

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY, ASHWELL

England & Wales · Charity number 1134776

Details

Other names PCC, ST MARY'S CHURCH, ASHWELL

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2010-03-10

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address The Parish Office
Parish Church Room
9 Swan Street
Ashwell
Baldock
Hertford

Phone 01462743922

Email office@stmarysashwell.org.uk

Website www.stmarysashwell.org.uk

Activities

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

Activities: To promote in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£208,786	£175,720	-	-
2024-12-31	£169,108	£199,049	-	-
2023-12-31	£137,839	£129,577	-	-
2022-12-31	£310,852	£118,230	-	-
2021-12-31	£164,009	£319,769	-	-
2020-12-31	£333,320	£181,384	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
DR MARK EATON MA PhD		2012-08-07
David Richards		2025-03-20
Gaye Rowlands		2022-05-15
John Chilton		2023-04-30
Jonathan Fisher		2024-04-28
Julia Jessica Mitchell		2019-04-30
MRS JOANNE ADAMS		
Melanie Dawson-Dew		2022-05-15
Rev Christine Emily Campbell		2021-09-29
Ruth Rosemary ten Hove		2020-11-08
Stephen ten Hove		2020-11-08

Accounts

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
OF
ST. MARY THE VIRGIN
ASHWELL, HERTS.**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER 2025**

Registered Charity Number: 1134776

**The Parish Office
9 Swan Street
Ashwell
Baldock, Hertfordshire
SG7 5NY**

Bankers:

**Barclays Bank plc
Leicester
LE87 2BB**

Independent Examiner:

**Jackie Pritchard
6 Mill Street
Ashwell
SG7 5LY**

jpritchard1001@gmail.com

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

Independent Examiner's report to the PCC of St. Mary the Virgin, Ashwell, Herts.

Report to the PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary's Ashwell on the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2025 which are set out on pages 3 to 21.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Independent Examiner

The PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They 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 examiners report is needed.

It is my responsibility

To examine the financial statements under section 145 of the Charities Act.

To follow the procedure laid down in the annual direction given by the Charities Commission (under section 145(5)9b) of the Charities Act, and

To state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of the Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or 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 financial statements provide 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 give 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 financial statements do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed



Jackie Pritchard BComm ACMA
6 Mill Street
Ashwell
Hertfordshire

PROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2025

Administrative Information

St Mary's Church is situated in Mill Street, Ashwell, Baldock, Hertfordshire. It is part of the Diocese of St Albans within the Church of England. The correspondence address is: The Parish Office, 9 Swan Street, Ashwell, Hertfordshire. SG7 5NY

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary, Ashwell, became a registered charity on 10 March 2010.

During the 12 months to 31 December 2025, the following served as members of the PCC.

Rector	The Revd. Chris Campbell (Chair)	
Churchwardens	Julia Mitchell John Chilton	
Reader	Dr Mark Eaton	
Representatives to the Buntingford Deanery Synod	Dr Mark Eaton Jo Adams	Treasurer and Asst Churchwarden Asst. Churchwarden and Safeguarding Officer
Elected members	Stephen ten Hove Ruth ten Hove Gaye Rowlands Melanie Dawson-Dew Jonathan Fisher John Hare David Richards (From April 2025)	
In attendance	Bernard Allen	Secretary

In June 2023 we welcomed the Rev Revd. Paulet Brown-Wilshire into the benefice as a curate. She was priested in June 2024.

Donations by the Trustees

Total donations by the trustees and those closely connected to them in 2025 amounted to £10,470.

Reimbursement of Personal Expenditure

No trustees or connected persons were paid any monies with the exception of reimbursement for items purchased on behalf of the PCC. The PCC pays the telephone and broadband costs for the Rectory directly.

Payment to a Connected Person for Services

A relative of a trustee was paid £190.50 for taking occasional services in the church. Another relative of a trustee was paid £180 for relief organist duties.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2025 - Continued

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules 2025 part 9. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and activities

St Mary's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for St Mary's Church and 8 Swan Street and management responsibility for the separate trust covering the Parish Church Room.

Achievements and performance

Church attendance

There were 85 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll in April 2025, down from 96 in 2024. Average weekly attendance was 69 up from 63 in 2024, and the number of children is increasing. Services continued to be available on Zoom to those who are unable to get to church, with around 5 people regularly making use of this facility. These numbers increased significantly at Easter, Christmas and other Festival services, and this year over 500 people attended the various Christmas services and 190 people over Easter, both up from last year.

PCC Meetings

The full PCC met 9 times during 2025. The meetings were chaired by the Revd. Chris Campbell.

These Accounts were approved by the PCC on 17 March 2026 and signed by the Revd. Chris Campbell as Chair.

Sub Committees have met between meetings and notes of their deliberations were received by the full PCC and discussed where necessary. The Rector is an ex officio member of each committee or group.

Standing Committee

The Parish has a Standing Committee comprising the Rector, The Vice Chair, the Churchwardens, and the Safeguarding Officer.

Mission Action Planning

The PCC remain committed to Mission Action Planning, as a tool to help the church grow spiritually, numerically and in its presence and witness in the community. In the Summer of 2022, we held an away day, in which we agreed a vision of being a welcoming community, sharing God's love, and a number of goals to help us achieve this. This plan has been reviewed regularly and promoted by the Mission and Discipleship Committee. In July 2025 we held another awayday to review and revise the plan. The updated plan was approved and adopted by the PCC at its meeting on 18 September 2025.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2025 - Continued

Sub Groups and Committees

Music Committee

Looks creatively at ways to maintain and develop the tradition of music at St Mary's to support worship and to encourage wider participation by the community. The membership comprises the Rector, Bene't Coldstream (Director of Music, co-opted), Peter Eaglesfield (Organist, co-opted), Juliette Shackleton (co-opted), Ruth ten Hove (Chair) and Ann Mallinson (co-opted). In 2024/5 the Music Committee developed and implemented the plan to replace the old heavy 1960s Choir stalls with modern moveable furniture which is much more aesthetically pleasing.

Finance Committee

Provides financial oversight for the PCC, though responsibility for the PCR Trust's and PCC's finances is shared by all members of the PCC. The membership comprises the Rector, Mark Eaton, John Chilton (to June 2025), Jonathn Fisher (from April 2025) and John Rowlands (co-opted).

Employment Committee

Provides oversight of the terms of employment of staff who are paid by the PCC for various services and ensure compliance with Employment Law, Charity Commission and Church of England guidelines. The membership comprises the Rector, Mark Eaton, Stephen ten Hove (Chair) and Julia Mitchell.

Youth and Children

Deals with all matters relating to the young people of the parish. The membership comprises the Rector, Jo Adams, Sarah Talks and Revd. Paulet Brown-Wilsher.

Fabric Committee

Considers repairs and improvements which need to be carried out to the church property, including health & safety requirements. The membership comprises David Richards John Chilton (Chair to mid 2025) Mark Eaton, Graham Chandler (Health and Safety Officer, co-opted), David Richards (Chair from mid 2025) and Julia Mitchell.

Mission and Discipleship Committee

Champions the sharing the love and life of Christ through our outreach teaching. The Group has been progressing the Mission Action Plan and oversees House Groups and the Advent and Lent Courses. The membership comprises The Rector (Chair), Mark Eaton, Rose Cooper (co-opted), Jo Adams and Revd. Paulet Brown-Wilsher (curate).

Communications Group

Champions the effective communication of the parish's mission and activities and the promotion of outreach through various media. It also oversees the Parish Website and the production and distribution of Ashwell Village News. The membership comprises The Rector, Mark Eaton, Julia Mitchell (Chair), Christa Bosch (AVN Editor, co-opted) and Jo Adams.

Safeguarding

This is handled by the Rector and Jo Adams. Jo Adams and Sarah Talks form a Safeguarding Standards subgroup.

Social & Events

Melanie Dawson-Dew oversees these occasions with Ruth ten Hove and Gaye Rowlands.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2025 - Continued

Financial Review

In the year ending 31st December 2025, on restricted and designated funds there was a surplus of £28,504. This surplus was due largely to the receipt of a generous legacy of £40,000 from the estate of the late Judy Catterick.

Compared to last year, other income was stable. The large proportion of our incoming resources was from our regular donors, to whom we are very grateful and who together contributed over £80,000 to the church, including tax recovered under Gift Aid. We also benefited from a range of fundraising events such as the Music Festival, Ashwell at Home, the Flea Market, and the Christmas Fair. As well as this, the Gift and Card stall run by Marjorie Fitt and Sheelagh Bennett brought in some very useful incremental income as did the Sale of Ashwell Mugs and Bags (organised by Julia Mitchell) and Christmas Cards (organised by Mark Eaton).

In 2025 we completed the replacement of the choir stall using the anonymous donation of £27,500 received in 2024 and other funds raised by the Music Committee.

Sadly, we lost a number of long-standing members of the congregation and community, which resulted in a rise in funeral fees and Special Collections from their services (the majority of which was passed, at the relatives' request, to other charities).

Rental income from 8 Swan Street was fully restored to its full level, following the refurbishment completed last year.

The Parish Share remains the church's most significant item of expenditure. This pays for our priest, and all employment, housing and training costs, including training costs for new priests and Readers. It pays for the support the church receives from the Diocese and helps to support those parishes in the Diocese in need. The Diocesan Board of Finance is conscious of the financial pressures on parishes and working to contain costs and minimise increased in Parish Share. We are commended by the Diocese for the fact that all three parishes in the benefice have regularly paid their Share in full.

Other expenditure was well contained and despite some increases in tariffs for electricity and gas both for the church and the Parish Room. Efforts continue to contain utility costs, shopping around for the best deals on gas and electricity, and during 2025 we committed to choosing greener Energy Tariffs, as part of our Eco Church initiative.

Aside from the purchase of the new choir stalls (£20,080 in 2025), a total of £30,789 was spent on repairs and restoration work in the church. Much of this was the defrassing of the stonework on the tower (removing loose material) for which we received a Repair Grant of £5,655 from the Diocese.

Because of the ongoing pressures on the General Fund, the PCC continues to focus donations to external charities on *funds specially collected for such purposes, for example by the "Charity of the Month" approach*. The PCC continues to keep its approach to external giving under review.

We continue to consider our own fundraising strategy for how we maintain this medieval building and having been advised that the criteria for applications for large projects has changed, the PCC will focus now on a smaller application for up to £250,000 where the criteria are more straightforward. The Quinquennial Inspection in 2024 indicated that there is urgent work required to re-roof the tower and the north side aisle. In early 2026 we are undertaking urgent remedial

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2025 - Continued

work on the roofs but the need for substantial expenditure remains. We still hope to commence work in 2026 on improving accessibility to the church, funded by a generous donation we received in 2022. Work on this has been slightly delayed, due to both the urgent remedial repairs to the roof and the resignation of our Church Architect, thus needing to recruit a new one before we could progress the Access Project.

In 2025 the PCC, in partnerships with the Garden House Hospice and Ashwell Surgery established a Wellbeing Hub for older people in the area. This meets weekly providing an exercise class, focused on balance and mobility, and a time for refreshments and fellowship. The church agreed to manage the finances for this and £1,254 was collected in donations and contributions from the participants and some grants were received from the local authority, paying to the fitness instructor directly. Training for volunteers and Safeguarding clearance was undertaken by the Garden House Hospice. Sadly for 2026 the Garden House Hospice has had to pull out of this venture because of their funding crisis and the PCC has agreed to sustain the venture by taking total responsibility for it for the coming year.

The Parish Church Room (PCR) is set up as a separate trust with members of the PCC as the managing trustees. It is considered as a separate restricted fund, with the PCC retaining responsibility it's financial operation. In 2024 we undertook a significant refurbishment project, redecorating the room and replacing the carpet tiles with a much more practical wood effect floor. This has been much appreciated by users. In 2025 we replaced the chairs, using an anonymous of £1,500 received in 2024. In 2025 we were grateful to receive a grant of £3,500 from the Ashwell Show Committee which will be used to refurbish the toilets early in 2026.

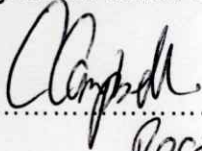
On its current account the PCR continued to operate at a deficit. We hope the refurbishment might attract more hirers. As a service to the local community, the PCC continues to provide accommodation for the mobile post office in the Parish Room. Regrettably Post Office Ltd has decided to restrict the hours it will subsidise for the mobile post office service and as a result this will be reduced from three sessions per week to two.

Taking the above into account the available (unrestricted) funds at 31 December 2025 have increased to £133,541 compared with £78,877 at the close of 2024, due in the main to the Catterick bequest. We are considering how to make use of this on a project or projects which would be close to Judy's heart.

The church remains heavily dependent on the services of the many people who offer their time voluntarily to support and facilitate its mission and activities. Likewise, with annual costs averaging £105,000 we know we could not operate without the very generous support of all our donors, to whom we are very grateful and the PCC would like to thank all those who offer their service and time in so many ways.

The PCC has a safeguarding officer (Jo Adams) and maintains a safeguarding policy in line with the recommendation of the Church of England and the guidelines issued by the House of Bishops. No incidents were reported in 2025. All church Officers and PCC members have a DBS check as required by the Church of England, and complete Basic and Foundation Safeguarding Training.

Signed on behalf of the PCC



Rechr 19/03/26.

Chris Campbell (Chair)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2025	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2024
	Note	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES									
Incoming resources from donors	2(a)	86,579	4,726		91,305	83,258	1,786		85,044
Other voluntary incoming resources	2(b)	52,545	14,166		66,711	7,708	34,103		41,812
Income from operating activities to generate funds	2(c)	21,275	9,247		30,522	17,691	12,515		30,206
Other ordinary incoming resources	2(d)	12,394			12,394	7,751			7,751
Income from investments	2(e)	3,866	61		3,927	4,254	42		4,296
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		176,660	28,199		204,859	120,662	48,446		169,108
RESOURCES EXPENDED									
Grants	3(a)	2,391			2,391	4,062			4,062
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church	3(b)	90,955	56,943	2,564	150,462	85,740	41,074		126,815
Costs of generating funds	3(c)	8,244			8,244	53,678			53,678
Church management and administration	3(d)	14,521	102		14,623	14,398	97		14,495
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		116,111	57,045	2,564	175,720	157,878	41,171		199,049
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES		60,548	(28,846)	(2,564)	29,139	(37,216)	7,274		(29,942)
GAINS AND LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS									
Realised	4(a)							397	397
Unrealised	4(a)			(635)	(635)				
		60,548	(28,846)	(3,199)	28,504	(37,216)	7,274	397	(29,544)
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS		(5,884)	5,884			(26)	26		
NET MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS		54,664	(22,961)	(3,199)	28,504	(37,243)	7,301	397	(29,544)
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1st JANUARY		273,312	265,260	22,992	561,563	310,554	257,959	22,595	591,107
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD AT 31st DECEMBER		327,975	242,299	19,793	590,067	273,311	265,260	22,992	561,563

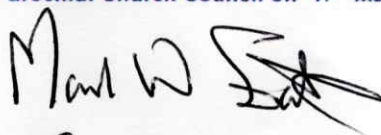
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER

	Note	2025	2024
		£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	4(a)(i)	85,000	85,000
Tangible fixed assets - investment	4(a)(ii)	194,434	194,434
Investments	4(b)	14,564	17,763
		<u>293,998</u>	<u>297,197</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Short term deposits		1,117	1,056
Cash at bank and in hand		294,953	263,311
CURRENT ASSETS		<u>296,070</u>	<u>264,367</u>
NET ASSETS (see page 18)		<u>590,067</u>	<u>561,563</u>
FUNDS			
	5		
Unrestricted		327,975	273,312
Restricted		242,299	265,260
Endowment		19,793	22,992
		<u>590,067</u>	<u>561,563</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 17 March 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

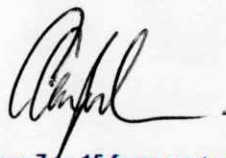
TREASURER



M W Eaton

14/3/2026

CHAIR



14/3/2026

The notes on pages 7 to 15 form part of these accounts

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the PCC 5th edition incorporating SORP 2015 which includes guidance on accounts, reports and scrutiny including the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 by the Business Committee of the General Synod of the Church of England.

prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

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

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. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

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 owe their main affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital sources.

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 the income is recognised.

Funds raised by social and fund raising events are accounted for gross.

Sales of books and magazines from the church bookstall are accounted for net.

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold.

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

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Resources expended

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid.

Activities directly relating to the work of the church

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when paid.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated property and moveable church furnishings

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

Movable church furnishings held by the Rector and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's Inventory which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore, such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since 1 January 2000 have been capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their currently anticipated useful economic life on a straight-line basis.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over 5 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £2,500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31st December.

