

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF LECHLADE

England & Wales · Charity number 1133947

Details

Other names	ST LAWRENCE PCC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2010-02-01
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Church Cottage Market Place Lechlade Gloucestershire GL7 3AB
Phone	01367358653
Email	info@stlawrencelechlade.org.uk
Website	www.stlawrencelechlade.org.uk

Activities

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

Activities: Religious services

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Other Finance, Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£277,472	£180,822	-	-
2023-12-31	£137,290	£140,157	-	-
2022-12-31	£131,788	£131,511	-	-
2021-12-31	£126,558	£124,967	-	-
2020-12-31	£131,428	£140,890	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev ANDREW CINNAMOND	Chair	2011-08-02
Lesley Uzzell		2026-05-18
Lynda Wright		2023-03-26
NIGEL JONES		2016-05-01
Paul Cobb		2019-04-30
RICHARD BELL		
SUSAN HOLMES		2016-05-01
Vicky Jones		2017-05-01

Accounts



**St Lawrence Church Parochial Church Council
Lechlade**

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the

Year ended 31 December 2024

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Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INFORMATION	1
STRATEGIC REPORT	2
1. BACKGROUND	2
2 PCC MEMBERSHIP	2
3. COMMITTEES	2
4 CHURCH ATTENDANCE	2
5 VICAR'S REPORT	3
6 CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT	4
7 SAFEGUARDING REPORT	5
8 CIRENCESTER DEANERY SYNOD	6
9 CHURCH MISSION AND MINISTRY	8
9.1 PRAYER	8
9.1.1 PRAYER MINISTRY	8
9.2 BIBLE STUDY GROUPS	8
9.2.1 MEN'S BIBLE STUDY	8
9.2.2 EVENING STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP GROUP	8
9.2.3 THURSDAY EVENING HOUSE GROUP	9
9.2.4 WOMEN'S BIBLE FELLOWSHIP	9
9.2.5 LENT GROUPS	9
9.2.6 'MEN ALOUD OUT'	9
9.3 ST. LAWRENCE YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY	9
9.3.1 REGULAR DISCIPLESHIP:	9
9.3.2 COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND HOLIDAY CLUB	10
9.3.3 LITTLE LIGHTS. PRAM SERVICE/ BABY AND TODDLER PLAY GROUP	11
9.4 SOUTH COTSWOLD TEAM YOUTH MINISTRY	11
9.4.1 SCHOOL'S WORK	11
9.4.2 SUNDAY SERVICES	11
9.4.3 OTHER YOUTH WORK	12
9.5 ST. LAWRENCE SCHOOL	12
9.5.1 OPEN THE BOOK	13
9.6 MOTHERS' UNION	13
9.7 MUSIC	14
9.7.1 ST LAWRENCE CHURCH CHOIR ANNUAL REPORT	14
9.8 WORLD CHURCH COMMITTEE	15
10 CHURCH SUPPORT TO MINISTRY	16
10.1 PROJECT INSPIRE	16
10.1.1 FUNDING	16

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	10.2	ECO CHURCH GROUP	16
	10.3	CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE	17
11		FINANCIAL AND OTHER STATUTORY INFORMATION	17
	11.1	STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES	17
	11.2	RISK MANAGEMENT	18
	11.3	RESERVES POLICY	18
	11.4	VOLUNTARY HELP	18
	11.5	TRANSACTIONS AND FINANCIAL POSITION	19
	11.6	GOING CONCERN ASSESSMENT	19
12		INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF LECHLADE.....	20
		Statement of Financial Activities	21
		Statement of Financial Activities	23
		Balance sheet (Separate funds)	25
		Notes to the Accounts	27

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

INFORMATION

Parish Vicar	Revd Dr Andrew Cinnamond
Churchwardens	Paul Cobb Susan Holmes
Parochial Church Council	Richard Akroyd Richard Bell Nigel Jones Denver Keegan
PCC Secretary	Vicky Jones
PCC Treasurer	
Deanery Synod Representatives	Samuel Ming Lynda Wright
Bankers	Barclays Bank Plc Lloyds Bank Plc
Independent Examiner	J M Russell Chartered Accountant
Charity	The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Lechlade, Charity number: 1133947
Address	Church Cottage Market Place LECHLADE Gloucestershire GL7 3AB

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

STRATEGIC REPORT

1. BACKGROUND

St Lawrence Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Parish Vicar, the Revd. Andrew Cinnamond, promoting in the parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelical and social. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the church building, Church Cottage, and the investment property.

2 PCC MEMBERSHIP

Members of the PCC who are also trustees of the charity for the purposes of the Charities Act 2011 are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, and in accordance with the Church Representation Rules are elected for a three-year period.

The following served as Members of the PCC during the year:

Parish Vicar	Revd Dr Andrew Cinnamond
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Curate	Revd Dr Gareth Griffith
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Churchwardens	Paul Cobb Susan Holmes
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Representatives of the Deanery Synod and therefore Ex-officio Members	Samuel Ming Lynda wright
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Coopted Members	Vicky Jones (PCC Secretary) David Williams (PCC Treasurer)
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Elected Members	Richard Bell Richard Akroyd Paul Cobb Nigel Jones Denver Keegan
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3. COMMITTEES

The Standing Committee is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings. It comprises the Vicar, Church Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary.

4 CHURCH ATTENDANCE

There were 143 parishioners on the Church Electoral roll

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

The average Sunday attendance was 106 adults and 20 children. Services have also been streamed live throughout the year from the church, and this will continue; an average of 20 people have viewed the whole service.

During the year, the church held services for 7 baptisms, 2 weddings and 13 funerals, with 3 funerals just at the crematorium.

5 VICAR'S REPORT

As we look back on 2024, we give thanks to God for another year in the life of our church. There has been a place of Christian worship here for over 750 years, and as we gather in our church building each week, we are surrounded by reminders of those who have worshipped here before us. Each of those 750-plus years will have been marked by a mixture of major events and the everyday business of life and worship, and 2024 has been no different.

There have been the big, visible events, not least our very successful Holiday Bible Club in the summer, which this year took us on an 'Undersea Adventure', learning with Peter what it means to be a friend of Jesus, and our very popular Pumpkin Trail in October. We've celebrated the great festivals and fasts of the Christian year, with special services for Lent, Easter, Advent, and Christmas.

Through all this, we have been sustained by our regular rhythms of prayer and worship: monthly and weekly gathering for prayer, meeting together in home groups and prayer triplets, and worshipping together on Sundays and for our midweek Holy Communion. We are blessed with a range of styles of worship in our church, with our 8am Holy Communion and 5pm Evensong, both with the rich theology and stirring language of the Book of Common Prayer, through to more contemporary liturgy, often at our 10am service, or our all-age Together@Ten service.

I'm continually thankful to God that we are a large and diverse church, and that he continues to draw new people to join us. We aim to reflect this in our worship, so that each of us can find something that nourishes our Christian walk, along with things that stretch us out of our comfort zones and help us to be generous in learning to worship alongside those who are different from us. We are very grateful to Rachel Bath and the choir, and to all those who play and sing in our music group, for their leading of music as part of our worship.

Above all, we want to be a church where we are thankful for all that God has done for us in Jesus Christ; where we take seriously what he has said in his Word; and where we are seeking to live out our faith in service of others and in sharing the good news of Jesus with others. Once again, we have seen this in so many ways this year: our Little Lights toddler services; Stars, Planets, and the Grid groups for children and young people on Sundays; the Thirst youth group and Explorers after-school club; fellowship, discussion, activism and evangelism through Men Aloud Out, Mothers' Union, and our extremely popular Ladies' Breakfasts. We also continue to steward our parochial charities, supporting education and those in our communities who need a bit of extra help. And this is without mentioning all the ways in which members of our congregations volunteer and contribute to the life of our local community, serving others as an expression of their Christian faith (or the generous donations for local foodbanks that are left in church).

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

These are all the 'everyday' signs of our discipleship and Christian life together. In turbulent times, when our world often seems full of conflict of many kinds, these everyday Christian activities and disciplines are the bedrock of our ongoing walk with Jesus Christ. But even as we recognise God's goodness to us in all of these things, we don't want to be complacent. We are always looking to see where God might be calling us next: where we may need to change so that we grow in faithfulness, or so that others can be welcomed into the life of our church family.

The most tangible sign of this is Project Inspire, which will preserve and transform our building, making it more welcoming, sustainable, and flexible for us and for all those who will come after us. A colossal amount of work has gone into Project Inspire this year, particularly from the project group who have given tirelessly of their time and expertise to plan, scrutinise, negotiate, draft, submit, redraft, resubmit, re-draft, re-resubmit, and manage the thousand and one things that have to be done on a project of this size and importance. We also owe a great deal to those who have worked hard on our fundraising, organising a whole series of events, including our spectacular auction of promises, that have raised a lot of money, and also drawn people together for good music, good fun, and good times. We are deeply grateful to God for all that everyone at St. Lawrence's has given so sacrificially to Project Inspire, in time, in energy, in prayer, and in donations. We look forward with hope and faith to building work beginning in 2025.

So as we celebrate and give thanks for all that God has given us, and brought us through, in 2024, let's also look ahead with confidence in him for the year to come. As the writer to the Hebrews reminds us, 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.' May we cling to him and delight in him always.

Rev. Gareth Griffith, Curate.



6 CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

We have so many reasons to be thankful in this parish as so many people this year continued to contribute to various ways to the mission of the church. Mission activities continue to bear fruit – the variety of services, the Holiday Bible Club, the Pumpkin trail and Good Friday activity plus house groups and prayer meetings bring in such a diverse slice of the community (both local and from further afield) to hear the good news.

Supporting mission, there are the tasks that are seen and those that are largely unseen, undertaken either at quiet times or away from the church. It reminds us, therefore, how the contribution of volunteers is critical and how we need to refresh the teams with new volunteers from time to time. This is apparent as we look at the running of the church post-reordering where there will be continuity in many tasks but real need to modernise our management of the premises so that it is well presented and well maintained in fulfilment of the Project Inspire goal of 'Creating welcoming spaces'.

Mention of Project Inspire reminds us of the burden being borne by the project team. The hoops that must be jumped through and the overly complex demands by all

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

sorts of external bodies show what a turgid process reordering has become; it is absurd that, after a decade, the committed team is still having to use all sorts of skills and experience to overcome impediments whether in design, planning, approval or funding. The latter, though, has shown the generosity that is out there both by parishioners or trusts as the project strives to absorb challenges such as inflation and draconian changes to VAT recovery. Our fundraising team has worked wonders – concerts and an auction of promises to mention a sample. We are on the brink of something very special happening so do continue to pray for the successful delivery of Project Inspire in 2025/26.

Despite the positive aspects, rather like HM The Queen's observation in 1992, it has been an annus horribilis for the Church Wardens. Being without a Treasurer has placed an immense burden on us. Happily, the PCC now has a Treasurer and the handover is underway. This change will also enable us to further strengthen financial stewardship so that we might be on a better footing post-reordering. Having said that, a detailed examination of our expenditure for 2024 showed how little room there is for manoeuvre with large chunks of income swallowed by the Parish Share, licences, energy and other layers of cost that are unavoidable. The PCC is also going to have to revisit income, whether new streams or more efficient ways of giving.

We would also report, as required, that in January the terrier was updated and various documents taken to Gloucestershire Archives for safe storage. All necessary statistics were provided during the year to the Diocese and accounts were lodged with the Charity Commission.

Looking ahead to 2025, we will see a significant development when services are held away from the church for a period. We have teams working hard on moving out – and then back into the church – but the period away will need careful management yet will provide an opportunity to worship in different ways in different places.

Paul Cobb and Susan Holmes
ChurchWardens

7 SAFEGUARDING REPORT

The role of the Safeguarding Officer is to be the named person to whom church members report any disclosures relating to children or vulnerable adults. Any disclosures made will be dealt with and referred on where required. There were no disclosures in 2024.

Monitoring of our Safeguarding arrangements is on the PCC agenda every month to ensure that as a church family we continue to review, understand and endorse its importance.

Why is Safeguarding so important? Proverbs 31:8 calls us to '*speak out on behalf of the voiceless, and for the rights of all who are vulnerable*'. As a church we want to ensure that children and vulnerable adults in our church family are protected, and we recognise our duty to love and care for the vulnerable and marginalised and to protect all from abuse.

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

At St Lawrence we want to ensure we have clear procedures in place and a culture where ensuring children and vulnerable adults are safe is a key priority and taken seriously. We want to ensure we are a church where people can speak out about any concerns they have and any concerns are dealt with in a professional manner, with no covering up or matters being brushed under the carpet. All volunteers working with the youth and children, together with several other volunteers, have a DBS check which is renewed every three years. Safeguarding training is also a requirement for many volunteering roles, not just for those working with children. The courses are easily accessed online, and some can also be attended in person if preferred. The St Lawrence Safeguarding Policy is reviewed annually by the PCC, and can be found on the website or the church porch notice board.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Raising concerns or seeking advice is rarely a bad idea. You may wonder 'what if I'm wrong' – but also ask yourself 'what if I'm right'. We can't assume that someone else has seen what we may have seen or will pass on concerns. You can contact the Safeguarding Officer via email on safeguarding@stlawrencelechlade.org.uk or speak to me (I'm usually at the 10am Sunday service at St Lawrence) or to the Vicar or a Churchwarden.

Lesley Uzzell (Safeguarding Officer)

8 CIRENCESTER DEANERY SYNOD

Our Deanery Synod met three times in 2024.

The Deanery Synod Standing Committee met 7 times.

In **March** Deanery Synod at RAU focussed on stewardship and the way Parish Share is collected.

Discussion was led by Lisa-Jayne Lewis (Diocesan Giving and Stewardship Advisor) who is a fundraising professional. Her advice is available to all Parishes (lewis@glosdioc.org.uk)

Rev. James Caldwell Chaplain to Gloucesters announced his transfer to Germany in the summer.

Rev Poppy Hughes Tetbury is to move to London Diocese.

Rev Kim Brown moved to Worcester Diocese.

In June Deanery Synod at Harnhill Centre for Christian Healing focussed on Ministry. Discussion was led by Rev Kate Stacey and Rev Andrew Cinnamond. Together they informed Synod of the training available to Lay as well as ordained members of our churches. Because of the uniqueness of each Deanery in our Diocese, training is organised on a Deanery level. In our Deanery there is training for Lay Ministry leaders and in April 2025 a course for Funeral and Bereavement Ministry will begin at The Monastery, Cirencester (Old House of Fraser.)

Our new EcoChurch representative, Rosemary Bailey, gave a short report on her new role and plans.

Diocesan Synod elections returned the following:

Clergy: Graham Morris, Caroline Symcox, Jackie Colburn, Tim Hastie-Smith, Luke Falvey, and John Birchall.

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Laity: Rosemary Bailey, Karen Czapiewski, George Collins, Rachel Jago and Peter Moore.

On 1 August Bishop Rachel visited our deanery. She joined a group of 20 DS members for lunch at RAU before a tour of our deanery including a vineyard and a farm for milking.

In November Deanery Synod at The Monastery, Cirencester focussed on Mission.

Rev Adrian Beere gave a short presentation about The Monastery which runs as a medieval monastery but is secular. Workers are paid a living wage and receive training. He encouraged the community to get involved. Members then had a guided tour.

There was a message to members from Bishops Rachel and Robert about the Makin review and resignation of Archbishop Justin Welby. In the light of this Lay Chair George Collins urged Parishes to take Safeguarding seriously and use the online training available at <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org>

George then gave a presentation on the vacancies in our deanery.

Our Deanery is large with 45 Parishes and 60 churches 10 full time Clergy + 0.9 House for Duty.

Of the seven Benefices 5 will be vacant by 2025 but advertisements are receiving a very small number of qualified applicants. Multi Parish Benefices are unattractive to potential incumbents. The support of retired clergy is vital but occludes the underlying problem of recruitment.

Claire Pearson, Secretary
c.d.pearson@icloud.com

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

9 CHURCH MISSION AND MINISTRY

9.1 PRAYER

Prayer is the fuel by which the Church Mission and ministry is achieved.

There are prayer meetings weekly on a Wednesday Morning at 9am in the Church Cottage. Monthly meetings in the Vicarage usually the first Monday of every month. We have a number of Prayer Triplets in our Church family, if you are interested please contact Denver Keegan or the Parish Office

9.1.1 PRAYER MINISTRY

A team of trained people offer prayer ministry after most 10am Sunday services; prayer is offered for concerns that people share and this is in complete confidence.

Every team member has been checked via the DBS and completed the basic safeguarding training course.

Each Sunday we meet with the clergy and worship leaders before the service to pray for them as they lead and for all those who are attending, particularly for people carrying heavy burdens that they may be ministered to in their need.

9.2 BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

9.2.1 MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The men's bible study group met fortnightly throughout the year, welcoming some new members facilitated by our move to Wednesday evenings. Last year we studied Ester and a series looking at each of Jesus's disciples. We are currently part way through a study on three of the Old Testament prophets, having already found much more than Sunday school stories in the book of Jonah we are part way through Joel with Amos to come after Easter.

As well as the bible study we have encouraged and prayed for each other through what has been a challenging year for several of us and we also managed to meet up for the odd curry!

9.2.2 EVENING STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Chancel Way house group

Having completed The Romans Course series produced by The Bible Society early in the year, we decided to follow another of their courses, The Bible Series. In seven sessions we covered key themes in the bible from Genesis to Revelation, the intention being to provide people with a better understanding of the bible as a whole and how the different parts relate to each other.

After Easter we plan to offer two or three study series over the year, working around the lent Groups and summer holidays.

We generally meet twice a month at the host's house on a Wednesday or Thursday evening. We start with refreshments, giving us a chance to talk and catch up with each other before the main session at 8pm. The study tends to last about an hour, but some discussions can extend this by a few minutes after which we close with a short time of prayer. There is no pressure to pray, or even talk, but we encourage everyone to share their views so that we can learn from each other as we seek to gain a better understanding of the bible and our faith.

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

9.2.3 THURSDAY EVENING HOUSE GROUP

We have had rather a quiet year with the House group, due to a few unforeseen circumstances! After running a Lent course (mixed group), we gathered together again and have been studying the letter to the Romans. The Bible Society has put together a wonderful series of videos presented by Andrew Ollerton, based in and around the city of Rome itself. The course has been excellent - stimulating, fresh and a great boost to our faith. We heartily recommend it for other groups."

9.2.4 WOMEN'S BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

We continued to meet weekly for fellowship, Bible study and prayer, to help us grow in our faith. Our Bible studies have included what the Bible teaches about fellowship in our life as disciples of Jesus, and the Gospel of Luke. All ladies are welcome to join us on a Monday afternoon.

9.2.5 LENT GROUPS

Seven Lent groups were run in the lead up to Easter, culminating in a combined meeting/service in Lechlade Baptist Church during Holy Week. The groups met on different days of the week, during the evening and day time, and mainly involved people from St Lawrence and the Lechlade Baptist Church.

The study series, called 'Whole Life Worship', looked at how worship affects our lives in many ways, from giving us a different insight on life, transforming our ordinary everyday actions, inspiring our everyday speech, and encouraging us in so many ways. As the hymn puts it "Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all" (Isaac Watts).

As in previous years, these Lent groups provided us all with an opportunity to discuss our faith and learn from each other in supportive small groups.

9.2.6 'MEN ALOUD OUT'

The Men Aloud Out group has continued to meet at the Trout most months with a varied programme of invited speakers, social meetings, or discussion on a topical matter of concern led by one of our members. Average attendance about 10 people, with more for when we had an invited speaker. David Bainbridge, who has been organising this group for the past few years, handed over responsibility for the group in December 2024, with various people agreeing to take over so that the group can continue.

9.3 ST. LAWRENCE YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
Ministry Amongst Children and Young People

9.3.1 REGULAR DISCIPLESHIP:

We continue to offer children's groups catering for youngsters from 2½ to 16 on Sunday mornings with regularly about 15 children and young people split between 3 groups:

Sparks (ages 2½ -5), Flares (6-11 primary school), The Grid (11-16 secondary school)

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

This year we have continued to use the 'Energize' material from Urban Saints and Sparks and Flares have focussed on Jesus, with series on 'Jesus' Miracles', 'Jesus' Parables' and the 'Life of Jesus', as well as seasonal celebrations.

We are grateful for the many years of support that David Corris and Sylvia Dennish have given between them now they have retired from the children's work and grateful to Jackie Day and Emma Budd who are now helping with Flares and Sparks respectively and Rosie Emmerson who has stepped up from helping to lead Flares in Kate's absence.

We accessed some training for the leaders and helpers during the year - 'Early Steps' – training for early years leaders and helpers and 'Parenting in Faith' – support for parents/carers of teenagers. All those who are in contact with the youngsters are DBS checked and undergo safeguarding training.

9.3.2 COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND HOLIDAY CLUB

'Explorers' afterschool club at St Lawrence School continues to see about 30 children every week. Pupils from years 1 upwards meet weekly for Bible stories, songs, crafts and activities, building upon the excellent work done through 'Open the Book' and school worship. We are thankful for adults from the Church family who support both 'Explorers' and the 'Open the Book' initiatives.

During the year we have hosted several special occasions starting with a very successful Easter Trail on Good Friday (2024) and there was a positive family atmosphere in a packed Church building with lots of young families learning about the events of Holy Week and Easter in an interactive way, followed by an Easter Egg Hunt in the churchyard on Easter Sunday.

We had a lovely Summer Family Picnic for the children's groups' families at the Harris' home and Filkins play area which was good opportunity for children and parents to mix.

Eighty children attended the 'Under-Sea Adventure' Holiday Bible Club in August with over 30 members of the congregation working tirelessly to share their faith with the youngsters through the 'life of Peter' as well as ensuring that they had a fun (and safe) time, ably supported by several teenage young leaders.

We held another community Pumpkin Trail, 'Light on a Dark Night', on 31st October, with large numbers of families visiting the Church for hot chocolate, popcorn, paper pumpkin making and Christian gift bags. Our annual, well-supported Christingle Service and workshop again marked the beginning of Advent and the community's preparations for Christmas, which climaxed with the Crib Service on Christmas Eve when there was standing room only in Church to see the children retell the Nativity Story.

We are so thankful for the way the Church family has enabled and supported these regular and outreach efforts. We are always on the lookout for more adult support, so do speak to the vicar if you would like to get involved.

Please pray for God to move in our community as we seek to faithfully share the Gospel with children and families in our midst.

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Kate Cinnamond & Tessa Cobb

9.3.3 LITTLE LIGHTS. PRAM SERVICE/ BABY AND TODDLER PLAY GROUP

We run Little Lights which is a pram service and play- group as part of our objective of encouraging parents to bring their children up in faith. We meet once or twice a month and usually have 7-12 families present.

Kathy Newton

9.4 SOUTH COTSWOLD TEAM YOUTH MINISTRY

9.4.1 SCHOOL'S WORK

Within the school year I am able to visit all 9 primary schools in the SCT with the majority of smaller schools establishing a regular pattern of collective worship visits every term and weekly club or regular class assemblies at the larger schools. I delivered 5 weekly lunchtime clubs in 4 different schools last year with a special focus on y6s.

At St Lawrence Primary School the lunchtime club is very well supported in both engagement and number (an average of 14 last year and 17 this year and full class numbers when it rains!). The y6 commitment was intensified during the summer term as the school emphasis shifted towards transition amongst y6 pupils. I was able distribute over 150 copies of the excellent SU publication, It's Your Move, to help pupils consider the big step to secondary school during the summer term and it has been a great privilege to see many of the same pupils at Farmors school and help to give them a measure of continuity. In addition, we were able to offer a water-sport activity day where y6 pupils from different schools mixed and regular attendees of school/evening youth clubs joined together.

The lunchtime clubs at Farmors have been well attended (an average of over 20 at Cookie Jar and about 16 at Big Fish last year and around 18 this year) and has provided a safe haven to come and make friends as well as a first point of entry for those interested in our out-of-school activities. Indeed several now attend Thirst regularly and a number from Big Fish have attended an activity day, social event or residential.

With a great deal of local support I was again able to provide a dozen Christmas food hampers and gifts to needy families (Farmors school-identified). Support in providing the 'personal touch' came via the Fairford Air Base, a Farmors School tutor group, a parent previously supported plus a Lions Club donation. Hopefully, this took a little pressure off those with financial hardships and allowed 'the church' to be seen as a positive, visible presence in a very practical and relevant way.

9.4.2 SUNDAY SERVICES

I endeavour to regularly visit churches from across the team, supporting clergy and updating congregations on our youth work through sharing encouragements, prayer needs and vision for the future. In addition, I take the opportunity to preach, lead prayers and chat to interested parties wherever possible. Once a month, I'm also committed to co-lead the Grid group in Lechlade where the youth of our team gather for bible study and discussion.

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

9.4.3 OTHER YOUTH WORK

Two faith-based discussion groups have operated concurrently on a Tuesday evening. The older group (Quench) has journeyed with the leaders for a number of years as we've sought to spiritually equip them for life beyond.

We had a final residential at Macaroni Woods last March where we reminisced, challenged them over the legacy they leave and celebrated many previous trips together. Our younger group, Thirst (school years 6 to 9) enjoyed a return residential to MW in April 2024 and has now divided into two to reflect the widening age range represented, The Lechlade Holiday Club was again an excellent launchpad for weekly links with a new generation of youth about to enter secondary school, and these connections have been invaluable in drawing in around half a dozen new faces (to Thirst) again this school year.

Elsewhere our youth & children's club in Kempsford has continued to flourish. Our split into 2 groups (currently 18 in the younger and over 20 in the older group) works well. I co-lead both groups and we are looking forward to the coming lighter nights when we can be outdoors more frequently!

With still no announcement of a new director at SU Romania, our plans remain in limbo though some of our youth plan to help with various Christian camps this summer as Young Leaders.

While the search continues for more volunteers to support our work, I would like to close with a huge thank you to those volunteers who do give their time so sacrificially to stand alongside me in body and prayer to support and nurture these young lives in so many contexts. Together we lift them to the Lord who we trust will continue the good and lasting work in their hearts and minds.

Future Dates:

- 9-11 May – Thirst residential at Adventure Plus
- SCT Activity Day -date tbc
- 28-31 July – Poulton Holiday Club; 27-29, 31 August - Lechlade Holiday Club
- 19-21 September - Thirst residential at Macaroni Woods

Chris Saunders

9.5 ST. LAWRENCE SCHOOL

Our shared vision is to be a joyful and loving school community; rooted in clear Christian values, where every child participates, celebrates achievement and cares for the people and world around them.

Back in October St Lawrence Primary received its church school inspection via the SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodists Schools) process. We received excellent feedback and our partnership with St Lawrence Church was highlighted as a particular strength.

'Collective worship is cherished by pupils and adults. An exceptionally strong partnership with the local church enriches the school's worship life.'

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

We feel immensely privileged to be supported by such a strong church community whether that be via Foundation Governors, The Explorers Club, Open The Book Team or our group of community volunteer readers who support many children throughout each week.

The report also noted that: *'The vision to be joyful and loving, enables leaders to create a caring community built on overwhelming love and respect. Relationships across the school are exceptionally strong. Pupils are polite, behave well, and support each other lovingly. Recent work to review the behaviour policy ensures they have a range of strategies to help them disagree peacefully and resolve disputes if needed.'*

All in school continue to work extremely hard, often with reduced financial resources, for the good of our children. We are proud of the range of activities we provide and the broad balance within both curricular and extra-curricular opportunities for all.

Mr Gordon Soutar

Headteacher

9.5.1 OPEN THE BOOK

Over the past year we have been able to go into St Lawrence School on a regular basis to lead Open the Book acts of worship. Each time we work with about 10 children from Key Stage 2; we read the Bible Story to them and choose who will act each part. Then we dress them up and rehearse before the rest of the school join us. An adult reads the introduction and the children act the story which the adults narrate. This is then followed by a summary of the meaning of the story, a prayer and then a song. Over the past year we have been very encouraged by the members of staff who sit in and then talk to the children more about the story.

We choose a song for the children to sing and Sandra Gibbons usually introduces it and plays her guitar. At the end of the summer term we said goodbye to Mike Baker who had been a member of the team for many years. We were pleased to welcome John Challinor to join us

9.6 MOTHERS' UNION

Our Mothers' Union branch continues to run with a hard- working committee. Sadly, Mary Cotton who was a newer member and was on the committee, recently passed away as did Joy Evans who had been a loyal member for many years. We now have 50 paid up members as Revd. Andrew Cinnamon enrolled three new members and welcomed one from Lancashire. We have members who live locally, in Fairford and in Faringdon.

We fundraise for family projects run by MU in the UK and around the world. We try to support our Clergy and the Churches we belong to. We look out locally for those in need and help when we can. We support the Family Haven in Gloucester, The Gloucester Royal Hospital and The GWH in Swindon with various knitting projects or collection of items families are grateful for. In 2024 we helped fund a family holiday.

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

All our meetings begin with prayer and speakers are usually Christians or people who work with or support families. We encourage members in their faith and support members through difficult times. Some members cannot get to meetings but receive my newsletter each month, a magazine for Gloucester Diocese and one for Mary Sumner House in London.

The Duchess of Edinburgh is now our Royal Patron and we look forward to meeting her as MU members.

9.7 MUSIC

We are thankful for singers and instrumentalists in the informal music group, who faithfully serve our church family through the year by supporting the musical worship in our informal services 3 times per month, as well as taking part in events engaging with our wider community, such as leading community carol singing during 'Lighting Up Lechlade', and taking part in the town carol service in the Memorial Hall.

9.7.1 ST LAWRENCE CHURCH CHOIR ANNUAL REPORT

This has been a busy and extremely enjoyable year for the choir, led by Head Chorister Sophie, her Deputy Lily, and Librarian Hannah. We currently have twenty-two regular singers (14 sopranos, 3 altos, 4 tenors and 3 basses). This includes our newest Probationer, Jamie (6), who has been attending chorister training and practices in preparation for joining the choir. This Christmas we enjoyed welcoming back five former Head Choristers, increasing our numbers to twenty-six during this busy season. It is such a pleasure to sing with them again and hear their news. They are a fine example to our younger choristers too. In June we admitted Alistair and Jonathan to the choir as full choristers in a special service where they received their surplices. They both show great musical potential. We are also extremely grateful to our two organists: Geoff and Miranda, and sincerely thank them for their support and dedication to the music at St Lawrence Church.

Our repertoire continues to expand with performances of 'Save us, O Lord, waking' by Bairstow (copies of which past Head Choristers Annabelle and Tia presented to the Choir as a generous leaving gift) and the beautiful anthem 'Beati quorum via' by Stanford. Easter Sunday evening marked the return by popular request of the 'Easter story in Music and Readings', which will now become an annual event. At the Ecumenical Service of Remembrance Terja performed the Last Post and Reveille on his trumpet brilliantly. The Choir performed a new arrangement of the carol 'O come, O come Emmanuel' at our candlelit Advent Carol service, which included a cello solo played by Rachel C. We enjoyed learning new music by modern composers for the popular Nine Lessons and Carols service: Golden Sleep by Henderson and Christmas Blessing by Stopford, and our young soloists did us proud too throughout the Christmas season, performing their individual personal bests for these important services.

In April, two of our youngest choristers, Lavinia (7) and Kaitlyn (8), represented the choir at RSCM Young Voices Festival in York. The theme of the festival was 'God's Green Planet'. Some of the pieces they already knew through singing them at St Lawrence, including 'Look at the World' by John Rutter and 'O for the Wings of a Dove' by Mendelssohn. Their favourite piece was 'Badgers and Hedgehogs' by

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Andrew Carter. They were the youngest of over 60 singers and enjoyed singing in the Festival Service at the end of the day accompanied by piano, organ and drums.

