



Devizes St John & St Mary

Heart and Soul in the Centre of our Town

The Ecclesiastical Parish
of
St John with St Mary, Devizes

Annual Report 2024



Our Vision:

The Lord calls us to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God:
Micah 6:8

Administrative information

St John's Church is situated in Long Street, Devizes. St Mary's Church is situated in New Park Street, Devizes. The parish is part of the Diocese of Salisbury within the Church of England. The correspondence address is: the Parish Office, The Parish Rooms, Long Street, Devizes SN10 1NP.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a registered charity No.1133990 and is made up of:

Incumbent: The Revd. Jonathan Poston (until 29th December 2024)

Associate Priest: The Revd. Caroline Spindlow

Churchwarden: Martin Houghton

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:

Catherine Brown - Treasurer (from 14 April 2024)

Peter Crofts

David Evans

Elected members:

Claire Arden

Judy Bridger

Chris Cox

Becky Edgington - Treasurer (until 14 April 2024)

Martin Houghton

Tim Lacy-Hulbert

Alan Martin

Mike McClelland

Jane Scorer - Lay Vice-Chair

Bob Simpson

Catherine Tarrant

Co-opted members:

Liz Overthrow - Secretary

Parish Ministry

Rector: The Revd. Jonathan Poston

Associate Priest: The Revd. Caroline Spindlow

Clergy with Permission to Officiate:

The Revd. Canon George Royle

The Revd. Robin Stevens

The Revd. Chris Burdon

The Revd. Christine Hawkins

Anna Chaplain: Claire Arden

Licensed Lay Ministers with Permission to Officiate:

Chris Cox

Mark Harrison (until December 2024)

Lay Pastoral Assistants: Catherine Brown

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF DEVIZES, ST JOHN & ST MARY

AIM AND PURPOSES

St John & St Mary Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Jonathan Poston, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St John's Church, St Mary's Church and St John's Parish Rooms.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

- The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community.
- The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish.
- Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.
- When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. We try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:
 - Worship and prayer; learning about the gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in God.
 - Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
 - Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of our parish churches and the parish rooms.

Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on free reserves (net current assets) which equates to at least three months' unrestricted payments.

It is our policy to invest the short-term investment fund balances with the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund, and the remainder in the CCLA Church of England Investment Fund.

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England.

The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules.

At St John & St Mary the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our rector), the associate priest and the assistant curate, churchwardens, and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The PCC met seven times during the year and the following matters were discussed:

Initiatives from the Vision groups
Installation and rebuilding of the pipe organ
The condition of the Parish Rooms
The financial situation and fundraising
Repairs to both churches
Repairs to St John's bells
St Mary's Project

Liz Overthrow

THE ELECTORAL ROLL

As ever, we have lost some friends throughout the year and gained some more. At 31 December 2024 there were 126 names on the Electoral Roll.

As always, I would urge members of the congregation to ask if those sitting next to them each Sunday are on the Electoral Roll. If they are not on the roll, encourage them to see me and complete an application form. Forms will also be available in church.

Catherine Brown - Electoral Roll Officer

RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS 2024

At the APCM last April churchwardens Jane Scorer and Mike McClelland stood down.

Martin Houghton stepped in as Warden and our Administrator Catherine Brown took on the role of Treasurer. I would like to thank them for the unwavering support they both gave me and for the huge amount of work they do for the church. Martin really stepped up and has been an excellent warden (though he needs more support so as not to exhaust himself) and Catherine has a clear understanding of our finances and how best to manage them.

Work began in 2024 on the pipe organ that had been gifted to us from Plymouth URC. Lance Foy and his family and work team worked extremely hard over the year to rebuild the organ. Sounds are now coming out of it!

It sounds and looks splendid and augments the grandeur and importance of St John's church as a place for Anglican and choral musical excellence. The work is ongoing but moving towards completion. A fundraising group have also been working very hard to bring in the funds needed. When I left at the end of the year over half of the amount we had committed to had been raised.

In July Joe Scarffe was interviewed for the post of Musical Director and was accepted, taking on the role in Sept 24. Joe was an organ scholar at Dauntsey's, has a PhD in music and is a creative and innovative leader. Since arriving he has really raised the game of the choir, particularly boosting the confidence of the younger members.

The vision for St John's we have been shaping includes one of developing a high musical standard, both in worship and for secular concerts and events, and offering that to our local school children and interested adults.

When the organ is completed the next phase of shaping the west end of St John's into a welcoming hospitality area can begin. This will extend another focus of this year which has been that of hospitality and welcome. Introducing 'Room to Breathe' (thank you Judy Bridger for pioneering this) and beginning to look at how welcome can be extended within our church building.

A high church attendance for Remembrance and Christmas shows how much St John's is valued, even by those who visit only during major festival times.

St Mary's Devizes trust had a boost this year with some new trustees coming on board. This has helped move the conversation forward on how to allow the trust to take over the events at St Mary's church and ultimately have a lease so that they can start to fund raise.

