



**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**Registered Charity Number: 1132144**

THE GARTH MINISTRY AREA  
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1132144

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**Structure and governance**

The Benefice of The Garth Ministry Area is situated in the communities of Capel Llaniltarn, Creigiau, Danescourt, Groes Faen, Pentyrch, Radyr, St Fagans, Taffs Well and Tongwynlais, all situated in or to the North and North West of Cardiff.

The Ministry Area is within the Deanery of Cardiff, part of the Diocese of Llandaff and within the Church in Wales.

The dedication of the Ministry Area for the year under review and their locations are:

Christ Church	Radyr, Cardiff
Creigiau Church Hall	Creigiau
St Catwg	Pentyrch
St David	Groes Faen
St Ellteyrn	Capel Llaniltarn
St John Baptist	Danescourt, Cardiff
St James	Taffs Well
St Mary	St Fagans
St Michael	Tongwynlais

It was the responsibility of both the Ministry Area Council ("MAC") and the Incumbents to work together and co-operate in all matters of concern and importance to the Ministry Area for the promotion of the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The appointed clergy are:

Reverend SG Willson	<i>Ministry Area Leader, retired 31 October 2023</i>
Reverend SH Birdsall	<i>Vicar and Ministry Area leader from 14 December 2023</i>
Reverend II Yemm	<i>Vicar Resigned 31 December 2023</i>
Reverend R Coombs	<i>Vicar</i>
Reverend BJ Huxtable-Goy	<i>Curate</i>

The principal address of the charity:

- The Rectory, Rectory Close, Radyr, Cardiff CF15 8EW

Independent Examiner:

- Mr Robert Hugh, Robert Hugh Ltd, 15 Dan y Bryn Avenue, Radyr, Cardiff CF15 8DD

Bankers:

- The Cooperative Bank, PO Box 250, Skelmersdale, Lancashire, WN8 6WT
- Lloyds Bank
- Natwest Bank

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The trustees, who are also members of the Ministry Area Council ("MAC"), during the financial year were as follows.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Date of appointment or resignation</b>
Reverend Steve Willson	Vicar and Ministry Area Leader	Retired 31 October 2023
Reverend Sandra Birdsall	Vicar and Ministry Area Leader	Appointed as Ministry Area leader 1 November 2023
Reverend Ruth Coombs	Vicar	
Reverend Belinda Huxtable-Goy	Curate	Resigned 31 March 2024
Reverend Ian Yemm	Vicar	Resigned 31 December 2023
John Kiff	Ministry Area Lay Chair	
Andrew Dodd	Ministry Area Warden	Retired 24 June 2023
Paul Marshall	Ministry Area Warden	
Margaret Jones	Ministry Area Secretary	Stood down as Secretary in 2023
Michael Gill	Ministry Area Treasurer	
Amanda Russell-Jones	Elected Member	
Michael Edwards	Elected Member	
Rosalind James	Elected Member	
Geoffrey Moses	Elected Member	
Paul Owens	Elected Member	
Ruth Davies	Ministry Area Warden	Appointed 24 June 2023

The charity is an unincorporated entity but is registered with the Charity Commission for England & Wales, registered number 1132144.

The charity is governed by the Constitution of the Church In Wales adopted on 31 March 2020.

The charity is under the control of the Trustees who meet periodically under the title of a "Ministry Area Council ("MAC")" which held five meetings during the year under review.

The principal role of the MAC is to provide a strategic overview of the charity with day to day management being delegated to nominated individuals for Ministry Area matters or a group of church members for the maintenance of services and buildings for each church or hall. Reports from individual officers and church wardens on behalf of each church are given later in this document.

During the year, the MAC approved the creation of an Executive Committee comprising the clergy, Ministry Area Wardens and Ministry Area Treasurer. The Committee is authorised to meet in-between full MAC meetings to deal with matters arising on a timely basis.

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## MAC Vision and Strategy

The MAC has the following 10 year Vision and Strategy which it is now implementing.

### Background / Issue:

- Steady decline in membership (see charts overleaf).
- **We are failing in our mission.**
- We need a motivating **vision** of what we want & need to be.
- We need a strategy to get there.

### Our 'Big Gaps' (as an MA)

- 1) **Not growing in existing communities and**
- 2) **Not present in our new communities (Plasdwr etc.)**

### Our Overall Vision (where we want to get to / what we want to 'look like' as a MA)

**We are flourishing, active in all our communities, and confident about using our words and actions to share the love of God to all.**

### Root Causes of our Gaps (things that we can address to close our gaps)

- A. Not replacing ageing (increasingly less active) congregation members.
- B. Not effective in attracting all generations / life-stages.
- C. Experience of church (in all its aspects) not sufficiently meaningful/relevant.
- D. Not good at articulating/defending our faith effectively to others.
- E. Insufficiently active/visible in our communities – especially Plasdwr.
- F. Volunteering decreasing so expectations of clergy are becoming greater.

