us risk to pray audacious prayers – that the Spirit of God would come again and continue to ignite new fires of faith, hope and love.

Ben Kautzer

Marriage

In 2023, four couples celebrated their wedding days at St Leonard's Church. In his role as Area Dean, Ben also presided over a wedding at St Andrew's Church in Sherborne St John. This couple began worshipping at St Leonard's in preparation for their wedding day and have remained part of our church family ever since.

Ben Kautzer

From January 2024, Ben and Jo partnered with Sue and Jamie to launch the first Marriage Course to take place at St Leonard's for many years. The Marriage Course is a series of seven sessions, designed to help couples invest in their relationship and build a strong marriage. 11 couples participated in the course (from newlyweds to long-ago-weds), including 3 engaged couples who will be getting married in our parish later this year. The course is designed to feel like a date night for the guests. Each couple enjoyed tasty desserts as they watched the session videos and discussed one-to-one with their partners a range of topics relevant for every couple: connection, communication, conflict, forgiveness, family, good sex, and love in action. Thanks to Penny, we celebrated the end of the course by sharing a delicious meal during the last session. We are so thankful for the fabulous team of volunteers who supported the course, providing the puddings, serving refreshments and ensuring all our guests felt at home. Our intention is to offer The Marriage Course at least once a year going forward. If you would like to be involved in supporting or even leading a future course, please let us know! Having experienced the course afresh for ourselves, we would highly, highly recommend that *every single couple* in our church invest in their marriage by doing this course.

Ben & Jo Kautzer, Sue & Jamie Colman





Bereavement

Last year, the OWW ministry team conducted approximately 30 funerals, thanksgivings, and interment of ashes services. These services took place at St Leonard's, St John's Garden of Remembrance, Wootton St Lawrence, and Basingstoke Crematorium. The majority of our funeral ministry offers pastoral care and support to families connected to our wider village community. With the sad passing of Anne Tavener, Matt Wise, Gordon Kay, Penny Jones and others, this was also another difficult year of painful losses for our church family. We continue to hold in our love, our presence, and our prayers so many others who continue to bear the scars of grief. In Loving Memory, Remembrance Day, and our Blue Christmas bereavement services continue to grow and are highly valued by members of the church and community alike. Through the growth of informal OWW bereavement support groups, the Christmas hamper project, the tireless work of the pastoral care team, and the Bereavement Journey course, a strong network of ongoing pastoral support has emerged in our church.

Ben Kautzer

Bereavement Journey

The Bereavement Journey, in brief, is a 7-week course for anyone who has been bereaved at any time and in any way. OWW has been running this course for a number of years – online during Covid, and since Covid we have run it three times in person, most recently on Wednesday afternoons in Autumn 2023. The course consists of films to watch and facilitated small groups where thoughts and feelings can be safely shared. The materials for this most recent course had been impressively updated and refilmed which enhanced an already well researched and presented offering. Hospitality is also a key element of the afternoon – a personal welcome followed by homemade cakes and hot drinks during a comfort break are indispensable. Huge thanks to Susan Stacey and Richard Cripps for being such a warm presence and for Alwyn and others who baked! Plans for the future include making this course more widely known through relationships with our local funeral director and the social prescribing team. We are in touch with other Basingstoke churches who are beginning to run The Bereavement Journey and the plan is that across Basingstoke it will run in at least one location every term, so people do not have to wait too long to join a course.

Sue Colman & Katey Butler



Welcome Team

We have a welcome team of approximately 35 volunteers, however I would like to see that number increase further. It would be great to have more men involved with welcoming and to encourage the older children and youth to participate too.

We introduced a system called SignUp for the volunteers to independently book the slots they want to help with. We have been using it for nearly 6 month and it has been working well. We also have a WhatsUp group where we post reminders and ask for extra support.

We have hosted two well attended team events to reinforce the message we want to give when we greet people at the door or when we interact with newcomers.

We have redesigned the welcome/connect card that is now found on every pew, given the entrance to the church a good tidy up and we are keeping the entrance notice board regularly updated.

We hosted our first “This Is Us” event at the beginning of February and 15 newcomers joined us. The morning gave us the opportunity to introduce the leadership team and share what we do. We are planning another event for September.

Erika Conti





Kintsugi Hope

In the UK if we break a bowl we throw it away or mend it with superglue, hiding the cracks in order to pretend it was never broken. However, In Japan when a pot gets broken they put a gold powder in the glue, so instead of hiding the cracks, they make a feature of them so that the object becomes more beautiful for being broken. And this art form is called Kintsugi. The belief being that beauty can come out of brokenness. We can discover treasure in life's scars – not something to be ashamed of but part of our story.

Ben spoke about Kintsugi at Church@Home on 20 June 2021 in the series Re-building a Church for Wellbeing and it is now taking shape for our community.

Four Group Leaders have been trained by the Kintsugi Hope team – Lara Goodall, Lou Eley, Janis Taylor and Lynda Cant and from the 4 January we have been running two Kintsugi Hope Courses on a Thursday – one in the morning and one in the evening at St Leonard's Centre. It is a confidential and safe place for up to 12 people to discuss the demands of modern living and finding ways to strengthen resilience, courage and wellbeing.

The Church community are leading the way with hundreds of churches running and planning to run Kintsugi courses throughout the UK. So we are not alone. Churches all over the UK want to take a major role in supporting people in their communities with their mental and emotional well-being. We are receiving heartwarming feedback about the current sessions.

"This group has reminded me how important it is to take care of myself and provided me with a safe space to explore and open up – thank you so much"

"I now feel I belong and can express my true feelings"

"I no longer feel alone and have people who care"



Sochi Ezeanowai is currently being trained to be a Group Leader for the younger people in our community and we are looking for others to be trained so that we can run more courses. Our vision is to reach out to people in all walks of life, to see a world where mental and emotional health is understood and accepted with safe and supportive communities for people to grow and flourish.

Lynda Cant

Womens Ministry

This year a small group have come together to begin women's ministry at St Leonard's. There are many female based activities and groups already meeting and praying together both church and village based. Our aim is to develop on these wonderful offerings by helping to promote them and looking at what else we can add.

In February we held a listening event where over 30 women came together to share experiences, ideas and hopes for the future. We were so grateful to those who gave their time to give feedback so that our ministry can be appropriately focused. Then in March we held our first event, a coffee and craft afternoon. This was supported by the Oakley Stitchers and the hub as well as our own dedicated women from the church community. This was a huge success with further similar events on the horizon. Our next event is to be a Menopause Information afternoon on 27th April, with a specialist speaker followed by time and space for women to connect and share with each other (with cake of course!)

Alongside these events we have some wonderful volunteers developing a directory of events and information for women so that it will be easier to engage in village life and make valuable social connections.

As you can probably see already, our programme for Inspiring Women aims to be rich and varied so that we can reach out to our wider community. We are being led on this exciting new journey by our faith and God's plan for Women's Ministry in Oakley.

Claire Bowers











Wootton St Lawrence

It has been a wonderful year with church and community life at Wootton St Lawrence continuing to strengthen and grow.

St Lawrence's Church is open for private prayer and reflection daily from 10am until 4pm and two services are held each month at 9am. The first Sunday of the month is a Communion service and the third Sunday of the month is a service of the word. Refreshments are offered after each service; this provides a welcome opportunity to get together with friends and a time to receive private prayer.

The aims of Friends of St Lawrence (FoSL) is to raise funds to provide a much-needed water supply and community space to St Lawrence's Church (The St Lawrence Church for Our Time project). To raise awareness of this project and to raise funds several events have been staged through the year.

In April the play "12 Hours" was performed in the church regarding Jane Austin's brief engagement which she received at Manydown House. In July, two choirs performed – Basingstoke Male Voice Choir and Ooh Mama.

FoSL have also created a recipe book and sell local honey and jam. These items are available to buy each day in the church.

The project is moving along. A Statement of Significance was undertaken last year to help guide with the development of the project and architects are being met with to take the project to the next step.

In August the 400th anniversary of the publication of Charles Butler's book "the Feminine Monarchie" was celebrated at The Bee Fayre 400. A former vicar of St Lawrence from 1600-1647 Charles Butler's legacy continues to be relevant and his findings are taught to beekeepers worldwide. This was a magnificent two-day event bringing together local communities, with beekeepers sharing their knowledge along with crafts, stalls, talks and family fun.

A truly memorable thanksgiving service was held by Ben Kautzer. Justin Welby, The Archbishop of Canterbury, shared a video message of thanks and praise and the choir Stile Antico sang the Bee Madrigal written by Charles Butler. It

was a joyous weekend enjoyed by hundreds of people.

The Harvest Festival took place in September. A service of thanksgiving and the church was decorated with greenery from the hedgerows and local produce.

A simple outdoor Service of Remembrance, led by Sue Colman, was held on Remembrance Sunday. The service is much appreciated and well attended. This year the names of those on the War Memorial from the First and Second World War were read out.

The weekend before Christmas was the return of the Christmas Tree Festival and the Big Sing. Christmas trees were decorated on Saturday by members of the local community. On Sunday afternoon those attending the Big Sing were able to vote for their favourite trees whilst enjoying a mince pie and a glass of mulled wine. It was a fun filled event including poetry, reading, musical performances and a Christmas sing along.

More than 100 people attended the Candlelit Crib Service on Christmas Eve. It is always wonderful to see the delight on the children's faces as they follow the star down the aisle and a special moment when the congregation gather in a circle holding their candles to sing Away in a Manger.

Maintaining the churchyard is an ongoing concern. A group clear up is held in the spring and autumn and a kind volunteer mows areas of the churchyard. However, we always need more volunteers to assist us on those days or at any time during the year. If you are interested, please do let the church office know and we would be extremely grateful to welcome you.

Should you wish to become a member of FOSL and be kept informed of its developments please email friends@oww.church

Serena Worthington











www.oakleywithwootton.org.uk







United Parish of Church Oakley with Wootton St Lawrence

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Charity Registration Number 1131064

CONTENTS

Independent Examiner's Report	3
Statement of Financial Activities	4
Balance Sheet	5
Notes to the Financial Statements	6 to 9

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Oakley with Wootton Parochial Church Council ("the PCC")

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's trustees of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').
Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the PCC are not required to be audited and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC 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 accounting requirements of 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 a part of an independent examination; or
4. The accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

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.

WELLER MACKRILL

Paul Sherrington FCCA, membership number 1326429
Weller Mackrill
Chartered Certified Accountants
South Building
Upper Farm
Wootton St Lawrence
Basingstoke
Hampshire
RG23 8PE

18 March 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ended 31st December 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2023	2022
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Incoming Resources from Donors	2a	136,792	93,609		230,401	228,765
Income from investments	2b	4,474	18,593	25	23,092	2,663
Gains / (Losses) on investments	2c		-213		-213	-301
Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading	2d	53,449	8,392		61,841	49,446
Income from Designated Activities	2e	83,221			83,221	78,572
		277,935	120,382	25	398,342	359,145
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Church Activities	3a	166,762	56,095		222,856	222,764
Governance Costs	3b	330			330	300
Costs of Designated Activities	3c	83,686			83,686	73,289
		250,778	56,095	0	306,873	296,354
NET INCOMING RESOURCES		27,157	64,287	25	91,469	62,791
DEPRECIATION	5	1,577	1,538		3,115	2,552
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		25,580	62,749	25	88,354	60,239
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2023		872,067	402,863	2,139	1,277,069	1,216,830
Balance carried forward at 31 December 2023		897,647	465,612	2,164	1,365,423	1,277,069

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2023	2022
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	5	**759,386**	**3,973**		**763,359**	765,276
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors	6	**3,693**	**6,901**		**10,595**	4,556
Investments		**0**	**6,084**		**6,084**	6,297
Short Term Deposits		**103,320**	**392,119**		**495,439**	452,918
Cash at Bank and in Hand		**35,635**	**56,854**	**2,164**	**94,653**	61,111
		142,648	**461,959**	**2,164**	**606,771**	524,881
LIABILITIES						
Amounts falling due within one year	7	**-4,388**	**-320**		**-4,707**	-13,088
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**138,261**	**461,639**	**2,164**	**602,063**	511,793
LIABILITIES						
Amounts falling due after more than one year	7	**0**	**0**		**0**	0
TOTAL NET ASSETS		**897,647**	**465,612**	**2,164**	**1,365,423**	1,277,069
PARISH FUNDS						
Unrestricted - Operating Reserves	8	**142,839**			**142,839**	117,259
Unrestricted - Relating to Property	8	**754,808**			**754,808**	754,808
Restricted	8		**465,612**		**465,612**	402,863
Endowment	8			**2,164**	**2,164**	2,139
		897,647	**465,612**	**2,164**	**1,365,423**	1,277,069

Approved by the PCC on 18 March 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Revd Ben Kautzer (PCC Chairman)

The notes on pages 6 to 9 form part of these accounts

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31st December 2023

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 01/01/2015) - (Charity SORP (FRS102)) and the Charities Act 2011.
The Parochial Church Council (PCC) constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of certain fixed assets and investments, 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.
There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue operating.

Funds
Unrestricted Funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated by the PCC for the operation of St Leonard's Pre-School are also unrestricted.
Restricted Funds comprise donations or grants intended for a specific PCC activity.

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 depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Incoming Resources
Donations are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving under gift aid is recognised when the income is received. Income Tax recoverable on gift aid is recognised at the same time as giving is received.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.
Income relating to other activities is recognised as the activities occur. Income and expenditure are recognised separately.

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

Resources Expended
Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

The diocesan Common Mission Fund is accounted for when payable. Other expenditure is accounted for when it is incurred.

Taxation
As a Charity the PCC does not undertake any activity which falls within the scope of UK Income taxation.

Fixed Assets
Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011. No value is placed on moveable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers these to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.
Other fixed property is vested in the Diocesan Board of Finance as Diocesan Authority under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, effectively in trust for the PCC, with the PCC acting as managing trustees. Under the Charities Act, such property is included in the accounts notwithstanding the PCC's lack of title. Such properties are valued by the PCC using the best available advice as to free market value for the current usage less any provision for restrictions on such a sale.
Fixtures, fittings and office equipment used within the church premises is capitalised at cost and depreciated on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, subject to the initial purchase price being greater than £1,000. Purchases with an initial value less than or equal to £1,000 are written off in the year of purchase.

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Current Assets
Amounts owing to the PCC at 31st December are shown as debtors less any provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund or at a bank.

Any sums legally due and payable by the PCC are included in the accounts as creditors and reflect the full value deemed likely to be paid. Contingent assets and liabilities are not brought into the accounts but may be reflected by way of note.

Financial Instruments
The PCC only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Reserves
Reserves act as a buffer to smooth fluctuations from month to month and protect against unforeseen significant reductions in giving or increases in expenditure. The PCC aim to hold the equivalent of approximately six months of Unrestricted Fund annual expenditure in the form of net current assets.

Agency Income and Expenditure
Voluntary donations received by the PCC, purely as agent, for specified objects over which the PCC has no discretion are not included in either the income or expenditure of these account.

2 INCOMING RESOURCES

2a Incoming resources from Donors
Substantially all of the donations received into both Unrestricted and Restricted Funds were from individual donors with income tax recovered under Gift Aid or from charitable trusts. As a total for the year, the largest such gift from one source was £7,500 into Unrestricted Funds and £35,000 into Restricted Funds.

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2023	2022
2b Income from Investments					
Interest on bank deposits and Church of England Deposit Fund	4,474	18,231	25	22,729	2,311
Divdends on M&G Charifund holding		363		363	352
	4,474	**18,593**	**25**	**23,092**	2,663
2c Gains / (Losses on investments					
Change in market value of units held in M&G Charifund		**(213)**		**(213)**	(301)
2d Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading					
Hire of St Leonard's and St John's Centres	38,215			38,215	30,963
Weddings and funerals	10,534			10,534	10,374
Other	4,700	8,392		13,092	8,109
	53,449	**8,392**		**61,841**	49,446

Included in the hire of St Leonard's Centre is £12,985 (2021: £10,419) charged to the Pre-School, which appears in the costs of Designated Activites (Note 3c)

2e Income from Designated Activities
Substantially all of the income received is from Hampshire County Council and individuals to fund places for children in pre-school.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31st December 2023

3 RESOURCES EXPENDED

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2023	2022
3a	**Activities Directly Relating to the work of the Church**				
	Common Mission Fund	76,618		76,618	75,539
	Fees paid to Diocese for weddings and funerals	5,409		5,409	6,359
	Payroll costs	38,773	34,144	72,917	53,225
	Donations to charities	11,000		11,000	10,000
	Utilities	3,223		3,223	13,937
	Insurance	6,618		6,618	6,054
	Other Churches & Centres Expenses	21,539	17,314	38,854	34,871
	Buildings maintenance	3,582		3,582	6,190
	Architect and Planning expenditure		4,637	4,637	16,589
	TOTAL RESOURCES USED	**166,762**	**56,095**	**222,856**	222,764

In the year ended 31st December 2023 £9,605 was received into Unrestricted Funds from the utility provider to St Leonard's Church in respect of the overcharge of VAT from 2013 to 2022; this has been credited to utility costs in the year.

3b	**Governance Costs**				
	Independent Examiner's fees	330		330	300
		330	**0**	**330**	300
3c	**Costs of Designated Activities**				
	Payroll costs	63,836		63,836	57,539
	Rent	12,985		12,985	10,419
	Other pre-school costs	6,866		6,866	5,331
	TOTAL RESOURCES USED	**83,686**	**0**	**83,686**	73,289

Rent is paid to St Leonard's Centre and appears in Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading (Note 2d).

4 STAFF COSTS

	2023	2022
The average number of staff on the payroll (most part time)	**13**	14
Salaries and wages	133,927	109,088
Pension Costs	2,826	1,676
	136,753	110,764

The stipend and pension of the Rector and Curate are paid by the Church Commissioners who receive money via the Diocese as part of the Common Mission Fund paid and are therefore not included in the numbers here. Expenses were reimbursed to a number of members of the PCC for materials and expenses incurred on Church Activities.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31st December 2023

5 FIXED ASSETS	Unrestricted Funds Land and Buildings	Unrestricted Funds Fittings and Equipment	Restricted Funds Fittings and Equipment	TOTAL
Actual / Deemed Cost				
As at 1st January 2023	754,808	72,318	7,690	834,816
Additions	0	1,199	0	1,199
As at 31st December 2023	754,808	73,517	7,690	836,015
Accumulated Depreciation				
As at 1st January 2023	0	67,362	2,179	69,541
Charge for the year		1,577	1,538	3,115
As at 31st December 2023	0	68,939	3,717	72,656
Net Value				
As at 31st December 2023	**754,808**	**4,578**	**3,973**	**763,359**
As at 31st December 2022	754,808	4,956	5,511	765,275

Land and buildings comprise two separate sites. The first is St Leonard's Centre, Rectory Road, Oakley, which is held at £729,808 being its cost of redevelopment in 2009 and improvement in 2022.
The second is adjacent to St Johns Garden of Remembrance and St John's Centre in Oakley but is not part of the Church consecrated grounds. The area is approximately 0.7 acres and its value is deemed to be £25,000. It should be noted that, if sold for building land, its current market value could exceed £700,000.

6 DEBTORS	2023	2022
Income tax recoverable	691	425
Accrued Gifts and Interest Receivable	7,284	425
Other debtors and prepayments	2,619	3,705
	10,595	4,556

7 LIABILITIES		
Amounts falling due within one year		
Fees payable to Diocese for weddings and funerals	1,079	997
Independent Examiner's fees payable	330	300
Donations to charities	0	5,200
Building Maintenance	0	2,600
Other creditors and accruals	3,298	3,991
	4,707	13,088
Amounts falling due after one year	**0**	**0**

8 PARISH FUNDS

8a Unrestricted funds comprise funds for use at the discretion of the PCC; those relating to property are shown separately as they are not readily realisable.

8b Restricted funds represent donations and a legacy for the redevelopment of St Leonard's Church, the maintenance and redevelopment of St Lawrence Church and the provision of community services.

8c Endowment funds are for chancel repairs, the maintenance of certain graves and the running of Sunday school at St Lawrence Church.

9 STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a charity (registered number 1131064) registered with the Charity Commission.

United Parish of Church Oakley with Wootton St Lawrence

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Charity Registration Number 1131064

CONTENTS

Independent Examiner's Report	3
Statement of Financial Activities	4
Balance Sheet	5
Notes to the Financial Statements	6 to 9

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Oakley with Wootton Parochial Church Council ("the PCC")

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's trustees of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').
Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the PCC are not required to be audited and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC 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 accounting requirements of 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 a part of an independent examination; or
4. The accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

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.

WELLER MACKRILL

Paul Sherrington FCCA, membership number 1326429
Weller Mackrill
Chartered Certified Accountants
South Building
Upper Farm
Wootton St Lawrence
Basingstoke
Hampshire
RG23 8PE

18 March 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ended 31st December 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2023	2022
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Incoming Resources from Donors	2a	136,792	93,609		230,401	228,765
Income from investments	2b	4,474	18,593	25	23,092	2,663
Gains / (Losses) on investments	2c		-213		-213	-301
Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading	2d	53,449	8,392		61,841	49,446
Income from Designated Activities	2e	83,221			83,221	78,572
		277,935	120,382	25	398,342	359,145
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Church Activities	3a	166,762	56,095		222,856	222,764
Governance Costs	3b	330			330	300
Costs of Designated Activities	3c	83,686			83,686	73,289
		250,778	56,095	0	306,873	296,354
NET INCOMING RESOURCES		27,157	64,287	25	91,469	62,791
DEPRECIATION	5	1,577	1,538		3,115	2,552
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		25,580	62,749	25	88,354	60,239
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2023		872,067	402,863	2,139	1,277,069	1,216,830
Balance carried forward at 31 December 2023		897,647	465,612	2,164	1,365,423	1,277,069

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2023	2022
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	5	**759,386**	**3,973**		**763,359**	765,276
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors	6	**3,693**	**6,901**		**10,595**	4,556
Investments		**0**	**6,084**		**6,084**	6,297
Short Term Deposits		**103,320**	**392,119**		**495,439**	452,918
Cash at Bank and in Hand		**35,635**	**56,854**	**2,164**	**94,653**	61,111
		142,648	**461,959**	**2,164**	**606,771**	524,881
LIABILITIES						
Amounts falling due within one year	7	**-4,388**	**-320**		**-4,707**	-13,088
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**138,261**	**461,639**	**2,164**	**602,063**	511,793
LIABILITIES						
Amounts falling due after more than one year	7	**0**	**0**		**0**	0
TOTAL NET ASSETS		**897,647**	**465,612**	**2,164**	**1,365,423**	1,277,069
PARISH FUNDS						
Unrestricted - Operating Reserves	8	**142,839**			**142,839**	117,259
Unrestricted - Relating to Property	8	**754,808**			**754,808**	754,808
Restricted	8		**465,612**		**465,612**	402,863
Endowment	8			**2,164**	**2,164**	2,139
		897,647	**465,612**	**2,164**	**1,365,423**	1,277,069

Approved by the PCC on 18 March 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Revd Ben Kautzer (PCC Chairman)

The notes on pages 6 to 9 form part of these accounts

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31st December 2023

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 01/01/2015) - (Charity SORP (FRS102)) and the Charities Act 2011.
The Parochial Church Council (PCC) constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of certain fixed assets and investments, 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.
There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue operating.

Funds
Unrestricted Funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated by the PCC for the operation of St Leonard's Pre-School are also unrestricted.
Restricted Funds comprise donations or grants intended for a specific PCC activity.