St Lawrence Church Choir was also proud to be represented by three of its choristers at the RSCM Residential course at Kingswood School, Bath in August. It was the first time that Sophie (17) and Hannah (12) had attended the course, and they were generously supported by funding from the Helen Arnold Memorial Fund and a grant from the Education Charity for which we are extremely grateful.

Following successful application, Tia returned for her second year as a member of staff having first enjoyed the course herself as a Scholar in 2022. As House Captain, she helped care for the 30 girls in her house both pastorally and musically. Hannah enjoyed participating in the variety of workshops and two of her favourite pieces were 'Christ has no body now but yours' by David Ogden and 'Missa Brevis in F' by Mozart. Sophie particularly enjoyed singing services in the magnificent acoustic of Bath Abbey and experiencing the wide range of music on the course. Her favourite piece was 'Ubi Caritas' by Ola Gjeilo. I am delighted that they had such a fantastic week, culminating in singing services in Bath Abbey, and came away with glowing reports from their course tutors having improved their sight-reading skills and confidence throughout the week.

Rachel Bath

Choir Director

9.8 WORLD CHURCH COMMITTEE

World Church Links - We continue to support, pray for and learn from Christians around the world. In December 2024 we allocated a total of £9,500 from the PCC to our World Church Links. One special event during the year was the visit in May of Gabriel and Rebeca Parra and their two children from Valparaiso in Chile.

Our links are:

- National Mission Commission of Nepal – training and equipping missionaries for Nepal
- Scripture Union Pakistan – ministry to children and young people; supplying Bible reading notes
- Dornakal Diocese, South India - supporting the Shriver Memorial School for the Deaf
- iServe Africa, in Nairobi, under Harrison Mungai – training young graduates for Christian ministry
- Gabriel Parra and his wife Rebecca, CMS local partners in Valparaiso, Chile.
- Ram Prasad and Keshari (from Nepal) - sharing their faith among ethnic minorities in Rochdale, UK. They had been on leave in Nepal and returned in March to Rochdale for a second term.
- SAT-7 – satellite broadcasting of Christian teaching and worship programmes to isolated Christians in the Middle East and North Africa,

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

10 CHURCH SUPPORT TO MINISTRY

10.1 PROJECT INSPIRE

In September 2024, a faculty was granted by the Diocese Chancellor for the proposed reordering work. This follows a visit to St Lawrence church by the Chancellor in December 2023. We were waiting for much of the year for this approval. There were no significant changes from our original proposals and reflects the extent of the detailed work carried out by the project team.

This has enabled us to commence detailed design (design stage 4) by our architect Chedburn Codd, electrical and mechanical consultant EEP and structural engineer Michael Hammond. Design work continues into 2025.

Our archaeologist excavated two trial holes below the aisle floor to a depth of 1 metre. This showed various historic soil strata going back to the Saxons. The excavations confirmed the suitability of the ground conditions for the gallery foundations.

We submitted an application for funding to the Church of England Net Zero Demonstration Project. We were successful which means we shall be an exemplar for other churches.

10.1.1 FUNDING

During the year we applied for a number of grants and received £48,500 from The Benefact Trust and £3000 in smaller grants. Personal pledges from the 2023 appeal started to be paid in September amounting to £49,000 by the year end. A programme of events raised a further £19,000. We received pledges (to be paid when the project construction begins) from The Beatrice Laing Trust (£25,000) The Joseph Rank Trust (£35,000), and Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust (£10,000) and in November we were offered a grant of £220,000 by The Heritage Lottery Fund. The expected cost of the project will be over a £1M.

With the Cottage ready to go on the market early in the new year, this left us very close to being able to fund the budgeted cost of the project – with one major caveat: the uncertainty as to whether the Government will extend the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme after March 2025. We have budgeted to receive £180,000 from this scheme, which refunds the VAT on construction work on Listed Buildings.

10.2 ECO CHURCH GROUP

Eco Church is A Rocha UK's award scheme for churches in England and Wales who want to demonstrate that the gospel is good news for God's earth. It is designed to equip each church to express care for God's world in our worship and teaching; in how we look after our buildings and land; in how we engage with our local community and in global campaigns, and in the personal lifestyles of our congregation.

We got our Silver Award in May 2022, requiring 50% score in all the categories on the questionnaire. We have now set our sights on achieving the gold award requiring a 75% score. We are hoping that the completion of the Inspire Project will help us reach gold standard.

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

10.3 CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE

Our hardworking churchyard maintenance team had another challenging year as the wet and warm summer months caused the grass to grow unceasingly. However, the team managed to keep on top of this task and the presentation of the churchyard again attracted a few complimentary comments. Our thanks go to the team for their contributions.

The result of labours was evident this spring when the snowdrops were prolific. A working party was organised to split some clumps of snowdrops and spread them to new areas. In addition, we have been fortunate to have received an offer from a parishioner to help with extra maintenance work in the ashes area beyond the grassed parts where the mower cannot easily access; this does highlight the limitations of the resource available to us. Therefore, we could do with a few more volunteers. Training in use of the mowers and strimmer's can be provided but there are lighter tasks that can be tackled such as weeding, pruning or cutting the edges to keep them tidy. Please do speak to the Church Wardens if interested in more details.

11 FINANCIAL AND OTHER STATUTORY INFORMATION

11.1 STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to: -

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles of the SORP applicable to charities.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material disclosures and explain such departure in the financial statements, and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in the future.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, The Charity (Accounts & Reports) Regulations 2008 and Church Accounting Regulations. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud.

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

When planning our activities for the year, the PCC, considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in particular, the specific guidance to charities concerned with the advancement of religion.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements

11.2 RISK MANAGEMENT

The PCC actively reviews the major risks and challenges generated within the church by means of its regular meetings. Approval is required for all key operational and financial decisions.

11.3 RESERVES POLICY

It is the policy of the PCC to invest reserves based on the timescale in which they are expected to be used.

Individual assets gifted to the PCC will be held in the form they are gifted unless it would be inappropriate to do so.

Assets not expected to be utilised in the next 5 years will be invested in a suitable investment vehicle, accepting a degree of investment risk in order to seek higher expected returns.

Assets not expected to be used in the next 3 years will be invested (until needed) in the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund. This will avoid short term investment risk while earning a higher rate of interest than is available via bank deposits.

Assets likely to be needed in less than three years will be held on deposit with a retail bank in order to provide maximum liquidity.

The PCC will seek to establish a prudent reserve balance in the general fund line with expected expenditure, with a target range of 3- 6 months of routine expenditure in addition to pre-funded, anticipated exceptional outgoings.

The PCC will also seek to build a prudent reserve in the Restoration and Maintenance Fund in line with the anticipated expenditure on a church building of the nature of St. Lawrence with suitable contingency for emergencies. Predicting expenditure following the reordering of Project Inspire makes it difficult to put a target figure on this objective, however given the costs of the project it is unlikely that the reserve will be restored to a satisfactory level that covers contingency for some time. Consideration of a suitable target will be given once some history of costs has been established, but in the meantime an objective of £50,000 - £100,000 is in place.

11.4 VOLUNTARY HELP

The PCC wishes to express their gratitude to the many volunteers who help in so many ways in the various activities of the church and who provide support to the PCC.

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

11.5 TRANSACTIONS AND FINANCIAL POSITION

The Statement of Financial Activities displays a summary of the Analysis of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2024. The key performance indicators are as follows: -

- A surplus of £449 on the General Fund,
- A surplus of £96,200 on the Restricted Funds and
- A net surplus of £156 on the Endowment Funds.

The principal funding sources of the church activities continues to be regular gifts and donations from members of the congregation, supplemented by grants from outside bodies and legacies. The large surplus in Restricted Funds is a result of the fund raising for project Inspire, for which the PCC are very grateful to the volunteers who have worked so hard to bring in this funding.

The PCC is aware of the need to increase our regular income in the coming year and to ensure sufficient liquidity on the unrestricted funds. Concerted efforts were made this year to encourage the congregation to consider their giving in light of the Biblical principles set out in a short sermon series through a letter to each regular attendee. Unfortunately the increase in giving as a result was relatively modest and was not sufficient to replace the lost income from a small number of generous givers who for whatever reasons (including moving out of the area) have stopped giving to St Lawrence. We remain dependant on generous one-off gifts to top up our income to what is really a bare minimum level to operate a church of our size.

Income was also generated from the letting of fixed asset properties.

The reserves of the charity stand at £934,149 (2023 £837,344). General purpose funds, which include buildings and the designated funds amounts to £591,476 (2023 £591,026), restricted funds, which includes funds for capital projects, restoration, maintenance, and fabric amounts to £336,051 (2023 £239,906) and endowment fund amounts to £6,621 (2023 £6,465).

11.6 GOING CONCERN ASSESSMENT

The PCC have no reason to doubt that it can continue as a going concern. We are not aware of any risk that could give rise to material financial liabilities, our building is insured by a specialist insurer. Our income has been relatively stable for many years and as attendance numbers are trending (slightly) upwards it is reasonable to expect this to continue. While our income may not exceed our current expenditure with the safety margin we would prefer, large parts of our expenditure are not strict liabilities. Most notably failure to pay our Parish share, over half our expenditure, would not lead to the diocese enforcing payment if it would cast doubt on our ability to operate as a going concern.

Approved by the PCC on _____ and signed on their behalf by:

Revd. Andrew Cinnamond

Date: _____

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

12 INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF LECHLADE

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade (the Charity) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

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 statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 the 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 material matters have 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
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have 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.

.....

J M Russell FCA

Chartered Accountant

37 Market Square, Witney, Oxfordshire, OX28 6RE

Date:

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Statement of Financial Activities

For the period from 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
<i>Incoming resources</i>						
Incoming resources from generated funds	3,530	—	—	—	3,530	6,033
Voluntary income	126,101	—	98,519	—	224,621	142,348
Activities for generating funds	9,384	—	26,087	—	35,472	15,316
Investment income	41	—	10,798	—	10,840	5,242
Incoming resources from charitable activities	3,008	—	—	—	3,008	4,250
Other incoming resources	—	—	—	—	—	0
Total income	142,066	—	135,406	—	277,472	173,190
<i>Resources used</i>						
Costs of generating funds						
Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold and other costs	100	—	3,112	—	3,212	2,511
Charitable activities	125,746	352	34,919	—	161,018	138,516
Governance costs	15,417	—	1,173	—	16,591	13,440
Other resources used	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total expenditure	141,263	352	39,205	—	180,822	154,468
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	—	—	—	—
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	802	(352)	96,200	—	96,650	18,722

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Transfers

Gross transfers between funds - in	—	1,200	—	—	1,200	25,602
Gross transfers between funds - out	(1,200)	—	—	—	(1,200)	(25,602)

Other recognised gains / losses

Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	156	156	508
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Net movement in funds	(402)	847	96,200	156	96,806	19,230
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Reconciliation of funds

Total funds brought forward	591,026	—	239,851	6,465	837,343	818,112
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Total funds carried forward	590,629	847	336,051	6,621	934,149	837,343
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There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Statement of Financial Activities

For the period from 01 January 23 to 31 December 23

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds	
Incoming resources							
Voluntary income			124,936	100	24,076	—	157,865
Activities for generating funds			8,051	—	5,804	—	12,655
Investment income			51	—	5,048	143	2,456
Incoming resources from charitable activities			4,251	—	—	—	2,156
Other incoming resources			—	—	—	—	—
Total income			137,289	100	34,928	143	175,132
Resources used							
Costs of generating funds							
Fundraising: cost of goods sold and other costs			—	—	3,242	—	483
Charitable activities			126,718	80	11,719	—	166,467
Governance costs			13,440	—	—	—	12,962
Total expenditure			140,158	80	14,4961	—	179,912
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer			(2,869)	20	21,429	143	(4,780)
Transfers							
Gross transfers between funds - in			13,269	11,450	591	293	22,529
Gross transfers between funds - out			(11,467)	(13,513)	(49)	(574)	(22,529)
Other recognised gains / losses							
Gains / losses on investment assets			—	—	—	508	(859)
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use			—	—	—	—	25,000
Net movement in funds			(336)	(2,043)	21,240	370	19,361
Total funds brought forward			592,094	2,043	217,881	6,095	798,752
Total funds carried forward			591,027	—	239,852	6,465	818,113

REPRESENTED BY:-

Fund	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Fund	Last Year
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Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Balance 01 /01/2023	Resources	Resources		Balance 31/12/2023	
Unrestricted						
General fund	592,094	137,289	140,158	1,802	591,027	592,094
Designated						
Perrinsfield House	1,799	—	80	(1,719)	—	1,799
Restricted						
Audio/visual	5,737	—	—	—	5,737	5,737
Bells Appeal Fund	2,556	82	—	17	2,655	2,556
Brownrigg Fund	18,618	513	—	—	19,131	18,618
Choir Fund	1,396	1,045	—	—	2,441	1,396
H Arnold Memorial Fund	1,917	190	—	—	2,107	1,917
Hardship Fund	1,912	200	—	—	2,112	1,912
Fabric Appeal	110,284	3,536	814	—	113,006	110,284
Mission	—	100	—	(100)	—	—
Project Inspire	57,569	30,071	10,365	—	77,275	57,569
Reordering (West end) Fund	255	—	—	—	255	255
Restoration and Maintenance Fund	18,073	165	3,051	—	15,187	18,073
Endowment						
H Arnold Investment Fund	5,903	508	—	—	6,411	5,903
Total funds carried forward	818,113	173,699	154,468	—	837,344	818,113

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Balance sheet (Separate funds)

As at: 31 December 2024

	General Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	At 31/12/2024	At 31/12/2023
<i>Fixed assets</i>						
Tangible assets	575,000	—	—	—	575,000	575,000
Investments	—	—	—	6,567	6,567	6,411
Fixed assets	575,000	—	—	6,567	581,567	581,411
<i>Current assets</i>						
Debtors	4,212	—	—	—	4,212	6,100
Cash at bank and in hand	23,941	1,747	337,206	54	362,950	253,362
Current assets	28,153	1,747	337,206	54	367,162	259,462
<i>Liabilities</i>						
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	12,524	900	1,155	—	14,579	3,530
Net current assets less current liabilities	15,629	847	336,051	54	352,582	255,932
Total assets less current liabilities	590,629	847	336,051	6,621	934,149	837,343
Total net assets less liabilities	590,629	847	336,051	6,621	934,149	837,343

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Fund movement summary

Selected period: 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

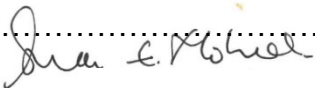
Fund	Fund Balances brought forward	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Fund balances Carried forward
Audio/visual	5,737	—	—	—	5,737
Brownrigg Fund	19,130	—	—	—	19,130
Hardship Fund	2,112	—	1,000	—	1,112
Mission and Outreach	—	—	—	—	—
Perrinsfield House	—	—	352	1,200	847
Project Inspire	77,275	127,508	21,427	—	183,356
Restoration and Maintenance Fund	15,186	—	7,668	—	7,518
World Church Donations	—	—	—	—	—
Cottage Fund	—	—	—	—	—
General fund	591,026	142,066	141,263	(1,200)	590,629
Fabric Appeal	113,005	7,397	7,668	—	112,734
H Arnold Memorial Fund	8,516	472	1,190	—	7,799
Reordering (West end) Fund	255	—	—	—	255
Lighting Fund	—	10	—	—	10

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Disasters Fund	—	—	—	—	—
Services Fund	—	—	—	—	—
Bells Appeal Fund	2,655	173	252	—	2,576
Choir Fund	2,440	—	—	—	2,440
Totals	837,343	277,628	180,822	—	934,149

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 8th May 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

S Holmes, Trustee.....

V Jones, Trustee.....

Notes to the Accounts

1 Accounting Policy

Accounting Convention

The Financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with transactions recognized at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the notes to the accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom FRS102 and the Charities Act 2011.

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Funds

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained: only income arising from Investment of the endowment may be used for the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, or in the case of 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 are given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year must be carried forward for each fund. Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes. This includes designated funds that are identified purely for administrative purposes and can be designated entirely at the PCC's discretion.

Incoming Resources

Planned Giving, collections and donations are recognized when they are received. Tax refunds are recognised when the resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due.

All other income is recognised when it is receivable.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due.

All other expenditure is recognised when it is incurred and accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with S.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011. Moveable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens 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 £1,000 accordingly all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line over 4 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December 2024. The Statement of Financial Activity includes net gains and losses arising on revaluations at the year end.

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the Charity at 31 December 2024 for tax recovery are included in amounts recoverable.
Bank deposits include cash held on deposit either with CBF Church of England Funds or at a Bank.

2 Staff Costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
The Charity employs a part time administrator.	<u>11,329</u>	<u>10,338</u>

	£	£
The Charity also paid honoraria to the Director of Music, and certain choristers. For the first time in many years we also paid an organist.	<u>2,498</u>	<u>1,376</u>

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

3 Fixed Assets for use by the Charity

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gross Freehold Land and Buildings at valuation	<u>575,000</u>	<u>575,000</u>

The freehold land and buildings are held in trust by the Diocese, and for accounting purposes the historical cost is deemed to be the valuation at the date the property was acquired. The PCC considers that depreciation is not considered necessary, since the properties are deemed residential properties and are fully maintained by the PCC.

The properties held are as follows:

a) Church Cottage Lechlade: valuation £350,000.

b) Perrinsfield, Lechlade: valuation £225,000.

4 Investments

	Cost	Value
	£	£
CBF Investment Fund 226.27 shares	<u>3,654</u>	<u>5,232</u>

Unrealised Gain/(Loss) in period £117

Cost	Value
£	£

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

CBF Short Duration Bond Fund 895.53 shares	<u>1,435</u>	<u>1,335</u>	
--	--------------	--------------	--

Unrealised Gain/(Loss) in period £39

5 Debtors and Prepayments

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gift Aid tax recoverable	2,474	3,500
Prepaid Heat and Light	400	1,100
Donation	588	750
Grant Receivable	<u>750</u>	<u>750</u>
TOTAL	4,212	6,100

6 Creditors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Incumbents Expenses	1,401	1,827
Cleaner	38	78
Village Hall		90
Electricity		635
Donation to Dornakal School	1,800	900
Admin Salary	1,014	
Parish Share	6,886	
Professional Fees		
World Church	2,310	
	850	

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Other	280	
TOTAL	14,579	3,530

7 Donations to Missionary Societies

	2024	2023
	£	£
CMS Chile	1,900	1,900
CMS Nepal	2,375	2,375
Scripture Union Pakistan	950	950
Ram Prasad		950
Sat 7	1,425	1,000
iServe Africa	1,425	1,425
Dornakal School for the Deaf	<u>900</u>	<u>900</u>

8 Amounts Collected on Behalf of Others

The PCC collect funds on behalf of other charitable institutions as follows:

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal was gifted in cash the collection from the remembrance service..

The PCC also operates a restricted fund called the Hardship Fund to raise money to support local charities who are helping those in financial difficulties. The fund currently stands at £1,112 having donated £1,000 in the period.

9 Financial Commitments

At 31 December 2024 the Charity had no financial commitments.

10 Related Party Transactions

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Members of the PCC and their families have made gifts to the work of the church and the Inspire Project in their capacity as members of the congregation. This is mainly through the Parish Giving Scheme which includes anonymous donations. The total value of known gifts received from PCC members and their families is £40,025.

No members of PCC received any remuneration or were reimbursed for expenses incurred in the exercising of their duty as PCC members during the year.

Trustee indemnity insurance is provided for, but cannot be separately identified as its part of a larger insurance premium

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

St. Lawrence Church Parochial Church Council, Lechlade

Analysis of income and expenditure

Selected period: 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

					Total	
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
Incoming resources						
<i>Incoming resources from generated funds</i>						
00111 - Standing Orders Barclays	3,530	—	—	—	3,530	6,033
001 - Standing Orders Lloyds	2,280	—	—	—	2,280	4,010
0011 - Gift Aid envelopes	1,450	—	—	—	1,450	1,095
0012 - Parish Giving Scheme	78,103	—	2,068	—	80,172	66,335
002 - Gift Aid on PGS	12,906	—	525	—	13,431	16,394
003 - Other planned gifts	6	—	—	—	6	—
004 - Collections	5,063	—	—	—	5,063	6,901
0041 - Goodbox / Stripe / Easy Fundraising	4,739	—	3,725	—	8,464	6,109
005 - Charities Aid Foundation	6,800	—	—	—	6,800	3,600
006 - Sundry gifts	7,040	—	1,776	—	8,817	9,760
0061 - Southrop and Eastleach	2,640	—	—	—	2,640	2,880

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

007 - Gift Aid recovery on Sundry Gifts	4,831	—	—	—	4,831	4,760
020 - Grants	—	—	48,500	—	48,500	750
022 - Inspire Pledges	—	—	40,490	—	40,490	17,750
060 - Non recuring grants	120	—	—	—	120	—
061 - Legacies	120	—	1,000	—	1,120	2,000
079 - Tax recovery Sp App/events	—	—	434	—	434	—
021 - Fund raising events	66	—	26,087	—	26,154	6,556
0311 - Perrinsfield Rent	9,292	—	—	—	9,292	8,760
032 - Bookstall	25	—	—	—	25	—
030 - Dividends and interest	41	—	10,798	—	10,840	5,242

Incoming resources from generated funds Totals	139,058	—	135,406	—	274,464	168,940
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Incoming resources from charitable activities

040 - Fees (weddings funerals) due to PCC	3,008	—	—	—	3,008	4,250
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Incoming resources from charitable activities Totals	3,008	—	—	—	3,008	4,250
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Other incoming resources

095 - Revaluation of Fixed Assets	—	—	—	—	—	508
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Other incoming resources	—	—	—	—	—	508
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Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Totals						
Incoming resources	142,066	—	135,406	—	277,472	173,698
Grand Total						
					Total	
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
Resources used						
Costs of generating funds						
171 - Fund raising events	100	—	3,112	—	3,212	2,511
Costs of generating funds	100	—	3,112	—	3,212	2,511
Totals						
Charitable activities						
100 - World Church Donations	10,298	—	—	—	10,298	9,500
104 - Donations	—	—	1,026	—	1,026	120
110 - Parish share: Diocese	82,638	—	—	—	82,638	77,232
1101 - Parish share: Deanery	7,554	—	—	—	7,554	7,554
111 - Incumbent's expenses	1,280	—	—	—	1,280	5,818
112 - Clergy expenses	4,955	—	—	—	4,955	1,990
120 - Church heating	700	—	—	—	700	4,277
121 - Church lighting	1,695	—	—	—	1,695	1,476
122 - Church water charges	163	—	—	—	163	56
124 - Church insurance	4,895	—	—	—	4,895	4,630
125 - Church fabric repairs	525	—	—	—	525	810

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

127 - Gas/electric/water repairs	449	—	—	—	449	1,481
128 - Organ and Piano maintenance	—	—	—	—	—	230
129 - Maintenance Fixtures and fittings	2,054	—	252	—	2,306	2,095
130 - Cost of running services	1,250	—	—	—	1,250	4,554
131 - Churchyard maintenance	334	—	—	—	334	570
150 - Cottage heating	120	—	—	—	120	1,375
151 - Cottage lighting	497	—	—	—	497	494
152 - Cottage water charges	268	—	—	—	268	428
153 - Cottage cleaning	418	—	—	—	418	500
154 - Cottage insurance	—	—	—	—	—	78
156 - Cottage Repairs	150	—	—	—	150	555
160 - Honoraria, salaries/wages	2,498	—	—	—	2,498	1,376
161 - Wages subject to PAYE/NI	371	—	—	—	371	210
162 - PAYE tax	197	—	—	—	197	—
1631 - Nest Pension	451	—	—	—	451	—
164 - Sunday School	252	—	—	—	252	66
1641 - Holiday Club	279	—	—	—	279	1,253
165 - Education and Training	169	—	—	—	169	913
166 - Youth activities	—	—	1,190	—	1,190	—
190 - Major church repairs or new work	537	—	363	—	900	—
191 - Architects/other fees for repairs or new	—	—	32,088	—	32,088	8,311
192 - Perrinsfield repairs and	736	352	—	—	1,089	553

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

insurance

Charitable activities Totals	125,746	352	34,919	—	161,018	138,516
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Governance costs

180 - Bank charges	367	—	—	—	367	357
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181 - Auditor's fees	1,155	—	1,155	—	2,310	—
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184 - Administrator's wages	11,329	—	—	—	11,329	10,338
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1841 - Parish Office	2,393	—	—	—	2,393	2,744
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185 - Other administration costs	172	—	18	—	190	—
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Governance costs totals	15,417	—	1,173	—	16,591	13,440
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Resources used	141,263	352	39,205	—	180,822	154,468
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grand totals

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Accounts



St Lawrence Church
LECHLADE-ON-THAMES

**St Lawrence Church Parochial Church Council
Lechlade**

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the

Year ended 31 December 2023

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Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INFORMATION	1
STRATEGIC REPORT	2
1. BACKGROUND	2
2 PCC MEMBERSHIP	2
3. COMMITTEES	2
4 CHURCH ATTENDANCE	2
5 VICAR'S REPORT	3
6 CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT	4
7 SAFEGUARDING REPORT	4
8 CIRENCESTER DEANERY SYNOD	5
9 CHURCH MISSION AND MINISTRY	6
9.1 Prayer	6
9.1.1 Prayer Ministry	6
9.2 Bible Study groups	6
9.2.1 Men's Bible Study	6
9.2.2 Evening Study and Fellowship Group	7
9.2.3 Thursday Evening House group	7
9.2.4 Women's Bible Fellowship	7
9.2.5 'Men Aloud Out'	7
9.3 St. Lawrence Youth and Children's Ministry	8
9.3.1 Little Lights. Pram service/ baby and toddler play group	8
9.4 South Cotswold Team Youth Ministry	8
9.5 St. Lawrence School	10
9.5.1 Open the Book	10
9.6 Mothers' Union	10
9.7 Music	11
9.8 World Church Committee	12
10 CHURCH SUPPORT TO MINISTRY	12
10.1 Project Inspire	12
10.2 Eco Church Group	13
11 FINANCIAL AND OTHER STATUTORY INFORMATION	ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.
11.1 Statement of Trustees Responsibilities	14
11.2 Risk Management	14
11.3 Investment Policy	14
11.3 Voluntary Help	14
11.4 Transactions and Financial Position	15

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

12	INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF LECHLADE.....	16
	Statement of Financial Activities.....	18
	Balance sheet.....	20
	Notes to the Accounts	21
	Analysis of income and expenditure.....	28

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

INFORMATION

Parish Vicar	Revd Dr Andrew Cinnamond
--------------	--------------------------

Churchwardens	Paul Cobb Susan Holmes
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Parochial Church Council	Richard Akroyd Richard Bell Nigel Jones Denver Keegan
--------------------------	--

PCC Secretary	Vicky Jones
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PCC Treasurer	David Williams
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Deanery Synod Representatives	Samuel Ming Lynda Wright
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Bankers	Barclays Bank Plc Lloyds Bank Plc
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Independent Examiner	David Corris
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Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

STRATEGIC REPORT

1. BACKGROUND

St Lawrence Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Parish Vicar, the Revd. Andrew Cinnamond, promoting in the parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelical and social. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the church building, Church Cottage, and the investment property.

2 PCC MEMBERSHIP

Members of the PCC who are also trustees of the charity for the purposes of the Charities Act 2011 are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, and in accordance with the Church Representation Rules are elected for a three-year period.

The following served as Members of the PCC during the year:

Parish Vicar	Revd Dr Andrew Cinnamond
--------------	--------------------------

Curate	Revd Dr Gareth Griffith
--------	-------------------------

Churchwardens	Paul Cobb Susan Holmes
---------------	---------------------------

Representatives of the Deanery Synod and therefore Ex-officio Members	Samuel Ming Lynda wright
---	-----------------------------

Coopted Members	Vicky Jones (PCC Secretary) David Williams (PCC Treasurer)
-----------------	---

Elected Members	Richard Bell Richard Akroyd Paul Cobb Nigel Jones Denver Keegan
-----------------	---

3. COMMITTEES

The Standing Committee is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings. It comprises the Vicar, Church Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary.

4 CHURCH ATTENDANCE

There were 143 parishioners on the Church Electoral roll.

The average Sunday attendance was 107 adults and 15 children. Services have also been streamed live throughout the year from the church, and this will continue; an average of 20 people have viewed the whole service.

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

During the year, the church held services for 9 baptisms, 2 weddings and 15 funerals, with 5 funerals just at the crematorium.

5 VICAR'S REPORT

One of the things I love to emphasise is that we are a local church family. A family made up of brothers and sisters in Christ; a family whose Head is Christ. Every family will have its ups and downs, its 'characters', its difficult moments, but essentially, we are there for one another. We are all one in Christ. This family focus reminds us that the local church isn't a club for like-minded people. It isn't a man-made institution, complete with a constitution, rules and regulations. The local church is God's primary means of mission in the world, despite all our frailty, disunity and weakness. In the local church family we welcome people as they join us. We say goodbye to others as they move to pastures new. We also mourn when members die, 'promoted to glory', as the Salvation Army put it so well. We encourage and build one another up, not just in our gatherings all together on a Sunday, but also through prayer triplets, small groups and meeting one to one. We learn together from God's Word in the Bible. We pray together and confess our sins together. We affirm our faith corporately in the creeds and are spiritually nourished through the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion. We also believe the Gospel is Good News and our local church family is worth being part of. That is why we have parish missions and outreach events. In 2023 we have been blessed to have had new people joining us. It is important we don't accept the widely held narrative that the Christian Church is dying out everywhere in the UK. It is simply not true. Some churches are growing and there are signs of life. Usually, it those churches that hold to the truth of God's Word and prioritise evangelism and discipleship that are growing. Another hugely important aspect of our church life in 2023 has been developing our plans for 'Project Inspire'. It has been a year of activity behind the scenes, setting budgets and timelines, thinking about fundraising and publicity, but all underpinned by prayer and seeing the re-ordering of our fine church building as all part of our mission to encourage a new generation of people to consider the claims of Christ for themselves. The relaying of Shelley's Walk was an important first step to seeing our vision for the building taking shape. It is a good example of how it is possible to keep the very best of the past, but combine it with new, safer access for all. We are encouraged to have had permissions from Cotswold District Council and from the Diocesan Advisory Committee of the Diocese of Gloucester, but we still wait the approval of the Chancellor of the diocese. All our efforts are to have a warm, bright, flexible and welcoming space to invite people to. Yes, as a church family we can meet in other places, but the church building is a physical location hallowed by generations of dedicated Christian believers, and has constantly evolved over the years as a vitally important symbol of Christ being right at the centre of our community.

Reading the Annual Report of activities during is very encouraging- the diversity and vibrancy of small groups, the choir and music group, the Mothers' Union, the World Church Group, Eco Church, the growing ministry among children and young people. In the past year God has really answered our prayers in connections being made between activities in our church school, such as the 'Explorers' after-school club, and the holiday club, and our Sunday groups. As seeds were faithfully sown in the past, we are now seeing fruitfulness and growth. Sometimes it is difficult to faithfully keep going, without seeing obvious or immediate results, but in other times we see God's blessing in new families joining us and God powerfully working in individual's lives. There is much to be thankful for.

