

Christ Church Flackwell Heath

Annual Report 2024

Background

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Christ Church Flackwell Heath has the responsibility, as stated in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, of co-operating with the Vicar, Revd James Dwyer, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church – pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church and Church Centre of Christ Church, Flackwell Heath. Christ Church is a Registered Charity, as required under Charity Law, with a Charity Registration number of 1132634.

Parochial Church Council

Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. In addition, members may be co-opted as necessary. During 2024 the following served as PCC members:

Ex officio members:

Chair: Revd James Dwyer

Curate: Revd Gill Taylor

Associate Minister: Revd Martin Courtney

Licensed Lay Ministers: Sue Simpson (*Vice Chair*) and Debbie Fox-Webb

Churchwardens: Karen Christie and Phil Simpson

Deanery Synod Representatives: Neil Bourhill, Neil Favager, Richard Chalmers and Rebecca Hawes

Elected members:

It was agreed in the APCM in 2004 that the PCC should consist of seven elected members, in addition to ex-officio and co-opted members, and be elected on a three-year rolling retirement. In 2024 the terms of office were amended to state that members elected from that date must take one year off after each three-year term, after which they are permitted to return to PCC. During 2024 elected members were:

Denise Herschel (until March 2024), Sylvia Bourhill (until March 2024), Reg Jaycock (until March 2024), Chris Broadbent (from 2024 APCM), Keely Hammond (from 2024 APCM), Paul Churchouse (from 2024 APCM), Meg Scullion (from 2024 APCM), Tim Franklin (from 2022 APCM), Sammy Simpson (from 2023 APCM), and Phil Bellamy (from 2023 APCM).

PCC Committees

In 2024 the PCC had six committees:

1. The Standing Committee is required by law and has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.
2. The Missions Committee coordinates links with the mission partners that the Church supports. It advises the PCC on mission giving.
3. The Fabric Committee oversees the maintenance of the Church, Church Centre, and grounds.
4. The Finance Subcommittee was formed in 2023 in response to our financial situation with the remit of stabilising our giving and providing analysis and oversight of church finances.
5. The Eco Subcommittee was formed in 2024 to help take forward our endeavours as a church to improve our eco footprint and become a carbon neutral church.
6. The Children, Youth and Families Subcommittee was formed in 2024 to help us strategically support our work with children, young people, and their families.

The PCC met six times during 2024, with the Standing Committee meeting five times. PCC members were commissioned on 21st April 2024 and, apart from the normal business life of the church, there was a regular focus on mission and agenda items on Safeguarding and GDPR compliance.

Church attendance in 2024

Church attendance remained stable throughout 2024, with gentle growth and a significant increase in attendance at our Christmas services. The 9am service saw an average weekly attendance of around 40-45 adults, the 10.30am of around 80-90 adults and 10-15 children and youth, and the 6.30pm a range of attendance, reflecting the varied service pattern. Average Sunday attendance across all three services is therefore around 140 people. The introduction of a second weekly communion service has led to more regular attendance, with around 15-18 people attending on average. Messy Church sees on average 45 children and their carers attend once a month.

Numbers of Occasional Offices remained low, reflecting a concerning wider trend at a national level. In 2024 we held:

- 8 baptisms

- 1 wedding
- 19 funerals in which Christ Church clergy and LLMs were involved, either at Christ Church or local crematoriums

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll declared at the Annual Meeting in 2024 was 194 people, a decrease of three compared with that declared in 2023 (197). During 2024 three people were removed and three people were added. The Christ Church Electoral Roll stands, as of 1st February 2024, at 194 (122 residents and 72 non-residents).

Jackie Chalmers, Electoral Roll Officer

Safeguarding

Throughout 2024 the PCC complied with the requirements imposed by the code under section 5A of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016. Our safeguarding culture and processes were carefully managed by Denise Herschel, our Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Review of the Year

As a year, 2024 saw Christ Church continue to see gentle growth, both spiritual and numerical. As a church we continued to sense God's call for us to grow deeper with one another, with Him, and with the community we serve, and this is reflected in some of the story of the year as told below. This review cannot capture everything, but is a snapshot of the year.

January 2024 started gently after a busy Christmas in 2023, giving us a chance as a church to rest and take a breath before Lent, which began only a few weeks into the New Year. We took the opportunity of a quieter few weeks to redesign the Link, the church newsletter. Prompted by the prayer of one of our church family, we started to pray for a doubling of children and young people in our church.

