

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST HELEN'S, WHEATHAMPSTEAD AND ST PETER'S, GUSTARD WOOD

England & Wales - Charity number 1132924

## Details

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**Other names** WHEATHAMPSTEAD PCC

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Previously excepted

**Registered** 2009-11-23

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

## Contact

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**Address** 2 Hordle Gardens  
St. Albans  
AL1 1JW

**Phone** 01727863490

**Email** [office@sth-stp.org](mailto:office@sth-stp.org)

**Website** [www.sth-stp.org](http://www.sth-stp.org)

## Activities

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

**Activities:** Activities of the PCC include regular public worship open to all; pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved; teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups; promotion of Christianity through events, meetings and literature; promoting and supporting the mission of the Church; and supporting charitable work locally, nationally and overseas.

## Classification

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

## Geography

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

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£259,148	£248,173	-	-
2023-12-31	£244,452	£225,694	-	-
2022-12-31	£177,836	£177,585	-	-
2021-12-31	£168,664	£182,987	-	-
2020-12-31	£228,112	£269,020	-	-

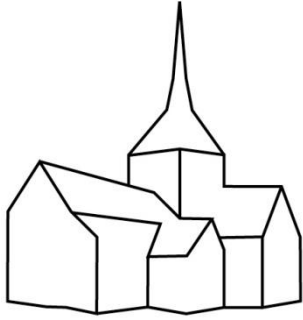
## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Ales Vrbas		2022-05-04
Barbara Doye		2025-10-15
Correen Boothroyd		2025-05-06
DAVID HARTLEY		2016-04-19
DAVID PANGBOURNE		2011-09-29
Hilary Hollick		2023-05-28
Jennifer Hanks		2026-05-05
Keith Andrews		2019-05-01
LINDA THOMAS		2015-04-21
Madeleine Bigmore		2014-04-30
Martin Thomas		2022-05-04
Michael Hollick		2025-05-06
Rev Andrew Jefferson		2026-05-13
Richard Mowbray		2025-05-06
SIMON PETER FRANCIS BEST		
STEPHEN WILSON		2015-04-21
Sabrina Shafer		2026-05-05
Sara Harnett		2025-06-10
Sherry Young		2026-05-05
Stephen Channing Rider		2024-04-24

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# Accounts

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*Wheathampstead*  
**Parochial Church Council**

# **Annual Report & Financial Statements**

**for the year ended  
31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Helen's Wheathampstead  
and St. Peter's Gustard Wood**

**Registered Charity No: 1132924**

**St Helen's + St Peter's · Wheathampstead**   
*living and working for the glory of God*

## ***Rector's Introduction***

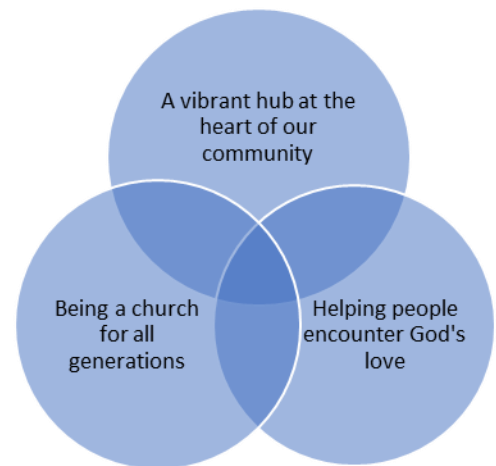
## The Parish Vision: Bringing our strategic planning to life

The Parish's Vision and Mission Action Plan is a framework for how we wish to see the parish developing over the next five years. Our Mission statement and Vision are reviewed each five years and were reset in their current form at the beginning of 2022.

Our *Mission* is that we are Living God's Love in Our Community.

Our *Vision* for St Helen's and St Peter's is that we will:

1. Make St Helen's and St Peter's **a vibrant hub at the heart of the community** with buildings fit for God's mission in 21<sup>st</sup> century Wheathampstead
2. Be **a church for all generations**
3. Provide **opportunities for people to encounter God's love**



LIVING GOD'S LOVE IN OUR COMMUNITY

Across all of these is a wish also to lighten the parish's environmental footprint.

The PCC is responsible for driving the Vision forward and its meetings typically begin with a working session on the Vision, usually making progress towards the current goals for each of the Vision's three priorities and planning the next steps.

The third year of the new Vision has seen good progress in all three priority areas. Some items, such as the Buildings Working Group, Children and Families, Youth Work and Environmental Activities are covered more fully elsewhere in this Report. Many recently introduced activities ran again successfully in 2024, including the third Big Help-Out day.

The parish had an active presence at both Village Day and the St Helen's School Summer Fair, as well as joining in the School's Scarecrow Trail. An inspiring Developing Disciples course helped 13 people along their Christian journeys and in the Spring there was a meditation day led by visiting Brother Cassian.

A new church trail leaflet was developed with the use of QR codes to give further information, while the Friends of St Helen's Church offered tours of the church over the Heritage weekend. Temporary noticeboards were placed in the churchyard to promote forthcoming activities to passers-by and raise environmental awareness.

A vibrant musical evening in September celebrated the work of volunteers in the church and the community. An autumn tea party brought the church's teams of Welcomers together. We are continuing to encourage volunteering and to strengthen the welcome offered at all our services. The Community Larder in 2024 ran in St Helen's Church on one day each week during the summer school holidays.

The PCC expects to build upon this progress during 2025.

## **The Parochial Church Council (PCC)**

The combination of mission, vision and strategic priorities provides a framework within which the PCC evaluates our progress and promotes new initiatives for growth.

### **Role**

In accordance with the PCC (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended, the Wheathampstead Parochial Church Council (“PCC”) shares with the Rector and other Ministers the work of promotion in the Parish of “the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical”. It is responsible for the churches of St Helen’s and St Peter’s, Gustard Wood. The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England and is registered as Wheathampstead PCC with the Charity Commission (charity number 1132924) and can be contacted at the Parish Office, St Helen’s Church, High Street, Wheathampstead, AL4 8AA. In planning the activities for the year, the PCC has considered the Commission’s guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

### **PCC Activities in 2024**

Our Annual Report and Financial Statements look back at a calendar year: this Annual Report and Financial Statements 2024 looks back at the calendar year 2024.

During its year of office, the PCC has met on ten occasions. PCC meetings regularly begin with a period dedicated to the Parish Vision; in group and plenary sessions PCC Members set short and long-term goals, consider initiatives and their implementation and evaluate progress. Our meetings continue to include devotions, discussions and decision-taking. Individuals are invited to join PCC meetings where their contribution is particularly valuable. A summary of PCC meetings continues to be shared with our mailing list. Annual reports are received from many areas of church life and our policies are regularly reviewed. In addition, the Ministerial Team, sub-committees and other groups continue to meet and report to the PCC during the year reflecting the many aspects of Church life.

### **Membership**

Members of the PCC are ex officio, co-opted or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). There are up to twelve elected lay members. The list of members who served in 2024 is below. The PCC wishes to record their gratitude to all who have tirelessly assisted in maintaining the momentum of the progress of our Vision for Wheathampstead, Gustard Wood and beyond. We thank all those individuals and groups who have contributed so readily to our worship, pastoral care and activities.

Our grateful thanks go to all who have contributed to the governance and decision-making of the church through their service on the PCC. Barbara Doye and Martin Thomas will retire by rotation and be eligible for re-election to the PCC. Linda Thomas retires but is eligible for nomination to the PCC ex officio as a Lay Reader. Stephen Rider was co-opted to the PCC in April 2024 and will be eligible for election to the PCC. Bob Carter and Brian Golesworthy are retiring from the PCC. Vacancies will exist for lay members to be elected either as Churchwardens at the Meeting of Parishioners or to the PCC at the APCM; there are also two vacancies for Deanery Synod Representatives.

## List of PCC Members

The following members served on the PCC following the APCM in April 2024.

Name	Capacity	Serving from	Serving to
Rev Richard Banham	Rector & PCC Chair	April 2010	While in office *
David Hartley	Elected Churchwarden	Elected APCM 2024	APCM 2025 *
Hilary Hollick	Elected Churchwarden	Elected APCM 2024	APCM 2025 *
Keith Andrews	Elected Lay Member Deputy Warden from Oct 21	Elected APCM 2024	APCM 2027 *
Simon Best	Elected Lay Member Lay Vice Chair	Elected APCM 2024	APCM 2027 *
Madeleine Bigmore	Elected Lay Member	Elected APCM 2023	APCM 2026 *
Helen Caldwell	Elected Lay Member	Elected APCM 2023	APCM 2026 *
Bob Carter	Elected Lay Member	Elected APCM 2024	APCM 2027 *
Barbara Doye	Elected Lay Member	Elected APCM 2022	APCM 2025 *
Brian Golesworthy	Deanery Synod Member	Elected APCM 2023	APCM 2026 *
David Pangbourne	Elected Lay Member	Elected APCM 2023	APCM 2026 *
Stephen Rider	Co-opted Member Hon. Treasurer	Co-opted April 2024	APCM 2025 *
Linda Thomas	Deanery Synod Member	Elected APCM 2023	APCM 2026 *
Martin Thomas	Elected Lay Member	Elected APCM 2022	APCM 2025 *
Ales Vrbas	Elected Lay Member	Elected APCM 2023	APCM 2026 *
Stephen Wilson	Deanery Synod Member Hon. Secretary	Elected APCM 2023	APCM 2026 *

\*Member serving on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 (end of Report and Accounts year).

Jim Donnet and Ross Rayner attended some PCC meetings as Observers.

## Team of Ministers

As with so many areas of church life, we are fortunate to have such a capable and committed team of Ministers who lead our worship and do so much good work away from the spotlight of Sunday Services.

Minister	Role	Minister	Role
Rev Richard Banham	Rector	Claire Banham	Reader
Rt Rev John Gladwin	Retired Bishop	Carol Hopper	Reader
Rev Brian Gwinn	Retired Minister	Pippa Legg	Reader
Rev Tom Purchas	Retired Minister	John Grace	Reader
Rev Geoff Barter	Retired Minister	Barbara Doye	Reader in Training
Linda Thomas	Children & Families Minister and Reader		

## Working Groups, Committees and Sub-committees

The PCC appointed the following officers: Stephen Wilson as **Honorary Secretary**, Stephen Rider as **Honorary Treasurer**, Britt Dahle and Sabrina Shafer as **Parish Safeguarding Officers**, Jez Hirst as **Parish Safeguarding Adviser**, Helen Caldwell as **Lead Recruiter, DBS Administrator** and **PCC Safeguarding Officer**, Judith Lambert as **Electoral Roll Officer** and Michael Hollick as **Health & Safety Officer**. David Pangbourne is serving as Interim **Data Protection Officer**.

The PCC elects a “**Standing Committee**” with power, subject to the directions of the PCC, to transact business between PCC meetings. Its members are Richard Banham, David Hartley, Hilary Hollick, Keith Andrews, Simon Best, Stephen Rider and Stephen Wilson.

The overall co-ordination of our **Vision** is led by Simon Best as Chairman.

The PCC is advised by a “**Fabric Committee**” which is chaired by Stephen Scowcroft.

The Rector and Ruth Jeavons have served as our appointees to **Wheathampstead Churches Together** in whose activities we regularly participate together with St. Thomas More RC Church and Wheathampstead United Church. These include the Good Friday Walk of Witness, special services like the Advent Carol Service, occasions for joint prayer and our ecumenical Lent courses.

## Financial Review

The Financial Statements of the PCC are attached, see pages 13 to 19. The Statement of Financial Activities shows our income and expenditure for the year on our General (Unrestricted) Fund; on the Designated Funds we have set aside for major Fabric costs, Reserves and the Development Fund; and the Restricted Funds which we have been given for particular purposes, and our Endowment Fund. The Balance Sheet shows the state of our finances at the year end and both these statements are supported by notes.

In 2024 our planned giving decreased slightly on the previous year. We were pleased that many were able to increase their donation in line with inflation and that there were a net 3 (2023, 5) new regular donors to the Parish Giving Scheme. This continuous support is much appreciated and represents 54% (2023, 52%) of our unrestricted income. The Unrestricted Funds initially show a surplus for the year of £7,044 (2023, £14,269). This figure takes into account our income for general purposes, from which is deducted our normal annual outgoings on the church and its activities, together with our contribution to the Diocese (the Parish Share), and the Parish’s own giving.

It is the PCC’s aim to ensure that normal expenditure is, at least, covered by our annual income, and this has been achieved this year, although it should be noted that a transfer from unrestricted funds to the designated funds of £10,000 for the Roof Fund did result in a small fall in unrestricted funds of £2,956.

In addition to these normal running costs there were expenses from our designated funds on fabric and church development. Our total funds, being unrestricted, designated and restricted, at the end of the year stand at £313,110 (2023, £302,135). This is an increase of £10,975 (2023, £18,758) from the previous year.

## Reserves Policy

The PCC follows the general recommendations for Church of England parishes and sets aside funds via its Designated Fund to provide cover against a sudden loss of income and unforeseen capital expenditure. Designated reserves of £209,326 (2023, £205,397) are shown in note 9 to the annual accounts. Within our designated reserves there is £55,049 (2023, £52,590) set aside for loss of income, £82,587 (2023, £78,897) for capital expenditure, and £64,908 (2023, £52,231) for the Roof Fund. As at 31st December 2024 the amount in the General Fund which was not Restricted or Designated amounted to £69,885 (2023, £72,841). Total free reserves, being Unrestricted and Designated cash and short-term deposit funds, came to £285,933 (2023, £274,787).

## Charity Partnerships

We are delighted that we were able to maintain our committed financial support throughout this last year – the 7th year when our focus has been on Vulnerable Children.

### Overview of Charity Partnerships

#### Local

**Azalea Luton** reaches out to those suffering the injustice of sex trafficking, supporting them to build new lives because of the love of God, through Outreach, Drop-In and Befriending and also works as a key partner in Faiths Against Child Sexual Exploitation (FACES) – which is a local coalition of faith leaders working to prevent Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). There is active involvement and support by individual members of the congregation and one of our house groups.

#### National

**The Children’s Society** is committed to fighting child poverty and neglect and helping all children to have a better chance in life. From their early history in the vision and actions of a young Sunday School teacher at the end of the nineteenth century, their work has been grounded in the churches at local and national levels. Churches constitute their core partners and they work very closely with the Church of England. Unfortunately with the loss of a Regional Representative post, we report that our link has become less active.

#### International

**CCT Kimbilio** is overseen by a group of experienced Trustees who share a passion for the Congo and work with street children. In simple terms, Kimbilio is a project supported by the Congo Children Trust. Kimbilio supports street children in Lubumbashi, Katanga in the Democratic Republic of Congo. They have been working alongside the Anglican Church of Congo since 2007. There are active links with British schools.

There is ongoing discussion about identifying a further International Charity and reviewing our current partnerships: the advice and experience of the congregation will be sought.

#### Giving 2024 (paid quarterly)

Charity	Annual Total
Azalea	£3,000
The Children’s Society	£3,000
CCT & Kimbilio	£3,500

#### Additional Support for Charities:

During 2024 we provided support and additional fund-raising activities for our Charity Partners and several other charities. Over £500 was raised for St Albans Open Door Homeless Service by a Sleepout in which members of our Youth Group and a similar group at another church participated. The Wheathampstead Churches Together Christian Aid Week appeal raised £3,143-65. The Children’s Society received a total of £415-20 from the donation box collection. Our congregation donated £1,646-90 to the Bishop’s Harvest Appeal for Sri Lanka in conjunction with The Leprosy Mission with donations of food going to local food banks. The summer-holiday project “The Community Larder” attracted financial donations of £1,762 and the Christmas Lunch on Jesus project received donations in excess of £2,172. Significant donations have continued to be received into our Community Fund with which it is possible to assist local people in difficulties. The figures in this report remind us of the remarkable continuing generosity of our congregation in funding charitable work.

## Safeguarding

The PCC is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and vulnerable adults who attend church or church activities. We have in place – and regularly review – a policy for Safeguarding which is the Church of England Statement “Promoting a Safer Church”. Our Safeguarding Procedures are contained in the Church of England’s “Parish Safeguarding Handbook”. The PCC receives regular reports on Safeguarding which is on the agenda for every meeting. All relevant volunteers are DBS-checked and issued with appropriate guidance for their role; safer recruitment standards are followed. We are committed to having role descriptions and training for all our volunteers. All activities and events have risk assessments. 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).

## Risk & Statutory Policies

As required by law, the PCC has considered the major risks within its responsibility and the systems designed to minimise those risks; this has included annual Health and Safety Inspections with recommendations reported to the PCC. We have undertaken risk assessments for all areas of activity. We have an appropriate fire risk assessment. We hold a register to log any accidents. We take out adequate insurance cover against fire, theft, employers’ and public liability and other insurable risks. Clear procedures are in place for the authorisation of expenditure and secure receipt and recording of income.

The PCC has in place statutory policies in the following areas:

- Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults;
- Domestic Abuse;
- Data Protection;
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion;
- Health and Safety;
- GDPR/Privacy.

Where appropriate, these are in line with Diocesan guidance and all are reviewed regularly by the PCC for any changes in activities and developments in statutory requirements or recommended practice.

## Goods Fabric and Ornaments

The annual inventory of Church goods, fabric and ornaments was completed during the year and all essential items found to be present and correctly accounted for (and the absence of a few minor items duly noted). The Fabric Committee has taken further the programme of redecoration and repairs at St. Helen’s and St. Peter’s which has included work on the buildings, churchyard and car parks. A sponsored independent Energy Audit was conducted at St. Helen’s which offered direction towards our ambition to achieve “Carbon Zero” by 2030.

The PCC records thanks to the Fabric Committee for many other alterations and improvements. At St. Helen’s these include repairs to gulleys and lead flashing on the vestry roof, repairs to the churchyard wall on the High Street, servicing of the bells, ropes and associated equipment, repairs to churchyard standard lantern, refreshing the Parish noticeboard facing the High Street, installation of two 100W LED spotlights to illuminate the spire, constructing shelving in the vestry and installation of a new fibre broadband service from Kinex following a network upgrade by Openreach. At St. Peter’s, clearing gutters, fixing an external car park light and trimming boundary hedges was achieved.

Faculty consent was received for conservation work on the Garrard Memorial and Garden of Remembrance (GofR) extension. Work on the former was subsequently completed by Carthy Conservation Ltd. Work to establish the new GofR required the installation of concrete spurs and hardwood rails for attaching plaques and the planting of a new Japanese Holly hedge to mark the boundary of the extension.

Two low-mow areas were marked out and overhanging trees removed. In addition, a well-attended “Big Help Out” was organised, and special work parties undertook various tasks at both churches both inside and outside.

## **Environmental Activities**

*At St. Helen’s and St. Peter’s we believe that human beings are called to be faithful stewards and to enjoy a relationship with and a responsibility for God’s creation. We seek to serve the earth, not enslave it.*

Caring for our environment plays an increasingly important part in the life of the Parish, as we acknowledge the stress that human activities have caused for the world around us and pray for those affected by the increasing incidence of extreme weather events. The Parish received the A Rocha Eco Church Silver Award in 2024 and is now working towards the Gold Award.

The Parish’s Environmental Group arranged a consultation with the Diocesan Living Churchyard Adviser, who identified some interesting wildflowers in some of the mown areas, such as lady’s bedstraw, burnet saxifrage and common knapweed. The Group is developing a churchyard management plan to promote these plants and to provide a favourable environment for other flora and fauna, subject to the inevitable constraints of it being a public space and burial ground. A series of environmental notices were displayed in the churchyard during 2024 encouraging passers-by to reflect on aspects of the environment.

A creation-centred service at St Peter’s during the Churches Count on Nature week in June engaged the congregation after the service in identifying 35 species of flowers and shrubs, nine tree species, eight species of birds and three of insects in the small St Peter’s churchyard.

The Group repeated in July 2024 a visit by 30 children from St Helen’s School to enjoy a range of nature-based activities around the St Helen’s churchyard.

The parish again collected used printer ink cartridges for recycling, making a modest contribution to parish funds. A facility for recycling pharmaceutical blister packs was also introduced in 2024. Used and redundant candles were donated to produce new candles for people in Ukraine to use during power cuts.

The Fabric Committee seeks to keep in mind how it can lighten the Parish’s environmental footprint, subject to the constraints of a heritage-listed building and a limited budget.

The Parish marked the Season of Creation in the autumn of 2024 with a series of sermons on our relationship with the environment and a display showing some of its environmental activities.

## **Buildings Working Group**

Good progress has been made in the last year as we strive to address our needs to render our St. Helen’s church building a truly vibrant hub at the heart of our community with buildings fit for God’s mission in 21st century Wheathampstead.

At the last APCM we outlined the progress that had been made with the painstaking task of consulting with the statutory 3rd parties and the DAC on our ideas. As presented last time, this culminated in a design that would deliver, amongst other things, new toilets, a new kitchen, level access at the west door, an enclosed space in the south transept, welcome areas and flexible seating in the nave/north and south aisles.

We achieved a consensus of the church community and many of the statutory consultees around the feasibility design in Spring/Summer 2024. We then appointed a design team to undertake the next stage of design (Scheme Design) and this has been developed with the BWG over the last 6 months with the objective of delivering the formal statutory approvals needed to implement building works, including local authority planning consent and a Faculty from the DAC. The design team have now largely completed the Scheme Design and have submitted a 'pre-application' submission to the local authority planners and the DAC in March, in preparation for a full formal submission to follow after initial consultation and feedback.

In parallel with the 'pre-app', we have prepared presentation boards of the designs in the church to show how the feasibility design ideas have been developed and it is planned to show these from 7<sup>th</sup> April.

Also in parallel, we are seeking an update on the overall cost of the scheme from our quantity surveyors. The broad outline costs of the options in the Feasibility Study were reported as between £550,000 and £650,000+VAT at 2023 prices.

All this activity will then be followed by the preparation of the local authority planning submission and Faculty submission to the DAC. As part of this process there will be a public consultation exercise.

As ever, we must continue to focus on a scheme that is deliverable, and seek a balance between this objective; our needs and affordability. We anticipate that the statutory 3<sup>rd</sup> party consultees will still have often conflicting views, which we will need to work through.

Once the above approvals are received, we will need further funding to deliver the 1<sup>st</sup> phase building works on site (still likely to be the new toilets in the north door extension and the level west door entrance and landscaping). As a church community we need to press on with this fund raising activity, starting with the formation of a fund raising group, action plan and raising funds. To date the sum raised is £5,117.

*Keith Andrews*

## **Coffee in the Chancel**

In September 2011 we launched a new idea in church of a coffee shop in the chancel. Over the last 14 years it has changed in many ways but has always been serving good coffee and delicious homemade cakes. We now open on Monday, Tuesday and Saturday and each day attracts different customers.

On Monday we support a U3A iPad group fortnightly, a social group who meet monthly and an informal WI coffee group – and then later host a bible discussion group. It's our quieter day as on Tuesday and Saturday we are a regular venue for several groups of friends for a weekly get together and we welcome our Celtic Prayer group on Saturday mornings – so we are often serving coffee non-stop!

We are staffed entirely by volunteers – some from within the church membership but many from within the community. Our prices are set to be more affordable than other cafes as our ethos is to support our community and provide a place for rest and refreshment. Despite that we do make a profit of over £3,000 most years and this is added to church funds.

*Sally Jones & Hilary Hollick*

## **Children and Families**

The number of families who are part of our worshipping community has continued to grow during the year, and we now have regular contact with over 50 children aged 0-10 years. This does not include contact with children at both primary schools and our weekly toddler group. Provision for family-friendly worship has included our fortnightly Kids Worship and monthly All Age Communion services as well as a "play and pray" area and stories during the Parish Communion and regular Messy church and Mossy (outdoor) church services.

During the Easter period in 2024 we held a successful intergenerational Pancake Party on Shrove Tuesday, worked with families to create an Easter garden outside the West door of St Helen's and walked with a donkey across Rectory Gardens to the church on Palm Sunday.

During the school year, St Helen's School have had regular services in the church and a team from St Helen's have led a weekly "Open the Bible" worship session in school. The Rector has taken occasional assemblies at Beech Hyde School. The Children and Families Minister has assisted with a pilot of The Haven mental health course for a small group of Year 6 children and has started to lead a pilot of the Alban Way leadership course, also for Year 6, alongside a member of the Diocesan Growing Younger and more Diverse team. She has continued to support new Reception children with a regular Bible story and has again run a weekly after school club. The church joined in with the village scarecrow trail in September.

The Christmas period included another successful Nativity with live animals at the village Lights Up event, Christingles both in church and school and Crib services.

*Linda Thomas*

## **Youth Group**

The St. Helen's Youth Group continues to meet on Sunday afternoons, with the usual mix of games, food, activities and chat. The team is so encouraged that for the third year running we've had a positive take-up from Year 6's, who are invited to join in the Spring Term. This year, 4 new members have swiftly become "regulars" and have integrated well with the existing group – we now have over 20 young people "on the books" with an average of 10 young people attending on a Sunday.

Weekly gatherings focus on giving our young people space to explore the big questions of life, which they seem to relish. We asked the group to come up with themes for exploration and subsequently we have covered such weighty topics as "Faith vs Science", "Good & Evil" and "What happens after death?" Other sessions are shaped around clips from the TV series "The Chosen" (a dramatization of Jesus' life), which gives us more time to introduce the members to the great news that Jesus can be in their lives.

Sometimes it's easier to meet with God when we are away from "home turf", and so we're excited to be taking three members of our group to Satellites Christian Festival this summer. We also take as many members as possible along to regional events, such as Illuminate Cathedral and the new Fuel Adventure youth gatherings.

One mum recently messaged us to tell us that her daughter "found the conversations (at Youth Group) really interesting ... and felt it was a safe space to open up about things". More of that, please Lord!

*Youth Work Team: Richard & Claire Banham, Anne Hollis and Sarah Holloway*

## **St. Helen's Fellowship**

We are delighted to report that St. Helen's Fellowship is thriving.

