

2024

ANNUAL REPORT

The Parochial Council
of the Ecclesiastical
Parish of Chester,
Christ Church

Registered charity 1133808

CHRIST
CHURCH

CHESTER



Parish Report and Financial Statements for
the year ended 31st December 2024



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Statement of Parochial Church Council's Responsibilities

We are required under the Charities Act 2011 to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the PCC and its surplus or deficit for that period. In preparing those financial statements we are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the PCC will continue.

We are also responsible for:

- keeping proper accounting records;
- safeguarding the PCC's assets;
- taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud.

Public Benefit

The PCC are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in "The advancement of religion for the Public Benefit" and have had regard to it in their administration of the church.

The PCC believes that by promoting the Christian faith it provides a benefit to the public by:

- Providing facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual development, both for existing church members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the church offers.
- Promoting Christian values, and service by members of the church in and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

Signed on behalf of the PCC:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna Leyden'.

Anna Leyden (Chair) 18th March 2025



Annual Report

Background of the PCC

Christ Church Parochial Church Council has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent and other clergy in promoting the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has the maintenance responsibilities of our church building and Mission House.

Membership of PCC

Membership of the PCC is ex-officio, co-opted or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with Church Representation Rules. The following people served for all or part of 2024:

Vicar	Rev'd Anna Leyden
Associate Minister	Rev'd Glyn Jones (until 21/7/24)
Assistant Curate	Rev'd Denise Noble (from 6/7/24)
Vice Chair of the PCC	David Chirgwin
Churchwardens	David Jones Andrew Wigglesworth
Deanery Synod Representatives	Susan Ibrahim Wendy Peto
Lay Reader Representative	Edward Newman (from 19/5/24)
Elected PCC Members	Carys Addison Jonathan Aragon-Escobosa David Chirgwin Thomas Cobb Achu Edison (from 19/5/24) Anna Hockley Laura Hale Calvin Hodgson (from 18/3/24) Veronica Johnston Pauline Jones Dino Leung (from 15/7/24) Edward Newman (until 19/5/24) Janet Thorp
Secretary	Wendy Peto
Electoral Roll Officer	Janet Thorp (until 19/5/24); Carys Addison (from 19/5/24)
Treasurer	Laura Hale (until 21/10/24); Edward Newman (from 21/10/24)
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Pauline Jones

Standing Committee

Standing Committee has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings (subject to directions given by the Council) and consists of Vicar/Chairperson, two Churchwardens, the Treasurer, and one other PCC member elected by the PCC (currently Susan Ibrahim). Standing Committee has met on an 'ad hoc' basis to consider Generosity Fund applications and carry out essential PCC business, with the approval of the PCC, between meetings.

Church Membership

Membership of the electoral roll stood at 115 on 19/5/2024 (of which 14% live in the parish). The PCC met every month during 2024 except August and December.

Overview of the year

It is impossible to do justice to a year of church life in just one or two pages so I'm not even going to attempt it! There have, as always, been challenges and difficult moments but the encouragements and blessings we've seen, and the number of people we want to thank, are too numerous to list. However, there were a few key events in the past year which aren't noted elsewhere in this Annual Report and must get a mention.

2024 was a year of many comings and goings as we said some sad farewells but also welcomed many new faces into the Christ Church family.

In July, Associate Minister, Glyn Jones along with his wife Raphaëlle and daughter Betty moved to London, responding to God's call to plant a new church community there. Glyn has been an enormous blessing to Christ Church over many years, inspiring us with his love for Jesus, his heart for evangelism and his care for all people. So many people have stories to tell of the part Glyn and his family have paid in their faith journeys so we were extremely sorry to bid them farewell but also excited to see what God will do in and through them in this next phase of their ministry.



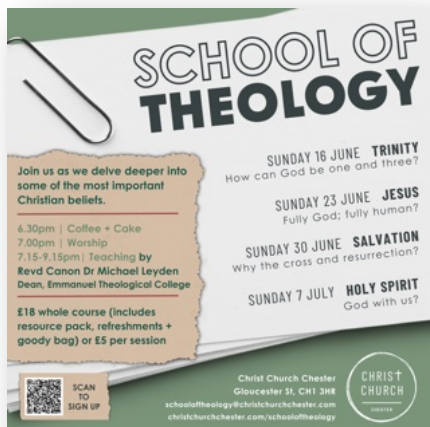


Job was right when he said "The Lord gives and the Lord takes away," (Job 1.21) and we were delighted to welcome Denise Noble as our Curate in July, just a couple of weeks before Glyn's departure. Denise is likely to be with us for around 3 years, working primarily on a Sunday and Monday. Denise has already become a valued member of the ministry team at Christ Church, blessing us with her wisdom, prayerfulness and servant heart.

In November, Ed Newman took the reins as Treasurer, taking over the role from Laura Hale. We are incredibly grateful to both Laura and Ed for using their gifts to faithfully serve Christ Church in this important role.

Back in 2023 we discerned together God's vision for Christ Church to be a community where we are learning to live for Christ; unite in Christ; and love like Christ. During that discernment process there emerged a desire for discipleship opportunities for people of all ages and stages of faith. To this end, in January we began an Alpha Course on Wednesday evenings, welcoming a good number of people who were new to Christian faith or wanted to explore more of who Jesus is.

Then in June we launched our first School of Theology, running for four weeks on Sunday evenings. School of Theology was open to all but aimed particularly at those who wanted to go deeper in their faith. Michael Leyden shared with us his expertise on the Trinity, Jesus, Salvation and the Holy Spirit. Each evening began with refreshments and worship followed by teaching and discussion. Over 50 people signed up, from Christ Church and other local churches, and there was a strong appetite to run another School of Theology in 2024.