With thanks to Peter Corbett for his work on this. Hopefully this will now help to move the St Mary's project forward after last year's focus on the re-roofing that was financed by the Poorlands Trust and is now complete.

In April Caroline Spindlow was licensed to St John's as a minister to work across the deanery. I am grateful that Caroline has been so supportive and that she continues to help steer you through the vacancy with Roger – assistant Archdeacon.

St John's continued to be used as the church of choice including for the licensing of LWLs, Anna Chaplains and for archdeacon Sue Groom's leaving service as well as the major civic events.

A new Rector's roll was created by Caroline Keevil, a local calligrapher, to replace the old one. This beautifully made historical document was framed and gifted to us by Caroline.

My focus over 2024 (as well as all the usual things that a rector does as part of the ongoing job) was to get the organ built and to work with the choir. Initially helping to keep them going and latterly to help and support Joe in our aim to develop St John's reputation as a choral church and offer teaching in choral music and organ to local schools. Becoming a centre of excellence for choral music and worship in this part of the diocese.

The foundations are well and truly laid for this. It is up to the PCC as they develop their parish profile and seek a new priest whether they wish to build on this vision for the future.

Finally, a HUGE thank you to those of you who do so much for the church whether it is on PCC, Omnes and Christmas Tree events, flower ladies, ministry team, vergers and choir. And all those on the numerous sub-committees that keep things ticking over and that get things done.

St John's is a wonderful community and a unique place. I continue to hold you in my prayers as you seek a priest for the next phase of your journey.

Every blessing

Jonathan

- Rector until the 29th Dec 2024

SAFEGUARDING

The publicity regarding safeguarding in the wider Church has inevitably filtered down into the guidance being received at parish level. That said, the constant nature of our parish's activities means that there has been little change to our formal processes. DBS checking online continues to prove for the most part painless, and candidates opting into the Update Service are reducing the need for detailed checks every few years. Any benefits from the forthcoming transfer of our application processes to another company have yet to emerge but sound promising.

To repeat my annual reassurance, but perhaps more relevantly this year given national concerns, these sometimes-complex procedures help to create an environment that is safer for us all, so that the PCC complies with its duty to have "due regard" to the House of Bishops' guidance in relation to safeguarding. If you have a question about any aspect, by all means contact me.

Jerry King - Parish Safeguarding Officer

REPORT FROM BUILDING & GROUNDS SUB-COMMITTEE

St John's

- The refurbishment and installation of our 'new' pipe organ is well under way and the hope is that it may be commissioned in the summer. The organ builder is Lance Foy from Truro. We have raised over half of the funding required for this project but a further £50k is still needed to complete the project. This will include making the north transept/vestry into a secure area with lockable doors at each end.
- Once the new organ has been commissioned, we will be able to remove the scaffolding towers at the west end of the church and thus begin to think seriously about reorganising/reordering the rear of the church.
- Parish Rooms – we are now in discussion with the Diocese about the possible sale of the Rooms.
- Quinquennial inspection – consequent repair work not yet commenced. Waiting on our architects to progress.
- A long-term review of church heating requirements continues
- Hopefully we now have sufficient funds to have our clock fully refurbished.
- The bells have been substantially refurbished during the past year

St Mary's

- Quinquennial works – major replacement of lead on north roof and tower plus some other roof and stonework is nearly completed – funded by Poorlands Charity. There is some outstanding stonework still under consideration but this is subject to sufficient funds being available.
- Reordering Project – with St Mary's Devizes Trust. Papers relating to their process flow diagram should now be with the Diocese for their consideration.

Churchyards (Both)

We have fewer and fewer volunteers to care for both churchyards and currently nobody to organise the work in either.

Mike McClelland

Health & Safety

Despite having to navigate around several hundred pieces of organ while the build takes place, the year has otherwise been quite uneventful. Only one Risk Assessment (RA) for home visiting on behalf of the Anna Chaplaincy, has been required this year while the Ascension Day tower climb RA was used to accommodate the Town's 'Open Day' tower climb, to ensure all safety protocols were followed, Health & Safety (H&S) policies remain in place in both St John's and St Mary's churches. A new H&S policy will be drawn up during 2025 and presented to your PCC for ratification in due course.

No reportable accidents have been made this year.

Alan Martin

SPIRITUALITY

Reflection:

The 'Reflection' group provides an opportunity to engage in silent contemplative prayer, gentle discussion, and Christian fellowship. Meetings start with a reading (poetry or prose on a spiritual or theological theme...but not scripture), continue with a period of silent contemplative prayer, and end with a discussion centred on the theme of the reading. We meet monthly on the third (3rd) Tuesday of each month with seven regular participants.

The group continues to meet in the Beauchamp Chapel at St John's from April until October. With the end of British Summer Time, one of our members kindly hosts us in their home to see us through the winter months. We are an open group and anyone wishing to join us would be warmly welcomed.

