THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ITCHEN VALLEY, WINCHESTER

England & Wales · Charity number 1133110

Details

Other names	ITCHEN VALLEY PCC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-12-03
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	St. John the Baptist Church Avington Lane Itchen Abbas Winchester SO21 1BJ
Phone	01962779845
Email	admin@itchenvalleychurches.org
Website	http://www.itchenvalleychurches.org.uk/

Activities

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

Activities: Activities include a variety of Christian acts of worship, work with children and young people, community events and activities which promote the ongoing discipleship of the Christians of the Parish.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

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Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£174,242	£206,352	-	-
2023-12-31	£167,065	£160,287	-	-
2022-12-31	£134,622	£120,224	-	-
2021-12-31	£129,389	£168,034	-	-
2020-12-31	£163,786	£176,500	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
David Anderson		2022-10-18
Eleanor Sara Janssen		2025-03-28
Gavin Edgerley Harris		2026-04-30
Gerard Paul Bevis Stacey		2014-04-23
Jean Taylor		2025-03-28
John Barber		2024-03-21
Judith Bishop		2024-03-21
MARY CLARE HOGG		2023-09-19
Malcolm David Nicholson Hogg		2024-03-21
Richard Theo Mezger		2025-03-28
Sonia Jane Cragg		2021-03-25

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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ITCHEN VALLEY, WINCHE

England & Wales - Charity number 1133110

Accounts

THE PARISH OF THE ITCHEN VALLEY
2024 Annual Report

Incorporating the Parish Churches of St Mary's Avington, St Mary's Easton, St John's Itchen Abbas and St Swithun's Martyr Worthy

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1. Administrative information

The Parish of the Itchen Valley is part of the Diocese of Winchester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is: Itchen Valley Parish Office, St John's Church, Itchen Abbas, Winchester SO21 1BJ (01962)779845. The office is open from 9 am to 1pm on weekdays. The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Itchen Valley is a Registered Charity No: 1133110.

The Churches of the Parish are St Mary's at Avington, St Mary's at Easton, St John the Baptist's at Itchen Abbas and St Swithun's at Martyr Worthy.

Ministry team:
Rector - The Revd Peter Walker
Licensed Lay Minister - Gerry Stacey
Ministry team – John Barber, Nicky Barber, Tim Clapp, Simon Ffennell, Sarah Noble, Lavinia Owen.

Churchwardens:

St Mary's Avington	Vacant
St Mary's Easton	Chris Ellis
	Elaine Labram
St John's Itchen Abbas	Sarah Hunt
St Swithun's Martyr Worthy	Sara Mason
	Malcolm Hogg

Deanery Synod Representatives (elected in 2023 for 3 years) - Gerry Stacey, Chris Ellis, Mary Hogg

Elected members of the PCC: Sonia Cragg (Avington – appointed during year), Jill Croft (Easton), Olivia Cox (Itchen Abbas – stood down during year), John Barber (Martyr Worthy).
Secretary: Beccy Clark (appointed during the year)
Hon Treasurer: David Anderson

2. Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the Parish of the Itchen Valley is the governing body for the Parish. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules and the Parish Scheme. The PCC met six times during 2024. The PCC was supported by a Standing Committee and a Finance Committee.

The Constitution of the Parish of the Itchen Valley and the supporting Policy Guidance document can both be found on the parish website.

There are four District Church Councils (DCCs), one for each District centred on the churches of the Parish. All the DCCs met regularly during 2024.

All regular Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC and DCCs.

3. Aims and purposes

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector, to promote the whole mission of the Church - pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical - in the Ecclesiastical Parish and the area of the Itchen Valley. It is the duty of the Rector and the PCC to consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the parish.

4. Objects and activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches and to become part of our parish community. The PCC and Ministry Team all acknowledge the need to consider public benefit in planning activities and guidance on the advancement of religion.

5. Achievements and performance

The report from the churchwardens sets out some of the highlights of the parish's achievements and performance in 2024.

Average Attendance			
Early Morning Holy Communion			
2024	2023	2022	2021
16	9	10	8
10am Parish Communion			
2024	2023	2022	2021
26	28	32	31
All Age Worship			
2024	2023	2022	2021
26	33	39	49
Valley Worship			
2024	2023	2022	2021
40	47	42	52
Evensong			
2024	2023	2022	2021
29	33	23	19
Café Church			
2024	2023	2022	2021
46	50	-	-
Valley Praise			
2024	2023	2022	2021
29	-	-	-
Total Attendance – Christmas Eve and Day			
2024	2023	2022	2021
379	475	358	269
Total Attendance – Easter Sunday			
2024	2023	2022	2021
118	155	123	141

2024 Life Events			
Baptisms	Weddings	Blessings	Funerals
5	3	1	6

6. Electoral roll

There are 108 names on the 2025 Electoral Roll for the Parish, of whom 10 live outside the parish. This is a decrease of 31 on 2024.

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7. Rector's Report

I turned round to see the voice that was speaking to me.
And when I turned. I saw seven golden lampstands,
and among the lampstands was someone 'like a son of man'. …
His head and hair were white like wool, …
and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters.
(Revelation 1:12-15)

Christ standing in our midst

These words, which describe the vision of Jesus given to St John the Divine on the island of Patmos, may initially seem a 'far cry' from the Itchen Valley. John was being given a powerful, even frightening, vision of the Risen Lord, which caused him to fall to his knees in worship; but Jesus assured him: "Do not be afraid. … I AM the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever!"
This assurance of Jesus' resurrection stands at the very centre of our Christian faith. In all the uncertainties of life that confront us as individuals, this anchor holds firm and gives us hope. For myself, to witness the quite sudden death of my sister, Jen, in Holy Week, was acutely painful, but it also embedded in me a yet stronger hope in the truth of Jesus as the Risen Lord—something which enabled me to preach with much stronger conviction a few days later on Easter Sunday.

This annual report is thus, at one level, a story of what the Risen Lord has been doing among us here in the Valley. He is indeed standing in the midst of us. Yet, it seems to me, there is a further application of John's vision to us in this parish. For, just as the Risen Christ stood surrounded by seven lampstands, which were a picture of the seven churches of Asia Minor, so one can think of the parish of the Itchen Valley as being a Christian community which has the Risen Christ standing at the centre—surrounded, not by seven, but by four churches.

Hence the power I felt this year, as we went round each of the four churches for our main 10.00am service in the four Sundays of Advent. For, each Sunday, we were lighting another one of the four candles, in preparation for lighting the central candle on Christmas Day. So, when all the five candles had been lit, we had built up a beautiful picture of the church community in the Itchen Valley: the presence of Jesus standing as the central flame, surrounded by the four flames of the four churches. Let's ensure that the flame in each of our four churches continues to burn brightly! For we are one parish, worshipping in four locations, focused on the unique person of the Risen Jesus.

Going around the four churches

So, as we tell the story of Christ's work in our parish in 2024, let's begin by noting briefly the story of what's been happening in each village.

In Avington we have continued to have a service at least once a quarter, enjoying a 'Songs of Praise' evening service at both Easter and Harvest; and also holding a 10.00am Parish Communion on one or two occasions. The Quinquennium Report eventually came back, with the good news that nothing major was required on the building. And there were two good village events at the end of the year—when a high proportion of the local residents stood round the war memorial on Remembrance Sunday and joined in the Carol Singing event in the Old Dairy on 23 December.

In Easton the year was somewhat coloured by the urgent need to repair the damage caused by the ingress of water from the roof (in the corner above the baptismal font). After the lovely village wedding of Harry and Rachel at the end of May, St Mary's was effectively closed till the end of August. The necessary work was all done successfully, but a further problem with the roof was discovered—namely that the decorative coping stones around the chancel were starting to fall away. So a protective

fence was placed around the east end of the church, and the year ended with an awareness that there would need to be some major fund-raising to rectify this issue for the long-term. In this connection it was great, in November, to have a fund-raising event, when St Mary's was filled with people coming to hear the Gospel Collective Alresford perform their energetic music under the dynamic leadership of Tim Uffindell.

A big 'thank you' must go to Chris Ellis and Elaine Labram, who as wardens were overseeing all this uncertainty relating to the fabric of St Mary's. Yet good things were continuing to go on through the rest of the year in our Sunday services and, at the end of the year, the Crib Service was an occasion of great joy. Again, Chris and Elaine were key to its success: Chris, at the back on the technical desk, was ensuring all those located in the chancel could 'see the action' as it was being projected on the screen; whilst Elaine's words of welcome from the front had the effect of allowing a calm atmosphere of expectation to fall across the congregation, as we prepared to hear the Nativity story once again.

One of our main goals was that this would be a special occasion for younger children to have space to feel the wonder of Christmas; and we sense this indeed happened. It was certainly great to see over 40 children coming forward to place their small sheep in the 'Shepherds' Fields' below Bethlehem!

And the whole occasion was adorned by one extra feature this year: Caroline Coleman allowed us to display her own-created Icon of the Nativity in the lych-gate before the service and then brought it in to the church before the start of 'Once in Royal': many people commented on its exquisite beauty. All this helped the year at St Mary's, despite some of its earlier difficulties, to end on a high note.

Martyr Worthy continued to have its normal range of services. In the Parish Communion we reintroduced the singing of the Sanctus and, on occasions, we had the joy of Henry Barda singing a solo during the administration of communion. Meanwhile, the tradition of Choral Evensong continued unabated, with a small choir coming together each month and thereby expanding the repertoire of hymns and anthems we can enjoy.

In particular, two evensongs were particularly well attended—the Patronal Evensong in July (when Revd Andrew Micklefield came back as our Guest preacher) and the Ecumenical Service in November (when Tim Tyler conducted an augmented choir in the singing of Stanford's setting, and we welcomed Deacon Tony Darlison from St Peter's Roman Catholic church in Winchester). On this second occasion, it was special that Fr Mark Hogan and I were able to talk briefly about our different ministries and then pray for each other as brothers in Christ.

There was also one significant addition to the services in St Swithun's—with its becoming the place for the twice-quarterly Valley Worship service.

Because this service is integrally combined with the 'Ark' Sunday School for younger children, the nearby location of the Martyr Worthy Village Hall has made St Swithun's the best location—at least for the time being—for this informal service. It was so lovely throughout the year to see the Ark (led by Verity Greig) to be so often full of children and activity; and also to sense how this beautiful ancient church could also be the venue of some more informal worship. A big 'thank you' to John and Nicky Barber for leading this service for us with such dedication and care, as well as to Simon Ffennell and all those who have so graciously welcomed this differently-styled service into St Swithun's.

Finally, St John's, Itchen Abbas has continued to fulfil its vital role as our central 'hub' church for so many of our parish-wide events, such as CAMEO and Little Rainbows etc (towards the end of the year, the church heating system was causing a problem with some of these events, but we hope this issue will soon be satisfactorily resolved). Yet, within its own village-context, there were also some special occasions to remember too: in June there was the wedding of Rachel and Ryan and then, the next day, a special farewell to Vernon Tottle, when we expressed our profound thanks for his many years as the St John's verger (all that chair-moving was certainly a 'labour of love'!); and, over the year, a series of great events when Itchen Abbas Primary School (under the new head teacher, Rob Bogan) were able to fill the church with some great youthful energy and dynamism. Sarah Hunt and I were able to welcome them on numerous occasions (not just for their Easter and Harvest Services, but also for their Christmas Nativity and Christmas Concert), and each one was a vibrant and really enjoyable occasion. Meanwhile, our CAMEO guests will not easily forget the times when the IAPS children have arrived at the end of lunch, to perform a song and then have gone around talking to them: its so good to see conversations going on between the generations!

It's good in this way, as we go round the four churches, to sense how the flame of Christ's presence, is very much in evidence in each church, and to see how they are each making a distinctive contribution to the life of our parish as whole. Quite a rich and varied 'tapestry' of Christian life and community is indeed being created in the Valley! For, it goes without saying that everything we do in any one of these churches is always, simultaneously, something which is done in the name of the whole parish. And the end result is that the 'sum is greater than its parts'. At the same time, if one of our churches is facing some particular struggles, our commitment to each other and to the parish as a whole means we should be eager to support them; for, as St Paul would remind us in 1 Corinthians 12, we are all 'belong to each other' and are all 'members of one body'—the 'body of Christ' Himself here in the Valley.

Parish-wide events

So let's now turn to take a look at some of our more obviously parish-wide activities.

In January and February we enjoyed the continuation of the 2023/4 Martyr Worthy Lectures. An enormous 'thank you' must go to Gilly Greenwood and her team (especially Verity Coleman, Lucinda Ffennell and Sophie Parry) for all their planning and preparation, as well as to the many who help on the night. These continue to be top-quality events—professional, educational and hugely enjoyable! And, of course, they play a vital and indispensable part in our necessary fund-raising activities for the life of our parish.

Easter fell very early in 2024, so it was not long before we were enjoying some 'Lent Lunches' in various people's homes. Although not strictly a church-event, these continue to be a great opportunity to meet and mingle as a Valley community, and we are so grateful to Jude Mezger and Verity Coleman for their part in organising them.

The early dates meant that this year, unusually, Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday fell in schools' half-term; so we thought that our Pancake Party might be undersubscribed. Instead—helped perhaps by some torrential rain on the day—Easton Village

Hall was packed out ‘to the gills’. Parents and grand-parents had obviously decided that this was the best wet-weather activity available that day; and, with Theo, Gerry and Jenny Crowther producing over 200 pancakes in a few hours, they were not disappointed!

It was also cold and damp on Good Friday, but that did not prevent a good number of people coming out for the traditional Way of the Cross in Church Lane, Martyr Worthy. A big Thank you to Jenny Crowther and her team for all they did to pull this together. It was certainly very moving, to be in a packed St Swithun’s and to sing ‘When I survey the Wondrous Cross’.

We celebrated Easter Sunday with a packed service in St John’s, Itchen Abbas, and then, a few weeks later, celebrated the ’50 days that changed the world’ (the period between Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and his eventual departure at the time of his Ascension) with a visit from Bishop David Williams. He spoke movingly about Jesus’ words at the Last Supper at a communion service in the Itchen Abbas Village Hall and then returned to St Mary’s, Easton for a celebration of the Ascension in company with singers from around the Valley and from Prince’s Mead school.

In the autumn, each of the churches had its own Harvest Service, but we also had a parish-wide Harvest Tea in St John’s, Itchen Abbas. That Saturday, the weather was brilliant, giving us a golden and hot autumnal day; so a good number of us spilled outside, to sit on some hay bales by a tent close to the car park, whilst others enjoyed the great spread of sandwiches and cakes in the church.

Six weeks later, the main Royal British Legion service on Remembrance Sunday was also in St John’s. This year, one of our main themes was based on the painting called ‘The White Comrade’, painted by a member of David Swinstead’s family in 1915. David and I had visited the Museum of Military Medicine a few days before, when we were able to see the original painting (which is over 7 feet high); and David had kindly bought some postcards back so that those gathered in church could appreciate its powerful message—of the Risen Christ standing by those who were in the trenches.

And then we soon found ourselves racing towards Christmas. Once again, individuals were able to access the daily devotional resources in the Advent Calendar (created by Sarah Noble in 2023).

And, in addition to our regular morning Advent services, we could also enjoy a lovely Christingle service (led by Kate Mezger and James Greig in St John’s) and a traditional service of Six Lessons and Carols in St Swithun’s on the last Sunday before Christmas.

Numbers are by no means the most important criterion, but at that service there were 120 in the congregation. And in the next 48 hours (if, in addition to our three main services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, we include the two outdoor carol-singing events: in Avington on the Monday and outside the Cricketers' Inn in Easton on the Tuesday), there were a further 475 people who joined us from the Valley to celebrate in different ways the Good News of our Saviour's birth. That represents over a third of the number of residents in the parish.

The main theme I felt called to focus on in the Christmas season was that of Jesus' being the 'Light of the World': just as the sun in the sky sends forth light within our natural world, so the Risen Jesus is there to radiate outwards both heat and light in the spiritual world. It's good to think that so many people in the Valley may have heard that message, and we can pray that it continues to be a source of encouragement to us all as we go forwards into 2025.

The idea of Christ as Light is, obviously, very much what we also were seeing in that opening passage that I quoted from Revelation 1. If there we applied it to each of our churches being called to be a beacon of Christ's Light in their own location, here we are being reminded that that that can only happen if we too, as individuals, are receiving Christ's Light into our own lives, and are then 'walking in the light'.

Looking back with thanks

When we look back over 2024, we evidently have much to give thanks for. In addition to what has been mentioned above, we can also be immensely grateful that, despite some predictions to the contrary, we effectively 'broke even' at the end of the financial year. Whilst there is a significant deficit anticipated for 2025, which will need our attention in the coming months, it's good here to pause and for me to thank everyone—and especially those who give regularly on a monthly or quarterly basis—who have enabled us to end 2024 in this way. 'Every little helps', and we're indeed 'all in this together'.

All our parish life is dependent on people giving so much of their time and energy 'for the common good' and in a voluntary capacity; and this report must rightly close with me expressing my profound thanks to everyone for all that you do.

Many people will be mentioned in the Churchwarden's Report (page 13), and I fully endorse all they have written; but may I take this opportunity to express my thanks to three special groups of people who do so much that is close to the heart of our church community: the 13 members of the PCC; those who lead the groups mentioned on page 14 and the Ministry Team (Gerry Stacey, Simon Ffennell, Lavinia Owen, John & Nicky Barber, James Greig, and Sarah Noble). Everyone in these groups goes way beyond the call of duty and makes it possible for our church to go forwards in Christ's name—developing our worship, ministry and mission in ways that we hope will increasingly bless the wider community. Yet, perhaps above all, we all owe Beccy Clark a huge debt of gratitude for the way she helps smooth all our communication with both her administrative efficiency and pastoral wisdom. Her personal presence, combined with her professional standards, makes my life, and indeed all our church life, so much easier—thank you, Beccy!

Please know your Rector is deeply grateful: the parish might grind to a halt without each one of you playing your particular part! Yet let's also remember, and be encouraged by the fact, that this is not *our* church and not *our* ministry, but it is Jesus' church, and he is the one who is really at work amongst us. 'Without me you can do nothing", he tells us in John 15:5, but with him and in his strength we can do whatever he calls us to do. We are a community focused on the Risen Christ, the Light of the World, and we are sharing in his Light.

Revd Peter

Church Reports

For just as the body is one and has many members,
and all the members of the body, though many,
are one body, so it is with Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:12

8. Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the churches

St Mary's Avington

Work arising from the quinquennial inspection has now been completed where possible, including both the internal and external electrics , and is on-going in other areas, such as guttering, roofing and overhanging trees. The church is in a good state of repair and continues to be visited by many visitors, as well as locals. We have held a number of lovely services over the year including Songs of Praise services for Easter and Harvest.

Georgie Krone coordinated the organisation of a car boot sale, held on Yavington Farm, thanks to Robert Stent, which despite challenging weather made over £1000 to be put towards village projects including those at St Mary's, Avington.

Grateful thanks go Jacqui Squires as she steps down after many years taking the lead in keeping the churchyard looking so beautiful, she has been an enormously valuable of the team.
Thanks too to all in the village who help with the flower rota, the locking and unlocking rota, the gardening and the flag-raising.

St Mary's, Easton

2024 was a year with quite a few structural issues concerning the fabric of the Church. The Church was closed in April following the discovery of falling plaster which had to be stabilised following an emergency faculty in time for a wedding. The external repairs referred to in last year's report finally began in July 2024 and again the Church was closed as; to save money, welfare facilities were provided in the church. The repairs, scheduled to take six weeks, ended up lasting until early September but the Church reopened with a service to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of the Mezgers.

However, it was as the work on the roof began that a coping stone fell from the chancel wall. Closer inspection revealed that all the stones appeared to be becoming detached, so a temporary fence was erected to stop members of the public accessing the area. A rough estimate from Jeremy Poll suggested repairs could cost in the region of £100 - 105,000 so a grant has just been applied for holding measures to ensure the safe continuation of the use of the Church whilst funds are raised.

Fund raising in 2024 included a very successful gospel choir evening which was well received.

There was some concern about one of the graves which is being attended to. The heating was serviced, and the thermostat batteries were replaced.

St Mary's Development Project:
Due to the fabric of the Church needing such attention there has been no further progress on the development project though the Rector is keen to progress the car parking issue.

St John's, Itchen Abbas

The use of St. John's continues to be many and varied. Regular midweek events include Little Rainbows, CAMEO, Wednesday Night Worship, PCC and other midweek parish meetings. Groups of pilgrim walkers were welcomed after arrangements made in advance; they have always been grateful for this hospitality. Itchen Abbas School has had several services and events in St. John's thanks to a greater involvement initiated by the Head Mr. Bogan.

In late February various overhanging trees, mainly yews, were trimmed in the churchyard and the oak tree in the church field was given a tidy re-shaping, £100 having been donated by Patrick Daniell who gave the tree in the first place.

Churchyard tidying under John Bouldin's guidance with generous help from Rodney Dartnall continued roughly once a month, various others helping and all contributing to maintain a tidy and welcoming environment. The fence round the church field needed some repair after a car had gone into one section; this was done by Patrick Appleby with John Bouldin, necessitating careful re-attachment of the outside electric lighting system. The state of the surface of the church field, although very muddy at times, seemed to recover as spring advanced and Tim Clapp's seed sowing proved worthwhile.

On 12th May there was a different format to the Sunday services with Itchen Abbas Village Hall being the venue for an extended Passover meal with participants joining in an extended enactment of Holy Week inside and out, followed by a shared lunch. The village hall is used for Café church once a month, organised by people from throughout the parish.

After 13 years as verger Vernon Tottle resigned due to the demands of the ever-changing needs of St. John's, particularly chair moving. His work in looking after the interior from carpet cleaning to every aspect of caring for St. John's, as well as his attention to detail, has been exemplary and the whole parish has benefitted from his sterling work. In June the parish gave him and Arminel tickets for Glyndebourne Opera and a sum in cash in addition.

As part of Harvest celebrations there was a tea in St John's when people from all over the valley contributed. About 50 people came and because of children possibly playing in the churchyard David Swinstead inspected the state of the gravestones. Around 12 were found to be unsafe and Blackwell and Moody repaired and made safe the majority. Two have remained in a horizontal position as the safest option. Although most of the inscriptions are legible it has not been possible to contact the relevant families in case they were able to provide a contribution towards the cost of repair.

In the Autumn the heating system failed and Anchor were unable to fix it; it was repaired in time for Christmas but subsequently has failed again and spare parts for the boiler are awaited. Extra blow heaters were hired for all services and other events to provide sufficient warmth.

The water flow in the kitchen tap was adjusted by a separate plumber as well as repairing the toilet cistern. The septic tank had to be emptied at two very short intervals.

The contributions by various people has enabled St John's to be welcoming and well cared for – Elizabeth Bouldin in organising the flower rota with Arminel Tottle asking enough people to provide extra arrangements for festival occasions. Joan Dartnall continues to open and close the church every day. Elizabeth Bouldin, Joan Dartnall and Jean Taylor provide coffee and biscuits after services. Jean Taylor changes the altar frontals as well as being a welcomer along with Lavinia and Nick Owen. Charlotte Appleby organises and coordinates CAMEO each month. John Bouldin brings together the regular Churchyard tidying team. Gavin Edgerley Harris is on hand to arrange an appropriate space in the churchyard for a burial, Stephen Mead is on call as our health and safety person. Brigid McManus takes notes for minutes from meetings which are short and to the point. Patrick Appleby has given more time, energy and expertise than all of us in trying to maintain a warm, light, dry church, even though the solution is still elusive.

Sarah Hunt resigned from being church warden at the end of 2024, although she will continue to be part of the team who provide the preparation and putting away before and after services.

St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

Fortunately, no major repairs were needed to the fabric of the building during last year. However, further work was required on the boiler which, we fear, will probably need replacing in the not-too-distant future. The Faculty for our proposed Memorial West Window came through in August. There followed several months of planning, and consultation with the PCC, where approval was given in principle subject to fundraising. (The Appeal was launched in January 2025). Stain removal on internal plasterwork was successfully completed. Asbestos has been found in the ceiling at the west end. It has good integrity with no risks posed at present.

All gravestones have been surveyed for risks posed; only one, in the auxiliary graveyard, requires attention. This is in hand.

Our lightning conductors have been re-certified successfully.

9. Churchwardens' report

As always, we warmly welcome all of those who are new to the parish including young families, and those from further afield who choose to worship with us and so be part of our family.

Our sincere thanks are due to the many people who, under Revd Peter's leadership, help to make the Parish a very special community. These include:

• Gerry Stacey, our Licensed Lay Minister, who continues to contribute so much, leading many of the non-communion services particularly when Revd Peter is not available. Gerry both leads and assists with the widest range of services and makes a huge contribution to very many other parish activities.

• Our seven Licensed BCMs: Tim Clapp, Simon Ffennell, Sarah Noble, Nicky Barber, John Barber, James Greig and Lavinia Owen. Each has their own individual interests and strengths. Every one of them makes an enormous contribution to our routine services, special services and activities for all ages.
• The Greig family, who make a special creative contribution towards the Ark and activities for the young.

• The Wrights who organise and lead Wednesday Night Worship.

• Those from the Diocese and Arle Deanery who support us throughout the year, particularly Bishop David, Archdeacon Richard Brand, Revd Andrew Micklefield (Area Dean) and the officers of the DAC.

• The officers of our parish, who give so much of their time managing the parish and our churches.

• The Parochial Church Council, its committees and our District Church Councils and their Secretaries.

• David Anderson, our Honorary Treasurer and Janet Denyer, who so professionally manages our bookkeeping.

• Our Deanery Synod Representatives; and our Health & Safety, Safeguarding, and Data Protection Officers.

We are most grateful to all those mentioned above for all of their enormous contributions to our parish; and we are truly blessed to have them working so diligently for us. Let us remind ourselves that the Rector is working only on a half-stipendiary basis and that, without the exceptional support of these generous people, our parish could not be so active and effectively run. They make a substantial contribution towards the welfare of the parish and our Valley.

There are others who take on more particular, yet much valued, roles to whom we express great thanks:
• Georgie Walker and Jo Donaldson giving so much to support the activities of our youth group, UTX;

• Lavinia Owen and her pastoral team who make up Valley Visitors;

• Charlotte Appleby and her team who organise CAMEO;

• Our informal ministry team who organise and contribute so much to Café Church, Valley Worship and Valley Praise; Simon Ffennell who organises and leads Martyr Worthy Evensong;

• Those who plan, direct and participate in the Way of the Cross;

• Those who plan, direct and participate in the Crib Service;

• Those who manage Little Rainbows and the older Rainbows who support them each week;

• Those who plan and contribute to the Pancake Party;

• Those who organise and contribute to the Christingle Service;

• Those who plan, organise and contribute to the various Harvest Celebrations;

• Those who plan, organise and contribute to the various fund-raising events.

We are hugely indebted to Beccy Clark, our Parish Administrator, whose sensitivity, discretion, helpfulness, creativity, skills, efficiency and hard work are so essential for the smooth running of our parish. In addition to her regular administrative function, she has also taken on the function of PCC Secretary for which we are so grateful. We are truly blessed to have Beccy supporting all of us and we owe her a great debt of thanks.

The success and smooth running of our parish also depends upon a veritable army of volunteers who perform various key roles and duties; without their selfless commitment of time, energy and sheer hard work and enthusiasm, we would not be able to operate at our continuing level. They serve in so many ways:

• As vergers, sides-persons, and bankers of cash;

• Booking organists and other musicians;

• At services whether as sides persons, lesson-readers, intercessors, chalice or eucharistic assistants, bell-ringers, members of the band, helping with young children and those who make and serve coffee;

• As members of our informal choir, those who sing and play other instruments, plus those who provide technical support;

• Help with church-cleaning, flower-arranging, polishing the brass, opening and closing the churches every day;

• Those who organise, cook, bake and prepare food and drink for our numerous social occasions;

• And those who maintain for us our churches and churchyards in good condition.

It has always been and remains one 'big team effort' and we are truly appreciative of all that you have done. The Churchwardens wish to thank you all individually and collectively.

Such initiatives include Café Church, held once a month in Itchen Abbas Village Hall, the Pancake Party held last year in Easton Village Hall, The Lent Lunches, The Way of the Cross held down Church Lane, Martyr Worthy on Good Friday, the Crib Service in St Mary's Easton on Christmas Eve and the Harvest tea.

Further, through the Rector we seek to build closer relationships with the two schools in the Valley. Also, our Valley Visitors' activities very much reach out to all parts of the Valley population, as does CAMEO which continues to attract those older members of the community.

Our external charitable activities have again been to Winchester Beacon (formerly called Winchester Night Shelter), Winchester Basics Bank, Trinity Centre in Winchester, the Children's Society and the Royal British Legion.

Our own fundraising activity still needs to grow - given the forecast deficit. Historically, fundraising events for the General Fund have made a major contribution to our financial position and a major push will need to be made if fundraising income is to achieve the necessary level. Fundraising events also provide a social dimension to our life as a parish and demonstrate that the congregation is active in the local community. We are once again grateful for the energy and enthusiasm of fundraising teams but are always looking out for new ideas and helpers.

Finally, a more concerning note. it is likely that, following retirements, there might be but one Churchwarden in the Parish in 2025. This is not an ideal situation, rendering the good governance of the PCC (a Registered Charity) more difficult. It is to be hoped that volunteers can be found to fill the gaps for what can be a satisfying role.

Our warmest thanks to those Churchwardens retiring at the end of the year, Sarah Hunt, Chris Ellis, Elaine Labram and Sara Mason. They have put in many years of great service.

10. Deanery Synod report

A significant change this year is that we have joined in partnership with Alton Deanery, held joint meetings and are actively looking for ways to share resources and join in partnership activities. In the immediate future we will remain separate deaneries but share meetings, experience, activities, worship and prayer.

We received the Diocesan environmental and net zero carbon action plan and all parishes are encouraged to work towards net zero.

Our July meeting focused on education with talks from a primary school head teacher, an adviser on religious education and a member of Open the Book. It was exciting to see the breadth and depth of religious education in the deanery and learn of the benefits it can bring. With a primary school in our parish, we should be looking to further our already good links to promote outreach.

Our final meeting of the year included a talk from a children's worker from Southampton showing the church growth that can come from having a strong vision for children's work, developing effective links with schools and with support for parents. The meeting discussed the wide range of children's activities available around the deaneries and is encouraging all to work across parishes to benefit from these.

Finally, we had a report from Rwanda. The government has strengthened the requirements for both church leaders and buildings. While probably beneficial in the long run this has unfortunately led to a reduction in the number of priests and many church buildings have had to be closed as they are of substandard construction. We continue to explore our relationship for the future.
LLM Gerry Stacey

11. Reports

CAMEO

CAMEO continues! We averaged 38.5 people in 2024, ranging from a low of 32 in January 2024 (we were notably short of helpers, but we managed!) to 52 for our Christmas lunch. We always have room (and food) for more so if you, or anyone over 65 you know, would enjoy a companiable lunch once a month do please give me a call on 779778 and come along.

We are delighted to have gained quite a number of new guests, and, sadly lost a few who are no longer able to come out to lunch. However, we do a nice line in takeaways for some who are still living nearby; and Gail Mann continues to do an amazing job remembering birthdays for helpers, guests and former guests.

We are also glad to have welcomed several new helpers – some of the team were (dare I say it?) old enough to have been guests even when CAMEO first started and are now old enough to be President of the US, but are still cooking with skill and dedication. Menu planning meetings are a riot.

The main change has been the retirement of Vernon the Verger, who nobly put out and away the tables and chairs each month. CAMEO organised a retirement party for him – we chose a rose wine to avoid any staining of the lovingly cleaned carpet in the church. However, this being the Itchen Valley, a team of volunteers have stepped up to fill the vacancy and each month one or more of them are available to do the work.