Current assets

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025

2. INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2025	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
2(a) Incoming resources from donors								
Planned giving								
Gift Aid donations	64,168			64,168	59,366			59,366
Tax recovered	16,989	4,726		21,715	15,603	1,786		17,389
Specific Donations	2,171			2,171	4,694			4,694
Collections (open plate) at all services	3,251			3,251	3,595			3,595
	86,579	4,726		91,305	83,258	1,786		85,044
2(b) Other voluntary incoming resources								
Grants		5,655		5,655				
Donations and appeals for charity	11,306	8,511		19,816	7,708	34,103		41,812
Legacies	40,000			40,000				
Sundry	1,239			1,239				
	52,545	14,166		66,711	7,708	34,103		41,812
2(c) Income from operating activities to generate funds								
Magazines (net of costs)	4,402			4,402	3,657			3,657
Bookstall, cards and mugs (net of costs)	770	606		1,376	806	49		854
Fund-raising events	5,427	6,861		12,288	4,568	8,982		13,550
Church and room lettings etc.	1,665	1,780		3,446	255	3,485		3,740
Fees	9,010			9,010	8,405			8,405
	21,275	9,247		30,522	17,691	12,515		30,206
2(d) Other ordinary incoming resources								
Rent on 8 Swan Street	12,394			12,394	7,751			7,751
	12,394			12,394	7,751			7,751
2(e) Income from investments								
Dividends and interest including any reclaimed tax	3,866	61		3,927	4,254	42		4,296
	3,866	61		3,927	4,254	42		4,296
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	176,660	28,199		204,859	120,662	48,446		169,108

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025

3. RESOURCES EXPENDED	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2025	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
3(a) Grants								
Missionary and charitable giving:	142			142				
Church overseas:								
- missionary societies								
Specific Donations	2,249			2,249	4,062			4,062
Home missions and donations from collections								
	2,391			2,391	4,062			4,062
3(b) Activities directly relating to the work of the Church								
Ministry: parish share	63,759			63,759	63,218			63,218
clergy expenses								
Church running expenses	6,995			6,995	6,666			6,666
Church maintenance, restoration, refurbis	4,596	50,570	2,564	57,730	3,709	32,563		36,272
Books					358			358
Mission and Outreach	811			811				
Worship resources	1,727			1,727	1,772			1,772
Choir and music	6,506			6,506	4,882			4,882
Church Hall running costs		5,588		5,588		7,775		7,775
Insurance	5,247	784		6,032	4,929	737		5,666
Sundry	1,314			1,314	205			205
	90,955	56,943	2,564	150,462	85,740	41,074		126,815
3(c) Costs of generating funds								
Fees paid	6,084			6,084	5,175			5,175
Purchase of candles	490			490	515			515
Swan Street expenses	431			431	1,467			1,467
Swan Street Refurbishment	1,239			1,239	46,521			46,521
Purchase of goods for resale								
	8,244			8,244	53,678			53,678
3(d) Church management and administration								
Secretarial & office expenses	14,521	102		14,623	14,398	97		14,495
Web site								
Accountancy								
	14,521	102		14,623	14,398	97		14,495
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	116,111	57,045	2,564	175,720	157,878	41,171		199,049

Total salaries paid in 2025 were £14,358 for The Parish Administrator, the Organist and the Cleaner.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025**

4. FIXED ASSETS

(a) Tangible Fixed Assets

(i) Assets Held for PCC Activities

	Freehold Land and Buildings £	Equipment £	Total £
COST OR VALUATION			
At 1st January 2025	85,000		85,000
Additions			
Disposals			
Revaluation			
At 31st December 2025	<u>85,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>85,000</u>
DEPRECIATION			
At 1st January 2025			0
Charge for the year			
Disposals			
Revaluation			
At 31st December 2025	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31st December 2025	<u>85,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>85,000</u>
At 31st December 2024	<u>85,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>85,000</u>

The freehold land and buildings comprise the Ashwell Church Room. The gross value is based on the value estimated by the PCC as at 12th July 2011 for insurance purposes and is considered to be a fair estimate of the current value in use of the property.

**(ii) Assets Held for Investment
(held in the UK)**

	Freehold Land and Buildings £
COST OR VALUATION	
At 1st January 2025	0
Revaluation	
At 31st December 2025	<u>0</u>
DEPRECIATION	
At 1st January 2025	0
Charge for the year	0
At 31st December 2025	<u>0</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31st December 2025	<u>0</u>
At 31st December 2024	<u>0</u>

The freehold land and buildings comprise the property at 8 Swan Street, Ashwell, which was received as a bequest from Miss Simms in 1986. The gross value is the current market value estimated by the PCC.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025**

Note 4 Continued

4. (b) Investments	Value 2025 £	Value 2024 £
284 Shares in the CBF Investment Fund (Sale Bequest Fund - historic cost £200)	6,304	6,420
484.19 Shares in the CBF Investment Fund (Floodlight Fund - historic cost £8,700)		10,945
372.07* Shares in the CBF Investment Fund (Floodlight Fund - historic cost £8,907)	8,259	
	<u>14,564</u>	<u>17,365</u>

*On 23 July 2025, 112.12 shares in the Floodlight Fund were sold to fund the upgrading of the floodlights. The new lights will reduce the electricity used, in turn reducing the Church's carbon footprint and costs. Approval for this sale was sought and granted by the family of the original donor to this Fund.

5. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2024 £
Fixed Assets	194,434	85,000	14,564	293,998	194,434	85,000	17,763	297,197
Current Assets	133,541	157,299	5,230	296,070	78,878	180,260	5,230	264,367
Current Liabilities								
	<u>327,975</u>	<u>242,299</u>	<u>19,793</u>	<u>590,067</u>	<u>245,363</u>	<u>122,267</u>	<u>23,219</u>	<u>561,563</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025**

6 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - UNRESTRICTED FUND ANALYSIS 2025

	General Fund £	Bequests Fund £	Swan Street Fund £	Choir & Music Fund £	Wellbeing Hub Fund £	Hardship Fund £	Total £
INCOMING RESOURCES							
Gift Aid donations	64,168						64,168
Tax recovered	16,989						16,989
Collections (open plate)	7,561						7,561
Donations & grants	7,013		1,239	900	1,254		10,406
Legacies		40,000					40,000
Rent on 8 Swan Street	12,394						12,394
Fees	9,010						9,010
Other events & sales	12,265						12,265
Interest	3,866						3,866
	<u>133,267</u>	<u>40,000</u>	<u>1,239</u>	<u>900</u>	<u>1,254</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>176,660</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED							
Charitable Giving	2,361				29		2,391
Parish Share	63,759						63,759
Fees	6,084						6,084
Church Running Expenses	6,995						6,995
Church Maintenance	4,596						4,596
Books	811						811
Worship Resources	2,134						2,134
Choir and Music	5,353			1,236			6,589
Insurance	5,247						5,247
Swan Street Expenses	431						431
Refurbishment of Swan Street	1,239						1,239
Parish Office	14,521						14,521
Sundry	1,314						1,314
	<u>114,846</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,236</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>116,111</u>
Inter fund transfers	(5,820)			(64)			(5,884)
NET RESOURCES	<u>12,600</u>	<u>40,000</u>	<u>1,239</u>	<u>(400)</u>	<u>1,225</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>54,664</u>
BALANCE SHEET							
Freehold Property	194,434						194,434
Bank current account	72,660	55,409	2,015	105	1,225	1,350	129,419
DBOF deposits							0
FUND BALANCE	<u>267,094</u>	<u>55,409</u>	<u>2,015</u>	<u>105</u>	<u>1,225</u>	<u>1,350</u>	<u>327,197</u>
Net movement	12,600	40,000	1,239	(400)	1,225	0	54,664
Balance b/fwd	255,272	15,409	775	505		1,350	273,311
Balance c/fwd	<u>267,872</u>	<u>55,409</u>	<u>2,015</u>	<u>105</u>	<u>1,225</u>	<u>1,350</u>	<u>327,975</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025

Note 6 Continued

FUND DETAILS

The Unrestricted Funds comprise the following funds:-

The General Fund

The General Fund 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. Other funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

The Bequests Fund (Designated)

To set apart sums left to the church be beneficiaries in their wills to be reserved for special projects at the PCC's discretion.

The Hardship Fund (Designated)

To set apart sums given the PCC specifically to support the vulnerable and those in need. Sums (up to £100) to be paid to appropriate recipients at the discretion of the Rector. Larger payments may be made with the agreement of the standing committee. Fund for the relief of hardship using funds donated to the PCC.

The Swan Street Fund (Designated)

To set apart sums retained from rental income for future use by the PCC for major repairs to the Swan Street property.

Choir & Music Fund (Designated)

To set apart sums retained by the PCC from income from fees received for the provision of choirs at services.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025**

7. GENERAL FUND

Donations to Missions and Charities

	Collections etc. £	Donations from PCC £	TOTAL 2025 £	TOTAL 2024 £
HOME				
Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust		42	42	25
Brave Trust				240
Children Society	272		272	218
Salvation Army (note 1)	40		40	218
Ashwell URC (note 2)	222		222	
Moggerhanger Hospice (note 2)	145		145	
Wellbing Hub	29		29	
Mothers Union (note 2)	113		113	
Life Boats (note 2)				243
Alzheimer's Society ((note 2)				170
Alzheimer's Research UK ((note 2)				263
Garden House Hospice (note 2)				683
Royal British Legion (Ashwell Branch)				611
Sepsis (note 2)				38
Cats Protection League (note 2)				61
Dementia UK (note 2)				255
British Heart Foundation (note 2)				58
Hertfordshire Air Ambulance (note 2)				58
Jimmy's				327
	821	42	863	3,250
OVERSEAS				
Diapalante	120		120	75
Embrace the Middle East	203		203	0
Amnesty International (note 2)	315		315	0
Bishops Harvest Appeal	791		791	737
Christian Aid (note 3)		100	100	0
	1,429	100	1,529	812
TOTAL	2,250	142	2,392	4,062

Note 1 In addition to the above figures, as part of the Charity of the Month initiative the PCC also collects donations in the Charity's own Gift Aid Envelopes for these charities.

Note 2 Donation from collection at funeral and memorial services made at the request of the relatives of the deceased

Note 3 Donations from the income from the Christmas Cards and Tea Towels.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025**

8 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - RESTRICTED FUND ANALYSIS 2025

	Restoration & Tower £	Legacies & Collections £	Internal Reordering £	Parish Church Room £	Development Music Fund £	Organ £	Total £
INCOMING RESOURCES							
Gift Aid donations							
Tax recovered	3,664		1,062				4,726
Donations & grants	6,054			4,000	4,111		14,166
Legacies							
Income from Lettings				1,780			1,780
Teas	2,905						2,905
Music Festival	693						693
Other events & sales	3,767						3,767
Interest							
	17,083		1,062	5,780	4,111		28,037
RESOURCES EXPENDED							
Church maintenance, restoration, refurbishment	21,983				20,080		42,063
Professional fees	8,507						8,507
Running Costs				6,373			6,373
Donation							
Purchase of goods for resale							
Bank Charges	102						102
	30,592		0	6,373	20,080		57,045
NET RESOURCES	(13,509)		1,062	(592)	(15,969)		(29,008)
Withdrawal							
Unrealised gains/(losses)							
Inter fund transfers				3,092	2,792		5,884
	(13,509)		1,062	2,500	(13,176)		(23,124)
BALANCE SHEET							
Freehold Property				85,000			85,000
Bank current account							
DBOF deposits							
FUND BALANCE				85,000			85,000
Net movement	(13,509)		1,062	2,500	(13,176)		(23,124)
Balance b/fwd	29,253	4,883	127,308	86,500	13,476	3,838	265,260
Balance c/fwd	15,744	4,883	128,370	89,000	300	3,838	242,136

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025**

9 FUND DETAILS

The restricted funds comprise the following funds:-

Restoration and Tower Fund

To provide funds for the repair and renovation of the church, including the tower.

Legacies and Collections

Consisting of legacies and specific donations received, to be spent on purposes selected by the PCC.

Parish Church Room Fund

To hold the asset of the Parish Church Room which is operated by the PCC on behalf of the Church and community.

Organ Fund

To provide funds for repair and renovation of the organ.

Internal Reordering Fund

To provide funds for the internal reordering of the church and the enhancement of its interior facilities, such as kitchen and toilet facilities.

Development Music Fund

To provide funds for the development of provision of music to support Parish Worship.

The Endowment Funds comprise the following funds:-

Salvage Bequest

Consisting of a legacy, the income from which is used for purposes selected by the PCC.

Floodlight Fund

A donation, the income from which is used to fund the use of the floodlights.

10 CONNECTED CHARITIES

The Friends of St. Mary's is an independent charity whose aims are to provide funds for specific projects in connection with the Church fabric and fittings. The trustees of the charity include members of the PCC and all projects funded must first obtain the approval of the PCC.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible fixed assets for use by PCC		
Parish Room	85,000	85,000
Equipment		
Tangible fixed assets - investment		
8 Swan Street	194,434	194,434
Investments		
Sale Bequest	6,304	6,567
Floodlight Fund	8,259	11,196
	<u>293,998</u>	<u>297,197</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Short term deposits		
General funds		
Other funds	1,117	1,056
Cash at bank and in hand		
General funds	73,438	60,838
Other funds	221,514	202,472
	<u>296,069</u>	<u>264,366</u>
CURRENT ASSETS	296,069	264,366
NET ASSETS	<u>590,067</u>	<u>561,563</u>
FUNDS		
Unrestricted	327,975	273,312
Restricted	242,299	265,260
Endowment	19,793	22,992
	<u>590,067</u>	<u>561,563</u>

Accounts

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
OF
ST. MARY THE VIRGIN
ASHWELL, HERTS.**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER 2024**

Registered Charity Number: 1134776

**The Parish Office
9 Swan Street
Ashwell
Baldock, Hertfordshire
SG7 5NY**

Bankers:

Barclays Bank plc
Leicester
LE87 2BB

Independent Examiner:

Jackie Pritchard
6 Mill Street
Ashwell
SG7 5LY

jpritchard1001@gmail.com

Contents

	Page
Independent Examiners Report	2
Annual Report	3-7
Statement of Financial Activities	8
Balance Sheet	9
Accounting Policies	10-11
Supporting Notes and Break Outs	12-21

Pages 1 to 9 form the formal statutory Accounts for the PCC.

Pages 10 to 21 are supporting notes which provide the detail supporting the Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

Independent Examiner's report to the PCC of St. Mary the Virgin, Ashwell, Herts.

Report to the PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary's Ashwell on the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2024 which are set out on pages 3 to 21.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Independent Examiner

The PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They 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 examiners report is needed.

It is my responsibility

To examine the financial statements under section 145 of the Charities Act.

To follow the procedure laid down in the annual direction given by the Charities Commission (under section 145(5)9b) of the Charities Act, and

To state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of the Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or 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 financial statements provide 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 give 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 financial statements do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed



Jackie Pritchard BComm ACMA
6 Mill Street
Ashwell
Hertfordshire

PROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024

Administrative Information

St Mary's Church is situated in Mill Street, Ashwell, Baldock, Hertfordshire. It is part of the Diocese of St Albans within the Church of England. The correspondence address is: The Parish Office, 9 Swan Street, Ashwell, Hertfordshire. SG7 5NY

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary, Ashwell, became a registered charity on 10 March 2010.

During the 12 months to 31 December 2024, the following served as members of the PCC.

Rector	The Revd Chris Campbell (Chair)	
Vice Chair	Ruth ten Hove	
Churchwardens	Julia Mitchell John Chilton	
Reader	Dr Mark Eaton	
Representatives to the Buntingford Deanery Synod	Dr Mark Eaton Jo Adams	Treasurer and Asst Churchwarden Asst. Church Warden and Safeguarding Officer
Elected members	Stephen ten Hove John Hare Gaye Rowlands Melanie Dawson-Dew Jonathan Fisher Neil Inskip Sarah Talks Chere Hunter	from 28/4/2024 to 28/4/2024 to 28/4/2024 to 28/4/2024
In attendance	Bernard Allen	Secretary

In June 2023 we welcomed the Rev Paulet Brown-Wilshire into the benefice as a curate. She was priested in June 2024.

Donations by the Trustees

Total donations by the trustees and those closely connected to them in 2024 amounted to £18,062.

Reimbursement of Personal Expenditure

No trustees received any reimbursement of personal expenditure in 2024. The PCC pays the telephone and broadband costs for the Rectory directly.

Payment to a Connected Person for Services

A relative of a trustee was paid £1,440 for work on design, and compilation for Ashwell Village News.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024 - Continued

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules 2022 part 9. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and activities

St Mary's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for St Mary's Church and 8 Swan Street and management responsibility for the separate trust covering the Parish Church Room.

Achievements and performance

Church attendance

There were 96 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll in April 2024, the same as in 2023. Average weekly attendance was 64 similar to 2023, but the number of children is gradually increasing. Services continued to be available on Zoom to those who are unable to get to church, with around 5 people regularly making use of this facility. These numbers increased significantly at Easter, Christmas and other Festival services, and this year over 500 people attended the various Christmas services and 190 people over Easter, both up from last year.

PCC Meetings

The full PCC met 10 times during 2024. The meetings were chaired by the Revd Chris Campbell.

These Accounts were approved by the PCC on 20 March 2025 and signed by the Revd Chris Campbell as Chair.

Sub Committees have met between meetings and notes of their deliberations were received by the full PCC and discussed where necessary. The Rector is an ex officio member of each committee or group.

Standing Committee

The Parish has a Standing Committee comprising the Rector, The Vice Chair, the Churchwardens, and the Safeguarding Officer.

Mission Action Planning

The PCC remain committed to Mission Action Planning, as a tool to help the church grow spiritually, numerically and in its presence and witness in the community. In the Summer of 2022, we held an away day, in which we agreed a vision of being a welcoming community, sharing God's love, and a number of goals to help us achieve this. This plan has been reviewed regularly and promoted by the Mission and Discipleship Committee, and looking ahead to summer 2025, we hope to have a full review of how the last three years have been.

Sub Groups and Committees

Music Committee

Looks creatively at ways to maintain and develop the tradition of music at St Mary's to support worship and to encourage wider participation by the community. The membership comprises the Rector, Bene't Coldstream (Director of Music, co-opted), Peter Eaglesfield (Organist, co-opted), Juliette Shackleton (co-opted), Ruth ten Hove (Chair) and Ann Mallinson (co-opted). In October 2024, they organised a second successful Hymnathon which raised £2,784 for the Music Development Fund.

Finance Committee

Provides financial oversight for the PCC, though responsibility for the PCR Trust's and PCC's finances is shared by all members of the PCC. The membership comprises the Rector, Mark Eaton, John Chilton, and John Rowlands (co-opted).

Employment Committee

Provides oversight of the terms of employment of staff who are paid by the PCC for various services and ensure compliance with Employment Law, Charity Commission and Church of England guidelines. The membership comprises the Rector, Mark Eaton, Stephen ten Hove (Chair) and Julia Mitchell.