A growing local church, branching out in different directions and exploring new ministries, brings about its own challenges. Our expenditure is now greater than our income and we do need to take seriously the financial health of our church and increase our committed, regular giving. This is now becoming a key priority. We also need to be aware of over-burdening a committed core of volunteers, who often tend to be heavily used on rotas and sacrificially give of their time and energy. An important objective is to encourage others to volunteer in some ways and to play their part in using God-given gifts for the Kingdom of God. We also need to make sure that our administration is keeping pace and we are immensely grateful to Lesley Uzzell in the Parish Office for pulling things together and keeping an unruly vicar in check! We are also blessed in having two remarkably able and dedicated churchwardens in Paul Cobb and Susan Holmes, who have had to

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

take on extra duties while we search for a new PCC treasurer. Together with Vicky Jones our indefatigable PCC secretary, we have a formidable Standing Committee who give so much of themselves in a very busy time in the life of the church. We are also blessed to have Gareth Griffith continue with us curate and I am so thankful for his willingness to serve God in this parish context and he brings a great deal of energy, insight and intelligence to our church family.

It is my privilege and honour to continue to serve as your vicar and I look forward to the future safe in the knowledge that Jesus is the 'Bread of Life' (John 6: 35) and we can feed on him and never be hungry again.

Yours in Christ's service,

Revd Andrew Cinnamond

6 CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

2023 has been a busy year with Project Inspire reaching critical milestones. The visit of the Chancellor of the Diocese in December was a very worthwhile morning and we hope that the petition for a faculty will reach conclusion in February 2024. The huge amount of work by Nigel Jones, supported by project team members, is greatly valued.

Mission aspects are covered elsewhere in this Annual Report. It is becoming clear that the composition of the congregation is changing as additional younger families participate in services and other events. This is the highly desirable consequence of events such as the Holiday Bible Club, the Pumpkin Trail and events at school, and services such as Little Lights; people from outlying areas also make up a good part of the congregation.

Routine maintenance has continued plus repairs to the floor and major work on light fittings and the installation of many LED lamps. This will reduce consumption but too much energy is wasted with lights being used when not needed. The same applies in the Church Cottage.

Our churchyard team had a challenging summer when access was greatly limited by the lengthy closure of Shelley's Walk. Once reopened, the wet, warm season meant we had to hire a much larger mower to cut the grass and return it to its usual state; disposal of cuttings also took several weeks as every available wheelie bin was filled fortnightly. One mower suffered a gearbox failure and so a new mower was bought; likewise, a new strimmer had to be bought to replace another that was worn out.

The Archdeacon's Visitation took place for the first time since 2017. This is a check on the terrier and records held. Much work was put into ensuring that everything was up-to-date but it is clear that moving out of the church will be an opportunity to clear a lot of clutter; the 'new' interior will also demand better stewardship of the storage provided.

Looking ahead to 2024, it is clear that in order to sustain the activities of a thriving church, we must widen our volunteer base. The financial position – particularly with the increase we are expected to pay the Diocese – is also reaching an unsustainable point. The PCC has much to address in 2024.

Paul Cobb and Susan Holmes
Church Wardens

7 SAFEGUARDING REPORT

The role of the Safeguarding Officer is to be the named person to whom volunteers and church members would report any disclosures relating to vulnerable adults or children. Any

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

disclosures made will be dealt with and referred to where required. There were no disclosures in 2023.

Safeguarding is on the PCC agenda every month to ensure that as a church family we continue to understand and endorse its importance.

Why is Safeguarding so important? Psalm 82 verse 3 says 'Defend the weak and the fatherless, uphold the case of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy and deliver them from the hand of the wicked.' As a church we want to ensure that the children and vulnerable adults in our church family are protected, and we recognise our duty to love and care for the vulnerable and marginalised and to protect all from abuse.

At St Lawrence we want to ensure we have clear procedures in place and a culture where ensuring children and vulnerable adults are safe is a key priority and taken seriously. Where people can speak out about any concerns they have and that these are dealt with in a professional manner, with no cover up or matters being brushed under the carpet.

The St Lawrence Safeguarding Policy is reviewed by the PCC annually.

All volunteers working with the youth and children have a DBS check prior to undertaking their role. These are renewed every three years. Safeguarding training is also a requirement for many volunteering roles, not just for those working with children, the courses are easily accessed online but can also be attended in person. These too need to be refreshed after three years to ensure knowledge and understanding remains current.

It is important to remember that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Raising your concerns or seeking advice is rarely a bad idea. We can't assume that someone else has seen what we may have seen or will pass on concerns. Please contact the Safeguarding Officer via email on safeguarding@stlawrencelechlade.org.uk or speak to me (I'm usually at the 10 am Sunday service) or to the Vicar.

Lesley Uzzell (Safeguarding Officer)

8 CIRENCESTER DEANERY SYNOD

Back in 2021 Synod agreed these Deanery Strategic Priorities

- Stay connected to our local communities
- Develop Lay ministry and leadership
- Outward focus on mission, meeting people where they are
- Define the role of clergy in this new landscape

These priorities have evolved into The Deanery Strategic Plan (DSP) which is now moving into implementation phase. Synod would appreciate any help that parishioners can offer.

Owing to retirements and 'movings on' there are now vacancies in: Thameshead, Cirencester and Ermine West the Archdeacon is keen to get the process of appointments going by April 2024.

Mr Michael Spittle retired as Secretary and Apportionment Officer after ten years of service.

The role of Area Dean is now split between three joint Area Deans:

Rev. Andrew Cinnamond, Rev Canon Graham Morris, and Rev Canon John Swanton.

The following were elected in **June**:

Lay Chair: George Collins

Secretary: Claire Pearson supported by Maggie Dennis

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Safeguarding: Jackie Colburn

Re-appointment of General Synod member: Lay Canon Karen Czapiewski

The office of Apportionment Officer remains vacant. Peter Moore and Rosemary Bailey joined the Standing Committee as additional members.

Rev Jim Caldwell chaplain to The Gloucesters is now in Cirencester Deanery

Rev Catie Watson has joined the South Cotswold team in Kempsford with Whelford, The Meyseys and Castle Eaton.

In October Bishop Rachel sent word that she plans to spend some time in Cirencester Deanery in 2024 hoping to meet a cross section of people from the farming community

Note: This has been scheduled for Thursday 1 August 2024.

13 March 2024 Synod plans a discussion on Stewardship and Christian Giving to be led by Lisa Gardner Diocesan Director of Finance, Property and Giving.

Attendance at Deanery Synod averages about 30 of the potential 70+ representatives and clergy.

Dates and topics for Cirencester Deanery Synod 2024

13 March	Stewardship and Christian Giving
19 September	Ministry
21 November	Spiritual and Pastoral

Claire Pearson

Secretary

c.d.pearson@icloud.com

9 CHURCH MISSION AND MINISTRY

9.1 Prayer

Prayer is the fuel by which the Church Mission and ministry is achieved.

There are Prayer meetings weekly on a Wednesday Morning at 9am in the Church Cottage. Monthly meetings in the Vicarage usually the first Monday of every month. We have a number of Prayer Triplets in our Church family, if you are interested please contact Denver Keegan or the Parish Office

9.1.1 Prayer Ministry

A team of trained people offer prayer ministry after most 10 am Sunday services; prayer is offered for concerns that people share and this is in complete confidence. Each Sunday we meet with the clergy before the service to pray for them as they lead and for all those who are attending, particularly for people carrying heavy burdens that they may be ministered to in their need.

9.2 Bible Study groups

9.2.1 Men's Bible Study

The men's bible study group met every other week studying Genesis, 1 Timothy and Ester. This year we have moved our meetings to Wednesday evenings and will start with a series of studies looking at each of the disciples in turn.

Several of us also attended the national men's Christian festival 'The Gathering' run by Christian Vision for Men in a field on the road to Highworth. We are so blessed to have such a great event on our doorstep (and to be able to attend without having to camp!). The

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

highlights included incredible testimonies from men with very different backgrounds and the power of two thousand men worshipping God.

9.2.2 Evening Study and Fellowship Group

Our group started the year following The Prayer Course, a series of eight sessions produced by 24-7 Prayer which included videos for each session and a wide ranging set of resources to introduce us to different types of prayer used by Christians over the years. After a break for the Lent Groups, we turned our attention to The Romans Course, recently released by The Bible Society. This consisted of ten sessions, again supported by excellent videos and other resources. We found both series to be interesting, challenging, and well produced - and recommend them to anyone who might be interested. Further details can be found online at:

The Prayer Course: <https://prayercourse.org/home>

The Romans Course: <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/resources/the-romans-course/>

Around ten of us generally meet twice a month at the host's house on a Wednesday or Thursday evening. We start with refreshments, giving us a chance to talk and catch up with each other before the main session at 8 p.m. The study tends to last about an hour, but some discussions can extend this by a few minutes after which we close with a short time of prayer.

There is no pressure to pray, or even talk, but we encourage everyone to share their views so that we can learn from each other as we seek to gain a better understanding of the bible and our faith.

9.2.3 Thursday Evening House group

Last year we started the year by looking at a book called 'Those who wait' by Tanya Marlow, continuing our study from last year. We studied Bible characters e.g., Sarah, Isaiah and Mary who all waited as part of God's plan for the world. It gave us an insight into his perfect timing for us.

During Lent a slightly different group studied the Anne Woodcock book 'Real Prayer' which was used by a number of Lent groups throughout the Church.

In the summer, our group dipped into a book called 'Busyness - Finding God in the whirlwind' by Juanita Ryan. These studies gave us fresh insight into finding the Lord in our very busy lives.

And finally, we finished the year with 6 studies based on the letter to the Galatians - with questions inspired by the works of Thomas Shriners, John Stott and Tom Wright.

The study group has grown together in prayer and a willingness to open ourselves to each other and to the Lord. We are all encouraged by the experiences and stories which we share.'

9.2.4 Women's Bible Fellowship

We continued to meet weekly for fellowship, Bible study and prayer, to help us grow in our faith. Our Bible studies have included what the Bible teaches about fellowship in our life as disciples of Jesus, and the Gospel of Luke. All ladies are welcome to join us on a Monday afternoon.

9.2.5 'Men Aloud Out'

The Men Aloud Out group has continued to meet at the Trout most months with a varied programme of invited speakers, social meetings, or discussion on a topical matter of concern led by one of our members. Average attendance 10 people, with more for the social events.

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

9.3 St. Lawrence Youth and Children's Ministry

Ministry Amongst Children and Young People

Regular discipleship:

This year we have been very thankful for new children and new leaders in our children's ministry (as well as giving thanks for the contributions of those who have now stepped back), and have slightly adapted our Sunday groups to allow us to better cater for younger children, now organised as 'Sparks' (2.5-5s), 'Flares' (6-11s) and 'The Grid' (11-16s), taking place on three Sunday mornings each month. Recently we have begun using some exciting new teaching material, 'Energize' from Urban Saints, which has easily adaptable sessions for all ages. The children have enjoyed series on 1 Thessalonians, 'Who am I? (Identity)' and 'Encounters with Jesus', as well as seasonal celebrations. Young people from The Grid have been actively sharing in church life by serving in the Holiday Bible Club team and helping with prayers, readings and refreshments in services.

- Please give thanks for the young people in our church family and pray for faithful discipling of them and that they may grow in their love for Jesus.

Community outreach and holiday club:

'Explorers' afterschool club at St Lawrence School saw an increase in numbers of children (from 35 up to 50) after the holiday club. Attendees are drawn from all year groups and meet weekly for Bible stories, songs, crafts and activities, building upon the excellent work done through 'Open the Book' and school worship. We are thankful for those from the church family who have joined the team to accommodate the new children.

In the community, we organised another community Pumpkin Trail, 'Light on a Dark Night', and estimate approaching 200 children and their families visited the Church for hot chocolate, popcorn and Christian gift bags. This gave great opportunities to build relationships, explain our hope and share invitations to Christmas events. In December we again invited families to a pre-service christingle-making workshop with refreshments. We were really encouraged to see that this attracted more families to the christingle service. God blessed us richly through the 'Wild West' Holiday Bible Club, with 73 children and a team of over 30 adults and 6 young leaders all enthusiastically having fun whilst learning about Jesus' invitation to follow him (exploring stories of people who met him in the Gospels).

We are so thankful for the way the church family has enabled and supported these outreach efforts.

- Please pray for God to move in our community as we seek to faithfully share the Gospel with children and families in our midst.

9.3.1 Little Lights. Pram service/ baby and toddler play group

The team especially thank The Revd Gareth Griffith for his support on the piano, talking to the adults and playing with the children.

Kathy Newton

9.4 South Cotswold Team Youth Ministry

Schools work

Within the school year I am able to visit all 9 primary schools in the South Cotswold Team with the majority of smaller schools establishing a regular pattern of collective worship visits every term. I delivered 6 weekly lunchtime clubs in 5 different schools last year with a special focus on y6s about to move to secondary school. At St Lawrence Primary School the lunchtime club is very well supported in both engagement and number (an average of 18 last year and about 14 this year and full class numbers when it rains!). The y6

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

commitment was intensified during the summer term as the school emphasis shifted towards transition amongst y6 pupils.

I was able to distribute over 130 copies of the excellent SU publication, It's Your Move, to help pupils consider the big step to secondary school during the summer term and it has been a great privilege to see many of the same pupils at Farmors school and help to give them a measure of continuity. In addition, we were able to offer two water-sport activity days where y6 pupils from different schools mixed and regular attendees of school/evening youth clubs joined together. In total we were able to subsidize 66 young people over 2 sunny June weekends (via external funding).

The lunchtime clubs at Farmors have been well attended (an average of over 20 at Cookie Jar and about 12 at the older club last year and 16 this year) and has provided a safe haven to come and make friends as well as a first point of entry for those interested in our out-of-school activities. Indeed over 80% of these two groups attended either an activity day or residential activity external to school.

Having received some generous local support, we were able to give out Christmas food hampers and gifts (toys and presents courtesy of Fairford Air Base) to 8 needy families (Farmors school-identified). Hopefully, this again took a little pressure off those with financial hardships and allowed 'the church' to be seen as a positive, visible presence in a very practical and relevant way.

Sunday services

I endeavour to regularly visit churches from across the team, supporting clergy and updating congregations on our youth work through sharing encouragements, prayer needs and vision for the future. In addition, I take the opportunity to preach, lead prayers and chat to interested parties wherever possible. Once a month, I'm also committed to co-lead the Grid group in Lechlade where the youth of our team gather for bible study and discussion.

Other youth work

Two faith-based discussion groups operate concurrently on a Tuesday evening. The older group (Quench) has journeyed with the leaders for a number of years and are largely at the point of moving on to new ventures in the coming year as we seek to spiritually equip them for life beyond. We have bible-based, weekly discussion and the group still enjoys residential outings to nearby Macaroni Woods. Our younger group, Thirst (school years 6 to 8) enjoyed a first residential trip in June 2023 where some mature discussion happened alongside a host of games and organised mayhem! Both groups plan to return to Macaroni Woods in early 2024. The Lechlade Holiday Club was again an excellent launchpad for weekly links with a new generation of youth about to enter secondary school, and these connections have been invaluable in drawing in around half a dozen new faces (to Thirst) this school year.

Elsewhere our youth & children's club in Kempsford has continued to flourish. After good attendance (over 30 last summer term) and diverging needs, we took the decision to split into 2 groups. I co-lead the youth version (with around 20 attending) and Rev Kim Brown has led the younger group with a dozen faithful.

With still no announcement of a new director at SU Romania, our plans remain in limbo.

I would like to close with a huge thank you to the volunteers who give their time so sacrificially to stand alongside me in body and prayer to support and nurture these young lives in so many contexts. Together we lift them to the Lord who we trust will continue the good and lasting work in their hearts and minds.

Future Dates:

15-17 March – Quench Macaroni Woods residential

26-28 April – Thirst Macaroni Woods residential

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

SCT Activity Day -date tbc

Autumn 2024 - Thirst Macaroni Woods residential

Chris Saunders

9th February 2024

9.5 St. Lawrence School

St Lawrence Church of England Primary School has continued to enjoy its strong links with the church this year. Gordon Soutar, the Headteacher and Rev'd Andrew have attended joint training together to develop the vision for the school and ensure it remains distinctively Christian and set in strong foundations. We have also worked with Rev'd Gareth to develop child friendly Bible links to each of our core Christian Values. This term, for instance, we are focusing on the value of 'Forgiveness' and have used the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant to illustrate the importance of the value to the children.

We continue to enjoy the support our Open The Book team give us and appreciate the time commitment each team member gives to the school both in preparation and delivery.

Our Explorers after school club is popular and well attended by the children. This is such an important bridge between church and school and we are pleased to hear that along with the summer holiday club some new families and children have explored their faith.

As a member of the Diocese of Gloucester Academies Trust, we work closely with the other 23 schools. We have a strong central team providing support and challenges on a regular basis. We are supported in our continual improvement journey by our Foundation Governors who all have links to St Lawrence Church alongside further Parent and Co-opted members.

As always, it is a privilege to serve this community and work with the many wonderful families and friends of the school.

Mr Gordon Soutar

Headteacher

9.5.1 Open the Book

Over the past year we have been able to go into St Lawrence School on a regular basis to lead Open the Book acts of worship. Each time we work with about 10 children from Key Stage 2; we read the Bible Story to them and choose who will act each part. Then we dress them up and rehearse before the rest of the school join us. An adult reads the introduction and the children act the story which the adults narrate. This is then followed by a summary of the meaning of the story, a prayer and then a song. Over the past year we have been very encouraged by the members of staff who sit in and then talk to the children more about the story.

The Bible Society now oversees the mission of Open the Book and has recently completely revised the Storybook and Handbook so we are gradually getting used to the new materials.

At the Together @ Ten service in church in October we talked about the work of Open the Book. Then a number of children joined us and dressed up and acted out the first part of the story of Joseph and his brothers.

9.6 Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union is a charity for Christian people who share God's love. Through the Holy Spirit we are united in prayer and worship, love and service. Lechlade Branch 2024 is made up of 50 enrolled members, 39 from Lechlade, 6 from Fairford and 5 from Faringdon. We have a full programme planned, with inspirational speakers for the monthly Wednesday afternoon meetings, at the Memorial Hall and the quarterly evening meetings held at 8,

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Katherine's Walk. We have a brilliant committee of 7. Not all members can attend meetings but we include them, support them and keep them informed. 2023 brought happy times together with trips out, prayer meetings, services, singing, hand bell ringing and lots of tea/cake together! Dear Andree Boddington passed away and Carole Topple moved to London. New members were enrolled.

We have worked hard with our fundraising which is so important for the future of our charity, which transforms lives locally and worldwide. We support our Churches and our communities. You will find MU members at the heart of Sunday School, Open the Book, knitting for the hospitals, Tuesday Club for the elderly, sewing crosses in pockets and Baptism Bears. We deliver helpful items to the prison, the Women's Refuge in Gloucester and the Family Haven. We linked with The Lions and Home Start charities last year, after spotting families in need.

9.7 Music

We are thankful for singers and instrumentalists in the informal music group, who faithfully serve our church family through the year by supporting the musical worship in our informal services 3 times per month, as well as taking part in events engaging with our wider community, such as leading community carol singing during 'Lighting Up Lechlade', and taking part in the town carol service in the Memorial Hall.

St Lawrence Church Choir Annual Report

This has been a busy and greatly fulfilling year for the choir and it is always much appreciated when members of the congregation thank us for our musical contribution. We really appreciate your support.

The choir has sung in fifty services in Lechlade and one in Southrop, many of which are morning Communion services or Choral Evensong. However, some of the most memorable are the special services at Candlemas, on Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Easter, and the wonderful services that prepare for and then celebrate Christmas Day. The Easter Sunday evening service this year was a special service which told the Easter Story through music and readings. This new format was very positively received with requests for it to be repeated in 2024, which we will do.

There have been twenty-four regular singers: fourteen sopranos (including seven adult sopranos), led by the Head Chorister Sophie, her Deputy Lily, and Librarian Hannah. Having completed their probationary year, Lavinia and Kaitlyn received their surplices and were admitted as full choristers at special services in October and November - this means they have attended practices and services regularly, know how follow and sing psalms, canticles and anthems, have an understanding of the different services at which they sing and have completed basic training in music theory. In September, the front row was augmented by two probationers, Alistair and Jonathan, who have made a very positive start to their time as choristers. We were also very fortunate to have Tia (former Head Chorister), continue to support the choir this year during her Gap Year. Emily (the mother of our new probationers) is an experienced singer who joined the choir as an alto, and we are delighted Richard (tenor) has moved back to the area. We now have very talented back row of four altos, four tenors and two basses, making for a more balanced sound. It has been particularly enjoyable to welcome back former members of the choir when they are in the area. This was particularly the case over Christmas when the choir was delighted to be strengthened by five former Head Choristers.

Many congratulations to Sophie Bath for achieving her Red Ribbon in April with a magnificent 92%. Lily McBain achieved her Dark Blue Ribbon in April and Hannah Chamberlain was presented with her Dark Blue Ribbon in November. They both achieved a fantastic 84% in their exams. Thanks are also due to these three senior singers for their continued dedication to the choir and for encouraging our new young choristers. During the summer holidays, Tia once again attended the Bath RSCM Residential Course. This time

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

she was selected following interview to be a House Captain, supporting the recreational and pastoral activities of the young people attending the course, as well as being a vocal leader and role model on the course. What a wonderful ambassador of St Lawrence Church Choir. She is now studying at Royal Holloway University of London, where she continues to sing and is also doing a conducting course.

The choir, myself and all who attend services in the church are extremely grateful to our two organists: Geoff and Miranda. We thank them for their dedication and all the practice they put in behind the scenes to support the music at St Lawrence and enable us to continue challenging the Choir in learning new music and broadening our repertoire.

Rachel Bath

Choir Director

26th January 2024

9.8 World Church Committee

We continue to support, pray for and learn from Christians around the world. In December 2023 we allocated a total of £9,500 from the PCC to our World Church Links:-

- National Mission Commission of Nepal – training and equipping missionaries for Nepal.
- Scripture Union Pakistan – ministry to children and young people; supplying Bible reading notes.
- Dornakal Diocese, South India - supporting the Shriver Memorial School for the Deaf.
- iServe Africa, in Nairobi, under Harrison Mungai – training young graduates for Christian ministry.
- Gabriel Parra and his wife Rebecca, CMS local partners in Valparaiso, Chile.
- Ram Prasad and Keshari (from Nepal) - sharing their faith among ethnic minorities in Rochdale, UK. We were glad to welcome Ram and Keshari for the weekend 18-19 March.
- SAT-7 – satellite broadcasting of Christian teaching and worship programmes to isolated Christians in the Middle East and North Africa.

10 CHURCH SUPPORT TO MINISTRY

10.1 Project Inspire

We submitted our detailed reordering proposals to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) in March 2023, following a presentation to the church community in February. We responded to comments from Heritage England and the amenity societies in May. The DAC gave their approval to the proposals in June and issued a Notification of Advice in July.

In August, we submitted a formal application to the Chancellor for a faculty to carry out the works. There was a formal notice period in September and October when the proposals were available in the church and on-line. This gave the opportunity for the public to comment to the Chancellor on the design.

A detailed brochure was prepared to promote the reordering proposals. This was followed by a pledging weekend in April. We are very grateful for the church community who have pledged significant funds to the project.

The Chancellor visited St Lawrence church in December to view and discuss the proposals with the project team and our architect. We responded to a few detailed questions put to us. We await his judgement expected in February 2024.

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

We submitted a planning application to Cotswold District Council (CDC) for the external works element of the proposals. Following detailed discussion, we secured planning permission in October.

The public footpath known as Shelley's Walk was reconstructed with recovered flagstones by Gloucestershire County Council in May. This provides a huge improvement with a level stone surface for access through the churchyard and improves access to the north porch. An archaeological study carried out during the works found no significant artefacts. We are grateful for grants from the Lechlade Historic and Development Trust and Lechlade Town Council which made this possible.

The Working Group met ten times in the year. We informed the church community through newsletters and plan further issues through 2024.

Nigel Jones

Chairman Project Inspire

20th February 2024

Project Inspire Fund Raising

In 2023 there were three strands to our fund raising efforts. Firstly, the request to the congregation to pledge funds towards the project as a lump sum or as regular donations. In total the pledges amounted to £122,000 which after Gift Aid will add £150,000 to our funds. Secondly, applications to Trust Funds which produced pledges for £23,000; and thirdly fund raising events.

In 2023 a programme of 7 events through the year raised just over £7000. The programme was designed to provide events which would be attractive to the Lechlade community and the surrounding villages/towns at the same time as raising funds for the Project. The coronation Ceilidh in May was attended by over 100 people; in June, a concert by the choir of Merton College Oxford filled the church; cream teas at Barton Swyre Farm was a delightful afternoon in July for around 100 people; a top quality Jazz concert in September was enjoyed by a widespread audience; a concert performance of Karl Jenkin's Adiemus by the combined choirs of Lechlade and Kent again filled the church; a wine tasting evening in the Memorial Hall was attended by 70 enthusiasts; and a Christmas Carol Concert, which included several opportunities to join in, attracted over 100.

In 2024 a programme of 10 events is planned, with a target of raising £11,000. The largest events will be Lechlade Open Gardens on Bank Holiday May 27th and an Auction of Promises on Saturday September 21st; other events include a Burns Supper, a lunchtime concert, a summer Ceilidh, a Summer Sale, an evening's entertainment in a beautiful local garden, a concert performance of a Roger Jones musical, a Jazz concert and a repeat of the Christmas Carol Concert. It is hoped that this varied programme will add significantly to community life in Lechlade as well as benefitting the project.

Once the faculty is granted it will be possible to apply to other Trust Funds, and also it is hoped that more parishioners will make personal pledges. It is hoped that the combination of personal donations, Trust Fund grants and the revenue from events will substantially close the gap between the projected cost of Project Inspire and the funds already available from accumulated reserves and the sale of Church Cottage.

David Turtle

10.2 Eco Church Group

Eco Church is A Rocha UK's award scheme for churches in England and Wales who want to demonstrate that the gospel is good news for God's earth. It is designed to equip each church to express care for God's world in our worship and teaching; in how we look after

15

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

our buildings and land; in how we engage with our local community and in global campaigns, and in the personal lifestyles of our congregation.

We got our Silver Award in May 2022, requiring 50% score in all the categories on the questionnaire. We have now set our sights on achieving the Gold award requiring a 75% score. We are hoping that the completion of the Inspire Project will help us reach Gold.

11.1 Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to: -

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles of the SORP applicable to charities.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material disclosures and explain such departure in the financial statements, and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in the future.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, The Charity (Accounts & Reports) Regulations 2008 and Church Accounting Regulations. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud.

When planning our activities for the year, the PCC, considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in particular, the specific guidance to charities concerned with the advancement of religion.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements

11.2 Risk Management

The PCC actively reviews the major risks and challenges generated within the church by means of its regular meetings. Approval is required for all key operational and financial decisions.

11.3 Investment Policy

It is the policy of the PCC to invest fund balances with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund.

11.3 Voluntary Help

The PCC wishes to express their gratitude to the many volunteers who help in so many ways in the various activities of the church and who provide support to the PCC.

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

11.4 Transactions and Financial Position

The Statement of Financial Activities displays a summary of the Analysis of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2023. The key performance indicators are as follows: -

- A deficit of £2,867 on the General Fund,
- A surplus of £20 on the Designated Funds.
- A surplus of £21,430 on the Restricted Funds and
- A net surplus of £651 on the Endowment Funds.

The principal funding sources of the church activities continues to be regular gifts and donations from members of the congregation, supplemented by grants from outside bodies and legacies.

Inflationary pressure have continued to have an impact this year which has resulted in costs being higher than income. The PCC is aware of the need to increase our income in the coming year and to ensure sufficient liquidity on the unrestricted funds.

Income was also generated from the letting of fixed asset properties.

The reserves of the charity stand at £837,344 (2022 £818,113). General purpose funds, which include buildings and the designated funds amounts to £591,027 (2022 £594,137), restricted funds, which includes funds for capital projects, restoration, maintenance, and fabric amounts to £239,906 (2022 £217,881) and endowment fund amounts to £6,411 (2022 £6,095).

Approved by the PCC on 21/03/2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Revd. Andrew Cinnamond

Date: 24 April 2024



Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

12 INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF LECHLADE

Report to I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2023.

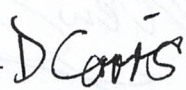
Responsibilities and basis of report As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

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

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

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

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

Signed:- 

Dated:- 24 April 2024

David Corris
23 The Wern
Lechlade
Gloucestershire
GL7 3FF

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

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Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources						
Voluntary income	124,936	100	24,076	—	149,112	157,865
Activities for generating funds	8,051	—	6,535	—	14,586	12,655
Investment income	51	—	5,048	143	5,242	2,456
Incoming resources from charitable activities	4,251	—	—	—	4,251	2,156
Other incoming resources	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total income	137,289	100	35,659	143	173,191	175,132
Resources used						
Costs of generating funds	—	—	2,511	—	2,511	483
Fundraising: cost of goods sold and other costs	—	—	11,719	—	138,517	166,467
Charitable activities	126,718	80	—	—	13,440	12,962
Governance costs	13,440	—	—	—	—	—
Total expenditure	140,158	80	14,230	—	154,468	179,912
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(2,869)	20	21,429	143	18,723	(4,780)
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	13,269	11,450	645	293	25,603	22,529
Gross transfers between funds - out	(11,467)	(13,513)	(49)	(628)	(25,603)	(22,529)
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	—	508	508	(859)
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	—	25,000
Net movement in funds	(336)	(2,043)	21,294	316	19,231	19,361
Total funds brought forward	592,094	2,043	217,881	6,095	818,113	798,752
Total funds carried forward	591,027	—	239,906	6,411	837,344	818,113

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

REPRESENTED BY:-	Fund Balance 01 /01/2023	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Fund Balance 31/12/2023	Last Year
Unrestricted						
General fund	592,094	137,289	140,158	1,802	591,027	592,094
Designated						
Perrinsfield House	1,799	—	80	(1,719)	—	1,799
Restricted						
Audio/visual	5,737	—	—	—	5,737	5,737
Bells Appeal Fund	2,556	82	—	17	2,655	2,556
Brownrigg Fund	18,618	513	—	—	19,131	18,618
Choir Fund	1,396	1,045	—	—	2,441	1,396
H Arnold Memorial Fund	1,917	190	—	—	2,107	1,917
Hardship Fund	1,912	200	—	—	2,112	1,912
Fabric Appeal	110,284	3,536	814	—	113,006	110,284
Mission	—	100	—	(100)	—	—
Project Inspire	57,569	30,071	10,365	—	77,275	57,569
Reordering (West end) Fund	255	—	—	—	255	255
Restoration and Maintenance Fund	18,073	165	3,051	—	15,187	18,073
Endowment						
H Arnold Investment Fund	5,903	508	—	—	6,411	5,903
Total funds carried forward	818,113	173,699	154,468	—	837,344	818,113

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Balance sheet

Class and code	Description	This year	Last year
Fixed assets			
	H Arnold CBF Inv Fund	5,115	4,675
	H Arnold CBF Fixed Int. Sec.	1,296	1,228
	Fixed asset - property	575,000	575,000
	Total Fixed assets	581,411	580,903
Current assets			
	General Lloyds Bank Account	131	423
	General Barclays Bank Account	91,103	76,787
	General CBF Deposit Account	44,548	43,164
	Fabric Appeal CBF Deposit Account	112,820	110,284
	Bells CBF Deposit Account	2,655	2,573
	H Arnold CBF Deposit Account	2,106	1,917
	Accounts Receivable	6,100	3,813
	Total Current assets	259,463	238,961
Liabilities			
	Creditors due in 1 year	3,530	1,751
	Total Liabilities	3,530	1,751
	Net Asset surplus(deficit)	834,344	818,113
Reserves			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	18,723	(4,781)
	Starting balances	818,113	798,753
	Gains/(losses) on investment assets	508	(859)
	Gains and losses own use	-	25,000
	Total Reserves	837,344	818,113
	Represented by funds		
	Unrestricted	591,027	592,094
	Designated	-	2,043
	Restricted	239,906	217,881

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Endowment	6,411	6,095
Total	837,344	818,113

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 24/04/2024 and signed on its behalf by:

V Jones, Trustee.....