Our happy connection with IA School continues and we look forward to their visits. One of our guests was a pupil at the school many years ago and was delighted to hear of the 150th anniversary celebrations planned for the summer. She has been looking out family records to give to the school.
Charlotte Appleby

Valley Visitors

I would like to start by thanking the wonderful team of Valley Visitors who, as one experienced visitor, said they have all been quietly busy, beavering away, doing what they all do so well, looking after and out for the residents of the Itchen Valley". Age is a small but meaningful word that is becoming more and more relevant both to our visitors and those they visit. Therefore it becomes increasingly imperative to recruit some younger Visitors. Let 2025 be the year in which we achieve this, so that we can also be there to help some of the younger residents too. The role is not one of nurse or counsellor but a friend in times of need who can bring relief from boredom or depression and occasionally a link to more formal health services. In the last year we have been active in visiting, enjoying a close relationship with CAMEO and sometimes following up on the Rector's extensive visiting. We are a significant link to the outside world for many of the elderly, frail and lonely of whom there are increasing numbers in our aging community.
Lavinia Owen

Café Church

Café Church has continued to thrive over the past year. It meets on the first Sunday of the month at 4pm in Itchen Abbas Village Hall and occasionally in the summer holidays beside the Barbers' pool in Martyr Worthy. These venues offer flexible space and are ideal for our purposes.

The purpose of cafe church is to gather to encourage one another to serve and glorify God, both in our worship together and also as we leave into the outside world. A collaborative approach aims to enable contributions that might not naturally sit in other service settings, and the informality is ideal for inviting people along.

During the year we have explored many passages of scripture together, meditating on the practical applications in our lives. focusing on how the word of God is alive and active, and has the ability to transform our hearts and minds, and can be the living water that keeps us truly alive. Each month the reflections and contributions on scripture from the children are disarmingly sharp, and it has been a joy to encourage these young ones in their early walk with God.

Meanwhile, the range of those contributing to the services becomes ever greater, including both adults and children. There are many established sub-teams including those that setup for the occasion and dissemble the hall: those that organise sport, mostly outside: craft work, quieter games, reading, prayer and other more contemplative activities. Then there are those that play and sing so joyously, leading us in worship and others who share Bible-based, imaginatively presented, teaching. Further manna is provided in the form of delicious savoury and sweet treats and lastly there is our most dedicated 'kitchen' team that remind us of that living water we are there to receive and share. We are very grateful to the large number of people that so excellently make this relatively complex service such flexible and creative space for worship.

Numbers continue to grow and whilst attendance is lowest in the summer holidays, when families are away, we usually approach 60 in number. The congregation is 'all age', made up of younger families with some of the older generation also enjoying this less formal, simpler style of service.

This is a good opportunity to thank the church family for their time, creative contributions and support for cafe church. We will continue to pray together that God will show us how to use this service to encourage one another and build one another up as we walk together with Christ, fixing our eyes on Him, the author and perfecter of our faith.

Wednesday Night Worship

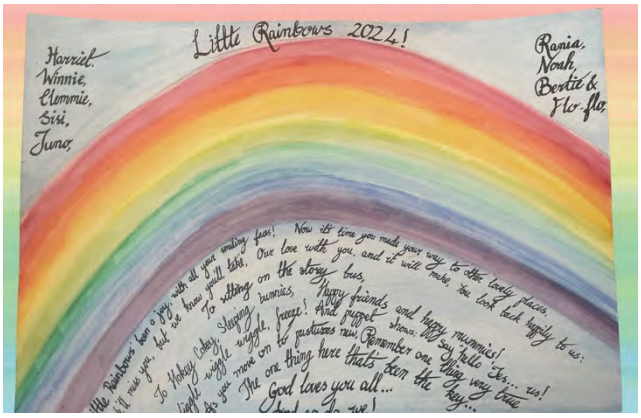
Wednesday Night Worship continues to take place once a month at St John's, Itchen Abbas.
Our purpose is to provide a space for people to meet with God and meet with each other through worship; prayer; and sharing testimonies of what God is doing in our lives and communities.

There are usually 20-30 people who gather on these evenings, some from within the parish, and others travelling from further afield.

We follow a loose structure of enjoying a few minutes of fellowship over tea and brownies whilst people arrive. We then move into a time of worship, followed by one of the group sharing a testimony and message of faith-building encouragement, rooted in Scripture. Sometimes there are numerous people with testimonies to share. A significant part of the evening is then left open to continued worship and prayer ministry. Our desire is to give the Holy Spirit free rein to lead our time, to meet with all who are hungry to be filled by Him, and to offer prayer ministry to all who would like to receive.

The evenings are very much open to all who are keen to worship, to pray, and to be encouraged in their faith, in an informal setting.
Julia Wright

Little Rainbows



Little Rainbows continues to be a happy gathering of parents on Monday mornings. The group has evolved quite a bit from last year, with many of our former rainbows graduating onto primary school.

Thankfully we've had the blessing of seven new baby rainbows born this past year, bringing our average age right down to primarily newborns and very young toddlers. This natural shift has created a gentle space that is more focused on fellowship and support for the tired mothers (and a few fathers!). We provide snacks for the older children and come together for circle time with songs and dances.

We are always so grateful for our rainbow helpers, organised by Verity Coleman, as they graciously serve tea, coffee and treats. This lovely group is always a highlight of our week!
Katherine Nevin

The Ark

The Ark is our Parish Sunday School that runs for all children of any age on a Sunday during Valley Worship.

We follow the theme of Valley Worship and play fun-games, read stories and make craft activities to help the children understand the message.

This year some of the topics we have looked at include what it means to be a living sacrifice, gifts we can offer to God, the Holy Spirit and treasures in heaven. We have had lots of fun making collages, painting canvases, stamping zines, making wooden superheros and hiding treasures in Angel Delight.

The Ark is well attended by 10+ children ranging from age 2 to 12, many of whom come every month. Highlights have been:

- Remembrance Sunday, where we were visited by families who don't usually come to church and we enjoyed drinking hot chocolate and scootering around the Village Hall.
- The addition of two new regular families joining us every month.
- Hearing the children voluntarily reading Bible verses to the adults at the end of the service on the Holy Spirit.

In 2025 we are looking forward to seeing the children grow deeply in their relationship with God and really knowing they are loved by Him.
Verity Greig

UTX (Under the Cross)

2024 was a year of change for UTX. Our regular members numbered six (Alfie, Fraser, George, Isla, Olive and Connie) and it has been lovely to see them gel together as a group. In 2024 we started meeting twice monthly – which I am so thrilled that the young ones want to do.

We were joined in January by Jo Donaldson, to help lead our group. She brings several years' experience of heading up the youth ministry and youth group at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Winchester. She has been amazing at leading us, both in discussion, and in team games, some of which have been quite hilarious. We also have the odd taskmaster challenge and fun food preparation in the kitchen.

We have looked at a few Youth Alpha sessions together and will continue with some more up to Easter 2025. We love the family swim and BBQ at the beginning and end of the summer holidays, and sometimes the Rector is reluctantly asked to attend for his more theological input!

I thank God for each family represented here. This is time set aside for the young ones, and my prayer is that they will grow in love for God and for each other.
Georgie Walker

Rectory Prayer Meetings

We started meeting in September 2023 and have continued through most months in 2024. We will do likewise in 2025, setting aside 3 months out of four. We pray together for our parish, our wider community, and for issues affecting our world. We also make time to pray for each other when there are particular burdens we want to share.

We are still small in number – usually 6-8 friends; but however many or few there are, it is always good to know that there is a nucleus of faithful prayers coming together.
Please do join us!
Georgie Walker

Health and Safety

Health and Safety is a team effort, and I wish to thank David Swinstead, Malcom Hogg and all the members of the PCC and others, who have helped in developing risk assessments over the past year. Thank you to churchwardens, Chris Ellis and Elaine Labram who, with the help of David Swinstead have designed a safe system of work for the chancel roof at St Mary's, Easton. This is a long-term project, and I thank them all for continually monitoring the situation to keep the buildings and graveyard safe. The cordon around the font has been removed following the plaster containment.

Thank you to David Swinstead for conducting a survey of the graveyards to check for tombstone movement. Some tombstones identified have been repaired where required.

The PCC continue to monitor outside events and approval risk-assessments often at short notice, for which I am very thankful.

It is a team effort, and I am very thankful for all the support across the Valley for continuing to make our churches, grounds and events safe and fun places for our congregants.
Sara Mason

Safeguarding

Thanks are given to Jessica Helgesen who stood down as Safeguarding Officer at the end of 2024. A new Safeguarding Officer is actively being sought (at the time of the APCM, LLM Gerry Stacey has been appointed, and policies and procedures have been updated) There were no incidents or confidential matters which have raised concern during 2024.

Financial Report

Pay to all what is due to them—taxes to whom taxes
are due, revenue to whom revenue is due,
respect to whom respect is due,
honour to whom honour is due.
Owe no one anything, except to love one another;
for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law

Romans 13:7-8

The PCC of Itchen Valley Winchester

(registered charity number 1133110)

End of Year Financial Statements

Year ending 31st December 2024

Financial Review

This report shows the financial performance of the Itchen Valley Parish for 2024.

When looking at these accounts the most important column is 'Unrestricted funds' which shows the receipts and payments related to the running of our church activities.

Total unrestricted receipts for the year at £141,634 were lower than 2023 (£150,241) and this led to a small deficit of £159 (2023 £6,625 surplus). The total deficit for the year (including both unrestricted and restricted funds) was £32,110 and the equivalent figure for 2023 was a surplus of £6,778.

There was significant expenditure on buildings during the year principally on the roof at St Mary's Easton where £56,197 has so far been spent.

Total funds at 31st December 2024 were £205,557 (2023 £237,667).

The Parishes' contribution to the Common Mission Fund (CMF) was £70,521 a reduction from the £74,580 paid in 2023. Across the diocese contributions to CMF have increased and the figure for 2025 is £76,601.

Planned giving (unrestricted) and associated Gift Aid recovered totalled around £106,000 (2023 - approximately £103,000). Efforts continue to be made to increase planned giving and these have had some impact, but our planned giving is not yet at a level that will allow the Parish to know at the beginning of the year that it is operating with a surplus. We need to increase planned giving to around £120,000 and will be working during the current year to seek to achieve that.

As ever thanks are due to all those who contributed to the running and financing of the Parish. David Anderson continued as Treasurer. Janet Denyer continues to carry out the roles of Bookkeeper and Gift Aid Secretary expertly.

Reserves policy

As required by Charities legislation the PCC reviews regularly the financial risks associated with the operations of the Church. The main financial risk to income would be a change in the giving profile of parishioners and the main financial risk to costs would be a requirement for significant expenditure on the buildings.

The PCC's policy is to maintain liquid funds (not designated for other purposes) to cover 9 months expenditure of unrestricted funds. At 31st December this would have been £106,225. Free reserves at this date were £115,853, so the PCC is achieving its policy for 2024.

Approved by the Itchen Valley PCC on 11th March 2025 and signed on their behalf by

Sara Mason - Lay Chair of PCC on behalf of the PCC

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts for year ended 31st December 2024

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner

The PCC members acting as the charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider than an audit is not required for the year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the Independent Examiner's Statement

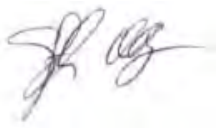
My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission and the guidance published in 'PCC Accountability' (The Charities Act 2011 and the PCC, 5th Edition). An examination includes a review of the accounting records held by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required for an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination no material matter has come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or that the accounts do not accord with the accounting records. I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Date : 14th March 2025

Signed



Stephen Hendy
Data Developments
First Floor, The Chubb Building, Fryer Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1HT

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and SORP 2005. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Restricted funds represent donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for expenditure on a specific purpose agreed by the PCC. The designation has no legal status and can be changed.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes in accordance with its constitution.

Incoming resources

All income is generally recognised when received.

Resources expended

Expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross. In certain cases where significant liabilities have been incurred but not paid for these are accounted for on an accruals basis.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.92(a) of the Charities Act 1993. Movable church furnishings held by the rector and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected on request.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value as at 31st December and are shown under current assets. Investments sold are revalued immediately prior to disposal. Investment income is allocated across funds in proportion to their average balance during the year.

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	This year total funds	Last year total funds
Receipts						
Planned giving	1	88,437	—	—	88,437	84,548
Collections and other giving	2	8,516	—	1,320	9,836	21,674
Other voluntary receipts	3	5,852	—	15,271	21,123	9,856
Gift Aid recovered	4	19,430	—	467	19,897	21,469
Other receipts	5	1,107	—	6,181	7,288	5,399
Activities for generating funds	6	9,283	—	4,987	14,269	9,149
Investment Income	7	4,810	1,012	3,371	9,193	6,579
Receipts from church activities	8	4,199	—	—	4,199	8,391
Total receipts		**141,634**	**1,012**	**31,596**	**174,242**	**167,065**
Payments						
Cost of generating funds	9	843	—	—	843	1,248
Common Mission Fund	10	70,521	—	—	70,521	74,580
Clergy and Staffing costs	11	31,296	—	—	31,296	29,223
Church running expenses	12	39,133	2,738	1,360	43,230	39,193
Church repairs & maintenance	13	—	—	58,965	58,965	10,629
New building work	14	—	—	1,497	1,497	5,414
Total payments		**141,793**	**2,738**	**61,822**	**206,352**	**160,287**
Net incoming / outgoing resources before transfer		**(159)**	**(1,726)**	**(30,225)**	**(32,110)**	**6,778**
Transfers		—	—	—	—	—
Net incoming / outgoing before other gains / losses		**(159)**	**(1,726)**	**(30,225)**	**(32,110)**	**6,778**
Other recognised gains / losses		**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**
Net movement in funds		**(159)**	**(1,726)**	**(30,225)**	**(32,110)**	**6,778**
Total funds brought forward		**116,012**	**25,260**	**96,395**	**237,667**	**230,889**
Total funds carried forward		**115,853**	**23,535**	**66,169**	**205,557**	**237,667**
Represented by						
Unrestricted						
General fund		115,853	—	—	115,853	116,012
Designated						
Itchen Abbas Designated Fabric		—	23,535	—	23,535	25,260
Restricted						
Avington Fabric		—	—	4,844	4,844	7,774
Easton Fabric		—	—	29,214	29,214	47,252
Martyr Worthy Fabric		—	—	18,507	18,507	17,744
Were Fabric Fund		—	—	13,605	13,605	23,625
Total funds		115,853	23,535	66,169	205,557	237,667

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2024

	This year total funds	Prior year total funds
Current assets		
Debtors	6,025	8,638
Investments (incl. Flagstone CAF Deposit)	169,656	178,471
Cash at bank and in hand	40,718	67,898
	216,400	**255,008**
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	10,843	17,341
	10,843	**17,341**
Net current assets less current liabilities	**205,557**	**237,667**
Total assets less current liabilities	**205,557**	**237,667**
Total net assets less liabilities	**205,557**	**237,667**
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
General fund	115,853	116,012
Designated		
Itchen Abbas Designated Fabric	23,535	25,260
Restricted		
Avington Fabric	4,844	7,774
Easton Fabric	29,214	47,252
Martyr Worthy Fabric	18,507	17,744
Were Fabric Fund	13,605	23,625
Funds of the church	**205,557**	**237,667**

Statement of assets and liabilities as at 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	This year total funds	Last year total funds
Current assets					
CAF current account	3,628	750	7,178	11,555	36,891
CAF Gold bank account	14,639	3,025	7,947	25,611	26,141
Nat West current account	1,011	209	1,321	2,540	4,867
CCLA (CBF) deposit account	578	119	313	1,011	—
Flagstone CAF Deposit	96,975	20,039	52,643	169,656	178,471
Accounts Receivable	1,523	38	4,464	6,025	8,638
Totals	**118,354**	**24,180**	**73,865**	**216,400**	**255,008**
Liabilities					
Agency collections	—	—	6,707	6,707	8,435
Accounts payable	2,101	646	989	3,735	3,915
Prepayments	400	—	—	400	4,991
Totals	**2,501**	**646**	**7,696**	**10,843**	**17,341**
Grand total	**115,853**	**23,535**	**66,169**	**205,557**	**237,667**

Fund movement by type - 2024

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Closing
General fund	116,012	141,634	141,793		115,853
Designated - Itchen Abbas	25,260	1,012	2,738		23,535
Restricted - Easton	47,252	28,684	57,722	11,000	29,214
Restricted - Martyr Worthy	17,744	1,338	575		18,507
Restricted - Avington	7,774	574	3,505		4,844
Restricted - Were	23,625	1,000	20	(11,000)	13,605
Grand total	**237,667**	**174,242**	**206,352**	**-**	**205,557**

Analysis of income and expenditure

1. Planned giving

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	This year total	Last year total
Planned giving - GAE donations	67,922	—	—	67,922	63,938
Planned giving - non GAE donations	6,865	—	—	6,865	7,410
Planned giving - GA inclusive donations	13,650	—	—	13,650	13,200
Total	88,437	—	—	88,437	84,548

2. Collections and other giving

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	This year total	Last year total
GASDS Avington	—	—	—	—	298
GASDS Martyr Worthy	3,422	—	298	3,720	4,816
GASDS Itchen Abbas	2,297	—	—	2,297	909
GASDS Easton	1,556	—	612	2,168	2,424
One-off GAE gifts	1,241	—	410	1,651	13,227
Total	8,516	—	1,320	9,836	21,674

3. Other voluntary receipts

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	This year total	Last year total
Church wall boxes	177	—	—	177	465
Donations for specific purposes	300	—	—	300	1,126
Legacies	500	—	4,958	5,458	—
Other donations Non GAE & one-off grants	4,875	—	10,313	15,188	8,265
Total	5,852	—	15,271	21,123	9,856

4. Gift Aid recovered

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	This year total	Last year total
Gift aid tax reclaim	19,430	—	467	19,897	21,469
Total	19,430	—	467	19,897	21,469

5. Other receipts

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	This year total	Last year total
Other funds generated	1,107	—	6,181	7,288	5,399
Total	1,107	—	6,181	7,288	5,399

6. Activities for generating funds

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	This year total	Last year total
Fund raising events	9,283	—	4,987	14,269	9,149
Total	9,283	—	4,987	14,269	9,149

7. Investment Income

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	This year total	Last year total
Bank interest	4,810	1,012	3,371	9,193	6,579
Total	4,810	1,012	3,371	9,193	6,579

8. Receipts from church activities

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	This year total	Last year total
Wedding & funeral fees	4,199	—	—	4,199	8,391
Total	4,199	—	—	4,199	8,391

9. Cost of generating funds

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	This year total	Last year total
Costs of fund raising events	843	—	—	843	1,248
Total	843	—	—	843	1,248

10. Common Mission Fund

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	This year total	Last year total
Common mission fund	70,521	—	—	70,521	74,580
Total	70,521	—	—	70,521	74,580

11. Clergy and staffing costs

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	This year total	Last year total
Assistant ministry expenses	167	—	—	167	583
Parish administrator & bookkeeper costs	24,878	—	—	24,878	23,294
Youth work	427	—	—	427	—
Rector's expenses	5,824	—	—	5,824	5,347
Total	31,296	—	—	31,296	29,223

12. Church running expenses

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	This year total	Last year total
Bank charges	159	21	69	248	385
Deanery Synod	75	—	—	75	75
Wedding and funeral expenses	1,340	—	—	1,340	2,164
Stationery, printing, computing	7,023	—	—	7,023	5,062
Sacristy	167	—	—	167	44
Training courses	275	—	—	275	147
Children's activities	534	—	—	534	784
Parish entertainment and hospitality	828	—	—	828	419
Church running - insurance	7,040	—	—	7,040	6,782
Organ tuning	508	—	—	508	2,343
Church maintenance	3,021	—	—	3,021	2,362
Service: fire, heating, safety	964	646	1,291	2,901	1,874
Worship and music	3,204	—	—	3,204	3,018
Upkeep of churchyard	5,530	2,071	—	7,601	5,125
Administration	835	—	—	835	670
Church running - electric	2,811	—	—	2,811	2,437
Church running - gas	3,660	—	—	3,660	5,042
Church running - water	1,159	—	—	1,159	230
Church running - annual maint.	—	—	—	—	230
Total	39,133	2,738	1,360	43,230	39,193

13. Church repairs & maintenance

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	This year total	Last year total
Quinquennial inspection - Avington	—	—	2,768	2,768	737
Church & graveyard major repairs	—	—	—	—	4,672
Easton major repairs	—	—	56,197	56,197	5,219
Total	—	—	58,965	58,965	10,629

14. New building work

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	This year total	Last year total
Easton extension	—	—	1,497	1,497	5,414
Total	—	—	1,497	1,497	5,414

15. Additional Notes

Details of fund-raising activities

Event	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	Net sum raised for the parish
Martyr Worthy Lectures 2024	7,876		
Southwood Players bedroom farce	975		
Christmas carols 2023		1,420	
Bridge party Easton		1,205	
Safari supper		260	
Gospel choir concert		2,089	
Total	**8,851**	**4,974**	**13,825**

In many cases, fund raising expenses are not reported to IVPCC and only net funds have been received. Although this is relatively common practice, it is not strictly in compliance with generally accepted accounting practice.

Collections for other charities

During 2024 there were the following collections for other charities (not including special collections at weddings and funerals). As these collections are for third parties, they are not counted as part of the funds of the Parish. Collections include donations via CAF Donate, SumUp and Goodbox.

Harvest Festival collections for:	
Trinity Winchester	317
Winchester Basics Bank	317
Winchester Beacon	318
Remembrance service collection for:	
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	420
Christingle service collection for:	
The Children's Society	168
Christmas collections 2024 split between:	
Trinity Winchester	640
Winchester Basics Bank	640
Winchester Beacon	641
Total collections for other charities	**3,461**

Gifts and fund raising for the Ukraine appeal fund

Ukraine appeal fund at 31.12.23	4,120
Gifts including contribution from fund raising :	--
Ukraine Appeal Fund at 31.12.24	4,120

There were no payments from the Ukraine appeal fund during the year.

Donations for Specific Purposes

Contribution to Café Church hall hire cost	300
Total donations for specific purposes	**300**

Donations from Trustees

The total donations from the Trustees in the reporting period was £29,521 and no conditions were attached to any of these donations.

Prior Year Comparative
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	This year total funds	Last year total funds
Receipts						
Planned giving	1	84,548	—	—	84,548	73,046
Collections and other giving	2	21,644	—	30	21,674	9,542
Other voluntary receipts	3	7,495	—	2,361	9,856	5,058
Gift Aid recovered	4	21,305	—	164	21,469	16,846
Other receipts	5	649	—	4,750	5,399	4,596
Activities for generating funds	6	3,045	—	6,105	9,149	16,391
Investment Income	7	3,165	739	2,675	6,579	273
Receipts from church activities	8	8,391	—	—	8,391	8,870
Total receipts		**150,241**	**739**	**16,085**	**167,065**	**134,622**
Payments						
Cost of generating funds	9	1,022	—	226	1,248	2,205
Common Mission Fund	10	74,580	—	—	74,580	45,000
Clergy and staffing costs	11	29,223	—	—	29,223	26,590
Church running expenses	12	38,791	269	132	39,193	41,982
Church repairs & maintenance	13	—	2,610	8,019	10,629	4,447
New building work	14	—	—	5,414	5,414	—
Total payments		**143,616**	**2,879**	**13,791**	**160,287**	**120,224**
Net incoming / outgoing resources before transfer		**6,625**	**(2,140)**	**2,294**	**6,778**	**14,398**

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ITCHEN VALLEY, WINCHE

England & Wales - Charity number 1133110

Accounts

THE PARISH OF THE ITCHEN VALLEY

Incorporating the Parish Churches of
St Mary's Avington, St Mary's Easton,
St John's Itchen Abbas and St Swithun's Martyr Worthy

ITCHEN VALLEY
CHURCHES

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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1. Administrative information

The Parish of the Itchen Valley is part of the Diocese of Winchester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is: Itchen Valley Parish Office, St John's Church, Itchen Abbas, Winchester SO21 1BJ (01962)779845. The office is open from 9 am to 1pm on weekdays. The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Itchen Valley is a Registered Charity No: 1133110.

The Churches of the Parish are St Mary's at Avington, St Mary's at Easton, St John the Baptist's at Itchen Abbas and St Swithun's at Martyr Worthy.

Ministry team:
Rector - The Revd Peter Walker
Licensed Lay Minister - Gerry Stacey
Ministry team – John Barber, Nicky Barber, Tim Clapp, Simon Ffennell, Sarah Noble, Lavinia Owen.

Churchwardens:

St Mary's Avington	Vacant
St Mary's Easton	Chris Ellis
	Mary Purser
St John's Itchen Abbas	Sarah Hunt
St Swithun's Martyr Worthy	Sara Mason
	Theo Mezger

Deanery Synod Representatives (elected in 2023 for 3 years) - Gerry Stacey, Chris Ellis, Mary Hogg (elected during the year).

Elected members of the PCC: Helen Wayne (Avington), Sara Janssen (Easton), Olivia Cox (Itchen Abbas), Nicky Barber (Martyr Worthy).
Secretary: Beccy Clark (appointed during the year)
Hon Treasurer: David Anderson

2. Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the Parish of the Itchen Valley is the governing body for the Parish. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules and the Parish Scheme. The PCC met six times during 2023. The PCC was supported by a Standing Committee and a Finance Committee.
The Constitution of the Parish of the Itchen Valley and the supporting Policy Guidance document can both be found on the parish website.
There are four District Church Councils (DCCs), one for each District centred on the churches of the Parish. All the DCCs met regularly during 2023.
All regular Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC and DCCs.

3. Aims and purposes

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector, to promote the whole mission of the Church - pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical - in the Ecclesiastical Parish and the area of the Itchen Valley. It is the duty of the Rector and the PCC to consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the parish.

4. Objects and activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches and to become part of our parish community. The PCC and Ministry Team all acknowledge the need to consider public benefit in planning activities and guidance on the advancement of religion.

5. Achievements and performance

The report from the churchwardens sets out some of the highlights of the parish's achievements and performance in 2023.

Average Attendance			
Early Morning Holy Communion			
2023	2022	2021	2020
9	10	8	7
10am Parish Communion			
2023	2022	2021	2020
28	32	31	46
All Age Worship			
2023	2022	2021	2020
33	39	49	51
Valley Worship			
2023	2022	2021	2020
47	42	52	43
Evensong			
2023	2022	2021	2020
33	23	19	15
Café Church			
2023	2022	2021	2020
50	-	-	-
Total Attendance - Christmas Eve and Day			
2023	2022	2021	2020
475	358	269	222
Total Attendance - Easter Day			
2023	2022	2021	2020
155	123	141	68

2023 Life Events			
Baptisms	Weddings	Blessings	Funerals
4	4	2	19

6. Electoral roll

There are 138 names on the 2024 Electoral Roll for the Parish, of whom 14 live outside the parish. This is a decrease of 10 on 2023.

4

7. Rector's Report

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.
When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. And Jesus came and said to them:

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit
and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.
And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

(Matthew 28:16-20)

From these words at the very end of Matthew's Gospel, we are given a blueprint for what each church around the world might look like: a community of people gathered around the Risen Jesus, knowing his presence in their midst, and who—regardless of their race or background, 'coming from all nations'—are learning how to obey Christ as Lord and calling others to follow his teaching and to worship the Living God, revealed as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

It's a great vision, but in the nitty-gritty of 'ordinary parish life', we can easily lose sight of it and end up just 'doing church'. Yet I hope that, as I now paint a picture of what we did together throughout 2023, we will sense that there was more going on amongst us than just 'doing church'. With all our differences of character and personality—as seen in our different preferences for styles of worship and the wide variety of activities on offer—there was something else going on, indeed *someone* else in our midst: the risen Christ drawing us to himself, revealing his truth and love, and calling us to be his people and his witnesses here in the beautiful Itchen Valley.

So I hope you will enjoy reading this and be encouraged in your faith as you do so!

A year in the life of our parish

Springtime

One of the major aims in last year's Annual Report was to describe the new Sunday Service plan (which had begun in November 2022). So our services from January through to Easter gave us the first opportunity to get used to the new pattern, which would then continue throughout the year:

1st Sunday	10am	Parish Communion	Easton
	4pm	Café Church	Village Hall
2nd Sunday	8.30am	Holy Communion (said)	Itchen Abbas
	10am	All Age Worship	Itchen Abbas
	6pm	Evensong	Martyr Worthy
3rd Sunday	10am	Parish Communion	Martyr Worthy
	5pm	Evening Worship	Itchen Abbas
4th Sunday	8.30am	Holy Communion (1662)	Martyr Worthy
	10am	Valley Worship	Easton
5th Sunday	8.30am	Holy Communion (1662)	Avington
	10am	Morning Worship	Itchen Abbas

1. This meant we were able, for example, to see Café Church becoming an integral and a much-loved part of our church life, thanks to the vision and hard work of those in the leadership team (who even organised a special one for New Year for the afternoon of Sunday 1 January!). Café Church would then meet on the first Sunday of each month (except in May and August) in the Itchen Abbas Village Hall: the afternoon slot, especially on dark winter afternoons, and the great food on offer, together with the opportunity for children to play safely outside, would prove very attractive. And, by the end of the year, we had begun to give greater space for some teaching and contemporary worship which, whist still very accessible to people just 'dropping in', was also really feeding us with Jesus' truth and love.
2. On the second Sunday of the month, we began to see people coming to our more reflective 08.30am service of Holy Communion, followed by biblical teaching over coffee and croissants—for much of the year on the theme of Jesus the Good Shepherd.
3. On the third Sunday, we saw how the Evening Worship at St John's could be used in different ways—whether for an ecumenical service for the week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January (led by Lesley-Anne Ritchie as a licensed preacher in the Methodist church) or for a service of prayer in February to mark the first anniversary of the War in Ukraine (led by Gerry Stacey in the company of several of our Ukrainian refugees living in Valley). And, as the year continued, there would be a couple of Taizé-styled services (in May and October).

4. And on the fourth Sunday, guided by John and Nicky Barber, we enjoyed a yet different style of service in Valley Worship in St Mary's, Easton. In February we had a special Valley Worship, with Tim Clapp leading the music, and with Bishop David Williams as our preacher, as he confirmed Phoebe Culshaw (who had been baptised

3 years earlier whilst a resident in Easton). With many in our church family, especially among our young families, finding these services an 'oasis' and a real spiritual resource, we are so grateful for the Ark, led so creatively by Verity and James Greig. During the summer this would move camp outside to St Mary's churchyard, with children being able to enjoy activities there and in the Old School Fields before returning at the end of the service. For the November service, the decision would be made to move temporarily to St Swithun's, when a bustling group of 12 children were able to use the Village Hall. (All this, of course, only highlights the need, sooner rather than later, to build an integrated extension in Easton, so that parents and children can easily and safely be under one roof, enjoying worship and children's teaching in adjacent but separate rooms: see further under churchwardens' report.)

So it was good to see these services developing in their different ways—alongside our continued enjoyment and development of our more traditional services of Holy Communion and Evensong, which are valued by so many.

Coming back to the spring, after an energetic Pancake Party on Shrove Tuesday in the Itchen Abbas Village Hall (thanks to the 'dream-team' in the kitchen flipping nearly 200 pancakes!), Ash Wednesday was celebrated suitably differently: with the evening communion service offering the 'imposition of ashes' for those who wished, and with the start of a series of lunchtime Bible Studies (over a cup of soup) which focused on some Psalms and the words of the Lord's Prayer. These lunch-hours together proved over the weeks to be quite special—as each week we found individuals within the group sharing profound insights that had only come to them at that very moment. These were Bible Studies quite different to anything I had experienced before and, looking back, were one of the highlights of the year.

Lent would not be Lent in the Valley without the Lent Lunches. So it was great to see how Jude Mezger picked up the baton from Stephanie Gretton and developed a 5-week programme in which we could enjoy being in different people's homes and being invited to support the important work of the Hampshire Hospitals Trust. Thanks so much to our kind hosts on each occasion.

Also during February and March a small group of people met in St John's to travel together on the 'Bereavement Journey'. I attended some of these evenings and was touched by the level of care and sympathy seen in the group. A huge 'thank you' to Elaine Labram (ably assisted by Sally Clarke) for leading this course once again.

Holy Week began with a donkey procession starting from outside the Cricketers' Inn in Easton. There were then three beautiful services of Compline in Martyr Worthy, leading up to a Maundy Thursday service in Itchen Abbas which focused on the Jewish background of the Last Supper, helping people to see new significance in what Jesus said and did—as he offered his 'body' instead of the traditional Passover lamb.