8 Swan Street /Miss Simms Cottage Committee

Addressed the need for and progression of refurbishment work on this property left to the Parish in the 1980s by the late Miss Phyllis Simms. The membership comprises Stephen ten Hove (Chair), Julia Michell, and Graham Chandler (co-opted).

Children, Youth

Deals with all matters relating to the young people of the parish. The membership comprises the Rector, Jo Adams, Sarah Talks and Paulet Brown Wilsher.

Fabric Committee

Considers repairs and improvements which need to be carried out to the church property, including health & safety requirements. The membership comprises David Richards John Chilton (Chair) Mark Eaton, Graham Chandler (Health and Safety Officer, co-opted), David Richards (co-opted) and Julia Mitchell.

Mission and Discipleship Committee

Champions the sharing the love and life of Christ through our outreach teaching. The Group has been progressing the Mission Action Plan and oversees House Groups and the Advent and Lent Courses. The membership comprises The Rector (Chair), Mark Eaton, Rose Cooper (co-opted), Jo Adams and Guy Mackenzie (co-opted) and Paulet Brown-Wilsher (curate).

Communications Group

Champions the effective communication of the parish's mission and activities and the promotion of outreach through various media. It also oversees the Parish Website and the production and distribution of Ashwell Village News. The membership comprises The Rector, Guy Mackenzie (co-opted), Mark Eaton, Julia Mitchell (Chair), Sarah Talks (AVN Editor, co-opted) and Jo Adams.

Safeguarding

This is handled by the Rector and Jo Adams.

Social & Events

Melanie Dawson-Dew oversees these occasions with Ruth ten Hove and Gaye Rowlands

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024 - Continued

Financial Review

In the year ending 31st December 2024, on restricted and designated funds there was a deficit of £29,554. This deficit was expected, mostly due to planned works being carried out on 8 Swan Street (see below).

Compared to last year, income was stable. The large proportion of our incoming resources was from our regular donors, to whom we are very grateful and who together contributed over £80,000 to the church. We also benefited from a range of fundraising events such as the Music Festival, Ashwell at Home, the Flea Market, and the Christmas Fair. As well as this, the Gift and Card stall run by Marjorie Fitt and Sheelagh Bennett brought in some very useful incremental income as did the Sale of Ashwell Bags (organised by Julia Mitchell) and Christmas Cards (organised by Mark Eaton).

We were grateful to receive a grant of £5,000 from the Ashwell Show Committee in 2023 which was used to fund the refurbishment of the Parish Room, principally the installation of a more practical wood effect floor and redecoration. We also received an anonymous donation of £1,500 towards the purchase of new chairs, which we hope to progress in 2025. We hope this will make the venue more attractive to hirers and increase hire income in 2025.

Finally in terms of donations, we were also very grateful to receive an anonymous donation of £27,500 towards the replacement of the choir stalls with more elegant, flexible, and easily movable modern oak furniture. Given this we were able to place the order with the chosen supplier (Treske) and pay the deposit of 50% of the cost (£19,303). This donation, coupled to others, pledges we have received and the proceeds from the two Hymnathons will mean this project is self-financing.

Sadly, we lost a number of long-standing members of the congregation and community, which resulted in a rise in funeral fees and Special Collections from their services (the majority of which was passed, at the relatives' request, to other charities).

Rental income from 8 Swan Street remained restricted as the previous tenant moved out at the end of October 2023 and we commenced an extensive programme of refurbishment work including a new Kitchen and Bathroom. The PCC agreed to fund this (£46,521) from the Bequest Fund (principally the legacy from the late Margaret Waide). This work was completed in April 2024 enabling us to let the property again from May 2024.

The Parish Share remains the Church's most significant item of expenditure. This pays for our priest, and all employment, housing and training costs, including training costs for new priests and Readers. It pays for the support the church receives from the diocese and helps to support those parishes in the diocese in need. The Diocesan Board of Finance is conscious of the financial pressures on parishes and working to contain costs and minimise increased in Parish Share. We are commended by the Diocese for the fact that all three parishes in the benefice have regularly paid their Share in full.

Other expenditure was well contained and despite some second half year increases in electricity prices and in gas for the Parish Church Room, we benefitted significantly from our 4-year fixed price gas contract for the church and the fact the weather was mild. Efforts continue to contain utility costs, shopping around for the best deals on gas and electricity. The 2023 purchase of blankets to offer to members of the congregation to help them keep warm in church has been much appreciated and this has enabled us lower the thermostat by 1-2 degrees.

A total of £16,369 was spent on repairs and restoration work in the church. Much of this was routine but we paid £6,372 in final (retention) invoices with respect to the North West Corner Re-ordering and £6,287 in fees for the Quinquennial Inspection, undertaken in 2023.

Because of the ongoing pressures on the General Fund, the PCC continues to focus donations to external charities on funds specially collected for such purposes, for example by the "Charity of the Month" approach. We have also processed donations through the church card reader for a charity event for Jimmys, which provides accommodation and support to the homeless in Cambridge. The PCC continues to keep its approach to external giving under review.

We continue to consider our own fundraising strategy for how we maintain this medieval building and having been advised that the criteria for applications for large projects has changed, the PCC will focus now on a smaller application for up to £250,000 where the criteria are more straightforward. The Architect has recently completed the Quinquennial Inspection, in which he has indicated that there is urgent work required to re-roof the tower and the north side aisle. The PCC has decided to make the latter its priority so the we can fully reopen that area internally, and once the full costs are known we will set about fund-raising for this. Other larger-scale building projects that we are expected to commence soon will include work on accessibility to the church, which we are hoping will be funded by a generous donation we received in 2022.

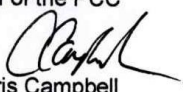
The Parish Church Room (PCR) is set up as a separate trust with members of the PCC as the managing trustees. It is considered as a separate restricted fund, with the PCC retaining responsibility it's financial operation. In 2024 we undertook a significant refurbishment project, redecorating the room and replacing the carpet tiles with a much more practical wood effect floor. Much of this was funded by a generous grant of £5,000 from Ashwell Show (received in late 2023). We have also received an anonymous donation towards replacing the present chairs, which we hope to progress in 2025. On its current account the PCR continued to operate at a deficit. We hope the refurbishment might attract more hirers. As a service to the local community, the PCC continues to provide accommodation for the mobile post office in the Parish Room. Regrettably Post Office Ltd has decided to restrict the hours it will subsidise for the mobile post office service and has a result this will be reduced from three sessions per week to two. The Parish Council currently contributes £1,000 to support this service.

Taking the above into account the available (unrestricted) funds at 31 December 2024 stand at £78,877 compared with £116,120 at the close of 2023.

The Church remains heavily dependent on the services of the many people who offer their time voluntarily to support and facilitate its mission and activities. Likewise, with annual costs averaging £105,000 we know we could not operate without the very generous support of all our donors, to whom we are very grateful and the PCC would like to thank all those who offer their service and time in so many ways.

The PCC has a safeguarding officer (Jo Adams) and maintains a safeguarding policy in line with the recommendation of the Church of England. No incidents were reported in 2024. All Church Officers and PCC members have a DBS check as required by the Church of England.

On behalf of the PCC


Revd Chris Campbell

Chair of PCC

Date

20th March 2025.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2024	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2023
	Note	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES									
Incoming resources from donors	2(a)	83,258	1,786	0	85,044	79,283	0	0	79,283
Other voluntary incoming resources	2(b)	7,708	34,103	0	41,812	9,024	8,166	0	17,190
Income from operating activities to generate funds	2(c)	17,691	12,515	0	30,206	18,239	12,951	0	31,190
Other ordinary incoming resources	2(d)	7,751	0	0	7,751	6,950	0	0	6,950
Income from investments	2(e)	4,254	42		4,296	3,194	32		3,226
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		120,662	48,446	0	169,108	116,690	21,149	0	137,839
RESOURCES EXPENDED									
Grants	3(a)	4,062	0	0	4,062	1,798	0	0	1,798
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church	3(b)	85,740	41,074	0	126,815	92,929	13,754	0	106,683
Costs of generating funds	3(c)	53,678	0	0	53,678	6,780	0	0	6,780
Church management and administration	3(d)	14,398	97	0	14,495	14,228	88	0	14,317
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		157,878	41,171	0	199,049	115,735	13,842	0	129,577
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES		(37,216)	7,274	0	(29,942)	955	7,307	0	8,261
GAINS AND LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS									
Realised	4(a)	0	0		0	0	0		0
Unrealised	4(a)	0		397	397	0	0	1,493	1,493
		(37,216)	7,274	397	(29,544)	955	7,307	1,493	9,755
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS		(26)	26		0	(1,101)	1,101		0
NET MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS		(37,243)	7,301	397	(29,544)	(146)	8,408	1,493	9,755
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1st JANUARY		310,554	257,959	22,595	591,107	310,700	249,551	21,101	581,352
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD AT 31st DECEMBER		273,311	265,260	22,992	561,563	310,554	257,959	22,595	591,107

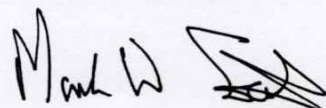
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER

	Note	2024	2023
		£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	4(a)(i)	85,000	85,000
Tangible fixed assets - investment	4(a)(ii)	194,434	194,434
Investments	4(b)	17,763	17,365
		<u>297,197</u>	<u>296,799</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Short term deposits		1,056	1,015
Cash at bank and in hand		263,311	293,294
CURRENT ASSETS		<u>264,367</u>	<u>294,308</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>561,563</u>	<u>591,108</u>
(see page 18)			
FUNDS			
	5		
Unrestricted		273,311.50	310,554
Restricted		265,260	257,959
Endowment		22,992	22,595
		<u>561,563</u>	<u>591,108</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on March 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

TREASURER



M W Eaton

CHAIR



The notes on pages 7 to 15 form part of these accounts

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 as amended by the Church Accounting (Amendment) Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP. Accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

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

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. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

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 owe their main affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital sources.

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 the income is recognised.

Funds raised by social and fund raising events are accounted for gross.

Sales of books and magazines from the church bookstall are accounted for net.

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold.

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

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Resources expended

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when paid.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated property and moveable church furnishings

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

Movable church furnishings held by the Rector and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's Inventory which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore, such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since 1 January 2000 have been capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their currently anticipated useful economic life on a straight-line basis.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over 5 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £2,500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31st December.

Current assets

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

2. INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds ✓	Total 2024	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds ✓	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
2(a) Incoming resources from donors								
Planned giving								
Gift Aid donations	59,366		0	59,366	60,491	0	0	60,491
Tax recovered	15,603	1,786	0	17,389	13,472	0	0	13,472
Specific Donations	4,694	0	0	4,694	1,944	0	0	1,944
Collections (open plate) at all services	3,595		0	3,595	3,376		0	3,376
	83,258	1,786	0	85,044	79,283	0	0	79,283
2(b) Other voluntary incoming resources								
Grants	0		0	0	0		0	0
Donations and appeals for charity	7,708	34,103	0	41,812	4,094	8,166	0	12,260
Legacies	0	0	0	0	4,930	0	0	4,930
Sundry		0	0	0		0	0	0
	7,708	34,103	0	41,812	9,024	8,166	0	17,190
2(c) Income from operating activities to generate funds								
Magazines (net of costs)	3,657		0	3,657	4,161		0	4,161
Bookstall, cards and mugs (net of costs)	806	49	0	854	1,992	81	0	2,073
Fund-raising events	4,568	8,982	0	13,550	4,630	10,055	0	14,684
Church and room lettings etc.	255	3,485	0	3,740	1,204	2,815	0	4,019
Fees	8,405		0	8,405	6,252		0	6,252
	17,691	12,515	0	30,206	18,239	12,951	0	31,190
2(d) Other ordinary incoming resources								
Rent on 8 Swan Street	7,751			7,751	6,950			6,950
	7,751	0	0	7,751	6,950	0	0	6,950
2(e) Income from investments								
Dividends and interest including any reclaimed tax	4,254	42	0	4,296	3,194	32	0	3,226
	4,254	42	0	4,296	3,194	32	0	3,226
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	120,662	48,446	0	169,108	116,690	21,149	0	137,839

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

3. RESOURCES EXPENDED	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2024	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
3(a) Grants								
Missionary and charitable giving:				0				0
Church overseas:				0				0
- missionary societies				0				0
Specific Donations	4,062			4,062	1,798			1,798
Home missions and donations from collections				0				0
	4,062	0	0	4,062	1,798	0	0	1,798
3(b) Activities directly relating to the work of the Church								
Ministry: parish share	63,218			63,218	64,080			64,080
clergy expenses				0				0
Church running expenses	6,666			6,666	8,306			8,306
Church maintenance, restoration, refurbis	3,709	32,563		36,272	6,282	9,838		16,120
Mission and Outreach	358			358				
Worship resources	1,772			1,772	3,388			3,388
Choir and music	4,882			4,882	5,514			5,514
Church Hall running costs		7,775		7,775		3,211		3,211
Insurance	4,929	737		5,666	4,718	705		5,423
Sundry	205			205	641			641
	85,740	41,074	0	126,815	92,929	13,754	0	106,683
3(c) Costs of generating funds								
Fees paid	5,175			5,175	2,798			2,798
Purchase of candles	515			515	240			240
Swan Street expenses	1,467			1,467	3,742			3,742
Swan Street Refurbishment	46,521			46,521				
Purchase of goods for resale				0				0
	53,678	0	0	53,678	6,780	0	0	6,780
3(d) Church management and administration								
Secretarial & office expenses	14,398	97		14,495	14,228	88		14,317
Web site				0				0
Accountancy				0				0
	14,398	97	0	14,495	14,228	88	0	14,317
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	157,878	41,171	0	199,049	115,735	13,842	0	129,577

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

4. FIXED ASSETS

(a) Tangible Fixed Assets

(i) Assets Held for PCC Activities

	Freehold Land and Buildings £	Equipment £	Total £
COST OR VALUATION			
At 1st January 2024	85,000		85,000
Additions			
Disposals			
Revaluation			
At 31st December 2024	85,000	0	85,000
DEPRECIATION			
At 1st January 2024			0
Charge for the year			
Disposals			
Revaluation			
At 31st December 2024	0	0	0
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31st December 2024	85,000 ✓	0	85,000
At 31st December 2023	85,000 ✓	0	85,000

The freehold land and buildings comprise the Ashwell Church Room. The gross value is based on the value estimated by the PCC as at 12th July 2011 for insurance purposes and is considered to be a fair estimate of the current value in use of the property.

(ii) Assets Held for Investment
(held in the UK)

	Freehold Land and Buildings £
COST OR VALUATION	
At 1st January 2024	194,434
Revaluation	
At 31st December 2024	194,434
DEPRECIATION	
At 1st January 2024	0
Charge for the year	0
At 31st December 2024	0
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31st December 2024	194,434
At 31st December 2023	194,434

The freehold land and buildings comprise the property at 8 Swan Street, Ashwell, which was received as a bequest from Miss Simms in 1986. The gross value is the current market value estimated by the PCC.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

Note 4 Continued

4. (b) Investments	Value 2024 £	Value 2023 £
284 Shares in the CBF Investment Fund (Sale Bequest Fund - historic cost £200)	6,567	6,420
1738.95 Shares in the CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund (Floodlight Fund - historic cost £8,700)	11,196	10,945
	<u>17,763</u>	<u>17,365</u>

5. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £
Fixed Assets	194,434	85,000	17,763	297,197	194,434	85,000	15,872	295,306
Current Assets	78,878	180,260	5,230	264,367	116,266	164,551	5,230	286,047
Current Liabilities								
	<u>273,312</u>	<u>265,260</u>	<u>22,992</u>	<u>561,563</u>	<u>245,363</u>	<u>122,267</u>	<u>23,219</u>	<u>581,353</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024**

6 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - UNRESTRICTED FUND ANALYSIS 2024

	General Fund £	Bequests Fund £	Swan Street Fund £	Choir & Music Fund £	Hardship Fund £	Total £
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Gift Aid donations	59,366					59,366
Tax recovered	15,603					15,603
Collections (open plate)	3,595					3,595
Donations & grants	11,687			715	0	12,402
Legacies						0
Rent on 8 Swan Street	6,976		775			7,751
Fees	8,405					8,405
Other events & sales	9,286					9,286
Interest	4,254					4,254
	119,172	0	775	715	0	120,662
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Charitable Giving	4,062					4,062
Parish Share	63,218					63,218
Fees	5,175					5,175
Church Running Expenses	6,666					6,666
Church Maintenance	3,709					3,709
Mission and Outreach	358					358
Worship Resources	1,772					1,772
Choir and Music	4,672			210		4,882
Insurance	4,929					4,929
Swan Street Expenses	1,467					1,467
Refurbishment of Swan Street		46,521				46,521
Parish Office	14,398					14,398
Sundry	720					720
	111,148	46,521	0	210	0	157,878
Inter fund transfers	(26)					(26)
NET RESOURCES	7,998	(46,521)	775	505	0	(37,243)
BALANCE SHEET						
Freehold Property	194,434					194,434
Bank current account	60,838	15,409	775	505	1,350	78,877
DBOF deposits						0
FUND BALANCE	255,272	15,409	775	505	1,350	273,311
Net movement	7,998	(46,521)	775	505	0	(37,243)
Balance b/fwd	247,274	61,930			1,350	310,554
Balance c/fwd	255,272	15,409	775	505	1,350	273,311

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

Note 6 Continued

FUND DETAILS

The Unrestricted Funds comprise the following funds:-

The General Fund

The General Fund 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. Other funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

The Bequests Fund (Designated)

To set apart sums left to the church be beneficiaries in their wills to be reserved for special projects at the PCC's discretion.

