

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

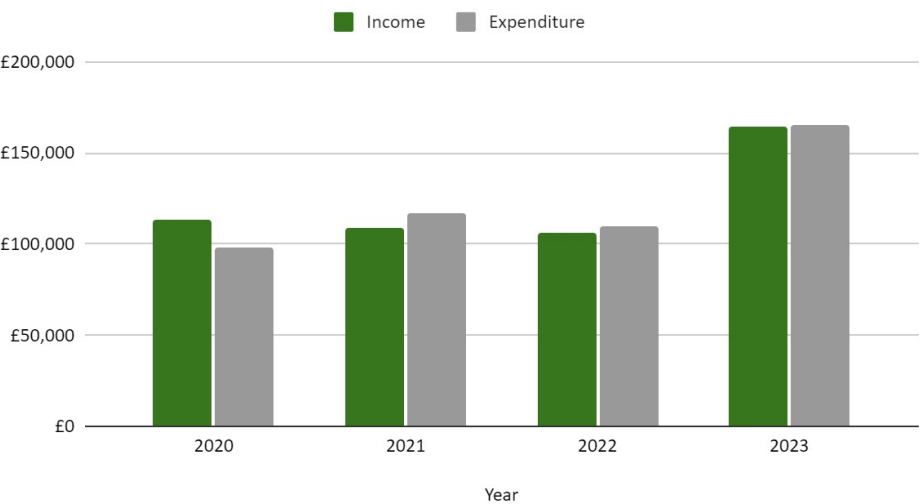
David Barr, Chartered Banker FCBI - Independent Examiner

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



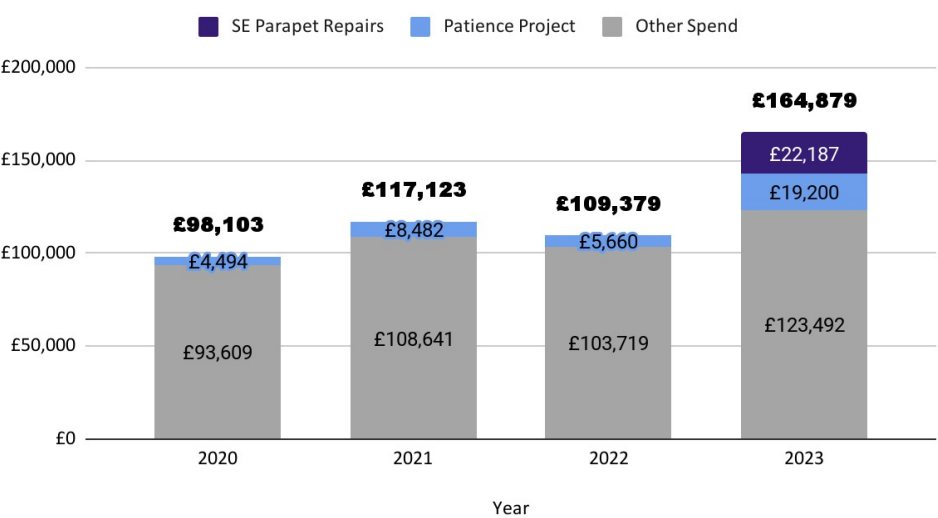
Overall income of £164,439 and overall expenditure of £164,879 meant a small deficit over the year of under £500 in 2023

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
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Support costs		
1340 - Depreciation charge	£961.85	£694.92
1351 - Bank charges	£60.00	£128.72
Support costs Totals	£1,021.85	£823.64
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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
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Resources used Grand totals	£164,878.70	£109,379.06
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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