

ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF BLACKMORE ST. LAURENCE

Charity Number 1134161

Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council

For the year ended 31st December, 2024

Incumbent:

The Reverend Sam Brazier-Gibbs
The Vicarage, Church Street
Blackmore
Ingatestone
CM4 0RN

Bankers:

Santander plc
Bootle
Merseyside
L30 4GB

CCLA Investment Management Limited
CCLA Fund Managers Limited
One Angel Lane
London
EC4R 3AB

Cambridge and Counties Bank
Charnwood Court
5B New Walk
Leicester
LE1 6TE

Independent Examiner:

Mrs. Clare E. Corby
Farriers, Blacksmiths Alley
Blackmore
Ingatestone
CM4 0QU

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for the Year Ended

31st December 2024

Administrative Information

St Laurence Church is situated in Church Street, Blackmore. It is in the Deanery of Epping Forest and Ongar and is part of the Diocese of Chelmsford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, Church Street, Blackmore, Ingatestone, Essex, CM4 0RN.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity, registered with the Charity Commission, No. 1134161.

Aims and Purposes

St Laurence Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent 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 the Grade 1 listed Church building and churchyard.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Laurence the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar), the churchwardens, the reader and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the Electoral Roll of the church. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC passed a resolution to rescind the Six Year Rule for electing churchwardens and will elect them every year.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The full PCC met seven times with the average level of attendance of 80%. Given the wide responsibilities of the PCC it has a number of Task Groups. Each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life.

These Task Groups, which include Mission, Outreach and Discipleship; Pastoral Care; Health and Safety; Children and Youth Work; Fabric and Finance; Worship Group and Leadership Team are all responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly with minutes of their decisions being received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

As well as the Sunday Services there are Prayer Meetings Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings. There are also Bible Study Groups every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. During the summer, Sean Wood led a Celtic service once a month after Teas in the Tower.

There was a Starlight Trail round the churchyard again this Christmas. The Starlight Service was a great success and Midnight Mass was also very well attended.

Church Attendance

There are 64 parishioners on the Electoral Roll, 12 of whom are not resident within the parish.

Deanery Synod

John Hughes and Andrew Smith attended John Fry's inaugural meeting in February and, in June, Rev Sandra Eldridge (Diocesan Environmental Officer) gave an inspiring talk on environmental issues. In October there was a meeting in St Laurence attended by Michaela Southworth who is Chief Executive of the Diocese.

The Church Building

The church remains open to visitors every day during daylight hours.

Tower and Lychgate: The great news this year was that we have secured an NHLF grant for the full amount of money to proceed with the work on the Tower. Many thanks to Richard Thwaite for all the work he put in on this. There are still other expenses we shall have to meet and work must be done between March and November because of the bats.

The organ had a major overhaul this year, at a cost of £14,500.00 (ex VAT)

Work has been carried out on the sewer pipe.

Pastoral Care

Sandra Wood and Sandra Keeble continue to run this successfully, bringing help to those in need. They have produced a Pastoral Care Policy, a summary of which is available in church.

The Ministry Team are now responsible for the Prayer Chain which is for urgent requests. Other requests are to be included in the Weekly Sheet.

Friday Club for under 12's has 20 children attending each session and Friday Club Plus, for older children, now has 25 members.

Open the Book takes place fortnightly at Blackmore School and in July all the children in Year 6 were given bibles.

Little Lauries for babies, toddlers and their carers has proved very popular.

Serenitea, which is held every Tuesday morning is very popular attracting both church-goers and non- church-goers.

Mission and Evangelism

During 2024 MODS organised a Beetle Drive; Safari Supper; Medieval Feast; Jazz on the Green; Harvest Supper ; Christmas Quiz and Carols on Horsefayre Green.

Create meets once a month.

We continue to support Children in Distress and they have a sales stall at Serenitea.

Ecumenical Relationships

St Laurence continues to co-operate with Blackmore Baptist Church.

Gill Hall – Secretary.

Financial Report

Receipts totalling £233,719 were received in 2024 including interest from all accounts, grants totalling £122,060 designated for the Tower Restoration and money received from the Friends of St Laurence (FoSL) to cover for Tower work costs (ex VAT) so far.