The Hardship Fund (Designated)

To set apart sums given the PCC specifically to support the vulnerable and those in need. Sums (up to £100) to be paid to appropriate recipients at the discretion of the Rector. Larger payments may be made with the agreement of the standing committee. Fund for the relief of hardship using funds donated to the PCC.

The Swan Street Fund (Designated)

To set apart sums retained from rental income for future use by the PCC for major repairs to the Swan Street property.

Choir & Music Fund (Designated)

To set apart sums retained by the PCC from income from fees received for the provision of choirs at services

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024**

7. GENERAL FUND

GENERAL FUND

Donations to Missions and Charities

	Collections etc.	Donations from PCC	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2023
	£	£	£	£
HOME				
Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust		25	25	25
Brave Trust	240		240	50
Children's Society (note 1)	218		218	140
Ashwell Museum (note 2)			0	14
Donation from Hardship Fund			0	150
Life Boats	243		243	
Alzheimer's Society	170		170	
Alzheimer's Research UK	263		263	
Garden House Hospice	683		683	
Royal British Legion (Ashwell Branch)	611		611	
Sepsis	38		38	
Cats Protection League	61		61	
Dementia UK	255		255	
British Heart Foundation	58		58	
Hertfordshire Air Ambulance	58		58	
Jimmy's	327		327	112
	<u>3,225</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>3,250</u>	<u>491</u>
OVERSEAS				
Diapalante	75		75	130
DEC Syria/Turkey Disaster Relief fund			0	100
Embrace the Middle East			0	61
Bishops Harvest Appeal	737		737	799
Christian Aid (note 3)			0	218
	<u>812</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>812</u>	<u>1,308</u>
TOTAL	<u>4,037</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>4,062</u>	<u>1,799</u>

Note 1 In addition to the above figures, as part of the Charity of the Month initiative the PCC also collects donations in the Charity's own Gift Aid Envelopes for these charities.

Note 2 Donation from Calendar Income.

Note 3 Donations from the income from the Christmas Cards and Tea Towels.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024**

8 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - RESTRICTED FUND ANALYSIS 2024

	Restoration & Tower £	Legacies & Collections £	Internal Reordering £	Kneelers £	Parish Church Room £	Development Music Fund £	Organ £	Total £
INCOMING RESOURCES								
Gift Aid donations								0
Tax recovered	1,686		100					1,786
Donations & grants	1,310				1,500	31,294		34,103
Legacies								0
Income from Lettings					3,485			3,485
Teas	2,745							2,745
Music Festival	3,326							3,326
Other events & sales	2,959							2,959
Interest	4	37						42
	12,030	37	100	0	4,985	31,294	0	48,446
RESOURCES EXPENDED								
Church maintenance, restoration, refurbishment	6,288		6,372			19,903		32,563
Professional fees								0
Running Costs					8,511			8,511
Donation								0
Purchase of goods for resale								0
Bank Charges	97							97
	6,384		6,372		8,511	19,903		41,171
NET RESOURCES	5,645	37	(6,273)	0	(3,526)	11,391	0	7,275
Withdrawal								
Unrealised gains/(losses)								
Inter fund transfers					26			26
	5,645	37	(6,273)	0	(3,500)	11,391	0	7,301
BALANCE SHEET								
Freehold Property					85,000			85,000
Bank current account	29,169	4,883	127,308		1,500	13,476	3,838	180,175
DBOF deposits	84							84
FUND BALANCE	29,253	4,883	127,308	0	86,500	13,476	3,838	265,260
Net movement	5,645	37	(6,273)	0	(3,500)	11,391	0	7,301
Balance b/fwd	23,608	4,846	133,581		90,000	2,086	3,838	257,959
Balance c/fwd	29,253	4,883	127,308	0	86,500	13,476	3,838	265,260

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

9 FUND DETAILS

The restricted funds comprise the following funds:-

Restoration and Tower Fund

To provide funds for the repair and renovation of the church, including the tower.

Legacies and Collections

Consisting of legacies and specific donations received, to be spent on purposes selected by the PCC.

Parish Church Room Fund

To hold the asset of the Parish Church Room which is operated by the PCC on behalf of the Church and community.

Organ Fund

To provide funds for repair and renovation of the organ.

Internal Reordering Fund

To provide funds for the internal reordering of the church and the enhancement of its interior facilities, such as kitchen and toilet facilities.

Development Music Fund

To provide funds for the development of provision of music to support Parish Worship.

The Endowment Funds comprise the following funds:-

Salve Bequest

Consisting of a legacy, the income from which is used for purposes selected by the PCC.

Floodlight Fund

A donation, the income from which is used to fund the use of the floodlights.

10 CONNECTED CHARITIES

The Friends of St. Mary's is an independent charity whose aims are to provide funds for specific projects in connection with the Church fabric and fittings. The trustees of the charity include members of the PCC and all projects funded must first obtain the approval of the PCC.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER

		2024		2023
		£	£	£
				£
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible fixed assets for use by PCC				
Parish Room		85,000		85,000
Equipment				
Tangible fixed assets - investment				
8 Swan Street		194,434		194,434
Investments				
Sale Bequest		6,567		6,420
Floodlight Fund		11,196		10,945
		<u>297,197</u>		<u>296,799</u>
CURRENT ASSETS				
Short term deposits	General funds			
	Other funds	1,056		1,015
Cash at bank and in hand	General funds	60,838		
	Other funds	<u>202,472</u>		<u>293,294</u>
		<u>264,367</u>		<u>294,308</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		264,367		294,308
NET ASSETS		<u>561,563</u>		<u>591,108</u>
FUNDS				
Unrestricted		273,312		310,554
Restricted		265,260		257,959
Endowment		22,992		22,595
		<u>561,563</u>		<u>591,108</u>

Accounts

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
OF
ST. MARY THE VIRGIN
ASHWELL, HERTS.**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER 2023**

Registered Charity Number: 1134776

**The Parish Office
9 Swan Street
Ashwell
Baldock, Hertfordshire
SG7 5NY**

Bankers:
Barclays Bank plc
Leicester
LE87 2BB

Independent Examiner:

**Jackie Pritchard
6 Mill Street
Ashwell
SG7 5LY
jpritchard1001@gmail.com**

Contents

	Page
Independent Examiners Report	2
Annual Report	3-7
Statement of Financial Activities	8
Balance Sheet	9
Accounting Policies	10-11
Supporting Notes and Break Outs	12-21

Pages 1 to 9 form the formal statutory Accounts for the PCC

Pages 10 to 21 are supporting notes which provide the detail supporting the Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

Independent Examiner's report to the PCC of St. Mary the Virgin, Ashwell, Herts.

Report to the PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary's Ashwell on the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2023 which are set out on pages 3 to 21.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Independent Examiner

The PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They 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 examiners report is needed.

It is my responsibility

To examine the financial statements under section 145 of the Charities Act.

To follow the procedure laid down in the annual direction given by the Charities Commission (under section 145(5)9b) of the Charities Act, and

To state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of the Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or 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 financial statements provide 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 give 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 financial statements do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed



Date:

26/3/24

Jackie Pritchard BComm ACMA

6 Mill Street

Ashwell

Hertfordshire

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023

Administrative Information

St Mary's Church is situated in Mill Street, Ashwell, Baldock, Hertfordshire. It is part of the Diocese of St Albans within the Church of England. The correspondence address is: The Parish Office, 9 Swan Street, Ashwell, Hertfordshire. SG7 5NY

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary, Ashwell, became a registered charity on 10 March 2010.

During the 12 months to 31 December 2023, the following served as members of the PCC.

Rector	The Revd Christine Campbell	
Vice Chair	Ruth ten Hove	from 30/4/2023
	David Richards	to 30/4/2023
Churchwardens	Julia Mitchell	
	John Chilton	from 30/4/2023
Reader	Dr Mark Eaton	
Representatives to the Buntingford Deanery Synod	Dr Mark Eaton	Treasurer and Asst Churchwarden
	Jo Adams	Asst. Church Warden and Safeguarding Officer
Elected members	Stephen ten Hove	
	Neil Inskip	
	Sarah Talks	
	Chere Hunter	
	Gaye Rowlands	
	Melanie Dawson-Dew	
	Susan Greenbank	to 30/4/2023
	John Hare	from 30/4/2023
In attendance	Bernard Allen	Secretary

In June 2023 we welcomed the Rev Paulet Brown-Wilshire into the benefice as a curate

Donations by the Trustees

Total donations by the trustees and those closely connected to them in 2023 amounted to £18,106.

Reimbursement of Personal Expenditure

No trustees received any reimbursement of personal expenditure in 2023. The PCC pays the telephone and broadband costs for the Rectory directly.

Payment to a Connected Person for Services

A relative of a trustee was paid £1,440 for work on design, and compilation for Ashwell Village News.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023 - Continued

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules 2022 part 9. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and activities

St Mary's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for St Mary's Church and 8 Swan Street and management responsibility for the separate trust covering the Parish Church Room.

Achievements and performance

Church attendance

There were 96 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll in April 2023, compared with 95 at the same time in 2022. Average weekly attendance was 61 compared to 65 in 2022. We are still not quite back to the pre Covid-19 level of 70. Services continued to be available on Zoom to those who are infirm and unable to get to church with on average around 5 people making use of this facility. These numbers increased significantly at festivals and Christmas services.

PCC Meetings

The full PCC met 11 times during 2023. The meetings were chaired by the Revd Chris Campbell.

These Accounts were approved by the PCC on 19 March 2024 and signed by the Revd Chris Campbell as Chair.

Sub Committees and Action Groups have met between meetings and notes of their deliberations were received by the full PCC and discussed where necessary. The Rector is an ex officio member of each committee or group.

Standing Committee

The Parish has a Standing Committee comprising the Rector, The Vice Chair, the Churchwardens, and the Safeguarding Officer.

Mission Action Planning

In 11 June 2022 the PCC met at Hinxworth along with other senior members of the congregation to commence formulating a Mission Action Plan for the Parish. This session was facilitated by Revd Kate Lomax from the Diocesan Flourishing Churches Team. Following on from this the inputs were developed further and used to develop a Mission Action Plan for the Parish. The was adopted by the PCC at its meeting on 22 September 2022. The Plan has been reviewed regularly and is being taken forward by the Mission and Discipleship Committee.

Sub Groups and Committees

Music Committee

Looks creatively at ways to maintain and develop the tradition of music at St Mary's to support worship and to encourage wider participation by the community. The membership comprises the Rector, Bene't Coldstream (Director of Music), Peter Eaglesfield (Organist), Sarah Talks, Ruth ten Hove (Chair) and Ann Mallinson.

In February 2023 They organised a very successful Hymnathon which raised £2086 for the Music Development Fund.

Finance Committee

Provides financial oversight for the PCC, though responsibility for the PCR Trust's and PCC's finances is shared by all members of the PCC. The membership comprises the Rector, Mark Eaton, John Chilton (from 30/4/2023), Stephen ten Hove (to 30/4/2023) and John Rowlands (co-opted).

Employment Committee

Provides oversight of the terms of employment of staff who are paid by the PCC for various services and ensure compliance with Employment Law, Charity Commission and Church of England guidelines. The membership comprises the Rector, Mark Eaton, Stephen ten Hove (Chair) and Julia Mitchell.

8 Swan Street /Miss Simms Cottage Committee

Addresses the need for and progression of refurbishment work on this property left to the Parish in the 1980s by the late Miss Phyllis Simms and which is let to provide income to further the mission of the church. The membership comprises Stephen ten Hove (Chair from 30/4/2023) Susan Greenbank (Chair to 30/4/2023) David Richards (to 30/4/2023), Julia Michell, and Graham Chandler (co-opted).

Youth and Sunday School Group

Deals with all matters relating to the young people of the parish. The membership comprises the Rector, Jo Adams and Sarah Talks.

Fabric Action Group

Considers repairs and improvements which need to be carried out to the church property. The membership comprises David Richards (Chair to 30/4/2023), John Chilton (Chair from 30/4/2023) Mark Eaton, Graham Chandler (Health and Safety Officer, Co-opted), Julia Mitchell.

Mission and Discipleship Committee

Champions the sharing the love and life of Christ through our outreach teaching. The Group has been progressing the Mission Action Plan and oversees the House Groups and the Advent and Lent Courses. The membership comprises The Rector(Chair), Mark Eaton, Rose Cooper, Jo Adams and Guy Mackenzie and Paulet Brown-Wilsher (curate).

Communications Group

Champions the effective communication of the parish's mission and activities and the promotion of outreach through various media. It also oversees the Parish Website and the production and distribution of Ashwell Village News. The membership comprises The Rector, Guy Mackenzie, Mark Eaton, Julia Mitchell (Chair), Sarah Talks (AVN Editor) and Jo Adams.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023 - Continued

Financial Review

In the year ending 31st December 2023 in non restricted and designated funds there was a small deficit of £146, after the transfer of £1,101 to the PCR Fund to bring the end year balance to zero .

Income was fairly stable but benefited for our being able to run the full range of Fundraising events such as the Music Festival, Ashwell at Home, the Flea Market and the Christmas Fair which had been compromised previously by restrictions emanating from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Gift and Card stall run by Marjorie Fitt and Sheelagh Bennett also brought in some very useful incremental income as did the Ashwell Calendar organised by Julia Mitchell. We were also grateful to receive a grant of £1,000 from the Village Show Committee to cover the cost of printing sufficient copies of the December Ashwell Village news to distribute to the whole village. We are hoping this will lead to higher sales of the publication in 2024.

We were also grateful to receive a grant of £5,000 from the Ashwell Show Committee for the refurbishment of the parish Room, principally the installation of a more practical wood effect floor and redecoration .

We hope this will make the venue more attractive to hirers and increase hire income in 2024.

Rental income from 8 Swan Street was down as the historic tenant moved out at the end of October to facilitate our undertaking extensive refurbishment work. This cost of this will be covered out of the Waide legacy. It is hoped the property will be available to relet from March 2024.

The Parish Share remains the Church's most significant item of expenditure. This pays for our priest, and all employment, housing and training costs, including training costs for new priests and Readers. It pays for the support the church receives from the diocese and also helps to support those parishes in the diocese in need. The Diocesan Board of Finance is conscious of the financial pressures on parishes and working to contain costs and minimise increased in Parish Share. We are commended by the diocese for the fact that all three parishes in the benefice have regularly paid their Share in full.

Other expenditure was well contained and despite some second half year increases in electricity prices and in gas for the Parish Church Room, we benefitted significantly from our 4-year fixed price gas contract for the church and the fact the weather was fairly mild. Efforts continue to contain utility costs, shopping around for the best deals on gas and electricity. Last year's purchase of blankets to offer to members of the congregation to help them keep warm in church has been much appreciated and this has enabled us lower the thermostat by 1-2 degrees.

A total of £12,033 was spent on repairs and restoration work in the church. Much of this was routine but we paid £5,255 for a thorough inspection of the tower inside and out using abseilers and £1052 for inspection and immediate repairs to the clerestory windows.

Because of the ongoing pressures on the General Fund, the PCC continues to focus donations to external charities on funds specially collected for such purposes, for example by the "Charity of the Month" approach. We have also processed donations through the church card reader for a charity events for Jimmys, which provides accommodation and support to the homeless in

Cambridge, and Embrace the Middle East for relief in Gaza. The PCC continues to keep its approach to external giving under review.

We continue to consider our own fundraising strategy for how we maintain this medieval building and having been advised that the criteria for applications for large projects has changed, the PCC will focus now on a smaller application for up to £250,000 where the criteria are more straightforward. The Architect has recently completed the Quinquennial Inspection, in which he has indicated that there is urgent work required to re-roof the tower and the north side aisle. The PCC has decided to make the latter its first priority so that we can reopen that area internally. We are now setting about fund-raising for this.

In 2020, the PCC became aware that in 1971, the PCR had been set up as a separate trust with members of the PCC as the managing trustees. Following guidance from senior members of the diocesan finance team the PCC transferred the PCR into a separate restricted fund. The PCC retains responsibility for the financial operation of the PCR which continues to operate at a deficit.

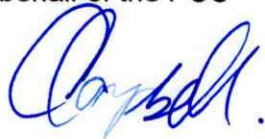
As a service to the local community, the PCC continues to provide accommodation for the mobile post office in the Parish Room. Regrettably Post Office Ltd has decided to restrict the hours it will subsidise for the mobile post office service and as a result this will be reduced from three sessions per week to two. The Parish Council currently contributes £1,000 to support this service.

The Church remains heavily dependent on the services of the many people who offer their time voluntarily to support and facilitate its mission and activities. Likewise, with annual costs averaging £105,000 we know we couldn't operate without the very generous support of all our donors, to whom we are very grateful and the PCC would like to thank all those who offer their service and time in so many ways.

The PCC has a safeguarding officer (Jo Adams) and maintains a safeguarding policy in line with the recommendation of the Church of England. No incidents were reported in 2023. All Church Officers and PCC members have a DBS check as required by the Church of England.

Taking the above into account the available (unrestricted) funds at 31 December 2023 stand at £116,120 compared with £116,267 at the close of 2022.

