



**Parochial Church Council
of
St Sebastian's Church, Wokingham Without**



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting
19 April 2023**



Contents

Our Aims And Purposes At St Sebastian's	3
Administrative Information	5
Structure, Trustees And Membership Of The PCC	5
Safeguarding	8
Fabric Goods and Ornaments of the Church Report for 2022	10
Priorities For 2022	11
Summary Of Church Activities In 2022/2023	11
A Thank You from the Deanery	23
Electoral Roll & Church Attendance	23
Sonning Deanery Report.....	23
Financial statements of the Parochial Church Council (Year ended 31 December 2022).....	25



OUR AIMS AND PURPOSES AT ST SEBASTIAN'S

Parish Values

Based on Jesus' prayer for his disciples in John 17, we believe that as a Church God has called us to be:

C hrist-centred	Not 'Jesus and...', but <i>Jesus alone</i> at the centre of our lives. ' <i>...glory has come to me through them...</i> ' (John 17:10)
R ighteous	God-directed living, thinking, and speaking. ' <i>Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth</i> ' (John 17:17)
O ne	Not 'I've won!', but 'We are one'. ' <i>...that they may be one as we are one...</i> ' (John 17:22)
S ent	A serving Church rather than a consumer Church. ' <i>As you sent me into the world, I have sent them...</i> ' (John 17:18)
S pirit-filled	All God's people using God's gifts to the full. ' <i>...so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them...</i> ' (John 17:13)

Mission Statement

We believe God is calling us as a Church to be:

A beacon in the community:

- To lead people to Jesus Christ
- To help them grow in Him

'A city set on a hill cannot be hidden' (Matthew 5:14)

Vision Statement

Our current Vision:

To glorify God and to serve the local community, sharing the heart of Jesus.



The Parochial Church Council of St Sebastian's Wokingham Without has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent in promoting the whole mission of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Wokingham in the Diocese of Oxford. It has responsibility for maintaining the Church on Nine Mile Ride and has the responsibility of acting as Managing Trustees of the Church Hall, Parish Centre, and St Sebastian's Lodge.

Public Benefit

The trustees of the Charity are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in *The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit* and have had regard to it in their administration of the Charity. The trustees believe that, by promoting the work of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Sebastian, Wokingham it helps to promote the whole mission of the Church (pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical) more effectively, within the Ecclesiastical Parish, and that in doing so it provides a benefit to the public by:

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

Charity Registration Number

1139933 (registered on 19 January 2011).



ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

St Sebastian's Church is situated in Nine Mile Ride, in the district of Wokingham Without. It is part of the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England.

Clergy:	In Vacancy	
Churchwardens:	Mary Unwin	Nigel Wickens
Deputy Churchwardens:	Jane Addison Paul Morrison	Nigel Birch
Deanery Synod:	David Hare Peter Thompson	Wendy Wickens Janet Rogers
PCC Members:	Clergy, Churchwardens, and Deanery Synod Reps (Ex-Officio) John Congram Sue Thomas Nigel Birch Paul Morrison Suman Shrestha	
		Chris Bull David Smart Russell Shipton (Co-opted) Murray Foulds Vacancy

Address for correspondence

St Sebastian's Church
Parish Office
Nine Mile Ride
Wokingham
RG40 3AT

Banks

CAF Bank Ltd
25 King's Hill Avenue
King's Hill
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Barclays
Leicester
LE87 2BB

STRUCTURE, TRUSTEES AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE PCC

Legally the council is responsible for the financial affairs of the Church Parish and the maintenance of its assets, such as Churches and Church halls, and promoting the mission of the Church.

Members (Trustees) of the PCC are Ex-Officio or elected by the APCM in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The PCC meets as a whole body usually seven times a year. For six of these meetings the items of business will include approval of decisions made by the Finance, the Environment, the Mission or the Standing Committees; items brought forward by the clergy or Churchwardens that need discussion and decisions and information items from the Team Leaders, Deanery Synod representatives and the Churches Together representatives. Each year the PCC also review its Safeguarding policies, following Diocesan guidelines and policies, its Health and Safety policy and Employment policies. The meeting in October is dedicated to discussions and decisions on the budget for the coming year.

The sub-committees during the year were:

Standing Committee – This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the council.

Finance Committee – Concerned with the stewardship of our financial resources. Makes recommendations to the PCC on Budget, approaches to voluntary giving (stewardship), scrutiny of major expenditure to ensure PCC secures best value for money on expenditure incurred.



Mission Committee– Liaises with and promotes the work of selected Christian missions and missionary work of the Church in the local area. Makes recommendations to the PCC regarding how the Church's giving should be distributed. It also researches and provides reports to the PCC on the work of the charities, missions and individuals benefiting from these gifts.

Environment Committee – Attends to matters relating to the stewardship of our site including the Church, Hall, Parish Centre and St Sebastian's Lodge; the fixtures and fittings thereof and health and safety matters

Communications Committee – Seeks to ensure the most effective and coordinated communication with both church members and our community through the use of existing and new channels such as social media and video. Has taken an active role in making all services and meetings available on-line.

Covid Committee – This ad hoc Committee seeks to monitor and review local, regional and national Covid-19 trends and their impact on the Covid-related processes, protocols and controls in respect of St Sebastian's Church; to feed relevant Covid-related concerns to the PCC; to make recommendations for appropriate action in the context of Government and Church of England requirements/guidance for the safety and protection of St. Sebastian's congregations, staff and volunteers.

The PCC also appoints Team Leaders, who are responsible for the day-to-day running of their respective teams within the life of the Church. These teams include: Administration (vacant), Children and Youth, Evangelism (vacant), Pastoral Life, Prayer, Small Groups and Worship Services.