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 depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Incoming Resources
Donations are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving under gift aid is recognised when the income is received. Income Tax recoverable on gift aid is recognised at the same time as giving is received.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.
Income relating to other activities is recognised as the activities occur. Income and expenditure are recognised separately.

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

Resources Expended
Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

The diocesan Common Mission Fund is accounted for when payable. Other expenditure is accounted for when it is incurred.

Taxation
As a Charity the PCC does not undertake any activity which falls within the scope of UK Income taxation.

Fixed Assets
Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011. No value is placed on moveable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers these to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.
Other fixed property is vested in the Diocesan Board of Finance as Diocesan Authority under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, effectively in trust for the PCC, with the PCC acting as managing trustees. Under the Charities Act, such property is included in the accounts notwithstanding the PCC's lack of title. Such properties are valued by the PCC using the best available advice as to free market value for the current usage less any provision for restrictions on such a sale.
Fixtures, fittings and office equipment used within the church premises is capitalised at cost and depreciated on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, subject to the initial purchase price being greater than £1,000. Purchases with an initial value less than or equal to £1,000 are written off in the year of purchase.

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Current Assets
Amounts owing to the PCC at 31st December are shown as debtors less any provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund or at a bank.

Any sums legally due and payable by the PCC are included in the accounts as creditors and reflect the full value deemed likely to be paid. Contingent assets and liabilities are not brought into the accounts but may be reflected by way of note.

Financial Instruments
The PCC only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Reserves
Reserves act as a buffer to smooth fluctuations from month to month and protect against unforeseen significant reductions in giving or increases in expenditure. The PCC aim to hold the equivalent of approximately six months of Unrestricted Fund annual expenditure in the form of net current assets.

Agency Income and Expenditure
Voluntary donations received by the PCC, purely as agent, for specified objects over which the PCC has no discretion are not included in either the income or expenditure of these account.

2 INCOMING RESOURCES

2a Incoming resources from Donors
Substantially all of the donations received into both Unrestricted and Restricted Funds were from individual donors with income tax recovered under Gift Aid or from charitable trusts. As a total for the year, the largest such gift from one source was £7,500 into Unrestricted Funds and £35,000 into Restricted Funds.

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2023	2022
2b Income from Investments					
Interest on bank deposits and Church of England Deposit Fund	4,474	18,231	25	22,729	2,311
Divdends on M&G Charifund holding		363		363	352
	4,474	**18,593**	**25**	**23,092**	2,663
2c Gains / (Losses on investments					
Change in market value of units held in M&G Charifund		**(213)**		**(213)**	(301)
2d Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading					
Hire of St Leonard's and St John's Centres	38,215			38,215	30,963
Weddings and funerals	10,534			10,534	10,374
Other	4,700	8,392		13,092	8,109
	53,449	**8,392**		**61,841**	49,446

Included in the hire of St Leonard's Centre is £12,985 (2021: £10,419) charged to the Pre-School, which appears in the costs of Designated Activites (Note 3c)

2e Income from Designated Activities
Substantially all of the income received is from Hampshire County Council and individuals to fund places for children in pre-school.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31st December 2023

3 RESOURCES EXPENDED

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2023	2022
3a	**Activities Directly Relating to the work of the Church**				
	Common Mission Fund	76,618		76,618	75,539
	Fees paid to Diocese for weddings and funerals	5,409		5,409	6,359
	Payroll costs	38,773	34,144	72,917	53,225
	Donations to charities	11,000		11,000	10,000
	Utilities	3,223		3,223	13,937
	Insurance	6,618		6,618	6,054
	Other Churches & Centres Expenses	21,539	17,314	38,854	34,871
	Buildings maintenance	3,582		3,582	6,190
	Architect and Planning expenditure		4,637	4,637	16,589
	TOTAL RESOURCES USED	**166,762**	**56,095**	**222,856**	222,764

In the year ended 31st December 2023 £9,605 was received into Unrestricted Funds from the utility provider to St Leonard's Church in respect of the overcharge of VAT from 2013 to 2022; this has been credited to utility costs in the year.

3b	**Governance Costs**				
	Independent Examiner's fees	330		330	300
		330	**0**	**330**	300
3c	**Costs of Designated Activities**				
	Payroll costs	63,836		63,836	57,539
	Rent	12,985		12,985	10,419
	Other pre-school costs	6,866		6,866	5,331
	TOTAL RESOURCES USED	**83,686**	**0**	**83,686**	73,289

Rent is paid to St Leonard's Centre and appears in Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading (Note 2d).

4 STAFF COSTS

	2023	2022
The average number of staff on the payroll (most part time)	**13**	14
Salaries and wages	133,927	109,088
Pension Costs	2,826	1,676
	136,753	110,764

The stipend and pension of the Rector and Curate are paid by the Church Commissioners who receive money via the Diocese as part of the Common Mission Fund paid and are therefore not included in the numbers here. Expenses were reimbursed to a number of members of the PCC for materials and expenses incurred on Church Activities.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31st December 2023

5 FIXED ASSETS	Unrestricted Funds Land and Buildings	Unrestricted Funds Fittings and Equipment	Restricted Funds Fittings and Equipment	TOTAL
Actual / Deemed Cost				
As at 1st January 2023	754,808	72,318	7,690	834,816
Additions	0	1,199	0	1,199
As at 31st December 2023	754,808	73,517	7,690	836,015
Accumulated Depreciation				
As at 1st January 2023	0	67,362	2,179	69,541
Charge for the year		1,577	1,538	3,115
As at 31st December 2023	0	68,939	3,717	72,656
Net Value				
As at 31st December 2023	**754,808**	**4,578**	**3,973**	**763,359**
As at 31st December 2022	754,808	4,956	5,511	765,275

Land and buildings comprise two separate sites. The first is St Leonard's Centre, Rectory Road, Oakley, which is held at £729,808 being its cost of redevelopment in 2009 and improvement in 2022.
The second is adjacent to St Johns Garden of Remembrance and St John's Centre in Oakley but is not part of the Church consecrated grounds. The area is approximately 0.7 acres and its value is deemed to be £25,000. It should be noted that, if sold for building land, its current market value could exceed £700,000.

6 DEBTORS	2023	2022
Income tax recoverable	691	425
Accrued Gifts and Interest Receivable	7,284	425
Other debtors and prepayments	2,619	3,705
	10,595	4,556

7 LIABILITIES		
Amounts falling due within one year		
Fees payable to Diocese for weddings and funerals	1,079	997
Independent Examiner's fees payable	330	300
Donations to charities	0	5,200
Building Maintenance	0	2,600
Other creditors and accruals	3,298	3,991
	4,707	13,088
Amounts falling due after one year	**0**	**0**

8 PARISH FUNDS

8a Unrestricted funds comprise funds for use at the discretion of the PCC; those relating to property are shown separately as they are not readily realisable.

8b Restricted funds represent donations and a legacy for the redevelopment of St Leonard's Church, the maintenance and redevelopment of St Lawrence Church and the provision of community services.

8c Endowment funds are for chancel repairs, the maintenance of certain graves and the running of Sunday school at St Lawrence Church.

9 STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a charity (registered number 1131064) registered with the Charity Commission.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF OAKLEY WITH WOOTTON

England & Wales - Charity number 1131064

Accounts



United Parish of
Oakley with Wootton St Lawrence

Annual Report 2022

www.oakleywithwootton.org.uk

Charity Registration Number 1131064

Contents

- Rector's Report 3-7
- PCC Report 8-9
- Financial Report 10
- Safeguarding 11
- From The Wardens 12
- Evergreen 13
- The 8 O'Clockers 14
- A Word From Sue 15
- Parish Office 15
- Worship Group 16
- Social Committee 16
- Pastoral Care 17
- St Leonards Pre-School 18
- Alpha 19
- Small Groups And Discipleship 20
- Men's Curry Group 20
- Church For Our Time St Leonards 21
- FOSL And Church For Our Time St Lawrence 22
- Eco Church 22
- Wootton St Lawrence 23
- Childrens Groups 24
- Mission Action Group 24
- Youth And Young People 25



Rector's Report

It is amazing to think that this will be my fourth Rector's report for our APCM – representing four remarkable, unpredictable, challenging, formative, and utterly joy-full years as part of this beautiful community we are privileged to call our home.

At our last APCM, I spoke of 2021 as a time for '**rebuilding the walls**' of our life together as a church (Neh 1-7.). As we emerged from the pandemic, basically every dimension of parish life – worship, discipleship, infrastructure, teams – all of it needed to be rebuilt from the ground up. Throughout that year, we were reminded time and again that *'unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain'* (Ps 127.1).

2022 marked the start of a new season. The ordinary rhythms, systems and structures are now back up and running once again. Life has more or less returned to normal. However, church hasn't felt 'normal' at all. It's felt radically different. Something new is happening. That beautiful difference has everything to do with all the many people who are beginning to find a place of belonging in our church.

As people were drawn to Nehemiah's Jerusalem once its walls had been restored, so God is now drawing new people to St Leonard's and St Lawrence. If 2021 was a year of rebuilding, then 2022 has been a year of growth, change, loss, and renewal.

A Time of Growth

One of the defining experiences of 2022 was standing at the front of church on a Sunday morning, taking in the buzz of conversations and smiling faces, and thinking to myself … gosh … there are a lot of people here today that I don't even recognise! Perhaps you've had that experience too. Every Sunday we are welcoming single people, young families, older couples – you name it – who are making brand new connections with our church.

Some people have discovered St Leonard's since moving into the village. Others have connected or re-connected through Alpha. For some it was a friend inviting them along … just 'come and see'. For others the journey began with a baptism or a pastoral visit, a conversation at the school gate or a chance encounter in the village. Most people who have stepped across the threshold of St Leonard's have already worshipped with us online through Church@Home. It has been one of our top priorities to provide a deep and warm welcome to anyone and everyone who's been willing to have a go and comes along.

Everyone one of our worship services at St Leonard's and Wootton St Lawrence has experienced new growth in the last year. Somewhere between 60 and 80 adults have joined our church family since the end of lockdown. What an astonishing answer to prayer! For a church of our size (150-200 members), this influx of newcomers represents is a significant amount of growth and change. What could be more exciting! God has set in motion a profound work of renewal in our midst and its emerging from the margins. It's just getting started.

Indeed, it's not just services that have experienced new life; signs of growth are popping up all over the place.

We are seeing growth in our weddings, christenings, adult baptisms, and confirmations. Read the reports from Helen and Sochi and you'll see that we have significantly expanded our engagement with children, youth and young adults – through CAS AM/PM, the GAP, Teen's Dinner, and the Bridge … not to mention Youth Café, schools ministry, and other outreach into the community.





Read Penny's report to discover how the St Leonard's Centre is buzzing once again with all manner of groups, clubs, and activities. Caroline's report gives us a glimpse into the busy, thriving, hub of colour and experiential learning that is the St Leonard's Pre-School.

Of course, whenever we speak of growth in Kingdom terms, we are also talking about **depth, discipleship** and **belonging**. It has been such a privilege to serve alongside Sue Colman and our gifted team of lay preachers as we've tackled important topics together like the radical hospitality of Jesus, the person and work of the Holy Spirit, whole life worship, and the practice of joy. Read the discipleship report from Jan or the Alpha report from Jamie and you'll see the many opportunities available in our church to journey deeper into faith.

Worship and **prayer** have long been the spiritual heartbeat of our church. This year has seen a wonderful renewal of the worshipping life of our church. In the summer, we officially welcomed Chris and Naomi Greenhalgh as our new worship team coordinators, and music in our church continues to flourish under their leadership. Several new faces have joined the worship and AV teams. I even managed to rediscover some long-lost percussion skills on the cajon! In addition to establishing a sustainable post-pandemic pattern of services, we started a monthly rhythm of midweek communion service at St Leonard's, developed our termly all-age Sunday Fun Day celebrations, and launched brand new 'Worship at the Well' gatherings at the Centre.

A Time of Change

To grow is to change. A year ago, Men@Hart, Going Deeper, Curry Club, The Well, Oakley Green Network, CAS, the Bridge, and the Warm Space didn't even exist. We have seen numerous creative projects taking shape this year. New preparation sessions have been developed for marriage couples and christening families. The pastoral care team has expanded its support for those who are bereaved. Read Linda's report and you'll see

how our church continues to advocate for creation care and environmental sustainability in the community.

In other words, 2022 has been a brilliant year for 'having a go'!

We've also experienced changes with our church buildings. Both St Leonard's and St Lawrence have presented some 'challenges' with their physical infrastructure. Holes in roofs, dysfunctional heating systems, ageing electrics, unreplaceable lighting … Needless to say, the buildings and maintenance team has had their work cut out for them! A huge thanks to Mark and Rowland for everything you've done this year to keep the buildings going. When you read Derek's 'Church For Our Time' report, you'll be encouraged to discover all the quiet work has continued behind the scenes this year to move the build project into its next phase of development. But perhaps the most exciting change to our buildings has been instalment at the Centre of a fabulous all-weather surface play area for the Pre-School.

As the church expands, we recognise the need for our teams and infrastructure to adapt and expand too. It has been amazing to witness the emergence of a new '**staff team**' within our parish. Sue was licensed as associate minister in our parish in 2019. Victoria joined Penny in the office team in 2021. Sochi was appointed as our full-time youth worker in 2022. In the next 6 months, we are launching two additional posts. After her ordination this summer, Ceri Webb will be appointed as our new curate. We are about to appoint a part-time staff member to the pastoral care team to be our new community advocate for older people. When you combine all these roles with the leadership of our fantastic churchwardens, Katey our BCM pastoral care team leader, Chris and Naomi leading our worship team, and so on … wow! God is truly equipping us for this new season of growth and change.

These appointments are not ends in themselves; they are catalysts for building new teams to resource the mission and ministry of our church. There are so many amazing opportunities for people to get involved with what is happening here. When we pull together and each lean into God's unique call on each of our lives, we have everything we need to live out God's mission for the life of the world.

A Time of Loss

Even as we celebrate all these wonderful developments that have taken place in the life of our church over the last year, we recognise that this also been a year of overwhelming loss. As a nation, we will forever associate 2022 with the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Closer to home, I don't think any of us will be able to look back on this year without also feeling a pang of grief and pain at the immense loss of so many dear friends and mentors and champions of the faith.

We remember before God our beloved brothers and sisters: Janet Raymond, David Goucher, Di Rundle, Reg Airey, Mike Compton, and Gillian Eves. Each of their lives taught us what it looks like to live our faith out loud … how to love Jesus with everything we've got … how to become beacons of hope signalling the in-breaking of God's kingdom of God right here in the rough and tumble of our ordinary lives.

Their absence leaves an enormous hole. And we miss them terribly.

A Time of Renewal

It has been a long, complicated journey coming out of the pandemic. What began as a season for recovery and rebuilding, then transitioned into a season of welcoming and expanding. And now we find ourselves on the threshold of a new season. God's Spirit is on the move once again growing, equipping, renewing his people that we might be formed more and more into …





A church for **worship**
A church for **growth**
A church for **belonging**
A church for **depth**
A church for **wellbeing**
A church for **the next generation**
A church for **community**
A church for **our time**

As we help our new brothers and sisters arrive, settle in and find their place and purpose at church, this moment invites all of us to make a purposeful shift from welcome to *belonging*, from friendly greetings to *intentional relationships*, from noticing gifts to *practicing them*. There are so many opportunities to 'have a go' and get involved. We would love to have that conversation! I can't wait to see where God is going to lead us.

A Word of Thanks

The Apostle Paul opens his remarkable letter to the Philippians with a joyful word of gratitude to God for his brothers and sisters.

> *I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1:3-6)*

As I reflect on everything that has taken in place in the last year, I can't also help but thank God for *you*. I am so grateful for the countless ways you serve and bless our community in the name of Jesus.

I am inspired by the profound and costly ways you love, care, and support one another through good times and bad. I am humbled by the ways you so generously give of your resources, time, and talents for the sake of the Kingdom. I am constantly encouraged by your willingness to embrace change, your desire to welcome newcomers into our midst, and your longing to see hearts transformed by the power of prayer.

From the first day until now, God has been forging between us a strong and lasting partnership in the gospel. The Spirit is on the move in us and through us and around us and beyond us … at times despite us … but always with us and for us beckoning us deeper and deeper into the love of Jesus.
Whenever Jo and I step back and reflect on all that God has done, it fills our heart with both **joy** and **hope**.

My friends, we are so blessed to be served by such an incredible team. I hope you realise what a gift the servant leaders of our church are to us all. Words aren't adequate to the task, but I want to express my deepest thanks and appreciation for Helen and Mark, Penny and Vic, Katey and Thelma, Simon and Teresa, Chris and Naomi, Sue and Jamie, and Sochi. We talk a lot about being 'a church family'. Sharing life and ministry together with you has transformed that little phrase from an abstract idea to a precious reality. Thank you for your boundless enthusiasm, wisdom, care, and support.

As we all step out into this new season together, my prayer is that every person at St Leonard's and Wootton St Lawrence would discover God's unique calling for our lives, and that each of us would have the courage to say 'yes' … and pray with bold expectancy 'come, Holy Spirit!'

Let us commit this time to God:

God of mission,
we are your Church,
Christ's body on earth,
your holy people for your needy world.
In our thinking, give us wisdom,
in our planning, give us faith to move mountains,
in our action, give us the power of your Spirit,
that all we do and think and say
may be for your glory and for the growth of the kingdom of your Son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Yours in Christ,
Ben



Parochial Church Council Report

Summary

Oakley with Wootton Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the operation and maintenance of two Centres: St Leonard's and St John's.

The parish has two churches: St Leonard's in Oakley and St Lawrence in Wootton. The churchyards at St John's and at St Lawrence's are open for burials although the PCC is actively working with the relevant agencies to prepare for the closure of St John's graveyard.

In 2022, the PCC oversaw the return to a more regular pattern of worship, in both St Leonards and St Lawrence, with growing physical attendance whilst the numbers taking advantage of the streamed services remains high. However, it is also true to say that Covid continued to cause the odd disruption. A socially distanced mid-week communion service is held once a month and St Leonards has been open for prayer to Ukranian refugees living and meeting locally.

During the year we experienced sadness through the loss of several senior members of our congregation. At the same time, we experienced the joy of welcoming and getting to know many newcomers.

The arrival of Sochi Ezeanowai as our youth worker in May has led to a rapid expansion of our work with local young people. The PCC appreciates the efforts of those who stepped up to support Sochi's various initiatives. At times, getting this team of volunteer helpers in place stretched the safeguarding team, led by Teresa Bates.

The Friends of St Lawrence, Wootton, was set up as a PCC sub-committee with the aims of raising awareness of the heritage of St Lawrence Church and raising funds for a reordering to install a servery and a toilet.

As we looked forward at our away day meeting, the PCC started to recognise and address the challenges of church growth and the importance of building inclusive relationships, signposting newcomers to teams that reflect their talents and ensuring that our structures can scale.

Building related projects completed during the year include the installation of the all-weather surface and fencing at St Leonards centre and interim measures to allow the heating to be used in St Leonards church.

Structure, governance and management

The procedures for appointing PCC members are set out in the Church Representation Rules. In Oakley with Wootton parish, the membership of the PCC in 2022 consisted of the Rector, Churchwardens, Treasurer, Administrator, Deanery Synod representatives and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

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 full PCC met 5 times during the year. The average level of attendance was 76%

Given its wide responsibilities, the PCC has a number of committees dealing with different aspects of parish life. The Leadership Team continued to meet weekly and support short term decision-making to enable the church to respond to the changing implications of the pandemic. This team includes clergy, church wardens, church administrator and the lead for Pastoral Care.

Teams responsible for Safeguarding, Finance, Buildings and Maintenance, A Church for Our Time, Centre Management, outward giving (Mission Action Group) report to the PCC as necessary.

Safeguarding

The Church Safeguarding Officer is Teresa Bates. Teresa leads a team that supports all church activities with policy, policy compliance, procedures and advice.

The PCC has complied with the duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure of 2016.

Administrative information

The United Parish of Oakley with Wootton includes two churches (St Leonard's and St Lawrence) and a Garden of Remembrance on the site of the chapel of St John in East Oakley. It is part of the Diocese of Winchester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is:

The Church Office, St Leonard's Centre Rectory Road,
Oakley, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG23 7ED.

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and is registered as a charity (number 1131064).

Our Independent Examiner is Paul Sherrington, MBA FCCA

PCC members at 31/12/22

Ex Officio PCC members: Incumbent: Rev'd Ben Kautzer; Associate Minister: Rev'd Sue Colman; Treasurer: Simon Constantine; PCC Secretary, Penny Brown

Churchwardens: Helen Miller; Mark Peryer

Deanery Synod PCC members: Rev'd Ben Kautzer, Helen Miller

Elected PCC members:

- Teresa Bates (1st term ends 2023), Kate Goucher (1st term ends 2023), Phillipa Spicer (1st term ends 2023).
- Abigail Compton-Burnett (2nd term ends 2024, Graeme Wheeler (1st term ends 2024)
- Katey Butler (2nd term ends 2025), Tina Skinner (2nd term ends 2025), Selina Craig (1st term ends 2025)

Co-opted PCC members:

- Tom Favell

PCC Report Approved by the PCC on 27th February 2023



Financial Review

After two years in which we were impacted financially by the pandemic, 2022 returned to a more normal level of income and expenditure with both St Leonard's and St John's Centres open throughout the year. Whilst utility (most notably electricity) costs increased in the year, this was mitigated by being a member of the Parish Buying Scheme with rates fixed at pre-2022 levels until October.

The most significant income for the Church is of course giving, primarily from our worshipping community and once again this increased over the previous year, enabling us to continue the many streams of ministry as you will read elsewhere in this report. We also met our requested contribution to the Diocese Common Mission Fund in full once again; this is by far our largest outgoing.

During the year, a youth worker was appointed to develop further the work amongst young people in our community. Specific gifts have been committed to ensure this is at least a three year post and income and costs associated with this are shown within Restricted Funds.

The financial systems and controls were reviewed during the year, having been redesigned in 2021. They continue to provide an efficient and effective framework within which both the monthly management and annual statutory accounts are prepared on a timely and accurate basis. The PCC continues to have full visibility of all activities regularly, including Pre-School, Youth and Evergreens, where significant funds are involved.

The Church and Centres together showed a surplus for the year of £8,144 (2021: deficit £6,932) and the Pre-School a surplus of £5,282 (2021: surplus £6,966); both are included in Unrestricted Funds. Restricted Funds increased by £48,351, primarily due to gifts being made to fund the appointment of our Youth Worker.

£28,830 was invested in an all weather surface and new fencing at St Leonard's Centre during the year, funded primarily from the Pre-School's reserves.

The full Financial Statements are included in the Annual Report.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the PCC to maintain sufficient unrestricted operating reserves (those not relating to property) to cover the normal ministry, management and administration costs of the Church for a minimum of six months. Additional reserves are set aside where, in the view of the PCC, it is prudent to allow for future planned spending.

The level of unrestricted operating reserves as at 31 December 2022 was £117,259 (2020: £132,664), which represents approximately six and a half months of normal expenditure.

Simon Constantine, Treasurer



Safeguarding

This parochial church council adopts the Church of England Safeguarding Policies and Practice Guidance. In particular, our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people, and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

With the arrival of Sochi, the setting up of CAS and an increase of church activities, there has been a huge focus on the recruitment of new volunteers. Over this past year we have safely recruited a total of 24 volunteers to help with the different children/youth groups including GAP, Sundays and CAS.

We have also recruited 6 new drivers to the Pastoral Care team.

Our church policies have been reviewed for safeguarding and domestic abuse. With an awareness of the influence of social media, highlighted by the greater involvement with youth, a new social media policy has been produced and agreed by PCC.