Lectio Divina:

Lectio Divina, commonly known as 'Lectio' (pronounced 'Lexio'), simply means 'divine reading' in Latin, and is a simple way of reading scripture with our hearts and minds open to God. It is a contemplative method of praying with the scriptures that emerged from within the Christian monastic tradition and can be practised alone or in a group. Usually, the Lectio Divina group meets on the fourth (4th) Friday of the month in St John's Parish Rooms at 10.00 a.m. However, because of diminishing numbers (and the winter weather!), we took the decision to have a break over the winter months and we will review the future of the group in the Spring.

Pastoral Care Sub-Group (Pastoral Visiting/Home Communion):

We continue to identify and support members of the congregation requiring pastoral care and/or home communion, and arrangements continue to be made for authorised personnel to visit. Regular meetings of the 'Pastoral Care Sub-Group' are held to review those receiving pastoral care and amend our provision as required. Pastoral visits are undertaken primarily by the Rector, curates, LLM's, and LPAs, although a small number of experienced others are authorised to undertake this role on behalf of the parish.

Chris Cox LLM

Room to Breathe

*"Nothing will be asked or required of you
– stay for as little or as long as you like"*

Tuesdays

12 noon - 2.00pm

St John's, Long Street, Devizes

Rest and quiet in a church setting,

slow down and enjoy the silence

within this busy world.

Come be still.



ROOM TO BREATHE

WE STARTED ROOM TO BREATHE IN JULY 2024, AIMING TO PROVIDE A QUIET SPACE IN ST JOHN'S FROM 12NOON TO 2.00PM EACH TUESDAY, PRIMARILY FOR THE PEOPLE WHO WORK IN OUR SHOPS AND OFFICES IN THE TOWN CENTRE. INVITATIONS WERE PERSONALLY DELIVERED TO ALL THE SHOPS AND OFFICES, EMPHASISING THAT 'NOTHING WILL BE ASKED OR REQUIRED OF YOU – STAY FOR AS LITTLE OR AS LONG AS YOU LIKE' AND THESE WERE WARMLY RECEIVED. WE HAVE EIGHT VOLUNTEERS, TWO OF WHOM ARE THERE EACH WEEK TO WELCOME PEOPLE AND IT IS ADVERTISED

REGULARLY ON DEVIZES ISSUES AND OUR FACEBOOK PAGE. THERE ARE SEVERAL OCCASIONAL REGULARS AND A GOOD NUMBER OF VISITORS. WE HOPE NUMBERS WILL INCREASE AS THE WEATHER GETS WARMER.

JUDY BRIDGER

THE BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Half way through the year, Becky Edgington moved house and the Bible study group had therefore to alter its meeting place, which is now the home of David and Carie Evans, which can just accommodate our eight members.

For much of the year we continued our study of St John's Gospel, sometimes complementing the study of the text with a study of paintings inspired by it: works by Caravaggio and Rembrandt figured rather often. Towards the end of the year we began a study of the epistles of James and Peter.

David Evans

Community Teas

St John's does....a jolly good tea!

That's the strapline on our poster - and it's true.

We're into our 3rd year now, and I don't think Soraya and I ever thought it could be this successful. We've built up a "hard core" of regulars, who've really become friends to each other and to us. Some have rebuilt friendships from decades ago, some have made new friendships. But one thing is for sure, we have a regular slot in their diaries!

Our January "tea" has for the past two years been a lunch (in recognition of dark winter afternoons). Cottage pie followed by fruit crumble may not be a Michelin-starred Sunday lunch - but when one guest said it was the best meal he'd had since his mother's death, it brings tears to the eye. Whether lunch or tea, our guests turn up VERY promptly, they've got their favourite sandwich fillings and cakes, one in particular likes his cocktail sausages!

I'm not sure if hearing aids are helped or hindered by the volume of conversations, but I am sure that all our guests enjoy an afternoon out, the company and the vittles!

And they are generous. We don't charge for the teas, but nearly everyone makes a donation, big or small. And each year we ask our guests to choose a couple of charities that they'd like the donations to go to. In our 1st year Wiltshire Sight (which supports a number of our guests) and The Nestling Trust benefitted; in our 2nd year it was Wiltshire Air Ambulance (who had helped one of our guests earlier in the year!), Julia's House Children's Hospice and Wiltshire Sight.

None of this would however be possible without the help of a wonderful band of volunteers, who help with baking cakes, making sandwiches, pouring teas, washing up and giving lifts to and from the Parish Rooms. Huge thanks to Susy, Suzy, Diana, Theresa, Alison, Tim, Jane, Sarah, Felicity, Fiona without whom we just couldn't do it. You are our heroes!