We meet each Thursday in school term time, in The Mead Hall, 2.45 -4.15pm, with a £2 weekly sub. We have been able to extend our programme to include more speakers. This has resulted in a wider attendance and, whilst being enjoyable and even educational, it has encouraged the social side to flourish as well. Topics have included the origins, moves and music of the Argentine Tango; Eat, drink and be Merry in Roman Verulamium [with food samples made for us to taste] ; The Drain Brain – the great grandson of Sir Joseph Bazalgette speaking of his relative's designing and overseeing of the Victorian sewer system in London.

We watched the film 'The Cruel Sea' then had a talk on that naval experience. 'Lock 'em up, Bang 'em up' told of a charity's work in the rehabilitation of prisoners. The Ol' Packers ukelele group had members up on

their feet and dancing! Chair exercises with Sarah brought much laughter. Social afternoons include quizzes, raffles, board games and Bingo and there is always a 'Save a space for Puds' session. 'Adventures in the Far East' and then 'Egypt' were two excellent talks given by Richard, our Rector.

We are very grateful to Richard, Bishop John and Brian Gwinn for leading us in our monthly Holy Communion services and to the Clover Singing Club for supporting us at our Advent Celebration in Church.

We continue our link with the MacIntyre Home in the village. Outreach is part and parcel of fellowship and we hope that St. Helen's Fellowship offers spiritual support but also good old fashioned fun and friendship to all who come to us – and there is always tea and biscuits!

*Jill Bareham and Louise Edwards ... and with THANKS to everyone in our valued team*

## **Deanery Synod Report**

The Rector and three elected representatives serve on the Deanery Synod. Rev'd Jo Burke (St. Leonard's, Flamstead) succeeded Canon Dennis Stamps as Rural Dean and she was commissioned by Archdeacon Charles at the July Deanery Synod Meeting. The Deanery arranged an Ascension Day Service and an Evening Service in Creationtide. There was also a Deanery Prayer Walk in May and an Advent Quiet Morning. In addition the Deanery Synod arranged three meetings: in February representatives were able to share recent experiences and initiatives and reflect together on current challenges and opportunities. At the other two meetings guest speakers helped us to focus on a particular topic. Synod meetings take place in different parishes of the Deanery and offer the chance to learn more about other churches and congregations.

The July meeting involved a presentation by Polly Eaton - Eco Diocese Officer - for A Rocha who gave a detailed explanation of the Award Scheme and the survey which lay behind it. There was a great deal of scope for active work in the use of buildings and churchyards and commitment through our lifestyle as well as community and global engagement. A number of "environmentalists" from St. Helen's and St. Peter's attended and shortly afterwards we successfully qualified for the A Rocha Eco Church Silver Award.

In October the speakers were Jacob Kurien and Corinne McCrum of the Dispute Advisory Service. They explained that disputes happen, conflict and disagreement is natural but learning how to deal with this well strengthens trust and relationships. Some experience disputes as more painful in a Christian setting. In any case unresolved conflict can fester. One person's solution may not suit others, and a useful emphasis can be on offering early support before situations escalate. People may need space to explain their situation and opportunities to look for ways to resolve it in a non-threatening environment.

**The above report was approved by the Wheathampstead Parochial Church Council on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025.**



Canon Richard Banham  
Chairman



**WHEATHAMPSTEAD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**2024 Accounts**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - For the year ended 31 December 2024**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted & Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	FUNDS 2023 £
<b>INCOME &amp; ENDOWMENTS</b>						
<b>Incoming resources from donors</b>						
Planned Giving via Parish Giving Scheme		108,791	-	-	108,791	106,912
Other Planned giving		9,782	-	-	9,782	12,905
Tax recoverable on planned giving		27,711	-	-	27,711	27,894
Collections: St Helen's		7,449	-	-	7,449	7,283
Collections: St Peter's		757	-	-	757	1,021
Tax recoverable on Small Donations Scheme		2,161	-	-	2,161	2,098
Collections for Specific Purposes		-	-	4,105	4,105	1,366
Collections for the Community Fund		-	-	3,564	3,564	4,754
Legacies, donations etc	2	8,616	660	27,465	36,741	37,287
		<b>165,267</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>35,134</b>	<b>201,061</b>	<b>201,520</b>
<b>Income from investment</b>						
Interest and Dividends		3,490	9,476	1,281	14,247	11,111
<b>Income from charitable trading/fees</b>						
Coffee in the Chancel		3,983	-	-	3,983	4,713
Fees for weddings and funerals		23,603	-	-	23,603	21,000
		<b>27,586</b>			<b>27,586</b>	<b>25,713</b>
<b>Other incoming resources</b>						
Coffee after services		447	-	-	447	536
Rental income		999	-	-	999	1,412
VAT recovered on building works		1,166	-	3,720	4,886	1,970
Grants		740	-	4,000	4,740	500
Flowers		-	-	4,340	4,340	1,220
Bells		-	-	360	360	240
Other income		482	-	-	482	230
		<b>3,834</b>		<b>12,420</b>	<b>16,254</b>	<b>6,108</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>200,177</b>	<b>10,136</b>	<b>48,835</b>	<b>259,148</b>	<b>244,452</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>						
Giving	3	12,100	-	7,695	19,795	16,100
Church Management & Administration	4	30,179	-	3,445	33,624	34,098
For the work of the Church	5	150,854	16,207	27,693	194,754	175,496
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>193,133</b>	<b>16,207</b>	<b>38,833</b>	<b>248,173</b>	<b>225,694</b>
<b>NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>7,044</b>	<b>(6,071)</b>	<b>10,002</b>	<b>10,975</b>	<b>18,758</b>
Transfers between funds		(10,000)	10,000	-	-	-
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>(2,956)</b>	<b>3,929</b>	<b>10,002</b>	<b>10,975</b>	<b>18,758</b>
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD	9	72,841	205,397	23,897	302,135	283,377
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>69,885</b>	<b>209,326</b>	<b>33,899</b>	<b>313,110</b>	<b>302,135</b>

# WHEATHAMPSTEAD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

## 2024 Accounts

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - Year ended 31 December 2024

#### 1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions, together with FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS102)).

The historical cost convention is adopted except for investments, which are shown at market value at the balance sheet date.

The statements are prepared on the accruals basis.

#### Funds

Unrestricted funds are those available for the general purposes of the PCC. The purpose of restricted funds is noted in the statements. Interest, other income and tax recoverable related to amounts allocated to particular funds is credited to those funds.

The statements include transactions for which the PCC is responsible but not those of informal groups of members or of separately constituted bodies from which the PCC may benefit.

#### Income and use of resources

Collections, donations and similar income are recognised on receipt.

Income tax recoverable on donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Income from fund raising events, coffee in the chancel etc, is shown in full and the related expenses are included within resources used.

Grants and legacies are recognised in the period when they become due.

Expenditure is accounted for when incurred.

#### Assets

In so far as consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the statutory definition of "charity" by Section 10(2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011, such assets are not capitalised in the financial statements.

Depreciation is provided on equipment used by the PCC over the useful life of the asset. Items of equipment costing less than £1,000 are written off when the expenditure is incurred.

Short term deposits include cash held in a Church of England Central Board of Finance account and at the bank.

#### 2 LEGACIES, DONATIONS, NAVE BOXES, ETC.

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted & Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	FUNDS 2023 £
Nave boxes, Donations	6,947	-	10,000	16,947	5,680
Legacies	-	-	-	-	14,000
Friends of St Helen's	-	-	14,600	14,600	7,169
Flower Fund	-	-	720	720	400
Fellowship Fund	-	-	950	950	464
Fabric Fund	-	300	-	300	650
Development Fund	-	288	-	288	2,800
Energy Fund	-	-	-	-	1,690
Concert	-	-	-	-	860
The Ark	508	-	-	508	434
Miscellaneous income	-	-	-	-	151
Income tax recoverable on donations	1,161	72	1,195	2,428	2,989
	<b>8,616</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>27,465</b>	<b>36,741</b>	<b>37,287</b>

#### Related Party Disclosures

Donations, including planned giving, from Trustees and their related parties amounted to £25,950 during the year 2024 (2023: £24,985)

## WHEATHAMPSTEAD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

### 2024 Accounts

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - Year ended 31 December 2024

#### 3 GIVING

	From Parish income		Special collections, Community Fund	
	2024 £	2023 £	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Charity Partners</b>				
Congo Children Trust	3,500	3,500	-	-
The Children's Society	3,000	3,000	69	109
Azalea	3,000	3,000	937	-
	<u>9,500</u>	<u>9,500</u>	<u>1,006</u>	<u>109</u>
<b>Other charities</b>				
St Helen's School	2,550	2,550	-	-
Harvest Appeal	-	-	1,647	-
The Trusell Trust	-	-	-	1,090
Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust	50	40	-	-
Christian Aid	-	-	313	100
Payments from Community Fund	-	-	3,290	2,439
Payments from Funeral Collections	-	-	1,439	272
	<u>2,600</u>	<u>2,590</u>	<u>6,689</u>	<u>3,901</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u><b>12,100</b></u>	<u><b>12,090</b></u>	<u><b>7,695</b></u>	<u><b>4,010</b></u>

Note: Giving to St Helen's School is by standing order which is continuing into 2025

#### 4 CHURCH MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted & Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	FUNDS 2023 £
Stationery, post, telephone, print	3,320	-	-	3,320	3,093
Staff salaries	23,580	-	3,445	27,025	27,759
Pension contribution	790	-	-	790	790
Payroll administration costs	517	-	-	517	494
Office Equipment depreciation	998	-	-	998	998
Bank charges and card fees	434	-	-	434	424
Database Fees	540	-	-	540	540
	<u><b>30,179</b></u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>3,445</b></u>	<u><b>33,624</b></u>	<u><b>34,098</b></u>

#### Note

During the year the PCC employed an average monthly number of 2 staff (2023: 2 staff) : a parish administrator, and a Children's and Families' Minister, both on a part time basis. The services of an occasional organist are also provided on a regular basis, The total costs of salaries and pensions are as shown above and no national insurance costs were incurred. No employees received more than £60,000.

## WHEATHAMPSTEAD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

### 2024 Accounts

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - Year ended 31 December 2024

#### 5 RESOURCES USED FOR THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted & Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	FUNDS 2023 £
Parish share to Diocese	101,172	-	-	101,172	100,359
Fees paid to Diocese	5,558	-	-	5,558	4,664
Wedding Disbursements	1,779	-	-	1,779	1,500
Funeral Disbursements	2,760	-	-	2,760	2,600
Plaques and other memorials	652	-	-	652	443
Ministry expenses	163	-	-	163	1,127
Electricity & Water (St Helens)	4,482	-	-	4,482	4,403
Electricity & Water (St Peters)	738	-	-	738	609
Gas (St Helen's)	5,444	-	-	5,444	9,439
Maintenance (St Helens)	9,209	-	-	9,209	13,729
Maintenance (St Peters)	1,114	-	-	1,114	163
Insurance (St Helens)	4,017	-	-	4,017	3,865
Insurance (St Peters)	806	-	-	806	669
Mission	4,693	-	704	5,397	3,344
Children, Youth & Schools	2,990	-	-	2,990	3,300
Services	2,102	-	-	2,102	2,118
Choir and music	1,003	-	150	1,153	830
Casual organists for regular Church services	650	-	-	650	1,175
Training	925	-	-	925	264
Coffee in the Chancel expenses	335	-	-	335	575
Stewardship costs	262	-	-	262	85
Flowers	-	-	4,373	4,373	2,048
Bells	-	-	146	146	211
Audio Visual System depreciation	-	1,531	-	1,531	12,876
<b>Major fabric and Projects Expenditure</b>					
Preservation and Restoration	-	-	22,320	22,320	-
Church Development	-	14,676	-	14,676	5,100
	<b>150,854</b>	<b>16,207</b>	<b>27,693</b>	<b>194,754</b>	<b>175,496</b>

#### Notes

During the year, two members of the ministerial team who are also members of the PCC were paid £11,793 in remuneration and for working expenses (2023: £12,152)

No other payments or expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties.

<b>WHEATHAMPSTEAD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL</b>						
<b>2024 Accounts</b>						
<b>NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - Year ended 31 December 2024</b>						
<b>6 FIXED ASSETS</b>						
<b>Tangible assets</b>						
				<b>Office printer</b>	<b>AV equipment</b>	<b>Total</b>
				<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	<b>Cost</b>	At 1st January 2024		4,991	64,380	<b>69,371</b>
		Additions at cost		-	-	-
		At 31st December 2024		4,991	64,380	<b>69,371</b>
	<b>Depreciation</b>	At 1st January 2024		3,743	62,849	<b>66,592</b>
		Charge for the year		998	1,531	<b>2,529</b>
		At 31st December 2024		4,741	64,380	<b>69,121</b>
	<b>Net book value</b>	At 1st January 2023		1,248	1,531	2,779
		<b>At 31st December 2024</b>		<b>250</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>250</b>
	<b>Investments at market value</b>		<b>2024</b>		<b>2023</b>	
			<b>£</b>		<b>£</b>	
		Central Board of Finance Investment Fund	<b>1,804</b>		<b>1,762</b>	
<b>7 AMOUNTS RECEIVABLE</b>						
			<b>2024</b>		<b>2023</b>	
			<b>£</b>		<b>£</b>	
		Income tax recoverable	2,584		2,822	
		VAT recoverable on building works	-		582	
		Other amounts receivable	1,945		-	
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>4,529</b>		<b>3,404</b>	
<b>8 AMOUNTS PAYABLE</b>						
			<b>2024</b>		<b>2023</b>	
			<b>£</b>		<b>£</b>	
		Accrued expenses	<b>13,305</b>		<b>4,494</b>	

**WHEATHAMPSTEAD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**2024 Accounts**

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - Year ended 31 December 2024**

**9 FUNDS**

	<b>1 Jan 2024</b>	<b>Incoming Resources</b>	<b>Resources Used</b>	<b>Transfers of Funds</b>	<b>31 Dec 2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Endowment Funds</b>	1,762	42		-	1,804
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
Community Fund	4,925	4,440	(3,289)	-	6,076
Flower fund		5,143	(4,373)	-	770
Bell Fund	1,527	436	(146)	-	1,817
Music Fund	9,578	364	(3,595)	-	6,347
Choral Scholar Fund	1,941	91	-	-	2,032
Charity Partnership Fund	3,905	183	-	-	4,088
St Helen's Fellowship Fund	259	972	(500)	-	731
Preservation and Restoration Fund	-	22,320	(22,320)	-	-
Church Reordering (Build)	-	5,117	-	-	5,117
Children, Youth & Schools Work	-	5,117	-	-	5,117
Specific collections	-	4,610	(4,610)	-	-
	<b>22,135</b>	<b>48,793</b>	<b>(38,833)</b>	-	<b>32,095</b>
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>23,897</b>	<b>48,835</b>	<b>(38,833)</b>	-	<b>33,899</b>
<b>Designated Funds</b>					
Fabric Fund	2,187	373	(1,531)	-	1,029
Income Reserve	52,590	2,459	-	-	55,049
Capital Reserve	78,897	3,690	-	-	82,587
Development Fund	19,492	937	(14,676)	-	5,753
Roof Fund	52,231	2,677	-	10,000	64,908
	<b>205,397</b>	<b>10,136</b>	<b>(16,207)</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>209,326</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>					
General Fund	72,841	200,177	(193,133)	(10,000)	69,885
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>302,135</b>	<b>259,148</b>	<b>(248,173)</b>	-	<b>313,110</b>

**Notes**

**Endowment Funds**

These are the Fenwick and Bracey bequests, the investment of which is mainly in the CBF Investment Fund shown in the Balance Sheet. Income from the Fenwick bequest is for the church and churchyard upkeep. These funds, and their annual movement in value, are included with the restricted funds.

**Community Fund**

This fund is from collections at weddings and baptisms, and some donations, which are set aside to provide assistance to those in need mainly in the parish of Wheathampstead.

**Bell Fund**

For the renovation, repairs and maintenance of the bells, including handbells, and related structures, fixtures and fittings, plus the support and development of the bell ringers.

**Music Fund**

Money set aside by PCC and other donations for music and choir purposes within the church.

**Charity Partnership Fund**

Donations set aside by the PCC for work on the Kimbilio Project and and future projects with our Charity

**Fabric Fund**

This fund is for major work to the Fabric of St Helen's church.

**Income Reserve and Designated Capital Reserve**

As the Diocese recommends, the PCC maintains designated funds as a reserve against sudden total loss of income and unforeseen capital expenditure. Reserves were set at an initial level of £60,000 each in 2005 with interest to be accrued to the funds as a protection against inflation. In 2020 the PCC reviewed the Reserves Policy and decided to reduce the Income Reserve by a transfer of £25,000 to the General Fund

**Development Fund**

Donations set aside by the PCC for improvements to the interior of St Helen's. Two unrestricted legacies were added to the fund in 2023.

**Roof Fund**

Transfer of funds for future repairs on the roof of St Helen's

**Church Reordering (Build)**

Donations restricted to the cost of the church reordering project at St Helens.

**Children, Youth and Schools work**

Donation received restricted to supporting children, youth and schools work.

**The cash related to the restricted funds is held in the PCC bank accounts.**

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of  
The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Helen's Wheathampstead and St.  
Peter's Gustard Wood (the Charity)**

I report to the Charity Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes.

This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's Trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As Trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the financial statements. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair' view and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

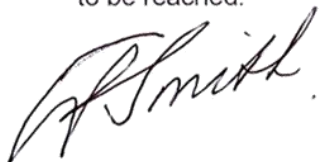
**Independent examiner's statement**

Since your Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



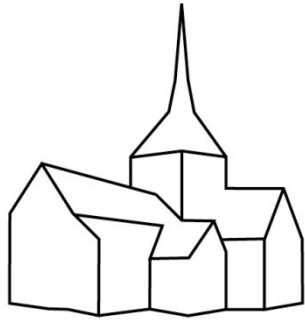
G P Smith  
Chartered Accountant  
14 Stanhope Road  
St. Albans  
Herts AL1 5BL

25<sup>th</sup> March 2025

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# Accounts

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**Wheathampstead**  
Parochial Church Council

# **Annual Report & Accounts**

for the year ended  
**31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

**St Helen's + St Peter's · Wheathampstead**  
*living God's love in our community*



## Rector's Introduction

If 2022 was a year of recuperation following the pandemic, 2023 was a year of resurrection as we rebuilt our ministries! Praise God – by the end of the year we had bounced back in many ways and Christmas attendance was close to pre-Pandemic levels. This is testimony to the goodness and faithfulness of God, and to the dedication, energy and enthusiasm of everyone who contributes to the life of our churches. Thank you!

Sadly, it was also a year in which we conducted more funerals for church family members than we would have wished. Our sisters and brothers have gone home to glory and their eternal rest, but they leave a big hole in our hearts and our communal life. We were grateful to receive two generous legacies which have been put towards our Development Fund. Legacies are likely to be increasingly important in funding capital projects, so please do plan in advance how you would like to support the church into the future. (Pick up a legacy leaflet or, visit our website for more information).

The generosity of our congregations, and the careful stewardship of our resources mean that our day to day running costs were covered by our regular income. Thank you once again to everyone who contributes by planned giving – this stable income stream is essential to our continued financial health. You can read more about our finances on pages 12 to 18. We are also grateful for the continued fundraising work of The Friends of St Helen's Church without whom we would find the upkeep of St Helen's Church building much more challenging.

Our finances are important because they enable our ministry and help us to fulfil the Vision God has given us: To Live God's Love in our Communities. You can read a summary of the vision on page 3, where you will see that we've made encouraging progress in many aspects – perhaps most notably towards being A Church for All Generations (and all backgrounds). In 2023 we had some very successful inter-generational events including a Pancake Party, brunches for Pentecost and Harvest, a boules tournament, and our end of summer BBQ. We also resumed our Youth Group and recruited new members from the Year 7 Donut Club. You can read about this, as well as our Children's work on page 10.

At the other end of the age spectrum, St Helen's Fellowship continues to flourish with a regular programme of activities (see page 10) and Coffee in the Chancel provides a Hub for many other social and networking activities.

2023 saw new initiatives for the Environment Group including schools work and the very visible Low Mow areas in the churchyard. Behind the scenes the Buildings Working Group made steady, but frustrating, progress in consulting on our plans for better facilities. Meanwhile the Fabric Committee continue to plug away at the countless small jobs to keep both buildings in good repair (see page 8). They were joined in May by an army of volunteers at The Big Help Out – a hugely successful event clearing the churchyard which we hope will become a regular fixture in our calendar.

Sunday worship is a focal point of church life, and it's made possible by many essential teams of volunteers, from welcomers and intercessors, to the 'Tech Team.' During 2023 Harry L'Estrange joined us as our new organist, and although it seems a long time ago now, we are grateful to the scratch choir who led our Christmas Carol Service. This has evolved into the St Helen's Singers who we hope will regularly supplement our worship for festivals and special occasions. Please continue to pray for our worship, that it would be Spirit filled and provide the nourishment to help us all grow in our faith.

We can only do what we do because of the time given by so many people. If you are not already part of one (or more!) of the many groups and teams, please pray about how best your gifts and skills could contribute.

We enter 2024 in a reasonably robust financial position, with an excellent team excited by all the possibilities ahead of us. Yet, at the same time we know these are challenging and uncertain times for many. Our faith or confidence is not rooted in our own abilities. We know that, "Unless the Lord builds the house, the labourers toil in vain." (Psalm 127:1) We give thanks for all God's goodness in 2023 and put our trust in him whatever the future may hold. So, let us all pray that God would guide us, inspire us and give us courage and obedience as we follow where he leads us. Amen.

With love and prayers,

God bless you -

Richard

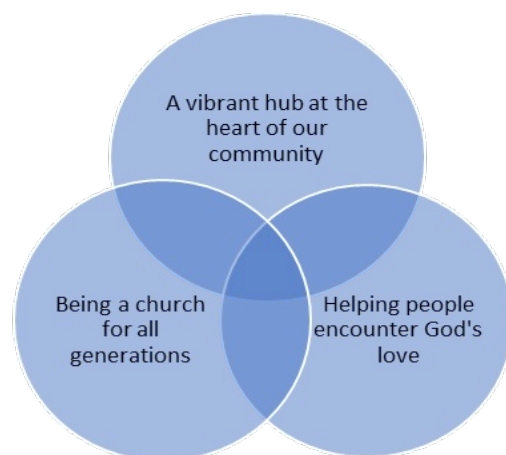
## The Parish Vision: Bringing our strategic planning to life

The Parish's Vision and Mission Action Plan is a framework for how we wish to see the parish developing over the next five years. Our Mission statement and Vision are reviewed each five years and were reset in their current form at the beginning of 2022.

Our *Mission* is that we are Living God's Love in Our Community.

Our *Vision* for St Helen's and St Peter's is that we will:

1. Make St Helen's and St Peter's **a vibrant hub at the heart of the community** with buildings fit for God's mission in 21st century Wheathampstead
2. Be **a church for all generations**
3. Provide **opportunities for people to encounter God's love**



LIVING GOD'S LOVE IN OUR COMMUNITY

Across all of these is a wish also to lighten the parish's environmental footprint.

The PCC is responsible for driving the Vision forward and its meetings typically begin with a working session on the Vision, usually reviewing progress towards the goals for each of the Vision's three priorities and planning the next steps.

The second year of the new Vision has seen further progress in all three priority areas. Some items are covered more fully elsewhere in this Report.

The PCC has chosen its preferred option for the extension and re-ordering of the St Helen's building and an architect was appointed in the autumn of 2023 to develop that. Work continued to identify an Energy Champion for the Parish and to seek to improve its storage capacity. Two low-mow areas were established in the churchyard.

An Alpha Course ran successfully in the first half of 2023, followed by a course to prepare children to receive Communion. A range of events aimed at people across the age range took place, including on Shrove Tuesday and Heritage Open Day in September, along with several parish walks and a boules tournament.

Working together with Wheathampstead United Church, the Parish staffed and stocked a Community Larder for village residents in the WUC Hall during the summer holidays. For the second year “Christmas Lunch on Jesus” hampers with the ingredients for a complete Christmas dinner were offered to local families, distributing 29 hampers in 2023. In July, 30 children from St Helen’s School visited the churchyard for an environmental activity.

The PCC expects to build upon this progress during 2024.

## **The Parochial Church Council (PCC)**

The combination of mission, vision and strategic priorities provides a framework within which the PCC evaluates our progress and promotes new initiatives for growth.

### **Role**

In accordance with the PCC (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended, the Wheathampstead Parochial Church Council (“PCC”) shares with the Rector and other Ministers the work of promotion in the Parish of “the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical”. It is responsible for the churches of St Helen’s and St Peter’s, Gustard Wood. The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England and is registered as Wheathampstead PCC with the Charity Commission (charity number 1132924) and can be contacted at the Parish Office, St Helen’s Church, High Street, Wheathampstead, AL4 8AA. In planning the activities for the year, the PCC has considered the Commission’s guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

### **PCC Activities in 2023**

Our Annual Report and Accounts look back at a calendar year: this Annual Report and Accounts 2023 looks back at the calendar year 2023.

During its year of office, the PCC has met on ten occasions – all these meetings have been in person rather than by Zoom. The PCC had been heavily involved in the Away Day in November 2021 which centred on our new Parish Vision. The PCC carries out its responsibility to take the Parish Vision forward as described in the “Vision” section of this report (above). Our meetings continue to include devotions, discussions and decision-taking. Individuals are invited to join PCC meetings where their contribution is particularly valuable. A summary of PCC meetings continues to be shared with our mailing list. Annual reports are received from many areas of church life and our policies are regularly reviewed. In addition, the Ministerial Team, sub-committees and other groups continue to meet and report to the PCC during the year reflecting the many aspects of Church life.

### **Membership**

Members of the PCC are ex officio, co-opted or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. There are up to twelve elected lay members. The list of members who served in 2023 is below. The PCC wishes to record their gratitude to all who have tirelessly assisted in maintaining the momentum of the progress of our Vision for Wheathampstead, Gustard Wood and beyond and in particular to thank those individuals and groups who have contributed so readily to our worship and pastoral care as we have emerged into a world changed by Covid-19.