PCC Officers

Officers 2022:	David Smart	Acting Chair
	Peter Thompson	Acting Vice Chair & PCC Secretary
	John Congram	Acting Treasurer
	Jacob George	Independent Examiner
	Church Administrator	Electoral Roll Officer
	John Congram	Planned Giving Officer

PCC Committees

Standing Committee:	David Smart	Acting Chair
	Peter Thompson	PCC Secretary
	John Congram	Acting Treasurer
	Mary Unwin	Churchwarden
	Nigel Wickens	Churchwarden
Finance Committee:	Mary Unwin (Chair)	Sue Thomas
	Janet Rogers	Marshall Miller
	John Congram	
Mission Committee:	David Smart (Chair)	Suman Shrestha
	David Hare	Heather Marsh
	Nigel Birch	



Environment Committee:	Nigel Wickens (Chair) Paul Morrison Chris Bull	Murray Foulds Peter Thompson David Metson
Communications Committee:	David Smart (Chair) Marvin Vogel	Suman Shrestha Kirsty Milam - Church Administrator
Covid Committee:	Murray Foulds (Chair) Mary Unwin	Suman Shrestha Nigel Wickens

Team Leaders

Administration:	Vacant
Children & Families:	Amy Vogel
Youth:	Marvin Vogel
Evangelism:	Vacant
Pastoral Life:	Russell and Angela Shipton until May 2022 Paul and Claire Morrison from May 2022
Prayer:	Alexis Clarke and Jill Gardener
Small Groups:	Russell Shipton (Caretaker)
Worship Services:	Eve Bull

Safeguarding

Safeguarding in the Diocese of Oxford:	Helen Thompson Nicola Brock Murray Foulds Suman Shrestha Amy Vogel Russell Shipton until September 2022 Paul Morrison from September 2022 Church Administrator	Safeguarding Officer Deputy Safeguarding Officer PCC Safeguarding Lead Children's Advocate Recruiter (Youth) Deputy Recruiter (working with vulnerable adults) Verifier
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Other PCC Appointments

Churches Together in Crowthorne:	David Hare, Janet Rogers
Health & Safety Officer:	Murray Foulds
Data Protection Officer:	Chris Bull
Deputy Churchwardens:	Jane Addison, Nigel Birch, Paul Morrison
Church Hall Liaison:	Marvin Vogel and Janet Wood



SAFEGUARDING

The PCC continues to regard 'Safeguarding' as one of its most important responsibilities. There has been much discussion amongst the PCC members at many of the regular PCC meetings. Safeguarding for our church, is driven by the Church of England's publication "Parish Safeguarding Handbook - Promoting a Safer Church". It extends to all - young and adult alike.

The following policy was agreed at the PCC Meeting held on 18th May 2022. In accordance with our policy, it is planned to annually review, agree and renew this at the PCC Meeting to be held in May 2023.

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on the parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops' guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Team and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Inform the Diocesan Safeguarding Team if we receive any DBS Disclosures that are not clear.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.



Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church. This church appoints Helen Thompson as the Parish Safeguarding Lead Officer.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

During the interregnum the Leadership Team and PCC members committed to update their safeguarding training with regard to roles/responsibilities and in accordance with Oxford Diocesan requirements.

Further safeguarding training has been undertaken by other congregational members/ volunteers etc. according to roles/responsibilities.

Current Safeguarding Training Summary (as at 10.02.23) is as follows:

Level 1 - Basic Awareness - approx 40 completers

Level 2 - Foundation - approx 28 completers

Level 3 - Leadership. - 14 (completed + enrolled to complete Feb/March 2023)

In addition, there has been good progress made in use of the Oxford Diocese Safeguarding 'Dashboard'. This online tool measures and reports on Parish compliance in respect of safeguarding matters. Whilst voluntary, the PCC has committed to continued use of the 'Dashboard' to progress safeguarding compliance. During the interregnum St Sebastian's successfully completed the 'Safeguarding Action Plan - Level 1 - "Safer Foundations"'. Work continues to towards completion of the remaining two Levels (Level 2 and 3).

Murray Foulds, Health & Safety Officer



FABRIC GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF THE CHURCH REPORT FOR 2022

We continue to thank all our volunteers who help with the upkeep of all our buildings. However, we have again had a very difficult year in 2022 trying to keep all our buildings fit for purpose. I have noted below the main points about our church buildings.

Church Building

We are blessed to have a Church building with history. But this comes with its own challenges. We have had a blocked drain to the outside of the wall of the kitchen which has caused damp to the interior of the kitchen window frame. There has also been a leak from the exterior into the kitchen flat roof, and we now have damage spread into the hallway. We have spoken to Ecclesiastical insurance, and although we are covered for the damage inside the kitchen and hallway, this does not include the roof. To address this, we will be putting in a faculty (written permission from the Diocese) so that the work can be carried out. We also need to get quotes on costs for this repair. This will take time as the Diocese have a back log of requests since Covid.

Upon investigation we have also found damp in the vestry which will need to be dealt with. This will involve putting in another faculty to get permission to deal with the damage.

We also had our quinquennial report which gives us guidance on upkeep of the fabric of the building that needs to be done over the next five years. After the APCM the Churchwarden of Fabric will be working with the team on a plan of action for the work with associated costs.

As we are part of the Oxford Diocese, finance has been made available to pay for energy audits for churches. The aim of this audit is to see how we can be more carbon friendly. This audit took place on the 14th of March and will be taken to the PCC for discussion.

Our Other Buildings

The church hall, parish centre, parish centre flat, and St Sebastian's lodge continue to raise problems due to the age of the buildings. At present there are no big expenditures scheduled for these premises, but essential work still needs to be undertaken as needed.

Car Park

As you are aware the car park has many potholes which need to be rectified. We are hoping that we can engage in future discussions between the school and our new Vicar Rickey Simpson-Gray.

Report by: Nigel Wickens, Churchwarden



PRIORITIES FOR 2022

Our Vision is *'To glorify God and to serve the local community, sharing the heart of Jesus'*.

The interregnum has delayed the review of the PCC Strategy that was planned for 2021. The existing strategy, therefore, remained in place:

- To prioritise growth in discipleship.
- To adopt a staged approach to the development of the Church site.
- To seek to take the Church out into the community.