Alice Boyd and Soraya Pegden

THE FLOWER GUILD

The Flower Guild now has thirteen Flower Arrangers as Shirley Wright has decided to retire and I am grateful for her help in arranging flowers for many years. I would like to thank them for their skill in arranging the flowers in Church during the year except at Lent and Advent.

The Flower Guild held a Coffee Morning last June in the Parish Rooms which raised £539.20 for the Flower Fund. I would like to thank them for the items made by the team and their support in organising the event and for the congregation and friends who came to the event.

The Flower Guild is most grateful for the donations that have been given during the year which help to pay for the flowers. If anyone wishes to remember a special occasion with a flower arrangement in Church or give a donation please contact me, as the Flower Guild relies on donations to fund the flowers.

Di Remlinger, Sue King and myself will be staging a floral display on behalf of the church at the Flower Festival "The Spirit of the Water" being staged at Salisbury Cathedral from 13th to the 18th May.

Heather Blyth

THE BELLS AND BELLRINGERS

The focus for the bell ringing band in 2024 was to implement the maintenance work which had been identified through the reports commissioned in 2023. Having chosen a bell hanger to undertake the work, it all started at the end of April. Our bell ringing practice temporarily moved to St. Mary's for the period. The bells at St. John's finally started ringing again on 11 July, though it took a few more months to fully bed in and make the final tweaks needed for us to say the work was complete. We have definitely noticed the difference when ringing and hope everyone hearing the bells have as well.

While we have the bells working well, we haven't yet fully implemented the new system installed so we can get the bells chiming again with the clock during daytime hours. We hope to get that sorted soon.

Despite the bells being out of action for a significant portion of the year, we were still able to accommodate some visitors to the tower. In April we had bands from Hook Norton as well as Witney and Woodstock, and then a band from Cirencester in September and a band from Oxford in November.

Ringling for events though is always particularly special and we were pleased to be able to take part in 'Ring for Peace' to mark the 80th Anniversary of the Normandy Landings on 6th June.

In terms of our band, we were sad to see John Walter stand down as a ringer at St, John's as he had been a valued member for many years. We hope he is enjoying hearing the bells as much as he enjoyed ringing them. With the bells now ringing better, we can start to encourage some new ringers to join the band.

David Powell, Tower Captain

Deanery Synod Report

In March we were informed that The Rev Robert Sandy had been appointed as a House for Duty in The Redhorn Team and that The Rev Gerry Lynch had been inducted as the new Rector for Wells Spring Team.

We had a very interesting talk from The Waterways Chaplains who work on The Kennet and Avon Canal.

There was a Deanery Evensong held at Urchfont in March.

In July there was a very interesting talk given by the Chaplain to Gypsies and Travellers.

There was positive feedback from the LWL commissioning service that was held in St John's in May, where 11 new LWL were commissioned.

The post in Rowde and Bromham is to be advertised for the 4th time.

Andrew Sinclair announced his retirement from Bratton and Edington Benefice after being there for 8 years.

In November we heard that The Rev Gerry Lynch had written to every house in Potterne inviting them to the 5th Sunday service and 78 people attended.

We were informed that Pip Sanday had been appointed to St James' as a part time childrens' and families worker.

It was again emphasised the importance of paying the Parish Share, particularly when trying to fill a vacancy.

Bromham and Rowde are now moving to their 5th round of advertising for a Vicar,

The Lavingtons are now in vacancy, as is Edington and Bratton. St John's will be in vacancy from January 2025 and St James' from April 2025.

Catherine Brown

CHOIR AND MUSIC

St. John's Church in Devizes is entering an exciting new chapter in its musical life, supported by a new music director and two key grants. These initiatives aim to preserve and grow the church's musical traditions by fostering new talent and celebrating the capabilities of the newly restored organ.

Grant for Organ Tuition

A grant from the local area authority has been secured to fund organ lessons for young people in the Devizes area. This initiative seeks to nurture the next generation of church organists, ensuring that the rich tradition of organ music remains vibrant for years to come. The program will offer professional instruction to young musicians, fostering their skills and instilling a deep appreciation for this unique instrument. Outreach efforts are being planned to maximise participation and engage local schools in this effort.

Commissioning a New Musical Composition

In addition to the tuition grant, separate funding has been acquired to commission a new piece of music for the St. John's choir and the church's newly restored organ. This composition, by a local composer, will celebrate the organ's restoration and its role as a centrepiece of the church's musical life. The work is expected to be completed by the end of 2025, with a debut performance anticipated soon after.

This project not only highlights the church's commitment to commissioning new music but also enriches its repertoire with a unique, locally crafted piece.

Progress On The New Organ

The restoration of the organ is nearing completion and is on track for commissioning by June this year. Once fully operational, it will significantly enhance the church's worship services and concerts, providing both liturgical and cultural benefits to the community.

Growth Of The Choir

Meanwhile, the choir at St. John's has seen growth, with six new members joining in recent weeks. Efforts to recruit more young singers, particularly trebles, are ongoing through outreach to local schools. These initiatives complement the organ tuition program by fostering new talent for the church's musical future.