Lent began on the 14th **February** and as well as Ash Wednesday, we marked the opening of our Lent Prayer Room, which picked up on the gardens theme we looked at in our sermon series. Our Lent Course was LICC's *On Purpose*, five sessions helping us to think about what it means to live purposeful lives wherever we are. Along with the wider Diocese, we were shocked and saddened to hear of the death of Bishop Alan.

In **March** we held our APCM, giving thanks for the past year and looking ahead into the year to come. In particular we spoke about our need to invest in our work with children and families, and announced that thanks to funding from the Diocese of Oxford, we were able to advertise

for a Children's Minister later in the year. Many from the church family joined the celebrations at the wedding of Rachel Franklin to Chris Entwisle. Our Holy Week and Easter services included a Walk of Witness for the first time in some years, and our Easter Trail in partnership with the Methodist Church and Residents' Association.

In **April** we were privileged to welcome Revd Dr Ajith Kumar, General Secretary of the Church of North India, to Christ Church. He spoke at our morning services and was treated to a famous Christ Church bring and share lunch. It was a special moment for us to hear more about God's church in India. At the end of the month, around 60 members of Christ Church went to High Leigh Conference Centre for our Church Weekend Away, where we reflected on God's call to be his disciples. Those who didn't go on the weekend enjoyed a joint service at Christ Church, with God's people meeting together bound by the Spirit.

In **May** we joined others from the village in celebrating the long-awaited arrival of a new minibus for the Nancie Ross Centre, which Christ Church made a financial contribution towards. We held a preaching workshop for our preachers and enjoyed our annual Plant Sale as part of Christian Aid Week. We started a process of reviews of our Mission Partners, and the advert for our Children's Minister position was published.

In **June** we joined thousands of other Christians from across Wycombe for Love Wycombe on the Rye. Our LLMs attended the annual LLM conference, and we attended the licensing and first service of the new chapter at St Mark's Bourne End. We celebrated Gill's priesting both at her ordination service in Amersham, and then a church family lunch the Sunday after, when she had presided at her first communion.

In **July** we were again part of Heath Fest, the village music festival. We held our annual Tea Dance for those living with dementia, and welcomed Rebecca Hawes to the team as our new Children's Minister. A group from Christ Church went to New Wine, back in Shepton Mallet, and at the end of the month our service pattern changed to joint 10am services for the summer holidays. To make the church more accessible to the parish, we started keeping the building open during the week.

August was a quiet month, with some members of Christ Church helping at Lighthouse in Loudwater. Holiday Coffee Stop gave a point in the week for people in our community to come together throughout the summer.

In **September** we began our autumn sermon series, looking at Mark's Gospel, and at the end of the month welcomed Azita Jabbari to our Alpha Supper where she gave a moving and powerful talk. We were able to attend Afternoon Tea celebrations at The Cherries and Nancie Ross Centre, and held a prayer meeting for our schools. A team from Christ Church did rather well at the annual village quiz!

In **October** we celebrated Harvest, with our food collection once again being shared between One Can Trust and the Community Pantry. Some of Christ Church had an evening with two guests from India who were visiting James, and got to hear about the school system and

challenges faced by the churches there. We hosted a Deanery Confirmation Service, with 15 candidates from across the Deanery being baptised and/or confirmed. The Quinquennial inspection took place, with a comment in the feedback that we were perhaps the “best kept church in the Diocese of Oxford.” We welcomed Paulin, our Mission Partner from Albania, to our services at the end of the month, and a number of the congregation stayed for a lunch with Paulin and his wife Luli. On 31st October we hosted a Bright Party to the delight of all who attended.

In **November** Christ Church hosted BBC Radio 4’s *Any Questions* as a live broadcast, with a packed church filled with people from the community. It is believed to be the first time Radio 4 has come live from the village! Our Charities Fayre was a good opportunity to showcase local charities, and our Memorial Service was as always a moving opportunity for people to remember those they have loved and lost. Christmas began early, with Christmas on the Heath taking place on 29th November – Christ Church played a key part in the short service that takes place during the event.

December saw us engage in a whole host of Christmas events, both inside and outside the church. The weather didn’t stop us, and we saw an encouraging number of people encounter the Christmas story. We had new opportunities to be part of Christmas celebrations in the village, including at The Cherries and Nancie Ross Centre, and welcomed schools into church as well as sharing the Christmas story in assemblies.