P. Cobb, Trustee.....

Notes to the Accounts

1 Accounting Policy

Accounting Convention

The Financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with transactions recognized at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the notes to the accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom FRS102 and the Charities Act 2011.

Funds

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained: only income arising from Investment of the endowment may be used for the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Restricted funds may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, or in the case of 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 are given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year must be carried forward for each fund.

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

Incoming Resources

Planned Giving, collections and donations are recognized when they are received. Tax refunds are recognised when the resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due.

All other income is recognised when it is receivable.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due.

All other expenditure is recognised when it is incurred and accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

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

Moveable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens 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 £1,000 accordingly all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line over 4 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December 2023. The Statement of Financial Activity includes net gains and losses arising on revaluations at the year end.

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the Charity at 31 December 2023 for tax recovery are included in amounts recoverable.

Bank deposits include cash held on deposit either with CBF Church of England Funds or at a Bank.

2 Staff Costs

	2023 £	2022 £
The Charity employs a part time administrator.	<u>10,338</u>	<u>9,888</u>
	£	£
The Charity also paid honoraria to the Director of Music and certain choristers.	<u>1,376</u>	<u>1,632</u>

3 Fixed Assets for use by the Charity

	£	£
Gross Freehold Land and Buildings at valuation	<u>575,000</u>	<u>575,000</u>

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

The freehold land and buildings are held in trust by the Diocese, and for accounting purposes the historical cost is deemed to be the valuation at the date the property was acquired. The PCC considers that depreciation is not considered necessary, since the properties are deemed residential properties and are fully maintained by the PCC.

The properties held are as follows:

- a) Church Cottage Lechlade: valuation £350,000.
- b) Perrinsfield, Lechlade: valuation £225,000.

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

4 Investments

	Cost	Value
	£	£
CBF Investment Fund 226.27 shares	<u>3,654</u>	<u>5,115</u>
Unrealised Gain/(Loss) £1,461		
	Cost	Value
	£	£
CBF Fixed Interest Securities 895.53 shares	<u>1,435</u>	<u>1,296</u>
Unrealised Gain/(Loss) (£139)		

5 Debtors and Prepayments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Gift Aid tax recoverable	3,500	3,321
Prepaid Heat and Light	1,100	-
Donation	750	-
Grant Receivable	<u>750</u>	<u>492</u>
TOTAL	<u>6,100</u>	<u>3,813</u>

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

6 Creditors

	£	£
Incumbents Expenses	1,827	1,751
Cleaner	78	-
Village Hall	90	-
Electricity	635	-
Donation to Dornakal School	900	-
-		
TOTAL	<u>3,530</u>	<u>1,751</u>

7 Donations to Missionary Societies

	2023	2022
	£	£
CMS Chile	1,900	1,900
CMS Nepal	2,375	2,375
Scripture Union Pakistan	950	950
Scripture Union U.K.	-	950

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Ram Prasad	950	-
Sat 7	1,000	-
iServe Africa	1,425	1,425
Dornakal School for the Deaf	<u>900</u>	<u>1,900</u>

8 Amounts Collected on Behalf of Others

The PCC collect funds on behalf of other charitable institutions as follows:

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal £912.
The Church of England Children's Society £204

The PCC also held a special appeal called the Hardship Fund to raise money to support local charities who are helping those in financial difficulties. The fund currently stands at £2,112

9 Financial Commitments

At 31 December 2023 the Charity had no financial commitments.

10 Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions in the reporting period

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

ANALYSIS OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

					Total	
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This Year	Last year

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS

Incoming resources from generated funds

Incoming resources from generated funds - Voluntary income

Standing Orders	10,043	—	—	—	10,043	10,605
Gift Aid Envelopes	806	—	290	—	1,096	876
Parish Giving Scheme	66,335	—	—	—	66,335	65,083
Gift Aid tax recovery	16,395	—	—	—	16,395	15,342
Collections	6,287	—	615	—	6,902	7,505
Goodbox Card Donations	4,289	—	1,821	—	6,110	4,769
Charities Aid Foundation	3,600	—	—	—	3,600	3,750
Sundry gifts	6,060	100	3,601	—	9,761	33,617
Southrop and Eastleach	2,880	—	—	—	2,880	2,880
Tax recovery Sundry gifts	4,761	—	—	—	4,761	10,195
Grants	750	—	—	—	750	3,242
Project Inspire Pledges	—	—	17,750	—	17,750	—
Legacies	2,000	—	—	—	2,000	—
Total	124,216	100	24,077	—	148,383	157,864

Incoming resources from generated funds - Activities for generating funds

Fund raising events	22	—	6,535	—	6,557	4,715
Perrinsfield Rent	8,760	—	—	—	8,760	7,940
Total	8,782	—	6,535	—	15,317	12,655

Incoming resources from generated funds - Investment income

Dividends and interest	51	—	5,048	143	5,242	2,456
Total	51	—	5,048	143	5,242	2,456

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Other Incoming resources

Revaluation of Fixed Assets	—	—	—	508	508	25,000
Total	—	—	—	508	508	25,000

Incoming resources from charitable activities

Fees (weddings funerals) due to PCC	4,251	—	—	—	4,251	2,156
Total	4,251	—	—	—	4,251	2,156
INCOME TOTAL	137,290	100	35,660	651	173,701	200,131

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

EXPENDITURE

Costs of generating funds - Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold and other costs

Fund raising events	—	—	2,511	—	2,511	483
Total	—	—	2,511	—	2,511	483

Charitable activities

World Church donations	9,500	—	—	—	9,500	9,500
Mission 2022	—	—	—	—	—	5,982
Hardship Donations	120	—	—	—	120	4,500
Donations	—	—	—	—	—	184
Parish share: Diocese	77,232	—	—	—	77,232	77,232
Parish share: Deanery	7,555	—	—	—	7,555	7,555
Incumbent's expenses	5,819	—	—	—	5,819	5,233
Clergy expenses	1,990	—	—	—	1,990	2,091
Church heating	4,277	—	—	—	4,277	1,648
Church lighting	1,477	—	—	—	1,477	1,001
Church water charges	57	—	—	—	57	16
Church insurance	4,631	—	—	—	4,631	4,247
Church fabric repairs	226	—	585	—	811	—
Gas/electric/water repairs	240	—	1,241	—	1,481	927
Organ/ Piano maintenance	230	—	—	—	230	30
Maintenance Fixtures and fittings	925	—	1,170	—	2,095	1,580
Cost of running services	4,555	—	—	—	4,555	4,072
Churchyard maintenance	570	—	—	—	570	90
Cottage heating	1,376	—	—	—	1,376	527
Cottage lighting	494	—	—	—	494	530
Cottage water charges	429	—	—	—	429	12
Cottage cleaning	501	—	—	—	501	9
Cottage insurance	78	—	—	—	78	166
Cottage repairs	144	—	411	—	555	527
Honoraria, salaries/wages	1,586	—	—	—	1,586	1,632
Holiday Club	1,253	—	—	—	1,253	1,127
Sunday School	66	—	—	—	66	—
Education and Training	913	—	—	—	913	372
Architects/other fees for repairs or new	—	—	8,312	—	8,312	34,538
Perrinsfield repairs/insurance	473	80	—	—	553	1,139
Total	126,717	80	11,719	—	138,516	166,467

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Governance costs

Bank charges	358	—	—	—	358	380
Administrator's wages	10,338	—	—	—	10,338	9,888
Parish Office	2,744	—	—	—	2,744	2,693
Total	13,440	—	—	—	13,440	12,961
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	140,157	80	14,230	—	154,467	179,911
MOVEMENT IN YEAR	(2,867)	20	21,430	651	19,234	(4,780)

Accounts



St Lawrence Church Parochial Church Council Lechlade

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the

Year ended 31 December 2022

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INFORMATION	1
1. BACKGROUND	1
2 PCC MEMBERSHIP	1
3. COMMITTEES.....	2
4 CHURCH ATTENDANCE.....	2
5 VICAR'S REPORT	2
5.1 SEEDS OF FAITH	4
6 CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT	4
7 SAFEGUARDING REPORT	5
8 CIRENCESTER DEANERY SYNOD	6
8.1 INTRODUCTION	6
8.2 DEANERY STRATEGY PLAN	6
8.3 DISINVESTMENT IN THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY	7
8.4 SAFEGUARDING.....	7
8.5 PARISH SHARE.....	7
9 CHURCH MISSION AND MINISTRY	7
9.1 BIBLE STUDY GROUPS.....	7
9.1.1 MEN'S BIBLE STUDY	7
9.1.2 MONDAY EVENING STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP GROUP	7
9.1.3 THURSDAY EVENING HOUSE GROUP	8
9.1.4 WOMEN'S BIBLE FELLOWSHIP	8
9.1.5 "MEN ALOUD OUT"	8
9.2 ST. LAWRENCE YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY	8
9.2.1 REGULAR DISCIPLESHIP:.....	8
9.2.2 COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND HOLIDAY CLUB.....	8
9.2.3 LITTLE LIGHTS. PRAM SERVICE/ BABY AND TODDLER PLAY GROUP	9
9.3 SOUTH COTSWOLD TEAM YOUTH MINISTRY	9
9.3.1 SCHOOL'S WORK	9
9.3.2 SUNDAY SERVICES	9
9.3.3 OTHER YOUTH WORK.....	10
9.4 ST. LAWRENCE SCHOOL	10
9.4.1 OPEN THE BOOK	11
9.5 MUSIC	11
9.5.1 ST LAWRENCE CHURCH CHOIR ANNUAL REPORT.....	11
9.6 WORLD CHURCH COMMITTEE.....	12
9.7 MOTHERS' UNION	12
9.8 ST. LAWRENCE BELL RINGING	13

9.9	JULIAN GROUP	13
9.10	PRAYER MINISTRY	14
10	CHURCH SUPPORT TO MINISTRY	14
10.1	RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE APPEAL COMMITTEE	14
10.2	PROJECT INSPIRE	14
10.4	ECO CHURCH GROUP	14
11	FINANCIAL AND OTHER STATUTORY INFORMATION	16
11.1	STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES	16
11.2	RISK MANAGEMENT	16
11.3	INVESTMENT POLICY	16
11.4	VOLUNTARY HELP	16
11.5	TRANSACTIONS AND FINANCIAL POSITION	16
12	INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF LECHLADE.....	18
	STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	19
	BALANCE SHEET	20
	APPROVED BY THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL ON 15/02/2023 AND SIGNED ON ITS BEHALF BY:.....	20
	FUND MOVEMENT BY FUND	25
	ANALYSIS OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE	26
	Incoming resources from generated funds	26
	Incoming resources from generated funds - Voluntary income.....	26
	Incoming resources from generated funds - Activities for generating funds	26
	Incoming resources from generated funds - Investment income	26
	Incoming resources from charitable activities	26
	Costs of generating funds - Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold and other costs.....	27
	Charitable activities.....	27
	Governance costs	27

INFORMATION

Parish Vicar	Revd Dr Andrew Cinnamond
Churchwardens	Richard Bell/Paul Cobb Susan Holmes
Parochial Church Council	Richard Akroyd Richard Bell Nigel Jones Denver Keegan Gordon Land
Deanery Synod Representatives	David Corris Vicky Jones David Williams
Bankers	Barclays Bank Plc Lloyds Bank Plc
Independent Examiner	David White

Strategic Report

1. BACKGROUND

St Lawrence Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Parish Vicar, the Revd. Andrew Cinnamond, promoting in the parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelical and social. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the church building, Church Cottage, and the investment property.

2 PCC MEMBERSHIP

Members of the PCC who are also trustees of the charity for the purposes of the Charities Act 2011 are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, and in accordance with the Church Representation Rules are elected for a three-year period.

The following served as Members of the PCC during the year:

Parish Vicar	Revd Dr Andrew Cinnamond
Churchwardens	Richard Bell/Paul Cobb Susan Holmes
Representatives of the Deanery Synod and therefore Ex-officio Members	David Corris Vicky Jones (Secretary) David Williams (Treasurer)
Elected Members	Richard Akroyd Paul Cobb Nigel Jones Denver Keegan
Ex-officio	Gordon Land Revd Dr Gareth Griffith (Curate)

3. COMMITTEES

The Standing Committee is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings. It comprises the Vicar, Church Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary.

4 CHURCH ATTENDANCE

There were 142 parishioners on the Church Electoral roll.

The average Sunday attendance was 101 adults and 12 children. Services have also been streamed live throughout the year from the church, and this will continue; an average of 24 people have viewed the whole service.

During the year, the church held services for 1 baptism, 1 wedding and 12 funerals, with 4 funerals just at the crematorium.

5 VICAR'S REPORT

2022 was a year that seemed a bit like a recovery or a restoration. Covid was hard for everyone, both for individuals and organisations. Indeed, Covid has not gone away, but through resilience, scientific progress and determination, the world seems to have come out the other side of a global pandemic. In our church family, we decided to put our best foot forward and move on in faith. 2022 saw the resumption of our holiday Bible club and our 'Seeds of Faith' parish mission.

Our 'Jungle Adventure' holiday club saw lots of opportunities, as we had permission to replace the pews with individual chairs for one month, which gave us much greater flexibility and space. The church building was transformed and looked wonderful with all manner of foliage, creepers and jungle animals! I was suitably attired as 'Lemmy the lemur' and Gareth our playful curate as 'Terry the tiger'! In the end, 34 volunteers and 9 teenage helpers helped to host 77 children over the week and I am immensely grateful for all their hard work and enthusiasm. We made a real effort this year to not see the holiday club as a one off event, but to see it as an introduction to deepen relationships with local parents, families and the wider community. We wanted to be able to introduce the other things that we are doing- children's groups on Sunday, 'Explorers' after school club, and the 'Quench' and 'Thirst' youth clubs run by our team youth worker Chris Saunders. Making connections and forging stronger networks was a key part of what we are all about.

The 'Seeds of Faith' mission was a focussed time of outreach to our local community with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Our 'Sunflower Café' in the church was a great success and saw many people visiting. Again, this was made possible by the round tables and chairs we had hired for a month. We were most grateful to have experienced evangelist and missionary Revd Roger Simpson with us for many of our main events. We had a wide range of events to appeal to different groups of people- breakfasts, family fun day, concert, talk in the Garden centre and guest services. A professionally produced video was released with seven local people giving their testimony of what Christ has done in their lives. This video was widely shared and viewed by nearly a thousand people- an important reminder of just how important technology and social media is to the Christian Church. Through the various events, we made contact with lots of local people and folks appreciated the invitation sent out to the whole parish, complete with a packet of sunflower seeds! The challenge in coming years is to not see these parish missions as ends in themselves, but to see outreach and mission as essential parts of who we are as a church.

The year also saw great strides forward in our 'Inspire' re-ordering project. Much detailed design work was undertaken by professionals to meet our criteria of being eco friendly and ensuring our fine building will be a flexible, warm and inviting place for future generations of worshippers. The scale of the project means that years of research, planning, consultation and prayer has gone into these plans and we want to ensure that our project will be glorifying

to God and helping future generations know and experience the love of God for themselves. Relaying the cobbles on Shelley's walk and improving that access area to the church via north porch is an important part of the plan. A sticking point was the right type of reclaimed stone to use in the works, but agreement has now been reached between the heritage bodies and the contractors and the works will hopefully commence Spring 2023.

The year also presented many challenges. The world watched in horror as Russia invaded Ukraine causing much destruction and suffering. As a church, we held special evenings of prayer, but also raised money for the huge relief effort, both within Ukraine, but also helping the millions who have fled the country. The conflict also led to rising energy prices, which meant that millions of people faced a cost of living crisis with rising inflation, industrial action and real uncertainty about their economic future. As a church, we raised money for the many people who are really struggling and it is important we take practical help seriously.

The year also saw all the joy and celebration of the late HM Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee. The nation and Commonwealth enjoyed a huge range of parties and festivities to mark the occasion, and Lechlade certainly joined in with great gusto! There was real sadness and an outpouring of grief when the Queen died in September and the church became a focal point of remembrance and thanksgiving for a life of remarkable service marked out by a sincere and unapologetic Christian faith. A book of condolence was available and services marked the death of the monarch with both dignity and gratefulness. It will take a while before we get used to using the updated wording of the National Anthem! At times like these, the parish church often becomes a focal point for national feelings of remembrance, grief and gratitude.

2022 also saw the end of an important listening process in the national Church of England called 'Living in Love and Faith', which explored sensitive issues of gender, marriage and sexuality. Many Christians have had to make difficult and painful choices between accepting the authority of the Bible in matters of doctrine and practice, and a society where values has changed enormously over the past few decades. Every local church will have to make decisions on these changes and this is far from easy in an era of superficial sound bites, intrusive social media and entrenched attitudes. The PCC in Lechlade have resolved to hold to the Biblical Christian teaching of the Church of England on these issues, but it is so important that whatever we do and say is done in a gracious and loving way. As local believers in Jesus Christ, we strive to be faithful to the teachings of Scripture as understood in church tradition, but also mindful of what the world around is thinking. These issues will continue to dominate debates in the wider church for years to come and we will not be immune from decisions that are made by bishops and General Synod.

When I think about our church family I am always grateful by how much goes on behind the scenes. Sunday services are a wonderful corporate coming together to worship and learn, but they only represent a small part of our Christian life together. Like an iceberg, there is an awful lot left unseen beneath the water! The wardens and PCC humbly and efficiently make sure that things work well behind the scenes, as does Lesley in our busy Parish Office. Our finances are expertly managed by our treasurer and I am so grateful to the congregation and to God that we even made a small surplus last year, and that includes giving £9,500 (10% of our regular income) to our mission partners. God is faithful and God is good! May we never stop being thankful and never stop recognising the faithfulness of God over the years. As Timothy Dudley-Smith wrote in his hymn:

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Andrew Cinnamond

Vicar

5.1 SEEDS OF FAITH

In September, we held our Seeds of Faith parish mission, 9 days of special events to share the good news of Jesus with the wider community. Roger Simpson was our main visiting speaker, preaching at both our guest services, and speaking again at a special lunch in St. Birinus Court, and at the Men's Breakfast, and Grill A Vicar, both at The Trout pub. Roger was joined by Warren Furman, formerly Ace from TV's Gladiators, for very well-received visits to Southrop and St. Lawrence primary schools. The Bean Baker Band joined us for a concert in church, where we also had a very successful Ladies' Breakfast and a special bumper edition of Little Lights. There were speaker events with Judith Hann and Rachel Bell at the garden centre, and Penny Horseman at the Memorial Hall. On the Saturday, we held a Family Fun Day for nearly 200 people, with crafts, games, a live Christian show and refreshments. And throughout the week, the church was open for the Sunflower Café, with tea and cake, a children's play area, a flower trail, video testimonies, and a resident artist. Many of these events were made possible because the pews were removed for a month, giving us flexible, welcoming space in the church.

All of this took a huge amount of planning and preparation, including mailings to the whole town at Easter and in the summer, a series of trailer events in the months before the mission, and flyers and online adverts, and most importantly weekly prayer for many months. We are indebted and grateful to the huge number of people who volunteered long hours and labours to make these events happen, especially so soon after many had also been volunteering for our Holiday Bible Club.

It is always hard to measure the impact of a week like this. We continue to see new faces at church; we have grown an enquirers' group following the mission; numerous conversations at the Sunflower Café and elsewhere have built relationships and helped people go deeper in faith; and several people have commented on a sense of growing spiritual life at our church in the wake of Seeds of Faith. We continue to pray for fruit, and to look ahead for other events and opportunities where we can share the gospel with our town and wider communities.

Gareth Griffith

Curate

6 CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

In 2022, the parish was able to get back to a greater degree of normality after the pandemic and gradually were we able to withdraw the various measures in place to manage that particular risk. However, the year saw the loss of a number of members of the church family but thanks, in part, to the Seeds of Faith mission we have seen some fresh faces at services. The mission, ably led by Gareth, overtly has had a positive impact on the influence of the church in Lechlade though it may be years before the 'seeds' planted during that busy programme of events reach fruition.

Project Inspire – report on elsewhere – has been a key activity throughout the year and has seen the timescale extended due to the complexity of consultation, the detail of planning and the setback over the postponed relaying of Shelley's Walk. Nevertheless, the project team presses ahead and several important milestones should be reached in the coming months.

Routine maintenance continues though some more significant work is planned to fix the ailing lights and keep them going for another 18 months or so. Richard Bell, who stepped down as Churchwarden at the APCM after many years valuable service, and Brian Rudge continue to assist with all sorts of tasks. The churchyard working party, led by Peter Magill, has kept the area well maintained despite a ferociously hot summer. After much work by Richard and Paul, we finally got Cotswold District Council to remedy the problem with the wall on the north side of the churchyard where a neighbour has ignored planning obligations and created unauthorised access. It was disappointing how long it took CDC to discharge its statutory duties in this case. One or two other significant items have arisen such as work to progress the

reinstatement of the Sanctus bell which had to be removed from its frame due to early signs of structural failings. The faculty process ground its way to completion but was an unwelcome and tedious workload.

Unsurprisingly, the demand for foodbanks has continued. Specifically, the parish, under the guidance of David Turtle, has been generous in provision of items for the Swindon Food Collective and Mike Ward makes regular deliveries to the warehouse. Lynwoods café also generously allows us to have a collection point on its premises. A representative of the PCC participated in the establishment of the local 'warm places' initiative.

PCC business has remained focussed on the core activities and overall stewardship of the parish. A new volunteer Parish Safeguarding Officer, Lesley Uzzell, now takes the lead on the various strands needed to have suitable arrangements in place and in the monitoring of compliance. This role is quite separate from the busy Parish Administrator function which handles all sorts of enquires, arrangements for funerals and wedding (just the one this year) and specific projects such as delivery of the new Service Book. Following the PCC awayday, we have also examined roles and delegation to ease the workload on the Churchwardens and enable a more strategic approach to be taken.

Paul Cobb – Churchwarden

Susan Holmes - Churchwarden

7 SAFEGUARDING REPORT

The role of the Safeguarding Officer is to be the named person to whom volunteers and church members would report any disclosures relating to vulnerable adults or children. Any disclosures made will be dealt with and referred on where required. There were no disclosures in 2022.

Safeguarding is on the PCC agenda every month to ensure that as a church family we continue to understand and endorse its importance.

Why is Safeguarding so important? Psalm 82 verse 3 says *'Defend the weak and the fatherless, uphold the case of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy and deliver them from the hand of the wicked.'* As a church we want to ensure that the children and vulnerable adults in our church family are protected, and we recognise our duty to love and care for the vulnerable and marginalised and to protect all from abuse.

At St Lawrence we want to ensure we have clear procedures in place and a culture where ensuring children and vulnerable adults are safe is a key priority and taken seriously. Where people can speak out about any concerns they have and that these are dealt with in a professional manner, with no cover up or matters being brushed under the carpet.

All volunteers working with the youth and children have a DBS check prior to undertaking this role, which are renewed every three years. Safeguarding training is also a requirement for many volunteering roles, not just for those working with children, the courses are easily accessed online but can also be attended in person. The Safeguarding Officer is reviewing the Gloucester Diocese Safeguarding Policy and this will form part of the revised St Lawrence Safeguarding Policy, along with best practice from other churches to ensure a robust, effective and workable policy is in place.

Training obligations are placed on those who have contact with children and vulnerable people in the church community. Much on-line and some face-to-face training has been completed this year though there are some small modules outstanding for several people. The PCC is pressing for these to be completed as soon as possible.

It is important to remember that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Raising your concerns or seeking advice is rarely a bad idea. We can't assume that someone else has seen what we may have seen or will pass on concerns. Please contact the Safeguarding

Officer via email on safeguarding@stlawrencelechlade.org.uk or speak to me (I'm usually at the 10am Sunday service) or to the Vicar.

Lesley Uzzell (Safeguarding Officer)

8 CIRENCESTER DEANERY SYNOD

Spring 2023 Report

CIRENCESTER DEANERY SYNOD: year ended 31 December 2022

This report, provided for APCM meetings, summarises the discussions of the Cirencester Deanery Synod during the year ended 31 December 2022.

8.1 INTRODUCTION

Cirencester Deanery Synod is formed of more than 45 parishes situated between Lechlade and Shipton Moyne and from Elkstone or Birdlip to the Wiltshire border. The Synod comprises all stipendiary incumbents and nominated lay representatives proportionate to the size of their respective parish. Thus, many small parishes nominate a single representative whilst those with larger Usual Sunday Attendances may have 2, 3 or 4 members normally appointed for a period of three years.

Officers of the Cirencester Deanery Synod in 2022:

Post	
Area Dean	Revd Dr Andrew Cinnamond, Revd Canon Graham Morris, Revd Canon John Swanton and Revd Val Thorne.
Lay Chair	George Collins
Parish Share Apportionment Officer	Vacant throughout the year
Safeguarding Officer	Jackie Colburn
Standing Committee member	Aileen Anderson
Secretary	Michael Spittle

On 1 January 2022, duties of Area Dean were divided across four clergy who focus on respective subjects as training, Synod chair, assets and welfare.

Some parishes have not identified lay representatives although, in several of these, local Church officers have agreed to receive the Deanery's publications and minutes. In brief, the Deanery Synod is a link between parishes and the Gloucester Diocesan Synod which also explores the objectives of Diocesan Vision and informs its members of items of interest, as an example, financial affairs, governorship of CofE schools or safeguarding. It also forms the electorate of the Gloucester Diocesan and General Synods of the Church of England.

Three meetings were successfully held in a mixture of zoom and face to face during 2022.

8.2 DEANERY STRATEGY PLAN

Preparation of the Deanery Strategy plan for future resourcing of Parishes in terms of stipendiary clergy, lay worship leaders and finance continued throughout the year. The work has been assisted by an experienced consultant (financed by the Diocese from revenue other than Parish Share) although progress was blighted in the early stages by Covid infections. During the summer, a programme of engagement meetings throughout the benefices was pursued. Attendance by local population was variable. However, these events (five in number) reminded congregations that several benefices have clergy whose ages are skewed

towards retirement at times when the number of newly trained clerics has fallen far short of anticipated vacancies.

The Deanery remains committed to the legal requirement of one eucharist service per benefice each week. However, the role of clergy including work in schools and with individual cases of marriage or funeral services remains dominant. In addition, non-eucharist services are conducted. In this factor, the Deanery trained nine Lay Worship Leaders in the Spring 2022 and expects to report about more people, offering all-age services, music or liturgy, for 2023.

8.3 DISINVESTMENT IN THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY

A motion which recommended the Gloucester Diocesan Synod to explore a motion to General Synod on an inhibition of financial investment in sectors of the fossil fuel industry was approved by Deanery Synod and later endorsed by the Diocesan Synod. The specific purpose was to disallow investment in added exploration of fossil fuels and subsequent pollutants. However, some relaxation in the planned dates for implementation of the restrictions was agreed while supplies from markets other than Russia are identified.

8.4 SAFEGUARDING

Training of Parish Safeguarding Officers and other personnel has been rigorously pursued with much positive effect during the year.

8.5 PARISH SHARE

Officers remained grateful for Parish Share remittances, the majority of these funds financing clergy costs.

"There is a welcome in the"

An amusing talk, by the Diocesan Interim Director of Mission and Ministry, noted the paramount importance of welcoming potential newcomers to Church with exchanges of contact details and maintenance of interest in developing appropriate fellowship.

Michael Spittle

March 2022

Secretary to Cirencester Deanery Synod

m.spittle46@btinternet.com

9 CHURCH MISSION AND MINISTRY

9.1 BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

9.1.1 Men's Bible Study

The men's bible study group met on Tuesday evenings every two weeks through this year, studying the first half of Genesis and then 1 Timothy. We also enjoyed a couple of social evenings, a curry night and watching the England Wales game. Any men who would like to join us are very welcome.

9.1.2 Monday Evening Study and Fellowship Group

Monday Evening Fellowship -Our Group has kept its momentum during this past year, welcoming some new members who have brought their life experience and their own perspectives on the issues we have been studying. In the early part of the year, we focused on the early chapters of The Acts of the Apostles, following a series 'The church is born' produced by The Good Book Company. The series provoked some good discussion and helped us to challenge ourselves about our settledness and comfortable Christian living, relative to living life 'on the edge' as those followers did in the early days of the church. There was a load of material and we often felt we were just 'scratching the surface'.

In the autumn, we reconvened and applied ourselves to The Prayer Course, produced by 24-7 Prayer, which is an overview of developing our understanding and practices of various facets of prayer. It is described as 'An eight-week journey through The Lord's Prayer'. Each session has a helpful video presentation which helps make the topics accessible and very grounded in how we integrate prayer into our day to day lives. This course will take us up to Lent when we will pause and join others in the parish for a different focus.

9.1.3 Thursday Evening House group

The Thursday evening group continues with a core group of 10 or 11 members. We love meeting together to study God's word and to support each other in prayer. Last year we enjoyed studying a number of parables - aided and abetted by Paula Gooder's wonderful book. We also watched the series on 'Prayer' which featured Pete Greig discussing different types of prayer and how to grow in our relationship with God. We are now using the studies from a book called 'Those who wait' by Tanya Marlow. In this we are encountering characters from the Bible who were asked by God to trust him through times of waiting.

9.1.4 Women's Bible Fellowship

We continued to meet for fellowship and Bible study in St Lawrence Church from January-July. In September we moved back into the Cottage - mainly due to the rising heating costs! From January until the start of Lent, we studied the book of John, looking particularly at how Jesus can impact our lives and those around us. From April to September, we used 'Passion for Life' resources to enable us to be more confident in making Jesus known to those around us. From September to December, we have been looking at how we can be grateful and have an attitude of gratitude in our Christian life and journey. All ladies welcome to join us on a Monday afternoon.

9.1.5 "Men Aloud Out"

The Men Aloud Out group has continued to meet at the Trout most months with a varied programme of invited speakers, social meetings, or discussion on a topical matter of concern led by one of our members. Average attendance 10 people, with more for the social events.

9.2 ST. LAWRENCE YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Ministry Amongst Children and Young People

9.2.1 Regular discipleship:

This year we were very happy to leave behind all the disruptions of Covid and to see our Sunday groups for 'Stars' (3-6s), 'Planets' (7-10s) and 'The Grid' (10-16s) taking place on three Sunday mornings each month. We are particularly thankful that over this past year a member of our team has prepared a personalised teaching syllabus and resources for our younger groups, enabling us to explore the same Bible books and topics as the sermon series taking place within the service. The children have enjoyed series on Acts, Psalms, Colossians and the Tabernacle. Young people from The Grid have been actively sharing in church life by serving in the Holiday Bible Club team and helping with IT, prayers, readings and refreshments in services.

- Please give thanks for the young people in our church family and pray for faithful discipling of them and that they may grow in their love for Jesus.

9.2.2 Community outreach and holiday club

'Explorers' afterschool club at St Lawrence School has been full all year, with 35 children drawn from all year groups meeting weekly for Bible stories, songs, videos and activities, building upon the excellent work done through 'Open the Book' and school worship.