On Good Friday, the 'Way of the Cross' was celebrated in quite windy conditions. We were so grateful that Femi Ladeinde had agreed to play the part of Jesus and for all those who filled the many other roles in the script—including some very energetic young Roman soldiers! The crucifixion scene in the church was, as expected, a powerful scene—followed by the singing together of 'When I survey the Wondrous Cross'.

And then came the Good News of Easter Day! After quite a cold and dreary winter, it was such a delight to see St Mary's, Easton full to the brim as 136 people came to celebrate the Resurrection and to sense together the powerful hope that we can have in the Risen Jesus. "Christ is risen: he is risen indeed!"

Summertime

Saturday 6 May was, of course, the Coronation of King Charles III: some watched the service on the large screen now installed within St Mary's Easton, and there were various celebratory events in the villages. When discussing the Coronation the next morning after Sunday worship, there were many comments about its deeply Christian symbolism, as well as the dominant theme of 'service'.

Then, as we moved into the summer months, quite a few of the congregation set out on their travels and holidays. I myself had been away in mid-April and then again later at the end of May leading tours 'in the steps of Jesus' and 'in the steps of Paul'. During my absence I was grateful for our services being led by the Ministry Team as well as visiting clergy such as Revd Peter Haughton and Revd Sarah Tillet.

Sarah had earlier led our Good Friday 'Last Hour' meditation and would later be invited by the Martyr Worthy wardens to be the guest preacher at the St Swithun's Patronal Evensong in July. With her life-long commitment to the environment, it was so good to hear her sermon on Creation Care—as well as to hear her exclaim, when standing afterwards at the church door looking out over the valley, "how good is God's creation!". It was a beautiful summer evening and the whole event—made all the more joyful by the wine served in the churchyard!—brought the year's many choral evensongs to a fitting climax. Those services have continued to be a highlight within our church calendar and I am so grateful to Simon Ffennell—as well as the organists and choir members—for all the hard work that goes in to making them so uplifting. It's so good to hear those opening words: "dearly beloved brethren…."!

During July and August we deliberately 'played it light' in our Sunday services, with a variety of services in different locations, ending up with a service in the Rectory garden on the August Bank Holiday weekend. I am particularly grateful for the way in which Sarah Noble came alongside me at so many of these services—between us being able to cover the worship-leading, teaching, or music-making in one combination or another!

Sarah's commitment to being regular in Sunday worship and offering to help whenever she is able is remarkable and has been evidenced throughout the year—especially in Café Church or All Age Worship. So it was only fitting that at a recent PCC meeting everyone wished it to be recorded just how grateful we all are for all that she did for us throughout 2023. Her vision, her enthusiasm and her love of God's Word in the Bible are all so infectious—we cannot help be encouraged to go forward in our Christian faith.

Autumn

One weekend in August, as Simon Ffennell was driving me back to the Rectory in his van, he commented how nice it would be if each village were able to offer a Harvest Supper (or similar event) for its own local community. I pricked up my ears! Yes, we had already committed to having a special 'Historic Harvest' in Avington; perhaps some other colourful events might happen elsewhere?

I am so grateful for the way the Martyr Worthy DCC picked up this challenge and planned a Community Harvest Celebration in the Village Hall, offering 'tea or wine or beer or cakes'. It sounded irresistible! And, sure enough, the Hall was duly packed out—a great opportunity for a wide range of the local community to come together in one place. Thank you to all who brought contributions; and also to Gerry Stacey who joined me in going around the local community, visiting people in their homes, and encouraging them to come along.

The next week it was the turn of Easton. What a memorable evening we had on that Friday (29 September) as Easton residents came to the first Harvest Supper in the church for more than a decade. Judy Bishop masterminded the whole event brilliantly, ably supported by a good team of helpers. Five long tables were set out in the nave, each beautifully decorated; and then, as drinks were served, the Gospel Jazz musicians started to play. That set the tone for a wonderful fun evening, in which this ancient building came to life. Perhaps banquets back in the Middle Ages were just as fun? But those medieval banquets wouldn't have included the sight of Frits Janssen and Sue Kennedy dancing to the final jazz number, "Oh when the saints go marching in…"!

Going back to Avington for a moment, this remarkable Georgian church had two weeks earlier celebrated a Harvest Service as it might have been celebrated 250 years ago—back in 1773 (just a few years after it was built). We were joined in this by the 'Madding Crowd' singers—all dressed in period costume. After some introductory remarks by Gill Graham-Mawr on the history of the church, we were guided by Mike Bailey into some of the hymn tunes that would have been sung frequently in the Georgian era. This gave us the opportunity to hear the barrel organ being played for the first time in perhaps twenty or more years—carefully 'cranked' by Vernon Tottle. And then, we went outside to enjoy wine and canapés, to hear some more singing by the choir, and especially to say a fond farewell and thanks to Gill Graham-Maw who after 40 years was moving from Avington to live nearby in Kings Worthy. It was a windy day, and what few people know is that Helen Wayne succeeded in preventing the marquee from flying away just 15 minutes before the guests arrived! Thank you so much, Helen, for all you did to make this event go so well—together with many others, including the locally-recognised 'A-team' in the village who had worked so hard in the previous months to make the church and village look so well-loved and cared for.

Finally, in Itchen Abbas, what was special was the way the Harvest season gave us an opportunity to establish a good link with the new Head Teacher at Itchen Abbas Primary School, Rob Bogan. During those first weeks in October, the school held its own harvest service (including the very rhythmic 'Harvest Samba'); then some children and parents joined us for our harvest Sunday All Age Worship service (where the 'harvest samba' went down a treat with our older members!); and then, a few days later, some children were able to sing to our CAMEO guests and walk round the tables talking to people who were many decades older than them. It was a beautiful sight—seeing conversations opening up across the generations!

On Saturday 7 October, we had a combined meeting of the PCC and the Ministry Team, located outside the parish in Northington Village Hall. It was so good

to meet together and especially to hear the members of the Ministry Team share some of their heart and vision for what we are seeking to do in all our activities—enabling people, in whatever style of worship they feel most comfortable, to discover how much God has loved them through Jesus' Cross and Resurrection, to be opened to the Spirit of the Risen Lord and to be able to express this through lives filled with his love, joy and peace.

Tragically, on that very morning, awful events were taking place outside Gaza. The next few days were traumatic in the extreme—with the bomb landing in the car park of the Anglican hospital and the world's media trying to work out who was responsible. This situation, which four months later shows little sign of imminent improvement, cast a dark cloud over the months of October and November. I was involved, for example, in Zoom prayer meetings with Christians in Gaza and Bethlehem; and in our services on All Saints Day and especially on Remembrance Day itself, the tragic situation in the so-called 'Holy Land' was never far from our minds.

Similarly, on the following Sunday (19 November), it was only fitting, when we had Fr Mark Hogan (the Catholic priest from St Peter's, Winchester) as our guest preacher at the St Swithun's Ecumenical Choral Evensong, that he and I should both be heard praying for the Christian community in Jerusalem and the Holy Land (Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant) in this most difficult time.

Yet, just before Advent, we were able to turn aside from the present and to learn more about the past, enjoying an excellent talk by Jessie Childs on the English Civil War. This was the first of the four 2023/4 Martyr Worthy Lectures. Over 100 came together on this occasion, raising the sum of £2,500 towards our parish funds. We are so grateful that Gilly Greenwood and Verity Coleman chose to continue this long-standing tradition and formed a new committee around them to mastermind this wonderful and distinctive part of our parish life. They—and their wide range of helpers each evening—deserve an incredible vote of thanks. Long may these Lecture Series continue!

Advent and Christmas

So we entered the season of Advent, feeling very conscious of the need in our troubled world for a message of hope. In November I wrote a letter on the theme of 'Advent Hope', encouraging people to give generously to the work of the parish in order that we might better share Christ's hope in this dark world. It seems to have struck a chord: for we ended the year with a surplus rather than a quite significant deficit. Thank you so much for all those who responded so generously, enabling us to start 2024 on a much more buoyant note.

This theme of 'Advent Hope' also came through loud and clear in the Advent Calendar which Sarah Noble created. Helped massively by Beccy Clark (and with a wide range of parishioners all contributing ideas, testimonies, favourite songs and Bible passages etc), the result was phenomenal: a daily diet of worship and biblical encouragement, helping us each day to draw closer to Jesus and to prepare for his coming into our world at Christmas. Thank you so much to all who played a part in creating this quite extraordinary resource!

And so the great day approached… There was a Christingle service (led by James Greig); a traditional carol service (devised by Mary and Malcolm Hogg, with Lesley Anne Ritchie); numerous outdoor carol events—at least one in each village; and then our three main services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day (attended by over 450 people).

A huge 'thank you' to Theo Mezger and all those he encouraged to give of their time and effort to take the Crib Service to a whole new level; and to Kevin Rosewell for constructing a crib platform onto which over 30 small woolly sheep could be placed by children—as it were, in the Shepherds' Fields below Bethlehem. This was the Itchen Valley community coming together to remember the age-long story at the centre of our world—the story of Jesus and his love.

And then the year ended—just is it had begun—on a Sunday. A good number came to fill St Mary's, Avington, for our Parish Communion on New Year's Eve. With musical backing supplied by the choir of St Martin's in the Fields, it was a heart-warming time, and an opportunity to look back over 2023 on a note of thanksgiving. And so ended a 'year in the life of our parish'—a year enjoying the truth and love that comes to us through the Risen Christ.

Looking back with thanks

When we look back at such a year, we realise this is quite a thriving community, and I am so grateful for all those who contribute in any way to all that we do—helping us to thrive!

Many people will be mentioned in the Churchwardens' Report (page 15), but may I take this opportunity to express my thanks to three special groups of people who do so much that is close to the heart of our church community: the 13 members of the PCC; those who lead the groups mentioned on page 15 and the Ministry Team (Gerry Stacey, Simon Ffennell, Lavinia Owen, John & Nicky Barber, Sarah Noble, supported by Beccy Clark). Everyone in these groups goes way beyond the call of duty and makes it possible for our church to go forward in Christ's name—developing our worship, ministry and mission in ways that we hope will increasingly bless the wider community. Please know your Rector is deeply grateful: the parish might grind to a halt without you! Yet let's also remember, and be encouraged by the fact, that this is not *our* church and not *our* ministry, but it is Jesus' church and he is the one who is really at work amongst us: "remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age!"

So may I conclude with two prayers for you all in the parish, which St Paul once prayed for the Christian community in Rome (Rom. 15:5-6, 13):

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Revd Peter

Church Reports

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly;
teach and admonish one another in all wisdom;
and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns,
and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in
word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord
Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Collosians 3: 16-17

8. Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the churches

St Mary's Avington

The latest Quinquennial Report has now been received and, overall, we are pleased to report that there are no major issues. Work on the electrics will go ahead in the near future. The DCC intend to organise some fund-raising events, the proceeds of which will go towards these costs.

The outstanding event of the year was the Harvest Festival service, at which we were joined by the group "the Madding Crowd", who re-enacted in music and words (and dress) the atmosphere of the old church bands of the 18th Century. Residents of Avington joined in to help decorate the church and the marquee, providing food and drink for the visitors. It was a lively and amusing event. A New Year's Eve service was held in the church, which had been decorated by ladies from the village. Although there have been fewer services held this year, the church is still visited by passers-by who frequently leave their comments in the Visitors Book.

Our grateful thanks go to Christopher Langford and Christopher Cawte for their work not only on reinstating the gravestones which form the church path but also for renovating the South Door of the church, and to Jonathan Parry for replacing the threshold, which has greatly improved the appearance of the entrance. Thanks too to all in the village who help with the flower rota, the locking and unlocking rota, the gardening and the flag-raising.

St Mary's, Easton

2023 was a year of slow progress with the specifications for repairs to the church roof developed originally as one package of work requiring to be split into external and internal repairs. This meant that it was not possible for contractors to be appointed to do repairs with lime mortar before the temperatures fell in the early autumn. The separation of works was triggered by the discovery of some potential wall paintings in the chancel underneath paint that was lifted following water ingress through the external roof access repaired in 2019. The Diocesan Architectural Committee requires us to have these assessed by an expert before we can proceed with interior repairs. We now do have Diocesan permission to proceed with the external repairs and tenders are being received from builders with the intention of starting work as soon as the weather permits in 2024.

Assessment of the wall paintings will allow us to develop a plan for addressing the interior later in the year subject to funds being available and after completing the external repairs and the survey. Elsewhere repairs were carried out to the heating system, the path lighting and a new LED floodlight outside the South Door - completing the conversion of all our frequently used lighting to energy efficient types. Elsewhere in the graveyard repairs were carried out on an emergency basis to several graves that had become unsafe. We have not suffered any further loss of roof shingles to the steeple this year despite some recent high winds but are watchful as they continue to age increasing their vulnerability to being dislodged in high winds.

St Mary's Development Project:

Consultations were held with South Downs National Park and English Heritage, following which an informal letter was received indicating that the major concern was with proposals for disabled access and the impact on trees of executing plans to make changes to accommodate a drop-off point within the churchyard. Other options are now being examined as to how best to address this need and potentially alleviate the parking overload on street parking in Church Lane when we attempt to use St Mary's capacity on a parish-wide basis.

St John's, Itchen Abbas

The use of St John's continues to be many and varied. The regular midweek events include Little Rainbows, CAMEO, Wednesday Night Worship, evening and mid-day Bible teaching and discussion, sometimes involving John Bouldin with projector, as well as PCC and other parish meetings. Groups of pilgrim walkers were welcomed after arrangements

made in advance; they have always been grateful for this hospitality.

Vernon Tottle has been exemplary in his endless re-arrangement of chairs, cleaning the carpet and making sure all aspects of St. John's are monitored and noted. Patrick Appleby's skill in dealing with various maintenance matters and acting as plumbing adviser and 'go to' man in emergencies is hugely appreciated. John Bouldin's tireless supervision of churchyard maintenance, with generous contribution from Rodney Dartnall ensures everything outside is maintained in good order.

Thanks to John Bouldin, a new grass mowing contract was arranged with Andemar after Trimmers ceased their operation. This is proving very satisfactory and reliable. Patrick Appleby and John Bouldin repaired the churchyard field fence in an ingenious way, using fence posts and rails no longer needed by Rodney Dartnall, who renewed the fence on the side of his drive. Patrick Appleby has given the central area of the interior of St. John's far better lighting by installing temporary downlights that make a vast difference.

The falling plaster from the chancel ceiling and flaking plaster from the skirting area have all been repaired by Asa Ramsay-Dunn of Venetian Finish, who made a good job in less than a week. Using Patrick Appleby's scaffold tower reduced the cost. The little window in the old vestry has been renewed; the air vent seems to have reduced the musty smell. Kevin Travers, the joiner, is due to return as water is condensing at the base, but he is recovering from being knocked off his bicycle by a motorist.

Elizabeth Bouldin continues to organise the flower rota, finding enough people to do this, while Arminel Tottle co-ordinates church festival arrangements. Elizabeth Bouldin is also wonderfully good-natured in providing coffee and biscuits on a regular basis after services. Joan Dartnall is absolutely reliable in opening and closing the church every day, as well as providing a variety of help in other ways. Others not mentioned by name all contribute to different needs including welcoming people to different services as well as helping when there are occasional or extra tasks.

St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

Fortunately, no major repairs were needed to the fabric of the building during the last year. However, much work was required on the boiler, which we hope will now serve us well for a few more years.

Meanwhile, much progress has been made concerning the engraving of the west window, to the extent that we believe we should be in receipt of a faculty soon. Once the faculty is received, effort will go into fundraising, whilst we are already assured that the Trustees of the Friends of St Swithun's are supportive of the project.

9. Churchwardens' report

As always, we warmly welcome all of those who are new to the parish including young families and those from further afield who choose to worship with us and so be part of our family.

Revd Peter Walker is now well established and appreciated within the parish. Although COVID is essentially behind us, its lasting impact remains evident as we struggle to regain our pre-pandemic congregational numbers. Subtle changes continue to be made to the service schedule in an effort to make it more accessible and appealing to a greater number. Further, throughout the year Revd Peter has taken it upon himself to visit many households to build his relationships in the Valley not only in the hope that former members of the congregation will return but also to attract those who have not been in the habit of attending church. The Rector's efforts are impressive; the quality of preaching and teaching is appreciated; there is a sense of security amongst traditional worshippers; and Café Church has found its place in the service schedule.

We recognise the huge contribution made by the Ministry Team and others, all led by Revd Peter, particularly:

- Gerry Stacey, our Licensed Lay Minister, who continues to contribute so much, leading many of the non-communion services particularly when Revd Peter is not available. Gerry both leads and assists with the widest range of services and makes a huge contribution to very many other parish activities.
- Our six Licensed BCMs: Tim Clapp, Simon Ffennell, Sarah Noble, Nicky Barber, John Barber and Lavinia Owen. Each have their own individual interests and strengths. Every one of them makes an enormous contribution to our routine services, special services and activities for all ages.
- The Greig family who make a special creative contribution towards the services and activities for the young.
- The Wrights who organise and lead Wednesday Night Worship.
- The clergy who visit us to take services or to preach, some invited personally and others drawn from the Clerical Register.
- Those from the Diocese and Arle Deanery who support us throughout the year, particularly Bishop David, Archdeacon Richard Brand, Revd David Chattell, our Rural Dean and the officers of the DAC.
- The officers of our parish, who give so much of their time managing the parish and our churches.
- The Parochial Church Council, its committees and our District Church Councils and their Hon Secretaries.
- David Anderson, our Honorary Treasurer and Janet Denyer, who so professionally manages our bookkeeping.
- Our Deanery Synod Representatives; and
- Our Health & Safety, Safeguarding, and Data Protection Officers.

We are most grateful to all those mentioned above for all of their enormous contributions to our parish and we are truly blessed to have them working so diligently for us. Let us remind ourselves that the Rector is technically working only on a half-time basis and that without the exceptional support of these generous people, our parish could not be so active and effectively run. They make a substantial contribution towards the welfare of the parish and our Valley.

There are others who take on more particular, yet much valued roles, to whom we express great thanks:

- The Gibsons and more recently Georgie Walker giving so much to support the activities of our youth group, UTX.
- Lavinia Owen and her pastoral team who make up Valley Visitors.
- Charlotte Appleby and her team who organise Cameo.
- The Barbers, Sarah Noble and the team who organise Café Church.
- The Greigs who plan and run the Ark.
- Those who plan, direct and participate in the Way of the Cross.
- Those who plan, direct and participate in the Crib Service.
- Those who manage Little Rainbows.
- Those who plan, host and contribute to the Lent Lunches.
- Those who plan and contribute to the Pancake Party.
- Those who organise and contribute to the Christingle Service.
- Those who plan, organise and contribute to the various Harvest Celebrations.
- Those who organise the various carol-singing occasions; and
- Those who plan, organise and contribute to the various fund-raising events including the Martyr Worthy Lecture Series.

We are hugely indebted to Beccy Clark, our Parish Administrator, whose sensitivity, discretion, helpfulness, creativity, skills, efficiency and hard work are so essential for the smooth running of our parish. In addition to her regular administrative function this year, she has also taken on the function of PCC Secretary for which we are so grateful. We are truly blessed to have Beccy supporting all of us; we thank her.

Furthermore, the success and smooth running of our parish depends upon a veritable army of volunteers who perform various key roles and duties; without their selfless commitment of time, energy and sheer hard work and enthusiasm, we would not be able to operate at our continuing level. They serve in so many ways:

- as vergers, sidespersons, and bankers of cash
- booking organists and other musicians
- at services whether as sidespersons, lesson readers, intercessors, chalice or eucharistic assistants, bell ringers, members of the band, helping with young children and those who make and serve coffee,
- as members of our informal choir, those who sing and play other instruments plus those who provide technical support
- help with church cleaning, flower arranging, polishing the brass, opening and closing the churches every day
- those who organise, cook, bake and prepare food and drink for our numerous social occasions where fellowship is given.
- those who maintain for us our churches and churchyards in good condition; and
- those who initiate, plan and organise fund raising events.

It has always been and remains one big team effort and we are truly appreciative of all that you have done. We thank you all individually and collectively.

We retain the objective of holding a minimum of two church services each Sunday with services spread across our four churches in a regular pattern of worship that our congregation appreciates. For various logical reasons, this last year the regular pattern of services has not been maintained but the pattern will return.

As set out in our parish profile and we restate that, in recognition of the fact that the Church of England is a broad church, we are a rural parish and different members of our congregation like different forms of worship, liturgy and versions of the prayer book and Bible, and we aim to offer worship across a broad spectrum. This involves a balance of traditional and more modern family-orientated services so as to maintain a wide appeal and attract younger people, which is so important if we are to be a vibrant and growing rural parish.

We continued to assist our Rector and the Ministry Team with implementing our Parish Mission Action Plan as part of the Diocese's Strategic Priorities for Mission. This has led to various initiatives in recent years including a renewed focus on attracting more families and younger parishioners to our churches.

Such initiatives include Café Church, held once a month in Itchen Abbas Village Hall, the Pancake Party held in Itchen Abbas, the Lent Lunches, The Way of the Cross held down Church Lane, Martyr Worthy on Good Friday, outdoor carol-singing in Martyr Worthy and Itchen Abbas before Christmas, the Crib Service in St Mary's Easton on Christmas Eve and the Harvest Festival parties. Further, through the Rector we seek to build closer relationships with the two schools in the Valley. Also, our Valley Visitors' activities very much reach out to all parts of the Valley population, as does Cameo which continues to attract those older members of the community.

Our external charitable activities have again been to Winchester Beacon (formerly called Winchester Night Shelter), Winchester Basics Bank, Trinity Centre in Winchester and the Royal British Legion, and last year The Hampshire Medical Fund and Winchester Street Pastors through monetary donations from special collections, donations in kind and by active involvement.

Our own fundraising activity has still not recovered since COVID. Events for the General Fund were limited to Martyr Worthy Lecture Series and the Pancake Party. Historically fundraising events for the General Fund have made a major contribution to our financial position and a major push will need to be made if fundraising income is to revert to its former levels. Fundraising events also provide a social dimension to our life as a parish and demonstrate that the congregation is active in the local community. We are once again grateful for the energy and enthusiasm of fundraising teams but are always looking out for new ideas and helpers.

In the autumn, it became clear to the Treasurer that if drastic steps were not taken in the form of increased giving, the parish would suffer a substantial shortfall in its annual accounts. By way of a letter carefully crafted by the Treasurer and the Rector, an appeal was launched for both one-off donations and increased regular giving, which together with other fortuitous events, has resulted in a healthy surplus, upon which the Treasurer reports.
In summary, the Churchwardens thank all those who have contributed in many different ways to the work and smooth running of the parish during the last year.

10. Deanery Synod report

During 2023 the Deanery held three synod meetings; the major activity that was introduced and developed during the year was that of links with Rwanda. In February we received a presentation, given by Revd Mark Collinson, on the existing links with Rwanda through the Diocese School of Mission and the Lyndhurst Deanery. Following this it was agreed that Gillian Gray Knight and Alex Green would visit Rwanda and prepare a report. In June we heard their report and one from Revd Simon Newman of the Lyndhurst Deanery about their experiences linking with Rwanda. It was agreed that all reps would speak with their PCC's and bring feedback to the next meeting. Following this it was agreed by a significant majority of PCC's that the Deanery would pursue the link, which they are currently doing. Although we agreed the deanery should pursue the link, we decided not to be actively involved as a PCC at present. Revd Peter is planning to visit Rwanda in 2025 to examine how we may become more actively involved. The Focal Ministry trial continues having successfully completed its first year in the Arle Valley Benefice and the Archdeacon Richard Brand is looking to continue its development across the Diocese.

The Diocese is currently examining changes to the operation of the Common Mission Fund, and we engaged in various discussions about the procedure and communication of the process. The discussion period will end in 2024 with a survey and the recommendations will be reported by the finance committee.

11. Reports

Cameo

There have been some farewells and some new arrivals in CAMEO, both among helpers and guests, with arrivals fortunately out-numbering departures. However, with the resumption of 'normal life' after COVID, there are occasions when more important or more urgent activities have to take precedence. As one guest said "you don't turn away an NHS appointment just because it clashes with something else", and several of our guests have been fortunate, or unfortunate, depending on how you look at it, to have several of these. Holidays and family gatherings have also resumed, thank goodness. The helpers who cook, lay, serve, wash up, arrange table decorations and drive are a wonderful team, and we continue to think of new menus, as well as repeating a few top favourites – sticky toffee pudding anyone? We were fortunate to enjoy visits from Itchen Abbas Primary School choir at Harvest and Christmas times. The children sang with energy and skill and in addition some of those who are learning to play instruments showed us how they are getting on. After entertaining us the children dispersed among the tables and chatted to the guests - a much appreciated extra treat which we hope will be repeated. Our thanks to Mr Bogan and his staff.

Vernon Tottle has continued to apply his problem-solving skills to the task of seating a different number of people every month, always coming up with a new lay-out of tables and chairs for the exact number expected – although sometimes numbers do change at the last minute. This is not a problem - we always cater for a few extras! - so if you decide to call in at St John's on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 11.50 am you will be sure of a warm welcome. Ideally, give me a ring in advance – 779778!
Charlotte Appleby

Valley Visitors

The Valley Visitors remain a team of fourteen dedicated visitors who have continued to reach out to others in the Community. Yet again I must stress that our most pressing need is for more and a new generation of visitors. Sadly, some of our visitors are beginning to be in need of support themselves. In spite of this, the number of households visited continues to rise, thanks to active enquiries by our visitors, and helped by our close links with Cameo and a lot of visiting by the Reverend Peter and Georgie. We are delighted that Gerry has been able to take Home Communion to those unable to come to services. I would like to say an enormous "thank you" to our enthusiastic team of visitors, who do so much to provide relief for those stuck at home, often with limited support. We are not there to give medical advice or the much-needed help with mental health. Nonetheless our visits are often a lifeline for those for whom formal intervention is hard to access. They can be immensely rewarding for the visitors as well.
Lavinia Owen

Café Church

Café Church was launched in the autumn of 2022 and throughout 2023 it has gained momentum as a valued informal gathering, meeting on the first Sunday of each month at 4pm in the Itchen Abbas Village Hall (which has continued to be a welcoming, flexible space for it – its enclosed garden is a real asset when the weather permits, allowing for a variety of games, usually orchestrated by Alex Mezger and much enjoyed by younger attendees). While it continues to attract newcomers (many of whom would not really feel at ease in traditional services), in the second half of the year the Café Church team decided its emphasis should shift somewhat from being very 'seeker-friendly' (involving brief talks with simple messages).

There is now more focus on providing spiritual food and refreshment as well to the core group of attendees, leading to talks that are a bit longer and more challenging as well as to more intentional worship. A further new, and well-received, innovation has been to suggest that those attending gather around tables in small groups after the talk to respond together to questions derived from the talk, which has led to lively discussions and to opportunities to get to know each other better.

Typical attendance has ranged from 40 to 60 and the Café Church team is really grateful to all the volunteers who contribute to making its winning formula of cakes and other goodies, tea, children's food, crafts, games and conversation work well. In particular, the very dedicated and generous Jude Mezger (who routinely prepares a few dozen freshly cooked hot dogs) and Sarah Hunt (without whose cucumber and cream cheese sandwiches and world-class cheese scones Café Church would not be the same).

Wednesday Night Worship

During 2023, Wednesday Night Worship continued to take place once a month, in St. John's, Itchen Abbas. The vision for these evenings remains the same: to worship Jesus; to share testimonies; and to pray for one another.

The evenings follow the general pattern of starting with a time of fellowship over tea and brownies as people arrive; then moving into a time of informal worship; followed by hearing a testimony rooted in Scripture; and then time to pray for one another.

Approximately 20 people attend each evening, sometimes more, from a wide geographical area. Our prayer is that these evenings provide a space for people to meet with God, as well as to meet with each other and encourage one another in our faith. We continue to pray that these evenings are both filled with and led by the Holy Spirit.

The evenings are very much open to all who like to worship and pray in an informal setting.
Julia Wright

Little Rainbows

Little Rainbows continues to flourish this year, and the numbers have been swelling: A significant number of 3 year olds stayed on this year, meaning that the average age of the group has increased slightly; although we have also welcomed a number of tiny new rainbows! To cater for this broader range, we have set up a weekly craft activity, on a rota system; as well as having a weekly puppet show of a bible story. The children's enthusiasm for singing is infectious, and means we often stay later than the official 11am finish! A lovely group of regulars and new comers keeps the atmosphere warm and friendly; our rota of much-loved volunteer "Older Rainbows", organised by Verity Coleman, continue to help in serving tea, coffee and a treat to exhausted parents, grandparents and carers, and we are blessed to have both them and the lovely space at St John's to meet in. The summer saw many of us

staying on after Rainbows to picnic together in the churchyard, something all of the children enjoy!
Rooey Aker

The Ark

In 2023 we made the decision to align the Ark Kids Club with our warm, welcoming and Spirit filled Valley Worship service. During the spring and summer months this meant the Ark took on a 'forest school' feel, meeting in the grounds of St. Mary's in Easton. As the cold set in during October, we all agreed that the best location for families was Martyr Worthy with the village hall so close to the church, so the leadership team kindly moved Valley Worship to the intimate space of St. Swithuns.

As we launched the Ark "Forest School Style" in Spring we publicised the new format across the Valley; this brought in some new families and particularly notably attracted grandparents who had their grandchildren staying.

We have a loyal core group of 10 children every month who have grown in faith this year. Ages range from 1 to 13 and we are delighted to see how they love the Ark and choose to come as a priority over sports clubs and even parties! Many of the children have been with us since they were toddlers and as the group gets into their teens the Ark will evolve to meet their ages and stages meaning that Sundays will still be fun for the younger people in our church.

We try to make sure the topics and Bible verses we study in the Ark are in sync with the service in church so that families can chat about their morning together. This year we have covered: the importance of each person in the body of the church; Jesus reappearing to the disciples; how important children are to Jesus; what heaven is like; the great commission; and thanksgiving in response to what God has done for us.

We have had lots of fun with activities like M&M thanksgiving, map-making, frisbee in Easton playground, rock-painting, Pictionary air and scavenger hunts. The children always make beautiful creations and participate in the games with enthusiasm and overall have a lot of fun.

Now that we have settled into a rhythm of the Ark running alongside Valley Worship in a location best for our children, 2024 will be a great year where we can continue to hold children at the centre of what we do in Itchen Valley Churches just as Jesus did. *"I tell you the truth. You must change and become like little children. The greatest person in the kingdom of heaven is the one who makes himself humble like a child"* Matthew 18 v3.

A huge 'thank you' to everyone behind the scenes who shows love to our children: those publicising the Ark to offering their homes; those baking especially for the children; the risk-assessment team listening to our needs first and foremost; and, most of all, the families who bring their children to be part of the fun, supporting and believing in the value of church for children.
Verity Greig

UTX (Under the Cross)

2023 was a year of fun for UTX. Our five regular members were joined by some other friends on a couple of occasions too.

Most evenings were spent at St. John's, Itchen Abbas, playing games (board games or Wii), crafting, playing *Task Master* or other such activities; and each evening ended with drinks and snacks. We enjoyed outdoor games and a BBQ (expertly cooked by Mike) in September. In December we met at The Rectory for Christmas-themed games and pizza.