On behalf of the PCC



Revd Christine Campbell

Chair of PCC

Date 19 March 2024

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2023	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2022
	Note	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES									
Incoming resources from donors	2(a)	79,283	0	0	79,283	76,403	127,101	0	203,504
Other voluntary incoming resources	2(b)	9,024	8,166	0	17,190	67,705	250	0	67,955
Income from operating activities to generate funds	2(c)	18,239	12,951	0	31,190	17,476	12,491	0	29,967
Other ordinary incoming resources	2(d)	6,950	0	0	6,950	8,660	0	0	8,660
Income from investments	2(e)	3,194	32		3,226	754	12		767
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		116,690	21,149	0	137,839	170,998	139,854	0	310,852
RESOURCES EXPENDED									
Grants	3(a)	1,798	0	0	1,798	1,253	0	0	1,253
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church	3(b)	92,929	13,754	0	106,683	90,693	12,559	0	103,252
Costs of generating funds	3(c)	6,780	0	0	6,780	2,301	0	0	2,301
Church management and administration	3(d)	14,228	88	0	14,317	11,424	0	0	11,424
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		115,735	13,842	0	129,577	105,672	12,559	0	118,230
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES		955	7,307	0	8,261	65,327	127,295	0	192,622
GAINS AND LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS									
Realised	4(a)	0	0		0	0	0		0
Unrealised	4(a)	0	0	1,493	1,493	0	0	(2,118)	(2,118)
		955	7,307	1,493	9,755	65,327	127,295	(2,118)	190,504
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS		(1,101)	1,101	0	0	11	(11)	0	0
NET MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS		(146)	8,408	1,493	9,755	65,338	127,284	(2,118)	190,504
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1st JANUARY		310,700	249,551	21,101	581,352	245,362	122,267	23,219	390,848
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD AT 31st DECEMBER		310,554	257,959	22,595	591,107	310,700	249,551	21,101	581,352

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER

	Note	2023	2022
		£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	4(a)(i)	85,000	85,000
Tangible fixed assets - investment	4(a)(ii)	194,434	194,434
Investments	4(b)	17,365	15,872
		<u>296,799</u>	<u>295,306</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Short term deposits		1,015	983
Cash at bank and in hand		293,294	285,064
CURRENT ASSETS		<u>294,308</u>	<u>286,047</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>591,108</u>	<u>581,353</u>
(see page 18)			
FUNDS			
	5		
Unrestricted		310,554	310,700
Restricted		257,959	249,551
Endowment		22,595	21,101
		<u>591,108</u>	<u>581,353</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on March 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

TREASURER



M W Eaton

CHAIR



19 March 2024

The notes on pages 7 to 15 form part of these accounts

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 as amended by the Church Accounting (Amendment) Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP. The Accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

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

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. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

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 owe their main affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital sources.

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 the income is received.

Funds raised by social and fund-raising events are accounted for gross.

Sales of books and magazines from the church bookstall are accounted for net.

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold.

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

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Resources expended

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when paid.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated property and moveable church furnishings

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

Movable church furnishings held by the Rector and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's Inventory which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore, such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since 1 January 2000 have been capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their currently anticipated useful economic life on a straight-line basis.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over 5 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £2,500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31st December.

Current assets

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

2. INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
2(a) Incoming resources from donors								
Planned giving								
Gift Aid donations	60,491	0	0	60,491	55,033	100,000	0	155,033
Tax recovered	13,472	0	0	13,472	14,128	25,064	0	39,192
Specific Donations	1,944	0	0	1,944	3,136	2,037	0	5,173
Collections (open plate) at all services	3,376		0	3,376	4,106		0	4,106
	79,283	0	0	79,283	76,403	127,101	0	203,504
2(b) Other voluntary incoming resources								
Grants	0		0	0	1,679	250	0	1,929
Donations and appeals for charity	4,094	8,166	0	12,260	8,196	0	0	8,196
Legacies	4,930	0	0	4,930	57,000	0	0	57,000
Sundry		0	0	0	830	0	0	830
	9,024	8,166	0	17,190	67,705	250	0	67,955
2(c) Income from operating activities to generate funds								
Magazines (net of costs)	4,161		0	4,161	5,323		0	5,323
Bookstall, cards and mugs (net of costs)	1,992	81	0	2,073	2,202	843	0	3,045
Fund-raising events	4,630	10,055	0	14,684	1,690	9,199	0	10,890
Church and room lettings etc.	1,204	2,815	0	4,019	820	2,449	0	3,269
Fees	6,252		0	6,252	7,440		0	7,440
	18,239	12,951	0	31,190	17,476	12,491	0	29,967
2(d) Other ordinary incoming resources								
Rent on 8 Swan Street	6,950			6,950	8,660			8,660
	6,950	0	0	6,950	8,660	0	0	8,660
2(e) Income from investments								
Dividends and interest including any reclaimed tax	3,194	32	0	3,226	754	12	0	767
	3,194	32	0	3,226	754	12	0	767
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	116,690	21,149	0	137,839	170,998	139,854	0	310,852

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

3. RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2023	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2022
Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
3(a) Grants								
Missionary and charitable giving				0				
Church overseas:				0				
- missionary societies				0				
Specific Donations	1,798			1,798	1,253			1,253
Home missions and donations from collections				0				0
	1,798	0	0	1,798	1,253	0	0	1,253
3(b) Activities directly relating to the work of the Church								
Ministry: parish share	64,080			64,080	63,403			63,403
clergy expenses				0	107			107
Church running expenses	8,306			8,306	8,953			8,953
Credit from gas supplier				0				0
Church maintenance, restoration, refurbishment	6,282	9,838		15,120	4,321	9,562		13,884
Worship resources	3,388			3,388	3,306			3,306
Choir and music	5,514			5,514	4,732			4,732
Church Hall running costs		3,211		3,211		2,908		2,908
Insurance	4,718	705		5,423	4,445			4,445
Sundry	641			641	688	88		777
	92,929	13,754	0	106,683	89,955	12,559	0	102,514
3(c) Costs of generating funds								
Fees paid	2,798			2,798	738			738
Purchase of candles	240			240	235			235
Swan Street expenses	3,742			3,742	2,066			2,066
Purchase of goods for resale				0				0
	6,780	0	0	6,780	3,039	0	0	3,039
3(d) Church management and administration								
Secretarial & office expenses	14,228	88		14,317	11,424			11,424
Web site				0				0
Accountancy				0				0
	14,228	88	0	14,317	11,424	0	0	11,424
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	115,735	13,842	0	129,577	105,672	12,559	0	118,230

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

4. FIXED ASSETS

(a) Tangible Fixed Assets

(i) Assets Held for PCC Activities

	Freehold Land and Buildings £	Equipment £	Total £
COST OR VALUATION			
At 1st January 2023	85,000	7,408	92,408
Additions			
Disposals		(7,408)	(7,408)
Revaluation			
At 31st December 2023	85,000	0	85,000
DEPRECIATION			
At 1st January 2023		7,408	7,408
Charge for the year			
Disposals		(7,408)	(7,408)
Revaluation			
At 31st December 2023	0	0	0
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31st December 2023	85,000	0	85,000
At 31st December 2022	85,000	0	85,000

The freehold land and buildings comprise the Ashwell Church Room. The gross value is based on the value estimated by the PCC as at 12th July 2011 for insurance purposes and is considered to be a fair estimate of the current value in use of the property.

(ii) Assets Held for Investment
(held in the UK)

	Freehold Land and Buildings £
COST OR VALUATION	
At 1st January 2023	194,434
Revaluation	
At 31st December 2023	194,434
DEPRECIATION	
At 1st January 2023	0
Charge for the year	0
At 31st December 2023	0
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31st December 2023	194,434
At 31st December 2022	194,434

The freehold land and buildings comprise the property at 8 Swan Street, Ashwell, which was received as a bequest from Miss Simms in 1986. The gross value is the current market value estimated by the PCC.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

Note 4 Continued

Note 4 Continued

4. (b) Investments	Value 2023 £	Value 2022 £
284 Shares in the CBF Investment Fund (Sale Bequest Fund - historic cost £200)	6,420	5,868
1738.95 Shares in the CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund (Floodlight Fund - historic cost £8,700)	10,945	10,004
	<u>17,365</u>	<u>15,872</u>

5. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2022 £
Fixed Assets	194,434	85,000	17,365	296,799	194,434	85,000	15,872	295,306
Current Assets	116,120	172,959	5,230	294,308	116,266	164,551	5,230	286,047
Current Liabilities								
	<u>310,554</u>	<u>257,959</u>	<u>22,595</u>	<u>591,108</u>	<u>245,363</u>	<u>122,267</u>	<u>23,219</u>	<u>581,353</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

6 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - UNRESTRICTED FUND ANALYSIS 2023

	General Fund £	Bequests Fund £	Hardship Fund £	Total £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Gift Aid donations	60,491			60,491
Tax recovered	13,472			13,472
Collections (open plate)	3,376			3,376
Donations & grants	5,838		200	6,038
Legacies		4,930		4,930
Rent on 8 Swan Street	6,950			6,950
Fees	6,252			6,252
Other events & sales	11,987			11,987
Interest	3,194			3,194
	<u>111,560</u>	<u>4,930</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>116,690</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Charitable Giving	1,648		150	1,798
Parish Share	64,080			64,080
Fees	2,798			2,798
Church Running Expenses	8,306			8,306
Church Maintenance	6,282			6,282
Worship Resources	3,388			3,388
Choir and Music	5,514			5,514
Insurance	4,718			4,718
Swan Street Expenses	3,742			3,742
Parish Office	14,228			14,228
Sundry	881			881
	<u>115,585</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>115,735</u>
Inter fund transfers	<u>(1,101)</u>			<u>(1,101)</u>
NET RESOURCES	<u>(5,126)</u>	<u>4,930</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>(146)</u>
BALANCE SHEET				
Freehold Property	194,434			194,434
Bank current account	57,966	57,000	1,300	116,266
DBOF deposits				0
FUND BALANCE	<u>252,400</u>	<u>57,000</u>	<u>1,300</u>	<u>310,700</u>
Net movement	(5,126)	4,930	50	(146)
Balance b/fwd	252,400	57,000	1,300	310,700
Balance c/fwd	<u>247,274</u>	<u>61,930</u>	<u>1,350</u>	<u>310,554</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023**

Note 6 Continued

6 FUND DETAILS

The Unrestricted Funds comprise the following funds: -

The General Fund

The General Fund represents 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. Other funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

Bequests Fund

To set apart sums left to the church by beneficiaries in their wills to be reserved for special projects at the PCC's discretion

Hardship Fund

To set apart sums given to the PCC specifically to support the vulnerable and those in need.

Sum's (up to £100) to be paid to appropriate recipients at the discretion of the Rector. Larger payments may be made with the agreement of the standing committee.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

7. GENERAL FUND

Donations to Missions and Charities

	Collections etc. £	Donations from PCC £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
HOME				
Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust		25	25	25
Salvation Army (note 1)			0	0
Brave Trust	50		50	150
Children's Society (note 1)	140		140	180
Ashwell Museum (note 2)		14	14	
Donation ofrm Hardship Fund		150	150	
Jimmy's	112		112	142
	<u>302</u>	<u>189</u>	<u>491</u>	<u>497</u>
OVERSEAS				
Diapalante	130		130	0
DEC Ukraine Disaster Relief Fund			0	351
DEC Syria / Turkey Disaster Relief Fund	100		100	
Embrace the Middle East	61		61	170
Bishops Harvest Appeal	799		799	135
Christian Aid		218	218	100
	<u>432</u>	<u>218</u>	<u>1,307</u>	<u>756</u>
TOTAL	<u>734</u>	<u>407</u>	<u>1,798</u>	<u>1,253</u>

Note 1 In addition to the above figures, as part of the Charity of the Month initiative the PCC also collects donations in the Charity's own Gift Aid Envelopes for these charities.

Note 2 Donation from Calendar Income

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

8 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - RESTRICTED FUND ANALYSIS 2023

	Restoration & Tower £	Legacies & Collections £	Internal Reordering £	Kneelers £	Parish Church Room £	Development Music Fund £	Organ £	Total £
INCOMING RESOURCES								
Gift Aid donations								0
Tax recovered								0
Donations & grants	1,080				5,000	2,086		8,166
Legacies								0
Income from Lettings					2,815			2,815
Teas	2,784							2,784
Ashwell at Home/ Music Festival	4,282							4,282
Other events & sales	3,070							3,070
Interest	3	29						32
	11,219	29	0	0	7,815	2,086	0	21,149
RESOURCES EXPENDED								
Church maintenance, restoration, refurbishment	7,613		2,225					9,838
Professional fees								0
Running Costs					3,916			3,916
Donation								0
Purchase of goods for resale								0
Bank Charges	88							88
	7,701		2,225		3,916	0		13,842
NET RESOURCES	3,518	29	(2,225)	0	3,899	2,086	0	7,307
Withdrawal								
Unrealised gains/(losses)								
Inter fund transfers					1,101			1,101
	3,518	29	(2,225)	0	5,000	2,086	0	8,408
BALANCE SHEET								
Freehold Property					85,000			85,000
Bank current account	23,528	4,846	133,581		5,000	2,086	3,838	172,878
DBOF deposits	80							80
FUND BALANCE	23,608	4,846	133,581	0	90,000		3,838	257,958
Net movement	3,518	29	(2,225)	0	5,000	2,086	0	8,408
Balance b/fwd	20,090	4,817	135,806	0	85,000		3,838	249,551
Balance c/fwd	23,608	4,846	133,581	0	90,000	2,086	3,838	257,958

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023**

9 FUND DETAILS

The restricted funds comprise the following funds:-

Restoration and Tower Fund

To provide funds for the repair and renovation of the church, including the tower.

Legacies and Collections

Consisting of legacies and specific donations received, to be spent on purposes selected by the PCC.

Parish Church Room Fund

To hold the asset of the Parish Church Room which is operated by the PCC on behalf of the Church and community.

Kneeler Fund

To provide funds for replacement of church kneelers. This Fund was closed in 2022 and the balance on the Fund was transferred to the Internal Reordering Fund.

Organ Fund

To provide funds for repair and renovation of the organ.

Internal Reordering Fund

To provide funds for the internal reordering of the church and the enhancement of its interior facilities, such as kitchen and toilet facilities.

Music Fund (Development)

This provides funds to develop music in the church by activities such as running junior music workshops, running music groups and buying sheet music, scores and music books.

The Endowment Funds comprise the following funds:-

Salvage Bequest

Consisting of a legacy, the income from which is used for purposes selected by the PCC.

Floodlight Fund

A donation, the income from which is used to fund the use of the floodlights.

10 CONNECTED CHARITIES

The Friends of St. Mary's is an independent charity whose aims are to provide funds for specific projects in connection with the Church fabric and fittings. The trustees of the charity include members of the PCC and all projects funded must first obtain the approval of the PCC.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 20223

		2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible fixed assets for use by PCC					
	Parish Room		85,000		85,000
	Equipment				
Tangible fixed assets - investment					
	8 Swan Street		194,434		194,434
Investments					
	Sale Bequest		6,420		5,868
	Floodlight Fund		10,945		10,004
			<u>296,799</u>		<u>295,306</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Short term deposits	General funds				
	Other funds		1,015		983
Cash at bank and in hand	General funds		52,840		57,966
	Other funds		240,454		227,098
			<u>294,308</u>		<u>286,047</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			294,308		286,047
NET ASSETS			<u>591,108</u>		<u>581,353</u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted			310,554		310,700
Restricted			257,959		249,551
Endowment			22,595		21,101
			<u>591,108</u>		<u>581,353</u>

Accounts

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
OF
ST. MARY THE VIRGIN
ASHWELL, HERTS.**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER 2022**

Registered Charity Number: 1134776

**The Parish Office
9 Swan Street
Ashwell
Baldock, Hertfordshire
SG7 5NY**

Bankers:
Barclays Bank plc
23 High Street
Royston, Hertfordshire
SG7 6PY

Independent Examiner:

Jackie Pritchard
6 Mill Street
Ashwell
SG7 5LY
jpritchard1001@gmail.com

Contents

	Page
Independent Examiners Report	2
Annual Report	3-7
Statement of Financial Activities	8
Balance Sheet	9
Accounting Policies	10-11
Supporting Notes and Break Outs	12-21

Pages 1 to 8 form the formal statutory Accounts for the PCC

Pages 9 to 21 are supporting notes which provide the detail supporting the

Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

Independent Examiner's report to the PCC of St. Mary the Virgin, Ashwell, Herts.

Report to the PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary's Ashwell on the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2022 which are set out on pages 1 to 21.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Independent Examiner

The PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They 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 examiners report is needed.

It is my responsibility

To examine the financial statements under section 145 of the Charities Act.

To follow the procedure laid down in the annual direction given by the Charities Commission (under section 145(5)9b) of the Charities Act, and

To state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of the Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or 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 financial statements provide a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

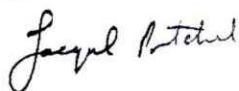
Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination no material matters have come to my attention which give 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 financial statements do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed



15/03/2023

Jackie Pritchard BComm ACMA CGMA
6 Mill Street
Ashwell
Hertfordshire

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022

Administrative Information

St Mary's Church is situated in Mill Street, Ashwell, Baldock, Hertfordshire. It is part of the Diocese of St Albans within the Church of England. The correspondence address is: The Parish Office, 9 Swan Street, Ashwell, Hertfordshire. SG7 5NY

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary, Ashwell, became a registered charity on 10 March 2010.

During the 12 months to 31 December 2022, the following served as members of the PCC.

Rector	The Revd Christine Campbell	
Vice Chair	David Richards	Asst Churchwarden
Churchwardens	Sarah Talks	to 15/5/2022
	Bernard Allen	to 15/5/2022
	Julia Mitchell	from 15/5/2022
Reader	Dr Mark Eaton	
Representatives to the Buntingford Deanery Synod	Dr Mark Eaton	Treasurer and Asst Churchwarden
	Jo Adams	Asst. Church Warden and Safeguarding Officer
Elected members	Julia Mitchell	Secretary to 15/5/2022
	Guy Mackenzie	to 30/4/2022
	Mike Taffs	to 15/5/2022
	Rose Cooper	to 15/5/2022
	Stephen ten Hove	
	Ruth ten Hove	
	Susan Greenbank	
	Neil Inskip	
	Sarah Talks	from 15/5/2022
	Chere Hunter	from 15/5/2022
	Gaye Rowlands	from 15/5/2022
	Melanie Dawson-Dew	from 15/5/2022
In attendance	Bernard Allen	Secretary

Donations by the Trustees

Total donations by the trustees and those closely connected to them in 2022 amounted to £20,505.