Our grateful thanks go to all who have contributed to the governance and decision-making of the church through their service on the PCC. Keith Andrews, Simon Best and Bob Carter will retire by rotation and be eligible for re-election to the PCC. Liz Carter and Margaret Pearce are retiring from the PCC. Vacancies will exist for lay members to be elected either as Churchwardens at the Meeting of Parishioners or to the PCC at the APCM.

## List of PCC Members

The following members served on the PCC following the APCM in April 2023.

Name	Capacity	Serving from	Serving to
Revd Richard Banham	Rector & PCC Chair	April 2010	While in office *
Mr David Hartley	Elected Churchwarden	Elected May 2023	APCM 2024 *
Mrs Hilary Hollick	Elected Churchwarden	Elected May 2023	APCM 2024 *
Mr Keith Andrews	Elected Lay Member Deputy Warden from Oct 21	Elected May 2022	APCM 2024 *
Mr Simon Best	Elected Lay Member Lay Vice Chair	Elected April 2021	APCM 2024 *
Mrs Madeleine Bigmore	Elected Lay Member Hon. Treasurer	Elected April 2023	APCM 2026 *
Mrs Helen Caldwell	Elected Lay Member	Elected April 2023	APCM 2026 *
Mr Bob Carter	Elected Lay Member	Elected May 2022	APCM 2024 *
Mrs Liz Carter	Elected Lay Member	Elected May 2022	APCM 2025 *
Mrs Barbara Doye	Elected Lay Member	Elected May 2022	APCM 2025 *
Mr Brian Goleworthy	Deanery Synod Member	Elected April 2023	APCM 2026 *
Mr David Pangbourne	Elected Lay Member	Elected April 2023	APCM 2026 *
Mrs Margaret Pearce	Elected Lay Member	Elected May 2022	APCM 2024 *
Mrs Linda Thomas	Deanery Synod Member	Elected April 2023	APCM 2026 *
Mr Martin Thomas	Elected Lay Member	Elected May 2022	APCM 2025 *
Mr Ales Vrbas	Elected Lay Member	Elected April 2023	APCM 2026 *
Mr Stephen Wilson	Deanery Synod Member Hon. Secretary	Elected April 2023	APCM 2026 *

- **Member serving on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 (end of Report and Accounts year).**

At a Special Meeting of Parishioners on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2023 David Hartley and Hilary Hollick were elected to serve as Churchwardens.

Following the election of 7 lay members at the APCM 2022, lots were drawn in line with Church Representation Rules so that 3 of these members would serve for only 2-year terms while the remaining 4 serve the usual 3-year terms. Thus the number of elected PCC members retiring each year becomes more balanced.

## Team of Ministers

As with so many areas of church life, we are fortunate to have such a capable and committed team of Ministers who lead our worship and do so much good work away from the spotlight of Sunday Services.

Minister	Role
Rev Richard Banham	Rector
Rt Rev John Gladwin	Retired Bishop
Rev Brian Gwinn	Retired Minister
Rev Tom Purchas	Retired Minister
Rev Geoff Barter	Retired Minister
Linda Thomas	Children & Families Minister Reader

Minister	Role
Claire Banham	Reader
Carol Hopper	Reader
Pippa Legg	Reader
John Grace	Retired Reader
Roger Payne	Retired Reader (until August 2023)
Barbara Doye	Reader in Training

## Working Groups, Committees and Sub-committees

The PCC appointed the following officers: Stephen Wilson as **Honorary Secretary**, Madeleine Bigmore as **Honorary Treasurer**, Britt Dahle and Sabrina Shafer as **Parish Safeguarding Officers**, Jez Hirst as **Parish**

**Safeguarding Adviser**, Helen Caldwell as **Lead Recruiter**, **DBS Administrator** and **PCC Safeguarding Officer**, Judith Lambert as **Electoral Roll Officer** and Michael Hollick as **Health & Safety Officer**. David Pangbourne is serving as Interim **Data Protection Officer**.

The PCC elects a **“Standing Committee”** with power, subject to the directions of the PCC, to transact business between PCC meetings. Its members are Richard Banham, David Hartley, Hilary Hollick, Keith Andrews, Simon Best, Madeleine Bigmore and Stephen Wilson.

The overall co-ordination of our **Vision** is led by Simon Best as Chairman.

The PCC is advised by a **“Fabric Committee”** which is chaired by Stephen Scowcroft.

Bishop John, the Rector and Ruth Jeavons have served as our appointees to **Wheathampstead Churches Together** in whose activities we regularly participate together with St. Thomas More RC Church and Wheathampstead United Church. These include the Good Friday Walk of Witness, special services like the Advent Carol Service, occasions for joint prayer and our ecumenical Lent courses.

## **Financial Review**

The Financial Statements of the PCC are attached, see pages 12 to 18.

The Statement of Financial Activities shows our income and expenditure for the year on our General (Unrestricted) Fund; on the Designated Funds we have set aside for major Fabric costs, Reserves and the Development Fund; and the Restricted Funds which we have been given for particular purposes, and our Endowment Fund. The Balance Sheet shows the state of our finances at the year end and both these statements are supported by a number of notes.

In 2023 our planned giving maintained the same level as the previous year. There was some reduction in income due to the cost of living, but we were pleased that many were able to increase their donation in line with inflation and that there were 5 new regular donors to the Parish Giving Scheme. This continuous support is much appreciated and represents over half of our unrestricted income.

The Energy Fund which was launched in December 2022 to cover the increased costs of gas and electricity has received over £11,000. This has paid for nearly all the gas used for heating the church up to the end of 2023. We are very grateful for the generosity of all donors for these extra contributions.

The Unrestricted Funds initially show a surplus for the year of £14,269. This figure takes into account our income for general purposes, from which is deducted our normal annual outgoings on the church and its activities, together with our contribution to the Diocese, and the Parish’s own giving. It is the PCC’s aim to ensure this normal expenditure is, at least, covered by our annual income, and this has been achieved this year.

In addition to these normal running costs there were expenses from our designated funds on fabric and church development. Our total funds at the end of the year stand at £302,135. This is an increase of £18,758 from the previous year.

## **Reserves Policy**

The PCC follows the general recommendations for Church of England parishes and sets aside funds to provide cover against a sudden loss of income and unforeseen capital expenditure. These reserves are shown in note 9 to the annual accounts as Designated Funds and currently stand at £52,590 for loss of income and £78,897 for capital expenditure.

At 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 the amount in the General Fund which was not restricted or designated amounted to £72,841.

## Charity Partnerships

We are delighted that we were able to maintain our committed financial support throughout this last year – the 6th year when our focus has been on Vulnerable Children.

### Overview of Charity Partnerships

#### Local

**Azalea Luton** reaches out to those suffering the injustice of sex trafficking, supporting them to build new lives because of the love of God, through Outreach, Drop-In and Befriending and also works as a key partner in Faiths Against Child Sexual Exploitation (FACES) – which is a local coalition of faith leaders working to prevent Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).

#### National

**The Children’s Society** is committed to fighting child poverty and neglect and helping all children to have a better chance in life. From their early history in the vision and actions of a young Sunday School teacher at the end of the nineteenth century, their work has been grounded in the churches at local and national levels. Churches constitute their core partners and they work very closely with the Church of England.

#### International

**CCT Kimbilio** is overseen by a group of experienced Trustees who share a passion for the Congo and work with street children. In simple terms, Kimbilio is a project supported by the Congo Children Trust. Kimbilio supports street children in Lubumbashi, Katanga in the Democratic Republic of Congo. They have been working alongside the Anglican Church of Congo since 2007.

The decision was taken to end our link with Orphans Know More after 5 years of regular support; a new partnership with an international charity will be sought.

#### Giving 2023 (paid quarterly)

Charity	Annual Total
Azalea	£3000
Children’s Society	£3000
CCT & Kimbilio	£3500

#### Additional Support for Charities:

During 2023 we provided support and additional fund-raising activities for our Charity Partners and several other charities. The Wheathampstead Churches Together Christian Aid Week appeal raised £1,486-50. The Children’s Society received a total of £462-52 from the donation box collection. Our congregation donated £1,090-17 to the Trussell Trust in response to our Harvest Appeal with donations of food going to local food banks. The summer-holiday project “The Community Larder” attracted financial donations of £2,172 and the Christmas Lunch on Jesus project received donations in excess of £1,200. Significant donations have continued to be received into our Community Fund with which it is possible to assist local people in difficulties. The figures in this report remind us of the remarkable continuing generosity of our congregation in funding charitable work.

## Safeguarding

The PCC is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and vulnerable adults who attend church or church activities. We have in place – and regularly review – a policy for Safeguarding which is the Church of England Statement “Promoting a Safer Church”. Our Safeguarding Procedures are contained in the Church of England’s “Parish Safeguarding Handbook”. The PCC receives regular reports on Safeguarding which is on the agenda for every meeting. All relevant volunteers are DBS-checked and issued with appropriate guidance for their role; safer recruitment standards are followed. We are committed to

having role descriptions and training for all our volunteers. All activities and events have risk assessments. 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).

## **Risk & Statutory Policies**

As required by law, the PCC has considered the major risks within its responsibility and the systems designed to minimise those risks; this has included annual Health and Safety Inspections with recommendations reported to the PCC. We have undertaken risk assessments for all areas of activity. We have an appropriate fire risk assessment. We hold a register to log any accidents. We take out adequate insurance cover against fire, theft, employers' and public liability and other insurable risks. Clear procedures are in place for the authorisation of expenditure and secure receipt and recording of income.

The PCC has in place statutory policies in the following areas:

- Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults;
- Domestic Abuse;
- Data Protection;
- Equality and Inclusion;
- Health and Safety;
- GDPR/Privacy.

Where appropriate, these are in line with Diocesan guidance and all are reviewed regularly by the PCC for any changes in activities and developments in statutory requirements or recommended practice.

## **Goods, Fabric and Ornaments**

The annual inventory of Church goods, fabric and ornaments was completed during the year and all essential items found to be present and correctly accounted for (and the absence of a few minor items duly noted). The Fabric Committee has taken further the programme of redecoration and repairs at St. Helen's and St. Peter's which has included work on the buildings, churchyard and car parks.

The PCC records thanks to the Fabric Committee for many other alterations and improvements. At St. Helen's these include new porch timer, new mixer unit in toilet, hot water dispenser in kitchen, altar rail repairs, new bookcase, collection box fitted with hasp and staple, flue and radiators repaired and cleaned, tower camera installed, organ cipher problem rectified, new fridge, flower arrangers' cupboard fitted with struts, fibre broadband service installed following network upgrade, proof of concept implementation of a "virtual guide" using QR codes. Faculty consent was received for conservation work on the Garrard Memorial and Garden of Remembrance extension. The Quinquennial Inspection roof works were completed involving tower, coping stones and capstone with a substantial donation generously provided by The Friends; gutters cleaned and a slate refixed. Two low-mow areas were marked out and overhanging trees removed. At St. Peter's smart electricity and gas meters were installed, new roller blind installed. In addition two well-attended "Big Help Out" occasions were organised and special work parties undertook various tasks at both churches both inside and outside.

## **Environmental Activities**

*At St. Helen's and St. Peter's we believe that human beings are called to be faithful stewards and to enjoy a relationship with and a responsibility for God's creation. We seek to serve the earth, not enslave it.*

Caring for our environment plays an increasingly important part in the life of the Parish, as we acknowledge the stress that human activities have caused for the world around us. The Parish earned the A Rocha Eco Church Bronze Award in 2022 and is working towards the Silver Award.

The Parish's Environmental Group encouraged the establishment of two low-mow areas in the St. Helen's churchyard in 2023, complementing a similar area in St. Peter's churchyard introduced in 2022. The Group has prepared notices to display in the churchyard during 2024 encouraging passers-by to reflect on aspects of the environment.

The Group organised a visit by 30 children from St. Helen's School in July 2023 to enjoy a range of nature-based activities around the St. Helen's churchyard. It has also established a continuing connection with the Parish Council's Wilder Wheathampstead group.

During 2023 the parish collected 9 boxes of home printer ink cartridges for recycling, raising £230 for church funds. The Fabric Committee is considering how it can lighten the Parish's environmental footprint, subject to the constraints of a heritage-listed building and a limited budget. It created some wildlife-friendly woodpiles using tree trimmings from around St. Helen's.

The Parish marked the Season of Creation in the autumn of 2023 with a series of sermons on our relationship with the environment. We have been supporting the Church of England initiative (to strive for Carbon Zero by 2030) by reducing our energy footprint (controlling the thermostat carefully), removing inefficient electrical appliances such as the old fridge and being careful not to leave screens on standby.

## **Buildings Working Group**

We continue to make steady progress with seeking practical deliverable ways we can address our needs to render the St. Helen's building a truly vibrant hub at the heart of our community with buildings fit for God's mission in 21<sup>st</sup> century Wheathampstead. Following the issue of the Feasibility Study by our architect, Acanthus Clews Architects, in early 2023, we conducted a site visit with the DAC in March 2023. We received comments from the various invited parties as follows:-

- Church Buildings Council – April 2023
- DAC - May 2023
- Historic England – May 2023
- Victorian Society – August 2023

A presentation was made to the PCC in August, where Option 2 (with amendments) was approved as the basis for moving forward. A further meeting was required with the DAC, the Victorian Society and The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings to encourage their comments on our proposals and this was held in November 2023, resulting in the receipt of comments from parties as follows:-

- DAC – December 2023
- The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings – January 2024
- Victorian Society – January 2024
- DAC – January 2024

Throughout this process, we are looking to find a balance between the sometimes conflicting views between the statutory third parties; consideration of the overall guidance of the DAC; the practicalities of maintaining an operational church during the works; phasing the project works; the availability of funding; and the best approach to fund raising.

We are currently in discussions with the DAC regarding their last guidance, to seek improved certainty around delivering "Option 2 (with amendments)", before proceeding with the next stage of design, Scheme Design. It is intended that this design stage will deliver a Faculty for the scheme and a planning consent for the necessary works at the North and West Doors. In March the PCC approved the budget for the Scheme Design and agreed the means of funding it from existing reserves.

During Scheme Design there will be further consultation with the congregation and wider village community as details of the design are prepared and presented.

A fund raising team and team leader are being arranged in parallel with the above.

Keith Andrews

## Children and Families

We now have a good number of children regularly attending the 10:00 am service where a small team of volunteers read a Bible story during the sermon. The monthly all-age service continues to develop with children being involved in laying the Communion table, reading and sometimes prayers. The fortnightly Kids Worship service has a regular attendance of about 10 families who enjoy craft, a story and informal songs and worship.

Termly Messy Church services are now running in both primary schools again and over 100 people enjoyed our Messy Christingle and the most recent Messy Church in February. The team supporting this continues to grow and a number of our youth group are now involved.

Over the past year a team of three volunteers have continued to support the Children and Families Minister, and occasionally the Rector, in leading a weekly "Open the Book" worship at St. Helen's School. The children enjoy a Bible story, a short reflection and prayer and singing a worship song, often with actions. Between them the Rector and Children and Families Minister lead about four assemblies a term at Beech Hyde School. The Children and Families Minister also reads a Bible story weekly to the Reception class at St. Helen's and leads an after-school club there.

The weekly toddler group, The Ark, provides play and friendship for around 25 children and their carers.

Linda Thomas

## Youth Group

Since pausing the youth group "Impact" in December 2019, the main focus of St. Helen's youth work has been the annual Donuts Club, which serves Year 7's when they go up to secondary school. This year we welcomed an average of 30 excited 11 year olds, over 6 sessions, reconnecting friends who now go to different schools; supplying space, hot chocolate and, naturally, mountains of donuts!

But there was a desire to do more ... So, following Richard's participation in Launchpad (a Diocesan initiative for Parishes wanting to start/restart youth work) in April 2023, we invited a small group of 11-13 year olds to meet at The Rectory. To our delight, not only did some familiar faces come along, but we also welcomed less well-known (but equally valued) young people from Donut Club and historical family links.

This small start has blossomed and we recently welcomed a healthy (and energetic) contingent from Year 6 to help them settle in the group before they make the significant step up into Year 7 this autumn. This has required a venue change, so we now meet in St. Helen's Church on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month, with the usual mix of high-octane games, quality snacks and the opportunity to talk about life through the lens of Christian faith. The aim is to give the young people a space to belong, where they feel safe to talk about the "deep stuff" but with a real emphasis on us grown-ups hearing their ideas and concerns, rather than the more traditional model of us "teaching" at every opportunity.

We also regularly connect with other youth groups at bigger events such as Fuel and it's been truly wonderful to take our young people along to the new Illuminate events in the region, such as the Cathedral Take-Over in January, where 280 young people joined together for an evening of fun and worship.

Claire Banham

## St. Helen's Fellowship

St. Helen's Fellowship continues to meet each Thursday, in school term time, in the Mead Hall from 2:45 – 4:15 pm. Subs are £2 per session as from January 2024.

We now have 24 members on our register having sadly lost 4 valued and long-standing members in the past year. Also, as some others have become more frail they have either gone into residential care, become housebound or are only able to come occasionally. We make sure that we keep in touch with them.

Our termly programmes are varied but always include Holy Communion on the first Thursday of the month with valued leadership and support from our ministers.

Sessions have included excellent speakers on topics such as “Pets for Therapy” and “Greyhound Compassion” (on both occasions we had lovely dogs come along); “Made in St. Albans”, “Sons of St. Albans” and “Daughters of St. Albans” given by a St. Albans Tour Guide; “John of Wheathampstead” given by a Cathedral Guide; “A Walk around Pembrokeshire” and “What is a Reader?” by Pippa Legg.

We have had hilarious, musical, seated exercises, good singing sessions, a Beetle Drive, socials and board games, a Coronation Celebration, “Save a space for puds!”, a Summer party and an Advent celebration in church. We also had a session on getting to know each other better, sharing life experiences and interests, seeing who had what in common.

We share our ups and downs, sadnesses and joys. They are lovely sessions and we are both grateful to everyone who supports us in any way – making tea, offering transport (with special thanks to Gill Gwinn who organises the latter).

Jill Bareham and Louise Edwards

## **Deanery Synod Report**

The Rector and three elected representatives serve on the Deanery Synod. The Deanery Ascension Day service was held at St. Nicholas Harpenden and the October Deanery Choral Evensong at St. Leonard’s Flamstead. There was also a Deanery Retreat Morning arranged in March at St. Mary’s Kinsbourne Green. In addition the Deanery Synod arranged three meetings with guest speakers to focus on a particular topic. The aim is for meetings to take place in different parishes of the Deanery and offer the chance to learn more about other churches and congregations.

The February meeting involved a presentation by the Diocesan Vocations Team – and we heard a challenge to consider all the various roles to which we may be called which make the mission of the church possible. These include but are not restricted to ordained and licensed ministry; many individuals may discover a vocation which brings them fulfilment as they serve others.

In July the Synod was addressed by Kate Ford who holds the newly created post of Diocesan Giving Adviser. She was keen to help us address the challenge of financial support for our churches – especially in the aftermath of Covid-19. In September Synod heard from Tom Abraham, the Diocesan Net Zero Carbon Officer. In his role he advises parishes on their decarbonisation journey. The maintenance, repair and heating of our buildings are important immediate practical concerns for us and should also be viewed in the bigger context of environmental responsibility.

**The above report was approved by the Wheathampstead Parochial Church Council on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024.**

Canon Richard Banham  
Chairman

WHEATHAMPSTEAD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

2023 Accounts

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted & Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	FUNDS 2022 £
<b>INCOME &amp; ENDOWMENTS</b>						
<b>Incoming resources from donors</b>						
Planned Giving via Parish Giving Scheme		106,912	-	-	106,912	105,071
Other Planned giving		12,905	-	-	12,905	14,671
Tax recoverable on planned giving		27,894	-	-	27,894	27,800
Collections: St Helen's		7,283	-	-	7,283	6,420
Collections: St Peter's		1,021	-	-	1,021	649
Tax recoverable on Small Donations Scheme		2,098	-	-	2,098	2,057
Collections for Specific Purposes		-	-	1,366	1,366	4,616
Collections for the Community Fund		-	-	4,754	4,754	3,186
Legacies, donations etc	2	15,210	20,119	1,958	37,287	16,871
		<b>173,323</b>	<b>20,119</b>	<b>8,078</b>	<b>201,520</b>	<b>181,341</b>
<b>Income from investment</b>						
Interest and Dividends		2,841	7,495	775	11,111	3,212
<b>Income from charitable trading/fees</b>						
Coffee in the Chancel		4,713	-	-	4,713	4,021
Fees for weddings and funerals		21,000	-	-	21,000	14,911
		<b>25,713</b>			<b>25,713</b>	<b>18,932</b>
<b>Other incoming resources</b>						
Coffee after services		536	-	-	536	554
Rental income		1,412	-	-	1,412	1,587
VAT recovered on building works		1,970	-	-	1,970	1,053
Grants		500	-	-	500	2,758
Flowers		-	-	1,220	1,220	663
Bells		-	-	240	240	120
Other income		230	-	-	230	133
		<b>4,648</b>		<b>1,460</b>	<b>6,108</b>	<b>6,868</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>206,525</b>	<b>27,614</b>	<b>10,313</b>	<b>244,452</b>	<b>210,353</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>						
Giving	3	12,090	-	4,010	16,100	27,387
Church Management & Administration	4	34,098	-	-	34,098	35,079
For the work of the Church	5	146,068	26,240	3,188	175,496	162,611
		<b>192,256</b>	<b>26,240</b>	<b>7,198</b>	<b>225,694</b>	<b>225,077</b>
<b>NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>14,269</b>	<b>1,374</b>	<b>3,115</b>	<b>18,758</b>	<b>(14,724)</b>
Transfers between funds		(10,000)	10,000	-	-	-
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>4,269</b>	<b>11,374</b>	<b>3,115</b>	<b>18,758</b>	<b>(14,724)</b>
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD	9	68,572	194,023	20,782	283,377	298,101
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>72,841</b>	<b>205,397</b>	<b>23,897</b>	<b>302,135</b>	<b>283,377</b>



## WHEATHAMPSTEAD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

### 2023 Accounts

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - Year ended 31 December 2023

#### 1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions, together with FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS102)).

The historical cost convention is adopted except for investments, which are shown at market value at the balance sheet date.

The statements are prepared on the accruals basis.

#### Funds

Unrestricted funds are those available for the general purposes of the PCC. The purpose of restricted funds is noted in the statements. Interest, other income and tax recoverable related to amounts allocated to particular funds is credited to those funds.

The statements include transactions for which the PCC is responsible but not those of informal groups of members or of separately constituted bodies from which the PCC may benefit.

#### Income and use of resources

Collections, donations and similar income are recognised on receipt.

Income tax recoverable on donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Income from fund raising events, coffee in the chancel etc, is shown in full and the related expenses are included within resources used.

Grants and legacies are recognised in the period when they become due.

Expenditure is accounted for when incurred.

#### Assets

In so far as consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the statutory definition of "charity" by Section 10(2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011, such assets are not capitalised in the financial statements.

Depreciation is provided on equipment used by the PCC over the useful life of the asset. Items of equipment costing less than £1,000 are written off when the expenditure is incurred.

Short term deposits include cash held in a Church of England Central Board of Finance account and at the bank.

#### 2 LEGACIES, DONATIONS, NAVE BOXES, ETC.

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted & Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2023	FUNDS 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Nave boxes etc.	5,680	-	-	5,680	4,385
Legacies	-	14,000	-	14,000	-
Friends of St Helen's	7,169	-	-	7,169	-
Flower Fund	-	-	400	400	480
Tea Time Church Fund	-	-	-	-	80
Fellowship Fund	-	-	464	464	459
Music Fund	-	-	-	-	1,202
Fabric Fund	-	650	-	650	125
Development Fund	-	2,800	-	2,800	-
Energy Fund	-	1,690	-	1,690	5,280
Concert	860	-	-	860	-
Outdoor Events	-	-	-	-	560
The Ark	434	-	-	434	437
Miscellaneous income	-	-	151	151	-
Income tax recoverable on donations	1,067	979	943	2,989	3,863
	<b>15,210</b>	<b>20,119</b>	<b>1,958</b>	<b>37,287</b>	<b>16,871</b>

#### Related Party Disclosures

Donations, including planned giving, from Trustees and their related parties amounted to £24,985 during the year 2023 (2022: £21,774)

**WHEATHAMPSTEAD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**2023 Accounts**

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - Year ended 31 December 2023**

**3 GIVING**

	From Parish income		Special collections, Community Fund	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
<b>Charity Partners</b>				
Congo Children Trust	3,500	3,500	-	313
Orphans Know More	-	4,500	-	-
The Children's Society	3,000	3,000	109	161
Azalea	3,000	3,000	-	-
	<u>9,500</u>	<u>14,000</u>	<u>109</u>	<u>474</u>
<b>Other charities</b>				
St Helen's School	2,550	2,550	-	-
Harvest Appeal	-	-	-	2,158
The Trusell Trust (Harvest 2023)	-	-	1,090	-
Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust	40	40	-	-
Christian Aid	-	-	100	446
Ukraine Support	-	-	-	2,241
Wheathampstead Churches Together	-	-	-	21
A Rocha UK	-	125	-	-
Payments from Community Fund	-	-	2,439	5,182
Payments from Funeral Collections	-	-	272	150
	<u>2,590</u>	<u>2,715</u>	<u>3,901</u>	<u>10,198</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u><b>12,090</b></u>	<u><b>16,715</b></u>	<u><b>4,010</b></u>	<u><b>10,672</b></u>

Note: Giving to St Helen's School is by standing order which is continuing into 2024

**4 CHURCH MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION**

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted & Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2023	FUNDS 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Stationery, post, telephone, print	3,093	-	-	3,093	2,951
Staff salaries	27,759	-	-	27,759	28,729
Pension contribution	790	-	-	790	718
Payroll administration costs	494	-	-	494	516
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	216
Office Equipment depreciation	998	-	-	998	998
Bank charges and card fees	424	-	-	424	548
Database Fees	540	-	-	540	403
	<u>34,098</u>	-	-	<u>34,098</u>	<u>35,079</u>

**Note**

During the year the PCC employed an average monthly number of 3 staff (2022: 3 staff) : a parish administrator, an organist, and a Children's and Families' Minister, all on a part time basis.

