





St Bartholomew's Church

End of Year Report and Accounts

Year Ending 31st December 2024

Revd Dr Andrew Johnson A. R. Johnson
Chairman of PCC

Introduction

St Bartholomew's Church is situated next to Corsham Court in Corsham, and the correspondence address is Church House, 3 Church Street, Corsham SN13 0BY. St Bartholomew's is part of the Greater Corsham Team of churches with St John the Baptist Gastard and St Philip and St James Neston.

We have a full-time Team Rector based in Corsham. The Rector is supported by a retired Associate Minister, a Licensed Lay Minister, the members of our team and church PCCs, a wide variety of church and out-of-church activity groups and the congregations themselves.

St Bartholomew's Church is the largest church in the team. It provides a full array of well-attended services and activities that engage the community. It is a popular church for baptisms, weddings and funerals. It is the garrison church for MOD Corsham and is used by many of the schools in Corsham.

Status

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Bartholomew's Church is a charity that is registered with the Charities Commission as The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew, Corsham; registration number 1132969.

PCC

PCC members who have served during 2024 are as follows:

Chairman: Revd Dr Andrew Johnson

Churchwardens (from APCM 2024): Fiona Draper, John Stott.

Deanery Synod Representatives: Reginald Lambert and John Stott.

Council Members: Christine Reid, Anthony Hall, Reginald Lambert, Joe McGeehan, Michael Lane, Hermione Skrine, Susan Lambert, L'nora Olney.

Treasurer: Deborah Stott

Secretary: Nigel Jackson

Deanery Synod

Two members of the PCC sit on the Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the Church. Issues raised at Deanery Synod are brought to the next PCC meeting.

Structure, Governance and Management

St Bartholomew's is part of a team of churches. The Churchwardens of St Bartholomew's and one lay person are eligible to attend meetings of the Team Council, which meets as required to discuss matters relating to the team of churches.

The PCC at St Bartholomew is scheduled to meet six times a year and is chaired by the Team Rector. The PCC Agenda is focused on standing items – Mission and Outreach, Buildings Matters, Safeguarding, Policy Statements and Finance – and other important items that are programmed annually or raised to the PCC. When necessary, individuals are co-opted onto the PCC to advise on a particular issue, e.g. eco-church. This ensures strong and diligent governance.

The Team Rector meets monthly with the churchwardens to review progress and ensure the smooth running of the church, and the Standing Committee of the PCC also meets from time to time between PCC meetings as required.

Aim and Purposes

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Team Rector, Revd Dr Andrew Johnson, in promoting the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical and to direct charitable donations. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of 'Church House', 3 Church Street, Corsham, the Ladbroke Cemetery Chapel, and the residential properties at 2 The Tynings, Corsham and 7b Lypiatt Road, Corsham.

Goals and Objectives

The PCC works to the vision of 'Growing followers of Jesus' through growing in God, growing in love, and growing community. The church has a very active life, providing opportunities for a wide range of age groups, acting as a focal point for community events, and engaging with large numbers of people through formal, informal and out-of-church activities. There is a desire to reach out further into the community and to engage more effectively with it.

Review of the year

St Bartholomew's Church offers a wide range of services during the year. These include regular weekly services and one-offs to mark special events in the church calendar, like Holy Week, Easter, and Christmas.

A monthly evening service on Zoom remains popular. The Team Rector continued to lead a weekly Bible study on Zoom throughout the year and provided monthly 8:00am Sunday and 10:00am Wednesday Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion services.

Normal church attendance rose slightly throughout the year. As well as our regular services we enabled our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. We connected with many families through 15 baptisms, and 4 weddings and 18 funerals were held in our church this year. The Thursday morning café in church established in 2023 continued to grow in popularity and unexpectedly raised very significant funds during the year. The Mothers' Union also thrived throughout the year, obtaining a Bronze Award for its focus on domestic abuse.