Reimbursement of Personal Expenditure

No trustees received any reimbursement of personal expenditure in 2022. The PCC pays the telephone and broadband costs for the Rectory directly.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022 - Continued

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules 2022 part 9. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and activities

St Mary's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for St Mary's Church and 8 Swan Street and management responsibility for the separate trust covering the Parish Church Room.

Achievements and performance

Church attendance

There were 95 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll in April 2022, compared with 96 at the same time in 2021. Before Covid-19, the average weekly adult attendance was around 70. Following the return to church after the worst of the covid pandemic average attendances were around 40, rising to 55 by the end of the end of 2021. Services continued to be available on Zoom to those who were shielding, with a further 10 or so participating on line. During 2022 there was a further increase in numbers attending church, averaging around 65 on a Sunday. These numbers increased at festivals and Christmas services.

PCC Meetings

The full PCC met 9 times during 2022. The meetings were chaired by the Revd Chris Campbell.

These Accounts were approved by the PCC on 21 March 2023 and signed by the Revd Chris Campbell as Chair.

Sub Committees and Action Groups have met between meetings and notes of their deliberations were received by the full PCC and discussed where necessary. The Rector is an ex officio member of each committee or group.

Standing Committee

The Parish has a Standing Committee comprising the Rector, The Vice Chair, the Churchwarden, and the Safeguarding Officer.

Mission Action Planning

In 11 June 2022 the PCC met at Hinxworth along with other senior members of the congregation to commence formulating a Mission Action Plan for the Parish. This session was facilitated by Revd Kate Lomax from the Diocesan Flourishing Churches Team. The Group undertook a S.W.O.T. analysis on the parish and then turned to Developing Vision statements and a list of values for work as a church. These have been shared with the congregation and are being taken forward by the Mission and Discipleship Committee.

Sub Groups and Committees

Music Committee

Looks creatively at ways to maintain and develop the tradition of music at St Mary's to support worship and to encourage wider participation by the community. The membership comprises the Rector, Bene't Coldstream (Director of Music), Peter Eaglesfield (Organist), Susan Greenbank (to July 2022), Ruth ten Hove (Chair), Sarah Talks and Ann Mallinson.

Bene't Coldstream (Director of Music). Peter Eaglesfield (Organist), Susan Greenbank (to July 2022), Ruth ten Hove (Chair), Sarah Talks and Ann Mallinson.

Finance Committee

Provides financial oversight for the PCC, though responsibility for the PCR Trust's and PCC's finances is shared by all members of the PCC. The membership comprises the Rector, Mark Eaton, Susan Greenbank and Stephen ten Hove and John Rowlands (co-opted).

Employment Committee

Provides oversight of the terms of employment of staff who are paid by the PCC for various services and ensure compliance with Employment Law, Charity Commission and Church of England guidelines. The membership comprises the Rector, Mark Eaton, Stephen ten Hove (Chair) and Julia Mitchell.

8 Swan Street /Miss Simms Cottage Committee

Addresses the need for and progression of refurbishment work on this property left to the Parish in the 1980s by the late Miss Phyllis Simms and which is let to provide income to further the mission of the church. The membership comprises Susan Greenbank (Chair) David Richards, Julia Mitchell, Stephen ten Hove and Graham Chandler (co-opted).

Youth and Sunday School Group

Deals with all matters relating to the young people of the parish. The membership comprises the Rector, Jo Adams and Sarah Talks.

Fabric Action Group

Considers repairs and improvements which need to be carried out to the church property. The membership comprises David Richards (Chair), Mark Eaton, Graham Chandler (Health and Safety Officer, Co-opted), Julia Mitchell.

Mission and Discipleship Committee

Champions the sharing the love and life of Christ through our outreach teaching. The Group has been progressing the Mission Action Plan and oversees the House Groups and the Advent and Lent Courses. The membership comprises The Rector, Mark Eaton, Rose Cooper (Chair), Jo Adams and Guy Mackenzie.

Communications Group

Champions the effective communication of the parish's mission and activities and the promotion of outreach through various media. It also oversees the Parish Website and the production and distribution of Ashwell Village News. The membership comprises The Rector, Guy Mackenzie, Mark Eaton, Julia Mitchell (Chair), Sarah Talks (AVN Editor) and Jo Adams.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022 - Continued

Financial Review

In the year ending 31st December 2022, the PCC had a surplus of £7,037 in the General Fund. In restricted and designated funds there was a surplus of £185,585. This largely came about because of a further generous donation of £100,000 (+ Gift Aid of £25,000) from Eric and Audrey Gurney for Internal Reordering work and a bequest of £57,000 under the will of the late Mrs Margaret Waide. This bequest has been placed in a designated fund to be used for special purposes.

Income was fairly stable but benefited for our being able to run the full range of Fundraising events such as the Music Festival, Ashwell at Home, the Flea Market and the Christmas Fair which had been compromised over the previous two years by restrictions emanating from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Gift and Card stall run by Marjorie Fitt and Sheelagh Bennett also brought in some very useful incremental income as did the Ashwell Mugs organised by Julia Mitchell

The Parish Share remains the Church's most significant item of expenditure. This pays for our priest, and all employment, housing and training costs, including training costs for new priests and Readers. It pays for the support the church receives from the diocese and also helps to support those parishes in the diocese in need. The Diocesan Board of Finance is conscious of the financial pressures on parishes and working to contain costs and minimise increased in Parish Share. We are commended by the diocese for the fact that all three parishes in the benefice have regularly paid their Share in full.

Other expenditure was well contained and despite some second half year increases in electricity prices and in gas for the Parish Church Room, we benefitted significantly from our 4-year fixed price gas contract for the church and the fact that other than December the weather was fairly mild. Efforts continue to contain utility costs, shopping around for the best deals on gas and electricity. We received a grant of £300 from the Ashwell Show Committee to purchase blankets to offer to members of the congregation to help them keep warm in church enabling us lower the thermostat by 1-2 degrees.

£8,530 was spent on improving the drainage on the west side of the north porch adjacent to the new kitchen and toilet facilities to prevent the ingress of damp. This was funded from the balance in the Internal Reordering Fund.

The four large art deco candle sticks were also restored at a cost of £1,032. This cost was covered by the Friends of St Mary's, whose support we continue to value.

Because of the ongoing pressures on the General Fund, the PCC continues to focus donations to external charities on funds specially collected for such purposes, for example by the "Charity of the Month" approach. We have also processed donations through the church card reader for other charity events, one for Jimmy's, a charity for the homeless in Cambridge and one for Embrace the Middle East. The PCC continues to keep its approach to external giving under review.

We continue to consider our own fundraising strategy for how we maintain this medieval building and having been advised that the criteria for applications for large projects has changed, the PCC will focus now on a smaller application for up to £250,000 where the criteria are more straightforward. The Architect, who is about to embark on the Quinquennial

Inspection, has indicated that there is likely to be urgent work on a smaller scale to re-roof the tower and the side aisles, which might form the basis of such an application.

In 2020, the PCC became aware that in 1971, the PCR had been set up as a separate trust with members of the PCC as the managing trustees. Following guidance from senior members of the diocesan finance team the PCC transferred the PCR into a separate restricted fund. The PCC retains responsibility for the financial operation of the PCR which continues to operate at a deficit. Thanks to a one-off warm hub grant from the diocese and other measures which the PCC has in hand, we have reduced the deficit in 2022 and hope to reduce it further in the future.

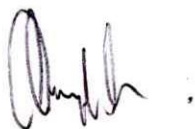
As a service to the local community, the PCC continues to provide accommodation for the mobile post office in the Parish Room for 8 hours per week and we have been able to secure a modest increase in the contribution from the operators to help cover increase in heating costs. The Parish Council currently contributes £1,000 to support this service.

The Church remains heavily dependent on the services of the many people who offer their time voluntarily to support and facilitate its mission and activities. Likewise, with annual costs averaging £105,000 we know we couldn't operate without the very generous support of all our donors, to whom we are very grateful and the PCC would like to thank all those who offer their service and time in so many ways.

The PCC has a safeguarding officer (Jo Adams) and maintains a safeguarding policy in line with the recommendation of the church of England. No incidents were reported in 2022. All Church Officers and PCC members have a DBS check as required by the Church of England.

Taking the above into account the available (unrestricted) funds at 31 December 2022 stand at £116,267 compared with £50,929 at the close of 2021.

On behalf of the PCC



Revd Christine Campbell

Chair of PCC

Date 21/3/2023

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2022	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2021
	Note	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES									
Incoming resources from donors	2(a)	76,403	127,101		203,504	75,135	39,781		114,916
Other voluntary incoming resources	2(b)	67,705	250		67,955	16,370	0		16,370
Income from operating activities to generate funds	2(c)	17,476	12,491		29,967	16,923	5,457		22,380
Other ordinary incoming resources	2(d)	8,660			8,660	9,779			9,779
Income from investments	2(e)	754	12		767	563	2		565
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		170,998	139,854		310,852	118,770	45,240		164,009
RESOURCES EXPENDED									
Grants	3(a)	1,253	0		1,253	2,482			2,482
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church	3(b)	90,693	12,559		103,252	88,489	215,926		304,414
Costs of generating funds	3(c)	2,301			2,301	1,736	1,438		3,174
Church management and administration	3(d)	11,424			11,424	9,699			9,699
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		105,672	12,559		118,230	102,405	217,364		319,769
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES		65,327	127,295		192,622	16,365	(172,124)		(155,760)
GAINS AND LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS									
Realised	4(a)								0
Unrealised	4(a)			(2,118)	(2,118)			2,283	2,283
		65,327	127,295	(2,118)	190,504	16,365	(172,124)	2,283	(153,477)
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS									
		11	(11)			(1,250)	1,250		
NET MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS		65,338	127,284	(2,118)	190,504	15,115	(170,875)	2,283	(153,477)
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1st JANUARY		245,363	122,266	23,219	390,848	230,248	293,141	20,936	544,325
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD AT 31st DECEMBER		310,701	249,550	21,101	581,352	245,363	122,266	23,219	390,848

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER

	Note	2022	2021
		£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	4(a)(i)	85,000	85,000
Tangible fixed assets - investment	4(a)(ii)	194,434	194,434
Investments	4(b)	15,872	17,990
		<u>295,306</u>	<u>297,424</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Short term deposits		983	970
Cash at bank and in hand		285,064	92,455
CURRENT ASSETS		<u>286,047</u>	<u>93,425</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>581,353</u>	<u>390,848</u>
(see page 18)			
FUNDS	5		
Unrestricted		310,700	245,363
Restricted		249,551	122,266
Endowment		21,101	23,219
		<u>581,353</u>	<u>390,848</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 21 March 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

TREASURER

M W Eaton

CHAIR

21/3/2023

The notes on pages 7 to 15 form part of these accounts

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 as amended by the Church Accounting (Amendment) Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP. The Accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

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

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. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

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 owe their main affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital sources.

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 the income is received.

Funds raised by social and fund-raising events are accounted for gross.

Sales of books and magazines from the church bookstall are accounted for net.

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold.

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

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Resources expended

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when paid.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated property and moveable church furnishings

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

Movable church furnishings held by the Rector and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's Inventory which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore, such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since 1 January 2000 have been capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their currently anticipated useful economic life on a straight-line basis.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over 5 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £2,500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31st December.

Current assets

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

2. INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
2(a) Incoming resources from donors								
Planned giving								
Gift Aid donations	55,033	100,000		155,033	57,331	660		57,991
Tax recovered	14,128	25,064		39,192	13,052	34,402		47,454
Specific Donations	3,136	2,037		5,173		4,719		4,719
Collections (open plate) at all services	4,106			4,106	4,752			4,752
	76,403	127,101		203,504	75,135	39,781		114,916
2(b) Other voluntary incoming resources								
Grants	1,679	250		1,929	13,475			13,475
Donations and appeals for charity	8,196			8,196	2,265			2,265
Legacies	57,000			57,000				
Sundry	830			830	630			630
	67,705	250		67,955	16,370			16,370
2(c) Income from operating activities to generate funds								
Magazines (net of costs)	5,323			5,323	6,186			6,186
Bookstall, cards and mugs (net of costs)	2,202	843		3,045	2,700	1,306		4,005
Fund-raising events	1,690	9,199		10,890	349	2,568		2,916
Church and room lettings etc.	820	2,449		3,269	450	1,584		2,034
Fees	7,440			7,440	7,238			7,238
	17,476	12,491		29,967	16,923	5,457		22,380
2(d) Other ordinary incoming resources								
Rent on 8 Swan Street	8,660			8,660	9,779			9,779
	8,660			8,660	9,779			9,779
2(e) Income from investments								
Dividends and interest including any reclaimed tax	754	12		767	563	2		565
	754	12		767	563	2		565
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	170,998	139,854		310,852	118,770	45,240		164,010

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

3. RESOURCES EXPENDED		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2022	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2021
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
3(a) Grants	7								
Missionary and charitable giving					0				
Church overseas					0				
- missionary societies					0				
Specific Donations		1,253			1,253	2,482			2,482
Home missions and donations from collections					0		0		0
		1,253	0	0	1,253	2,482	0	0	2,482
3(b) Activities directly relating to the work of the Church									
Ministry: parish share		64,141			64,141	59,715			59,715
clergy expenses		107			107	1,451			1,451
Church running expenses		8,953			8,953	7,940			7,940
Credit from gas supplier					0	-3,000			-3,000
Church maintenance, restoration, refurbishment		4,321	9,562		13,884	4,897	212,827		217,724
Worship resources		3,306			3,306	7,377			7,377
Choir and music		4,732			4,732	2,855	180		3,035
Church Hall running costs			2,908		2,908		2,834		2,834
Insurance		4,445			4,445	4,200			4,200
Sundry		688	88		777	3,054	85		3,139
		90,693	12,559	0	103,252	88,489	215,926	0	304,414
3(c) Costs of generating funds									
Fees paid					0				
Purchase of candles		235			235	355			355
Swan Street expenses		2,066			2,066	1,381			1,381
Purchase of goods for resale					0		1,438		1,438
		2,301	0	0	2,301	1,736	1,438	0	3,174
3(d) Church management and administration									
Secretarial & office expenses		11,424			11,424	7,284			7,284
Web site					0	1,875			1,875
Accountancy					0	540			540
		11,424	0	0	11,424	9,699	0	0	9,699
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		105,672	12,559	0	118,230	102,405	217,364	0	319,769

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022**

4. FIXED ASSETS

(a) Tangible Fixed Assets

(i) Assets Held for PCC Activities

	Freehold Land and Buildings £	Equipment £	Total £
COST OR VALUATION			
At 1st January 2022	85,000	7,408	92,408
Additions			
Disposals			
Revaluation			
At 31st December 2022	<u>85,000</u>	<u>7,408</u>	<u>92,408</u>
DEPRECIATION			
At 1st January 2022		7,408	7,408
Charge for the year			
Disposals			
Revaluation			
At 31st December 2022	<u>0</u>	<u>7,408</u>	<u>7,408</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31st December 2022	<u>85,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>85,000</u>
At 31st December 2021	<u>85,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>85,000</u>

The freehold land and buildings comprise the Ashwell Church Room. The gross value is based on the value estimated by the PCC as at 12th July 2011 for insurance purposes and is considered to be a fair estimate of the current value in use of the property.

**(ii) Assets Held for Investment
(held in the UK)**

	Freehold Land and Buildings £
COST OR VALUATION	
At 1st January 2022	194,434
Revaluation	
At 31st December 2022	<u>194,434</u>
DEPRECIATION	
At 1st January 2022	0
Charge for the year	0
At 31st December 2022	<u>0</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31st December 2022	<u>194,434</u>
At 31st December 2021	<u>194,434</u>

The freehold land and buildings comprise the property at 8 Swan Street, Ashwell, which was received as a bequest from Miss Simms in 1986. The gross value is the current market value

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022**

Note 4 Continued

4. (b) Investments	Value 2022 £	Value 2021 £
284 Shares in the CBF Investment Fund (Sale Bequest Fund - historic cost £200)	5,868	6,651
1738 95 Shares in the CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund (Floodlight Fund - historic cost £8,700)	10,004	11,339
	<u>15,872</u>	<u>17,990</u>

5. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2021 £
Fixed Assets	194,434	85,000	15,872	295,306	194,434	85,000	17,990	297,424
Current Assets	116,266	164,551	5,230	286,047	50,929	37,267	5,230	93,425
Current Liabilities								
	<u>310,700</u>	<u>249,551</u>	<u>21,101</u>	<u>581,353</u>	<u>245,363</u>	<u>122,267</u>	<u>23,219</u>	<u>390,848</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022**

6 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - UNRESTRICTED FUND ANALYSIS 2022

	General Fund £	Bequests Fund £	Hardship Fund £	Total £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Gift Aid donations	55,033			55,033
Tax recovered	14,128			14,128
Collections (open plate)	4,106			4,106
Donations & grants	11,512		1,500	13,012
Legacies		57,000		57,000
Rent on 8 Swan Street	8,660			8,660
Fees	7,440			7,440
Other events & sales	10,866			10,866
Interest	754			754
	<u>112,498</u>	<u>57,000</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>170,998</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Charitable Giving	1,253		200	1,453
Parish Share	64,141			64,141
Church Running Expenses	8,953			8,953
Church Maintenance	4,321			4,321
Worship Resources	3,106			3,106
Choir and Music	4,732			4,732
Insurance	4,445			4,445
Swan Street Expenses	2,066			2,066
Parish Office	11,424			11,424
Sundry	1,030			1,030
				0
				0
	<u>105,472</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>105,672</u>
NET RESOURCES	<u>7,027</u>	<u>57,000</u>	<u>1,300</u>	<u>65,327</u>
Inter fund transfers	<u>11</u>			<u>11</u>
BALANCE SHEET				
Freehold Property	194,434			194,434
Bank current account	57,966	57,000	1,300	116,266
DBOF deposits				0
FUND BALANCE	<u>252,400</u>	<u>57,000</u>	<u>1,300</u>	<u>310,700</u>
Net movement	<u>7,037</u>	<u>57,000</u>	<u>1,300</u>	<u>65,337</u>
Balance b/fwd	<u>245,363</u>			<u>245,363</u>
Balance c/fwd	<u>252,400</u>	<u>57,000</u>	<u>1,300</u>	<u>310,700</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

Note 6 Continued

6 FUND DETAILS

The Unrestricted Funds comprise the following funds: -

The General Fund

The General Fund represents 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. Other funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

Bequests Fund

To set apart sums left to the church by beneficiaries in their wills to be reserved for special projects at the PCC's discretion

Hardship Fund

To set apart sums given to the PCC specifically to support the vulnerable and those in need.