In the community, we hosted a busy Family Fun Day as part of 'Seeds of Faith' mission, with crafts, games, food and a Christian entertainer. We were delighted that families asked us to organise another community Pumpkin Trail, 'Light on a Dark Night', with over 80 children visiting Church Cottage for hot chocolate, popcorn and Christian gift bags. This year we rearranged our Christingle service so that families were invited to arrive early for a Christingle-making workshop with refreshments. We were really encouraged to see that this attracted far more families to the service. God blessed us richly through the 'Jungle Adventure' Holiday Bible Club, with 80 children and a team of 35 adults and 8 young leaders all enthusiastically having fun whilst learning about the life of King David and how he points us to King Jesus.

We are so thankful for the way the church family has enabled and supported these outreach efforts.

- Please pray for God to move in our community as we seek to faithfully share the Gospel with children and families in our midst.

9.2.3 Little Lights. Pram service/ baby and toddler play group

A team of Mothers' Union members facilitate an informal service, with songs, instruments, prayer and worship for pre-school children from birth and their parents/ carers, followed by toys, art/craft, refreshments and chat. This takes place on most 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 9.15am until 11am but not in school holidays- 16 sessions in 2022. Families receive a warm welcome and there is no charge. Children are introduced to Bible stories, to God as a loving Father and Jesus as their friend, knowing them and loving them. We light a candle and sing the candle song...as we also do in together@10 services. In 2022 we had an average of 12 children at each service. The team especially thank The Revd Gareth Griffith for his support on the piano, talking to the adults and playing with the children. Kathy Newton

9.3 SOUTH COTSWOLD TEAM YOUTH MINISTRY

9.3.1 School's work

School work is now reaching capacity again with 7 weekly lunchtime clubs (across 6 different schools) and a host of visits to other primary schools in the team for collective worship. Indeed I was able to visit all 9 primary school and deliver a class assembly on transition whilst distributing over 130 copies of the excellent SU publication, It's Your Move, to help pupils consider the big step to secondary school during the summer term. In addition, it has been a great privilege to see many of the same pupils at Farmors School and help to give them a measure of continuity.

Following excellent attendance at the primary schools during the last (school) year, I have restarted Cookie Jar at Farmors for y7's only. It is a safe place to come and make friends as well as a first point of entry for those interested in our out-of-school activities. There's been a really faithful core group of about 15 to 20 regulars and another 20 to 25 who attend less frequently. Likewise a club for older pupils at Farmors (The Club) has a faithful core of about 8 to 10 who are quite open to share views in a non-lesson setting and have attended various trips.

Having received some generous local support we were able to give out Christmas food hampers and gifts again (toys and presents courtesy of Fairford Air Base) to 10 needy families (school-identified). Hopefully, this took a little pressure off those with financial hardships and allowed 'the church' to be seen as a positive visible presence in a very practical and relevant way.

9.3.2 Sunday services

I endeavour to regularly visit churches from across the team, supporting clergy and updating congregations on our youth work through sharing encouragements, prayer needs and vision

for the future. In addition, I take the opportunity to preach, lead prayers and chat to interested parties wherever possible. Once a month, I'm also committed to co-lead the Grid group in Lechlade where the youth of our team gather for bible study and discussion.

9.3.3 Other youth work

Following excellent attendance at the Lechlade Holiday Club, we decided to launch a new young people's group on a Tuesday evening called Thirst. This is aimed at those aged 11 to 13 (top ages of primary and youngest at secondary) and has involved a series of high energy activities alongside some discussion and a biscuit all packed into an hour! The response has been very positive with over a dozen regular attendees hardly ever missing a session. Likewise Quench (y10+) has a close knit community of older teens with faithful attendance as we study a range of topics from a Christian faith perspective. Generally the two groups run distinctively to meet the range of needs and ages though occasionally we have come together for a trip (laser tag) or games at Macaroni Woods.

Quench still love to get away to the safe haven of Macaroni Woods for two residentials a year where there is always something for mind, body and spirit! This year, we will introduce our first residential for the younger group where we hope to make the most of the surroundings to help them to grow in friendship and faith.

Our now well-established children's club in Kempsford continues to flourish and runs weekly on a Wednesday evening with about 20 members and a few teens who come along to help. The latter have then accessed other events such as the Activity Day and residential outings. There is an intention to return to serve in Romania though we are awaiting the announcement of a new director at SU Romania so plans are somewhat on hold.

I would like to close with a huge thank you to the volunteers who give their time so sacrificially to stand alongside me in body and prayer to support and nurture these young lives in so many contexts. Together we lift them to the Lord who we trust will continue the good and lasting work in their hearts and minds.

Future Dates:

- a) 20-22 January – Quench Macaroni Woods residential
- b) 23-25 June – Thirst Macaroni Woods residential
- c) SCT Activity Day -date tbc
- d) Autumn 2023 - Quench Macaroni Woods residential

Chris Saunders, 13th January 2023

9.4 ST. LAWRENCE SCHOOL

We continue to foster strong connections between the church and school. As well as having a majority representation on the Local Governing Body our Governors play an important part in shaping the direction the school travels. In recent weeks Revd. Andrew has accompanied the headteacher to training delivered by the Diocese with a focus on ensuring our overall vision is rooted in clear Christian theology. The draft of this is included below for the interest of parishioners.

We enjoy working with many members of the church community including a fabulous Open the Book team who regularly lead collective worship sessions with our children. We are also joined by Andrew and Gareth regularly and by Chris who leads a weekly lunch time club for our oldest children. Our 'Explorers Club' is popular with the children and we are grateful for the time given to this by church leaders and members.

We have many links with the wider church community: not least, by being part of a distinctively Christian Diocesan Multi Academy Trust (DGAT). This links us with many other Church of

England schools where we can share and plan activities together. A recent example of this is our Year 4 class attending a Diocese wide Christingle service at Gloucester Cathedral.

As a school leadership team we feel blessed and privileged to have such a supportive and active church to both share a name and actions with.

Achieving together † Learning for life: Our shared vision is to be a joyful and loving school community; rooted in clear Christian values, where every child participates, celebrates achievement and cares for the people and world around them.

Gordon Soutar

Headteacher

9.4.1 Open the Book

Due to a new outbreak of Coronavirus, we were unable to go into St Lawrence School until after Easter. So it was with great joy we returned and were able to work with groups of children once again on a fortnightly basis to give a presentation of a Bible story to the whole school. Stories have included the Easter story, a special one for the Queen's Jubilee and the Christmas story. We are pleased to have two new team members, particularly Sandra Gibbons who brings her guitar and accompanies the children for the songs.

9.5 MUSIC

We have been particularly encouraged this year by the opportunities we have had to engage with our community through music, wonderfully supported by the church family and members of our different musical groups. These included the singing of the 'Platinum Jubilee Anthem' for the lighting of the beacons event, community carol singing during 'Lighting Up Lechlade', carols in the Garden Centre and carol singing around the streets.

We are blessed with all those who contribute to the worship life of our Church.

9.5.1 St Lawrence Church Choir Annual Report

This has been another busy but hugely enjoyable year for the choir. It has been rewarding to master new music – 'In our Service' by Thomas Hewitt Jones composed for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and 'Call of Wisdom' by Will Todd, which was chosen for their final service by the leavers: Annabelle and Tia. There have also been the challenges of singing Faure's Requiem on Good Friday and Handel's Zadok the Priest at the Queen's Jubilee Service.

We have welcomed several new singers to the choir this year – Diana moved from the organ to join the tenors and for a short time Richard also reinforced this part before moving out of the area. Ellen has been an excellent addition to the altos and in September she also brought her daughter, Lavinia and her friend Kaitlyn, who joined the sopranos - very recently Kaitlyn's father, Richard, has joined the basses. This part has also been strengthened at some services by Mike and Colin. We are also very grateful to those who have accompanied our services – Geoff has been a tremendous support at almost all the practices and many services, but thanks are also due to John, Miranda, Rachel E, Diana and Mary.

We are very thankful for the commitment of two senior choristers, Tia and Annabelle, who have been members of the choir for a combined total of twenty-two years. After their final service, for which they chose the music, there was an excellent photo presentation by Rachel of their time as loyal members of the choir. We wish them all the very best for the future. Annabelle has already had her first term at Magdalen College, Oxford and Tia is having a gap year, so we are grateful she is able to continue to sing with us as a senior member of the choir.

It was a wonderful privilege, tinged with great sadness, that we were able to sing at the Thanksgiving Service for the life of Peter Delongh. He had been a loyal bass, and, when necessary, a tenor, in the choir for over fifteen years. We know that his involvement in the

church, through being a member of the PCC and his care of the churchyard, was much wider, but the choir will remember him for his welcoming smile, his very reliable attendance and singing, keen interest in the young choristers and his knowledge of church services both here in Lechlade, but also in Scotland.

We look forward to contributing to the worship in St Lawrence in the coming year.

Rachel Bath

Choir Director

9.6 WORLD CHURCH COMMITTEE

World Church Links

We continue to support, pray for and learn from Christians around the world. In December 2022 we sent a total of £9,500 from the PCC to our World Church Links.: -

- a) National Mission Commission of Nepal
- b) Scripture Union Pakistan
- c) Scripture Union England and Wales
- d) Dornakal Diocese, South India - supporting the Shriver Memorial School for the Deaf
- e) iServe Africa, working in Nairobi, under Harrison Mungai.
- f) Gabriel Parra and his wife Rebecca, CMS local partners in Valparaiso, Chile.

We continue to support in prayer Ram Prasad and Keshari (from Nepal), who are sharing their faith among ethnic minorities in the neighbourhood of Rochdale, UK.

We welcomed Bishop Alf Cooper and Hilary for the weekend 25/26th June, when Bishop Alf gave a lively presentation of his ministry in Chile.

Then we recognised and prayed for Christians around the world persecuted for their faith, with a special visit from a SAT-7 representative on 20th November, when we heard about their satellite broadcasting to Christians in the Middle East. The Church tower was floodlit in red for the week as we remembered persecuted Christians.

9.7 MOTHERS' UNION

In 2022 we focused on the platinum anniversary of our Sovereign's accession to the throne. Queen Elizabeth 11 had been our Patron for 70 years. She was dedicated to the cause of MU and had an unwavering belief in what we do as a charity. Then on September 8th, she passed away.

We began our year with 51 members. We enrolled Mary Cotton and welcomed Elizabeth Embley and Lesley Uzzell from other branches, which was splendid. Then, we said goodbye to Hermine de longh who moved to Scotland. Sadly, we lost our dear member and Deanery Treasurer, Helen Jones, to cancer, on October 30th. She was a loyal, faithful and prayerful member.

We have had 12 monthly afternoon meetings with interesting speakers and discussions. All those begin with prayer. We have also had 4 quarterly evening meetings at the home of our Branch Leader, Kathy Newton. We have been to Gloucester Cathedral and to St Mary's Fairford for a talk about the windows. Some members went on a coach holiday to Belfast for the annual MU gathering. At Christmas, we performed a Nativity Play, written by the Middle East Charity Embrace. The Revd Gareth Griffith joined the cast as the apprentice Wise Man!

We have supported the Worldwide MU with prayer and fundraising. We have tried to serve others locally, in our Churches and our communities including hospitals and prisons. This year we collected necessities for Ukraine families who moved near here. We knit purple premature

baby cardigans for Gloucester Hospital for the World Prem. Baby Day celebration. We looked out for those needing help and linked with The Lions to provide what was needed. Many MU members help at Church Children's groups and The Tuesday Club for the elderly for example, following our MU objects as best we can.

We continue to support one another through the celebratory times in our lives and those more challenging times. We are bound together as Christian members of a Worldwide fellowship of prayer, worship, love and friendship.

9.8 ST. LAWRENCE BELL RINGING

There are only seven regular ringers at St Lawrence, but we have managed to ring for many Sunday morning services and some local events, such as the Christmas Lights Switch-On Event and ringing in the New Year, which is a tribute to the dedication and commitment of those ringers.

We have not been able to hold practice sessions every Friday evening as, with low numbers, the session is not always viable. However, when we do meet, progress has been made, mainly due to Philip Twentyman, an experienced Cirencester Branch ringer, giving up his time to help us and the excellent skills development achieved by Alexander and Evelyn Smith, our young ringers, who attend practices in other towers and with the youth team.

We were delighted to be able to ring for the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II and took a photograph outside the church after ringing, a recreation of an image taken of the band who rang for Queen Elizabeth's Coronation.

A far more emotionally mixed ringing commitment was created by the death of Queen Elizabeth II and accession of King Charles III at the beginning of September 2022. The bells were rung, half muffled, at noon on Friday 9th September to announce the Queen's death and on the Saturday the bells were rung open to announce the accession of the King. Finally, at 11:00am on Monday 19 September, with towers across the country, a 120 of Plain Bob Doubles was rung fully muffled, in memory of the late Queen on the day of her funeral. Many of the regular St Lawrence band were proud to be involved along with one former St Lawrence ringer.

At some point in early autumn some damage occurred to part of the mechanism that controls the hammers that create the chimes for the church clock. This damage has been partially rectified by the ringers but a little more work is required and will be carried out soon.

There were no weddings requiring bell ringing in 2022. The situation for 2023 is not yet clear.

The ringers are looking forward to the new ringing year and especially the chance to ring for the Coronation of King Charles III. It is always a pleasure to be able to contribute to local, church and national events.

Anny Crawford (Tower Captain)

Marian Winckles (Tower Secretary)

9.9 JULIAN GROUP

The Julian Meetings have been taking place in the church cottage over the last year on Tuesday afternoons. The wintertime is from 3-4 and we will revert to 4-5pm for British summer time.

Currently 6-8 of us meet for tea, cake, and contemplative prayer. We usually have a reading followed by 20 minutes of contemplative prayer. The aim of the meeting is to foster the teaching and practice of contemplative prayer in the Christian tradition.

This year is the fiftieth anniversary of the Julian meetings. We would love our group to grow and hope to have a special celebration for the anniversary in June.

9.10 PRAYER MINISTRY

A team of trained people offer prayer ministry after most 10am Sunday services; prayer is offered for concerns that people share and this is in complete confidence. In 2022 several team members had to step down for personal reasons but we were pleased to welcome new people to join us. In the summer we met in small groups to review our ministry and to pray for each other.

10 CHURCH SUPPORT TO MINISTRY

10.1 RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE APPEAL COMMITTEE

Following 2021 when there were no events presented by the St Lawrence Restoration and Maintenance Appeal, 2022 saw four events presented very successfully. In March we had a varied concert given by brother and sister Gregory and Ellen Stewart; in April we had the Lechlade Occasional Choir led by Colin Dowdeswell. In June we had a jazz concert given by the Fleur Stevenson Quartet to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, while in December Colin and the LOC returned for a concert of Christmas music. Thanks to all of you who supported these concerts, we hope you will continue to do so in 2023.

10.2 PROJECT INSPIRE

A delegation from the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) visited St Lawrence church in February 2022. The DAC wrote in April to support our proposals although further justification was required for the removal of the screen and re-use of some of the floor tiling. We prepared detailed responses to comments from the statutory amenity societies. The new chair of the DAC visited on 1st June when the project proposals were explained.

Chedburn Codd, conservation architects, were appointed in August 2022 to undertake design stage 3 of the project. They were supported by Environmental Engineering Partnership (EEP) who are established building services engineers with a wealth of experience of churches. The design team also included Andrew Turner Associates who are conservation structural engineers. The design stage 3 work included some changes to the initial design presented to the church community in September 2021. The design proposals were completed in November and presented to and approved by the PCC in December 2022. The proposals are to be presented to the church community early in 2023.

In August, the pews were temporarily removed to store and replaced with chairs. This was to facilitate the holiday club, the ladies' breakfast and the café as part of the Mission activities. This enabled us to demonstrate the flexibility of the nave area for a range of activities and seating layouts.

Works to improve Shelley's Walk were delayed because of the unavailability of suitable stone paving. Following further discussions with the DAC and Heritage England, the proposed stone has now been approved. Improvement works are scheduled to start in the spring 2023 by Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) which is responsible for its maintenance. Funding is mainly from GCC with grants from the Lechlade Heritage and Development Trust and Lechlade Town Council.

The Working Group met 10 times in the year. We informed the church community through Newsletters and plan further issues through 2023.

Nigel Jones

10.4 ECO CHURCH GROUP

The Eco Church Group was formed in 2016 after an inspiring talk given by Sir Gilleen Prance and we began working on this Award scheme soon after, which encompasses all aspects of church life. We got our Silver Award in May of this year, requiring 50% score in all the

categories on the questionnaire. We must now set our sights on achieving the Gold award requiring a 75% score, which is more challenging, but perhaps not impossible. Our success was publicised in the Diocesan News bulletin.

We are also very heartened that the Town Council have announced a Climate Emergency and are working towards **a Zero Carbon policy in Lechlade**. Our Eco Group will be wholeheartedly supporting them in this endeavour.

We have put up another **6 bird boxes** in the churchyard, with the help of Paul Cobb. These were made by Fairford Men's Shed using designs from the RSPB and BTO, some for small birds like tits and some for the larger species. They went up in late autumn last year so that they are in place for this year's nesting activity.

On December 11th David gave an interview at the 'Together at 10' service to explain about our Eco Group and the Silver Award, which is now on display in the Church.

A meeting has been arranged with Cate Williams (Diocesan Environmental Engagement Officer) which will link us with other local churches who are working towards greater environmental awareness. We will be able to share information and ideas for a more joined up approach across the Diocese.

We keep an eye on the Eco Patch in the churchyard without interfering with it too much. We remove prunings and other detritus which are added by well-meaning neighbours, but we have to guard against this wild area becoming a dump for unwanted garden waste. We cleared the dead stems of the cow parsley and left them in heaps because the hollow stems become a safe hibernating and wintering place for many small insects.

We are hopeful about the bulbs which were planted in 2021. Some of the crocus and daffodil are already showing.

The areas of new grass seed where the trees came out are now almost invisible. They have blended well into the other mown areas. There is still plenty of grass seed left to do some of the other scrubby patches where large shrubs were removed.

One ongoing concern is the disposal of the debris heap from the prunings and offcuts from the churchyard tidy, which happens twice a year. We are hoping that we can work with the churchyard team to find a solution to this and avoid having a bonfire if at all possible.

11 FINANCIAL AND OTHER STATUTORY INFORMATION

11.1 STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- a) Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- b) Observe the methods and principles of the SORP applicable to charities.
- c) Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- d) State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material disclosures and explain such departure in the financial statements, and
- e) Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in the future.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, The Charity (Accounts & Reports) Regulations 2008 and Church Accounting Regulations. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud.

When planning our activities for the year, the PCC considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in particular, the specific guidance to charities concerned with the advancement of religion.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements

11.2 RISK MANAGEMENT

The PCC actively reviews the major risks and challenges generated within the church by means of its regular meetings. Approval is required for all key operational and financial decisions.

11.3 INVESTMENT POLICY

It is the policy of the PCC to invest fund balances with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund.

11.4 VOLUNTARY HELP

The PCC wishes to express their gratitude to the many volunteers who help in so many ways in the various activities of the church and who provide support to the PCC.

11.5 TRANSACTIONS AND FINANCIAL POSITION

The Statement of Financial Activities displays a summary of the Analysis of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2022. The key performance indicators are as follows: -

- a) A net surplus of £277 on the General Fund,

- b) A deficit of £2,420 on the Designated Funds.
- c) A deficit of £2,835 on the Restricted Funds and
- d) A net surplus of £198 on the Endowment Funds.

The principal funding sources of the church activities continues to be regular gifts and donations from members of the congregation, supplemented by grants from outside bodies and legacies.

Following a difficult two years, the PCC are pleased to see the increase in regular giving however, the PCC are aware of the ongoing pressure of cost increases and will strive to ensure sufficient liquidity on the unrestricted funds.

Income was also generated from the letting of fixed asset properties.

The reserves of the charity stand at £818,113 (2021 £798,753). General purpose funds, which include buildings and the designated funds amounts to £594,137 (2021 £569,762), restricted funds, which includes funds for capital projects, restoration, maintenance, and fabric amounts to £217,881 (2021 £222,449) and endowment fund amounts to £6,095 (2021 £6,762).

Approved by the PCC on 05/03/2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Revd. Andrew Cinnamond

Date: 26 March 2023

12 INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF LECHLADE

Report to	I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2022.
Responsibilities and basis of report	As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.
Independent examiner's statement	I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect: • the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or • the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or • the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination. I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:- D White
David White
The White House
52 Roman Way
Lechlade
Gloucestershire GL7 3BP

Dated:- 26 March 2023

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources						
Voluntary income	121,194	4,037	32,634	—	157,865	121,395
Activities for generating funds	8,366	—	4,289	—	12,655	9,209
Investment income	73	—	2,185	198	2,456	289
Incoming resources from charitable activities	2,156	—	—	—	2,156	2,782
Total income	131,789	4,037	39,108	198	175,132	133,675
Resources used						
Costs of generating funds	—	—	483	—	483	—
Fundraising: cost of goods sold and other costs	—	—	—	—	—	—
Charitable activities	118,550	6,457	41,460	—	166,467	126,507
Governance costs	12,962	—	—	—	12,962	11,897
Total expenditure	131,512	6,457	41,943	—	179,912	138,404
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	277	(2,420)	(2,835)	198	(4,780)	(4,729)
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	9,726	11,052	1,751	—	22,529	1,604
Gross transfers between funds - out	(11,471)	(9,726)	(1,332)	—	(22,529)	(1,604)
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	(859)	—	(859)	621
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	25,000	—	—	—	25,000	—
Net movement in funds	23,532	(1,094)	(3,275)	198	19,361	621
Total funds brought forward	568,562	3,137	221,156	5,897	798,752	802,861
Total funds carried forward	592,094	2,043	217,881	6,095	818,113	798,752
REPRESENTED BY:-						
Unrestricted						
General fund	592,094	—	—	—	592,094	568,562
Designated						
H Arnold Memorial Fund	—	244	—	—	244	243
Perrinsfield House	—	1,799	—	—	1,799	1,200
Restricted						
Audio/visual	—	—	5,737	—	5,737	5,737
Bells Appeal Fund	—	—	2,556	—	2,556	2,539
Brownrigg Fund	—	—	18,618	—	18,618	18,618
Choir Fund	—	—	1,396	—	1,396	1,781
Hardship Fund	—	—	1,912	—	1,912	1,055
Mission Fund	—	—	—	—	—	1,693
Fabric Appeal	—	—	110,284	—	110,284	122,444
H Arnold Memorial Fund	—	—	1,481	—	1,481	1,718
Project Inspire	—	—	57,569	—	57,569	37,231
Reordering (West end) Fund	—	—	255	—	255	255
Restoration and Maintenance Fund	—	—	18,073	—	18,073	28,708
Services Fund	—	—	—	—	—	450
Endowment						
H Arnold Memorial Fund	—	—	—	6,095	6,095	5,897
Total funds carried forward	592,094	2,043	217,881	6,095	818,113	798,753

Balance sheet

Class and code	Description	This year	Last year
Fixed assets			
	H Arnold CBF Inv Fund	4,675	5,330
	H Arnold CBF Fixed Int. Sec.	1,228	1,432
	Fixed asset - property	575,000	550,000
	Total Fixed assets	580,903	556,762
Current assets			
	General Lloyds Bank Account	423	535
	General Barclays Bank Account	76,787	69,524
	General CBF Deposit Account	43,164	42,604
	Fabric Appeal Lloyds Bank Account	—	—
	Fabric Appeal Barclays Bank Account	—	—
	Fabric Appeal CBF Deposit Account	110,284	122,443
	Cottage Lloyds Bank Account	—	—
	Cottage CBF Deposit Account	—	—
	Bells CBF Deposit Account	2,573	2,539
	H Arnold CBF Deposit Account	1,917	1,718
	Cash in hand	—	—
	Other Assets	—	—
	Accounts Receivable	3,813	2,628
	Total Current assets	238,961	241,991
Liabilities			
	Creditors due in 1 year	1,751	—
	Fees due to Gloucester Diocese	—	—
	Total Liabilities	1,751	—
	Net Asset surplus(deficit)	818,113	798,753
Reserves			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	(4,781)	(4,729)
	Starting balances	798,753	802,861
	Gains/(losses) on investment assets	(859)	621
	Gains and losses own use	25,000	—
	Total Reserves	818,113	798,753
	Represented by funds		
	Unrestricted	592,094	568,562
	Designated	2,043	1,200
	Restricted	217,881	222,229
	Endowment	6,095	6,762
	Total	818,113	798,753

APPROVED BY THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL ON 15/02/2023 AND SIGNED ON ITS BEHALF BY:

V Jones
Trustee

D Williams
Trustee

Notes to the Accounts

1 Accounting Policy

Accounting Convention

The Financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with transactions recognized at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the notes to the accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom FRS102 and the Charities Act 2011.

Funds

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained: only income arising from Investment of the endowment may be used for the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, or in the case of 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 are given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year must be carried forward for each fund.

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

Incoming Resources

Planned Giving, collections and donations are recognized when they are received. Tax refunds are recognised when the resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due.

All other income is recognised when it is receivable.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due.

All other expenditure is recognised when it is incurred and accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

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

Moveable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens 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 £1,000 accordingly all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line over 4 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December 2022. The Statement of Financial Activity includes net gains and losses arising on revaluations at the year end.

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the Charity at 31 December 2022 for tax recovery are shown as debtors.

Bank deposits include cash held on deposit either with CBF Church of England Funds or at a Bank.

2 Staff Costs

	2022	2021
	£	£
Gross wages and Salary	<u>9,888</u>	<u>9,230</u>

The Charity employs a part time administrator.

The Charity also paid honoraria to the Director of Music and certain choristers.

3 Fixed Assets for use by the Charity

	2022	2021
	£	£
Gross Freehold Land and Buildings at valuation	<u>575,000</u>	<u>550,000</u>

The freehold land and buildings are held in trust by the Diocese, and for accounting purposes the historical cost is deemed to be the valuation at the date the property was acquired. The PCC considers that depreciation is not considered necessary, since the properties are deemed residential properties and are fully maintained by the PCC.

The properties held are as follows:

- a) Church Cottage Lechlade: valuation £350,000.
- b) Perrinsfield, Lechlade: valuation £225,000.

4 Investments

	Cost	Value
	£	£
CBF Investment Fund 226.27 shares	<u>3,654</u>	<u>4,675</u>
Unrealised Gain/(Loss) £1,677		
	Cost	Value
	£	£
CBF Fixed Interest Securities 895.53 shares	<u>1,435</u>	<u>1,227</u>
Unrealised Gain/(Loss) (£4)		

5 Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Tax recoverable	2,638	2,628
Grant Receivable	<u>492</u>	<u>NIL</u>

6 Creditors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Incumbents Expenses	<u>1,751</u>	<u>NIL</u>

7 Donations to Missionary Societies

	2022	2021
	£	£
CMS Chile	1,900	1,900
CMS Nepal	2,375	2,375
Scripture Union Pakistan	950	950
Scripture Union U.K.	950	950
iServe Africa	1,425	1,425
Dornakal School for the Deaf	<u>1,900</u>	<u>1,900</u>

8 Amounts Collected on Behalf of Others

The PCC collect funds on behalf of other charitable institutions as follows:

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal £912.

The Church of England Children's Society £1396.40

The PCC also held a special appeal under the Hardship Fund which was set up in 2021 and extended on 16th March 2022 to include making donations to the British Red Cross to support those in Ukraine and Ukrainian Refugees.

A total of £4460 was collected and given to the British Red Cross Ukraine Appeal.

9 Financial Commitments.

At 31 December 2022 the Charity had no financial commitments.