Joe Scarffe – Director of Music

Fundraising Group

100 Club

The PCC Fundraising Group, which organises activities to help maintain the fabric and structure of our historic church, launched a new initiative at the end of 2024 - the 100 CLUB aims to help the parish meet its regular outgoings, which continue to be under pressure. To date 30 members have signed up paying £60 annually to be entered into a monthly draw with prizes of £50, £30 and £10. Their support is bringing in a regular £60 monthly income to help cover essential costs, but the hope is that more parishioners will join over the coming months to boost the much needed revenue

Jane Scorer

Parish Lunches

We had 5 very successful lunches in the Parish Rooms in 2024. We started in January when over 40 people gathered for a wonderful spread in which we said goodbye to Gerry. Further lunches were held in March, June and September. Our final lunch was held in December and turned out to be Jonathan's leaving event. Again over 40 people came together for a delicious selection of food including soup, cheese scones, quiches, meats and salads and, as always, amazing cakes and desserts. I couldn't run these lunches without the generous support of many of our congregation and this is very much appreciated by everyone. We have also raised £1012.50 for church funds. Thank you to everyone who has supported these lunches in whatever capacity.

Sue Long

Coffee Mornings

Coffee mornings provide us with an opportunity to share time and fellowship with each other. Reintroduced in July and very well supported through the baking of delicious cakes with some lovely tombola prizes there was much laughter and £385 was raised for church support. Encouraged by this success a larger support was given to Devizes Heritage Day with games for children, face painting, brass rubbing, excellent refreshments and visits climbing the medieval tower to view Devizes. A further £310 was raised. In November Coffee and Crafts were offered with a beautiful range of Christmas crafts, gifts and hand painted cards. This proved extremely popular and enjoyable and a further £510 was raised. The continuation of these events is planned during the vacancy period to support and strengthen the fellowship in the congregation in preparation for our new Rector and, of course, to have fun !

Karen Barber



**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
ST JOHN & ST MARY
DEVIZES**

Registered Charity No:- 1133990

**Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council**

for the year ended 31 December 2024

Incumbent
Vacancy

Bank
Lloyds Bank
Market Place
Devizes
Wiltshire

Independent Examiner
Mrs A M Cross FCCA
The Alanbrookes Group Ltd
T/A JS Weeks & Co
10 Market Place
Devizes
Wiltshire

Parochial Church Council of St John & St Mary, Devizes

Independent Examiner's report to the members of the Parochial Church Council

I report to the Parochial Church Council on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

The members of the PCC are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records and preparing account which comply with the requirements of Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the PCC's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable directions given by the charity commission under section 145(5)(b) of the act.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

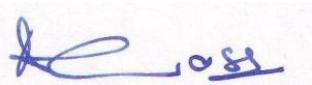
My examination was carried out in accordance with the general direction given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items of disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from the PCC 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

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

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as requested by section 130 of the Charities Act 2011; or
2. The accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
3. The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



Mrs Alison Cross
The Alanbrookes Group Ltd T/a JS Weeks & Co
Chartered Accountants
10 Market Place
Devizes
Wiltshire
SN10 1HT

2 April 2025

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN & ST MARY, DEVIZES

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 December 2024

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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN & ST MARY, DEVIZES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds	
				2024 £	2023 £
Incoming Resources					
Incoming Resources from Donors	2a	76,448	62,680	139,128	67,478
Other Voluntary Incoming Resources	2b	32,937	149,018	181,955	420,498
Income from Charitable & Ancillary Trading	2c	12,701	10,193	22,894	30,335
Income from Investments	2d	32	261	293	219
		-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Incoming Resources		122,118	222,152	344,270	518,530
		=====	=====	=====	=====
Resources Used					
Church Activities	3	121,569	256,353	377,922	540,928
		-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Resources Used		121,569	256,353	377,922	540,928
		=====	=====	=====	=====
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources		549	(34,201)	(33,652)	(22,398)
Proceeds on Realisation of Investments		-	-	-	15,000
Transfer Between Funds		17,992	(17,992)	-	-
Funds Introduced – SMV		-	83,265	83,265	-
Gains and Losses on Investments					
- Unrealised increase in value and profit on Sale of Investments		3,446	978	4,424	(1,202)
		-----	-----	-----	-----
Net Movement in Funds		21,987	32,050	54,037	(8,600)
Total Funds Brought Forward		37,567	84,241	121,808	130,408
		-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Funds Carried Forward		59,554	116,291	175,845	121,808
		=====	=====	=====	=====

