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United Parish of
Oakley with Wootton St Lawrence

Annual Report 2022



www.oakleywith
wootton.org.uk

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 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 Ukrainian 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 Communion; 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 O'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



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').

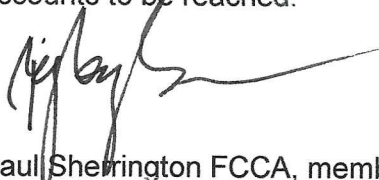
Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the PCC are not required to be audited and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions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

		<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>Endowment Funds</u>	<u>TOTAL 2022</u>	<u>TOTAL 2021</u>
	Notes					
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
		<u>261,814</u>	<u>97,331</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>359,145</u>	<u>303,468</u>
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
		<u>247,374</u>	<u>48,980</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>296,354</u>	<u>238,855</u>
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

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2022	2021
	Notes					
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
Dividends 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 Activities (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	<u>TOTAL</u>
	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	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
	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

		<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>Endowment Funds</u>	<u>TOTAL 2022</u>	<u>TOTAL 2021</u>
	Notes					
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
		<u>261,814</u>	<u>97,331</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>359,145</u>	<u>303,468</u>
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
		<u>247,374</u>	<u>48,980</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>296,354</u>	<u>238,855</u>
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

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2022	2021
	Notes					
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
Dividends 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 Activities (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
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Insurance	6,054		6,054	5,630
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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	<u>TOTAL</u>
	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.

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6	DEBTORS	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
	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
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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.

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