Fund movement by Fund

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/losses	Closing
Audio-vis - Audio/visual Restricted	5,737	—	—	—	—	5,737
Brownrigg - Brownrigg Fund Restricted	18,618	—	—	—	—	18,618
Inspire - Project Inspire Restricted	37,232	30,935	10,597	—	—	57,570
Perrin - Perrinsfield House Designated	1,200	—	601	1,200	—	1,799
Rest-Main - Restoration and Maintenance Restricted	28,708	1,373	11,837	(171)	—	18,073
General - General fund Unrestricted	568,562	156,788	131,512	(1,745)	—	592,093
Fabric - Fabric Appeal Restricted	122,443	1,608	13,959	191	—	110,283
H Arnold - H Arnold Memorial Fu Restricted	1,718	—	—	—	—	1,718
Endowment	6,762	198	460	460	(859)	6,101
Sub-total for H Arnold	8,480	198	460	460	—	7,819
Reorder-WE - Reordering (West end) Restricted	255	—	—	—	—	255
Hardship - Hardship Fund Restricted	1,055	5,174	4,510	193	—	1,912
Mission – Mission and Outreach Fund Restricted	1,693	4,037	5,856	126	—	—
Services – Services Fund Restricted	450	—	450	—	—	—
Bells - Bells Appeal Fund Restricted	2,539	17	—	—	—	2,556
Choir - Choir Fund Restricted	1,781	—	130	(254)	—	1,397
Grand total	798,753	200,130	179,912	—	(859)	818,112

Analysis of income and expenditure

					Total	
	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This Year	Last
year						

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS

Incoming resources from generated funds

Incoming resources from generated funds - Voluntary income

Standing Orders	10,605	—	—	—	10,605	11,200
Gift Aid Envelopes	707	—	169	—	876	456
Parish Giving Scheme	65,083	—	—	—	65,083	61,241
Gift Aid tax recovery	15,342	—	—	—	15,342	14,489
Collections	5,914	—	1,591	—	7,505	4,506
Goodbox Card Donations	4,626	—	143	—	4,769	3,189
Charities Aid Foundation	3,700	—	50	—	3,750	3,525
Sundry gifts	7,178	2,037	24,402	—	33,617	11,843
Southrop and Eastleach	2,880	—	—	—	2,880	2,880
Tax recovery Sundry gifts	3,916	—	6,279	—	10,195	6,101
Grants	1,242	2,000	—	—	3,242	750
Legacies	—	—	—	—	—	1,000
Total	121,193	4,037	32,634	—	157,864	121,395

Incoming resources from generated funds - Activities for generating funds

Fund raising events	426	—	4,289	—	4,715	563
Cottage rent	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rent	7,940	—	—	—	7,940	8,646
Total	8,366	—	4,289	—	12,655	9,209

Incoming resources from generated funds - Investment income

Dividends and interest	73	—	2,185	198	2,456	289
Total	73	—	2,185	198	2,456	289

Incoming resources from charitable activities

Fees (weddings funerals) due to PCC	2,156	—	—	—	2,156	2,782
Fees to Diocese-OB	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2,156	—	—	—	2,156	2,782
INCOME TOTAL	131,788	4,037	39,108	198	175,131	133,675

EXPENDITURE

Costs of generating funds - Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold and other costs

Fund raising events	—	—	483	—	483	—
Total	—	—	483	—	483	—

Charitable activities

World Church donations	9,500	—	—	—	9,500	9,500
Mission 2022	126	5,856	—	—	5,982	182
Hardship Donations	40	—	4,460	—	4,500	2,200
Donations	134	—	50	—	184	—
Parish share: Diocese	77,232	—	—	—	77,232	75,482
Parish share: Deanery	7,555	—	—	—	7,555	7,554
Incumbent's expenses	5,233	—	—	—	5,233	4,164
Clergy expenses	2,091	—	—	—	2,091	533
Church heating	1,648	—	—	—	1,648	1,077
Church lighting	1,001	—	—	—	1,001	851
Church water charges	16	—	—	—	16	52
Church insurance	4,247	—	—	—	4,247	3,810
Church fabric repairs	—	—	—	—	—	3,536
Gas/electric/water repairs	221	—	706	—	927	1,137
Organ/ Piano maintenance	30	—	—	—	30	210
Maintenance Fixtures and fittings	914	—	666	—	1,580	2478
Cost of running services	3,234	—	838	—	4,072	2,622
Churchyard maintenance	90	—	—	—	90	3,718
Cottage heating	527	—	—	—	527	413
Cottage lighting	530	—	—	—	530	100
Cottage water charges	12	—	—	—	12	21
Cottage cleaning	9	—	—	—	9	510
Cottage insurance	166	—	—	—	166	391
Cottage repairs	527	—	—	—	527	700
Honoraria, salaries/wages	1,632	—	—	—	1,632	1,300
Holiday Club	1,127	—	—	—	1,127	—
Education and Training	170	—	202	—	372	39
Architects/other fees for repairs or new	—	—	34,538	—	34,538	3,193
Perrinsfield repairs/insurance	538	601	—	—	1,139	864
Total	118,550	6,457	41,460	—	166,467	126,637

Governance costs

Bank charges	380	—	—	—	380	250
Administrator's wages	9,888	—	—	—	9,888	9,230
Parish Office	2,623	—	—	—	2,623	2,152
Other administration costs	70	—	—	—	70	135
Total	12,961	—	—	—	12,961	11,767
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	131,511	6,457	41,943	—	179,911	138,404
MOVEMENT IN YEAR	277	(2,420)	(2,835)	198	(4,780)	(4,729)

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Accounts



St Lawrence Church
LECHLADE-ON-THAMES

St Lawrence Church Parochial Church Council Lechlade

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the

Year ended 31 December 2021

Table of Contents

Information.....	3
Strategic Report.....	4
1. Background	4
2 PCC Membership	4
3. Committees	4
4 Church Attendance.....	4
5 Vicar's Report.....	4
6 Churchwardens' Report.....	6
7 Safeguarding Report	6
8. Response to the Pandemic	6
9 Cirencester Deanery Synod	7
9.1 Introduction	7
9.2 Strategic Planning: ten years to 2030.....	8
9.3 Lay Worship Leaders	8
9.4 Parish Share	8
10 Church Mission and Ministry	8
10.1 Bible Study groups	8
10.1.1 Monday evening Bible Study Group	8
10.1.2 Men's Bible Study.....	8
10.1.3 Monday Evening Study and Fellowship Group	9
10.1.4 Thursday Evening House group	9
10.1.5 Women's Bible Fellowship.....	9
10.2 St. Lawrence Youth and Children's Ministry.....	9
10.2.1 Sunday discipleship.....	9
10.2.1 Midweek and community outreach	10
10.2.3 Little Lights. Pram service/ baby and toddler play group	10
10.3 South Cotswold Team Youth Ministry	10
10.3.1 Schools work	10
10.3.2 Sunday services	11
10.3.3 Other youth work	11
10.4 St. Lawrence School	11
10.4.1 Open the Book	12
10.5 Music.....	12
10.5.1 St Lawrence Church Choir - a year of two halves.....	12
10.5.2 St Lawrence Music Group	13

10.6	World Church Committee	13
10.7	Mothers' Union	13
10.8	St. Lawrence Bell Ringing	13
11	Church Support to Ministry	14
11.1	Restoration and Maintenance Appeal Committee	14
11.2	Project Inspire	14
11.3	Fabric	14
11.4	Eco Church Group.....	15
11.4.1	Climate Sunday	15
11.4.2	Eco Church Award.....	15
11.4.3	Churchyard.....	15
12	Financial and other Statutory Information	16
12.1	Statement of Trustees Responsibilities	16
12.2	Risk Management	16
12.3	Investment Policy	16
12.4	Voluntary Help.....	16
12.5	Transactions and Financial Position.....	16
13	Independent Examiners Report to the Parochial Church Council of Lechlade	18
	Statement of Financial Activities	19
	Balance sheet	20
	Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 16/02/2022 and signed on its behalf by:.....	20
	Fund movement by Fund	25
	Analysis of income and expenditure.....	26

Information

Parish Vicar	Revd Dr Andrew Cinnamond
Churchwardens	Richard Bell Susan Holmes
Parochial Church Council	Richard Akroyd Paul Cobb Nigel Jones Denver Keegan Gordon Land
Deanery Synod Representatives	David Corris Vicky Jones David Williams
Bankers	Barclays Bank Plc Lloyds Bank Plc
Independent Examiner	David White

Strategic Report

1. Background

St Lawrence Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Parish Vicar, the Revd. Andrew Cinnamond, promoting in the parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelical and social. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the church building, Church Cottage, and the investment property.

2 PCC Membership

Members of the PCC who are also trustees of the charity for the purposes of the Charities Act 2011 are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, and in accordance with the Church Representation Rules are elected for a three-year period.

The following served as Members of the PCC during the year:

Parish Vicar	Revd Dr Andrew Cinnamond
--------------	--------------------------

Churchwardens	Richard Bell Susan Holmes
---------------	------------------------------

Representatives of the Deanery Synod and therefore Ex-officio Members

David Corris
Vicky Jones (Secretary)
David Williams

Elected Members	Richard Akroyd Paul Cobb Nigel Jones Denver Keegan
-----------------	---

Ex-officio	Gordon Land Revd Dr Gareth Griffith (Curate)
------------	---

3. Committees

The Standing Committee is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings. It comprises the Vicar, Church Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary.

4 Church Attendance

There were 152 parishioners on the Church Electoral roll.

The average Sunday attendance was 98 adults and 10 children. Services have also been streamed live throughout the year from the church, and this will continue; an average of 24 people have viewed the whole service.

During the year, the church held services for 4 baptisms, 4 weddings and 10 funerals, with 4 funerals just at the crematorium.

5 Vicar's Report

The past year has been one of great challenge and uncertainty. None of us have lived through a pandemic and we are, to use a much over-used metaphor, in 'uncharted territory'. We have done this before! We have no examples to follow, or experience to lean on. There has not always been clear guidance from either government or church authorities. As a result, the

church has been trying to steer a sure path between being too hesitant and frightened on the one hand, and too bullish and overconfident on the other. Thank you for your prayers, as together with our wonderful wardens, Richard and Susan, and the Parochial Church Council, we have prayerfully tried to do what is best for the vast majority of the church family and wider community.

Church is not like any other hobby or leisure interest. It is a meeting place of God's People on earth. It is the place where we experience God's grace through Word and sacrament. It is an outpost of God's Kingdom on earth. It is, despite all its frailty and divisions, a foretaste of our heavenly home. It is God's hospital, a place of healing, restoring and new life. It has been my intention to resume 'normal' church life as soon as legally possible after national restrictions and lockdowns. For all the blessing and advantages of meeting online, zoom calls etc., it does not replace the vitality and warmth of real, personal, physical interaction one with another. We have put restrictions and procedures in place (open doors for ventilation, keeping a mask-wearing zone in our church building etc.) to allow as many people to worship together as possible. God has greatly blessed and encouraged us over the past few very difficult years-attendance has been remarkably consistent, with new people joining us; our finances have not been badly hit, so that we have broken even each year, and we can still afford to give 10% of our income to our world mission partners.

The mission of the local church therefore goes on. People still need to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. People still need all the practical support and love we can give them. I have been so aware over the past year of the toll that Covid has taken on people's lives, with increased anxiety and stress, a huge increase in mental health problems, marriage and family breakdown, and financial hardship. It has never been more important for the local church to be a visible witness to God's love for them in Christ.

To that end we continue our plans for our 'Inspire' re-ordering project, seeking to make our wonderful Grade 1 listed building suitable for a whole new generation of worshippers, with better accessibility, flexibility, heating, lighting, AV provision, all with our environmental responsibilities upper most in our minds. We also continue our planning and training for the 'Seeds of Faith' parish mission in September 2022. This will be a coordinated time of outreach in the church and different venues across Lechlade. Sunday sermons and Lent course resources will help us to make the most of being Christians in whatever circumstances or situation we find ourselves in - we all have our 'frontlines' where we are disciples. As a church we are also planning to have another holiday club during the summer, building on our links with our church school. In all these things, we are not standing still.

We realise that going to church is now a very alien concept to most people around us and in Britain as a whole. We need to be even more imaginative and flexible in our approach if we want to enable local people to consider the claims of Jesus Christ for them. Sitting back and waiting for people to visit our Sunday services is not an option. The Church of England as a whole is facing very significant challenges in the form of declining attendance, reduced income, and a reduction in the number of stipendiary clergy. St. Lawrence, Lechlade is certainly not immune from these wider factors, and it will become ever more important to co-ordinate resources, focus our priorities, and to train lay people to take a much more active role in the local church, including leading services. We are greatly blessed to be a training parish and we welcomed Revd Gareth Griffith as our curate, together with his wife, Sonia and children Vaughan and Myfanwy. It is always encouraging to see how God is still calling people to serve Him, including in the ordained ministry.

It is very easy to become disillusioned and cynical when we see the world around us, and just focus on the problems and the obstacles to be overcome. However, we are Christians. We

are the people of God. We have a hope that transcends all the plotting and machinations of this present world. We are exiles in this present world, and we live by faith until we reach our true home on Heaven. Until then we have job to do. We are to be salt and light in the very different situations the Lord has placed us in. We are to be like yeast working silently and powerfully in a batch of dough, spreading Kingdom values. We are disciples of Jesus, who is the Prince of Peace. As a church family, we strive towards that goal, asking for God to strengthen and encourage us in that task. I am so grateful that God called me to this place and to this ministry. I am so grateful for the many, many people who labour so faithfully to help our mission. I look forward to journeying alongside you in faith.

Yours in Jesus Christ's service,

Andrew Cinnamond
Vicar

6 Churchwardens' Report

During the last year, Covid has continued to play an 'active' part in the workings of St Lawrence. However, we been blessed that the church has remained open over the last year and a team of people has worked hard to ensure it is clean and welcoming for services and visitors.

We are so thankful for everyone who has contributed to the life of the church in what has proved to be another challenging year. Many of our congregation have been unable to attend services and we have tried to make sure they continue to feel part of the church family through regular newsletters and updates. Lesley Uzzell, the Parish Administrator has continued to provide our much-needed office support and during the year she has helped with the organisation of detail that enables the church to function; we are grateful for all that she contributes to the life of our church.

After nine years as churchwarden, Richard has decided to retire at this year's APCM. It has been a very enjoyable time, though sometimes, fraught with unforeseen problems. He wishes his successor well for his or her new position.

Richard Bell – Churchwarden

Susan Holmes - Churchwarden

7 Safeguarding Report

Lesley Uzzell has recently taken over as Parish Safeguarding Officer (please note that this will not be part of her role as Parish Administrator). There will be training undertaken in the next few months as well as hand over with Pat Scott. If anyone has any safeguarding queries, please do contact Lesley.

The PCC reviewed, amended, and reissued the safeguarding policy. It has also undertaken to conduct a further review to enable it to be more meaningful to St Lawrence. There have been no Safeguarding issues this year.

Response to the Pandemic

Again, this year the PCC continued to manage its response to the pandemic as a gradual easing of restrictions enabled services to be held in church and a greater degree of normality to resume. Much effort went into managing the risk predicated upon a robust risk assessment. Measures included provision of hand sanitising, social distancing practices, additional ventilation and altered means of sharing communion. Overall, good practice was followed week by week and included good cooperation at events such as funerals when many people who were unfamiliar with the church used the building. As we enter 2022, some residual practices

will continue to be recommended so that the risk is managed and, importantly, all members of our church community can feel confident to return to services and other events.

9 Cirencester Deanery Synod

9.1 Introduction

Cirencester Deanery Synod is formed of more than 45 parishes situated between Lechlade and Shipton Moyne and from Elkstone or Birdlip to the Wiltshire border. The Synod comprises all stipendiary incumbents and nominated lay representatives proportionate to the size of their respective parish. Thus, small parishes nominate a single representative whilst those with larger Usual Sunday Attendances may have 2, 3 or 4 members normally appointed for a triennium.

Officers of the Cirencester Deanery Synod in 2021:

Post	
Area Dean	Revd Canon Poppy Hughes (resigned as Area Dean 31.12.2021)
Lay Chair	George Collins
Deputy Lay Chair	Revd Dr Andrew Cinnamond
Parish Share Apportionment Officer	Nick Mitchell (resigned January 2021)
Safeguarding Officer	Jackie Colburn
Secretary	Michael Spittle

In 2022, the functions of the Area Dean were apportioned between the Revd. Dr Andrew Cinnamond, Revd. Canon Graham Morris, Revd. Canon John Swanton, and Revd. Val Thorne. The arrangement is subject to review after six months.

Some parishes have not identified lay representatives although, in several of these, local church officers have agreed to receive the Deanery's publications and minutes. In brief, the Deanery Synod is a link between parishes and the Gloucester Diocesan Synod, which also explores the objectives of Diocesan Vision and informs its members of items of interest, as an example, financial affairs, governorship of CofE schools or safeguarding. It also forms the electorate of the Gloucester Diocesan and General Synods of the Church of England.

Three meetings were successfully held during the year through zoom. These continued to focus on the strategic planning of human, physical and electronic resources for the delivery of Mission throughout the ten years to 2030. Key parts of the discussions were proposals to deflect the consequences of a future reduction in the availability of clergy numbers, the potential fall in churches' income and the use of technology, especially during the times when church buildings have been closed for any form of worship. Through its two-way link between Diocese and Parishes, general advisory business on (i) the policies and procedures for Safeguarding arrangements, (ii) Parish Share apportionment, and (iii) on the General Data Protection Regulations 2016 (GDPR) were addressed. Environmental issues and the abuse of our planet remained in the agenda as Eco-Church initiatives were explored by some parishes. Finally, reports on proceedings of the General Synod and of the Gloucester Diocesan Synod were received.

One lay member of the Deanery Synod is also a member of General Synod while nine others are in membership of the Gloucester Diocesan Synod.

9.2 Strategic Planning: ten years to 2030

As reported previously, Deaneries across the Gloucester Diocese have been asked to develop plans that would shape Future Ministry during the ensuing ten years. These were expected to take account of (i) clergy retirements that numerically outstrip recruitment entailing the loss of at least one member of clergy in each deanery; (ii) reductions in parish income and (iii) any lessons learned from the coronavirus lockdowns for alternative forms of Ministry. Against these factors, Deanery Synod determined its principles as: Ministry rooted in our local community; (ii) vibrant lay ministry and leadership; (iii) church families focused outwards on the people and the communities they serve; and (iv) redefining the role of clergy in a new landscape. Synod meetings concentrated on the benefits and potential pitfalls that might be found in the development of the identified opportunities and constraints.

Last autumn, Archdeacons noted that the significant impact of draft plans determined the need of a coordinated approach throughout the nine Deaneries that formed the Diocese. To assist in this method of strategic planning, professional consultants with Church ministry experience were appointed. Their work was in progress while this report was compiled. Costs of the consultancy were financed from Diocesan funds other than through the Parish Share revenue.

9.3 Lay Worship Leaders

Deanery Synod was pleased to learn of the training and commissioning of nine new lay worship leaders in January 2022.

9.4 Parish Share

The Diocese expressed thanks for the prompt payment of Parish Share throughout another troubled year. Deanery Officers similarly compliment, and empathise with, the 47 parishes for this support. Some 98 per cent of Parish Commitments within the Deanery had been paid to the Diocese during 2021; this amounted to £888,487.

Michael Spittle

March 2022

Secretary to Cirencester Deanery Synod

m.spittle46@btinternet.com

10 Church Mission and Ministry

10.1 Bible Study groups

10.1.1 Monday evening Bible Study Group

For the first half of the year, we met online to study the book of Titus and then some psalms. In May 12 members enjoyed a tea party in the Bainbridges' garden. We resumed face to face meetings in the autumn studying the book of James

10.1.2 Men's Bible Study

The group has continued to meet fortnightly, in person when Covid rules permitted and online at other times. We meet fortnightly for a time of fellowship, prayer, and bible study. Last year we studied the book of Hebrews and then went back to the beginning and started looking at Genesis, which has continued into this year. We are always open to new members and meet on a Tuesday evening at David Corris's house. Please contact David (01367 253276) if you are interested in joining.

10.1.3 Monday Evening Study and Fellowship Group

Our group has met through the past year with some consistency, comprises of 12 participants and has convened sometimes by Zoom and in person which has been a much-welcomed experience.

We have followed two series of studies. The first 'Wisdom for the whole of life' based on Proverbs. (Produced by the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity). The 6 guided sessions helped us review our perspectives on the book of Proverbs and the writer helped to bring Proverbs alive with working examples of their application in our everyday lives. The second series, not yet quite completed, is 'The Church is born' following Acts 1-12. (Produced by The Good Book Guide). It is a stimulating series that takes us through some of the key landmarks of the young church and explores its opportunities along with its growing pains.

We benefit from a range of leaders who facilitate the sessions, and their different styles provide a variety of learning experiences for us all. For further details, please contact Geoff Holmes.

10.1.4 Thursday Evening House group

Having been part of the online study groups throughout lockdown, we decided to continue to meet as a separate House group – amalgamating two 'break-out' groups into one with a total of 10 members.

We continued to meet online each Thursday evening studying firstly, Titus, using Tim Chester's booklets 'Titus The Good Life', and then looked at Acts with the help of John Stott's book 'Acts – Seeing the Spirit at Work.' When lockdown rules were lifted, we meet together in person! This included starting with coffee and biscuits and praying together at the end of the meeting. We have just finished studying 12 parables of Jesus, using John White's booklets 'The Greatest Stories Ever Told'. It has been a joy to share fellowship together and we have all grown in our understanding of God's word and its application to our daily lives.

10.1.5 Women's Bible Fellowship

Continued on Zoom from January- July, we studied the Holy Spirit in the Old and New Testaments, including looking at the Trinity, After Easter we studied Jeremiah linked to the sermon series. From September, we have managed to meet in person in St. Lawrence Church, where we are able to split into 2 groups with an average of 10 in each group most weeks. We have studied the gospels of Luke and John. We have been especially encouraged by welcoming new members.

10.2 St. Lawrence Youth and Children's Ministry

10.2.1 Sunday discipleship

After all the restrictions on children's activities during Covid, we are so glad to report that during 2021 God has enabled us to make the long, slow transition back to in-person groups. At the beginning of the year, Sunday activities consisted of activity packs for primary age children within 10am church services and some 'zoom' meetings for secondary age.

By June we were able to restart monthly physical groups for 'Stars' (3-6s), 'Planets' (7-10s) and 'The Grid' (10-16s), growing to twice monthly in September, and now back to a full rota of 10 am groups. We are particularly pleased to have welcomed both new adult team members and new children to our groups in this time. Our younger groups have enjoyed a series of stories of 'Meals with Jesus', and our older group are currently exploring 'Faith on the Frontline' in parallel with Sunday services.

- Please give thanks for the young people in our church family and pray for faithful discipling of them and that they may grow in their love for Jesus.

10.2.1 Midweek and community outreach

After a long pause whilst schools needed to restrict mixing to mitigate against Covid, we were delighted to restart the weekly 'Explorers' after-school club at St Lawrence CofE Primary School after autumn half term. 30 children drawn from every year group in the school meet for Bible stories, songs, videos, and activities building upon the excellent work done through 'Open the Book' and school worship. It has been wonderful to see children we have not seen for nearly 2 years returning to the club, as well as getting to know new families.

In the community, we have built upon the lockdown experiences of needing to find new ways to reach out to families in Lechlade. Members of St Lawrence church hosted an 'Experience Easter' interactive churchyard trail exploring the Easter story, and organised Lechlade Pumpkin Trail, in which many church and wider community members decorated pumpkins and welcomed families. The offer of hot chocolate, popcorn and Christian gift bags enabled us to engage with over 80 children in the yard of Church Cottage. We are so thankful for the way the church family has supported these outreach efforts.

- Please pray for God's guidance and equipping as we plan a return to our summer holiday Bible club for children from Lechlade and surrounding villages, and for the resources and vision to faithfully share the Gospel with children and families in our community.

10.2.3 Little Lights. Pram service/ baby and toddler play group

Our pre-school group started back in September after not meeting for 18 months on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays but not in school holidays. We warmly welcome pre-school children with parents/ carers. We have an informal service with music, stories, prayers and follow on with refreshments /toys/craft. Each child has a name card with attendance stickers.

We have a small Mothers' Union team who run it. Gareth has joined our team and is a great asset and such an enthusiastic supporter!

10.3 South Cotswold Team Youth Ministry

10.3.1 Schools work

School opportunities have been varied during the last 12 months ranging from an open door 'as long as the school is open' to a closed door for all outside visitors. After limited contact beyond online support in the early months of 2021, I have forged very positive relations in the latter part of the year so that I serve 4 primary schools on a weekly basis (Lechlade, Kempsford, Ampney Crucis and Meysey Hampton). In each the (voluntary) attendance is very good (75-100% generally) and the pupils engage well on topics such as Happiness, Forgiveness and New Starts. The intention is to build resilience and forge deeper relations in advance of secondary school. In addition, I have taken Collective Worship sessions at most of the primary schools ranging from online (Zoom and pre-recorded) messages initially to in person visits in more recent times.

All the primary schools welcomed a summer class assembly visit to distribute It's Your Move booklets (largely paid for by local parishes) and speak to the y6s about their forthcoming move to secondary school and the pupils engaged well and expressed their hopes and concerns with great honesty. Never has the need to support the pupils and staff of our local schools been more relevant than this last year! One head teacher candidly explained that the many disruptions had left the y6s far less equipped for secondary school life than would be expected.

I was able to follow up the transition assembly with another four visits during the summer term, aiding with the final preparation for this huge upheaval for many pupils.

It is key to continuity to continue a presence at secondary school and for much of the year, I was able to offer mentoring support as well as a weekly club at Farmors. For around half a dozen boys per week, this involved a short check in on their well-being where anxiety levels amongst pupils was higher than ever due to all the disruption. Sadly, Farmors have decided to alter their policy towards a more 'in-house approach', so my weekly involvement has been reduced to an all-aged club, well attended by around 20 pupils. Dialogue continues with heads of year and again we were able to give out Christmas food hampers and gifts to 13 needy families (school-identified) where 'the church' was seen to be visible in a very practical and caring way.

10.3.2 Sunday services

I endeavour to regularly visit churches from across the team, supporting clergy and updating congregations on our youth work through sharing encouragements, prayer needs and vision for the future. In addition, I take the opportunity to preach, lead prayers and chat to interested parties wherever possible. Once a month, I'm also committed to co-lead the Grid group in Lechlade where the youth of our team gather for bible study and discussion.

10.3.3 Other youth work

Our Tuesday evening bible study group, Quench, continues to provide for the spiritual needs of our teenagers with 5 of the group being confirmed during the very special service conducted by Bishop Robert in October. We have 2 residential trips in the diary including one next month where we will seek to include the coming y6s for the first time to have a 'taster' of the venue. We have invited all of St Lawrence y6 and are hopeful that several will make that first step towards engaging with our programme for secondary school age as we evolve the work.

We have also quickly established a children's club in Kempsford run weekly on a Wednesday evening. For older group members we are hopeful of a return to Romania this summer and are currently exploring dates while being mindful of international concerns

I would like to close with a huge thank you to the volunteers who give their time so sacrificially to stand alongside me in body and prayer to support and nurture these young lives in so many contexts. Together we lift them to the Lord who we trust will continue the good work in their hearts and minds.

Future Dates:

- 11-13 March - Macaroni Woods residential
- 18 June - South Cerney Activity Day
- 8-13 August - possible Romania trip
- 7-9 October - Macaroni Woods residential

10.4 St. Lawrence School

The strong link between St. Lawrence church and school has been maintained despite the ongoing challenges and restrictions. We have found new ways of working and supporting the school as they have dealt with the impact of Covid and the resulting constraints. The Local Governing Body, which includes six foundation governors and the vicar, continued to meet remotely as visits to school have been limited.

During the year, the Gloucester based iSing Pop team, who work with primary schools to enable them to connect with the wider church and community through collective worship, spent time in school preparing the pupils for two lively performances in church. We continue to support and pray for Mr. Soutar, the headmaster, the staff team, the pupils, and the governors as they work hard and achieve together.

10.4.1 Open the Book

The team found creative ways to present the Bible stories to the children in St Lawrence School. These included the team dressing up and acting out some stories to be filmed for the school to use. When restrictions lifted, we were able to resume working with the children, first filming some bible stories with Year 6, shared with the whole school in the Summer and then, in the autumn term, presenting Open the Book to the whole school assembly.

10.5 Music

10.5.1 St Lawrence Church Choir - a year of two halves.

The first half of the year was all about our young choristers. From May, there were no restrictions on the number of young singers who could attend rehearsals, but there were still some on the number who were permitted to sing in services. This meant that the presentation of awards was spread over two services.

At the end of May David Bainbridge admitted Hannah and Tom as full choristers (where they received their surplices) and Sophie received her Dark Blue Ribbon, Tia and Isis their Dean's Award and Annabelle her Bishop's Award. The following week Gordon Land presented Barnaby, Hannah and Lily with their Light Blue Ribbons and Isis and Tia with their Red Ribbons. Unfortunately, Ben was unable to attend this service to receive his Bishop's Award. These awards not only reflect their singing ability, but also show not only an understanding of the services and music in the church, but also the features of the church building.

Before their summer break these hardworking choristers whose on-line attendance at on-line chorister training throughout lockdown had been exemplary, were rewarded with a surfing adventure to The Wave in Bristol. In the second half of the year the adult singers were able to return and on 5th September the full choir sang for a very special Evensong. After ten years as a loyal member of the choir it was Isis's final service, with the music chosen by her, before leaving to begin her university course in Falmouth.

The choir was also privileged to lead the singing at the services on Remembrance Sunday, Christmas Day and for a Candlemas evensong in St Andrew's, Eastleach. The Advent and Christmas Carol services were also wonderful services to be part of and it is always a great pleasure to welcome back former choristers on these days. At the end of the Nine Lessons and Carols service, our Curate, Gareth Griffith, asked all the congregation to remain seated to enjoy Anne Crow's final voluntary. Both she and our Evensong organist, Diana Lee-Browne, were retiring and we thanked them for their dedication and loyal service for a combined total of over 25 years. They were presented with gifts and bouquets by the senior choristers.

A few weeks earlier at a Friday practice, Rachel was surprised with another presentation, of flowers and a compilation of recorded video messages from former choristers from all over the country in which they shared their favourite memories of their time in the choir. This was a delightful surprise that acknowledged her huge commitment and leadership of the choir for twenty-one years.

Rachel Bath
Choir Director

10.5.2 St Lawrence Music Group

The music group continues to lead music, with instrumentalists and singers using a wide range of both traditional and more contemporary hymns/songs led by Geoff Holmes and Kate Cinnamond. Others are always welcome to join us.

10.6 World Church Committee

We continue to support, pray for, and learn from Christians around the world. In December 2021, we sent a total of £9,500 from the PCC to our World Church Links.:

- National Mission Commission of Nepal
- Scripture Union Pakistan
- Scripture Union England and Wales
- Dornakal Diocese, South India - supporting the Shriver Memorial School for the Deaf
- iServe Africa, working in Nairobi, under Harrison Mungai.
- Gabriel Parra and his wife Rebecca, CMS local partners in Valparaiso, Chile.

We continue to support in prayer Ram Prasad and Keshari (from Nepal), who are sharing their faith among ethnic minorities in the neighbourhood of Rochdale, UK.

10.7 Mothers' Union

We have a thriving branch with 50 members from Lechlade, Fairford and Faringdon. Most members have returned to monthly afternoon meetings at the hall or quarterly evening meetings at Kathy Newton's after COVID lockdown online gatherings. The 'solid' committee work hard and try to plan interesting speakers, discussions, and trips out. They try to keep members informed about MU worldwide, involve them in local projects helping families through prayer, practical help and fund raising.

We support each other through friendship, fellowship, and prayer. We like to involve ourselves in Church life when possible and in our communities too. We give out Baptism bears, wedding cross in pockets and Bible Story books to children connected to Church when they start school. We were pleased to help a Duke of Edinburgh student with her volunteering work in Summer. The Queen is our patron and we have already sent her a card for her platinum anniversary!

We give heartfelt thanks for over 120 years of MU in Lechlade. We thank God for the vision of Mary Sumner our founder who gathered women to be a wave of prayer to take the love of Christ into their homes and families and those we meet.

10.8 St. Lawrence Bell Ringing

Due to the ongoing disruption caused by the coronavirus pandemic there is still little to report at a time when ringing was allowed, we were further hindered by the disrepair of the Sanctus bell. However, despite these and other setbacks we still have a functioning band of dedicated ringers for St Lawrence and happily our youngest members Alexander and Evelyn Smith are making excellent progress with their ringing skills. Many heartfelt thanks to all for your ongoing support and dedication.

11 Church Support to Ministry

11.1 Restoration and Maintenance Appeal Committee

As in 2020, the activities of the St Lawrence Restoration and Maintenance Appeal were severely curtailed in 2021. It was hoped to hold a Christmas Concert but due to the onset of the Omicron variant of Covid-19, this was cancelled.

We hope to be able to recommence activities in 2022.

Mike Keegan

Chairman of St Lawrence Church Restoration and Maintenance Appeal

11.2 Project Inspire

A delegation from the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) visited St Lawrence church in April. The DAC was impressed with our presentation of the proposals and expressed their content with the principles of the proposed scheme. Elements of the proposals were discussed in detail.

The proposals were presented to parishioners and the church community in September. A video summarised the proposals and was shown to all who attended the presentation in the church. A sample of chairs was provided for all to inspect and comment on preferences. All visitors to the presentation were asked to complete a questionnaire to express their views on the design proposals. We had an excellent response with over 80% of regular churchgoers expressing support of the proposals. A summary of the report is available on the website. Thank you to all who took the time to respond.

The south door has been reopened after several decades of closure. The door is thought to be the original from the 15th Century and is in reasonable condition. We plan to carry out restoration work so the door can be regularly used.

We have agreement with the DAC and Heritage England to relay the cobbled section of Shelley's Walk to provide an even path for all abilities. It is planned to carry out the work in summer 2022 by Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) which is responsible for its maintenance. Funding is mainly from GCC with grants from the Lechlade Heritage and Development Trust and Lechlade Town Council.

The Working Group met 11 times in the year. We informed the church community through Newsletters and plan further issues through 2022.

Nigel Jones

Chairman Project Inspire

11.3 Fabric

The fabric of St Lawrence is handled by Richard Bell as Churchwarden assisted by some members of the congregation. During the last year, we have carried out work in the churchyard, by way of removing some yew trees, and various large bushes – the result has been to open-up the main Centre area along Shelley's Walk. Also, a small group of people have very kindly planted numerous spring flowering bulbs, mainly on the north side of the pathway. Our grass cutting team have performed very well and last summer, the churchyard looked superb.

The internal workings of the church continue to give 'un-planned' problems – these usually being the interruption of lighting or the ingress of rainwater in very heavy storms. One of these areas was repaired with new sub timbers and lead sheeting along the top of the west of the tower.

The Sanctus bell had to be removed, due to its wooden mountings becoming dangerous through age and rotten timbers, it is currently in store.

11.4 Eco Church Group

11.4.1 Climate Sunday

In July, we held a Climate Sunday service, when we invited Dr Martin Hodson to preach on “Climate Change”, in preparation for the focus on the UN Climate Conference COP26 in November.

11.4.2 Eco Church Award

We are hoping to reach the required level for a Silver Award in 2022.

11.4.3 Churchyard

In the summer, we had a family friendly nature hunt. We were very lucky to be helped by Stevie, who at that point worked for the Glos Wildlife Trust. She had many helpful ideas for children’s activities which included plant identification and bark rubbing, and she brought children’s binoculars and lots of interesting artefacts like mouse skulls and birds’ nests.

The Eco Patch in the churchyard has been extended slightly.