Throughout the year, the church Safeguarding Policy was kept up to date and overseen by the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Church life

The Fabric Committee

The Church and Centre continued to benefit from a small but dedicated team of volunteers, led by the churchwardens, particularly the monthly Grounds Working Party. Energy bills continued to be carefully monitored, and a church declutter continued to keep the Church and Centre maintained and efficient. The Church and Centre continued to be cleaned to a high standard, professionally and by volunteers. In July 2024 we started keeping the church building open during the week, with steps taken to ensure the building and valuable items were secured.

Worship

Christ Church is blessed by a talented team of musicians, singers, and technical support teams, complemented by Bible Readers, intercessors, and the flower team. In person services continue to be complemented by a livestream (10.30am only), managed by some superb volunteers. Services at Christ Church continue to offer a variety of styles, both traditional and modern. A second midweek communion service was introduced in the summer, meaning there are now two midweek services each month (on first and third Thursdays).

Discipleship

Growing deeper as disciples of Jesus continued to be a key part of Christ Church's mission.

- Sue Simpson continued to coordinate home groups at Christ Church, with groups encouraged to follow a church-wide teaching pattern of using the sermon series from September-Easter, and then choosing their own subjects
- Preaching continued to be a rich source of discipleship, led by Revd James Dwyer, Revd Gill Taylor, Sue Simpson, Debbie Fox-Webb, and Helen Broadbent as well as Phil Bellamy and Cheryl Dwyer (Authorised Preachers). Series included Gardens of Scripture, Philippians, Mary's Song, and Samuel
- Sharon Howard and Bridget Wiseman continued to oversee Junior Church, supported by a fantastic team of volunteers. In July 2024 Rebecca Hawes, our Children's Minister, joined the team. Engagement within schools was grown throughout the year, with an increasing number of assemblies in school and visits to church by the children. Junior Church started moving towards following the same sermon series as used in services
- Cheryl Dwyer continued to oversee Thrive, our youth group. Members of Thrive are involved across church life, including the coffee rota, All Age Worship, and more
- Messy Church continued to flourish, meeting monthly and welcoming an average of 45 children and 24 carers each month for craft, games, Bible stories, and dinner. Messy Church is overseen by Cheryl Dwyer and Rebecca Hawes, with support from a brilliant team
- Leonie Cowlard continued to facilitate Play Café and YouNique, creating small but significant gathering spaces for families in our community
- We held a Deanery Confirmation Service in October, with 15 candidates being baptised and/or confirmed
- A Church Weekend Away in April offered the chance for 60 members of the church family to spend time together and with God, deepening faith and growing in discipleship
- A new Growing Deeper session was started by Helen Broadbent, running on the third Thursday of the month before the midweek Holy Communion service

Prayer

Overseen by Jane Franklin, prayer continued to be a core value of Christ Church, including:

- Creative ways of praying were continued, including a much-valued Prayer Room in Lent picking up on the theme of Gardens of Scripture
- Daily Prayer (Mon-Fri) was held in the Rotunda, along with monthly parish prayers online and an emergency prayer chain and team of confidential intercessors
- Community Prayer regularly gathered leaders from nine local churches to pray for one another and our area
- Prayer takes place formally and informally during the week, in services, within prayer groups, and pastorally
- Prayer meetings for local schools

Pastoral Ministry

- The Pastoral Team, under the leadership of Sue Hill, continued to provide excellent pastoral support and develop pastoral care at Christ Church. The Bereavement Visiting

Team continued to minister to those in the days after loss

- Oasis, our self-help bereavement group, continued to meet three times a month as well as for social events and holidays throughout the year. Oasis regularly welcomes new members and spent some of 2024 preparing to celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2025
- Prayer for Healing continued to be offered at the 9am service on third Sundays, and prayer ministry at the end of the 10.30am service remained a key point of prayer and support. Prayer for Healing and Anointing was introduced on second Sundays at the 10.30am service
- Fellowship (men's ministry) and Sister Act (women's ministry) met regularly throughout the year, welcoming a range of speakers from both within and outside the church