In October, in a bid to better equip us to 'Love like Christ' six members of Christ Church took part in a two-day Mental Health First Aid course hosted by Chapter Mental Health in the Mission House. The sessions were tiring but incredibly helpful and it is hoped the group that completed the course will form the core of a 'Pastoral Care' group to be established in 2025.

Church members were also encouraged to grow in their discipleship and get further involved in church life through a Lenten sermon series on 'Generosity' and by reviewing their giving, both financially and in terms of time and gifts. We held a ministry fair in February and March during which the church was set up with different 'stalls' hosted by ministry area leaders which people visited to find out more about serving in those areas and express an interest in signing up. Following the ministry fair and sermon series there was an encouraging response to our 'Pledge Sundays' where everyone was invited to commit to serving and giving in the coming year.



PLEDGE FORM | TIME & TALENTS | LENT 2024
Please return on Sunday 10 or 17 March



Your Name _____ Phone _____
Email _____

Each and every one of us has a unique role to play in the life of Christ's Church. Please tick:

1) the areas of church life where you would like to continue serving:
2) the areas where you'd be interested in serving.

Ministry area	Continue to serve	Interested	Ministry area	Continue to serve	Interested
Worship			Finance		
Welcome team			Finance/banking team		
Tao and coffee			Grant applications		
Bible readings			Fundraising initiatives		
Intercessions			Hospitality		
PC / Projection			Catering		
PA / Sound			Bring & Share lunches		
Sidesperson			Brunch services		
Sacristan			Maintenance/Fabric		
9.00am music team			Church cleaning		
10.30am music team			Maintenance/decorating		
Children/Youth			Grounds maintenance		
Tots+lines			Gardening		
Messy Church			Safeguarding Team		
Sunday Children's work					
Sunday Youth work					

The church building saw some very welcome upgrades during the year, with a particular highlight being the addition of a new coffee station, thanks to a generous gift in memory of Lilian Morris. The coffee station was designed and built by Alec Spencer, with help from Rob Peto, and a dedicated team of helpers. In addition to greatly improving the aesthetic of the building the coffee station provides welcome storage and has improved the practicalities around hospitality.



Do read the rest of this Annual Report where you will find out more about how God has been at work in many different areas of church life. We give thanks to Him for His faithfulness throughout 2024 and we place our trust in Him for the year ahead.

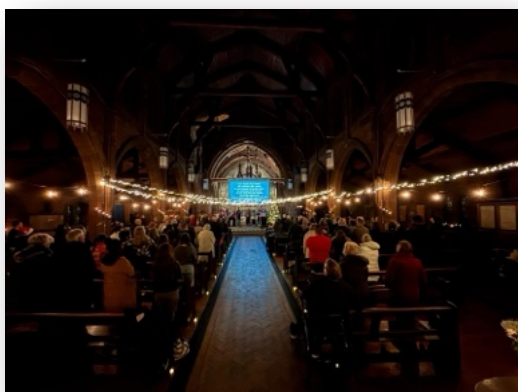
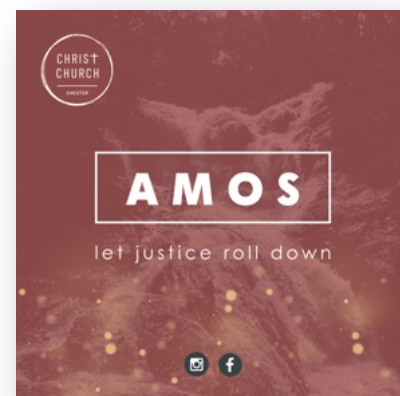
Rev Anna Leyden, Vicar

Worship Services

Coordinator: Anna Leyden

Report:

- As in recent years, in 2024 our usual pattern of services was a 9.00am more formal service (with Holy Communion each week) and a more contemporary and informal 10.30am service (with Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month). Once a month, we held the Brunch service (interactive worship for all ages) at 10.30am and Contemplative Communion at 6pm.
- Over the course of the year, in addition to lectionary and seasonal readings we worked through a number of sermon series including a Lent series on generosity; a 10 week series on Paul's letter to the Romans; six weeks on Amos; and a four week Advent series on the women in Jesus' genealogy. In the Brunch Services, we focused on some likely and unlikely 'Heroes of the Bible.'
- Monday Prayer continued throughout the year, moving to the upstairs room in the Mission House for warmth and comfort. On average, it was attended by approx. 8-10 people per week.
- During December, it was a pleasure to work with the Salvation Army again for outdoor 'Community Carols.' Brio Bear – from Northgate Arena – also joined us and Tesco donated the mince pies, making it an increasingly 'community wide' event. Carols by Candlelight saw approximately 50% more people than the previous year.



9am Musical Worship

Coordinator: Tonya Chirgwin

Purpose: To lead people in worship through music, predominantly at our 9.00am congregation.