We had planned to review the vision statement and strategy in the course of the year, however due to the interregnum this was not possible.

SUMMARY OF CHURCH ACTIVITIES IN 2022/2023 AND TEAM LEADER UPDATES

Our annual report includes activities and information from May 2022 until April 2023 in accordance with our Annual Parochial Church Meeting. 2022 was another difficult year at St Sebastian's, Andrew's health meant he needed to take early retirement in February 2022. This placed a strain on the leadership of the church as we entered the interregnum and thanks must go out to all those who rallied round to continue the life of the church in particular the churchwardens, Mary Unwin and Nigel Wickens, who took the church leadership role and Russell Shipton who took the lead on services. The Churchwardens, PCC and other Leaders continued to be very well supported by Richard Lamey, the Area Dean.

PCC Report

The PCC has met every other month over the past year to discuss church business, with additional meetings specifically covering the budget and recruitment of the new vicar. In fact, whilst many other issues have been discussed and decisions made, these two items have been our focus of discussion along with standing items such as safeguarding. At the last APCM 4 members were voted on, and during the year Russell Shipton was co-opted due to his responsibilities as LLM and organising the services.

PCC meetings in 2022 were generally well attended. As you would expect a lot of focus was on the Parish Profile and the interview day for our new vicar. Another area which was discussed at length was finance as the church has run at a deficit for the last 2 years. John Congram has worked incredibly hard as treasurer with many ideas about saving and raising money and also encouraging people to give or increase their giving, starting first of all with the PCC and Leadership team, many of whom responded and as a result our deficit was reduced to £25,700 (before unrealised losses on investments) in 2022. Further details are shared in the Finance Report.

Safeguarding remains a priority at St Sebastian's. Murray Foulds was appointed as PCC Safeguarding Lead and has been concentrating on making sure that training is up to date as per his report above.

Report by: David Smart, PCC Acting Chair



Churchwarden Report

After 2 years of Sunday services being disrupted by lockdown, it is good to say that in 2022 all 10am Sunday services took place. The Lockdown restrictions due to Coronavirus and Andrew's illness has meant that after March 2020 we did not have 8am Sunday Communion services or 10am Wednesday Communion.

Early in 2022 we were in contact with Rev Marina Brain, who, used to be at St Sebastian's and she was given Permission to Officiate in Sonning Deanery and has been leading Communion and preaching at St Sebastian's since 6 March 2022. Together with Rev Ian Seymour this has enabled the 8am Sunday Communion to resume from 13 February, twice a month. We have also been supported by Bob Whitely, Jane Kraft, Becky Medicott and Stephen Pullen who have all led services here at St Sebs. David Hare, Russell Shipton and Wendy Wickens did a Communion by extension course which also enabled us to resume the Wednesday communion twice a month from Ash Wednesday 2 March 2022. Particular thanks go to Russell for his commitment to this service.

Russell has worked hard during 2022 to organise all the services which he has done very efficiently. Our thanks go to him as well as David Hare and Wendy Wickens for leading and preaching at services throughout the year.

Andrew Marsden was signed off sick until the end of February 2022 when he was granted early retirement on Health grounds. We had an opportunity to say goodbye to Andrew, Ros and their family at the Communion service on 20 February, which was led by Olivia Graham Bishop of Reading and Andrew preached an uplifting and challenging sermon based on Colossians 3:12-17. The church was full and many people who had moved away came back for the service. This was followed by a lunch with presentations of gifts from Church members and other groups. Andrew had been with us since 1997 and so many of us have been blessed by his ministry over 24 years.

On 16 January Revd Cannon Richard Lamey, Area Dean of Sonning baptised Pearl Vogel by immersion, a new experience for him. This was a very special service, and it was good for the congregation to meet Richard, who has been a huge support to the Churchwardens, leaders and PCC over the previous 2 years.

During the year we have services focussed on Christian Unity and the following missions, Mityana, Yeldall Manor as well as service taken by Marc and Ruth Marques from UNiViDA.

During 2022 Russell and Angela Shipton stepped down and Pastoral Team leaders and were replaced by Paul and Claire Morrison. Our thanks to Russell and Angela for their hard work over 11 years and to Paul and Claire for the work they have been doing in the last few months.

The Leadership Team which consists of Team Leaders and Standing committee members has met frequently through the year, to pray, share ideas and vision and support one another. Suman was invited to join us for 2 meetings immediately prior to the interview day in January 2023 as he was on the interview panel.



The interregnum period started in March and began with preparing a Parish Profile. A team of 4 under the leadership of Peter Thompson worked hard on this, gathering information from various sources including a questionnaire open to all church members. Many people contributed in various ways to the Profile which was approved at the Section 12 PCC meeting in October along with all other documents required to advertise for our new vicar.

2022 was another difficult year in the life of the church but because progress had been made towards recruiting a new vicar there was a sense of expectancy for the future.

The interview took place January 2023, and it was a great day for the church family and the 3 candidates culminating with the Bishop of Reading appointing Rev Rickey Simpson-Gray. We are all really looking forward to his Collation and Induction service on 10 May and welcoming him as vicar at St Sebastian's with great anticipation for what God will be doing in the future.

Report by: Mary Unwin, Churchwarden

Family, Youth and Children's Ministry

As we reflect over the last twelve months it is nothing short of a privilege to have been a part of all God has done in this ministry. After a tricky few years of working through the pandemic times, we have seen how God has brought new people our way on the other side. The word that comes to mind for each aspect of this ministry is 'relational'. In each of the separate groups within this ministry it is evident that a strong sense of community, friendship and family has been established. God has grown our connections with people and has also grown the numbers in these communities. Furthermore, we are now seeing people from little angels and youth group, become committed members of the Base. There is now a much more connected feel between the different groups, and we celebrate the fact that we have dedicated, hard-working teams of volunteers who capture and fully embrace the vision of the ministry. We thank God for them and all He is doing!