The Diocese has introduced an online Parish Dashboard, which is a useful tool to ensure we regularly audit our safeguarding practices, focusing our minds on areas we need to review.

With new templates for risk assessments, we are on our way to ensuring all our groups keep these up to date and reviewed annually.



As a church family we need to be alert to safeguarding, it is the responsibility of all of us. We must ensure that all taking part in church activities can be confident that they are in a safe protective space led by people willing and able to deal appropriately with any concerns. We stress the importance that all volunteers are up to date with safeguarding training. In the last year alone at least 32 people have undertaken further training, with more booked on face to face training in March.

I would like to thank all the leaders and helpers of our groups for the work they do. Without their commitment to provide safe spaces, policies and procedures alone would be ineffective.

For information and links to diocesan or CofE advice, go to https://www.oakleywithwootton.org.uk/safeguarding

Teresa Bates (PSO)

From The Wardens

One of the joys of being a Church Warden is to be stopped by a member of the congregation and to be asked “what’s happening about such and such?”. That can sometimes be challenging; often it can be an opportunity to share; and occasionally it leads to a revelation.

Elsewhere in this annual report you will see all kinds of evidence of a very busy church community. Our role is to help facilitate the good things and deal with the not so good things. We try to encourage initiative and be supportive of all the hard work we see going on around us. We look out for the wellbeing of Ben and his family. We also spend time working with him either to bring projects and initiatives into land, or to persuade him to change his plans, especially when they involve Donkeys. We spend time on buildings and facilities, applying for permissions, managing contractors or doing the work ourselves. We work with the various teams across the Parish to make sure that church services happen and run smoothly; that children’s groups and youth activities run; that the pastoral care team can cope with all the needs that arise; and that all the appropriate safeguarding measures are in place. We work with the PCC to maintain oversight of what is going on within the Parish and work closely with the finance team to make sure that we’re working within the budget. Once a year we check the inventory to make sure everything is accounted for.

When we are not doing any of this, it’s a question of keeping our ears to the ground, trying to be a positive influence, and dealing with problems before anyone notices.

During 2022, we were thrilled to see the long-held vision of a Parish youth worker finally come into being and we have been working to help make that a success. We worked to put the new access arrangements and the all-weather playground surface for St Leonards centre in place and we are pleased to see the difference that has made to weekdays at the centre. Behind the scenes, we have been helping to set up new teams to address other initiatives, recorded elsewhere.

Do feel free to stop and ask us about what’s going on. We enjoy being challenged.

Mark Peryer *Helen Miller*







Evergreen

It was a great relief to be able to enjoy a complete 2022 Programme for the Evergreens, following all the previous Covid interruptions.

During the year we welcomed eight new members, including four gentlemen, but sadly three members died and two moved into Residential Care.

Our programme included nature films around Hampshire and Purbeck; Easter and In Loving Memory Communions; Tabletop Gardening; an Outing for Afternoon Tea at Roseborne Garden Centre – courtesy of Mervyn's Coaches - via a country route; and an informative talk on Ukraine by John Burbidge-King.

In June, we celebrated the Queen's Jubilee in style with a very special tea and an appropriate quiz. In December, we were invited to the Junior School for tea, mince pies and entertainment from the children – it was good to return to the school after a two-year gap because of Covid restrictions.

At Easter we delivered bunches of daffodils to all the Evergreens and at Christmas a special box of Summerdown Mint Chocolates. Both gifts were accompanied by an Evergreen Card, designed by Graeme Wheeler.

We are so grateful for the faithful commitment of our team of helpers and drivers. Evergreens could not function without them.

Marilyn and Rodney Scott

The 8 O'Clockers

The 8am Communion Service emerged out of the restrictions of Covid to find itself thriving and strengthening in identity, purpose, and numbers. The liturgy and format of the service (traditional, structured, familiar) focusses on coming to the Lord's Table for Communion which provides a framework which makes space for everyone in their approach to prayer and spiritual participation. Through this a family has been created which works well for all, whether regulars or, as and when, joiners are warmly welcomed.

Everyone likes the traditional hymn especially where it has choral accompaniment, and the service evokes a strong spiritual sense and allows time for contemplation and private prayer. It is providing a safe space for occasional guests who for various reasons need somewhere quiet to meet with God in the company of others. The fellowship shines through, not just in the service itself but the way we gather afterwards for breakfast - the buying, serving, and helping and shared by all; then breaking bread and conversing around a single table.

A recent guest speaker said he was instantly struck by how welcoming we all were from the time he stepped into the church to the fellowship of breakfast. He summed up his experience in the words from Psalm 133:1 "How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!"

We enjoy the gifts each brings – from reading the scriptures, leading us in thoughtful intercessions, providing delicious breakfast fare – with a particular thank you to Richard Edwards who, come rain or shine, opens the church at 07:30 and welcomes us with a big smile.

Hopes for the year ahead include encouraging congregation members to preach and welcoming more to join our lovely fellowship.

To end on a precious highlight – Derek and Margaret Burgess renewed their vows after 60 years of marriage, Derek was also confirmed and now Derek and Margaret have the joy of taking communion together.



A Word From Revd Sue



After over 10 years of ordained ministry I am taking a sabbatical, from 10th April (Easter Monday) until 11th September, 5 months in all. There are a number of things I plan to use the time for including these:

I turn 65 next year - I would love to have space to pray and think about the years ahead and the changes that do come as one gets a little older!

I am looking forward to spending time immersed in those things which feed my life with God - reading, painting, spending time with long established prayer partners and friends, retreating for 24hrs regularly with a longer retreat booked in July.

Family events are fulsome – we welcome a new baby into the family in June, a new daughter in law early September and we are waiting with anticipation to welcome adopted grandchildren.

Praying in and for where we live, Malshanger. This is a place of constant 'evolution' and change. We are currently transforming the carpenter's workshop into a small chapel. Time to be here and to pray feels important.

I've met with Bishop David and with Ben who have both very kindly and generously agreed that this is a good time for this sabbatical, as have those I work with at St Mellitus Theological College. Jamie and I will continue to be part of the worshipping community at OWW, though we intend to visit other churches too, to be inspired by what God is up to elsewhere along with no doubt being reminded of what an extraordinary and Spirit filled body of Christ we have here in OWW!

Finally – I will have time for the odd cup coffee or three…invite me!

Parish Office

2022 was a year of consolidating the changes in the office and Centre. Vic mastered the finances and bookings, and I finally sussed how to print booklets. With so many new people and projects the workload has increased, the bookings are flowing back in, and the Centre is busier. The opening of the Warm Space has changed the previous peace and quiet of Wednesdays into a hubbub of chat and laughter. We have welcomed many visitors and helped with issues from applying for certificates, finding lost items and graves, to offering a listening ear and chasing birds out of the church. The office is many different things to the people who cross the threshold, and no two days are ever the same. This makes for a very varied working experience, but it's a great privilege to be part of the link between church and the community. The Welcome Sheet and Friday email are sent to a huge amount of people, active members and interested others. Thanks must go to Graeme for his unstinting work on the Welcome Sheet, despite the terrible weekly joke. Here's to an exciting 2023, and whatever that may bring.

Penny Brown



Worship Group

We are incredibly thankful to the church family for welcoming us and our boys into the life of St Leonard's. We soon felt led to join the church and the worship team and were immediately struck by the genuine sense of community and 'looking out for one another' that there was within the team. It was also very apparent that across the whole church there was such a longing to worship together and a hunger to go deeper.

After the season of doing 'Church @ Home' in the light of the Covid pandemic, it's been fantastic to be able to gather again regularly for corporate sung worship – something so many of us missed during that time. We have had some incredible times in the presence of God together, introduced a variety of new songs and the teaching series on 'Whole-Life Worship' in October really enabled us all to consider what worship means and looks like in its broadest sense.

One key highlight for us over the last year has been the opportunities we've had to meet as a worship team – whether through dedicated worship nights, practical workshops, where we explored different song arrangements and band dynamics, or through just 'being' and eating together. We've also loved being able to build on 'Worship at the Well' and to open it to the wider church family. These have been special times and we are particularly excited to see how this "relaxed, unhurried" monthly worship service evolves.

This year, we have had the privilege of welcoming some new worship leaders as well as needing to say goodbye to Tina Skinner as she and her husband joined their local church in Tadley.

Looking forward, we plan to run a 'vocal workshop' for anyone who would like to come. We are also hoping to create more opportunities for the worship team to learn workshop songs, both old and new, as well as begin a song writing space.



We are keen to see the worship team grow and would welcome anyone who is interested in being involved to chat to us to find out more. You can get hold of us at: worship@oww.church

Chris and Naomi Greenhalgh

Social Committee report

At the tail end of 2022 a Social Committee was formed to run events through the year to allow some fun interaction within the church. There are some 15/20 people that have agreed to be part of this group, hopefully allowing a wide distribution of the prep work and so it doesn't become an arduous task to be in it. The first event, a Burn's Night, was pulled together in 3 weeks that included the Christmas and New Year break. Although technically not in 2022, this went off with a bang, and our thoughts are now turning to the rest of the year and particularly how to celebrate the Coronation. If you might be up for being part of this group, please let me know.

Penny Brown

Pastoral Care

The need for Pastoral care has increased significantly over the last year reflecting the church's role within the community. Requests are diverse, sometimes urgent and require a sensitive and timely response. It has been a busy year, but we have managed, with your support, to respond to these needs. Thank you to everyone who has provided meals, baked cakes, visited, sent cards and flowers, prayed, and provided words of hope and encouragement.

Your generosity and kindness have enabled us to bless a significant number of families from the local schools and parish as well as responding to requests from Basingstoke Foodbank for hampers last Christmas. Thank you to everyone who donated items for the hampers and the teams who made them up and delivered them, including the young people from the Gap who did an amazing job of providing food items, including lots of chocolate treats, to delight the recipients. Blessing Hampers and gifts were also delivered to members of the parish who found themselves facing difficult circumstances.

During this last year it has become evident that there is a pressing need to grow the pastoral care team so we can respond to the increase in demand. One area is to provide for the spiritual and pastoral needs of older people within the parish, through pastoral visits, home communion etc. Relevant training will be available to interested people.

We are currently in conversation with neighbouring parishes to explore how we can provide for the spiritual well being of residents in local care homes, some of whom are former residents of the parish.

We have continued to focus on providing support for the bereaved, through the bereavement course, services, and the regular meeting point for bereaved men.

We continue to meet with other agencies to establish the level of support we can realistically offer to meet the needs of some of the more vulnerable members of the parish.

Thank you to everyone who has played a part in supporting others during this past year. Your kindness, generosity and care will have made a positive difference to a person's life. All these acts of love and compassion are part of our worship to God.

If you are aware of any pastoral care needs, please either contact myself or Penny in the church office.

Katey Butler
Pastoral Care Co-ordinator



St Leonards Pre-School

Thank you to everyone who has prayed for the preschool over the last year. We greatly appreciate your support!

This year at St Leonard's we have had parents and grandparents into the setting to help with making gingerbread men, jam splats and cheese straws. To enable the children to cook, we need an extra adult so if you would like to help with cooking, please get in touch.

We had a team of parents and grandparents in for a morning to help outside removing mud and putting topsoil in our mud kitchen. They also worked with the children to dig out bulbs and replant them in pots.

The lovely Helen Miller came in her uniform, to deliver an interactive session on caring for premature babies and babies needing special care. The children were very engaged. Our Community PSO Andy Jones came in to talk to the children about his role and brought the police van they transport prisoners in. The children were very excited to explore the van. There were also of course flashing lights and a very loud siren.

A parent borrowed children's' hockey sticks from Basingstoke Hockey Club, and gave small groups a hockey session with dribbling, relay games and shooting at goal! The children really enjoyed it and concentrated very hard at developing their skills.

We have also had a selection of well-behaved pets visit the children- tortoises, rabbits, guinea pigs, chicks, and a dog. The children thoroughly enjoy such visits. If you have a well behaved, child friendly pet that would like to pay a visit, please get in touch.

In the summer term a parent very generously designed a website for us (http://stleonards-preschool.co.uk). Another parent has given our email newsletter to parents a makeover.

After Covid, we have returned to having our celebrations with parents in the church- Harvest, The Nativity and The Leavers' Concert.



In the Autumn half term, the new outside area was laid by Vitaplay. They had designed it with a big figure of 8 for bikes and running. This has been very successful and even in pouring rain and icy weather it has been safe to use.

Sadly, on Remembrance Sunday we heard the news of Gillian's sudden and unexpected death. It stills feels strange not to see her coming into the Centre.

We look forward to another busy year at preschool and give thanks for our lovely parents and their children. Staffing always seems to be an ongoing issue so prayers for that, would be appreciated.

Caroline Edwards – Preschool Manager.

Alpha

Since 2019 we have seen over 65 people attending Alpha as a guest. Many would have come on the course with a faith, though many have found faith there for the first time, and all have reflected that they have experienced for the first time a unity in the church and a life changing interaction with Jesus and the Holy Spirit. In 2022 we ran two Alphas, in January and September.

Alpha depends upon a sacrificial, loyal, and incredibly dedicated team – of around 35 people – who have facilitated the hospitality to welcome so many. Whether that's to lay up tables so beautifully themed by Laura Thomas, to serve food, to wash up and clear away, all scheduled and organised by Susan and Trevor Stacey, to prepare terrible jokes as Tom Favell does, to co-ordinate prayer, as Serina Craig now does and, probably most importantly, to produce for 10 weeks the best food in Hampshire, now managed by Gill Garner.

A report on Alpha cannot overlook one particular challenge that has accompanied these last few years – the grief and deep sense of loss that we have all felt for those whose lives have been brought to an untimely finish. David Goucher, Mike Compton, Di Rundle, and Gillian Eves, each in their own way brought an enormous amount to Alpha.

In the disappointments it can be easy, like Peter stepping out of the boat into the waves, to focus on what is tough, what is not working and what is overwhelming. At the heart of Alpha is the reminder that this is all about Jesus and asking him to give us his Holy Spirit to equip us – and he never lets us down. Having Alpha as a consistent and regular rhythm of church life has been a catalyst for growth and depth in our church and the number of people who have decided to anchor their faith in a public act of commitment because of how God has used Alpha has been humbling.

And it has not only been the central Alpha that has been a feature of this. The Friday mums, and the 8 0'clockers have also provided informal hospitality centred gatherings where the question 'Is there more to life than this?' has been the recurring conversation.

The challenge for Alpha is in fulfilling Jesus last command – go and make disciples. Taking Alpha graduates into effective fellowship through which they can continue their journey, and to be emboldened to invite others to start their own.

Jamie Colman



Small Groups And Discipleship

We had a season of consolidation in terms of our Small Groups over the last year as people felt confident to meet in numbers again post-pandemic. Twelve groups re-emerged, many having hitherto met online, and the joy of being together was palpable.

Each group is unique, ranging in age, focus and differing times of the week to meet differing needs and in September Ben put together a Church Life Programme to help newcomers see what was available. We are supported by a valued resource team who are committed to this ministry.

Over the summer the Film group ran some 'Come and Try' sessions, open to all, in the Centre following the hard-hitting TV series 'Broken' and out of that a new group, The Sequel, was born.

This year Ben launched a new discipleship project: 'Going Deeper.' This monthly gathering is an open space to discuss some of the big questions of theology, humanity, and the deepest topic of them all ... the nature of God.

Throughout this year, we have been intentional about creating space for stillness, prayer, and reflection. In May Barbara Irving led a wellbeing retreat at the Centre. Jo Constantine hosted a series of mini garden retreats for the church family. And in November we ran a Quiet Day at Malshanger Social Club specifically for our small groups, entitled Autumn Rains which was a special time of refreshment.

Being part of a small group is a great way to grow as a disciple of Jesus, so we'd encourage you to give it a go if you haven't already. Moving forward, we plan to start more groups across the parish, so if you are interested in finding out more, please do let us know.

Jan Klien

Men's Curry Night

The Men's curry night is a fun filled evening centred with good food. We all know that conversations flow over food and this evening never disappoints. During 2022 we met 7-8 times and each of those evenings were different in size, food choices, conversation and even location, but the one constant was the great conversation. It's wonderfully appealing to get a group of people from different walks of life together in one room, sharing food and chatting. The organisation of this evening is deliberately simple as that allows for last minute changes if required. The Men's curry night is usually during the first week of the month and we try changing the day each month so those that can't make a particular day can come along every now and then. For more details please contact Tim Saunders.

Tim Saunders



Church For Our Time – St Leonards

Church for Our Time is the project that will make improvements to St Leonard's Church and provide additional space for a welcoming porch and an extension that provides toilets, servery and creche/meeting room.

Changing a Grade II* building is, quite rightly, not a simple thing to do and great care is required to ensure that the historical legacy is understood and respected. The historic societies want to ensure that we minimise the 'harm' to this legacy and that where change is required, there are very good reasons for doing so. Therefore, Church for Our Time requires support from both the Diocese and the Planning Department of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC). Neither follow entirely predictable processes and timetables. It has therefore been an extremely frustrating time where it is been impossible to give the church certainty about decision points and timescales.

We submitted a pre-planning application for the project to BDBC in early 2022. The conclusion from these discussions was that they would wish that the extension had a more highly pitched roof so that it better reflected the pitch of the church roof. These plans and designs were completed.

During the year, we were also required to complete a further round of consultation with Historic England, the Victorian Society, The Society for Protection of Ancient Buildings and the Church Buildings Council prior to a decision at the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC). To complete this work, we had to provide further details and plans for the scheme, including a particular area of concern: how the new extension would join onto the main church building. This led to a DAC meeting in December which agreed to support the scheme, noting that they preferred a roof pitch which was lower!

This, however, is a major step forward for the project. While we are still required to make one more response to the historic societies, we expect that the project will reach the final stage of Diocesan approval in early 2023.



So the sequence of next steps for the project are:

- A further pre-application discussion with BDBC about the extension design
- In parallel, completion of the final consultation with the historic societies
- The DAC to report their recommendations to the Chancellor of Winchester Diocese who will be able to grant or refuse permission to proceed
- Submission of full planning permission application to BDBC.

Once we have gained the permissions we require, we will undertake a major consultation within the church and the community about the project and the benefits it will bring to our mission across the Parish.

Derek Felton

The Friends of St Lawrence and Church For Our Time WSL

The Friends of St Lawrence (FOSL) was launched in 2022, to ensure the church is maintained for future generations and thrives as a centre for the community. The friends are chartered to promote the heritage of St Lawrence church, develop awareness, and organise fund-raising events. The funds raised are primarily for the St Lawrence Church For Our Time project which is aimed at bringing the basic amenities of a servery and a toilet to the church so that it can become practical venue for a community hub.

FOSL held its first social in the church in September where members and those interested in the project were able to discuss their ideas for future events and to offer any skills to assist the project. Regular email updates are sent to our members.

In November, we met with the Diocesan Advisory Committee to discuss the need for the installation of a water supply, toilet facilities, kitchenette, and the provision of a flexible community space to the church and to start to explore ways this could be achieved.

At the end of November, FOSL had a stall at the Oakley Christmas Market selling locally produced items – jam and apple juice, handmade cards, and the Wootton St Lawrence calendar. It provided a great opportunity to spread the news of FOSL and the St Lawrence for our Time project.

In April 2023, we are hoping to re show the play "12 Hours" written by FOSL member Phil Howe. The play is about Jane Austen's twelve-hour engagement whilst staying at Manydown House.

During 2023 we are aiming to create a FOSL Cookbook that we hope will be ready to sell in the summer with recipes provided by friends and family.

If you would like to become a FOSL member, or to find out more information about the project, please send an email to friends@oww.church

Serena Worthington

Eco Church

This has been a year of transitions and new beginnings for echo church projects in our parish.

The flagship event was our second annual summer Bee Fayre at Wootton St Lawrence. Organised in partnership with Ken and Barbara Robson, the Wootton Residents' Association, and the Basingstoke Beekeepers Association, the Fayre welcomed a full programme of speakers, dozens of bee-related stalls and the constant buzz of visitors. Revd Charles Butler, former Rector of St Lawrence, is renowned as the Father of English Beekeeping. Next summer's Bee Fayre marks the 400th anniversary of the publication of his book, *The Feminine Monarchy* – the first scientific handbook on beekeeping written in the English language.

The ***Love Oakley? Go Green!*** initiative had a presence at the Oakley Show, the School Fayre, the Bee Fayre and the Christmas Market. This year's emphasis was on saving energy and minimising food waste. Over 30 households have loaned a thermal camera to check their home insulation.

Linda Wain was co-opted onto the Parish Council to help champion the work of the Sustainability Working Group. Building on the Parish Council's 'Greening Campaign' and Net Zero 2030 targets, St Leonard's partnered with the Parish Council to launch a new project: the ***Oakley Green Network***. The big vision is to establish a broad, grassroots coalition of local residents, community groups, organisations and businesses who are interested in working together to promote environmental sustainability.

Linda Wain, Ben Kautzer

Wootton St Lawrence

It has been wonderful to enjoy a year without restrictions and encouraging to see a strengthening in community life at Wootton St Lawrence.

St Lawrence's Church is open daily from 10am until 4pm for private prayer and reflection and two services are held each month at 9am. On the first Sunday a Communion service is held followed by a service of the word on the third Sunday. Refreshments are offered after each service. The congregation has grown to 20-25 people per service.

In June, The Queen's Diamond Jubilee provided an opportunity to get together on the church meadow with a bring and share picnic. A new bench in memory of Arthur Stitt, who loved to sit on the church meadow, was blessed and words of thanksgiving and remembrance were said.



In August the second Bee Fayre took place. It was joyful to see people experience the Bee Story in many ways, through talks and demonstrations, crafts and activities and beekeeping workshops. A portion of the funds raised were donated to St Lawrence for our Time project, FOSL.

Sue Colman led a simple outdoor Remembrance Sunday service in November.

The weekend before Christmas saw the return of the Christmas Tree Festival and Big Sing. Members of the local community decorated trees on the Saturday and on Sunday afternoon people had a chance to vote for their favourite tree ahead of the Big Sing whilst enjoying a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie.

There was poetry, readings, musical performances, and a Christmas singalong with contributions from residents of Oakley and Wootton.

The Candlelit Crib Service on Christmas Eve was attended by 101 people. The church was decorated with Christmas trees and candles. It was wonderful to see so many families coming together and to see the excited faces of the children as they followed the star down the aisle with their characters and animals to place in the crib.

We are much looking forward to the Charles Butler 400 Bee Fayre Celebrations that will be taking place on 19th-20th August and to seeing many more at the now annual Christmas Tree Festival and Big Sing.

Serena Worthington



Childrens Groups

What a year it has been for the little people of our church. We have been able to reach out and provide a range of church services, fun filled spaces and opportunities for children and their families to attend. This has all happened alongside our much-loved children groups continuing to grow and welcome new babies and toddlers. Pippins welcomes 23 0–4-year-olds and continues to be supported by a team of amazing volunteers. They have celebrated special events, enjoyed different crafts, games and activities each week and continue to bless the children and their families. New life and Quackers continue to provide a relaxed space for 0–3-year-olds to enjoy toys and games, and equally important a space for their parents and carers to socialise, relax and support each other.

19 christenings have taken place over the last year, and we have been delighted that those baptisms have led to families feeling a part of St Leonard's and engaging with the church regularly.

This year we have seen a boom in our younger Sunday morning group 'Cheeky Pandas'. This wonderful gathering now meets every week and have up to 12 regular little Pandas! With two leaders and a group of helpers, this group has been blessed abundantly by our prayers and grown beyond our expectation. It is wonderful to see their parents and families also feeling so at home on a Sunday morning, encouraging a real sense of belonging and fellowship. We have of course been pouring resources and much effort into our youth this year, however that doesn't mean our younger children and families have been forgotten! They too have been getting to know Sochi and building relationships within our church that will continue to grow. Sunday Fundays, our Sunday morning groups as well as our all-age services have seen many new families and children engaging within our church life. The Christingle service welcomed over 200 children and family members to celebrate together.