Report:

- Spring was marked by the celebrations of Holy Week and Easter, with worship covering the whole gamut of human emotions. Lucy played for the quiet, informal communion on Maundy Thursday, while Good Friday's Tenebrae-based service included congregational and reflective music played by Andrew, Stella C and me. Stella C's original setting of 'There is a green hill far away' in particular provided a moving commentary on the cost of God's love for lost humanity. As usual, our two congregations came together to share the joy of Easter Day, with rousing opening and closing hymns on the organ and a variety of worship songs led by the Music Group during the service.
- We said goodbye to two long-standing team members over the Summer, when both Ruth and Stella C moved to be nearer their families. Their rich and varied contributions to our worship are much missed and we wish them all the best as they settle in their new homes.
- In the Autumn I was privileged to play the organ at our usual joint service on Remembrance Sunday, accompanying the now-traditional hymns 'O God our help in ages past' and 'O God beyond all praising' (this to the well-known tune of 'I vow to thee my country'), while Music Group led sensitively-chosen songs and music around the Act of Remembrance.
- Winter came, bringing a busy Advent Sunday. Lucy played for the traditional 9am Communion, I accompanied the Celebrate and Remember Service (for those who had died in the last year, and earlier) in the evening, and rehearsals began for the Christmas Choir, once again organised and directed by Hannah. And what a Christmas it was! Although ravaged by injury and seasonal illnesses, the Choir delighted the congregation with arrangements of 'O come, O come Immanuel' and 'Mary's Boy-child' – two very different carols, one hauntingly mysterious, the other infectiously lively, but both performed with conviction and aplomb. Another highlight of the service was the beautiful piano improvisation provided by Hannah (at very short notice). The large congregation also enjoyed joining in a selection of well-known carols, accompanied by Andrew and Tonya on the organ. All in all the service was, as one of the regular attendees said, "one of the best". Illness intervened once again on Christmas Eve, but thankfully Andrew was able to step in to provide the music for both the Noisy Nativity and the Midnight Service (as well as playing on Christmas Day) – including a rousing performance of the 'Hallelujah Chorus' from Handel's 'Messiah' as a concluding voluntary.
- It remains only to express my gratitude to all the 9am Worship Team members, past and present, who have given their time and talents so faithfully to play for both regular and 'occasional' services through the year – God bless you, and here's to the next!



10.30am Worship Ministry

Coordinator: Hannah Thompson

Purpose: To lead people in Spirit-led worship through music, predominantly at our 2nd morning service.

Report:

- 2024 began with an encouraging start, 6 different worship leaders all with their own styles of worship leading our diverse congregation. Over the year a few of the leaders stepped down; big thanks to Ed for his hard work and his serving which continues in many other church ministries, and a thank you and farewell to Al and Glyn who left Chester but had served Christ Church diligently for many years. Later in the year, Jasmine joined the worship leaders team which has been a big blessing.
- Other musicians have also been recruited including a guitarist, drummer and keys player/singer. Big welcome and thank you to you!
- The Ministry Fair before the service at the start of March provided an opportunity for every serving team to have a station and share with others about what their team contributes to the running of church with the aim for recruitment of new team members. Several people came to our stall and discussed worship, also taking part in a fun musical quiz, God or Todd, with a couple of names added to the list!
- In May we hosted our worship team meeting, sharing in a time of sung worship, learning some new songs and reflecting on how we think musical worship has been going this year as well as new ideas going forwards. We had a small gathering who attended this meeting and many who could not attend provided their thoughts through feedback forms which were then discussed at the meeting, enabling lots of fruitful conversation.
- Towards the end of the year we still had many singers in the team but we were becoming short on bassist/guitarists/drummers which continues into the new year. Please pray with us as we wait on God to bring new life to the team particularly musicians playing these instruments, with a few conversations already happening. Watch this space!
- This year we have been able to replace some broken equipment with some future ideas of things to buy/assemble that may be useful for the logistics of leading worship on a Sunday. Continue to pray for wisdom for us as we look at prioritisation in our spending.
- The year ended with a collaboration of 9am and 10:30am worship in the Christmas services, as has featured at other key church dates across the year including Easter and Remembrance Day. Very grateful for the team this year and look forward to more musical worship in 2025.

Children's Ministry Overview

Coordinator: Lizzie Cobb

Purpose: To facilitate an environment where children can grow in their relationship with God, predominately through Sunday morning groups during the 10.30am service.

Crèche: under 3s

Report:

- We have an unsupervised creche for under 2s in the vestry. It has a livestream of the service and provides a space for parents to sit with young children during service if they'd like to. There are also sofas at the side of church for parents (and others) to sit more comfortably if they prefer.
- This year, we've had some informal feedback about the (low) temperature of the creche and have noticed that parents tend to use the sofa area at the side of church more regularly than the creche.

Children's Ministry: 3-11s

Coordinator: Lizzie Cobb

Report:

- 2024 has seen a large fluctuation in numbers in our children's ministry. We have continued with one group for 3-11s during our Sunday services.
- Over the year we have looked at a variety of topics. In September we undertook a series of sessions in order to 're-launch' children's ministry and give them a new name, logo and strap line. Children looked at what it meant to be a Christian, through prayer, the bible, church family and worship.
- Children came up with a variety of ideas for names and logos - the new name will be revealed in 2025!
- With returning leaders, we now have 3 Children's Ministry leaders. (One moved to being a crypt leader due to the need there). This works well as each leader does one per month, with the Brunch Service covering the other.
- We also have an abundance of helpers on a Sunday morning – it's been really encouraging to have so many people invested in our children's faith.
- Children enjoy worshipping, praying and crafting during the sessions as well as having fellowship with their friends.



Crypt Youth Group: 11+yrs

Coordinator: Michael Leyden

Report:

- Crypt met for Bible study, games and fellowship every other week during the 10.30am service in 2024.
- There were around 8 youth in total who attended the sessions, with a typical week averaging 4-6 people. We had three members from the younger group 'graduate' up to crypt which widened the age range to around 11-16 years old. We have worked hard to integrate everyone into the group and provide material that is suitable for all.
- Throughout the year we've gone through a variety of courses and topics such as what it means to pray with the 24/7 youth prayer course, looking at Christian themes in different films and what we can learn from them and much more. In addition we have continued to run more pancakes and pondering sessions where difficult topics and questions can be discussed while eating tasty treats.
- To manage the capacity of the leaders, the schedule has remained at meeting twice per month with the youth staying in the service during the Brunch Service and one 'normal' morning service. We have been fortunate to have Ally join us as a leader, taking us to 5 in total, which has been a real blessing but we are always on the look out for more volunteers to join the team.
- Some of the leaders have been attending a course run by Youthscape to help those in youth leadership with planning sessions, understanding the issues faced by the youth today and more. The course has been a good help and we look forward to learning more as the course continues in 2025.