The Base

The Base has been running since 2019 and has developed in many ways since then. Since returning after lockdown, we have been meeting in the School Hall as we had reached capacity in the church hall. The School Hall works well as a venue, as we have more space and make use of the outdoor area for games and now use the church hall for the kids craft break out time. We currently run every two weeks on the second and fourth Sunday of the month. There is a team of fifteen volunteers of all ages. Over the last year it has been good as new people have taken more responsibility for leading the band, talk and adult discussion time. The volunteers are really growing in their gifts. There is a strong sense of community and every time we have between 40-70 people attending. Youth group members are now volunteering to serve in different ways at the Base. The adult discussion time has become a safe place where people are willing to share their thoughts about faith and pray for one another. Some of the parents who come along have said the same thing that why the Base works well for them- that it is church for the family all



together. They appreciate the fact that their children are with them and journeying through what we learn and experience in the morning.

Youth Group (Friday Night Live)

Marv re-launched the youth group after lockdown times and was blown away by the number of young people that have been coming. The youth group runs bi-weekly and on average sees between 15 and 20 young people come along. This year the time of the group has been extended by 30mins for those that want to have a deeper Bible study time, on top of the talk time in the youth group. Most of the young people want to stay for this. A big thank you to all the volunteers. It has been wonderful to have new volunteers this year making the youth group 5 leader strong. There are also now young leaders, those in year 12 and 13, who participate in the leaders' meetings and serving on the night. The youth group has enjoyed several socials at the end of each term; gravity force and bowling.

Little Angels

The biggest changes that have happened for Little Angels is that we now meet weekly. We are fortunate to have willing volunteers to make this happen. The biggest reason for making the group weekly was due to the large numbers of people coming. A good problem to have. However, the group has become even more popular, and we now have a very full house every week. A lot of people have joined our social media groups, but most newcomers are now being brought by friends who have already been coming along. The donations of nappies have been greatly appreciated and this is something we would like to continue to offer as part of the group. There is also now a culture of donating outgrown clothes and toys amongst the people who attend. This is brilliant that we can bless each other in this way and that clothes and toys are being re-used. All these things add to the real sense of community. It is also wonderful to hear how some of the Mums have been meeting up together outside the group. There is a great culture of supporting one another. As we look to the future of Little Angels we really need to think about the capacity of the Church Hall and whether it the group can continue in this space.

Schools

We are regularly leading assemblies and church services for St. Sebastian's school. The Collective Worship Club (CWC) has become a big part of St. Sebastian's School. The children take it in turns to be part of the CWC, with two children from each year group participating at a time. The CWC then helps to lead the church services. Over the years the children have become much more involved and confident at leading things from the front. It is very special that some children have a call to prayer and are happy to come and lead a prayer from the front without pre-preparing.

Marv also continues to help support the Christian Union at Holme Grange School. There has been a good number of children attending the CU. At the beginning of the academic year Amy helped some of the staff set up a prayer and reflection room for the students and staff to use.



Oaklands Junior School often asks Marv to come and lead assemblies and services. These tend to be the big festival times. Parent also attend these assemblies, which allows Marv to meet them as well.

Forest Church

This is a very new concept for 2023 as there has only been two forest churches so far. Many dioceses are exploring doing church in creation and seeing it as a way for newcomers to easily join in. The hope is that Forest Church will be a regular monthly walk and small service. So far, we have taken a short walk in Gorricks woods and stopped in the middle to do a short service with nature-based activities. It has been great to have members of our church sharing their knowledge of trees and birdlife with us.

Share Wokingham

We have now been working with Share Wokingham for just over a year. In 2022 we decided to become a Hub. This means we now sort some of the food donations here at St. Sebastian in order to create food boxes for our local community. Primarily, Share is about combating food waste and we have found we are now giving away at least 30 boxes a week. A lot of the people collecting are from the school, which is a great way to meet parents and build relationships. We also deliver some boxes to our neighbours down Nine Mile Ride. Every Wednesday afternoon a team of Wellington College Students come and help sort out the food, as part of their Citizenship Outreach. Thank you to members of the congregation who have also come and supported in the last few months.

Pastoral & Mentoring

As all the groups have grown so has the need for pastoral work. A big part of what we do is meeting with people and building relationships. It is a joy and a blessing to be journeying with so many people in this journey of faith. Now that we have been here for a number of years we have got to see how community has grown and how people are living their faith together with others in the community.

Confirmation & Baptism

We will be joining St. Pauls Wokingham on the 26 March for their confirmation service as a member of church is getting confirmed. We are currently running a confirmation course Bible Study for anyone who wants to come and go over the foundations of the faith.

Amy has been doing the Baptism preparation for most of the Baptism families. It has been great having some of the Little Angels and past Little Angels coming for baptism.

*Report by: Amy Vogel, Family and Youth Pastor
and Marvin Vogel, Pioneer Youth Worker*



Mission Report

As a church we continue to tithe (give 10%) of our regular offerings to mission and charity work in the UK and overseas. We seek to split roughly 50/50 between the two. We also seek to support missions and charities that church members have a connection to. In 2022 we continued to support a number of missions that we have supported over many years including Mityana's work in Uganda, Open Doors across many countries, and Univida in Brazil. In the UK we supported Yeldall, Just Around the Corner and Soulscape. We also instigated a Social Care fund to meet the needs of local people. The committee will meet in May 2023 to agree the allocation of giving for this year. If you have any missions or charities close to your heart that you would like the committee to consider please let us know.

Pastoral Care Team Report

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another"
John 13: 34 – 35

'Let all that you do be done in love' 1 Corinthians 16:14

Thank you to Angela and Russell Shipton for their many years of leading the Pastoral Care Team. Russell and Angela continued to support many folk during the Pandemic through regular phone calls and pairing those in need with those who could offer support such as food deliveries. Despite stepping down as Team leaders they continue to serve on the Pastoral Care team. We thank God for their leadership and wisdom, handover support and their continued service on the team.