The church is a member of the ecumenical group in Corsham, along with the other churches. St Bartholomew's plays an active role in this group, and we were pleased to be involved in the Good Friday march of witness, and to lead the open-air carol service in Church Square.

It was also pleasing to see the continued popularity of some of our services targeted at all ages. Early Birds continued their monthly services in church at 4:00pm on Sunday and the Young Church Bubble continued to lead a revamped Family Service in church on the fourth Sunday of the month which made use of the projector and screen. We also launched a new 'Sunday School' offering entitled FIG (Faith in God) on the first Sunday of the month.

The PCC continued to focus on the need to draw in new volunteers to support the mission of the church, with a St Bart's Showcase event being organized to provide taster sessions of different aspects of church life.

We are considering improvements to the church building, such as a fixed projector and screen and upgraded sound system due to be installed in 2025. As outlined in a Net Zero audit report provided by the Diocese of Bristol during the year we are significantly constrained in upgrading the church building but are examining how Church House can be made more energy efficient. We were also awarded a Bronze Eco-Church Award and are working towards achieving the Silver Award. We are also facing substantial repair costs in 2025/26 to carry out major work on the Lady Chapel roof, as identified in the Quinquennial Report, and have also had to set aside funds in early 2025 to resolve a substantial leak in the roof of the Methuen Chapel. We are therefore seeking to strengthen our financial position so we can balance new initiatives with the burden of preserving our Grade 1 Listed historic building.

Balance sheet

	2024	2023
Fixed assets		
2 The Tynings	250,000	250,000
7b Lypiatt Road	330,000	330,000
Church House	400,000	400,000
Total Fixed assets	980,000	980,000
Current assets		
Bank current account	8,558	25,398
Messy Church balance	259	259
Bank deposit account	232,532	188,132
CCLA (CBF) deposit account restricted	0	0
Cash in Hand	0	0
Team Account Debtor	0	0
Accounts Receivable	---	3,028
Total Current assets	241,3378	216,817
Liabilities		
Agency Collections	500	---
Accounts Payable	---	---
Total Liabilities	500	---
Net Asset surplus (deficit)	1,220,848	1,196,817
Reserves		
Excess / (deficit) for year	24,031	41,848
Starting balances	1,196,817	1,154,969
Total Reserves	1,220,848	1,196,817

Represented by Funds		
Unrestricted	31,395	26,998
Designated	1,099,470	1,088,305
Restricted	89,983	81,515
Total	1,220,848	1,196,817

The fixed assets represent the properties owned by St Bartholomew's Church, comprising Church House at 3 Church Street and the two residential properties.

Current assets have increased by £24,031. The total of all funds now stands at £1,220,848.

A. A. John
Revd Dr Andrew Johnson
Chair of PCC

The Agency Collection represents a grant of £500 from Wiltshire Council for the Corsham Military Graves Community Project that seeks to promote the military graves within the Ladbroke Lane Chapel by providing enhanced visitor information: this project remains ongoing.

Reserves are the net of income over expenditure for the year. The increase in reserves totaled £24,031, achieved, principally, through HMRC gift aid repayments, and property rental income. Most of the reserves are tied up in Restricted or Designated funds of £1,189,453, of which 209,678 are cash reserves. The Unrestricted funds balance is £31,395.

The balance sheet value is spread across 18 funds, e.g. Bells, Organ, Fabric and the General Fund. Each fund is categorised either: Unrestricted (can be spent anywhere), Designated (the donor would like them to be used for a specific purpose), or Restricted (can only be spent specifically on the reason for that fund existing, e.g. Organ Fund and Ms Evans Legacy Fund). Details of each fund's balance and in-year movements are shown at Note 2 to the accounts.