We very much look forward to what next year will bring for all the young people in our church.

Helen Miller

The Mission Action Group

Mission is central to what we do. As well as the mission work that you read about elsewhere in this annual report, we are also committed to mission outside of the parish. To do this, the PCC sets aside a part of its budget each year to support out of parish mission.

It is a great pleasure for the mission action group to review applications for funds and to provide support to mission groups. The groups we support have a strong Christian ethos and most of them operate on low levels of income. Typically, the biggest assets these groups have are their committed leaders and mission workers.

This year we have supported local groups you may be familiar with. Besom received £600 to help with the running costs of their van and to provide starter packs and baby packs. Money LifeLine received £800 to help with their running costs as they support those with debt problems. £750 went to Cedar Tree who provide counselling. Further afield, £1000 went to Child of Hope who provide education and welfare in Uganda. £500 went to Snowdrop who provide a school and orphanage in India. We were also pleased to gift £800 to a new group, the Montgomery Heights Christian Care Centre in Zimbabwe, who work with orphans and vulnerable children.

These are just a few examples of the groups we have been able to help this year.

We are especially encouraged by groups where there are strong local connections within our church family. If you would like to know more about any of the groups we have given to, or to get involved with our work, then please let me know.

Michael Edwards

Youth And Young People

When I arrived in May I was inspired by the wonderful youth work that was already in progress. I started my work here by organizing a few events during school holidays for our young people.

In September, we launched Come and See (CAS). The overarching goal of CAS, the youth and student ministry of our church, is to provide our young people with the much-needed space they need to connect with one another, develop good friendships, learn about and grow in their identities, and to strengthen their faith through discipleship, prayers, bible studies, worship, and recreation.

CAS has evolved into several ministries:

The Youth Cafe:
Held after school on Mondays at Jolly Olly's for secondary school kids and college students to have food, drinks, board and card games, music, and conversations with friends and the CAS support Team. The Oakley Co-Op has blessed us with supplies of snacks and drinks every Monday.

CAS AM (Cafe Church) / CAS PM
Held on Sunday mornings and evenings, CAS AM and CAS PM provide a safe space for our young people to interact, explore their faith, and build healthy friendships. These AM/PM sessions are well attended, and many of the kids bring their friends.

Teen's Dinner
The teen's dinner is a weekly get together to eat, network, play games and discuss some interesting topics. Generously hosted by Andy and Laura Thomas, Alan and Melanie Froud and others the space is gaining popularity with new young people regularly joining the group.

The Bridge Oakley
In December, we launched The Bridge, a Christian social community for young adults aged 18 to 30.

The School
I am so grateful to God for the doors that he has opened at the junior and infant schools.

We are actively involved at the schools with the prayer space, RE lessons, collective worship, school trips, playground/ lunchtime games, and we recently launched a weekly well-being club at the junior school. I am grateful to the school leadership and staff for their commitment and support.





To support these ministries, the team of youth leaders, volunteers, and helpers has expanded significantly during the past few months.

I am so grateful to everyone in our church community, the church leadership team, and the PCC for your prayers, support, and encouragement.

Sochi Ezenowai





www.oakleywithwootton.org.uk



United Parish of Church Oakley with Wootton St Lawrence

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Charity Registration Number 1131064

CONTENTS

Independent Examiner's Report	3
Statement of Financial Activities	4
Balance Sheet	5
Notes to the Financial Statements	6 to 9

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Oakley with Wootton Parochial Church Council ("the PCC")

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the PCC are not required to be audited and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC 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 accounting requirements of 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 a part of an independent examination; or
4. The accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

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.

Paul Sherrington FCCA, membership number 1326429
Weller Mackrill
Chartered Certified Accountants
South Building
Upper Farm
Wootton St Lawrence
Basingstoke
Hampshire
RG23 8PE

27 February 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ended 31st December 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2021
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Incoming Resources from Donors	2a	138,729	90,036		228,765	195,804
Income from investments	2b	467	2,197		2,663	828
Gains / (Losses) on investments	2c		-301		-301	2,472
Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading	2d	44,047	5,399		49,446	30,784
Income from Designated Activities	2e	78,572			78,572	73,579
		261,814	97,331	0	359,145	303,468
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Church Activities	3a	173,785	48,980		222,764	171,941
Governance Costs	3b	300			300	300
Costs of Designated Activities	3c	73,289			73,289	66,614
		247,374	48,980	0	296,354	238,855
NET INCOMING RESOURCES		14,439	48,351	0	62,791	64,613
DEPRECIATION	5	1,014	1,538		2,552	2,077
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		13,426	46,813	0	60,239	62,536
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2022		858,641	356,050	2,139	1,216,830	1,154,293
Balance carried forward at 31 December 2022		872,067	402,863	2,139	1,277,069	1,216,830

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2022	2021
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	5	**759,764**	**5,511**		**765,276**	736,935
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors	6	**1,981**	**2,574**		**4,556**	3,297
Investments		**0**	**6,297**		**6,297**	6,598
Short Term Deposits		**103,320**	**349,598**		**452,918**	351,906
Cash at Bank and in Hand		**20,090**	**38,882**	**2,139**	**61,111**	132,491
		125,391	**397,352**	**2,139**	**524,881**	494,292
LIABILITIES						
Amounts falling due within one year	7	**-13,088**	**0**		**-13,088**	-14,397
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**112,303**	**397,352**	**2,139**	**511,793**	479,895
LIABILITIES						
Amounts falling due after more than one year	7	**0**	**0**		**0**	0
TOTAL NET ASSETS		**872,067**	**402,863**	**2,139**	**1,277,069**	1,216,830
PARISH FUNDS						
Unrestricted - Operating Reserves	8	**117,259**			**117,259**	132,664
Unrestricted - Relating to Property	8	**754,808**			**754,808**	725,977
Restricted	8		**402,863**		**402,863**	356,050
Endowment	8			**2,139**	**2,139**	2,139
		872,067	**402,863**	**2,139**	**1,277,069**	1,216,830

Approved by the PCC on 27 February 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Revd Ben Kautzer (PCC Chairman)

The notes on pages 6 to 9 form part of these accounts

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31st December 2022

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 01/01/2015) - (Charity SORP (FRS102)) and the Charities Act 2011.
The Parochial Church Council (PCC) constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of certain fixed assets and investments, 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.
There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue operating.

Funds
Unrestricted Funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated by the PCC for the operation of St Leonard's Pre-School are also unrestricted.
Restricted Funds comprise donations or grants intended for a specific PCC activity.

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 depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Incoming Resources
Donations are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving under gift aid is recognised when the income is received. Income Tax recoverable on gift aid is recognised at the same time as giving is received.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.
Income relating to other activities is recognised as the activities occur. Income and expenditure are recognised separately.

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

Resources Expended
Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when payable. Other expenditure is accounted for when it is incurred.

Taxation
As a Charity the PCC does not undertake any activity which falls within the scope of UK Income taxation.

Fixed Assets
Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011. No value is placed on moveable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers these to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.
Other fixed property is vested in the Diocesan Board of Finance as Diocesan Authority under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, effectively in trust for the PCC, with the PCC acting as managing trustees. Under the Charities Act, such property is included in the accounts notwithstanding the PCC's lack of title. Such properties are valued by the PCC using the best available advice as to free market value for the current usage less any provision for restrictions on such a sale.
Fixtures, fittings and office equipment used within the church premises is capitalised at cost and depreciated on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, subject to the initial purchase price being greater than £1,000. Purchases with an initial value less than or equal to £1,000 are written off in the year of purchase.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31st December 2022

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Current Assets
Amounts owing to the PCC at 31st December are shown as debtors less any provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund or at a bank.

Any sums legally due and payable by the PCC are included in the accounts as creditors and reflect the full value deemed likely to be paid. Contingent assets and liabilities are not brought into the accounts but may be reflected by way of note.

Financial Instruments
The PCC only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Reserves
Reserves act as a buffer to smooth fluctuations from month to month and protect against unforeseen significant reductions in giving or increases in expenditure. The PCC aim to hold the equivalent of approximately six months of Unrestricted Fund annual expenditure in the form of net current assets.

Agency Income and Expenditure
Voluntary donations received by the PCC, purely as agent, for specified objects over which the PCC has no discretion are not included in either the income or expenditure of these account.

2 INCOMING RESOURCES

2a Incoming resources from Donors
Substantially all of the donations received into both Unrestricted and Restricted Funds were from individual donors with income tax recovered under Gift Aid or from charitable trusts.

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2021
2b Income from Investments				
Interest on bank deposits and Church of England Deposit Fund	467	1,845	2,311	514
Divdends on M&G Charifund holding		352	352	314
	467	**2,197**	**2,663**	828
2c Gains / (Losses on investments				
Change in market value of units held in M&G Charifund		(301)	(301)	2,472
2d Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading				
Hire of St Leonard's and St John's Centres	30,963		30,963	19,769
Weddings and funerals	10,374		10,374	9,645
Other	2,710	5,399	8,109	1,370
	44,047	**5,399**	**49,446**	30,784

Included in the hire of St Leonard's Centre is £10,419 (2021: £6,944) charged to the Pre-School, which appears in the costs of Designated Activites (Note 3c)

2e Income from Designated Activities
Substantially all of the income received is from Hampshire County Council and individuals to fund places for children in pre-school.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31st December 2022

3 RESOURCES EXPENDED

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2021
3a	**Activities Directly Relating to the work of the Church**				
	Common Mission Fund	75,539		75,539	75,239
	Fees paid to Diocese for weddings and funerals	6,359		6,359	4,910
	Payroll costs	34,635	18,590	53,225	26,357
	Donations to charities	10,000		10,000	10,000
	Utilities	13,937		13,937	10,625
	Insurance	6,054		6,054	5,630
	Other Churches & Centres Expenses	21,071	13,800	34,871	23,144
	Buildings maintenance	6,190		6,190	6,921
	Architect and Planning expenditure		16,589	16,589	4,011
	Other		0	0	5,104
	TOTAL RESOURCES USED	**173,785**	**48,980**	**222,764**	171,941
3b	**Governance Costs**				
	Independent Examiner's fees	300		300	300
		300	**0**	**300**	300
3c	**Costs of Designated Activities**				
	Payroll costs	57,539		57,539	54,633
	Rent	10,419		10,419	6,944
	Other pre-school costs	5,331		5,331	5,038
	TOTAL RESOURCES USED	**73,289**	**0**	**73,289**	66,614

Rent is paid to St Leonard's Centre and appears in Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading (Note 2d).

4 STAFF COSTS

	2022	2021
The average number of staff on the payroll (most part time)	**14**	12
Salaries and wages	109,088	78,980
Pension Costs	1,676	2,009
	110,764	80,989

The stipend and pension of the Rector are paid by the Church Commissioners who receive money via the Diocese as part of the Common Mission Fund paid and are therefore not included in the numbers here. Expenses were reimbursed to a number of members of the PCC for materials and expenses incurred on Church Activities.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31st December 2022

5 FIXED ASSETS	Unrestricted Funds Land and Buildings	Unrestricted Funds Fittings and Equipment	Restricted Funds Fittings and Equipment	TOTAL
Actual / Deemed Cost				
As at 1st January 2022	725,977	70,256	7,690	803,924
Additions	28,831	2,062	0	30,892
As at 31st December 2022	754,808	72,318	7,690	834,816
Accumulated Depreciation				
As at 1st January 2022	0	66,348	641	66,989
Charge for the year		1,014	1,538	2,552
As at 31st December 2022	0	67,362	2,179	69,541
Net Value				
As at 31st December 2022	**754,808**	**4,956**	**5,511**	**765,275**
As at 31st December 2021	**725,977**	**3,908**	**7,049**	**736,935**

Land and buildings comprise two separate sites. The first is St Leonard's Centre, Rectory Road, Oakley, which is held at £729,808 being its cost of redevelopment in 2009 and improvement in 2022.
The second is adjacent to St Johns Garden of Remembrance and St John's Centre in Oakley but is not part of the Church consecrated grounds. The area is approximately 0.7 acres and its value is deemed to be £25,000. It should be noted that, if sold for building land, its current market value could exceed £700,000.

6 DEBTORS	2022	2021
Income tax recoverable	425	1,405
Hire of St Leonard's and St John's Centres	1,055	0
Other debtors and prepayments	3,075	1,893
	4,556	**3,297**

7 LIABILITIES		
Amounts falling due within one year		
Fees payable to Diocese for weddings and funerals	997	2,414
Independent Examiner's fees payable	300	300
Donations to charities	5,200	10,000
Building Maintenance	2,600	0
Other creditors and accruals	3,991	1,683
	13,088	14,397
Amounts falling due after one year	**0**	**0**

8 PARISH FUNDS

8a Unrestricted funds comprise funds for use at the discretion of the PCC; those relating to property are shown separately as they are not readily realisable.

8b Restricted funds represent donations and a legacy for the redevelopment of St Leonard's Church, the maintenance and redevelopment of St Lawrence Church and the provision of community services.

8c Endowment funds are for chancel repairs, the maintenance of certain graves and the running of Sunday school at St Lawrence Church.

9 STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a charity (registered number 1131064) registered with the Charity Commission.

United Parish of Church Oakley with Wootton St Lawrence

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Charity Registration Number 1131064

CONTENTS

Independent Examiner's Report	3
Statement of Financial Activities	4
Balance Sheet	5
Notes to the Financial Statements	6 to 9

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Oakley with Wootton Parochial Church Council ("the PCC")

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the PCC are not required to be audited and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC 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 accounting requirements of 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 a part of an independent examination; or
4. The accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

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.

Paul Sherrington FCCA, membership number 1326429
Weller Mackrill
Chartered Certified Accountants
South Building
Upper Farm
Wootton St Lawrence
Basingstoke
Hampshire
RG23 8PE

27 February 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ended 31st December 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2021
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Incoming Resources from Donors	2a	138,729	90,036		228,765	195,804
Income from investments	2b	467	2,197		2,663	828
Gains / (Losses) on investments	2c		-301		-301	2,472
Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading	2d	44,047	5,399		49,446	30,784
Income from Designated Activities	2e	78,572			78,572	73,579
		261,814	97,331	0	359,145	303,468
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Church Activities	3a	173,785	48,980		222,764	171,941
Governance Costs	3b	300			300	300
Costs of Designated Activities	3c	73,289			73,289	66,614
		247,374	48,980	0	296,354	238,855
NET INCOMING RESOURCES		14,439	48,351	0	62,791	64,613
DEPRECIATION	5	1,014	1,538		2,552	2,077
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		13,426	46,813	0	60,239	62,536
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2022		858,641	356,050	2,139	1,216,830	1,154,293
Balance carried forward at 31 December 2022		872,067	402,863	2,139	1,277,069	1,216,830

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2022	2021
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	5	**759,764**	**5,511**		**765,276**	736,935
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors	6	**1,981**	**2,574**		**4,556**	3,297
Investments		**0**	**6,297**		**6,297**	6,598
Short Term Deposits		**103,320**	**349,598**		**452,918**	351,906
Cash at Bank and in Hand		**20,090**	**38,882**	**2,139**	**61,111**	132,491
		125,391	**397,352**	**2,139**	**524,881**	494,292
LIABILITIES						
Amounts falling due within one year	7	**-13,088**	**0**		**-13,088**	-14,397
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**112,303**	**397,352**	**2,139**	**511,793**	479,895
LIABILITIES						
Amounts falling due after more than one year	7	**0**	**0**		**0**	0
TOTAL NET ASSETS		**872,067**	**402,863**	**2,139**	**1,277,069**	1,216,830
PARISH FUNDS						
Unrestricted - Operating Reserves	8	**117,259**			**117,259**	132,664
Unrestricted - Relating to Property	8	**754,808**			**754,808**	725,977
Restricted	8		**402,863**		**402,863**	356,050
Endowment	8			**2,139**	**2,139**	2,139
		872,067	**402,863**	**2,139**	**1,277,069**	1,216,830

Approved by the PCC on 27 February 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Revd Ben Kautzer (PCC Chairman)

The notes on pages 6 to 9 form part of these accounts

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31st December 2022

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 01/01/2015) - (Charity SORP (FRS102)) and the Charities Act 2011.
The Parochial Church Council (PCC) constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of certain fixed assets and investments, 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.
There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue operating.

Funds
Unrestricted Funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated by the PCC for the operation of St Leonard's Pre-School are also unrestricted.
Restricted Funds comprise donations or grants intended for a specific PCC activity.

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 depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Incoming Resources
Donations are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving under gift aid is recognised when the income is received. Income Tax recoverable on gift aid is recognised at the same time as giving is received.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.
Income relating to other activities is recognised as the activities occur. Income and expenditure are recognised separately.

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

Resources Expended
Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when payable. Other expenditure is accounted for when it is incurred.

Taxation
As a Charity the PCC does not undertake any activity which falls within the scope of UK Income taxation.

Fixed Assets
Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011. No value is placed on moveable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers these to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.
Other fixed property is vested in the Diocesan Board of Finance as Diocesan Authority under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, effectively in trust for the PCC, with the PCC acting as managing trustees. Under the Charities Act, such property is included in the accounts notwithstanding the PCC's lack of title. Such properties are valued by the PCC using the best available advice as to free market value for the current usage less any provision for restrictions on such a sale.
Fixtures, fittings and office equipment used within the church premises is capitalised at cost and depreciated on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, subject to the initial purchase price being greater than £1,000. Purchases with an initial value less than or equal to £1,000 are written off in the year of purchase.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31st December 2022

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Current Assets
Amounts owing to the PCC at 31st December are shown as debtors less any provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund or at a bank.

Any sums legally due and payable by the PCC are included in the accounts as creditors and reflect the full value deemed likely to be paid. Contingent assets and liabilities are not brought into the accounts but may be reflected by way of note.

Financial Instruments
The PCC only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Reserves
Reserves act as a buffer to smooth fluctuations from month to month and protect against unforeseen significant reductions in giving or increases in expenditure. The PCC aim to hold the equivalent of approximately six months of Unrestricted Fund annual expenditure in the form of net current assets.

Agency Income and Expenditure
Voluntary donations received by the PCC, purely as agent, for specified objects over which the PCC has no discretion are not included in either the income or expenditure of these account.

2 INCOMING RESOURCES

2a Incoming resources from Donors
Substantially all of the donations received into both Unrestricted and Restricted Funds were from individual donors with income tax recovered under Gift Aid or from charitable trusts.

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2021
2b Income from Investments				
Interest on bank deposits and Church of England Deposit Fund	467	1,845	2,311	514
Divdends on M&G Charifund holding		352	352	314
	467	**2,197**	**2,663**	828
2c Gains / (Losses on investments				
Change in market value of units held in M&G Charifund		(301)	(301)	2,472
2d Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading				
Hire of St Leonard's and St John's Centres	30,963		30,963	19,769
Weddings and funerals	10,374		10,374	9,645
Other	2,710	5,399	8,109	1,370
	44,047	**5,399**	**49,446**	30,784

Included in the hire of St Leonard's Centre is £10,419 (2021: £6,944) charged to the Pre-School, which appears in the costs of Designated Activites (Note 3c)

2e Income from Designated Activities
Substantially all of the income received is from Hampshire County Council and individuals to fund places for children in pre-school.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31st December 2022

3 RESOURCES EXPENDED

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2021
3a	**Activities Directly Relating to the work of the Church**				
	Common Mission Fund	75,539		75,539	75,239
	Fees paid to Diocese for weddings and funerals	6,359		6,359	4,910
	Payroll costs	34,635	18,590	53,225	26,357
	Donations to charities	10,000		10,000	10,000
	Utilities	13,937		13,937	10,625
	Insurance	6,054		6,054	5,630
	Other Churches & Centres Expenses	21,071	13,800	34,871	23,144
	Buildings maintenance	6,190		6,190	6,921
	Architect and Planning expenditure		16,589	16,589	4,011
	Other		0	0	5,104
	TOTAL RESOURCES USED	**173,785**	**48,980**	**222,764**	171,941
3b	**Governance Costs**				
	Independent Examiner's fees	300		300	300
		300	**0**	**300**	300
3c	**Costs of Designated Activities**				
	Payroll costs	57,539		57,539	54,633
	Rent	10,419		10,419	6,944
	Other pre-school costs	5,331		5,331	5,038
	TOTAL RESOURCES USED	**73,289**	**0**	**73,289**	66,614

Rent is paid to St Leonard's Centre and appears in Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading (Note 2d).

4 STAFF COSTS

	2022	2021
The average number of staff on the payroll (most part time)	**14**	12
Salaries and wages	109,088	78,980
Pension Costs	1,676	2,009
	110,764	80,989

The stipend and pension of the Rector are paid by the Church Commissioners who receive money via the Diocese as part of the Common Mission Fund paid and are therefore not included in the numbers here. Expenses were reimbursed to a number of members of the PCC for materials and expenses incurred on Church Activities.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31st December 2022

5 FIXED ASSETS	Unrestricted Funds Land and Buildings	Unrestricted Funds Fittings and Equipment	Restricted Funds Fittings and Equipment	TOTAL
Actual / Deemed Cost				
As at 1st January 2022	725,977	70,256	7,690	803,924
Additions	28,831	2,062	0	30,892
As at 31st December 2022	754,808	72,318	7,690	834,816
Accumulated Depreciation				
As at 1st January 2022	0	66,348	641	66,989
Charge for the year		1,014	1,538	2,552
As at 31st December 2022	0	67,362	2,179	69,541
Net Value				
As at 31st December 2022	**754,808**	**4,956**	**5,511**	**765,275**
As at 31st December 2021	**725,977**	**3,908**	**7,049**	**736,935**

Land and buildings comprise two separate sites. The first is St Leonard's Centre, Rectory Road, Oakley, which is held at £729,808 being its cost of redevelopment in 2009 and improvement in 2022.
The second is adjacent to St Johns Garden of Remembrance and St John's Centre in Oakley but is not part of the Church consecrated grounds. The area is approximately 0.7 acres and its value is deemed to be £25,000. It should be noted that, if sold for building land, its current market value could exceed £700,000.

6 DEBTORS	2022	2021
Income tax recoverable	425	1,405
Hire of St Leonard's and St John's Centres	1,055	0
Other debtors and prepayments	3,075	1,893
	4,556	**3,297**

7 LIABILITIES		
Amounts falling due within one year		
Fees payable to Diocese for weddings and funerals	997	2,414
Independent Examiner's fees payable	300	300
Donations to charities	5,200	10,000
Building Maintenance	2,600	0
Other creditors and accruals	3,991	1,683
	13,088	14,397
Amounts falling due after one year	**0**	**0**

8 PARISH FUNDS

8a Unrestricted funds comprise funds for use at the discretion of the PCC; those relating to property are shown separately as they are not readily realisable.

8b Restricted funds represent donations and a legacy for the redevelopment of St Leonard's Church, the maintenance and redevelopment of St Lawrence Church and the provision of community services.

8c Endowment funds are for chancel repairs, the maintenance of certain graves and the running of Sunday school at St Lawrence Church.