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN & ST MARY, DEVIZES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES – CONTINUED

for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds	
				2024 £	2023 £
Total Funds Carried Forward At 31 December 2024		59,554 =====	116,291 =====	175,845 =====	121,808 =====
Represented by:-					
Unrestricted					
General Funds		48,801	-	48,801	23,167
Designated Funds					
Choir Fund		1,265	-	1,265	19
Devizes Municipal Charities		-	-	-	1,242
Faith in the Future		-	-	-	1,678
Omnes ad Unum		-	-	-	73
Opportunities for Prayer		-	-	-	38
Organ Fund		7,391	-	7,391	7,760
Parish Room Maintenance		-	-	-	182
Rectors Mission Fund		-	-	-	4,535
Living Churchyard SJB		2,047	-	2,047	955
Living Churchyard SMV		50	-	50	50
St Mary's Maintenance		-	-	-	(1,853)
Bells		-	-	-	(279)
Restricted Funds					
Bells Appeal		-	26,368	26,368	41,162
Choir Fund		-	-	-	267
Church Building Fund		-	17,018	17,018	26,102
Organ Fund		-	4,977	4,977	4,863
Quinquennial (Glanville)		-	-	-	20,387
Sound System		-	-	-	(6,918)
St Mary's Organ		-	8,294	8,294	8,294
St Mary's Maintenance		-	59,634	59,634	(12,317)
Sunday School		-	-	-	360
Way Ahead Fund		-	-	-	2,041
		----- 59,554 =====	----- 116,291 =====	----- 175,845 =====	----- 121,808 =====

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN & ST MARY, DEVIZES

BALANCE SHEET

for the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
Assets		
Current and Deposit Bank Accounts		
Lloyds Bank Organ Account	11,972	-
Lloyds Bank Current Account	82,946	3,167
CBF Deposit Account 3D	2,916	2,769
CBF Deposit Account 7D	-	4,285
Investments at Market Value		
CBF Investment Account 2J	70,958	67,512
CBF Investment Account 3J	7,053	44,075
	-----	-----
Total Current Assets	175,845	121,808
	=====	=====
Represented By:-		
Unrestricted Funds	48,801	23,167
Designated Funds	10,753	14,400
Restricted Funds	116,291	84,241
	-----	-----
	175,845	121,808
	=====	=====

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 5 April 2025 and signed on its behalf by

.....
Chairman

.....
Treasurer

The notes on pages 4 to 7 form part of these accounts.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN & ST MARY, DEVIZES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 December 2024

1. Accounting Policies

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that own their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Some funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are restricted.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital resources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving receivable under gift aid is recognised only when received.

Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is recognised when it becomes receivable.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.

Funds raised by the fete, garden party and similar events are accounted for gross.

Other ordinary income

Interest is accounted for when receivable.

Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same accounting year.

Gains and loss on investments

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold.

Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN & ST MARY, DEVIZES**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****for the year ended 31 December 2024****1. Accounting Policies (Continued)****Resources Used*****Grants***

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when payable.

Fixed Assets***Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings***

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure on the SOFA and separately disclosed.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN & ST MARY, DEVIZES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	
	Fund	Fund	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
2. Incoming Resources				
a. Incoming Resources from Donors				
Planned Giving - Pledged Offerings	56,149	2,404	58,553	52,880
Plate and Special Collections	6,398	991	7,389	6,229
Income Tax Recoverable	10,666	1,310	11,976	8,369
VAT Recoverable	3,235	57,975	61,210	-
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	76,448	62,680	139,128	67,478
	-----	-----	-----	-----
b. Other Voluntary Incoming Resources				
Donations	8,379	28,639	37,018	28,193
Grants:- Recurring	22,958	1,359	24,317	16,500
Other	600	5,000	5,600	13,430
Legacies	1,000	-	1,000	-
St Mary's Maintenance and Regeneration	-	101,458	101,458	362,375
St Mary's Recuring Income	-	12,562	12,562	-
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	32,937	149,018	181,955	420,498
	-----	-----	-----	-----
c. Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading				
Fund Raising	3,203	7,775	10,978	3,115
Fees - Marriages and Funerals	6,976	-	6,976	9,271
Church Hall Lettings	1,074	-	1,074	6,545
Magazine Sales and Advertising	375	-	375	570
Rent form Land and Buildings	640	-	640	386
Insurance Claims	433	-	433	-
St Mary's Contribution to Expenses	-	2,418	2,418	10,448
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	12,701	10,193	22,894	30,335
	-----	-----	-----	-----
d. Income from Investments				
Deposit Interest	32	261	293	219
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Incoming Resources	122,118	222,152	344,270	518,530
	=====	=====	=====	=====