Statement of Financial Activities (£)

	Financial Year 2024			Financial Year 2023	
	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
Receipts					
Planned Giving	49,854	---	360	50,214	49,018
Collections and other giving	5,307	---	---	5,307	4,577
Other voluntary receipts	10,663	---	895	11,558	23,944
Gift Aid recovered	7,666	---	---	7,666	10,896
Other receipts	4,698	---	4,708	9,407	8,066
Activities for generating funds	239	---	---	239	216
Investment Income	---	18,870	9,355	28,225	42,805
Receipts from church activities	3,409	6,475	200	10,144	9,487
Total receipts	81,898	25,345	15,519	122,762	149,023
Payments					
Cost of generating funds	---	---	---	---	275
Missionary and Charitable Giving	1,475	1,640	336	3,651	675
Parish Share	50,003	---	---	50,003	53,000
Clergy and Staffing costs	2,950	---	---	2,950	2,560
Church Running Expenses	22,062	---	5,920	27,982	33,323
Hall Running Costs	---	8,815	---	8,815	4,211
Property Running Costs	---	2,057	---	2,057	2,503
Church Repairs & Maintenance	771	1,377	794	2,942	1,484
Cemetery Chapel Repairs & Maintenance	---	---	---	---	---
Governance Costs	240	---	---	240	240
Total payments	77,501	14,179	7,050	98,731	107,174
Net Income / (expenditure resources before transfer)	4,396	11,165	8,468	24,031	41,848
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds – in	---	---	---	---	33,300
Gross transfers between funds – out	---	---	---	---	(33,300)
Net movement in funds	4,396	11,165	8,468	24,031	41,848
Total funds brought forward	26,998	1,088,304	81,514	1,196,817	1,154,968
Total funds carried forward	31,395	1,099,470	89,983	1,220,848	1,198,817

It is worth noting that all the figures mentioned below include combined figures, i.e. restricted, designated and unrestricted receipts and payments. There may be minor discrepancies due to rounding.

The following notes are provided on the Financial Activities reported above.

Receipts.

Planned Giving comprises income through standing orders at the bank or via the Envelope system. Year on year receipts of £50,214 represent an increase of £1,196 and is attributed to the continuing drive to promote Standing Order giving.

Collections are those moneys given at all church services, including weddings and funerals, which are not in envelopes. An increase of £730 was achieved reflecting a general increase in the number of people attending services.

Other voluntary receipts totaled £11,558. This is income from visitors, refreshment donations after services, and miscellaneous income, including grant income of £270 from the Pickwick Education Trust and £585 from Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust - Ride & Stride event. The provision of a contactless giving station in December 2023 provided an income of £2,691

Gift Aid rebate receipts of £7,666 are down on last year, but do not include the £3,028 accrued in 2023 but received in this financial year.

Other receipts of £9,407 comprises bank interest of £4,040 on the Appeal (Deposit) Account and £5,367 from fundraising activities including: bookshop sales, the Plant sale, and the Christmas Tree Festival. Thursday Café, introduced in December 2023 providing refreshments and fellowship, has proven to be very popular and has generated £3,114.

Investment income, comprising the rent from the residential properties at 2 The Tynings and 7b Lypiatt Road, amounted to £18,870. Dividend income, from the Ms Evans legacy, amounted to £9,355, providing a total of £28,225.

Other Church Activities includes the income achieved through letting out the church hall. For this accounting year Church House was operated as a separate fund. Lettings provided an income of £6,055 with many regular users providing a steady income stream.

Total receipts of £122,762 are down by £26,261; however, the majority of this decrease is accounted for by a £20,000 legacy in the 2023 accounts.

Payments.

Missionary and charitable giving totaled £3,651 as support was provided to Doorway, the Corsham Churches Food Bank, Dorothy House and Tear Fund. Funding was part-sourced from Book Shop sales and a collection from the Town Carol service and through a donation from the Discretionary Fund.

The Diocesan Parish Share pledge was held at £50,000 for a 2nd year as the PCC sought to build resources for the substantial building repair programme commencing in 2025.

Organist fees were increased in Quarter 4 of 2024, having been held at pandemic levels for 3 years. At £2,950 they remain below pre-pandemic levels.