Payments for the year amounted to £107,662 producing a surplus of £126,077.

Excluding the grants which are planned to be spent in this year, the actual surplus was £3997.

The majority of funds are generated by regular giving from the congregation along with other donations from friends and visitors. Funds are also generated from fundraising and social events, church users and fees.

Our parish share of £42,919 was paid in full. The parish share largely provides the stipends, housing and training for the clergy and the necessary legally required administration of the Diocese of Chelmsford. The Diocese allocates the specific costs for the provision of ministry, training for future ministry and Diocesan services to each church. Our share requirement was significantly down on the previous year due to organisational changes and the removal of a one-off payment in 2023 agreed by the PCC to support other churches in the deanery.

Tower Restoration costs (excluding VAT) have been met by monies from FoSL. Other significant costs have been the restoration of the Church Organ (£17,340) and repairs to the sewerage pipe across the churchyard (£2,160). These have been paid from church funds. VAT has been reclaimed on these items but payment was not received in time to be included in these accounts.

We have continued to support Children in Distress, the Brentwood Schools Christian Workers Trust, the British Legion's Poppy Appeal, Agapé and the Church of England Children's Society.

I would like to thank the many church members and friends who support the church through regular and one-off giving, all those who come to support the fundraising and social activities and those who give up their time to help manage and run all the activities that the church puts on. I would also like to thank the Friends of St Laurence for their fundraising activities, support for the fabric of the building and the churchyard and for providing funds for the costs incurred so far for the Tower and Lych Gate restoration project.

John Hughes – Treasurer

Financial Statement for the Year ended 31st December 2024

General Fund Receipts and Payments Account

<u>Receipts</u>	Note	2024	2023
	£		£
Voluntary Receipts			
Planned Giving (Gift Aided)		33390	33197
Planned Giving (Not Gift Aided)		1115	850
Service Collections, Contactless & Online		7073	5631
All other giving		8188	8960
FoSL Funding		16090	5646
Gift Aid & VAT Recovered	3	12268	12358
Legacies Received		0	0
Grants		122060	1810
Activities for Generating Funds			
Teas in the Tower		2290	1464
Serenitea		7732	6074
Social Events		5103	2713
Christmas Market		2299	2051
Income From Investments & Other Accounts			
General Accounts		1370	605
Fabric Account(s)		1404	707
Business Savings Bond (1.5 yrs)		4089	1040
Church Activities			
Merchandise		383	536
Charity		496	365
Church Users		975	1890
Fees		7344	7068
Other Receipts			
Other	4	50	1035
Total Receipts		233719	94000
<u>Payments</u>			
	£		£
Costs of Generating Funds			
Fundraising Activities		1378	1214
Church Activities			
Mission Giving/Donations	5	2603	2718
Parish Share		42919	56351
Clergy & Staff Expenses	6	2471	4518
Miscellaneous		20	854
Church Expenses			
Mission and Evangelism	7	2378	1922
Church Running Expenses	8	10186	9313
Church Office Expenses	9	2268	1968
Church Utility Bills		3538	4485
Costs of Trading		406	542
Other Outgoings	10	1779	3767
Major Capital Expenditure			
Tower and Lych Gate		18036	8047
Vicarage		0	0
Church		19681	8231
Total Payments		107662	103929
Surplus/Debit		126057	-9929

Transfers Between Accounts

	2024	2023
	£	£
Santander Current to Santander Savings	75860	
Santander Current to CCLA General	40000	
Santander Savings to Santander Current		3000
Santander Savings to CCLA General	17000	

Notes to the Accounts for the year to December 2024

1 Accounting Policies

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2011 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

2 Accounts and Funds

These accounts include monetary transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible. They do not include the accounts of other Church groups that owe an affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Church monies are held in accounts with Santander, CCLA and Cambridge and Counties banks. The accounts are termed as General or Fabric Funds. A separate spreadsheet is maintained which contains details of funds given / allocated for Designated purposes.

The Blackmore PCC have agreed to waive future contributions of Stondon Massey PCC Ministerial and Office Expenses.