Tots+Tinies: 0-5s

Coordinator: Anna Leyden

Purpose: To provide a welcoming and nurturing space where young children and their parents/carers can be cared for, make new friends, and be introduced to the Christian faith. Tots+Tinies serves both the church congregation and wider local community.

Report:

- Tots+Tinies continued to meet on Thursday mornings during term time for friendship, tea and toast, play, craft, a Bible story, songs, and the 'prayer parachute'. We have seen an increasing number of people attending who do not have prior links to Christ Church or other local churches and it has been a pleasure to be able to share something of the love of Jesus with them.
- As always, the T+T family changed shape throughout the year, with many new faces coming through the doors. We also said goodbye to some families with children moving onto school or parents returning to work after parental leave.



- Pauline Jones, Wendy Peto and Sarah Krakowski stepped up to help tell the Bible stories, prayer parachute and lead a song for which Anna was extremely grateful.

Messy Church

Coordinator: Jodie Spencer & Anna Leyden

Purpose: To encourage the discipleship of children and families (both those who already attend church and those who do not) through creative and fun ways of exploring the Bible and Christian faith.

Report:

- Messy Church sessions took place termly in 2024. Many families are regular attenders, and it has been great to see some new families joining us too.
- Our Messy Church sessions have attracted both children and families of primary school aged children and also younger children and their families. A range of activities are planned that are appropriate and engaging for this wide age range.
- It has been a joy to see families enjoy spending time with/ learning about Jesus in these sessions and we are regularly asked 'When is the next Messy Church?' If enough volunteers are available, we hope to deliver Messy Church sessions bimonthly in 2025.
- Thank you to everyone who has helped with preparing and delivering these sessions and to everyone who attended.



Student Work

Coordinator: James Thompson

Purpose: To invest in the next generation of Christians through welcoming, pastoring, equipping, and sending out our university students.

Report:

- During 2024, the student team continued to provide regular student lunches with food from around the world.
- Our student community is small but diverse - we have a mixture of undergraduate, postgraduate and sixth form/college students. As a result our student community encompasses quite a wide age range.
- Some of our students have become more involved with serving at church on different teams, which has been great to see.
- During September 2024, the Christian Union Church Search visited us at the start of term and several first-year students came along to try Christ Church.

- We also have a link to the University chaplaincy through Michael Mills, who helps out there in the week and several students have come to Christ Church off the back of this.
- We have been blessed with a wonderful student team at Christ Church, consisting of both old and new faces. Thanks to everyone for their hard work in looking after and cooking for the students.

Connect Groups

Coordinator: Anna Leyden & Kerry Wigglesworth

Purpose: To provide regular gatherings of small groups, outside of a Sunday service context, where members of Christ Church can connect with God, connect with other church members and connect with their wider communities.

Report:

- Connect Groups remain an important part of life at Christ Church. They provide opportunity for Bible study, prayer support and friendship.
- Three Connect Groups met throughout 2024: in homes in Newtown, Helsby and one group in the Mission House. Each Connect Group followed a different syllabus, often studying a book of the Bible or following a particular theme/course e.g. the Prayer Course.
- During May and June, several Connect Groups studied the Romans course by the Bible Society in tandem with the sermon series we were following as a church.
- One group came to end during 2024 and there is need now for new Connect Group facilitators and hosts to enable this ministry to grow.



Drop In

Coordinator: Sue Ibrahim

Purpose: To open our church doors on Sunday afternoons, offering a warm and welcoming space for people facing homelessness and other vulnerable individuals.

Report:

- Drop In has seen a growing number of vulnerable and homeless people attending, largely due to the closure of other charities and agencies because of funding issues. As times get tougher, we anticipate the number of attendees to rise from 35-40 people per week to 40-45.
- Our Christmas dinner event was a great success, with 57 guests attending. Fifteen volunteers joined in, enjoying a festive meal with all the trimmings. Each guest received a gift containing chocolate and toiletries.
- The increase in guests at Drop In has been managed thanks to the dedication and commitment of our volunteers, who serve every week. In 2024, we welcomed a new volunteer, Tanya Whitehurst, to our team. Tanya has been a wonderful addition, taking on the quarterly rota to ensure sessions

are well-staffed and equipped with food. A new soup rota has also provided flexibility for volunteers to try new recipes all vegetable only.

- We continue to operate on a very tight budget and feel the impact of the cost-of-living crisis. However, generous grants from local businesses and employers have enabled us to keep our services running, thanks to Tesco Broughton Park, Belgrave Care, and Lloyds Banking Group.
- We will continue to serve our guests every Sunday afternoon, along with special events such as breakfasts, BBQs, and Christmas dinners whilst enjoying good conversation.
- We are looking to expand our services by collaborating with other charities to provide assistance with housing, benefits, and other day-to-day needs.
- We are the only service provider in the community offering food and drinks on a Sunday. However, the kindness, good conversation, and warmth experienced by our guests are perhaps even more valuable.



Warm Welcome Space

Coordinator: Anna Leyden

Purpose: To share the love of Jesus in a practical way by providing a warm and welcoming space for the whole community during the winter months.