In November, Barbara McNaught arranged for a band of volunteers to plant bulbs in several areas, bearing in mind the current areas which are mowed. They planted 1000 purple croci tommasinianus, which should slowly increase and naturalise if they are happy. Though unfortunately squirrels love crocus bulbs and quite a few have been dug up and eaten.

- 100 English bluebells under the beech trees
- 250 Nemcrosa Alba wood anemones
- 250 February Gold narcissi
- 250 Rapture narcissi

The two bare patches where the trees were felled have been cleared, levelled and re-seeded. The grass seed has germinated well. There is plenty of seed left to reseed the areas where some of the other shrubs have been removed.

We look forward to seeing the results of this planting in Spring 2022.

12 Financial and other Statutory Information

12.1 Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to: -

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles of the SORP applicable to charities.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material disclosures and explain such departure in the financial statements, and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in the future.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, The Charity (Accounts & Reports) Regulations 2008 and Church Accounting Regulations. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud.

When planning our activities for the year, the PCC. considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in particular, the specific guidance to charities concerned with the advancement of religion.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements

12.2 Risk Management

The PCC actively reviews the major risks and challenges generated within the church by means of its regular meetings. Approval is required for all key operational and financial decisions.

12.3 Investment Policy

It is the policy of the PCC. to invest fund balances with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund.

12.4 Voluntary Help

The PCC wishes to express their gratitude to the many volunteers who help in so many ways in the various activities of the church and who provide support to the PCC.

12.5 Transactions and Financial Position

The Statement of Financial Activities displays a summary of the Analysis of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2021. The key performance indicators are as follows: -

- A net surplus of £1,591 on the General Fund,
- A deficit of £ Nil on the Designated Funds and
- A deficit of £6,320 on the Restricted Funds.

The principal funding sources of the church activities continues to be regular gifts and donations from members of the congregation, supplemented by grants from outside bodies and legacies.

Following a difficult two years, the PCC are pleased to see the increase in regular giving however, the PCC. are aware of the ongoing pressure of cost increases and will strive to ensure sufficient liquidity on the unrestricted funds.

Income was also generated from the letting of fixed asset properties.

The reserves of the charity stand at £798,753 (2020 £802,861). General purpose funds, which include buildings and the designated funds amounts to £569,762 (2020 £568,271), restricted funds, which includes funds for capital projects, restoration, maintenance, and fabric amounts to £222,449 (2020 £228,449) and endowment fund amounts to £6,762 (2020 £6,141).

Approved by the PCC. on 16 / 03 / 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

Revd. Andrew Cinnamond

Date: 8 May 2022

13 Independent Examiners Report to the Parochial Church Council of Lechlade

Report to I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2021.

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

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

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

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

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

Signed:- D White

Dated:- 31 March 2022

David White

The White House

52 Roman Way

Lechlade

Gloucestershire GL7 3BP

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources						
Voluntary income	115,095	—	6,300	—	121,395	120,379
Activities for generating funds	8,656	—	553	—	9,209	7,649
Investment income	25	—	264	—	289	956
Incoming resources from charitable activities	2,782	—	—	—	2,782	2,445
Total income	126,558	—	7,117	—	133,675	131,429
Resources used						
Costs of generating funds	—	—	—	—	—	259
Fundraising: cost of goods sold and other costs	—	—	—	—	—	—
Charitable activities	113,200	—	13,307	—	126,507	129,733
Governance costs	11,767	—	130	—	11,897	10,898
Total expenditure	124,967	—	13,437	—	138,404	140,890
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	1,591	—	(6,320)	—	(4,729)	(9,461)
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	—	1,252	352	—	1,604	254
Gross transfers between funds - out	(1,300)	(52)	(252)	—	(1,604)	(254)
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	—	621	621	244
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	—	166,000
Net movement in funds	(1300)	1,200	100	621	621	156,783
Total funds brought forward	568,271	—	228,449	6,141	802,861	646,078
Total funds carried forward	568,562	1,200	222,229	6,762	798,753	802,861
REPRESENTED BY:-						
Unrestricted						
General fund	568,562	—	—	—	568,562	568,271
Designated						
Perrinsfield House	—	1,200	—	—	1,200	—
Restricted						
Audio/visual	—	—	5,737	—	5,737	5,737
Bells Appeal Fund	—	—	2,539	—	2,539	2,790
Brownrigg Fund	—	—	18,618	—	18,618	18,618
Choir Fund	—	—	1,781	—	1,781	1,974
Hardship Fund	—	—	1,055	—	1,055	—
Mission Fund	—	—	1,693	—	1,693	—
Fabric Appeal	—	—	122,444	—	122,444	125,640
H Arnold Memorial Fund	—	—	1,718	—	1,718	1,543
Project Inspire	—	—	37,231	—	37,231	36,599
Reordering (West end) Fund	—	—	255	—	255	255
Restoration and Maintenance Fund	—	—	28,708	—	28,708	34,843
Services Fund	—	—	450	—	450	450
Endowment						
H Arnold Memorial Fund	—	—	—	6,762	6,762	6,141
Total funds carried forward	568,562	1,200	222,229	6,762	798,753	802,861

Balance sheet

Class and code	Description	This year	Last year
Fixed assets			
	H Arnold CBF Inv Fund	5,330	4,626
	H Arnold CBF Fixed Int. Sec.	1,432	1,515
	Fixed asset - property	550,000	550,000
	Total Fixed assets	556,762	556,141
Current assets			
	General Lloyds Bank Account	535	1,363
	General Barclays Bank Account	69,524	72,531
	General CBF Deposit Account	42,604	42,582
	Fabric Appeal Lloyds Bank Account	—	—
	Fabric Appeal Barclays Bank Account	—	—
	Fabric Appeal CBF Deposit Account	122,443	125,640
	Cottage Lloyds Bank Account	—	—
	Cottage CBF Deposit Account	—	—
	Bells CBF Deposit Account	2,539	2,790
	H Arnold CBF Deposit Account	1,718	1,543
	Cash in hand	—	—
	Other Assets	—	271
	Accounts Receivable	2,628	—
	Total Current assets	241,991	246,720
Liabilities			
	Creditors due in 1 year	—	—
	Fees due to Gloucester Diocese	—	—
	Total Liabilities	—	—
	Net Asset surplus(deficit)	798,753	802,861
Reserves			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	(4,729)	(9,461)
	Starting balances	802,861	646,078
	Gains/(losses) on investment assets	621	244
	Gains and losses own use	—	166,000
	Total Reserves	798,753	802,861
	Represented by funds		
	Unrestricted	568,562	568,271
	Designated	1,200	—
	Restricted	222,229	228,449
	Endowment	6,762	6,141
	Total	798,753	802,861

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 16/02/2022 and signed on its behalf by:

V Jones
Trustee

D Williams
Trustee

Notes to the Accounts

1 Accounting Policy

Accounting Convention

The Financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with transactions recognized at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the notes to the accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom FRS102 and the Charities Act 2011.

Funds

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained: only income arising from Investment of the endowment may be used for the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, or in the case of 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 are given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year must be carried forward for each fund.

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

Incoming Resources

Planned Giving, collections and donations are recognized when they are received. Tax refunds are recognised when the resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due.

All other income is recognised when it is receivable.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due.

All other expenditure is recognised when it is incurred and accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

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

Moveable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens 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 £1,000 accordingly all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line over 4 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December 2021. The Statement of Financial Activity includes net gains and losses arising on revaluations at the year end.

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the Charity at 31 December 2021 for tax recovery are shown as debtors.

Bank deposits include cash held on deposit either with CBF Church of England Funds or at a Bank.

2 Staff Costs

2021	2020
£	£

Gross wages and Salary	<u>9,230</u>	<u>8,533</u>
------------------------	---------------------	---------------------

The Charity employs a part time administrator.

The Charity also paid honoraria to the Director of Music and certain choristers.

3 Fixed Assets for use by the Charity

2021	2020
£	£

Gross Freehold Land and Buildings at valuation	<u>550,000</u>	<u>550,000</u>
--	-----------------------	-----------------------

The freehold land and buildings are held in trust by the Diocese, and for accounting purposes the historical cost is deemed to be the valuation at the date the property was acquired. The PCC considers that depreciation is not considered necessary, since the properties are deemed residential properties and are fully maintained by the PCC.

The properties held are as follows:

a) Church Cottage Lechlade: valuation £325,000.

b) Perrinsfield, Lechlade: valuation £225,000.

4 Investments

	Cost	Value
	£	£
CBF Investment Fund 226.27 shares	<u>3,654</u>	<u>5,331</u>
Unrealised Gain/(Loss) £1,677		
	Cost	Value
	£	£
CBF Fixed Interest Securities 895.53 shares	<u>1,435</u>	<u>1,431</u>
Unrealised Gain/(Loss) (£4)		

5 Debtors

	2020	2019
	£	£
Tax recoverable	<u>2,628</u>	<u>5,882</u>

6 Donations to Missionary Societies

	2020	2019
	£	£
CMS Chile	1,900	1,700
CMS Nepal	2,375	2,325
Scripture Union Pakistan	950	850
Scripture Union U.K.	950	850
iServe Africa	1,425	1,275
Dornakal School for the Deaf	<u>1,900</u>	<u>1,700</u>

7 Amounts Collected on Behalf of Others

The PCC. collect funds on behalf of other charitable institutions as follows:

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal £441.

The Church of England Children's Society £1,425.

The PCC. also held a special appeal called the Hardship Fund to raise money to support local charities who are helping those in financial difficulties. A total of £3,250. was raised by donations and the PCC. was able to make the following contributions to assist the work of the following organisations: -

C.A.P. (Christians Against Poverty) £1,200.

Swindon Food Bank £1,000.

8 Financial Commitments

At 31 December 2021 the PCC. had no financial commitments (2020 £3,300).

Fund movement by Fund

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/losses	Closing
Audio-vis - Audio/visual Restricted	5,737	—	—	—	—	5,737
Brownrigg - Brownrigg Fund Restricted	18,618	—	—	—	—	18,618
Inspire - Project Inspire Restricted	36,600	1,185	182	—	—	37,233
Perrin - Perrinsfield House Designated	—	1,200	—	—	—	1,200
Rest-Main - Restoration and Maintenance Restricted	34,842	560	6,695	—	—	28,707
General - General fund Unrestricted	568,271	126,558	124,967	1,300	—	568,562
Fabric - Fabric Appeal Restricted	125,640	65	3,262	—	—	122,443
H Arnold - H Arnold Memorial Fu Restricted	1,543	175	—	—	—	1,718
Endowment	6,141	—	—	—	621	6,762
Sub-total for H Arnold	7,684	175	—	—	621	8,480
Reorder-WE - Reordering (West end Restricted	255	—	—	—	—	255
Hardship - Hardship Fund Restricted	—	3,255	2,200	—	—	1,055
Mission – Mission and Outreach Fund Restricted	—	1,875	182	—	—	1,693
Services – Services Fund Restricted	450	—	—	—	450	450
Bells - Bells Appeal Fund Restricted	2,790	1	252	—	—	2,539
Choir - Choir Fund Restricted	1,974	—	293	100	—	1,781
Grand total	802,861	131,429	140,890	—	166,244	798,753

Analysis of income and expenditure

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Designated</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Endowment</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>This Year</u>	<u>Last year</u>
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Incoming resources from generated funds						
Incoming resources from generated funds - Voluntary income						
Standing Orders	11,200	—	—	—	11,200	8,735
Gift Aid Envelopes	456	—	—	—	456	337
Parish Giving Scheme	61,241	—	—	—	61,241	58,884
Gift Aid tax recovery	14,489	—	—	—	14,489	14,134
Other planned gifts	—	—	—	—	—	—
Collections	4,061	—	445	—	4,506	3,497
Goodbox Card Donations	3,137	—	52	—	3,189	428
Charities Aid Foundation	3,525	—	—	—	3,525	8,600
Sundry gifts	8,280	—	3,563	—	11,843	12,157
Southrop and Eastleach	2,880	—	—	—	2,880	2,880
Tax recovery Sundry gifts	5,076	—	1,025	—	6,101	5,673
Grants	750	—	—	—	750	2,693
Non recurring grants	—	—	—	—	—	—
Legacies	—	—	1,000	—	1,000	2,000
Church upkeep - Barrel	—	—	215	—	215	361
Total	115,095	—	6,300	—	121,395	120,379
Incoming resources from generated funds - Activities for generating funds						
Fund raising events	10	—	553	—	563	1,431
Cottage rent	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rent	8,646	—	—	—	8,646	6,218
Magazine sales	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	8,656	—	553	—	9,209	7,649
Incoming resources from generated funds - Investment income						
Dividends and interest	25	—	264	—	289	955
Total	25	—	264	—	289	955
Incoming resources from charitable activities						
Fees (weddings funerals) due to PCC	2,782	—	—	—	2,782	2,445
Fees to Diocese-OB	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2,782	—	—	—	2,782	2,445
INCOME TOTAL	126,558	—	7117	—	133,675	131,428

EXPENDITURE

Costs of generating funds - Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold and other costs

Fund raising (general)	—	—	—	—	—	47
Fund raising events	—	—	—	—	—	212
Total	—	—	—	—	—	259

Charitable activities

World Church donations	9,500	—	—	—	9,500	8,700
Christian relief and development	—	—	—	—	—	—
Home mission	—	—	182	—	182	—
Hardship Donations	—	—	2,200	—	2,200	—
Parish share: Diocese	75,482	—	—	—	75,482	75,482
Parish share: Deanery	7,554	—	—	—	7,554	7,362
Incumbent's expenses	4,164	—	—	—	4,164	3,891
Clergy expenses	533	—	—	—	533	400
Parsonage house	—	—	—	—	—	—
Church heating	1,077	—	—	—	1,077	1,781
Church lighting	851	—	—	—	851	799
Church water charges	52	—	—	—	52	73
Church insurance	3,810	—	—	—	3,810	3,766
Church fabric repairs	826	—	2,710	—	3,536	7,202
Gas/electric/water repairs	15	—	1,122	—	1,137	164
Organ/ Piano maintenance	210	—	—	—	210	—
Maintenance Fixtures and fittings	779	—	1,699	—	2,478	300
Cost of running services	2,459	—	163	—	2,622	1,984
Churchyard maintenance	658	—	3,060	—	3,718	89
Cottage heating	413	—	—	—	413	380
Cottage lighting	100	—	—	—	100	458
Cottage water charges	21	—	—	—	21	79
Cottage cleaning	510	—	—	—	510	582
Cottage insurance	391	—	—	—	391	425
Cottage repairs	700	—	—	—	700	94
Honoraria, salaries/wages	1,300	—	—	—	1,300	1,270
National Insurance	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sunday School	—	—	—	—	—	—
Holiday Club	—	—	—	—	—	—
Education and Training	39	—	—	—	39	7
Architects/other fees for repairs or new	892	—	2,301	—	3,193	9,788
House repairs	864	—	—	—	864	4,657
Total	113,200	—	13,437	—	126,637	129,733

Governance costs

Bank charges	250	—	—	—	250	273
Administrator's wages	9,230	—	—	—	9,230	8,533
Parish Office	2,152	—	—	—	2,152	1,860
Other administration costs	135	—	—	—	135	232
Total	11,767	—	—	—	11,767	10,898
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	124,967	—	13,437	—	138,404	140,890
MOVEMENT IN YEAR	1,591	—	(6,320)	—	(4,729)	(9,461)

Accounts

St Lawrence Church Parochial Church Council Lechlade

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the

Year ended 31 December 2020

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Table of Contents

Information	3
Strategic Report	4
1. Background	4
2 PCC Membership	4
3. Committees	4
4 Church Attendance	4
5 Vicar's Report	4
6 Church Warden's Report	6
7 Safeguarding Report	6
8 Cirencester Deanery Synod	6
9 Church Mission and Ministry	8
9.1 Bible Study groups	8
9.2 St. Lawrence Youth and Children's Ministry	9
9.3 South Cotswold Team Youth Ministry -Pre-Covid	9
9.4 St. Lawrence School	10
9.4.1 Open the Book	11
9.5 Music	11
9.5.1 St Lawrence Church Choir	11
9.5.2 St Lawrence Music Group	12
9.6 World Church Committee	12
9.7 Mothers' Union	13
9.8 St. Lawrence Bell Ringing	13
10 Church Support to Ministry	14
10.1 Restoration and Maintenance Appeal Committee	14
10.2 Project Inspire	14
10.2 Fabric	14
10.3 Eco Church Group	15
11 Financial and other Statutory Information	16
11.1 Statement of Trustees Responsibilities	16
11.2 Risk Management	16
11.3 Investment Policy	16
11.4 Voluntary Help	16
11.5 Transactions and Financial Position	16
12 Independent Examiners Report to the Parochial Church Council of Lechlade	18

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Statement of Financial Activities.....	19
Balance sheet	20
Fund movement by type	27
Analysis of income and expenditure.....	28

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Information

Parish Vicar	Revd Dr Andrew Cinnamond
Churchwardens	Richard Bell Susan Holmes
Parochial Church Council	Richard Akroyd Paul Cobb Nigel Jones Denver Keegan Gordon Land
Deanery Synod Representatives	David Corris Vicky Jones David Williams
Bankers	Barclays Bank Plc Lloyds Bank Plc
Independent Examiner	D White

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Strategic Report

1. Background

St Lawrence P.C.C has the responsibility of co-operating with the Parish Vicar, the Revd. Andrew Cinnamond promoting in the parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelical and social. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church Building and the investment properties.

2 PCC Membership

Members of the P.C.C who are also trustees of the charity for the purposes of the Charities Act 2011 are either; ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, and in accordance with the Church Representation Rules are elected for a three year period.

The following served as Members of the P.C.C during the year:

Parish Vicar	Revd. Dr Andrew Cinnamond
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Churchwardens	Richard Bell Susan Holmes
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Representatives of the Deanery Synod and therefore Ex-officio Members	David Corris Vicky Jones (Secretary) Rob Phipps(Resigned 18 October 2020) David Williams(Treasurer Appointed 18 October 2020)
---	--

Elected Members	Richard Akroyd John Challinor (Resigned 18 October 2020) Paul Cobb Nigel Jones
-----------------	---

Ex-officio	Denver Keegan Gordon Land
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3. Committees

The Standing Committee is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the P.C.C between its meetings. It comprises the Vicar, Church Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary.

4 Church Attendance

There were 152 parishioners on the Church Electoral role.

The average Sunday Attendance was 73 adults, 8 children. Services have also been streamed live from March 22nd 2020, from the Church and the Vicarage, this continues.

During the year, the church held services for 0 Baptisms, 1 Weddings and 15 Funerals.

5 Vicar's Report

2020 is a year most of us would rather forget. It had a profound impact on the life of individuals, our nation and also our Church. None of us knew what a 'lock-down' would mean, but we soon would.

When the scale of the pandemic became apparent, it soon became obvious that it could not be 'business as usual' for St. Lawrence church family. Sunday services were not possible due to the government restrictions and we had to experiment with technology to allow people to join in with worship at home.

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

For many, that interaction with technology was scary, uncertain and full of risk- can I break it? Can I be hacked? Who exactly can see me? We also began to realise that physical interaction (a hug, a handshake, a chat over a coffee) cannot be replicated online. We miss the physical nature of being human. We miss the taking of wine at the Lord's Supper. It made us think much more about the Incarnation and why it is so vital that Jesus took on a real, flesh and blood body like ours and shared our earthly, physical humanity, complete with all its vulnerabilities and frailties.

Maybe COVID-19 even changed our habits for good. The regulator Ofcom told us that in 2020 the average UK adult spent 4 hours, 2 minutes online every day, with huge implications for things like online shopping (and our high streets), and home entertainment (and our cinemas). Maybe this is the new 'normal' and things will not ever go back to the way they were. People have embraced working from home and now companies are disposing of millions of square feet of office space. The local Church will never quite be the same again.

People did find new ways of keeping in contact and keeping up those relationships that we cherish. Going walking with a neighbour or friend was a lifeline for many. Video calls or 'Zooming' (a new, love/hate term during the year) meant that we could at least speak to loved ones, if we could not physically meet. Small groups for Bible study, prayer and fellowship kept going despite limitations and some even joined in by phone. People went above and beyond in their efforts to look after the practical needs of others – offering transport to hospital, collecting prescriptions, delivering groceries etc. There were so many ways that people put their Christian faith into action in our own community.

We also tried new things- like a recorded nativity play, filmed live on a local farm. It has now had more than 1,600 viewings, many times the number who would have seen it in our church building on Christmas Eve. Kate and I were able to record a video of the nativity story for 'Little Learners' nursey. 'Advent Windows' wonderfully appeared all over our town in the run-up to Christmas. Painted stones of the Christmas story were waiting to be found on a nativity trail, much to the delight of many children and families. The choir were able to provide anthems and recordings for various services. Chris Saunders, our team youth worker, was able to use digital media to bring Christian teaching and worship into local schools, as he could not be there in person. We were able to be imaginative and adventurous in ways that would not have happened unless we had an international pandemic. The Church has often used new technology in its mission. Luther very quickly grasped the power of the printing press at the beginning of the 16th Century and maybe we are beginning to explore how the local church can harness the power of the internet and digital communications.

Yet, for all the new ways of working and ministering to others, we cannot ignore the very real pain and suffering of many- both physical and emotional. Many know a loved one who died from COVID. Many suffered greatly from loneliness and isolation. Children and young people's education suffered badly when schools and colleges had to close, and we do not yet know the long-term implications of that. As a Church our message of hope, meaning and eternal life has never been more appropriate or necessary. Many are searching for a meaning and purpose in all this. We have had to hold some things lighter in our hands than we wanted to. Planning and thinking ahead has been immensely difficult. Our 'Inspire' re-ordering project has had to be postponed, as has our 'Believe in Lechlade' parish mission with Roger Simpson. We pray that God would greatly bless these ventures in 2022. Perhaps this is a profound lesson that we needed to learn or re-learn- to trust in God for everything. Proverbs 3: 5-6 is so true: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*

We are grateful to God that though the mission of the church has been interrupted and changed in many ways, the message of the Gospel is unchanged and still central. We are grateful that we have been blessed financially and we do not rely as much on giving by physical visitors as some churches do. We are grateful that we have been able to reach out to new people via our online services and that

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

will continue. We are grateful for good relationships with the wider church and we look forward to meeting our new curate, Gareth Griffith, and his family in the summer this year. We are grateful that in so many different ways, the Lord God blesses and encourages us.

Andrew Cinnamond

Vicar

6 Church Warden's Report

As no doubt mentioned in other reports, 2020 has definitely brought new challenges in allowing services and private prayer to continue at St Lawrence. Prior to re-opening after lockdown, a group of volunteers thoroughly cleaned the church and cleaning and sanitising continues to be a priority. We are grateful to all those who work hard to keep our church looking good.

To help with social distancing, alternate pews were moved, resulting in a reduction of some 50% of available seats. Three hand sanitising stations were placed in strategic positions and all written literature, including bibles and kneelers, were removed from public access to help avoid the spread of any viruses.

A 'track 'n' trace' system was initiated for all services, including funerals, these being limited to a maximum of thirty people.

For a large part of the year lockdown restrictions meant that our Parish Administrator worked remotely from home and the church office was unmanned. The phone system directed all incoming calls to a churchwarden and emails and enquiries were dealt with by our Parish Administrator.

We are both here to be of assistance to anyone in the church needing advice or assistance.

7 Safeguarding Report

Safeguarding means the action the Church takes to promote a safe culture in our church. A lot of hard work is needed to achieve this goal. The aim is to promote the welfare of children, young adults and vulnerable adults. My job is to liaise with the diocese of Gloucester Safeguarding team concerning safeguarding matters.

I have an overview of all church activities involving children, and vulnerable adults. Training is an essential part of our safeguarding life here in St Lawrence church. The Glos. diocese Safeguarding team has an excellent website and I would recommend the congregation view it. There is a robust system which has been set up between the safeguarding team in Gloucester and Jan Taylor for DBS checking.

After 12 years of having the privilege of being the safeguarding officer for St Lawrence I have decided to retire. I should be more than happy to assist anyone who wants to replace me. I feel, not only have I got to know many people in the deanery, but have acquired some small insight into the workings of the Anglican Church!

Pat Scott

Parish safeguarding officer

8 Cirencester Deanery Synod

This report, appropriate for use at annual parish council meetings (APCMs), outlines the activities of the Cirencester Deanery Synod throughout the year ended 31 December 2020. It recognises anti-coronavirus measures that relaxed the deadline dates for APCMs and the creation of a new triennial period for Deanery Synod which would otherwise have been held in the Spring or Summer 2020, respectively.

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

8.1 Introduction

Cirencester Deanery Synod, created by amalgamation of smaller bodies in March 2012, is formed of more than 45 parishes. These are situated between Lechlade and Shipton Moyne and from Elkstone or Birdlip to the Wiltshire border. The Synod comprises stipendiary incumbents and lay representatives proportionate to the size of their respective parish. Thus, small parishes nominate a single representative whilst those with greater Usual Sunday Attendances may have 2, 3 or 4 members normally appointed for a triennium.

The year saw a change of Synod; the earlier had been elected to serve until May 2020 but, owing to the circumstances, remained in office for several more months. Many parish APCMs were held in the late autumn when either new appointments or a return of existing members to the Synod took place. These allowed our new Synod to hold its inaugural meeting on 17 November.

8.2 Officers of the Cirencester Deanery Synod:

Post	2017-2020	2020-2023
Clergy Chair	Revd. Poppy Hughes (from December 2018)	Revd. Poppy Hughes
Lay Chair	Lay Canon Karen Czapiewski	George Collins
Clergy Deputy Chair	Revd. Dr Andrew Cinnamond	Revd. Dr Andrew Cinnamond
Parish Share Apportionment Officer	Bob Phipps (until 28.2.2020)	Nick Mitchell (from June 2020) (co-opted)
Safeguarding Officer	George Collins	Jackie Colburn (from 2021)
Secretary	Michael Spittle (co-opted)	Michael Spittle

Some parishes have not identified lay representatives although, in several of these, local Church officers have agreed to receive the Deanery's publications and minutes. In brief, the Deanery Synod is a link between parishes and the Gloucester Diocesan Synod which also explores the objectives of Diocesan Vision and informs its members of items of interest, as an example, financial affairs, governorship of CofE schools or safeguarding. It also forms the electorate of the Gloucester Diocesan and General Synods of the Church of England.

Three meetings were held during the year; two, successfully, by zoom. These focused on the strategic planning of human, physical and electronic resources for the delivery of Mission throughout the ten years to 2030. Key parts of the discussions were proposals to deflect the consequences of a future reduction in the availability of clergy numbers, the potential fall in churches' income and the use of technology, especially during the times when church buildings have been closed for any form of worship. Through its two-way link between Diocese and Parishes, general advisory business on:

- (i) The policies and procedures for Safeguarding arrangements,
- (ii) Parish Share apportionment, and
- (iii) on the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) were addressed.

Environmental issues and the abuse of our planet remained in the agenda as Eco-Church initiatives were explored by some parishes. Finally, reports on proceedings of the General Synod and of the Gloucester Diocesan Synod were received. The Deanery, by the end of 2020, was the successful electing body of two members of General Synod.

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

8.3 Strategic Planning: ten years to 2030

Deaneries across the Gloucester Diocese have been asked to develop plans that would shape Future Ministry during the ensuing ten years. These should take account of (i) clergy retirements that numerically outstrip recruitment entailing the loss of at least one member of clergy in each deanery; (ii) reductions in parish income and (iii) any lessons learned in the coronavirus lockdowns for alternative forms of Ministry. Early progress through a business audit of strengths and weaknesses in the hands of clergy and parish officers, combined with opportunities and threats emerging from external factors, were considered alongside the challenges presented by a decline in congregations. Initiatives, to maintain Services and the presence of Ministry (especially in rural parishes), include a wider use of Lay Ministers. If such strategies are to be pursued, a timeline of training, development and support will add significant inputs to the plans.

Local parishes were consulted during the summer 2020 for their consideration of how Ministry in the local community could be conducted whilst recognising limitations of human and financial resources, alternative times and methods for the delivery of the Word and any lessons identified by the closure of church buildings. Support remained for (i) connection with the local community and (ii) meeting people where they are.

Members conceded the future constraints on resources and acknowledged a change towards greater voluntary initiatives, but they also expressed the doubts of how, in some places and at particular times, alternative options can be introduced. Losses of revenue caused by coronavirus virus measures had resulted in a hastening of the required saving of stipendiary costs with a revised target within an initial five years. Further criteria, but relying on increases in parish or benefice revenues, could permit different approaches to the installation of remunerated clergy. This work remained open for exploration after 31 December 2020.

8.4 Parish Share

The Diocese expressed thanks and acknowledged concerns over difficulties for the prompt payment of Parish Share throughout the troubled year. Deanery Officers similarly compliment, and empathise with, the 47 parishes for this support. Around 94 per cent of Parish Commitments within the Deanery had been paid to the Diocese during 2020; this amounted to £877,000.

Michael Spittle

January 2021

Secretary to Cirencester Deanery Synod
m.spittle46@btinternet.com

9 Church Mission and Ministry

9.1 Bible Study groups

Studying the Bible in groups during 2020 took a whole different format, as we quickly got used to zoom and breakout rooms. Some finished the lent groups in this format, then over 30 people gathered for Zoom fellowship, prayer and Bible discussions each Thursday whilst the Church was physically closed. We completed courses of 'Discipleship Explored' and 'God's Big Picture', which continued into early September, when other small groups started online.

Lent Groups- 63 people signed up to join the six groups to study the book A Passion for Christ by Michael Baughan. Sadly, after three weeks it was necessary to stop the group meetings, physically due to the national lockdown.

Small Groups Bible Study - In the autumn the Monday evening Bible Study group led by Mary and David Bainbridge met fortnightly on Zoom to discuss the BRF study guide 'Sharing Resources'. Over

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

20 people signed up and there were some lively discussions. People also enjoyed the friendship and fellowship fostered during this difficult time.

At the same time the Monday evening Fellowship Group led by Geoff Holmes restarted, looking at material called 'Fruitfulness on the Frontline' about how God can work through us in our daily lives.

We are delighted that a new Thursday Bible fellowship group has grown out of the lockdown zoom meetings, led by Julie and Simon Morris.

Men's Bible Study group has continued to meet fortnightly all year via Skype and one socially distanced bible study in the garden when Covid rules, attendance numbers and the weather all came together to make it possible! This year covered Fruits of the Spirit and then studied Daniel, including the prophecies in the second half of the book, which was a new experience for most of us and have recently moved on to looking at Hebrews. Any men in the church would be very welcome to join us.

Women's Bible Fellowship – Like other small groups, we had to find new ways of meeting together during lockdowns, but were hugely encouraged that nearly all members were able to make the challenging switch to meeting on zoom, which we have continued to do weekly throughout, whilst also managing face to face garden socials in 6s when that was allowed in the summer. The encouragement of shared fellowship, Bible study, testimonies and prayer has been a blessing to us all.

9.2 St. Lawrence Youth and Children's Ministry

Sadly, all aspects of work with children were restricted during 2020-21, but as lockdowns became an ongoing part of life, we were gradually finding different ways to do discipleship and outreach.

When physical services were able to return, activity packs were put together for 10 am services, to help children engage with themes and teaching each week. At the end of 2020 the 'Grid' secondary group restarted and transitioned to zoom, hopefully to be followed by a primary group.

In the school and community, members of St Lawrence ran a Christingle workshop in school, the 'Lechlade Finds Jesus' painted nativity stones community treasure hunt, recorded a Christmas Story video to accompany nativity stones for Little Learners Nursery, provided resource packs for Little Lights and Church families to take part in 'Bake Along the Christmas Story', and produced Lechlade's first Christmas Eve nativity film.