The total costs of salaries and pensions are as shown above and no national insurance costs were incurred.

No employees received more than £60,000.

**WHEATHAMPSTEAD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**2023 Accounts**

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - Year ended 31 December 2023**

**5 RESOURCES USED FOR THE WORK OF THE CHURCH**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Designated Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted &amp; Endowment Funds £</b>	<b>TOTAL 2023 £</b>	<b>FUNDS 2022 £</b>
Parish share to Diocese	100,359	-	-	<b>100,359</b>	99,625
Fees paid to Diocese	4,664	-	-	<b>4,664</b>	3,405
Wedding Disbursements	1,500	-	-	<b>1,500</b>	500
Funeral Disbursements	2,600	-	-	<b>2,600</b>	1,180
Plaques and other memorials	443	-	-	<b>443</b>	507
Ministry expenses	1,127	-	-	<b>1,127</b>	188
Electricity & Water (St Helens)	4,403	-	-	<b>4,403</b>	3,989
Electricity & Water (St Peters)	609	-	-	<b>609</b>	873
Gas (St Helen's)	1,175	8,264	-	<b>9,439</b>	5,928
Maintenance (St Helens)	13,729	-	-	<b>13,729</b>	6,157
Maintenance (St Peters)	163	-	-	<b>163</b>	1,497
Insurance (St Helens)	3,865	-	-	<b>3,865</b>	3,658
Insurance (St Peters)	669	-	-	<b>669</b>	642
Growing in Loving Service	167	-	150	<b>317</b>	264
Growing in Numbers	93	-	-	<b>93</b>	103
Growing in Faith	563	-	-	<b>563</b>	27
Children, Youth & Schools	2,802	-	498	<b>3,300</b>	2,070
Services	2,118	-	-	<b>2,118</b>	2,119
Choir and music	830	-	-	<b>830</b>	4,630
Casual organists for regular Church services	1,175	-	-	<b>1,175</b>	1,265
Hospitality	1,633	-	-	<b>1,633</b>	1,221
Training	264	-	-	<b>264</b>	15
Coffee in the Chancel expenses	575	-	-	<b>575</b>	703
Charitable Trading expenses	-	-	-	<b>-</b>	144
Stewardship costs	85	-	-	<b>85</b>	85
Hall Hire	369	-	369	<b>738</b>	756
Flowers	88	-	1,960	<b>2,048</b>	1,993
Bells	-	-	211	<b>211</b>	104
Audio Visual System depreciation	-	12,876	-	<b>12,876</b>	12,876
<b>Major fabric and Projects Expenditure</b>					
Roof Alarm	-	-	-	<b>-</b>	1,047
Church Development	-	5,100	-	<b>5,100</b>	5,040
	<b>146,068</b>	<b>26,240</b>	<b>3,188</b>	<b>175,496</b>	<b>162,611</b>

**Notes**

During the year, two members of the ministerial team who are also members of the PCC were paid £12,152 in remuneration and for working expenses (2022: £10,732)

No other payments or expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties.

**WHEATHAMPSTEAD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**2023 Accounts**

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - Year ended 31 December 2023**

**6 FIXED ASSETS**

**Tangible assets**

			Office printer	AV equipment	Total
			£	£	£
<b>Cost</b>	At 1st January 2023		4,991	64,380	<b>69,371</b>
	Additions at cost		-	-	-
	At 31st December 2023		4,991	64,380	<b>69,371</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>	At 1st January 2023		2,745	49,973	<b>52,718</b>
	Charge for the year		998	12,876	<b>13,874</b>
	At 31st December 2023		3,743	62,849	<b>66,592</b>
<b>Net book value</b>	At 1st January 2023		2,246	14,407	16,653
	At 31st December 2023		<b>1,248</b>	<b>1,531</b>	<b>2,779</b>

**Investments at market value**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Central Board of Finance Investment Fund	<b>1,762</b>	<b>1,611</b>

**7 AMOUNTS RECEIVABLE**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Income tax recoverable	2,822	3,318
VAT recoverable on building works	163	632
Other amounts receivable	419	1,842
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,404</b>	<b>5,792</b>

**8 AMOUNTS PAYABLE**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Accrued expenses	<b>4,494</b>	<b>7,048</b>

<b>WHEATHAMPSTEAD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL</b>						
<b>2023 Accounts</b>						
<b>NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - Year ended 31 December 2023</b>						
<b>9 FUNDS</b>						
	<b>1 Jan 2023 £</b>	<b>Incoming Resources £</b>	<b>Resources Used £</b>	<b>Transfers of Funds £</b>		<b>31 Dec 2023 £</b>
<b>Endowment Funds</b>	1,611	151		-		1,762
<b>Restricted Funds</b>						
Community Fund	1,756	5,608	(2,439)	-		4,925
Flower fund	323	1,636	(1,959)	-		-
Tea Time Church	489	9	(498)	-		-
Bell Fund	1,443	295	(211)	-		1,527
Music Fund	9,226	352	-	-		9,578
Choral Scholar Fund	1,869	72	-	-		1,941
Charity Partnership Fund	3,761	144	-	-		3,905
St Helen's Fellowship Fund	304	474	(519)	-		259
Specific collections	-	1,571	(1,571)	-		-
	<b>19,171</b>	<b>10,161</b>	<b>(7,197)</b>	-		<b>22,135</b>
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>20,782</b>	<b>10,312</b>	<b>(7,197)</b>	-		<b>23,897</b>
<b>Designated Funds</b>						
Fabric Fund	14,058	1,005	(12,876)	-		2,187
Income Reserve	50,653	1,937	-	-		52,590
Capital Reserve	75,990	2,907	-	-		78,897
Development Fund	6,787	17,805	(5,100)	-		19,492
Roof Fund	40,491	1,740	-	10,000		52,231
Energy Fund	6,044	2,220	(8,264)	-		-
	<b>194,023</b>	<b>27,614</b>	<b>(26,240)</b>	<b>10,000</b>		<b>205,397</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>						
General Fund	68,572	206,525	(192,256)	(10,000)		72,841
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>283,377</b>	<b>244,451</b>	<b>(225,693)</b>	-		<b>302,135</b>
<b>Notes</b>						
<b>Endowment Funds</b>						
These are the Fenwick and Bracey bequests, the investment of which is mainly in the CBF Investment Fund shown in the Balance Sheet. Income from the Fenwick bequest is for the church and churchyard upkeep. These funds, and their annual movement in value, are included with the restricted funds.						
<b>Community Fund</b>						
This fund is from collections at weddings and baptisms, and some donations, which are set aside to provide assistance to those in need mainly in the parish of Wheathampstead.						
<b>Bell Fund</b>						
For the renovation, repairs and maintenance of the bells, including handbells, and related structures, fixtures and fittings, plus the support and development of the bell ringers.						
<b>Music Fund</b>						
Money set aside by PCC and other donations for music and choir purposes within the church.						
<b>Charity Partnership Fund</b>						
Donations set aside by the PCC for work on the Kimbilio Project and and future projects with our Charity						
<b>Fabric Fund</b>						
This fund is for major work to the Fabric of St Helen's church.						
<b>Income Reserve and Designated Capital Reserve</b>						
As the Diocese recommends, the PCC maintains designated funds as a reserve against sudden total loss of income and unforeseen capital expenditure. Reserves were set at an initial level of £60,000 each in 2005 with interest to be accrued to the funds as a protection against inflation. In 2020 the PCC reviewed the Reserves Policy and decided to reduce the Income Reserve by a transfer of £25,000 to the General Fund						
<b>Development Fund</b>						
Donations set aside by the PCC for improvements to the interior of St Helen's. Two unrestricted legacies were added to the fund in 2023.						
<b>Roof Fund</b>						
Transfer of funds for future repairs on the roof of St Helen's						
<b>The cash related to the restricted funds is held in the PCC bank accounts.</b>						

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of  
Wheathampstead Parochial Church Council**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Wheathampstead Parochial Church Council (the Charity) for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

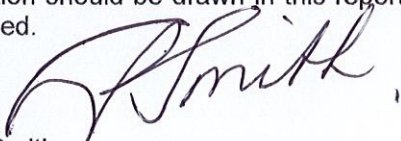
An independent examination does not involve gathering all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently does not cover all the matters that an auditor considers in giving their opinion on the financial statements. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide. Consequently I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair' view and my report is limited to those specific matters set out in the independent examiner's statement.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



G P Smith  
14 Stanhope Road  
St. Albans  
Herts AL1 5BL

13<sup>th</sup> March 2024

## Trustees of Wheathampstead Church School Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

The Rector and Churchwardens are trustees of a fund, the beneficiary of which is St Helen's School, Wheathampstead, and manage a fund invested with the Church of England Central Board of Finance (CBF) through CCLA. The income from the investment is used to contribute towards the Governors' liability for the external repairs to the School.

During this year, the total income was £246. According to the mid-market prices as per the statements provided by CCLA Investment Management Ltd at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023, the total value of the two funds at that date was £9,339. Together with cash held in the bank of £2,581 the total assets of the Trust stand at £11,920.

Rev'd Richard Banham, Mr David Hartley and Mrs Hilary Hollick  
Trustees 25 March 2024

### Fund Account for the year ended 31 December

	2023 £	2022 £
Dividends received:-		
Fixed Interest Securities Fund	36	46
Income Investment Fund	210	208
	246	254
Changes in market value of investments:-		
Fixed Interest Securities Fund	88	(245)
Income Investment Fund	659	(935)
	747	(1,180)
Net movement in fund during the year	993	(926)

### Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December

	2023 £	2022 £
Investments at cost 1999	5,862	5,862
Investments at valuations:-		
Fixed Interest Securities Fund	1,672	1,584
Income Investment Fund	7,667	7,008
	9,339	8,592
Cash at Bank	2,581	2,335
Fund assets at 31 December 2022	11,920	10,927

### Independent Examiner's Report

I confirm that the above financial statements accord with the bank and investment records of the Trust.

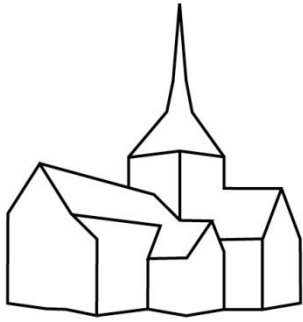
Peter Slater BA(Hons) ACA 25 March 2024 , Harpenden



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# Accounts

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**Wheathampstead**  
Parochial Church Council

# **Annual Report & Accounts**

for the year ended  
**31<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

**St Helen's + St Peter's · Wheathampstead**  
*living and working for the glory of God*



## Rector's Introduction

I want to begin by thanking everyone involved in the life of our church for their hard work, generosity and commitment through the past few years – and especially during 2022.

It's hard to describe 2022 in a few words. The worst of the pandemic was behind us, but it cast a shadow over everything we did. We emerged from the rigours of 2020 and 2021 bruised and battered and it felt like the year of 2022 was a period of recovery. Time to allow healing and regain our strength. To switch metaphors, it was also a time of preparation – like a gardener preparing the ground ready to sow the seed. Lots of hard work, digging, raking and clearing debris. But no growth. Throughout this year the different teams in church worked hard, including recruiting and training new members, we began to bed a post-pandemic reduced pattern of services and refreshed our vision. Yet at times it was hard not to be discouraged by numbers attending services and events we had worked so hard to put on.

I am delighted to say, that as I write in April 2023 the encouraging shoots of growth and recovery are appearing in lots of different areas of church life. Coffee in the Chancel has never been used by so many different groups from outside the church – and of course our own members. Included within this is the growing success of the **Following the Message** group Monday 11:15am. Our carer and toddler group, **The Ark** (Wednesday 9:30-11:00) is literally crawling with new life. And our **Open the Book** teams are back in both primary schools regularly delivering engaging, bible based assemblies. At the other end of the age spectrum, our **Fellowship group** (Thursday 2:45 in the Mead Hall) has had new life breathed into it with a new format. Perhaps most encouraging of all, our **Sunday attendance** numbers continue to recover. All of this is made possible by your hard work and generosity.

Our renewed vision – which I mentioned in the introduction to the last annual report, has begun to bear fruit. There are three strands to it, seeking to be **A Church for all Generations**, develop our buildings to be **Vibrant hub at the Heart of our Community** and **Helping people to Encounter God's Love**. If you come to our 10am Parish Communion you will see the increased numbers of families spilling out of the Play and Pray area and in the afternoon our Kid's Worship service is thriving again, at the APCM we will present the progress of the Buildings Working Group towards reordering St Helen's, and we've recently completed an Alpha course – the first for many years.

If 2022 was a year preparing the ground, we are now in a season of 'seed scattering'. In the biblical parable Jesus tells how God scatters seed with a reckless and carefree generosity and people respond differently to the Kingdom of God. (see Matthew 13:3-9, Mark 4:3-9, and Luke 8:4-8). For us, it is hard to predict which initiatives will be fruitful and produce the growth we long to see. But God calls us to continue our part in growing His Kingdom – faithfully serving in the church, we scatter the seed of new and well-established events and activities. We tend the new shoots of growth by welcoming and involving people in our communities. And we show the love of God in the way we love and serve those outside the church family.

I encourage you to read more about the life of our church in this Annual Report and Accounts. Lots of it is encouraging and points towards a hopeful, faith-filled future for our community, other parts of it make clear the challenges we have ahead – not least financially. But to paraphrase from a different garden metaphor in the bible – in Genesis One, "God saw all that he had made and it was very good" (v31). As we look back on 2022, I believe God is smiling at us, with warmth and love. After all, we know that He is the source of all life and growth.

Thank you to one and all who have contributed in so many different ways. I hope you too can sense the love and approval of God as reward for our hard work.

Thank you and God bless you, with love and prayers –

*Richard*

## The Parish Vision: Bringing our strategic planning to life



The Parish's Vision and strategic plan is a framework for how we wish to see the parish developing over the next five years. Our Mission statement and Vision are reviewed each five years and were reset in their current form at the beginning of 2022.

Our *Mission* is that we are Living God's Love in Our Community.

Our *Vision* for St Helen's and St Peter's is summarised in the three circles at left.

The Parish's *strategic priorities for development*, pick up the themes of the Vision:

1. Make St Helen's and St Peter's a **vibrant hub at the heart of the community** with buildings fit for God's mission in 21<sup>st</sup> century Wheathampstead
2. Be a **church for all generations**
3. Provide **opportunities for people to encounter God's love**

Across all of these is a wish also to lighten the parish's environmental footprint.

PCC meetings typically begin with a working session on the Vision, usually in three groups corresponding to each of the three strategic priorities. These sessions review progress towards the Vision's goals and plan the next steps.

The first year of the new Vision has seen good progress in all three priority areas.

In November 2022 an architect's report set out options for re-ordering and enhancement of the St Helen's building to meet a statement of needs agreed by the PCC to support the parish's mission. During 2022 the parish received the Eco Church Bronze Award.

The annual parish picnic in September 2022 brought all generations together setting a pattern for future parish events. Following the disruption caused by COVID and the decline of our traditional choir, our congregations were surveyed about worship styles and patterns of services in the summer and the results are being acted upon. Preparations were made to run an Alpha Course starting in January 2023 and to prepare several young people to receive Communion.

In response to cost of living challenges St Helen's church hosted and stocked a Community Larder open to village residents during the summer holidays. The parish distributed 20 "Christmas Lunch on Jesus" hampers providing the ingredients for a complete Christmas dinner to local families. Initial surveys were undertaken to identify the wildlife in St Helen's churchyard, while a portion of St Peter's churchyard became a no-mow area.

The PCC wishes to build upon this progress during 2023.

## The Parochial Church Council (PCC)

The combination of mission, vision and strategic priorities provides a framework within which the PCC evaluates our progress and promotes new initiatives for growth.

## Role

In accordance with the Church of England Rules, the Wheathampstead Parochial Church Council (“PCC”) shares with the Rector and other Ministers the work of promotion in the Parish of “the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical”. It is responsible for the churches of St Helen’s and St Peter’s, Gustard Wood. The PCC is registered as Wheathampstead PCC with the Charity Commission (charity number 1132924) and can be contacted at the Parish Office, St Helen’s Church, High Street, Wheathampstead, AL4 8AA. In planning the activities for the year, the PCC has considered the Commission’s guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

## PCC Activities in 2022

Our Annual Report and Accounts look back at a calendar year: this Annual Report **and** Accounts 2022 looks back at the calendar year 2022.

During its year of office, the PCC has met on ten occasions – all these meetings have been in person rather than by Zoom. The PCC had been heavily involved in the Away Day in November 2021 which centred on our new Parish Vision. Subsequently the pattern of PCC meetings was changed so that each meeting begins with a group and/or plenary session taking the Vision forward. Our meetings continue to include devotions, discussions and decision-taking. Individuals are invited to join PCC meetings where their contribution is particularly valuable. A summary of PCC meetings continues to be shared with our mailing list. Annual reports are received from many areas of church life. In addition, the Ministerial Team, sub-committees and other groups continue to meet and report to the PCC during the year reflecting the many aspects of Church life.

## Membership

Members of the PCC are ex officio, co-opted or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. There are up to twelve elected lay members. The list of members who served in 2022 is below. The PCC wishes to record their gratitude to all who have tirelessly assisted in maintaining the momentum of the progress of our Vision for Wheathampstead, Gustard Wood and beyond and in particular to thank those individuals and groups who have contributed so readily to our worship and pastoral care as we have emerged into a world changed by Covid-19.

Our grateful thanks go to all who have contributed to the governance and decision-making of the church through their service on the PCC. Madeleine Bigmore and David Pangbourne will retire by rotation and be eligible for re-election to the PCC. Ales Vrbas was co-opted in May 2022 and is now eligible for election. Vacancies will exist for lay members to be elected either as Churchwardens at the Meeting of Parishioners or to the PCC at the APCM. Our 3 Deanery Synod Members retire by rotation and are eligible for re-election.

## List of PCC Members

The following members served on the PCC following the APCM in April 2021.

Name	Capacity	Serving from	Serving to
Revd Richard Banham	Rector & PCC Chair	April 2010	While in office *
Mrs Helen Caldwell	Churchwarden	Elected April 2022	APCM 2023 *
Mr Keith Andrews	Elected Lay Member Deputy Warden from Oct21	Elected May 2022	APCM 2024 *
Mr Simon Best	Elected Lay Member Lay Vice Chair	Elected April 2021	APCM 2024 *

Mrs Madeleine Bigmore	Elected Lay Member Hon. Treasurer	Elected October 2020	APCM 2023	*
Mr Bob Carter	Elected Lay Member	Elected May 2022	APCM 2024	*
Mrs Liz Carter	Elected Lay Member	Elected May 2022	APCM 2025	*
Mrs Barbara Doye	Elected Lay Member	Elected May 2022	APCM 2025	*
Mr Brian Golesworthy	Deanery Synod Member	Elected October 2020	APCM 2023	*
Mr David Hartley	Elected Lay Member Deputy Warden from Oct21	Elected May 2022	APCM 2025	*
Mr David Pangbourne	Elected Lay Member	Elected October 2020	APCM 2023	*
Mrs Margaret Pearce	Elected Lay Member	Elected May 2022	APCM 2024	*
Mrs Linda Thomas	Deanery Synod Member	Elected October 2020	APCM 2023	*
Mr Martin Thomas	Elected Lay Member	Elected May 2022	APCM 2025	*
Mr Ales Vrbas	Co-opted Lay Member	Co-opted May 2022	APCM 2023	*
Mr Stephen Wilson	Deanery Synod Member Hon. Secretary	Elected October 2020	APCM 2023	*

- **Member serving on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 (end of Report and Accounts year).**

Following the election of 7 lay members at the APCM 2022, lots were drawn in line with Church Representation Rules so that 3 of these members would serve for only 2 terms while the remaining 4 serve the usual 3 terms. Thus the number of elected PCC members retiring each year becomes more balanced.

## Team of Ministers

As with so many areas of church life, we are fortunate to have such a capable and committed team of Ministers who lead our worship and do so much good work away from the spotlight of Sunday Services.

Minister	Role
Rev Richard Banham	Rector
Rt Rev John Gladwin	Retired Bishop
Rev Brian Gwinn	Retired Minister
Rev Tom Purchas	Retired Minister
Linda Thomas	Children & Families Minister Reader in Training
Barbara Doye	Reader in Training

Minister	Role
Claire Banham	Reader
Carol Hopper	Reader
Pippa Legg	Reader
John Grace	Retired Reader
Roger Payne	Retired Reader

## Working Groups, Committees and Sub-committees

The PCC appointed the following officers: Stephen Wilson as **Honorary Secretary**, Madeleine Bigmore as **Honorary Treasurer**, Katie Gifford and Lucy Price as **Joint Safeguarding Officers**, Helen Caldwell as **DBS Officer** and PCC Safeguarding Officer, Judith Lambert as **Electoral Roll Officer** and Michael Hollick as **Health & Safety Officer**. David Pangbourne is serving as Interim **Data Protection Officer**.

The PCC elects a **“Standing Committee”** with power, subject to the directions of the PCC, to transact business between PCC meetings. Its members are Richard Banham, Helen Caldwell, Keith Andrews, David Hartley, Simon Best, Madeleine Bigmore and Stephen Wilson.

The overall co-ordination of our **Vision** is led by Simon Best as Chairman.

The PCC is advised by a **“Fabric Committee”** which is chaired by Stephen Scowcroft.

## Financial Review

The Financial Statements of the PCC are attached, see pages 11 to 17.

The Statement of Financial Activities shows our income and expenditure for the year on our General (Unrestricted) Fund; on the Designated Funds we have set aside for fabric costs, on our Reserves and Development Fund; on the Restricted Funds which we have been given for particular purposes and on our Endowment Fund. The Balance Sheet shows the state of our finances at the year end and both these statements are supported by a number of notes.

In 2022 the activities in the church began to resume after two years of the pandemic. The numbers at our services increased and consequently income from collections went up. Also, our income from the Parish Giving Scheme continues to rise each year due to the many people who link their contribution to inflation. This regular support is much appreciated.

The Unrestricted Funds initially show a balance for the year of £251. This figure takes into account our income for general purposes, from which is deducted our normal annual outgoings on the church and its activities, together with our contribution to the Diocese and the Parish's own giving. It is the PCC's aim to ensure this normal expenditure is, at least, covered by our annual income, and this has been achieved this year

In addition to these normal running cost there were expenses from our designated funds on fabric contributing to an overall deficit of £14,724 for the year.

Within our designated funds there are amounts set aside for our Income and Capital Reserves, future depreciation to be charged to the Fabric Fund, the Development Fund and Roof Repairs. This leaves us with £68,572 in our General Fund which is available to cover any surplus of expenditure over income in the coming years, and contributions to Parish development such as the improvement of facilities at St Helen's.

The energy costs for our two churches are expected to rise by about £12,000 a year due to the national increases, most of this will be in 2023. In December we launched an appeal for donations and over £5,000 was received within a month. A grant from the Diocese of £2,589 boosted this fund. We are very grateful to the generosity of all donors for these extra contributions.

## **Reserves Policy**

The PCC follows the general recommendations for Church of England parishes and sets aside funds to provide cover against a sudden loss of income and unforeseen capital expenditure. These reserves are shown in note 9 to the annual accounts as designated funds and currently stand at £50,653 for loss of income and £75,990 for capital expenditure.

## **Charity Partnerships**

We are delighted that we were able to maintain our committed financial support throughout this last year – the 5th year when our focus has been on Orphans and Vulnerable Children.

### **Overview of Charity Partnerships**

#### **Local**

**Azalea Luton** reaches out to those suffering the injustice of sex trafficking, supporting them to build new lives because of the love of God, through Outreach, Drop-In and Befriending and also works as a key partner in Faiths Against Child Sexual Exploitation (FACES) – which is a local coalition of faith leaders working to prevent Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).

#### **National**

**The Children's Society** is committed to fighting child poverty and neglect and helping all children to have a better chance in life. From their early history in the vision and actions of a young Sunday School teacher at

the end of the nineteenth century, their work has been grounded in the churches at local and national levels. Churches constitute their core partners and they work very closely with the Church of England.

### **International**

**Orphans Know More** (OKM) is one of the ministries of Youth with a Mission England and Wales (YWAM) which has a base in Harpenden. OKM believe that the best way to tackle the international orphan crisis is to care for children in loving families. They operate in Uganda.

**CCT Kimbilio** is overseen by a group of experienced Trustees who share a passion for the Congo and work with street children. In simple terms, Kimbilio is a project supported by the Congo Children Trust. Kimbilio supports street children in Lubumbashi, Katanga in the Democratic Republic of Congo. They have been working alongside the Anglican Church of Congo since 2007.

### **Giving 2022** (paid quarterly)

<b>Charity</b>	<b>Annual Total</b>
Azalea	£3000
Children's Society	£3000
CCT & Kimbilio	£3500
Orphans Know More	£4500

### **Additional Support for Charities:**

During 2022 we provided support and additional fund raising activities for our Charity Partners and several other charities. Our Christian Aid appeal raised £3,519. The Children's Society received a total of £814-30 from the donation box collection. Our congregation donated £2,158 to the Bishop's Harvest Appeal for Mozambique. Kimbilio received sizeable extra donations to their successful special appeal to purchase land for a multi-purpose Centre for street children, some going directly to them with some hundreds of pounds also going to them via our church accounts. Azalea and the MacIntyre Home received food collections. A number of activities organised through or in our church raised funds for Ukraine totalling £2,241: for example a Bring & Buy Sale in March raised more than £700 and we enjoyed a fundraising concert for Ukraine in May which featured children offering spine-tingling performances. The summer-holiday project "The Community Larder" attracted financial donations of £2,681 as well as food contributions.

It has been decided that we should continue our focus on Orphans and Vulnerable Children. We offer deep thanks to the retiring CPT members: Karl, Clare, David. The new Charity Partnership Team will be looking for a new international charity partner. OKM is a large charity whose good work we have been pleased to support for 5 years but this link has not grown into the full partnership we envisage. We welcome the new Team who will be setting aims for 2023 and working with and for the congregation and our partners.