Report:

- Our Warm Welcome Space launched in November 2022 and continued until the end of February 2024. Hot drinks, toast and snacks were available to all, as well as work spaces, newspapers, jigsaws and board games.
- Warm Welcome Space was attended by a small but committed group who appreciated the friendly conversation and company.
- We made the decision not to re-open the Warm Welcome Space in November 2024 due to small take up over the previous two years and the limited availability of volunteers. We were encouraged that through Drop In and the Salvation Army's Thursday lunch club there will still be points of contact available in Newtown for those who might otherwise be isolated.



Visiting Ministry

Coordinator: Veronica Johnston

Purpose: To enfold within the family of Christ Church the sick and housebound, through regular visits and the opportunity to share Holy Communion at home or in hospital.

Report:

- Visiting continued throughout the year to members of Christ Church community at home, in care homes and hospital.
- We are delighted to welcome back Ted Longman who with the help of his family is strong enough to join us again for worship in church. One member of our congregation wants to express grateful thanks to the cheery team of friends who transported her to fifteen days of hospital appointments.
- Several individuals attended a two-day Mental Health First Aid course with a view to setting up a Pastoral Team next year.
- It was with sadness that we said farewell to a longstanding member of our community, Caron Beckingham, who died in October. Our thoughts and our prayers are with Cassie and her family. Although Caron had been ill, in and out of hospital for many years, she continued to smile. When she was well enough to receive communion, our visits were enlivened by her wit and positive spirit. It was we who came away blessed and refreshed. We will miss her.

Maintenance

Coordinators: Andrew Wigglesworth & Rob Peto

Purpose: To look after the physical maintenance of the church building and Mission House, ensuring that they are safe, work according to the needs of the church and meet the standards they are required to by law.

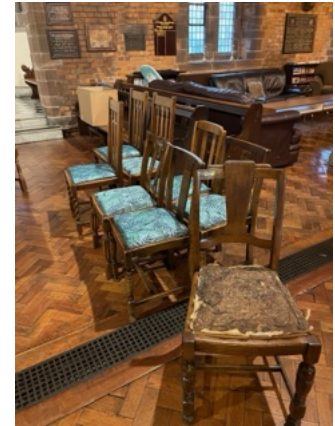
Report:

- It has been another quiet year in the life of the fabric of the church with no major works undertaken or major issues cropping up within the church building which needed attending to.
- We held the usual two Maintenance Days, one in early spring and the other in late Autumn, where church members were encouraged to come along and assist with a number of necessary jobs including clearing gutters of leaves, cleaning the inside of the church, polishing the brass, fixing floor blocks and many other small jobs.
- We were blessed to have many volunteers arriving for the maintenance days, all helping out in a variety of ways. The number of volunteers meant we were able to achieve all that we set out to and more for which we are very grateful. We



are also particularly grateful for the team who made teas, coffees and bacon butties (vegetarian options included) for everyone, it would have been a much poorer day without them.

- We said goodbye to some fabric team members but welcomed more members who have been instrumental in helping out with jobs needed in between maintenance days and undertaking some of the demanding tasks. Thanks to all of them and the hard work that they put in in keeping the life of the church building going year on year.



Safeguarding

Coordinator: Pauline Jones

Purpose: To ensure measures are in place at Christ Church to protect everyone, but particularly children, young people and vulnerable adults, and to promote their health and wellbeing.

Report:

- At Christ Church we seek to promote a safe environment, culture and activities in order to include a wide range of children, young people and adults. Everyone at Christ Church shares this responsibility, but not everyone is responsible for everything! We believe safeguarding is about how we treat each other and the quality of our relationships but we also seek to fulfil our responsibilities as laid down by the Church of England and Chester Diocese Safeguarding team. We believe and trust that safeguarding supports ministry and outreach rather than preventing or constraining it.
- I can confirm that Christ Church Chester PCC has complied with the duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance'. As Parish Safeguarding Officer, I have regularly reported on safeguarding in the parish and safeguarding has been a standing agenda item at each PCC meeting.
- The following is Christ Church Chester PCC's statement, which reports on progress as required:
 - David McClenaghan kindly agreed to support safeguarding at Christ Church and undertook all required training modules, including leadership
 - Regular safeguarding meetings with Rev. Anna Leyden, and from April David McClenaghan, and myself were held.



- Seven people from the CC community undertook training and became Mental Health First Aiders
- In July I attended a moving and motivating Diocesan safeguarding service at the Cathedral
- In May the Diocese introduced Safeguarding Dashboards and Safeguarding Hubs to support parishes to comply with the Church of England's safeguarding policy and procedures.
- By the end of the year Christ Church had relatively few outstanding actions at Level 2 of the dashboard, related mainly to procedures for safer recruitment and people management.
- In October I attended the Parish Safeguarding Officers' network meeting, which was dominated by the Makin Review
- We are grateful to Thirty-one Eight for freely sharing their resources to support Safeguarding Sunday in November. On the day we focused on continuing the conversation to support an honest and open culture, where safeguarding is a positive expression of learning to love like Christ and live for Christ.
- Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks were completed for all eligible individuals and almost 100% of those eligible undertook the appropriate modules.
- We are again grateful to the Chester Diocesan safeguarding team who provided advice and guidance on a number of safeguarding incidents / concerns and general enquiries. These and other concerns / incidents were duly recorded.

Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 26 to 42.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 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.

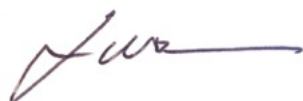
Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently 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 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 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
 have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


 A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'L M Howson'.

