

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST LAWRENCE, BOVINGDON

England & Wales · Charity number 1132570

Details

Other names ST LAWRENCE, BOVINGDON PCC

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2009-11-07

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

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Activities

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

Activities: Parish Church, St Lawrence for Bovingdon in Hertfordshire. The Church has a long standing open evangelical tradition. We are seeking to encourage people to find a real personal faith in Jesus Christ and to deepen their spiritual understanding in their faith and lives.

Classification

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

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£254,250	£207,708	-	-
2023-12-31	£164,439	£164,879	-	-
2022-12-31	£106,375	£109,379	-	-
2021-12-31	£108,717	£117,123	-	-
2020-12-31	£113,131	£98,103	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev CHARLES EDWARD BURCH	Chair	2011-10-03
Alison Clare Woodhams		2020-10-08
CHRISTOPHER WEST		2012-06-12
Flick Crockett		2017-04-19
Jean Elizabeth Houston		2024-04-23
Matthew John Williams		2019-04-25
Pauline Elaine Wright		2020-10-08
Robert Myles Sheppard		2020-10-08
Wiebke Carr		2024-04-23

Accounts

St Lawrence Church Bovingdon

Annual Meetings

to be held on Tuesday 8th April 2025 at 7:30pm
St Lawrence Hall

Agendas and background papers



You are warmly invited to attend and take a full part in this important event in our Church life.

If you would like to stand for election as a Church warden or member of the PCC, please pick up a nomination form from the back of church. If you would like to know more about what any of these roles entails, speak to Charles, Chris West or a member of the PCC.

After the meeting there will be a short update on the 'Patience' project and a glass of wine to mark the final APCM in St Lawrence Hall.

St. Lawrence Church, Bovington

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Tuesday 8th April 2025

7:30pm St Lawrence Hall

1. Prayer
2. Apologies for absence

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

Agenda

1. Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 23rd April 2024.
2. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 23rd April 2024.
3. Election of Churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Agenda

1. Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 23rd April 2024.
2. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 23rd April 2024.
3. Annual reports:
 - Electoral Roll (verbal report to the meeting)
 - Accounts for the year ended December 31st 2024 (p12)
 - Mission and Outreach — Charitable Giving (p22)
 - Fabric, Goods and Ornaments (p23)
 - Safeguarding (p24)
 - Children, Families & Youth Work (p25)
 - Little Fish (p29)
 - Welcome Café report (p31)
 - Teatime (p32)
 - Patience Project Update (p34)
 - PCC Secretary's Report (p35)
 - Rickmansworth Deanery Synod (p38)
 - Churchyard (p40)
4. Appointment of Independent Accounts Examiner
5. Election of Electoral Roll Officer
6. Election of Parochial Church Council
7. Closing remarks
 - Churchwarden's remarks
 - Chairman's remarks

St Lawrence Church, Bovingdon

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners

Tuesday 23rd April 2024, 7:30pm

St Lawrence Church Hall

Revd Charles Burch (CEB) opened the meeting with prayer asking God to open our hearts to his will and to one another throughout the annual meetings.

Apologies: Alison & Gary Cartlidge, Joanna & Ricard Owens, Tim Taylor, Dena Tyler, Gary Cullum, Pauline Wright, and Kully Dhadda

1. Minutes of the AMP held on Tuesday 25th April 2023.

There being no amendments these were approved unanimously by the meeting.

2. Matters arising from the minutes of the AMP held on Tuesday 25th April 2023.

There were no matters arising from these minutes.

3. Election of Churchwardens.

There was one nomination for Chris West to stand as Churchwarden.

Proposed: Edwina Tyler

Seconded: Lawrence Cleaver

Agreed: Unanimously

CEB expressed his gratitude for all that CW continues to do in support of St Lawrence as Churchwarden. He encouraged anyone thinking of filling the vacancy for a second Churchwarden to speak to him or CW.

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners closed at 7.34pm

St Lawrence Church, Bovingdon

Minutes of the

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Tuesday 23rd April 2024 following the Annual Meeting of Parishioners

at St Lawrence Church Hall

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 25th April 2023.

These were presented by Revd Burch (**CEB**) and unanimously accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Annual Reports.

1 Electoral Roll. (statutory)

Carol West reported that there have been 8 additions to and 7 deletions from the electoral roll, which now stands at 99.

CEB thanked **CW** for her work as Electoral Roll Officer which she has continued to carry out for many years. The PCC will continue to consist of 2 Deanery Synod representatives and 9 other elected members in addition to those in an ex-officio capacity, currently only the Vicar and Church Warden.

2. Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2023. (statutory)

CEB invited **Rob Sheppard (RS)** to give his report.

RS began by stating that the accounts had been approved by David Barr, our Independent Examiner. He continued by thanking **Gary Cartlidge** whom he had succeeded and was his mentor while **RS** got to grips with the accounting system. **RS** also thanked **Richard Owens** who handles our cash donations week by week and Mike Leon who administers the Gift Aid scheme. Most importantly thanks are due to the continued generosity of everyone who donates to our funds without which St Lawrence could not function at all.

Overview.

Income. In 2023 income was 58k higher than in 2022. This was notably driven by:

£33k received from the Friends of St Lawrence to cover the cost of the SE Parapet repair work.

£11k in Donations relating to the Patience project.

£10K extra from higher giving via the Parish Giving Scheme and Gift Aid (Income Tax Recovered) thanks to more qualifying donations and Patience Project donations.

Expenditure. This was 55.5k higher than in 2022, principally driven by:

40k extra spent on Church and Hall Maintenance which includes the spend on the SE Parapet repairs but also some preparatory tasks for the Patience project.

9k extra spent on salaries due to the employment of a Youth and Children's worker in March and a Fundraising support worker who started in July.

2024. This year costs will increase due to the Patience Project and there is likely to be one more bill for repairs to the S.E. parapet.

CEB thanked **RS** for his very competent presentation of the accounts at the end of his first year in office. Questions were invited:

Diocesan Common Fund. CEB was asked whether our contribution to the DCF, which amounted to £53K in 2023, was too much of a burden for a church of our size. He replied that it is well within our means to meet this expenditure. CEB explained that the money is used across the diocese to pay clergy stipends and housing costs and to fund the training of future clergy. The DCF is distributed so that smaller parishes can meet these costs.

The meeting was asked to approve the accounts:

Proposed: Alison Woodhams

Seconded: Carol West

Agreed Unanimously

3. Mission & Outreach Report (non-statutory)

Our charity donations amounted to £6,271. The principal recipients were HACRO which helps offenders to rehabilitate when they leave the Mount Prison, and ABCD a charity that cares for disabled children in Palestine. ABCD is registered in this country and monitored by the Charities Commission. CEB said he would publish the thankyou letter he has received from the organisation.

Action: CEB

4. Fabric Report (statutory)

S.E Parapet. CEB said that the Church is extremely grateful for the financial support that the Friends have provided over the past year particularly to meet the cost of repairs to the SE parapet which amounted to £22K. Preliminary work had revealed extensive damage resulting in the whole parapet being rebuilt. Pinhole leaks in the adjacent guttering were discovered causing the timber underneath to rot. Sections of guttering and timber will have to be replaced and the whole length of guttering will be waterproofed. Further work will be needed at some time in the future, but the Diocese is satisfied with this interim solution.

On behalf of the Friends **John Walker** asked if any attempt is being made to seek additional funding elsewhere. This would enable the Friends reserves to be held back for redecorating the interior of the church as originally intended. CEB said that it is difficult to approach other agencies to fund work on a project that is already underway. However, he is aware that the Friends have been very generous with their financial support and cannot be expected to fund this repair indefinitely.

Window Restoration. The Friends have kindly funded repairs in the children's corner and in the north clerestory at a cost of £3,200.

Church Yard Car Park. The Friends have also funded the resurfacing of the car park entrance.

Quinquennial Inspection This took place last July, but the report has been delayed while our architect recovers following cancer treatment. We have been informed that some repairs to the north aisle roof may be needed.

Memorial Garden The 46 spaces for interring ashes are nearly all occupied and CEB has asked our architect to draw up a plan for an outer semicircle of stones to extend it. **John Walker** questioned if other sites had been considered and suggested that the Friends should be invited to comment on this.

CEB thanked **Pauline Wright (PW)** for her time and effort in dealing with the fabric issues of the Church and asked the meeting to approve the report.

Proposed: Sean Bolton
Unanimously.

Seconded. Flick Crockett

Accepted:

5. Safeguarding Report. (statutory)

Wiebke Carr (WC) took over the role of safeguarding officer from Sean Bolton in November 2023. **Wiebke & Carol West** (Lead Recruiter) have subsequently updated our safeguarding policy in line with the latest guidance from the House of Bishops and submitted their Safeguarding Report jointly. They have clarified which post holders have to be

DBS checked and what level of safeguarding training is required for each role that involves working with children and/or vulnerable adults. There is now a confidential email address to report safeguarding concerns. **WC** emphasised that compliance with our policies is essential and underpins all that we do.

CEB thanked **WC** and **CaW** for the work that they are doing and asked those present to approve the report.

Proposed: Mike Leon

Seconded: Matt Williams

Carried Unanimously

6. Children & Families Work (non-statutory)

The report had been submitted by **Angela Hodgkinson (AH)** who was appointed to work for the St Lawrence community for 15 hrs a week starting in April 2023. **AH** thanked **Alison Cartlidge** for her help when handing over the role and everyone who had helped subsequently, especially **Charles, Philippa, Flick, Alison, Carol and others**.

AH currently runs monthly Assemblies at Bovingdon Academy for children aged 5-7, Monthly Explorers at Church on a Sunday afternoon and a newly formed Youth Group which is proving very popular. She plans to team up with the youth group at St. Pauls Chipperfield this summer for a couple of events.

She also heads up Messy Church one Sunday afternoon each month. Activities are based around a Christian theme and include eating together and discussion.

AH has also organised an Easter Bonnet 'Crazy Hat Making Day', a Bible Heroes Prayer Adventure Day, a Christmas Wreath Making Event and a Nativity performance.

CEB thanked **AH** for her report and commended her for taking over a formula that was working well and putting her own stamp on it very successfully.

7. Little Fish Update (non-statutory)

Flick Crockett (FC) presented the report she had prepared with **Philippa Burch (PB)**. The Little Fish team work alongside **AH** at the 9.30 Family Praise Services encouraging children to deepen their faith and learn about Jesus through fun games, activities music and prayer. Every effort is made to keep in touch with families who have attended in the recent past and they are invited back to special services. The Back to School BBQ was popular again this year and Mother's Day posies were made by fathers and children while their mothers enjoyed a cream tea at Flick's house. A children's youth band has been formed and has just started to collaborate with the church choir at Family Communion services.

CEB thanked **Flick, Philippa** and all the members of the **Little Fish Team** for their hard work and commitment to our work with young children.

CEB asked for feedback on our work with young people. **Matt Williams**, whose children's ages span the whole range we cater for, said he is delighted that St Lawrence is now a 7 day a week church for his family with something on offer for at least one of them each week. This was echoed by **Rob Sheppard and Ben Masters** in respect of their families.

8. Update on St Lawrence Church Welcome Café

Dena Tyler (DT) reported that the Café is in its second year and after a slow start is now a well-established means of reaching out to the community. During the winter this has been held in the church hall with a plan to move back to the church in May when the weather is warmer. Passers-by including dog walkers are welcomed in and there is no charge for refreshments. Any donations are used to purchase supermarket vouchers which are given to local families in need..

DT would welcome new volunteers to join the rota which is organised by **Judith Wilford**.

CEB said that the Welcome Café is a good example of an initiative that has grown from a small start and become an asset meeting welfare need.

9. PCC Secretary's Report on the Work of the PCC 2023 - 2024 (statutory)

This report consisted of a summary of topics covered at each of the 6 meetings held over the previous 12 months. During this time the PCC had approved expenditure to maintain the Church building and agreed important steps to progress the Patience Project.

The PCC also held an away day at which the Mission Action Plan was updated. There are now three priority areas: **Community (outward facing), Nurturing Faith (inward facing) and The Patience Project.**

CEB thanked all members of the PCC for their help and support throughout the year with particular thanks to June Gossling as PCC Secretary. **CEB** asked that the report be approved.

Proposed: Gill Fisher

Seconded: Judith Wilford

Agreed Unanimously

10. Deanery Synod Report. (Statutory)

Alison Woodhams & Flick Crockett presented the report. There had been three meetings over the year with topics including Vocations for all, the importance of the Sabbath and the on-going work of the Trinity Project which supports primary and secondary school pupils with mental health wellbeing. **AW** commended the project which is now a registered charity. The speaker at the next meeting will be Paula Gooder who writes very accessible theology.

CEB asked the meeting to accept the report.

Proposed: Carol West

Seconded: Steve Watkins

Agreed Unanimously

11. Churchyard Update. (non-statutory)

CEB presented the report prepared by **Gary Cullum. (GC)**. There are over 20 volunteers and a core team of about 12 regulars who continue to meet monthly from March to October. Headstones are checked for stability and the whole area is kept neat and tidy. **Sue Miller** looks after the wildflower areas and **Paul Campbell** mows the extensive lawn. **GC** is keeping an eye on the condition of the flint wall which may need some work over the next 12 months.

CEB thanked Gary Cullum and all the team, many of whom are not members of the church, for their dedication to keeping the Churchyard in such good order.

12. Appointment of the Independent Accounts Examiner.

David Barr is happy to continue in the role of Independent Examiner and the meeting was asked to approve this appointment.

Proposed: Alison Woodhams

Seconded: Rob Shephard

Agreed Unanimously

13. Appointment of the Electoral Roll Officer.

Carol West (CaW) said that she was willing to continue, and the meeting was asked to approve her appointment

Proposed: Flick Crockett

Seconded: Philippa Burch

Agreed Unanimously

CEB again thanked **CaW** for her work as Electoral Roll officer, and for the work she does updating CCLI and ensuring we are compliant with the various licence conditions, which include video usage.

14. Election of the Parochial Church Council.

CW informed the meeting that Alison Cartlidge and Gill Fisher are due for renewal this year and Chris O'Hara is standing down after two full terms. Dena Tyler and Sean Bolton are also standing down which leaves three vacancies.

The following have agreed to stand for one, two or three years as indicated to ensure that only a third of the PCC are due for re-election each year.

Alison Cartlidge (3yrs)	Proposed: Chris West	Seconded: Dena Tyler	Unanimous
Gill Fisher (3 yrs)	Proposed: Carol West	Seconded: Chris West	Unanimous
Jean Houston (3 yrs)	Proposed: Carol West	Seconded: Stephen Watkins	Unanimous
Ben Masters (2 yrs)	Proposed: Carol West	Seconded: Chris West	Unanimous
Ian Wilford (1 yr)	Proposed: Chris West	Seconded: Carol West	Unanimous

Flick Crockett & Alison Woodhams continue as **Deanery Synod Representatives**.

CEB reiterated his thanks to all members of the PCC for their time and dedication to the role.

15. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 25th April 2023: There were none.

16. Closing Remarks

a) Church Warden's remarks:

Chris West (CW) said that in some ways, this has been a challenging year mentioning Hilary's illness, and then her move to Devon, Alison Cartlidge stepping down from her work with Children & Families, Gill Barrett's retirement, the loss of Trevor Slade & Pauline Brown, and the illness of our architect, which has delayed the publication of our quinquennial report. In addition, we are still trying to resolve the issue with the roof along the south side of the church. While all this has been happening, we have tried to maintain the good work we do at the Church and within the Community and keep focussed on delivering the Patience project.

Despite all these challenges, **CW** said he believed that we have come together as a Church community to the benefit of both our members, and the wider community. For example, there have been several very successful events, including the Summer Fare, Christmas Market, and the return of our Annual Quiz.

In Church we have a very dedicated team of helpers who ensure a warm welcome, and that our services run smoothly. **CW** extended special thanks to **John Walker, Alison Woodhams, Sue Deacon, and Flick Crockett** for all that they do in putting together the sidesteam each week. He also made a special mention of **Dena Tyler & Penny Havercroft**, who do such an amazing job in ensuring everything is set up for our different services of Holy Communion, and particularly for holding together the 8am service.

Angela Hodgkinson had a hard act to follow when taking over the Children and Families Work from Alison Cartlidge, but she has done a fantastic job with our young people who are the future of the Church. She too is ably assisted by a team of wonderful volunteers.

CW said that the next 12-24 months is undoubtedly going to be a very challenging time for us. Arguably, we can make the biggest change to this Church since the current building was erected in 1846. We have all the planning permissions we need, but there is still a huge amount of work to be done to bring Project Patience to a successful completion. Not least of which is raising a lot of money. He urged everyone to consider joining the Ambassador programme to support this.

Our Mission Action Plan (MAP) has been reviewed with a focus on maintaining and growing what we currently do within the village community – We are now a local point of contact for those in need of support from Dens and we know that there is a wider need out there. The Welcome Café has been a great addition to the life of the Church, and this is another area in which we would like to increase the number of people we can support.

We need to maintain and develop our profile. To help achieve this, we have established an Events Team, focusing specifically on 'Church & Community' events, rather than those aimed at fund-raising for Patience.

NB: We need somebody to co-ordinate this events group.

Following Gill Barrett's retirement **PB** has stepped into the role of director of music and is doing a brilliant job. The changeover has created an opportunity to review how we structure music as part of our worship. To this end, **PB** (and **CaW**) are working towards creating a music group specifically for Family Communion – bringing in a wider range of instruments and engaging with our young musicians to augment this.

We still have a small number of Home Groups meeting, but we need to ensure these are maintained, and if possible, develop new ones.

In summary **CW** said that being the Churchwarden is an honour and a privilege. It's also quite a tough job, with many legal responsibilities, but it would be impossible without the help and support of so many people. The various reports presented at the APCM give an insight into the invaluable work carried out by so many people in the life of St Lawrence Church.

CW emphasised that we are also hugely indebted to the Friends of St Lawrence, without whom so many of the repairs and upkeep of the Church would not be possible.

- b) **Chairman's Remarks:** **CEB** said he agreed with everything that **CW** had said. He went on to thank our three staff members for all that they do. Helen Campbell works behind the scenes to facilitate the smooth running of church life including the administration of baptisms, weddings and funerals plus managing the church hall. Anna Murkowski is engaged in fund raising for the Patience Project.

CEB said he was excited to have appointed Angela Hodgkinson as our new Children and Families Worker who has settled well into the role.

CEB pointed out that he is now the only licenced member of clergy at St Lawrence and said that we will have visiting preachers from time to time. **Chris O'Hara** is in his first year of training for the ministry. Confirmation classes will be starting in June, and we will be hosting the annual commissioning service for Churchwardens in June.

Turning to the **Patience Project**, **CEB** said that we have reached a critical point and now simply need to raise the money ready to send out the tender documents. We are assembling a team of Ambassadors to drive the process forward and this needs to be a whole church effort. He said that the best strategy to encourage people to donate is by one-to-one contact.

17. Any Other Business: Judith Wilford expressed her appreciation for the uplifting music at recent services particularly the introduction of new instruments. This was endorsed by others at the meeting.

CEB was asked if there is any likelihood of having a second member of clergy to work alongside him in a supporting role. **CEB** said that curates are deployed and not advertised for. The most likely circumstance would be if someone already trained and self-supporting came forward.

Close: The meeting closed in prayer at 9.00pm with The Grace

Everyone was then invited to raise a glass to Sean Bolton to celebrate his birthday and wish him well with his move to Bishops Stortford.

Finance Report (see other document)

2025 APCM Fabric, Goods & Ornaments Report

Southeast Parapet

The restoration work was successfully completed in August 2024 at a total cost of £38,765.47 + VAT, generously funded by the Friends of St Lawrence. However, the Friends have indicated that they are unable to finance further large-scale projects.

The southeast corner is now beginning to dry out, and once decorators have been engaged, the area should see a significant improvement in appearance.

Quinquennial Inspection

The quinquennial inspection was conducted in July 2023. However, due to the architect's illness, the report has not yet been published. The architect has reassured us that there are no major concerns.

Memorial Garden

A faculty application has been submitted to expand the memorial garden for the internment of ashes.

Draught Proofing Doors

The fabric team has opted to trial a rubber seal around the doors as a cost-effective solution before considering the installation of curtains, as the use of curtains may present practical challenges.

Goods & Ornaments

The inventory of all goods and ornaments was inspected during the Archdeacon's inspection, August 2024. All accounted for and correct. (Chris West, Churchwarden)

Pauline Wright

March 2025

Safeguarding Report

There have been no safeguarding concerns reported in the past year.

The Lead Recruiter, Carol West, continues to ensure that DBS checks are processed and renewed in a timely manner. She has also encouraged and tracked Church Officers to comply with all safeguarding training requirements. Most, but not all, post holders are up-to-date with this.

The Parish Safeguarding Officer, Wiebke Carr, has completed the Leadership course and continues to work in partnership with St Alban's diocese to ensure that a culture of safeguarding is established in all areas of the St Lawrence community.

We comply with all safeguarding requirements and the PCC members are aware of all events for children, young people and vulnerable adults. Equally, all safeguarding policies are regularly updated and approved by the PCC.

Wiebke Carr, 05.03.2025

Report from The Children and Families Worker

March 2024 -March 2025

It has been a really good year of consolidating community relationships, in the schools and also in our parish. I continue to be involved in running the children's (and adult's) groups after church, including yearly events. Our Youth Group is still going very well a year in. I have also got to know Youth Leaders in the community and we regularly get together to share ideas and help each other in various ways. This has led to some combined events which have been a huge asset to our children's experience of faith and community.

Assemblies at Bovingdon Academy

I have been sharing the leading of School assemblies for Key Stage 1 & 2 at Bovingdon Academy, usually twice a month. It feels that everyone has got to know me at the school and I feel very welcome there. The children have responded very well to the assemblies and they seem to be remembering the stories too – which is great! We continue to have a lot of fun acting out Bible stories. I have had two members of staff come up to me afterwards and thank me for what we are doing in the school which is very encouraging too.

Explorers at Church (5-11s)

We continue to meet once a month during term time (usually 4th Sunday). We have various helpers. I have led the group in all sessions and Carol West and Maureen West have been faithful supporters of our group. There is usually a good group that comes and we have had some very lively singing sessions.

Messy Church (all Ages)

Messy Church, our all-age Sunday afternoon gathering, has continued each month. It is a wonderful community-orientated session which always is warm and friendly and I always enjoy it.

I usually lead the session with the amazing support, advice and ideas from Philippa Burch, Alison Cartlidge, Felicity Crockett and now Jean Houston. We always explore a Christian theme through craft, quizzes, songs, puppet shows, eating together and discussion. We have a great time with many returning each month to participate. Volunteers help prepare the food and also help run the session.

Craft in Church

Craft activities have continued in church during Family Communion services. These have been original and creative and have been led by various people in the Little Fish Team including Wiebke, Felicity, Alison, Catherine and myself. And many helpers have been involved and greatly appreciated for their help.

Youth Group Yr 6-9

Our new Youth Group is now a year old. Celeste Gee has been consistently helping to lead this group. Felicity also helped lead last year. We were so grateful for her contribution. We are getting other helpers recruited and DBS checked so they can also help more regularly. We have

a solid group coming every week, a nice mix of boys and girls. It ranges from 11-18 attending each week. We are doing different topics each week. We play games and chat about issues they are dealing with a light spiritual focus each week.

Confirmation Group

Out of this Youth Group has come a good group of confirmation attendees. I am happy to see that the commitment of these young people to take their faith to the next level is evident. I would very much like to see more support for this group and the older youth. I have been in discussion with Charles on how this could happen, given that my hours are limited.

Evening Youth Church @ St Andrews

Once a month we have been invited by St Andrews to join their dinner and chat service, called Table Talk. We are attempting to launch this as a way of providing more spiritual input for the older youth.

This is for age 11-18 and either Charles or I will be there to help with our group. It will take place once a month.

Events:

Easter Garden making, Egg Blowing & Painting - March 2024 Holidays

An afternoon of crafts and planting our Easter Gardens in the church for primary age. We had a range of ages join.

Silent Disco - May 2024: We ran a combined Youth event with St Paul's Chipperfield and St Andrew's Chorleywood. It was a combination of a Silent Disco and Board Games. A big, combined group of about 60 kids. We had a guest speaker from SU who shared a short message and hamburgers. It was a huge success, some of the youth said it was the "best day of their lives!"

Tie-dye Shirt Making – July 2024

Explorers had a fun day making tie-dye shirts and it was open to new friends. I would like to do more events like this to help our Explorers grow.

St Lawrence Summer Fair

I did a craft table for young children and chatted to lots of parents. Two of the youth also sold their own handiwork and so we encouraged their skills of entrepreneurship.

Light Party - Oct 2024

I organised the craft and helpers for the craft and the 200x take away bags for the Light Party this year and helped set the outside lights up. This is a mammoth undertaking each year and I definitely think I will be asking for more help in 2025.

St Lawrence Christmas Market

I created a craft table for little ones and handed out advertising of our various groups.

Nativity Dec - 2024

I organised the nativity this year again. It felt much easier as I knew what to do this year. There were some very eager participants and we are so grateful for them. The older youth got involved in doing the lead parts and we were also very pleased that some quieter, younger children were very brave and took some speaking roles too. I think it was really well received.

Youthscape Youth Leaders Event – Nov 2024

Both Celeste Gee and I were excited to join youth leaders from all over the country at a gathering in Birmingham. It was so inspiring to be part of the bigger picture and so very encouraging to hear amazing stories of churches like ours doing amazing things in their communities! I came back with a vision to get more Youth leading and involved. I am passionate to help them feel like they belong and are a valuable contributing member of their church. It's so important they feel ownership of their church.

I would love to take a bigger group of leaders this year including some of the older youth.

Other Events (we didn't organise but attended)

Inflatable Event – run by St Andrews

Our Youth attended this amazing event run by St Andrews. It was such fun! Inflatable slides and pizza.

Bonfire Night event - Nov 2024 – run by Youth Across Hemel

About large amount of youth attended this event in Whelpley Hill. They played lots of games with glow sticks and had a sing song around a fire with marshmallows. It was a great evening.

Heroes Unleashed event - March 2025 – run by Youth Across Hemel

5 youth attended this one.

Some areas to think about:

Recruiting volunteers is always an important aspect and one I am taking seriously.

We are recruiting and conducting DBS checks for some new volunteers. I also hope to get older youth involved in leading the younger ones.

Aspirations & Plans:

There is so much more we could do...

I hope to create more opportunities to get Older Youth involved - I would love to raise some leaders from this older youth group and do a leadership training course.

I would love to create a space for more spiritual growth in our Youth Age group. Perhaps a small group where we read the Bible in a fun way – using the Youthscape materials.

I would like to see some form of evening service for the Youth – even if it's at another location.

A Doughnut Club for Bovingdon School goes – a space we create just before Yr5&6 leave in September where they meet us and get some information on the Youth Group for the following year.

More informal spaces where children from the school can meet us – place for games and after school fun.

I would love some more help , maybe a paid worker to get on board and help develop our 0-5yr old group and also help me to launch some of these dreams with the older ones.

I would love to see the St Lawrence families go away for a night camping at a nearby farm.

I would like to take the youth to Satellites this year or next. A camp for teenagers in the summer holiday.

I would like to take potential leaders with me to the Youthscape Leadership conference this year.

So grateful to God for a great year! Many thanks to all the lovely Little Fish team and Charles& Philippa for all your help. What an amazing bunch of people.

I hope that the kids work will grow from strength to strength as we trust in God for his provision and leading.

Angela Hodkinson (March 2025)

Little Fish Report March 24 – March 25

It is a pleasure working with Angela Hodgkinson (our children's worker) as we continue to encourage children of all ages to deepen their faith and learn about Jesus through a variety of activities and groups.

As we mentioned last year, the Little Fish Team reaches out to as many families as possible who have appeared in church over the last few years. We do this by regularly sending out personal invitations to special services and events. This seems to result in several families attending and being pleased to have been invited. The services they have been invited to have included Stir up Sunday, all Christmas services and Candlemass. We focus on baptism families and those families who have not been to church for a while.

On Maundy Thursday, a group of children worked together making an Easter Garden and had an egg blowing competition. We plan to do another Easter craft activity again this year. Our Easter service was well attended with 32 Family Praise children as well as a number of new faces. A craft activity was provided during the service and the usual Easter egg hunt after the service was a great success which was suitable for all ages.

During the summer we had our Little Fish Social for parents. We had a lovely evening with a good number of parents attending and it was a wonderful opportunity to spend time together. Our annual 'Back to school Barbeque' in September again proved to be very popular with a large number of families attending. As well as lots of games and eating sausages we celebrated those children moving up to Secondary School and leaving Little Fish behind to join the St Lawrence youth Group. We presented them with their Pathways sheet, a book and a special card made by Angela.

The Light Party was again a great success with over 250 children attending. It was a real Little Fish team effort from setting up all the lights in and outside the church and providing craft activities, face painting, games, and delicious food for all those attending on the evening. Each child went home with a lantern and a lit Tea-Light they had made and a goody bag that had a beautiful booklet with a simple Christian story designed by Celeste. We also could not have done it without the Youth group spending a morning helping to fill all the bags - they were treated to Pizza's afterwards as a thank you!!

The Christmas children's Nativity and Crib services were wonderful joyous occasions with a lot of families involved and also a number of new families welcomed.

We look forward to celebrating Mothering Sunday this year and plan to have another afternoon Cream Tea with the ladies of our church family. The Men will be helping the children make posies while the ladies will be enjoying a well-deserved cream tea.

The 'St Lawrence Families' WhatsApp is continuing really well in helping us to communicate with the wider church family. Feedback from the families has been very positive and it has

certainly helped us to encourage families to join us for services and events during the year. Sometimes we can pick up if there is illness or challenges in a family which enables us to help out in some way if required.

We have a large number of families attending Family Praise over the year but not all at the same time. Therefore, at some services we may have 14 or more children and other times 4 or less. We communicate on our families WhatsApp group on a regular basis to encourage families to join us for all events with good response.

Apart from Family Praise and Family Communion there are several opportunities for the younger children to attend St Lawrence i.e., Messy Church, Explorers, and year 6 children are now attending the younger age Youth group run by Angela. We are working with the challenge of knowing who is going to attend.

We continue to be aware of other commitments families have over the weekend with children and very much appreciate it and are delighted to see them when they are able to attend. As we mentioned last year when it rains and matches are cancelled the children might be sad, but we are thrilled to see them!

This year we are delighted to welcome new leaders at Family Praise. Thanks must go to Carol West, Catherine Dass, Flick Crockett, and Lauren Suddick. This has been a huge help, and it is good that new people have the opportunity and have come forward.

Our all-age band/choir has been popular at the Family Communion service with a Junior Choir Practice taking place the Friday before the Family Communion service. This is work in progress and new juniors are always welcome.

Flick and Philippa would very much like to thank the Little Fish team (Wiebke Carr, Carol West, Amanda Hibbert, Angela Hodgkinson, Alison Cartlidge, Amanda Lawes, Karen Wright, Sue Williams) for all the hard work they have done this year. Thanks also to Maureen West and Catherine Nash who are regular helpers at all the children's activities at St Lawrence. We would love to have new members on the little fish team and appreciate it if anyone can come and help!

Flick and Philippa

St Lawrence Church Welcome Café

In 2023, St Lawrence Church Welcome Café was established to provide a community outreach for people from Bovingdon and the surrounding areas to meet for coffee and cake, and good conversation. Since then, the café has gone from strength to strength and become a very popular community café, offering a friendly welcome for visitors on Thursday mornings.

In 2024, our café welcomed over 600 regular and occasional visitors. The café donations raised over £1,000 and all the proceeds were used to buy supermarket vouchers and food supplies for some of our neighbours who have found themselves in financial hardship. We also raised a separate Lent collection of £48 for DENS foodbank.

Traditionally, during the summer months volunteers host the café in the beautiful surroundings of St Lawrence Church, often welcoming people visiting or walking through the churchyard. In the winter months, the café moves to St Lawrence Church Hall which provides a warmer space. Last December approximately 50 visitors attended our Christmas 2024 themed Welcome Café on the Thursday before Christmas. Overall, the change of venue across the seasons does not affect our numbers.