### **Safeguarding**

The PCC is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and vulnerable adults who attend church or church activities. We have in place – and regularly review – a policy for Safeguarding which is the Church of England Statement "Promoting a Safer Church". Our Safeguarding Procedures are contained in the Church of England's "Parish Safeguarding Handbook". All relevant volunteers are DBS-checked and issued with appropriate guidance for their role. We are committed to having role descriptions and training for all our volunteers. We are also working so all activities and events have risk assessments. 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).

## **Risk & Statutory Policies**

As required by law, the PCC has considered the major risks within its responsibility and the systems designed to minimise those risks; this has included annual Health and Safety Inspections with recommendations reported to the PCC.

The PCC has in place statutory policies in the following areas:

- DBS Checks;
- Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults;
- Domestic Abuse;
- Data Protection;
- Equality and Inclusion;
- Health and Safety.

Where appropriate, these are in line with Diocesan guidance and all are reviewed regularly by the PCC.

## **Goods, Fabric and Ornaments**

The annual inventory of Church goods, fabric and ornaments was completed during the year and all essential items found to be present and correctly accounted for (and the absence of a few minor items duly noted). The Fabric Committee has taken further the programme of redecoration and repairs at St. Helen's and St. Peter's which has included work on the buildings, churchyard and car parks.

The PCC records thanks to the Fabric Committee for many other alterations and improvements. At St. Helen's these include re-siting the organ console; refitting several slipped slates and clearing gutters; installing a new porch timer to control outside lighting; replacing PIR light outside vestry door. At St. Peter's these include replacing heating controller and timer; clearing outside gutter swan-necks and repairing brackets. Regular inspection checks were performed (and identified issues addressed) including fixed electrical installations, fire safety check, lightning conductor protection, central heating service, clock and roof alarm.

Regular working parties have been conducted for general maintenance at both churches; treefall after storm damage addressed; special action taken to save the Garden of Remembrance box hedge. The Committee is investigating proposals into solar heating, water meters and other low carbon initiatives.

## **Buildings Working Group**

Having confirmed the Statement of Needs in early 2022, architect's fees proposals were sought, and Acanthus Clews Architects were appointed to conduct a feasibility study to meet those needs. Following consultation with the Buildings Working Group, the feasibility study was issued in November, costed and presented to the PCC. It has also been issued to the DAC for consultation and a meeting is planned for March 2023. Throughout this process, we are seeking to look at practical ways we can address our needs to render the St. Helen's building a truly vibrant hub. In addition we are looking to find a balance between DAC and statutory third party consents, the practicalities of maintaining an operational church, project phasing and affordability/funding. It is our hope that a presentation will be made at the APCM in April so that our congregation can be informed and consulted.

## **St. Helen's Fellowship**

St. Helen's Fellowship continues to meet each Thursday (of school term time) in the Mead Hall at 2:45 – 4:15 pm. Subs is just £1-50 with 0-50p extra if requiring transport. We always begin a session with prayers and end with refreshments and a chat. In between we try to have a variety of items to interest, entertain and even keep our brains and bodies alert!

We have 37 members on our register although, sadly, some are no longer able to attend due to becoming housebound or going into a Home. They are not forgotten but are included in our prayers and we keep in touch with them. As I write this report we are grieving the loss of three members: Hermi Margot and Janet Moody – and also Jill Hazelwood who was a leader of Fellowship for many years. Again, they may be gone but most certainly won't be forgotten. We are also gaining members which is encouraging and welcomed. The first Thursday of the month is still our Holy Communion Service and we are grateful to the ministry team who come to lead us in this.

Having introduced a regular Social afternoon of table games and chat, we have seen a further enhanced interaction between members – getting to know each other more. Other sessions have included:

- “Happy Birthday, Your Majesty”
- Bug bingo
- “The unique war memorials of St. Albans parish”
- “The pubs of Wheathampstead”
- Beetle Drives
- Summer Party
- “Celebrating the reign of Queen Elizabeth”
- Harvest celebrations
- “The Home Front”
- “Israel Reflections”
- “Chair exercises with Sarah” – an absolutely hilarious session with songs to which we could sing along, led by a bubbly lady whose presence was a joy. Such laughter, which is a tonic in itself! She visited us twice and is coming again.

Having been cancelled for 2 years because of Covid, our 2022 Advent celebration in St. Helen's church was regretfully but wisely cancelled due to the treacherous snow and icy conditions. A great shame. We continue our connection with the MacIntyre Home at 1, Station Road as part of outreach from St. Helen's church – remembering them especially at Easter, Harvest and Christmas with gifts. I am grateful to Stephen for keeping us updated with news from there. Along the way I represented Fellowship when a group of us from church went carol singing there.

Louise and I thoroughly enjoy leading Fellowship and we are very grateful to everyone who supports us, especially in a practical way – transport being a fundamental need. We thank Gill Gwinn for organising this and the drivers who give their time. Also, Sally Jones who is queen of the kitchen, serving up and washing up with help from members. Thanks to Mel for printing out items and general support. If I have overlooked anyone, I apologise!

Fellowship is open to everyone, men and women, and the invitation is there to join us regularly or just occasionally.

PS We could do with some more men to come along! And give a male perspective on life!

Jill Bareham and Louise Edwards

## **Deanery Synod Report**

The Rector and three elected representatives serve on the Deanery Synod. Having already served a full term as Chairman, Richard Banham resumed the role on a temporary basis and has now been succeeded by Canon Dennis Stamps of St. Nicholas Church Harpenden. This church was the venue for the Deanery Ascension Day service and also for the October Choral Evensong. In addition the Deanery Synod arranged

three meetings with guest speakers to focus on a particular topic. The aim is for meetings to take place in different parishes of the Deanery and offer the chance to learn more about other churches and congregations.

In 2022 the March meeting was an opportunity to meet David White – the St. Albans Diocesan Secretary. David has spent many years in leadership roles in the voluntary and charitable sectors (with experience in both Christian and non-Christian organisations). He did not have a church background growing up and has never worshipped in a parish where he lives but rather seeking out one that suited his preferred style of worship. He has been much involved in youth work – and now he and his wife have three very young children.

David finds the title “Diocesan Secretary” unhelpful. He sees the Diocesan Offices as the St. Albans Parish Support Centre with him as leader of a large team of “supporters”. The role is strategic and operational while at times concentrating on tiny details. He has to work within a business setting – dealing with all the commercial aspects of the diocese – but also more excitingly within a mission setting concerned with the business of growing faith and growing the Church. Altogether his team has 57 (full and part-time) employees – the smallest staff team for a diocese of this size. They are involved in areas covering Finance, Communications, Estates, Pastoral/Advisory, Governance, Schools, Safeguarding, Mission and Ministry.

In July Rev’d Jo Burke talked of her role as Chair of the Racial Justice Action Group. The RJAG welcomes feedback from churches about issues relating to race in our churches. There are many positive ways in which we could all improve our welcome and inclusion of those of a different race but with the same love for Jesus Christ. The Group want to carry out a listening exercise to inform understanding of what racial issues there might be or be perceived to be.

In November Dennis Stamps and Jim May led a session exploring working together as a Deanery posing the question: What could we do better together? We would need to do things that did not add a burden but did pool resources. There would be real challenges in this but with longer-term planning we might be able to try some things. Areas covered in the discussion included: youth provision, communion/confirmation preparation, safeguarding training, pulpit swaps, Advent/Lent quiet days (possibly with children’s activities also provided).

At their APCMs those on the Electoral Role of each parish will have the chance to elect Deanery Synod members to serve 2023-26.

**The above report was approved by the Wheathampstead Parochial Church Council on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023.**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Banham". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Rev Richard Banham  
Chairman

**WHEATHAMPSTEAD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**
**2022 Accounts**
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - For the year ended 31 December 2022**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted & Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	FUNDS 2021 £
<b>INCOME &amp; ENDOWMENTS</b>						
<b>Incoming resources from donors</b>						
Planned Giving via Parish Giving Scheme		105,071	-	-	105,071	99,796
Other Planned giving		14,671	-	-	14,671	14,502
Tax recoverable on planned giving		27,800	-	-	27,800	26,806
Collections: St Helen's		6,420	-	-	6,420	3,831
Collections: St Peter's		649	-	-	649	157
Tax recoverable on Small Donations Scheme		2,057	-	-	2,057	1,026
Collections for Specific Purposes		-	-	4,616	4,616	4,425
Collections for the Community Fund		-	-	3,186	3,186	1,702
Legacies, donations etc	2	6,448	6,590	3,833	16,871	19,453
		<b>163,116</b>	<b>6,590</b>	<b>11,635</b>	<b>181,341</b>	<b>171,698</b>
<b>Income from investment</b>						
Interest and Dividends		860	2,123	229	3,212	191
<b>Income from charitable trading/fees</b>						
Coffee in the Chancel		4,021	-	-	4,021	1,714
Fees for weddings and funerals		14,911	-	-	14,911	16,710
		<b>18,932</b>			<b>18,932</b>	<b>18,424</b>
<b>Other incoming resources</b>						
Coffee after services		554	-	-	554	33
Rental income		1,587	-	-	1,587	645
VAT recovered on building works		1,053	-	-	1,053	3,275
Grants		200	2,558	-	2,758	-
Flowers		-	-	663	663	2,790
Bells		-	-	120	120	420
Admin support for Rural Dean		-	-	-	-	2,000
Other income		133	-	-	133	113
		<b>3,527</b>	<b>2,558</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>6,868</b>	<b>9,276</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>186,435</b>	<b>11,271</b>	<b>12,647</b>	<b>210,353</b>	<b>199,589</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>						
Giving	3	16,715	-	10,672	27,387	26,007
Church Management & Administration	4	34,863	-	216	35,079	34,486
For the work of the Church	5	134,606	21,976	6,029	162,611	168,066
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>186,184</b>	<b>21,976</b>	<b>16,917</b>	<b>225,077</b>	<b>228,559</b>
<b>NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>251</b>	<b>(10,705)</b>	<b>(4,270)</b>	<b>(14,724)</b>	<b>(28,970)</b>
Transfers between funds		(10,350)	10,000	350	-	-
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>(10,099)</b>	<b>(705)</b>	<b>(3,920)</b>	<b>(14,724)</b>	<b>(28,970)</b>
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD	9	78,671	194,728	24,702	298,101	327,071
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>68,572</b>	<b>194,023</b>	<b>20,782</b>	<b>283,377</b>	<b>298,101</b>

# WHEATHAMPSTEAD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

## 2022 Accounts

### BALANCE SHEET - As at 31 December 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible fixed assets	6	16,653	30,527
Investments	6	1,611	1,827
		<b>18,264</b>	<b>32,354</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Amounts receivable and prepayments	7	5,792	7,844
Cash at bank and on short term deposit		266,369	268,419
		<b>272,161</b>	<b>276,263</b>
<b>AMOUNTS PAYABLE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7,048</b>	<b>10,516</b>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>265,113</b>	<b>265,747</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>283,377</b>	<b>298,101</b>
<b>FUNDS</b>			
Endowment	9	1,611	1,827
Restricted	9	19,171	22,875
		<b>20,782</b>	<b>24,702</b>
Designated	9	194,023	194,728
Unrestricted	9	68,572	78,671
		<b>283,377</b>	<b>298,101</b>

These financial statements were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 14th March 2023

Signed on behalf of the PCC



The Rvd Richard Banham  
Chairman



Madeleine Bigmore  
Treasurer

# WHEATHAMPSTEAD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

## 2022 Accounts

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - Year ended 31 December 2022

#### 1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions, together with FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS102)).

The historical cost convention is adopted except for investments, which are shown at market value at the balance sheet date.

The statements are prepared on the accruals basis.

#### Funds

Unrestricted funds are those available for the general purposes of the PCC. The purpose of restricted funds is noted in the statements. Interest, other income and tax recoverable related to amounts allocated to particular funds is credited to those funds.

The statements include transactions for which the PCC is responsible but not those of informal groups of members or of separately constituted bodies from which the PCC may benefit.

#### Income and use of resources

Collections, covenants, donations and similar income are recognised on receipt.

Income tax recoverable on covenants and donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Income from fund raising events, coffee in the chancel etc, is shown in full and the related expenses are included within resources used.

Grants and legacies are recognised in the period when they become due.

Expenditure is accounted for when incurred.

#### Assets

In so far as consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the statutory definition of "charity" by Section 10(2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011, such assets are not capitalised in the financial statements.

Depreciation is provided on equipment used by the PCC over the useful life of the asset. Items of equipment costing less than £1,000 are written off when the expenditure is incurred.

Short term deposits include cash held in a Church of England Central Board of Finance account and at the bank.

#### 2 LEGACIES, DONATIONS, NAVE BOXES, ETC.

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted & Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	FUNDS 2021 £
Donations, nave boxes etc.	4,385	-	-	4,385	6,667
Donations in lieu of collections	-	-	-	-	200
Donations for Online Services Equipment	-	-	-	-	275
Legacies	-	-	-	-	2,500
Donations for Flower Fund	-	-	480	480	360
Donations for Tea Time Church Fund	-	-	80	80	230
Donations for Fellowship Fund	-	-	459	459	191
Donations for Ouseley Trust Fund	-	-	-	-	1,145
Donations for Music Fund	-	-	1,202	1,202	3,323
Donations for Fabric Fund	-	125	-	125	-
Donations for Development Fund	-	-	-	-	300
Donations for Energy Fund	-	5,280	-	5,280	-
Donations from Outdoor Events	560	-	-	560	371
Donations from The Ark	437	-	-	437	15
Miscellaneous income	-	-	-	-	252
Income tax recoverable on donations	1,066	1,185	1,612	3,863	3,624
	<b>6,448</b>	<b>6,590</b>	<b>3,833</b>	<b>16,871</b>	<b>19,453</b>

## WHEATHAMPSTEAD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

### 2022 Accounts

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - Year ended 31 December 2022

#### 3 GIVING

	From Parish income		Special collections, Community Fund	
	2022 £	2021 £	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Charity Partners</b>				
Congo Children Trust	3,500	3,500	313	1,390
Orphans Know More	4,500	4,500	-	-
The Children's Society	3,000	3,000	161	-
Azalea	3,000	3,000	-	-
	<u>14,000</u>	<u>14,000</u>	<u>474</u>	<u>1,390</u>
<b>Other charities</b>				
St Helen's School	2,550	2,550	-	-
Harvest Appeal	-	-	2,158	3,686
Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust	40	40	-	-
Christian Aid	-	-	446	213
Ukraine Support	-	-	2,241	-
Wheathampstead Churches Together	-	-	21	-
A Roche UK	125	-	-	-
Payments from Community Fund	-	-	5,182	4,128
Payments from Funeral Collections	-	-	150	-
	<u>2,715</u>	<u>2,590</u>	<u>10,198</u>	<u>8,027</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u><b>16,715</b></u>	<u><b>16,590</b></u>	<u><b>10,672</b></u>	<u><b>9,417</b></u>

Note: Giving to St Helen's School is by standing order which is continuing into 2023

#### 4 CHURCH MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted & Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	FUNDS 2021 £
Stationery, post, telephone, print	2,951	-	-	2,951	3,403
Staff salaries	28,729	-	-	28,729	28,254
Pension contribution	718	-	-	718	711
Payroll administration costs	516	-	-	516	504
Miscellaneous	-	-	216	216	-
Office Equipment depreciation	998	-	-	998	998
Bank charges and card fees	548	-	-	548	396
Database Fees	403	-	-	403	220
	<u>34,863</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>216</u>	<u>35,079</u>	<u>34,486</u>

#### Note

During the year the PCC employed an average monthly number of 3 staff (2021: 3 staff) : a parish administrator, an organist, and a Children's and Families' Minister, all on a part time basis.

The total costs of salaries and pensions are as shown above and no national insurance costs were incurred.

No employees received more than £60,000.

**WHEATHAMPSTEAD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**2022 Accounts**

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - Year ended 31 December 2022**

**5 RESOURCES USED FOR THE WORK OF THE CHURCH**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Designated Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted &amp; Endowment Funds £</b>	<b>TOTAL 2022 £</b>	<b>FUNDS 2021 £</b>
Parish share to Diocese	99,625	-	-	<b>99,625</b>	100,075
Fees paid to Diocese	3,405	-	-	<b>3,405</b>	3,941
Wedding Disbursements	500	-	-	<b>500</b>	2,050
Funeral Disbursements	1,180	-	-	<b>1,180</b>	755
Plaques and other memorials	507	-	-	<b>507</b>	299
Ministry expenses	124	-	-	<b>124</b>	437
Electricity & Water (St Helens)	3,989	-	-	<b>3,989</b>	2,191
Electricity & Water (St Peters)	873	-	-	<b>873</b>	539
Gas (St Helen's)	2,915	3,013	-	<b>5,928</b>	3,110
Maintenance (St Helens)	6,157	-	-	<b>6,157</b>	14,261
Maintenance (St Peters)	1,497	-	-	<b>1,497</b>	1,511
Insurance (St Helens)	3,658	-	-	<b>3,658</b>	3,473
Insurance (St Peters)	642	-	-	<b>642</b>	604
Growing in Loving Service	164	-	100	<b>264</b>	283
Growing in Numbers	103	-	-	<b>103</b>	101
Growing in Faith	27	-	-	<b>27</b>	10
Children, Youth & Schools	1,899	-	171	<b>2,070</b>	2,025
Services	2,119	-	-	<b>2,119</b>	1,258
Choir and music	1,347	-	3,283	<b>4,630</b>	4,756
Casual organists for regular Church services	1,265	-	-	<b>1,265</b>	840
Hospitality	1,221	-	-	<b>1,221</b>	826
Training	15	-	-	<b>15</b>	458
Coffee in the Chancel expenses	703	-	-	<b>703</b>	137
Charitable Trading expenses	144	-	-	<b>144</b>	100
Stewardship costs	85	-	-	<b>85</b>	85
Hall Hire	378	-	378	<b>756</b>	198
Flowers	-	-	1,993	<b>1,993</b>	2,686
Bells	-	-	104	<b>104</b>	55
Audio Visual System depreciation	-	12,876	-	<b>12,876</b>	12,876
Lawnmower expense	64	-	-	<b>64</b>	22
<b>Major fabric and Projects Expenditure</b>					
Repairs to St Helen's Stoneworks	-	-	-	-	304
Window Guards	-	-	-	-	7,800
Roof Alarm	-	1,047	-	<b>1,047</b>	-
Church Development	-	5,040	-	<b>5,040</b>	-
	<b>134,606</b>	<b>21,976</b>	<b>6,029</b>	<b>162,611</b>	<b>168,066</b>

**Notes**

During the year, members of the ministerial team who are also members of the PCC were paid £10,732 (2021: £10,959) in remuneration and for working expenses including the costs of a lawnmower for use at the Rectory.

No other payments or expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties.

**WHEATHAMPSTEAD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**2022 Accounts**

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - Year ended 31 December 2022**

**6 FIXED ASSETS**

**Tangible assets**

		Office printer	AV equipment	Total
		£	£	£
<b>Cost</b>	At 1st January 2022	4,991	64,380	<b>69,371</b>
	Additions at cost	-	-	-
	At 31st December 2022	4,991	64,380	<b>69,371</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>	At 1st January 2022	1,747	37,097	<b>38,844</b>
	Charge for the year	998	12,876	<b>13,874</b>
	At 31st December 2022	2,745	49,973	<b>52,718</b>
<b>Net book value</b>	At 1st January 2022	3,244	27,283	30,527
	At 31st December 2022	<b>2,246</b>	<b>14,407</b>	<b>16,653</b>

**Investments at market value**

	2022	2021
	£	£
Central Board of Finance Investment Fund	<b>1,611</b>	<b>1,827</b>

**7 AMOUNTS RECEIVABLE**

	2022	2021
	£	£
Income tax recoverable	3,318	5,543
VAT recoverable on building works	632	1,300
Other amounts receivable	1,842	1,001
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,792</b>	<b>7,844</b>

**8 AMOUNTS PAYABLE**

	2022	2021
	£	£
Accrued expenses	<b>7,048</b>	<b>10,516</b>

## WHEATHAMPSTEAD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

### 2022 Accounts

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - Year ended 31 December 2022

#### 9 FUNDS

	1 Jan 2022 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Used £	Transfers of Funds £	31 Dec 2022 £
<b>Endowment Funds</b>	1,827	-	(216)	-	1,611
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
Community Fund	3,156	3,782	(5,182)	-	1,756
Flower fund	1,135	1,181	(1,993)	-	323
Tea Time Church	574	86	(171)	-	489
Bell Fund	1,411	136	(104)	-	1,443
Music Fund	10,213	1,545	(2,882)	350	9,226
Choral Scholar Fund	2,247	22	(400)	-	1,869
Charity Partnership Fund	3,720	41	-	-	3,761
St Helen's Fellowship Fund	419	463	(578)	-	304
Specific collections		5,391	(5,391)	-	-
	<b>22,875</b>	<b>12,647</b>	<b>(16,701)</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>19,171</b>
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>24,702</b>	<b>12,647</b>	<b>(16,917)</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>20,782</b>
<b>Designated Funds</b>					
Fabric Fund	27,628	353	(13,923)	-	14,058
Income Reserve	50,103	550	-	-	50,653
Capital Reserve	75,165	825	-	-	75,990
Development Fund	11,726	101	(5,040)	-	6,787
Roof Fund	30,106	385	-	10,000	40,491
Energy Fund		9,057	(3,013)	-	6,044
	<b>194,728</b>	<b>11,271</b>	<b>(21,976)</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>194,023</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>					
General Fund	78,671	186,435	(186,184)	(10,350)	68,572
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>298,101</b>	<b>210,353</b>	<b>(225,077)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>283,377</b>

#### Notes

##### Endowment Funds

These are the Fenwick and Bracey bequests, the investment of which is mainly in the CBF Investment Fund shown in the Balance Sheet. Income from the Fenwick bequest is for the church and churchyard upkeep. These funds, and their annual movement in value, are included with the restricted funds.

##### Community Fund

This fund is from collections at weddings and baptisms, and some donations, which are set aside to provide assistance to those in need mainly in the parish of Wheathampstead.

##### Bell Fund

For the renovation, repairs and maintenance of the bells, including handbells, and related structures, fixtures and fittings, plus the support and development of the bell ringers.

##### Music Fund

Money set aside by PCC and other donations for music and choir purposes within the church

##### Charity Partnership Fund

Donations set aside by the PCC for work on the Kimbilio Project and and future projects with our Charity Partners

##### Fabric Fund

This fund is for major work to the Fabric of St Helen's church. The PCC transferred £40,000 from the General Fund in 2020.

##### Income Reserve and Designated Capital Reserve

As the Diocese recommends, the PCC maintains designated funds as a reserve against sudden total loss of income and unforeseen capital expenditure. Reserves were set at an initial level of £60,000 each in 2005 with interest to be accrued to the funds as a protection against inflation. In 2020 the PCC reviewed the Reserves Policy and decided to reduce the Income Reserve by a transfer of £25,000 to the General Fund.

##### Development Fund

Donations set aside by the PCC for improvements to the interior of St Helen's. An unrestricted legacy was added to the fund this year.

##### Roof Fund

Transfer of funds for future repairs on the roof of St Helen's

The cash related to the restricted funds is held in the PCC bank accounts.

## Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

I report to the members of the Wheathampstead Parochial Church Council (PCC) on my examination of their accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022.

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the PCC's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached



Christopher Ellis ACA  
24 March 2023

## Trustees of Wheathampstead Church School

### Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements

### for the year ended 31 December 2022

The Rector and Churchwardens are trustees of a fund, the beneficiary of which is St Helen's School, Wheathampstead, and manage a fund invested with the Church of England Central Board of Finance (CBF) through CCLA. The income from the investment is used to contribute towards the Governors' liability for the external repairs to the School.

During this year, the total income was £254. According to the mid-market prices as per the statements provided by CCLA Investment Management Ltd at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022, the total value of the two funds at that date was £8,592. Together with cash held in the bank of £2,335 the total assets of the Trust stand at £10,927.

Rev'd Richard Banham and Mrs Helen Caldwell  
Trustees 13 March 2023

#### Fund Account for the year ended 31 December

	2022	2021
	£	£
Dividends received:-		
Fixed Interest Securities Fund	46	51
Income Investment Fund	208	202
	<u>254</u>	<u>253</u>
Changes in market value of investments:-		
Fixed Interest Securities Fund	(245)	(125)
Income Investment Fund	(935)	1,008
	<u>(1,180)</u>	<u>883</u>
Net movement in fund during the year	<u>(926)</u>	<u>1,136</u>

#### Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December

	2022	2021
	£	£
Investments at cost 1999		
Investments at valuations:-	<u>5,862</u>	<u>5,862</u>
Fixed Interest Securities Fund	1,584	1,829
Income Investment Fund	7,008	7,943
	<u>8,592</u>	<u>9,772</u>
Cash at Bank	2,335	2,081
Fund assets at 31 December 2022	<u>10,927</u>	<u>11,853</u>

#### Independent Examiner's Report

I confirm that the above financial statements accord with the bank and investment records of the trust

Peter Slater BA(Hons) ACA 13 March 2023  
Harpenden

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# Accounts

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**Wheathampstead**  
**Parochial Church Council**

# **Annual Report & Accounts**

**for the year ended**  
**31<sup>st</sup> December 2021**



## Director's Introduction

In 2 Corinthians 4 the apostle Paul writes: being **"hard pressed on every side... perplexed... persecuted... and struck down"** At times during 2021 these words felt most appropriate. After all we'd been through in 2020, we began the year with depleted energy levels and reduced resources. 2021 proved to be a challenging year in many ways.

Of course, there were lots of positives: our joyous outdoor Easter Day Service will live long in the memory as it marked our return to 'in person' worship. But we spent the remainder of the year singing behind masks which was less than ideal, and we have still not resumed all the weekly services we had pre-lockdown. Thanks to a generous legacy, the very positive response to our 2020 financial appeal, and a committed team, we were able to live-stream our main morning service each week to an incredibly high standard. This has been invaluable to those who are still 'Covid Cautious' or unable to come to church - especially the housebound.