9 STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a charity (registered number 1131064) registered with the Charity Commission.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF OAKLEY WITH WOOTTON

England & Wales - Charity number 1131064

Accounts



United Parish of
Oakley with Wootton St Lawrence

Annual Report 2021

www.oakleywithwootton.org.uk

Charity Registration Number 1131064

Contents

Introduction: Ben's Piece	3
PCC Report	8
From the Wardens	10
Pastoral Care	11
From Sue	12
Bereavement Support	12
Office@HereandThere	13
Church for Our Time	14
Wootton St Lawrence	15
'Eco' Church	17
Deanery Synod	18
8 'O Clockers	18
Buildings and Grounds	19
Pre-School	20
Children, Youth and Families	21
Evergreen	23
Men@Hart	23
Alpha	24
Our Mission Partners	25





Introduction: Ben's Piece

"Let us start rebuilding," the people of Israel said to Nehemiah as they surveyed the smouldering rubble of the decimated walls of the city of Jerusalem. *"And so they began this good work"* (Neh 2.18).

This time last year, I sat here at my desk preparing my report for another virtual APCM. We were only a couple of months into what would become the longest lockdown of the pandemic, stretching from the beginning of January to the end of July 2021. Much like Nehemiah, I found myself surveying the broken walls of our common life as a church and as a local community. I noticed evidence of weariness, anxiety, grief, and longing. I could also see clear signs of God's Spirit at work, guiding our way with points of light and hope and encouragement. As we pushed through the worst of the pandemic and the seemingly endless disruptions and challenges it posed to all our lives, we began to look ahead once more. We began to lay new foundations, new priorities, and a new vision for a future. As we set those plans into action, we began to recover and rebuild, and rediscover along the way who we are called to be as God's people in this place.

2021 has definitely become a year for rebuilding the walls.

Brick by brick, we witnessed our church coming back together again. Outdoor services recommenced. Friends and family reconnected. Small groups reconvened. Live-streaming cameras were installed in church. Weddings were celebrated and babies christened. The St Leonard's Centre relaunched. Children and youth were welcomed back to church. The house of God was filled with prayer and music and defiant hope once again.

Brick by brick, individuals started taking up their own little sections of the wall – using their gifts, skills, and talents to help get our church back on its feet again.

Brick by brick, we pressed on with the work constantly inviting the Holy Spirit to come and form us into …

A church for **worship**

A church for **community**

A church for **growth**

A church for **belonging**

A church for **the next generation**

A church for **our time**

A church for **wellbeing**



'Al fresco' Sunday worship at St John's – May 2021

Make no mistake. This has been an intense, exhausting, relentlessly busy season … perhaps more so than any I can remember. It has been a time of constant change and countless false starts due to the disruptions of COVID. And yet when I look back at the bold vision for rebuilding we mapped out last May and when I look around at where we are today and all that God has done … I am absolutely amazed at the journey God has led us through.

A Church for Worship

In June we produced our final pre-recorded YouTube services of Church@Home and Kids@Home. With newly installed cameras and AV equipment, St Leonard's began a new journey into 'hybrid church' – livestreaming all of our live Sunday services at St Leonard's. As lockdown eased, we began with our first in-person services outdoors at St John's. One of the greatest joys of this time was the return of sung worship under the leadership of Tina Skinner and Tim Saunders. Another was welcoming our 8:00 congregation back to holy communion and to our much loved (and much missed) breakfast! In the Autumn term, we launched a new service at Wootton St Lawrence, now offering two Sunday morning services each month.

We received 17,221 views on our YouTube channel in 2021. When we switched from Church@Home to livestreaming, I initially expected our online presence to diminish. Interestingly, that's not been the case. Despite having a fairly full church most Sundays, we are still seeing roughly the same number of views online as we did during the height of the pandemic. I notice that new guests seem more relaxed and at home in our Sunday services and families more at ease when I visit to discuss Christenings. At first this perplexed me, but then I realised it is because they have already been worshipping with us for some time … online.

Not only is our online presence continuing to be a lifeline of connection and community to members of our church family who are unable to return to live services, but it is also a wonderful front window to anyone wishing to discover a bit more about our church.

I want to say a huge, huge thank you to everyone on the tech team who have sustained this effort throughout the year: Mark, Rowland, Graeme, Colin, Christine, Harry. We literally could not have done this without you! We are seeing the fruit of this ministry left, right and centre. If you'd like to get involved in supporting the tech team, you would be most welcome!

A Church for Community

If there is one positive to come out of this terrible COVID experience, it is the way circumstances empowered our church to forge new and lasting relationships with our local village community. Through the work of projects like the Oakley Support Network, the Wootton Bee Fayre, Green Week, Remembrance Day, and the Easter/Christmas in Oakley programme, we are learning the value of working 'with' and 'alongside' the community toward common goals and a shared vision.

This year we also launched several new support groups, including: the Bereavement Journey, Men@Hart, Men's Curry, and the Cancer Support Group. These have all been an enormous blessing to both the church and the village.

Once again, Katey Butler and her pastoral care team pulled out all the stops to love and bless people at Christmas. We were able give out dozens of festive care packages to the village and were asked to provide at least three times the number of hardship hampers as normal to the Oakley Infant and Junior Schools.

A Church for Growth

We noticed during lockdown that God was on the move in so many different ways. We couldn't quite believe it, but it seemed as though in this crazy disrupted time God was actually *growing* the church here in Oakley and Wootton St Lawrence. It's one thing to say that about our newly discovered online presence, but what would it look like when we switched the lights back on and attempted live gatherings again?

It's been a journey, but we are seeing signs of growth across our church. Our Sunday gatherings have basically returned to pre-pandemic levels. Every single week we are welcoming new people to our church. People who have moved into the village during lockdown are now beginning to connect and find a place to belong. Many have become active members of our church family this year. The GAP youth club has bounced back … and then some: regularly welcoming up to 120 children each month to Malshanger. Jamie Colman and his team ran two brilliant Alpha courses this year, one online and the other live at the Centre. Both courses have seen people grow deeper in their journey of faith and several marked that in a profound and public way at the recent confirmation service at St Leonard's.

It has been wonderful offering christenings and weddings once again. We've noticed a change here as well, with most of our recent christenings welcoming up to 75 to 100 guests. This has become an excellent opportunity to get to know more people in the community and to introduce them to a different way of doing church.

A Church for Belonging

During the summer, I invested a lot of time having one-to-one 'belonging' conversations with dozens of members of our church. What I learned from these conversations is that our church is full of amazing people whom God has blessed with different gifts, talents, and callings.

I also became aware that some people felt stuck having served in one area of church for a long time, whereas others had always longed to have a go but never felt they had the chance. This has been a wonderful time to encourage people to realign to the place they feel God is calling them, the place they belong. We are just at the tip of the iceberg. There is much more work to do to help others who are new or perhaps a bit on the fringe to feel like they belong too and can make a deep and meaningful contribution to our church.

One of the challenging tasks of 2021 has been rebuilding all our teams: Sunday service team, prayer ministry team, AV tech team, worship team, preaching team, children & youth team, discipleship team, Alpha team, bereavement team, eco church team, finance team, Centre management team, comms team, etc.

This is one of those moments when we need the full body of Christ with all its gifts and experience in order to lean into the radical calling Christ invites us into as his people.



Sue is up to her knees in it and blessing the pond - September 2021

A Church for the Next Generation

The first half of 2021 felt very strange not being able to welcome our children and young people into church. In September, Helen Miller and her team relaunched all of our Sunday groups for children and youth. After the long break, the GAP, the youth meal night, and our engagements with the local schools launched straight back into action. We even managed to start an experimental new Sunday service called 'Sunday Fun Day' once per term, which welcomed tons of new families to church.

The most exciting development within children and youth is the preparations made to appoint a new full-time youth worker to our parish. This new role will be tasked with launching a new youth group to operate alongside The Gap, to work within our local schools, and to be a mental health and wellbeing advocate for your people within our community. Within a month of asking, the congregations at St Leonard's alone pledged enough financial support for the project that we were able to fund the post in full for three years! This is a huge investment and it is right and fitting and necessary for us to do so for the sake of the next generation. This appointment will completely reconfigure our approach to children and youth. And we invite the Holy Spirit to come and pave the way for all that is to come.



A Church for Our Time

Whilst the circumstances of 2021 prevented the Church for Our Time building project to advance to its next phase, we were able to tackle a lot of projects in the Church and the Centre. With the reopening of the Centre, we invested in reordering the parish office and the prayer room. We installed our live-streaming technology up at church. Major works have been undertaken to repair the vestry at Wootton St Lawrence.

In addition, there have been significant developments with our finance team. Simon Constantine, our new treasurer, together with Alice Felton, have completely revamped the financial structures of the church, bringing clarity, transparency, and fresh vision to this area. A huge word of thanks goes to Alice, who sacrificed a huge amount of her time to help us rebuild our financial infrastructure.

It has also been a joy and a delight to welcome Victoria Moody as a new member to the office admin team.

A Church for Wellbeing

As we emerged from our long lockdown and began to see life come back to normal, it became clear very quickly that whilst life was coming back toward normal many of us were struggling with mental health and wellbeing. Whether it was the prolonged social isolation, the constant fear narratives around COVID, intense stress and anxiety, or even the experience of post-pandemic trauma, this year has taken its toll. Many are only beginning to feel the delayed impact of the previous year.

During the Nehemiah series, we sensed God wanting us to talk about all this more honestly and openly as a church. In October, we launched a series on wellbeing and mental health at St Leonard's. We invited a range of speakers (clinical counsellor, NHS nurse, mental health charity founders, GP) to talk. We hosted a panel discussion for the wider village and launched our first parish-wide rhythm of quiet day retreats.

As we move to the other side of this pandemic, this conversation about wellbeing is going to continue to shape the context of our ministry for a very long time. In order to rebuild the people as well as the walls, we need to be intentional about becoming a church that is equipped to listen, to make space, to be honest, open and vulnerable, and to stand in the gap for one another when life happens.

Looking forward …

2022 will be a year of many changes for us. We will soon be welcoming our new full-time Youth Worker to join our staff team. This new ministry has enormous potential to transform our engagement with children, young people, and their families. Needless to say, we are all very keen to see what God will be doing here!

Sadly, this APCM marks Derek Felton's retirement as Churchwarden. It is difficult to put into words the debt of gratitude I have for Derek for all he has given to the life of our church these last 5 years. Derek and Sheila Compton led our parish through the vacancy and recruitment process with great wisdom, skill, and vision. From day one, Derek and Shirley have been a constant source of support and encouragement for me, Jo, and the boys. Throughout the pandemic, Derek was instrumental in the development and success of the Oakley Support Network and countless other projects. I cannot imagine how we would have gotten to this place without the gift of Derek's encouraging and strategic leadership. We are going to miss him. And our one consolation is knowing that he isn't going to be very far away!

I want to bring my reflections on the year to a close with a final word of gratitude. We are so fortunate in our church to be blessed and served by such an amazing team. I want to give a special shout out to Helen and Derek, Penny and Katey, and Sue and Jamie.

The scale of what you've done to support our church and bless our village … it is humbling and remarkable. Without you, this would have been an immensely difficult and overwhelming year. Because of you, I look around overwhelmed with thanks.

We still have a significant journey of 'rebuilding' ahead of us, but God's work of healing, restoration and renewal is already well underway. Let us pray with boldness and expectancy for the new thing God is doing in our midst.

Come, Holy Spirit!
Set our hearts alight with love for you.
Give us courage to be your people
in the midst of dark and troubled times.
And may your kingdom come and set us free
to live the good news of Jesus.

Yours in Christ,

Ben



Parochial Church Council Report

Summary

Oakley with Wootton Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the operation and maintenance of two Centres: St Leonard's and St John's.

The parish has two churches: St Leonard's in Oakley and St Lawrence in Wootton. The churchyards at St John's and at St Lawrence's are open for burials although the PCC is actively working with the relevant agencies to prepare for the closure of St John's graveyard.

The PCC's main tasks in 2021 was to manage the enduring consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic while planning and supporting the relaunch of church activities and growth priorities.

It has been a busy time. While 2020 brought the challenges of launching an on-line church, 2021 required us to operate a hybrid church with strong on-line and physical elements.

All of our church activities have had to adapt. We have had no continuity at all and we have learned to not look too far into the future. All parts of the church family adapted well to the situations we have faced.

Simon Constantine and the Finance Committee led a 'root and branch' review of our Finance systems and processes, Victoria Moody joined the Office Team and Mark Peryer and the Building and Maintenance Team have progressed a significant number of modest and major repairs to the churches and centres.







Structure, governance and management

The procedures for appointing PCC members are set out in the Church Representation Rules. In Oakley with Wootton parish, the membership of the PCC in 2020 consisted of the Rector, Churchwardens, Treasurer, Administrator, Deanery Synod representatives and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

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 full PCC met 5 times during the year. The average level of attendance was 85%

Given its wide responsibilities, the PCC has a number of committees dealing with different aspects of parish life. The Leadership Team continued to meet weekly and support short term decision-making to enable the church to respond to the changing implications of the pandemic. This team includes clergy, church wardens, church administrator and the lead for Pastoral Care.

Teams responsible for Safeguarding, Finance, Buildings and Maintenance, A Church for Our Time, Centre Management, outward giving (Mission Action Group) report to the PCC as necessary.

Safeguarding

The Church Safeguarding Officer is Teresa Bates. Teresa leads a team that supports all church activities with policy, policy compliance, procedures and advice.

The PCC has complied with the duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure of 2016.

Administrative information

The United Parish of Oakley with Wootton includes two churches (St Leonard's and St Lawrence) and a Garden of Remembrance on the site of the chapel of St John in East Oakley. It is part of the Diocese of Winchester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is:

The Church Office, St Leonard's Centre Rectory Road,
Oakley, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG23 7ED.

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and is registered as a charity (number 1131064).

Our Independent Examiner is Paul Sherrington, MBA FCCA

PCC members at 31/12/20

Ex Officio PCC members: Incumbent: Rev'd Ben Kautzer; Associate Minister: Rev'd Sue Colman Treasurer: Simon Constantine, PCC Secretary, Penny Brown

Churchwardens: Helen Miller; Derek Felton

Deanery Synod PCC members: Rev'd Ben Kautzer, Helen Miller, Derek Felton and Diana Rundle

Elected PCC members:

- Tim Saunders (1st term ends 2022), Katey Butler (1st term ends 2022), Tina Skinner (1st term ends 2022)
- Teresa Bates (1st term ends 2023), Kate Goucher (1st term ends 2023), Phillipa Spicer (1st term ends 2023).
- Abigail Compton-Burnett (2nd term ends 2024), Mark Peryer (2nd term ends 2024), Graeme Wheeler (1st term ends 2024)

PCC Report Approved by the PCC on 21st March 2022

Financial Review

2021 was the second year in which we were impacted financially by the pandemic, most notably by St Leonard's Centre remaining shut until September, save for the operation of our Pre-School. This resulted in about half the normal level of rental income being received. We also faced some significant increases in utility costs in the second half that continue into 2022.

The most significant income for the Church is of course giving, primarily from our worshipping community and wonderfully this actually increased over the previous year and almost equalled gifts given in 2019. This enabled us to continue the many streams of both online and physical ministry as you will read elsewhere in this report. We also met our requested contribution to the Diocese Common Mission Fund in full once again; this is by far our largest outgoing.

During the year, the financial systems, controls and presentation of accounts were redesigned after a number of years where the Church's activities have increased to the point where financial reports were not reflecting the activities in the most helpful way. The activities of both St Leonard's and St John's Centres were brought into the main monthly accounts and the PCC now has full visibility of all activities regularly, including Pre-School and Evergreens, where significant funds are involved.

The Church and Centres together showed a small deficit for the year of £6,932 (2020: surplus of £1,500) and the Pre-School, which is now included in Unrestricted Funds, a surplus of £6,966. Restricted Funds increased by £62,503 primarily due to continued gifts being made into the Church for our Time initiative.

The full Financial Statements are included in the Annual Report.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the PCC to maintain sufficient unrestricted operating reserves (those not relating to property) to cover the normal ministry, management and administration costs of the Church for a minimum of six months. Additional reserves are set aside where, in the view of the PCC, it is prudent to allow for future planned spending.

The level of unrestricted operating reserves as at 31 December 2021 was £132,664 (2020: £132,631), which represents approximately seven and a half months of normal expenditure.

Simon Constantine, Treasurer

From the Church Wardens

2021 was an extremely busy year and one that has required significant effort and energy from the Rectory and the Leadership Team as a whole. At times, it felt that we were trying to operate two churches – the online church that had provided so much support to us all when we couldn't meet and a relaunched physical church environment that remained heavily restricted.

It was a year when we asked people to consider how they 'belong' to the church and what this means. Some would stand back for a bit, others would get involved in new ways and others have asked to try something completely different.

Thank you for your resilience through 2021 and your commitment and generosity in time and energy as we restarted church activities. We also thank you for the way you have responded to the call to invest in a youth worker. So many have you have worked hard to rebuild, restart and renew church life. We are grateful to you all.

Derek Felton *Helen Miller*

Pastoral Care

As I look back on the past year, I remember times of great joy when we have celebrated together, but also what a difficult year it has been with times of great sorrow as we have said goodbye to some very dear friends.

The length of time we have been living with Covid and facing certain restrictions has had an impact on us all in terms of our physical health, mental wellbeing and, in some respects, our confidence. But in all these circumstances you have continued to show God's love and compassion to your neighbours, friends and family through your prayers and acts of kindness. Thank you to everyone who has provided meals, baked cakes, sent cards and flowers, visited, phoned, prayed and given words of hope and encouragement.

Once again we have demonstrated God's love and blessing to individuals within the community and church family with the giving of mini Christmas Hampers. We were also blessed to be in a position to provide hampers in response to requests from Besom, Basingstoke Foodbank and the local schools. A huge 'Thank You' to everyone, including the young people from The Gap, who provided items and the delivery team that distributed the hampers. The response to these gifts has been extremely positive.

This year there has been a focus on providing support to the bereaved and this has taken several forms including running a bereavement course and establishing a regular meeting point for bereaved men.

We have been networking with outside agencies to establish the level of support that we can realistically offer to some of the more vulnerable members of our community.

Although the OSN was wound up earlier this year, a small number of elderly people are still being supported by phone buddies from the church.

The Pastoral Care Team continues to meet and work together to ensure we understand who is in need of support and how best to put this in place. The Team is grateful to everyone who has played a part in supporting others during this past year. Your kindness, generosity and care will have made a positive difference to a person's life. All these acts of love and compassion are part of our worship to God.

If you want to get involved, or you are aware of any pastoral care needs please contact me and I would be pleased to listen and know more.

Katey Butler



Remembering the Duke of Edinburgh

From Sue Colman, Associate Minister

To be called to minister at OWW with such a faith filled congregation and excellent team has been a surprising journey and a huge joy.

There has been a lot of change in my role at OWW over the last 5 years…..

- 2018 – whilst licensed to a London parish, helping the church wardens and carrying the congregations through an interregnum.
- 2019 – welcoming Ben and Jo and the family in May and then getting licensed here as a part-time Associate Minister
- 2020 – in March and the midst of lockdown arrives - I am sworn in as Hampshire High Sheriff and step back from much of my church roles at Oakley with Wootton while we all play at trying to gauge what any role looks like in this strange time
- 2021 in March the role as High Sheriff ends, but we are still in the strange Covid landscape and we shape a new 'normal', whatever that means for us all!

And so to now – 2022 – and some clarity for the years …. with space for God to keep on surprising us.

As a part time Associate Minister, my 'working days' are Thursday and Sunday – broadly 14 hours – but the joy is that the rest of my week can often be flexible so I try and fit things in the best possible places! Friday is my day off…oh and Tuesday is granny day – equally important! And Mondays term times I work in London as a Chaplain to a Theological College – with whom I also go on residentials for 7 weekends each year.

I look forward with great anticipation as to what God will do in the years ahead…and how he will invite each of us to join in with his perfect plans.

Rev'd Sue Colman

Bereavement Support

This year the church had the opportunity to carry out 25 funerals and 8 burials of ashes. We connect to families and loved ones after these services through personal connection and with cards and invitations to appropriate services and courses.

The annual In 'Loving Memory' service was much appreciated and the invitation to light candles personally and place these on the Altar was very meaningful. Refreshments provided afterwards in the Centre provided a helpful opportunity to talk and share with others in similar situations.

The 'Blue Christmas' service on 19 December helped support those facing loneliness, sadness and loss and for whom the programmed happiness of the season feels difficult. The service was a safe, gentle and encouraging place which was greatly valued by those who came.

The 'Journeying Together' group for those facing fertility problems and childlessness of varying kinds continued on-line and proved to be of real value especially during lockdown. In the Autumn, the core group felt it right to take a break until the new year. One couple now have a baby and there was a lovely Thanksgiving Service arranged in St Lens which our Rector lead most sensitively. This and another pregnancy in the group has brought both celebration and challenge.

A 6 week course 'The Bereavement Journey' in January was run on-line due to Covid restrictions. It was found to be extremely valuable and there are plans to run another course 'in person' in the Centre are in hand. Thanks are due to the team who have enabled this to run so well.

Diana Rundle

Office@HereandThere

It has been a second eventful year for the Church Office, which was run from home at the start of the year before moving back into St Leonard's Centre in the summer.

The Big Centre Clear-out involved a stock take in every cupboard and the removal of many unwanted and unused items. We sorted, 'crated' and labelled the things we needed to keep and we had a fresh look at furniture and displays. New racks were introduced for the bookstall, cards and Traidcraft.

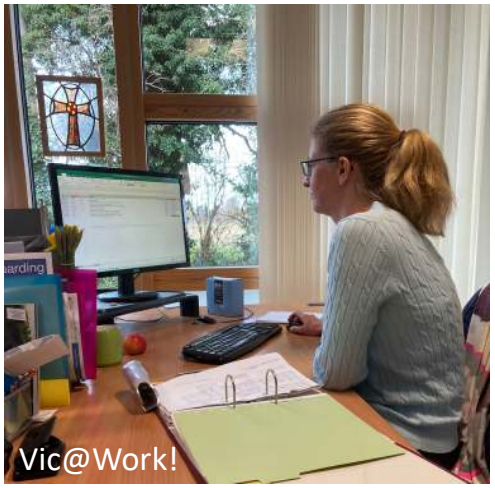


Helen, Laura and Jeni sorted through all the children's stuff and amalgamated them in easy-to-find drawers in cupboards. Michael had the unenviable task of sifting through old financial statements and receipts.

So after several industrial bins were emptied and with the aid of an industrial shredding company, we are now officially 'decluttered'.

Amazon and Facebook helped us find new storage and shelving for the office and kitchen. Rowland and Harry painted the room and Rowland built a new desk and cupboard out of an old desk and cupboard, so we can still sit 3-5 people at the desk. This has proved really useful, and the new office layout is a great use of space.





Vic@Work!

The opening of the office window from the entrance area has also been really useful and it allows us to interact with people at a safe distance!

We also have changed the way we rota the different roles for Sunday services. Sunday Teams have been created to manage the different stewarding and hospitality roles on a Sunday and these have been a great success. We are very grateful to those who have stepped forward to be part of these teams, especially the team leaders. But there is always space for more, so do step forward if you would like to welcome, steward and serve coffee.

The biggest and best change in the office was the arrival of Vic in July. Taken on to do Linda's booking admin role, but with additional hours to help with the day to day finance operations like banking and expense paying, she is also deputising for me. Vic's previous experience with a major bank has been a real blessing to the Church and she is surely destined for great things.

One of the key 'tech' aims for 2022 is to make more and better use of the iKnow system. We will be updating all the info currently on there and so we will be asking you to help us with that during the Spring Term.

I completed a course, set up originally by St. John's Theological College in Nottingham, on 'The Work of the Church Administrator'. This was distance learning covering everything from filing to social media, Bible teachings on administration to handling tricky customers. It ends with writing a report on your church with observations and ideas on how to improve the way we do things. Huge thanks to Jan who mentored me (for 'mentored' please read – 'held me accountable') and gave me a much-needed shove and food to help me get over the finish line.