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN & ST MARY, DEVIZES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)
for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
3. Resources Used				
Activities Directly Relating to the Work of the Church				
<i>General</i>				
Parish Share	68,372	-	68,372	91,327
Mission and Grants	190	-	190	-
Fundraising Costs	-	-	-	258
Clergy Expenses	110	-	110	1,009
Upkeep of Services	6,104	44	6,148	3,267
Assistant Staff Costs	151	-	151	75
Church Yard	832	987	1,819	747
Organ/Piano Repairs and Storage	-	42,730	42,730	14,412
Bank Charges	334	88	422	223
Education	94	-	94	261
<i>Church Expenses</i>				
Insurance	4,907	3,090	7,997	8,060
Light, Heat and Water	4,728	2,819	7,547	8,621
Repairs and Maintenance	3,997	5,873	9,870	9,083
Choir and Organist Pay	1,837	35	1,872	6,152
Salaries	15,510	-	15,510	10,004
<i>Support Costs</i>				
Administration Costs	7,856	529	8,385	11,050
<i>Hall Running Costs</i>				
Light and Heat	1,686	-	1,686	3,836
Insurance	1,161	-	1,161	736
Repairs and Maintenance	861	183	1,044	968
Cleaning and Sundries	2,839	-	2,839	3,529
<i>Other</i>				
St Mary's Maintenance and Regeneration	-	189,940	189,940	367,310
Bell Repairs	-	10,035	10,035	-
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	121,569	256,353	377,922	540,928
	=====	=====	=====	=====

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
ST JOHN & ST MARY
DEVIZES**

Registered Charity No:- 1133990

**Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council**

for the year ended 31 December 2024

Incumbent
Vacancy

Bank
Lloyds Bank
Market Place
Devizes
Wiltshire

Independent Examiner
Mrs A M Cross FCCA
The Alanbrookes Group Ltd
T/A JS Weeks & Co
10 Market Place
Devizes
Wiltshire

Parochial Church Council of St John & St Mary, Devizes

Independent Examiner's report to the members of the Parochial Church Council

I report to the Parochial Church Council on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

The members of the PCC are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records and preparing account which comply with the requirements of Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the PCC's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable directions given by the charity commission under section 145(5)(b) of the act.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

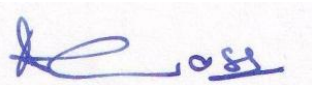
My examination was carried out in accordance with the general direction given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items of disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from the PCC 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

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

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as requested by section 130 of the Charities Act 2011; or
2. The accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
3. The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



Mrs Alison Cross
The Alanbrookes Group Ltd T/a JS Weeks & Co
Chartered Accountants
10 Market Place
Devizes
Wiltshire
SN10 1HT

2 April 2025

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN & ST MARY, DEVIZES

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 December 2024

I N D E X

Page

1 - 2	Statement of Financial Activities
3	Balance Sheet
4 - 6	Notes to the Financial Statements

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN & ST MARY, DEVIZES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds	
				2024 £	2023 £
Incoming Resources					
Incoming Resources from Donors	2a	76,448	62,680	139,128	67,478
Other Voluntary Incoming Resources	2b	32,937	149,018	181,955	420,498
Income from Charitable & Ancillary Trading	2c	12,701	10,193	22,894	30,335
Income from Investments	2d	32	261	293	219
		-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Incoming Resources		122,118	222,152	344,270	518,530
		=====	=====	=====	=====
Resources Used					
Church Activities	3	121,569	256,353	377,922	540,928
		-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Resources Used		121,569	256,353	377,922	540,928
		=====	=====	=====	=====
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources		549	(34,201)	(33,652)	(22,398)
Proceeds on Realisation of Investments		-	-	-	15,000
Transfer Between Funds		17,992	(17,992)	-	-
Funds Introduced – SMV		-	83,265	83,265	-
Gains and Losses on Investments					
- Unrealised increase in value and profit on Sale of Investments		3,446	978	4,424	(1,202)
		-----	-----	-----	-----
Net Movement in Funds		21,987	32,050	54,037	(8,600)
Total Funds Brought Forward		37,567	84,241	121,808	130,408
		-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Funds Carried Forward		59,554	116,291	175,845	121,808
		=====	=====	=====	=====

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN & ST MARY, DEVIZES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES – CONTINUED

for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds	
				2024 £	2023 £
Total Funds Carried Forward At 31 December 2024		59,554	116,291	175,845	121,808
		=====	=====	=====	=====
Represented by:-					
Unrestricted					
General Funds		48,801	-	48,801	23,167
Designated Funds					
Choir Fund		1,265	-	1,265	19
Devizes Municipal Charities		-	-	-	1,242
Faith in the Future		-	-	-	1,678
Omnes ad Unum		-	-	-	73
Opportunities for Prayer		-	-	-	38
Organ Fund		7,391	-	7,391	7,760
Parish Room Maintenance		-	-	-	182
Rectors Mission Fund		-	-	-	4,535
Living Churchyard SJB		2,047	-	2,047	955
Living Churchyard SMV		50	-	50	50
St Mary's Maintenance		-	-	-	(1,853)
Bells		-	-	-	(279)
Restricted Funds					
Bells Appeal		-	26,368	26,368	41,162
Choir Fund		-	-	-	267
Church Building Fund		-	17,018	17,018	26,102
Organ Fund		-	4,977	4,977	4,863
Quinquennial (Glanville)		-	-	-	20,387
Sound System		-	-	-	(6,918)
St Mary's Organ		-	8,294	8,294	8,294
St Mary's Maintenance		-	59,634	59,634	(12,317)
Sunday School		-	-	-	360
Way Ahead Fund		-	-	-	2,041
		-----	-----	-----	-----
		59,554	116,291	175,845	121,808
		=====	=====	=====	=====