Where the PCC collects monies on behalf of other charities, both the Receipts and Payments are included in these accounts.

3 Gift Aid and VAT

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gift Aid Recovered	10397	12358
VAT Recovered	1870	
	<hr/> 12268	<hr/> 12358

4 Sundry Receipts:

Other	50	128
FoSL Receipts	0	121
Stondon Receipts	0	786
	<hr/> 50	<hr/> 1035

5 Mission Giving and Donations

BCSWT	1200	1200
Children In Distress	288	653
Childrens Society	0	100
British Legion	90	90
Community Giving	0	450
Agape	1025	225
	<hr/> 2603	<hr/> 2718

6 Clergy and Staff Expenses:

Ministry Expenses & Resources	1976	3918
Organist / Bells / Choir	295	400
Verger	200	200
	<hr/> 2471	<hr/> 4518

7 Mission and Evengelism:

Children and youth	2161	1551
Worship Material	187	322
Training	30	49
	<hr/> 2378	<hr/> 1922

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

	2024	2023
	£	£
8 Church Running Exps.		
Insurance	3183	3096
Copyright Licences	586	517
Consumables	350	347
Hospitality	390	617
General Maintenance	1687	1389
Organ & Piano maint.	0	70
Churchyard	3298	2402
Memorial Plaques	692	875
	10186	9313
9 Office Expenses:		
Office-Stationary	110	228
Office-Postage	85	55
Office-Telephone	345	352
Office-Electricity	505	838
Office-Photocopier	436	283
IT Software/Hardware	788	211
	2268	1968
10 Other Outgoings		
Payments to CDBF	1779	2781
Money collected payments (FoSL, Stondon, McMillan)		986
	1779	3767
	107662	103929

THE PRIORY CHURCH OF ST. LAURENCE, BLACKMORE **CCLA Accounts - Receipts and Payments**

	General Fund	Fabric Fund	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£
<u>Opening Balance</u>	13353	16829	30182	28915
<u>Receipts</u>				
Transfer in from Santander	17000	40000	57000	0
Interest	1191	1404	2596	1267
Total Receipts	18191	41404	59596	1267
<u>Payments</u>				
	0	0	0	0
Total Payments	0	0	0	0
Increase / Decrease	18191	41404	59596	1267
CCLA accounts at				
31st December 2024	31544	58233	89777	30182

THE PRIORY CHURCH OF ST. LAURENCE, BLACKMORE
Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st December 2024

	2024	2023
Bank Accounts YE Balances	£	£
Santander Current Account	12866.23	7630
Santander Deposit Account	76454.79	17416
C.C.L.A General Fund	31544.05	13353
C.C.L.A Fabric Fund	58233.42	16829
Cambridge and Counties Bank	63074.21	60496
Bank Accounts Total	242172.70	115723

Change from 2023	126449.39
Change from 2023 (Excluding Grants £122,060 & MMU £392.78)	3996.61

Other monetary Assets	
Q4 Gift Aid claim	£2,316
2024 VAT claim	£3,447

Other Assets

Moveable church furnishings held by the Church Wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal.
Office Equipment used for Parish administration.

Funds Designated for Specific Purposes

Funds for specific purposes are no longer held in separate accounts. A detailed list of these donations is maintained to ensure the funds are allocated correctly. The current monies set aside are:

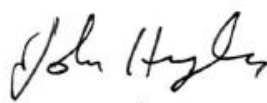
Childrens work (from Play School closure)	£846.47
Tower (Grants, Donations, Church allocation)	£134,441.53
Fabric	£1,655.00
MMU	£392.78
Total	£137,335.78
Unallocated	£104,836.92

Signed on behalf of the PCC:



16/4/25.

Reverend Sam Brazier-Gibbs
Chairperson



16/4/25

John Hughes
Treasurer

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of The Priory Church of St. Laurence, Blackmore.

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2024 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As members of the PCC, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. You consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Charities Act
- To follow the procedures laid down by the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Charities Act.
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of Independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC 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 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

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Charities Act and
 - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Charities Act have not been met, or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Clare E Corby

Farriers, Blacksmiths Alley, Blackmore, Essex CM4 0QU

30th May 2025