St Lawrence Church Welcome Café venue may change but not our hospitality. It is thanks to our wonderful team of volunteers and visitors that the café is thriving in the village. The café is serving a dual purpose of providing a friendly community space and the coffee donations are being used to support our neighbours in financial hardship.

We are planning to return to St Lawrence Church for the summer months and would welcome new volunteers to join us in the café or bake a cake to share with our visitors.

DENS foodbank

On the second Sunday of every month, the congregation is invited to donate non-perishable food items for families in financial hardship. These food parcels are distributed to families in the village and surrounding areas. The remainder of the church donations are delivered to DENS foodbank for distribution in Dacorum.

Dena Tyler (March 2025)

First Annual Report on St Lawrence Church Teatime

Teatime started on Tuesday 3rd July 2007, being initiated by the Vicar, Tim Marshall.

It was initially held in the church office behind the betting shop in the High Street before moving to the church hall. Here the team of volunteers set up tea ready to start at 3.00pm on the first Tuesday of every month. Except for closing during Covid only three sessions have been cancelled due to snow or flooding.

We aim to make Teatime a special event for anyone who would like to come and during the tea we have a time for exchanging church and local information, for reflection, and a grace. The volunteers who have taken on this section of the afternoon have made it their own and it is greatly appreciated by our visitors.

The men and women of the volunteer team make, donate, and serve the food we provide, also giving lifts where needed. Without their faithful commitment we could not provide this outreach which is a highlight in the month for our visitors.

We have been fortunate in donations of bone china tea sets so that we can have attractive table settings. A grant from the Parish Council has helped to upgrade our equipment and tablecloths and was very welcome.

We have had an average of 22 visitors to the 214 sessions we have held so far and served approximately 4642 teas. We estimate that we have provided the following:

- 4775 Sandwiches in three flavours
- 4642 Scones
- 211lbs (96kg) Jam
- 316.5 lbs (144Kg) Butter and sometimes cream
- More than 428 Cakes
- 2140 Pots of
- 642 pints (365Litres) Milk
- 17 bottles of Sherry and more than 400 Crackers for Christmas

There is no charge for tea but we suggest a donation of £3.00, many visitors are more generous. Teatime is self-funding and we have been able to donate surplus monies to charities, sending £3837.50 to:

- Dens
- Tear Fund
- CRISIS
- St Francis Hospice
- Simon Woodmore Sleepout
- St Lawrence Youth Group
- Bovingdon Connect
- Salvation Army
- Rennie Grove Hospice
- Dacorum Community Trust
- St Lawrence Hall Floor
- Shoe Box Appeal
- Bovingdon Scouts
- Medecins Sans Frontieres
- Mercy Ships
- Dementia UK
- Patience Project

The Teatime Team complies with the Risk Assessment Policy for St Lawrence Church, the requirements for safety, emergency evacuation including first aid. We comply with the Safeguarding Policy for St Lawrence Church with regular safeguarding training, record keeping and contracts for those needing risk assessment for special needs.

Teatime has become a regular time for our visitors to socialise and feel connected to the Church and the community. They come from Bovingdon and the surrounding area. The volunteers of the Teatime Team are providing them with not only an excellent afternoon tea but friendship and support as well.

Barbara Clarke for the Teatime Team

April 2025

Patience Project – APCM Update

Reporting to the PCC, the Steering Group comprises the Vicar, John Walker, Anna Murkowski, Neil Crockett, Alison Woodhams, Kully Dhadda, and Doug Houston.

The project to build a new church annexe and re-order the inside of the church costing £1.6m has made good progress over the past year. In summary

- Detailed plans for the annexe and the hall have been drawn up
- We are going out to tender for the main works in 4-6 weeks
- The sale of the current church hall is nearing exchange with a completion of the end of April 2025
- Work has started on operational issues regarding the loss of the hall before we complete the project, storage, kitchen needs, audio visual requirements

A fundraising consultant gave us some advice at the start of the year based on his experience working with other churches in a similar position. Based on that advice fundraising has started in earnest – the sale of the hall will raise c£430k. Grants from trusts and other grant awarding bodies has raised £280k and further applications have either been submitted or in progress. Nearly £250k has been raised from individuals including the £100k seed funding from the Muriel Swan legacy.

As of now – in total - we are just short of raising £1m towards the £1.6m we need – and the hardest fundraising work starts now. As we go out to the wider village community the congregation have been encouraged to make a financial commitment to the project as the main beneficiaries of the project. We are hoping for a good response.

Alison Woodhams

March 2025

PCC Secretary's Report on the work of the PCC: 2024 – 25

The PCC met six times over this period either in person or on Zoom during the winter months. This report outlines the decisions and appointments made at each meeting.

16.05.24 (In Person)

The following appointments were made:

Vice Chair	Alison Woodhams
Treasurer	Rob Sheppard
Secretary	June Gossling was co-opted and elected as Secretary
Churchyard Officer	Gary Cullum (not an elected PCC Member)
Safeguarding Officer	Wiebke Carr
Health & Safety Officer	Vacant
Fabric Officer	Pauline Wright

Other continuing PCC members were: Alison Cartlidge, Gill Fisher, Dena Tyler, Matt Williams, Flick Crockett, plus Jean Houston, Ben Masters & Ian Wilford who were recently elected at the 2024 APCM.

PCC Chair	Rev'd Charles Burch
Church Warden	Chris West (one vacancy)

Standing Committee	Ex Officio members CB, CW, AW, RS, JG. FC was appointed as the additional PCC member.
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Deanery Synod Reps.	Alison Woodhams & Flick Crockett
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Appointment of Sidesteams: These were approved by the meeting.

Other main items of business were as follows:

The Patience Project – RS reported that a separate bank account had been opened for the PP. Craigmyle Consultants Fundraising Action Plan had been set in motion starting with Bid-writing to Grant Making Trusts, and our own Ambassador Scheme was in the process of being launched.

Electrical Issues – Church footway lights. These had failed and a contractor was appointed to carry out repairs.

23.07.24 (In Person)

Maintenance Funded by The Friends of St Lawrence Church – Over the past year the FoSL had funded two stage-payments for repairs to the Church roof, and sundry other expenses which together had depleted its cash reserves previously earmarked for internal redecoration of the Church. The PCC acknowledged how indebted it is to the FoSL's financial support and agreed that more research into external grants and funding is needed when future maintenance issues arise.

Patience Project – Progress updates included a Mechanical and Engineering report which recommended Heat Pumps. CB presented the fund-raising marketing material which has detailed information about the project and explains how to donate.

Safeguarding Policy – This was updated as required annually and Wiebke Carr reminded members that they have a duty to keep their training up to date.

26.09.24 (In Person)

Patience Project – Alison Woodhams, chair of the PP steering group, said that Neil Crockett had joined as project manager. Other roles had been assigned e.g John Walker to oversee finance.

Draught Exclusion – It was decided to revisit a previous proposal to reduce draughts at the back of church using curtains.

Dens Satellite – It was reported that Dena Tyler is now able to pass donations directly to local families in need of food support.

Memorial Garden Extension – The PCC agreed to spend up to £4,500 for a contractor to create an outer semi-circle of ashes plots to expand capacity. A faculty will be needed.

The Archdeacon's Visit – Details were shared about Charles Hudson's October visit when he would be meeting the PCC, attending the school assembly, the Welcome Café and preaching in Church.

26.11.24 (on Zoom)

Charity Donations – The PCC voted to support ABCD (Action Around Bethlehem for Children with Disabilities) with £2,000 and Zarach (a charity working to reduce 'bed poverty' among school age children). The Zarach donation would be made up out of our Christmas service collections matched from our own funds.

The Patience Project – It was reported that we have a purchaser for the Church Hall but that it is taking time to sort out boundary issues re land owned by other parties. Our applications to grant making trusts were generally conditional on agreeing this sale.

16.01.25 (on Zoom)

The Patience Project – After a long period of marketing Neil Crockett had managed to agree the terms of sale of the Church Hall. The PCC resolved that the sale should proceed for the sum of £510,000 with £430,000 apportioned to St Lawrence Church.

The Diocese would keep the proceeds in trust until such time as they are needed and will pay any interest accruing to the PCC.

Doug Houston had joined the steering group to help identify priorities for the next 3 months.

Anna Murkowski had stepped down from her role as fundraiser after 18 months and CB said that we still need someone to cover PR, Marketing and Fundraising.

11.03.2025 (In Person)

The principal item on the agenda was to review the reports prepared by each Church officer. These were approved ready for presentation at the APCM.

June Gossling, PCC Secretary (March 2025)

Deanery Synod 2024 Report

St Lawrence Church is part of the Rickmansworth Deanery. The other member churches are St Paul's Chipperfield, Holy Cross Sarratt, Christ Church Chorleywood, St Andrew's Chorleywood, All Saint's Croxley Green, St Oswald's Croxley Green, St John's Heronsgate, St Peter's Mill End, St Mary's Rickmansworth, and St Thomas's West Hyde.

The rural Dean for the majority of the year was Revd Simon Cutmore, then Vicar of Mill End with Heronsgate and West Hyde. Towards the end of the year our own vicar, Charles, took over.

There were 3 meetings in 2024 and the main topics covered are outline below.

In March each of the parishes were invited to give a short update on what was currently happening in their parishes – both the good and the not so good.

Charlotte Barton gave us an update on the Deanery mental health project - 'The Trinity Project'. Croxley Danes and The Reach schools are working with the project. It is a team effort between the schools and the project. Trinity is also working with St Peter's primary school. In association with The Haven, the project is running a 10-week course helping children navigate their anxiety journey. The project started an afterschool club in the summer term.

In July we had a talk by Reverend Canon Paula Gooder, Canon Chancellor at St Paul's Cathedral. This was well attended as it was open to all parishioner across the Deanery.

Paula gave a very uplifting talk about embracing ordinariness, using some bible readings and poetry as illustrations. We should pay attention to the ordinary time between the festivals, listening to others. We should be wary of being busy for the sake of it, and make time for ourselves, to reflect. We should find our own rhythm. For example, if we find it easier to pray while gardening, that is our rhythm, and we should embrace it.

In November we had a talk from Rev. Mark Rodel, Deputy Director of Mission & Ministry, St Albans Diocese. He talked about parishes embedded in smaller communities and villages and his research to support his doctoral thesis 'The Vitality of Villages in Vacancy'.

What those parishes thought they would find difficult was made easier by their deep sense of contact with the local community. Although they did not know it, the idea of being good neighbours was very much to do with Faith. They thought the language of mission and outreach was not present in their parish, but it was already embedded in their village life. In most parishes the church was the centre of the community and had been for centuries. Mark made them believe in scale, small was good where for example the congregation had been only five for a hundred years. The Church was often the only public building and made life happen in the village. Parishes have a deep sense of people and place.

It's important to develop a ministry strategy. Who is God raising up? How do we release them to do God's work?

- Small churches are doing good work.

- Being a good neighbour is evangelism.
- Mission and ministry belong to the people not the priest.
- We should say “Not currently accompanied by a Priest” rather than in a “vacancy.”
- Maybe we should not call those who are not ordained volunteers.
- Don’t be overburdened and lose confidence.
- Ask what is God calling us to do?
- Link the Church and community. Eg. Befriend a pub.
- Do not do too much.
- Ask what is our focus?

Any questions, please speak to your Deanery Synod Representatives:

- Alison Woodhams
- Flick Crockett

Churchyard officer's report 2024

An average of a dozen volunteers met for the morning on the first Saturday of each month to participate in the churchyard maintenance sessions. The full team comprises more than 20 volunteers, but 12-15 regulars remains a manageable number.

The gardening year started in March 2024 and was finished by Christmas with the churchyard remaining an on-going work in progress – neat and tidy, but not manicured, with three areas left wild and a few brambles and longer grass round the fringes. The wild areas are managed and monitored by Sue Miller who notes any unusual, rare or new flowers. The wild areas were cut, monthly in succession, from August to October. Paul Campbell continued to mow the large areas of lawn.

Headstones were checked continually during the year under review to ensure they were not loose, nor unstable. Large numbers of unsightly plastic flowers crept back onto graves throughout the year.

The Churchyard officer's small, donated petrol mower died at the end of the year and a replacement is required for 2025. Moving forwards, the church wall will need some maintenance and repair and a survey of trees will be commissioned during late spring.

Wooden posts adjacent to the central footpath were vandalised in early 2025 and these were about to be replaced as this report was prepared.

Gary Cullum
Churchyard officer
12 March 2025

St Lawrence Church Bovingdon - Finance Report 2024



Incumbent :

Rev. Charles Burch
10 Church Street
Bovingdon
Herts
HP3 0LU

Treasurer:

Mr. Rob Sheppard
Martlets, Church Lane
Bovingdon
Herts
HP3 0HS

Independent Examiner:

Mr. David Barr FCBI
Finchley House
Bovingdon Green
Bovingdon
Herts
HP3 0LB

Independent Examiner's report to the Parochial Church Council of St. Lawrence, Bovingdon

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2024, which are set out on pages 3 to 9 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations ('the Regulations') and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act')

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.144(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charities Commission under s.145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of those accounts with those records, it also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanation s 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. Which gives reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - a. To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act and:
 - b. To prepare accounts which accord with accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed.....

David Barr, Chartered Banker FCBI - Independent Examiner

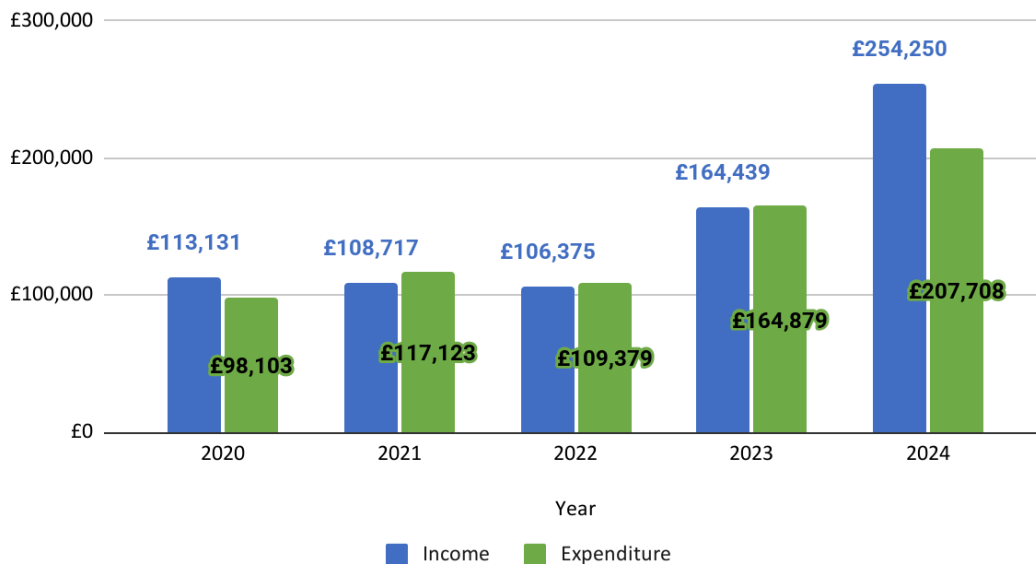
Date.....

Introduction

Overall in 2024 SLCB has had a positive year financially with the impact of the Patience Project clearly showing on both income and expenditure but overall reserves increasing.

With fundraising for Patience scaling up income has grown from £164k in 2023 to £254k in 2024. expenditure has also increased, particularly related to the sale of the Hall and increased preparatory work on the Church building plans, from 165k to 208k.

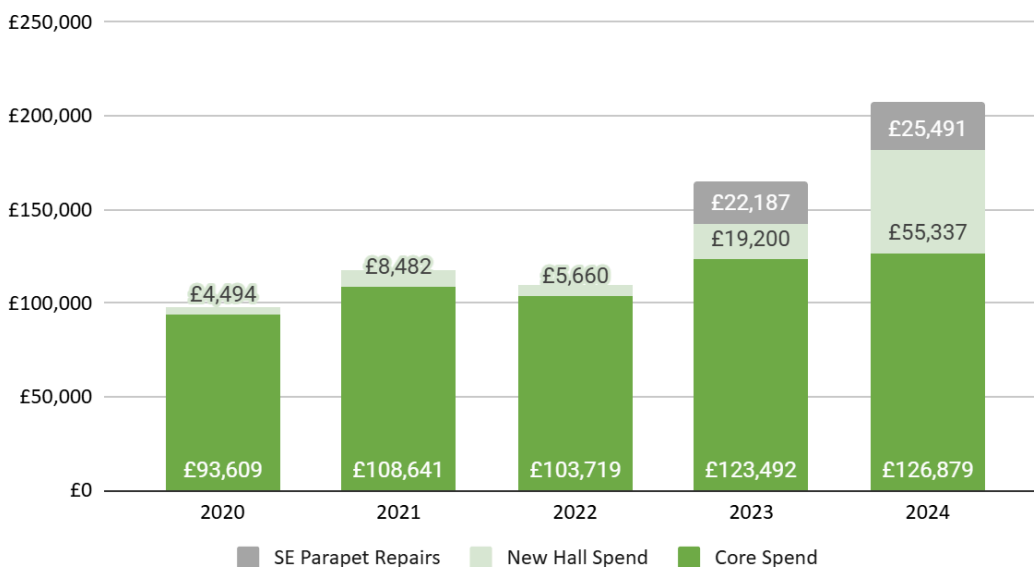
Income and Expenditure 2020 - 2024



Overall the Church recorded a surplus of 46.5k in 2024 which sets us in a good position for the year ahead

Expenditure was driven by Patience costs increasing from 19k in 2023 to £55k in 2024. There was also a significant spend on the SE Parapet £25k, similar to the 22k in 2023. The SE Parapet work is now complete but it was a very significant piece of work and we are fortunate that the Friends of St Lawrence were able to cover the cost of this work.

Annual Expenditure by Main Areas 2020 - 2024



'Core' costs e.g not including Patience and SE Parapet work increased slightly from £123k in 2023 to £126k in 2024

Summary Balance Sheet

Class and nominal code	Total	Last year
Fixed Asset - Tangible Assets		
1403: Computer Equipment	£ 474.37	£ 922.68
Total	£ 474.37	£ 922.68
Current Asset - Cash At Bank And In Hand		
1500: CafCash Current A/c	£ 7,368.71	£ 11,458.54
1501: Cambridge Building Society	£ 93,755.23	£ 89,707.34
1503: CafCash Gold Account	£ 12,885.91	£ 18,134.81
1504: Virgin Deposit Account	-	£ 66,881.78
1507: Patience Bank Account	£ 119,162.79	-
Total	£ 233,172.64	£ 186,182.47
Liability - Creditors: Amounts Falling Due In One Year		
Z04: Accounts Payable	-	-
Total	-	-
Net total assets	£ 233,647.01	£ 187,105.15

Represented by

General (Unrestricted)	£ 24,393.48	£ 12,465.08
Designated - Building	£ 14,364.54	£ 10,000.00
Designated - Outreach	£ 2,961.79	£ 436.17
Restricted - Cyard	£ 1,628.19	£ 3,453.62
Restricted - Goff	£ 4,400.00	£ 4,450.00
Restricted - NewHall	£ 119,162.79	-
Restricted - Pass Thru	-£124.01	-
Restricted - Swan	£ 49,180.07	£ 130,723.88
Restricted - Youth	£ 17,680.16	£ 25,576.40
Total	£ 233,647.01	£ 187,105.15

Notes on Balance Sheet

- Overall the Church has £233.6k in assets represented by £234.1k cash in the bank and just under £500 of Computer equipment.
- In 2024 we opened a dedicated Patience savings account with CAF bank to allow us to clearly separate Patience funds and accept direct donations. At Year End this has £119,162.
- The PCC's commitment from the Swan fund was transferred in after we closed the Virgin Deposit Account
- Non Patience committed acc are currently at £114,009 which allows us to have some resilience should other costs arise.

- The bulk of the Church's Core funds are held in a Cambridge Building Society fund which had £93,755 at year end

Fund Movement Summary

Fund	Opening	Incomin g	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/Los ses	Closing
Goff (Restricted)	£4,450 -	-		-£50 -		£4,400
General (Unrestricted)	£12,465	£141,668	£129,789	£50 -		£24,393
Building (Designated)	£10,000	£4,365 -	-	-		£14,365
Outreach (Designated)	£436	£2,838	£312 -	-		£2,962
Pass Thru (Restricted)	-	£8,002	£8,126 -	-		-£124
New Hall (Restricted)	-	£88,909	£55,337	£85,592 -		£119,163
Swan (Restricted)	£130,724	£4,048 -		-£85,592 -		£49,180
Churchyard (Restricted)	£3,454	£3,317	£5,142 -	-		£1,628
Youth (Restricted)	£25,576	£1,104	£9,000 -	-		£17,680
Totals	£187,105	£254,250	£207,708 -	-		£233,647

Notes on Swan to New Hall Transfers

- During 2023 the PCC had agreed to use £100k of the Swan fund to seed the Patience work - this included spends made during 2022 and 2023 so the end amount transferred from Swan to New Hall fund in 2024 was £85,592
- The amount in the Patience Bank account now matches the New Hall Fund - £119,163
- The Swan Fund currently has £49,180, this includes the 4k interest from the Cambridge Savings account.

Notes on Other Fund Movements

- The Building Fund had income of £4,365 from claiming back VAT on the SE Parapet work - this and the 4k from the 2023 claim will be paid out to FOSL in 2025. Note This has not been reset to £10k as in previous years
- Outreach Fund has had two large donations this year so sits at just under £3k.
- Pass Through is at £-124 this is due to an overpayment made to the diocese. This will be resolved during Q1 2025
- Churchyard Fund saw usual income from Grave and Churchyard trusts but the Tree work in the Churchyard was paid out from this
- The Youth fund sits at £17,860
- As usual £50 transferred from Goff Fund to General Fund.

Income and Expenditure

	This year	Last year
Incoming resources		
Donations, Legacies and similar incoming resources		
1101 - Bank Giving	£16,038.00	£16,879.21
1102 - Envelope scheme	£4,634.28	£1,823.97
1103 - Income tax recovered	£28,719.31	£18,783.44
1105 - Church collections	£2,949.04	£2,343.24
1106 - Sundry donations	£3,496.95	£4,020.69
1108 - Card Reader Receipts	£8,216.69	£6,158.99
1109 - Friends of St Lawrence	£29,609.04	£33,175.33
1111 - Parish Giving Scheme	£35,102.22	£34,783.07
1112 - Fees - PCC	£14,047.36	£10,589.00
1113 - Fees - Diocese	£5,120.00	£4,696.00
1171 - Restricted donations	£71,415.00	£11,000.00
Donations, Legacies and similar incoming resources Totals	£219,347.89	£144,252.94
Activities for generating funds		
1115 - Lettings - St Lawrence Hall	£7,934.35	£4,997.25
1116 - Events Income	£8,329.28	£3,423.26
1117 - Lettings - Office	-	-
Activities for generating funds Totals	£16,263.63	£8,420.51
Investment income		
1121 - Churchyard Endowment	£1,850.34	£1,335.78
1122 - Investment Income	-	-
1123 - Verger Plot Income	£1,483.74	£1,930.33
1124 - Bank Interest	£6,066.29	£3,972.73
Investment income Totals	£9,400.37	£7,238.84
Other incoming resources		
1173 - Miscellaneous Income	£5,653.19	£1,130.98
1175 - Costs Incl in PCC Fees	£3,584.64	£3,396.00
Other incoming resources Totals	£9,237.83	£4,526.98
Incoming resources Grand totals	£254,249.72	£164,439.27

Resources used

Costs of generating funds

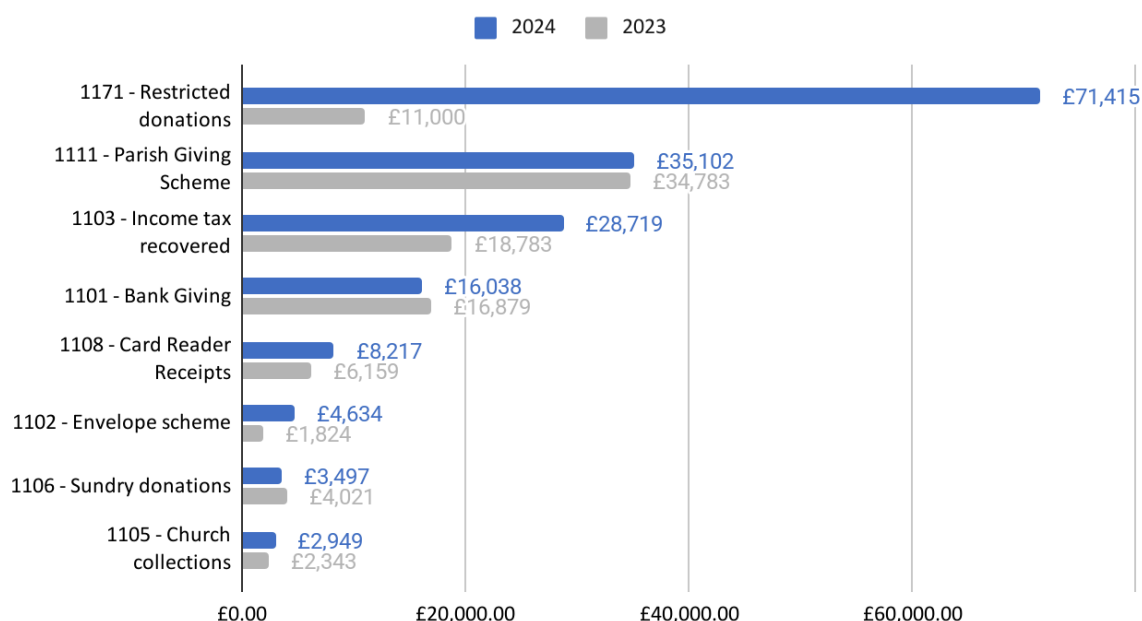
1313 - Hall - Cleaning	£1,120.25	£1,091.00
1314 - Hall - Insurance	-	-
1315 - Hall - PLH	£3,572.66	£2,720.16

1316 - Hall Maintenance	£6,331.94	£3,439.80
1322 - Hall - Rent & rates	-	-
Costs of generating funds Totals	£11,024.85	£7,250.96
Grants payable in furtherance of charity's objects		
1331 - Outreach & Mission Allocation	-	-
1332 - Church societies	-	-
1333 - Charities	£7,222.74	£7,003.39
Grants payable in furtherance of charity's objects Totals	£7,222.74	£7,003.39
Activities in furtherance of the charity's objects		
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1323 - Costs recharged via PCC Fees	£3,584.64	£3,396.00
1329 - Family Praise	£116.48	-
1330 - Growing in Grace	-	-
1334 - VACANT	-	-
Activities in furtherance of the charity's objects Totals	£161,198.51	£127,231.90
Support costs		
1340 - Depreciation charge	£448.31	£961.85
1351 - Bank charges	£127.34	£60.00
Support costs Totals	£575.65	£1,021.85
Expenditure on managing-administering the charity		
1307 - Salaries - Admin	£21,875.89	£18,841.53
1308 - Rent & Rates - Office	-	-
1309 - Postage & Printing	£5,202.60	£2,409.60
1312 - Telephone	£607.62	£1,119.47
Expenditure on managing-administering the charity Totals	£27,686.11	£22,370.60
Resources used Grand totals	£207,707.86	£164,878.70

Notes on Income and Expenditure

- **Income in 2024 was £254,249 in total - up 55% year on year**
- The increase was principally driven by Restricted Donations - these went from £11k in 2023 to £71k in 2024, largely due to Patience donations
- The increase in donations meant we claimed more Gift Aid - £29k vs £18k in 23
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 - Bank Giving is slightly down year on year due to losing a couple of regular donors via this method

Giving - Regular and Ad Hoc



- **Overall Expenditure in 2024 was £207,707 which is 25% up from 2023**
- The increase has been driven by increasing Patience costs relating to the sale of the Hall, preparatory work for the Church building and Fundraising related costs.

Funds held by St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance for Graveyard and Graves

Investment Fund	Shares	Value £.pp
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Dance	73	1,687.96
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Loydall	154	3,560.90
Hill	54	1,248.63
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Stewart Evans	339	7,828.60
Travers	187	4,323.94
Groves	107	2,474.13
Reeve	250	5,780.68
Nash	55	1,271.75
Riches	68	1,572.34
Total Investment Fund		48,108.36

Deposit Fund

Druce	306
Stewart Evans	906.43
Reeve	1,000.00
Total Deposit Fund	2,166.75

Other Funds held by St Albans Diocesan Board

Investment Fund	3124 @2,064.59p	72,235.31
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GRAND TOTAL at 31st December 2024 **122,556.10**

Value at 31st December 2023 119,827.34

Mission Giving Report 2024

Charity	General	Pass Thru	Outreach	Total
ABCD	£2,021.69	£86.75		£2,108.44
Bishops Harvest Appeal	£93.08	£356.17		£449.25
Bibles for Children			£312.38	£312.38
Christian Aid	£81.89	£313.49		£395.38
Christian Aid (Hurricane Beryl)	£32.11	£117.89		£150.00
Dens	£36.95	£148.98		£185.93
Help for Heroes	£75.18	£297.34		£372.52
Royal British Legion	£75.66	£297.34		£373.00
Scripture Union	£26.13			£26.13
T4U Shoeboxes	£295.40			£295.40
Watford Hospital	£36.25	£145.00		£181.25
Zarach	£1,277.42	£1,095.64		£2,373.06
Total	£4,051.76	£2,858.60	£312.38	£7,222.74

- Charity Donations overall in 2024 we £7.2k slightly up from 7k in 2023
- It is encouraging that despite the increase in internal fundraising we remain committed to maintaining our external donations
- The Christmas appeal raising money for Zarach was very successful with the collections over the Christmas services plus matched funding of £1000 meant we sent Zarach the £2.373 in total

St Lawrence Church Bovingdon - Finance Report 2024



Incumbent :

Rev. Charles Burch
10 Church Street
Bovingdon
Herts
HP3 0LU

Treasurer:

Mr. Rob Sheppard
Martlets, Church Lane
Bovingdon
Herts
HP3 0HS

Independent Examiner:

Mr. David Barr FCBI
Finchley House
Bovingdon Green
Bovingdon
Herts
HP3 0LB

Independent Examiner's report to the Parochial Church Council of St. Lawrence, Bovington

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2024, which are set out on pages 3 to 9 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations ('the Regulations') and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act')

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.144(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charities Commission under s.145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of those accounts with those records, it also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanation s 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. Which gives reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - a. To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act and:
 - b. To prepare accounts which accord with accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed.....
 DocuSigned by:
 David Barr
 EFA629E8A2204B4.....

David Barr, Chartered Banker FCBI - Independent Examiner

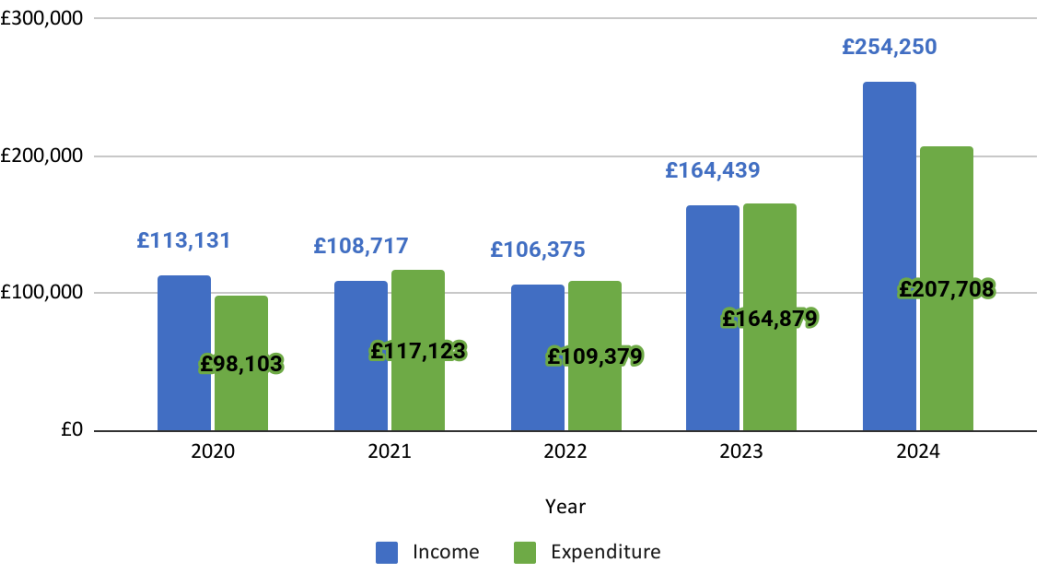
20/02/2025
 Date.....