Once restrictions eased, I was delighted to Baptise so many 'lockdown' babies and toddlers that I almost became broody myself! Our team invested extra time and resource into the way we prepare and welcome Baptism families - we are patiently waiting to see how fruitful this will be.

The report lists PCC members, ministers and some of our other team members, but there isn't space to list everyone upon whom we rely. So, a **BIG thank you to everyone** who gives their time, effort and energy to make all the activities and ministries in our churches possible.

## The challenges we face

The most public challenge we faced in recent years is that pre-existing tensions over styles of worship came to a head over the trial of a digital organ and the choir singing from the chancel. Writing this in April 2022, it is a matter which still needs to be resolved. Sadly, the hurt caused on all sides is likely to have long term impact on our church family.

Throughout the year we kept close control on our expenditure. However, because our rental income was wiped out, and other income streams were greatly reduced, we face a bigger financial deficit than any of us can remember! (See pages 11 to 17).

The biggest challenge we face is missional. Over the past five years our Sunday attendance has declined - dramatically since the pandemic. This means more work being done by fewer people. More importantly, our Sunday congregations do not reflect the age profile (or socio-economic profile) of our parish. Because of this, we are recommending some changes to the very recently agreed Vision to make being **"A church for all generations"** a strategic priority for development (see page 3). We have lots of ideas of ways we can do this, but they will rely on the whole church playing their part. The ambitious plans to make our buildings **vibrant hubs at the heart of our community** remain key to the vision and we have made modest but significant progress on this (see page 3).

The invasion of Ukraine has put all our challenges in perspective. I began with some words from the apostle Paul who also endured great hardship. The full quote is, "We are hard pressed on every side, **but not crushed**; perplexed, **but not in despair**; persecuted, **but not abandoned**; struck down, **but not destroyed.**" (2 Corinthians 4:8-9). 2021 was a harder year than we had expected and although the going remains tough in 2022, we are confident that The Lord is Sovereign, and His love endures forever. As we sometimes say in our All-age worship: **God is good... All the time.** St Helen's Church has faithfully served the community of Wheathampstead for over 700 years, and St Peter's similarly in Gustard Wood

for over 110 years. The church has survived greater challenges than the ones we currently face. By the grace of God, we will carry on.

Thank you again, and God bless you,  
with love and prayers - **Richard**

## The Parish Vision: Pointing the way forward

The Parish's Vision and strategic plan is a framework for how we wish to see the parish developing over the next five years. The PCC is refocusing the Parish Vision for a new five-year period. It agreed a fresh Mission statement and Vision for the five years starting 2022.



Our *Mission* is that we are Living God's Love in Our Community.

Our *Vision* for St Helen's and St Peter's is:

- A vibrant hub at the heart of our community
- Engaging with the needs of those around us
- Helping people encounter God's love

The *Parish's strategic priorities for development* are:

1. Make St Helen's a vibrant hub at the heart of the community with buildings fit for God's mission in 21<sup>st</sup> century Wheathampstead
2. Develop our church's engagement with the needs of the community
3. Provide varied ways for everyone to encounter God's love

The PCC agreed to delay refreshing the 2016-2021 Vision, which normally would have commenced in early 2021, until the pressures arising from COVID-19 began to ease and society started to find a way out of the restrictions imposed by the pandemic.

The PCC held a Vision Away Day with members of the Ministerial Team in November 2021 to take stock of the changes that we had seen in church life and in society during the pandemic, while looking at the scope to build on the progress made from the parish's previous two five-year Visions. Working out the Vision is becoming a regular part of the agenda at PCC meetings.

An important early priority is to restart work on considering changes that could be made to the St Helen's building to meet the parish's need for better toilet and kitchen facilities and improve provision for welcome, meetings and storage. To the extent that these can be achieved, the church will be better equipped to support the parish Mission and the other elements of the Vision.

Across all three priority areas the parish aims to respond to environmental challenges by lightening its own footprint and encouraging the wider community to join in.

Postscript: The Rector and Chair of the Vision Steering Group will propose to the PCC that the Vision is amended modestly to seek to make the age distribution of the congregation more in line with that of our local community. The strategic priorities become:

1. Make St Helen's a vibrant hub at the heart of the community with buildings fit for God's mission in 21<sup>st</sup> century Wheathampstead
2. Being a church for all generations
3. Providing opportunities for people to encounter God's love

## **The Parochial Church Council (PCC)**

The combination of mission, vision and strategic priorities provides a framework within which the PCC evaluates our progress and promotes new initiatives for growth.

### **Role**

In accordance with the Church of England Rules, the Wheathampstead Parochial Church Council ("PCC") shares with the Rector and other Ministers the work of promotion in the Parish of "the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical". It is responsible for the churches of St Helen's and St Peter's, Gustard Wood. The PCC is registered as Wheathampstead PCC with the Charity Commission (charity number 1132924) and can be contacted at the Parish Office, St Helen's Church, High Street, Wheathampstead, AL4 8AA. In planning the activities for the year, the PCC has considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

### **PCC Activities in 2021**

Because of the special circumstances of Covid-19, the Diocese had adjusted the length of the two previous PCC years: an in-person APCM had been held on 2nd April 2019 and the PCC year then ran until the postponed APCM (by Zoom) on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020. The next PCC year ran from October 2020 until April 2021 when the APCM was again held by Zoom. We have now returned to a regular pattern of 12-month PCC years with the APCM in spring. Our Annual Report and Accounts look back at a calendar year: this Annual Report and Accounts 2021 looks back at the calendar year 2021.

During its year of office, the PCC has met on ten occasions: sometimes in person and sometimes by Zoom. The PCC was heavily involved in the Away Day in November 2021. PCC meetings continue to comprise devotions, discussions and decision-taking. Individuals are invited to join PCC meetings where their contribution is particularly valuable. A summary of PCC meetings continues to be shared with our mailing list. Annual reports are received from many areas of church life. In addition, the Ministerial Team, sub-committees and other groups continue to meet and report to the PCC during the year reflecting the many aspects of Church life.

### **Membership**

Members of the PCC are ex officio, co-opted or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. There are up to twelve elected lay members. The list of members who served in 2021 is below. The PCC wishes to record their gratitude to all who have tirelessly assisted in maintaining the momentum of the progress of our vision for Wheathampstead and beyond and in particular to thank those individuals and groups

who have contributed so readily to providing new forms of worship and pastoral care within the restrictions of Covid-19.

Our grateful thanks go to all who have contributed to the governance and decision-making of the church through their service on the PCC. Susan Brown and Barbara Doye were co-opted in May 2021. Martin Thomas has attended our meetings as an observer. Vacancies will exist for lay members to be elected either as Churchwardens at the Meeting of Parishioners or to the PCC at the APCM. Keith Andrews and David Hartley will retire by rotation and be eligible for re-election to the PCC. Susan Brown, Karl Fenwick, Peter Hudson, Clare Mackay and Justine Soothill retire.

## List of PCC Members

The following members served on the PCC following the APCM in April 2021.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Serving from</b>	<b>Serving to</b>
Revd Richard Banham	Rector & PCC Chair	April 2010	While in office *
Mrs Helen Caldwell	Churchwarden	Elected April 2021	APCM 2022 *
Mr Keith Andrews	Elected Lay Member Deputy Warden from Oct21	Elected April 2019	APCM 2022 *
Mr Simon Best	Elected Lay Member Lay Vice Chair	Elected April 2021	APCM 2024 *
Mrs Madeleine Bigmore	Elected Lay Member Hon. Treasurer	Elected October 2020	APCM 2023 *
Mrs Susan Brown	Co-opted Lay Member	Co-opted May 2021	APCM 2022 *
Mrs Barbara Doye	Co-opted Lay Member	Co-opted May 2021	APCM 2022 *
Mr Karl Fenwick	Elected Lay Member	Elected April 2019	APCM 2022 *
Mr Brian Golesworthy	Deanery Synod Member	Elected October 2020	APCM 2023 *
Mr David Hartley	Elected Lay Member Deputy Warden from Oct21	Elected April 2019	APCM 2022 *
Mr Peter Hudson	Elected Lay Member	Elected April 2019	APCM 2022 *
Mrs Clare Mackay	Elected Lay Member	Elected April 2019	APCM 2022 *
Mr David Pangbourne	Elected Lay Member	Elected October 2020	APCM 2023 *
Mrs Justine Soothill	Elected Lay Member	Elected April 2019	APCM 2022 *
Mrs Linda Thomas	Deanery Synod Member	Elected October 2020	APCM 2023 *
Mr Stephen Wilson	Deanery Synod Member Hon. Secretary	Elected October 2020	APCM 2023 *

\* Member serving on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 (end of Report and Accounts year).  
In addition Martin Thomas participated in PCC meetings from May 2021 with Observer status.

## Team of Ministers

As with so many areas of church life, we are fortunate to have such a capable and committed team of Ministers who lead our worship and do so much good work away from the spotlight of Sunday Services.

Minister	Role
Rev Richard Banham	Rector
Rt Rev John Gladwin	Retired Bishop
Rev Brian Gwinn	Retired Minister
Linda Thomas	Children & Families Minister Reader in Training
Claire Banham	Reader

Minister	Role
Carol Hopper	Reader
Pippa Legg	Reader
John Grace	Retired Reader
Roger Payne	Retired Reader
Barbara Doye	Reader in Training

## Working Groups, Committees and Sub-committees

The PCC appointed the following officers: Stephen Wilson as **Honorary Secretary**, Madeleine Bigmore as **Honorary Treasurer**, Katie Gifford and Lucy Price as **Joint Safeguarding Officers**, Jacqui Chaston as **Data Protection Officer**, Helen Caldwell as **DBS Officer**, Judith Lambert as **Electoral Roll Officer** and Michael Hollick as **Health & Safety Officer**.

The PCC elects a **“Standing Committee”** with power, subject to the directions of the PCC, to transact business between PCC meetings. Its members are Richard Banham, Helen Caldwell, Simon Best, Madeleine Bigmore and Stephen Wilson.

The overall co-ordinating **“Vision Steering Group”** is led by Simon Best as Chairman.

The PCC is advised by a **“Fabric Committee”** which is chaired by Stephen Scowcroft.

## Financial Review

The Financial Statements of the PCC are attached, see pages 11 to 17.

The Statement of Financial Activities shows our income and expenditure for the year on our General (Unrestricted) Fund; on the Designated Funds we have set aside for fabric costs, on our Reserves and Development Fund; on the Restricted Funds which we have been given for particular purposes and on our Endowment Fund. The Balance Sheet shows the state of our finances at the year end and both these statements are supported by a number of notes.

After the second year of the pandemic our finances have taken a hit. There were no services in church for many months and when they started again the numbers attending were very small. As expected, our income from Sunday collections is substantially down. Also, the income from Coffee in the Chancel, Weddings and Rental Income have all suffered. Thankfully the regular income through the Parish Giving Scheme has continued and increased slightly. This continued support through difficult times has been much appreciated.

The Unrestricted Funds show a shortfall for the year of £14,323. This figure takes into account our income for general purposes, from which is deducted our normal annual outgoings on the church and its activities, together with our contribution to the

Diocese and the Parish's own giving. It is the PCC's aim to ensure this normal expenditure is, at least, covered by our annual income.

In addition to these normal running costs there were expenses from our designated funds on fabric of £6,500 for stained glass window guards and ongoing depreciation costs of our audio-visual system contributing to an overall deficit of £28,970 for the year.

Within our designated funds there are amounts set aside for our Income and Capital Reserves, future depreciation to be charged to the Fabric Fund, the Development Fund and Roof Repairs. This leaves us with £78,671 in our General Fund which is available to cover any surplus of expenditure over income in the coming years, and contributions to Parish development such as the improvement of facilities at St Helen's.

## **Reserves Policy**

The PCC follows the general recommendations for Church of England parishes and sets aside funds to provide cover against a sudden loss of income and unforeseen capital expenditure. These reserves are shown in Note 9 to the accounts as designated funds and currently stand at £50,103 for loss of income and £75,165 for capital expenditure.

## **Charity Partnerships**

It has been an extremely challenging year once again to deliver the objectives the CPT set out for 2021. We are, however, delighted that we were able to provide the committed financial support throughout this year and will look forward to 2022, when we hope to revitalise our relationships with our charity partners.

### **Overview of Charity Partnerships**

#### **Local**

**Azalea Luton:** Azalea reaches out to those trapped in or vulnerable to sexual exploitation, supporting them to build new lives because of the love of God, through Outreach, Drop-In and Befriending and also works as a key partner in Faiths Against Child Sexual Exploitation (FACES) - which is a local coalition of faith leaders working to prevent Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).

#### **National**

**The Children's Society:** Fighting child poverty and neglect, and helping all children have a better chance in life. From their history in the vision and actions of a young Sunday School teacher, at the end of the nineteenth century, their work has been grounded in the churches at local and national levels.

Churches constitute their core partners and they work very closely with the Church of England.

#### **International**

**Orphans Know More:** Orphans Know More (OKM) is one of the ministries of Youth With a Mission England and Wales (YWAM) and is based in Harpenden. OKM believe that the best way to tackle the international orphan crisis is to care for children in a family environment and unit.

**CCT Kimbilio:** The charity is overseen by a group of experienced Trustees who share a passion for the Congo, and work with street children. In simple terms, Kimbilio is a project supported by the Congo Children Trust. Kimbilio supports street children in Lubumbashi, Katanga in the Democratic Republic of Congo. They have been working alongside the Anglican Church of Congo since 2007.

**Giving 2021** (paid quarterly)

<b>Charity</b>	<b>Total</b>
Azalea	£3000
Children's Society	£3000
CCT & Kimbilio	£3500
Orphans Know More	£4500

**Additional Support for Charities:**

During 2021 we provided support and additional fund raising activities, for our Charity Partners and several other charities. Our Christian Aid appeal raised a whopping £5,213.75 including Gift Aid. The Children's Society received a total of £902.68 from the donation box collection. Harvest Festival cash donations supported the Bishop's Appeal and a reported £3,483 was raised and counting. Azalea received food collections during March and the Harvest Festival non-perishable food contributions, with the MacIntyre Home receiving the perishable food contributions.

Continuing support:

Watford & Three Rivers & St Albans & District Foodbank - Bi-monthly food donations

**CPT Objectives for 2022**

1. To produce regular prayer requests and encourage the congregation to pray regularly for our partner charities.
2. To arrange guest speakers from the charity partners, once COVID restrictions allow.
3. To review the charity partnerships for June 2022.

Karl Fenwick Clare Mackay David Perch

**Safeguarding**

The PCC is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and vulnerable adults who attend church or church activities. We have in place - and regularly review - a policy for Safeguarding which is the Church of England Statement "Promoting a Safer Church". Our Safeguarding Procedures are contained in the Church of England's "Parish Safeguarding Handbook". All relevant volunteers are DBS-checked and issued with appropriate guidance for their role. We are committed to training for all our volunteers. 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).

**Risk & Statutory Policies**

As required by law, the PCC has considered the major risks within its responsibility and the systems designed to minimise those risks; this has included annual Health and Safety Inspections with recommendations reported to the PCC.

The PCC has in place statutory policies in the following areas:

- DBS Checks;

- Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults;
- Domestic Abuse;
- Data Protection;
- Equality and Inclusion;
- Health and Safety.

Where appropriate, these are in line with Diocesan guidance and all are reviewed regularly by the PCC.

## **Goods, Fabric and Ornaments**

The annual inventory of Church goods, fabric and ornaments was completed during 2021 and all items found to be present and correctly accounted for. The Fabric Committee has taken further the programme of redecoration and repairs at St. Helen's and St. Peter's which has included work on the buildings, churchyard and car parks. The Quinquennial Inspection of St. Helen's took place in April 2021 and a Building Survey of St. Peter's was carried out in September 2021. Amongst larger projects window guards were fitted and a kneeler stone on the North Transept roof was repaired at St. Helen's; at St. Peter's a heating controller and timer were installed.

The PCC records thanks to the Fabric Committee for many other alterations and improvements. At St. Helen's these include repairing the brickwork around the shoe scraper, tree work, servicing and repairing the central heating boiler system, servicing, repairing or replacing light fittings, repairing small puncture holes in the North Aisle aluminium roof and nearby flashing, replacing an RCD board in the Vestry, cleaning font cover, repairing damage to the clock strike mechanism, servicing and inspecting roof alarm system and repairing leaking pipe serving the churchyard tap near the South Porch. At St. Peter's they include repairing rainwater downpipe brackets and tree maintenance. Regular working parties have been conducted for general maintenance at both churches.

## **Buildings Working Group**

Since October 2021 the Buildings Working Group has reconvened to consider the best way forward for the re-ordering of St. Helen's Church. It has prepared a Statement of Needs, updated the Statement of Significance, prepared a project plan, researched appropriate architects and is currently seeking architects' fee proposals for an options appraisal.

## **Stewardship & Renewal**

The Treasurer and Stewardship Team have introduced the Parish Giving Scheme – as first announced at the APCM 2018. We are grateful for those many people who are committed to regular giving. The PCC is thankful to the Friends of St. Helen's Church (Wheathampstead) (Registered Charity No 1048053) for its generous support over many years. New literature on legacy giving has been produced and is available to advise people about this particular method of supporting the church into the future.

## **St. Helen's Fellowship**

St. Helen's Fellowship is a group run by Jill Bareham and Louise Edwards for retired people. We resumed meetings with great joy in September 2021, in the Mead Hall, with COVID safety precautions explained and in place.

Attendance has been very good. The programme has included the usual open service of Holy Communion on the first Thursday of the month, to which all are welcome. We aim to have one speaker each month and meetings with time dedicated to socialising with friends. To enhance these meetings the availability of board games has been welcomed by many of our members. A book share table has also been a popular addition.

Our friendship link with MacIntyre Home at 1 Station Road has continued, with gifts given at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. Sadly, but of necessity, visits have been limited during the past year but we all enjoy our contact when possible.

We give our thanks to Richard, Bishop John and Brian Gwinn who have led our services of Holy Communion, also to Gill Gwinn who organises transport for members who would otherwise not be able to attend, and to all our drivers. Finally our thanks go to Richard for the fabulous welcome back party for Fellowship held in the Rectory Garden in August 2021.

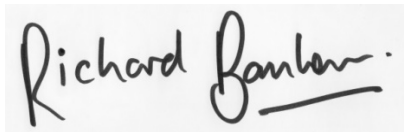
Louise Edwards and Jill Bareham

## **Deanery Synod Report 2021**

The Rector and three elected representatives serve on the Deanery Synod. The Deanery Synod arranged an Ascension Day Service and a Choral Evensong in October as well as three meetings with guest speakers to focus on a particular topic. In November the Synod resumed in-person meetings. The aim is for meetings to take place in different parishes of the Deanery and offer the chance to learn more about other churches and congregations.

In 2021 the March meeting was addressed by Madeline and Archie Russell of the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust (“Saving the Past for the Future”) who reported on their Bike ‘n Hike fundraising event (which produced £112, 808 despite restrictions) and explained how we can apply for BHHCT grants for the care and repair of the fabric of a church building. The Trust offers a quick turn round of response in times of emergency and can even offer a loan in order to facilitate speed of action. In July Rev’d Will Gibbs made a presentation about “Living in Love and Faith” – a set of resources which aims to inspire people to think more deeply about what it means to be human and to live in love and faith with each another. It tackles the tough questions and the divisions among Christians about what it means to be holy in a society in which understandings and practices of gender, sexuality and marriage continue to change. In November Rachel Johnston (Diocesan Environment Officer) presented us with the issues of climate change and the ways in which humanity is harming our planet. We are undergoing a scientific, moral and spiritual crisis and it is part of our Christian witness to acknowledge our responsibility. We have a sacred duty to protect creation. The Church has the aim to achieve a net zero carbon footprint by the year 2030. Looking at our carbon footprint is one challenge; more difficult is the examination of church lifestyle – identifying all the ways in which a church can make changes for good. As well as practical responses, we need, as Christians, to be prepared to speak out for climate justice.

**The above report was approved by the Wheathampstead Parochial Church Council on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022.**

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light grey background. The signature reads "Richard Banham" in a cursive script, with a horizontal line underlining the name.

Rev Richard Banham  
Chairman

**WHEATHAMPSTEAD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**
**2021 Accounts**
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - For the year ended 31 December 2021**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted & Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2021 £	FUNDS 2020 £
<b>INCOME &amp; ENDOWMENTS</b>						
<b>Incoming resources from donors</b>						
Planned Giving via Parish Giving Scheme		99,796	-	-	99,796	98,503
Other Planned giving		14,502	-	-	14,502	14,979
Tax recoverable on planned giving		26,806	-	-	26,806	26,299
Collections: St Helen's		3,831	-	-	3,831	2,451
Collections: St Peter's		157	-	-	157	99
Tax recoverable on Small Donations Scheme		1,026	-	-	1,026	719
Collections for specific purposes		-	-	4,425	4,425	3,088
Collections for the Community Fund		-	-	1,702	1,702	2,628
Legacies, donations etc.	2	8,615	3,219	7,619	19,453	46,725
		<b>154,733</b>	<b>3,219</b>	<b>13,746</b>	<b>171,698</b>	<b>195,491</b>
<b>Income from investment</b>						
Interest and dividends		59	119	13	191	1,152
<b>Income from charitable trading/fees</b>						
Coffee in the Chancel		1,714	-	-	1,714	1,745
Charitable Trading		-	-	-	-	70
Fees for weddings and funerals		16,710	-	-	16,710	13,673
		<b>18,424</b>			<b>18,424</b>	<b>15,488</b>
<b>Other incoming resources</b>						
Coffee after services		33	-	-	33	185
Advent candles		113	-	-	113	
Rental income		645	-	-	645	625
VAT recovered on building works		1,671	1,604	-	3,275	10,985
Grants		-	-	-	-	2,000
Insurance recovered		-	-	-	-	-
Flowers		-	-	2,790	2,790	960
Bells		-	-	420	420	60
Admin support for Rural Dean		2,000	-	-	2,000	1,166
		<b>4,462</b>	<b>1,604</b>	<b>3,210</b>	<b>9,276</b>	<b>15,981</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>177,678</b>	<b>4,942</b>	<b>16,969</b>	<b>199,589</b>	<b>228,112</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>						
Giving	3	16,590	-	9,417	26,007	22,578
Church Management & Administration	4	34,486	-	-	34,486	34,959
For the work of the Church	5	140,925	20,980	6,161	168,066	211,483
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>192,001</b>	<b>20,980</b>	<b>15,578</b>	<b>228,559</b>	<b>269,020</b>
<b>NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>(14,323)</b>	<b>(16,038)</b>	<b>1,391</b>	<b>(28,970)</b>	<b>(40,908)</b>
Transfers between funds		<b>(11,050)</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>1,050</b>	-	-
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>(25,373)</b>	<b>(6,038)</b>	<b>2,441</b>	<b>(28,970)</b>	<b>(40,908)</b>
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD	9	<b>104,044</b>	<b>200,766</b>	<b>22,261</b>	<b>327,071</b>	<b>367,979</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>78,671</b>	<b>194,728</b>	<b>24,702</b>	<b>298,101</b>	<b>327,071</b>

# WHEATHAMPSTEAD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

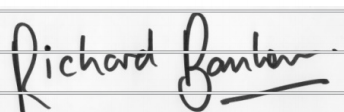
## 2021 Accounts

### BALANCE SHEET - As at 31 December 2021

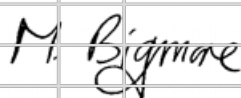
	Note	2021 £	2020 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible fixed assets	6	40,250	29,121
Investments	6	1,827	1,595
		<b>42,077</b>	<b>30,716</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Amounts receivable and prepayments	7	7,844	11,712
Cash at bank and on short term deposit		268,419	274,500
		<b>276,263</b>	<b>286,212</b>
<b>AMOUNTS PAYABLE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10,516</b>	<b>5,137</b>
		<b>265,747</b>	<b>281,075</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>307,824</b>	<b>311,791</b>
<b>FUNDS</b>			
Endowment	9	1,827	1,595
Restricted	9	22,875	20,666
		<b>24,702</b>	<b>22,261</b>
Designated	9	194,728	200,766
Unrestricted	9	78,671	104,044
		<b>298,101</b>	<b>327,071</b>

These financial statements were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 21st March 2022

Signed on behalf of the PCC



The Rvd Richard Banham  
Chairman



Madeleine Bignmore  
Treasurer

# WHEATHAMPSTEAD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

## 2021 Accounts

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - Year ended 31 December 2021

#### 1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The P.C.C. is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of P.C.C.s, and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions, together with FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP (FRS102)).

The historical cost convention is adopted except for investments, which are shown at market value at the balance sheet date.

The statements are prepared on the accruals basis.

#### Funds

Unrestricted funds are those available for the general purposes of the P.C.C. The purpose of restricted funds is noted in the statements. Interest, other income and tax recoverable related to amounts allocated to particular funds is credited to those funds.

The statements include transactions for which the P.C.C. is responsible but not those of informal groups of members or of separately constituted bodies from which the P.C.C. may benefit.

#### Income and use of resources

Collections, covenants, donations and similar income are recognised on receipt.

Income tax recoverable on covenants and donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Income from fund raising events, coffee in the chancel etc, is shown in full and the related expenses are included within resources used.

Grants and legacies are recognised in the period when they become due.

Expenditure is accounted for when incurred.

#### Assets

In so far as consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the statutory definition of "charity" by Section 10(2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011, such assets are not capitalised in the financial statements.

Depreciation is provided on equipment used by the P.C.C. over the useful life of the asset. Items of equipment costing less than £1000 are written off when the expenditure is incurred.

Short term deposits include cash held in a Church of England Central Board of Finance account and at the bank.