As the Pandemic eased, we have been able to provide in person support again, such as lifts to hospital appointments, phone calls and visits, cooked meals and cakes, and shopping. Our grateful thanks to all of you who have helped in this way over the last year and our apologies for not mentioning you all in person. You know who you are. We are called to love and to serve and you have done this to the glory of God.

If you are aware of any need within the church, please do let us know.

Serving God is one of the most important principles of the Christian faith, as believers are expected to help the church with a joyful spirit. "Love one another." "Care for one another." "Pray for one another." "Encourage one another." "Help one another." "Counsel one another." "Support one another." Scripture tells us of our relationship to God and others through service.

We have lost quite a few people from the Pastoral Care Team in the last 3 years, and so we are looking for more volunteers to help with lifts, phone call/visits and meals and ad hoc requests. If you think you can help in any way, please do get in touch.

Report by: Claire and Paul Morrison, Pastoral Care Team Leaders



Home Groups Report

Home groups, since Covid, have changed and re-formed in very different ways.

It is interesting that, for most groups, the priorities before Covid had been 1) Bible-study, 2) Prayer, 3) Social:

During Covid it became 1) Social, 2) Prayer, 3) Bible study: An exact turn around.

Most groups initially went onto zoom, and some stayed that way for a long time.

For various reasons, three groups dwindled and died, but slowly most of the remaining groups have moved back to meeting together:

One novel outcome was that the group became a 'WhatsApp group' with a short daily devotion, and regularly sharing of prayer and social information. What a wonderful flexibility!

So now we have 4 groups with a total membership of just over 40 people. In addition, a number of folks are regular members of the Wednesday Community Bible Study Group.

Praise God that even under Covid, we had complete freedom to 'meet' together! Let's celebrate and exploit that freedom.

Report by: Russell Shipton, Home Groups Lead

Welcome Team Report

"Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God" Romans 15:7

Thank you to the Welcome team who have served the church through the last year. Especial thanks go to Liz Jenkins who we sadly lost at the end of 2022.

We now have 6 pairs who rotate welcoming each week. The role involves warmly greeting congregants with a smile, providing service sheets, directing to available seats and keeping an eye on everyone during the service, as well as a quick tidy up at the end. It is also a good opportunity to get to know members of the congregation and new visitors to the church.

Please do speak to Claire Morrison, any member of the Welcome team or the church office if you are interested in serving in this way.

Report by: Claire Morrison, Welcome Team co-ordinator

Community Bible Study at St Sebastian's

Would you like to know your Bible? The aim of CBS UK is to help people grow in their relationship with Jesus through in-depth Bible study. There are over 90 groups studying in the UK. Our group of 14 started in September 2022, meeting for 2 hours on Wednesday mornings, following the school calendar year. At present we are studying the Gospel of John in a relaxed, warm and sympathetic environment, learning and growing together. There is also a Wednesday evening group which presently meets on zoom. If you are interested in getting to know your Bible better, then please contact Claire Morrison or Stephen or Jacki Deakin. The study is open to all people inside and outside the church.



Cancer Support Group

Anne Bone continued to run this support group on zoom during the Pandemic and whilst caring for her husband, Geoff who she sadly lost last year. She wants to thank the group for their support during this time.

Since the new year, the group has begun to meet in person and now meets monthly in the Parish Centre. There are 8 regular attendees who are a mix of Christians and folk with no strong beliefs. The group explain to newcomers that there is a time of prayer at the end of the meeting and they have always been happy with this.

The aim of the group is to provide a safe space in which to talk freely outside of the family whilst you or a loved have cancer. If you know of anyone who may benefit from this support group, please do get in touch with Anne through the church office.

Surviving the Breakup Course

This is a four-week course designed to provide information and support for anyone who is at any stage of separation, break up or divorce. Over the period the course will focus on the individual, the effects on children and the legal processes.

The Surviving the Breakup course did not run during the Pandemic and now there are no plans to run a course at St Sebastian's. However, Pam Carter has been advising King's Church in Wokingham about how to run the course and the necessary safeguarding requirements needed. King's Church are hoping to run the course in September.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in attending the course, please contact Pam Carter through the office. Similarly, if you think you could help in any way, please contact Pam.

Report by: Claire Morrison and other group leaders

Worship Report 2023

Since the last report there have been quite a few changes in the Worship team at St. Sebs. Several musicians and worship leaders have moved away or decided the time was right to change roles whilst others have seen the need and offered to help. We are very grateful to those people for joining us.

In the last year we have had several occasions when the St Sebastian's Band have led worship – one of the most memorable having been the Carol Service last Christmas. Christmas carols sound so much more festive with a Brass Band!

It has been lovely having the Base musicians play on the 1st Sunday of every month and it has been good to get to know a whole group of new musicians. Recently, the church musicians have been added to the What's App group so that we all can share new songs and communicate easily.

I've asked Andrea to contribute to this article as she now runs the Base music team. It is so encouraging to hear about what God is doing among our young families.

Andrea writes: 'The Base worship team has been a great place for the team members to explore both new and well-known songs and has encouraged new friendships at St Sebastian's Church.'



We have found using a 'What's App' group a useful platform to provide a really useful space for sharing new songs via You tube clips and we post music sheets which we print off. It's also a useful space to chat and share ideas about Worship. We have learnt and led new children's songs and are constantly on the lookout for new ideas and seek what the Lord is leading us into.

We have enjoyed meeting up for practices and shared new songs from artists like Michael W Smith, Bright City, Maverick City and some songs we learnt at Soul Survivor Watford worship day which a few of us attended. We have also used songs which we have heard on Premier Christian radio.

The worship team is great fun to be part of as we've become both good friends and have been able to encourage each other in Christian worship.

We take turns to lead worship at the Base meeting and also once a month we lead in the main Church service with the rest of Church congregation which is really enjoyable.'