Introduction

Overall in 2024 SLCB has had a positive year financially with the impact of the Patience Project clearly showing on both income and expenditure but overall reserves increasing.

With fundraising for Patience scaling up income has grown from £164k in 2023 to £254k in 2024. expenditure has also increased, particularly related to the sale of the Hall and increased preparatory work on the Church building plans, from 165k to 208k.

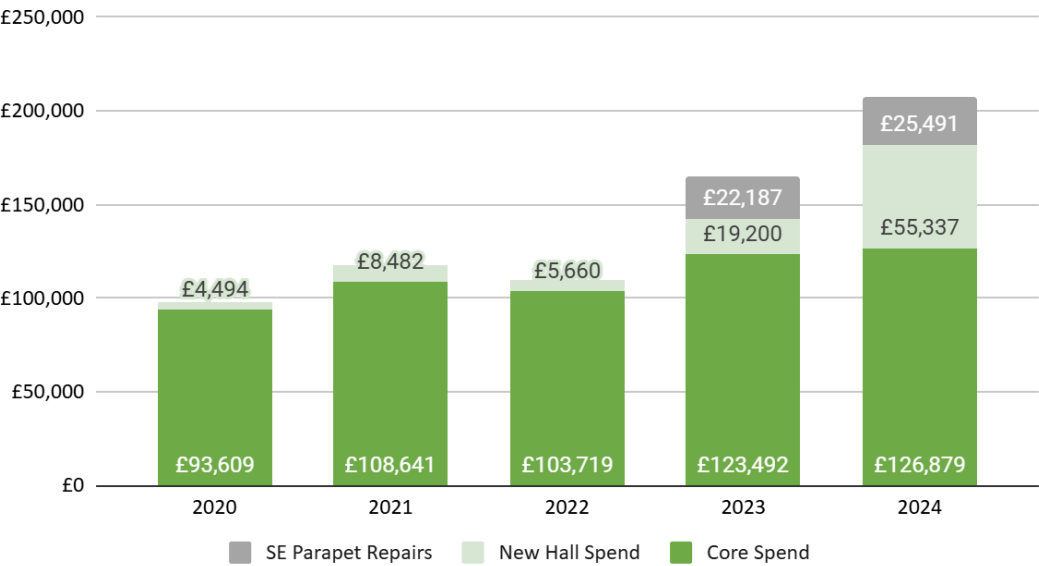
Income and Expenditure 2020 - 2024



Overall the Church recorded a surplus of 46.5k in 2024 which sets us in a good position for the year ahead

Expenditure was driven by Patience costs increasing from 19k in 2023 to £55k in 2024. There was also a significant spend on the SE Parapet £25k, similar to the 22k in 2023. The SE Parapet work is now complete but it was a very significant piece of work and we are fortunate that the Friends of St Lawrence were able to cover the cost of this work.

Annual Expenditure by Main Areas 2020 - 2024



‘Core’ costs e.g not including Patience and SE Parapet work increased slightly from £123k in 2023 to £126k in 2024

Core costs rose less than wider inflation due to fewer one off repairs vs 23

Summary Balance Sheet

Class and nominal code	Total	Last year
Fixed Asset - Tangible Assets		
1403: Computer Equipment	£ 474.37	£ 922.68
Total	£ 474.37	£ 922.68
Current Asset - Cash At Bank And In Hand		
1500: CafCash Current A/c	£ 7,368.71	£ 11,458.54
1501: Cambridge Building Society	£ 93,755.23	£ 89,707.34
1503: CafCash Gold Account	£ 12,885.91	£ 18,134.81
1504: Virgin Deposit Account	-	£ 66,881.78
1507: Patience Bank Account	£ 119,162.79	-
Total	£ 233,172.64	£ 186,182.47
Liability - Creditors: Amounts Falling Due In One Year		
Z04: Accounts Payable	-	-
Total	-	-
Net total assets	£ 233,647.01	£ 187,105.15
Represented by		
General (Unrestricted)	£ 24,393.48	£ 12,465.08
Designated - Building	£ 14,364.54	£ 10,000.00
Designated - Outreach	£ 2,961.79	£ 436.17
Restricted - Cyard	£ 1,628.19	£ 3,453.62
Restricted - Goff	£ 4,400.00	£ 4,450.00
Restricted - NewHall	£ 119,162.79	-
Restricted - Pass Thru	-£124.01	-
Restricted - Swan	£ 49,180.07	£ 130,723.88
Restricted - Youth	£ 17,680.16	£ 25,576.40
Total	£ 233,647.01	£ 187,105.15

Notes on Balance Sheet

- Overall the Church has £233.6k in assets represented by £233.1k cash in the bank and just under £500 of Computer equipment.
- In 2024 we opened a dedicated Patience savings account with CAF bank to allow us to clearly separate Patience funds and accept direct donations. At Year End this has £119,162.
- The PCC's commitment from the Swan fund was transferred in after we closed the Virgin Deposit Account
- Non Patience committed acc are currently at £114,009 which allows us to have some resilience should other costs arise.
- The bulk of the Church's Core funds are held in a Cambridge Building Society fund which had £93,755 at year end

Fund Movement Summary

Fund	Opening	Incomin g	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/Los ses	Closing
Goff (Restricted)	£4,450 -	-		-£50 -		£4,400
General (Unrestricted)	£12,465	£141,668	£129,789	£50 -		£24,393
Building (Designated)	£10,000	£4,365 -	-	-		£14,365
Outreach (Designated)	£436	£2,838	£312 -	-		£2,962
Pass Thru (Restricted)	-	£8,002	£8,126 -	-		-£124
New Hall (Restricted)	-	£88,909	£55,337	£85,592 -		£119,163
Swan (Restricted)	£130,724	£4,048 -		-£85,592 -		£49,180
Churchyard (Restricted)	£3,454	£3,317	£5,142 -	-		£1,628
Youth (Restricted)	£25,576	£1,104	£9,000 -	-		£17,680
Totals	£187,105	£254,250	£207,708 -	-		£233,647

Notes on Swan to New Hall Transfers

- During 2023 the PCC had agreed to use £100k of the Swan fund to seed the Patience work - this included spends made during 2022 and 2023 so the end amount transferred from Swan to New Hall fund in 2024 was £85,592
- The amount in the Patience Bank account now matches the New Hall Fund - £119,163
- The Swan Fund currently has £49,180, this includes the 4k interest from the Cambridge Savings account.

Notes on Other Fund Movements

- The Building Fund had income of £4,365 from claiming back VAT on the SE Parapet work - this and the 4k from the 2023 claim will be paid out to FOSL in 2025. Note This has not been reset to £10k as in previous years
- Outreach Fund has had two large donations this year so sits at just under £3k.
- Pass Through is at £-124 this is due to an overpayment made to the diocese. This will be resolved during Q1 2025
- Churchyard Fund saw usual income from Grave and Churchyard trusts but the Tree work in the Churchyard was paid out from this
- The Youth fund sits at £17,860
- As usual £50 transferred from Goff Fund to General Fund.

Income and Expenditure

	This year	Last year
Incoming resources		
Donations, Legacies and similar incoming resources		
1101 - Bank Giving	£16,038.00	£16,879.21
1102 - Envelope scheme	£4,634.28	£1,823.97
1103 - Income tax recovered	£28,719.31	£18,783.44
1105 - Church collections	£2,949.04	£2,343.24
1106 - Sundry donations	£3,496.95	£4,020.69
1108 - Card Reader Receipts	£8,216.69	£6,158.99
1109 - Friends of St Lawrence	£29,609.04	£33,175.33
1111 - Parish Giving Scheme	£35,102.22	£34,783.07
1112 - Fees - PCC	£14,047.36	£10,589.00
1113 - Fees - Diocese	£5,120.00	£4,696.00
1171 - Restricted donations	£71,415.00	£11,000.00
Donations, Legacies and similar incoming resources Totals	£219,347.89	£144,252.94
Activities for generating funds		
1115 - Lettings - St Lawrence Hall	£7,934.35	£4,997.25
1116 - Events Income	£8,329.28	£3,423.26
1117 - Lettings - Office	-	-
Activities for generating funds Totals	£16,263.63	£8,420.51
Investment income		
1121 - Churchyard Endowment	£1,850.34	£1,335.78
1122 - Investment Income	-	-
1123 - Verger Plot Income	£1,483.74	£1,930.33
1124 - Bank Interest	£6,066.29	£3,972.73
Investment income Totals	£9,400.37	£7,238.84
Other incoming resources		
1173 - Miscellaneous Income	£5,653.19	£1,130.98
1175 - Costs Incl in PCC Fees	£3,584.64	£3,396.00
Other incoming resources Totals	£9,237.83	£4,526.98
Incoming resources Grand totals	£254,249.72	£164,439.27
Resources used		
Costs of generating funds		
1313 - Hall - Cleaning	£1,120.25	£1,091.00
1314 - Hall - Insurance	-	-
1315 - Hall - PLH	£3,572.66	£2,720.16
1316 - Hall Maintenance	£6,331.94	£3,439.80
1322 - Hall - Rent & rates	-	-
Costs of generating funds Totals	£11,024.85	£7,250.96

Grants payable in furtherance of charity's objects

1331 - Outreach & Mission Allocation	-	-
1332 - Church societies	-	-
1333 - Charities	£7,222.74	£7,003.39
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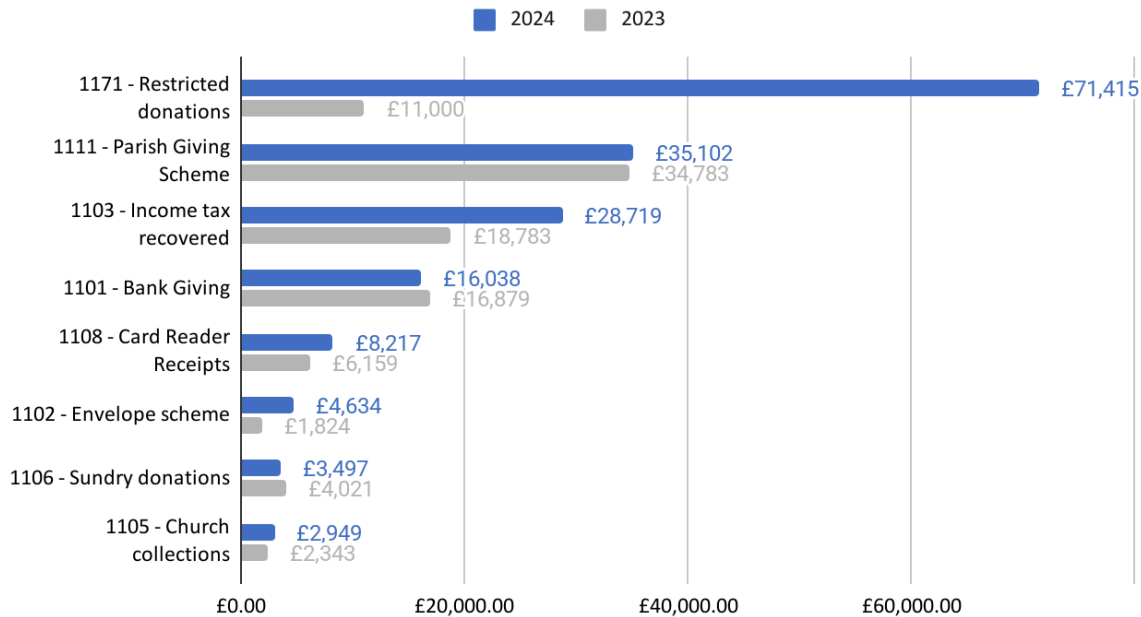
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Accounts

St Lawrence Church Bovingdon

Annual Meetings

to be held on Tuesday 23rd April 2024 at 7:30pm
St Lawrence Hall

Agendas and background papers



YOU are warmly invited to attend and take a full part in this important event in our Church life.

If you WOULD like to stand for election as a Church warden or member of the PCC, please pick up a nomination form from the back of church. If you would like to know more about what any of these roles entails, speak to Charles, Chris West, or a member of the PCC.

St. Lawrence Church, Bovingdon

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Tuesday 23rd April 2024

7:30pm St Lawrence Hall

1. Prayer
2. Apologies for absence

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

Agenda

1. Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 25th April 2023.
2. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 25th April 2023.
3. Election of Churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Agenda

1. Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 25th April 2023.
2. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 25th April 2023.
3. Annual reports:
 - Electoral Roll (verbal report to the meeting)
 - Accounts for the year ended December 31st 2023
 - Mission and Outreach — Charitable Giving
 - Fabric, Goods and Ornaments and Church Hall
 - Safeguarding
 - Children, Families & Youth Work
 - Little Fish
 - Welcome Café report
 - Parochial Church Council Report
 - Rickmansworth Deanery Synod
 - Churchyard
4. Appointment of Independent Accounts Examiner
5. Election of Electoral Roll Officer
6. Election of Parochial Church Council
7. Closing remarks
 - Churchwarden's remarks
 - Chairman's remarks

St Lawrence Church, Bovingdon

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners

Tuesday 25th April 2023, 7:30pm

St Lawrence Church Hall

Revd Charles Burch (CEB) opened the meeting with the collect for the day from St Mark's Gospel, whose author wrote a characteristically succinct and vivid account of Jesus' ministry.

This was followed firstly by prayer for members of St Lawrence Church who are currently sick in hospital and others mourning their recently bereaved loved ones; and secondly for God's guidance during the meeting.

24 parishioners were present.

Apologies: Alison Cartlidge, John Walker, Karin Vallis, Neil Crockett

1. Minutes of the AMP meeting Thursday 19th May 2022.

There being no amendments, these were approved unanimously by the meeting.

2. Matters arising from the minutes of the AMP meeting held Thursday 19th May 2022.

No matters arising from these minutes.

3. Election of Churchwardens.

There was one nomination for Chris West to stand as Churchwarden.

Proposed : Carol West

Seconded: Penny Havercroft

Agreed: Unanimously

CEB expressed his gratitude for all that CW had done in support of St Lawrence since September 2022 when he was co-opted as Churchwarden. He encouraged anyone thinking of filling the vacancy for a second Churchwarden to speak to him of CW.

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners closed at 7:42pm.

St Lawrence Church, Bovingdon

Minutes of the

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Tuesday 25th April 2023, 7:30pm

St Lawrence Church Hall

1. Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 20th May 2022.

These were presented by Revd Burch (**CEB**) and unanimously accepted as a true record of the meeting.

2. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held Thursday 20th May 2022.

There were none.

3. Annual Reports.

I) Electoral Roll.

Carol West reported that there have been 4 addition and 4 deletions from the electoral roll, which now stands at 98.

CEB thanked Carol for her work in this role. He mentioned that the membership of the PCC will continue to comprise 2 Deanery Synod representatives and 9 other elected members in addition to those in a non officio capacity.

II) Accounts for year ending 31st December 2022.

CEB invited Gary Cartlidge to present the treasurers report .

He highlighted a few items from the report.

The overall summary of funds for 2022 shows a deficit of £3,003,78, compared to a deficit of £8,406.08 for 2020. This improved position is attributable to various movements in the General Fund including miscellaneous income from the Diocesan energy fund and increased hall lettings since Covid restrictions eased off. Bank giving and envelopes went down from the previous year when attendance was low and parishioners responded to an appeal. However other collections have gone up helped by the Payaz onsite giving system. There was also less expenditure on fuel in the 12month period due to the timing of payment dates.

Transfers totalling £7,296.80 have been made from the Muriel Swan Legacy fund. (£5,410.40 for the extension architect's fees and £1,886.40 to the Church Repairs and Maintenance Fund.)

CEB thanked GC profusely for the time and effort he had spent on keeping the accounts in order during trying personal circumstances, and for inducting RS into the role of treasurer. Further thanks were extended to Richard Owens and Mike Leon for their respective roles handling cash and envelope donations.

CEB also paid tribute to the Friends of St Lawrence (FoSL) for their ongoing financial support of repairs and maintenance of the Church building and Church yard, without which the premises could not be kept in good order.

Alison Woodhams proposed, and Tim Taylor seconded that the report be formally accepted; this was unanimously agreed.

III) Mission & Outreach report (non-statutory)

The report was included within the financial report. **CEB** mentioned that Mission and Charitable giving totalled £7,563 which represents approx. 7 % of our receipts. The principle recipients were Mercy Ships (£3,000) and the Red Cross Appeal for Ukraine (1,827).

IV) Fabric, Goods & Ornaments report

PW had submitted a report. The long-awaited repair of the south east roof has been delayed for a few more weeks due to adverse weather and it is hoped the damage won't be significantly worse as a result. Meanwhile surfacing repairs near the entrance to the car park have been completed.

PW echoed CEB's thanks to the FoSL for raising the money for this and for repairs to the windows in the children's corner.

PW said that the need for more work will no doubt come to light after the quinquennial inspection in July.

CEB thanked **PW** for her time and hard work in dealing with the fabric issues of the Church.

Gary Cartlidge proposed, and Gill Fisher seconded that the report be formally accepted; this was unanimously agreed.

V) Safeguarding Report

SB had submitted the Safeguarding report. He said that some working procedures had been addressed during the year but that no other matters of concern had occurred in that time.

Rob Shepard proposed, and Flick Crockett seconded that the report be formally accepted; this was unanimously agreed.

CEB expressed his thanks to Sean for his work in this valuable role, and for the help given by Helen Campbell who is co-ordinating the training records and DBS renewals. He appealed to everyone to undertake their safeguarding courses promptly when asked to do so. Gill Barratt asked if the upkeep of clergy safeguarding records is the responsibility of the parish. CEB said that these are kept by the diocese.

Rob Sheppard proposed, and Flick Crockett seconded that the report be formally accepted; this was unanimously agreed.

VI) Children & Families Work (non-statutory)

Alison Cartlidge had prepared this report.

CEB thanked Alison for all she has done in support of the young children of our Church over the past 5 years. He pointed out that a lot of this type of work had dried up in other churches during COVID but not so at St Lawrence. We owe her a huge debt of gratitude for her commitment to this role and are pleased that she is willing to lend her support to her successor, Angela Hodgkinson, who has made a great start.

VII) Little Fish Update (non-statutory)

Flick Crockett (**FC**) presented the report she had prepared with Philippa Burch. It had been a very fruitful year with a wide range of activities and events, and new families getting involved. She echoed CEB's thanks to Alison Cartlidge for her continued help and support.

CEB thanked all members of the Little Fish Team for their hard work and commitment to the role.

VIII) Pastoral Care: Warm Space Update

Dena Tyler gave a verbal report. The warm space and Dens satellite foodbank initiatives began in December and lasted until March 2023. A good number of volunteers had come forward from the church and the Ladybirds but there has not been much uptake from the community. This has been the experience generally across Dacorum, and Warm Spaces have now been discontinued generally.

However, the team headed up by Jane Taylor and Dena Tyler want to experiment with a once-a-week coffee and chat morning in Church starting in June to offer anyone in the community a chance to come together. They hope that the Ladybirds will get involved again and would like someone to organise a rota of those in charge on the day.

CEB thanked DT for all that she does in a pastoral care capacity and also Jane Taylor for the way she stepped forward and organised the St Lawrence Warm Space so efficiently.

IX) Parochial Church Council Report

CW presented his report which consisted of a summary of topics covered at each of the 7 meetings held in the past 12 months. During this time the PCC had approved expenditure to maintain the Church building and agreed important steps to progress the Patience extension.

RS had worked alongside Gary Cartlidge to get to grips with the Church accounts which he has now officially taken over. The PCC agreed to advertise for a part time bookkeeper to assist him but RS has decided to wait and see how he manages the role of treasurer alongside his home and work commitments.

Wiebke Carr proposed, and Matt Williams seconded that the report be formally accepted; this was unanimously agreed.

CEB thanked all members of the PCC for their help and support throughout the year. He has been struck by the willingness of so many members of the Church to help out in a variety of ways. He thanked Dena Tyler and Penny Havercroft in particular for taking on the roll of sidesmen for the 8.00 am Service.

X) Deanery Synod Report

GF presented the report and said that meetings are now held face-to-face which works much better. The rural Dean, Simon Cutmore, is particularly committed to progressing the young people's mental health project which is centred on the southern end of the deanery. CEB said that we needn't feel overlooked as there is always an opportunity to get involved in projects like this at the right time.

Gary Cartlidge proposed, and Carol West seconded, that the report be formally accepted; this was unanimously agreed.

XI) Churchyard Update. (non-statutory)

CEB presented the report prepared by Gary Cullum. **CEB** stated that the Churchyard continues to look really good and that the Churchyard team do a great job getting together on the first Saturday of each month.

CEB thanked Gary Cullum and all the Churchyard team for their dedication to keeping it in such good order.

XII) EcoChurch

RS presented the report and was pleased to say that the Church had achieved its Bronze Award under the EcoChurch scheme during the year. Blister packs and batteries for recycling have been added alongside the soft plastics collections. More volunteers would be welcomed to help with these initiatives and other efforts to reduce our environmental impact going forward.

XIII) Events & Activities (non-statutory)

CEB presented the report prepared by HK. The Easter Egg Hunt was popular as usual and there were good attendances at the Summer Fete and the Christmas Market.

CEB offered huge thanks to HK for all her hard work in co-ordinating these activities and to her helpers, including Nikki O'Hara, working hard in the background. He was pleased to say that three volunteers have come forward to organise the 2023 Summer Fete.

4. Appointment of Independent Accounts Examiner.

David Barr will be approached to see if he is happy to continue in the role of Independent Examiner.

Gary Cartlidge proposed, and Carol West seconded the appointment subject to him accepting the request. This was unanimously agreed.

5. Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer.

Carol West said that she was willing to continue.

Matt Williams proposed and Alison Woodhams seconded the appointment; this was unanimously agreed.

CEB again thanked Carol for her work as Electoral Roll officer, and for the work she does updating CCLI and ensuring we are compliant with the various licence conditions, which now include video usage.

6. Election of Parochial Church Council.

CW informed the meeting that Rob Shepherd, Pauline Wright, and Sean Bolton were due for re-election to the PCC for another 3-year period and were nominated.

An additional 4 nominations were received to fill the exiting vacancies. They were elected for the time periods shown below, to ensure that only 1/3 of the PCC elected members were due for re-election each year.

- Alison Cartlidge (1 year)
- Gill Fisher (1 year)
- Wiebke Carr (2 years)
- Matt Williams (2 years)

All of the above mentioned were duly elected to serve on the PCC.

Flick Crockett & Alison Woodhams were nominated and elected as Deanery Synod representatives.

CEB reiterated his thanks to all members of the PCC for their time and dedication to the role.

8. Any other Business. None

9. Closing Remarks

Church Warden's remarks: CW said it was very good to be returning to the 'new normal' and that there are so many people to thank for the smooth running of everything that happens at Church. In particular he mentioned Penny Havercroft and Dena Tyler for taking over the duties at the 8.00 am service. He thanked the sidesteams coordinated by Flick Crockett, Sue Deacon, John Walker and Alison Woodhams. Besides these, there are people who serve in a myriad of ways from gardening to helping out at events. He recognised the important role the Church plays in creating opportunities for the community to come together again post Covid. He highlighted the invaluable support of the FoSL in raising funds to maintain the Church. Sadly we had lost two stalwarts from our congregations over the past year; Jane West and most recently Allan Brown, who had played a big part in Church life over many years.

Finally, CW thanked CEB for all that he continues to do nurture our faith and care for us all.

Chairman's Remarks: **CEB** reflected on the past year and said that Easter Sunday had been a real highlight with a capacity congregation. There had been a problem with the sound system, but this was overshadowed by the way the service had been so utterly joyful. He acknowledged how willingly people offer help when it's needed; whether its fixing the sound system in a hurry or staying long after services have finished to clear up.

CEB said he was excited to have appointed Angela Hodgkinson as our new Children and Families Worker who has settled well into the role so ably performed by Alison previously. He extended particular thanks to the Ministry team for their hard work over the past year: Rev'd Hilary Kemp as Associate Priest and Gill Barratt as Reader, Organist, and Director of Music. Chris O'Hara currently works as a Discipleship Enabler and helps to support the young people in the Church. He is hoping to go forward to stage 2 in the process of ordination.

CEB also thanked Helen Campbell our Administrator who does so much that is unseen from managing the church hall, to making arrangements for weddings, baptisms, funerals etc and much more.

He is optimistic about the fulfilment of the extension project and said he hoped to see building commence in the next 18 months - 2 years.

He encouraged people to continue to pray for our Church and how to engage in the life of it.

Close: The meeting closed with prayer at 8.43pm

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St Lawrence Church Bovingdon - Finance Report 2023



Incumbent :

Rev. Charles Burch
10 Church Street
Bovingdon
Herts
HP3 0LU

Treasurer:

Mr. Rob Sheppard
Martlets, Church Lane
Bovingdon
Herts
HP3 0HS

Independent Examiner:

Mr. David Barr FCBI
Finchley House
Bovingdon Green
Bovingdon
Herts
HP3 0LB

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2023, which are set out on pages 3 to 9 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations ('the Regulations') and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act')

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.144(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charities Commission under s.145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of those accounts with those records, it also includes considering 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. Which gives reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - a. To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act and:
 - b. To prepare accounts which accord with accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed David P Barr

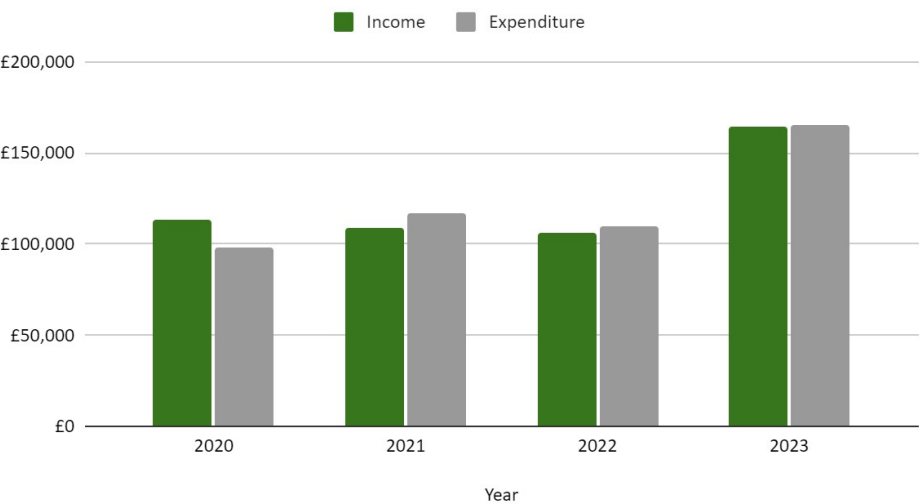
David Barr, Chartered Banker FCBI - Independent Examiner

Date 17/03/2024

Introduction

Overall in 2023 SLCB has had a positive year financially with income and expenditure broadly in line and progress made on several key tangible projects without significant impact to overall funds.

SLCB Income and Expenditure 20-23



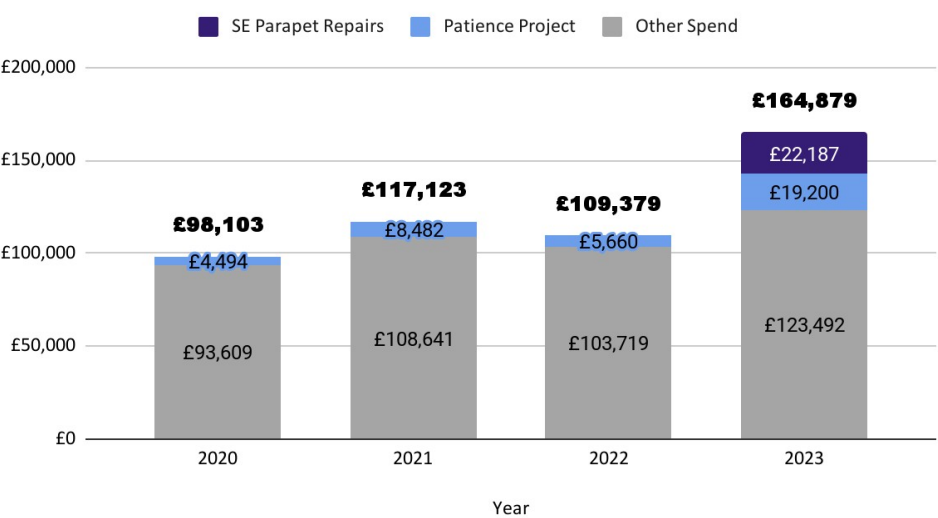
Overall income of £164,439 and overall expenditure of £164,879 meant a small deficit over the year of under £500 in 2023

This compares to deficits of 3k in 2022 and £8.4k in 2021

2020 saw a surplus but costs were significantly reduced by the impact of Covid lockdowns..

It is important to note that 2023 has a few key differences to previous years. Overall income and expenditure are both significantly higher than in previous years which is due to two factors. Increasing costs and donations relating to the 'Patience' project and the impact of the repairs to the South-East parapet.

SLCB Areas of Increased Expenditure in 2023



These costs are broken out here to show the impact of these changes on the overall year position

2024 will see increased costs due to the 'Patience' project and there is likely to be at least one more significant bill to complete the SE Parapet repair works.