Church running costs at £27,982, although showing a small decrease on the previous year these payments are significantly impacted by rising insurance costs and utility expenses. Contributions to the Greater Corsham Churches Benefice account remained at 2023 levels at £6,984. Churchyard Upkeep expenses of £5,232 provided contractor support to our Award-winning church grounds. Contract costs increased in year for the first time in 3 years and are funded by the Ms Evans Legacy fund.

Church House (Hall) Running Costs of £8,815 include extraordinary repairs to rectify damp issues; these were provided from the Property Fund. Other costs arise predominantly from electricity charges of £2,487 and wages of £1,220 for the cleaner. Costs against the 2 residential properties amounted to £2,057 covering insurance costs, inspections and minor repairs.

Church Repairs and Maintenance payments of £2,942 provided for a comprehensive maintenance survey of the roofs and external fabric and the temporary fixing of defects requiring urgent rectification. Several areas of concern have been identified that will need to be addressed in 2025.

Governance costs are in respect of the Independent Examination of the church accounts.

In total the payments for 2024 of £98,731 represent a decrease of £8,443 on 2023 figures.

Receipts of £122,762 are off set by Payments of £98,731 providing a Net income of £24,031.

Notes to the Accounts

These accounts have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011, and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice 2015. The form and content of these accounts is compliant with FRS102.

Note 1 – Accounting Policies

There have been no changes in accounting policy during 2024, so no restating of prior year figures has been necessary.

The majority of income (planned giving, donations, fundraising, and dividends received) is accounted for in month of receipt. Income due to Gift Aid Rebates and wedding and funeral fees is accounted for in the month of receipt in-year.

Trustees have not been paid any remuneration or received other benefits from employment with the charity. No trustee expenses have been incurred.

Other than for the independent examination, no related party transactions were made.

Paid staff employed (cleaner) state they are self-employed, so no tax or National Insurance contributions were payable. Likewise, no pension liabilities have been accrued.

Fixed Assets are subject to re-valuation every 5 years. They were last professionally revalued in 2015; provisional indications are that these may have increased by £15,000 – a professional valuation will be sought during 2025.

Debtors and creditors are all short-term (less than 1 year) and are accounted for at full value. No provisions are applied.

Note 2 – Movement by fund (£)

	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers In / (Out)	Gains / Losses	Closing Balance
Unrestricted Funds						
General Fund	26,998	81,898	77,501	---	—	31,395
Designated Funds						
Property Fund	46,518	18,870	5957	---	—	59,431
Buildings Fund	980,000	—	—	—	—	980,000
Fabric	32,379	---	1,467	---	---	30,912
Discretionary Fund	4,895	---	1,840	—	—	3,055
Messy Church Fund	661	—	—	—	—	661
Reserve Fund	23,850	—	—	---	—	23,850
TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS	1,088,304	25,345	14,179	---	—	1,099,470
TOTAL NON-RESTRICTED FUNDS	1,115,302	110,271	91,680	---	---	1,130,865
Restricted Funds						
Buildings & Restoration Fund	18,086	4,985	---	---	—	23,072
Bells Fund	2,271	200	—	—	—	2,471
Church Warden & Junior Church	1,425	329	190	—	—	1,564
Churchyard Fund	522	75	—	—	—	597
Fabric	2,045	---	—	---	---	2,045
Flowers Fund	357	—	---	—	—	357
Kneeler Fund	256	—	—	—	—	256
Mission & Evangelism Fund	2,845	---	336	—	—	2,509
Ms. Evans Legacy Fund	36,073	9,929	6,025	---	—	39,976
Organ Fund	17,856	---	498	—	—	17,358
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	81,739	15,519	7,050	---	—	90,208
TOTAL RESERVES	1,197,042	122,762	98,731	—	—	1,221,073

The purpose underlying each of these funds is shown below:

Property Fund – This receives the rental income from 2 The Tynings and 7b Lypiatt Road to private tenants; and funds the maintenance and repairs of these properties.