#### 2 LEGACIES, DONATIONS, NAVE BOXES, ETC.

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted & Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2021 £	FUNDS 2020 £
Donations, nave boxes etc.	6,667	-	-	6,667	6,526
Donations in lieu of collections	200	-	-	200	12,863
Donations for Online Services Equipment	-	275	-	275	8,600
Legacies	-	2,500	-	2,500	1,000
Friends of St Helens	-	-	-	-	8,735
Donations for Flower Fund	-	-	360	360	360
Donations for Tea Time Church Fund	-	-	230	230	230
Donations for Fellowship Fund	-	-	191	191	241
Donation for 'Lunch for One'	-	-	-	-	197
Donations for Hampers	-	-	-	-	1,035
Donations for Ouseley Trust Fund	-	-	1,145	1,145	300
Donations for Music Fund	-	-	3,323	3,323	300
Donations for Development Fund	-	300	-	300	81
Donations from Outside Carols	371	-	-	371	-
Donations from The Ark	15	-	-	15	-
Miscellaneous income	20	-	232	252	145
Income tax recoverable on donations	1,342	144	2,138	3,624	6,112
	<b>8,615</b>	<b>3,219</b>	<b>7,619</b>	<b>19,453</b>	<b>46,725</b>

## WHEATHAMPSTEAD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

### 2021 Accounts

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - Year ended 31 December 2021

#### 3 GIVING

	From Parish income		Special collections, Community Fund	
	2021 £	2020 £	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Charity Partners</b>				
Congo Children Trust	3,500	3,500	1,390	<b>1,435</b>
Orphans Know More	4,500	4,500	-	-
The Children's Society	3,000	3,000	-	-
Azalea	3,000	3,000	-	-
	<b>14,000</b>	<b>14,000</b>	<b>1,390</b>	<b>1,435</b>
<b>Other charities</b>				
St Helen's School	2,550	2,550	-	-
Harvest Appeal	-	-	3,686	2,273
Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust	40	40	-	-
Christian Aid	-	-	213	-
Payments from Community Fund	-	-	4,128	2,280
	<b>2,590</b>	<b>2,590</b>	<b>8,027</b>	<b>4,553</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,590</b>	<b>16,590</b>	<b>9,417</b>	<b>5,988</b>

Note: Giving to St Helen's School is by standing order which is continuing into 2022.

#### 4 CHURCH MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted & Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2021 £	FUNDS 2020 £
Stationery, post, telephone, print	3,403	-	-	<b>3,403</b>	<b>4,290</b>
Staff salaries	28,254	-	-	<b>28,254</b>	<b>28,371</b>
Pension Contribution	711	-	-	<b>711</b>	<b>716</b>
Payroll administration costs	504	-	-	<b>504</b>	<b>501</b>
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	<b>24</b>
Office Equipment depreciation	998	-	-	<b>998</b>	<b>749</b>
Bank charges and card fees	396	-	-	<b>396</b>	<b>308</b>
Database Fees	220	-	-	<b>220</b>	-
	<b>34,486</b>	-	-	<b>34,486</b>	<b>34,959</b>

#### Note

During the year the PCC employed an average monthly number of 3 staff: a parish administrator, an organist, and a Children's and Families' Minister, all on a part time basis. (2020 also 3)

The total costs of salaries and pensions are as shown above and no national insurance costs were incurred

No employees received more than £60,000

## WHEATHAMPSTEAD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

### 2021 Accounts

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - Year ended 31 December 2021

#### 5 RESOURCES USED FOR THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted & Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2021 £	FUNDS 2020 £
Parish share to Diocese	100,075	-	-	100,075	101,951
Fees paid to Diocese	3,941	-	-	3,941	3,502
Wedding Disbursements	2,050	-	-	2,050	360
Funeral Disbursements	755	-	-	755	1,246
Plaques and other memorials	299	-	-	299	329
Ministry expenses	437	-	-	437	302
Electricity & Water (St Helens)	2,191	-	-	2,191	2,265
Electricity & Water (St Peters)	539	-	-	539	478
Gas (St Helen's)	3,110	-	-	3,110	3,332
Maintenance (St Helens)	14,261	-	-	14,261	4,740
Maintenance (St Peters)	1,511	-	-	1,511	1,970
Insurance (St Helens)	3,473	-	-	3,473	3,860
Insurance (St Peters)	604	-	-	604	588
Growing in Loving Service	143	-	140	283	1,235
Growing in Numbers	101	-	-	101	573
Growing in Faith	10	-	-	10	47
Children, Youth & Schools	2,025	-	-	2,025	788
Services	1,258	-	-	1,258	1,444
Choir and music	1,674	-	3,082	4,756	2,808
Casual organists for regular Church services	840	-	-	840	300
Hospitality	826	-	-	826	422
Training	458	-	-	458	-
Coffee in the Chancel expenses	137	-	-	137	485
Charitable Trading expenses	100	-	-	100	-
Stewardship costs	85	-	-	85	929
Hall Hire	-	-	198	198	282
Flowers	-	-	2,686	2,686	965
Bells	-	-	55	55	80
Coffee machine depreciation	-	-	-	-	58
Audio Visual System depreciation	-	12,876	-	12,876	12,876
Lawnmower expense	22	-	-	22	148
<b>Major fabric and Projects Expenditure</b>					
Repairs to St Helen's Stoneworks	-	304	-	304	55,982
Window Guards	-	7,800	-	7,800	-
Roof Alarm	-	-	-	-	7,138
	<b>140,925</b>	<b>20,980</b>	<b>6,161</b>	<b>168,066</b>	<b>211,483</b>

#### Notes

During the year, members of the ministerial team who are also members of the PCC were paid £10,959 in remuneration and for working expenses including the costs of a lawnmower for use at the Rectory. (2020: £10,950)

No other payments or expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties.

<b>WHEATHAMPSTEAD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL</b>							
<b>2020 Accounts</b>							
<b>NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - Year ended 31 December 2020</b>							
<b>6 FIXED ASSETS</b>							
<b>Tangible assets</b>							
				<b>Coffee Equipment</b>	<b>Office printer</b>	<b>AV equipment</b>	<b>Total</b>
				<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	<b>Cost</b>	At 1st January 2021		1,406	4,991	64,380	<b>70,777</b>
		Additions at cost		-	-	-	-
		Disposal		(1,406)	-	-	<b>(1,406)</b>
		At 31st December 2021		-	4,991	64,380	<b>69,371</b>
	<b>Depreciation</b>	At 1st January 2021		1,406	749	24,221	<b>26,376</b>
		Charge for the year		-	998	12,876	<b>13,874</b>
		Disposal		(1,406)	-	-	<b>(1,406)</b>
		At 31st December 2021		-	1,747	37,097	<b>40,250</b>
	<b>Net book value</b>	<b>At 31st December 2021</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>3,244</b>	<b>27,283</b>	<b>29,121</b>
		At 31st December 2020		-	4,242	40,159	<b>44,401</b>
The Coffee Equipment is now fully depreciated and has been removed from fixed assets							
<b>Investments at market value</b>				<b>2021</b>		<b>2020</b>	
				<b>£</b>		<b>£</b>	
Central Board of Finance Investment Fund				<b>1,827</b>		<b>1,595</b>	
<b>7 AMOUNTS RECEIVABLE</b>							
				<b>2021</b>		<b>2020</b>	
				<b>£</b>		<b>£</b>	
Income tax recoverable				5,543		7,943	
VAT recoverable on building works				1,300		3,011	
Other amounts receivable				1,001		758	
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>7,844</b>		<b>11,712</b>	
<b>8 AMOUNTS PAYABLE</b>							
				<b>2021</b>		<b>2020</b>	
				<b>£</b>		<b>£</b>	
Accrued expenses				<b>10,516</b>		<b>5,137</b>	

<b>WHEATHAMPSTEAD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL</b>						
<b>2021 Accounts</b>						
<b>NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - Year ended 31 December 2021</b>						
<b>9 FUNDS</b>						
	<b>1 Jan 2021</b>	<b>Incoming Resources</b>	<b>Resources Used</b>	<b>Transfers of Funds</b>	<b>31 Dec 2021</b>	
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	
<b>Endowment Funds</b>	1,595	232	-	-	1,827	
<b>Restricted Funds</b>						
Community Fund	5,364	1,920	(4,128)	-	3,156	
Flower fund	647	3,173	(2,685)	-	1,135	
Tea Time Church	344	230	-	-	574	
Bell Fund	1,045	421	(55)	-	1,411	
Music Fund	6,712	4,083	(1,632)	1,050	10,213	
Ouseley Trust Fund	2,270	1,427	(1,450)	-	2,247	
Charity Partnership Fund	3,718	2	-	-	3,720	
St Helen's Fellowship Fund	566	192	(339)	-	419	
Specific collections		5,289	(5,289)	-	-	
	<b>20,666</b>	<b>16,737</b>	<b>(15,578)</b>	<b>1,050</b>	<b>22,875</b>	
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>22,261</b>	<b>16,969</b>	<b>(15,578)</b>	<b>1,050</b>	<b>24,702</b>	
<b>Designated Funds</b>						
Fabric Fund	46,638	1,970	(20,980)	-	27,628	
Income Reserve	50,073	30	-	-	50,103	
Capital Reserve	75,120	45	-	-	75,165	
Development Fund	8,845	2,881	-	-	11,726	
Roof Fund	20,090	16	-	10,000	30,106	
	<b>200,766</b>	<b>4,942</b>	<b>(20,980)</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>194,728</b>	
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>						
General Fund	104,044	177,678	(192,001)	(11,050)	78,671	
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>327,071</b>	<b>199,589</b>	<b>(228,559)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>298,101</b>	
<b>Notes</b>						
<b>Endowment Funds</b>						
These are the Fenwick and Bracey bequests, the investment of which is mainly in the CBF Investment Fund shown in the Balance Sheet. Income from the Fenwick bequest is for the church and churchyard upkeep. These funds, and their annual movement in value, are included with the restricted funds.						
<b>Community Fund</b>						
This fund is from collections at weddings and baptisms, and some donations, which are set aside to provide assistance to those in need mainly in the parish of Wheathampstead.						
<b>Bell Fund</b>						
For the renovation, repairs and maintenance of the bells, including handbells, and related structures, fixtures and fittings, plus the support and development of the bell ringers.						
<b>Music Fund</b>						
Money set aside by PCC and other donations for music and choir purposes within the church						
<b>Ouseley Trust Fund</b>						
Grant received from "The Ouseley Church Music Trust" to provide up to 4 choral scholarships for junior members of our choir						
<b>Charity Partnership Fund</b>						
Donations set aside by the PCC for work on the Kimbilio Project and future projects with our Charity Partners						
<b>Fabric Fund</b>						
This fund is for major work to the Fabric of St Helen's church. The PCC transferred £40,000 from the General Fund in 2020.						
<b>Income Reserve and Designated Capital Reserve</b>						
As the Diocese recommends, the PCC maintains designated funds as a reserve against sudden total loss of income and unforeseen capital expenditure. Reserves were set at an initial level of £60,000 each in 2005 with interest to be accrued to the funds as a protection against inflation. In 2020 the PCC reviewed the Reserves Policy and decided to reduce the Income Reserve by a transfer of £25,000 to the General Fund.						
<b>Development Fund</b>						
Donations set aside by the PCC for improvements to the interior of St Helen's. An unrestricted legacy was added to the fund this year.						
<b>Roof Fund</b>						
Transfer of funds for future repairs on the roof of St Helen's						
<b>The cash related to the restricted funds is held in the PCC bank accounts.</b>						

## **Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts**

I report to the members of the Wheathampstead Parochial Church Council (PCC) on my examination of their accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021.

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the PCC's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached



Christopher Ellis ACA  
23 March 2022

## for the year ended 31 December 2021

The Rector and Churchwardens are trustees of a fund, the beneficiary of which is St Helen's School, Wheathampstead, and manage a fund invested with the Church of England Central Board of Finance (CBF) through CCLA. The income from the investment is used to contribute towards the Governors' liability for the external repairs to the School.

During this year, the total income was £253. According to the mid-market prices as per the statements provided by CCLA Investment Management Ltd at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021, the total value of the two funds at that date was £9772. Together with cash held in the bank of £2,081 the total assets of the Trust stand at £11,853.

Rev Richard Banham and Mrs Helen Caldwell  
Trustees 6 April 2022

### Fund Account for the year ended 31 December

	2021	2020
	£	£
Dividends received:-		
Fixed Interest Securities Fund	51	64
Income Investment Fund	<u>202</u>	<u>195</u>
	<u>253</u>	<u>259</u>
Changes in market value of investments:-		
Fixed Interest Securities Fund	(125)	61
Income Investment Fund	<u>1,008</u>	<u>434</u>
	<u>83</u>	<u>495</u>
Net movement in fund during the year	<u>1,136</u>	<u>754</u>

### Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December

	2021	2020
	£	£
Investments at cost 1999	<u>5,862</u>	<u>5,862</u>
Investments at valuations:-		
Fixed Interest Securities Fund	1,829	1,954
Income Investment Fund	<u>7,943</u>	<u>6,935</u>
	<u>9,772</u>	<u>8,889</u>
Cash at Bank	<u>2,081</u>	<u>1,828</u>
	<u>11,853</u>	<u>10,717</u>

### Independent Examiner's Report

I confirm that the above financial statements accord with the bank and investment records of the

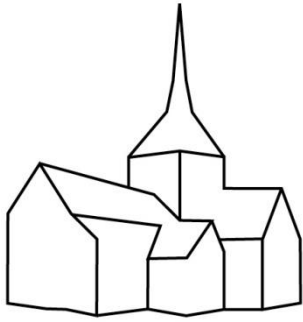
Trust

Peter Slater BA(Hons) ACA 6 April 2022  
Harpenden

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# Accounts

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**Wheathampstead**  
Parochial Church Council

# **Annual Report & Accounts**

for the year ended  
**31<sup>st</sup> December 2020**

**St Helen's + St Peter's · Wheathampstead**  
*living and working for the glory of God*



## Rector's Introduction

In 2020 we experienced the most extraordinary year any of us is likely to remember. The Coronavirus Pandemic brought so many challenges to us - individually, locally, nationally, and of course, globally. Primarily it was a health crisis, and statistically speaking, our parish was not hit hard. However, that is little comfort for those who have lost loved ones, been hospitalized themselves, or are living with long Covid.

I believe the parish responded amazingly well to the challenges of the pandemic. Throughout 2020, we showed:

- agility and adaptability as we moved quickly between on-site and on-line worship;
- creativity in caring for the vulnerable and isolated;
- wonderful teamwork with others in our community – including the Parish Council and the Community Group;
- great improvement in the quality and quantity of our communication – both digitally and in regular newsletters

All are underpinned by two key things: firstly, increased generosity which covered the £20,000 gap created by loss of income from rentals and trading. But even more importantly, the amazing commitment of so many key team members whose humble service in the church has been an inspiration to me. Thank you to everyone who has contributed financially and through their hard work over the past year.

The buildings may have been closed, but we were “The Church” more than ever!

Thank you for every single gift which enabled us to end the year in a reasonable financial position. Thank you also to everyone who has made provision for a legacy gift to the church in their Will. Legacy gifts protect our building and the heritage we've received and importantly they enable us to develop securing our future ministry.

I read recently, “in the Christian life, mountain top experiences inspire us, but we mature in the valley lows.” 2020 was an incredibly tough year, but God is faithful and he has sustained us through it. We will have been changed by all we have been through – as individuals and a church community. Because of this, it is impossible to go back to “how it was before”, but we trust God wants the best for us and will lead us into a hope-filled future as we emerge from the pandemic. May God's will be done and His Kingdom Come in our lives and His Church. Amen?

God bless you and thank you.

With my love and prayers – Richard.

## The Parish Vision: Pointing the way forward

The Parish's Vision and strategic plan is a framework for how we wish to see the parish developing over the five years starting in 2016.

Our *Mission* is that we are Living and Working to the Glory of God.

Our *Vision* is: By 2021, St Helen's and St Peter's will be Christian communities

- Growing in faith
- Growing in numbers
- Growing in loving service

The Parish's strategic priorities for development are:

1. To help each one of us draw nearer to God by **deepening our understanding of our Christian faith.**
2. **Bringing more people** of all ages to faith and the Good News of Jesus
3. Inspired by our faith, to **live out God's love by serving** our community

Following a PCC Vision Away Day in November 2019, the Vision Steering Group identified 18 bite-sized goals for 2020 consistent with our strategic priorities. Almost all of them already had volunteers to take them forward. A special Vision Sunday service on 1st March 2020 celebrated the progress with the Vision to that point, launched these new goals and announced our intention to refresh the Vision a year early, at the end of 2020. This would have allowed new plans for the development of our buildings and facilities to be established and built into the new five-year Vision, following the parish's decision in late 2019 not to pursue further a joint venture development of the former URC church site.

The COVID-19 pandemic in March significantly interrupted all this work, as energies were focused on the parish's response to the pandemic and the related restrictions imposed on churches and on society. The review of the five-year Vision was postponed back to its original date at the end of 2021, in the expectation that by then the PCC and the Vision Steering Group will have a clearer view of how the pandemic has changed our environment and so be much better equipped to consider a new set of 5-year goals.

As a first step, one PCC meeting during 2020 considered how we might be able to "build back better" when we can put the pandemic behind us and this will form the base for further work as restrictions are eased, as is hoped for during 2021. In the meantime, the three strategic priorities of the current Vision – deepening our faith, bringing more people to faith and providing loving service to our community – have helped to guide the parish's response to the pandemic.

## **The Parochial Church Council (PCC)**

The combination of mission, vision and strategic priorities provides a framework within which the PCC evaluates our progress and promotes new initiatives for growth.

### **Role**

In accordance with the Church of England Rules, the Wheathampstead Parochial Church Council (“PCC”) shares with the Rector and other Ministers the work of promotion in the Parish of “the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical”. It is responsible for the churches of St Helen’s and St Peter’s, Gustard Wood. The PCC is registered as Wheathampstead PCC with the Charity Commission (charity number 1132924) and can be contacted at the Parish Office, St Helen’s Church, High Street, Wheathampstead, AL4 8AA. In planning the activities for the year, the PCC has considered the Commission’s guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

### **PCC Activities in 2020**

Because of the special circumstances of Covid-19, the Diocese lengthened the PCC year which has normally run from one APCM in April to the next APCM in the following April. Churches were closed in the spring in 2020 but there was hope that it might prove possible to return to the usual pattern of services and meetings within a few months. Ultimately it was acknowledged that this could not happen and parishes were told to arrange their APCM 2020 before the end of October 2020. Accordingly ours took place on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and this was held by Zoom with the permission of the Bishop as specified in his Bishop’s Instrument of 6<sup>th</sup> August 2020. A corollary of this was that Churchwardens and PCC Members stayed in office from 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019 until 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020. However the Annual Report and Accounts 2019 were compiled in the usual way and submitted in April 2020, looking back at the calendar year 2019. Similarly this Annual Report and Accounts 2020 looks back at the year 2020.

During its extended year of office, the PCC met on seventeen occasions: the first eight of these were in person but after March 2020 meetings were conducted by Zoom. Some supplementary work was achieved by email. The PCC has found that on Zoom we are able to work through our agendas effectively and our meetings continue to comprise devotions, discussions and decision-taking. A summary of PCC meetings continues to be shared with our mailing list. Annual reports are received from many areas of church life. In addition, the Ministerial Team, sub-committees and other groups continue to meet (currently on Zoom) and report to the PCC during the year reflecting the many aspects of Church life.

### **Membership**

Members of the PCC are ex officio, co-opted or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. There are up to twelve elected lay members. The list of members who served in 2020 is elsewhere in this report. The PCC wishes to record their gratitude to all who have tirelessly assisted in maintaining the momentum of the progress of our vision for Wheathampstead and beyond and in particular to thank those individuals and groups who have contributed so readily to providing new forms of worship and pastoral care within the restrictions of Covid-19.

Our grateful thanks go to all who have contributed to the governance and decision-making of the church through their service on the PCC. Members serving their extended period of office in 2019/2020 have supported the Rector in meeting the considerable challenges resulting from restrictions and the suspension of public worship. Susan Brown was co-opted in October 2020. Vacancies will exist for lay members to be elected either as Churchwardens at the Meeting of Parishioners or to the PCC at the APCM. Simon Best will retire by rotation and be eligible for re-election to the PCC. Penny Large retires.

## List of PCC Members

The following members served on the PCC following the APCM in October 2020:

Name	Capacity	Serving from	Serving to
Revd Richard Banham	Rector & PCC Chair	April 2010	While in office
Mrs Helen Caldwell	Churchwarden	Elected October 2020	APCM 2021
Mr Keith Andrews	Elected Lay Member	Elected April 2019	APCM 2022
Mr Simon Best	Elected Lay Member Lay Vice Chair	Elected April 2018	APCM 2021
Mrs Madeleine Bigmore	Elected Lay Member Hon. Treasurer	Elected October 2020	APCM 2023
Mrs Susan Brown	Co-opted Lay Member	Co-opted October 2020	APCM 2021
Mr Karl Fenwick	Elected Lay Member	Elected April 2019	APCM 2022
Mr Brian Golesworthy	Deanery Synod Member	Elected April 2020	APCM 2023
Mr David Hartley	Elected Lay Member	Elected April 2019	APCM 2022
Mr Peter Hudson	Elected Lay Member	Elected April 2019	APCM 2022
Mrs Penny Large	Elected Lay Member	Elected April 2018	APCM 2021
Mrs Clare Mackay	Elected Lay Member	Elected April 2019	APCM 2022
Mr David Pangbourne	Elected Lay Member	Elected October 2020	APCM 2023
Mrs Justine Soothill	Elected Lay Member	Elected April 2019	APCM 2022
Mrs Linda Thomas	Deanery Synod Member	Elected October 2020	APCM 2023
Mr Stephen Wilson	Deanery Synod Member Hon. Secretary	Elected October 2020	APCM 2023

## Team of Ministers

As with so many areas of church life, we are fortunate to have such a capable and committed team of Ministers who lead our worship and do so much good work away from the spotlight of Sunday Services.

Minister	Role
Rev Richard Banham	Rector
Rt Rev John Gladwin	Retired Bishop
Rev Brian Gwinn	Retired Minister
Linda Thomas	Children & Families Minister
Claire Banham	Reader

Minister	Role
Carol Hopper	Reader
Pippa Legg	Reader
John Grace	Retired Reader
Roger Payne	Retired Reader
Barbara Doye	Reader in Training

## Working Groups, Committees and Sub-committees

The PCC appointed the following officers: Stephen Wilson as **Honorary Secretary**, Madeleine Bigmore as **Honorary Treasurer**, Katie Gifford and Lucy Price as **Joint Safeguarding Officers** from January 2021 (succeeding Helen Caldwell who served as Interim Safeguarding Officer in 2020), Jacqui Chaston as **Data Protection Officer**, Helen Caldwell as **DBS Officer**, Judith Lambert as **Electoral Roll Officer** and Michael Hollick as **Health & Safety Officer**.

The PCC elects a **“Standing Committee”** with power, subject to the directions of the PCC, to transact business between PCC meetings. Its members are Richard Banham, Helen Caldwell, Simon Best, Madeleine Bigmore and Stephen Wilson.

The overall co-ordinating **“Vision Steering Group”** is led by Simon Best as chairman.

The PCC is advised by a **“Fabric Committee”** which is chaired by Stephen Scowcroft.

## **Financial Review**

The Financial Statements of the PCC are attached – see Pages 11 – 17.

The Statement of Financial Activities shows our income and expenditure for the year on our General (Unrestricted) Fund; on the Designated Funds we have set aside for Fabric, Reserves and Development; the Restricted Funds we have been given for particular purposes and our Endowment Fund. The Balance Sheet shows the state of our finances at the year end and both these statements are supported by a number of notes.

The Unrestricted Funds show a surplus for the year of £1,407, which is good news considering the strains on our income during the year of the pandemic. As expected, our income from collections at services in church is down by about £10,000 compared to the previous year and also the income from items such as Weddings, Rental and Coffee in the Chancel is down by about £20,000. However, there has been very generous extra support during the pandemic by members of our congregation, and others, amounting to over £14,000, including Gift Aid, as shown in Note 2. Other donations and reduced expenses have contributed to our small surplus. These figures take into account our income for general purposes, from which is deducted our normal annual outgoings on the church and its activities, together with our contribution to the Diocese and the Parish's own giving.

There is an overall deficit of £40,908 for the year due mainly to the work done on restoring the south wall of the Lady Chapel and other stonework repairs. The full cost for the year was almost £56,000 but the generous support of The Friends of St. Helen's and a grant to cover the VAT has reduced this amount.

Further Audio-Visual equipment costing £7,656 has been purchased during the year to enable live-streaming of the church services. The full cost of this was covered by donations. The cost of this equipment has been added to Fixed Assets as shown in Note 6. As explained in Note 6, the £56,724 cost of the main system in 2019 has also now been added to Fixed Assets and these items are being written off over 5 years after purchase.

## **Reserves Policy**

The PCC follows the general recommendations for Church of England parishes and sets aside funds to provide cover against a sudden loss of income and unforeseen capital expenditure. The levels of these reserves were considered by the PCC and it was decided that the Reserve for Capital Expenditure should remain at its current amount of £75,120 but that the Income Reserve could be reduced by a transfer of £25,000 to the General Fund and it now stands at £50,073. These funds are shown with the Designated Funds in Note 9 to the accounts.

## **Charity Partnerships**

It has been a difficult year for all our charity partners and due to the Coronavirus epidemic, the subsequent lockdown period and ongoing restrictions, it has been extremely challenging to deliver the objectives the CPT set out for 2020. We are, however, delighted that we were able to provide the committed financial support throughout this year and will look forward to 2021, when we hope to revive our relationships with our charity partners.

## Overview of Charity Partnerships

### Local

**Azalea Luton:** Azalea reaches out to those trapped in or vulnerable to sexual exploitation, supporting them to build new lives because of the love of God, through Outreach, Drop-In and Befriending and also works as a key partner in Faiths Against Child Sexual Exploitation (FACES) – which is a local coalition of faith leaders working to prevent Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). Recognising that abuse is real they believe that faith communities can and should be part of the solution. Azalea works with other faith groups to offer training to community leaders so they can spot the signs of CSE and address the problem at a local level.

### National

**The Children’s Society:** Fighting child poverty and neglect, and helping all children have a better chance in life. From their history in the vision and actions of a young Sunday school teacher, at the end of the nineteenth century, their work has been grounded in the churches at local and national levels.