Report by: Eve Bull, Worship Leader

Prayer Report

Zoom Prayers

'Zoom Prayers' is our weekly church prayer meeting, held on zoom /online on Mondays at 7.30pm - 8.30pm. The prayer meeting moved online due to the Covid lockdowns and we have continued with this format as many regulars find it more convenient. We have a core group of twelve, although numbers vary from week to week. I am very encouraged by the faithfulness and prayerfulness of those who attend. We have held mission focus prayer meetings, praying for charities we support as a church, including Yeldall Manor, Open Doors Ministries, Univida and Mityana Charity. The prayer meeting is facilitated by one of the group. My constant prayer is that we come to spend time in God's presence, thanking him and interceding for the things he has placed on our hearts and minds, for our church, local community, country and world.

Supporting the recruitment process of our new vicar

We supported the recruitment process of our new vicar in prayer, by the following:

- At the weekly Zoom prayers and the Sunday service intercessions.
- Points 4 Prayers – circulated to the whole church family at each stage of the process via email, Church website, Facebook and paper flyers in church
- Prayer meeting on the church site on the applicant selection meeting day
- Prayer meeting in the vicarage in preparation for the applicant interview day

Prayer Circle

St. Sebastian's WhatsApp Prayer Circle is in the process of being fully established to circulate prayer requests. It is not a chat group and members are asked for no response other than prayer. Alexis or Jill are the people to contact about joining this group. Our WhatsApp Prayer Circle has replaced the email Prayer Circle, which Brian Hart sensitively and efficiently managed for many years, until they moved away last year.



Healing Service -5th Sunday of the month (January/ May /October)

Jill Gardener and I plan these services together. Healing services were held in January, May and October 2022 and in January 2023. In May 2022, we held a special service of Healing & Reconciliation. In January 2023, we held a special service of 'Standing together in prayer for our brothers and sisters around the world, who face daily hardship and persecution for their Christian faith'. It was an interactive service, which sort to gently educate about the work of Open Doors Ministries. The main focus of the service was on proclaiming the word of God, over our Christian family around the world and interceding together for specific countries. My ongoing prayer is that we as a church, will have God's heart of compassion for all those around the world, who are suffering for their Christian faith and for those who don't yet know Him.

Pastoral Prayer support

Jill Gardener and I have visited people in their homes to pray for/with them. This has tended to come about following prayer ministry during communion or at coffee time.

Intercessions at the Sunday 10am service

There is a growing number of volunteers who lead our intercessions at the Sunday morning 10am service. I want to thank everyone who lead the intercessions.

Prayer Ministry Team

The prayer ministry team presently consists of fifteen members, nine of whom serve regularly, offering prayer ministry (PM) at the bimonthly communion services and at the 5th Sunday healing services (in January, May and October). In addition, there are five people who do not want to be called on regularly but are happy to step in if needed on the day. At each communion service, our aim is to have three sets of two people offering PM. Two sets at the front near the communion table and one set at the back, usually near the front door. I feel very supported by the commitment and faithfulness of our prayer ministry team.

Hearts for Prayer booklet

Last year, I put together (with Kirsty's help!) a little booklet to help us pray the word of God over the children in our lives. It is such a powerful and effective way to pray. These are still available in church.

That's all folks.

Report by: Alexis Clarke, Joint Prayer Lead

Report 2022 for Churches *together* in Crowthorne (and Finchampstead) - CTC

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity. PS 133:1

In another year first dominated, then interrupted by Covid it was great to finally get out and about together!



Our regular Coffee Mornings (Tuesday/Thursday) restarted last September, providing a much-needed sense of community for people struggling with isolation over the last difficult period. Do pop in!



In December, we came together to celebrate the Late-Night Shopping / Lights in the High St with Breakaway Brass Carols, a service led by our ministers, livestreamed for those not able to attend, events in both the Baptist and Methodist Churches (and the Christmas Story scenes out in the garden). Out on the streets, CTC Stewards were on hand to make sure all ran smoothly.

Then there were angels – 400+ of them – bringing much needed smiles and joy to traders, shoppers and Crowthorne in general. More Carols the following weekend in the new location outside the Baptist Church well supported by 40+ people.



Not everything ran perfectly of course, but thank you to the army of people who helped behind the scenes, volunteered at the events, 'liked' and commented on Facebook posts etc. However, we owe a huge debt of gratitude to Barry Bailey for his patience in negotiating (?) with Crowthorne Parish Council and other partners to allow CTC to reach out so effectively to our community.

January 2022 – (online) Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (hosted by Sandhurst CTC)

February / March / April - Shared Lent Groups hosted by St John's / Methodist Church and a daytime mediation group at Holy Ghost. Others met to rehearse "Jerusalem Joy" (with Sandhurst Churches Together) at St John's Crowthorne, presented on Palm Sunday evening to a full (at last!) church. All these activities were represented at the Agape meal hosted once again by the e Methodist church on the Monday of Holy Week. Good Friday saw the return of our service together (in the Baptist Church), the outdoor walk of witness (in the glorious sunshine!) with 5 thought-provoking stops arranged by Rev Kevin Mills and Hot Cross Buns at the Methodist Church.



July/August – Crowthorne Summer Activities was back on the Morgan Recreation Ground, starting later to avoid clashing with the market otherwise the same fun and joy from the kids, organised by Louise Truscott, now stepping down after many years. Thank you again to the many volunteers who gave up their time to support our young people. And the weather was fabulous too!

During the year we said goodbye to Revd Canon Andrew Marsden (St Sebastian's) and Revd Canon John Edwards (St James Finchampstead) who have retired.



We saw changes in our 'family-connected' organisations during the year as Sue Hester stepped down as chair of Good Neighbours and Louise Truscott stepped down from HopeZone. Thank you for all you have done for Crowthorne over many years.

The astonishing work of the Foodbank continues, and as the Ukrainian refugee issue hit the front page, people in our churches stepped up to reach out in compassion (we will hear more about this work and how you can get involved at the CTC Service on the 11th of September).