### Our Key Strategic Actions

No	Root Cause Letter	Key Strategic Actions Aim for 'Belonging before Believing' in each	Who will Lead
1.	<b>E</b>	Establish a welcoming Christian presence, worship & activity in the new communities in the MA	Rev. TBA 1 & Amanda Russell-J
2.	<b>A, B, C</b>	Establish friendly, accessible worship and activities that appeal to all generations, young families and children – with follow-up	Ruth Davies and Rev TBA 1
3.	<b>C, D</b>	Communicate what we do and why we do it and our own faith stories, meaningfully – online, in our buildings and via activities and services	Ros James and Rev TBA 2
4.	<b>D, F</b>	Grow each of our abilities to articulate our faith effectively to others (Telling the Joyful Story)	Rev TBA 2 and John Kiff
5	<b>C, E, F</b>	Grow and develop new leaders to collaborate with the clergy, and engaging <b>all</b> our people in having <b>a role</b> in the life of the church and in achieving our Vision	Rev. Sandra Birdsall and Geoff Moses
6	<b>E</b>	Be always active in campaigning and acting against injustice. Take action to continually reduce the impact of our buildings and activities on creation	Rev Ruth Coombs and Rev Sandra Birdsall

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## Safeguarding Officer's Report

### Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility

The Church in Wales aims to create and maintain an organisational culture that reflects the importance of safeguarding. The welfare of children and adults at risk is paramount and takes precedence over all other considerations.

Just as Jesus is the ultimate refuge and place of safety, as His representative on earth we are called to 'embody' Him. Safeguarding is part of our core faith and an integral feature of Christian life in our churches across the Garth Ministry Area.

Safeguarding means preventing harm to children and adults at risk by protecting them from abuse or neglect. The Church in Wales is committed to safeguarding as an integral part of its life, mission and ministry. Within the Garth Ministry Area we uphold the Church in Wales aims to:

- Promote the wellbeing of children and adults at risk
- Raise awareness of safeguarding within the Church
- Work to prevent abuse or harm from occurring
- Seek to protect and respond well to those that have been abused

To make the policies and procedures more accessible to all members of the church community, the Church in Wales has reviewed and updated all of them and made them available for everyone on the Church in Wales website.

<https://www.churchinwales.org.uk/en/clergy-and-members/safeguarding/>

As a Ministry Area we have formally adopted this policy and its associated procedures.

In the Garth Ministry Area we use the Church in Wales secure dashboard, My Church People, to support the Ministry Area in maintaining accurate records about those who work or volunteer across our churches. It is used to manage the DBS process, records completed training and triggers reminders when checks or additional training is required.

The data below identifies our current position.

DBS Checks		Training	Module A	Module B	Module C
People entered onto My Church People	69	Training Completed:	47	45	9
Valid DBS checks	43	Training Required	22	24	5
Ongoing DBS checks	15	% Trained	68%	65%	64%

We promote the completion of safeguarding training for all within our churches. This includes the Church in Wales 'Core Learning Pathways' which provide a range of safeguarding learning developed to build knowledge according to role and responsibility. Additional learning modules have been developed to enhance safeguarding knowledge on particular subject areas, or for specific roles, and these are undertaken where required. Work will continue to ensure that all those who require training for their voluntary roles within our churches complete the required modules as swiftly as possible.

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**Digital Communications Team Report**

The Digital Communications Team ("DCT") has now been running since August 2022. During 2023, The Garth Ministry Area (TGMA) launched its Strategy and as a result created a series of Focus Groups to take the Strategy forward. The group focussing on Communications is called Garth Connect. As DCT was already set up, both groups have been merged, as this was seen as the most efficient way to deliver for the Ministry Area (MA). DCT/Garth Connect meet monthly and have delivered many products for TGMA over the past 12 months. Highlights of the deliverables are provided below:

**1. New Ministry Area Website**

A new MA website was launched in August 2023 and can be found [here](#). The launch was successful with key people being trained to update the site. The site contains a specific page for each of the eight churches and three halls, along with news and much more. The website is a product of the excellent collaboration which is taking place across the MA.

**Progress to date** – we have three website administrators who populate the pages with up-coming events and news articles. There is still work to be done to change peoples' mindsets to think "electronic" messaging rather than "paper", but we've made headway into this and there is much support for the work that is being done.

**2. Secure Storage Facility**

Our Clergy have been trained in the secure storage and are using the facility, finding benefits in data sharing and reductions in data duplication. It has been set up to enable the Clergy to share information in carrying out their day-to-day tasks and when going on leave. When appointed, two new Clergy will also undergo the training. Church Wardens, Magazine/Newspaper Editors etc tend to utilise the hard drives on their PCs to store information relating to their church and the MA. A considerable amount of analysis work has been carried out on the data held and the people who use it. It is planned that data is migrated onto the secure storage, where it can be shared where appropriate. This will enable further collaboration across our MA.

**Progress to date** – our Windows based solution has the appropriate folders created ready for population. The DCT team are setting up a series of workshops to go through such features as logging in, storing and sharing data etc., and documenting those activities to create a User Guide. Once complete, the guides will form the basis of our training package which will be rolled out across the MA via carefully planned workshops. This will give people the opportunity to try out the guides in a real environment, and for the DCT team to resolve any issues encountered.

**3. Branding**

In 2023, it was recognised that there was a need for people to identify the Garth Ministry Area and its media, be it online or in paper format, and that branding is key to this. In 2023, several sample logos were created for discussion and the DCT team agreed the one they thought would be most appropriate (based on the brief given by the MA Leader). The logo was then put before the Ministry Area Council ("MAC") for approval. The logo was duly approved, and some additional 25 logos were created in greyscale and colour, for all possible uses. To ensure that they were used correctly, a Style guide was produced and circulated around the MA. The logos are now in regular use. Additional logos have been produced for our informal All Age Services and Safeguarding, and we continue to expand and use these techniques in our marketing.

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**4. Social Media**

We now have Ministry Area Facebook and 'X' accounts and they are used regularly to reach people are not aware of our website. Social media is heavily used in publicising our Messy Church events.