Sum's (up to £100) to be paid to appropriate recipients at the discretion of the Rector. Larger payments may be made with the agreement of the standing committee.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022**

7. GENERAL FUND

Donations to Missions and Charities

	Collections etc. £	Donations from PCC £	TOTAL 2022 £	TOTAL 2021 £
HOME				
Garden House Hospice (note 1)			0	50
Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust		25	25	25
Salvation Army (note 1)			0	50
Brave Trust	150		150	120
Children's Society (note 1)	180		180	50
Ashwell Fight Against Cancer (note 2)			0	883
Train a Priest Fund (note 30)			0	182
Jimmy's	142		142	
Parkinson's Disease Society of N. Herts			0	293
Royal British Legion (Ashwell Branch)			0	241
	<u>472</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>497</u>	<u>1,893</u>
OVERSEAS				
Diapalante			0	50
DEC Ukraine Disaster Relief Fund	351		351	
Embrace the Middle East	170		170	
Bishops Harvest Appeal	135		135	374
Christian Aid (note 4)		100	100	165
	<u>656</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>756</u>	<u>589</u>
TOTAL	<u>1,128</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>1,253</u>	<u>2,482</u>

Donations to external charities were frustrated in 2021 by Covid-19 restrictions preventing us from holding our usual fund-raising events for Christian Aid and the Bishop's Harvest Appeal. The Charity of the Month scheme was also compromised due to smaller congregations in church.

Note 1 In addition to the above figures, as part of the Charity of the Month initiative the PCC also collected in the Charity's own Gift Aid Envelopes for these charities.

Note 2 Collection at the memorial Service for the late Mrs Ruth West

Note 3 Collection at the installation service for Rev Chris Campbell

Note 4 Donations from the Profits from the Christmas Cards and Tea Towels

In addition to the above the PCC Provides accommodation for the mobile Post Office Service in the PCR at no charge to the operators. If the full rent were charged this would amount to £3,400. The PCC considers this as part of its charitable giving as a service to the local community.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022**

8 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - RESTRICTED FUND ANALYSIS 2022

	Restoration & Tower £	Legacies & Collections £	Internal Reordering £	Kneelers £	Parish Church Room £	Relief Organist Fund £	Organ £	Total £
INCOMING RESOURCES								
Gift Aid donations			100,000					100,000
Tax recovered	64		25,000					25,064
Donations & grants	1,737				250	100	200	2,287
Legacies								0
Income from Lettings					2,449			2,449
Teas	1,513							1,513
Ashwell at Home/ Music Festival	5,527							5,527
Other events & sales	3,002							3,002
Interest	1	12						12
	<u>11,844</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>125,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,699</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>139,854</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED								
Church maintenance, restoration, refurbishment	1,032		8,530					9,562
Professional fees								0
Running Costs					2,908			2,908
Donation								0
Purchase of goods for resale								0
Bank Charges	88							88
	<u>1,120</u>		<u>8,530</u>		<u>2,908</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>12,559</u>
NET RESOURCES	<u>10,723</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>116,470</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(209)</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>127,295</u>
Withdrawal								
Unrealised gains/(losses)								
Inter fund transfers			1,454	(1,454)	209	(220)		(11)
	<u>10,723</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>117,924</u>	<u>(1,454)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(120)</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>127,285</u>
BALANCE SHEET								
Freehold Property								
Bank current account								
DBOF deposits								
FUND BALANCE	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Net movement	<u>10,723</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>117,924</u>	<u>(1,454)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(120)</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>127,285</u>
Balance b/fwd	9,367	4,805	17,882	1,454	85,000	120	3,638	122,266
Balance c/fwd	<u>20,090</u>	<u>4,817</u>	<u>135,806</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>85,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3,838</u>	<u>249,551</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

9 FUND DETAILS

The restricted funds comprise the following funds:-

Restoration and Tower Fund

To provide funds for the repair and renovation of the church, including the tower.

Rectory

To provide funds for the repair and renovation of the rectory and for certain running costs of the rectory and the parish office. The liability for these items has passed to the Diocese. Having first obtained the approval of the donor, the balance of this Fund has been transferred to the Restoration Fund.

Legacies and Collections

Consisting of legacies and specific donations received, to be spent on purposes selected by the PCC.

Parish Church Room Fund

To hold the asset of the Parish Church Room which is operated by the PCC on behalf of the Church and community.

Kneeler Fund

To provide funds for replacement of church kneelers. This Fund was closed in 2022 and the balance on the Fund was transferred to the Internal Reordering Fund.

Organ Fund

To provide funds for repair and renovation of the organ.

Internal Reordering Fund

To provide funds for the internal reordering of the church and the enhancement of its interior facilities, such as kitchen and toilet facilities.

Relief Organist Fund

To provide funds for fees paid to relief organists accompanying services when the principal organist is unable to play. This Fund was closed in 2022.

The Endowment Funds comprise the following funds:-

Salvage Bequest

Consisting of a legacy, the income from which is used for purposes selected by the PCC.

Floodlight Fund

A donation, the income from which is used to fund the use of the floodlights.

10 CONNECTED CHARITIES

The Friends of St. Mary's is an independent charity whose aims are to provide funds for specific projects in connection with the Church fabric and fittings. The trustees of the charity include members of the PCC and all projects funded must first obtain the approval of the PCC.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER

		2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible fixed assets for use by PCC					
	Parish Room		85,000		85,000
	Equipment				
Tangible fixed assets - investment					
	8 Swan Street		194,434		194,434
Investments					
	Sale Bequest		5,868		6,651
	Floodlight Fund		10,004		11,339
			<u>295,306</u>		<u>297,424</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Short term deposits	General funds				
	Other funds		983		970
Cash at bank and in hand	General funds		57,966		50,929
	Other funds		227,098		41,526
			<u>286,047</u>		<u>93,425</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			286,047		93,425
NET ASSETS			<u>581,353</u>		<u>390,848</u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted			310,700		245,363
Restricted			249,551		122,266
Endowment			21,101		23,219
			<u>581,353</u>		<u>390,848</u>

Accounts

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
OF
ST. MARY THE VIRGIN
ASHWELL, HERTS.**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER 2021**

Registered Charity Number: 1134776

**109 High St, Ashwell
Baldock, Hertfordshire
SG7 5PQ**

Bankers:

Barclays Bank plc
23 High Street
Royston, Hertfordshire
SG7 6PY

Independent Examiner:

Jackie Pritchard
6 Mill Street
Ashwell
SG7 5LY
jpritchard1001@gmail.com

Contents

	Page
Independent Examiners Report	2
Structure and Role of PCC	3-5
Annual Report	6-7
Statement of Financial Activities	8
Balance Sheet	9
Accounting Policies	10-11
Supporting Notes and Break Outs	12-21

Pages 1 to 8 form the formal statutory Accounts for the PCC

Pages 9 to 18 are supporting notes which provide the detail supporting the

Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

Independent Examiner's report to the PCC of St. Mary the Virgin, Ashwell, Herts.

Report to the PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary's Ashwell on the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021 which are set out on pages 1 to 17.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and Independent Examiner

The PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They 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 examiners report is needed.

It is my responsibility

To examine the financial statement under section 145 of the Charities Act

To follow the procedure laid down in the General Direction given by the Charities Commission (under section 145(5)9b) 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 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 financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or 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 financial statements 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 financial statements do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed



Jackie Pritchard BComm ACMA
6 Mill Street
Ashwell
Hertfordshire

28/02/2022

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021

Administrative Information

St Mary's Church is situated in Mill Street, Ashwell, Baldock, Hertfordshire. It is part of the Diocese of St Albans within the Church of England. The correspondence address is: 109 High Street, Ashwell, Baldock, Hertfordshire. SG7 5PQ

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary, Ashwell, became a registered charity on 10 March 2010.

Membership of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)

During the 12 months to 31 December 2021, the following served as members of the PCC.

Rector	The Revd Christine Campbell from 29th September 2021	
Vice Chair	David Richards	
Churchwardens	Sarah Talks Bernard Allen	
Reader	Dr Mark Eaton	
Representatives to the Buntingford Deanery Synod	Dr Mark Eaton	Deputy Church Warden and Safeguarding Officer
	Jo Adams	
	Dr Mark Eaton <i>Hon Treasurer</i>	
Elected members	Julia Mitchell	<i>Hon Secretary</i> Deputy Church Warden
	Mike Taffs	
	Rose Cooper	
	Stephen ten Hove	
	Ruth ten Hove	
	Susan Greenbank	
	Guy Mackenzie	
	Neil Inskip	From May 2021

Donations by the Trustees

Total donations by the trustees and those closely connected to them in 2021 amounted to £14,850

Reimbursement of Personal Expenditure

No trustees received any reimbursement of personal expenditure in 2021. The PCC pays the telephone and broadband costs for the Rectory directly.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021 - Continued

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules 2011. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and activities

St Mary's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for St Mary's Church and 8 Swan Street and management responsibility for the separate trust covering the Parish Church Room.

Achievements and performance

New Rector

It was with great pleasure that we welcomed the Revd Chris Campbell and her family to the benefice as our new rector with effect from 29th September 2021. The PCC is also extremely grateful to all those who took on additional responsibility during the vacancy, particularly the Church Wardens and to the Revd Canon Lindsey Dew who led most of our services to considerable effect.

Church attendance

There were 96 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll in April 2021, compared with 90 at the same time in 2020. Before Covid-19, the average weekly adult attendance was around 70. In the period from January to April 2021, the PCC took the decision to suspend public worship to protect members of the congregation. Services took place online via Zoom with an average weekly participation of around 50. Once services in church resumed in May, average attendances were around 40, rising to 55 by the end of the year. Services continued to be available on Zoom to those who were shielding, with a further 10 or so participating on line. These numbers increased at festivals and Christmas services.

PCC Meetings

The full PCC met 13 times during 2021. The meetings were chaired by the Vice Chair, David Richards, although the meetings on 18 May and 21 September which were chaired by Bernard Allan as Church Warden. The Rev Chris Campbell chaired the meetings on 19 October and 16 November. A number of meetings were held online via Zoom due to restrictions over meeting in person due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

These Accounts were approved by the PCC on 8 March 2022 and signed by the Rev Chris Campbell as Chair.

Sub Committees and Action Groups have met between meetings and notes of their deliberations were received by the full PCC and discussed where necessary. The Rector is an ex officio member of each committee or group.

Standing Committee

The Parish has a Standing Committee comprising the Rector, The Vice Chair, the churchwardens, and the Safeguarding Officer

Worship Group

Considers services and music and church matters relating to worship. The membership comprises the Rector, the Reader (Mark Eaton) the Director of Music (Bene't Coldstream) and the organist (John Rowlands) During the vacancy the Revd Canon Lindsey due stood in for the Rector. During the Pandemic the remit of this group was extended to review and make recommendations on how best to conduct worship in church in the most Covid responsible manner and how to emerge for the pandemic in the most expedient way and the membership was expanded accordingly.

Music Committee

Looks creatively at ways to maintain and develop the tradition of music at St Mary's to support worship and to encourage wider participation by the community. The membership comprises the Rector, Mark Eaton (Reader), Bene't Coldstream (Director of Music) John Rowlands (Organist), Susan Greenbank (Chair) and Ruth ten Hove.

Finance Committee

Provides financial oversight for the PCC, though responsibility for the PCR Trust's and PCC's finances is shared by all members of the PCC. The membership comprises the Rector, the Mark Eaton (Treasurer), Susan Greenbank and Stephen ten Hove.

Youth and Sunday School Action Group

Deals with all matters relating to the young people of the parish. The membership comprises the Rector, Joe Adams and Sarah Talks.

Fabric Action Group

Considers repairs and improvements which need to be carried out to the church property. The membership comprises Mike Taffs (Chair), David Richards (PCC Vice Chair), Mark Eaton (Treasurer), Graham Chandler (Health and Safety Officer), Sarah Talks (Church Warden).

The Tower Restoration Group

Formulates plans for major restoration work on the Tower and for fundraising to undertake this work. Membership comprises Mike Taffs (Chair), Mark Eaton (Treasurer) Graham Chandler, Julia Mitchell (Secretary), Anne Mason (Consultant), Sarah Talks (Church Warden), Bernard Allen (Church Warden), Iain Frearson (Architect), David Richards (PCC Vice Chair), Stephen ten Hove, Ailsa Keightley.

Faith Development Group

Champions the sharing the love and life of Christ through our teaching. The Group oversees the House Groups and the Lent Course. The membership comprises The Rector, Mark Eaton (Reader) Rose Cooper (Chair) and Guy Mackenzie.

Communications Group

Champions the effective communication of the parishes mission and activities and the promotion of outreach through various media. It also oversees the Parish Website and the production and distribution of Ashwell Village News. The membership comprises The Rector, Guy Mackenzie (Chair and Website lead), Mark Eaton, Sarah Talks (AVN Editor), Bernard Allen, and Jo Adams.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021 - Continued

Financial Review

In the year ending 31st December 2021, the PCC had a surplus of £15,115 in unrestricted funds. In restricted funds there was a deficit of £170,875. This largely came about because of expenditure of £182,201 on the Reordering of the North West Corner which was well covered from reserves in this fund carried forward of £167,394, which included a substantial donation from a parishioner (£100k plus gift aid), and by the £61K due to us from the sale of the Old Rectory. We were also able to recover the VAT of £32,689 on most of the invoices under the Listed Places of Worship scheme (LPOWS)

There was expenditure of £32,149 from the Restoration Fund principally on specialist reports to support the Tower restoration project. This was again covered from reserves carried forward including a grant for this work for Historic England received in late 2020.

It is particularly gratifying to see the growing surplus on the general fund after several years of decline. The principal reasons for this turnaround are (1) the continued support of the congregation (2) grants of £10,000 in 2020 and £13,000 in 2021 from North Herts District Council under the Covid-19 small business support scheme, and (3) the contribution from Ashwell Village News of £6,186.

The PCC has so far weathered the Covid-19 storm relatively well because most of our supporters donate by standing order and we are less dependent on plate collections which have dropped due to people not attending services in person. In addition, a number of donors have made significant top up donations to help the church through this difficult period. The church is extremely grateful for the generosity of all its donors.

After a sharp fall in 2020 as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, fee income from weddings and funerals recovered well in 2021, due in part to a number of postponed weddings.

The Flea Market and the Music Festival had to be cancelled in 2021 as a result of the Covid pandemic but we were able to have a very successful Christmas Fair. We were also able to recommence Sunday Teas in the Parish Room. The Gift and Card stall run by Marjorie Fitt and Sheelagh Bennett also brought in some very useful incremental income as did the Ashwell Calendar organised by Julia Mitchell

Efforts continue to contain utility costs, shopping around for the best deals on gas and electricity. Gas costs were also down in 2021 as we received a large refund of £3,000 from British Gas, due to overpayment in prior years, when we switched to Total Gas and Power in April. We now have a fixed price gas contract for four years which protects us from much of the recent steep rise in energy costs.

Our strategy to secure funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to provide for the large amount of work required on the Tower to conserve the stone-work and halt rainwater ingress remains frustrated by the change to their funding criteria as a result of the Covid pandemic. We did however secure a £10,000 grant from Historic England to progress preparatory work mainly in the form of reports needed from various specialist consultants which constitutes most of the expenditure on the restoration fund in 2021.

During 2021, work was completed on the reordering of the North West corner of the Church to provide better toilet and kitchen facilities and a draft-reducing inner lobby to the North Door. This has been largely funded by a generous donation from Eric and Audrey Gurney in memory

of their daughter Claire. The church is now benefitting from the improved facilities albeit there have been limited opportunities to serve refreshments after services due to the need to be minimise the risk of spreading Covid-19. There remains a balance of £17,882 in the fund.

Because of the ongoing pressures on the General Fund, the PCC continues to focus donations to external charities on funds specially collected for such purposes, for example by the "Charity of the Month" approach. Such fundraising has however been frustrated by the pandemic. External donations increased a little in 2021 from a low in 2020 mainly as a result of charity collections taken at memorial services. As a service to the local community, the PCC also provides accommodation for the mobile post office in the Parish Room for 8 hours per week with only a nominal charge to the operators. If the full rent were charged this would amount to £5,616 per annum. The Parish Council contributes £1,000 to support this service The PPC considers the balance as part of its charitable giving as a service to the local community.

The Parish Share remains the Church's most significant item of expenditure. This pays for our priest, and all employment, housing and training costs, including training costs for new priests and Readers. It pays for the support the Church receives from the Diocese and also helps to support those Parishes in the Diocese in need. The fact that all three parishes in the benefice have regularly paid their Share in full stood us in good stead regarding a successor to the Rev Robert Evens on the same basis of ministry.

In 2020, the PCC became aware that in 1971, the PCR had been set up as a separate trust with members of the PCC as the managing trustees. Following guidance from senior members of the diocesan finance team as to the implications of this, in 2020 the PCC transferred the PCR into a separate restricted fund. The PCC retains responsibility for the financial operation of the PCR which is in deficit in most years. In 2021, a transfer of funds (£1,250) from the General Fund was necessary for the PCR fund to conclude the year with a zero balance. The capital value of the PCR of £85,000 was transferred to a restricted fund in 2020.