CTC Meetings

We met 3 times during the year and were pleased to welcome David Atkinson as the new rep for St James Finchampstead and treasurer. Sadly, health problems have prevented David from continuing, but we want to thank him for his work, particularly on the bank account and send prayers for his ongoing health issues.

Despite the best efforts of Jenny McKeever (our former treasurer) and David Atkinson (new treasurer) we are still trying to open a new bank account with the Coop, made more urgent by the closure of our existing Nationwide account. The delay is caused by bank's interpretation of the Money Laundering regulations and in particular our status as an "official" charitable association, which technically we are not and until now was absolutely fine. No one wants to come to a meeting to discuss constitutions or organisational structure but as it is now preventing us running effectively (having a bank account) we need to address this urgently, and it seems sensible to combine the necessary changes with the formal AGM business at the end of October (Mon 24th October is suggested).

Back to normal or back to the future?

Reviewing our Statement of Purpose (from 2010) T, I found much to celebrate (and I hope nothing fundamental to disagree with!). What we do need to think through is the two-way engagement between our Member Churches and "CTC" to make sure that we remain true to our Statement of Purpose and relevant to our joint yet separate missional identities in 2022.

To ensure effective communication and decision-making for a coordinating (or enabling) group such as CTC will always be challenging and works best when strong personal relationships are established. (A particular thanks to Leigh Welham for her tireless work on the communication and coordination front!). We have had significant turnover in ministers since 2010, not to mention Covid, so now is a good time to revisit and reset our previous assumptions based on a new set of people's views, particularly around youth work.

I am prepared to stand again as Chair but am also happy to stand aside in order to support a new Chair who wished to take CTC forward.

I continue to be humbled by the astonishing commitment, energy and good humour by the many people who make all the CTC events happen. Thank you for all you do and for bearing with me over the last year.

Report by: Janet Rogers, CTC Chair



A THANK YOU FROM THE DEANERY

The Interview Day in January 2023 was an exceptionally good day in that we had a very strong field of candidates to consider and to explore with and it felt very strongly that this was the parish coming together after some difficult years to work as one, to share something exciting and to rediscover something vital about God's leadership and direction. At the end of it we emerged with the very exciting appointment of a new Vicar, Rickey, and, I felt, a shared smile which is part relief and part excitement and hope.

2022 was not an easy year, of course, but there were some real pluses and highlights- worship, how the leadership team stuck together and worked together, how the concerning financial reality was identified, understood and then started to be addressed at the end of the year- as well as the way the Parish Profile was put together and the way the interview day was shaped and delivered.

Last year I wrote the following and it feels very appropriate and very true as we look forward to Rickey's arrival with eager anticipation, while remembering that we are the Church together and however good Rickey is, growth and mission happen when we all work together in the Spirit:

"Part of the reason there should be such confidence around in 2022 is the way you as a parish and congregation have navigated the last two years... so, thank you for the faithfulness, willingness and prayer you have shown throughout the last three years. Those are great attributes to build the future on, in terms of the character and identity of the parish under God."

the Rev'd Canon Richard Lamey – Area Dean for Sonning

ELECTORAL ROLL & CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Kirsty Milam: Electoral Roll Officer

Following the revision of the Church Electoral Roll for the APCM on 19 April 2023 there are 151 Parishioners on the roll as compared to 152 in 2022. 2 names were removed and 1 added.

The whole roll was renewed in 2019.

Average Sunday attendance (at all services), counted during October 2022, was 70, this has increased slightly from 64 in 2021.

SONNING DEANERY REPORT

2022 was a year of continuing recovery and mutual support. Deaneries are at their best when the parishes are walking alongside each other, sharing ideas, offering support and encouragement, and that has been very visibly true in 2022 as we all began to move out of the shadow of the pandemic together. It was visible in the way parishes and clergy supported those in vacancy, in the way that Parish Administrators rang each other with questions, in the way that an experienced Treasurer helped a new one, and in countless other ways.



In terms of Chapter, Canon Andrew Marsden retired on the ground of ill-health from St Sebastian's in February and Anna Harwood moved to Cardiff from Ruscombe, Twyford and Hurst in the summer. Laura Wheatley Downs was installed as Vicar of Crowthorne in the Autumn, and Richard Eves (Wargrave) and Becky Medlicott (All Saints) were both ordained priest at Petertide.

We followed our Deanery Plan for recovering from the Pandemic with some success, focusing on rebuilding relationships and mutual support after a broken and disrupted few years.

In June the Diocese approved adjustments to the Parish Share scheme and much of the rest of 2022 was spent responding to that, not least since the proposals as they initially came indicated a rise in Share of over 30% for some of the parishes in the Deanery. The meeting in September focused on Parish Share, with the Archdeacon in attendance, and we agreed as a Synod to set up a small group to look at Share and to make recommendations to the meeting in March 2023. In November we agreed that we would not make any changes to the Scheme for 2023 but just add 2% to every Parish Share as the fairest way of meeting our increased allocation while we took the time to work out a system which is fair across the Deanery.

There was still time in November to have the Revd Katie Tupling (Diocesan Disability Advisor) address us on disabled people in Church, and being a community in which everyone is welcome and included. It was an inspiring and encouraging talk, at once challenging and supportive, and Synod and guests enjoyed it immensely.

2022 was a decent year for the Deanery- and it has laid the foundations for the year to come. Please pray for Winnersh and Bearwood, St Sebastian's and Ruscombe, Twyford and Hurst as they enter 2023 in vacancy, especially for their Church leaders who have so much more to organise and think about at the moment- and thank you to the members of Synod who have made our meetings so warm, effective and focused on God.

the Rev'd Canon Richard Lamey – Area Dean for Sonning

**Parochial Church Council of
St Sebastian's Church
Nine Mile Ride
Wokingham Without**

Diocese of Oxford

- Not Without Jesus -



Financial statements
Of the
Parochial Church Council
For the Year ended 31 December 2022

Charity Number: 1139933

Contents

Independent Examiner's Report
Statement of Financial Activities
Balance Sheet
Notes to the Financial Statements

Parochial Church Council of St Sebastian, Wokingham

Financial statements

For the year ending 31 December 2022

To the members of the Parochial Church Council of St Sebastian, Wokingham

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2022, (which are set out on pages 6 to 14).