**5. Stakeholder Engagement & Communications**

Following a Garth Connect meeting with a top Cardiff Publicist, we will be taking on board some of the ideas he suggested. We have produced a detailed Stakeholder List and Power/Impact Matrix and will utilise this to create a Stakeholder and Communications Engagement Strategy which will include a plan.

**Progress to date** – the Stakeholder and Communications Engagement Strategy in production and it is planned that it be submitted to MAC in the September meeting.



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**Objectives and Activities**

The principal objective of the charity is the promotion of the mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical in the Ministry Area. Individual Church Reports detailing the activities undertaken in respect of the above are as follows:

***Christ Church Radyr***

**1. Activities Progressing the Vision and Strategy**

- Christ Church is open every day for private prayer.
- Live Streaming of 11.00 a.m. Sunday Service, Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms, Concerts, Remembrance Sunday in Church and at the War Memorial.
- 6 Funerals & 7 Baptisms were held in the year.
- Special services include Civic Service, Radyr Comprehensive Remembrance Service, Radyr Primary Christmas Concert,
- Other activities include Sunday Club, Mothers' Union, Church Choir, Bell Ringers.
- We continue to collect for the Food Bank & toiletries for the Huggard Centre.

**2. Social Activities in the Community**

- Family Fun Day.
- Get Ready for Christmas event.
- Shrove Tuesday Quiz.
- Refreshments after every service.
- Coronation, Harvest, Candlemas & Easter Lunches.
- Friday Lent Lunches.
- 3 Charity Concerts.
- Visiting Bell ringers to ring our Bells.
- Use of the New School rooms for parties, meetings & Various Classes.

**3. Plans for the Coming Year**

- We will endeavour to build on everything we have done this year.

Warden Name: *Rubina Davison*      Date: *5<sup>th</sup> June 2024*

***St Catwg's Church, Pentyrch.***

**1. Activities Progressing the Vision and Strategy**

- Engagement with families from the new communities through Messy Church.
- MA Vicars Warden engaging with Pentyrch Primary School.
- Lay-led, non-eucharist services every other Wednesday morning.
- 6 Members of our congregation have offered to be a part of an Action Group to drive the MA Vision and Strategy.
- Members of the congregation are part of Messy Church: catering, activities, leading celebrations.
- Strong representation from St Catwg's on the MAC.

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- Members of our congregation have attended courses run by Action Group 4 -Advent course, Bible Study etc.
- Kitchen in church uses Fair Trade produce, i.e. coffee, tea, sugar. Recycling bins are present in church and compostable cups are used.
- Participation in the Lenten giving this year and also Food Bank.
- On-going donations to Water Aid are collected.

## **2. Social Activities in the Community**

- Coffee served after Sunday & weekday services.
- Weekly quizzes, continued after Covid-19.
- A social committee established with representation from St David's, St Ellteryn's and St Catwg's churches organise family occasions such as: St David's Lunch, Harvest Supper, Advent Lunch etc. All are held jointly with other Pentyrch churches.
- Jointly help run a Christian Aid Coffee morning

## **3. Plans for the Coming Year**

- Quinquennial Inspection and any essential maintenance that comes from this.
- Tree and grave inspections.
- Almathea Ensemble Concert, 30<sup>th</sup> May.
- Sine Nominee Concert, 1<sup>st</sup> December.
- Local Primary School Carol Service, December.
- Village Carol Service, December.
- Open the church for Pentyrch Open Gardens; providing tea, coffee and cake.

Warden Name: Gill Stevens

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024

### **St David's, Groesfaen**

## **1. Activities Progressing the Vision and Strategy**

- Detail of the Vision and Strategy have been displayed as requested and people are aware of the working groups and request for volunteers.
- Copies of the leaflets "What is Christmas & Easter All About" were publicised and issued as requested.

## **2. Social Activities in the Community**

- Members of the congregation both lead and support the monthly Community Market in Creigiau and Messy Church.
- Members of the congregation actively participate in the Pentyrch Churches Social Committee arranging and leading events throughout the year.
- St David's is used on a monthly basis by the local Gwyrdd community group for coffee mornings and is also used for occasional concerts throughout the year.
- The church was used in May as a polling station for the election of the Crime Commissioner and will be used again in July for the General Election.

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**3. Plans for the Coming Year**

- To continue as above.
- Undertake essential maintenance identified by our recent Quinquennial Inspection..
- Recruitment a new vicar to lead our three churches.

Warden Name: *Andrew Heylin / Mary Davies*      Date: *30<sup>th</sup> May 2024*

***St Ellteyrn's, Capel Llanilltern***

**1. Activities Progressing the Vision and Strategy.**

- Reaching out to the community, old village and new developments
- The Vision is to develop the small hall next to St Ellteyrn's church so that it can be used more by the community.
- The St Ellteyrn's Church Hall requires a kitchen and toilet so that the hall can be used regularly by the church and third party groups and classes.

**2. Social Activities in the Community**

- At the moment, only coffee mornings are viable.
- We hope to develop more activities in the next year

**3. Plans for the Coming Year**

- Continue to collect prices for improving the hall. Some quotes already received, but still need some for new windows etc.
- Once all the quotes have been collected, apply for funding for the work to be carried out

Warden Name: *Linda Davies*      Date: *29<sup>th</sup> May 2024*

***St John's Church Danescourt***

**1. Activities Progressing the Vision and Strategy**

- Making sure all Church activities and Services are advertised appropriately so that they are accessible to all.
- Ensuring we welcome and engage with any new faces in our Church Services so that they feel comfortable and part of our fellowship.
- Taking action to support those less fortunate than ourselves e.g. Food Bank collections and Baby Bank collections, Christian Aid.
- Inviting the children and staff of Danescourt Primary School to Church at various times of the year.
- Inviting the parents of the school children to Church to see their children's decorated Christmas Trees and providing refreshments.