Over the years the PCC has received a number of modest legacies from grateful parishioners who have passed away for which we are very grateful.

The Church remains heavily dependent on the services of the many people who offer their time voluntarily to support and facilitate its mission and activities and the PCC would like to thank all those who offer their service and time in so many ways.

The PCC has a safeguarding officer (Jo Adams) and maintains a safeguarding policy in line with the recommendation of the church of England. No incidents were reported in 2021. All Church Officers and PCC members have a DBS check as required by the Church of England.

Taking the above into account the available (unrestricted) funds at 31 December 2021 stand at £50,929 compared with £35,814 at the close of 2020. This is a much healthier position.

On behalf of the PCC



Revd. Christine Campbell

Chair of PCC

Date 08/03/2022 .

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2021	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2020
	Note	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES									
Incoming resources from donors	2(a)	75,135	39,781		114,916	78,792	204,183		282,975
Other voluntary incoming resources	2(b)	16,370			16,370	24,476			24,476
Income from operating activities to generate funds	2(c)	16,923	5,457		22,380	11,872	4,712		16,584
Other ordinary incoming resources	2(d)	9,779			9,779	8,340			8,340
Income from investments	2(e)	563	2		565	939	5		944
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		118,770	45,240		164,009	124,419	208,901		333,320
RESOURCES EXPENDED									
Grants	3(a)	2,482			2,482	967			967
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church	3(b)	88,489	215,926		304,414	86,858	57,189		144,047
Costs of generating funds	3(c)	1,736	1,438		3,174	237	1,275		1,512
Church management and administration	3(d)	9,699			9,699	5,410			5,410
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		102,405	217,364		319,769	93,472	58,464		151,936
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES		16,365	(172,124)		(155,760)	30,947	150,437		181,384
GAINS AND LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS									
Realised	4(a)			2,283	2,283			1,015	1,015
Unrealised	4(a)	16,365	(172,124)	2,283	(153,477)	30,947	150,437	1,015	182,398
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS		(1,250)	1,250			(87,002)	87,002		
NET MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS		15,115	(170,875)	2,283	(153,477)	(56,055)	237,439	1,015	182,398
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1st JANUARY		230,248	293,141	20,936	544,325	286,303	55,702	19,922	361,927
Revaluation of fixed assets									
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD AT 31st DECEMBER		245,363	122,266	23,219	390,848	230,248	293,141	20,936	544,325

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER

	Note	£	2021 £	£	2020 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible fixed assets	4(a)(i)		85,000		85,000
Tangible fixed assets - investment	4(a)(ii)		194,434		194,434
Investments	4(b)		17,990		15,707
			297,424		295,141
CURRENT ASSETS					
Short term deposits		970		970	
Cash at bank and in hand		92,455		248,214	
CURRENT ASSETS			93,425		249,184
NET ASSETS			390,848		544,325
(see page 18)					
FUNDS					
	5				
Unrestricted			245,363		230,248
Restricted			122,266		293,141
Endowment			23,219		20,939
			390,848		544,325

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 8 March 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

TREASURER



M W Eaton

CHAIR



The notes on pages 7 to 15 form part of these accounts

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2020**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 as amended by the Church Accounting (Amendment) Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP. The Accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

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

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. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

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 owe their main affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital sources.

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 the income is received.

Funds raised by social and fund raising events are accounted for gross.

Sales of books and magazines from the church bookstall are accounted for??
nettnet.

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold.

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

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2020**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Resources expended

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when paid.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated property and moveable church furnishings

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

Movable church furnishings held by the Rector and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's Inventory which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since 1 January 2000 have been capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their currently anticipated useful economic life on a straight line basis.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over 5 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £2,500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31st December.

Current assets

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021

2. INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2021	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
2(a) Incoming resources from donors								
Planned giving								
Gift Aid donations	57,331	660		57,991	60,741			60,741
Tax recovered	13,052	34,402		47,454	13,842	27,644		41,486
Specific Donations		4,719		4,719		176,540		176,540
Collections (open plate) at all services	4,752			4,752	4,208			4,208
	75,135	39,781		114,916	78,792	204,183		282,975
2(b) Other voluntary incoming resources								
Grants	13,475			13,475	10,000			10,000
Donations and appeals for charity	2,265			2,265	2,946			2,946
Legacies					11,318			11,318
Sundry	630			630	211			211
	16,370			16,370	24,476			24,476
2(c) Income from operating activities to generate funds								
Magazines (net of costs)	6,186			6,186	7,022			7,022
Bookstall and cards (net of costs)	2,700	1,306		4,005	1,276	1,476		2,751
Fund-raising events	349	2,568		2,916	218	1,390		1,608
Church and room lettings etc.	450	1,584		2,034	150	1,847		1,997
Fees	7,238			7,238	3,206			3,206
	16,923	5,457		22,380	11,872	4,712		16,584
2(d) Other ordinary incoming resources								
Rent on 8 Swan Street	9,779			9,779	8,340			8,340
	9,779			9,779	8,340			8,340
2(e) Income from investments								
Dividends and interest including any reclaimed tax	563	2		565	939	5		944
	563	2		565	939	5		944
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	118,770	45,240		164,010	124,419	208,901		333,319

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021

3. RESOURCES EXPENDED	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2021	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2020
		£	£	£	£				£
3(a) Grants	7								
Missionary and charitable giving:									
Church overseas:									
- missionary societies									
Specific Donations		2,482			2,482	25			25
Home missions and donations from collections			0	0	0	942			942
		2,482	0	0	2,482	967	0	0	967
3(b) Activities directly relating to the work of the Church									
Ministry: parish share		59,715			59,715	66,779			66,779
clergy expenses		1,451			1,451	845			845
Church running expenses		7,940			7,940	7,484			7,484
Credit from gas supplier		(3,000)			3				
Church maintenance, restoration, refurbishment		4,897	212,827		217,724	909	52,856		53,766
Worship resources		7,377			7,377	2,604			2,604
Choir and music		2,855	180		3,035	972	670		1,642
Church Hall running costs			2,834		2,834		2,994		2,994
Insurance		4,200			4,200	4,379	610		4,989
Sundry		3,054	85		3,139	2,887	59		2,945
		88,489	215,926	0	307,417	86,858	57,189	0	144,047
3(c) Costs of generating funds									
Fees paid									
Purchase of candles		355			355	237			237
Swan Street expenses		1,381			1,381				
Purchase of goods for resale			1,438		1,438		1,275		1,275
		1,736	1,438	0	3,174	237	1,275	0	1,512
3(d) Church management and administration									
Secretarial & office expenses		7,284			7,284	5,410			5,410
Web site		1,875			1,875				
Accountancy		540			540				
		9,699	0	0	9,699	5,410	0	0	5,410
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		102,405	217,364	0	322,772	93,472	58,464	0	151,936

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021

4. FIXED ASSETS

(a) Tangible Fixed Assets

(i) Assets Held for PCC Activities

	Freehold Land and Buildings £	Equipment £	Total £
COST OR VALUATION			
At 1st January 2021	85,000	7,408	92,408
Additions			
Disposals			
Revaluation			
At 31st December 2021	85,000	7,408	92,408
DEPRECIATION			
At 1st January 2021		7,408	7,408
Charge for the year			
Disposals			
Revaluation			
At 31st December 2021	0	7,408	7,408
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31st December 2021	85,000	0	85,000
At 31st December 2020	85,000	0	85,000

The freehold land and buildings comprise the Ashwell Church Room. The gross value is based on the value estimated by the PCC as at 12th July 2011 for insurance purposes and is considered to be a fair estimate of the current value in use of the property.

(ii) Assets Held for Investment
(held in the UK)

	Freehold Land and Buildings £
COST OR VALUATION	
At 1st January 2021	194,434
Revaluation	
At 31st December 2021	194,434
DEPRECIATION	
At 1st January 2021	0
Charge for the year	0
At 31st December 2021	0
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31st December 2021	194,434
At 31st December 2020	194,434

The freehold land and buildings comprise the property at 8 Swan Street, Ashwell, which was received as a bequest from Miss Simms in 1986. The gross value is the current market value estimated by the PCC.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

31st December

4. (b) Investments	Value 2021 £	Value 2020 £
284 Shares in the CBF Investment Fund (Sale Bequest Fund - historic cost £200)	6,651	5,807
1738.95 Shares in the CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund (Floodlight Fund - historic cost £8,700)	11,339	9,900
	<u>17,990</u>	<u>15,707</u>

5. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2021 £
Fixed Assets	194,434	85,000	17,990	297,424
Current Assets	50,929	37,267	5,230	93,425
Current Liabilities				
	<u>245,363</u>	<u>122,267</u>	<u>23,219</u>	<u>390,848</u>

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY
IRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.**

6 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - RESTRICTED FUND ANALYSIS 2021

	Restoration & Tower	Legacies & Collections	Internal Reordering	Kneelers	Parish Church Room	Relief Organist Fund	Organ	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES								
Gift Aid donations	660							660
Tax recoverable	1,713		32,689					34,402
Donations & grants	4,019				1,000	300	400	5,719
Legacies								
Income from Lettings					584			584
Teas	895							895
Ashwell at Home/ Music Festival	1,672							1,672
Other events & sales	1,306							1,306
Interest	2							2
	10,266		32,689		1,584	300	400	45,240
RESOURCES EXPENDED								
Church maintenance, restoration, refurbishment	2,538		182,201					184,739
Professional fees	28,088					180		28,268
Running Costs					2,834			2,834
Donation								
Purchase of goods for resale	1,438							1,438
Bank Charges	85							85
	32,149		182,201		2,834	180		217,364
NET RESOURCES	(21,883)		(149,512)		(1,250)	120	400	(172,124)
Withdrawal								
Unrealised gains/(losses)								
Inter fund transfers					1,250			1,250
	(21,883)		(149,512)			120	400	(170,874)
BALANCE SHEET								
Freehold Property					85,000			85,000
Bank current account	9,290	3,912	17,882	1,454		120	3,638	36,296
DBOF deposits	77	893						970
FUND BALANCE	9,367	4,805	17,882	1,454	85,000	120	3,638	122,266
Net movement	(21,883)		(149,512)			120	400	(170,875)
Balance b/fwd	31,250	4,805	167,394	1,454	85,000		3,238	293,141
Balance c/fwd	9,367	4,805	17,882	1,454	85,000	120	3,638	122,266

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

31st December

7 GENERAL FUND
Donations to Missions and Charities

	Collections etc.	Donations from PCC	TOTAL 2021	TOTAL 2020
	£	£	£	£
HOME				
Garden House Hospice (note 1)	50		50	50
Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust		25	25	25
Salvation Army (note 1)	50		50	348
Brave Trust	120		120	
Children's Society (note 1)	50		50	304
Ashwell Fight Against Cancer (note 2)	883		883	
Train a Priest Fund (note 3)	182		182	
Parkinson's Disease Society of N. Herts	293		293	
Royal British Legion (Ashwell Branch) (note 4)	241		241	
	<u>1,868</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>1,893</u>	<u>727</u>
OVERSEAS				
Diapalante	50		50	90
Bishops Harvest Appeal	374		374	150
Christian Aid (note 5)	165		165	
	<u>589</u>		<u>589</u>	<u>240</u>
TOTAL	<u>2,457</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>2,482</u>	<u>967</u>

Donations to external charities were frustrated in 2021 by Covid-19 restrictions preventing us holding our usual fund-raising events for Christian Aid and the Bishop's Harvest Appeal. The Charity of the Month scheme has been compromised as a smaller congregations in church.

Note 1 In addition to the above figures, as part of the Charity of the Month initiative the PCC also collects donations In the Charity's own Gift Aid Envelopes for these charities.

Note 2 Collection from the memorial Service for Ruth West

Note 3 Collection for the installation service for Rev Chris Campbell

Note 4 50% of Collection form memorial Service for Martin Lush

Note 5 Donations form the Profits form the Christmas Cards and Tea Towels

In addition to the above the PCC Provides accommodation for the mobile Post Office Service in the PCR at only a nominal charge to the operators. If the full rent were charged this would amount to £4,420. The PCC recevies a grant of £1000 from the Parish Council towards this and considers the balance as part of its charitable giving as a service to the local community.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2020

8 FUND DETAILS

The restricted funds comprise the following funds:-

Restoration and Tower Fund

To provide funds for the repair and renovation of the church, including the tower.

Rectory Fund

To provide funds for the repair and renovation of the rectory and for certain running costs of the rectory and the parish office. The liability for these items has passed to the Diocese. Having first obtained the approval of the donor, the balance of this Fund has been transferred to the Restoration Fund.

Legacies and Collections

Consisting of legacies and specific donations received, to be spent on purposes selected by the PCC.

Parish Church Room Fund

To hold the asset of the Parish Church Room which is operated by the PCC on behalf of the Church and community.

Kneeler Fund

To provide funds for replacement of church kneelers

Organ Fund

To provide funds for repair and renovation of the organ.

Internal Reordering Fund

To provide funds for the internal reordering of the church and the enhancement of its interior facilities, such as kitchen and toilet facilities

Relief Organist Fund

To provide funds for fees paid to relief organists accompanying services when the principal organist is unable to play.

The endowment funds comprise the following funds:-

Sale Bequest

Consisting of a legacy, the income from which is used for purposes selected by the PCC.

Floodlight Fund

A donation, the income from which is used to fund the use of the floodlights.

9 CONNECTED CHARITIES

The Friends of St. Mary's is an independent charity whose aims are to provide funds for specific projects in connection with the Church fabric and fittings. The trustees of the charity include members of the PCC and all projects funded must first obtain the approval of the PCC.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

**GENERAL FUND SUMMARY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021**

	2021	2020
	£	£
INCOME		
Planned giving	57,331	60,741
Income tax recoverable on planned giving and other donations	13,052	13,842
Collections (open plate) at all services	4,752	4,208
Grants	13,475	10,000
Donations and appeals for charity	2,265	2,946
Legacies		11,318
Sundry	631	211
Surplus from sale of magazines	6,186	7,022
Bookstall and cards	2,700	1,276
Church and room lettings etc.	450	150
Harvest Supper	349	218
Fees	7,238	3,206
Rent on 8 Swan Street	9,779	8,340
Dividends and interest including any reclaimed tax	563	939
TOTAL INCOME	118,770	124,419
EXPENDITURE		
Missionary and charitable giving:		
Church overseas: - missionary societies	2,482	25
Home missions and other Church Societies		942
Ministry: parish share	59,715	66,779
clergy expenses	1,451	845
Church running expenses	7,940	7,484
Church Maintenance	4,897	909
Worship resources	7,377	2,604
Choir and music	2,855	972
Insurance	4,200	4,379
Sundry	3,054	2,887
Purchase of candles	355	237
Swan Street expenses	1,381	
Secretarial expenses	7,284	5,410
Web site	1,875	
Accountancy	540	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	105,405	93,472
 BALANCE B/FWD	 230,248	 286,303
NET MOVEMENT IN FUND	13,364	30,947
FUND TRANSFER / REVALUATION	(1,250)	(87,002)
BALANCE C/FWD	242,363	230,248

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

**RESTRICTED FUNDS SUMMARY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021**

	Restoration & Tower £	Legacies & Collections £	Internal Reordering £	Kneelers £	Parish Church Room £	Relief Organist Fund £	Organ £	Total £
INCOMING RESOURCES								
Gift Aid donations	660							660
Tax recoverable	1,713		32,689					34,402
Donations & grants	4,019				1,000	300	400	5,719
Legacies								
Income from Lettings					584			584
Teas	895							895
Ashwell at Home/ Music Festival	1,672							1,672
Other events & sales	1,306							1,306
Interest	2							2
	10,266		32,689		1,584	300	400	45,240
RESOURCES EXPENDED								
Church maintenance, restoration, refurbishment	2,538		182,201					184,739
Professional fees	28,088					180		28,268
Running Costs					2,834			2,834
Grants								
Purchase of goods for resale	1,438							1,438
Bank Charges	85							85
	32,149		182,201		2,834	180		217,364
NET RESOURCES	(21,883)		(149,512)		(1,250)	120	400	(172,124)
Withdrawal								
Unrealised gains/(losses)								
Inter fund transfers					1,250			1,250
	(21,883)		(149,512)			120	400	(170,875)
BALANCE SHEET								
Freehold Property					85,000			85,000
Bank current account	9,290	3,912	17,882	1,454		120	3,638	36,296
DBOF deposits	77	894						970
FUND BALANCE	9,367	4,805	17,882	1,454	85,000	120	3,638	122,267
Net movement	(21,883)		(149,512)			120	400	(170,875)
Balance b/fwd	31,250	4,805	167,394	1,454	85,000		3,238	293,141
Balance c/fwd	9,367	4,805	17,882	1,454	85,000	120	3,638	122,266

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, ASHWELL, HERTS.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER

		2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible fixed assets for use by PCC					
Parish Room		85,000		85,000	
Equipment					
Tangible fixed assets - investment					
8 Swan Street		194,434		194,434	
Investments					
Sale Bequest		6,651		5,807	
Floodlight Fund		<u>11,339</u>		<u>9,900</u>	
		297,424		295,141	
CURRENT ASSETS					
Short term deposits	General funds				
	Other funds	970		970	
Cash at bank and in hand	General funds	50,929		35,814	
	Other funds	<u>41,526</u>		<u>212,400</u>	
		<u>93,425</u>		<u>249,184</u>	
CURRENT ASSETS		93,425		249,184	
NET ASSETS		<u>390,848</u>		<u>544,325</u>	
FUNDS					
Unrestricted		245,363		230,248	
Restricted		122,266		293,141	
Endowment		23,219		20,936	
		<u>390,848</u>		<u>544,325</u>	