Mike and Kelly Gibson led us with consistent calmness and gentle spirit. We see their love for our young people and will miss them in 2024. We rejoice with them on the birth of their precious daughter, Aoife, and hope that they will visit UTX at some point for us to meet her. Our thanks go to them for all their hard work going back many years.
Thanks too go to Beccy and Vernon, both of whom play a significant role in helping UTX to run smoothly.
Georgie Walker

Rectory Prayer Meetings

In 2023 we started regular prayer meetings at the Rectory. Our first meeting in September meant we could pray together for our parish, our wider community, and for issues affecting our world.
This is the pattern we will focus on in 2024 too.
It has been good, even though small in number, to have an hour together; short, but important, as we bring our gratitude and our requests, to our Heavenly Father.
Georgie Walker

Health and Safety

We have returned to normal with sharing the communion cup and the legacy of the pandemic has passed. I am pleased to report there have been no reported accidents this year. We have had two minor incidents reported at St Mary's, Avington. These were resolved quickly due to the actions of the members of the congregation. Gravestones were checked within the graveyard at St Mary's Easton and repairs were carried out to secure them as they were at risk of toppling. A number of events have required a risk assessment that have been diligently prepared by a team including David Swinstead, Theo Mezger, Chris Ellis and Mary Purser, Helen Wayne and Sarah Hunt. Thank you to everyone for their care and attention to ensure we have safe events for our community.
I am very grateful to the members of the PCC for their support in managing health and safety within our church buildings and grounds.
Sara Mason

Safeguarding

All safeguarding training has been completed by the SGO and is up to date. A DBS certificate audit was completed and a number of volunteers were approached to renew their expired certificates. We now as a parish use the online method of renewal. There were no incidents or confidential matters which have caused concern. The PCC has adopted the safeguarding policies and procedures of the Church of England for a further year and has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).
I am grateful to people for their support for using the online system. This does make everything quicker.
Jessica Helgesen

Financial Report

Pay to all what is due to them—taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honour to whom honour is due. Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law

Romans 13:7-8

Itchen Valley PCC

End of Year Financial Statements

Year ending 31st December 2023

Financial Review

This report shows the financial performance of the Itchen Valley Parish for 2023.

When looking at these accounts the most important column is ‘Unrestricted funds’ which shows the receipts and payments related to the running of our church activities.

Total unrestricted receipts for the year at £150k were 25% higher than 2022 (£120k) and this led to a surplus of £7k. The primary reason for the surplus was a significant effort to focus on one-off giving during Advent which led to contributions of around £16k. The total surplus for the year (including both unrestricted and restricted funds) was £7k. The equivalent figure for 2022 was a surplus of £14k.

A special mention should be made of the Martyr Worthy lectures which continue to make a significant contribution to our funding as well as being very enjoyable occasions.

Total funds at 31st December 2023 were £238k (2022 - £231k).

The Parishes’ contribution to the Common Mission Fund (CMF) was £75k in 2023 compared to £45k in 2022. Across the diocese contributions to CMF have fallen for 2024 and the figure for 2024 is £71k.

Planned giving (unrestricted) and associated Gift Aid recovered totaled £106k (2022 - £90k). Efforts continue to be made to increase planned giving and these have had some impact, but our planned giving is not yet at a level that will allow the Parish to know at the beginning of the year that it is operating with a surplus. We need to increase planned giving to around £120k and will be working during the current year to seek to achieve that.

As ever thanks are due to all those who contributed to the running and financing of the Parish. David Anderson continued as Treasurer. Janet Denyer continues to carry out the roles of Bookkeeper and Gift Aid Secretary expertly.

Reserves policy

As required by Charities legislation the PCC reviews regularly the financial risks associated with the operations of the Church. The main financial risk to income would be a change in the giving profile of parishioners and the main financial risk to costs would be a requirement for significant expenditure on the buildings.

The PCC’s policy is to maintain liquid funds (not designated for other purposes) to cover 9 months expenditure of unrestricted funds.

Approved by the Itchen Valley PCC on 14 March 2024 and signed on their behalf by

Reverend Peter Walker

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts for year ended 31st December 2023

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner

The PCC members acting as the charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider than an audit is not required for the year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

• Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act
• Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
• To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission and the guidance published in 'PCC Accountability' (The Charities Act 2011 and the PCC, 5th Edition). An examination includes a review of the accounting records held by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required for an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination no material matter has come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or that the accounts do not accord with the accounting records. I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Date : 15th March 2024

Signed

Stephen Hendy

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and SORP 2005. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Restricted funds represent donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for expenditure on a specific purpose agreed by the PCC. The designation has no legal status and can be changed.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes in accordance with its constitution.

Incoming resources

All income is generally recognized when received.

Resources expended

Expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross. In certain cases where significant liabilities have been incurred but not paid for these are accounted for on an accruals basis.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.92(a) of the Charities Act 1993. Movable church furnishings held by the rector and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected on request.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31st December and are shown under current assets. Investments sold are revalued immediately prior to disposal. Investment income is allocated across funds in proportion to their average balance during the year.

Statement of Financial Activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	This year total funds	Last year total funds
Receipts						
Planned giving	1	84,548	—	—	84,548	73,046
Collections and other giving	2	21,644	—	30	21,674	9,542
Other voluntary receipts	3	7,495	—	2,361	9,856	5,058
Gift Aid recovered	4	21,305	—	164	21,469	16,846
Other receipts	5	649	—	4,750	5,399	4,596
Activities for generating funds	6	3,045	—	6,105	9,149	16,391
Investment Income	7	3,165	739	2,675	6,579	273
Receipts from church activities	8	8,391	—	—	8,391	8,870
Total receipts		**150,241**	**739**	**16,085**	**167,065**	**134,622**
Payments						
Cost of generating funds	9	1,022	—	226	1,248	2,205
Common Mission Fund	10	74,580	—	—	74,580	45,000
Clergy and staffing costs	11	29,223	—	—	29,223	26,590
Church running expenses	12	38,791	269	132	39,193	41,982
Church repairs & maintenance	13	—	2,610	8,019	10,629	4,447
New building work	14	—	—	5,414	5,414	—
Total payments		**143,616**	**2,879**	**13,791**	**160,287**	**120,224**
Net incoming / outgoing resources before transfer		**6,625**	**(2,140)**	**2,294**	**6,778**	**14,398**
Transfers		—	—	—	—	—
Net incoming / outgoing before other gains / losses		**6,625**	**(2,140)**	**2,294**	**6,778**	**14,398**
Other recognised gains / losses		—	—	—	—	—
Net movement in funds		**6,625**	**(2,140)**	**2,294**	**6,778**	**14,398**
Total funds brought forward		**109,387**	**27,400**	**94,101**	**230,889**	**216,491**
Total funds carried forward		**116,012**	**25,260**	**96,395**	**237,667**	**230,889**
Represented by						
Unrestricted						
General fund		116,012	—	—	116,012	109,387
Designated						
Itchen Abbas Designated Fabric		—	25,260	—	25,260	27,400
Restricted						
Avington Fabric		—	—	7,774	7,774	9,508
Easton Fabric		—	—	47,252	47,252	44,313
Martyr Worthy Fabric		—	—	17,744	17,744	17,277
Were Fabric Fund		—	—	23,625	23,625	23,002
Total Funds		116,012	25,260	96,395	237,667	230,889

Balance sheet

	This year total funds	Last year total funds
Current assets		
Debtors	8,638	2,980
Investments	178,471	—
Cash at bank and in hand	67,898	242,373
	255,008	**245,353**
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	17,341	14,465
	17,341	**14,465**
Net current assets less current liabilities	**237,667**	**230,889**
Total assets less current liabilities	**237,667**	**230,889**
Total net assets less liabilities	**237,667**	**230,889**
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
General fund	116,012	109,387
Designated		
Itchen Abbas Designated Fabric	25,260	27,400
Restricted		
Avington Fabric	7,774	9,508
Easton Fabric	47,252	44,313
Martyr Worthy Fabric	17,744	17,277
Were Fabric Fund	23,625	23,002
Funds of the church	**237,667**	**230,889**

Statement of assets and liabilities

	General	Designated	Restricted	This year total	Last year total
Current assets					
CAF current account	16,126	3,375	17,390	36,891	155,440
CAF Gold bank account	13,005	2,721	10,415	26,141	35,628
Nat West current account	996	208	3,662	4,867	51,305
Flagstone CAF Deposit	88,790	18,579	71,102	178,471	—
Accounts Receivable	5,713	376	2,549	8,638	2,980
Totals	**124,630**	**25,260**	**105,118**	**255,008**	**245,353**
Liabilities					
Agency collections	—	—	8,435	8,435	10,804
Accounts Payable	3,627	—	288	3,915	2,570
Prepayments	4,991	—	—	4,991	1,091
Totals	**8,618**	**—**	**8,723**	**17,341**	**14,465**
Grand total	**116,012**	**25,260**	**96,395**	**237,667**	**230,889**

Analysis of income and expenditure

1. Planned giving

	General	Designated	Restricted	This year total	Last year total
Planned giving - GAE donations	63,938	—	—	63,938	55,616
Planned giving - non GAE donations	7,410	—	—	7,410	7,470
Planned giving - GA inclusive donations	13,200	—	—	13,200	9,960
Total	84,548	—	—	84,548	73,046

2. Collections and other giving

	General	Designated	Restricted	This year total	Last year total
GASDS Avington	298	—	—	298	189
GASDS Martyr Worthy	4,816	—	—	4,816	2,087
GASDS Itchen Abbas	909	—	—	909	1,262
GASDS Easton	2,394	—	30	2,424	1,962
One-off GAE gifts	13,227	—	—	13,227	4,043
Total	21,644	—	30	21,674	9,542

3. Other voluntary receipts

	General	Designated	Restricted	This year total	Last year total
Church wall boxes	465	—	—	465	406
Donations for specific purposes	500	—	626	1,126	489
Other donations Non GAE & one-off grants	6,530	—	1,735	8,265	4,163
Total	7,495	—	2,361	9,856	5,058

4. Gift Aid recovered

	General	Designated	Restricted	This year total	Last year total
Gift aid tax reclaim	21,305	—	164	21,469	16,846
Total	21,305	—	164	21,469	16,846

5. Other receipts

	General	Designated	Restricted	This year total	Last year total
Other funds generated	649	—	4,750	5,399	4,596
Total	649	—	4,750	5,399	4,596

6. Activities for generating funds

	General	Designated	Restricted	This year total	Last year total
Fund raising events	3,045	—	6,105	9,149	16,391
Total	3,045	—	6,105	9,149	16,391

7. Investment Income

	General	Designated	Restricted	This year total	Last year total
Bank interest	3,165	739	2,675	6,579	273
Total	3,165	739	2,675	6,579	273

8. Receipts from church activities

	General	Designated	Restricted	This year total	Last year total
Wedding & funeral fees	8,391	—	—	8,391	8,870
Total	8,391	—	—	8,391	8,870

9. Cost of generating funds

	General	Designated	Restricted	This year total	Last year total
Costs of fund raising events	1,022	—	226	1,248	2,205
Total	1,022	—	226	1,248	2,205

10. Common Mission Fund

	General	Designated	Restricted	This year total	Last year total
Common mission fund	74,580	—	—	74,580	45,000
Total	74,580	—	—	74,580	45,000

11. Clergy and staffing costs

	General	Designated	Restricted	This year total	Last year total
Assistant ministry expenses	583	—	—	583	1,021
Parish administrator & bookkeeper costs	23,294	—	—	23,294	21,171
Youth worker	—	—	—	—	455
Rector's expenses	5,347	—	—	5,347	3,944
Total	29,223	—	—	29,223	26,590

12. Church running expenses

	General	Designated	Restricted	This year total	Last year total
Bank charges	216	36	132	385	120
Deanery Synod	75	—	—	75	105
Wedding and funeral expenses	2,164	—	—	2,164	2,350
Stationery, printing, computing	5,062	—	—	5,062	6,086
Sacristy	44	—	—	44	14
Training courses	147	—	—	147	25
Children's activities	784	—	—	784	777
Parish entertainment and hospitality	419	—	—	419	523
Church running - insurance	6,782	—	—	6,782	6,426
Organ tuning	2,343	—	—	2,343	441
Church maintenance	2,129	233	—	2,362	2,807
Service: fire, heating, safety	1,874	—	—	1,874	850
Worship and music	3,018	—	—	3,018	2,442
Upkeep of churchyard	5,125	—	—	5,125	10,272
Administration	670	—	—	670	715
Church running - electric	2,437	—	—	2,437	2,391
Church running - gas	5,042	—	—	5,042	5,146
Church running - water	230	—	—	230	493
Church running - annual maint.	230	—	—	230	—
Total	38,791	269	132	39,193	41,982

13. Church repairs & maintenance

	General	Designated	Restricted	This year total	Last year total
Quinquennial inspection - Martyr Worthy	—	—	—	—	29
Quinquennial inspection - Easton	—	—	—	—	413
Quinquennial inspection - Avington	—	—	737	737	850
Church & graveyard major repairs	—	2,610	2,062	4,672	3,156
Easton roof repairs	—	—	5,219	5,219	—
Total	—	2,610	8,019	10,629	4,447

14. New building work

	General	Designated	Restricted	This year total	Last year total
Easton extension	—	—	5,414	5,414	—
Total	—	—	5,414	5,414	—

15. Additional Notes

Details of fund-raising activities

Event	Unrestricted fund	Restricted fund	Net sum raised for the parish
Easton bell-ringers coffee morning		283	283
Safari supper		400	400
Suez Talks		1,536	1,536
Michael Lunt – Noel Coward concert for Easton roof repairs		3,659	3,659
Way of the Cross refreshments	52		52
Martyr Worthy Lecture 2023	2,514		2,514
Total	**2,566**	**5,878**	**8,444**

In many cases, fund raising expenses are not reported to IVPCC and only net funds have been received. Although this is relatively common practice, it is not strictly in compliance with generally accepted accounting practice.

Collections for other charities

During 2023 there were the following collections for other charities (not including special collections at weddings and funerals). As these collections are for third parties, they are not counted as part of the funds of the Parish. Collections include donations via CAF Donate and SumUp.

Lent lunches for:	
BOAZ	254
Harvest Festival collections for:	
Trinity Winchester	369
Winchester Basics Bank	369
Winchester Beacon	369
Remembrance service collection for:	
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	410
Christingle service collection for:	
The Children's Society	93
Christmas collections 2023 split between:	
Trinity Winchester	1,128
Winchester Basics Bank	1,128
Winchester Beacon	1,128
Total collections for other charities	**5,247**

Gifts and fund raising for the Ukraine appeal fund

Ukraine Appeal Fund at 31.12.22	6,892
Gifts received during the year	-
Payments to beneficiaries during the year	(2,772)
Ukraine Appeal Fund balance at 31.12.23	4,120

Donations for Specific Purposes

Goodplate (payment device)	500
Planning fee – Easton	120
Lecturn – Easton	506
Total donations for specific purposes	**1,126**

Donations from Trustees

The total donations from the Trustees in the reporting period was £32,611 and no conditions were attached to any of these donations.

This report dated: 5.2.2024

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ITCHEN VALLEY, WINCHE

England & Wales - Charity number 1133110

Accounts

THE PARISH OF THE ITCHEN VALLEY

Incorporating the Parish Churches of
St Mary's Avington, St Mary's Easton,
St John's Itchen Abbas and St Swithun's Martyr Worthy

ITCHEN VALLEY CHURCHES

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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1. Administrative information

The Parish of the Itchen Valley is part of the Diocese of Winchester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is: Itchen Valley Parish Office, St John's Church, Itchen Abbas, Winchester SO21 1BJ (01962)779845. The office is open from 9 am to 1pm on weekdays. The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Itchen Valley is a Registered Charity No: 1133110.

The Churches of the Parish are St Mary's at Avington, St Mary's at Easton, St John the Baptist's at Itchen Abbas and St Swithun's at Martyr Worthy.

Ministry team:
Rector - The Revd Peter Walker
Licensed Lay Minister - Mr Gerry Stacey
Ministry team – John Barber, Nicky Barber, Tim Clapp, Simon Ffennell, James Greig (stood down during the year) Sarah Noble (joined during the year), Lavinia Owen, James & Julia Wright (stood down during the year).

Churchwardens:

St Mary's Avington	Vacant
St Mary's Easton	Chris Ellis
St John's Itchen Abbas	Tim Clapp
	Sarah Hunt
St Swithun's Martyr Worthy	Robin Greenwood
	Sara Mason

Deanery Synod Representatives (elected in 2020 for 3 years) - Gerry Stacey, Theo Mezger, Sonia Cragg (stood down during the year).

Elected members of the PCC:Helen Wayne (Avington), Sara Janssen (Easton) Sally Parker (Itchen Abbas) Nicky Barber (Martyr Worthy)
Hon Secretary: Currently Vacant, Olivia Cox (stood down during the year)
Hon Treasurer: David Anderson (part of the year) James Wright (stood down during the year)

2. Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the Parish of the Itchen Valley is the governing body for the Parish. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules and the Parish Scheme. The PCC met six times during 2022. The PCC was supported by a Standing Committee and a Finance Committee.
The Constitution of the Parish of the Itchen Valley and the supporting Policy Guidance document can both be found on the parish website.
There are four District Church Councils (DCCs), one for each District centred on the churches of the Parish. All the DCCs met regularly during 2022.
All regular Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC and DCCs.

3. Aims and purposes

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector, to promote the whole mission of the Church - pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical - in the Ecclesiastical Parish and the area of the Itchen Valley. It is the duty of the Rector and the PCC to consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the parish.

4. Objects and activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches and to become part of our parish community. The PCC and Ministry Team all acknowledge the need to consider public benefit in planning activities and guidance on the advancement of religion.

5. Achievements and performance

The report from the churchwardens' report set out some of the highlights of the parish's achievements and performance in 2022.

Average Attendance			
Early Morning Holy Communion			
2022	2021	2020	2019
10	8	7	8
10am Parish Communion			
2022	2021	2020	2019
32	31	46	41
All Age Worship			
2022	2021	2020	2019
39	49	51	55
Valley Worship			
2022	2021	2020	2019
42	52	43	56
10am Average			
2022	2021	2020	2019
42	44	47	51
Evensong			
2022	2021	2020	2019
23	19	15	13
Christmas Eve and Day			
2022	2021	2020	2019
358	269	222	461
Easter Day			
2022	2021	2020	2019
123	141	68	136
Baptisms			
2022	2021	2020	2019
2	3	6	12
Weddings			
2022	2021	2020	2019
4	6	2	
Funerals			
2022	2021	2020	2019
10	6	11	6

6. Electoral roll

There are 148 names on the 2023 Electoral Roll for the Parish, of whom 22 live outside the parish. This is a decrease of 11 on 2022.

7. Rector's Report

Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life" (John 14:6)

To know Christ better and to make him better known

You will have seen in our September and January programme cards that I have used this as a strapline in some of our recent publicity. In my opinion it encapsulates nicely what any Christian community should be about: a group of people, focused on Christ himself, who are seeking in the words of St Richard of Chichester, "to follow him more nearly and love him more dearly day by day".

Given our different temperaments and personal backgrounds and stories, we will each have many, many different ways of expressing this, but we can come together because Christ himself is at the centre of our life. One of my chief tasks therefore as Rector is to keep my own focus clearly on Christ, seeking to be submissive and obedient to him, and to be commending him to everyone in the Valley—both within the worshipping community and beyond—as truly as I can. For as I concluded in the welcome to our programme card: "We are a community of people who, despite our faults, have found something true and beautiful in the person of Christ", and we hope others will do so too.

Within our nation 2022 was a particularly memorable year. It was marked by the official end of the Covid restrictions in the very week of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and then by the events associated with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II—both her Platinum Jubilee in June and her funeral in September. And, within the Itchen Valley, 2022 was the year of the quite historic Easton Flower Festival.

In the following report we will look at what our parish was doing in the midst of all of this. And, as we do so, noting different activities in our church life, I hope we may begin to sense that all of these activities, in their different ways, played their part in commending the truth and beauty of Christ to those around us, helping him to be better known.

Sunday worship

Ministry Team

I am so grateful for the Ministry team (listed above on page 4) who, despite their many other work and family commitments, give so much of their time, prayer and energy into helping me in the leading of services. Only a fraction of what we are about to mention about our Sunday worship would be possible without their powerful contribution.

During 2022 there was a significant transition within the Team. We had to say farewell to James and Julia Wright who, after so many years of service within our parish, knew they were called to focus their energies closer to home and their children's schools. So, Valley Worship in September was the time to express our immense gratitude to them for all they have done and, more especially for their beautiful witness to Jesus and his love. Their sad departure, however, was made easier to bear by the fact that we were soon able to welcome Sarah Noble to join the Ministry Team. And, in just a few months, we have all begun to appreciate how much positive-minded energy and biblical faith Sarah can bring into our church life.

Biblical focus

One of the distinctive features of regular Christian worship is that even if the order of service is fairly constant, each particular Sunday is different because it is based on a different set of Bible readings. Throughout this year we have continued the practice in our traditional services of printing the set lectionary Collect, Psalm, Epistle and Gospel in our service sheets, so that we can enjoy an uninterrupted few moments listening to and meditating on God's Word prior to hearing the sermon. Each Advent, the Church

of England lectionary starts a new year, with a focus on a different Gospel, so most of our Gospel readings will now be coming from the Gospel of Matthew. Our more informal services follow a slightly different pattern. In Valley Worship we have been looking at the "I AM" sayings in John's Gospel, in All Age Worship at different Bible characters, and in our Hub Communion services at the theme of the Good Shepherd. In all these ways we are seeking to create space for God's word in the midst of our busy lives.

Pattern of services: new monthly rhythm
In the first nine months after my licensing, I so enjoyed experiencing the full range of services that were on offer in the Itchen Valley. During last summer, in conversation with the PCC and the Ministry Team, a new monthly service pattern was proposed which came into being in stages during the autumn and finally 'settled down' in February.

1st Sunday	10am	Parish Communion	Easton
	4pm	Café Church	Village Hall
2nd Sunday	8.30am	Holy Communion (said)	Itchen Abbas
	10am	All Age Worship	Itchen Abbas
	6pm	Evensong	Martyr Worthy
3rd Sunday	10am	Parish Communion	Martyr Worthy
	5pm	Evening Worship	Itchen Abbas
4th Sunday	8.30am	Holy Communion (1662)	Martyr Worthy
	10am	Valley Worship	Easton
5th Sunday	8.30am	Holy Communion (1662)	Avington
	10am	Morning Worship	Itchen Abbas

Some of the new features within this include:

The launch of Café Church: This new initiative has attracted really good numbers since its start in the autumn, with young families and also people of all ages enjoying the café-style atmosphere and listening to a short 'food for thought'. A huge thanks to all the team who each month have prayed and planned and then delivered such wonderful times of fun and fellowship.

Our Hub morning services (combining 'said' Holy Communion, followed by teaching and then All Age Worship at Itchen Abbas): we have had three of these thus far and will monitor responses. St John's is the most versatile church to incubate and grow such smaller services, but there remain challenges reaching out to families, many of whom have other children's activities now in the diary on a Sunday morning.

Our Parish Communion at Easton: It was good to reintroduce this monthly service at Easton. Numbers have been constant into the current year (seemingly at 29 each month!) until the Baptism service in March (when it jumped to 66). We have formed a group who will meet regularly to pay attention to the practical needs of this service throughout 2023.

Songs of Praise at Avington: working in close collaboration with Sonia Cragg and Helen Wayne, it has been good to focus our attention on these special 'Songs of Praise' services on major Christian Festivals, including Harvest and Easter, and for this historic building to be resounding with lots of good singing. (Meanwhile, it should be noted that, with thanks to Georgie Krone and others, hot coffee is now served after the 08.30 Holy Communion (1662) service—do join us!).

Variety of Evenings services at Itchen Abbas. The versatile space in St John's (helped so much by Vernon Tottle's willingness to rearrange the chairs into multiple configurations, and by the team of Sarah' Hunt's helpers who provide refreshments so often) has enabled four very different late afternoon services since November and into the current year: a service for those recently bereaved (in November), an interactive Christingle service (led by James Greig in December), an ecumenical Service of Prayer for Christian Unity Week (led by Lesley Anne in January) and a Service of Prayer for Ukraine (led by Gerry Stacey LLM in February). This last event was

particular meaningful, as we were joined by some of the Ukrainian refugees who have been in our midst. We continue to be so grateful to all those who gave money a year ago and subsequently to support them living in the Valley during this most difficult time for them all.

Building on good foundations Meanwhile the services at St Swithun's are essentially the same as before. We are so grateful to Simon Ffennell for all he does as Verger to undergird these lovely services with his care and attention; as well as to the committed number of choir members who are keeping the choral tradition well and truly alive in the Evensong services.

Numbers at Evensong now are regularly in the upper 30's. Meanwhile the church was 'packed to the gills' for both the ecumenical Choral Evensong for 'Christ the King' in November (when the Roman Catholic Bishop Peter Doyle was our guest preacher) and for the Service of Six Lessons and Carols in December. After both these services, there were wonderful times of hospitality and fellowship, and we owe a great debt of gratitude to those who made these occasions so warm and welcoming.

Finally, we have had some lively and powerful Valley Worship services in St Mary's Easton. Some musicians from St Mary's Southampton led a special evening of worship in May, and our own band (led by Tim Clapp, and augmented on different occasions by David Parker, Sarah Noble, Cat Kennedy, Christopher Haskell and others) has taken us forward into new experiences of sung worship. A big thank you to Theo Mezger and Chris Ellis, in particular, who do so much behind the scenes to enable these services to run smoothly. And in recent weeks the electronic screen has been elevated (to the same height as the one in Winchester Cathedral apparently!), so we look forward to using that much more in these services.

Pattern of services: monitoring and review

In any common venture, when one is trying to go forward together as one 'family', it is unlikely that any one individual will achieve a full 100% of what they personally would like to have seen happen (if they were organising things on their own and totally in accordance with their own preferences). But I'm a great believer that there is a 'sweet spot' around the 85% mark. If an organization can come up with a corporate plan in which everybody feels they have got 85% of what they would have wanted, then that should be good enough!

In fact, I see this as reflecting a biblical rhythm. With the biblical command to rest on the seventh day, it is as though we are being told that the *last seventh* belongs, not to us, but to the Lord. And so, if we are seeking to be the Lord's people together, we should expect that the *last seventh* (or 15%) may not be what we want, but what the Lord wants. In that sense we each need to surrender our individual preferences to him for the sake of the 'common good'.

So, with regard to our new pattern of services it is important that we note this spiritual reality and also that we now give the pattern a sufficient time to become 'embedded' and perhaps to reveal to us some of its merits that we have not previously noted. It's also important that we allow the parish as a whole to gain a sense of rhythm as we go through each month, 'following the flow'.

At the same time, we will obviously keep it under review (with a discussion already planned at the PCC meeting in July 2023) and we continue to need to make the occasional 'tweak' to meet the missional needs of particular churches or to make best use of 'high days' in the Christian calendar (including Harvest, Remembrance Sunday, Christmas, Mothering Sunday and Easter).
In this regard we need to juggle the practical reality that Easton, on the one hand, remains our largest church (and can often therefore be the best place to have services where we are confident of larger numbers) but, on the other hand, is also the one which poses some considerable practical challenges (with its lack of disabled access, and kitchen and toilet facilities, and especially in not having a separate room for children's activities). This latter issue makes it difficult to work out the best ways of hosting services that will connect with the many families in Easton. One of the 'tweaks' on the current pattern has therefore been, whilst normally hosting All Age Worship in the easier environment of Itchen Abbas, to host two All-Age services in Easton for the Harvest Festival and Mothering Sunday. I would value your prayers as we continue to reflect on this conundrum and as we seek to take forward any plans for the St Mary's extension.

Finally a word about our range of Christmas services. With the ending of Covid restrictions in February, this was the first year in which we could reconnect with pre-Covid expectations. It was so good, for example, to see the numbers attending the Crib Service in Easton to be climbing back towards pre-Covid levels. With hindsight, however, our range of services may not have been quite right (for example in its timings or some of its content), but the Standing Committee, PCC and Ministry Team conducted a review, which has since been discussed by myself, Beccy Clark and Sarah Noble. This has left us with some good ideas and plans for Christmas 2023 which will now be shared with those other groups, leading hopefully to an agreed plan being implemented from August onwards.

Thanks to all

Laying on this wide range of Sunday services places heavy demands on many of us. It's certainly more than a half-stipendiary Rector could do on his or her own! So I am so grateful for all those who in any way—whether through reading lessons or leading intercessions, through acting as vergers or sides-person, or through being on one of the many important rotas (for flower-arranging, coffee or cleaning the church etc)—help to make all this possible. We are all doing this together, each part of the Body of Christ helping to reveal something of his truth, beauty and love. Truly the combined effect is greater than the sum of all its parts, and I am so grateful to you all.

Growing in Discipleship

This may not be the best title, but it's designed to remind us of what some of our mid-week meetings are about. During this last year there was an *Alpha* course (led by Tim Clapp in the autumn) and I led a few sessions of *The Jesus Way.* During Lent I will have done some teaching on Wednesday mornings on the Psalms and also on the Lord's Prayer (within the context of Matthew's Gospel); and, on fortnightly Wednesday evenings, some more Zoom seminars showing my *In the Steps of Jesus* videos to prepare us for the events of Holy Week. And we continue to be so grateful for James and Julia Wright for hosting and leading the monthly Wednesday Night Worship in St John's Itchen Abbas.
All these are important parts of our church life. Yet we also need to be realistic that, with the pressures of modern life, it can be difficult for many people to find time during the working week or of an evening to attend such gatherings. So I would value your thoughts for discovering the most appropriate things to lay on in future.
I would like to keep Wednesday evening (on those weeks when WNW is not meeting) as the default time for laying on any such extra courses in discipleship or outreach, whilst keeping Tuesday evening as the default time for our other Committees and Team Meetings. However, we need to ensure that we come up with a pattern that is sustainable and really reaching the needs of those we are seeking to serve. It may be that that we think instead, not of central church gatherings, but of a variety of events in people's homes. I have enjoyed being invited on several occasions to people's homes to speak to a group of invited neighbours, and perhaps we could do such outreach events more frequently this coming autumn.
Finally, we continue to be so grateful for all that is being done for our children and young people. After a

sad good-bye to Julia Wright in July, Little Rainbows has continued to flourish under the leadership of Rooey Aker and Louise James. Meanwhile the work of leading UTX has been picked up by Mike & Kelly Gibson, supported by Georgie Walker. After an enjoyable Pool Party in July, giving an opportunity for those in years 7-9 to reconnect after the Covid-years, a small group has continued to meet on the second Sunday of the month, and we hope this will lead to greater things. There have been recent discussions about whether they and others might go together to the 'Big Church Day Out' (over the late May bank holiday weekend) or attend some summer camps together, such as New Wine. In whatever way, it would be great to see this work amongst our young people being gradually rebuilt over the coming year.

Pastoral Care

One of the great strengths within the parish is the extent of the practical care and concern that is expressed to each other. It takes place every day in many unseen ways, but we see it in a more visible way in the concern of the Valley Visitors and in our monthly CAMEO meetings. A big thanks to Lavinia Owen and Charlotte Appleby for their leadership of both of these and, of course, to the many who come alongside them to share in this task. To walk into the atmosphere of CAMEO lunches these days (with over 50 people enjoying their lunch) is such a heart-warming experience, and we hope that all those who are there go back to their homes with a real sense of the warmth of Christ's welcome.

I am delighted that Gerry Stacey, who as our Licensed Lay Minister is authorised by the Church to take extended communion to people in their homes, has agreed to take the bread and wine from the Lord's Table on a regular basis (from CAMEO or our Parish Communions at Martyr Worthy or Easton). For me, as Rector it has been a humbling privilege to take communion to those who are housebound, whether in their own homes or in nearby care homes, and I am so pleased now to be sharing this with Gerry—in the hope that a greater number of people will know they are truly part of Christ's church family here in the Valley.

This last month, over six Monday evenings, Elaine Labram has been leading the 'Bereavement Journey' course (assisted by Sally Clarke). I was invited to lead the last evening's discussion, and it was obvious to me how much the four people in the room had appreciated the course, being allowed to speak out their grief and loss and to know the support of each other. We owe Elaine and Sally an incredible 'thank you' for the way they have quietly committed to this group and offered such love and gentle care in Christ's name.

Within our own church community this year has seen the death of two members of our Electoral Roll: Sue Glasspool (whom I had never met, she having recently moved away to Scotland) and John Platt. It was a privilege for me to be with John, Liz and the family during those dark days in January, and we look forward to June 1 when Liz and her family are inviting the church community and other friends to come to a service in St Swithun's, and then at their home, to celebrate all that we so loved and respected in John.

From the list of the 'occasional offices' (on page 4), you can see the complete list of Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals that have taken place in the parish this last year. I am very grateful for the visiting clergy and to Gerry Stacey for their help in covering some of these services when I have been away. And let's continue to pray for the families of all those for whom these services were very important life-events, that they will know the love of Christ at work in their lives.