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**2. Social activities in the Community**

We show our faith in action through:

- Providing a safe and friendly Baby and Toddler group – ensuring parents grandparents, carers and children feel welcomed.
- Providing an inclusive coffee morning where everyone in the community is welcome for coffee, tea, cakes and an opportunity to chat and meet new friends.
- We hold at least 2 or 3 social activities a year which are very well attended by the local community, e.g. A Strawberry Tea in June.  
All proceeds from these activities go to various charities. e.g. Christian Aid, Cancer Research Wales, Noah's Ark Children's Hospital.
- This year we also fundraised for new equipment for the forest school at our local Danescourt Primary School

**3. Plans for the Coming Year**

- We plan to maintain and build upon all our links with our local community ensuring that we are telling a joyful story and communicating our love of Jesus and our neighbours.

Warden Name: Cheryl Evans Date: 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024

**St Mary's Church, St Fagans**

**1. Activities Progressing the Vision and Strategy**

- Strong links maintained with St Fagans Church in Wales Primary School, which has included regular assemblies, and two whole school Eucharists.
- Four of the Governors at St Fagans Church in Wales Primary School regularly attend services at St Mary's Church.
- Monthly 'All Age' worship continues at St Mary's with a variety of Eucharist and Non-Eucharist services
- A 'Welcome' banner has been placed on the church boundary wall in an attempt to attract more people to attend church on a regular basis.
- A 'leaflet' has been produced and circulated to local residents to try and increase attendance numbers at church services, outlining what the church can do for the community, and what the community can do in return, in order to keep the church open.

**2. Social Activities in the Community**

- An active Social Committee organises a range of fundraising activities, including Summer & Winter Fairs, skittle events and quizzes, to raise funds for the church, as well as raising the profile of the church in the local community.
- An annual 'Harvest Supper' is held in the local village hall.
- A social event is also held annually in the local village hall following the Nine Lessons & Carols service.

**3. Plans for the Coming Year**

- Investigate ways of increasing income levels by:-
- Encouraging use of the 'Direct Giving' Scheme

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- Establishing a '100 Club'
- Review/update various church policy documents
- Revisit plans to install a 'Kitchenette' in the church in conjunction with local Community Council

Warden Name: *Phil Watkins* Date: *20<sup>th</sup> May 2024*

***St. Mary & St James, Taffs Well***

**1. Activities Progressing the Vision and Strategy**

- Engaging with the local community whenever possible.
- Using regular newsletters, posters and social media to advertise activities.
- Making the church and church gardens a place for the wider community to utilise and enjoy.
- Engaging with local businesses, other churches and local groups.
- Making improvements to the church to make it more accessible to all.

**2. Social Activities in the Community**

- Regular quiz nights
- Afternoon teas in the church gardens
- Joint events with local choir
- Songs of Praise

**3. Plans for the Coming Year**

- June – Quiz Night
- July – Feast of St. James Fish and Chip supper
- August – Songs of Praise and Cream Teas
- October – Pet Blessing and Bread Making
- November – Sip and Paint Afternoon
- December – Quiz night, Carols and Candles

Warden Name: *Jayne Smith* Date: *6<sup>th</sup> June 2024*

***St Michael and All Angels, Tongwynlais***

**1. Activities Progressing the Vision and Strategy**

- A monthly All Age Eucharist during which the young people participate in the readings, prayers and taking up the elements. No drop off in ordinary congregation.
- Collection of toiletries for asylum seekers.
- Collection of second hand clothes, via a Rotary Club, for the Huggard Centre, which supports homeless people.
- Christingle service well supported by the community.
- Local junior school visited the church for a "Christmas Experience".

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**2. Social Activities in the Community**

- Summer and Advent Fayres are well supported by the local community.
- St David's Day Quiz/Cheese and Wine evening.
- Lent lunches, profit given to charity.
- Premises used by local groups including Yoga group, Castell Coch Choir and Cubs.
- Castell Coch Choir hold their annual concerts in the church, in which local school children participate.
- Rotary Club use the church for their Christmas Carol Service.
- Pensioners' tea party organised by the Ladies' Circle, held during the Tongwynlais and Whitchurch Festival.
- The monthly Gardening Club is open to the local community.

**3. Plans for the Coming Year**

- Upgrade sound system to enable the use of Bluetooth.
- Investigate possible installation of WiFi for streaming of services.
- Look at the possibility of setting up a "100 Club" to involve the congregation and the local community.

*Warden Name: Gaynor Edwards      Date: May 30th 2024*

***Creigiau Church Hall***

**1. Activities Progressing the Vision and Strategy**

- Monthly service of informal worship
- Monthly Messy Church
- Monthly Good News coffee morning
- Monthly community market
- Creigiau Companions every other week
- The social committee of the three churches arrange approximately 8 events a year which are held in the hall and are well attended.

**2. Social Activities in the Community**

- The hall continues to be used by 13 local groups and associations on a weekly basis.
- It is a popular venue for parties, fund raising events and concerts held in our community.
- A carol concert is held every year and Creigiau 23 have a Christmas grotto in the hall on Christmas eve for the children of our community.
- The Hall is used as a local polling station.

**3. Plans for the Coming Year**

- The hall will require repair to internal ceiling tiles and internal painting in the main hall.