L M Howson MAAT
Independent Examiner

Dated: 22nd October 2025

Finansure Limited, 2 Sheppard Street, Brymbo, Wrexham, LL11 5FF

Financial Review of the year

The finance team consisted of nine members of the congregation, managing donations, book-keeping, payroll, general banking and treasury tasks. The team aims to provide transparency of figures for both PCC and the congregation, an efficient and simple giving programme and accurate budgeting information to the PCC to enable them to make decisions.

Related Party Transactions

No related party transactions to declare.

New Restricted Funds

No new restricted funds were created in 2024.

Designated Funds

No new designated funds were set up in 2024.

Income excluding new Designated Fund

During 2024, income was generated from individual giving, church fees, grants and rental of rooms. Net giving from the congregation during the year was £86,946, a 10.9% increase on 2023 (£78,361) and a positive increase – however, this still has not yet reached pre-Covid income levels (£110,785).

The Gift Aid reclaimable on giving in 2024 was £21,453 (£16,937 in 2023), which includes the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme.

Grants were received from the following bodies in 2024 (see Note 1 in 'Notes to the Accounts') and are hereby gratefully acknowledged:

- MBNA Drop In & Community Work Grant
- Local Councillors' Member Budget Grants

Expenditure

Expenditure was £119,058 (£119,862 in 2023). The largest item of expense was the Parish Share, which was £68,169 (£64,923 in 2023).

Other than running costs, the further main areas of expenditure were on employee costs, insurance and maintenance for our buildings.

Outward Giving

In 2024, £3,650 (£3,350 in 2023) was set aside for Outward Giving and donated to several recipient charities. The following were all recipients in 2024.

- Teach Beyond
- The Salvation Army
- Chester University CU
- West Cheshire Foodbank
- Night Church Chester
- Foxhill Retreat Centre
- Vineyard 53 (Street Angels)



This Outward Giving is intended to bless what God is doing beyond our ministries, but in line with our values and goals. This money has supported several projects and individuals during the year.

The budget for 2025 has been set by the PCC and agreed at the February 2025 meeting.

Ed Newman (Treasurer) 11th March 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anna Leyden", on a light grey rectangular background.

Anna Leyden (Chair) 18th March 2025

Accounting Policies

Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and SORP (effective January 2019).

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, to which the PCC is responsible by law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Funds

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from the investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds represent (a) Income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object. The funds may be expended on the specific object for which they are given. Any balances remaining unspent at the end of the year must be carried forward as a balance of that fund.

Designated funds represent income which has been set aside for use for a specific purpose but are not legally restricted to be used for that purpose. Amounts identified as designated funds which are held in the general current account at the year-end were:

Vicarage Fund	£1,305
Renewed Space 3 Seed Funding (for Capital Building Projects)	£41,930
Cost of Living	£2,500
Tots and Tinies	£1,844
Warm Welcome Space	£782

Unrestricted funds are general funds that can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Incoming Reserves

Planned giving collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised on an accruals basis at the end of the financial year and the appropriate amount is subsequently reclaimed from HM Revenue & Customs.

Resources Expended



Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The Diocesan Parish Share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.96 (2) (a) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1,500 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

No cost information is available for the Vicar's house as it is deemed the property of the diocese.

All investments are held at market value at 31st December 2024.

Reserves Policy

The PCC have agreed on a reserves policy that is reviewed annually.

The reserves policy at the end of 2024 was set as follows:

- It is the policy of the church to hold in reserves the equivalent of three months' basic running costs which includes any salaries and contractual payments to staff.
- It is also our policy to hold £5,000 in reserves as a contingency against unexpected building-related expenses for the Mission House and the church building.



Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ending 31st December 2024

The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of Chester, Christ Church

Statement of Financial Activities For the year ending 31st December 2024		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
	Note				
INCOMING RESOURCES					
<i>Incoming resources from generated funds</i>					
Voluntary income	1	113,303	1,345	114,648	103,351
Investment income	2	2,704	233	2,937	2,255
Incoming resources from charitable activities	3	7,171	0	7,171	5,591
Other incoming resources		0	0	0	1,971
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		123,177	1,578	124,755	113,168
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Parish Share	4	(68,169)	0	(68,169)	(64,923)
Church Activities	5	(48,287)	(5,620)	(53,907)	(51,589)
Grants payable	6	(3,650)	(245)	(3,895)	(3,350)
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		(120,106)	(5,865)	(125,971)	(119,862)
Transfers between funds			0	0	0
NET INCOME/OUTGOINGS BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS / (LOSSES)		3,072	(4,287)	(1,215)	(6,694)
Gains/(losses) on Investment Assets		638	0	638	2,371
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		3,709	(4,287)	(578)	(4,323)
BALANCES B/FWD 1st JANUARY		82,221	7,730	89,951	94,274
BALANCES C/FWD 31st DECEMBER		85,930	3,443	89,373	89,951



Balance sheet at 31st December 2024

The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of Chester, Christ Church

Balance Sheet at 31st December 2024

	Note	General Fund £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Investments	8	29,386		29,386	27,964
		<u>29,386</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>29,386</u>	<u>27,964</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	9	9,821		9,821	17,591
Cash at bank and in hand		51,466	3,443	54,909	46,889
		<u>61,287</u>	<u>3,443</u>	<u>64,730</u>	<u>64,480</u>
LIABILITIES					
Creditors - Amounts falling due in one year	10	(4,741)		(4,741)	(2,493)
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
		<u>56,545</u>	<u>3,443</u>	<u>59,988</u>	<u>61,987</u>
NET ASSETS					
		<u>85,931</u>	<u>3,443</u>	<u>89,374</u>	<u>89,951</u>
PARISH FUNDS					
Unrestricted					
General Fund (Bank accounts etc.)	12	8,752		8,752	11,138
General Fund (CCLA Investment Shares)	12	29,386		29,386	24,842
Designated Cost of Living Fund	12	2,000		2,000	2,500
Designated Warm Space Fund	12	782		782	782
Designated RS3 Seed Fund	12	41,930		41,930	40,514
Designated Alpha Fund	12	0		0	63
Designated Sunday Celebration Fund	12	0		0	(405)
Designated Tots & Tinies Fund	12	1,776		1,776	1,482
Designated Vicarage Fund	12	1,305		1,305	1,305
Restricted					
Congo Fund	13		50	50	50
Generosity Fund	13		21	21	67
Music and Worship Fund	13		337	337	337
Community Work Fund	13		0	0	140
Drop In Fund	13		2,463	2,463	2,397
Renovation Fund	13		572	572	4,739
		<u>85,931</u>	<u>3,443</u>	<u>89,374</u>	<u>89,951</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 18th March 2025