Summary Balance Sheet

Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by code)

Class and nominal code	Total	Last year
Fixed Asset - Tangible Assets		
1403: Computer Equipment	£922.68	£772.53
Total	£922.68	£772.53
Current Asset - Cash At Bank And In Hand		
1500: CafCash Current A/c	£11,458.54	£6,098.54
1501: Cambridge Building Society	£89,707.34	£86,421.77
1503: CafCash Gold Account	£18,134.81	£6,695.99
1504: Virgin Deposit Account	£66,881.78	£86,443.75
Total	£186,182.47	£185,660.05
Liability - Creditors: Amounts Falling Due In One Year		
Z04: Accounts Payable	-	-
Total	-	-
Net total assets	£187,105.15	£186,432.58
Represented by		
General (Unrestricted)	£12,465.08	£3,136.05
Designated - Building	£10,000.00	£10,000.00
Designated - Outreach	£436.17	£757.47
Restricted - Cyard	£3,453.62	£2,454.48
Restricted - Goff	£4,450.00	£4,500.00
Restricted - Pass Thru	-	£140.00
Restricted - Swan	£130,723.88	£135,874.46
Restricted - Youth	£25,576.40	£29,570.12
Total	£187,105.15	£186,432.58

Fund movement summary

Fund	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/ Losses	Closing
Goff						
Restricted	£4,500.00	-	-	-£50.00	-	£4,450.00
General						
Unrestricted	£3,136.05	£127,105.29	£119,078.26	£190.00	£1,112.00	£12,465.08
Building						
Designated	£10,000.00	£10,987.56	£11,387.41	£399.85	-	£10,000.00
Outreach						
Designated	£757.47	-	£321.30	-	-	£436.17
Pass Thru						
Restricted	£140.00	£7,558.11	£7,558.11	-£140.00	-	-
Patience Project						
Restricted	-	£11,163.60	£19,199.90	£8,036.30	-	-
Swan						
Restricted	£135,874.46	£3,285.57	-	-£8,436.15	-	£130,723.88
Cyard						
Restricted	£2,454.48	£999.14	-	-	-	£3,453.62
Youth						
Restricted	£29,570.12	£3,340.00	£7,333.72	-	-	£25,576.40
Totals	£186,432.58	£164,439.27	£164,878.70	-	£1,112.00	£187,105.15

Notes on Fund Movements

- £50 transferred from Goff to General, annual drawdown from fund
- General fund gains are the 3 new laptops purchased for Anna Murkowski, Nicki O'Hara and Angela Hodkinson

- Pass Through Transfer of £140 was from Tea Time contribution last year that was transferred to the general fund
- Patience Project had large outgoings due to ramp up of project expenditure. Donations of over 11k during the year and then 8k transfer from Swan fund to reset to 0 at year end.
- Swan received interest from Cambridge and Counties bank but transfers made to Buidling and New hall to return them to expected annual levels
- Churchyard Fund benefitting from improved return on Diocese investments
- Youth fund has continuing monthly contributions but is now being used to cover cost of Youth and Childrens worker salary

Analysis of income and expenditure

	Total	
	This year	Last year
Incoming resources		
Donations, Legacies and similar incoming resources		
1101 - Bank Giving	£16,879.21	£17,926.41
1102 - Envelope scheme	£1,823.97	£1,943.90
1103 - Income tax recovered	£18,783.44	£13,912.41
1104 - S/school collections	-	-
1105 - Church collections	£2,343.24	£1,857.99
1106 - Sundry donations	£4,020.69	£4,162.97
1108 - Card Reader Receipts	£6,158.99	£4,153.63
1109 - Friends of St Lawrence	£33,175.33	-
1111 - Parish Giving Scheme	£34,783.07	£29,323.97
1112 - Fees - PCC	£10,589.00	£8,699.42
1113 - Fees - Diocese	£4,696.00	£4,046.00
1171 - Restricted donations	£11,000.00	-
1172 - Maintenance Credit	-	-
Donations, Legacies and similar incoming resources Totals	£144,252.94	£86,026.70
Activities in furtherance of the charity's objects		
Activities in furtherance of the charity's objects Totals	-	-
Activities for generating funds		
1115 - Lettings - St Lawrence Hall	£4,997.25	£2,243.50
1116 - Events Income	£3,423.26	£4,763.80
1117 - Lettings - Office	-	-
Activities for generating funds Totals	£8,420.51	£7,007.30
Investment income		

1121 - Churchyard Endowment	£1,335.78	£1,287.46
1122 - Investment Income	-	-
1123 - Verger Plot Income	£1,930.33	£1,919.71
1124 - Bank Interest	£3,972.73	£1,682.50
Investment income Totals	£7,238.84	£4,889.67

Other incoming resources

1173 - Miscellaneous Income	£1,130.98	£4,536.53
1175 - Costs Incl in PCC Fees	£3,396.00	£3,915.08
Other incoming resources Totals	£4,526.98	£8,451.61

Incoming resources Grand totals

£164,439.27 £106,375.28

Resources used

Costs of generating funds

1313 - Hall - Cleaning	£1,091.00	£1,085.00
1314 - Hall - Insurance	-	-
1315 - Hall - PLH	£2,720.16	£2,177.55
1316 - Hall Maintenance	£3,439.80	£1,320.83
1322 - Hall - Rent & rates	-	-
Costs of generating funds Totals	£7,250.96	£4,583.38

Grants payable in furtherance of charity's objects

1331 - Outreach & Mission Allocation	-	-
1332 - Church societies	-	-
1333 - Charities	£6,271.89	£7,563.00
Grants payable in furtherance of charity's objects Totals	£6,271.89	£7,563.00

Activities in furtherance of the charity's objects

1301 - Vicars Expenses	£409.79	£348.67
1302 - Visiting Preachers	£152.00	-
1303 - Books	£636.03	£470.48
1304 - Music	£1,046.72	-
1305 - Diocesan Common Fund	£53,029.00	£52,003.00
1306 - Church Insurance	£4,425.14	£4,269.69
1310 - Church PLH	£6,498.81	£5,662.29
1311 - Routine maintenance	£45,593.44	£9,391.78
1317 - Churchyard Insurance	-	-
1318 - Churchyard Maint.	£4,731.30	£1,010.00
1319 - Sunday School Exes	£1,055.32	£191.65
1320 - Other Service Costs	£145.19	£2,529.57
1321 - Misc Expenses	£6,113.16	£4,156.36

1323 - Costs recharged via PCC Fees	£3,396.00	£3,915.08
1329 - Family Praise	-	-
1330 - Growing in Grace	-	-
1334 - VACANT	-	-
Activities in furtherance of the charity's objects Totals	£127,231.90	£83,948.57
Support costs		
1340 - Depreciation charge	£961.85	£694.92
1351 - Bank charges	£60.00	£128.72
Support costs Totals	£1,021.85	£823.64
Expenditure on managing-administering the charity		
1307 - Salaries - Admin	£19,573.03	£9,965.05
1308 - Rent & Rates - Office	-	-
1309 - Postage & Printing	£2,409.60	£2,087.82
1312 - Telephone	£1,119.47	£407.60
Expenditure on managing-administering the charity Totals	£23,102.10	£12,460.47
Resources used Grand totals	£164,878.70	£109,379.06

Notes on Income and Expenditure

- Income in 2023 was 58k higher than in 2022, whilst many areas saw improvement this was notably driven by
 - £33k received from the Friends of St Lawrence to cover the cost of the SE Parapet repair work
 - £11k in Donations relating to the Patience project
 - £10k extra from higher giving via the Parish Giving scheme and Gift Aid (Income tax Recovered) thanks to more qualifying general donations and Patience project donations
- Expenditure was 55.5k higher than in 2022, this was principally driven by
 - 40k extra spent on Church and Hall Maintenance - this includes the spend on the SE Parapet repairs but also some preparatory tasks for the Patience project
 - 9k extra spent on salaries - this is due to the start of the Youth and Children's worker in March and Fundraising support work starting in July

Funds held by St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance for Graveyard and Graves

	Shares	Value £.pp		
Investment Fund				
Cowley	306	6,917.22	Grave	Restricted
Dance	73	1,650.19	Churchyard	Restricted
Elwes	236	5,334.85	Church & Churchyard	Restricted
Loydall	154	3,481.22	Church & Churchyard	Restricted
Hill	54	1,220.69	Church & Churchyard	Restricted
Reeks	106	2,396.16	Church & Churchyard	Restricted
Menheneott	146	3,300.37	Church & Churchyard	Restricted
Stewart Evans	339	7,663.20	Church & Churchyard	Restricted
Travers	187	4,227.19	Grave	Restricted
Groves	107	2,418.77	Church & Churchyard	Restricted
Reeve	250	5,651.32	Church & Churchyard	Restricted
Nash	55	1,243.29	Churchyard	Restricted
Riches	68	1,537.16	Churchyard	Restricted

Total Investment Fund **47,041.63** Bid market value

Deposit Fund

Druce	306	Churchyard	Restricted
Stewart Evans	860.75	Church & Churchyard	Restricted
Reeve	1,000.00	Churchyard	Restricted

Total Deposit Fund **2,166.75**

Other Funds held by St Albans Diocesan Board

Investment Fund	3124	£22.61	70,618.96	Vergers Plot	Designated
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**GRAND TOTAL at 31st December
2023**

119,827.34

Value at 31st December 2022

109,601.93

Mission Giving Report 2023

Charity	General	Pass Through	Total
ABCD	£1,177.50	£705.93	£1,883.43
Bishops Harvest Appeal	£111.29	£422.34	£533.63
Mercy Ships		£100.00	£100.00
Christian Aid (Ukraine)		£44.74	£44.74
Christian Aid (Turkey Earthquake)	£125.63	£465.25	£590.88
Childrens Society		£20.00	£20.00
Dens	£41.65	£163.80	£205.45
HACRO	£2,000.00		£2,000.00
Help for Heroes	£47.55	£222.37	£269.92
Royal British Legion	£47.55	£222.37	£269.92
T4U Shoeboxes	£343.92	£10.00	£353.92
Total	£3,895.09	£2,376.80	£6,271.89
Bibles for Children	£321.30		

Fabric Report 2023-24

Southeast Parapet

Preliminary work on the SE parapet revealed more extensive damage, made worse using modern concrete during a repair in the 1980's. The whole parapet therefore had to be taken down and rebuilt.

In preparing to complete the required work on the gutter and outfall, the contractors discovered pinholes in the guttering which have let water through. The gutter is soft underfoot, indicating rotting timber underneath. After much debate with the Diocese, who wanted us to replace the entire length of gutter along the south aisle, a compromise solution has been agreed. Work was due to start at the end of March to cut away approx. 3m of guttering, assess the state of the timber underneath, replace with new timber and then install a new piece of gutter. The whole length of gutter will then be treated with a waterproof compound. This is viewed as an interim solution, giving us time to come up with a longer-term plan for permanent repair.

The Friends of St Lawrence have kindly met the cost so far but may not be willing to continue to write a blank cheque for this work.

Window Restoration

Window repairs in the children's corner and north clerestory were undertaken at a cost of £3,200.00. The Friends have kindly funded this.

Church Yard Car Park

The Friends have also funded resurfacing of the car park entrance.

Quinquennial Inspection

This took place in July. The report is still outstanding. Some repairs to the north aisle roof may be needed, apart from that there are no major issues.

Memorial Garden

The 46 spaces for interment of ashes created in 2013 are nearly all occupied. A plan is being drawn up for an outer semicircle of stones.

Pauline Wright
March 2024

Report from the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) and Safer Recruitment Lead

At the 2023 APCM, Sean Bolton was confirmed as PSO and Carol West was voted in to continue her work as Safer Recruiting Lead. In November, Wiebke Carr took over from Sean as he is planning on moving away from Bovingdon.

Since then, Carol and I have taken Sean's work further to establish a culture of Safeguarding throughout all of the activities in St Lawrence.

Subsequently, the PCC has approved an updated safeguarding policy following the updated guidance published by the House of Bishops.

Alongside this, we have clarified which post holder has to provide DBS checks and which post holders need to complete which level of safeguarding training. We have also established a minimal requirement of reading a safeguarding leaflet for any volunteer who works with children and vulnerable people. Wiebke is keeping track of these but there are gaps in undertaking and updating the Safeguarding Basic Awareness and Foundation.

Carol has established an excellent knowledge and procedures to ensure all DBS checks are conducted and recorded in a timely manner. She also worked tirelessly to sort out the email address safeguarding@stlawrencebovingdon.com. Which is now being used to report any safeguarding concerns or questions. So far, no concerns have been raised.

Risk assessments are currently carried out by the individual event organisers and a copy is sent to and kept by Charles.

Going forward, we will need to tighten the fulfilment of requirements for DBS and training which we are considering to arrange as a communal training session.

Through the actions described in this report the PCC has complied with its duty to safeguard children and vulnerable adults in the work of St Lawrence Church.

Carol West & Wiebke Carr
April 2024

Report from The Children and Families Worker

May 2023 -March 2024

It has been an honour and a privilege to be working for the St Lawrence Church community for 15hrs/wk since April 2023. I have been very well supported and welcomed and the transition from Alison Cartlidge has been made easy for me. Many thanks to Alison and Charles for all their help in this process.

I have mainly been involved in running the children's (and adult's) groups after church, including yearly events. We have recently also started a Youth Group for Yr7-11s which has been going well. I also assist wherever there is other need. I have also been doing assemblies at Bovingdon Academy for Key Stage 1 & 2

Assemblies at Bovingdon Academy

I have led assemblies at Bovingdon Academy, first assisting and now doing them on my own. This has been a wonderful way of getting to know the children in the village better. We have had fun acting out Bible stories and talking about Easter. This usually happens once a month.

Explorers at Church (7-11s)

We continue to meet once a month during term time (usually 4th Sunday). We have various helpers. I have led the group in all sessions and Carol West has been a faithful supporter with music and support in most sessions. Some of the children have moved up to "Youth" now so we will need to work on recruiting more children for this group.

Outdoor Church

A successful outdoor church service was organised and led by Rev Charles Burch this year. I added some prayer activity in the garden for children and family members.

Messy Church (all Ages)

Messy Church, our all-age Sunday afternoon gathering, has continued each month. It is a wonderful community-orientated session which is always warm and friendly, and I always enjoy it.

I usually lead the session with the amazing support, advice and ideas from Phillipa Burch, Alison Cartlidge, and Felicity Crockett. We always explore a Christian theme through craft, quizzes, songs, puppet shows, eating together, and discussion. We have a great time with many returning each month to participate. Volunteers help prepare the food, and also help to run the session.

Craft in Church

Craft activities have continued in church during Family Communion services. These have been original and creative and have been led by various people in the Little Fish Team including Wiebke, Felicity, Alison and more. And many helpers, like Catherine, have been involved and greatly appreciated for their help.

Youth Group

I am very excited about our new group. We started a Youth Group for Yr6-9 three months ago. I have two committed helpers in Celeste Gee and Felicity Crockett. The response has been overwhelming. We have had our third session and between

13-20 attend each week. Youth is a combination of fun games and activities, and we are also using Scripture Union material called "Rooted". This material helps to build friendships within the group and opens gentle conversations round faith.

Events:

Crazy Hat Day March 2023: The Crazy Hat Day was an outside event during the Easter holidays. Friends, family, and locals came and made Easter bonnets and Easter gardens. Those attending got to take home and keep with them for Easter. We will be running a similar event this year – Egg Blowing this time with Easter Garden making again.

"Heroes" Prayer Adventure Day Sept 2023: Was a fun filled day where children got to walk around the church garden to different stations each with a fun activity or craft. The theme was Heroes of the Bible and each station had an activity that related to that Hero. We had about 7 wonderful helpers from the church.

Wreath Making Event Dec 2023: Nearly 20 women participated in our first wreath making event which I arranged. This included friends and family of those attending the Church. It was a relationship building event and was well received and pretty much everyone wanted to do another event this year. The wreaths looked beautiful, and we will definitely have confidence going forward to replicate this event.

Nativity Dec 2023: Hilary handed over the organisation of the nativity this year to me. It was a huge learning curve in recruiting participants and bringing it all together in one practice. I made the decision to get the children more involved this year with more reading parts. We sang a new Christmas song "Star Bright" and I think it was really well received.

Some areas to think about:

We would still to create some kind of communal cupboard for all the craft materials so that everyone can have access to them.

Recruiting volunteers is always an important aspect and one I probably need to work on.

Aspirations & Plans:

I hope many families will join us as we venture to Wildfires Family Camp this year I also hope to get the St Lawrence families away for a night camping at a nearby farm. This is all in process.

I am also arranging for the Youth to do a combined event with St Paul's Chipperfield youth group in May. And we are looking at a summer get together for the youth too.

Many thanks to all the lovely Little Fish team and Charles & Philippa for a wonderful year. I hope that the kids work will grow from strength to strength as we trust in God for his provision and leading.

Angela Hodkinson

Little Fish Report May 2023 – March 2024

It has been lovely to work alongside Angela Hodgkinson as the new childrens worker and see her develop the role over the year . She has encouraged our young children to deepen their faith and learn about Jesus through fun games, activities, music and prayer.

The Little Fish Team aim to reach out to as many people as possible who have appeared in church over the last few years. We do this by regularly sending out personal invitations to special services and events. This always results in several people attending and being pleased to have been invited. The services they have been invited to have included Stir up Sunday, all Christmas services, and Candlemass. We focus on people who have not been to church for a while.

We held our 'Back to school Barbeque' in September which proved popular again with a large number of families attending - thank you to all those who helped with the BBQ and games.

The Christmas children's Nativity and Crib services were wonderful, joyous occasions with a lot of families being involved, and a number of new families welcomed.

We held our Fathers and Children event to make posies for Mothering Sunday whilst the mothers had a relaxing time enjoying cream tea and prosecco at Flick's house. Great fun was had by all and some very good flower arrangements were made.

We look forward to celebrating Easter this year and the Little Fish Team have already planned an Easter Garden making and egg blowing afternoon on Maundy Thursday, and an Easter egg hunt after the service.

The 'St Lawrence Families' Whatsapp is continuing really well in helping us to communicate with the wider church family. Feedback from the families has been very positive and it has certainly helped us to encourage families to join us for services and events during the year.

We have had a large number of families attending Family Praise over the year, but not all at the same time. Therefore, at some services we may have 14 or more children and other times 4 or less. It continues to be difficult to find people to commit on a regular basis to helping with Little Fish activities. However, we are aware of other commitments families have over the weekend with their children, and very much appreciate it when they are able to attend. When it rains and matches are cancelled the children might be disappointed, but we are thrilled to see them!

One change we have made this year is to stop pathways at the end of Primary School. At our Back-to-School Barbeque those moving up to Secondary School were presented with a book and their pathway sheets with a big round of applause to acknowledge this step and moving up to St Lawrence Youth Group.

We are delighted to have welcomed new families to Family Praise over the year. Our music band to help us with our worship in Family Praise and Family

Communion is still a work in progress, but we love it when it comes together as seen in the Mothering Sunday Service.

Flick and Philippa would very much like to thank the Little Fish team (Wiebke Carr, Carol West, Amanda Hibbert, Angela Hodgkinson, Alison Cartlidge, Amanda Lawes, Karen Wright, and Sue Williams) for all the hard work they have done this year. We would love to have new members!

Flick Crockett and Philippa Burch
March 2024

Update on St Lawrence Church Welcome Café for PCC Annual Report 2024

St Lawrence Church Welcome Café is the fulfilment of one of our mission aims to reach out to the local community in Bovingdon and the surrounding areas.

The Welcome Café opened in November 2022, with volunteers from St Lawrence Church and Ladybirds hosting the café between 10am and 12 noon on Thursday mornings. It was a slow start but we persevered and the Welcome Café is now well-established and welcoming regular and new visitors every week for coffee and cake.

During the winter months we opt for the warmth of St Lawrence Church Hall. However, with the prolonged rain during recent months, we have had the occasional hitch! Like the time Charles and Helen had to wade through the church hall carpark when it flooded and rescue visitors by car. This caused much merriment for all!

During the summer months the Welcome Café takes place in St Lawrence Church, when we welcome all residents, walking groups and people passing through the churchyard. Visitors with dogs are welcome, we have a ready supply of dog biscuits so that dogs can have a treat too!

There is no charge for refreshments and all the donations to the Welcome Café are used to purchase supermarket vouchers to provide occasional support for local families. During Lent, the Welcome Café donations will be given to DENs to support their work with the homeless in Hemel Hempstead and the surrounding areas.

After Easter, we hope to move our Welcome Café back to St Lawrence Church for the summer months. We would welcome any new volunteers from the church or local community who can help on a regular or occasional basis to set up the space, serve refreshments, bake a cake or talk with our visitors.

Dena Tyler
March 2024

PCC Secretary's Report on the work of the PCC: 2023-24

Six PCC meetings and one extraordinary meeting were held over this period. These were a hybrid mix of Zoom video meetings and in person ones.

This report outlines the decisions and appointments made at each meeting.

25.04.23 Extraordinary Meeting of the PCC (after the APCM)

- The PCC approved an investigation of the extent of the Church's foundations by the structural engineer.

11.05.23 (In Person)

- The following appointments were made:

Vice Chair	Alison Woodhams
Treasurer	Rob Sheppard
Secretary	June Gossling
Churchyard Officer	Gary Cullum (not an elected member of PCC)
Safeguarding Officer	Sean Bolton
Health & Safety	Dr Rodd McMillan (not an elected member of PCC)
Fabric Officer	Pauline Wright
- Other elected PCC members:
Chris O'Hara; Gill Fisher; Flick Crockett, Alison Cartlidge; Dena Tyler; Wiebke Carr, Matt Williams
- The following were ex-officio or co-opted members of the PCC:

Chair	Revd Charles Burch
Associate Priest	Revd Hilary Kemp
Church Warden(s)	Chris West (One Vacancy)
Deanery Synod Reps	Alison Woodhams, Flick Crockett
Reader	Gill Barrett
Friends of St L Rep	Pauline Wright
Standing Committee (vice-chair)	Charles Burch (Chair) Alison Woodhams
	Revd Hilary Kemp Flick Crockett
	Rob Sheppard (Treasurer) June Gossling (Secretary)
- Appointment of Sidesteams These were approved by the meeting.

25.07.23 (In Church)

- Church Finances. The treasurer presented an overview of how our finances are managed as a background to the challenge facing us to meet our running costs whilst fund raising for the Patience Project.
- Movement of Monies between Accounts. The PCC authorised RS to move money between accounts in consultation with the vicar and churchwarden as and when it is needed to pay for expenses related to the Patience Project.

28.09.2023 (In St Lawrence Hall)

- The Trinity Project. The meeting began with a presentation by Revd Simon Cudmore, regarding work being carried out to support young people with their mental health and wellbeing in the Croxley Green and Rickmansworth area.
- CW reported that the Archdeacon's inspection had been successfully completed.

21.11.23 (Video)

- Charity / Mission Donations. Agreement was reached to send £2,000 to Hackro – Offenders rehab attached to the Mount Prison and a donation of up to £1,000 to ABCD, (The Bethlehem charity for children with disabilities) to match collections at the Christmas Services which will be earmarked for ABCD.
- The PCC was told that VAT can now be reclaimed for work done on listed buildings. In our case St Lawrence can pass this back to the FofSL
- Patience Project:
 - o The PCC provisionally approved the appointment of Craigmyle Fundraising Consultants for the Patience Project subject to final T's and C's.
 - o Archaeological Survey. The PC approved a budget of up to £30K.
- Mission Action Plan. Three priority areas had been identified at the PCC Away Day. Community (outward facing), Nurturing Faith (inward facing) and The Patience Project.
- Safeguarding. Wiebke Carr was appointed to take over from Sean Bolton pending his move away from Bovingdon.

18.01.24 (Video).

- Patience Project:
 - o Sale of the Church Hall. The PCC approved the appointment of the site surveyor for the sum of £1995 +VAT and the valuer for the sum of £2,450 +VAT.
- Community – St Lawrence Satellite Foodbank. DT reported that we are now offering regular support direct to those in need in our own area.
- Nurturing Faith – Music Provision in Church. Following the retirement of Gill Barrett after 40 years of music ministry a sub-group was set up to think creatively about this aspect of our worship for the future.
- Prayers of Love and Faith – The vicar had circulated these which the House of Bishops commends for use when same sex couples wish to mark their mutual love and long-term commitment to one another. He said he would be happy to pray these prayers over committed couples.

19.03.24 (St Lawrence Hall).

- The meeting began with a review of the APCM reports which had been circulated. These included statutory ones like the 2023 Finance Report and other non-statutory ones. All were approved.
- The Patience Project. CEB had circulated an Interim Report from our fundraising consultants: Craigmyle FC who had appraised our efforts to date. CFC had assessed that we have a strong case for the extension and now needed to 'sell' the benefits to the wider community. A meeting was subsequently scheduled to launch the Ambassador Scheme.
- Patience Project Expenditure was approved for:
 - a. The solicitors acting re the sale of St Lawrence Hall
 - b. Design of the Fundraising Brochure
 - c. The M & E Design Consultants
- Church & Churchyard Expenditure was approved for:
 - d. Interim Parapet Repairs
 - e. Pruning 50 Yew Trees

June Gossling (PCC Secretary)
March 2024

Deanery Synod 2023 Report

St Lawrence Church is part of the Rickmansworth Deanery. The other member churches are St Paul's - Chipperfield, Holy Cross - Sarratt, Christ Church - Chorleywood, St Andrew's - Chorleywood, All Saint's - Croxley Green, St Oswald's – Croxley Green, St John's – Heronsgate, St Peter's – Mill End, St Mary's – Rickmansworth, St Thomas's – West Hyde.

The rural Dean is Simon Cutmore, who is Vicar of Mill End with Heronsgate and West Hyde.

There were 3 meetings in 2023 and the main topics covered are outline below.

Ruth Dennigan - the new Growing vocations and lay ministry officer (which she job shares with Simon Moore) – came to talk to the March meeting. This is the role that has taken on the work Charles did as Vocations Officer. Among the points she raised

- Everyone has a vocation, but they are all different, and we are all people of God.
- 90% of ministry is by lay people, and we need to develop an awareness of vocation in the Church.
- Everyone is busy, and sometimes the urgent squeezes out the important. We need to develop a mindset that all are welcome to exercise ministry.
- We need to adjust the requirement to what people are able to offer. Time is limited, but people's calling can change.
- We should remember to say 'thank you,' and celebrate volunteers.

Prof Nicola Slee, a prominent poet & academic, came to the November meeting to talk about 'Sabbath the hidden heartbeat of our lives.' Prof. Slee gave an interesting and thought-provoking talk in four sections, about the many different meanings of the Sabbath. This included a short break out section for group discussion and an opportunity for comment at the end.

At every meeting we talked about the deanery Trinity project supporting young people with mental health issues. The project is now set up as a charity in its own right. Charlotte Barton is the project's worker, and has been spending time at Rickmansworth school, outside, interacting with students. St Oswald's' Donut club for year 6/7 transition students has had up to 30 children joining in with games, doughnuts and drinks. It was originally only to have been for the first half of the term but has now been extended with monthly sessions to the end of term. At St Peter's Mill End, Pete's Café has been running with 8 to 15 attending. A suicide prevention scheme has provided funding for two courses per term for three years. The project is for both Primary and secondary school students.

Simon, the Rural Dean, also came to the September meeting of our PCC to talk about the project. Further information can be found here:

<https://www.trinityproject.uk/>

Deanery Synod Representatives - Alison Woodhams & Flick Crockett

Accounts

St Lawrence Church Bovingdon

Annual Meetings

**to be held on Tuesday 25th April 2023
at 7.30pm in St Lawrence Hall**

Agendas and background papers



ST LAWRENCE CHURCH
BOVINGDON

Serving the Community

You are warmly invited to attend and take a full part in this important event in our Church life.

If you would like to stand for election as a Church warden or member of the PCC, please pick up a nomination form from the back of church. If you would like to know more about what any of these roles entails, speak to Charles, Chris West or a member of the PCC.

After the meeting there will be refreshments and then, at about 8.45pm, a short presentation on our 'Patience' Project to extend and reorder the church. Please stay for this if you can.

St. Lawrence Church, Bovington

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Tuesday 25th April 2023

7:30pm at St Lawrence Hall

1. Prayer
2. Apologies for absence

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

Agenda

1. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19th May 2022
2. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of Thursday 19th May 2022
3. Election of Churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Agenda

1. Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 19th May 2022
2. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of Thursday 19th May 2022
3. Annual reports:
 - Electoral Roll (verbal report to the meeting)
 - Accounts for the year ended December 31st 2022
 - Mission and Outreach – Charitable Giving
 - Fabric, Goods and Ornaments and Church Hall
 - Safeguarding
 - Children, Families & Youth Work
 - Little Fish
 - Parochial Church Council Report
 - Rickmansworth Deanery Synod
 - Churchyard
 - EcoChurch
 - Activities & Events report
4. Appointment of Independent Accounts Examiner
5. Election of Electoral Roll Officer
6. Election of Parochial Church Council
7. Closing remarks
 - Churchwarden's remarks
 - Chairman's remarks

St Lawrence Church, Bovingdon

Minutes of the

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

Thursday 19th May 2022, 7:30pm

St Lawrence Church Hall

Revd Charles Burch (CEB) opened the meeting, mentioning that today we celebrate the life of St Dunstan. During the 10th century, he was responsible for the reformation of the monasteries, including the rebuilding of Glastonbury abbey. He died in 988AD.

This was followed by prayer for the meeting.

22 parishioners were present.

Apologies: Ian Wilford, Judith Wilford, Pauline Wright, Alison Woodhams, Gary Cartlidge, Alison Cartlidge, Barbara Clarke, John Walker, Brenda Wood, Philippa Burch.

1. Minutes of the AMP meeting Thursday 20th May 2021.

There being no amendments, these were approved unanimously by the meeting.

2. Matters arising from the minutes of the AMP meeting held Thursday 20th May 2021.

No matters arising from these minutes.

3. Election of Churchwardens.

There were no nominations for Churchwarden.

CEB thanked retiring Churchwarden Dena Tyler for all her help and immense support and hard work during her time as Churchwarden. He encouraged anyone who might be interested in helping out with Warden duties to speak to him.

The meeting Annual Meeting of Parishioners closed at 7:42pm.

St Lawrence Church, Bovingdon

Minutes of the

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Thursday 19th May 2022, 7:30pm

St Lawrence Church Hall

1. Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 20th May 2021.

These were presented by Revd Burch (CEB) and unanimously accepted as a true record of the meeting.

2. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held Thursday 20th May 2021.

CEB mentioned that under item 8 of the minutes, Lewis Ewington had been appointed as Health & Safety Officer. Unfortunately, due to work commitments, he had been unable to continue in that role; Dr Rod McMillan has since taken over the role of Health & Safety Officer.

3. Annual Reports.

I) Electoral Roll.

Carol West reported that there have been 1 addition and 5 deletions from the electoral roll, which now stands at 98.

CEB thanked Carol for her work in this role. He mentioned that this reduction to below 100 means that we will have a slight reduction in elected lay members on the PCC.

II) Accounts for year ending 31st December 2021.

CEB presented the treasurers report which had been prepared by Gary Cartlidge. He mentioned that Gary was recovering from surgery and wished him, on behalf of all at St Lawrence, a successful recovery.

He highlighted a few items from the report.

The overall summary of funds for 2021 shows a deficit of £8,406.08, compared to a surplus in 2020 of £15,027.97. This deficit reflects the payments made to the Church architect (Francesca Weal), for services provided in relation to the building project (£8,482)

Giving was also reduced in 2021, but CEB mentioned that 2020 had seen some additional giving as people supported the Church through the Covid pandemic. Overall income for the year was reduced by about £2,500.

During the same period, expenditure relating directly to the work of the Church increased by about £8,000. Much of this was due to increased heating and electric costs at the Church once services resumed. All this resulted in a deficit of income/expenditure of £1,937.22 for the year.

CEB thanked the Friends of St Lawrence (FoSL) for their ongoing support of repairs and maintenance to the Church building and Church yard.

He mentioned that the endowed graves fund has a total of just over £50,000, but this can only be used for the maintenance of the named graves.

Sean Bolton (**SB**) enquired about the Clock Repair Fund, which shows a zero balance. **CEB** explained that this fund had been established in 2020 when we faced a significant cost for repair of the church clock. Ultimately, the repairs were completed at a much-reduced cost.

Joanna Owens enquired regarding the Vergers Plot, and if we were able to use the money in that account. Chris West (**CW**) explained that he believes we are not allowed to access the fund itself. This money is held by the Diocesan Board, although we do receive the investment income from it.

CEB thanked **GC** for his time and effort as treasurer in compiling the annual report, and the monthly reports to PCC throughout the year.

Steve Watkins proposed, and Carol West seconded that the report be formally accepted; this was unanimously agreed.

III) Mission & Outreach report (non-statutory)

The report was included within the financial report. **CEB** did mention that a large proportion of the Charitable Giving of the Church was as a result of specific fundraising events, rather than from existing Church funds.

IV) Fabric, Goods & Ornaments report

CEB presented the report that had been compiled by Pauline Wright (**PW**). He mentioned that the work to repair the cause of dampness in the Southeast corner was still being conducted and it may incur a further substantial cost as more repair work is identified. This may be in the region of £10,000, therefore additional quotes are being sought.

Redecoration of the South Porch is now complete, along with the six new notice boards.

Steve Watkins questioned the high cost of decorating the Church interior. **CEB** explained that the PCC and FoSL wish to have the arches stripped back to the original stonework, which raised the cost from £35,000 to £50,000.

CEB thanked **PW** and Jane Cayley for their time and hard work in dealing with the fabric issues of the Church.

Sean Bolton proposed, and Mike Leon seconded that the report be formally accepted; this was unanimously agreed.

V) Safeguarding Report

SB presented the Safeguarding report.

He thanked Carol West, Matt Williams, and Paul Campbell for all their help and support in ensuring that we meet the Safeguarding requirements. He added that Safeguarding refresher training was currently being undertaken by those who need to, along with updating DBS checks.

Gill Fisher proposed, and Gill Barrett seconded that the report be formally accepted; this was unanimously agreed.

CEB expressed his thanks to Sean for his work in this valuable role, and for the help given by Helen Campbell who is co-ordinating the training records and DBS renewals.