Resourcing and Reviewing

The kind of ministry that we've been mentioning is only practically feasible if there are good administrative and governance structures in place to sustain it. To use an analogy, we may want to increase the amount of traffic crossing over the bridge, but we need to ensure the structures of the bridge are strong enough to cope with that increased traffic. So as we aim to build up the Christian church in the Valley and see more people come through our doors, we need to pay close attention to the way we resource all that we do and also appropriately review it. We need to aim for best practice in our management and governance.

Here we need to thank Beccy Clark so much for the incredible work that she does as she holds our central administration together so well, oiling the wheels of communication in this diverse parish, and doing so with a unique combination of pastoral care and business acumen.

We also need to thank all those who serve as Churchwardens, including Sara Mason (who is also Deputy Chairman of the PCC), and those who serve on our PCC and its Standing and Finance Committees, on the four DCCs, and as our Deanery Synod Representatives. It is not always the most attractive form of Christian service but it is often absolutely vital. During this year vacancies have arisen for the roles of Churchwardens, PCC Treasurer, Safeguarding Officer, PCC Secretary and, and we are so grateful for those who have (or will have) stepped up to fill these important gaps in our

church life. Please pray that the Lord continues to provide people to serve in all these important roles and that we can therefore continue to offer to all a strong welcome into Christ's church here in the Valley.

And, last but not least, I would like to finish this report for 2022 by thanking one particular person in a special way. For in July, after our Parish Communion service in Itchen Abbas, we had the opportunity to dedicate a plaque that had been placed on the south wall which is inscribed with the following words:

In appreciation of the work done by Nick Owen who masterminded the re-ordering of this church and construction of the extension in 2009. The whole community benefits from this inspired transformation.

The reordering of St John's has indeed given us a versatile and welcoming space in which we can host a wider variety of events, both large and small, which create warmth and energy within the heart of our parish life. Without this, the whole parish would be so much the poorer, and so we owe Nick a great debt of gratitude: "thank you!"

Celebrating Holy Week and Easter

Finally, let's note that, soon after the APCM, we will once again be travelling in heart and mind to Jerusalem as we celebrate Holy Week and Easter together. I have written a narrative account of Jesus' journey from Palm Sunday though to Easter Day in my book *Immersed in the Passion*, and have done an audio-recording of it (in 12 short instalments) called *The Week that Changed the World*. Please do be in touch with me if you would like to access either of these resources to aid your devotional reflection and prayer in this special season.

My prayer is that all of us would gain fresh insight during Holy Week into God's love shown on the Cross of Jesus and experience a new joy and hope in our following of Christ as we celebrate the news of his resurrection on Easter Day,
With love and prayers *Revd Peter*

Church Reports

For just as the body is one and has many members,
and all the members of the body, though many,
are one body, so it is with Christ.
For in the one Spirit we were all baptised into one
body, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit
(1 Corinthians 12:12-13)

8. Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the churches

St Mary's Avington

The Vinegar Bible and prayer books are now stored in the new cabinet. A quinquennial report was carried out in November and we await the report. Work is needed on the electrics and heating but we will await the results of the quinquennial before proceeding with any plans. Thanks to all those who help with the upkeep of St. Mary's Church, especially Gail Kennedy and the team of flower arrangers, Jacqui Squire for organising the working parties to keep the churchyard and graveyard looking beautiful and to those in the village who lock and unlock the church. Thanks also to Dave Lucas for braving the tower, hoisting the flag and clearing the gutters.

St Mary's, Easton

In 2022 water ingress problems, evident at the junction of the Nave roof and the Chancel parapet, were at last properly inspected allowing plans to be developed for rectification. The problem, manifest as lifting of the interior plasterwork above the Chancel arch, was missed in the 2019 Quinquennial inspection by our previous architects but is now very evident. We have parted company with them and commenced working with the Radley House Partnership whose chief conservation architect sits on the Diocesan Architecture Committee. On an initial visit problems were identified and subsequently made good before the onset of winter - the wooden shingles on the steeple roof lost in high winds, blockage of the gutter hopper with nesting material, and jackdaws nesting in the eaves through a hole created in the external wall. A list of items using lime mortar which requires warmer temperatures has been identified including renewal of the lime cement and leadwork preventing ingress of water to the Nave wall above the arch and replacement of damaged internal plaster work to the Nave and within the Chancel ceiling. Also, on the agenda are freshening up of the internal lime wash throughout the church interior and replacement of the rotten bottom oak timbers of the Lychgate. Continuing problems with obtaining architect time and contractors availability make it difficult but not impossible that all the works will be completed this summer and every effort is being made to achieve this.

St Mary's Development Project: an important step forward was made with a consultation meeting with all interested parties held in September. It comprised a presentation of needs and an early stage outline plan of proposed works to add a modest kitchen, indoor disabled toilet facility, a flexible space particularly for running Sunday school away from services being conducted in the Church, and disabled parking, drop off and level wheelchair access. Feedback from the meeting has been sought to be incorporated into the planning pre-application which will be shared with local planners, Historic England and the Victorian Society amongst others for feedback and to gauge viability. Theo Mezger is leading the Project with direct oversight from the PCC.

St John's, Itchen Abbas

St John's has been very well used during the year, not only for regular services but also for a wide range of other events, utilising its versatility. It is the regular venue for Wednesday Night Worship, for Little Rainbows and for CAMEO, and has been used for Café Church, UTX and Lent talks as well as other

one off events. Vernon Tottle continues to be the much appreciated maestro at reconfiguring the layout for different occasions. A tablet was installed to acknowledge the part Nick Owen contributed to the re-ordering of the church in 2009, which was long overdue. However, although the church has been kept warm on some weekdays during the cold weather nobody actually made use of this welcome arrangement.
There have been no major repairs this year. The boiler and toilet need some attention, which Patrick Appleby kindly has in hand. There is also an issue with the sound system. The church field remained usable for parking in the summer in spite of the excessive heat stressing the grass, and in the autumn/winter it has withstood frequent heavy use, apart from being closed when very slippery. Re-seeding is planned for the spring when sections will be closed at intervals. The churchyard is kept tidy and well cared for; the wild flower section was abandoned as the families whose graves were affected felt this area looked neglected. Amongst the new portable items in the church, there is a noticeboard on wheels, a drop down screen, a central kneeler at the altar rail and two new vases. The card reader for donations took much time and ingenuity to guarantee it worked, but it is now successfully installed on a table near the entrance.

St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy
2022 was another quiet year as no major repairs were needed, apart from storm damage to some tiles on the vestry roof and the main roof above it. Our quinquennial inspection, carried out in April 2022, also revealed no other major issues. We felled a dangerous ash tree in May 2022 in the north east corner of the churchyard which lent over the churchyard wall into Church Lane.
We have continued investigating the possibility of engraving the west window of the church, which is currently nearly all plain glass, subject to raising the necessary funding. We have just received a revised proposed design from Tracey Sheppard.
Since the year end, Fiona Hudd at Radley House Partnership has agreed to become MW's inspecting church architect following Seymour & Bainbridge ceasing business.

9. Churchwardens' report

We would like to start as always by warmly welcoming all those who are new to the Parish including young families and those from outside the Parish who have chosen to worship with us and become part of our community.
2022 was the Revd. Peter Walker's first full year with us following his appointment as our Rector on 11 September 2021 and saw him start developing and implementing his plans for our parish. We feel truly blessed to have Peter and Georgie amongst us. However, we must remember that the post of Rector, which has been a half-time post since Alex's arrival in April 2018, remains a half-time post, with Peter devoting the other half his time to his academic interests. 2022 also saw us getting back to some sense of normality after the COVID pandemic of the last couple of years, whilst recognising that COVID is likely to be with us for many years to come and that we just have to learn to live with it.
We would like to pay tribute to the members of our Ministry Team led by Peter, supported by:

- Gerry Stacey, our Licensed Lay Minister, who plays a key role, takes many services including the Taize Service and CAMEO when it is not a communion service and who plays an important role when Peter is away.
- Seven Licensed BCMs: Tim Clapp, Simon Ffennell, Sarah Noble (since the middle of 2022), Julia Wright (up to September 2022 when she left our parish) (all Worship Ministers who take services), Nicky Barber (Creation Care), John Barber (Prayer Minister) and Lavinia Owen (Pastoral Minister).
- In addition, James Greig has on occasions taken All Age Services and Nicky Barber, John Barber , Sarah Noble (again since the middle of 2022), James Wright, Julia Wright (both again up to September 2022) were occasional preachers, selected by the Rector and operating under his authority.

We are truly appreciative and would like to thank our Ministry Team for all that they have done and feel truly blessed to have them. We should also remember that the Ministry Team plays a very important role now that the post of Rector is only a half-time post and given that we have not had a curate since 2018. We also much appreciated the part played by visiting clergy drawn from the Clerical Register when Peter is away. An enormous thank you to you all.
That said, it must not be forgotten that the success of our parish depends equally on an army of volunteers who perform various key roles and duties, without whose time, hard work, help and enthusiasm we would have no churches open and not be able to hold services. They include those who:

- serve on the Parochial Church Council and its committees and our District Church Councils and their Hon Secretaries
- serve as our Deanery Synod Representatives
- serve as Hon Treasurer

- serve as Health & Safety, COVID Protocol (combined with Health & Safety during 2022), Safeguarding, and Data Protection Officers
- act as vergers, sacristans and bankers of cash
- assist with the finding of organists in the absence of a full time organist
- help at services whether as sidesmen, lesson readers, intercessors, chalice or eucharistic assistants, bell ringers (including those who have recently joined the various bands of bellringers), members of the band, helping with young children and those who make and serve coffee, and all their co-ordinators
- are members of our choir and their leader, and those who belong to the pool of singers from which the informal choir that sings at Evensong in Martyr Worthy is drawn
- act as Zoom jockeys to enable a service to be zoomed
- help with church cleaning, flower arranging and opening and closing the churches every day, and again all their co-ordinators
- keep our churches and churchyards in good condition, and again all their co-ordinators
- organise and help at Café Church which was a new innovation in 2022
- organise Wednesday Night Worship and Home Groups
- organise, participate in and help with Carols in the Barn, the Crib Service and Way of the Cross which was suspended in 2021 due to COVID, but was restarted in 2022.
- organise and help with CAMEO, Little Rainbows, the Ark and UTX , which was suspended in 2021, but was restarted in 2022
- organise and help with the Alpha Course and other courses
- organise and act as Valley Visitors
- organise and help with fundraising and other events

It has always been and remains one big team effort and we are truly appreciative of all that you have done. We thank you all individually and collectively. Our objective remains to hold a minimum of two church services each Sunday with services spread across our four churches in a regular pattern of worship which our congregation appreciates. As set out in our parish profile, in recognition of the fact that the Church of England is a broad church, that we are a rural parish and that different members of our congregation like different forms of worship, liturgy and versions of the prayer book and Bible, we aim to offer worship across a broad spectrum. This involves a balance of traditional and more modern family-orientated services so as to both maintain a wide appeal and attract younger people which is so important if we are to be a vibrant and growing rural parish. We also hold a monthly mid-week informal, modern service called Wednesday Night Worship. We appreciate that the more modern forms of services do not appeal to some of our older congregation members. However it attracts younger families who are playing an active role in church life. We keep the format and content of these more modern form of services under regular review. In addition, we carry out some mid-morning or evening mid-week teaching.

We are blessed with beautiful and well-maintained churches and are pleased that we are able to keep them open daily and to use them for regular and festive worship and other events. It is gratifying to see from the visitors' books how many people visit and appreciate our churches. This is in large part due to the four District Church Councils, who have delegated responsibility for the upkeep and general maintenance of the churches and churchyards, together with the large number of people who provide additional support.

We continued to assist our Rector and the ministry team with implementing our Parish Mission Action Plan as part of the Diocese's Strategic Priorities for Mission. This has led to various initiatives in recent years including a renewed focus on attracting more families and younger parishioners to our churches.

We would like to thank:

- Beccy Clark, our Parish Administrator, whose skills and helpfulness are much appreciated, for all her time and hard work.
- Janet Denyer, our Parish Bookkeeper, for all her skills, hard work and help, and those volunteers who perform various statutory and official ecclesiastical positions:
- Sara Mason who succeeded Theo Mezger as Deputy Chairman of the PCC in April 2022.
- James Wright (up to September 2022) and his successor David Anderson as Hon Treasurer
- Olivia Cox (up to August 2022) as PCC Secretary (the post is currently vacant).
- David Parker (up to April 2022) and his successor Sara Mason as Health & Safety Officer, including COVID Protocol Officer.
- Sarah Hunt and her successor Jessica Helgesen as Safeguarding Officer;
- Gerry Stacey as Data Protection Officer.

We are truly appreciative and grateful. Thank you. The work of the Parish is reflected in the wide range of activities which take place, including the annual Way of the Cross Service at Easter, our Patronal Services and parties and Carols in the Barn at Christmas. In addition we had carol singing in Itchen Abbas village in 2022 led by the choir under the direction of Maj Gen Tim Tyler.

With a focus on mission and outreach, and mindful of the importance of public benefit in the work of a charity, many of the activities of the parish continued to be directed towards the wider community and beyond:

- we supported a number of charities, including Winchester Beacon (formerly called Winchester Night Shelter), Winchester Basics Bank and Trinity Centre in Winchester, The Children's Society and the Royal British Legion, through monetary donations from special collections, donations in kind and by active involvement.
- our pastoral visitors programme supports those in need, whether members of our congregation or not.
- we continued to foster our links with local schools and playgroups.

As in 2020 and 2021, 2022 was a less active year for fundraising. Events for the General Fund were limited to the second and third of the three lectures in 2021/22 Martyr Worthy Lecture Series (£3,165), Martyr Worthy Coffee Morning (£162) and Pancake Party (£69). Historically fundraising events for the General Fund have made a major contribution to our financial position and a major push will need to be made if fundraising income is to revert to its formal levels. In addition, the Easton Flower Festival raised £10,881 for the Easton Development Project Restricted Fund and Philip Windsor-Aubrey 's Woodwork Sales raised £123 for Martyr Worthy's Restricted Fabric Fund. Fundraising events also provide a social dimension to our life as a parish and demonstrate that the congregation is active in the local community. Some are put on jointly with other organisations and may raise money for several charities as well as church funds. We are once again grateful for the energy and enthusiasm of fundraising teams, but are always looking out for new ideas and helpers.
Going forward, as the Treasurer makes clear in his report, we need to increase planned giving by 30% given the deficit forecast for 2023 and the fall in fundraising income.
In summary the Churchwardens thank all those who contribute in many different ways to the work and smooth running of the parish.
This year Robin Greenwood, who has been a Churchwarden for the last eight years and has been a member of MW DCC for 18 years, is standing down as a Churchwarden and as a member of the PCC. In addition, as mentioned above, James Wright and Olivia Cox resigned as Hon Treasurer and Hon Secretary and we would like to thank them both for what they have done. There are a number of vacancies which we need to fill - two Churchwardens in Avington, a second permanent Churchwarden in Martyr Worthy and a PCC Secretary – if we are to be a sustainable and growing parish.

10. Deanery Synod report

We are entitled to three representatives but currently only have two. I would heartily recommend to anyone thinking about this to put their name forward. The Synod is very forward looking and as you can see from the report spends much of its time working together in friendship to explore opportunities for mission. We start every meeting with a short act of worship.
During the last 12 months Synod has met three times in June, October and February.
Deanery Pilgrimage – We organised a pilgrimage walk along the Pilgrim's way between St Johns, Alresford and the Cathedral on Saturday 28th May. We provided a warm welcome, rest and refreshments to walkers at St Swithun's Martyr Worthy.
Dean Catherine Ogle – Dean Catherine spoke to us about the core values of the Cathedral, these being kindness, openness and excellence, rooted in the gospel and lived through the Rule of St. Benedict. The priorities for the Cathedral have been updated for 2022: Renew - a green and sustainable cathedral where all are welcome; Inspire - a creative cathedral which uses the arts, heritage, and technology to deepen worship; Unite - one cathedral that celebrates diversity and promotes justice. The Dean emphasised that the Cathedral is for everyone, not just a select few, and concluded by encouraging all to put forward thoughts and comments regarding the appointment of the next Bishop..
Focal Ministry – this pilot has now completed its first year in Bighton and Old Alresford. The report admits that not all clergy feel able to empower lay ministry in this way but recognises that the relationships developed in the pilot are encouraging and will be continued. Those involved thought this has been a very positive experience.
Rwanda – during the year we had a report by Alex Green and most recently a presentation by Mark Collinson, Director of Ministry in February showing the work being done in Rwanda and discussing how we may get involved. The current position is that parishes may get directly involved parish to parish and we will be considering our position in this parish.
Farm Church – the September service was cancelled due to the death of the Monarch and the future is being considered.

11. Reports

CAMEO

We are delighted to report that CAMEO continues to flourish. The format of one service from Revd Peter, one from our LLM Gerry Stacey and one from a visiting priest in each quarter provides an excellent balance between variety and familiarity.
We resumed meeting for lunch in February 2022 after the COVID interruption and have enjoyed a variety of delicious foods – beef and chicken three times each, fish and turkey each twice, ham and pork once each and lamb once at the time of writing. When I say something came three times, I mean of course in three completely different recipes. Vegetarians are also catered for.

We have had over 50 people more than once – the numbers of both guests and helpers continues to grow in a most gratifying manner. We have had to buy a new table and will soon have to get some more plates – we are borrowing extras at the moment. Many of our guests have, for various reasons, moved out of the Valley and find the opportunity to meet up with old friends especially welcome. I am not sure that this 'expatriate' element would have been anticipated at the planning stage, but it is clearly valued. Conversely, some guests are still living in the Valley but are no longer active enough to come to CAMEO so we have kept one of our Covid innovations going in a small way and deliver 'a little something' to them after CAMEO – maybe a helping of the CAMEO dish of the day, or some biscuits for example. We are delighted that, moving forwards on a quarterly basis, Gerry as our Licensed Lay Minister will be able to take communion 'by extension' to some of those who are housebound.
We owe huge thanks to Vernon the Verger, who has the task of fitting more places into the church than might have been thought possible and somehow always manages to do it. The cooks, table layers, washers uppers, tea towel washers, organisers of supplies of tea, coffee and milk and the provider of pretty flower arrangements for the tables (and for taking away and enjoying afterwards) and many helpers are wonderful, as are those who fetch and deliver guests who no longer drive – it is a great team effort. If you know anyone who would enjoy joining us do please ask them to get in touch.
Charlotte Appleby

Valley Visitors

The Valley Visitors remain a team of fourteen dedicated visitors. It has been a difficult and emotional year for some of them, but they have continued to reach out to others in the community. During our first full year out of lockdown, there are still those who are reluctant to leave their homes, or be visited, but care home visits are now possible, and several have been carried out.
The number of households visited continues to rise, thanks to active enquiries by our visitors, and helped by our close links with CAMEO and a lot of visiting by Reverend Peter and Georgie. We are delighted that Gerry has now been allowed, in addition to Peter, to take Home Communion to those unable to come to services.
We have not had a formal meeting in the last year, but now have a meeting booked for 14 March. I would like to say an enormous "thank you" to our enthusiastic team of visitors, who do so much to provide relief for those stuck at home, often with limited support. We would always welcome more volunteers for this rewarding work, particularly from a slightly younger age group!
Lavinia Owen

Café Church

Following discussions amongst the Ministry Team about it as a new initiative, the first Café Church was held in early October. After successful gatherings in November, on New Year's Day in January, and in February and March it is now firmly established as a fixture of the Parish calendar on the first Sunday of each month at 4pm. The Itchen Abbas Village Hall has proved to be a welcoming, flexible space for it and it has consistently attracted 40-60 attendees of all ages, many of whom are new to the Parish community.

A simple Café Church 'formula' has been developed, involving plentiful brownies, scones and cakes (supplied by a committed group of skilled bakers in the Valley), tea and coffee, five or six round tables to encourage conversation amongst new and old friends, a prayer area, kids' activities (both indoor and outdoor – the Village Hall garden is a great asset) and a short talk on a Biblical theme. As one participant (who has not attended any of the normal Parish services) put it after a recent Café Church, the only negative was that 'it was too short' - he said he was loving meeting new people but also 'having a bit of religion too.'
John Barber

Wednesday Night Worship

Wednesday Night Worship has continued to take place once a month, in St John's, Itchen Abbas. The evenings continue to follow the now familiar pattern: a time of fellowship over tea and brownies as people arrive; a time of informal worship; hearing a testimony rooted in Scripture; and then time to pray for one another. Our prayer is that these evenings provide a space for people to meet with God, as well as to meet with each other and encourage one another in their faith. We continue to pray too that these evenings are filled with the Holy Spirit and also led by the Holy Spirit. The evenings are very much open to all who like to worship and pray in an informal setting.
Julia Wright

Little Rainbows

We were very sad to say goodbye to Julia Wright in July last year when her youngest started school and her Little Rainbows journey came to an end.

After a break for the summer holidays we started again in September with a new team of Rainbow leaders. We have welcomed some new faces and around 10-15 carers regularly attending with their little ones. It continues to be a welcoming, warm caring environment and a lovely way to start the week.

We still broadly follow the same format of play, coffee, snack time, dancing, a Bible story or puppet show and some singing. We continue to be hugely grateful to the rota of Older Rainbows organised by Verity Colman and have been joined by some new wonderful ladies who will be organising a craft activity. We always love their company and are very appreciative for their tea, coffee and delicious cakes.
Louise James

The Ark

Over the last year the Ark has been attended by a small group of children who have a deep faith in God. We have met in various ways – in a Sunday School style during the service, at All Age Services, Café Church and in each other's homes.

We have kept our topics in line with Bible readings in our Church Services such as becoming a disciple and the body of the church. We have had a lot of fun with activities like watercolour worship, stomp rockets, walks along the river and foot painting. As parents, it is an absolute delight to see our children growing in their faith together through the vehicle of the Ark and through the opportunity to participate in All Age Services. We have also seen how blessed the adult congregation has been by the presence of children in the services and reporting back on the fun they've had together. We have been delighted to welcome guests from our local community and visitors (such as Grandchildren staying with their Grandparents) to the Ark though the year. We are very much encouraged by much wider attendance at Café Church and events such as the Pancake Party. But our hope and prayer is for more children to join the Ark, even if their parents aren't believers. We are short of people to dedicate to advertising but believe there is an opportunity to "!Go Big! "as we head into 2023/24.
Verity Greig

UTX (Under the Cross)

Following COVID-19 UTX had an extended break. It was relaunched in July 2022 with a Pool Party. As part of our ministry to our young people, we hold a UTX social evening once a month, usually the second Sunday at St. John's, Itchen Abbas. Evening activities have included a Star Gazing Live in the Valley evening, board games, crafts, a Task Master themed night with challenges and activities. Since the relaunch, in order to better meet the needs of our young people and families we have taken into account feedback and have adjusted the age group - now catering for school years 6-10, and altered start/finish times.
Kelly Gibson, UTX Leader

Health and Safety

I am pleased to report that there have been no reported incidents within the parish since the last report. As the pandemic lost its grip on the country we were able to return to our in-person services without restrictions. This was very welcome. We remained mindful of those in our community who still needed to protect themselves from close contact with others, so we maintained the 'dip not sip' protocol for communion and ensured there was room within services for a safe area away from the rest of the congregation.
A health and safety report with recommendations was issued for St Mary's Avington to support the opening up of the access to the barrel organ.
Throughout the year we risk assessed several different events including the carol services, roaming carol singing and the garden festival in Easton. The churchwardens, supported by the Rector and health and safety reps, in particular David Swinstead, did a fantastic job in maintaining safe events for all those attending.
Sara Mason

Safeguarding

Sarah Hunt stood down as the Parish Safeguarding Representative during the year and we are very grateful for all of the hard work she has put into this role. Revd Peter temporarily took over this role while Jessica Helgesen completed her training and became our new safeguarding officer.

There were no incidents or confidential matters which have caused concern. This PCC has adopted the safeguarding policies and procedures of the Church of England for a further year.
Revd Peter

Financial Report

Pay to all what is due to them—taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honour to whom honour is due. Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law (Romans 13:7-8)

Itchen Valley PCC

End of Year Financial Statements

Year ending 31st December 2022

FINANCIAL REVIEW

This report shows the financial performance of the Itchen Valley Parish for 2022.

Total unrestricted income for the year at £120k was 20% higher than 2021 (£101k) and unrestricted expenses at £109k were significantly lower than £128k in 2021. This is primarily because the Common Mission Fund payment was £23k lower than in 2021. The total surplus for the year (including both unrestricted and restricted funds) was £14k. The equivalent figure for 2021 was a deficit of £39k. Total funds at 31st December 2022 were £231k (2021 - £216k). The unrestricted surplus which is the measure of regular income less running costs was £11k compared to the 2021 unrestricted deficit of £28k.

The Parish's contribution to the Common Mission Fund (CMF) was £45k in 2022 and will revert to its more normal level of £75k in 2023. As a result unless we significantly increase our planned giving the Parish is expected to record a deficit for the current year. Planned giving (unrestricted) and associated Gift Aid Recovered totaled £ 90k (2021 - £83k). Efforts have been made to increase planned giving and these have had some impact, but our planned giving is not yet at a level that will allow the Parish to operate with a surplus. We need to increase planned giving by 30% and will be working during the current year to seek to achieve that.

As ever many thanks are due to all those who contributed to the running and financing of the Parish. James Wright stepped down as Treasurer in September 2022 and was succeeded by David Anderson. Janet Denyer continues to carry out the roles of Bookkeeper and Gift Aid Secretary expertly.

Reserves policy

As required by Charities legislation the PCC reviews regularly the financial risks associated with the operations of the Church. The main financial risk to income would be a change in the giving profile of parishioners and the main financial risk to costs would be a requirement for significant expenditure on the buildings. The PCC's policy is to maintain liquid funds (not designated for other purposes) to cover 9 months expenditure of unrestricted funds.

Approved by the Itchen Valley PCC on 21st March 2023 and signed on their behalf by

Reverend Peter Walker

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts for year ended 31st December 2022

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner

The PCC members acting as the charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider than an audit is not required for the year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission and the guidance published in 'PCC Accountability' (The Charities Act 2011 and the PCC, 5th Edition). An examination includes a review of the accounting records held by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required for an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination no material matter has come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or that the accounts do not accord with the accounting records. I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Date : 23rd March 2023

Signed by

Stephen Hendy

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and SORP 2005. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Restricted funds represent donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for expenditure on a specific purpose agreed by the PCC. The designation has no legal status and can be changed.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes in accordance with its constitution.

Incoming resources

All income is generally recognized when received.

Resources expended

Expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross. In certain cases where significant liabilities have been incurred but not paid for these are accounted for on an accruals basis.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with S.92(a) of the Charities Act 1993. Movable church furnishings held by the rector and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected on request.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31st December and are shown under current assets. Investments sold are revalued immediately prior to disposal. Investment income is allocated across funds in proportion to their average balance during the year.

Statement of Financial Activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	This year total funds	Last year total funds
Receipts						
Planned giving	1	73,046	—	—	73,046	68,464
Collections and other giving	2	9,025	—	517	9,542	3,592
Other voluntary receipts	3	4,167	—	891	5,058	25,933
Gift Aid recovered	4	16,594	—	252	16,846	15,150
Other receipts	5	4,596	—	—	4,596	4,127
Activities for generating funds	6	3,778	—	12,613	16,391	3,352
Investment income	7	126	33	113	273	1,412
Receipts from church activities	8	8,870	—	—	8,870	7,359
Total receipts		**120,203**	**33**	**14,386**	**134,622**	**129,389**
Payments						
Cost of generating funds	9	597	—	1,608	2,205	80
Common Mission Fund	10	45,000	—	—	45,000	68,537
Clergy and staffing costs	11	26,590	—	—	26,590	20,713
Church running expenses	12	36,480	—	5,502	41,982	39,115
Church repairs & maintenance	13	—	—	4,447	4,447	6,638
New building work	14	—	—	—	—	32,952
Total payments		**108,667**	**—**	**11,558**	**120,224**	**168,034**
Net incoming / outgoing resources before transfer		**11,536**	**33**	**2,828**	**14,398**	**(38,645)**
Transfers between funds		**---**	**---**	**---**	**---**	**---**
Net incoming / outgoing before other gains / losses		**11,536**	**33**	**2,828**	**14,398**	**(38,645)**
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains / losses on investment assets		—	—	—	—	4,916
Net movement in funds		**11,536**	**33**	**2,828**	**14,398**	**(33,730)**
Total funds brought forward		**97,851**	**27,367**	**91,273**	**216,491**	**250,221**
Total funds carried forward		**109,387**	**27,400**	**94,101**	**230,889**	**216,491**
Represented by						
Unrestricted						
General fund		109,387	—	—	109,387	97,851
Designated						
Itchen Abbas Designated Fabric		—	27,400	—	27,400	27,367
Restricted						
Avington Fabric		—	—	9,508	9,508	10,814
Easton Fabric		—	—	44,313	44,313	39,540
Martyr Worthy Fabric		—	—	17,277	17,277	17,945
Were Fabric Fund		—	—	23,002	23,002	22,974
Total Funds		109,387	27,400	94,101	230,889	216,491

Balance sheet

	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Current assets		
Debtors	2,980	7,756
Cash at bank and in hand	242,373	215,150
	245,353	**222,905**
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	14,465	6,415
	14,465	**6,415**
Net current assets less current liabilities	**230,889**	**216,491**
Total assets less current liabilities	**230,889**	**216,491**
Total net assets less liabilities	**230,889**	**216,491**
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
General fund	109,387	97,851
Designated		
Itchen Abbas Designated Fabric	27,400	27,367
Restricted		
Avington Fabric	9,508	10,814
Easton Fabric	44,313	39,540
Martyr Worthy Fabric	17,277	17,945
Were Fabric Fund	23,002	22,974
Funds of the church	**230,889**	**216,491**

Statement of assets and liabilities

		General	Designated	Restricted	Total this year	Total last year
Current assets - Current assets						
CAF current account		69,553	17,182	68,706	155,440	132,034
CAF Gold bank account		16,953	4,188	14,487	35,628	35,492
Nat West current account		24,413	6,031	20,862	51,305	47,624
Accounts receivable		1,439	—	1,542	2,980	7,756
	Totals	**112,357**	**27,400**	**105,596**	**245,353**	**222,905**
Liabilities - Liabilities						
Agency collections		—	—	10,804	10,804	2,917
Accounts payable		2,570	—	—	2,570	2,228
Prepayments		400	—	691	1,091	1,270
	Totals	**2,970**	**—**	**11,495**	**14,465**	**6,415**
	Grand total	**109,387**	**27,400**	**94,101**	**230,889**	**216,491**

Analysis of income and expenditure

1 Planned giving

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total this year	Total last year
Planned giving - GAE donations	55,616	—	—	55,616	53,602
Planned giving - non GAE donations	7,470	—	—	7,470	5,782
Planned giving - GA inclusive donations	9,960	—	—	9,960	9,080
Total	73,046	—	—	73,046	68,464

2 Collections and other giving

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total this year	Total last year
GASDS Avington	189	—	—	189	—
GASDS Martyr Worthy	2,087	—	—	2,087	187
GASDS Itchen Abbas	1,262	—	—	1,262	114
GASDS Easton	1,475	—	487	1,962	473
One-off GAE gifts (inc CAF Donate GAE)	4,013	—	30	4,043	2,818
Total	9,025	—	517	9,542	3,592

3 Other voluntary receipts

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total this year	Total last year
Church wall boxes	406	—	—	406	458
Donations for specific purposes	—	—	489	489	19,493
Recurring grants	—	—	—	—	2,500
Other donations Non GAE & one-off grants	3,761	—	402	4,163	3,482
Total	4,167	—	891	5,058	25,933

4 Gift Aid recovered

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total this year	Total last year
Gift aid tax reclaim	16,594	—	252	16,846	15,150
Total	16,594	—	252	16,846	15,150

5 Other receipts

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total this year	Total last year
Other funds generated	4,596	—	-	4,596	4,127
Total	4,596	—	-	4,596	4,127

6 Activities for generating funds

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total this year	Total last year
Fund raising events	3,778	—	12,613	16,391	3,352
Total	3,778	—	12,613	16,391	3,352

7 Investment income

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total this year	Total last year
Bank interest	126	33	113	273	158
Investment income	—	—	—	—	1,254
Total	126	33	113	273	1,412

8 Receipts from church activities

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total this year	Total last year
Wedding & funeral fees	8,870	—	—	8,870	7,359
Total	8,870	—	—	8,870	7,359

9 Cost of generating funds

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total this year	Total last year
Costs of fund raising events	597	—	1,608	2,205	80
Total	597	—	1,608	2,205	80

10 Common Mission Fund

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total this year	Total last year
Common mission fund	45,000	—	—	45,000	68,537
Total	45,000	—	—	45,000	68,537

11 Clergy and staffing costs

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total this year	Total last year
Assistant ministry expenses	1,021	—	—	1,021	210
Parish administrator & bookkeeper costs	21,171	—	—	21,171	20,188
Youth worker	455	—	—	455	—
Rector's expenses	3,944	—	—	3,944	315
Total	26,590	—	—	26,590	20,713

12 Church running expenses

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total this year	Total last year
Bank charges	120	—	—	120	96
Expenses for vacancy	—	—	—	—	945
Deanery Synod	105	—	—	105	—
Wedding and funeral expenses	2,350	—	—	2,350	1,852
Stationery, printing, computing	6,086	—	—	6,086	6,002
Sacristy	14	—	—	14	—
Training courses	25	—	—	25	173
Children's activities	777	—	—	777	373
Parish entertainment and hospitality	523	—	—	523	461
Church running - insurance	6,426	—	—	6,426	6,189
Organ tuning	441	—	—	441	355
Church maintenance	2,807	—	—	2,807	4,941
Service: fire, heating, safety	850	—	—	850	2,024
Worship and music	2,442	—	—	2,442	2,650
Upkeep of churchyard	4,770	—	5,502	10,272	6,768
Administration	715	—	—	715	820
Church running - electric	2,391	—	—	2,391	2,316
Church running - gas	5,146	—	—	5,146	2,783
Church running - water	493	—	—	493	369
Total	36,480	—	5,502	41,982	39,115

13 Church repairs & maintenance

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total this year	Total last year
Quinquennial inspection - Martyr Worthy	—	—	29	29	2,358
Quinquennial inspection - Itchen Abbas	—	—	—	—	663
Quinquennial inspection - Easton	—	—	413	413	—
Quinquennial inspection - Avington	—	—	850	850	—
Church & graveyard major repairs	—	—	3,156	3,156	3,617
Total	—	—	4,447	4,447	6,638

14 New building work

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total this year	Total last year
Avington Bible cabinet	—	—	—	—	3,449
Easton sound system	—	—	—	—	29,503
Total	—	—	—	—	32,952

15 Additional notes

Details of fund-raising activities

Event	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	Net sum raised for the parish
Martyr Worthy Lectures 2022	3,165		3,165
Easton Flower Festival		10,881	10,881
Sale of woodwork		123	123
Film night	(114)		(114)
Martyr Worthy Coffee morning	162		162
Easton Pancake Party	69		69
Total	3,282	11,004	14,286

In many cases, fund raising expenses are not reported to IVPCC and only net funds have been received. Although this is relatively common practice, it is not strictly in compliance with generally accepted accounting practice. This does not include the sum of £1,171, raised by the Easton Flower Festival, which has been allocated to the Ukraine Appeal fund.