Outreach and Evangelism

- The Flackwell Heath Community Pantry continued to be well resourced by donations from the church family and wider village
- We provided 45 School Starter Packs to families with children starting at Carrington and Juniper Hill Schools in September
- Coffee Stop continued as a registered Warm Space, providing a place of comfort for those struggling with the cost of living. Coffee Stop remained a key part of Christ Church's outreach in the community, running weekly during term time and on Wednesdays during school holidays (including the Christmas break)
- Play Café and You-Nique provided regular contact points for families in the wider community, and offered a safe space
- Alpha courses were run in partnership with Flackwell Heath Methodist Church
- Christ Church members were involved with local ministries, including One Can Trust, Wycombe 24/7 Prayer, Wycombe Youth for Christ and Wycombe Homeless Connection. Christ Church continued to support Christian Aid through collection and the plant sale. Our Christmas Gift Service collection went to Wycombe Homeless Connection
- At the start of 2024 Christ Church was committed to four Mission Partners: Jubilee Society (Mongolia), the Albanian Christian Centre (with New Beginnings Children's Home), Wycombe Youth for Christ, and a ministry in East Africa. During 2024 the ministry supported in East Africa ended, meaning our support for the ministry would need to change. It was agreed to keep some support going into 2025, but at the end of 2024 Christ Church had three 'active' Mission Partners. The Mission Partner reviews, undertaken during the year, provided a good platform from which to ask the question 'what next?' The mission noticeboard was maintained all year

Other community involvement

Christ Church continued to be an active presence in the life of the community, including:

- Welcoming the parish in for occasional offices
- Opening the church building during the week
- Holding the annual Memorial Service in November
- Holding a variety of Christmas services, including the village Christmas on the Heath celebrations
- Leading the village Remembrance Service
- Being an active presence in village schools

- Welcoming the Girl Guides, Brownies, and Rainbows for their Christmas service, and hosting Girls Brigade events

Financial Review

With total incoming resources of £241,960 and expenditure of £197,305, the net financial result for the year was excess of receipts over payments. The hard work of stabilising our finances in 2023 was rewarded by a good year in 2024. Major outgoings were the Diocesan Parish Share and the salaries for, by the end of 2024, three members of staff. All general income was tithed and supported the work of our mission partners.

Reserves Policy

In November 2024 the PCC reviewed the current level of reserves and were happy with the reserves held at around £110,000, which is designed to cover the equivalent of two months' general running costs and other anticipated expenses. Our reserves policy states our reserves must be no less than £40,000.

Revd James Dwyer
Chair of the Parochial Church Council
24th February 2025



Parochial Church Council of Christ Church, Flackwell Heath
Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ending 31 December **2024**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
				2024 £	2023 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
<i>Incoming resources from donors</i>	2(a)	163,639	-	163,639	167,166
<i>Other voluntary incoming resources</i>	2(b)	2,483		2,483	5,003
<i>Incoming resources from operating activities:</i>					
to further the Council's objects	2(c)	12,816		12,816	16,237
to generate funds	2(d)	240		240	120
<i>Income from investment</i>	2(e)	7,096		7,096	1,511
<i>Other ordinary incoming resources</i>	2(f)	24,337	31,349	55,686	34,208
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		210,611	31,349	241,960	224,245
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
<i>Grants</i>	3(a)	17,316	4,956	22,272	19,708
<i>Activities relating to the work of the Church</i>	3(b)	139,868	15,242	155,110	137,240
<i>Church Management and Administration</i>	3(c)	19,923		19,923	17,933
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		177,107	20,198	197,305	174,881
NET MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS		33,504	11,151	44,655	49,364
Balances brought forward at January 1		170,148	15,131	185,279	135,915
Balances carried forward at December 31		203,652	26,282	229,934	185,279

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
<i>Monetary Assets</i>		
HSBC Current Account	6,006	-6,013
Barclays Account	5,110	1,175
HSBC Deposit Account	71,508	104,981
1 year bond	85,000	85,000
90 day notice account	62,000	
Cash	310	136
	<u>229,934</u>	<u>185,279</u>

Debtors

There are no debtors.

Creditors

There are no creditors

Liabilities

There are no liabilities

Moveable Church Furnishings

Moveable church furnishings are valued at £0.00 for accounting purposes.

Non-Monetary Assets

Assorted gardening implements and shed – valued at £0.00 for accounting purposes.

The PCC owns assorted dvds, books and office equipment – valued at £0.00 for accounting purposes

<u>Funds Statement</u>	<u>Balance</u>
<u>Restricted Funds</u>	
Relief	490
Community Pantry	23,102
<u>Designated Funds</u>	
Hardship Fund	878
Schools Support	1,963
Oasis	11,674
General Fund	109,868
Development Fund	81,959
<u>Total</u>	<u>229,934</u>
<u>Represented by :-</u>	
HSBC Current Account	6,006
Barclays Account	5,110
HSBC Deposit Account	71,508
1 year bond	85,000
90 day notice account	62,000
Cash	310
<u>Total</u>	<u>229,934</u>

Parochial Church Council of Christ Church, Flackwell Heath
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2024