Buildings Fund – This holds the value of the Fixed Assets: namely Church House and the residential properties at: 2 The Tynings and 7b Lypiatt Road, Corsham.

Discretionary Fund – This provides resources for the Rector to use for charitable purposes at his discretion.

Messy Church Fund – Income and expenditure incurred in running Messy Church.

Reserve Fund – Set aside to protect the charity against a drop in income and to cover emergencies: it is provisionally set at three months' church running costs.

Buildings & Restoration Fund – A fund built up to fund necessary restoration work on the church building.

Bells Fund – Receives income from wedding fees; and funds maintenance and repairs to the bells.

Church Warden & Junior Church – Funding received specifically for spending on the work of Faith in God (FIGs) and other children's work.

Churchyard Fund – Funding set aside for maintenance of churchyard. This currently holds restricted funds from the Ames legacy. The capital is held by the Bristol Diocesan Board of Finance in the CBF Investment Fund with the parish receiving the dividends.

Fabric Fund – Funding received specifically for the maintenance of the fabric. There are both Restricted and Designated elements of the fund.

Flowers Fund – Funding received specifically for the provision of flowers in the church.

Kneeler Fund – Funding received for the repair and replacement of kneelers.

Mission & Evangelism Fund – Funding received specifically for use on mission and evangelism activities.

Ms Evans Legacy Fund – Holds dividends received from the Ms Evans Legacy. Expenditure is limited to the churchyard and the exterior of the church. All expenditure is agreed by the trustees of the fund.

Organ Fund – Funding received specifically for the maintenance and restoration of the organ.

Note 3 - Agency Transactions

To conform to the requirements of the Anti-Money Laundering regulations, charities are required to disclose all transactions where monies are accepted and passed on to other organisations. Such monies do not form part of the income or expenditure of St Bartholomew's, and the Church is acting only as an agent for those other bodies.

Organisation	Opening Balance	Collected in year	Remitted in year	Closing balance.
	£	£	£	£
Corsham Military Graves Community Project	---	500	---	500

Note 4 – Costs of External Examination and Other Financial Services

Costs of £240 were incurred in 2024 for the External Examination of the Annual Report and Accounts.

Note 5 - Reserves Policy

The Charity Commission encourages the retention of a quantified reserve that protects charities against drops in income and to cover opportunities and emergencies. It is therefore the policy of St Bartholomew's PCC to finance its parish mission for growth, to continue to honour its Parish Pledge 2024 and to keep a reserve of three months' general church running costs.

This three months' General Reserve will cover all running costs, except for the Parish Share. This General Reserve does not include any provision of funding for grants to charities, which will be confirmed through events and annual budgeting. This General Reserve does not include any provision for building works, which are covered by a restricted Restoration reserve and a designated Fabric reserve: these were reviewed in line with the implications of the Quinquennial Inspection 2021.

Note 6 – Going Concern Accounting Policy

The accounts have been prepared on the assumption that the church is able to continue as a going concern. St Bartholomew's has made an encouraging recovery since the pandemic and finances are once again returning to a healthy level: the PCC continues to keep the financial situation under review. The church holds unrestricted general reserves of £38,483 and a designated reserve of £23,850 that can be drawn down if necessary. The PCC consider that the charity has sufficient cash reserves to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from the date on which these financial statements are approved.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the members
of

Parochial Church Council (PCC) of
St Bartholomew's Church, Corsham, SN13 0BY

On accounts for the year
ended

31 December 2024

Charity no 1132969

I report to the PCC on my examination of the accounts of the above charity
("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2023.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As members of the PCC, 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.

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 (other than that
disclosed in Section B) 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.

Signed:

Christopher D. Watchman

Date:

05/03/2025

Name:

CHRISTOPHER D. WATCHMAN F.C.C.A.

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

A.C.C.A

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