*Booking Secretary: Mary Davies      Date: 27<sup>th</sup> May 2024*

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***Christ Church New School Rooms, Radyr***

**1. Activities Progressing the Vision and Strategy**

- Well situated, well used presence in Radyr, available for use by the community as well as church groups. It should be noted that there are many alternative locations available for hire in Radyr.
- Church Sunday Club.
- Mothers' Union.
- Diocesan Hub uses upstairs room as office, also main hall for larger meetings.
- Garth MA meetings.

**2. Social Activities in the Community**

- The Hall is used by ten different local groups and organisations either weekly, monthly or sometimes less often
- In addition, it is a popular venue for children's parties, adult gatherings and other one-off events
- Church-run Lent Lunches, Harvest Lunches, occasional celebration lunches Shrove Tuesday Quiz Night.
- Two fundraising events July and November.
- Refreshments and fellowship after Sunday 11.00am service.

**3. Plans for the Coming Year**

- To continue to support and provide a facility for the church and the community
- After many years, deep clean and reseal of Hall floor needed.

*Booking Secretary:*        *Nicky Webber*        *Date:*    *12<sup>th</sup> June 2024*

***St. John's Church Hall, Danescourt***

**1. Activities Progressing the Vision and Strategy**

- Well situated, well used presence in Danescourt. Available for use by the community as well as church groups, as there are minimal alternative locations available for hire
- Church Sunday Club welcomes youngsters in the community

**2. Social Activities in the Community**

- The Hall is used every weekday by an After School Club and weekly or monthly by local groups and associations (14)
- Popular venue for children's parties and other one-off events
- Church-run fortnightly Baby and Toddlers Group
- Church-run fortnightly Coffee Morning
- Three Church-run Charity Fundraising events in March, June and September
- The Hall is used as a local polling station

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**3. Plans for the Coming Year**

- Replacement of four metal framed windows in the Churchyard facing wall of Hall
- Increasing insulation and ventilation in the attic.
- Deep clean and reseal of Hall floor
- Painting of the external walls

*Booking Secretary: Malcolm May                      Date: 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024*

**Public Benefit**

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning future activities. The benefit to the public is a feeling of spiritual stability and freedom within the Ministry Area for the benefit of all God's people. This is exercised through:

- the provision of regular public worship and pastoral work, including visiting the sick and bereaved.
- the teaching of Christianity through sermons and small groups, and the taking of assemblies in local schools.
- the promotion of Christianity through staging special services.

The activities take place in both the churches and church halls within the Ministry Area.



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**Local Church Building Team**

Responsibility for looking after the property portfolio of the Ministry Areas lies with the individual churches and includes day to day matters to keep the buildings warm, welcoming and safe.

Expenditure was significantly less in 2023 compared with 2022 in the absence of any major projects. The most significant items of expense were:

- The installation of replacement heating at St Mary & James Church, Taffs Well.
- External improvements at Creigiau Church Hall creating an all year round outdoor and enclosed activity area.

There are a large volume of routine transactions on energy, annual or other frequency of tests on equipment, cleaning and ad-hoc repairs and thanks must be given to the church representatives and their treasurers in dealing with these matters.

Looking ahead to 2024, there have been a number of property issues arising which either have been dealt with or there are plans in hand to deal with. The expectation is for expenditure on properties to exceed that in 2023.

In addition, initial studies are being made into the reordering of one building to improve its flexibility of use and the major refurbishment of another building to make it suitable for use by third parties. Both projects are at early stages and there is no guarantee they will proceed.

Also subsequent to the year-end and under the terms of the Ministry Area Structure Document, a formal Buildings Team is proposed to encourage sharing of information regarding maintenance and property care amongst those responsible for looking after the Ministry Area properties.

My appreciation is expressed to the church members who have cared for the physical condition of their church buildings in a competent and timely manner.

*Michael Gill Ministry Area Treasurer*

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## **Financial Review**

### ***Background***

This is the second set of consolidated accounts for the MA following its creation on 1 January 2022 and accordingly the results for the year are comparable with the previous year.

Both the year under review and the previous year were free from Covid-19 restrictions and thus there were normal activity levels in the churches and halls.

### ***The Finance Team***

My appreciation is expressed to the Church treasurers and Gift Aid secretaries who served during 2023 for their continued commitment to looking after the financial affairs of their churches in a competent and timely manner.

### ***Accounting system***

This was the second full year of using the special church and charity accounting software as required by the Diocese. The treasurers' team is becoming more familiar with its requirements and is allowing the preparation of up to date financial information in a structured manner that was not previously possible under manual systems.

### ***Banking arrangements***

There are 8 current accounts operated by church treasurers. The Ministry Area is slowly moving its current accounts to be with Co-operative Bank to take advantage of dual online payment authorisation.

There were no changes in the deposit account arrangements with Epworth Investment Management. The funds are held in instant access accounts and benefit from attractive interest rates.

### ***Financial Results - Summary***

The overall result for the year is a loss of £2.3k, split as follows:

- The General Fund, being day to day income and expenditure of running the MA, churches and halls, incurred a loss of £13.6k. Only one pair of churches generated a surplus in the year, the other three church groupings incurred losses.
- A reduction in Designated Funds of £5k being mainly attributable to expenditure on a churchyard.
- An increase in Restricted Funds of £18k. This is due to the receipt of funds from a special project and a legacy for one of the churches.

### ***Financial Results – General Fund income***

The following comments are considered relevant:

- There was a significant reduction from £27.8k to £2k in grants received from the Diocese. This was offset by a rise in the Diocesan Fair Share rebate from 5% in 2022 to 10% in 2023.