Collections for other charities

During 2022 there were the following collections for other charities (not including special collections at weddings and funerals). As these collections are for third parties, they are not counted as part of the funds of the Parish. Collections include donations via CAF Donate and SumUp.

Harvest Festival collections for:	
Trinity Winchester	216
Winchester Basics Bank	216
Winchester Beacon	216
Remembrance service collection for:	
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	339
Christingle service collection for:	
The Children's Society	140
Christmas collections 2022 split between:	
Trinity Winchester	966
Winchester Basics Bank	966
Winchester Beacon	966
Total collections for other charities	4,025

Gifts and fund raising for the Ukraine appeal fund

Gifts including contribution from fund raising :	
Ukraine Appeal Fund	7,576

The sum of £7,576 includes £1,171 allocated from funds raised by the Easton Flower Show.

Donations for specific purposes

Easton trees	489
Total donations for specific purposes	489

Donations from Trustees

The total donations from the Trustees in the reporting period was £25,948 and no conditions were attached to any of these donations.

Itchen Valley Churches
St John's Church, Itchen Abbas, Winchester SO21 1BJ

www.itchenvalleychurches.org

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ITCHEN VALLEY, WINCHE

England & Wales - Charity number 1133110

Accounts

THE PARISH OF THE ITCHEN VALLEY

Incorporating the Churches of
St Mary's Avington, St Mary's Easton,
St John's Itchen Abbas and St Swithun's Martyr Worthy

ITCHEN VALLEY
CHURCHES

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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1. Administrative information

The Parish of the Itchen Valley is part of the Diocese of Winchester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is: Itchen Valley Parish Office, St John's Church, Itchen Abbas, Winchester SO21 1BJ (01962)779845. The office is open from 9 am to 1pm on weekdays. The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Itchen Valley is a Registered Charity No: 1133110.

The Churches of the Parish are St Mary's at Avington, St Mary's at Easton, St John the Baptist's at Itchen Abbas and St Swithun's at Martyr Worthy.

Ministry team:
Rector - Revd Peter Walker
Licensed Lay Minister - Gerry Stacey

Churchwardens:
St Mary's Avington - Vacant
St Mary's Easton - Chris Ellis, Theo Mezger
St John's Itchen Abbas
- Sarah Hunt, Tim Clapp
St Swithun's Martyr Worthy
- Sara Mason, Robin Greenwood

Deanery Synod Representatives
(elected in 2020 for 3 years):
Gerry Stacey
Theo Mezger
Sonia Cragg

Elected members of the PCC:
Helen Wayne (Avington), Sara Janssen (Easton), Sally Parker (Itchen Abbas), Nicky Barber (Martyr Worthy)

Hon Secretary: Olivia Cox
Hon Treasurer: James Wright

2. Structure, governance & management

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the Parish of the Itchen Valley is the governing body for the Parish. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules and the Parish Scheme. The PCC met six times during 2021. The PCC was supported by a Standing Committee and a Finance Committee.

The Constitution of the Parish of the Itchen Valley and the supporting Policy Guidance document can both be found on the parish website.

There are four District Church Councils (DCCs), one for each District centred on the churches of the Parish. All the DCCs met regularly during 2021.

All regular Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC and DCCs.

3. Aims and purposes

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector, to promote the whole mission of the Church - pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical - in the Ecclesiastical Parish and the area of the Itchen Valley. It is the duty of the Rector and the PCC to consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the parish.

4. Objects and activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship God at our churches and to become part of our parish community. The Ministry Team and PCC all acknowledge the need to consider public benefit in planning activities and guidance on the advancement of religion.

5. Achievements and performance

The churchwardens' report set out some of the highlights of the parish's achievements and performance in 2021.

Average Attendance			
8.00 am - BCP Communion			
2021	2020	2019	2018
8	7	8	8
10.00 am - Parish Communion			
2021	2020	2019	2018
31	46	41	44
All Age Worship			
2021	2020	2019	2018
49	51	55	54
Valley Worship			
2021	2020	2019	2018
52	43	56	43
10.00 am average			
2021	2020	2019	2018
44	47	51	47
6.00 pm - Evensong			
2021	2020	2019	2018
19	15	13	19
Christmas Eve & Day			
2021	2020	2019	2018
269	222	461	512
Easter Day			
2021	2020	2019	2018
141	68	136	169
Additional Services			
2021	2020	2019	2018
4	6	12	10
Baptisms			
2021	2020	2019	2018
3	6	12	10
Weddings			
2021	2020	2019	2018
6	2	6	4
Funerals			
2021	2020	2019	2018
6	11	6	15

The attendance calculation for 2021 are based on Zoom attendance and Church attendance when permissible.

6. Electoral roll

There are 159 names on the 2022 Electoral Roll for the Parish, of whom 20 live outside the parish. This is an increase of 6 on 2021 when the Electoral Roll was renewed.

7. Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the churches

St Mary's, Avington

Work on the outdoor brick repair work has continued and is nearly complete. Permission was sought and gained for some trees in the churchyard to be cut back as they were a potential danger. This work is complete.

Work is needed on some of the lighting and the electric sockets. As a quinquennial report is due to be completed later this year, we shall await the results of that and combine all the requirements before starting the work.

The Vinegar Bible and prayer books have now been repaired and will now be stored in the new cabinet.

St Mary's, Easton

It is of great concern that during the last year we have failed to repair a small leak in the nave roof where it abuts the chancel and which we believe is blowing the plaster off the internal wall immediately above the font. This is principally due to inability of our

architects to find a contractor to undertake the work. Now the wardens are putting extra effort into remedying this unsatisfactory situation.

Meanwhile, the work to install a brand-new audio visual/broadcasting system has been successfully completed, the chancel lighting has been replaced with a modern LED installation, we have installed a newbench in the churchyard and the extensive remedial work on the trees in the churchyard is nearing completion.

An application for a faculty to level the table tomb closest to the south door is in process. Shortly we expect to start a wild bulb planting scheme in the churchyard. Verbal progress has been made on a plan to improve the access to the church and a final solution may be found in the coming months. During this year it is our plan to gain approval for the extension on the north side of the church, to complete the fund raising and to commence the building work.

St John's, Itchen Abbas

St John's has been occupied for various additional services and events around twice a week in addition to Sundays. It is thanks to Vernon who vacuums and shampoos the carpet regularly, that the carpet appears to be in such good condition after heavy use for over 12 years. In addition, the re-arranging of the chairs is a constant task which he undertakes with good grace. The varied use of St John's is possible thanks to the re-ordering of the church in 2009. The work to make it welcoming for its increased use falls on the same people although it is a welcome space for the whole parish.

We have an area of the churchyard which has been sown with wild flowers. This has been selected so that the major part of the churchyard is mown and looks tidy. John Bouldin heads the team for this.

There are some outstanding minor repairs which still need attention and will be done before long. Patrick Appleby continues to do sterling work in keeping the boiler, lights, other electrics and the sewage system in good order.

Those who help in a number of ways – John Bouldin for Zoom and projector work, Elizabeth Bouldin with Arminel Tottle arranging the flower rota, Lavinia Owen as chalice assistant, with Elizabeth Bouldin providing coffee after services, Joan and Rodney Dartnall cleaning the brasses as well as opening and locking the church daily, Charlotte Appleby finding organists for the different services across the Valley – all give their time cheerfully and are invaluable in making things run smoothly.

St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy
Following the carrying out in 2020 of both the works arising out of the Martyr Worthy 2017 quinquennial inspection and the repair of the west wall of the churchyard, 2021 was a quiet year apart from routine maintenance and some minor repairs. These involved some small electrical works to bring things up to modern day standards, refixing four loose gravestones and replacing a rotten gate post in our second graveyard.

Since the year end, we have obtained permission to fell a dangerous ash tree in the north east corner of the churchyard which leans over a wall and Church Lane. Our next quinquennial inspection is due in 2022.

In addition, we are investigating the possibility of engraving the west window of the church, which currently comprises nearly all plain glass, subject to raising the necessary funding.

8. Rectors Report - Revd Peter

Thanks to all
This report must start with expressing my heartfelt thanks for the incredible welcome that all of you have given both to me and to Georgie since our arrival in the summer. After some years of moving around, we have 'come home' to the lovely Itchen Valley. And, after a gap of 28 years since being in parish ministry, I find myself sometimes not sure whether I am in my late 20's and serving my curacy or in my 60's—or perhaps a bit of both at the same time! It's been a great place to 'pick up where I left off' and to be allowed to rediscover the joys and challenges of leading a local church.

We are sorry that, despite our initial aspirations, we have not managed to have more of you round to enjoy some Rectory hospitality, but we do hope once Covid issues and the winter months are behind us, that we will see the Rectory house and garden become a meeting-place for many.

And a further big 'thank you' to all those who have given of their time and energy to enable so much to happen in our church life recently. Since my Licensing six months ago on September 11, what a lot has happened! In particular:

- the resumption of two services each Sunday;
- the celebration again of Harvest, Remembrance Sunday and Advent Choral Evensong;
- a reasonably full range of Christmas Carol events and services (though constantly being adjusted by changing Covid guidelines!);
- five gatherings of CAMEO (but, sadly, not in December or January);
- weekly meetings of Little Rainbows during term-time;
- some Thursday morning teaching in St John's Itchen Abbas (looking at some of the *In the Steps of Jesus* Episodes for Advent and then Epiphany);
- a 4-week evening course by Zoom, entitled 'Introducing the Real Jesus', and now the start of our Lent Course;

- the resumption of Wednesday Evening Worship each month;
- and, last but by no means least, three wonderful talks in the Martyr Worthy Lecture Series.

So much has been done, and with energetic contributions from so many people—all helping to bring church life back to something of what (I can only imagine) was happening long before I arrived and before the devastations caused by the pandemic.

Rising Energy

The list could go on. Yet one particular activity perhaps deserves a special mention: the resurgence of energy in our children's ministry in the Ark. In my opening months there was a palpable sense of weariness amongst those who had been 'holding the fort' so valiantly during the Covid season. But after some honest discussion about the stresses involved, after some time spent in praying and discerning, and in particular after some wonderful offers of extra help from new parents within our church family, we seem now to be in a place where a real momentum has been established.

For some, it was that moment towards the end of Valley Worship on Sunday 16 January when 18 children walked through the Easton church door—having walked round from their Ark activities 200 yards away—that 'lit the heart'.

For others, it was being in the Avington Barn All Age Worship service at 4.00pm on Sunday 30 January and hearing the sheer volume of sung praise and worship coming from all the children, their parents and, yes, their grandparents! By the way, both the timing and the venue of this event were novelties for which your new Rector was responsible, so he was more than a bit nervous on the dot of 4 o'clock, when the barn seemed rather void of people. But then they stopped playing their games outside and ended their conversations, and, suddenly, there were 65 people singing the opening hymn—with an age range from 0 to 92!

Growing in prayer & listening

Yet this is not the only resurgence of energy which I have felt in the parish. From where I am standing, I have sensed something similar taking place—though

expressed perhaps more quietly!— in some of our traditional services. Before and after Christmas there was a series of services at St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy, that were incredibly powerful: singing carols in the churchyard; Midnight Communion; a New Year Communion based on the BCP order but using the 'contemporary language' version; and, finally, a Choral Evensong, which attracted a congregation totalling 36—and this was on a cold winter's night in the second week of January! One of the church's welcome team, who had been on duty that night, was rumoured to have been overheard saying afterwards, "I could have danced all the way home!"

In a similar vein, I have sensed our practice of regularly including some verses of a congregational Psalm in our traditional services—both morning and evening—has enabled a new sense of prayer and personal worship to flow amongst us, as we each take the precious words given us in Holy Scripture and use them to express heartfelt praise and prayer to God our Father. It's so powerful to use the Prayer Book that Jesus himself would have used and thereby to learn to pray as Jesus would often have prayed; and to do so, *together*—encouraging each other forwards in our journey of faith.

And, in keeping with this, the small change we made in February—namely, incorporating the words of the Collect, the congregational Psalm and the two Bible Readings within the middle pages of Church Matters—has similarly helped us all to pay closer attention to all these important words. It has enabled a greater flow of worship (not being distracted by having to turn to 3 different sheets or books to find them in a hurry!). And, who knows, it may even have helped our preachers to keep a little bit closer to their text (knowing the congregation have it open in front of them and can easily note when the sermon veers off course!).

In all these ways—seen across the wide range of our services and activities—I have sensed this gentle 'upsurge' of energy and power. Storm Eunice recently reminded many of us, who experienced power cuts for several hours, of our dependency on electricity. Perhaps this 'upsurge' should be seen as evidence of God's power and presence amongst us and cause us to ponder our own dependency on God's Spirit, who alone brings light and life to the people of God.

New openings

Focusing on our Sunday services, I am very grateful that I have been given some space within our pattern of services to try out a few new ideas. We have twice done a traditional Morning Prayer service (using the provision for that in the *Common Worship* book, 2000); and we have done a similar Evening Prayer service at St John's, Itchen Abbas, instead of Evensong. This seemed to go down very well—as did the Taizé-styled service we did the week before.

And mention has already been made of the 'contemporary language' version of the BCP Communion service. I love the

Book of Common Prayer—not only its powerful language but also the brilliance of Cranmer's theology and liturgical wisdom. For good reason it remains the foundational norm for all Anglican worship. And I imagine we shall therefore be using it at our 8.00am services at St Swithun's until the Second Coming! Yet, if some people find its language off-putting, we may be able to use the contemporary language version on some other occasions—for example, most recently at our Ash Wednesday Evening Service—to introduce this brilliant theology to people who might otherwise rarely have an opportunity to engage with it.

In all these ways—and especially when we remember our monthly Valley Worship and All Age Worship services—we are offering within this one parish an incredible range of worship experiences which truly reflects the best breadth that is possible within an Anglicanism that is true to its essentially biblical foundations.

Building on the past

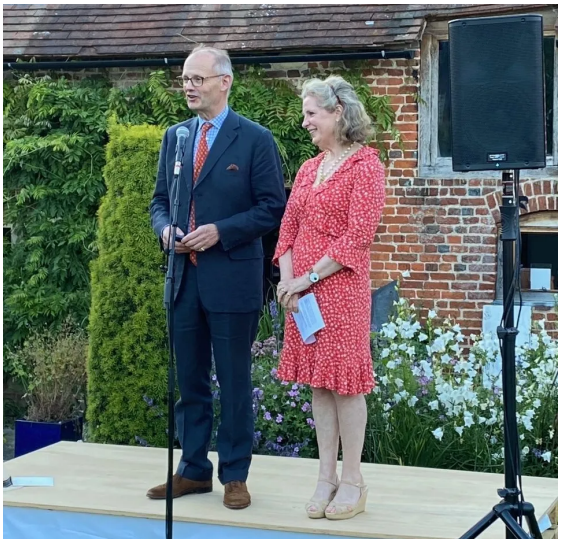
In saying this, I am aware that this happy situation has only come about because those foundations have been laid so well by those who came before me. I am acutely aware of the hard work done by many people over 15 years ago which enabled the four churches to come together and now to work so well as one benefice. And I am also acutely aware of the pivotal role played by my immediate predecessor, Alex Pease, through the many years of his involvement here—both before and during his time as Rector. I have sensed this in so many areas—not least in the quality of the website, the vigour of the informal services, the practical skills of the wonderful Parish Administrator he appointed and the wide-ranging wisdom of the Ministry Team he gathered around him. If these had not been in place, the task of the new Rector (especially one working half-time!) would have been impossible; and this report after the first six months would have read very differently indeed!

So I am full of admiration and gratitude and simply ask that, guided by God's greater wisdom and moved by the truth and love that are ours in Jesus his Son, I may be able to build on this great foundation something 'beautiful for God'—a community of people, all very different, who together reflect something of the character of our wonderful God and Saviour. Jesus' chief apostle, Peter, spoke powerfully in his first letter (1 Peter 2:4-5, 9) of the beautiful building that can be built when each individual is focused on Christ. May his words inspire us all to help build such a community here in the Itchen Valley:

'As you come to him, the living Stone – rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him – you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. … You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.'

9. Church Wardens' Report

2021 was a year of change. However, we would like to start by warmly welcoming all those who are new to the parish including the many young families and those from outside the parish who have chosen to worship with us and become part of our community.



As mentioned in last year's report, The Revd Alex Pease announced in January 2021 that he would not be seeking to be re-appointed as our Rector on 15th April. We fully understood why and were fully supportive of his position. We thanked Alex and Lucy for all that they did in his three years at a party in July in Theo and Judith Mezger's wonderful garden when we presented Alex with a glass bowl engraved by Philip Lawson Johnston and a donation towards the renovation of Lucy's and his garden. Alex left us in a thriving, growing, sustainable and strong position and can be very proud of his achievement. We all enjoyed working with and supporting Alex in his work and are delighted that he and Lucy have chosen to remain living among us.

We were then faced with the challenges and burdens of yet another vacancy where the responsibility of running the parish fell on the Churchwardens, but we were lucky and blessed to have a strong Ministry Team which was one of Alex's legacies who were able to take charge of taking the services and maintaining momentum. Both they and the Churchwardens were ably supported by Beccy Clark our Parish Administrator on whom part of the burden inevitably fell.

With the help of Rt Rev David Williams Bishop of Basingstoke and The Ven Richard Brand Archdeacon of Winchester, we were very lucky to be able to secure the appointment of The Revd Peter Walker as our new Rector after a short vacancy. At a ceremony at Easton Church on 11th September, Peter was presented to Bishop David to be instituted as Rector by Mrs Amelia Ashton DL representing the Crown, who owns the Living, having had it restored to them on 28th July following a three year suspension at the time of Alex's appointment.

Peter was then instituted by Bishop David and inducted by the Area Dean Revd David Chattell. It was a very happy day when the parish was able to welcome Peter and Georgie to the parish. We are already enjoying helping Peter, supported by Georgie, in his work as he gets to know us and starts to develop his plans. We feel truly blessed to have Peter and Georgie amongst us. The post of Rector, which has been a half-time post since Alex's arrival

in April 2018, remains a half-time post with Peter devoting the other half of his time to his other work responsibilities.

Throughout the year it should not be forgotten that we were also faced by the challenging and evolving restrictions imposed by Covid but were able to successfully maintain and develop the initiatives that we wrote about in some detail last year and to start to open up as the restrictions began to ease. We look forward to hopefully getting back to some sense of normality in 2022 but recognise that Covid is likely to be with us for many years to come and that we need to learn to live with it.

We would like to pay tribute to the members of our Ministry Team led by Alex up to 14 May, Tim Clapp during the vacancy and Revd Peter from 11 September, supported by Gerry Stacey, our Licensed Lay Minister, and our eight Licenced BCMs, Tim Clapp, Simon Ffennell, James Greig (for part of the year), Julia Wright (all Worship Ministers), Nicky Barber (Creation Care), John Barber (Prayer Minister), Lavinia Owen (Pastoral Minister) and Lucy Pease (Discipleship Minister) (up to 14 May). In addition James Greig (for part of the year), James Wright, Julia Wright, Nicky Barber and John Barber were occasional preachers, selected by the Rectors and operating under their authority. We would like to thank our Ministry Team, which was much enlarged by Alex, for all that they have done and we feel truly blessed to have them. We should not underestimate the challenges they faced and the work involved, particularly as a result of both Covid and the vacancy. We should also remember that the Ministry Team plays a very important role now that the post of Rector is only a half-time post and given that we have not had a curate since 2018. We also much appreciated the part played by visiting clergy drawn from the Clerical Register during the vacancy, which continues when Peter is away. An enormous thank you to you all.

We would again like to thank the support given to the Ministry Team by the Zoom jockeys led by Chris Ellis and including Gerry Stacey, John Bouldin, James Greig (for part of the year) and Ben Hart who enabled many services to be zoomed. Equally critical were David Parker, the parish's Health & Safety Officer, and Sara Mason, the Parish's Covid Protocol Officer, who took particular responsibility for producing and revising the protocols to be followed and the risk assessments for each type of service and church. We are truly grateful to them and blessed to have them. Again a big thank you.

It must not be forgotten that the success of a parish also depends on many others who volunteer to perform various other key roles and duties. Those who:

- serve on the Parochial Church Council and its committees and our District Church Councils and their Hon Secretaries
- serve as our now three Deanery Synod Representatives
- serve as Hon Treasurer

- act as vergers, sacristans and bankers of cash
- assist with the finding of organists in the absence of a full time organist
- help at services whether as sidesmen, lesson readers, intercessors, chalice or eucharistic assistants, bell ringers, members of the band, helping with young children and those who make and serve coffee, and all their co-ordinators
- are members of our choir and their leader, and those who belong to the pool of singers from which the informal choir of usually four that sings at Evensong in Martyr Worthy is drawn
- help with church cleaning, flower arranging and opening and locking up the churches, and again all their co-ordinators
- keep our churches and churchyards in good condition, and again all their co-ordinators
- organise Wednesday Night Worship and Home Groups
- organise, participate in and help with Carols in the Barn and the Crib Service. (The Way of the Cross was suspended in 2021 due to Covid, but will be happening in 2022.)
- organise and help with CAMEO, Little Rainbows and the Ark. UTX was suspended in 2021
- organise and help with the Alpha Course
- organise and act as Valley Visitors
- organise and help with fund raising and other events, including the thank you party for Alex and Lucy and Rolls and Verity Coleman and the lunch after Revd Peter's induction
- organise and help with the Harvest Lunch (which did not happen in 2021 due to Covid)
- guide us on important administrative items such as health & safety, safeguarding, data protection and food hygiene

It has always been and remains one big team effort and we are truly appreciative of all that you have done in this difficult year. We thank you.

Our objective remains to hold a minimum of two church services each Sunday with services spread across our four churches in a regular pattern of worship which our congregation appreciates. As set out in our Parish Profile, in recognition of the fact that the Church of England is a broad church, that we are a rural parish and that different members of our congregation like different forms of worship, liturgy and versions of the prayer book and Bible, we aim to offer worship across a broad spectrum. This involves a balance of traditional and more modern family-orientated services so as to both maintain a wide appeal and attract younger people which is so important if we are to be a vibrant and growing rural parish. It has also involved having services outside and using Avington Barn for services thanks to Robert Stent. This has proved particularly popular. We appreciate that the more modern forms of services do not appeal to some of our older congregation members. However it attracts younger families who are already playing an active role in church life. We keep the format and content of these more modern form of services under regular review.

We are blessed with beautiful and well-maintained churches and are pleased that we are able to keep them open daily and to use them for regular and festive worship and other events. It is gratifying to see from the visitors' books how many people visit and appreciate our churches. This is in large part due to the four District Church Councils, who have delegated responsibility for the upkeep and general maintenance of the churches and churchyards, together with the large number of people who provide additional support.

We continued to assist our Rector and the Ministry Team with implementing our Parish Mission Action Plan as part of the Diocese's Strategic Priorities for Mission. This has led to various initiatives in recent years including a renewed focus on attracting more families and younger parishioners to our churches.

We would like to thank Beccy Clark, our Parish Administrator, whose skills and helpfulness are much appreciated, for all her time and hard work. We would also like to thank Janet Denyer, our Parish Bookkeeper, for all her hard work and help too. We have also been entirely dependent upon our wonderful volunteers in doing the various jobs that they do including Rolls Coleman and his successor James Wright as Hon Treasurer, Verity Coleman and her successor Olivia Cox as PCC Secretary, David Parker as Health & Safety Officer, Sara Mason as Covid Protocol Officer, Sarah Hunt as Safeguarding Officer and Charlotte Appleby who has sought out new organists when our regular ones are not available and makes them feel welcome. We are truly appreciative and grateful. Thank you.

The work of the parish is reflected in the wide range of activities which take place. Normally notable events include the annual Way of the Cross Service, our Patronal Services and parties and Carols in the Barn. Sadly not all of them were able to take place in 2021 due to Covid. In addition we had carol singing in the various villages in 2021 as in 2020 led by the choir under the direction of Major General Tim Tyler.

With a focus on mission and outreach, and mindful of the importance of public benefit in the work of a charity, many of the activities of the parish continued to be directed towards the wider community and beyond:

- we supported a number of charities, including Winchester Beacon, Trinity Winchester, Winchester Basics Bank, The Children's Society, World Mission and the Royal British Legion, both through monetary donations from special collections, through donations in kind and by active involvement.

- our pastoral visitors programme supports those in need, whether members of our congregation or not.
- we continued to foster our links with local schools and nurseries.
- The diocese of Lango in Uganda (support since discontinued)

2021, like 2020, was unavoidably a less active year for fund raising. Events were limited to the first of the three lectures in the 2021/22 Martyr Worthy Lecture Series (£3,080), and Philip Windsor-Aubrey Woodwork Sales (£222). Historically, fundraising events have made a major contribution to our financial position and it is important that a major push is made in 2022 to restore fundraising income to its former position as the Treasurer also makes clear in his report. Fundraising events also provide a social dimension to our life as a parish and demonstrate that the congregation is active in the local community. Some events are put on jointly with other organisations and may raise money for several charities as well as church funds. We are once again grateful for the energy and enthusiasm of fundraising teams, but are always looking out for new ideas and helpers.

Going forward as the Treasurer again makes clear in his report we need everyone to consider in 2022 increasing the amount they give by way of planned giving.

This year sees Theo Mezger standing down as Churchwarden. We would like to thank Theo for all that he has done including acting as Deputy Chairman of the PCC and being Acting Chairman during our recent Vacancy. In addition, David Parker, who has been Health & Safety Officer since the creation of the post, is standing down. We would like to thank David for everything that he has done over the years including setting up the protocols. We also saw, as reported last year, the departure at the last APCM of Tony Gaster as a Churchwarden and would once again like to thank Tony for all that he did as a Churchwarden and for both the PCC and Itchen Abbas DCC where among other jobs he co-ordinated St John's churchyard maintenance team. In addition, as mentioned above, we saw Rolls & Verity Coleman retire as Hon Treasurer and Hon Secretary and would again like to thank them both for all that they did.

10. Deanery Synod Report

For the first half of the year the parish had four lay representatives on Deanery Synod, Gerry Stacey, Sonia Cragg, Sally Parker and Theo Mezger. Following a review by the Diocese during the summer our representation was reduced to three and Sally Parker most graciously stood down.

During the last 12 months Synod has met three times in June and October via Zoom and in February face to face.

The main topics have been:

Focal Ministry – where a lay person is commissioned to act as a minister in the larger benefices. There are now two such pilot schemes in Bighton and Old Alresford. For the time being this concept is not applicable to the Parish of the Itchen Valley.

Lango Link – Following the retirement of the principal representatives on the Lango Committee and no replacements being forthcoming it was decided to abandon the relationship. Following a final payment of funds the link has now ceased.

Rwanda – The Diocese of Winchester is suggesting that we as a Deanery develop a link with a diocese in Rwanda, which is

under consideration but for which there is currently limited enthusiasm.

Farm Church – a concept of services being held six times per annum on farms through the Deanery, each with a strong agricultural theme.

Two such services have been held so far with success. Our parish is likely to be asked to hold one later this year (now scheduled for Saturday 10 September).

Deanery Pilgrimage – In lieu of the annual Deanery Thanksgiving Service there will be a pilgrimage/walk from St John's, Alresford to Winchester Cathedral on Saturday 28 May along the Pilgrim's way via Martyr Worthy, which will be a resting point. The event is being organised by this parish.

11. Reports

CAMEO – Charlotte Appleby

CAMEO has been a hybrid affair this year, with some actual gatherings and some home deliveries. We deeply regret the death of John Hollier, and have also lost a few guests who have moved away to be nearer family but we have been delighted to welcome some new ones, so numbers are stable. A short non-communion service has been devised for those months when the service is taken by a lay minister and we are grateful to Revd Peter for coming every third month to take the service even though Tuesday is not one of his working days. The helpers team is, as ever, wonderfully willing in spite of now having more demands on their time. Vernon the Verger is a key person, putting the tables out and away each month with cheerful good humour.

If anyone knows any over 65s who might like to join us, or anyone (over or under 65!) who would like to join the helpers team we always have room for more.

Valley Visitors - Lavinia Owen

Visiting remains difficult with some of the vulnerable still shielding but it has continued with much use of the telephone. We have been unable to visit Care Homes until recently. The Valley Visitors team now has 14 visitors, who I want to thank for their amazing efforts in these awkward circumstances. Gail Mann has retired after many wonderful years of service to the community and Maddy Woosnam and James Greig have also stepped down due to their commitments. We wish them well with Maddy's writing and teaching work and James' lovely flowers.

Our last meeting was on the 18 November in St John's Church which was a chance for most of us to meet up with Revd Peter when we were much encouraged to learn that Pastoral Care is one of his priorities for his ministry.

UTX (Under the Cross)

Unfortunately, UTX has not met during the last year but we are looking forward to re-launching this group for secondary age children in the coming months.

The Ark - Julia Wright
The Ark was very happy to be reunited and revived in September 2021 after the limitations. We had several new parents joining the rota which has been hugely encouraging, and makes the running of the Ark more sustainable. Since September, the number of children attending the Ark has reached 18 children – which is the largest the Ark has seen for a long time. There is a lovely family atmosphere amongst the children, who range from 2-10 years, and also amongst the parents who lead the sessions.