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN & ST MARY, DEVIZES

BALANCE SHEET

for the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
Assets		
Current and Deposit Bank Accounts		
Lloyds Bank Organ Account	11,972	-
Lloyds Bank Current Account	82,946	3,167
CBF Deposit Account 3D	2,916	2,769
CBF Deposit Account 7D	-	4,285
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CBF Investment Account 2J	70,958	67,512
CBF Investment Account 3J	7,053	44,075
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	=====	=====
Represented By:-		
Unrestricted Funds	48,801	23,167
Designated Funds	10,753	14,400
Restricted Funds	116,291	84,241
	-----	-----
	175,845	121,808
	=====	=====

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 5 April 2025 and signed on its behalf by

.....
Chairman

.....
Treasurer

The notes on pages 4 to 7 form part of these accounts.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN & ST MARY, DEVIZES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 December 2024

1. Accounting Policies

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

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Voluntary income and capital resources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving receivable under gift aid is recognised only when received.

Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is recognised when it becomes receivable.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.

Funds raised by the fete, garden party and similar events are accounted for gross.

Other ordinary income

Interest is accounted for when receivable.

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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN & ST MARY, DEVIZES**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****for the year ended 31 December 2024****1. Accounting Policies (Continued)****Resources Used*****Grants***

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when payable.

Fixed Assets***Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings***

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Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN & ST MARY, DEVIZES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	
	Fund	Fund	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
2. Incoming Resources				
a. Incoming Resources from Donors				
Planned Giving - Pledged Offerings	56,149	2,404	58,553	52,880
Plate and Special Collections	6,398	991	7,389	6,229
Income Tax Recoverable	10,666	1,310	11,976	8,369
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	-----	-----	-----	-----
	76,448	62,680	139,128	67,478
	-----	-----	-----	-----
b. Other Voluntary Incoming Resources				
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Grants:- Recurring	22,958	1,359	24,317	16,500
Other	600	5,000	5,600	13,430
Legacies	1,000	-	1,000	-
St Mary's Maintenance and Regeneration	-	101,458	101,458	362,375
St Mary's Recuring Income	-	12,562	12,562	-
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	32,937	149,018	181,955	420,498
	-----	-----	-----	-----
c. Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading				
Fund Raising	3,203	7,775	10,978	3,115
Fees - Marriages and Funerals	6,976	-	6,976	9,271
Church Hall Lettings	1,074	-	1,074	6,545
Magazine Sales and Advertising	375	-	375	570
Rent form Land and Buildings	640	-	640	386
Insurance Claims	433	-	433	-
St Mary's Contribution to Expenses	-	2,418	2,418	10,448
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	12,701	10,193	22,894	30,335
	-----	-----	-----	-----
d. Income from Investments				
Deposit Interest	32	261	293	219
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total Incoming Resources	122,118	222,152	344,270	518,530
	=====	=====	=====	=====

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN & ST MARY, DEVIZES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)
for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
3. Resources Used				
Activities Directly Relating to the Work of the Church				
<i>General</i>				
Parish Share	68,372	-	68,372	91,327
Mission and Grants	190	-	190	-
Fundraising Costs	-	-	-	258
Clergy Expenses	110	-	110	1,009
Upkeep of Services	6,104	44	6,148	3,267
Assistant Staff Costs	151	-	151	75
Church Yard	832	987	1,819	747
Organ/Piano Repairs and Storage	-	42,730	42,730	14,412
Bank Charges	334	88	422	223
Education	94	-	94	261
<i>Church Expenses</i>				
Insurance	4,907	3,090	7,997	8,060
Light, Heat and Water	4,728	2,819	7,547	8,621
Repairs and Maintenance	3,997	5,873	9,870	9,083
Choir and Organist Pay	1,837	35	1,872	6,152
Salaries	15,510	-	15,510	10,004
<i>Support Costs</i>				
Administration Costs	7,856	529	8,385	11,050
<i>Hall Running Costs</i>				
Light and Heat	1,686	-	1,686	3,836
Insurance	1,161	-	1,161	736
Repairs and Maintenance	861	183	1,044	968
Cleaning and Sundries	2,839	-	2,839	3,529
<i>Other</i>				
St Mary's Maintenance and Regeneration	-	189,940	189,940	367,310
Bell Repairs	-	10,035	10,035	-
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	121,569	256,353	377,922	540,928
	=====	=====	=====	=====