*The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of Chester, Christ Church
Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2024*



and signed on behalf by:

Anna Leyden (Chair)

Notes for the Financial Statements for the Year ending 31st December 2024

The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of Chester, Christ Church

NOTE 1 - VOLUNTARY INCOME

	Unrestrict ed Funds £	Restrict ed Funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
Voluntary Income				
Individual Giving	85,601	1,345	86,946	78,361
Tax Recoverable	21,453		21,453	16,937
Grants Received	500		500	0
Legacies Received	5,000		5,000	0
Other Sundry Donations	150	600	750	500
Grant s				
Drop In & Community Work			0	4,646
Warm Spaces			0	949
Robert Oldfield Charity - Children's work			0	108
MBNA grant			0	1,850
	112,703	1,945	114,648	103,351

NOTE 2 - INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestrict ed Funds £	Restrict ed Funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
Bank interest receivable	1,919	233	2,152	1,504
Dividends from CCLA Investment Share Fund	784		784	751
	2,704	233	2,937	2,255

NOTE 3 - INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestrict ed Funds £	Restrict ed Funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
Church Fees	2,589		2,589	943
Resource Sales	695		695	152
Room Hire	3,887		3,887	4,496



7,171	0	7,171	5,591
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The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of Chester, Christ Church

NOTE 4 - Parish Share Paid

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
Parish Share	68,169		68,169	64,923
	68,169	0	68,169	64,923

NOTE 5 - CHURCH ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
Church				
- Utilities	9,716		9,716	10,218
- Repairs & Maintenance	2,710		2,710	2,991
- Building Improvements	19	4,400	4,419	0
- Insurance (also covers MH)	4,989		4,989	4,816
- Altar & Service Resources	662	46	708	388
- Music including organ costs	1,244		1,244	1,555
- Clergy Expenses	723		723	236
- Sunday Refreshments	901		901	658
- Children / Youth / Student Work	64		64	261
- Training and conferences	1,846		1,846	28
- Warm Space expenses			0	145
- Fees Payable	637		637	877
- Miscellaneous Costs (see note 7)	2,752		2,752	4,867
Administration				
- Administration Wages	9,049		9,049	6,929
- Software / Web	2,120		2,120	1,398
- Bank charges	191		191	440
- Administration Sundries			0	943
- Telephone & Internet	169		169	587
- Independent Examiner's Fee (current year)	775		775	750
Vicarage				
- Council Tax	3,946		3,946	2,755
- Utilities	954		954	645
Curate				
- Housing Allowance			0	1,648
Mission House				
- Utilities	1,728		1,728	2,796
- Repairs & Maintenance	114		114	0
- Wages	2,710		2,710	2,290
Community Work				



- Drop-In expenses	101	1,034	1,135	2,882
- Tots & Tinies	83		83	376
- Other Community Work expenses	83	140	223	110
Total Church Activities	48,287	5,620	53,907	51,589

The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of Chester, Christ Church

NOTE 6 - GRANTS PAYABLE

Christ Church has an Outward Giving policy to bless what God is doing beyond our ministries by donating to projects in line with our values and goals. This includes the "Generosity Fund" which helps individuals with a specific need.

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2023
	£	£	£	£
Grants to other charities:				
Donations to the Congo			0	600
PCC St John The Baptist	1,250		1,250	0
Teach Beyond	700		700	1,200
Vineyard 53	200		200	200
The Light College			0	200
Foxhil	200		200	0
Chester University CU	200		200	0
West Cheshire Foodbank	200		200	200
Salvation Army	200		200	200
Night Church	200		200	200
Grants to individuals:				
Special Offering fund gifts		245	245	0
Cost of living support fund gifts	500		500	0
Generosity Fund gifts			0	550
	3,650	245	3,895	3,350

NOTE 7 - MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2023
	£	£	£	£
Books and Resources	83		83	641
Publicity	156		156	459
Special Events (e.g. Alpha, Sunday Celebration)	1,924		1,924	1,334
Cleaning supplies, gifts and sundries	201		201	0
Equipment (e.g. for Office, Kitchen)	53		53	2,057
Other expenses	335		335	376
	2,752	0	2,752	4,867