In previous years Designated and Restricted Funds were shown in a combined column.
As Designated Funds are unrestricted they are now shown in the Unrestricted column

2 INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL FUNDS	
	Funds	Funds	2024	2023
	£	£		
2(a) <i>Incoming resources from donors</i>				
Planned giving:				
Gift Aid donations	108,584		108,584	88,956
Other planned giving	7,864		7,864	8,200
Income tax recoverable	30,070		30,070	30,602
Loose plate collections	5,441		5,441	6,827
Other Gift Aid donations	7,396		7,396	25,263
Other donations	4,284		4,284	7,318
	<u>163,639</u>		<u>163,639</u>	<u>167,166</u>
2(b) <i>Other voluntary incoming resources</i>				
Donations to costs/expenses	1,483		1,483	1,003
One off Grants	1,000		1,000	-
Legacies	-		-	4,000
	<u>2,483</u>		<u>2,483</u>	<u>5,003</u>
2(c) <i>Incoming resources from operating activities:</i> <i>to further the Council's objects</i>				
Bible Notes & Events	3,300		3,300	6,145
Church Centre lettings	9,220		9,220	8,972
Fees for weddings etc	296		296	1,120
Other	-		-	-
	<u>12,816</u>		<u>12,816</u>	<u>16,237</u>
2(d) <i>Incoming resources from operating activities:</i> <i>to generate funds</i>				
Other funds generated	240		240	120
	<u>240</u>		<u>240</u>	<u>120</u>
2(e) <i>Income from investment</i>				
Bank and deposit account interest	7,096	-	7,096	1,511
	<u>7,096</u>		<u>7,096</u>	<u>1,511</u>
2(f) <i>Other ordinary incoming resources</i>				
Special collections	-	5,606	5,606	1,638
Community Pantry		25,743	25,743	23,285
Schools Support	3,310		3,310	
Use of photocopier	126		126	198
Oasis	13,673		13,673	1,735
Cash Floats (eg. Coffee Stop)	7,228	-	7,228	7,352
	<u>24,337</u>	<u>31,349</u>	<u>55,686</u>	<u>34,208</u>
Total Incoming Resources	<u>210,611</u>	<u>31,349</u>	<u>241,960</u>	<u>224,245</u>

3 RESOURCES EXPENDED	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2024	2023
3(a) <i>Grants</i>				
Missionary societies	16,716	-	16,716	17,470
Relief and development	-	-	-	-
Home mission	600		600	600
Special collections	-	4,956	4,956	1,638
Other	-		-	-
	<u>17,316</u>	<u>4,956</u>	<u>22,272</u>	<u>19,708</u>
3(b) <i>Activities relating to the work of the Church</i>				
Ministry: Diocesan Parish Share	83,917		83,917	86,488
Clergy expenses	2,568		2,568	1,475
Sanctuary	251		251	345
Music	854		854	667
Junior Church/Youth	671		671	648
Materials/books/services	1,091		1,091	383
Childrens Minister	5,257		5,257	
Church running expenses	8,870		8,870	8,904
Church repairs/maintenance	2,301		2,301	1,755
Church Centre costs	6,243		6,243	6,214
Bible Notes & Events	2,231		2,231	2,177
Cash Floats (eg. Coffee Stop)	5,647		5,647	6,179
Oasis	5,993		5,993	657
Community Pantry		15,242	15,242	9,370
Schools Support	3,347		3,347	
Training	80		80	34
Families/Parenting	9,321		9,321	11,465
Improvements	1,226		1,226	479
	<u>139,868</u>	<u>15,242</u>	<u>155,110</u>	<u>137,240</u>
3(c) <i>Church Management and Administration</i>				
Printing and stationery	2,677		2,677	3,325
Administrator salary & related costs	15,409		15,409	13,373
Office/administration	1,837		1,837	1,235
	<u>19,923</u>		<u>19,923</u>	<u>17,933</u>
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	<u><u>177,107</u></u>	<u><u>20,198</u></u>	<u><u>197,305</u></u>	<u><u>174,881</u></u>

Independent examiner's report to the PCC of Christ Church, Flackwell Heath

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2024 which are set out on pages 1 to 4 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Account Regulations 2006 ("the regulations") and section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 ("the act").

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Independent Examiner

The PCC is responsible for the preparation of the accounts and considers that an audit is not required for this year and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the regulations

Basis of this Independent Examiner's Statement

This examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. It includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records
 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting recordshave not been met;
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached



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