Living Advent Calendar -From 1st - 24th December - 24 households from St Lawrence Church made a display in their windows about part of the Christmas story, lit up in turn from about 3.15 pm, until 9 pm, and then lit up each subsequent evening, opened in turn. There were trail sheets to follow, and prizes for those who completed the trail.

Please pray for resources and vision to faithfully share the Gospel with children and families in new ways appropriate to this Covid context.

9.3 South Cotswold Team Youth Ministry -Pre-Covid

At the start of the calendar year, my schedule included a busy mix of running 4 weekly primary school clubs for y6 pupils (before moving to secondary school) plus 2 lunchtime clubs at Farmors and a host of mentoring at the latter. In addition, our weekly Quench faith-based discussion group was added to more 'socially-based youth clubs' at Fairford and Kempsford. Along with plans for Romania, a residential and an activity day potentially for all young people involved via SCT youth work (50+), we were well placed to offer a challenging programme for mind, soul and body.

Schools work - Of course, the reality has been very different but the desire to serve young people wholeheartedly and present them with the Gospel message in word and action has remained central. During lockdowns, I have had regular contact with over half of the primary schools and I've been able to deliver a mixed programme of live sessions and pre-recorded messages for the Collective Worship

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

times. At one school, I have continued to run a y6 lunchtime club for the majority of the current school year and have been rewarded with good attendance and engagement. Returning to Farmors has been in a more limited capacity (due to space limitations) though prior to Christmas, I was meeting with 5 boys weekly and a greater need still was identified by the school (to explore on return). The other rewarding role in December saw me coordinate local efforts for social action between charity groups and the Diocesan-led Long Table initiative. As well as giving out food hampers and gifts to 9 needy families (school-identified), we were able to initiate good conversations and potential openings for further family support and 'the church' was seen to be visible in a very practical and caring way.

Sunday services - During the window of opportunity of the winter (Jan/Feb 20) and autumn months (Sept- Nov 20), I was able to visit and share vision and youth work updates at a number of churches including several preaching engagements. Since that time I have been limited to online support including contributions to the team-wide online services.

Going forward - Our youth team are offering an important lifeline of spiritual and social support via Quench and the Grid group in Lechlade. For school staff and young people alike, it continues to be important to stand alongside them and offer both practical and prayerful assistance in these unprecedented times. I'm currently recording a message to offer each primary school in line with the theme of the term and already several head teachers are keen to access in order to take some of the load off their own teaching staff. While our methods have changed and had a greater reliance on technology, our desire to build thinking individuals who are eager to follow Jesus on their spiritual journeys remains the same.

Potential Future Dates

- 5-7 May Macaroni Woods residential (alternative of late Sept/early Oct)
- 24-27 August Lechlade Holiday Club (tbc)
- Romania trip – pending
- South Cerney Activity Day - tbc

Chris Saunders

18th January 2021

9.4 St. Lawrence School

2020 has been a time of real challenge for the staff and pupils at St, Lawrence School as they faced up to the Pandemic and the impact of lockdowns, home learning, bubbles and Zoom, along with many other issues. The church maintained strong links with the school and learned new ways of working including Zoom governor meetings, pre-recorded Open the Book Assemblies and video linked bubble assemblies.

As part of the Diocese of Gloucester Academy Trust the school benefitted from the leadership and support provided to the seventeen schools in academy across the county. The school worked hard to ensure that children and staff are safe in school and that, when necessary, children at home were supported with their learning.

Due to the pandemic the school were unable to hold any services in church during the year but they were able to hold an outdoor Leaver's Service for the Year 6 pupils as they prepared for their move to secondary education

The School Local Governing Body includes six foundation governors appointed by the church. John Deacon stepped down after 8 years' service and we are grateful for all that he contributed to the school during his terms of office. The current foundation governors are Rachel Chamberlin, Stella Williams, Mike Baker, Matt Ryan and Susan Holmes.

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Susan Holmes
Chair of Governors

9.4.1 Open the Book

In January and February team members were able to go into school and lead Open the Book acts of worship until all the schools were closed. When the school reopened no visitors were allowed in so the team met to pray for the school and sent in cards of support to every member of staff. When restrictions allowed us back into church, we recorded three videos with team members acting the parts and sent these into school. Since then, restrictions have tightened again and we have been unable to film more videos. We continue to pray for Mr Soutar as he leads St Lawrence School and for all the staff, governors and children.

9.5 Music

9.5.1 St Lawrence Church Choir

The Choir very much enjoyed singing at the Candlemas Choral Evensong at Eastleach and the positive comments, especially from members of St Andrew's Church, were much appreciated.

At the beginning of February, the choristers had their hard work rewarded and enjoyed themselves tubing at Gloucester Ski and Snowboard centre. The 'Tubes' are large inflatable rings which can be spun and linked together to slide down the slopes. Great fun was had by all and followed by hot lunch and cake in the snowboard centre.

It has been very good to welcome Hannah to the choir, and she is already proving to be a real asset. She and Tom (our two Probationers) are singing out extremely well and have made an excellent start to their time in the choir. Both show great potential for the future.

Since entering lockdown, the choir have kept in touch through regular choir newsletters. Weekly chorister training sessions have been provided on Zoom, and a completely new training scheme has been devised to suit the on-line media incorporating theoretical musical knowledge and other activities for example body rhythm songs, tongue twisters, dominoes, time challenges, games of Bingo, and we even learnt a sea shanty that has gone viral on TikTok!

We have had 100% attendance throughout, and they have all worked extremely hard. Having completed their Probationer sheets and proved their singing ability at our Christmas services, Hannah and Tom are ready to be admitted as full choristers where they will receive their surplices. Lily, Barnaby, Hannah and Tom have almost completed their Light Blue Ribbons, so should be ready to take the test for this in the next couple of weeks.

During lockdown Tia has passed her Red Ribbon, Sophie has started working on her Deans award and the senior choristers are having their theoretical knowledge extended still further by more challenging ABRSM Grade 5 theory work. They are rising to the challenge superbly. Once we are back singing together, we will have a great deal to celebrate, including formally presenting Tia and Isis with their Deans Awards and Ben and Annabelle with their Bishops Awards that they achieved just before the first lockdown!

Although we have missed singing together and with most of the adult members of the choir either self-isolating or lacking the skills to operate the gadgets that are required to join the singing from afar, it has been left to the sopranos and trebles to provide the music. We have recorded and edited together music to provide anthems for services: 'This joyful Eastertide' for Easter, 'Be still for the presence of the Lord' for Pentecost and 'There's a wideness in God's mercy' for Remembrance. We also recorded a socially distanced candlelit service of Advent Carols and readings in Church, enjoyed singing a

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Nine Lessons and Carols Service with socially distanced congregation and provided live music for Christmas Day.

A huge thank you to our singers who provided a very high standard of singing (some of it in parts) on very little rehearsal time and Anne, Diana, Geoff and Mike the accompanists for their contributions to these wonderful services. Thank you also for all the encouraging and appreciative feedback we received.

Several members of the choir enjoyed being creative in a different way by participating in St Lawrence's Living Advent Calendar, an excellent new initiative organised by Mary Bainbridge.

The future remains uncertain but is looking more positive, and St Lawrence Choir is keen to return to leading the music in the church as soon as it is safe to do so.

Rachel Bath

Choir Director.

9.5.2 St Lawrence Music Group

Similar to most church and community activities during 2020/21 so far, The Music Group has had a strange year.

In the early days of Lockdown 1, we met occasionally online for Zoom get-togethers. We soon learned that we could not really sing together as a Group with the technology we had. The experience of trying was very funny and I think the phrase 'helpless with laughter' was a suitable response to the cacophonous sound we were responsible for. However, once we learned the skill of 'muting ourselves', which must be a catchphrase of this Covid era, though it could be confused with something medical, we enjoyed spending time together as of course we were all unused to spending so much time within our own four walls.

A few of us were able to be at that outdoor nativity scene on a farm near Coleshill in early December and to participate musically in our Church's first experience of recording our Crib Service. It seems the service was 'for the nation', as the viewing figures of the online recording seem to indicate our congregation reached far beyond Lechlade. What a blessing that was and is!

Once the PCC's decision, in accordance with government guidelines, was to recommence physical services, it was very encouraging that some members of the Group felt able to be available to sing in small groups in church. I am grateful to all those who did this to assist the musical aspect of our worship during the latter part of 2020 and into early 2021. Some needed to be more cautious, which was the wise choice for them, and they supported us by praying for us.

Who knows what next and how soon things might change to allow us to be together as a whole group? Meanwhile we keep gargling (not true) and practising our voice exercises one way or another, in readiness for a return to full working duties at some point in 2021, we hope.

Geoff Holmes

9.6 World Church Committee

We continue to support, pray for and learn from Christians around the world. In December 2020 we sent a total of £8,500 from the PCC to our World Church Links:

National Mission Commission of Nepal.

Scripture Union Pakistan, Scripture Union England and Wales

Dornakal Diocese, South India - supporting the Shriver Memorial School for the Deaf

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

iServe Africa, working in Nairobi, under Harrison Mungai. This replaces our previous support for the Crosslinks Bursary scheme for Theological Education [Fidel Nyongesa finished this year]

Gabriel Parra and his wife Rebecca, CMS local partners in Valparaiso, Chile.

Unfortunately the planned visit of Ram Prasad and his wife Keshari in March had to be cancelled because of Covid restrictions.

9.7 Mothers' Union

During 2020, we fundraised for our work worldwide. We held a successful Lent Lunch at The Memorial Hall and were most grateful for the support from the St Lawrence Church congregation and others from the community. We were able to send over £500 to MU helping, our relief fund, the 'Away From It All' - holidays and for keeping other diocese projects going during Covid-19.

Members donated toiletries to the Nelson Trust, helping needy families due to domestic abuse, women returning from prison and sex workers. We were given cleaned off laptops, good young women's and children's clothing from young mums locally, then passed on to help struggling families. Members have knit/ sewn items for the Gloucester Hospital including end of life property bags. We support Eastwood Park Prison by collecting card fronts for craft work and sew cross in pockets for the prisoners. Many of our members help at Church in some way. We managed to decorate the Church for Harvest Festival with masks. Prayer underpins all we do and it was good to be on Zoom with Bishop Rachel who is a fellow member, praying during the 16 days of Gender Violence Abuse awareness in November.

Two members, Molly Kent and Jean Wood (Fairford) passed away and we supported them both as much as possible at the end of their lives. Edna Humphreys and Jean Willis have moved to care homes. We enrolled 4 new members in 2020 and have one new member to enrol when we can. Going forward we have 50 members. We are meeting on Zoom monthly and trying to support one another as best we can. Our branch committee work together to plan our activities where possible and members have a monthly newsletter.

We did run 'Little Lights' a pre-school pram service and play group, twice a month but this was not safe during the pandemic. Two of the children started school in September and were presented with a prayer book. At Christmas, we made contact with the Little Lights and encouraged them to watch faithinkids.org and bake gingerbread. We delivered the ingredients to those families. We hope to resume during 2021 at some point.

I was disappointed not to be able to have a crib service and nativity play, so decided to write one and film it at a local farm. I want to thank Phil Stevens for filming and editing, Rachel and Colin Harris of Pennyswick Farm Coleshill for letting us use their land, Tia McBain from the Church Choir for narrating, 15 amazing children who acted with no rehearsals, the Children's Church Choir and Rachel Bath for singing plus Geoff Holmes and the Church Music Group for singing/ playing. Many 100's of people watched online.

Kathy Newton
Branch Leader

9.8 St. Lawrence Bell Ringing

Sadly, we have been unable to ring since March due to the coronavirus pandemic. Fortunately, two families in Lechlade have been willing and able to ring for services when circumstances allowed. The Tenor bell was tolled to mark the passing of a former bell ringer and the bells rang out on Christmas morning. Hopefully we will all be able to ring together again soon.

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

10 Church Support to Ministry

10.1 Restoration and Maintenance Appeal Committee

In these unusual times, it will come as no surprise to know that the activities of the St Lawrence Restoration and Maintenance Appeal were severely curtailed in 2020. Only one event took place on 21st January when the Grand Curry night was held at the Khushi Restaurant, Lechlade. This has become a regular annual event, until now. Sixty-seven diners enjoyed the evening and the sum of £469 was raised.

All other events had to be cancelled and will be rescheduled when our view of the future is more certain and safer.

Mike Keegan

Chairman of St Lawrence Church Restoration and Maintenance Appeal

10.2 Project Inspire

Our conservation architects, Chedburn Codd, completed a design which includes all facilities within the existing church building. The designs clearly demonstrate that objectives will be met while protecting the historic features of the church and, importantly, creating a welcoming space for worship. The Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) considered the designs to be ‘well thought through and sensitively handled’ and has supported the proposals. Plans for the DAC to visit our church and discuss their comments had not been possible because of the COVID-19 restrictions.

Our archaeologist completed a report on the impact of our proposals on the church and associated mitigation measures in support of our Statement of Significance submitted to the DAC. He also investigated the ledger stones to confirm the feasibility of their relocation within a new floor.

Our mechanical and electrical consultants investigated options to improve the heating system to provide greater comfort and reduce our carbon footprint to meet the Church of England targets. Options to improve the cobbled surface of Shelley’s Walk to ease access are being discussing with Gloucestershire Highways, who are responsible for the footpath, and the DAC.

The continuing COVID-19 restrictions during the year meant that we were not able to present our design proposals to the church community as we had planned. We continued with preparatory work on the many essential elements to the project.

The Working Group met 11 times in the year. We informed the church community through Newsletters and plan further issues through 2021.

Nigel Jones

Chairman Project Inspire

10.2 Fabric

Our internal electric supply continues to occasionally give problems.

The PA system works well, especially when ‘not messed with’.

The clock had its annual service.

Some trimming to trees in the churchyard has been undertaken both by outside contractors and some members of the churchyard team. A big thank you to this team for keeping the area looking so good.

The ECO area of the church has now been roped off and a wooden information board erected.

General maintenance is continually carried out by some church members.

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

In October the Quinquennial inspection took place and a report on this is expected in early 2021, although we were told that there were no serious problems.

An un-expected cost arose due to one of the boilers and some of the exhaust pipes in the system were found to be faulty and resulted in a cost of £1354

10.3 Eco Church Group

Sadly, the public meeting with Dr Martin Hodson on “Climate Change” planned for May had to be cancelled. The Climate Emergency remains a very serious issue, but Covid has meant that insufficient attention is given to this urgent matter. We hope to focus on this in 2021, in advance of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), re-scheduled for 1-12 Nov 2021 in Glasgow.

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

11 Financial and other Statutory Information

11.1 Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to: -

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles of the SORP applicable to charities;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material disclosures and explain such departure in the financial statements, and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in the future.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, The Charity (Accounts & Reports) Regulations 2008 and Church Accounting Regulations. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud.

When planning our activities for the year, the P.C.C. gave consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in particular, the specific guidance to charities concerned with the advancement of religion.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements

11.2 Risk Management

The P.C.C. actively reviews the major risks and challenges generated within the church by means of its regular meetings. Approval is required for all key operational and financial decisions.

11.3 Investment Policy

It is the policy of the P.C.C. to invest fund balances with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund.

11.4 Voluntary Help

The P.C.C. wishes to express their gratitude to the many volunteers who help in so many ways in the various activities of the church and who provide support to the P.C.C.

11.5 Transactions and Financial Position

The Statement of Financial Activities displays a summary of the Analysis of Income and Expenditure. The key performance indicators are as follows: - a net surplus of £2,680 on the General Fund, a deficit of £1,177 on the Designated Funds and a deficit of £11,144 on the Restricted Funds.

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

The principle funding sources of the church activities continues to be regular gifts and donations from members of the congregation, supplemented by grants from outside bodies and legacies.

It is of concern to the P.C.C. that the level of regular giving has fallen during the year, whilst costs continue to increase, resulting in the deficiency on the general fund. The P.C.C. are aware of the ongoing pressure to ensure sufficient liquidity on the unrestricted funds.

Income was also generated from the letting of fixed asset properties.

The reserves of the charity stand at £802,861 (2019 £646,078). General purpose funds, which include buildings amounts to £568,271 (2019 £400,428), restricted funds, which includes funds for capital projects, restoration and maintenance and fabric amounts to £228,449 (2019 £239,753) and endowment fund amounts to £6,141 (2019 £5,897).

Approved by the P.C.C. on 24 / 02 / 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Revd. Andrew Cinnamond

Date: 21/03/2021

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

12 Independent Examiners Report to the Parochial Church Council of Lechlade

Report to	I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2020.
Responsibilities and basis of report	As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.
Independent examiner's statement	I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect: • the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or • the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or • the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination. I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:- D White
D White
The White House
52 Roman Way
Lechlade
Gloucestershire GL7 3BP

Dated:- 31 March 2021

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources						
Voluntary income	116,780	—	3,599	—	120,379	126,452
Activities for generating funds	6,418	—	1,231	—	7,649	17,037
Investment income	33	—	923	—	956	1,384
Incoming resources from charitable activities	2,445	—	—	—	2,445	4,041
Total income	125,676	—	5,753	—	131,429	148,914
Resources used						
Costs of generating funds						
Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold and other costs	79	—	180	—	259	2,956
Charitable activities	111,839	1,177	16,717	—	129,733	123,347
Governance costs	10,898	—	—	—	10,898	14,400
Total expenditure	122,816	1,177	16,897	—	140,890	140,702
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	2,860	(1,177)	(11,144)	—	(9,461)	8,212
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	160	—	94	—	254	—
Gross transfers between funds - out	—	—	(254)	—	(254)	—
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	—	244	244	808
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	166,000	—	—	—	166,000	—
Net movement in funds	169,020	(1,177)	(11,304)	244	156,783	9,020
Total funds brought forward	399,251	1,177	239,753	5,897	646,078	637,058
Total funds carried forward	568,271	—	228,449	6,141	802,861	646,078
REPRESENTED BY:-						
Unrestricted						
General fund	568,271	—	—	—	568,271	399,251
Designated						
Perrinsfield House	—	—	—	—	—	1,177
Restricted						
Audio/visual	—	—	5,737	—	5,737	5,737
Bells Appeal Fund	—	—	2,790	—	2,790	3,017
Brownrigg Fund	—	—	18,618	—	18,618	18,618
Choir Fund	—	—	1,974	—	1,974	2,193
Disasters Fund	—	—	—	—	—	13
Fabric Appeal	—	—	125,640	—	125,640	128,457
H Arnold Memorial Fund	—	—	1,543	—	1,543	1,358
Project Inspire	—	—	36,599	—	36,599	39,676
Reordering (West end) Fund	—	—	255	—	255	255
Restoration and Maintenance Fund	—	—	34,843	—	34,843	39,980
Services Fund	—	—	450	—	450	450
Endowment						
H Arnold Memorial Fund	—	—	—	6,141	6,141	5,897
Total funds carried forward	568,271	—	228,449	6,141	802,861	646,078

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Balance sheet

Class and code	Description	This year	Last year
Fixed assets			
	H Arnold CBF Inv Fund	4,626	4,408
	H Arnold CBF Fixed Int. Sec.	1,515	1,489
	Fixed asset - property	550,000	384,000
	Total Fixed assets	556,141	389,897
Current assets			
	General Lloyds Bank Account	1,363	598
	General Barclays Bank Account	72,531	71,255
	General CBF Deposit Account	42,582	45,313
	Fabric Appeal Lloyds Bank Account	—	801
	Fabric Appeal Barclays Bank Account	—	—
	Fabric Appeal CBF Deposit Account	125,640	128,007
	Cottage Lloyds Bank Account	—	—
	Cottage CBF Deposit Account	—	—
	Bells CBF Deposit Account	2,790	2,968
	H Arnold CBF Deposit Account	1,543	1,358
	Cash in hand	—	—
	Other Assets	271	5,882
	Accounts Receivable	—	—
	Total Current assets	246,720	256,181
Liabilities			
	Creditors due in 1 year	—	—
	Fees due to Gloucester Diocese	—	—
	Total Liabilities	—	—
	Net Asset surplus(deficit)	802,861	646,078
Reserves			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	(9,461)	407,783
	Starting balances	646,078	237,487
	Gains/(losses) on investment assets	244	808
	Gains and losses own use	166,000	—
	Total Reserves	802,861	646,078
	Represented by funds		
	Unrestricted	568,271	399,251
	Designated	—	1,177
	Restricted	228,449	239,753
	Endowment	6,141	5,897
	Total	802,861	646,078

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 24/02/2021 and signed on its behalf by:

V Jones
Trustee

D Williams
Trustee

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Notes to the Accounts

1 Accounting Policy

Accounting Convention

The Financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with transactions recognized at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the notes to the accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom FRS102 and the Charities Act 2011.

Funds

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained: only income arising from Investment of the endowment may be used for the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, or in the case of 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 are given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year must be carried forward for each fund.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for P.C.C ordinary purposes.

Incoming Resources

Planned Giving, collections and donations are recognized when they are received. Tax refunds are recognised when the resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the P.C.C is legally entitled to the amounts due.

All other income is recognised when it is receivable.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due.

All other expenditure is recognised when it is incurred and accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

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

Moveable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the P.C.C 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 £1,000 accordingly all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line over 4 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December 2020. The Statement of Financial Activity includes net gains and losses arising on revaluations at the year end.

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the Charity at 31 December 2020 for tax recovery are shown as debtors.

Bank deposits include cash held on deposit either with CBF Church of England Funds or at a Bank.

2 Staff Costs

	2020	2019
	£	£

Gross wages and Salary	<u>8,533</u>	<u>9,148</u>
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The Charity employs a part time administrator.

The Charity also paid honoraria to the Director of Music and certain choristers.

3 Fixed Assets for use by the Charity

	2020	2019
	£	£

Gross Freehold Land and Buildings at cost	<u>550,000</u>	<u>384,000</u>
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The freehold land and buildings are held in trust by the Diocese, and for accounting purposes the historical cost is deemed to be the valuation at the date the property was acquired. The P.C.C consider that depreciation is not considered necessary, since the properties are deemed residential properties and are fully maintained by the P.C.C.

The properties held are as follows: -

- a) Church Cottage Lechlade: valuation £325,000.
- b) Perrinsfield Lechlade: valuation £225,000.

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

4 Investments

	Cost	Value
	£	£
CBF Investment Fund 226.27 shares	<u>3,654</u>	<u>4,626</u>
Unrealised Gain/(Loss) £218		

	Cost	Value
	£	£
CBF Fixed Interest Securities 895.53 shares	<u>1,435</u>	<u>1,515</u>
Unrealised Gain/(Loss) £26		

5 Debtors

	2020	2019
	£	£
Tax recoverable	<u>271</u>	<u>5,882</u>

6 Donations to Missionary Societies

	2020	2019
	£	£
CMS Chile	1,700	1,600
CMS Nepal	2,325	2,000
Scripture Union Pakistan	850	800
Scripture Union U.K.	850	800
iServe Africa	1275	1,200
Dornakal School for the Deaf	<u>1,700</u>	<u>1,600</u>

7 Amounts Collected on Behalf of Others

The effects of the Corona Virus regulations enforced the closure of the church building for a large part of 2020 therefore the P.C.C. were unable to collect funds on behalf of other charitable institutions. The amounts collected for 2019 were as follows: -

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal (2019 £911).
The Harbour Project (2019 £263).

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

The Church of England Children's Society (2019 £1,027).

8 Financial Commitments

At 31 December 2020 the P.C.C. had the following financial commitments: -

- a) Removal of trees in the Churchyard £2,600
- b) Electrical work in the Church Cottage £700

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Statement of assets and liabilities

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
Fixed assets - Investments						
H Arnold CBF Inv Fund -	—	—	—	4626	4,626	4,408
H Arnold CBF Fixed Int. Sec. -	—	—	—	1515	1,515	1,489
Totals		—	—	6,141	6,141	5,897
Fixed assets - Tangible assets						
Fixed asset - property -	550,000	—	—	—	550,000	384,000
Totals	550,000	—	—	—	550,000	384,000
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
General Lloyds Bank Account -	1,363	—	—	—	1,363	598
General Barclays Bank Account -	16,637	—	55,894	—	72,531	71,255
General CBF Deposit Account -	—	—	42,582	—	42,582	45,313
Fabric Appeal Lloyds Bank Account -	—	—	—	—	—	801
Fabric Appeal CBF Deposit Account -	—	—	125,640	—	125,640	128,007
Bells CBF Deposit Account -	—	—	2,790	—	2,790	2,968
H Arnold CBF Deposit Account -	—	—	1,543	—	1,543	1,358
Totals	18,000	—	228,449	—	246,449	250,299
Current assets - Debtors						
Other Assets -	271	—	—	—	271	5,882
Totals	271	—	—	—	271	5,882
Grand total	568,271	—	228,449	6,141	802,861	646,078

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Fund movement by type

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/losses	Closing
Audio-vis - Audio/visual						
Restricted	5,737	—	—	—	—	5,737
Sub-total for Audio-vis	5,737	—	—	—	—	5,737
Brownrigg - Brownrigg Fund						
Restricted	18,618	—	—	—	—	18,618
Sub-total for Brownrigg	18,618	—	—	—	—	18,618
Inspire - Project Inspire						
Restricted	39,676	186	3,262	—	—	36,600
Sub-total for Inspire	39,676	186	3,262	—	—	36,600
Perrin - Perrinsfield House						
Designated	1,177	—	1,177	—	—	—
Sub-total for Perrin	1,177	—	1,177	—	—	—
Rest-Main - Restoration and Main						
Restricted	39,980	4,830	9,913	(55)	—	34,842
Sub-total for Rest-Main	39,980	4,830	9,913	(55)	—	34,842
General - General fund						
Unrestricted	399,251	125,676	122,816	160	166,000	568,271
Sub-total for General	399,251	125,676	122,816	160	166,000	568,271
Fabric - Fabric Appeal						
Restricted	128,457	539	3,263	(93)	—	125,640
Sub-total for Fabric	128,457	539	3,263	(93)	—	125,640
H Arnold - H Arnold Memorial Fu						
Restricted	1,358	185	—	—	—	1,543
Endowment	5,897	—	—	—	244	6,141
Sub-total for H Arnold	7,255	185	—	—	244	7,684
Reorder-WE - Reordering (West end						
Restricted	255	—	—	—	—	255
Sub-total for Reorder-WE	255	—	—	—	—	255
Disasters - Disasters Fund						
Restricted	13	—	—	(13)	—	—
Sub-total for Disasters	13	—	—	(13)	—	—
Services - Services Fund						
Restricted	450	—	—	—	—	450
Sub-total for Services	450	—	—	—	—	450
Bells - Bells Appeal Fund						
Restricted	3,017	13	240	—	—	2,790
Sub-total for Bells	3,017	13	240	—	—	2,790
Choir - Choir Fund						
Restricted	2,193	—	219	—	—	1,974
Sub-total for Choir	2,193	—	219	—	—	1,974
Grand total	646,078	131,429	140,890	—	166,244	802,861

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Analysis of income and expenditure

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Designated</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Endowment</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>This year</u>	<u>Last year</u>
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Incoming resources from generated funds						
Incoming resources from generated funds - Voluntary income						
Gift Aid by bankers orders	8,535	—	200	—	8735	6,053
Gift Aid by envelopes	337	—	—	—	337	2,544
Gift Aid: Parish Giving Scheme	58,884	—	—	—	58,884	56,320
Gift Aid tax recovery	14,134	—	—	—	14,134	13,634
Other planned gifts	—	—	—	—	—	426
Collections	3,497	—	—	—	3,497	9,803
Goodbox Card Donations	428	—	—	—	428	513
Charities Aid Foundation	8,600	—	—	—	8,600	2,580
Sundry gifts	11,773	—	384	—	12,157	21,407
Southrop and Eastleach	2,880	—	—	—	2,880	3,040
Tax recovery Sundry gifts	5,673	—	—	—	5,673	7,278
Grants	750	—	1,943	—	2,693	750
Non recurring grants	—	—	—	—	—	250
Legacies	1,000	—	1,000	—	2,000	1,000
Church upkeep - Barrel	289	—	72	—	361	856
Total	116,780	—	3,599	—	120,379	126,452
Incoming resources from generated funds - Activities for generating funds						
Fund raising events	200	—	1,231	—	1,431	9,116
Cottage rent	—	—	—	—	—	955
Rent	6,218	—	—	—	6,218	6,377
Magazine sales	—	—	—	—	—	589
Total	6,418	—	1,231	—	7,649	17,037
Incoming resources from generated funds - Investment income						
Dividends and interest	33	—	922	—	955	1,384
Total	33	—	922	—	955	1,384
Incoming resources from charitable activities						
Fees (weddings funerals) due to PCC	2,445	—	—	—	2,445	3,911
Fees to Diocese-OB	—	—	—	—	—	130
Total	2,445	—	—	—	2,445	4,041
INCOME TOTAL	125,676	—	5,752	—	131,428	148,914

Parochial Church Council of St Lawrence Lechlade
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

EXPENDITURE

Costs of generating funds - Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold and other costs

Bookstall	—	—	—	—	—	35
Fund raising (general)	47	—	—	—	47	—
Fund raising events	32	—	180	—	212	2,921
Total	79	—	180	—	259	2,956

Charitable activities

Overseas Missionary Societies	7,650	—	—	—	7,650	8,000
Christian relief and development	200	—	—	—	200	10
Home mission	850	—	—	—	850	319
Secular charities	—	—	—	—	—	105
Parish share: Diocese	75,482	—	—	—	75,482	75,282
Parish share: Deanery	7,362	—	—	—	7,362	7,092
Incumbent's expenses	3,891	—	—	—	3,891	6,425
Clergy expenses	400	—	—	—	400	230
Parsonage house	—	—	—	—	—	30
Church heating	1,781	—	—	—	1,781	1,719
Church lighting	799	—	—	—	799	451
Church water charges	73	—	—	—	73	98
Church insurance	3,766	—	—	—	3,766	4,202
Church fabric repairs	732	—	6,470	—	7,202	2,068
Gas/electric/water repairs	164	—	—	—	164	6
Organ maintenance	—	—	—	—	—	260
Maintenance Fixtures and fittings	60	—	240	—	300	77
Upkeep of services	1,765	—	219	—	1,984	2,367
Churchyard maintenance	89	—	—	—	89	484
Cottage heating	380	—	—	—	380	544
Cottage lighting	458	—	—	—	458	293
Cottage water charges	79	—	—	—	79	81
Cottage cleaning	582	—	—	—	582	464
Cottage insurance	425	—	—	—	425	374
Cottage contents upkeep	94	—	—	—	94	17
Other property upkeep	—	—	—	—	—	96
Honoraria, salaries/wages	1,270	—	—	—	1,270	1,853
National Insurance	—	—	—	—	—	60
Sunday School	—	—	—	—	—	5
Holiday Club	—	—	—	—	—	1,081
Education and Training	7	—	—	—	7	170
Architects/other fees for repairs or new	—	—	9,788	—	9,788	8,934
Cottage/house repairs	3,480	1,177	—	—	4,657	149
Total	111,839	1,177	16,717	—	129,733	123,347

Governance costs

Bank charges	273	—	—	—	273	402
Administrator's wages	8,533	—	—	—	8,533	9,148
Parish Office	1,860	—	—	—	1,860	2,332
Other administration costs	232	—	—	—	232	2,518
Total	10,898	—	—	—	10,898	14,400
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	122,816	1,177	16,897	—	140,890	140,702
MOVEMENT IN YEAR	2,860	(1,177)	(11,144)	—	(9,461)	8,212