Churches constitute their core partners and they work very closely with the Church of England. They are proud to work with all the major denominations and with other faiths, as part of a movement for change.

### International

**Orphans Know More:** Orphans Know More (OKM) is one of the ministries of Youth With a Mission England and Wales (YWAM) and based in Harpenden. OKM believe that the best way to tackle the international orphan crisis is to care for children in a family environment and unit.

The Jinja Region in Southern Uganda is where OKM has its pilot project. 23 local families care for 140 children as their own, offering love, acceptance and care without condition. These families still function as a nuclear unit free from institutionalisation, inspiring hope that this model can be replicated on a larger scale.

**CCT Kimbilio:** The charity is overseen by a group of experienced Trustees who share a passion for the Congo and the work with street children. In simple terms, Kimbilio is a project supported by the Congo Children Trust. This gives CCT the opportunity to develop new projects across Congo in the future.

Kimbilio supports street children in Lubumbashi, Katanga in the Democratic Republic of Congo. They have been working alongside the Anglican Church of Congo since 2007. They support children living in the streets of Lubumbashi through a drop-in and welcome centre which offers a rehabilitation programme, education and training, health, nutrition and accommodation support. Their four key areas of service provision are prevention, street outreach, rehabilitation and reintegration.

## Giving

Charity	Planned Donation	Guaranteed Donation <i>Paid quarterly</i>	Additional <i>Paid Annually Finances allowing</i>
Azalea	£4000	<b>£3000</b>	£1000
Children’s Society	£4000	<b>£3000</b>	£1000
CCT & Kimbilio	£5000	<b>£3500</b>	£1500
Orphans Know More	£7000	<b>£4500</b>	£2500
Total	£20000	<b>£14000</b>	£6000

During 2020 we continued to make the guaranteed donation payment to all four of our charity partners.

## **Relationship Building**

Subject to the restrictions during 2021, we will endeavour to focus our efforts in relationship building and development, with each charity partner across a three month period each year.

These periods are outlined below and have a degree of flexibility.

Children's Society	- December to February
Orphans Know More	- March to May
Azalea	- June to August
CCT Kimbilio	- September to November

## **Additional Support for Charities:**

During 2020 we provided support and additional fund raising activities for our Charity Partners and several other local charities. The Children's Society received a total of £902.68 from the donation box collection. Harvest Festival cash donations supported the Bishop's Appeal for Nepal, and a reported £2,273 was raised. Azalea received food collections during March and the Harvest Festival non-perishable food contributions, with the Macintyre Home receiving the perishable food contributions.

During 2020, a further £1,435 has been donated by individuals to the CCT for the Kimbilio School Project, adding to the impressive donation of £9,022.75 which was raised in 2019.

Members of St. Helen's and St. Peter's congregations contributed significantly towards £2,345 (plus £541 of Gift Aid) which was donated through Wheathampstead Churches Together (WCT) for Christian Aid Week.

Continuing support:

Watford & Three Rivers - Bi-monthly food donations.

St Albans & District Foodbank - Bi-monthly food donations

## **CPT Objectives for 2021**

1. To produce regular prayer requests and encourage the congregation to pray regularly for our partner charities.
2. Arrange guest speakers from the charity partners.
3. To explore further opportunities in providing mission outreach with our charity partners.

Charity Partnership Team 2020

Clare Mackay, David Perch and Karl Fenwick

## **Safeguarding**

The PCC is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and vulnerable adults who attend church or church activities. We have in place – and regularly review – a policy for Safeguarding which is the Church of England Statement “Promoting a Safer Church”. Our Safeguarding Procedures are contained in the Church of England's “Parish Safeguarding Handbook”. All relevant volunteers are DBS-checked and issued with appropriate guidance for their role. We are committed to training for all our volunteers. 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).

## **Risk & Statutory Policies**

As required by law, the PCC has considered the major risks within its responsibility and the systems designed to minimise those risks; this has included annual Health and Safety Inspections with recommendations reported to the PCC.

The PCC has in place statutory policies in the following areas:

- DBS Checks;
- Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults;
- Domestic Abuse;
- Data Protection;
- Equality and Inclusion;
- Health and Safety.

Where appropriate, these are in line with Diocesan guidance and all are reviewed regularly by the PCC.

## **Goods, Fabric and Ornaments**

On account of restrictions due to Covid-19, a limited review of the inventory of Church goods, fabric and ornaments was carried out for 2020 and the inventory updated for acquisitions and disposals. The Fabric Committee has taken further the programme of redecoration and repairs at St. Helen's and St. Peter's which has included work on the buildings, churchyard and car parks. Recommendations of the Quinquennial Inspection including stonework repairs have been acted upon and the South Transept outer wall has been repaired. St. Helen's has benefited from the installation of a metal theft roof alarm and lone worker alarm. The congregation generously donated the funds for a new video mixer/switcher, mobile camera and router so that the church could adapt to the new situation by providing both recorded and live-streamed services.

## **Stewardship & Renewal**

The Parish Giving Scheme has been in operation since 2018 and we are grateful to those many people who are committed to regular giving – which helps us to have a regular income in troubled times. We are also grateful to have received so many generous donations in recognition of our reduced income and continuing needs. In 2020 we provided the opportunity for online giving using a credit or debit card via our website, and during the year we received donations of over £10,000 in this way, plus added Gift Aid of nearly £2,000. There is also a permanent card reader now installed in St. Helen's Church enabling contactless donations by those attending services and also visitors during the week. The Stewardship Team are working on ways to increase awareness of the opportunities of giving through legacies. It is part of our individual Christian stewardship to make a will, which is a good opportunity to include a legacy to our parish. In the past many capital projects have been financed by legacy giving.

The PCC is grateful to the Friends of St. Helen's Church (Wheathampstead) (Registered Charity No 1048053) for its on-going generous support.

## St. Helen's Fellowship

It is a year since St. Helen's Fellowship last met in the Mead Hall. Like all groups and activities in the village, we were forced to cease meeting but we were determined to keep in touch by telephone. Many of our members live alone, have health problems and/or are feeling their age. Social isolation is a recipe for acute loneliness and even fear. Members have said how much they enjoy and appreciate hearing the sound of another voice on the telephone and knowing that there is support from volunteers in the church and village.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> October in St. Helen's Church a matinee screening of the previous Sunday's online service was enjoyed by 22 members. Another screening was held on 17<sup>th</sup> December just before the third lockdown. All Covid social precautions were in place and no refreshments were served, but for all that it was obvious just how pleased people were to be there and to see each other again. We are grateful for help given by our projectionists.

Contact with the MacIntyre Home at 1 Station Road has had to be limited but Easter, Harvest and Christmas gifts were taken there and we were represented at the funeral of Pat Levell, the last surviving resident resettled from Cell Barnes Hospital.

Our members so want to get back to regular meetings but recognise the need to keep safe. We all look forward to when we do meet again – and it will be a real celebration.

## Deanery Synod Report

The Rector and three elected representatives serve on the Deanery Synod. In normal years the Deanery Synod arranges an Ascension Day Service and a Choral Evensong as well as three meetings to focus on a particular topic (often with a guest speaker). The meetings take place in different parishes of the Deanery, and there is the chance to learn more about other churches and congregations. In 2020 both Deanery services had to be cancelled and only one meeting could be arranged: a Zoom meeting in November when representatives shared their experiences of continuing church life within Covid-19 restrictions. Amid the obvious loss and disappointment it was good to hear stories of adaptation and initiative as Ministers and congregations seek to continue to enjoy worship, offer pastoral care and maintain fellowship.

Rev'd Tom Sander had become Rural Dean but stood down on being appointed to an incumbency in the Diocese of London. Rev'd Richard Banham has been re-appointed to that role.

**The above report was approved by the Wheathampstead Parochial Church Council on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021.**



Rev Richard Banham  
Chairman

## 2020 Accounts



## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - For the year ended 31 December 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted & Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2020 £	FUNDS 2019 Restated Note 6 £
<b>INCOME &amp; ENDOWMENTS</b>						
<b>Incoming resources from donors</b>						
Planned Giving via Parish Giving Scheme		98,503	-	-	98,503	91,770
Other Planned giving		14,979	-	-	14,979	21,373
Tax recoverable on planned giving		26,299	-	-	26,299	25,611
Collections: St Helen's		2,451	-	-	2,451	12,477
Collections: St Peter's		99	-	-	99	681
Tax recoverable on Small Donations Scheme		719	-	-	719	2,296
Collections for specific purposes		-	-	3,088	3,088	4,709
Collections for the Community Fund		-	-	2,628	2,628	648
Legacies, donations etc.	2	23,728	20,037	2,960	46,725	43,702
		<b>166,778</b>	<b>20,037</b>	<b>8,676</b>	<b>195,491</b>	<b>203,267</b>
<b>Income from investment</b>						
Interest and dividends		443	635	74	1,152	2,354
<b>Income from charitable trading/fees</b>						
Coffee in the Chancel		1,745	-	-	1,745	4,422
Charitable Trading		70	-	-	70	43
Fees for weddings and funerals		13,673	-	-	13,673	23,451
		<b>15,488</b>			<b>15,488</b>	<b>27,916</b>
<b>Other incoming resources</b>						
Coffee after services		185	-	-	185	1,047
Rental income		625	-	-	625	6,726
VAT recovered on building works		718	10,267	-	10,985	2,964
Grants		-	2,000	-	2,000	-
Insurance recovered		-	-	-	-	1,082
Flowers		-	-	960	960	2,440
Bells		-	-	60	60	80
Admin support for Rural Dean		1,166	-	-	1,166	2,000
		<b>2,694</b>	<b>12,267</b>	<b>1,020</b>	<b>15,981</b>	<b>16,339</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>185,403</b>	<b>32,939</b>	<b>9,770</b>	<b>228,112</b>	<b>249,876</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>						
Giving	3	16,590	-	5,988	22,578	28,641
For the work of the Church	5	132,447	75,996	3,040	211,483	183,691
Church Management & Administration	4	34,959	-	-	34,959	35,346
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>183,996</b>	<b>75,996</b>	<b>9,028</b>	<b>269,020</b>	<b>247,678</b>
<b>NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>1,407</b>	<b>(43,057)</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>(40,908)</b>	<b>2,198</b>
Transfers between funds		(26,050)	25,000	1,050		
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>(24,643)</b>	<b>(18,057)</b>	<b>1,792</b>	<b>(40,908)</b>	<b>2,198</b>
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD	9	128,687	218,823	20,469	367,979	365,781
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>104,044</b>	<b>200,766</b>	<b>22,261</b>	<b>327,071</b>	<b>367,979</b>

# WHEATHAMPSTEAD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

## 2020 Accounts

### BALANCE SHEET - As at 31 December 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 Restated Note 6 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible fixed assets	6	44,401	45,437
Investments	6	1,595	1,492
		<b>45,996</b>	<b>46,929</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Amounts receivable and prepayments	7	11,712	21,732
Cash at bank and on short term deposit		274,500	323,141
		<b>286,212</b>	<b>344,873</b>
<b>AMOUNTS PAYABLE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5,137</b>	<b>23,823</b>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>281,075</b>	<b>321,050</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>327,071</b>	<b>367,979</b>
<b>FUNDS</b>			
Endowment	9	1,595	1,492
Restricted	9	20,666	18,977
		<b>22,261</b>	<b>20,469</b>
Designated	9	200,766	218,823
Unrestricted	9	104,044	128,687
		<b>327,071</b>	<b>367,979</b>
<p><b>These financial statements were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 22nd March 2021</b></p>			
<b>Signed on behalf of the PCC</b>			
			
<b>The Rvd Richard Banham</b>		<b>Madeleine Bigmore</b>	
<b>Chairman</b>		<b>Treasurer</b>	

# WHEATHAMPSTEAD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

## 2020 Accounts

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - Year ended 31 December 2020

#### 1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions, together with FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS102)).

The historical cost convention is adopted except for investments, which are shown at market value at the balance sheet date.

The statements are prepared on the accruals basis.

#### Funds

Unrestricted funds are those available for the general purposes of the PCC. The purpose of restricted funds is noted in the statements. Interest, other income and tax recoverable related to amounts allocated to particular funds is credited to those funds.

The statements include transactions for which the PCC is responsible but not those of informal groups of members or of separately constituted bodies from which the PCC may benefit.

#### Income and use of resources

Collections, covenants, donations and similar income are recognised on receipt.

Income tax recoverable on covenants and donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Income from fund raising events, coffee in the chancel etc, is shown in full and the related expenses are included within resources used.

Grants and legacies are recognised in the period when they become due.

Expenditure is accounted for when incurred.

#### Assets

In so far as consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the statutory definition of "charity" by Section 10(2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011, such assets are not capitalised in the financial statements.

Depreciation is provided on equipment used by the PCC over the useful life of the asset. Items of equipment costing less than £1000 are written off when the expenditure is incurred.

Short term deposits include cash held in a Church of England Central Board of Finance account and at the bank.

#### 2 LEGACIES, DONATIONS, NAVE BOXES, ETC.

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted & Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2020 £	FUNDS 2019 £
Donations, nave boxes etc.	6,526	-	-	6,526	3,577
Donations in lieu of collections	12,863	-	-	12,863	-
Donations for Online Services Equipment	-	8,600	-	8,600	-
Legacies	-	1,000	-	1,000	6,000
Friends of St Helens	-	8,735	-	8,735	11,618
Donations for Flower Fund	-	-	360	360	360
Donations for Charity Partnership Fund	-	-	-	-	4,252
Donations for Tea Time Church Fund	-	-	230	230	230
Donations for Fellowship Fund	-	-	241	241	630
Donation for 'Lunch for One'	197	-	-	197	501
Donations for Hampers	1,035	-	-	1,035	2,813
Donations for Ouseley Trust Fund	-	-	300	300	3,500
Donations for Music Fund	-	-	300	300	1,420
Donations for Brewhouse Hill Project	-	-	-	-	5,000
Donations for Development Fund	-	81	-	81	480
Miscellaneous income	42	-	103	145	262
Income tax recoverable on donations	3,065	1,621	1,426	6,112	3,059
	<b>23,728</b>	<b>20,037</b>	<b>2,960</b>	<b>46,725</b>	<b>43,702</b>

# WHEATHAMPSTEAD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

## 2020 Accounts

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - Year ended 31 December 2020

#### 3 GIVING

	From Parish income		Special collections, Community Fund	
	2020 £	2019 £	2020 £	2019 £
<b>Overseas missions</b>				
Congo Children Trust	3,500	3,500	1,435	-
	<u>3,500</u>	<u>3,500</u>	<u>1,435</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Home missions etc.</b>				
Payments from funeral collections	-	-	-	30
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30</u>
<b>Other charities</b>				
St Helen's School	2,550	2,550	-	-
The Royal British Legion	-	-	-	504
Harvest Appeal	-	-	2,273	9,023
Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust	40	40	-	-
Orphans Know More	4,500	4,500	-	-
The Children's Society	3,000	3,000	-	76
Azalea	3,000	3,000	-	-
Watford & Three Rivers Refugee Partnership	-	-	-	76
Payments from Community Fund	-	-	2,280	2,342
	<u>13,090</u>	<u>13,090</u>	<u>4,553</u>	<u>12,021</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>16,590</u></b>	<b><u>16,590</u></b>	<b><u>5,988</u></b>	<b><u>12,051</u></b>

Note: Giving to St Helen's School is by standing order which is continuing into 2021.

#### 4 CHURCH MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted & Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2020 £	FUNDS 2019 £
Stationery, post, telephone, print	4,290	-	-	4,290	5,289
Staff salaries	28,371	-	-	28,371	28,665
Pension Contribution	716	-	-	716	660
Payroll administration costs	501	-	-	501	498
Miscellaneous	24	-	-	24	121
Office Equipment depreciation	749	-	-	749	-
Bank charges and card fees	308	-	-	308	113
	<u>34,959</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,959</u>	<u>35,346</u>

#### Note

During the year the PCC employed an average monthly number of 3 staff: a parish administrator, an organist, and a Children's and Families' Minister, all on a part time basis. (2019 also 3)

The total costs of salaries and pensions are as shown above and no national insurance costs were incurred  
No employees received more than £60,000

**WHEATHAMPSTEAD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**2020 Accounts**

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - Year ended 31 December 2020**

**5 RESOURCES USED FOR THE WORK OF THE CHURCH**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted & Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2020 £	FUNDS 2,019 Restated Note 6 £
Parish share to Diocese	101,951	-	-	<b>101,951</b>	98,800
Fees paid to Diocese	3,502	-	-	<b>3,502</b>	5,538
Wedding Disbursements	360	-	-	<b>360</b>	1,720
Funeral Disbursements	1,246	-	-	<b>1,246</b>	2,455
Plaques and other memorials	329	-	-	<b>329</b>	412
Ministry expenses	302	-	-	<b>302</b>	1,617
Electricity & Water (St Helens)	2,265	-	-	<b>2,265</b>	2,551
Electricity & Water (St Peters)	478	-	-	<b>478</b>	855
Gas (St Helen's)	3,332	-	-	<b>3,332</b>	4,663
Maintenance (St Helens)	4,740	-	-	<b>4,740</b>	5,176
Maintenance (St Peters)	1,970	-	-	<b>1,970</b>	2,408
Insurance (St Helens)	3,860	-	-	<b>3,860</b>	3,826
Insurance (St Peters)	588	-	-	<b>588</b>	580
Growing in Loving Service	1,235	-	-	<b>1,235</b>	3,413
Growing in Numbers	478	-	95	<b>573</b>	2,025
Growing in Faith	47	-	-	<b>47</b>	443
Children, Youth & Schools	788	-	-	<b>788</b>	2,050
Services	1,444	-	-	<b>1,444</b>	1,961
Choir and music	1,074	-	1,734	<b>2,808</b>	2,111
Casual organists for regular Church services	300	-	-	<b>300</b>	1,500
Kimbilio visit	-	-	-	-	1,070
Hospitality	422	-	-	<b>422</b>	751
Training	-	-	-	-	831
Coffee in the Chancel expenses	485	-	-	<b>485</b>	597
Charitable Trading expenses	-	-	-	-	60
Stewardship costs	929	-	-	<b>929</b>	83
Hall Hire	116	-	166	<b>282</b>	660
Flowers	-	-	965	<b>965</b>	3,373
Coffee machine depreciation	58	-	-	<b>58</b>	352
Audio Visual System depreciation	-	12,876	-	<b>12,876</b>	11,345
Lawnmower expense	148	-	-	<b>148</b>	22
<b>Major fabric and Projects Expenditure</b>					
Bells	-	-	80	<b>80</b>	360
Car Park Surfacing	-	-	-	-	1,404
Repairs to St Helen's Stoneworks	-	55,982	-	<b>55,982</b>	13,980
North Aisle & Transept	-	-	-	-	48
SE Buttress and Lady Chapel Roof repairs	-	-	-	-	68
Churchyard Wall repair	-	-	-	-	4,583
Roof Alarm	-	7,138	-	<b>7,138</b>	-
	<b>132,447</b>	<b>75,996</b>	<b>3,040</b>	<b>211,483</b>	<b>183,691</b>

**Notes**

During the year, members of the ministerial team who are also members of the PCC were paid £10,950 in remuneration and for working expenses including the costs of a lawnmower for use at the Rectory. (2019: £12,139)

No other payments or expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties.

# WHEATHAMPSTEAD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

## 2020 Accounts

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - Year ended 31 December 2020

#### 6 FIXED ASSETS

##### Tangible assets

			Coffee equipment	Office printer	AV equipment	Total
			£	£	£	£
<b>Cost</b>	At 1st January 2020		1,406	4,991	56,724	<b>63,121</b>
	Additions at cost		-	-	7,656	<b>7,656</b>
	At 31st December 2020		1,406	4,991	64,380	<b>70,777</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>	At 1st January 2020		1,348	-	11,345	<b>12,693</b>
	Charge for the year		58	749	12,876	<b>13,683</b>
	At 31st December 2020		1,406	749	24,221	<b>26,376</b>
<b>Net book value</b>	<b>At 31st December 2020</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>4,242</b>	<b>40,159</b>	<b>44,401</b>
	At 31st December 2019		58	-	45,379	<b>45,437</b>

In 2019 the cost of the Audio Visual System was charged in full to the AV System Fund and to the Fabric Fund. This cost of £56,724 should, more correctly, have been added to Tangible Fixed Assets. Accordingly, the cost in 2019 and the additions in this year have now been included in fixed assets and depreciation charged to the appropriate funds. The comparative figures stated in these financial statements and funds brought forward in The Statement of Financial Activities have been restated to reflect this adjustment.

##### Investments at market value

Central Board of Finance Investment Fund	<b>1,595</b>	<b>1,492</b>
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#### 7 AMOUNTS RECEIVABLE

	2020 £	2019 £
Income tax recoverable	7,943	6,212
From Friends of St Helen's for funded works	-	11,617
VAT recoverable on building works	3,011	2,323
Other amounts receivable	758	1,580
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,712</b>	<b>21,732</b>

#### 8 AMOUNTS PAYABLE

	2020 £	2019 £
Accrued expenses		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,137</b>	<b>23,823</b>

# WHEATHAMPSTEAD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

## 2020 Accounts

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - Year ended 31 December 2020

9 FUNDS	1 Jan 2020 Restated Note 6 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Used £	Transfers of Funds £	31 Dec 2020 £
<b>Endowment Funds</b>	1,492	103	-	-	1,595
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
Community Fund	4,377	3,267	(2,280)	-	5,364
Flower fund	268	1,344	(965)	-	647
Tea Time Church	208	231	(95)	-	344
Bell Fund	1,049	76	(80)	-	1,045
Music Fund	5,897	399	(634)	1,050	6,712
Ouseley Trust Fund	2,985	385	(1,100)	-	2,270
Charity Partnership Fund	3,704	14	-	-	3,718
St Helen's Fellowship Fund	489	243	(166)	-	566
Specific collections		3,708	(3,708)	-	-
	<b>18,977</b>	<b>9,667</b>	<b>(9,028)</b>	<b>1,050</b>	<b>20,666</b>
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>20,469</b>	<b>9,770</b>	<b>(9,028)</b>	<b>1,050</b>	<b>22,261</b>
<b>Designated Funds</b>					
Fabric Fund	50,389	32,245	(75,996)	40,000	46,638
Income Reserve	74,835	238	-	(25,000)	50,073
Capital Reserve	74,835	285	-	-	75,120
Development Fund	8,731	114	-	-	8,845
Roof Fund	10,033	57	-	10,000	20,090
	<b>218,823</b>	<b>32,939</b>	<b>(75,996)</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>200,766</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>					
General Fund	128,687	185,403	(183,996)	(26,050)	104,044
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>367,979</b>	<b>228,112</b>	<b>(269,020)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>327,071</b>

#### Notes

##### Endowment Funds

These are the Fenwick and Bracey bequests, the investment of which is mainly in the CBF Investment Fund shown in the Balance Sheet. Income from the Fenwick bequest is for the church and churchyard upkeep. These funds, and their annual movement in value, are included with the restricted funds.

##### Community Fund

This fund is from collections at weddings and baptisms, and some donations, which are set aside to provide assistance to those in need mainly in the parish of Wheathampstead.

##### Bell Fund

For the renovation, repairs and maintenance of the bells, including handbells, and related structures, fixtures and fittings, plus the support and development of the bell ringers.

##### Music Fund

Money set aside by PCC and other donations for music and choir purposes within the church

##### Ouseley Trust Fund

Grant received from "The Ouseley Church Music Trust" to provide up to 4 choral scholarships for junior members of our choir

##### Charity Partnership Fund

Donations set aside by the PCC for work on the Kimbilio Project and and future projects with our Charity Partners

##### Fabric Fund

This was a legacy received in 2005 which the PCC has designated for use on any future major fabric expenditure.

The legacy was made with no restriction as to its use and is therefore included in unrestricted funds.

The fund has now been supplemented by a transfer of £40,000 from the General Fund.

##### Income Reserve and Designated Capital Reserve

As the Diocese recommends, the PCC maintains designated funds as a reserve against sudden total loss of income and unforeseen capital expenditure. Reserves were set at an initial level of £60,000 each in 2005 with interest to be accrued to the funds as a protection against inflation. During the year the PCC reviewed the Reserves Policy and decided to reduce the Income Reserve by a transfer of £25,000 to the General Fund.

##### Development Fund

Donations set aside by the PCC for improvements to the interior of St Helen's

##### Roof Fund

Transfer of funds for future repairs on the roof of St Helen's

The cash related to the restricted funds is held in the PCC bank accounts.

## Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

I report to the members of the Wheathampstead Parochial Church Council (PCC) on my examination of their accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020.


As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the PCC's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached



Christopher Ellis ACA  
23 March 2021

**Trustees of Wheathampstead Church School**  
**Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2020**

The Rector and Churchwardens are trustees of a fund, the beneficiary of which is St Helen's School, Wheathampstead, and manage a fund invested with the Church of England Central Board of Finance (CBF) through CCLA. The income from the investment is used to contribute towards the Governors' liability for the external repairs to the School.

During this year, the total income was £259. According to the mid-market prices as per the statements provided by CCLA Investment Management Ltd at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, the total value of the two funds at that date was £8,889. Together with cash held in the bank of £1,828 the total assets of the Trust stand at £10,717.

Rev'd Richard Banham and Mrs Helen Caldwell  
Trustees 30 March 2021

**Fund Account** for the year ended 31 December

	2020	2019
	£	£
Dividends received:-		
Fixed Interest Securities Fund	64	76
Income Investment Fund	195	189
	259	265
Changes in market value of investments:-		
Fixed Interest Securities Fund	61	41
Income Investment Fund	434	1,025
	495	1,066
Net movement in fund during the year	754	1,331

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities** as at 31 December

	2020	2019
	£	£
Investments at cost 1999	5,862	5,862
Investments at valuations:-		
Fixed Interest Securities Fund	1,954	1,893
Income Investment Fund	6,935	6,501
	8,889	8,394
Cash at Bank	1,828	1,569
	10,717	9,963

**Independent Examiner's Report**

I confirm that the above financial statements accord with the bank and investment records of the Trust

Peter Slater BA(Hons) ACA 30 March 2021  
Harpenden