**NOTE 8 - INVESTMENTS****Unrestricted**

CCLA Investment Share Fund

2024	2023
£	£
29,386	27,964
29,386	27,964

NOTE 9 - DEBTORS**Unrestricted**

Gift Aid receivable

Prepayments

2024	2023
£	£
4,460	12,577
5,361	5,014
9,821	17,591

NOTE 10 - CREDITORS**Unrestricted**

Utility accruals

Independent Examiner fee accrual

Other Accruals

2024	2023
£	£
1,316	1,743
775	750
2,650	0
4,741	2,493

NOTE 11 - OPENING BALANCES ON FUNDS

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL 01/01/202
	Funds	Funds	Funds	4
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted				
General Fund (Bank accounts etc.)	11,138			11,138
General Fund (CCLA Investment Shares)	24,842			24,842
Designated Alpha Fund	63			63
Designated Cost of living support Fund	2,500			2,500
Designated RS3 Seed Fund	40,514			40,514
Designated Sunday Celebration	-405			-405
Designated Tots & Tinies Fund	1,482			1,482
Designated Vicarage Fund	1,305			1,305
Designated Warm Space Fund	782			782
Restricted				
Generosity Fund		67		67
Community Work Fund		140		140
Congo Fund		50		50
Drop-in Fund		2,397		2,397
Music and Worship Fund		337		337
Renovation Fund		4,739		4,739



82,221	7,730	0	89,951
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The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of Chester, Christ Church

NOTE 12 - MOVEMENT ON UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

General Fund Bank Accounts etc.

	2024 £	2023 £
Balance brought Forward	11,138	20,920
Money paid in during the year (incl. interest)	116,115	107,100
Money taken out during the year	(119,102)	(116,882)
Transfers (to)/from other funds		
Balance at 31st December	8,152	11,138

General Fund CCLA Investment Shares

Balance at 1st January	24,842	24,842
Increase/(decrease) in value of total Shares	4,544	
Balance at 31st December	29,386	24,842

Designated Alpha Fund

Balance at 1st January	63	0
Money paid in during the year		63
Money taken out during the year	(63)	
Transfers (to)/from other funds		
Balance at 31st December	0	63

Designated Cost of living support Fund

Balance at 1st January	2,500	2,500
Money paid in during the year		
Money taken out during the year	(500)	
Transfers (to)/from other funds		
Balance at 31st December	2,000	2,500



Designated RS3 Seed Fund

Balance at 1st January	40,514	39,527
Money paid in during the year	1,416	
Money taken out during the year		
Receipt - Interest received during the year.		987
Balance at 31st December	41,930	40,514

Designated Sunday Celebration Fund

Balance at 1st January	(405)	0
Money paid in during the year	590	760
Money taken out during the year	(185)	(1,165)
Receipt - Interest received during the year.		
Balance at 31st December	(0)	(405)

Designated Tots & Tinies Fund

Balance at 1st January	1,482	0
Money paid in during the year	400	1,850
Money taken out during the year	(106)	(368)
Receipt - Interest received during the year.		
Balance at 31st December	1,776	1,482

Designated Vicarage Fund (created 2019)

Balance at 1st January (as created)	1,305	1,305
Money paid in during the year		
Money taken out during the year		
Transfers from general funds		
Balance at 31st December	1,305	1,305

Designated Warm Space Fund

Balance at 1st January (as created)	782	0
Money paid in during the year		949
Money taken out during the year		(167)
Transfers from general funds		
Balance at 31st December	782	782

Designated Mental Health Training

Balance at 1st January	0	0
Money paid in during the year	150	
Money taken out during the year	(150)	
Transfers from general funds		
Balance at 31st December	0	0



Total Unrestricted Funds	85,663	81,376
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The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of Chester, Christ Church



NOTE 13 - MOVEMENT ON RESTRICTED FUNDS

Renovation Fund

	2024 £	2023 £
Balance at 1st January	4,739	4,577
Voluntary income received		
Gift Aid received		
Receipt - Interest received during the year.	233	162
Expenditure		
- Repairs and Renovation etc.	(4,400)	
Balance at 31st December	572	4,739
Plus : Debtor Tax recoverable on gift aided donations		0
Balance at 31st December	572	4,739

Community Work Fund

	2024 £	2023 £
Balance at 1st January	140	0
Voluntary income received		
Grants received		250
Expenditure		
- Expenses for Drop-In food etc.		
- Other community work exps	(140)	(110)
Plus : Transfer from General Fund		
Balance at 31st December	0	140
Plus : Debtor Tax recoverable on gift aided donations		0
Balance at 31st December	0	140

Music and Worship Fund

	2024 £	2023 £
Balance at 1st January	337	553
Voluntary income received		0
Less: Expenditure		(216)
Balance at 31st December	337	337
Plus : Debtor Tax recoverable on gift aided donations		0
Balance at 31st December	337	337



The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of Chester, Christ Church

NOTE 14 - MOVEMENT ON RESTRICTED FUNDS (contd.)

Generosity Fund

	2024	2023
	£	£
Balance at 1st January	67	0
Voluntary income received	0	
Less : Outward Giving	0	0
Less : Refreshments	0	0
Less : Altar & Service Resources	(46)	0
Plus : Transfer from general fund		67
Balance at 31st December	21	67
Plus : Debtor Tax recoverable on gift aided donations		0
Balance at 31st December	21	67

Congo Fund

	2024	2023
	£	£
Balance at 1st January	50	50
Voluntary income received		
Less : Outward Giving		0
Balance at 31st December	50	50
Plus : Debtor Tax recoverable on gift aided donations		0
Balance at 31st December	50	50

Special Offerings

	2024	2023
	£	£
Balance at 1st January	0	0
Voluntary income received	245	
Less : Outward Giving	(245)	0
Balance at 31st December	0	0
Plus : Debtor Tax recoverable on gift aided donations		0
Balance at 31st December	0	0

Drop In Fund

	2024	2023
	£	£
Balance at 1st January	2,397	0
Donations received	1,100	500
Grants received		4,396



Less: Expenditure	(1,034)	(2,499)
Plus : Transfer from General Fund		
Balance at 31st December	2,463	2,397
Plus : Debtor Tax recoverable on gift aided donations		
Balance at 31st December	2,463	2,397
Total Restricted Funds	3,443	3,423