VI) Children & Families Work (non-statutory)

Alison Carlidge had prepared this report.

CEB thanked Alison for all she does in supporting the young children of our Church. The report reflects the wide variety of activities available and how these were maintained during a very challenging year.

VII) Little Fish Update (non-statutory)

Flick Crockett (**FC**) presented the report she had prepared with Phillippa Burch. She thanked Karen Wright for all her help and support, particularly in co-ordinating the Praise Pathway scheme, for over 10 years. Karen is stepping down from the role and will be greatly missed!

CEB thanked all members of the Little Fish Team for their hard work and commitment to the role.

VIII) Parochial Church Council Report

CW presented the report. He thanked Dena Tyler for establishing the Church as a DENS satellite food bank, something that may prove to be very significant in the coming months as the cost-of-living crisis deepens.

SB also highlighted the work of the Eco-Church group, which has now seen us attain the Bronze Award. He thanked all members of the group for their hard work. Gill Fisher (**GF**) mentioned the success of the plastic recycling collection point at Church. Joanna Owens asked if this could include that cellophane wrapping is also accepted.

Sean Bolton proposed, and Steve Watkins seconded that the report be formally accepted; this was unanimously agreed.

CEB thanked all members of the PCC for their help and support throughout the year.

IX) Deanery Synod Report

GF presented the report prepared by Alison Woodhams. She mentioned that the Deanery Synod group discuss a wide variety of interesting and meaningful topics – notably the mental health crisis amongst young people.

Pauline Brown proposed, and Carol West seconded that the report be formally accepted; this was unanimously agreed.

X) Churchyard Update. (non-statutory)

CEB presented the report prepared by Gary Cullum. **CEB** stated that the Churchyard continues to look really good, and that the Churchyard team do a great job. There are still concerns regarding the

introduction of plastic items onto graves – something that is prohibited by St Albans Diocesan Churchyard regulations. He is in the process of writing to those concerned.

Pauline Brown asked if the Yew Trees along the Church path could be pruned as they impede the pathway. She also made mention of the Millennium Yew tree and asked if something could be done to highlight its significance. **CEB** said that he had some photos of the dedication of the tree and would display these in Church.

CEB thanked Gary Cullum and all the Churchyard team for their dedication to keeping it looking so good.

XI) Events & Activities (non-statutory)

CEB presented the report prepared by Nicki O'Hara (**NO**). He mentioned the significant income generated through these activities, particularly in a year so disrupted by Covid. These events also offer a great opportunity to highlight the role of the Church within the village community. With regards to this, he specifically mentioned the Christmas Tree festival, which had raised over £1,500. These proceeds were split evenly between the Church and the Bovingdon Scout Hut appeal.

CEB offered huge thanks to Nicki & Chris O'Hara, and Revd Hilary Kemp for their time and hard work in co-ordinating these activities.

4. Appointment of Independent Accounts Examiner.

David Barr will be approached to see if he is happy to continue in the role of Independent Examiner.

Sean Bolton proposed, and Mike Leon seconded the appointment subject to him accepting the request. This was unanimously agreed.

5. Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer.

Carol West said that she was willing to continue.

Flick Crockett proposed and Hilary Kemp seconded the appointment; this was unanimously agreed.

There was some discussion regarding the electoral roll, and whether we do enough to promote it throughout the year. It was suggested that we should make regular offers to people throughout the year to join the Roll.

CEB again thanked Carol for her work as Electoral Roll officer, and also for the work she does updating CCLI and ensuring we are compliant with the various licence conditions, which now include video usage.

6. Election of Parochial Church Council.

CW informed the meeting that one member of the PCC is due for re-election, Matt Williams, but no nomination form has been received. As Matt was not present at the meeting, he will be asked if he is willing to be co-opted onto the PCC for the coming year.

Additionally, two current members have now completed their 6-year period, and are due for a break from PCC duties, Ian Wilford, and Chris West. Furthermore, Gary Cartlidge and Pauline Brown have indicated that they wish to step down from PCC duties. This leaves us with 3 vacancies for PCC members. Only one nomination had been received in writing, that of Dena Tyler. Dena was therefore appointed to the PCC.

CEB reiterated his thanks to all members of the PCC for their time and dedication to the role.

8. Any other Business

None

9. Closing Remarks

Church Warden's remarks: **DT** stated that the Pastoral Care Group, set up in 2020 as a result of the Covid pandemic, was continuing to meet. They are looking to do bereavement support training in the future and that the group has now become an established part of Church support.

She also mentioned how good it was to be meeting back in person again and moving towards 'normality' in Church; whilst maintaining the video streaming of services for those unable to attend.

CEB thanked Dena for her hard work and support, and also Penny Havercroft for all her continuing help.

Chairman's Remarks: **CEB** highlighted the addition of Revd Hilary Kemp as Associate Priest during 2021, and Chris O'Hara as Discipleship Enabler along with his help and support of the young people in the Church.

He also expressed his thanks to Alison Cartlidge for all the various activities she co-ordinates and delivers within the Church, to Gill Barrett as Reader, Organist, and Director of Music and to Helen Campbell our Administrator.

He mentioned that as a Church, we are all one family, and regardless of how and when we come together, it's rewarding to be part of that family. We are clearly in a period of transition as we move into a post-Covid world, and that has changed how people are able to help and support the Church. He mentioned some of the challenges facing us in terms of how services operate, the need for Churchwardens, and the challenge of the building project. He reminded the meeting that it took 100 years for the church in Jericho to be rebuilt.

He encouraged people to continue to pray for our Church and how to engage in the life of it.

Close: The meeting closed with prayer at 9:04pm

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Chairman

St. Lawrence Church, Bovington

Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council

for the year ended 31st December 2022



Incumbent :

Rev. Charles Burch
10 Church Street
Bovington
Herts
HP3 0LU

Treasurer:

Mr. Rob Sheppard
Martlets, Church Lane
Bovington
Herts
HP3 0HS

Independent Examiner:

Mr. David Barr FCBI
Finchley House
Bovington Green
Bovington
Herts
HP3 0LB

Independent Examiner's report to the Parochial Church Council of St. Lawrence,
Bovingdon

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2022, which are set out on pages 3 to 10 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations ('the Regulations') and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act')

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.144(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

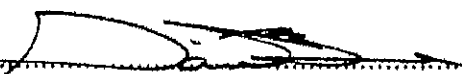
Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charities Commission under s.145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of those accounts with those records, it also includes considering 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. Which gives reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - a. To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act and:
 - b. To prepare accounts which accord with accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: 

David Barr, Chartered Banker FCBI - Independent Examiner

Date 17th March 2023

Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31st December

Summary – Combined Funds

	2022 £.pp	2021 £.pp
Receipts		
Incoming Resources from Donors	86,026.70	93,752.67
Income from Investments	4,889.67	4,053.90
Activities for Generating Funds	7,007.30	7,056.35
Other Incoming Resources	8,451.61	3,854.16
TOTAL RECEIPTS	106,375.28	108,717.08
Expenditure		
Grants	7,563.00	7,073.51
Activities Directly Relating to the Work of the Church	83,948.57	90,718.50
Support Costs	823.64	718.46
Church Management & Administration	12,460.47	14,202.64
Other Parish Expenses	4,583.38	4,410.05
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	109,379.06	117,123.16
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	(3,003.78)	(8,406.08)
Funded by Increase / (Decrease) in		
General Fund	1,531.92	(723.72)
Church Repairs & Maintenance Fund	0.00	0.00
Outreach & Mission Fund	(488.85)	(557.05)
Owed to Diocese and Other Creditors	140.00	(1,214.00)
Children's & Youth Workers Fund	2,134.64	2,486.46
Muriel Swan Legacy	(5,614.30)	(7,522.75)
Churchyard Fund	(407.19)	(875.02)
Building Projects Fund	(250.00)	50.00
Kathleen Goff Legacy	(50.00)	(50.00)
Clock Repair Fund	0.00	0.00
TOTAL MOVEMENT	(3,003.78)	(8,408.08)

Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31st December
General Fund Receipts and Payments Account

	2022		2021	
	£.pp	£.pp	£.pp	£.pp
Receipts				
Incoming Resources from Donors				
Bank Giving & Envelopes	15,586.41		17,348.96	
Collections	1,801.99		770.35	
Gift Aid / CAF Donations	1,543.90		1,062.90	
Card Reader & Website Receipts	3,051.23		2,904.92	
Parish Giving Scheme	29,203.97		28,932.20	
Sundry Donations	3,582.30		7,556.25	
Restricted Donations	0.00		0.00	
Income Tax Recovered	13,882.41		13,376.95	
		68,652.21		71,952.53
Income from Investments				
Verger Plot Income	1,919.71		1,856.58	
		1,919.71		1,856.58
Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading				
Fees	8,699.42		9,751.00	
Cost Recharges associated with Fees	3,915.08		2,575.00	
St Lawrence Hall Lettings	2,243.50		838.50	
Events Income	4,268.80		6,217.85	
Miscellaneous Income	4,536.53		885.16	
		23,663.33		20,267.51
TOTAL RECEIPTS		94,235.25		94,076.62
Expenditure				
Grants				
Outreach, Missionary and Charitable Giving	4,720.85		5,277.12	
		4,720.85		5,277.12
Activities Directly Relating to the Work of the Church				
Diocesan Common Fund	47,957.00		47,702.00	
Ministry – Expenses	348.67		225.45	
Church – Heat, Light, Water & Cleaning	5,662.29		7,020.14	
Church – Insurance	4,269.69		4,227.64	
Church – General Repairs & Maintenance	2,204.98		3,798.88	
Services – Books, Preachers, Sunday School	3,770.57		3,181.47	
Cost Recharges associated with Fees	3,915.08		2,575.00	
		68,128.28		68,730.58
Church Management & Administration				
Administrators Costs	9,965.05		11,379.30	
Postage, Telephone, Printing & Stationery	2,495.42		2,823.34	
		12,460.47		14,202.64
Other Parish Expenses				
Sundry Expenses	2,810.35		3,393.95	
St Lawrence Hall Costs	4,583.38		4,410.05	
		7,393.73		7,804.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		92,703.33		96,014.34
Surplus / (Deficit)		1,531.92		(1,937.72)
Funded by General Fund		1,531.92		(723.72)
Transfer to/(from) Other Funds				(1,214.00)

Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31st December
Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	2022		2021	
	£.pp	£.pp	£.pp	£.pp
Fixed Assets				
Computers				
Opening Value	1,467.45		0.00	
Additions	0.00		2084.81	
Depreciation (33.3% of Original Cost pa)	(694.92)		(617.36)	
	<u>772.53</u>		<u>1,467.45</u>	
Current Assets				
CAF Cash Current Account	6,098.54		5,993.70	
CAF Cash Gold Deposit Account	6,695.99		10,733.40	
Virgin Deposit Account	86,443.75		86,217.12	
Cambridge & Counties Building Society	86,421.77		85,024.69	
	<u>185,660.05</u>		<u>187,968.91</u>	
Total Assets		186,432.58		189,436.36

Represented By

General Fund		
At 1 st January	1,604.13	2,327.85
Surplus / (Deficit) in Year	1,531.92	(1,937.72)
Transfer to Muriel Swan Legacy Fund	0.00	0.00
Transfer to Clock Fund	0.00	0.00
Transfer to New Hall Fund	0.00	0.00
Transfer from Other Creditors	0.00	1,214.00
At 31 st December	<u>3,136.05</u>	<u>1,604.13</u>
Specific Funds	183,296.53	187,832.23
	<u>186,432.58</u>	<u>189,436.36</u>

St Lawrence Church, Bovingdon
Statement of Funds as at 31st December

		2022	2021
		£.pp	£.pp
General Fund	Designated	3,136.05	1,604.13
Church Repairs & Maintenance	Designated	10,000.00	10,000.00
Outreach	Designated	757.47	1,246.32
Other Creditors	Restricted	140.00	0.00
Children's & Youth Worker	Restricted	29,570.12	27,435.48
Muriel Swan Legacy	Restricted	135,874.46	141,488.76
Churchyard	Restricted	2,454.48	2,861.67
Building Project Fund	Designated	0.00	250.00
Kathleen Goff Legacy Fund	Restricted	4,500.00	4,550.00
		<u>186,432.58</u>	<u>189,436.36</u>
	Designated	13,893.52	13,100.45
	Restricted	<u>172,539.06</u>	<u>176,335.91</u>
	TOTAL	<u>186,432.58</u>	<u>189,436.36</u>

St Lawrence Church, Bovingdon
Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31st December

Church Repairs & Maintenance – Designated	2022 £.pp	2021 £.pp
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 1st January	10,000.00	10,000.00
Receipts		
From Friends of St. Lawrence Trust	0.00	4,330.80
Transfer from Muriel Swan Fund	1,886.40	0.00
	1,886.40	4330.80
Payments		
Maintenance	1,886.40	4,330.80
Excess of Receipts over Payments	0.00	0.00
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 31st December	10,000.00	10,000.00

Muriel Swan Legacy – Restricted Fund	2022 £.pp	2021 £.pp
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 1st January	141,488.76	149,011.51
Receipts		
Interest	1,682.50	959.25
Transfer from General Fund		
	1,682.50	959.25
Payments		
Transfer to General Fund		
Transfer to Building Projects Fund	5,410.40	8,482.00
Transfer to Church Repairs and Maintenance Fund	1,886.40	
	7,296.80	8,482.00
Excess of Receipts over Payments	(5,614.30)	(7,522.75)
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 31st December	135,874.46	141,488.76

St Lawrence Church, Bovingdon
Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31st December

Other Creditors incl. Diocese – Restricted Fund	2022 £.pp	2021 £.pp
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 1st January	0.00	1,214.00
Receipts		
Fees – Diocese	4,046.00	4,026.00
Gift Aid / CAF / Donation / Collections / Events	2,634.07	1,306.34
	6,680.07	5,332.34
Payments		
Payments to Diocese	4,046.00	4,026.00
Transfer to General Fund	0.00	1,214.00
Charities	2,494.07	1,306.34
	6,540.07	6,546.34
Excess of Receipts over Payments	140.00	(1,214.00)
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 31st December	140.00	0.00

Outreach – Designated Fund	2022 £.pp	2021 £.pp
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 1st January	1,246.32	1,803.37
Receipts		
Transfer from General Fund	0.00	0.00
Payments		
Missionary & Charity Societies	348.08	490.05
Parish Christmas Cards	140.77	67.00
	488.85	557.05
Excess of Receipts over Payments	(488.85)	(557.05)
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 31st December	757.47	1,246.32

St Lawrence Church, Bovingdon
Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31st December

Churchyard – Restricted Fund	2022 £.pp	2021 £.pp
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 1st January	2,861.67	3,736.69
Receipts		
Friends of St. Lawrence and Parish Council		
Endowment Interest	1,287.46	1,238.07
Restricted Donations		
Transfer from General Fund		
Transfer from Kathleen Goff Legacy Fund	50.00	50.00
	1,337.46	1,288.07
Payments		
Maintenance	1,744.65	2,163.09
Excess of Receipts over Payments	(407.19)	(875.02)
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 31st December	2,454.48	2,861.67

Children's & Youth Worker	2022 £.pp	2021 £.pp
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 1st January	27,435.48	24,949.02
Receipts		
Donations and Collections	2,490.00	2,730.00
Payments		
Sundry Payments	355.36	243.54
Excess of Receipts over Payments	2,134.64	2,486.46
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 31st December	29,570.12	27,435.48

St Lawrence Church, Bovingdon
Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31st December

Building Projects Fund	2022 £.pp	2021 £.pp
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 1st January	250.00	200.00
Receipts		
Donations	0.00	50.00
Transfer from General Fund		
Transfer from Muriel Swan Fund	5,410.40	8,482.00
Payments		
Sundry Payments	5,660.40	8,482.00
Excess of Receipts over Payments	(250.00)	50.00
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 31st December	0.00	250.00

Kathleen Goff Legacy Fund	2022 £.pp	2021 £.pp
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 1st January	4,550.00	4,600.00
Receipts		
Transfer from Other Creditors	0	0.00
Payments		
Transfer to Churchyard Fund	50.00	50.00
Excess of Receipts over Payments	(50.00)	(50.00)
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 31st December	4,500.00	4,550.00

Clock Repair Fund	2022 £.pp	2021 £.pp
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 1st January	0.00	0.00
Receipts		
Donations		
Transfer from General Fund		
Payments		
Clock Repair		
Excess of Receipts over Payments		
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 31st December	0.00	0.00

St Lawrence Church, Bovingdon
Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31st December 2022

Funds held by St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance for Graveyard and Graves

Shares		Value £.pp		
Investment Fund				
Cowley	306	6,317.65	Grave	Restricted
Dance	73	1,507.15	Churchyard	Restrcted
Elwes	236	4,872.43	Church & Churchyard	Restricted
Loydall	154	3,179.47	Church & Churchyard	Restricted
Hill	54	1,114.88	Church & Churchyard	Restricted
Reeks	106	2,188.47	Church & Churchyard	Restricted
Menheneott	146	3,014.30	Church & Churchyard	Restricted
Stewart Evans	339	6,998.96	Church & Churchyard	Restricted
Travers	187	3,860.78	Grave	Restricted
Groves	107	2,209.11	Church & Churchyard	Restricted
Reeve	250	5,161.48	Church & Churchyard	Restricted
Nash	55	1,135.52	Churchyard	Restricted
Riches	68	1,403.92	Churchyard	Restricted
Total Investment Fund		42,964.12	Bid market value	
Deposit Fund				
Druce		306.00	Churchyard	Restricted
Stewart Evans		834.02	Church & Churchyard	Restricted
Reeve		1,000.00	Churchyard	Restricted
Total Deposit Fund		2,140.02		
Other Funds held by St Albans Diocesan Board				
Investment Fund	3124	@2,064.59p	64,497.79	Vergers Plot Designated
GRAND TOTAL at 31 st December 2022		109,601.93		
Value at 31 st December 2021		123,856.97		

Mission and Charity giving

	Outreach Fund	General Fund	Pass Thru Fund	Total
1333 Charities				
Red Cross (Ukraine)		163.20	1,664.30	1,827.50
Christian Aid		80.15	192.60	272.75
Childrens Society		0.33	70.67	71.00
Bishops Harvest Appeal		96.25	436.50	532.75
Chesworths (George's Mother)		100.00		100.00
T4U Shoe Boxes		260.55		260.55
Mercy Ships		3,000.00		3,000.00
Royal British Legion		150.00		150.00
Help for Heroes		150.00		150.00
Bibles for Children	348.08			348.08
Crisis		720.37	130.00	850.37
	348.08	4,720.85	2,494.07	7,563.00

Fabric Report 2022

South East Corner

Unfortunately, the southeast roof repair did not go to plan last autumn and our Architect Francesca Weal has now drawn up precise details of the Parapet gutter and roof. The cost of this will range from £10k -£16k depending on what the builder finds.

Interior Church Decoration

Our architect feels it would be better to wait until the extension is completed before we tackle the interior decoration.

Window Restoration

The V11 window in the children's corner needs new glass in certain areas and the leadwork is extremely fragile and will need to be removed to the studio and re-lead. The casement frame will also need refurbishment.

The NIV window (north clerestory) has broken quarries and if the leadwork is sound can be repaired on site. If however the leadwork is as fragile as the V11 major work may have to be undertaken.

The cost of the work will be £3,200.00. The Friends have kindly agreed to fund this.

Church Yard Car Park

The entrance to the car park had become extremely worn and has now been resurfaced at a cost of £3,200 + VAT. The Friends have funded this.

Kitchen Floor

This has still not been inspected by an engineer.

The next Quinquennial Inspection is due and will take place in July.

Pauline Wright
April 2023

Safeguarding Report for APCM 2023

Since 2011 the PCC has approved a safeguarding policy and policy statement based upon those published by the CCPAS. It has an extremely detailed set of guidelines. In 2019 the policy and policy statement were updated in line with the guidance published and updated by the House of Bishops. The PCC has retained the guidelines provided by CCPAS (Now called Thirty:one eight) because they are so comprehensive covering many events that the church is involved in or could adopt.

Roles within the Safeguarding Team have changed, as follows, during 2022:

Safeguarding Officer - Sean Bolton

Lead Recruiter (DBS Checks) – Carol West

Assistants for both roles above - Matt Williams and Paul Campbell.

Separating the roles of safeguarding officer and leader recruiter is seen as a step forward for safeguarding at St Lawrence. The safeguarding officer can focus on policy and procedure including compliance. Church leaders remain responsible for safe recruitment. The 'lead recruiter' completes DBS checks as the final stage of the recruitment process.

The church continues to undertake DBS checks in line with policy for all activities within the church for children's and youth work and activities involving regulated activity involving vulnerable adults. Over 25 people now have current DBS checks. A database is used to ensure checks are kept up to date and should an individual role change new checks in the form of a fresh DBS application and/or an update check is completed.

Training remains a focus for the church to ensure all involved in events involving children's and youth work, and vulnerable adults, including the PCC, are aware of the issues involved. We continue to have an ongoing programme of training, most of which is carried out online.

During 2021 and 2022 I have carried out a review of risk assessments for church projects and I can confirm that these are all finished and up to date.

I will work with the health and safety officer and other officers to ensure all records are updated throughout the year. Both with regard to training and with regard to DBS checks. In the coming year we will continue to review our records on DBS checks and training records to ensure they are up to date.

I can confirm that I have been made aware of some minor Safeguarding process concerns which have been addressed by the church and we updated its systems relating to transport and supported members of the church.

I am happy to report I have not been made aware of any major safeguarding concerns. And I am happy with the running of the events and activities of St Lawrence church with regard to the area of Safeguarding and how we address concerns.

Through the actions described in this report the PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults)

Safeguarding Lead

Sean Bolton

27th January 2023

Report from The Children and Families Worker 2022

Explorers at Church

Attendance at explorers continues to rise (now typically about 8 children a session). We continue to meet once a month during term time (usually 4th Sunday). We have several helpers, including one from the Youth Group. The group has been taken by several leaders over the past year.

Explorers at School

There were too few applicants for school explorers in the Autumn term and it has not yet restarted.

Outdoor Church

A successful outdoor church service was organised and led by Rev Hilary this year.

Messy Church

Messy Church has continued each month and continues to evolve post-covid 19 (usually 2nd Sunday each month). It has remained viable, although numbers have not been as high as they were initially. Philippa, Flick and Wiebke have all lead successful sessions. A big thank you to all those who have supported these services by assisting or just attending.

Craft in Church

Craft activities have continued in church during Family Communion services.

On a personal note I would like to say how rewarding it has been supporting the work of Children and their families over the last few years. I wish the new appointee all the best for the future and remain happy to help when I can.

Alison Cartlidge

Little Fish Report May 2022 – April 2023

It was wonderful this year to be able to get back to our normal activities. We are so grateful to Alison Cartlidge for everything she has done for young people in church and delighted she remains on the team to help. We welcome Angela Hodgkinson as the new children and families worker and wish her well as she leads us all in our next step with children and families in our church.

During the summer we had a Little Fish BBQ for parents in the Vicarage garden. It was a lovely sunny evening where we were able to come together and socialize.

We held our 'Back to school Barbeque' in September which proved popular again with a large number of families attending - thank you to all those who helped with the BBQ and games.

The Christmas children's Nativity and Crib services were wonderful joyous occasions with a lot of families being involved and also a number of new families welcomed.

We are delighted that there are a large number of families attending Family Praise at some point over the year but not all at the same time. We would like to thank to our regular helpers. It is however difficult to get people to commit to helping with the Pathways and welcome each week despite a sign up sheet. We understand that there is so much going on for families on Sundays but we pray that we can get more help next year. We have new families starting with us too which is very positive news and we have a recently formed Family Praise band that appears to be growing in numbers and certainly helps us with our worship.

We held our Fathers and Children's event to make posies for Mothering Sunday whilst the mothers met to walk and enjoy the odd sip of prosecco on the way! Great fun was had by all and some very good flower arrangements were made.

In Holy Week Angela and Philippa organized a morning of Easter hat and Easter Garden making which was great fun. Easter Sunday 2023 was very exciting and uplifting with an increase in numbers back to pre covid times. 41 children attended and 30 took part in the craft activity during the service where they made Easter baskets and boxes. Wiebke organized a 7+ easter egg hunt and Amanda Deacon organized one for the under 7s and was enjoyed by everyone.

We have now set up a 'St Lawrence Families' Whatsapp group to enable us to communicate more easily with the church families. This has proved popular and certainly has helped with encouraging families to join us for events and services. A message on the day of a service or event really helps people know what is going on and is a reminder to turn up.

Flick and Philippa

Report on the work of the PCC: 2022-23

A total of seven PCC meetings were held over this period. These were a hybrid mix of Zoom video meetings and in person ones.

This report outlines the decisions and appointments made at each meeting.

31.05.22 (Video)

Matt Williams and Chris West were both co-opted on to the PCC for this year.

The following appointments were made:

Vice Chair	Alison Woodhams
Treasurer	Gary Cartlidge
Secretary	Chris West (co-opted to PCC)
Churchyard Officer	Gary Cullum (not an elected member of PCC)
Safeguarding Officer	Sean Bolton
Health & Safety	Dr Rodd McMillan (not an elected member of PCC)
Fabric Officer	Pauline Wright

Other elected PCC members:

Chris O'Hara; Rob Sheppard; Gill Fisher; Flick Crockett.

The following are ex-officio or co-opted members of PCC

Chair	Revd Charles Burch	
Associate Priest	Revd Hilary Kemp (September 2021)	
Church Wardens	Vacant	
Deanery Synod Reps	Gill Fisher	Kully Dhadha
	Alison Woodhams	
Readers	Gill Barrett	
Friends of St Lawrence rep	Pauline Wright	
Standing Committee	Charles Burch (Chair)	Alison Woodhams (vice-chair)
	Revd Hilary Kemp	Flick Crockett
	Gary Cartlidge (Treasurer)	Chris West (Secretary)

- Appointment of Sidesteams approved by the meeting.

- Return to use of common chalice at Holy Communion agreed by the meeting.
- PCC approved the spend of up to £20,000 to tackle the problem of damp in the South-East corner of the Church (Chay Hedger has been appointed to do this work)

21.07.22 (In Church)

- This meeting did not reach the required number of lay members to be considered quorate. As such, items were discussed, but no decisions were able to be taken.

08.09.2022 (In Church)

- Unanimous agreement to proceed with advertising to recruit a part-time Children & Families worker.
- Unanimous agreement to proceed with the proposal to have flint wall samples constructed, as examples for the church extension.
- Unanimous agreement to appoint Rumball Sedgewick as the sole agent for the sale of St Lawrence Hall.
- Unanimous agreement to advertise for a part-time fundraiser in regard to the Church Building Project.
- Chris West offered to take on the vacant Church Warden role. A replacement will be sought for the Secretary role.

25.10.22 (Video)

- June Gossling was appointed PCC secretary by unanimous agreement.
- Rob Sheppard was unanimously appointed Treasurer, to succeed Gary Cartlidge at the start of 2023.
- Rob Sheppard requested that a bookkeeper be appointed to assist him in the role of treasurer. This was unanimously agreed.
- Matt Williams requested the purchased of a 'PayAz' device to assist with contactless giving in Church, at a cost of £379. This was unanimously agreed.
- The expenditure of up to £550 was unanimously agreed for the purchase and installation of heater covers at St Lawrence Hall.

08.12.22 (St Lawrence Hall)

- Alison Woodhams proposed that we continue with our donation of £3,000 to Mercy Ships. This was agreed unanimously.
- The PayAz contactless payment machine has been installed and is working well.
- Revd Burch reported that bibles had been distributed to pupils in Y3 & Y6 at Bovingdon Primary School.
- DENS foodbank and St Lawrence Warm Space have been established in St Lawrence Hall. They operate on Monday & Thursday.
- The Christmas Market had raised more than £1,000.

24.01.23 (Video)

- Matt Williams reported that the PayAz machine has already collected £526, more than covering the initial purchase cost.
- Revd Kemp requested that the PCC, and wider Church community, regularly consider the question, "Where is God at Work?". This will become a standing agenda item.
- Revd Burch reported that we have received approval from the Diocesan Advisory Committee to proceed with a faculty application for the plan to extend the Church and internal reordering.
- Revd Burch reported that 5 developers had expressed an interest in the purchase and development of the St Lawrence Hall site. The Building Project Steering Group will consider these and identify two proposals for further consideration.
- The Church Safeguarding Policy was submitted for annual review, The document was unanimously approved. Furthermore, Paul Campbell has stepped down from the role of Lead Recruiter, Carol West has taken on this position.
- Revd Kemp requested the purchase of a laptop for Nicki O'Hara, to assist her in preparing artwork for Church publications and events. The suggested expenditure was £400. This was unanimously agreed.

09.03.23 (St Lawrence Hall)

- The following statutory reports for the APCM were accepted by the meeting.
 - Accounts & Mission Giving
 - PCC secretary's report (*with items from March's meeting to be added*)
 - Safeguarding
 - Deanery Synod

- The following non-statutory reports for the APCM were accepted by the meeting.
 - Children & Families work
 - Eco Church
 - Churchyard
- The proposal to appoint a structural engineer for the building project was unanimously approved (to a cost of £3,755.00)
- The proposal as follows was unanimously agreed by the meeting.
 - The PCC resolves to petition for a faculty for 'an Extension on the north side of the church and internal re-ordering including the disposal of the pews in the main body of the church (nave and south aisle), pulpit and lectern, relocation of a chest tomb, and the introduction of a nave plinth and chairs.'
- The expenditure of £3,200 (+VAT) to resurface the car park was unanimously approved by the meeting .
- The expenditure of £3,200 to repair broken windows in the Children's area and the north clerestory was unanimously approved by the meeting.

Chris West
March 2023

Deanery Synod Report 2022

St Lawrence Church is part of the Rickmansworth Deanery. The other member churches are;

St Paul's-Chipperfield

Holy Cross-Sarratt

Christ Church-Chorleywood

St Andrew's-Chorleywood

All Saints'-Croxley Green

St Oswald's-Croxley Green

St John's-Heronsgate

St Peter's-Mill End

St Mary's-Rickmansworth

St Thomas's-West Hyde

The rural Dean is Simon Cutmore, who is Vicar of Mill End with Heronsgate and West Hyde.

There were three meetings in 2022 and at the first in March members were welcomed back to the first, in person, meeting for twelve months. In addition to the topics raised by speakers, a continuing theme running through the meetings was the Mental Health Project being set up in the Deanery following Rachel Brockie's talk last year relating to the mental health of children in S.W. Herts.

In March the Diocesan Secretary, David White, explained his role. The function of the Diocesan Office is to support schools, chaplaincies, and parishes in the Diocese. The Diocesan Office deals with H. R. issues, Finances, building issues e.g. 'What can I do in a churchyard' or how to get a vicarage's leaking tap fixed.

David leads young people's summer camps and is especially interested in how the parishes can be supported in their work with young people.

In preparation for the Mental Health Project, Simon Cutmore had spent his study leave becoming a mental health first aid trainer and was concerned to establish a group to initiate mental health support with younger people.

The meeting in July took place at Christchurch Chorleywood and as it included a meal there was no speaker. Regarding the issue of aid for mental health it was reported that a working party had been held with a further planned for September.

At the Zoom meeting in November Maggie Dodd, who is the Anna Chaplain for older people in St Albans, explained her role within the context of the Anna Chaplaincy. The U. K. has more people over the age of 60 than under 18. The over 85's will double in number by 2043. Many older people live alone and many have dementia thus there is a need for sensitive spiritual and religious care for older people. There are currently 230 Anna Chaplains across the country. Maggie is the only one in Hertfordshire with her position funded by the Bible Reading Fellowship and the Methodist Church.

There was feedback from the mental health project, now referred to as 'The Trinity Project' which following several working group meetings clarified the structure of the project.

The project will work with young people at different stages in their school careers: at Year 4: at Year 6 : start of secondary school (Year 7) : GCSE stage : A level stage.

There are school partners and also the 'Haven' in Harpenden and 'Phase' in Hitchin together with the St Albans and Harpenden Educational Partnership project. The project will provide a listening ear, independent of the school, accompanying the student over many years.