Thank you for all your feedback on the Friday email. My virtual walk from Land's End to John O'Groats certainly led to some interesting conversations, especially people with people calling out to me in the Oakley streets to ask me where my virtual location was: Loch Ness or wherever, only to be overheard by puzzled looking, non-church folk!

As ever we could not function without the amazing wider office support team, especially Graeme, without whom the Welcome Sheet just wouldn't happen. We were very sad to lose Joan Smith as she stepped back from the office team, but she is still helps us out with administrative support behind the scenes.

Thank you to everyone who has had made any contribution to the smooth running of the churches and centres: the services, private prayer, and odd jobs in the Centre … and obviously to the Church Leadership Team for their support and encouragement as we navigate and cope with these strange times.

Penny Brown and Vic Moody

Church for Our Time

It has been a pretty frustrating year as we seek the final approvals from the Local Authority and Diocese to proceed with improvements to St Leonard's Church.

We always knew that our designs for an extension at the main church door would be contentious and likely to attract concerns and comments from Historic England, the Victorian Society and The Society for Protection for Ancient Buildings but we have always believed that this is the location that is most obvious and appropriate for introducing the changes we want to make.

We did receive positive responses when we had pre-planning discussions with the Local Authority and we continue to receive huge support from local Councillors. The planners asked us to increase the pitch of the extension (previously we had been advised to keep it as low as possible!). Subsequent meetings with the Diocese have welcomed this design and it passed preliminary reviews with no objections from the historic societies.

We have, however, been asked to prepare more detailed specifications on particular aspects of the design before we are granted final permissions from the Diocese and this is needed earlier than the architects had anticipated. We will then submit final planning applications.



In the meantime, we are looking to see what elements of the improvements we can bring forward. This does cause extra work as we still need to get Diocesan approvals but it has meant that we can introduce new technologies, for example, to allow video streaming.

Derek Felton

Wootton St Lawrence

During the year as restrictions began to ease, the community life, activities & services in Wootton re-emerged. From May, the church building has been open daily providing a quiet space for private prayer and reflection. An established prayer group continues to meet.

On 23rd May, following a partial lifting of Covid restrictions, a service of Holy Communion for the whole parish was held at St Lawrence and in July, we celebrated a Wootton family wedding, with a reception on the green.



In August, we held our first Bee Fayre. St Lawrence Church is the pastoral home to Charles Butler, acknowledged as the Father of English Beekeeping. With the involvement of Basingstoke Beekeepers Association and the local community, people were invited to meet the bee keepers; learn about the secret life of bees, and enjoy local market stalls, beekeeping workshops, demonstrations, crafts & activities. Short talks & presentations were held in the church. It was a very successful day and we have plans for this to be a regular event.



In October, there was a meeting in St Lawrence to listen to the views of local people regarding services and the use of St Lawrence Church. It was a very encouraging time with many creative ideas shared for how we might continue and enhance our times of worship in the church along with how we might see it as a community venue for a range of other events.

Later that month we held our Harvest Thanksgiving Service followed by refreshments, to inaugurate the new rhythm of Sunday morning worship.
This is: 1st Sunday of the month at 9am a traditional Communion service; 3rd Sunday of the month at 9am a more informal service.

On Remembrance Sunday, a simple act of Remembrance was held at the memorial, led by Sue Colman. This was well attended and clergy involvement was much appreciated by the villagers. Following on from this, a short ceremony took place dedicating a tree planted in memory of Arthur & Kathleen Pooles, who had provided much service to the church & local community during their lives. We gathered afterwards in the church for refreshments afterwards.

In December we held our Christmas Tree Festival and Big Sing. Members of the local community decorated trees on the Saturday and then on the Sunday afternoon, people were invited to explore the brilliant display, vote for their favourite tree and enjoy mulled wine, mince pies in a festive atmosphere. Funds raised for St Lawrence Church Fund. After this, the Big Sing commenced with musical performances, poetry, readings & a Christmas singalong! We had great contributions from residents of both Oakley & Wootton.

We held our traditional crib service with readings & carols by candlelight. To maintain covid safety, we couldn't have a lot of children gathering at the crib, however Ben did an excellent job of placing the characters & animals in the stable!

Work on the fabric of the church this year has included removing the carpets that were damaging the floor tiles and there has been significant renovation of the vestry. In the coming year, we hope to move forward with improving our church facilities so that we have a much needed water supply, kitchen, toilet and flexible space to offer a better welcome for congregations and the community. We plan to write a vision statement, then ask for volunteers with experience/enthusiasm to form a team/working party to move this forward. Let me know if you want to get involved!

Teresa Bates







Eco Church

The 'Love Oakley Go Green' banner continues to provide a uniting theme that encourages and expands environmental issues and awareness throughout the Community, as well as the Church. In this, we have benefitted from valuable contributions from Barbara, Clerk to the Oakley Parish Council, Chris from the Oakley Community Association and Naomi from the Oakley Junior School.

Alongside the Bee Fayre that was held in Wootton St Lawrence, the team planned the annual Green Week and Green Fayre. Sadly, the predicted torrential rain and high winds meant that the Green Fayre had to be cancelled.

However, throughout the 2020 Green Week, there were a range of activities including visits, walks and talks. The Oakley Gardening club put together a fantastic display of shrubs and plants loved by bees and butterflies, together with a variety of bug hotel ideas and caring for hedgehogs.

Ben hosted the Big Green Questions in the church and this was streamed to enable people to participate and get involved online. We also learned from the experiences of Overton village as they seek to say 'No' to single use plastics. During the week, the Hampshire and IoW Woodland Trust visited Oakley Junior School year groups 5 and 6. The children engaged with issues, showing a strong awareness of nature, and at the same time extending their knowledge and understanding of the work of the Trust and wider green issues.

On the Friday evening, there was an opportunity to learn how to reduce CO2 emissions in the home. Speakers talked on ground and air source heat pumps, home insulation, solar panels, and how to calculate home carbon footprints. There was a demonstration of a thermal camera which can detect heat loss.

The Greening Campaign ran alongside the 'Love Oakley Go Green' programme with the Oakley Parish Council encouraging the Community to commit to five challenges to reduce their home CO2 emissions.

10% of the Community was covered by counting the Challenge Cards in windows. On this basis, good annual results were achieved saving: 105.5 tons of CO2 emissions and £55,000. We would like to think more villagers joined in but didn't put their cards in windows. If half our community did join in then the potential savings would be 527.5 tons of CO2 and £275,000 pa.

We can all make small changes to achieve this. A huge thank-you to those of you who joined in, and to the volunteers who delivered and counted the cards. We are very grateful.

As we progress into 2022, we want to build ever stronger links with the Community. With everybody's support, Oakley will continue to 'go greener'.

ECO Church Award

We still have a way to go to achieve the Gold standard. We are constantly reminded that it is our responsibility to steward God's Creation to protect His wonderful world. A major challenge is to improve the carbon footprint of our Churches and Centres. Let's continue to challenge ourselves and commit to improvement.

Linda Wain

Bishop's Commission for Mission: Creation Care

Many congratulations to Linda for completing the Bishop's Commission for Mission (BCM) for Creation Care. This is for individuals who want to help their churches take more steps towards caring for God's Creation. The six sessions cover the theology behind creation care as well as the practical actions that can be launched as we seek to learn how to be better stewards of God's wonderful world.

Deanery Synod Report

Due to Covid restrictions the first meeting of the Synod was held on 13 July at Tadley and in July, Ben was appointed as the new Assistant Area Dean of Basingstoke

Chris Hill (new Diocesan Mission Trainer) explained from as from September four areas of study for the Bishops Commission for Mission (BCM) would be offered: Worship; Youth & Families; Prayer Champions; Creation Care.

Richard Harlow introduced LLF (Living in Love & Faith) course which sets out to inspire people to think more deeply. Courses will be offered within the Deanery.

Two newly-ordained Curates were introduced (Kim Robins – St Marks Kempshott and Steve McKay – St Marys Tadley North).

The second Synod meeting on 5 October were advised that three new laity members were accepted as Basingstoke Deanery Representatives on Diocesan Synod (Pippa Aslet – Sherborne w Pamber; Philip Hiorns – St Marys Eastrop and David Josey – Christchurch Chineham).

There was a presentation on Basingstoke Movement for Recovery (BM4R). A network across the churches, Council, Police, business community, social care and voluntary sector work together across the problem areas of food, housing, unemployment and health to engage in recovery actions. 596 volunteers had been involved in helping 11,507 people. They were encouraged that Basingstoke Council asked the group to lead on Foodbank and Night Shelter.

Penny Dilley shared an update on the Community Food Link (CFL). Volunteers collect food from supermarkets across the town which is sorted and delivered to various hubs for distribution on different days. Queues form for around an hour before food is laid out on tables and all is gone within 30 minutes.

Diana Rundle

8 O'Clockers

The Covid restrictions in 2020 changed our wonderful and faithful community of 8 o'clockers.

The momentary panic of the first lock down forced us to change from meeting every other week for a Book of Common Prayer Service of Holy Communion to meeting every Sunday by Zoom for a service of the Word and introduce a mid-week Zoom "Coffee Morning".

We discovered hidden talents for leading prayers and bible reading – along with really enjoying seeing each other's faces instead of the back of each other's heads during worship. We also enjoyed listening to hymns together.

As soon as we were able to do so, we transitioned back into being in church together, on the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month, with a slightly different style of worship – still a quiet and gentle early morning space, but with some music; thankfully again sharing communion together, but with words which are more familiar to our 21st century ears.

In the autumn we tried meeting in the alternate weeks for our legendary after service breakfast and completed some of the Alpha course together to help us go deeper in our relationships with each other and with God. The 8 o'clock service looks forward to 2022 and beyond with a new confidence, able to welcome newcomers who value the slightly more contemplative worship and of course our regular post service breakfast together.

Rev'd Sue Colman

Buildings and Grounds

The general idea with the work of the buildings and ground team is that you shouldn't notice that we've been at work. But rest assured, we have been very busy this year:

At St Leonard's:

- replacing stolen lead flashings from the lower roof

At St Lawrence:

- treating woodworm
- removing the carpet
- treating the floor tiles
- renovating the vestry

We also fixed the leaking water supply and the hot water system at St John's Centre and we reordered the Prayer Room at St Leonards Centre.

If you ever feel like you would like to get out of the house and do something practical just let me know, the list of maintenance jobs has a life of its own.


St Leonard's Roof Repairs

One outcome that you may have noticed signs of is the project to get equipment installed in St Leonards Church to allow us to stream live services and other events, such as the Green Week Debate to our YouTube channel.

This improvement was envisaged as part of the Church for Our Time project and we initiated the work in 2021 to get early benefits, particularly as we needed to operate a physical and on-line church as we emerged from pandemic restrictions.

The system became operational in May 2021 and since then a small team of operators has faithfully been working to refine their skills to provide what has proven to be a much needed channel, not just for the immediate church family but those with wider spread friends and family who otherwise wouldn't be able to connect with weddings and funerals.

In addition to the camera operator, a typical service crew also has a laptop and a sound desk operator, in the absence of rolling credits in our videos I should like to acknowledge their contributions.

Mark Peryer


Video Streaming Console

St Leonard's Pre-School

Thank you all for your continued prayer support of the families and staff at St Leonard's.

This has been an eventful year with the pre-school remaining open to all children for the whole year, despite Covid! It was during the summer term, whilst reading a book about parties, that it suddenly struck me that none of the children would know what a children's birthday party, with friends, was like. I am glad to say that slowly this is beginning to change. Another impact of Covid is that all children accept practitioners and adults wearing masks as part of everyday life.

This year has seen the appointment of several new members of staff, who are all settling in well. Parents have now accepted Covid as part of life and have been keen to send their children to preschool to meet and play with others. I am pleased to say that currently the preschool is well attended.

Last year we had a very successful time fundraising and bought new mathematics and sensory equipment for inside and bikes, water wall, water pipettes and big construction equipment for the outside area. We also received many good quality donations of equipment for the preschool which the children are benefitting from.

September saw the introduction of the new Early Years Foundation stage which we are busy implementing. We have started to invite people back into the setting. We have had chicks, guinea pigs, rabbits and a tortoise visit the setting much to the children's enjoyment. At Christmas we had our Nativity for the first time in the church. This proved to be very successful, and we had a large audience of families to perform to.

We are starting to think about the redevelopment of the outside area, so the preschool has its own space within the outside area.

Hopefully by the next annual report this will have started or taken place. Please pray for wisdom and guidance on the way forward.

Caroline Edwards

Pre-School Committee

This is a sub-committee of the PCC and exists to oversee the running of the pre-school and support Caroline and the staff.

There was a successful fundraising initiative led by the Parent Reps enabling Caroline to purchase new resources including the outdoor blackboards that can be seen on the fence.

At the beginning of 2021 Sarah Pritchard was appointed to undertake a few hours administration. She has been busy setting up efficient electronic systems e.g. for enrolling children, as well as updating paperwork and policies.

From Easter the afternoon hours were extended to 3.00pm to provide more time for the children.

Caroline has professionally led the staff through some challenging times; they coped admirably with all the Covid precautions and are now in the process of implementing the new Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum

We are pleased to say the pre-school is currently flourishing with the highest number of children on role over the last year plus regular visits from prospective new children and their parents.

Sheila Compton

Children, Youth and Families

What a year it has been in the life of our families, children and youth! During the pandemic our families and youth got very used to connecting with each other through the wonder of YouTube, emails and Zoom. But in this last year, we have begun to tentatively reconnect face-to-face and only fully apreciated then how much we had missed all being together.

We saw Kids@Home continue right up until the summer last year with weekly services online for all: each with a different theme and all with the participation of lots of our local families and children. There was no limit to what we tackled and talked about, the families and children who watched being fed wherever and whenever they accessed it. These services were also used as the weekly collective worship for our junior school. Kids@Home reached far beyond our expectations and I believe we are still seeing the fruitful results and impacts in our community as a result of it.

Sunday morning groups restarted and we have loved welcoming all children back to our Centre to eat, chat, share and learn together. Having the children there on Sundays has brought such life and joy back into our Centre building. We have seen new members join our Leaders and Helpers Team as well. We spent time prioritising to ensure that we made sure all children were welcomed back into their church and to take their place. Our focus was to help everyone adjust to being together again and recognise the importance of belonging. It has been wonderful to welcome back our families as well as getting to know new ones.

We have introduced 'Sunday Fundays'. This is a new service on Sunday afternoons with a real party celebration feel. These were fun afternoons filled with worship, stories, balloons, face painting, crafts, yummy food, and even a bouncy castle and more! We were delighted that so many new faces joined us at these afternoons with lots of happy, messy and noisy children. The Sunday Fundays shared God's love and fun with our community at a time everyone needed it.





For the first time since March 2019, we could gather back in church together, young and old. The youth and children joined the whole congregation to worship and show the church what they had been learning during our wellbeing series.

We enjoyed an 'in-person' Christingle service, complete with a life size orange vicar! We have had to continue to adjust and be patient. Just as we started to get used to be back together again, we had to move our Crib service back online…. but how wonderful it was and so many families took part to ensure that we could still celebrate together.

The Gap youth group also returned and welcomed back huge numbers of young people. We met monthly again at Malshanger Social Club and it was filled with youth and teens all happy to be together again and connect with friends, old and new. The gap team has seen new helpers and leaders join as well. The Gap continues to provide a safe, fun and parent free zone for our local youth to hang out. The mission of The Gap has no limits.

The Teens Group leaders were quick to get the teen's dinner nights going again and their table has been filled with teens and youth ever since! They are such brilliant evenings with yummy food and games. It is a true blessing to the children and a very important opportunity for our children to socialise again. There have been so many attending the dinners that they have had to meet at the Centre instead of in a home! Teens dinners are a key part of our youth ministry and have the potential to reach many more in our community alongside other groups.

This year saw the launch of our youth worker project. This was a real highlight to our year and the outcome of years of prayer and preparation. We have worked as a team to develop a Job Profile and Description for a full time youth worker with an emphasis on wellbeing and mental health. We launched the project to our church family and then the local community and have been overwhelmed with the response and generosity. We have moved onto the next phase of the project and we are currently actively advertising and interviewing candidates. We are so excited for the future and continue to pray into God's will being done.

During the lockdowns we were able to not just simply continue but develop our links and relationship with our local schools. As they returned over the last year this has been a challenge with restrictions changing so often. We were all constantly adjusting to new rules and high numbers of Covid cases. Despite this, we continue to have a very positive relationship with our infant and junior schools. This has included visits to church, online Christmas celebrations with our Evergreens group, assemblies with Ben, the links with Sunday Fundays and The Gap and of course with Kids@Home. We look forward to this coming year as we can welcome back Prayer Space, have regular assemblies and work alongside the school in their RE curriculum. Our youth worker will also be involved regularly in our schools. We have much to look forward to and hope to build and expand our teams involved in our school projects.

We continue to be so grateful for all God has done for us over this last year. We have been abundantly blessed with so many youth, children and their families engaging with our church and activities. We now look forward to a new phase in a changed world and we want to be there, letting children know that God's love for them never changes and they have a warm welcome waiting for them at church.

Helen Miller



Evergreen

We were unable to meet as a group in St Leonard's Centre until August. Until then, we met in groups of six in helpers homes for Morning Coffee or Afternoon Tea. Also during that period we kept in touch by telephone and the delivery of small surprises.

The August concessionary meeting helped the Evergreens to learn to meet in a large group again and enjoy Afternoon Tea together.

In September we were privileged to hear Angela Rush read from her book of Poems. We also welcomed five new members.

At last, we celebrated our 21st Birthday in October with entertainment from St Leonard's Magician, Dave Rundle with his extended repertoire, causing much amusement! We also enjoyed a special tea with an amazing 21st birthday cake. Balloons and flower arrangements were in abundance and so were the smiles. In November, our Rector Ben celebrated a Remembrance Communion – appreciated by all.



Covid restrictions prevented our usual delightful visit to the Junior School to be entertained by the children in year six. Evergreens were sad and the children were sad. However, Ben and Mr Rich, the Headmaster, organised the production of a DVD of the children singing carols in St Leonard's Church and recordings of conversations between the children and three of the Evergreens. This was amazing.

Marilyn and Rodney Scott

Men@Hart

Men@Hart is a recently started facility the church can offer to men who find themselves on their own.

We gather on the last Tuesday of the month at The White Hart in Overton, except for a very boisterous meal at the Red Fort whilst the White Hart was being renovated, for a tasty meal and lots of chat.

Each meal has provided a lovely evening with some quite surprising revelations!

Do get in touch if you know of anyone that would benefit from and welcome joining us.

Graeme Wheeler



Alpha 2021

We ran two Alpha courses during 2021, the first was an online course that started in January and then we restarted face-to-face Alpha in September. Both courses were small in terms of the numbers of guests, but nevertheless very significant.

A face-to-face Alpha is an enormous undertaking involving around 30 people who are organised to plan the purchase and preparation of food for 10 weeks and a full day away; to set up the themed environment we meet in and to welcome our guests; to gather with our guests around a table and serve, clear away and wash up after a meal together. Then to screen a film which we watch together before we break out into small groups for discussion which is usually deep and always lively. Lastly, and most significantly, to have alongside throughout a dedicated team to pray and intercede for our guests, listening out for how God wants to bless each one of them.

At both Alphas we witnessed significant progression into faith for some and deepening faith for others. For everyone involved this was an invigorating journey in which we saw first-hand the wonderful promises of God being fulfilled.

Each Alpha Course is unique, taking on the character of those organising and attending it; but it has one common theme – being exposed to good news, and meeting with our amazing triune God – God the father and creator, Jesus His son, and the Holy Spirit whom Jesus promised to leave with us until His work was done.

The other really wonderful characteristic that we see in each Alpha Course is how everyone journeying into faith or deeper in faith is also called by bonds of close friendship and fellowship into discovering and using their gifts and talents for the benefit of our communities, and for many that means joining the Alpha Course with a new key role of leadership of some kind. It's such a joy to see these giftings taking shape and being used by our gracious God to see just a little bit of His Kingdom come and His will being done on earth as it is in heaven.

We plan to continue with a regular rhythm of Alpha; another Alpha Course started in January and will continue up to Easter, and we plan to start the next course in September 2022. We are inspired to expect this rhythm of a bi-annual course, to stimulate many new people to participate and so develop their practical, pastoral and leadership gifts, as well as coming to Baptism and Confirmation, and even, God willing, to discovering a particular vocation in service in the Body of Christ.

Jamie Colman



Our Mission Partners

Each year, the Mission Action Group receives nominations for supporting Christian projects and initiatives in Basingstoke, the wider United Kingdom and internationally. These are the mission partners we supported in 2021

Basingstoke Town Chaplaincy
...supporting our community

M.A.C.S.
Malawi Association for Christian Support

Child of Hope

MECHANICS FOR AFRICA

The Safe
A place to be family

money lifeline

THE BESOM IN BASINGSTOKE
SWEEP AWAY SUFFERING

CHILD'S TRUST

London Street United Reformed Church
Youth Cafe

Interserve

Cedar Tree Counselling
Christians serving the community

St Gabriel's
loving God welcoming you

THE SNOWDROP FOUNDATION

United Parish of Church Oakley with Wootton St Lawrence

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Charity Registration Number 1131064

CONTENTS

Independent Examiner's Report	3
Statement of Financial Activities	4
Balance Sheet	5
Notes to the Financial Statements	6 to 11
Detailed Income & Expenditure Church and Centres	12
Detailed Income & Expenditure All Activities	13

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Oakley with Wootton Parochial Church Council ("the PCC")

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's trustees of the PCC, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').
Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the PCC are not required to be audited and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC 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 accounting requirements of 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 a part of an independent examination; or
4. The accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

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.

WELLER MACKRILL

Paul Sherrington FCCA, membership number 1326429
Weller Mackrill
Chartered Certified Accountants
South Building
Upper Farm
Wootton St Lawrence
Basingstoke
Hampshire
RG23 8PE

21 March 2022

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ended 31st December 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2021	TOTAL 2020
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Incoming Resources from Donors	2a	126,817	68,987		195,804	163,490
Income from investments	2b	29	799		828	977
Gains / (Losses) on investments	2c		2,472		2,472	-1,222
Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading	2d	30,784			30,784	33,878
Income from Designated Activities	2e	73,579			73,579	81,439
		231,210	72,258	0	303,468	278,562
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Church Activities	3a	162,826	9,115		171,941	153,889
Governance Costs	3b	300			300	560
Costs of Designated Activities	3c	66,614			66,614	60,449
		229,740	9,115	0	238,855	214,898
NET INCOMING RESOURCES		1,470	63,144	0	64,613	63,664
DEPRECIATION	5	1,436	641		2,077	3,143
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		34	62,503	0	62,536	60,521
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2021		155,799	996,356	2,139	1,154,293	1,093,772
Transfers from Restricted to Unrestricted Funds	8d	702,809	(702,809)			
Balance carried forward at 31 December 2021		858,641	356,050	2,139	1,216,830	1,154,293

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2021	2020
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	5	**729,885**	**7,049**		**736,935**	729,361
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors	6	**3,247**	**50**		**3,297**	2,639
Investments		**0**	**6,598**		**6,598**	5,820
Short Term Deposits		**68,320**	**283,586**		**351,906**	268,889
Cash at Bank and in Hand		**71,307**	**59,045**	**2,139**	**132,491**	152,248
		142,874	**349,279**	**2,139**	**494,292**	429,595
LIABILITIES						
Amounts falling due within one year	7	**-14,118**	**-279**		**-14,397**	-4,663
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**128,756**	**349,000**	**2,139**	**479,895**	424,932
LIABILITIES						
Amounts falling due after more than one year	7	**0**	**0**		**0**	0
TOTAL NET ASSETS		**858,641**	**356,050**	**2,139**	**1,216,830**	1,154,293
PARISH FUNDS						
Unrestricted - Operating Reserves	8	**132,664**			**132,664**	130,799
Unrestricted - Relating to Property	8	**725,977**			**725,977**	25,000
Restricted	8		**356,050**		**356,050**	996,356
Endowment	8			**2,139**	**2,139**	2,139
		858,641	**356,050**	**2,139**	**1,216,830**	1,154,293

Approved by the PCC on 21 March 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Revd Ben Kautzer (PCC Chairman)

The notes on pages 6 to 11 form part of these accounts

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31st December 2021

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 01/01/2015) - (Charity SORP (FRS102)) and the Charities Act 2011.
The Parochial Church Council (PCC) constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of certain fixed assets and investments, 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.