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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- Planned giving being a mixture of Gift Direct, weekly envelopes and standing orders was unchanged at £107k or 36% of total income. Related to this are tax refunds of £31k or 10% (2022 12%) of total income. This is the core funding of any church and with a combined total of 46% (2022 48%) of total income means that the churches are dependent on many other sources of income to try and meet costs.
- Fees comprise fees from weddings, baptisms and funerals.
- Fund raising includes traditional events held by individual churches such as summer fetes.
- Church hall and other property income from a residential investment property continues to be a very important source of income.
- Investment income comprises quarterly income from long term investments with the Church in Wales.
- The Ministry Area benefitted from the transfer of funds in various clearing bank accounts at the end of 2022 into the Epworth Cash Plus Fund for Charities and higher interest rates than in previous years. The expectation is for interest received in 2024 to fall as funds are withdrawn and the possibility of a decreases in interest rates,

***Financial Results – General Fund expenditure***

The following comments are considered relevant:

- The maintenance of ministry is solely the gross amount due to the Diocese and monthly payments in the current year are showing a further increase
- Maintenance of churches includes amongst other expenses, insurance, electricity, gas and repairs. The first three are largely fixed in nature; repairs will vary widely from year to year.
- Most churches have contracts in place for gas and electricity, but as a number of contracts expired in 2023 this year, energy costs have risen.
- Maintenance of other properties includes church halls and the residential property.
- Other expenses comprise a high volume of low value transactions to maintain services and church activities.

Overall the expectation is that total expenditure will increase in 2024 but it is too early to predict the amount. This is due to a number of factors potentially outside of the control of the Ministry Area.

***Reserves and bank balances***

Despite the small loss for the year, the MA had aggregate current and deposit account balances of £349k (2022 £370k). Although there is no formal policy regarding the holding of cash, as the closing readily available bank balances are equivalent to approx 13 months expenditure on the unrestricted reserves account, it is considered that the charity has adequate reserves to continue in operation for the foreseeable future.

***Long term investments***

The MA had aggregate long term investments with the Church in Wales of £208k (2022 £197k) at the year-end, this value reflecting a increase in value of approx 5% compared to their 2022 year end value. The investments are held for a combination of restricted and general funds with the probability that they would be cashed in for the purposes of acquiring additional property for use by the Ministry Area or major work, whether repair, renovation or re-ordering of existing buildings.

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The MA owns a residential investment property, located within the Ministry Area, which is let to a unrelated third party and is managed by a third party letting agent. The property was originally purchased for use as clergy accommodation within a former parish. It continues to be held either as a source of income or future use by Ministry Area clergy.

***The future***

If the MA is to reach a breakeven position, then as costs are mainly fixed or increasing, income must rise; specifically more people giving more regularly in a tax efficient manner.

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

Financial statements are required to be prepared for each financial year which give a true and fair view of its state of affairs at the balance sheet date and of the income and expenditure for the year then ended. These financial statements are required to be examined by independent accountants and copies made available to parishioners. In preparing these financial statements the trustees will have due regard to:

- selecting suitable accounting policies and applying them consistently making judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent observing applicable Accounting Standards
- preparing the financial statements on a going concern basis

The trustees, who are also members of the Ministry Area Council are responsible also for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Garth Ministry Area and for safeguarding its assets.

The above report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

Approved by The Ministry Area Council on 19 June.2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Reverend S H Birdsall  
Ministry Area Leader

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE GARTH  
MINISTRY AREA**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 22 to 27.

**Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of The Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

**Basis of Independent Examiner's Report**

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

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

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

Signature:.....

Date: 8 August 2024

Name: Mr Robert Hugh

Qualification: BSc., FCA

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

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	This Year Total £	Last Year Total £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>							
<b>Voluntary resources</b>							
Direct giving: Planned		107,440				107,440	107,422
Church collections		25,950				25,950	26,434
Indirect giving : Tax refunds		31,379				31,379	35,226
<b>Activities for generating funds</b>							
Fees		10,751				10,751	18,251
Fund raising		19,665				19,665	18,238
Special collections		1,762				1,762	110
Miscellaneous income		11,190		12,491		23,681	4,822
Church Hall and other property income		42,806		308		43,114	33,160
Donations and legacies		12,676		10,000		22,676	13,309
<b>Investment income</b>							
Interest received		12,564				12,564	2,344
Common Investment Fund		3,492	735	1,134		5,361	3,352
<b>Other incoming resources</b>							
Grants from DBF		2,159				2,159	27,805
Ministry Area rebate		18,436				18,436	11,448
<b>Total Incoming resources</b>		<b>300,270</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>23,933</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>324,939</b>	<b>301,923</b>
<b>Outgoing resources expended for the promotion of the mission of the Church in the Parish</b>							
Maintenance of Ministry	4	184,365				184,365	174,092
Parochial expenses of Clerics		11,934				11,934	6,602
Maintenance of services		15,953				15,953	19,666
General church expenses	5	7,998				7,998	11,246
Maintenance of Churches		53,190	7,538	(143)		60,586	94,292
Maintenance of halls and other property		29,906		3,136		33,041	37,327
Missions Home	6a	3,858		2,809		6,667	8,600
Missions World	6b	2,669				2,669	6,134
Costs of fund raising		4,082				4,082	2,757
<b>Total Outgoing resources</b>		<b>313,954</b>	<b>7,538</b>	<b>5,802</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>327,294</b>	<b>360,716</b>
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers</b>		<b>(13,684)</b>	<b>(6,803)</b>	<b>18,131</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(2,355)</b>	<b>(58,794)</b>
Transfer between funds		2,102	(2,102)			0	0
Unrealised gains/(losses) on revaluation of:							
Investments		6,282	1,641	3,041		10,964	(23,055)
Investment property						0	175,000
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in funds</b>		<b>(5,300)</b>	<b>(7,263)</b>	<b>21,172</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,609</b>	<b>93,151</b>
Fund balances brought forward at 1st January		854,662	61,382	310,603	0	1,226,647	598,847
Fund balances introduced on creation of Ministry Area at 1 January 2022						0	534,649
<b>Fund balances carried forward at 31 December</b>		<b>849,362</b>	<b>54,119</b>	<b>331,775</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,235,256</b>	<b>1,226,647</b>

## BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	This Year £	Last Year £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	7	245,915	246,265
Investments	8	617,947	606,635
<b>Total of Fixed Assets</b>		<b>863,862</b>	<b>852,900</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	9	33,199	31,419
Cash at bank & in hand		349,107	371,368
		<b>382,306</b>	<b>402,787</b>
<b>Creditors falling due within one year</b>	10	<b>10,912</b>	<b>29,040</b>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<b>371,394</b>	<b>373,747</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<b>1,235,256</b>	<b>1,226,647</b>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	12	<b>1,235,256</b>	<b>1,226,647</b>
<b>Income funds</b>			
Unrestricted: Ordinary	13	849,362	854,662
Designated	13	54,119	61,382
Restricted	13	331,775	310,603
Revaluation reserve	11	0	0
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<b>1,235,256</b>	<b>1,226,647</b>

Approved by The Ministry Area Council on 19 June 2024

and signed on its behalf by:

..... Reverend SH Birdsall (Ministry Area Leader)

..... Mr M Gill (Ministry Area Treasurer)



## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### 1. Accounting Policies

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards, the "Statement of Recommended Practice" issued by the Charity Commissioners and the Church in Wales Accounting Regulations.

The historical cost convention is used as modified to include the revaluation of investments.

The accruals basis of accounting has been adopted.

The principal accounting policies are applied consistently.

#### a. Fixed assets

**Freehold property:** Churches, Churchyards and Vicarages are vested in the Representative Body of the Church in Wales; such property forms no part of the assets of the Ministry Area. Moveable Church contents require a faculty for disposal so are considered to be inalienable property and are not valued, nor recognised on the Balance Sheet. Expenditure incurred on Churches (including contents), Churchyards and Vicarages is written off when incurred.

Other freehold land and buildings are held in trust for the Ministry Area by either the Representative Body or the Llandaff Diocesan Board of Finance

The basis for valuation of other freehold land and buildings is :

Church Halls are stated at cost

Freehold property not used for church purposes is stated at valuation

No provision for depreciation of land and buildings is made.

Routine additions and replacements to Church Hall contents are charged to current expenditure.

#### b. Funds

**Unrestricted funds:** are general funds which can be used for ordinary purposes.

**Designated funds:** are funds which have been set aside for specific purposes but which can be returned to the general fund at any time if the trustees so decide.

**Restricted funds:** represent income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund.

#### c. Incoming resources:

these are all accounted for gross.

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received.

Indirect giving: Tax refunds are recognised as soon as the amounts are claimable.

Grants and Legacies are accounted for when the Ministry Area is legally entitled to the amounts due.

Investment income: Dividends are accounted for when receivable; interest and tax recoverable are accrued. Where the Ministry Area has not invested separately for each fund interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

All other income is generally recognised when it is receivable.

#### d. Outgoing resources

Ministry Area Fair share is paid in periodic instalments and is included in expenditure for the year to which it relates.

All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred.

#### e. Investments

Investments are stated at valuation as advised by the Church in Wales.

### 2. Fees for Financial Statements Examination

	<b>This Year</b> £	<i>Last Year</i> £
Independent examiner's fees for reporting on the Financial Statements	<b>1,400</b>	<i>2,400</i>

### 3. Number of employees.

There are four paid employees. No payments were made to MAC members.

	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	<b>This Year</b> £	<i>Last Year</i> £
<b>4 Maintenance of ministry:</b>					
Diocesan Fair Share	184,365			<b>184,365</b>	<i>171,596</i>
Other expenses				<b>0</b>	<i>2,496</i>
				<b>0</b>	<i>0</i>
	<b>184,365</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>184,365</b>	<i>174,092</i>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

(continued)

	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	This Year £	Last Year £
<b>5 General Parish Expenses:</b>					
Examiner's fees	1,400			1,400	2,400
Payroll and other professional fess	450			450	1,468
Bank charges and interest paid	231			231	112
Depreciation	350			350	350
Printing postage and stationery	1,929			1,929	2,425
Office and general expenditure	1,563			1,563	4,491
Retirement and leaving gifts	2,075			2,075	-
	<b>7,998</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,998</b>	<b>11,246</b>
<b>6a Payments to Ministry Area missions:</b>					
Children and young people activity costs	1,677			1,677	466
Cost of church publications	1,794			1,794	1,743
Other mission work	387			387	700
Syrian Refugees: 1 Family Cardiff			2,809	2,809	5,691
	<b>3,858</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,809</b>	<b>6,667</b>	<b>8,600</b>
<b>6b Missions and Grants Home/World</b>					
UK Charities	1,623			1,623	3,830
International mission and projects	1,046			1,046	2,304
	<b>2,669</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,669</b>	<b>6,134</b>
<b>Total Missions</b>	<b>6,527</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,809</b>	<b>9,336</b>	<b>14,734</b>
<b>7 Tangible Fixed Assets</b>					
		Freehold property £	Fixtures & fittings £	This Year £	Last Year £
Cost or valuation:	Balance 1st January 2023	245,914	2,214	248,128	483,128
	Additions			0	0
	Reclassification			0	(235,000)
	Revaluation			0	0
	Disposals			0	0
	Balance 31 December 2023	<b>245,914</b>	<b>2,214</b>	<b>248,128</b>	<b>248,128</b>
Accumulated depreciation	Balance 1st January 2023	0	1,863	1,863	1,513
	On disposals			0	0
	Charge for the year		350	350	350
	Eliminated on disposals			0	0
Accumulated depreciation	Balance 31 December 2023	<b>0</b>	<b>2,213</b>	<b>2,213</b>	<b>1,863</b>
Net book value:	Balance 31 December 2023	<b>245,914</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>245,915</b>	<b>246,265</b>
	Balance 31 December 2022	<b>245,914</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>246,265</b>	<b>481,615</b>