Deanery Synod Representatives – Alison Woodhams, Gill Fisher, and Kully Dhadha.

Churchyard officer's report 2022

Four and a half acres is a big garden, but the team worked hard each month of the past year to keep the Churchyard looking at its best – neat and tidy, and all things rural, and not overly manicured. We strive to maintain just the right balance and I'm pleased to report that the positive feedback we continue to receive from both parishioners and members of the public suggests we are achieving just that.

A dozen or more volunteers worked on the first Saturday of the month from March to December. They were assisted by Paul Campbell on the tractor mower throughout the grass growing season.

Sue Miller continues to monitor the three wild flower areas that are not cut during the main months of the growing season. In addition to the numerous species of wild flowers observed and noted, bird species are monitored and several slow worms were observed in the long grass.

No repairs were carried out to the flint and brick wall to the north and eastern boundaries of the churchyard – but a modest budget will be needed during 2023 for some minor repairs and maintenance, especially on the outer surface of wall in Church Lane where floodwater has been eroding some areas of lime cement. The ruts in the entrance to the car park also need attention.

The clipped yews on the southern boundary immediately behind the 'Budge Row' cottages in Church Lane were topped quite brutally in a neighbourly gesture to enable more light into the small windowed homes.

During the year under review a special visitor to the churchyard was Christopher Ryder and his family from the United States. He returned to bury the ashes of his father in the family vault at the rear of the chancel.

Gary Cullum
March 6, 2023

EcoChurch 2022 Report

Work at St Lawrence to become accredited with the 'EcoChurch' scheme began in 2021 and after our first pass at the criteria that year was unsuccessful we introduced a series of changes that culminated in us achieving the Bronze award in March 2022.

We purchased a sustainable plaque to commemorate this, made from old pews, and this is now on display within the Church.

At the start of 2022 we introduced a soft plastic collection bin located in the South Porch. The collections were taken to the Co-Op in the village and recycled by them as part of their wider recycling efforts. With the recent change of the Co-Op to a NISA this arrangement has ceased so there is now a rota of individuals checking the bin and taking the contents to other recycling points, usually larger supermarkets in Hemel Hempstead or Warners End. Thanks to other members of the congregation during the year we have also added Blister pack and Battery recycling collections. All are being well used and show the practical steps the Church is taking to become more sustainable and also encourage the wider village to do the same.



A highlight of the year was the opening of 'Buggingham Palace', a new bug hotel in the Churchyard. This was commissioned in a lovely service in July and will hopefully become home to many bugs and mini beasts in the coming months and years

In 2023 we hope to take the next steps to make St Lawrence more sustainable and work towards the EcoChurch Silver status.

The EcoChurch team would welcome more volunteers to support the work - both joining the soft plastics rota or working to introduce further changes to how St Lawrence Church can reduce its environmental impact in 2023 and beyond.

Rob Sheppard
Mar 2023

2022 Events Report

23rd March - National Day of Reflection

We marked the second anniversary of the first Covid-19 lockdown by providing yellow ribbons for people to take away and tie somewhere to remember loved ones who had died and other effects of the pandemic. The ribbons were available outside church and were distributed outside school in the morning. We also joined forces with the village crochet group who created a post-box topper featuring daffodils and a QR code to donate to Marie-Curie.

16th April - Bovingdon Easter Egg Hunt

200 hand painted eggs were hidden around the village for children to find. Many thanks to Nicki O'Hara for painting the eggs so beautifully.

4th June – Summer Fete on the Lawn

The Summer Fete was held outside again and was well attended with lots of people enjoying the many stalls offering a wide variety of artisan goods and entertainment.

31st October 2022 – Light Party

Once again, over 200 children came to church to enjoy music, games, a light display and refreshments. They all took home a goodie bag containing various treats and a booklet about Jesus, the light of the world. We also ran an online pumpkin carving competition and had many creative and imaginative entries.

3rd December - Christmas Market

The Christmas Market was held outside, 'street market' style on a very cold but dry day. Many people came and enjoyed the festive atmosphere, the mulled wine and hot chocolate on offer from our refreshments stall and the gifts and artisan goods for sale from the twenty other stalls.

Revd Hilary Kemp
April 2023

Accounts

St Lawrence Church Bovingdon

Annual Meetings

**to be held on Thursday 19th May 2022
at 7.30pm in St Lawrence Hall**

Agendas and background papers



You are warmly invited to attend and take a full part in this important event in our Church life.

If you would like to stand for election as a Church warden or member of the PCC, please pick up a nomination form from the back of church. If you would like to know more about what any of these roles entails, speak to Charles, Dena or a member of the PCC.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Thursday 19th May 2022

7:30pm St Lawrence Hall

1. Prayer
2. Apologies for absence

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

Agenda

1. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 20th May 2021
2. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of Thursday 20th May 2021
3. Election of Churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Agenda

1. Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 20th May 2021
2. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of Thursday 20th May 2021
3. Annual reports:
 - Electoral Roll (verbal report to the meeting)
 - Accounts for the year ended December 31st 2021
 - Mission and Outreach – Charitable Giving
 - Fabric, Goods and Ornaments and Church Hall
 - Safeguarding
 - Children, Families & Youth Work
 - Little Fish
 - Parochial Church Council Report
 - Rickmansworth Deanery Synod
 - Churchyard
 - Activities & Events report
4. Appointment of Independent Accounts Examiner
5. Election of Electoral Roll Officer
6. Election of Parochial Church Council
7. Closing remarks
 - Churchwarden's remarks
 - Chairman's remarks

St Lawrence Church, Bovingdon

Minutes of the

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

Thursday 20th May 2021, 7:30pm

(via Zoom virtual meeting platform due to Covid-19 government meeting restrictions)

Revd Charles Burch (CEB) opened the meeting, mentioning that today we celebrate the life of Alcuin of York (735 – 804). An English scholar, poet, and teacher, he was a student of Archbishop Egbert of York and went on to be a leading scholar at the Carolingian Court in France. He became Abbott of Tours in 796, where he remained until his death.

This was followed by prayer for the meeting.

31 parishioners were present.

Apologies: Ian Wilford, Judith Wilford, Pauline Wright, Alison Woodhams, Matt Williams, Phillipa Burch.

1. Minutes of the AMP meeting Thursday 8th October 2020.

There being no amendments, these were approved unanimously by the meeting.

2. Matters arising from the minutes of the AMP meeting held Thursday 8th October 2020.

No matters arising.

3. Election of Churchwardens.

One nomination for Churchwarden has been received, that of Dena Tyler. Duly re-elected.

CEB thanked Dena for her continued service and support of the Church. He reminded the meeting that a vacancy remains for another Churchwarden and encouraged anyone who felt drawn to serve in this role to speak to Dena or himself.

The meeting Annual Meeting of Parishioners closed at 7:44pm.

St Lawrence Church, Bovingdon

Minutes of the

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Thursday 20th May 2021, 7:30pm

(via Zoom virtual meeting platform due to Covid-19 government meeting restrictions)

1. Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 8th October 2020.

These were presented by Revd Burch (CEB) and unanimously accepted as a true record of the meeting.

2. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held Thursday 8th October 2020.

No matters arising

3. Annual Reports.

I) Electoral Roll.

Carol West reported that there have been 0 additions and 2 deletions from the electoral roll, which now stands at 102.

CEB thanked Carol for her work in this role and also for help in completing the CCLI return for music used at Church.

II) Accounts for year ending 31st December 2020.

Gary Cartlidge (**GC**) presented the treasurers report. (It should be noted that the page numbers referenced are from the financial documents, not the APCM report pack)

The Financial Statements of the St Lawrence Church, Bovingdon PCC for the year ended 31st December 2020 are shown in the eleven pages beginning on page 12 of the APCM pack.

The accounts have been independently examined by Mr. David Barr FCBI, who has signed the required documentation as shown on Page 2.

The year 2020 has posed challenges unique in the experience of most of us. We entered the year in a position of strength following the Generous Giving Campaign towards the end of 2019, which had received fantastic support from the congregation. However, as we went into the first lockdown of the year it was apparent that sources of income dependent on having buildings open to the public (including Sunday service collections, baptisms, weddings, funerals and events such as the Summer and Christmas Fayres and special collection services) were not likely to happen. At that stage we anticipated a monthly shortfall (expenditure greater than income) of £1,000 per month. Again, we appealed to the congregation and again we had a fantastic response.

Page 3 - In summary in 2020, our income exceeded our expenditure by £15,027.97.

Income was just over £113k, an increase of about 2.5% over 2019. It should be noted that the income includes £4,000 given in memory of Jill Leon.

Expenditure was just over £98k, a decrease of nearly 18% on 2019, mainly accounted for by significantly reduced building costs; both repairs and maintenance and service costs (as our buildings were not used) but also reduced IT costs.

Page 4 shows further detail of sources of income and expenditure within the General Fund. The changes in income reflect the 2020 conditions (reduced collections, fees and lettings; and increases in Bank Giving, Website Receipts, Parish Giving Scheme). The Expenditure decreases related to buildings can also be seen - most notably heating and lighting cost reduction.

Pages 5 & 6 – at 31st December 2020 the total of church funds not invested through the diocese was £197,842.44 – held in accounts as shown on Page 5 and distributed to specified funds as shown on Page 6.

Pages 7 to 10 show the movements in each of the specified funds.

Transfers were made between funds as follows:

1. The transfer of £50.00 from the Kathleen Goff Fund to the Churchyard Fund – this is an annual transfer agreed as a contribution from that fund for the upkeep of graves.
2. The transfer of £9,609.71 from the General Fund to the Muriel Swan Fund as a reversal of the transfer in 2019 (to cover the deficit that year).
3. The transfer of £4,494.00 from the General Fund to the New Hall fund to meet Weal Architects' fees for work on that project in 2020.
4. The transfer of £240.80 from the General Fund to the Clock Fund to meet the balance of the clock repair costs and leaving the balance of this fund at £0.00 at year end.

Page 8 shows the Other Creditors fund which generally accounts for money that has been received on another's behalf and so is owed. The balance of £1,214.00 at year end is made up of a £1,000.00 donation that was mistakenly made to the church and £214.00 that was unexpectedly received as fees. In 2021 it has been confirmed that the £1,000.00 can be retained by the church as a donation.

Page 11 details funds held by the Diocesan Board. The vergers plot is shown as £63,875.49, with a total of £108,553.84 held by the Board.

A total of £7,300.20 (6.45% of total receipts) was paid to external Mission and Charity organisations in 2020 as shown below. It should be noted that this shows £3,000.00 donated to Mercy Ships.

Mission and Charity giving

	Outreach Fund	General Fund	Pass Thru Fund	Total
1332 Church Societies				
Chesworth - George	540.00	0.00	0.00	540.00
SAMS - Gwen Carlisle	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	540.00	0.00	0.00	540.00

1333 Charities

Christian Aid		20.00	20.00
Dacorum Community Trust	40.00	0.00	40.00
Tear Fund	40.00	0.00	40.00
DEC Cornoavirus Appeal	168.95	793.55	962.50
Bibles for Children	368.90		368.90
Simon Woodmore		650.00	650.00
Mercy Ships	3,000.00		3,000.00
Bishops Harvest Appeal	52.95	382.05	435.00
T4U Shoe Boxes	20.00	80.00	100.00
Royal British Legion	100.00		100.00
Crisis	63.31	605.58	668.89
	368.90	3,485.21	2,531.18
			6,385.29

1321 Miscellaneous Expenses

Live Nativity Contribution (2019)	285.26		285.26
Christingle Contribution	89.65		89.65
	374.91	0.00	0.00
			374.91

Total	1,283.81	3,485.21	2,531.18	7,300.20
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Page 8 shows £1,283.81 from the Outreach fund and £2,531.18 from Other Creditors (Pass Thru)

Page 4 shows £3,485.21 from the General Fund

GC took this opportunity to thank everyone again for financially making the work of our church possible.

In particular:

- Charles and Helen for being the point of contact with all our suppliers, that is organising and doing the work, for which GC's role is often only arranging for the bill to be paid.
- Richard Owens for handling cash (remember that!) and other payments made in church and banking them.
- Mike Leon for recording Gift Aid and presenting the data to enable our claim from HMRC.
- Matt Williams for arranging our IT collection of donations.
- To David Barr for verifying the accounts.
- The PCC for putting up with GC's presentations throughout the year.

Sean Bolton (**SB**) asked how much we had received from special services, such as weddings and funerals this year. **GC** said that, up to the end of April 2021, we had received £1,404, plus a further £938 that was collected on behalf of the Diocese.

SB further asked if we should be planning for any unexpected expenses this year. **GC** said that known and anticipated expenditure is planned for, and that much of the upkeep of the Church building is provided by the Friends of St Lawrence. We retain a contingency fund of £10,000 to cover any unexpected expense.

CEB thanked **GC** for his time and effort as treasurer in compiling the annual report, and the monthly reports to PCC throughout the year.

Sean Bolton proposed, and Carolyn Taylor seconded that the report be formally accepted; this was unanimously agreed.

III) Mission & Outreach report (non-statutory)

The report was included within the financial report presented by **GC** (see above).

CEB mentioned that we have partnered with Mercy Ships for a minimum two-year period, replacing our support for Gwen Carlisle (South American Missionary Society).

Gill Fisher (**GF**) gave a brief update regarding our sponsored child, George. George is a young deaf man living in Kenya, whom we have supported for over 12 years, at the suggestion of two former missionaries, John & Phyl Chesworth. He lives in a village at quite a high altitude (over 2,500m), and they have had a very challenging time with unpredictable flooding and Covid19. George has now finished his education and, earlier this year, the charity asked if we would be willing to support him with a final gift of £200 to help him set up a chicken farm. This gift has been sent.

IV) Fabric, Goods & Ornaments report

CEB presented the report that had been compiled by Pauline Wright (**PW**)

There has been a large element of frustration that work has not been able to progress as quickly as hoped, due to various reasons, not least of which the impact of Covid 19. He mentioned that he has spoken with our Church architect, Francesca Weal, and she has stated that she will start to action some of the outstanding work in the coming weeks.

Chris West proposed, and Gill Fisher seconded that the report be formally accepted; this was unanimously agreed.

V) Safeguarding Report

CEB presented the report that had been prepared by Paul Campbell (**PC**).

SB has now taken over the role of Safeguarding Officer, supported by **PC**. **SB** mentioned that we seem to be managing all aspects well currently.

Hazel Jameson proposed, and Jane West seconded that the report be formally accepted; this was unanimously agreed.

CEB expressed his thanks to Paul for his continuing work in this valuable role, and for the help given by Carol West and Matt Williams. Also, to Sean Bolton for taking on the Safeguarding lead.

VI) Parochial Church Council Report

CW presented the report.

Gary Cartlidge proposed, and Sean Bolton seconded that the report be accepted; this was unanimously agreed.

CEB thanked Chris for his help as PCC secretary.

VII) Rickmansworth Deanery Synod Report

GF presented the report that had been prepared by Alison Woodhams (**AW**).

CEB mentioned that he had completed a 3-month period as acting Rural Dean, whilst Simon Cutmore was on study leave. He gave a brief outline of how the local Deanery fits into the Church of England tier of Synods, leading to the General Synod.

Flick Crockett proposed, and Sean Bolton seconded that the report be accepted; this was unanimously agreed.

VIII) Children & Families work. (non-statutory)

Flick Crockett (**FC**) presented the Little Fish Team report.

CEB thanked Flick and all those involved in supporting this vital work.

Alison Cartlidge (**AC**) presented the Children & Families report. She thanked all those who have helped to support the work by preparing materials and videos for the online sessions.

CEB thanked Alison and Gary for the tremendous work delivered during such a difficult time. Many other churches have struggled to deliver children's work during Covid; we have done incredibly well!

IX) Events & Activities report. (non-statutory)

Nicki O'Hara (**NO**) presented the report.

SB asked if there are plans for the work previously done by Revd Simon Woodmore to be continued (prayer meetings). **NO** said that it would be, but there are no specific events currently planned.

CEB reminded the meeting of the forthcoming Summer fete (12th June), and that any help or donations would be gratefully received. He thanked Nicki and all those who helped to deliver some extremely successful events during a very challenging period.

4. Appointment of Independent Accounts Examiner.

GC mentioned that David Barr is happy to continue in the role of Independent Examiner.

Gary Cartlidge proposed, and Barbara Clarke seconded the appointment; this was unanimously agreed.

CEB asked GC to convey our thanks to David for his continuing help and support.

5. Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer.

Carol West said that she was willing to continue.

Flick Crockett proposed and Jane West seconded the appointment; this was unanimously agreed.

6. Election of Parochial Church Council.

CW informed the meeting that one member of the PCC is due for re-election, Chris O'Hara. He has agreed to stand again and been formally nominated.

Proposed: Chris West

Seconded: Carol West Duly re-elected to serve for a further 3 years

This still leaves 1 vacancy for Church Warden and 1 vacancy for PCC elected members.

CW noted that, for various reasons, we have fallen out of the pattern of electing 1/3 of the PCC each year. This will be addressed at a meeting of the PCC.

8. Any other Business

In reference to an enquiry from **SB**, **CEB** informed the meeting that Lewis Ewington had very kindly offered to take on the very important role of Health & Safety Officer.

Carolyn Taylor mentioned that the first aid box at Church will need checking to ensure that items have not gone out of date. **DT** said that she and Penny Havercroft have checked these recently, and some items are being replaced accordingly.

9. Closing Remarks

Church Warden's remarks: **DT** stated that this had been a very challenging year in so many ways. She expressed her huge gratitude to Revd Burch for leading the Church so successfully through this very difficult time. She mentioned that last Sunday had seen over 80 people attend the two services, either in person or via video link. This is testimony to how well we have continued to do during the pandemic.

Chairman's Remarks: **CEB** stated that this had been a remarkable year, yet in the face of such adversity, we have found a way to keep going and embrace new approaches to our worship and work. Church life has changed, some for of it for the better. As restrictions ease, we will be looking at how we can further develop our services.

We've all learned new skills and ways of working. We are using modern technology to communicate more – as evidenced by the extremely successful 'Cuppa and Chat' video meeting.

The Pastoral Care Team has been very successful at keeping in touch with a wide range of people – thank you to all involved in this invaluable service!

Thanks to Gill Barrett for her continuing support, for leading worship, and of course the music.

We still don't know how this next year will develop with regards to Covid 19, but CB said " have great confidence that under God's guidance we will continue to be a praying, worshipping, serving congregation. Thanks to everyone for their help, support and commitment – it's a privilege to serve as your vicar."

Thanks also to Helen Campbell (Church Administrator) for all her help and support, it is very much appreciated!

Close The formal meeting closed at 8:56pm

.....
Chairman

The meeting was followed by a presentation from Rob Sheppard regarding the ECO Church project.

ECO Church Presentation (Rob Sheppard)

This is an award scheme showing what Churches do to reduce their impact on the environment. Safeguarding the integrity of creation is one of the 5 Marks of Mission.

Our Eco group members:

- Wiebke Carr
- Gill Fisher
- Pauline Brown
- Mary Beard
- Revd Charles Burch
- Rob Sheppard

We have signed up to the free version of the programme with A Rocha, who oversee the scheme.

We have completed our first ECO survey, looking at 5 specific areas of Church life.

- Worship & Teaching
- Buildings
- Land
- Community & Global Engagement
- Lifestyle

The results have been varied, we scored very well in item 1, pretty well in item 2, but not so well in the other areas.

We have also calculated our carbon footprint, showing an estimated use of just over 23 tonnes on Co2 per annum. We have now switched to more Eco-friendly energy suppliers; hopefully this will have a positive effect.

Going Forward.

- Present ECO Church at a special service on 4th July, Climate Sunday.
- Specifically address the areas we scored lowest on, Community & Global Engagement, and Lifestyle.
- Take steps to reduce our carbon footprint.
- Consider the environmental impact of all we do.

NO and **SB** offered to join the ECO working group – both offers gratefully received!

CEB added that this is not just a challenge for the Church, but for each one of us individually, to be better stewards of God's creation. He expressed his thanks to Rob and all the ECO group for their work.

The meeting closed with prayer at 9:11pm.

St. Lawrence Church, Bovington

Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council

for the year ended 31st December 2021



Incumbent :

Rev. Charles Burch
10 Church Street
Bovington
Herts
HP3 0LU

Treasurer:

Mr. Gary Cartlidge
4 The Hollies, Long Lane
Bovington
Herts
HP3 0ND

Independent Examiner:

Mr. David Barr FCBI
Finchley House
Bovington Green
Bovington
Herts
HP3 0LB

Independent Examiner's report to the Parochial Church Council of St. Lawrence,
Bovingdon

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2021, which are set out on pages 3 to 10 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations ('the Regulations') and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act')

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.144(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charities Commission under s.145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of those accounts with those records, it also includes considering 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. Which gives reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - a. To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act and;
 - b. To prepare accounts which accord with accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed 

David Barr, Chartered Banker FCBI - Independent Examiner

Date 5th March 2022

Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31st December

Summary – Combined Funds

	2021 £.pp	2020 £.pp
Receipts		
Incoming Resources from Donors	93,752.67	105,919.22
Income from Investments	4,053.90	4,606.26
Activities for Generating Funds	7,056.35	1,377.25
Other Incoming Resources	3,854.16	1,228.16
TOTAL RECEIPTS	108,717.08	113,130.89
Expenditure		
Grants	7,073.51	6,925.29
Activities Directly Relating to the Work of the Church	91,436.96	75,314.30
Church Management & Administration	14,202.64	12,866.76
Other Parish Expenses	4,410.05	2,996.57
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	117,123.16	98,102.92
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	(8,406.08)	15,027.97
Funded by Increase / (Decrease) in		
General Fund	(723.72)	(20.46)
Church Repairs & Maintenance Fund	0.00	432.00
Outreach & Mission Fund	(557.05)	(1,283.84)
Owed to Diocese and Other Creditors	(1,214.00)	1,214.00
Children's & Youth Workers Fund	2,486.46	2,386.00
Muriel Swan Legacy	(7,522.75)	11,221.54
Churchyard Fund	(875.02)	2,258.70
Building Projects Fund	50.00	200.00
Kathleen Goff Legacy	(50.00)	(50.00)
Clock Repair Fund	0.00	(1,330.00)
TOTAL MOVEMENT	(8,406.08)	15,027.97

Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31st December
General Fund Receipts and Payments Account

	2021		2020	
	£.pp	£.pp	£.pp	£.pp
Receipts				
Incoming Resources from Donors				
Bank Giving & Envelopes	17,348.96		25,453.46	
Collections	770.35		925.86	
Gift Aid / CAF Donations	1,062.90		4,770.99	
Card Reader & Website Receipts	2,904.92		3,548.97	
Parish Giving Scheme	28,932.20		29,119.06	
Sundry Donations	7,556.25		6,979.84	
Restricted Donations	0.00		0.00	
Income Tax Recovered	13,376.95		16,427.91	
		71,952.53		87,226.09
Income from Investments				
Verger Plot Income	1,856.58		1,792.87	
		1,856.58		1,792.87
Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading				
Fees	9,751.00		4,990.00	
Cost Recharges associated with Fees	2,575.00		1,143.00	
St Lawrence Hall Lettings	838.50		1,001.25	
Events Income	6,217.85		376.00	
Miscellaneous Income	885.16		85.16	
		20,267.51		7,595.41
TOTAL RECEIPTS		94,076.62		96,617.37
Expenditure				
Grants				
Outreach, Missionary and Charitable Giving	5,277.12		3,485.21	
		5,277.12		3,485.21
Activities Directly Relating to the Work of the Church				
Diocesan Common Fund	47,702.00		49,473.00	
Ministry – Expenses	225.45		86.40	
Church – Heat, Light, Water & Cleaning	7,020.14		2,531.46	
Church – Insurance	4,227.64		3,996.16	
Church – General Repairs & Maintenance	3,798.88		1,251.00	
Services – Books, Preachers, Sunday School	3,181.47		2,172.11	
Cost Recharges associated with Fees	2,575.00		1,143.00	
		68,730.58		60,653.13
Church Management & Administration				
Administrators Costs	11,379.30		11,090.30	
Postage, Telephone, Printing & Stationery	2,823.34		1,776.46	
		14,202.64		12,866.76
Other Parish Expenses				
Sundry Expenses	3,393.95		2,288.65	
St Lawrence Hall Costs	4,410.05		2,996.57	
		7,804.00		5,285.22
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		96,014.34		82,290.32
Surplus / (Deficit)		(1,937.72)		14,324.05
Funded by General Fund		(723.72)		(20.46)
Transfer to/(from) Other Funds		(1,214.00)		14,344.51

Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31st December
Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	2021		2020	
	£.pp	£.pp	£.pp	£.pp
Fixed Assets				
Computers				
Opening Value	0.00		0.00	
Additions	2,084.81		0.00	
Depreciation (33.3% of Original Cost pa)	(617.36)		0.00	
	<u>1,467.45</u>		<u>0.00</u>	
Current Assets				
CAF Cash Current Account	5,993.70		5,051.55	
CAF Cash Gold Deposit Account	10,733.40		22,505.24	
Virgin Deposit Account	86,217.12		86,102.79	
Cambridge & Counties Building Society	85,024.69		84,182.86	
	<u>187,968.91</u>		<u>197,842.44</u>	
Total Assets		189,436.36		197,842.44

Represented By

General Fund		
At 1 st January	2,327.85	2,348.31
Surplus / (Deficit) in Year	(1,937.72)	14,324.05
Transfer to Muriel Swan Legacy Fund	0.00	(9609.71)
Transfer to Clock Fund	0.00	(240.80)
Transfer to New Hall Fund	0.00	(4,494.00)
Transfer from Other Creditors	1,214.00	0.00
At 31 st December	<u>1,604.13</u>	<u>2,327.85</u>
Specific Funds	187,832.23	195,514.59
	<u>189,436.36</u>	<u>197,842.44</u>

St Lawrence Church, Bovingdon
Statement of Funds as at 31st December

		2021	2020
		£.pp	£.pp
General Fund	Designated	1,604.13	2,327.85
Church Repairs & Maintenance	Designated	10,000.00	10,000.00
Outreach	Designated	1,246.32	1,803.37
Other Creditors	Restricted	0.00	1,214.00
Children's & Youth Worker	Restricted	27,435.48	24,949.02
Muriel Swan Legacy	Restricted	141,488.76	149,011.51
Churchyard	Restricted	2,861.67	3,736.69
Building Project Fund	Designated	250.00	200.00
Kathleen Goff Legacy Fund	Restricted	4,550.00	4,600.00
		<u>189,436.36</u>	<u>197,842.44</u>
	Designated	13,100.45	14,331.22
	Restricted	<u>176,335.91</u>	<u>183,511.22</u>
	TOTAL	<u>189,436.36</u>	<u>197,842.44</u>

St Lawrence Church, Bovingdon
Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31st December

Church Repairs & Maintenance – Designated	2021 £.pp	2020 £.pp
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 1st January	10,000.00	9,568.00
Receipts		
From Friends of St. Lawrence Trust	4,330.80	2,922.00
Payments		
Maintenance	4,330.80	2,490.00
Excess of Receipts over Payments	0.00	432.00
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 31st December	10,000.00	10,000.00

Muriel Swan Legacy – Restricted Fund	2021 £.pp	2020 £.pp
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 1st January	149,011.51	137,789.97
Receipts		
Interest	959.25	1,611.83
Transfer from General Fund		9,609.71
	959.25	11,221.54
Payments		
Transfer to General Fund		
Transfer to Building Projects Fund	8,482.00	
Transfer to Church Repairs and Maintenance Fund		
	8,482.00	
Excess of Receipts over Payments	(7,522.75)	11,221.54
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 31st December	141,488.76	149,011.51

St Lawrence Church, Bovington
Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31st December

Other Creditors Incl. Diocese – Restricted Fund	2021 £.pp	2020 £.pp
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 1st January	1,214.00	0.00
Receipts		
Fees – Diocese	4,026.00	2,456.00
Gift Aid / CAF / Donation / Collections	1,306.34	3,745.18
	5,332.34	6,201.18
Payments		
Sundry Payments	4,026.00	2,456.00
Transfer to General Fund	1,214.00	0.00
Charities	1,306.34	2,531.18
	6,546.34	4,987.18
Excess of Receipts over Payments	(1,214.00)	1,214.00
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 31st December	0.00	1,214.00

Outreach – Designated Fund	2021 £.pp	2020 £.pp
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 1st January	1,803.37	3,087.18
Receipts		
Transfer from General Fund	0.00	0.00
Payments		
Missionary & Charity Societies	490.05	1,283.81
Parish Christmas Cards	67.00	
	557.05	1,283.81
Excess of Receipts over Payments	(557.05)	(1,283.81)
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 31st December	1,246.32	1,803.37

St Lawrence Church, Bovingdon
Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31st December

Churchyard – Restricted Fund	2021 £.pp	2020 £.pp
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 1st January	3,736.69	1,477.99
Receipts		
Friends of St. Lawrence and Parish Council		1,620.00
Endowment Interest	1,238.07	1,201.56
Restricted Donations		269.95
Transfer from General Fund		
Transfer from Kathleen Goff Legacy Fund	50.00	50.00
	1,288.07	3,141.51
Payments		
Maintenance		882.81
	2,163.09	
Excess of Receipts over Payments	(875.02)	2,258.70
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 31st December	2,861.67	3,736.69

Children's & Youth Worker	2021 £.pp	2020 £.pp
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 1st January	24,949.02	22,563.02
Receipts		
Donations and Collections	2,730.00	2,490.00
Payments		
Sundry Payments	243.54	104.00
Excess of Receipts over Payments	2,486.46	2,386.00
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 31st December	27,435.48	24,949.02

St Lawrence Church, Bovington
Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31st December

Building Projects Fund	2021 £.pp	2020 £.pp
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 1st January	200.00	0.00
Receipts		
Donations	50.00	200.00
Transfer from General Fund	8,482.00	4,494.00
Transfer from Muriel Swan Fund		
Payments		
Sundry Payments	8,482.00	4,494.00
Excess of Receipts over Payments	50.00	200.00
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 31st December	250.00	200.00

Kathleen Goff Legacy Fund	2021 £.pp	2020 £.pp
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 1st January	4,600.00	4,650.00
Receipts		
Transfer from Other Creditors	0	0.00
Payments		
Transfer to Churchyard Fund	50.00	50.00
Excess of Receipts over Payments	(50.00)	(50.00)
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 31st December	4,550.00	4,600.00

Clock Repair Fund	2021 £.pp	2020 £.pp
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 1st January	0.00	1,330.00
Receipts		
Donations		
Transfer from General Fund		240.80
Payments		
Clock Repair		1,570.80
Excess of Receipts over Payments		(1,330.00)
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 31st December	0.00	0.00

St Lawrence Church, Bovingdon
Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

Funds held by St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance for Graveyard and Graves

	Shares	Value £.pp		
Investment Fund				
Cowley	306	7,156.33	Grave	Restricted
Dance	73	1,707.23	Churchyard	Restricted
Elwes	236	5,519.26	Church & Churchyard	Restricted
Loydall	154	3,601.55	Church & Churchyard	Restricted
Hill	54	1,262.88	Church & Churchyard	Restricted
Reeks	106	2,478.99	Church & Churchyard	Restricted
Menheneott	146	3,414.46	Church & Churchyard	Restricted
Stewart Evans	339	7,928.09	Church & Churchyard	Restricted
Travers	187	4,373.31	Grave	Restricted
Groves	107	2,502.38	Church & Churchyard	Restricted
Reeve	250	5,846.68	Church & Churchyard	Restricted
Nash	55	1,286.27	Churchyard	Restricted
Riches	68	1,590.30	Churchyard	Restricted
Total Investment Fund		48,667.73		

Deposit Fund

Druce	306.00	Churchyard	Restricted
Stewart Evans	823.19	Church & Churchyard	Restricted
Reeve	1,000.00	Churchyard	Restricted
Total Deposit Fund	2,129.19		

Other Funds held by St Albans Diocesan Board

Investment Fund	3124	@2,338.67p	73,060.05	Vergers Plot	Designated
GRAND TOTAL at 31st December 2021			123,856.97		
Value at 31st December 2020			108,553.84		

Mission and Charity giving

	Outreach Fund	General Fund	Pass Thru Fund	Total
1332 Church Societies				
Chesworth - George	180.00	0.00	0.00	180.00
SAMS - Gwen Carlisle	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<u>180.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>180.00</u>
1333 Charities				
Christian Aid		53.00	459.50	512.50
Herts Welcomes Refugees		67.00	375.00	442.00
DEC Cornoavirus India		500.00		500.00
Bibles for Children	310.05			310.05
Mercy Ships		3,000.00		3,000.00
Bishops Harvest Appeal		53.46	213.84	267.30
DENS			30.00	30.00
T4U Shoe Boxes		100.00		100.00
Royal British Legion		230.00		230.00
Help for Heroes		230.00		230.00
Bovingdon Scouts		743.97		743.97
Childrens Society			228.00	228.00
Crisis		299.69		299.69
	<u>310.05</u>	<u>5,277.12</u>	<u>1,306.34</u>	<u>6,893.51</u>
Total	490.05	5,277.12	1,306.34	7,073.51

Fabric Report 2021

South East Corner

The two new soakaways were installed in September at a cost of £3,144.00 by Chay Hedger a local Builder and the Friends of St Lawrence Trust have paid the invoice. The Roof has now had a further two inspections by our Architect Francesca Weal and work is about to commence by the builder Chay Hedger.