The Ark has recently started looking to employ a children's worker who would be able to offer greater input to the young people in our parish.

Little Rainbows - Julia Wright
Little Rainbows began meeting again, post Covid lockdowns, in April 2021. We had to be limited to 15 adults for a few months and had a waiting list which was always filled within minutes of opening. There was a real hunger amongst both adults and children to spend time together after the lockdowns. By September the restrictions were lifted and we regularly saw 15 adults with their little ones. The toddlers snack table now stretches to 3 tables long to accommodate them all!

We follow the same format of play, coffee, snack time, dancing, and a Bible story. We also continue to be hugely grateful to the rota of Older Rainbows organised by Verity Colman. We always love their company and are very appreciative for their tea, coffee and wonderful cakes.

Wednesday Night Worship - Julia and James Wright
Our worship evenings had been on pause during Covid whilst there were restrictions on un-masked singing. However, we were very happy to be reunited in November 2021 when we had our first gathering after twenty months. A few new faces have joined our evenings, both from within the parish and also further afield, bringing our numbers to between twenty and twenty five.

We continue to seek to provide a place for people to meet with God, and meet with others, in an atmosphere of informal worship, with the sharing of testimonies rooted in Scripture, and while praying for one another. We meet once a month in St John's, Itchen Abbas.

Health and Safety - David Parker
This year was again dominated by Covid related issues. I would like to thank all involved in creating a safe space for the various activities, but particular thanks go to Sara Mason for her leadership of the Covid sub-Committee. Her report is as follows:

The pandemic continued to present challenges throughout the year, particularly for weddings and funerals which required an immense amount of planning and co-ordination to meet the control measures required at the time. I would like to thank Beccy for her support and patience in dealing with the challenges throughout the pandemic. On the arrival of Revd Peter we were able to welcome him and Georgie with various events, even under the control measures in place at the time. I am pleased to say that we have now returned to singing in church, which is a great joy after so many months but we continue to be mindful of those in our community who are vulnerable but may wish to attend a service. I hope we have achieved the right balance and I thank all the members of the PCC, Revd Peter and the parishioners for their continued support as we return to normal service patterns as the pandemic eases.

We have continued to review the data and guidance and have been able to return to a more expansive programme in church in a controlled and step by step manner. At all times our priority has been to take all reasonable measures to be as safe as practically possible for the good of all our church community. The more routine actions have been kept up to date as best as is reasonably practical.

After a decade I have decided to step down from my Health and Safety role and I am delighted that Sara has agreed to pick up the overall leadership. I would like to thank the whole team and especially Sara and the DCC representatives who have been simply superb.

Safeguarding - Sarah Hunt

There are no incidents or confidential matters which have caused concern. The new regulations insist that DBS renewals should be done every three years instead of every five and that the paper forms and document checking have to be undertaken in a way which seems unexpectedly old fashioned and cumbersome. Presumably this is also time-consuming and expensive for the Diocese. The use of St John's by the Rector for confidential discussions with Beccy in attendance but out of hearing is available when necessary. There are a number of new people who are helping with the Ark which is a good addition to those already in the team.

Itchen Valley PCC

End of Year Financial Statements

Year ending 31st December 2021

FINANCIAL REVIEW

This report shows the financial performance of the Itchen Valley Parish for 2021.

Total Income for the year was 21% lower YoY at £129k (PY £164k) and Expenses were 5% lower YoY at £168k (PY £177k). After £5k of investment gains, the total deficit for the year was £34k (PY £12k).

As a result, the financial position of the Parish has weakened and Total Funds, on 31st December 2021, were down 13% YoY to £216k.

The unrestricted deficit in 2021 was £25k (£7k in 2020) and the unrestricted reserves at 31 December 2021 stand at £98k (£123k in 2020).

The Parishes contribution to the Common Mission Fund (CMF) was £69k (£74k in 2020) and, to support investment in growth within the Parish, will reduce to £45k in 2021.

Of note, Planned Giving (unrestricted) and Gift Aid Recovered totaled £83k (£90k in PY) and remains short of our target for regular giving to cover the day-to-day running costs of the parish (c.£110k pa).

A key focus for the Parish, in the coming year, is to increase regular giving and restore regular fundraising events within the villages.

As ever many thanks are due to everyone who contributed to the running and financing of the Parish in what has been a difficult year and, in particular, to Janet Denyer, who continues to carry out the roles of Bookkeeper and Gift Aid Secretary expertly.

RESERVES POLICY

As required by Charities legislation, the PCC reviews regularly the financial risks associated with the operations of the Church. The main financial risk to income would be a change in the giving profile of parishioners and the main financial risk to costs would be a requirement for significant expenditure on the buildings.

The PCC's policy is to maintain liquid funds (not designated for other purposes) to cover 9 months expenditure of unrestricted funds.

Approved by the Itchen Valley PCC on 22 March 2022 and signed on their behalf by

Rev Peter Walker.

Revd Peter Walker

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

on the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021

Respective responsibilities of the P.C.C and the examiner

The P.C.C. members acting as the charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for the year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act
to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the Independent Examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission and the guidance published in the PCC Accountability (The Charities Act 2011 and the PCC, 5th edition). An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required for an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matter has come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

Accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act, or the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Date: 24th March 2022

Signed:

Stephen Hendy

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2005.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Restricted funds represent donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for expenditure on a specific purpose agreed by the PCC. The designation has no legal status and may be changed.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes in accordance with its constitution.

Incoming resources

All income is generally recognised when it is received.

Resources expended

Expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross. In certain cases, where significant liabilities have been incurred but not paid for, these are accounted for on an accruals basis.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.92(a) of the Charities Act 1993. Movable church furnishings held by the rector and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time).

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31st December comprise short-term investments shown under current assets.

Investments sold are revalued immediately prior to disposal

Investment income is allocated across the funds in proportion to their average balance during the year.

Investment balances are allocated across funds in proportion to the fund balances at the 31st December.

Statement of Financial Activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Prior Year Total funds
Receipts						
Planned giving	1	68,464	—	—	68,464	72,875
Collections and other giving	2	3,242	—	350	3,592	4,348
Other voluntary receipts	3	3,642	—	22,290	25,933	51,298
Gift Aid recovered	4	14,064	—	1,086	15,150	17,193
Other receipts	5	227	—	3,900	4,127	889
Activities for generating funds	6	3,130	—	222	3,352	9,768
Investment Income	7	696	154	562	1,412	1,880
Receipts from church activities	8	7,359	—	—	7,359	5,535
Total receipts		**100,825**	**154**	**28,410**	**129,389**	**163,786**
Payments						
Cost of generating funds	9	80	—	—	80	—
Common Mission Fund	10	68,537	—	—	68,537	74,474
Clergy and Staffing costs	11	20,713	—	—	20,713	20,089
Church Running Expenses	12	39,115	—	—	39,115	31,580
Church Repairs & Maintenance	13	—	663	5,975	6,638	49,549
New Building work	14	—	—	32,952	32,952	808
Total payments		**128,445**	**663**	**38,926**	**168,034**	**176,500**
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources before transfer		**(27,620)**	**(509)**	**(10,516)**	**(38,645)**	**(12,714)**
Transfer between funds		—	—	—	—	—
Net incoming / outgoing before other gains / losses		**(27,620)**	**(509)**	**(10,516)**	**(38,645)**	**(12,714)**
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains / losses on investment assets		2,466	534	1,916	4,916	858
Net movement in funds		**(25,155)**	**24**	**(8,600)**	**(33,730)**	**(11,855)**
Total funds brought forward		**123,006**	**27,342**	**99,872**	**250,221**	**262,076**
Total funds carried forward		**97,851**	**27,367**	**91,273**	**216,491**	**250,221**
Represented by						
Unrestricted						
General fund		97,851	—	—	97,851	123,006
Designated						
Itchen Abbas Designated Fabric		—	27,367	—	27,367	27,342
Restricted						
Avington Fabric		—	—	10,814	10,814	11,094
Easton Fabric		—	—	39,540	39,540	46,512
Martyr Worthy Fabric		—	—	17,945	17,945	19,856
Were Fabric Fund		—	—	22,974	22,974	22,411
Total Funds		97,851	27,367	91,273	216,491	250,221

Balance sheet

	Total funds	Prior year funds
Current assets		
Debtors	7,756	6,673
Investments	—	131,951
Cash at bank and in hand	215,150	122,984
	222,905	**261,609**
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	6,415	11,388
	6,415	**11,388**
Net current assets less current liabilities	**216,491**	**250,221**
Total assets less current liabilities	**216,491**	**250,221**
Total net assets less liabilities	**216,491**	**250,221**
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
General fund	97,851	123,006
Designated		
Itchen Abbas Designated Fabric	27,367	27,342
Restricted		
Avington Fabric	10,814	11,094
Easton Fabric	39,540	46,512
Martyr Worthy Fabric	17,945	19,856
Were Fabric Fund	22,974	22,411
Funds of the church	**216,491**	**250,221**

Statement of assets and liabilities

		General	Designated	Restricted	This year	Last year
Current assets - Current assets						
CAF current account		61,026	16,686	54,322	132,034	43,711
CAF Gold bank account		16,680	4,561	14,251	35,492	35,488
Nat West current account		22,382	6,120	19,123	47,624	43,785
Scottish Widows 90 day account		—	—	—	—	80,823
CCLA Investment Fund		—	—	—	—	42,224
M&G Charifund		—	—	—	—	8,904
Accounts Receivable		1,262	—	6,494	7,756	6,673
	Totals	**101,349**	**27,367**	**94,189**	**222,905**	**261,609**
Liabilities - Liabilities						
Agency collections		—	—	2,917	2,917	6,850
Accounts payable		2,228	—	—	2,228	4,538
Prepayments		1,270	—	—	1,270	—
	Totals	**3,498**	**—**	**2,917**	**6,415**	**11,388**
	Grand total	**97,851**	**27,367**	**91,273**	**216,491**	**250,221**

Analysis of income and expenditure

1 Planned giving

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total This year	Total Last year
Planned giving - GAE donations	53,602	—	—	53,602	61,382
Planned giving - non GAE donations	5,782	—	—	5,782	2,293
Planned giving - GA inclusive donations	9,080	—	—	9,080	9,200
Total	68,464	—	—	68,464	72,875

2 Collections and other giving

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total This year	Total Last year
GASDS Avington	—	—	—	—	150
GASDS Martyr Worthy	187	—	—	187	1,555
GASDS Itchen Abbas	114	—	—	114	810
GASDS Easton	473	—	—	473	378
One-off GAE gifts (inc CAFDonate GAE)	2,468	—	350	2,818	1,455
Total	3,242	—	350	3,592	4,348

3 Other voluntary receipts

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total This year	Total Last year
Church wall boxes	458	—	—	458	81
Donations for specific purposes	—	—	19,493	19,493	39,500
Recurring grants	2,500	—	—	2,500	10,000
Other donations Non GAE & one-off grants	685	—	2,798	3,482	1,717
Total	3,642	—	22,290	25,933	51,298

4 Gift Aid recovered

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total This year	Total Last year
Gift aid tax reclaim	14,064	—	1,086	15,150	17,193
Total	14,064	—	1,086	15,150	17,193

5 Other receipts

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total This year	Total Last year
Other funds generated	227	—	3,900	4,127	889
Total	227	—	3,900	4,127	889

6 Activities for generating funds

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total This year	Total Last year
Fund raising events	3,130	—	222	3,352	9,668
Christmas card sales	—	—	—	—	100
Total	3,130	—	222	3,352	9,768

7 Investment Income

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total This year	Total Last year
Bank interest	79	17	61	158	260
Investment income	617	137	501	1,254	1,620
Total	696	154	562	1,412	1,880

8 Receipts from church activities

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total This year	Total Last year
Wedding & funeral fees	7,359	—	—	7,359	5,535
Total	7,359	—	—	7,359	5,535

9 Cost of generating funds

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total This year	Total Last year
Costs of fund raising events	80	—	—	80	—
Total	80	—	—	80	—

10 Common Mission Fund

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total This year	Total Last year
Common mission fund	68,537	—	—	68,537	74,474
Total	68,537	—	—	68,537	74,474

11 Clergy and staffing costs

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total This year	Total Last year
Assistant ministry expenses	210	—	—	210	169
Parish administrator & bookkeeper costs	20,188	—	—	20,188	19,920
Rector's expenses	315	—	—	315	—
Total	20,713	—	—	20,713	20,089

12 Church running expenses

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total This year	Total Last year
Bank charges	96	—	—	96	65
Expenses for vacancy	945	—	—	945	—
Wedding and funeral expenses	1,852	—	—	1,852	770
Stationery, printing, computing	6,002	—	—	6,002	2,793
Sacristy	—	—	—	—	41
Training courses	173	—	—	173	502
Children's activities	373	—	—	373	381
Parish entertainment and hospitality	461	—	—	461	508
Church running - insurance	6,189	—	—	6,189	6,825
Organ tuning	355	—	—	355	—
Church maintenance	4,941	—	—	4,941	4,500
Service: fire, heating, safety	2,024	—	—	2,024	912
Worship and music	2,650	—	—	2,650	2,639
Upkeep of churchyard	6,768	—	—	6,768	4,083
Administration	820	—	—	820	—
Church running - electric	2,316	—	—	2,316	1,926
Church running - gas	2,783	—	—	2,783	5,028
Church running - water	369	—	—	369	608
Total	39,115	—	—	39,115	31,580

13 Church repairs & maintenance

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total This year	Total Last year
Quinquennial inspection - Martyr Worthy	—	—	2,358	2,358	33,190
Quinquennial inspection - Itchen Abbas	—	663	—	663	—
Quinquennial inspection - Easton	—	—	—	—	1,128
Quinquennial inspection - Avington	—	—	—	—	11,790
Church & graveyard major repairs	—	—	3,617	3,617	3,441
Total	—	663	5,975	6,638	49,549

14 New building work

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total This year	Total Last year
Avington Bible cabinet	—	—	3,449	3,449	680
Easton sound system	—	—	29,503	29,503	127
Total	—	—	32,952	32,952	808

15 Additional Notes

Details of Fund-Raising Activities

Event	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	Net sum raised for the parish
Martyr Worthy Lectures	3,080	0	3,080
Sale of woodwork		222	222
Sale of T shirts	50		50
Total	**3,130**	**222**	**3,352**

In many cases, fund raising expenses are not reported to IVPCC and only net funds have been received. Although this is relatively common practice, it is not strictly in compliance with generally accepted accounting practice.

Collections for Other Charities

During 2021 there were the following collections for other charities (not including special collections at weddings and funerals). As these collections are for third parties, they are not counted as part of the funds of the Parish. Collections include donations via CAF Donate and SumUp.

Candlemas services collection for:	
Lango	92
Confirmation service collection for:	
World Mission	130
Harvest Festival collections for:	
Trinity Winchester	181
Winchester Basics Bank	181
Winchester Beacon	181
Remembrance service collection for:	
Royal British Legion	455
Christmas collections 2021 split between:	
The Children's Society	601
Trinity Winchester	601
Winchester Basics Bank	601
Winchester Beacon	601
Total collections for other charities	**3,623**

Donations for Specific Purposes

Easton chancel lighting	1,393
Easton audio visual	18,100
Total donations for specific purposes	**19,493**

Donations from Trustees

The total donations from the Trustees in the reporting period was £38,454 and no conditions were attached to any of these donations.

Itchen Valley Churches
St John's Church, Itchen Abbas, Winchester SO21 1BJ

www.itchenvalleychurches.org

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ITCHEN VALLEY, WINCHE

England & Wales - Charity number 1133110

Accounts

THE PARISH OF THE ITCHEN VALLEY

Incorporating the Churches of
St Mary's Avington, St Mary's Easton,
St John's Itchen Abbas and St Swithun's Martyr Worthy

ITCHEN VALLEY
CHURCHES

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

2020

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1. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Parish of the Itchen Valley is part of the Diocese of Winchester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is: Itchen Valley Parish Office, St John's Church, Itchen Abbas, Winchester SO21 1BJ (01962)779845. The office is open from 9 am to 1pm on weekdays. The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Itchen Valley is a Registered Charity No: 1133110.

The Churches of the Parish are St Mary's at Avington, St Mary's at Easton, St John the Baptist's at Itchen Abbas and St Swithun's at Martyr Worthy.

Ministry team:

Rector	Reverend Alex Pease
Licensed Lay Minister	Gerry Stacey

Churchwardens:

St Mary's Avington	Dan Day Robinson
St Mary's Easton	Chris Ellis, Theo Mezger
St John's Itchen Abbas	Tony Gaster, Sarah Hunt
St Swithun's Martyr Worthy	Sara Mason, Robin Greenwood

Deanery Synod Representatives (elected in 2017 for 3 years):

Martyr Worthy	Gerry Stacey
Easton	Theo Mezger
Itchen Abbas	Julia Wright
Avington	Tim Clapp

Elected members of the PCC:
Helen Wayne (Avington), Sara Janssen (Easton) Sally Parker (Itchen Abbas) Verity Coleman (Martyr Worthy)

Hon Secretary: Verity Coleman
Hon Treasurer: Richard Coleman

2. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the Parish of the Itchen Valley is the governing body for the Parish. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules and the Parish Scheme. The PCC met six times during 2020. The PCC was supported by a Standing Committee and a Finance Committee.
The Constitution of the Parish of the Itchen Valley and the supporting Policy Guidance document can both be found on the parish website.
There are four District Church Councils (DCCs), one for each District centred on the churches of the Parish. All the DCCs met regularly during 2020.
All regular Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC and DCCs.

3. AIMS AND PURPOSES

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector, to promote the whole mission of the Church - pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical - in the Ecclesiastical Parish and the area of the Itchen Valley. It is the duty of the Rector and the PCC to consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the parish.

4. OBJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship God at our churches and to become part of our parish community. The Ministry Team and PCC all acknowledge the need to consider public benefit in planning activities and guidance on the advancement of religion.

5. ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE –

The report from the Ministry team and the churchwardens' report set out some of the highlights of the parish's achievements and performance in 2020.

		Average Attendance			
		2020	**2019**	**2018**	**2017**
8.00 am	**BCP Communion**	7 *based on 5 services*	8	8	8
10.00 am	**Parish Communion**	46	41	44	36
	All Age Worship	51	55	54	63
	Valley Worship	43	56	43	72 *based on 2 services*
	10.00 am average	*47*	*51*	*47*	*42*
11.00 am	**Matins**	-	-	-	18
6.00 pm	**Evensong**	15 *based on 8 services*	13	19	13
	Christmas Eve & Day	222	461	512	509
	Easter Day	68	136	169	220
		Additional Services			
	Baptisms	6	12	10	1
	Weddings	2	6	4	5
	Funerals	11	6	15	7

The attendance calculation for 2020 are based on Zoom attendance, Church attendance when permissible and average YouTube recording viewing figures.

6. ELECTORAL ROLL

There are 155 names on the 2021 Electoral Roll for the Parish, of whom 13 live outside the parish. This is a decrease of 12 on 2020 when the Electoral Roll was renewed.

7. REPORT ON THE FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF THE CHURCHES

St Mary's Avington

Lydia Gould has continued with the Quinquennial repair works on the exterior brickwork to a very high standard. Over the summer works were undertaken on the parapet and the crenelations on the north eastern and eastern aspects. Over the winter works have been completed at ground level near the south side door. Many thanks are due to Gill Graham Maw, who was overseeing this project. Gill retired in January 2021.

A faculty has been applied for the restoration of the Vinegar Bible and the Bible and prayer books were taken away for repair by the specialist restoration team. We anticipate having these back in mid-2021.

After a long period of closure during 2020, we will be drawing up a list of projects which need to be undertaken at St Mary's over the short, medium and long term. We will be looking at how to improve the heating, lighting and electrical installations at the church as well as other improvements to the fabric of the building.

St Mary's, Easton

In May Gigabeam installed wifi in St Mary's, which allows us to broadcast our services via Zoom. The Quinquennial Inspection took place in June. Many lesser issues that will require some maintenance over time were identified but the only matter requiring immediate attention is a small leak in the nave roof that is causing the plaster inside, high on the chancel arch above the font, to flake off. We have sought assistance from our architects to rectify this problem. During November, the lighting in the nave and its dimmers were converted to LED. Our application for a faculty to install an audio-visual system to support modern worship has recently

been approved and work will commence shortly. We are in the process of making faculty applications to update and improve the chancel lighting and for the felling of three dead trees and the extensive pruning of all other trees in the churchyard.

St John's, Itchen Abbas

Since March 2020, the church has been closed for all activities, except for private prayer and just a few services when permitted. The Quinquennial Inspection was carried out in October. A number of small issues have been identified for action. Routine maintenance has been carried out both to the building and churchyard. Lack of use has enabled the grass to grow back well in the car park.

St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy

The physical works arising out of the Martyr Worthy 2017 Quinquennial Inspection finally took place between 16 March and 30 July and took longer than expected due to the impact of COVID. The works involved repairs to the roof tiles, roof vents, bell chamber louvres, gutters and downpipes, boiler house chimney and some brick and stonework repairs. A faculty for one year was obtained on 27 June 2019 and an extension of one year from 27 June 2020 was granted on 3 April and a bat licence was obtained on 18 February 2020. The total cost is expected to be c£43k before VAT of which £5k for a bat survey and professional fees was charged in previous years, £33k in 2020 and the balance of c£5 will be due in August 2021 at the end of the defects period when a post-construction bat monitoring survey is also required. We have been able to reclaim the VAT in full so far and hope to reclaim it on the balance as well. The Friends of St Swithun's Church Martyr Worthy have generously contributed £10,000 towards the cost.

In late 2020, we also repaired two big cracks in the wall at the west end of the graveyard. The Church's 50% share of the costs is £1,464 and has been generously paid by The Friends. In addition earlier in the year BT installed wifi to allow us to broadcast our services via Zoom.

In 2021 we have just carried out some electrical works arising out of our recent electrical inspection and have repaired the wooden gate into the second graveyard and still need to secure a number of gravestones.

RECTOR'S REPORT

"So, what do you want me to do?" I asked the PCC on Monday 16th March 2020. Lockdown had just been announced and it had become clear that church services were to be stopped. After a packed 2019 with so much wonderful stuff going on, it looked as if the church was going to come to a grinding halt in 2020.

Rule of six tea parties

But the care and creativity of this parish swung into action to respond to the crisis. By means of the Itchen List we were able to encourage all the residents of our Valley to keep a lookout for their five nearest neighbours, to ensure that they were properly provided for during lockdown. During the Rule of Six we ran a campaign called "Love your Neighbour, who's a stranger" to encourage residents to invite those of their neighbours who they did not know well to tea in their gardens. We also initiated the idea in our community of local WhatsApp groups to enable neighbours to look after each other. It was wonderful to see how small groups of neighbours within our villages have got to know each other much better than before, as WhatsApp has facilitated socially distanced chat about everything from bonfires to suspicious vehicles. Offers of help for shopping for isolating residents have been extended. Across the villages, the Valley Visitors led by Lavinia Owen have continued their important work of looking out for their regulars.

As the Parish Council response began to gather momentum, we were able to assist and support their effort and fall in line behind their leadership of the community as our elected representatives. At the forefront of this care and concern have been many of our regular worshippers. As someone noted 'isn't it noticeable how it is so often the churchgoers who are involved in leading and helping look after neighbours in this crisis?'.

But it's not just the small acts of kindness and the building of relationships which have struck me during this period, but also individual acts of great generosity. Christians in the Parish donated substantial funds to the Winchester Villages Trust, which offers small grants in confidence to those facing financial difficulties. These grants have made a huge difference in the lives of a number of individuals within our community. It provided for them at pinch points and reduced worry.

Cameo under Charlotte Appleby's leadership has continued despite lockdown, but in a different form. Some of our older residents have told me how completely delighted they have been to receive a jar of jam or some flowers delivered to the door (with a smile behind a mask) by our Cameo helpers.

It has been so sad to suspend Little Rainbows during this time and I know that there are many families with new babies absolutely desperate for us to start up again! It has been disappointing as well not to run our annual Way of the Cross Pageant in Martyr Worthy and our annual Carols in the Barn because of Covid restrictions. However, during the summer, family by family we were able to take part in our Walk of Hope praying around the villages, the lanes and the fields, covering every square kilometre of our Parish and concluding with socially distanced ice cream eating in the churchyard at St Swithun's Martyr Worthy.

Ice cream after the Walk of Hope

Our courses have continued with the Marriage Course led by James and Julia Wright and the Bible Course led by Gerry Stacey, both before lockdown started at the beginning of the year, and the Prayer Course in the autumn, also led by Gerry Stacey, on Zoom after lockdown had begun. This latter course has migrated into a home group which now meets regularly. Our three other home groups: the Mum's Group, the Bible Beauties and Wednesday Night Worship have continued in different forms during lockdown giving a huge amount of welcome encouragement to each other during this difficult time.

Choral Advent Service

Our occasional choir led by Maj General Tim Tyler even managed to get some opportunities to sing between lockdowns at our Advent Sunday service, at our Christmas Crib service and in an amazing travelling choir 'Carols on the Move' tour of our villages to lead our villagers in singing carols during Advent. Our Virtual Advent Calendar gave some excitement to our families over the build up to Christmas as a substitute for our usual Posada journey around the Parish. Loulou Stirrup wrote a wonderful new dramatisation of the Advent Story for our Crib Service which was acted out by our young people.

Crib Service

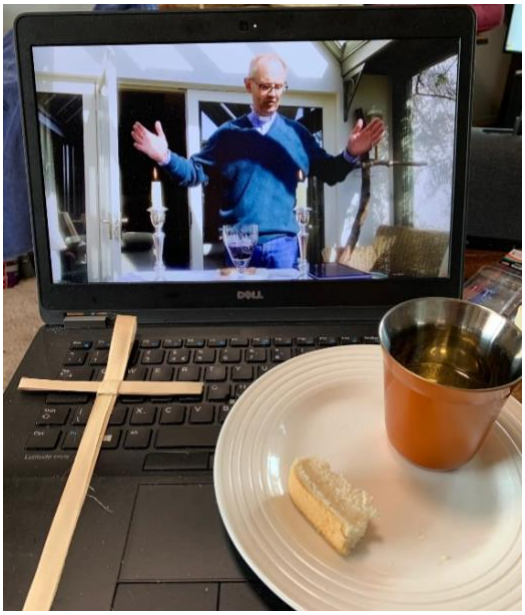
Even though we have been confined to our homes, we have not been focused solely on our own local community. Our warm ecumenical relationship with St Peter's Catholic Church in Winchester has continued, despite our common endeavour of Lent Lunches being curtailed in 2020, with a wonderful Sung Stations of the Cross just before lockdown came into effect in March 2020 and most recently an exploration of Lectio Divina on Zoom in March 2021. Our Remembrance Sunday service in November had (at the last minute because of lockdown) to be conducted principally on Zoom, but we were able to engage with the local branch of the Royal British Legion in this annual exercise and mark the 75th anniversary of the end of the Pacific War by the Lord's Prayer being read on Zoom in Japanese and English. It was a striking moment which called us all to forgiveness.

We have given help to a number of parishes in this Diocese and beyond who are contemplating merging from a multi church benefice into a single multi-church parish. Our paper on 'Simplification of Church Governance – advantages of the Single Parish Benefice' remains one of the most accessed documents of all time on our website and has provoked a number of telephone calls and Zoom meetings from as far away as Devon and Suffolk. I am very grateful to Rolls Coleman, Gerry Stacey and Simon Ffennell for being willing to assist in this micro-mission. Our contribution towards the Common Mission Fund has met our obligations and our giving to other charities has been exemplary.

Despite the many challenges, lockdown has had a number of advantages. All our Standing Committee, PCC and Parish Ministry Team meetings have been on Zoom. Our meetings tend to be delightful anyway, marked by a cooperative atmosphere and also by a unanimous wish to get the meeting over as quickly as possible, which is a wonderful combination for any chairman. Never has my finger had to hover over the mute button during anyone's contribution! Of course, we will all want to get back together again and see each other, but the advantages of avoiding the need to travel and park on winter's evenings will mean, I believe, that Zoom will continue to play a role in the church's governance.

Zoom has also enabled us to do some things that we might not otherwise have managed to do. We ran a Zoom Alpha Course in the autumn and two of those who attended would not have been able to join us if we had held the course in the flesh. All the concerns as to whether Alpha would work online have been confounded with several profound moments of the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Then of course we have had to take an entirely different approach to our services. After the fateful PCC meeting on 16 March 2020 we moved online. We became broadcasters! We suddenly found how to lead a communion service on You Tube and on Zoom. We learned that recorded services take twice as long to organise than live Zoom services. We struggled with sound issues and were so grateful to Chris Ellis- in particular for managing our sound system both in church (when we were able to return for services) and online - being our first Zoom jockey – a job title which did not even exist just 12 months ago.



It has not always been easy. It has been most difficult when we were in half lockdown – when, under the tier system, churchgoers were allowed to attend services in limited numbers in masks, socially distanced and not singing (lip synching and humming permitted). We discovered that repeated verses of hymns played on the organ without singing were a bit dull, so we provided recorded hymns with singing and used them both live and on Zoom. But we had terrible problems with feedback loops and Zoom not being designed for music. Eventually we learned how to overcome this. We have seen that it's better to have screens on when we are online and learned how to switch off our mute buttons. We have also learned how to worship from home and not just view the service passively as if we were watching the Antiques Road Show on the BBC.

Palm Sunday

Despite all the challenges we have prevailed, and during the most recent lockdown we have become really quite good at this! I believe that we have actually drawn closer together because of the whole experience. We have been so grateful to those who have guided us through the pain of technological novelty.

A particular thanks to Chris Ellis with respect to sound, to James Greig with his BBC film production experience, to Tim Clapp who has managed to lead our worship either from home or from St John's, Itchen Abbas and to all the Zoom jockeys: Chris Ellis, John Bouldin, Gerry Stacey and Ben Hart.

It has been difficult for new people to join our church during this time. It's quite intimidating joining a Zoom service with people you don't know (although one or two families have done so).

As Rector, I would usually get to know newcomers to the villages soon after they arrive and invite them to join us. However, that has not been possible. My walking round the villages chatting to people has also been curtailed. Of course, as is usual, we have lost people – some have moved home and some have sadly died.

So, it's not surprising that our average attendance figures for our 10am services have been a bit lower this year (47 rather than 51). I am struck, however, by how our average Parish Communion service figures for 2020 have actually risen during the year (up to 46 from 41). What has been particularly encouraging is that many of our parish communion congregation, who previously might have been a bit sceptical about our informal services and our modern worship styles, have been regular attenders on Zoom at these services as well.

I have continued to be really grateful for the huge efforts made by our churchwardens Theo Mezger and Chris Ellis, Robin Greenwood and Sara Mason, Tony Gaster and Sarah Hunt and Dan Day Robinson to lead the church community in their villages. It's a sad moment for us to say goodbye to Tony Gaster who is stepping down as churchwarden after so many years and will be greatly missed. We also say goodbye to Rolls Coleman as Treasurer and Verity Coleman as PCC Secretary. Their calm intelligence and good humour have guided us through some difficult times and left us in a really good position as a Parish as we close another year. I am so grateful to them. Sara Mason and her Covid Committee have been so helpful with their reasoned guidance in ensuring that we achieve Covid compliance in all our churches and at all our events throughout this difficult year.

All this has made me reflect on what we are as a church. We are not just an organisation with its committees and targets; we are not just a charity with its objectives, of course we are friends, but we are also a family. Every member of that family is important. We are a family which (as we have seen during the pandemic) really is salt and light in our community, as we have seen so many of us making a difference to neighbours in need during this time. We are a family which (perhaps unlike real families!) behaves decently and with kindness and respect to each other and are thus an example to others here. We are a family which is not frightened of being known as being followers of Christ. We are, as Peter writes in 1 Peter 2:5-6, 'like living stones being built into a spiritual

house'. Without all the stones in place, resting on the foundation stone of Christ, the house collapses: everyone is essential; everyone makes a contribution; and everyone matters.