Freehold Property at 31 December 2023 comprises church halls at cost.

## 8 Investments

	Investment Properties	Other investments	This Year	Last Year
At valuation:	£	£	£	£
Balance 1 January 2023	410,000	196,635	606,635	58,972
Fund balances introduced on creation of Ministry Area at 1 January 2022			0	160,718
Reclassification			0	235,000
Additions		348	348	0
Unrealised gain on revaluation of investments		10,964	10,964	151,945
Balance 31 December 2023	410,000	207,947	617,947	606,635
Investment Properties comprise	At valuation			
Residential Investment Property	235,000			
Agricultural land	175,000			
	410,000			

The market value of the residential investment property has been assessed by the Trustees following the receipt of independent advice.

Investment properties are held by The Representative Body of the Church in Wales on behalf of The Garth Ministry Area.

Other Investments represents shares in the Common Investment Fund held by The Representative Body of the Church in Wales on behalf of The Garth Ministry Area.

## 9 Debtors

Income tax recoverable	13,433	11,606
Diocesan Fair Share Rebate	4,609	13,401
Other debtors and prepayments	15,157	6,412
	33,199	31,419

## 10 Creditors falling due within one year

Other creditors and accrued expenses	10,912	29,040
	10,912	29,040

## 11 Revaluation reserve

At 31st December 2022	0	149,500
Transfer to unrestricted fund	0	(149,500)
Arising from revaluation of investment property	0	0
At 31st December 2023	0	0

## Analysis of Net

### 12 Assets by Fund

	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	This Year £
At 31 December 2023				
Tangible assets	245,915			245,915
Investments	354,001	31,059	232,887	617,947
Debtors	20,511	12,688		33,199
Cash at Bank and in Hand	239,847	10,372	98,888	349,107
	860,274	54,119	331,775	1,246,168
Creditors amounts falling due within one year	(10,912)			(10,912)
	849,362	54,119	331,775	1,235,256
At 31 December 2022				
Tangible assets	246,265			246,265
Investments	347,716	29,418	229,501	606,635
Debtors	31,419			31,419
Cash at Bank and in Hand	255,480	32,563	83,325	371,368
	880,880	61,981	312,826	1,255,687
Creditors amounts falling due within one year	(26,217)	(599)	(2,224)	(29,040)
	854,663	61,382	310,602	1,226,647

THE GARTH MINISTRY AREA

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

(continued)

Note 13: Movement in Reserves

		Fund balances brought forward	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers between Funds	Revaluation of Investments	Revaluation of land	Fund balances carried forward
		31 December 2022						31 December 2023
<b>Church</b>								
General unrestricted fund	All churches combined	854,662	300,270	(313,954)	2,102	6,282	0	849,362
<b>Designated Funds:</b>								
Fabric Repairs	Christ Church, Radyr	31,743	735			1,641		34,120
Legacies For Internal Expenditure	St Marys, St Fagans	9,564						9,564
Restoration And Heating Fund	St Mary and James, Taffs Well	9,639		(7,537)	(2,102)			(0)
DBF re Sale Of Land	St Mary and James, Taffs Well:	10,436						10,436
Sub-total: Designated Funds		61,382	735	(7,537)	(2,102)	1,641	0	54,119
<b>Restricted Funds:</b>								
1 Family Cardiff		(501)	12,491	(2,809)				9,181
Farrance decd Legacy	St Catwgs, Pentyrch		10,000					10,000
St Davids Churchyard	St David, Groesfaen	8,378	205			459		9,042
COIF	St Eltelyn, Capel Llanilltern	41,870	240			2,290		44,400
Davies Dec'd Legacy	St Eltelyn, Capel Llanilltern	33,938	521	(3,976)				30,483
Land adj to St Elteryns, Capel Llanillterm	St Eltelyn, Capel Llanilltern	175,000						175,000
GM Jones Dec'd Legacy	St John the Baptist, Danescourt	1,460						1,460
Chacel Repair Fund	St John the Baptist, Danescourt		345					345
Earl Of Plymouth	St Marys, St Fagans	38,698		983				39,681
St Mary's Churchyard Fund - The Forrest Family	St Marys, St Fagans	6,223						6,223
The Honorable G Lewis Memorial Fund	St Marys, St Fagans	5,535	131			293		5,959
Sub-total: Restricted Funds		310,603	23,933	(5,802)	0	3,041	0	331,775
<b>Total for all funds</b>		<b>1,226,647</b>	<b>324,939</b>	<b>(327,293)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,964</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,235,256</b>