South Porch

The south porch was finally decorated in February with Classidur paint and a small repair to the left hand (Facing) spalling to the gate hinge and right hand (facing) reveal. The cost of the decoration was £820.00 and the repair £648.00 The Friends have paid the invoice. The 6 oak framed notice boards have been made and installed by Daniel Lambert @ £400 each. The cost of these has been covered by sponsorship/ legacies.

Interior Church Decoration

We are awaiting final revised quotes for the redecoration of the church including stripping the stone arches. The cost will be a little over £50,000 and the Friends have agreed in principle to fund this.

Kitchen floor

This has still not been inspected by the engineer yet.

I would like to thank Jane Caley for her help and support.

Pauline Wright

April 2022

Safeguarding Report for APCM 2022

Since 2011 the PCC has approved a safeguarding policy and policy statement based upon those published by the CCPAS. It has an extremely detailed set of guidelines. In 2019 the policy and policy statement were updated in line with the guidance published and updated by the House of Bishops. The PCC has retained the guidelines provided by CCPAS (Now called Thirty:one eight) because they are so comprehensive covering many events that the church is involved in or could adopt.

Roles within the Safeguarding Team have changed, as follows, during 2020:

Safeguarding Officer - Sean Bolton

Lead Recruiter (DBS Checks) - Paul Campbell

Assistants for both roles above - Carol West and Matt Williams

Separating the roles of safeguarding officer and leader recruiter is seen as a step forward for safeguarding at St Lawrence. The safeguarding officer can focus on policy and procedure including compliance. Church leaders remain responsible for safe recruitment. The 'lead recruiter' completes DBS checks as the final stage of the recruitment process.

The church continues to undertake DBS checks in line with policy for all activities within the church for children's and youth work and activities involving regulated activity involving vulnerable adults. Over 25 people now have current DBS checks. A database is used to ensure checks are kept up to date and should an individual role change new checks in the form of a fresh DBS application and/or an update check is completed.

Training remains a focus for the church to ensure all involved in events involving children's and youth work, and vulnerable adults, including the PCC, are aware of the issues involved.

During the period of 2020 to 2021 I have carried out a review of risk assessments for church projects and activities and I can confirm that they include appropriate measures as far as safeguarding is concerned. I will work with the health and safety officer and other officers to ensure all records are updated throughout the year. Both with regard to training and with regard to DBS checks. In the coming year we will continue to review our records on DBS checks and training records to ensure they are up to date.

I can confirm that I have not been made aware of any major safeguarding concerns. And I am happy with the running of St Lawrence church and the running of the events and activities the church runs with regard to the area of Safeguarding and how we address concerns.

Through the actions described in this report the PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults)

Safeguarding Lead

Sean Bolton

14th March 2022

Report from The Children and Families Worker

Explorers at Church

Attendance at explorers is higher than before the pandemic. We continue to meet once a month during term time (usually 4th Sunday). We are continuing with the Old Testament stories started last academic year. We have several helpers including one from the Youth Group.

Explorers at School

School explorers started again this term. Numbers are lower than before the pandemic. We have 8 leaders taking sessions on Fridays after school.

Outdoor Church

There are plans to hold an outdoor church service this year. Last year we cancelled due to wet weather on the day.

Messy Church

Messy Church has continued each month and has made the transition from zoom back to St Lawrence Hall (usually 2nd Sunday each month). It has remained viable, although numbers have been lower than before the pandemic. Families continue to provide fabulous videos on the Bible stories covered. A big thank you to all those who have supported these services. We are always looking for volunteers to make videos, read, operate the puppets, write and deliver a short prayer and man activities. Please let us know if you would like to give any of these tasks a try. We have had Messy Church Sessions on;

June 21– Baby Moses

September 21– Moses and the Burning Bush

October 21 – Moses and the Plagues

January 22 – Family Film Night

February 22 – The Passover

March 22 – God Leads the Way

April 22 – Easter Crafts

May 22– Wall of Waves

Coming soon.....

June 22 – Nothing to Drink

Craft in Church

Craft activities have continued in church when appropriate.

Training - I am up to date with safeguarding training.

Little Fish Report May 2021 – April 22, 2022

It was wonderful this year to be able to get back to the 'new normal' and welcome families back into the church for the Family Praise services. We have also welcomed a number of new families which has been lovely. We have endeavored to keep in touch with those families that for various reasons have been unable to come back to church regularly so that they can still feel part of the Little Fish family.

Many of our summer planned events were unable to take place due to restrictions but we are looking forward to being able to reinstate these this year particularly our Family Praise social for parents.

We did hold our 'Back to school party' in September which proved popular again with a large number of families attending - thank you to all those that helped with the BBQ and games.

Thanks must go to Alison Cartlidge for all the work she does with young people. She reinstated Messy Church back in church once a month in September giving families an opportunity to develop their faith together in a creative way. This had been most successful online in lockdown. Stir Up Sunday service also gave people of all ages an opportunity to get together and stir up their puddings for Christmas. The light party was on 31st October showing the importance of God's light shining in the darkness. It was organized by Nicki and Chris O'Hara and brought many people from our community into the beautiful church. Thanks also go to Angela Hodgkinson who arranged a Prayer morning for families and children in September. We had a lot of positive feedback about this event.

The Christmas children's Nativity and Crib services were able to go ahead this year although the Nativity service was held outside. This was a really joyous occasion with a lot of our families being involved and also where a number of new families were welcomed.

We held our Fathers and Children's events to make posies for Mothering Sunday. Great fun was had by all; some very good flower arrangements were made, and everyone enjoyed the hot dogs!!

On Easter Sunday Alison organized a craft activity in church and Wiebke organized two fabulous Easter egg hunts around the church yard - one easy and one more advanced. The weather was perfect for this and there were a number of families at the service.

Very sadly Karen Wright has needed to step down from organizing the Little Fish Pathways. Karen has worked tirelessly on her own doing this mammoth job for over 10 years and is the font of all knowledge for the information on the data base. She shows such care and dedication to the Family Praise families, and we cannot begin to thank her for all that she has done. We are delighted that Amanda Lawes has offered to take on this role and very grateful that Karen is staying on the committee to help us through the transition period and will be carrying on with her role with Baptisms. We are also pleased to have Amanda Deacon joining the Little Fish Team too.

When we feel discouraged by the unpredictable attendance to Family Praise and Family Communion, we remember Hilary saying she has seen many churches over the past few years but none of them have the number of children or youth going through the doors, and there is certainly no service like Family Praise. Be encouraged! We have many families on our books, but parents lead busy lives and have to juggle so many things. We are delighted when we see our church families walk through the doors!

Philippa and Flick

Report on the work of the PCC: 2021-22

A total of eight PCC meetings were held over this period, plus a planning morning in October. Most of the meetings were held via Zoom video platform, but we were able to hold some later ones in the 'real' world.

This report outlines the decisions and appointments made at each meeting.

10.06.21 (Video)

The following appointments were made:

Vice Chair	Alison Woodhams
Treasurer	Gary Cartlidge
Secretary	Chris West
Churchyard Officer	Gary Cullum (not an elected member of PCC)
Safeguarding Officer	Sean Bolton
Health & Safety	Lewis Ewington (not an elected member of PCC)
Fabric Officer	Pauline Wright

Other elected PCC members:

Chris O'Hara; Matt Williams; Rob Sheppard; Ian Wilford; Flick Crockett; Pauline Brown

The following are ex-officio or co-opted members of PCC

Chair	Revd Charles Burch	
Curate	Revd Hilary Kemp (September 2021)	
Church Wardens	Dena Tyler	
Deanery Synod Reps	Gill Fisher	Kully Dhadda
	Alison Woodhams	
Readers	Gill Barrett	
Friends of St Lawrence rep	Pauline Wright	
Standing Committee	Charles Burch (Chair)	Alison Woodhams (vice-chair)
	Dena Tyler (Warden)	Flick Crockett
	Gary Cartlidge (Treasurer)	Chris West (Secretary)

- Unanimous approval given to proceed with the faculty application to permanently adopt the new altar vestments. This have been in use on a temporary licence since February 2019.

27.07.21 (Video)

- Proposal for new heaters to be installed in St Lawrence Hall at a cost of £295+VAT unanimously agreed
- Revd Burch requested that our live stream licences be renewed, at a cost of £600. This was unanimously approved.
- Revd Burch reported that Lewis Ewington had requested to step down from the role of Health & Safety Officer due to work commitments.
- Revd Burch reported that Revd Hilary Kemp would be licenced as associate minister on 19th September. He requested that PCC support her by meeting all her expenses, covering half of the cost of her annual retreat, and purchasing her a Church laptop (£500). This was unanimously agreed.
- Revd Burch outlined some new measures following removal of some Govt Covid 19 restrictions. One of these will be the introduction of Holy Communion in one form only at this stage.

09.09.2021

- Revd Burch informed the meeting that the Diocesan Advisory Committee has formally approved our proposed new building project plan.
- Alison Cartlidge was unanimously co-opted on to the PCC as Children & Families representative.
- Approval unanimously given to spend £1,650+VAT to redecorate the South Porch. This expense was met by the Friends of St Lawrence.

PCC Planning Day 02.10.21

- Following a review of our Mission Action Plan, the following actions points were identified.
 - Check-in with the 'missing from Church' group.
 - Establish monthly open church mornings
 - Develop a welcome pack for new residents to the village
 - Establish a DENS satellite food bank
 - Reconstitute the Children & Young People's planning group
 - Complete the new website
 - Conduct an audit of time and talents amongst Church members

- The Church to become a collection point for soft plastics

26.10.21 (Video)

- Revd Kemp outlined plans for developing our vision to become a more prayerful Church.
- Revd Burch reported that the formal planning application had been submitted to Dacorum Borough Council regarding our Church development plan.
- Gary Cartlidge reported that the annual accounts had been submitted to the Charities Commission.

09.12.21 (Video)

- Revd Burch reported that the new soakaway has been installed in the SE corner of the Church.
- Chris West reported that our updated MAP has been submitted to the Diocese.

25.01.22 (Video)

- The following actions from the planning day in October were marked off as completed.
 - Check-in with the missing from Church group
 - Reconstitute the C&YP planning Group

10.03.22

- Parish Share agreed for 2022 (£48,699)
- The following actions from the planning day in October were marked off as completed.
 - The Church to become a collection point for soft plastics
- Gill Fisher reported that the Church had been awarded the EcoChurch UK Bronze Award.
- Revd Burch **CEB** reported that Dacorum Council Planning Committee had just confirmed the acceptance of the extension proposal.
- Sean Bolton informed the meeting that 31 Church members had been requested to complete the mandatory Safeguarding refresher training.
- Revd Burch stated that we are now permitted to use the common cup for administration of Communion. This will be reintroduced after Easter.

Deanery Synod 2021 Report

St Lawrence Church is part of the Rickmansworth Deanery. The other member churches are St Paul's - Chipperfield, Holy Cross - Sarratt, Christ Church - Chorleywood, St Andrew's - Chorleywood, All Saint's - Croxley Green, St Oswald's - Croxley Green, St John's - Heronsgate, St Peter's - Mill End, St Mary's - Rickmansworth, St Thomas's - West Hyde.

The new rural Dean is Simon Cutmore, who is Vicar of Mill End with Heronsgate and West Hyde.

There were 3 meetings in 2021

In March the guest speaker was Revd. Canon Dr Tim Bull, Director of Vocations who spoke about Promoting Vocations.' Attendees were divided into groups to discuss 'Why promote vocations?' The overall conclusion was to ensure replacement Clergy, and other leaders in church life, so that the work of the Church and spreading God's love continues. Tim outlined the 12 ways in which parishes can be involved and the process towards ordination for successful candidates. This Diocese has c50 ordinands in training, with c18 new priests ordained each year.

At the July meeting Rachael Brockie from the Children's Society (CS) talking about children and mental health. Rachael provided some concerning statistics on children in SW Herts' mental health, including: 5 in each class of 30 have mental health issues, 19% of children in SW Herts live in poverty. Small groups discussed 'What can we do to support children?' Ideas ranged from Prayer ministry for children, listening, mentoring, and encouraging children into church in a fun way. The CS has published useful guides on their website on subjects including Friendship, Stressful situations and 7 sessions on Exploring Mental Health. Parishes were encouraged to include an approach to children's mental health in their MAP, and the CS can offer support on this.

At the final meeting of the year in November Revd. Daniel Drew talked about Reaching New People. Daniel advocated practical evangelism: doing the stuff and creating a culture of sharing faith based on a definition of evangelism 'God chooses to live among us'

Group discussion highlighted possible actions

- using public spaces and hold 'events' such as a death café
- have regular touch points such as Christmas and Easter and establish a culture of evangelism.
- Pray intentionally. We all need to meet other people outside church and allow opportunities to spread the word. Study the early church in Acts. This appeals to people and draws them in.
- Community is everyone, not just those in the church community, this way we draw in others. God is a missionary. The more you do it, the easier and more natural it becomes.

Deanery Synod Representatives - Alison Woodhams, Gill Fisher & Kully Dhadda

St Lawrence Churchyard
Annual report for 2021

The Churchyard team met regularly throughout the year from March, Covid 19 guidelines permitting.

A dozen or so volunteers, from church and community, were the mainstay of the overall group that comprises 20 plus people. We were saddened by the recent news of the death of Deryck Flashman, one of our regulars.

The churchyard was cleared of Christmas 2020 wreaths and ornaments by mid-February and all winter debris was cleared in spring 2022.

Paul Campbell did a sterling job mowing the lawns and several smaller mowers continued to be used between the graves.

The annual growth of brambles, ever-creeping and climbing ivy, and self-seeded unwanted holly, ash and elder was kept in check.

Yews on the south boundary were topped out and side-pruned but 6-7 were still keeping the Budge Row Cottages in darkness at year's end.

There were no flint wall repairs during 2021 and we ended the year requiring some repairs during the warmer months in 2022.

Several new members were welcomed to the churchyard team – and former churchyard officer Patrick Gulley made a guest appearance in the autumn to help prune the prolific growing laurels west of the memorial circle opposite the west tower door.

Sue Miller continued to manage the three wildflower areas on the north and eastern sides of the churchyard – where the grass wasn't cut until the wildflowers had resown their seeds. The annual wildflower results were monitored as was the wildlife and birdlife.

Gary Cullum
Churchyard Officer
April 2022

Events Review:

April 2021 - April 2022

Summer Fete on the Lawn

12th June 2021

The summer fete was given an overhaul and took place outside. There were record high attendance (over 1000 people) and takings - and it even made the front page of the villager!

Light Party

31st October 2021

We had over 200 children come to the church to enjoy games, music and the light display. Refreshments and a goodie bag were also provided. 50 children took part in the online pumpkin carving competition.

Christmas Market

20th November 2021

The Christmas Market was also overhauled and took place outside in a 'street market' style. There was record high attendance.

Christmas Tree Festival

4-6th December 2021

The first Christmas Tree Festival raised over £1000 for the church and the Scout Hut rebuild fund.

2022-2023 projection:

The Bovingdon Easter Egg Hunt 2022 will hide 200 hand painted Easter eggs around the village. This will take place again in 2023.

The Summer Fete on the Lawn will return for 2023

The SLCB Light Party will return for 2022

The Christmas Market & Christmas Tree Festival will be combined for 2022. This will take place 2-5th December.

Nicki O'Hara
(April 2022)

Accounts

St Lawrence Church Bovingdon

Annual Meetings

**to be held on Thursday 20th May 2021
at 7.30pm via zoom.**

Agendas and background papers

You are warmly invited to attend via zoom and take a full part in this important event in our Church life. If you would like to stand for election as a Church warden or member of the PCC, please pick up a nomination form from the back of church. If you would like to know more about what any of these roles entails, speak to Charles, one of the Wardens or a member of the PCC.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Thursday 20th May 2021

7:30pm via zoom video meeting

1. Prayer
2. Apologies for absence

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

Agenda

1. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8th October 2020
2. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of Thursday 8th October 2020
3. Election of Churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Agenda

1. Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 8th October 2020
2. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of Thursday 8th October 2020
3. Annual reports:
 - Electoral Roll (verbal report to the meeting)
 - Accounts for the year ended December 31st 2021
 - Mission and Outreach – Charitable Giving
 - Fabric, Goods and Ornaments and Church Hall
 - Safeguarding
 - Parochial Church Council Report
 - Rickmansworth Deanery Synod
 - Churchyard
 - Activities & Events report
4. Appointment of Independent Accounts Examiner
5. Election of Electoral Roll Officer
6. Election of Parochial Church Council
7. Closing remarks
 - Churchwarden's remarks
 - Chairman's remarks

St Lawrence Church, Bovingdon

Minutes of the

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

Thursday 8th October 2020, 7:30pm

(via Zoom virtual meeting platform due to Covid-19 government meeting restrictions)

Revd Charles Burch (CEB) opened the meeting with prayer

35 parishioners were present.

Apologies: Carolyn Taylor, Frances Freebrey

1. Minutes of the AMP meeting Thursday 25th April 2019.

These were approved unanimously by the meeting.

2. Matters arising from the minutes of the AMP meeting held Thursday 25th April 2019.

No matters arising.

3. Election of Churchwardens.

One nomination for Churchwarden has been received, that of Dena Tyler. Duly re-elected.

CEB thanked Penny Havercroft (retiring Warden) very much for all she's done to support the Church. He also thanked Dena for her continued service and support of the Church.

The meeting closed at 7:42pm

St Lawrence Church, Bovingdon

Minutes of the

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Thursday 8th October 2020, 7:30pm

(via Zoom virtual meeting platform due to Covid-19 government meeting restrictions)

1. Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 25th April 2019.

These were presented by Revd Burch (CEB) and unanimously accepted as a true record of the meeting.

2. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held Thursday 25th April 2019.

No matters arising

3. Annual Reports.

I) Electoral Roll.

Carol West reported that, there have been 8 additions and 5 deletions from the electoral roll, which now stands at 103.

II) Accounts for year ending 31st December 2019.

GC presented the treasurers report (pages 10-20 of the report pack) He highlighted (page 12) that during 2019 the church had receipts of £110,386.26 and expenditure of £119,385.53 creating a deficit of £8,972.27.

Page 13 shows:

- Gift Aid tax recovery income of £15,683.22, of which £9,997.33 was received in January 2020 from HMRC relating to Gift Aid contributions, outside the Parish Giving Scheme, made in 2019.
- Sundry Expenses of £5,212.51 which includes IT costs of £2077.32 which initiated a review of ongoing IT contracts by Matt Williams, resulting in substantial savings for 2020 and subsequent years. He also did all the work to enable our Contactless Card Reader to be introduced.
- St Lawrence Hall maintenance costs of £10,198.69 which includes costs relating to the new flooring and new back (kitchen) door. A single gift aided contribution of £3,000 was made to the flooring costs.

Page 16 shows:

- £6,414.40 received from The Friends of St. Lawrence meeting the costs of Electrical Work, Tower and Boiler Room works and Roof repairs identified in the Architect's Quinquennial Inspection report and other costs relating to the Clock and Churchyard

Lighting. It should be noted that to date in 2020, a further £2,052 has been received in respect of tree surgery and the church kitchen floor.

- £9,609.71 transferred from the Muriel Swan Legacy Fund to the Building Projects Fund

Page 17 shows:

- £891.00 paid to Missionary and Charity Societies from the Outreach fund down from £4,022.70 in 2018. Following the retirement of Gwen Carlisle and Mags Southern from SAMS, and in response to the deficit accruing for 2019, it was decided that the giving in support of SAMS (£3,000 in 2018) would not be made in 2019, and this “saving” is reflected in the accounts

Page 19 shows:

- £9,609.71 payments from the Building Projects Fund meeting the costs of Ground Survey (Geotec), Transport Planning Report (EAS), New Hall Cost Plan (Press & Starkey) and Architects Fees (Weal Architects). These fees were met by the Muriel Swan Fund.
- A new Clock repair fund was established. An appeal was made during the year for repairs to the clock. The resulting receipts, totalling £1,330 in 2019, are held in a new Clock Fund awaiting the repairs. It should be noted that the initial quote for this repair (over £9,000) was mitigated through the work of Chris West, the Diocesan Clock advisor and others to an actual spend of about £1,600 in 2020.

General Update

GC reported that in response to the deficit identified midway through the year “Generous Giving” was promoted to the church membership and the positive response to this has resulted in a 2020 budget being drafted reinstating an, as yet unallocated, Mission and Outreach spend of £3,000.

He thanked everyone who contributes to the work and financial wellbeing of the church.

GC took the opportunity to give particular thanks to Helen Campbell for being the point of contact of many ongoing suppliers to the church as well as customers of St. Lawrence Hall, Richard Owens for handling all cash, Mike Leon for recording receipts and preparing Gift Aid claims, Matt Williams for negotiating with IT suppliers, The Generous Giving Team, The Friends of St Lawrence for their financial support and to David Barr FCBI, for examining the accounts.

Sean Bolton (SB) asked if the Church had incurred any additional costs due to Covid19 restrictions and if so, are we able to reclaim these. CEB stated that the impact was more a case of lost revenue than additional costs, although we have purchased 2 foot operated sanitising stations. These have enabled the Church to open for private prayer and resumption of services.

SB also asked if all Church of England buildings are owned by the Archbishop of Canterbury. CEB replied that the buildings and land are the responsibility of a variety of organisation (e.g Church Commissioners). We don’t pay any rent for the buildings but are responsible for their up-keep.

SB asked if there was sufficient space in the graveyard for the needs of the parish. CEB replied that it's not currently a problem but will eventually need reviewing.

Ian Wilford proposed, and Mike Leon seconded that the financial report be accepted; this was unanimously agreed.

CEB thanked GC for his continuing hard work as treasurer – an unenviable job.

III) Mission & Outreach report (non-statutory)

The report had been prepared by GC.

CEB mentioned that we are collecting for the Bishop's Harvest Appeal throughout October. The sum currently stands at about £250; he encouraged those who had not yet supported this fund, to do so via the giving option on the Church website.

IV) Fabric, Goods & Ornaments report

Chris West (CW) presented the report.

CEB thanked all those involved in the maintenance of the Church and St Lawrence Hall, particularly Paul & Helen Campbell, Jane Cayley (JC) and the Friends of St Lawrence - their support is invaluable.

Steve Watkins (SW) enquired regarding the redecoration of the Church. He was aware that quotes had been sought for this work but had not received any update since then. CEB replied that we are currently awaiting an update from our Church architect (Francesca Weal) regarding the exact materials that we permitted to use. We will then need to apply for a faculty to conduct the work. He thanked SW and JC for their help in sourcing the quotes.

Matt Williams proposed, and Gary Cartlidge seconded that the report be accepted; this was unanimously agreed.

V) Safeguarding Report

The report had been prepared by Paul Campbell.

SB asked if the following were in place:

- a) Do we have an audit of Safeguarding?
- b) Is all training up to date, and when does it expire?
- c) Do we have a Safeguarding register of incidents of concern?
- d) How is the Church doing nationally on this issue?
- e) Is there a safeguarding action plan for the Diocese?

CEB responded as follows:

- a) This needs to be reviewed
- b) This is held by the Safeguarding Officer (Paul Campbell)
- c) This is held by the Safeguarding Officer

- d) The Church has a shameful record on this as reported in the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) report published this week.
- e) This is available on the Diocesan website

Steve Watkins proposed, and Penny Havercroft seconded that the report be accepted; this was unanimously agreed.

VI) Parochial Church Council Report

CW presented the report.

SB asked if risk assessments are in place for the various Children's activities. Alison Cartlidge (AC) responded that they are in place and have been updated to take into account delivery of sessions via video platform.

Penny Havercroft proposed, and Allan Brown seconded that the report be accepted; this was unanimously agreed.

VII) Rickmansworth Deanery Synod Report

Pauline Brown presented the report.

CEB mentioned that the new Rural Dean is Simon Cutmore of Mill End, Herons Gate, and West Hyde. He also thanked Pauline Brown (retiring) for her many years of service to the Deanery Synod.

Flick Crockett proposed, and Steve Watkins seconded that the report be accepted; this was unanimously agreed.

VIII) Churchyard Report. (non-statutory)

This was prepared by Gary Cullum and presented by CEB.

CEB thanked Gary, and his team of helpers, very much for all of the hard work done in maintaining the Churchyard to such a high standard. Jane West commented how well loved and cared for the churchyard looks – a sentiment echoed by the meeting.

IX) Events & Activities report. (non-statutory)

Ian Wilford (IW) presented the report.

CEB expressed his thanks to the team led by Ian, mentioning particularly Helen Campbell and Nicki O'Hara – the report highlights an extensive list of events.

SB enquired regarding the current planning, given the Covid19 situation, and if a planning meeting was proposed to discuss future events. CEB replied that there is very little likelihood of any events taking place before Easter 2021 at the earliest. IW said that the situation will be reviewed in the new year.

CEB mentioned that March 2021 will be the 175th anniversary of the rebuilding of the Church, it would be nice to mark this event in some way if possible.

X) Children, Families and Youth work.

CEB mentioned this as an additional item; all relevant papers had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Chris O'Hara (CO) reported that Covid19 had impacted heavily on youth meetings, and none had taken place due to the restrictions. The Light Part is still planned for 31st October, although in a very different format than previous years.

AC thanked Flick Crockett and Philippa Burch for their help with Messy Church, and all those families who have contributed videos to the 'virtual' meetings. CEB thanked AC and her team for the great work that they do.

4. Appointment of Independent Accounts Examiner.

GC mentioned that David Barr is happy to continue in the role of Independent Examiner.

Gary Cartlidge proposed and Matt Williams seconded the appointment; this was unanimously agreed.

CEB asked GC to convey our thanks to David for his continuing support.

5. Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer.

Carol West said that she was willing to continue.

Gary Cartlidge proposed and Tim Taylor seconded the appointment; this was unanimously agreed.

CEB thanked Carol for her continuing work in this role.

6. Election of Parochial Church Council.

CW informed the meeting that the following members of the PCC have completed their 6 year period, and would be stepping down for the time being:

- Wiebke Carr
- Grahame Wright

The following have indicated they wish to step down from the PCC from the APCM:

- Allan Brown
- Samantha Sayers
- Jane Cayley
- Penny Havercroft (Church Warden)

Nominations for election to the PCC have been received from the following:

- Alison Woodhams (Deanery Synod rep)
- Gill Fisher (Deanery Synod rep)
- Kully Dhadda (Deanery Synod rep)
- Rob Sheppard
- Pauline Brown
- Flick Crockett
- Gary Cartlidge

- Pauline Wright

This would leave 1 vacancy for Church Warden and 2 vacancies for PCC elected members

SB said that he was willing to stand for election to the PCC. This was proposed by Steve Watkins and seconded by Wiebke Carr – it was agreed unanimously by the meeting.

All the above were duly appointed to serve on the PCC until 2023.

CEB thanked Penny Havercroft, Jane Cayley, Samantha Sayers, Grahame Wright and Wiebke Carr for their service to the PCC. He made special mention of Allan Brown, who records show was on St Lawrence PCC in 1977, just 8 weeks after moving to Bovingdon. Save for a short break, he has served on the PCC since that time as Church Warden, PCC member and Deanery Synod representative. A truly outstanding achievement and level of service. It was also noted that Pauline Brown was on the PCC by 1979.

Allan in turn thanked CEB for his kind comments.

7. Appointment of Sidespeople.

CEB thanked all those who serve as part of the different sides-teams at the various services. We are no longer required to make these appointments at the APCM, they are now to be confirmed by the PCC. This will take place at the next PCC meeting.

8. Closing Remarks

Chairman's Remarks: CEB again thanked the Churchwardens and the PCC for their help and support. He also expressed his thanks to the late Revd Simon Woodmore, and to Gill Barrett for her role as Reader and Musical Director.

Church Warden's remarks: Dena Tyler thanked CEB and HC for their help and support. She also thanked Penny Havercroft for her friendship and support as Church Warden. She described the role of Church Warden as one that had been deeply enriching, and encouraged anyone considering this role, to take the next step.

CEB once again thanked DT and PH for their efforts, particularly in helping to get the Church 'going again' during Covid.

9. Any other Business

CEB gave a very brief update regarding the Building Project group. The application was due to be submitted in the spring, but Covid lockdown has caused significant delays in the process. However, subject to final documents from Francesca Weal, the application will hopefully be submitted shortly.

He also mentioned that the proposal is that e will sell St Lawrence Hall (subject to diocesan approval) to fund the development.

The meeting closed with prayer at 9:06pm

SW thanked CEB for all that he has done, especially since Covid restriction brought so much disruption – a sentiment fully endorsed by the meeting!!

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Chairman

Treasurers Report for the Year Ended 31st December 2020

The Financial Statements of the St Lawrence Church, Bovingdon PCC for the year ended 31st December 2020 are shown in the eleven pages beginning on page XX of the APCM pack.

The accounts have been independently examined by Mr. David Barr FCBI, who has signed the required documentation as shown on Page 2.

The year 2020 has posed challenges unique in the experience of most of us. We entered the year in a position of strength following the Generous Giving Campaign towards the end of 2019, which had received fantastic support from the congregation. However, as we went into the first lockdown of the year it was apparent that sources of income dependant on having buildings open to the public (including Sunday service collections, baptisms, weddings, funerals and events such as the Summer and Christmas Fayres and special collection services) were not likely to happen. At that stage we anticipated a monthly shortfall (expenditure greater than income) of £1,000 per month. Again we appealed to the congregation and again we had a fantastic response.

Page 3 - In summary in 2020, our income exceeded our expenditure by £15,027.97.

Income was just over £113k, an increase of about 2.5% over 2019. It should be noted that the income includes £4,000 given in memory of Jill Leon.

Expenditure was just over £98k, a decrease of nearly 18% on 2019, mainly accounted for by significantly reduced building costs; both repairs and maintenance and service costs (as our buildings were not used) but also reduced IT costs.

Pages 5 & 6 – At 31st December 2020 the total of church funds not invested through the diocese was £197,842.44 – held in accounts as shown on Page 5 and distributed to specified funds as shown on Page 6.

Page 4 shows further detail of sources of income and expenditure within the General Fund. The changes in income reflect the 2020 conditions (reduced collections, fees and lettings; and increases in Bank Giving, Website Receipts, Parish Giving Scheme). The Expenditure decreases related to buildings can also be seen.

Pages 7 to 10 show the movements in each of the specified funds.

Transfers were made between funds as follows:

1. The transfer of £50.00 from the Kathleen Goff Fund to the Churchyard Fund – this is an annual transfer agreed as a contribution from that fund for the upkeep of graves.
2. The transfer of £9,609.71 from the General Fund to the Muriel Swan Fund as a reversal of the transfer in 2019.
3. The transfer of £4,494.00 from the General Fund to the New Hall fund to meet Weal Architects fees for work on that project in 2020.
4. The transfer of £240.80 from the General Fund to the Clock Fund to meet the balance of the clock repair costs and leaving the balance of this fund at £0.00 at year end.