Thank you so much to so many people for what you have done for the Lord and for the Parish during the year. I will not mention everyone by name: the Churchwardens mention many people in their report, and I entirely endorse what they say. I have already thanked the Churchwardens, Treasurer and PCC Secretary, but I do want to say a particular thank you to Beccy Clark our Parish Administrator (who has, as always, been just amazing all year), to our PCC members and to our incredible Parish Ministry Team, all of whom have been a huge support to me personally during this year and have been a delight to lead. You may recall that I said at the APCM last year that 2020 would be a 'year of empowerment'. During this time the Parish Ministry Team has grown to 11 with so many attending BCM courses. Individual ministries have grown apace. It has been great to see their lives change as they have encountered Christ more deeply and I feel sure that they are already changing the lives of others.

Rector's Video Letter

As all of you know, I retire from my time as Priest in Charge of this parish in mid-April. It has been an immense privilege to be your Rector for the last three years and to be Assistant Priest and Curate in the six years before then. It has been wonderful to see you all at your very best and also when times have been challenging. It has been such a joy to be able to lead you at services and festivals, at baptisms, weddings and funerals. I have felt that my entire life has been leading towards this period of being your Rector and I have poured all my experiences of life into it. I have enjoyed every single moment. Thank you for being who you are and for seeking to be who Christ is calling you to become.
Revd. Alex Pease

9. CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

We would like to warmly welcome all those who are new to the Parish including the many young families and those from outside the Parish who have chosen to worship with us and become part of our community.

As already reported, 2020 has been a difficult year for our parish due to the restrictions that we have had to operate under as a result of Covid:

- That said, we were able to sustain our usual minimum of two church services each Sunday until the first lockdown led to all four churches being closed.
- However, we were then able to offer one church service at 10.00 am each Sunday initially pre-recorded by Alex our Rector at home on You Tube and, once restrictions began to be eased and Alex, but not the congregation, was allowed back into the churches, a live service in one of the churches on Zoom, with a recording available on You Tube.
- By the summer, churchgoers were allowed to attend services too, subject to strict social distancing and other protocols being followed. However with attendances limited to a maximum number, services continued to be live on Zoom and recorded on You Tube for those who felt vulnerable and did not wish to enter a church building. These live services were also held initially in Easton.
- We shortly afterwards opened each of our four churches for private prayer once a week subject again to various protocols being followed.
- We also held the 10.00 service in Itchen Abbas instead on two occasions, including one led by the Archdeacon, as we became more familiar with what was involved.
- In addition we held a sung Evensong for Advent in Itchen Abbas with the choir led by Maj Gen Tim Tyler and three Evensongs in Martyr Worthy, although they were not on Zoom.
- We also streamed Jim Glasspool's funeral in Itchen Abbas on Zoom.
- Over Christmas, we also managed to have a live Christingle Service in Avington which was well attended by many young families, led by the Parish Ministry Team and with a live band; a live Crib Service in Easton with the choir present which was also on Zoom; and a live service on Christmas Day in each of our four churches; Avington's was a midnight service and only Easton's was on Zoom.

We would like to pay tribute to Alex our Rector, supported by Gerry Stacey, our Licensed Lay Minister, and our eight BCMs: Simon Ffennell, Tim Clapp, James Greig, Julia Wright (all Worship Ministers), Nicky Barber (Creation Care), John Barber (Prayer Minister), Lavinia Owen (Pastoral Minister) and Lucy Pease (Discipleship Minister). In addition James Greig, James Wright, Julia Wright, Nicky Barber and John Barber are occasional preachers, selected by the Rector and operating under his authority. We would like to thank our Ministry Team, now much enlarged by Alex, for all that they have done, and feel truly blessed to have them. We should not underestimate the challenges they faced and the work involved. Thank you.

The services we held could not have taken place without the help of Chris Ellis and James Greig and the other Zoom jockeys: Gerry Stacey, John Bouldin and Ben Hart. It is important to appreciate that the services involved complex equipment, set up prior to each service, worship music pre-recording, and in the case of the Remembrance Parade outside Easton Church and the Christingle service an enormous time commitment. Equally critical were David Parker the Parish's Health & Safety Officer, David Swinstead responsible for health and safety in Easton and Sara Mason, who took particular responsibility for producing the Covid protocols to be followed and risk assessments for each type of service and church. We are truly grateful to them and blessed to have them. Again a big thank you.

The success of a parish also depends on many others who volunteer to perform various other key roles and duties. Those who:

- serve on the Parish Church Council and its committees and our District Church Councils, and their Hon Secretaries
- serve as our four Deanery Synod Representatives
- serve as Hon Treasurer
- act as vergers, sacristans and bankers of cash (the last role suspended from first lockdown)
- organise the finding of organists in the absence of a full-time organist (suspended for most of 2020)
- help at services whether as sidesmen, lesson readers, intercessors, chalice or eucharistic assistants, bell ringers, members of the band, helping with young children, providing activity bags for children in each of our four churches and those who make and serve coffee (some of which roles, but not all, had to be suspended from first lockdown), and all their co-ordinators
- are members of our choir and their leader.
- help with church cleaning, flower arranging and opening and locking up the churches, (all of which had to continue but in amended form) and again all their co-ordinators
- keep our churches and churchyards in good condition, and again all their co-ordinators
- organise Home Groups
- organise, participate in and help with The Way of the Cross (suspended in 2020 due to Covid), Carols in the Barn (replaced by carols sung in each village in 2020) and the Crib Service
- organise and help with Cameo, Little Rainbows, the Ark and UTX (all disrupted since first lock-down)
- organise and help with Alpha Course, Marriage Course, Bible Course and the Prayer Course (some of which were held online in 2020)
- organise and act as Valley Visitors
- organise and help with fund raising and other events
- organise and help with the Harvest Lunch (suspended in 2020)
- guide us on important administrative items such as health & safety, Covid compliance, safeguarding, data protection and food hygiene

It has always been and remains one big team effort and we are truly appreciative of all that you have done in this difficult year. We thank you.

Up to the start of the first lockdown we were able to keep up the momentum and build on the successes of the last six years and continue to pursue new initiatives. Since then we have endeavoured to continue to do this to as best we can. This has of course had its challenges given that as we all know:

- the post of Rector has been a half-time post since Alex's arrival in April 2018 and we have not had a curate since 2018. This has meant that we have had to continue adjusting to being a half-time post parish including recognising that Alex only works Sundays and three weekdays a week and has one Sunday off a month, with in normal times the eucharist service on the other Sunday being covered by outside clergy provided by the Diocesan Registry and non-eucharist services by other members of the now expanded ministry team comprising our LLM Gerry Stacey and the new BCMs licensed by Bishop Tim. It has also meant moving in normal times to having two rather than three services each Sunday.

- we continue to be faced by the increasing administrative and regulatory burden of running a small rural parish and the need to free up our ministry team for pastoral work. As a result we have employed Beccy Clark as a paid administrator since 2018 working five mornings a week and Beccy has taken over many tasks and is now the first point of contact in the parish, including for baptisms, marriages and funerals. In addition, with Janet Denyer as a paid bookkeeper as well, it has all come with a cost implication.
- we are required to work closely with the clergy and laity in the Deanery to ensure that we have a creative strategy and a plan for the future that is good for both us and the Deanery as the Diocese faces the challenge of maintaining and growing the church with a declining number of clergy and limited cash resources, a situation made worse by the pandemic.

Our objective remains to hold a minimum of two church services each Sunday in normal times, with services spread across our four churches in a regular pattern of worship which our congregation appreciates. As set out in the parish profiles agreed at the time of both Alex and the previous three Rectors' appointments, in recognition of the fact that the Church of England is a broad church, that we are a rural parish and that different members of our congregation like different forms of worship, liturgy and versions of the prayer book and bible, we aim to offer worship across a broad spectrum. This involves a balance of traditional and more modern family-orientated services to both maintain a wide appeal and attract younger people which is so important if we are to be a vibrant and growing rural parish. We appreciate that the more modern forms of services do not appeal to some of our older congregation members. However, it attracts younger families who are already playing an active role in church life. We keep the format and content of these more modern form of services under regular review.

We are blessed with beautiful and well-maintained churches and are pleased that in normal times we are able to keep them open daily and to use them for regular and festive worship and other events. It is gratifying to see from the visitors' books how many people visit and appreciate our churches. This is in large part due to the four District Church Councils, who have delegated responsibility for the upkeep and general maintenance of the churches and churchyards, together with the large number of people who provide additional support.

We continued to assist the Rector and his ministry team with implementing our Parish Mission Action Plan, which we were required to revise in 2019, as part of Bishop Tim's Strategic Priorities for Mission. This led in 2019 to various initiatives including a renewed focus on attracting more families and younger parishioners to our churches which has continued in 2020.

Family Worship theatre in a box

We would once again like to thank Beccy Clark, our Parish Administrator, whose skills and helpfulness are much appreciated, for all her hard work. We would also like to thank Janet Denyer, now in her second year as our Parish Bookkeeper, for all her hard work and help too. We have also been entirely dependent upon our wonderful volunteers in doing the various jobs that they do including Rolls Coleman as Hon Treasurer, Verity Coleman who is PCC Secretary, David Parker who acts as our Health & Safety Officer, Sara Mason who has been our Covid protocol officer, Sarah Hunt who acts as our Safeguarding Officer and Charlotte Appleby who co-ordinates the finding of organists. We are truly appreciative and grateful. Thank you. And a big thank you to Rolls Coleman and Verity Coleman who are retiring as Hon Treasurer and PCC Secretary respectively at the APCM. In addition, we would like to thank Alex Pease once again for his work in ensuring that the parish website is kept up to date. The website continues to become an increasingly important way of communicating our message to the wider public, showcasing our events and activities as well as hosting the Itchen Valley diary. We encourage you to use it.

In a normal year the work of the Parish is reflected in the wide range of activities which take place including the Way of the Cross Service, our Patronal Services and parties and Carols in the Barn. Sadly none were able to take place in 2020 due to Covid although, as mentioned above, we were able to hold singing carols in each village.

With a focus on mission and outreach, and mindful of the importance of public benefit in the work of a charity, many of the activities of the parish continued to be directed towards the wider community and beyond:

- we supported a number of charities, including Winchester Night Shelter, Winchester Basics Bank, The Children's Society, Trinity Winchester and the Royal British Legion (the latter made direct online on Remembrance Sunday), both through monetary donations from special collections, through donations in kind and by active involvement.
- our pastoral visitors programme, which was relaunched in 2018, supports those in need, whether members of our congregation or not.
- we continued to foster our links with local schools and playgroups but were constrained as a result of the pandemic.
- we continued to support Lango with a Candlemas service collection.

2020 was an unavoidably less active year for fund raising. Events included the Martyr Worthy Plant Sale (£6,498), Southwood Players (£2,000), Philip Windsor-Aubrey woodwork sales (£861) and a sale of baskets (£310). The 2020/21 Lecture Series in Martyr Worthy has had to be postponed to 2021/22 due to Covid. They all not only make a significant contribution to our financial position but also provide a social dimension to our life as a parish and demonstrate that the congregation is active in the local community. Some are put on jointly with other organisations and may raise money for several charities as well as church funds. We are once again grateful for the energy and enthusiasm of fund-raising teams which makes this possible, but we are always looking out for new ideas and helpers. In summary the churchwardens thank all those who contribute in many different ways to the work and smooth running of the parish and in particular in this difficult and challenging year.

This year sees Tony Gaster standing down as Churchwarden. We would like to thank Tony for all that he has done and the other roles he has performed in the parish, wish him well in his planned moved to Winchester and hope that we shall continue to see him.

In addition, although it is outside the scope of the 2020 Annual Report, as we know Alex has announced that sadly he will not be seeking to be re-appointed as Rector on 15 April. We fully understand why, are fully supportive of his position and would like to thank Alex and Lucy for all that they have done in his three years as our Rector and in the six previous years. Alex will be leaving us in a thriving, growing, sustainable and strong position and can be very proud of his achievement, and personally we have all enjoyed working with and supporting Alex in his work.

10. DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

This parish has four elected lay members to the Deanery Synod, plus our Rector, who for the last year have been Theo Mezger, Tim Clapp, Gerry Stacey and Julia Wright. Principally due to Covid, Synod have met by Zoom only twice in December and February, although in September we were informed by email of the resignation of the incumbent of the Arle Valley (Alresford) Benefice.

At both meetings, two major topics were debated:

1. Diocesan Pastoral Reorganisation – The Area Dean reported that, provoked by the financial crisis of the Diocese,
    - a major pastoral reorganisation is under way,
    - the consultation process amongst Bishop David and Archdeacon Richard and our Area Dean (David Chattell) and our Lay Chair (Gillian Gray Knight) had been concluded,
    - the Diocese is working on a reorganisation scheme,
    - those parishes affected will be contacted soon
    - we/Synod are likely to be addressed by + David as a whole by mid-June.

2. Lango – Following extensive discussion over many years, at the last meeting it was decided that, in the absence of any further enthusiasm amongst the parishes to continue to support Lango, an exit strategy would be developed, including a final donation from Deanery funds.

Theo Mezger

11. REPORTS

CAMEO (Come and meet each other)

What a change from the last report! The lunch and service have been replaced by telephone calls and monthly deliveries. Each helper was assigned two or three people to keep in phone contact with (some of course also ring other friends who happen to be Cameo guests) and a different group to deliver to – the ones nearest in most cases. Our guests are not all still living in the Valley and so trips to Alresford, Hinton Ampner and Winchester are a regular feature. The first delivery was a mask, made by Jill Croft and others have included flowers, chutney, bulbs, jam, cards and delicious biscuits for Christmas.

For VE Day we joined with the Parish Council to deliver tea, jam, butter and scones not only to Cameo guests but also to all those who were alive in 1945 – the over 80s – as far as we could find out, and VE day teas were celebrated, socially distanced.

The generous hard working team have enjoyed Zoom meetings to plan each monthly celebration; in lockdown it is easier to find a date and time that all can manage! The guests are very appreciative of their efforts.

We regret the passing of Jim Glasspool, Jim Langridge and Richard Olden, but we are pleased to welcome a number of new people. When it is possible to restart our gatherings it will be important to make sure that new guests, who have not been churchgoers in the past and some of whom have expressed reservations about church attendance, are welcomed gently into the church family and not put off by an assumption that we share beliefs and experiences that they are not comfortable with. We hope that it will not be too long before we can meet each other again, but we will not take any risks.
Charlotte Appleby

Valley Visitors
Although visiting has been virtually impossible this year, our Valley Visitors team of seventeen has continued to stay in touch with as many people as possible. There was a brief moment when we could achieve some socially-distanced visits, but latterly we have been unable to visit anyone either in hospital or care homes. The telephone has been our standby, and I am very grateful to our wonderful team for all they have achieved this year.

While the Rule of Six was in place we managed to have three useful meetings to pool ideas and resources. Sadly we have lost four dear friends this year, and two people have moved to care homes nearer to their families. It has been extremely encouraging to know that the amazing Cameo team have been in regular touch with all their guests, many of whom are also on our visiting list.
Lavinia Owen

UTX (Under the Cross)
UTX last met in March 2020 when we made Mothering Sunday gifts. Unfortunately, we have been unable to hold UTX meetings since due to the Covid 19 pandemic and restrictions. We hope as the situation improves and the government is able to safely lift restrictions that we will be able to hold UTX again soon. We may consider a relaunch to reach out not only to our current UTXers, but other local young people who have moved from primary to senior school without the opportunity to find out about UTX during the Covid 19 pandemic.
Kelly Gibson, UTX Leader

The Ark
As with the rest of church-life, the Ark had to find ways to adapt during the pandemic of 2020. We moved from face-to-face gatherings to a once monthly Zoom session and a once-monthly, pre-prepared session which families worked through in their own time.

The Ark by Zoom

For most of the year we focused on The Fruits of the Spirit, played games, worshipped and prayed together. Thank you to all who helped prepare sessions.
James Greig

Little Rainbows
During 2020 Little Rainbows was sadly limited by the Covid restrictions. We enjoyed a couple of months of our regular Monday mornings in January and February, with a core group of six families or more. Then lockdown began, preventing us from meeting in our usual way at St. John's. During the short windows when limited socialising was allowed, a group of Little Rainbows mums and little ones could often be found feeding the ducks in Alresford on a Monday morning. These times of coffee and duck feeding were a much-needed lifeline for mums juggling with newborns and toddlers during lockdown life. On the positive side, many new babies were born to Little Rainbows families during 2020, and we are hugely looking forward to reuniting as soon as we are allowed.
Julia Wright

Health and Safety
This year has been dominated by Covid-19 related issues. I would like to thank all involved in creating a safe space for the various activities, but particular thanks to Sara Mason for her leadership of the Covid sub-Committee. Her report is as follows:

'In late March our church buildings were closed and services were broadcast very successfully online. We set about the development of a new set of risk assessments to enable the safe reopening of our church buildings for private prayer, the broadcasting of live services by Zoom and then later in the year the return of small congregations to services. Throughout a team including Alex, Theo Mezger, David Parker, David Swinstead, Beccy Clark and me have met online to discuss control measures and implement an action plan for opening our churches. I am pleased to report that with control measures in place we have been able to keep our churches open every week for private prayer, funerals, weddings and services throughout the year.'

I would add that we will continue to review the data and guidance as we all hope and pray to be able to return to a more expansive programme in church in the coming months. We ask for everyone's understanding that the measures in place will not be removed in a single "light switch" moment. Some may need to remain in place for some time to come, and some are specific to our own worship environment. At all times our priority will be to take all reasonable measures to be as safe as practically possible for the good of all of our church community. The more routine actions have been kept up to date as best as reasonably practical.
David Parker

Safeguarding
On reading my entry for 2019, the comments about form filling and documenting new certificates has continued, a healthy reflection of the number of people who contribute to our Christian life in the Itchen Valley, even though all church congregations and activities in person have had to be curtailed.
Sarah Hunt

Section 2

Itchen Valley PCC

End of Year Financial Statements

Year ending 31st December 2020

FINANCIAL REVIEW

This report shows the financial performance of the Itchen Valley Parish for 2020. In summary, the financial position of the Parish remained strong in 2020 despite the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Whilst activities in the churches ceased for several months, with the resulting loss of income, the financial strength of the Parish has meant that it has remained solvent and met all its financial commitments.

Total Funds on 31st December 2020 were £250,221 (2019 - £262,076). The unrestricted deficit in 2020 was £7,309 (2019 - £4,680). The unrestricted reserves at 31 December 2020 stand at £123,006 (2019 - £130,315) which remains more than the target of nine months' expenditure.

Regular giving (unrestricted planned giving and tax reclaim), which is the bedrock of our finances, was £89,193 (2019 - £86,576). This has remained at the current level for the past 5 years but is short of our aim for regular giving to cover the day-to-day running costs of the parish, which are currently £127k pa. Our regular worshipping community and those on our electoral roll should contribute habitually through the Parish Giving Scheme. As has been seen in 2020, our fund-raising activities are not a reliable source of income to pay our regular bills.

Because of the pandemic, 2020 fundraising was quieter with only 2 events raising a net total for the parish of £9,668 (2019 - £11,491). We are grateful for the success of the Martyr Worthy plant sale and the Southwood Players production in challenging circumstances. Thank you to all those involved in these events.

As part of the arrangement for the Parish having a half-stipendiary Rector, the Diocese continued to provide a transition grant underwriting the cost of the Parish Administrator to the extent of £10,000 in 2020 as part of a three-year grant ending in 2021.

The Parish has invested £51,128 of its funds in equity-based investments which, despite great volatility during the year, generated income of £1,880 and gains on investment assets of £858. A full review of the Parish's investments is planned in 2022.

The contribution to the Common Mission Fund (CMF) this year was £74,474 (2019 £70,744). The increase is caused by the effect of inflation on Diocese costs and a small increase in our worshiping community combined with an overall decrease in the worshipping community elsewhere in the Diocese. The pandemic has hit the Diocese hard and some tough decisions have been made to reduce costs which will result in the Parish contribution to the CMF falling to £68,537 in 2021.

The main expenditure on Repairs, Maintenance and New Building during 2020 was the quinquennial inspection work at St Swithun's, Martyr Worthy (£33,190) and at St Mary's Avington (£11,790). Each of their Fabric Funds has been topped up by £10,000 from the Were Fund as this expenditure is within the remit of this fund.

It is planned to spend more than £25k at St Mary's Easton on upgrading the audiovisual equipment to meet the requirements of modern services and streaming. Quinquennial expenditure will be required at St Mary's Easton and St Mary's Avington during the next year.

The audiovisual expenditure has been covered by specific fundraising and the respective Fabric Funds and the Were Fund will cover the other expenditure.

Janet Denyer continues to carry out the roles of bookkeeper and Gift Aid Secretary. Thanks are due to her for doing such excellent work. Scot Johnston decided to stand down last year as Independent Examiner and this role has been carried out by Stephen Hendy of Data Developments who provide our financial system. Thank you to both of them. Thanks also to Robin Greenwood and Henry Labram who together with the Treasurer and the bookkeeper form the Finance Committee.

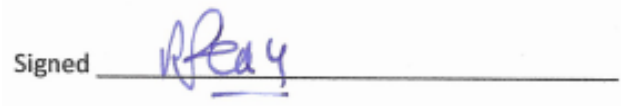
RESERVES POLICY

As required by Charities legislation, the PCC reviews regularly the financial risks associated with the operations of the Church. The main financial risk to income would be a change in the giving profile of parishioners and the main financial risk to costs would be a requirement for significant expenditure on the buildings.

The PCC's policy is to maintain liquid funds (not designated for other purposes) to cover 9 months expenditure of unrestricted funds.

Approved by the Itchen Valley PCC on 15th March 2021 and signed on their behalf by

Rev Alexander Pease.



Rev Alexander Pease

INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION

Independent Examiner's Report to Itchen Valley Parochial Church Council

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ending 31st December 2020, which are set out on pages 26 to 32 inclusive, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and S.43 of the Charities Act (the "Act").

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner
As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirements of the Regulation and S.43 (2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on the financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under S.43(7)(b) of the Act and is to be found in the Church Guidance 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items of disclosure in the financial statements and seeking explanations from your trustees concerning such matters. The procedures do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and I do not express an opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 41 of the Act; and
- to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and Regulations have not been met; or

(2) to which in my opinion, attention should be drawn to enable proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Stephen Hendy
Date: 15th March 2021

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2005.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Restricted funds represent donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for expenditure on a specific purpose agreed by the PCC. The designation has no legal status and may be changed.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes in accordance with its constitution.

Incoming resources

All income is generally recognised when it is received.

Resources expended

Expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross. In certain cases, where significant liabilities have been incurred but not paid for, these are accounted for on an accruals basis.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.92(a) of the Charities Act 1993. Movable church furnishings held by the rector and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time).

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31st December comprise short-term investments shown under current assets.

Investments sold are revalued immediately prior to disposal

Investment income is allocated across the funds in proportion to their average balance during the year.

Investment balances are allocated across funds in proportion to the fund balances at the 31st December.

Statement of Financial Activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Receipts						
Planned giving	1	72,875	—	—	72,875	71,899
Collections and other giving	2	4,348	—	—	4,348	16,269
Other voluntary receipts	3	11,132	—	40,166	51,298	15,698
Gift Aid recovered	4	16,318	—	875	17,193	19,242
Other receipts	5	889	—	—	889	242
Activities for generating funds	6	6,973	—	2,795	9,768	12,407
Investment Income	7	934	199	747	1,880	1,906
Receipts from church activities	8	5,535	—	—	5,535	7,953
Total receipts		**119,004**	**199**	**44,583**	**163,786**	**145,616**
Payments						
Cost of generating funds	9	—	—	—	—	776
Common Mission Fund	10	74,474	—	—	74,474	70,744
Clergy and staffing costs	11	20,089	—	—	20,089	21,832
Church running expenses	12	31,580	—	—	31,580	37,830
Church repairs & maintenance	13	595	—	48,954	49,549	17,970
New building work	14	—	—	808	808	17,993
Total payments		**126,738**	**—**	**49,762**	**176,500**	**167,145**
Net incoming / (outgoing) resources before transfer		**(7,734)**	**199**	**(5,179)**	**(12,714)**	**(21,529)**
Transfer between funds		—	—	—	—	—
Net incoming / (outgoing) before other gains / losses		**(7,734)**	**199**	**(5,179)**	**(12,714)**	**(21,529)**
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains / losses on investment assets		425	91	342	858	7,684
Net movement in funds		**(7,309)**	**290**	**(4,836)**	**(11,855)**	**(13,845)**
Total funds brought forward		**130,315**	**27,053**	**104,709**	**262,076**	**275,921**
Total funds carried forward		**123,006**	**27,342**	**99,872**	**250,221**	**262,076**
Represented by						
Unrestricted						
General fund		123,006	—	—	123,006	130,314
Designated						
Itchen Abbas Fabric		—	27,343	—	27,343	27,053
Restricted						
Avington Fabric		—	—	11,093	11,093	13,057
Easton Fabric		—	—	46,512	46,512	19,327
Martyr Worthy Fabric		—	—	19,856	19,856	30,258
Were Fabric Fund		—	—	22,411	22,411	42,067
Total Funds		123,006	27,343	99,872	250,221	262,076

Balance sheet

	Total funds	Prior year funds
Current assets		
Debtors	6,673	7,267
Investments	131,951	130,891
Cash at bank and in hand	122,984	132,558
	261,609	**270,716**
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	11,388	8,640
	11,388	**8,640**
Net current assets less current liabilities	**250,221**	**262,076**
Total assets less current liabilities	**250,221**	**262,076**
Total net assets less liabilities	**250,221**	**262,076**
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
General fund	123,006	130,314
Designated		
Itchen Abbas Fabric	27,343	27,053
Restricted		
Avington Fabric	11,093	13,057
Easton Fabric	46,512	19,327
Martyr Worthy Fabric	19,856	30,258
Were Fabric Fund	22,411	42,067
Funds of the church	**250,221**	**262,076**

Statement of assets and liabilities

	General	Designated	Restricted	This year	Last year
Current assets - Current assets					
CAF current account	20,402	4,415	18,895	43,711	18,430
CAF Gold bank account	17,801	3,852	13,835	35,488	75,335
Nat West current account	21,963	4,753	17,070	43,785	38,793
Scottish Widows 90 day account	40,541	8,774	31,509	80,824	80,621
CCLA Investment Fund	21,180	4,583	16,461	42,224	39,497
M&G Charifund	4,466	966	3,471	8,904	10,773
Debtors	247	—	6,426	6,673	7,267
Totals	**126,599**	**27,343**	**107,667**	**261,609**	**270,716**
Liabilities - Liabilities					
Agency collections	—	—	6,850	6,850	2,532
Creditors	3,593	—	945	4,538	6,108
Prepayments	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	**3,593**	**—**	**7,795**	**11,388**	**8,640**
Grand total	**123,006**	**27,343**	**99,872**	**250,221**	**262,076**

Analysis of income and expenditure

1 Planned giving

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total this year	Total last year
Planned giving - GAE donations	61,382	—	—	61,382	59,751
Planned giving - non GAE donations	2,293	—	—	2,293	2,998
Planned giving - GA incl. donations	9,200	—	—	9,200	9,150
Total	72,875	—	—	72,875	71,899

2 Collections and other giving

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total This Year	Total Last Year
Loose plate collections	—	—	—	—	83
GASDS Avington	150	—	—	150	762
GASDS Martyr Worthy	1,555	—	—	1,555	3,355
GASDS Itchen Abbas	810	—	—	810	2,325
GASDS Easton	378	—	—	378	3,680
One-off GAE gifts	1,455	—	—	1,455	6,063
Total	4,348	—	—	4,348	16,269

3 Other voluntary receipts

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total This Year	Total Last Year
Church wall boxes	81	—	—	81	653
Easton bellringers	—	—	—	—	27
Donations for specific purposes	—	—	39,500	39,500	—
Legacies	—	—	—	—	1,000
Recurring grants	10,000	—	—	10,000	10,000
Other donations & one-off grants	1,051	—	666	1,717	4,018
Total	11,132	—	40,166	51,298	15,699

4 Gift Aid recovered

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total This Year	Total Last Year
Gift aid tax reclaim	16,318	—	875	17,193	19,242
Total	16,318	—	875	17,193	19,242

5 Other receipts

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total This Year	Total Last Year
Other funds generated	889	—	—	889	242
Total	889	—	—	889	242

6 Activities for generating funds

		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total This Year	Total Last Year
Fund raising events	Note 15	6,873	—	2,795	9,668	12,267
Christmas card sales		100	—	—	100	140
Total		6,973	—	2,795	9,768	12,407

7 Investment Income

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total This Year	Total Last Year
Bank interest	132	27	101	260	217
Investment income	802	172	646	1,620	1,689
Total	934	199	747	1,880	1,906

8 Receipts from church activities

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total This Year	Total Last Year
Wedding & funeral fees	5,535	—	—	5,535	7,953
Total	5,535	—	—	5,535	7,953

9 Cost of generating funds

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total This Year	Total Last Year
Costs of fund raising events	—	—	—	—	776
Total	—	—	—	—	776

10 Common Mission Fund

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total This Year	Total Last Year
Common Mission Fund	74,474	—	—	74,474	70,744
Total	74,474	—	—	74,474	70,744

11 Clergy and staffing costs

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total This Year	Total Last Year
Assistant ministry expenses	169	—	—	169	1,424
Parish administrator & bookkeeper costs	19,920	—	—	19,920	20,408
Total	20,089	—	—	20,089	21,832

12 Church running expenses

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total This Year	Total Last Year
Bank charges	65	—	—	65	60
Deanery Synod	—	—	—	—	100
Wedding and funeral expenses	770	—	—	770	1,970
Stationery, printing, computing	2,793	—	—	2,793	4,404
Sacristy	41	—	—	41	407
Training courses	502	—	—	502	672
Children's activities	381	—	—	381	993
Parish entertainment and hospitality	508	—	—	508	833
Church running - insurance	6,824	—	—	6,824	6,150
Organ tuning	—	—	—	—	369
Church maintenance	4,500	—	—	4,500	1,709
Service: fire, heating, safety	912	—	—	912	2,100
Worship and music	2,639	—	—	2,639	2,803
Upkeep of churchyard	4,083	—	—	4,083	4,336
Church running - electric	1,926	—	—	1,926	2,330
Church running - gas	5,028	—	—	5,028	7,040
Church running - water	608	—	—	608	583
Church running - annual maint.	—	—	—	—	972
Total	31,580	—	—	31,580	37,829

13 Church repairs & maintenance

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total This Year	Total Last Year
Quinquennial inspection - Martyr Worthy	—	—	33,190	33,190	5,270
Quinquennial inspection - Easton	—	—	1,128	1,128	—
Quinquennial inspection - Avington	—	—	11,790	11,790	—
Church & graveyard major repairs	595	—	2,846	3,441	12,700
Total	595	—	48,954	49,549	17,970

14 New building work

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total This Year	Total Last Year
Avington Bible cabinet	—	—	680	680	2,993
Itchen Abbas car park	—	—	—	—	14,400
Easton extension	—	—	—	—	600
Easton sound system	—	—	128	128	—
Total	—	—	808	808	17,993

15. Additional Notes

Details of Fund-Raising Activities

Event	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	Net sum Raised for the Parish
Martyr Worthy plant sale	4,873	1,624	6,497
Sale of woodwork		861	861
Sale of baskets		310	310
Southwood Players	2,000		2,000
Total	6,873	2,795	9,668

In many cases, fund raising expenses are not reported to IVPCC and only net funds have been received. Although this is relatively common practice, it is not strictly in compliance with generally accepted accounting practice.

Collections for Other Charities

During 2020 there were the following collections for other charities (not including special collections at weddings and funerals). As these collections are for third parties, they are not counted as part of the funds of the Parish.

Candlemas services collection for:	
Lango	262
Christmas 2020 donations via CAF Donate split between:	
The Children's Society	1,487
Trinity Winchester	1,487
Winchester Basics Bank	1,487
Winchester Churches Night Shelter	1,487
Total collections for other charities	6,180

Donations

For Specific Purposes

Easton Development	22,500
Easton audio visual	5,500
Martyr Worthy Fabric	11,500
Total donations for specific purposes	39,500

From Trustees

The total donations from the trustees in this reporting period were £41,466 and no conditions were attached to any of these donations.

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