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue operating.

Funds
Unrestricted Funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated by the PCC for the operation of St Leonard's Pre-School are also unrestricted.

Restricted Funds comprise donations or grants intended for a specific PCC activity.

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 depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Incoming Resources
Donations are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving under gift aid is recognised when the income is received. Income Tax recoverable on gift aid is recognised at the same time as giving is received.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.

Income relating to other activities is recognised as the activities occur. Income and expenditure are recognised separately.

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

Resources Expended
Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when payable. Other expenditure is accounted for when it is incurred.

Taxation
As a Charity the PCC does not undertake any activity which falls within the scope of UK Income taxation.

Fixed Assets
Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011. No value is placed on moveable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers these to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.
Other fixed property is vested in the Diocesan Board of Finance as Diocesan Authority under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, effectively in trust for the PCC, with the PCC acting as managing trustees. Under the Charities Act, such property is included in the accounts notwithstanding the PCC's lack of title. Such properties are valued by the PCC using the best available advice as to free market value for the current usage less any provision for restrictions on such a sale.

Fixtures, fittings and office equipment used within the church premises is capitalised at cost and depreciated on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, subject to the initial purchase price being greater than £1,000. Purchases with an initial value less than or equal to £1,000 are written off in the year of purchase.

Current Assets
Amounts owing to the PCC at 31st December are shown as debtors less any provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.
Short term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund or at a bank.
Any sums legally due and payable by the PCC are included in the accounts as creditors and reflect the full value deemed likely to be paid. Contingent assets and liabilities are not brought into the accounts but may be reflected by way of note.

Financial Instruments
The PCC only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Reserves
Reserves act as a buffer to smooth fluctuations from month to month and protect against unforeseen significant reductions in giving or increases in expenditure. The PCC aim to hold the equivalent of approximately six months of Unrestricted Fund annual expenditure in the form of net current assets.

Agency Income and Expenditure
Voluntary donations received by the PCC, purely as agent, for specified objects over which the PCC has no discretion are not included in either the income or expenditure of these account.

2 INCOMING RESOURCES

Incoming resources from

2a Donors

Substantially all of the donations received into both Unrestricted and Restricted Funds were from individual donors with income tax recovered under Gift Aid or from charitable trusts.

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2021	TOTAL 2020
2b Income from Investments				
Interest on bank deposits and Church of England Deposit Fund	29	485	514	693
Dividends on M&G Charifund holding		314	314	284
	29	**799**	**828**	977
2c Gains / (Losses on investments				
Change in market value of units held in M&G Charifund		**779**	**779**	(1,222)
2d Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading				
Hire of St Leonard's and St John's Centres	19,769		19,769	18,756
Weddings and funerals	9,645		9,645	11,211
Other	1,370		1,370	3,911
	30,784	**0**	**30,784**	33,878

Included in the hire of St Leonard's Centre is £6,944 (2020: £5,819) charged to the Pre-School, which appears in the costs of Designated Activites (Note 3c)

2e Income from Designated Activities

Substantially all of the income received is from Hampshire County Council and individuals to fund places for children in pre-school.

3 RESOURCES EXPENDED

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2021	TOTAL 2020
3a	**Activities Directly Relating to the work of the Church**				
	Common Mission Fund	75,239		75,239	75,239
	Fees paid to Diocese for weddings and funerals	4,910		4,910	4,857
	Payroll costs	26,357		26,357	23,163
	Donations to charities	10,000		10,000	10,000
	Utilities	10,625		10,625	8,863
	Insurance	5,630		5,630	6,441
	Other churches & centres expenses	23,144		23,144	7,796
	Buildings maintenance	6,921		6,921	3,594
	Architect and Planning expenditure		4,011	4,011	5,200
	Other		5,104	5,104	8,736
	TOTAL RESOURCES USED	**162,826**	**9,115**	**171,941**	153,889
3b	**Governance Costs**				
	Independent Examiner's fees	300		300	560
		300	**0**	**300**	560
3c	**Costs of Designated Activities**				
	Payroll costs	54,633		54,633	50,384
	Rent	6,944		6,944	5,819
	Other pre-school costs	5,038		5,038	4,246
	TOTAL RESOURCES USED	**66,614**	**0**	**66,614**	60,449

Rent is paid to St Leonard's Centre and appears in Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading (Note 2d).

4 STAFF COSTS

	2021	2020
The average number of staff on the payroll (all part time)	**12**	11
Salaries and wages	78,980	71,584
Pension Costs	2,009	1,726
	80,989	73,310

The stipend and pension of the Rector are paid by the Church Commissioners who receive money via the Diocese as part of the Parish Share paid and are therefore not included in the numbers here. Expenses were reimbursed to a number of members of the PCC for materials and expenses incurred on Church Activities.

5 FIXED ASSETS

	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL
	Land and Buildings	Fittings and Equipment	Fittings and Equipment	
Actual / Deemed Cost				
As at 1st January 2021	725,977	68,296		794,273
Additions		1,960	7,690	9,651
As at 31st December 2021	725,977	70,256	7,690	803,924
Accumulated Depreciation				
As at 1st January 2021		64,912		64,912
Charge for the year		1,436	641	2,077
As at 31st December 2021	0	66,348	641	66,989
Net Value				
As at 31st December 2021	**725,977**	**3,908**	**7,049**	**736,935**
As at 31st December 2020	**725,977**	**3,384**	**0**	**729,361**

Land and buildings comprise two separate sites. The first is St Leonard's Centre, Rectory Road, Oakley, which is held at £700,977 being its cost of redevelopment in 2009.
The second is adjacent to St Johns Garden of Remembrance and St John's Centre in Oakley but is not part of the Church consecrated grounds. The area is approximately 0.7 acres and its value is deemed to be £25,000. It should be noted that, if sold for building land, its current market value could exceed £700,000.

6 DEBTORS

	2021	2020
Income tax recoverable	1,405	1,817
Other debtors and prepayments	1,893	822
	3,297	**2,639**

7 LIABILITIES

Amounts falling due within one year		
Fees payable to Diocese for weddings and funerals	2,414	2,736
Independent Examiner's fees payable	300	560
Donations to charities	10,000	0
Other creditors and accruals	1,683	1,367
	14,397	4,663
Amounts falling due after one year	**0**	**0**

8 PARISH FUNDS

8a Unrestricted funds comprise funds for use at the discretion of the PCC; those relating to property are shown separately as they are not readily realisable.

8b Restricted funds represent donations and a legacy for the redevelopment of St Leonard's Church, the maintenance of St Lawrence Church and the provision of community services.

8c Endowment funds are for chancel repairs, the maintenance of certain graves and the running of Sunday school at St Lawrence Church.

8d During the year reserves totalling £702,809 were transferred from Restricted to Unrestricted Funds; these related to the property at St Leonard's Centre (£700,977), Pre-School (£33,378), Fabric (-£36,855) and Hardship (£5,309). A number of other minor corrections totalling £8,796 were made to the reserves brought forward.

9 STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a charity (registered number 1131064) registered with the Charity Commission.

United Parish of Church Oakley with Wootton St Lawrence

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Charity Registration Number 1131064

CONTENTS

Independent Examiner's Report	3
Statement of Financial Activities	4
Balance Sheet	5
Notes to the Financial Statements	6 to 11
Detailed Income & Expenditure Church and Centres	12
Detailed Income & Expenditure All Activities	13

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Oakley with Wootton Parochial Church Council ("the PCC")

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's trustees of the PCC, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').
Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the PCC are not required to be audited and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC 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 accounting requirements of 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 a part of an independent examination; or
4. The accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

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.

WELLER MACKRILL

Paul Sherrington FCCA, membership number 1326429
Weller Mackrill
Chartered Certified Accountants
South Building
Upper Farm
Wootton St Lawrence
Basingstoke
Hampshire
RG23 8PE

21 March 2022

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ended 31st December 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2021	TOTAL 2020
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Incoming Resources from Donors	2a	126,817	68,987		195,804	163,490
Income from investments	2b	29	799		828	977
Gains / (Losses) on investments	2c		2,472		2,472	-1,222
Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading	2d	30,784			30,784	33,878
Income from Designated Activities	2e	73,579			73,579	81,439
		231,210	72,258	0	303,468	278,562
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Church Activities	3a	162,826	9,115		171,941	153,889
Governance Costs	3b	300			300	560
Costs of Designated Activities	3c	66,614			66,614	60,449
		229,740	9,115	0	238,855	214,898
NET INCOMING RESOURCES		1,470	63,144	0	64,613	63,664
DEPRECIATION	5	1,436	641		2,077	3,143
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		34	62,503	0	62,536	60,521
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2021		155,799	996,356	2,139	1,154,293	1,093,772
Transfers from Restricted to Unrestricted Funds	8d	702,809	(702,809)			
Balance carried forward at 31 December 2021		858,641	356,050	2,139	1,216,830	1,154,293

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2021	2020
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	5	**729,885**	**7,049**		**736,935**	729,361
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors	6	**3,247**	**50**		**3,297**	2,639
Investments		**0**	**6,598**		**6,598**	5,820
Short Term Deposits		**68,320**	**283,586**		**351,906**	268,889
Cash at Bank and in Hand		**71,307**	**59,045**	**2,139**	**132,491**	152,248
		142,874	**349,279**	**2,139**	**494,292**	429,595
LIABILITIES						
Amounts falling due within one year	7	**-14,118**	**-279**		**-14,397**	-4,663
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**128,756**	**349,000**	**2,139**	**479,895**	424,932
LIABILITIES						
Amounts falling due after more than one year	7	**0**	**0**		**0**	0
TOTAL NET ASSETS		**858,641**	**356,050**	**2,139**	**1,216,830**	1,154,293
PARISH FUNDS						
Unrestricted - Operating Reserves	8	**132,664**			**132,664**	130,799
Unrestricted - Relating to Property	8	**725,977**			**725,977**	25,000
Restricted	8		**356,050**		**356,050**	996,356
Endowment	8			**2,139**	**2,139**	2,139
		858,641	**356,050**	**2,139**	**1,216,830**	1,154,293

Approved by the PCC on 21 March 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Revd Ben Kautzer (PCC Chairman)

The notes on pages 6 to 11 form part of these accounts

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31st December 2021

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 01/01/2015) - (Charity SORP (FRS102)) and the Charities Act 2011.
The Parochial Church Council (PCC) constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of certain fixed assets and investments, 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.

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue operating.

Funds
Unrestricted Funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated by the PCC for the operation of St Leonard's Pre-School are also unrestricted.

Restricted Funds comprise donations or grants intended for a specific PCC activity.

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 depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Incoming Resources
Donations are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving under gift aid is recognised when the income is received. Income Tax recoverable on gift aid is recognised at the same time as giving is received.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.

Income relating to other activities is recognised as the activities occur. Income and expenditure are recognised separately.

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

Resources Expended
Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when payable. Other expenditure is accounted for when it is incurred.

Taxation
As a Charity the PCC does not undertake any activity which falls within the scope of UK Income taxation.

Fixed Assets
Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011. No value is placed on moveable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers these to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.
Other fixed property is vested in the Diocesan Board of Finance as Diocesan Authority under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, effectively in trust for the PCC, with the PCC acting as managing trustees. Under the Charities Act, such property is included in the accounts notwithstanding the PCC's lack of title. Such properties are valued by the PCC using the best available advice as to free market value for the current usage less any provision for restrictions on such a sale.

Fixtures, fittings and office equipment used within the church premises is capitalised at cost and depreciated on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, subject to the initial purchase price being greater than £1,000. Purchases with an initial value less than or equal to £1,000 are written off in the year of purchase.

Current Assets
Amounts owing to the PCC at 31st December are shown as debtors less any provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.
Short term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund or at a bank.
Any sums legally due and payable by the PCC are included in the accounts as creditors and reflect the full value deemed likely to be paid. Contingent assets and liabilities are not brought into the accounts but may be reflected by way of note.

Financial Instruments
The PCC only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Reserves
Reserves act as a buffer to smooth fluctuations from month to month and protect against unforeseen significant reductions in giving or increases in expenditure. The PCC aim to hold the equivalent of approximately six months of Unrestricted Fund annual expenditure in the form of net current assets.

Agency Income and Expenditure
Voluntary donations received by the PCC, purely as agent, for specified objects over which the PCC has no discretion are not included in either the income or expenditure of these account.

2 INCOMING RESOURCES

Incoming resources from

2a Donors

Substantially all of the donations received into both Unrestricted and Restricted Funds were from individual donors with income tax recovered under Gift Aid or from charitable trusts.

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2021	TOTAL 2020
2b Income from Investments				
Interest on bank deposits and Church of England Deposit Fund	29	485	514	693
Dividends on M&G Charifund holding		314	314	284
	29	**799**	**828**	977
2c Gains / (Losses on investments				
Change in market value of units held in M&G Charifund		**779**	**779**	(1,222)
2d Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading				
Hire of St Leonard's and St John's Centres	19,769		19,769	18,756
Weddings and funerals	9,645		9,645	11,211
Other	1,370		1,370	3,911
	30,784	**0**	**30,784**	33,878

Included in the hire of St Leonard's Centre is £6,944 (2020: £5,819) charged to the Pre-School, which appears in the costs of Designated Activites (Note 3c)

2e Income from Designated Activities

Substantially all of the income received is from Hampshire County Council and individuals to fund places for children in pre-school.

3 RESOURCES EXPENDED

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2021	TOTAL 2020
3a	**Activities Directly Relating to the work of the Church**				
	Common Mission Fund	75,239		75,239	75,239
	Fees paid to Diocese for weddings and funerals	4,910		4,910	4,857
	Payroll costs	26,357		26,357	23,163
	Donations to charities	10,000		10,000	10,000
	Utilities	10,625		10,625	8,863
	Insurance	5,630		5,630	6,441
	Other churches & centres expenses	23,144		23,144	7,796
	Buildings maintenance	6,921		6,921	3,594
	Architect and Planning expenditure		4,011	4,011	5,200
	Other		5,104	5,104	8,736
	TOTAL RESOURCES USED	**162,826**	**9,115**	**171,941**	153,889
3b	**Governance Costs**				
	Independent Examiner's fees	300		300	560
		300	**0**	**300**	560
3c	**Costs of Designated Activities**				
	Payroll costs	54,633		54,633	50,384
	Rent	6,944		6,944	5,819
	Other pre-school costs	5,038		5,038	4,246
	TOTAL RESOURCES USED	**66,614**	**0**	**66,614**	60,449

Rent is paid to St Leonard's Centre and appears in Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading (Note 2d).

4 STAFF COSTS

	2021	2020
The average number of staff on the payroll (all part time)	**12**	11
Salaries and wages	78,980	71,584
Pension Costs	2,009	1,726
	80,989	73,310

The stipend and pension of the Rector are paid by the Church Commissioners who receive money via the Diocese as part of the Parish Share paid and are therefore not included in the numbers here. Expenses were reimbursed to a number of members of the PCC for materials and expenses incurred on Church Activities.

5 FIXED ASSETS

	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL
	Land and Buildings	Fittings and Equipment	Fittings and Equipment	
Actual / Deemed Cost				
As at 1st January 2021	725,977	68,296		794,273
Additions		1,960	7,690	9,651
As at 31st December 2021	725,977	70,256	7,690	803,924
Accumulated Depreciation				
As at 1st January 2021		64,912		64,912
Charge for the year		1,436	641	2,077
As at 31st December 2021	0	66,348	641	66,989
Net Value				
As at 31st December 2021	**725,977**	**3,908**	**7,049**	**736,935**
As at 31st December 2020	**725,977**	**3,384**	**0**	**729,361**

Land and buildings comprise two separate sites. The first is St Leonard's Centre, Rectory Road, Oakley, which is held at £700,977 being its cost of redevelopment in 2009.
The second is adjacent to St Johns Garden of Remembrance and St John's Centre in Oakley but is not part of the Church consecrated grounds. The area is approximately 0.7 acres and its value is deemed to be £25,000. It should be noted that, if sold for building land, its current market value could exceed £700,000.

6 DEBTORS

	2021	2020
Income tax recoverable	1,405	1,817
Other debtors and prepayments	1,893	822
	3,297	**2,639**

7 LIABILITIES

Amounts falling due within one year		
Fees payable to Diocese for weddings and funerals	2,414	2,736
Independent Examiner's fees payable	300	560
Donations to charities	10,000	0
Other creditors and accruals	1,683	1,367
	14,397	4,663
Amounts falling due after one year	**0**	**0**

8 PARISH FUNDS

8a Unrestricted funds comprise funds for use at the discretion of the PCC; those relating to property are shown separately as they are not readily realisable.

8b Restricted funds represent donations and a legacy for the redevelopment of St Leonard's Church, the maintenance of St Lawrence Church and the provision of community services.

8c Endowment funds are for chancel repairs, the maintenance of certain graves and the running of Sunday school at St Lawrence Church.

8d During the year reserves totalling £702,809 were transferred from Restricted to Unrestricted Funds; these related to the property at St Leonard's Centre (£700,977), Pre-School (£33,378), Fabric (-£36,855) and Hardship (£5,309). A number of other minor corrections totalling £8,796 were made to the reserves brought forward.

9 STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a charity (registered number 1131064) registered with the Charity Commission.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF OAKLEY WITH WOOTTON

England & Wales - Charity number 1131064

Accounts

United Parish of Church Oakley with Wootton St Lawrence

Financial Report for the Year Ended 31st December 2020

www.oakleywithwootton.org.uk

Charity Registration Number 1131064

Contents

Aggregate Statement of Financial Activities 3
Aggregate Accounts 4
Accounting Policies 5
Independent Examiner's Report 7
Notes to the Aggregate Financial Statements 8
PCC Balance Sheet 13
PCC Income and Expenditure Account 14
Notes to the PCC Accounts 15
Centres Management Committee Account 19
Buildings Accounts 20
Fabric Fund 22
St. Leonards Baby and Toddler Groups 23
St Leonard's Pre School 24

Aggregate Statement of Financial Activities

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	Year 2020 Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
INCOMING RESOURCES		**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Voluntary Income	2a	120396	43094	0	163490	171979
Activities for generating Income	2b	18756	3127		21883	34673
Investment activities	2c	86	891	0	977	798
Church Activities	2d	11995	81439		93434	75863
Transferred in	2e	3750			3750	13049
Investment Gains or Losses	2f		-1222		-1222	1003
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		154983	127329	0	282312	297366
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Church Activities	3a	131824	69216		201039	226798
Cost of Generating funds	3b	14765	3494		18260	27583
Cost of loan			70		70	189
Transferred out	3e	3750	0		3750	13049
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		150339	72780	0	223119	267620
NET MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS		4643	54549	0	59192	29746
Balances brought forward at 1st January		115536	944630	1138	1061304	1031536
Balances carried forward at 31st December		120180	999179	1138	1120497	1061282

Aggregate Accounts

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020	Note	2020	2019
		£	£
Total Fixed Assets	5	729754	730933
Current Assets			
Nationwide Building Society accounts:	6a		
Charity account		0	154392
CCLA CofE Deposit Fund		180131	0
Hardship account (following move to PCC)		0	5039
Balaam account (following move to PCC)		0	363
Nat West Bank Accounts	6b		
United Parish current account		25342	62861
St Leonards Centre Building Project		0	4491
St Leonards Building Project in SLCBP moved to PCC		39890	39650
St Leonards Building Project moved to PCC		17241	13073
St Leonards Centre Building Project moved to PCC		1940	0
St Leonards Centre current account		15190	14949
Fabric Fund moved to PCC		4568	0
Fabric Fund current account (following move to PCC)		0	13135
Hardship Fund moved to PCC		5308	
Balaam moved to PCC		364	
St Leonards Pre School		33377	12387
St Leonards Baby and Toddler Groups		40	40
Metro Bank Accounts			
St Leonards Centre Building Project Account		92050	72040
The Gap		1714	2075
OSN including Cash in Hand		3611	0
M+G Investments			
M+G ChariFund Units value	6c	5820	7041
Debtors and Prepayments	6d	1816	842
Total Current Assets		428401	402378
Current Liabilities			
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	7	-12658	-19028
Net Current Assets		415743	383349
Non-Current Liabilities			
Creditors- amounts falling due after one year	8	0	-28000
Total Net Assets		**1145497**	**1086282**
Parish Funds			
Unrestricted	9a	120180	115536
Restricted	9b	999179	944608
Endowment	9c	1138	1138
Total Funds		1120497	1061282
Reserves			
Property re-evaluation reserve	9d	25000	25000
Total Funds and Reserves		**1145497**	**1086282**

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on
29th March 2021 and signed on its behalf by

Rev'd Ben Kautzer (PCC Chairman)

Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current 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 the valuation of certain fixed assets and investments, 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.

The accounts are the aggregated accounts of the activities of the "United Parish of Church Oakley with Wootton St Lawrence", "Centres Management Committee", the "Buildings Accounts", the "Fabric Fund", the "St Leonard's Baby and Toddler Group" and the "St Leonard's Pre School". The accounts for each of the six entities are appended and form part of the analysis and notes to the aggregated accounts shown above.

In 2020 the Parish worked together with the Oakley and Deane Parish Council to set up the Oakley Support Network (OSN) to support Oakley with Wootton parishioners in response to the Covid 19 pandemic. The accounts for the OSN are also aggregated as a Restricted Fund within these accounts

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted Funds are income funds which are to be spent on PCC's general purposes. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

Restricted Funds comprise (a) income from endowments which is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor, and (b) revenue donations from or grants for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor.

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.

Reserves

A specific reserve created from the re-valuation of the tangible property fixed assets as described below. The reserve is not available for distribution by the PCC and may only be realised if and only if the corresponding assets are sold or developed. Such a sale would require the agreement of the Diocesan Board of Finance who have endowed the PCC with the use of the assets. The historic cost of the underlying assets is not available to the PCC.

Incoming Resources

Planned giving, collections and similar donation are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate are received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is entitled to the use of the resources, their ultimate receipt is considered reasonably certain and the amounts due are readily quantifiable. Dividends are accounted for when declared receivable, interest as and when accrued by the payer.

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 recognised when it is incurred.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated property and movable church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10 (2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Other fixed property is vested in the Diocesan Board of Finance as Diocesan Authority under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, effectively in trust for the PCC, with the PCC acting as managing trustees. Under the Charities Act, such property is included in the accounts notwithstanding the PCC's lack of title. Such properties were valued by the PCC using the best available advice as to free market value for the current usage less any provision for restrictions on such a sale. Following the completion of the St Leonard's Centre building project the Rectory Road site is now valued at actual costs.