Page 8 shows the Other Creditors fund which generally accounts for money that has been received on another's behalf and so is owed. The balance of £1,214.00 at year end is made up of a £1,000.00 donation that was mistakenly made to the church and £214.00 that was unexpectedly received as fees. In 2021 it has been confirmed that the £1,000.00 can be retained by the church as a donation.

A total of £7,300.20 (6.45% of total receipts) was paid to external Mission and Charity organisations in 2020 as shown below. It should be noted that this shows £3,000.00 donated to Mercy Ships.

Mission and Charity giving

	Outreach Fund	General Fund	Pass Thru Fund	Total
1332 Church Societies				
Chesworth - George	540.00	0.00	0.00	540.00
SAMS - Gwen Carlisle	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<u>540.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>540.00</u>
1333 Charities				
Christian Aid			20.00	20.00
Dacorum Community Trust		40.00	0.00	40.00
Tear Fund		40.00	0.00	40.00
DEC Cornoavirus Appeal		168.95	793.55	962.50
Bibles for Children	368.90			368.90
Simon Woodmore			650.00	650.00
Mercy Ships		3,000.00		3,000.00
Bishops Harvest Appeal		52.95	382.05	435.00
T4U Shoe Boxes		20.00	80.00	100.00
Royal British Legion		100.00		100.00
Crisis		63.31	605.58	668.89
	<u>368.90</u>	<u>3,485.21</u>	<u>2,531.18</u>	<u>6,385.29</u>
1321 Miscellaneous Expenses				
Live Nativity Contribution (2019)	285.26			285.26
Christingle Contribution	89.65			89.65
	<u>374.91</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>374.91</u>
Total	1,283.81	3,485.21	2,531.18	7,300.20

Page 8 shows £1,283.81 from the Outreach fund and £2,531.18 from Other Creditors (Pass Thru)

Page 4 shows £3,485.21 from the General Fund

I take this opportunity to thank you all again for financially making the work of our church possible.

In this context I particularly need to thank:

Charles and Helen for being the point of contact with all our suppliers, that is organising and doing the work, for which my role is often only arranging for the bill to be paid.

Richard Owens for handling cash (remember that!) and other payments made in church and banking them.

Mike Leon for recording Gift Aid and presenting the data to enable our claim from HMRC.

Matt Williams for arranging our IT collection of donations.

The PCC for putting up with my presentations throughout the year.

St. Lawrence Church, Bovingdon

Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council

for the year ended 31st December 2020



Incumbent :

Rev. Charles Burch
10 Church Street
Bovingdon
Herts
HP3 0LU

Treasurer:

Mr. Gary Cartlidge
4 The Hollies, Long Lane
Bovingdon
Herts
HP3 0ND

Independent Examiner:

Mr. David Barr FCBI
Finchley House
Bovingdon Green
Bovingdon
Herts
HP3 0LB

Independent Examiner's report to the Parochial Church Council of St. Lawrence,
Bovingdon

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2020, which are set out on pages 3 to 10 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations ('the Regulations') and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act')

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.144(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charities Commission under s.145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of those accounts with those records, it also includes considering 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. Which gives reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - a. To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act and;
 - b. To prepare accounts which accord with accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed  Independent Examiner
David Barr, Chartered Banker, FCBI

Date 28th February 2021

Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31st December

Summary – Combined Funds

	2020 £.pp	2019 £.pp
Receipts		
Incoming Resources from Donors	105,919.22	94,268.11
Income from Investments	4,606.26	5,017.57
Activities for Generating Funds	1,377.25	8,756.06
Other Incoming Resources	1,228.16	2,344.53
TOTAL RECEIPTS	113,130.89	110,386.26
Expenditure		
Grants	6,925.29	4,012.09
Activities Directly Relating to the Work of the Church	75,314.30	91,343.56
Church Management & Administration	12,866.76	13,804.19
Other Parish Expenses	2,996.57	10,198.69
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	98,102.92	119,358.53
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	15,027.97	(8,972.27)
Funded by Increase / (Decrease) in		
General Fund	(20.46)	(1,566.92)
Church Repairs & Maintenance Fund	432.00	(432.00)
Outreach & Mission Fund	(1,283.81)	(891.00)
Owed to Diocese and Other Creditors	1,214.00	(372.99)
Children's & Youth Workers Fund	2,386.00	2,150.83
Muriel Swan Legacy	11,221.54	(7,501.89)
Churchyard Fund	2,258.70	(1,638.30)
Building Projects Fund	200.00	0.00
Kathleen Goff Legacy	(50.00)	(50.00)
Clock Repair Fund	(1,330.00)	1,330.00
TOTAL MOVEMENT	15,027.97	(8,972.27)

Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31st December
General Fund Receipts and Payments Account

	2020		2019	
	£.pp	£.pp	£.pp	£.pp
Receipts				
Incoming Resources from Donors				
Bank Giving & Envelopes	25,453.46		16,021.91	
Collections	925.86		5,019.25	
Gift Aid / CAF Donations	4,770.99		8,670.56	
Card Reader & Website Receipts	3,548.97		239.95	
Parish Giving Scheme	29,119.06		22,732.38	
Sundry Donations	6,979.84		3,283.44	
Restricted Donations	0.00		0.00	
Income Tax Recovered	16,427.91		15,683.22	
		87,226.09		71,650.71
Income from Investments				
Verger Plot Income	1,792.87		1,740.70	
		1,792.87		1,740.70
Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading				
Fees	4,990.00		5,769.00	
Cost Recharges associated with Fees	1,143.00		2,200.00	
St Lawrence Hall Lettings	1,001.25		4,114.50	
Events Income	376.00		4,554.14	
Miscellaneous Income	85.16		144.53	
		7,595.41		16,782.17
TOTAL RECEIPTS		96,614.37		90,173.58
Expenditure				
Grants				
Outreach, Missionary and Charitable Giving	3,485.21		3,121.09	
		3,485.21		3,121.09
Activities Directly Relating to the Work of the Church				
Diocesan Common Fund	49,473.00		48,509.00	
Ministry – Expenses	86.40		500.01	
Church – Heat, Light, Water & Cleaning	2,531.46		5,233.81	
Church – Insurance	3,996.16		3,807.05	
Church – General Repairs & Maintenance	1,251.00		500.40	
Services – Books, Preachers. Sunday School	2,172.11		2,026.74	
Cost Recharges associated with Fees	1,143.00		2,200.00	
		60,653.13		62,777.01
Church Management & Administration				
Administrators Costs	11,090.30		11,085.52	
Postage, Telephone, Printing & Stationery	1,776.46		2,718.67	
		12,866.76		13,804.19
Other Parish Expenses				
Sundry Expenses	2,288.65		5,212.51	
St Lawrence Hall Costs	2,996.57		10,198.69	
		5,285.22		15,411.20
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		82,290.32		95,113.49
Surplus / (Deficit)		14,324.05		(4,939.91)
Funded by General Fund		(20.46)		(1,566.92)
Transfer to Other Funds		14,344.51		(3,372.99)

Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31st December

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	2020		2019	
	£.pp	£.pp	£.pp	£.pp
Fixed Assets				
Computers				
Opening Value	0.00		0.00	
Depreciation (33.3% of Original Cost pa)	0.00		0.00	
	0.00		0.00	
Current Assets				
CAF Cash Current Account	5,051.55		7,207.68	
CAF Cash Gold Deposit Account	22,505.24		6,918.22	
Virgin Deposit Account	86,102.79		85,681.46	
Cambridge & Counties Building Society	84,182.86		83,007.11	
	197,842.44		182,814.47	
Total Assets	197,842.44		182,814.47	

Represented By

General Fund		
At 1 st January	2,348.31	3,915.23
Surplus / (Deficit) in Year	14,324.05	(4,939.91)
Transfer to Muriel Swan Legacy Fund	(9,609.71)	0
Transfer to Clock Fund	(240.80)	0
Transfer to New Hall Fund	(4,494.00)	0
Transfer from Other Creditors	0	3,372.99
At 31 st December	2,327.85	2,348.31
Specific Funds	195,514.59	180,466.16
	197,842.44	182,814.47

St Lawrence Church, Bovingdon
Statement of Funds as at 31st December

		2020	2019
		£.pp	£.pp
General Fund	Designated	2,327.85	2,348.31
Church Repairs & Maintenance	Designated	10,000.00	9,568.00
Outreach	Designated	1,803.37	3,087.18
Other Creditors	Restricted	1,214.00	0.00
Children's & Youth Worker	Restricted	24,949.02	22,563.02
Muriel Swan Legacy	Restricted	149,011.51	137,789.97
Churchyard	Restricted	3,736.69	1,477.99
Building Project Fund	Designated	200.00	0.00
Kathleen Goff Legacy Fund	Restricted	4,600.00	4,650.00
Clock Repair Fund	Restricted	0.00	1,330.00
		197,842.44	182,814.47
		Designated	14,331.22
		Restricted	15,003.49
		183,511.22	167,810.98
		TOTAL	197,842.44
			182,814.47

St Lawrence Church, Bovingdon
Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31st December

Church Repairs & Maintenance – Designated	2020 £.pp	2019 £.pp
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 1st January	9,568.00	10,000.00
Receipts		
From Friends of St. Lawrence Trust	2,922.00	6,414.40
Payments		
Maintenance	2,490.00	6,846.40
Excess of Receipts over Payments	432.00	(432.00)
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 31st December	10,000.00	9,568.00

Muriel Swan Legacy – Restricted Fund	2020 £.pp	2019 £.pp
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 1st January	137,789.97	145,291.86
Receipts		
Interest	1,611.83	2,107.82
Transfer from General Fund	9,609.71	0.00
	11,221.54	2,107.82
Payments		
Transfer to General Fund		
Transfer to Building Projects Fund		9,609.71
Transfer to Church Repairs and Maintenance Fund		
		9,609.71
Excess of Receipts over Payments	11,221.54	(7,501.89)
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 31st December	149,011.51	137,789.97

St Lawrence Church, Bovingdon
Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31st December

Other Creditors incl. Diocese – Restricted Fund	2020 £.pp	2019 £.pp
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 1st January	0.00	372.99
Receipts		
Fees – Diocese	2,456.00	3,314.00
Gift Aid / CAF / Donation / Collections	3,745.18	3,000.00
	6,201.18	6,314.00
Payments		
Sundry Payments	2,456.00	3,314.00
Transfer to General Fund	0.00	3,372.99
Charities	2,531.18	0.00
	4,987.18	6,686.99
Excess of Receipts over Payments	1,214.00	(372.99)
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 31st December	1,214.00	0.00

Outreach – Designated Fund	2020 £.pp	2019 £.pp
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 1st January	3,087.18	3,087.18
Receipts		
Transfer from General Fund	0.00	0.00
Payments		
Missionary & Charity Societies	1,283.81	891.00
Excess of Receipts over Payments	(1,283.81)	(891.00)
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 31st December	1,803.37	3,087.18

St Lawrence Church, Bovingdon
Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31st December

Churchyard – Restricted Fund	2020 £.pp	2019 £.pp
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 1st January	1,477.99	3,116.29
Receipts		
Friends of St. Lawrence and Parish Council	1,620.00	0.00
Endowment Interest	1,201.56	1,169.05
Restricted Donations	269.95	0.00
Transfer from General Fund		
Transfer from Kathleen Goff Legacy Fund	50.00	50.00
	3,141.51	1,219.05
Payments		
Maintenance	882.81	2,857.35
Excess of Receipts over Payments	2,258.70	(1,638.30)
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 31st December	3,736.69	1,477.99

Children's & Youth Worker	2020 £.pp	2019 £.pp
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 1st January	22,563.02	20,412.19
Receipts		
Donations and Collections	2,490.00	2,877.41
Payments		
Sundry Payments	104.00	726.58
Excess of Receipts over Payments	2,386.00	2,150.83
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 31st December	24,949.02	22,563.02

St Lawrence Church, Bovingdon
Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31st December

Building Projects Fund	2020 £.pp	2019 £.pp
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 1st January	0.00	0.00
Receipts		
Donations	200.00	
Transfer from General Fund	4,494.00	
Transfer from Muriel Swan Fund		9,609.71
Payments		
Sundry Payments	4,494.00	9,609.71
Excess of Receipts over Payments	200.00	0.00
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 31st December	200.00	0.00

Kathleen Goff Legacy Fund	2020 £.pp	2019 £.pp
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 1st January	4,650.00	4,700.00
Receipts		
Transfer from Other Creditors	0	0.00
Payments		
Transfer to Churchyard Fund	50.00	50.00
Excess of Receipts over Payments	(50.00)	(50.00)
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 31st December	4,600.00	4,650.00

Clock Repair Fund	2020 £.pp	2019 £.pp
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 1st January	1,330.00	0.00
Receipts		
Donations		1,330.00
Transfer from General Fund	240.80	
Payments		
Clock Repair	1570.80	0.00
Excess of Receipts over Payments	(1,330.00)	1,330.00
Bank Current & Deposit Accounts at 31st December	0.00	1,330.00

St Lawrence Church, Bovingdon
Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31st December 2020

Funds held by St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance for Graveyard and Graves

	Shares	Book Value	Value £.pp		
Investment Fund					
Cowley	306	200.00	6,256.69	Grave	Restricted
Dance	73	60.00	1,492.61	Churchyard	Restricted
Elwes	236	200.00	4,825.42	Church & Churchyard	Restricted
Loydall	154	150.00	3,148.79	Church & Churchyard	Restricted
Hill	54	50.50	1,104.12	Church & Churchyard	Restricted
Reeks	106	100.00	2,167.35	Church & Churchyard	Restricted
Menheneott	146	200.00	2,985.22	Church & Churchyard	Restricted
Stewart Evans	339	848.44	6,931.43	Church & Churchyard	Restricted
Travers	187	350.00	3,823.53	Grave	Restricted
Groves	107	200.00	2,187.80	Church & Churchyard	Restricted
Reeve	250	500.00	5,111.68	Church & Churchyard	Restricted
Nash	55	300.00	1,124.57	Churchyard	Restricted
Riches	68	300.00	1,390.38	Churchyard	Restricted

Total Investment Fund		3,458.94	42,549.59		
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Deposit Fund

Druce		306.00	Churchyard	Restricted
Stewart Evans		822.76	Church & Churchyard	Restricted
Reeve		1,000.00	Churchyard	Restricted

Total Deposit Fund		2,128.76		
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Other Funds held by St Albans Diocesan Board

Investment Fund	3124	2,500.59	63,875.49	Vergers Plot	Designated
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GRAND TOTAL at 31st December 2020		108,553.84		
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Value at 31st December 2019		101,676.11		
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Fabric Report

I took over as the Fabric Officer in October of 2020.

We had a Fabric Zoom meeting with the architect Francesca Weal in November about the kitchen floor, the Painting of the Church and a new problem with the South East corner which had turned black and was damp.

Francesca did a site visit on 7th January and it was decided to get quotes for the roof and two new soakaways. Two Quotes have been obtained one from Peter Hope For £3,405.60p for just the soakaways and one from Chay Hedger £3,144.00, plus the Roof for £660, plus VAT.

The PCC decided to go with Chay Hedger who is a local builder. We are now waiting for a letter from the dioceses before work can commence.

Francesca felt that the kitchen floor could wait a little longer because her preferred engineer was waiting for his Covid vaccination. Hopefully we can get this sorted in the summer.

We did consider draft proofing the West and South doors with curtains but decided against this and opted for a metal strip with a brush to be attached to the doors.

Jane Cayley has kindly agreed to oversee the redecorating of the church which she started before I became the Fabric Officer.

Re-decoration of the Church Interior and South Porch

Church Interior

For a number of years there has been a project to re-decorate the interior of the Church. The Friends of St Lawrence have raised money for this work. In 2020, quotes were obtained from specialists in historic buildings/Church redecoration. The paint proposed for the redecoration was either a traditional lime paint or the more expensive Kiem. The estimated cost would be about £40K inclusive of VAT which includes repainting the arches. A further £10K would be required to strip the arches back to the stone if this is deemed to enhance the architecture of the Church.

In September 2020 our resident architect was consulted and it was discovered that the interior had previously been painted with Classidur Traditional. It will be necessary to get updated quotes from the 3 decorators based on the new specification to be provided by the architect. After this it will be necessary to obtain PCC approval and a faculty from the Diocesan Advisory Committee.

South Porch

There is a plan to display notices for the Church in the South porch and also information about the Churchyard and its interesting and diverse wildlife. The interior of the South Porch which is exposed to the elements is in need of redecoration prior to the fixing of the notice boards. The PCC has agreed to both of these works,

- 3 quotes have been obtained for the internal re-decoration of the porch (to rub down and limewash). The cheapest is £984 inclusive of VAT.
- Notice boards Quotes have been obtained and Daniel Lambert will be making them.

A huge thank you to Jane Cayley for her help and support over the last six months.

Pauline Wright
April 2021

Safeguarding Report for APCM 2021

Since 2011 the PCC has approved a safeguarding policy and policy statement based upon the those published by the CCPAS. It has an extremely detailed set of guidelines. In 2019 the policy and policy statement were updated in line with the guidance published and updated by the House of Bishops. The PCC has retained the guidelines provided by CCPAS (Now called Thirty:one eight) because they are so comprehensive covering many events that the church is involved in or could adopt.

Roles within the Safeguarding Team have changed, as follows, during 2020:

Safeguarding Officer - Sean Bolton

Lead Recruiter (DBS Checks) - Paul Campbell

Assistants for both roles above - Carol West and Matt Williams

Separating the roles of safeguarding officer and lead recruiter is seen as a step forward for safeguarding at St Lawrence. The safeguarding officer can focus on policy and procedure including compliance. Church leaders remain responsible for safer recruitment. The 'lead recruiter' completes DBS checks as the final stage of the recruitment process.

Both of the main safeguarding roles monitor and review the training programme on behalf of the PCC.

With the experience of lockdown limiting activity the PCC has been reminded of the recommendation made in last years report to use the procedures adopted in relation to recruitment and the objective is to develop a culture in which following the policy and procedures in relation to safer recruitment becomes second nature.

The church continues to undertake DBS checks in line with policy for all activities within the church for children's and youth work and activities involving regulated activity involving vulnerable adults. Over 25 people now have current DBS checks. A database is used to ensure checks are kept up to date and should an individual role change new checks in the form of a fresh DBS application and/or an update check is completed.

Training remains a focus for the church to ensure all involved in events involving children's and youth work, and vulnerable adults, including the PCC, are aware of the issues involved. This work continues albeit it has been restricted by the 2020 lockdowns.

During 2019 and 2020 the safeguarding team has flagged the issue of written risk assessments with leaders and the PCC. Reviews of generic risk assessment are required before activities resume (2021) following Government restrictions dealing with the pandemic. The PCC should continue to develop the culture in which it requires written risk assessments are completed as part of the planning for the event and reviewed by the PCC before the event is held.

A healthy dialogue continues to exist, and is encouraged, between the safeguarding team and the church leadership as reported in the 2020 APCM report.

Through the actions described in this report the PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults)

Safeguarding Team

Report on the work of the PCC: 2020-21

A total of nine PCC meetings were held covering the period 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021. All meetings were held via Zoom video platform due to Covid19 restrictions.

This report outlines the decisions and appointments made at each meeting.

21.04.2020:

- Following advice from the Diocese, the APCM meeting had been postponed from April to October, due to Covid19 restrictions.
- Under Govt Covid19 regulations, we are not currently able to open the Church for public worship (since 23rd March 2020). Revd. Burch presented plans for on-going services delivered via zoom video meetings.
- Due to anticipated financial shortfall due to the closure of the Church and worship services, it was agreed unanimously that the Generous Giving Group should explore ways to address the issue, and the option of an online donation facility be explored with CAF bank.

19.05.2020

- Unanimous approval was given to the purchase of two pedal operated bollard hand sanitising stations, to a cost of £900, for use when the Church reopens.

25.06.2020

- The Church building was now able to reopen for private prayer, with appropriate social distancing and sanitising measures in place. It was agreed that the Church would open 2-4pm Sunday afternoon, and 10-12 Wednesday morning.
- Public worship will resume on 5th July, but it was also agreed that services would continue to be delivered via zoom video as well.
- The expenditure of £400 was agreed unanimously for the purchase and installation of Wi-Fi within the Church building.

23.07.2020

- The Church had reopened for formal worship on Sunday 5th July, with a restricted number of attendees and reduced service pattern.
- A proposal had been submitted to the DAC for installation of Wi-Fi in Church to facilitate live streaming of services.

08.09.2020

- The Wi-Fi set up had been installed in August, and live services were now being streamed weekly.
- Unanimous approval was given for the spending of up to £400 to purchase a small digital camera, software and zoom streaming licences, to allow our live streaming to reach a wider audience.
- It was agreed that Mercy Ships would be our main charity partner, in lieu of the support previously given to South American Mission Society.

The delayed APCM was held on 08.10.2020

15.10.2020

This being the first meeting of the new PCC, the following appointments were made.

The following appointments were made:

Vice Chair	Alison Woodhams
Treasurer	Gary Cartlidge
Secretary	Chris West
Churchyard Officer	Gary Cullum (not an elected member of PCC)
Safeguarding Officer	Sean Bolton
Health & Safety	Vacant
Fabric Officer	Pauline Wright

The following are ex-officio or co-opted members of PCC

<u>Chair</u>	Charles Burch	
<u>Church Wardens</u>	Dena Tyler	
<u>Deanery Synod Reps</u>	Alison Woodhams	Kully Dhadda
	Gill Fisher	
<u>Reader</u>	Gill Barrett	
<u>Standing Committee:</u>		
Charles Burch (Chair)	Alison Woodhams (vice-chair)	
Dena Tyler (Warden)	Flick Crockett	
Gary Cartlidge (Treasurer)	Chris West (Secretary)	

- The expenditure of £2,000 for new heaters in St Lawrence Hall was unanimously approved.
- The expenditure of £550 (+VAT) was unanimously approved for base installation of the Revd Simon Woodmore Memorial bench.
- The purchase of 6 notice boards (at a cost of £440 each) and redecoration of the South Porch (where they would be situated) was unanimously approved. The total cost being £3,624, much of which The Friends of St Lawrence would fund.

01.12.2020

- Adoption of the 'Safeguarding & Privacy Policy for livestreaming of worship and other activities from Church' was unanimously approved.
- It was agreed that PCC would explore the requirements of becoming an Eco-Church, in line with the Church of England plan to become carbon neutral by 2030.
- Mercy Ships had delivered an excellent online presentation of their work to Church members.
- The purchase of 4 laptops for use by Church officials (£500 each) was unanimously approved. They are for the Vicar, Treasurer, Secretary and Administrator.

14.01.2021

- An Eco-Church sub-group was agreed (Gill Fisher, Rob Sheppard, Pauline Brown) to consider the Eco-Church survey and to see who else in the Church membership may be interested in assisting with this.
- Following recent Covid19 reclassification to Tier 5, Bishop Alan has given approval for the suspension of public worship again. It was unanimously agreed that we would suspend public worship until the end of March 2021, subject to review every two weeks by Standing Committee. Video streaming of services would continue.

09.03.2021

- Following recent government guidance regarding Covid19, the re-opening of the Church for public worship was approved. (13 for; 1 against; 1 abstention)
- The decoration and notice boards in the South Porch are still waiting to be completed. There has been some delay due to Covid19 and availability of the Church architect to confirm the appropriate materials. This is the same situation

with regards to damp in the South East corner of the Church. Once we have the relevant information, we will submit the faculty application to DAC.

- Delays have also been experienced with regards to replacing the heating at St Lawrence Hall. PCC decided that it would pursue a more eco-friendly option than those currently installed, and a budget of £3,000 was agreed. It is anticipated that these heaters could be used in any new building on the Church site in due course.
- The purchase of a new router for the vicarage was unanimously approved, at a cost of £300.

Chris West
PCC Secretary
April 2021

Deanery Synod 2020 Report

St Lawrence Church is part of the Rickmansworth Deanery. The other member churches are St Paul's - Chipperfield, Holy Cross - Sarratt, Christ Church - Chorleywood, St Andrew's - Chorleywood, All Saint's - Croxley Green, St Oswald's - Croxley Green, St John's - Heronsgate, St Peter's - Mill End, St Mary's - Rickmansworth, St Thomas's - West Hyde

The new rural Dean is Simon Cutmore, who is Vicar of Mill End with Heronsgate and West Hyde

Like much else, the work of the Deanery Synod has been disrupted during the year by the Covid pandemic and only two meetings were held.

In January the Deanery Mission Action Plan (DMAP) was discussed.

In November the main item on the agenda was a presentation by Rachel Johnston, the Diocesan Environment Officer, on 'Becoming an Eco Church/Parish'. In February 2020, General Synod voted to set new targets for all parts of the church to work to become carbon 'net zero' by 2030. Every parish is being encouraged to take action and ramp-up efforts to reduce emissions, calling for urgent steps to examine requirements to reach the new target, and draw up an action plan. The presentation was full of useful information and links to resources to help parishes assess where they are now and how they can move towards being an Eco Church/Parish. This presentation was subsequently taken to the PCC and discussed there.

Deanery Synod Representatives - Alison Woodhams, Gill Fisher & Kully Dhadha

Little Fish

As with other church groups lockdown has prevented us from carrying out our usual Little Fish Activities.

However, many of our families have engaged actively with the 9:30am Zoom Little Fish service and our summer door services. Many thanks to Alison and team for providing craft activities for all of these services.

Some families were unable to or felt uncomfortable joining Zoom. We endeavoured to keep in touch with those who were not attending by phoning/messaging and carrying out 'doorstep ministry' to ensure they knew what was happening within the church. Messy Church, Christmas, Mothering Sunday craft packs were delivered in the hopes these families could still take part even if unable to join in the services. On these occasions we also endeavoured to include baptism families and those on our lapsed list where possible.

Two social events were able to go ahead with thanks to the hard work of Nicki and Chris O'Hara. We held a Socially Distance outside Light Party which was advertised widely not only at church but also in the community through social media. This was a very popular event with over 150 people attending. We encouraged families to sign GDPR forms so that we could let them know regarding future events – a large number of people were willing to do this and have been added to our date base. Both these events were a great opportunity to reach out to the wider community.

We also had a Christmas Advent Window walkabout challenge which again proved very popular with many families taking part from church and from the village which concluded with children and families coming to collect chocolates in exchange for their quiz answers and being able to join in an outdoor Carol service.

Both these events were a great opportunity to reach out to the wider community and we had very positive feedback regarding the church enabling these events to be carried out in a covid safe way.

Philippa Burch and Flick Crockett
April 2021

Report from The Children and Families Worker

Explorers at Church

Attendance at explorers via zoom has increased during lockdown and we typically have 10 or more children attending. Initially we held two or more sessions a month. We have cut down to one session a month term-time (usually 4th Sunday) to make this more manageable. We are covering Old Testament stories this academic year. The age range has been slightly larger than usual (some siblings attending). We deliver a resource pack to each home prior to each session.

Explorers at School - There have been no school explorer sessions permitted since lockdown one.

Outdoor Church - There is a tentative plan to hold an outdoor church service in July (weather and covid rules permitting).

Messy Church

Messy Church has continued each month via zoom (usually 2nd Sunday each month). Numbers have been lower than when we met in the hall (sessions tend to be less suitable for pre-school children). Attendance has remained consistent across the year. Families have provided fabulous videos on the Bible stories covered. A big thank you to all families who have supported these services. We are always looking for volunteers to make videos, so please let us know if you would like to give this a try. We have had Messy Church Sessions on;

May 20 – Houses and Rooms

June 20– Disciples and Lost Sheep

July 20– Parable of The Sower

September 20– The Creation

October 20 – Noah's Boat

November 20 – Messy Stir-Up

January 21 – Joseph and his Multi-coloured Coat

February – Samson and Delilah

March – Jonah and the Big Fish

May – Tower of Babel

Coming soon.....

June – Baby Moses

Craft in Church - Craft activities have continued in church when appropriate.

Training - I have attended online workshops for Messy Church and safeguarding training as part of my work

Alison Cartlidge

March 2021

2020 EVENTS REVIEW

In March, Rev Simon Woodmore hosted a Prayer Breakfast for the congregation, centred around the Lord's Prayer. There were around 10 people in attendance and during this breakfast, a cross was decorated by attendees, which Flick Crockett intends to complete in tribute to him - details to follow.

Simon and Chris O'Hara were in discussion regarding holding a Prayer Supper in the summer of 2020, centred around using music in worship. That has been put on hold during lockdown but Chris is keen to continue with this plan, in tribute to Simon. The feeling among regular attendees is that the Prayer Breakfasts - and the Supper - should continue in Simon's memory when it is safe to do so.

Unfortunately, the majority of key events in the church events calendar were cancelled due to the Covid-19 Lockdown. These included the June Summer Fete, both the Christmas Market & Christmas Tree Festival, and most Christmas services.

We did however, manage to hold socially distanced events for the community. These included:

- **Mothering Sunday.** Sprigs of daffodils and greenery were hand delivered to families within the congregation by representatives of the Little Fish community. This was a welcomed effort in the early days of lockdown.
- **The Light Party.**
In contrast to previous years, we hosted the Light Party outside, with the help of local business New Vision Effects, who provided a marquee and lighting free of charge so that we could continue our efforts. We also had Teresinas, a local food truck, offer to provide refreshments in the car park. Even now we have people remarking on how wonderful it was for the church to provide something for the children of the village at a time when morale was so low, and how refreshing it was for the church to be a part of Halloween (as the light in the dark).

Members of the 3:16s Youth Group volunteered to hand out the 'Treat Boxes', and in total we estimate 235 children attended the event, and donations from the entrance and the food truck were extremely generous, which meant the church was not in deficit for the outlay. (approx £200 was invested in the 'Treat Boxes' trophies and lights, and to the best of my memory donations were around £260. We also gained a large list of email addresses to be added to an events mailing list (which needs to be completed asap as events will be restarting soon).

We also hosted an online children's pumpkin carving competition, which Wez Clark kindly allowed us to hold on the Bovingdon FB group, which proved popular. We organised trophies and prizes for the winners, and the engraving of these trophies was kindly donated by Andy Shoemiths in The Maltings, St Albans.

We managed to work alongside another event taking place in the village - a carved pumpkin trail - encouraging those who carved a pumpkin for the trail to enter it into the comp and vice versa, and to finish the trail at the Light Party.

- **Walkabout Advent Calendar.** 46 houses from around Bovingdon volunteered to decorate their windows for the children to find in an interactive game that coincided with daily exercise and culminated with the completed sheets being brought to the church on Christmas Eve so the children could claim a Christmas treat. Each window

was decorated with light and the silhouette of a character or symbol from the nativity scene, of which a complete display was installed in the South Porch for Christmas Eve.

This event was not as popular as the Light Party, but had around 50 participants, and again presented the church as a welcoming presence and source of joy in the community. A particular highlight was the impromptu singing of carols that took place around the outdoor Christmas Tree - which doubled up as a Prayer Tree, a gesture that held particular significance for many in 2020 and was even mentioned in a recent Google review of the church.

We fully intend to make the Walkabout Advent Calendar an annual tradition, with a few tweaks to make the hunt a little easier. As with all things, this is a learning process and we are very pleased with how the community has got behind these new and altered events.

For 2021, we intend to continue with events in-keeping with covid restrictions, including old favourites like the Summer Fete and Christmas Market, as well as the new and anticipated events such as the Bovingdon Easter Egg Hunt and the Walkabout Advent Calendar. We also hope to be able to hold our first Christmas Tree Festival, that should have taken place in 2020, and are actively working on a new calendar of events for 2022, which will include incorporating Saints Feast Days and expanding existing events to include the Bovingdon community. We have found a consistent and clearly identifiable online advertising campaign has significantly improved the reach of our events news, and the Comms Team will be aiding in ensuring this continues.

Nicki O'Hara
April 2021