Moveable church furnishings held by the Rector 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 items are not valued in these financial statements

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, subject to the initial purchase price being greater than £1,000. Purchases with an initial value less than or equal to £1,000 are written off in the year of purchase.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value

Current Assets and Liabilities

Cash and short-term deposits are held by the stated entity e.g., Bank or Building Society. Amounts owing to the PCC as of 31st December are shown as debtors and valued gross less any provision deemed appropriate for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Any sums legally due and payable by the PCC are included in the accounts as creditors and reflect the full value deemed likely to be paid. Contingent assets and liabilities are not brought into the accounts but may be reflected by way of note.

Agency Income and Expenditure

Voluntary donations received by the PCC, purely as agent, for specified objects whereby the PCC has no discretion are not included in either the income or expenditure of these account. Examples of this in 2020 included Christian Aid, Christingle service collection for the Children's Society and monies collected for The Hub, an inter Church group of Oakley.

Independent Examiner's Report
to the Trustees of Oakley with Wootton Parochial Church Council (PCC)

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the PCC are not required to be audited and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the PCC'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 a member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC 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 accounting requirements of 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

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.



Ewelina Sprysak-Stamp

Ewelina Sprysak-Stamp ACMA, CGMA
88 Dimond Road
Southampton
Hampshire
26 March 2021

Notes to the Aggregate Financial Statements

1. Accounting Policies

Please refer to the policies laid out on pages 6 and 7.

2. Incoming Resources

a. Voluntary income

For an analysis of the unrestricted funds please refer to regular giving plus other income in the accounts of the United Parish on page 15.

For the restricted funds refer to:

- note 2 (donations received) on page 16 Wootton Fund
- note 3 (donations received) on page 16 Hardship Fund
- note 9 on page 17 Oakley Youth Fund
- note 13 Donations received on Page 19 Legacy
- note 14 Donations received on Page 19 OSN

and to the total income in the accounts of The Buildings Accounts on pages 21 and 22 and of the Fabric Fund on page 23.

b. Activities for generating funds

Gross income from the Centres Management Committee less interest. The Centres are separately managed and operate within a remit to provide free accommodation for all church activities and to provide a centre for village activities charging sufficient rental and hire fees to cover all necessary costs over the longer term. See accounts on page 20.

c. Income from investments

Income from all bank accounts and the M+G Charity Fund dividend income.

d. Church activities

Unrestricted funds are fees from birth, deaths and marriage services, and the income from St. Leonard's Baby and Toddler Groups. See accounts page 24.

Restricted funds are the income from St Leonard's Pre School. See accounts page 25.

e. Transfers in/out.

The Centres transferred £3,750 to the PCC towards PCC costs

f. Investment gains and losses

Market value movements on the M+G Charity Fund. This invests in assets that are linked to stock market movements

3. Resources Expended

a. Church activities

Refer to pages 21 and 22 for details on the Buildings Accounts, page 23 for the Fabric Fund and page 25 for St Leonard's Pre School.

Endowment funds

Refer to notes 1 and 4 on page 16.

Unrestricted funds	**2020**	**2019**
	£	**£**
Wedding Organist and Other fees	117	659
Out-parish giving (see note 10)	10000	8000
Diocesan parish share	75239	72508
Expenses of clergy	643	1305
Gross salary costs of office staff	19473	18924
Church expenses	1901	2621
Insurance	5881	5812
General repairs & maintenance	767	1274
Sunday school and Youth	562	552
Fees to Diocese for Weddings, Funerals	4857	4295
Parish office and administration cost	11131	11033
St Leonard's Baby and Toddler Group	505	2020
Depreciation	749	258
Total	131824	129260

Refer to page 22 for details on St Leonard's Baby and Toddler Group.

Restricted funds	**2020**	**2019**
	£	**£**
Hardship fund disbursements made	211	598
St Leonard's Centre Building Project	4946	4856
St Leonards Building Project	5200	10985
Fabric Fund	-14489	28875
St Leonard's Pre School	60449	49774
Oakley Youth Fund	0	790
Wootton	6190	657
Total	62507	96536

b. Cost of generating funds
Gross costs of running St. Leonard's Centre and St John's Centre (see Centres Management Committee accounts page 20).

4. Staff Costs

During the year, the PCC employed eleven part-time staff.

	2020	2019
	£	£
Wages and salaries	71584	62462
Pension costs	1726	864
Total	73311	63326

Payments to PCC Members

Expenses were reimbursed to Derek Felton, Sheila Compton, Mark Peryer, Tina Skinner, Katey Butler, Penny Brown, and Tim Saunders for materials and expenses incurred for Church Activities. No other payments or expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons connected to them or related parties, for work on the PCC. An immaterial amount was paid to some members for other responsibilities.

5. Fixed Assets

Tangible		Land and Buildings £	Fitting and Equipment £	Total £
ACTUAL COST	As of 1 January 2020	725,977	66,784	792,761
	Disposals	0	0	0
	Additions at cost	0	1,964	1,964
	As of 31st December 2020	725,977	68,748	794,725
DEPRECIATION	As of 1st January 2020	0	61,828	61,828
	Disposals	0	0	0
	Charge for the year	0	3,143	3,143
	As of 31st December 2020	0	64,971	64,971
NET		725,977	3,777	729,754

Land and Buildings

This comprises land and buildings in two separate sites:

- The first comprises a land area off Rectory Road, Church Oakley. Upon this land is sited St Leonard's Centre, with the attached Parish Office and a number of rooms and facilities for Church use and for external hire

- The second parcel of land is adjacent to St Johns Garden of Remembrance but not part of the Church consecrated grounds. The area is approximately 0.7 acres. It has been laid to lawn and is used for fetes and play area by the community. Given its current use as agricultural land, the value is deemed to be £25,000. It should be noted that, if sold for building land, its current market value could exceed £700,000, based upon current building land values.

6. Current Assets

In 2020 The PCC has simplified our bank accounts to bring the majority of the day-to-day movements within the PCC NatWest Account to facilitate both the monthly bank reconciliations and PCC reporting:

- Building Society accounts (Note 6a).

  The PCC has in prior years maintained a number of building society accounts for short term deposits. Some of the accounts directly relate to specific funds. In 2020 the Nationwide withdrew from offering such accounts and the Charity, Balaam and Hardship accounts were closed. The funds were initially moved to the NatWest PCC account. The PCC no longer has any accounts with the Nationwide Building Society, Basingstoke.

- Cash at bank and in hand (Note 6b)

  In prior years, the PCC, St Leonard's Centre, St Leonard's Centre Building Project, Fabric Fund and St Leonard's Pre School and Oakley Toddler Group have maintained separate bank accounts held by NatWest Bank, Basingstoke and by Metro Bank, Basingstoke. In 2020 the St Leonard's Centre Building Project and the Fabric Fund balances were moved to the NatWest PCC account. This account is an interest-bearing charity accounts and is used for the receipt and payment of income

- Church Charities and Local Authorities ("CCLA") Church of England Deposit Fund

  The PCC has created a new account with the CCLA and moved £180,000 to their Church of England Deposit Fund. This was undertaken to avoid incurring bank charges with NatWest Bank and in order to earn a competitive rate of interest.

- M&G Charifund (Note 6c)

  The PCC holds units in the M&G Charifund for the Oakley Youth Fund. The market value of these units fell in 2020.

<u>Debtors and prepayments (Note 6d)</u>

Refer to note 7 on page 17.

7. Liabilities

The final £3,925 of accumulated interest for the St Johns Chapel Demolition Loan was repaid in 2020 to The Winchester Diocesan Board of Finance. The Loan and interest are now repaid.

8. Funds and Reserves

a. Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds are those where the PCC has an unfettered right to use the funds to further its objectives.

b. Restricted Funds

Restricted funds are so by virtue of the specific objects expressed at the time of creating the fund. This category includes the Hardship fund, the St Leonard's Centre Building Project, the St Leonard's Building Project Fund, the Fabric Fund and St Leonard's Pre School, Oakley Youth Fund, The Evergreen's Legacy, and the Wootton St. Lawrence Repair Fund. In 2020 the Oakley Support Network was included as a new Restricted Fund

During 2016 a restricted fund was set up. The use of the fund is restricted to chancel repair costs at Wootton St. Lawrence church. The fund of £1,000 is held by the Winchester Diocese.

c. Endowment Funds

The PCC enjoys the benefit of two endowments, namely the Graveyard Trust and the Balaam fund. The PCC has the use of the interest of each fund for its respective object but may not utilise the capital which remains in perpetuity. It should be noted that the Balaam fund includes the accumulated interest to date of the bequest. Being small the annual interest has been left to accumulate within the fund.

d. Property Revaluation Reserve

Created by the valuation of the Land at St John's at Rectory Road Church Oakley. The reserve is not available for distribution unless the corresponding assets are sold. In 2009 the valuation on the St Leonard's Centre was replaced by the actual costs of the redevelopment (see note 5 above).

PCC Balance Sheet

PCC BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

		2020		2019	
Reserves	**Note**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
General Fund					
Balance b/f 1st January			*100527*		82826
Add: Income for the year		*130748*		139986	
Less: Expenditure for the year		*-126345*	*4403*	-122286	17700
			104929		100527
Graveyard Trusts	1	*775*		775	
Wootton St. Lawrence Repair Fund	2	*10938*		16928	
Hardship Fund	3	*5309*		5039	
Balaam Fund for St Lawrence Books	4	*364*		363	
Legacy	14	*111680*		113550	
Oakley Youth Fund	9	*17946*		19245	
Oakley Support Network		*3611*		0	
			150623		155900
			255553		**256427**
Fixed Assets	5		*2680*		1487
M+G ChariFund	9		*5820*		7041
Nationwide Anglia Building Society					
Charity account	6	*0*		154392	
Hardship account	3	*0*		5039	
Balaam account	4	*0*	*0*	363	159794
CCLA CoE Deposit Fund		*180131*	*180131*	0	
MetroBank The Gap		*1714*	*1714*	2075	2075
Metrobank Oakley Support Network		*3611*	*3611*	0	0
National Westminster Bank					
Current account inc Hardship and Balaam	6		*31014*		62861
Debtors	7		*43241*		38342
Creditors -amounts falling due within one year	8		*-12658*		-15174
			255553		**256427**

PCC Income and Expenditure Account
For the year ended 31 December 2020

		2020		2019	
Income	Note	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Regular Giving					
Envelopes		9,884		18,640	
Giving via Bank and Parish Giving Scheme		88,301		85,199	
Income tax refunded		21,143		22,052	
Church Plate collections		1,067	120,396	2,391	128,282
Other Income and Dedductions					
Centres Contribution to PCC Central Costs		3,750		5,000	
Photocopying, Christmas Fayre, Green week		182		1,681	
Oakley Youth Fund Dividends from Unit Shares	9	0			
Oakley Youth Fund Units change in market value		0			
Baby and Toddler Groups		-87		-212	
Bookstall (net of income/cost)		68	3,912	89	6,558
			124,308		134,840
Fees and Charges	10		6,354		5,106
Interest on Deposits			86		40
Total Income			**130,748**		**139,986**
Less: Expenditure					
Diocesan Quota		75,239		72,508	
Out Parish giving	11	10,000		8,000	
			85,239		80,508
Church Employees			20,116		20,228
Church Expenses					
Energy		1,650		2,492	
Insurance		5,881		5,812	
Parish Office and administration costs		11,131		11,033	
Training courses and conferences		0		0	
Purchase of equipment		251		129	
Depreciation charge in year		749	19,662	258	19,723
Repairs and Maintenance			767		1,274
Sunday School and Youth			562		552
Total Expenditure			**126,345**		**122,286**
Surplus Income			**4,403**		**17,700**

Notes to the PCC Accounts

Balance Sheet:

1. Specific legacies are held in trust by the PCC for the upkeep of certain graves. The funds are not available for distribution and therefore are not part of the general fund. The assets, which represent these trust moneys, are held by the National Westminster Bank Plc., London Street, Basingstoke having the following nominal value: Hatch grave fund £360; Hume legacy £115; and Monkhouse grave fund £300.

2. Certain of the residents of Wootton St Lawrence subscribed to the specific fund for the repair and maintenance of that Church. Neither the donations nor the expenditure was accounted for in the Income and Expenditure Account of the United Parish but shown in the separate account below. In 2017 the cash balance was transferred into the PCC and is now a restricted fund. The accounts are shown below.

		2020 £	2019 £
	Balance b/f	16,928	16,735
Add	Donations received	200	850
	Interest received	0	0
		17,128	17,585
Less	Expenses incurred	-6,190	-657
	Balance c/f	10,938	16,928

3. Set up in 1992 by a donation from out parish giving, the Hardship Fund received specific individual donations, which do not form part of the income of the parish. A number of worthy cases have received benefit. The account is shown below:

		2020 £	2019 £
	Balance b/f	5,039	5,266
Add	Donations received	470	365
	Interest received	11	5
		5,520	5,637
Less	Distributions made in the year	-211	-598
	Balance c/f	5,309	5,039

4. The Balaam fund marks a bequest for the purpose of offsetting the expenses of running Sunday Schools at St Lawrence Church. There were no qualifying expenses in 2020.

6. The current account is shown as per the cash book. The actual year end bank balance stood at £93,976 (73,470) and has operated in credit throughout the year earning interest of £0(£0). The current account is used for the day to day running of the parish with surplus funds first transferred to the Nationwide Charity account and then when that closed, to the CCLA Church of England

Deposit Fund. The Charity account earned interest of £131 (£154) and the CCLA Church of England Fund has also earned £131 (£0).

7. Debtors and Prepayments

There is a matching Debtor in PCC, and Creditor in Fabric Fund for the St Johns Demolition loan that will be set off in 2021

	2020	2019
	£	£
HMRC Gift Aid	1,816	842
Fabric Fund	41,425	37,500
Total	**43,241**	**38,342**

8. Creditors – amounts falling due within one year.

	2020	2019
	£	£
Accrual for governance costs	560	560
Oakley Books fund	3,556	3,488
Springboard funds	2,912	2,912
Mission Giving	4,760	8,000
Evergreen	870	214
Other Creditors	0	0
Total	**12,658**	**15,174**

Income and Expenditure Account

9 Oakley Youth Fund

St. John's Centre Charity was a separately registered charity for youth work in the local community. In 2017 the charity was wound up and £13,540 of cash was transferred to the PCC together with a £6,965 investment in the M+G ChariFund. The PCC transferred £13,540 of cash and the M+G investment to a new restricted fund the Oakley Youth Fund for youth work in the local community. The Gap youth work has been funded, where required, out of the Oakley Youth Fund.

		2020	2019
		£	£
	Balance b/f	19,245	18,605
	Transfers in	0	0
Add	Donations received	0	20
	The Gap trading income	632	3,259
	Dividends from Charifund Units received	284	352
	Movement in Market value of Charifund Units	-1,222	1,003
		18,940	23,239
Less	The Gap Expenses	-994	-3,203
	Expenses incurred Pop UK	0	-790
	Balance c/f	17,946	19,245

10 Fees and Charges

	2020 £	2019 £
Fees from Birth, death and marriage services	11,328	10,060
Other expenses	-117	-659
Less tariff payments to the Diocese, WDBF	-4,857	-4,295
	6,354	5,106

11 Out parish giving: Distributed according to the delegated authority of the Missions Giving Group.

	2020 £	2019 £
Basingstoke		
Chaplaincy	750	600
BESOM	750	600
Bible Society	0	100
Cedar Tree		
Counselling	0	500
Child of Hope	3,000	900
Childs Trust		
Orphanage	1,250	750
Malawi Association for Christian Support	500	750
Mechanics for Africa	500	900
Money Lifeline	500	900
Open the Book	50	0
St Gabriels	500	0
The Safe Basingstoke	1,000	0
URC Youth Café	750	500
WEC Mathew Cripps	0	900
Women and Child in Need	0	0
Unallocated by yearend 2020	450	600
Total	**10,000**	**8,000**

12 Church Employees.

	2020 £	2019 £
Expenses of Clergy	643	1,305
Salaries and expenses of Other employees	19,473	18,924
Total	**20,116**	**20,228**

13. Legacies and Donations

In 2017 the PCC received a legacy of £113,970. In 2018-20 there have been further legacies and donations. This money is Restricted.

		2020	2019
		£	£
	Balance b/f	113,550	114,030
	Balancing item in PCC Transfers in	0	24
Add	Donations received	500	250
	Interest received	176	114
		114,226	114,418
Less	Expenses incurred	-2,546	-869
	Balance c/f	111,680	113,550

14. Oakley Support Network

In 2020 The PCC, Oakley Community Association (OCA) and local Council set up the Oakley Support Network to provide support to the parish in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Church, local community, OCA, and Council provided donations and resources to the OSN which were then used for the Parish. The OSN is a new Restricted Fund.

Oakley Support Network
Income and Expenditure account for year ended 31 December 2020

	2020	2019
Income and Expenditure	**£**	**£**
Income		
Donations	7781	0
Service user's payments	2495	0
Other		0
Total Income	**10275**	**0**
Expenditure		
Running Costs	4163	0
Cost of services and volunteer reimbursement	2501	0
Total Expenditure	**6664**	**0**
Surplus Income	**3611**	**0**
Balance Sheet		
Bank	2943	0
Cash in Hand	643	0
Creditors	25	0
Debtors	0	0
	3611	**0**
Represented by:		
Accumulated fund		
As at beginning of period	0	0
Surplus for the period	3611	0
Transferred in	0	0
OSN FUNDS - Restricted	**3611**	0

Centres Management Committee Account

		2020	2019
Income and Expenditure account		**£**	**£**
for the year ended 31 December 2020			
Income			
Hall hires			
	St Leonard's Play School	5,819	6,188
	St Leonard's Baby and Toddler group	494	1,782
	Other Bookings	5,501	14,489
	SLC SUBTOTAL	11,814	22,459
	St John's Centre	6,942	8,955
	Total Income	**18,756**	**31,414**
Expenditure			
Centres running costs			
	Water and sewerage	674	720
	Cleaning	1,613	2,264
	Electricity	1,408	1,720
	Oil	2,194	2,892
	Insurance	503	3,031
	Lift and shutters	276	276
	Sanitary	659	879
	Fire alarm/Fire Equipment	0	494
	Salaries	3,047	5,672
	Other	868	2,360
	SLC Subtotal	**11,242**	**20,308**
	ST Johns Electricity	1,341	2,590
	St Johns Water/Sewage	1,596	654
	St Johns Other	55	498
	St Johns Refuse	474	407
	St Johns Insurance	57	57
	St Johns Subtotal	**3,523**	**4,206**
	Parish Centres team contribution to PCC for central running costs	**3,750**	**5,000**
Total Expenditure		**18,515**	**29,514**
Surplus Income		**241**	**1,900**
Balance Sheet			
Debtors- amounts falling due within 1 year		0	0
Creditors- amounts falling due within one year		0	0
Cash held in current account		15,190	14,949
Total Net Assets		**15,190**	**14,949**
Parish Funds		**15,190**	**14,949**

Buildings Accounts

	2020	2019
	£	£
Income and Expenditure		
Income		
Interest	704	638
Regular giving to St Leonard's Centre Building Project	0	0
Donations to the St. Leonards Church Project	28,914	41,786
Total Income	**29,618**	**42,424**
Expenditure		
St. Leonard's Centre Repairs	2,551	600
St. Leonard's Centre Depreciation	2,395	4,256
St. Leonard's Church Project	5,200	10,985
Bank charges	0	0
Total Expenditure	**10,146**	**15,842**
Surplus of Income over Expenditure	**19,472**	**26,582**
Balance Sheet		
Tangible fixed assets	702,052	704,446
Bank accounts		
Nat West St Leonard's Centre Building Project	1,940	4,491
Nat West St Leonard's Church Project	39,890	39,650
Nat West PCC Account	17,241	13,073
Metro Bank St Leonard's Church Project	92,050	72,040
Debtors	0	0
Current liabilities -amounts falling due within one year	0	0
Net Current Assets	**853,172**	**833,700**
Liabilities -amounts falling due after one year	0	0
Total Net Assets	**853,172**	**833,700**
Parish Funds - Restricted	**853,172**	**833,700**

St Leonard's Centre Building Project	2020	2019
	£	£
Opening Balance	4491	5091
Charges	0	0
Expenditure	-2551	-600
Donation	0	0
Interest	0	0
Transfer to PCC		
Closing Balance	**1940**	**4491**

St Leonard's Church Building Project	2020	2019
	£	£
Opening Balance	124763	93324
Expenditure	-5200	-10985
Deposits	28914	41786
Interest	704	638
Transfer to PCC		
Closing Balance	**149181**	**124763**

Fabric Fund

Income and Expenditure	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Income			
Donations - Non Specific		0	70
SLC Roof Donations		4,438	0
SLC Roof Donation GiftAid		508	0
Total Income		**4,945**	**70**
Less: Expenditure			
2019 St Leonard's Church roof lead theft	1	0	28,000
reversal of 2019 Provision SLC roof lead theft		-28,000	0
SLC Roof repair cost		27,204	0
Less Insurance payment		-9,514	0
Less Roof Repair VAT reimbursement		-4,179	0
Other Non Roof Repair costs		0	875
Subtotal		**-14,489**	**28,875**
Diocesan Loan Interest		70	189
Total Expenditure		-14,419	29,064
Surplus Income		**19,364**	**-28,994**
Balance Sheet			
Reserves:		**2,020**	**2,019**
GENERAL FUND		**£**	**£**
Balance b/f 1st January		-56,218	-27,224
Add: Income for the year		4,945	70
Less: Expenditure for the year		14,419	-29,064
		-36,855	-56,218
Represented by:			
Bank current account		4,568	13,135
Creditors- amounts falling due within one year		-41,423	-41,352
Creditors -amounts falling due after one year	1	0	-28,000
Parish Funds - Restricted		**-36,855**	**-56,218**

Notes to Fabric Fund:

1. In 2019 there was a theft of lead from the roof of St Leonard's Church, Oakley. An estimate of £28,000 for the repairs was included in the 2019 Expenditure and Creditors for the Fabric Fund. In 2020 costs of £27,204 were incurred, funded by Church and Community donations, Insurance payments, and from the historic Fabric Fund reserves.

St. Leonards Baby and Toddler Groups

Income and Expenditure account

for the year ended 31 December 2020

Income and Expenditure		**2020** **£**	**2019** **£**
Income			
Admission fees	New Life	28	32
	Pippins	316	1320.31
	Quackers	74	455.2
	Total	417	1,808
Sale of Photographs		0	0
Total Income		**417**	**1,808**
Expenditure			
Rent		494	1,782
Refreshments		7	53
Stationary and Postage			
Christmas Party		0	107
Purchase of consumables		4	50
Purchase of play equipment		0	0
Cost of Photographs			
Sundry		0	27
Total Expenditure		**505**	**2,020**
Transfer from PCC		87	212
Surplus Income		0	0
Balance Sheet			
Cash		40	40
Represented by:			
Accumulated fund			
As at beginning of period		40	40
Carried forward		40	40

St Leonard's Pre School

Income and Expenditure account for the year ended 31 December 2020

Income and Expenditure	2020 £	2019 £
Income		
Government Grants	72,743	49,346
Fees	8,066	12,070
Fundraising	280	809
Other	350	0
Total Income	**81,439**	**62,225**
Expenditure		
Salaries	50,384	41,273
Rent	5,819	6,188
Catering	138	232
Consumables	30	0
Equipment	565	288
Office	2,231	1,440
Other	1,282	353
Total Expenditure	**60,449**	**49,774**
Surplus Income	**20,990**	**12,451**
Balance Sheet		
Bank	29,833	12,385
Creditors	3,883	0
Debtors	-340	
Represented by:		
Accumulated fund		
As at beginning of period	12,387	-64
Surplus for the period	20,990	12,451
Transferred in	0	0
Parish Funds - Restricted	**33,377**	**12,387**