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the Financial Statements; you consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 3(3) and section 144 (2) of the 2011 Charities Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act and to be found in the PCC Accountability guidance, 5th edition, 2017 issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

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



Mr Jacob George
Accounting Partnership Ltd
74 Salisbury Close
Alton
GU34 2TP

15/03/2023

Parochial Church Council of St Sebastian, Wokingham

Financial statements

For the year ending 31 December 2022

The accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022 are presented on pages 6 to 14 and are in accordance with the PCC Accountability guidance, 5th edition, 2017 issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council.

Review of the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022

In 2022 total **Expenditure** £172,419 **exceeded** total **Income** £147,727 resulting in a net Deficit of **£24,692** (before gains or losses on investments) compared with the net Deficit in 2021 of £31,537.

Income

Total income was £147,727 (2021: £144,836). (Note 2 of the financial statements provides further details.)

Our main income source is "Voluntary income" or congregational giving (plus associated HMRC tax recovery) and we are grateful to the many faithful and generous givers (some over many years) who contribute, and without whom the Church would not be able to run its programme of activities. This year total donations and legacy income has decreased to £123,431 from £127,193 in 2021. Included in these totals the Regular Monthly Gifts dropped to £101,531 from £122,600 (2021), but this was offset by an increase in One-Off Donations to £18,506 from £4,109 (2021).

Activities for generating funds, arising from the letting of the Church's premises, provided £20,090 (2021: £15,760). The income from the letting of St Sebastian's Lodge amounted to £15,610 (2021: £14,900) and was for the second year reduced by a void period. Church Hall rent was £4,480 up from £860 in 2021 as a result of increased rents from the existing regular hirers and a new regular hirer.

Expenditure

Total expenditure in the year was £172,419 (2021: £176,373). (Note 3 of the financial statements provides further details.)

The largest single item of expenditure remains the diocesan parish share of £83,718 (2021: £83,127). The parish share is set by the Diocese and Deanery according to pre-determined formulae. We pay our parish share via a 12 monthly direct debit which provides us with a 1% discount. During 2022, we employed 5 staff members, which accounted for our second largest expenditure of £46,222 (2020: £32,955). The increase is due to having a paid administrator for the whole of 2022 (five months in 2021), pay increases and the employment of a cleaner for the Church Hall replacing a more expensive outside contractor.

The Church is committed to give at least 10% of its unrestricted voluntary income to support the work of charities and reach out to those in need across the world and in the UK. This year the Church's mission and charitable giving allocation was calculated, excluding the special one-off gifts donated to replenish our reserves, at £10,617 (2021: £12,720). As is detailed in note 12, £9,465 from this year's tithe was spent, and the balance of £1,152 was added to unspent tithing from previous years.

Our property costs in the year totalled £20,638 (2021: £38,008). Major repair costs of £16,870 in 2021 were not incurred in 2022. Further during 2022 the arrangements were changed for waste collection, cleaning, pest control, and the servicing of our five boilers reducing the expenditure compared to 2021 by a further £3,115. These savings were offset by other increases in our costs, particularly for gas and electricity.

We are also grateful for the many volunteers who generously provide their time and skills for the benefit of the Church and thus make a substantial saving on our running costs.

Parochial Church Council of St Sebastian, Wokingham

Financial statements

For the year ending 31 December 2022

Net Current Assets

At the end of the year, the net current assets totalled £62,680 (2021 £91,312) made up of cash balances of £55,292, Debtors £1167 and Investments valued at £19,252 less Creditors of £13,031

Reserves policy

It has been PCC policy, where practicable, to maintain a minimum balance of free reserves (net current assets) equating to approximately two month's general fund payments or £30,000. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies.

The balance of the General Fund at 31st December 2022 was £10,597. The PCC decided to redesignate the balance on the Vision Fund Investments of £19,252 to the General Fund. In September the PCC resolved to sell the Barclays Shares represented by the Vision Fund Investments as soon as the opportunity arose to sell without a loss

The PCC has designated three other funds:

- **"Major Maintenance Fund"**, setup in January 2012 to cover large repair and maintenance items relating to the church and buildings.
- **"Jubilee Club Fund"**, relating to this church group.
- **"Legacy Fund"** – during 2019, the PCC received a legacy of £5,000 from the estate of Mike Page a much-loved member of the congregation. The PCC has designated these funds whilst considering options to invest funds in a way that would honour Mike's memory. In 2021 the PCC received gifts in memory of the wonderful servant of the church Eric Fudge and these have been similarly designated.

The Financial Position

2022 was a very challenging year financially. As expected for most of the year our regular giving income continued to fall as a result of the disruption caused by the Pandemic and the fact that we have been in an interregnum following the unfortunate retirement of our vicar due to illness.

The PCC had budgeted for a Deficit of £28250, but recognised at the time of setting the budget that the actual deficit for 2022 might be somewhat higher. Mid-way through the year it became clear that we faced a forecast deficit of around £43,000. Deficits continuing at this level would mean our Reserves would fall below the minimum level of free Reserves we aim to maintain. An appeal was made to the PCC and Ministry Team that resulted in one-off donations of £17,250 to shore up our Reserves.

In November, the PCC approved a Stewardship Plan, which included different approaches to the Base members (meeting aimed at young families) and the Church Congregation. The Stewardship Plan included an explanation to the members of The Base as to how their activities are funded, and an invitation to give regularly. In January it was planned to show a video presentation entitled "The Voyage of the Lord's Ship St Sebastian's" subtitled "The Financial Storm" to begin to make both congregations aware of our financial position. In February a more formal presentation of the forecast for 2023 to the church congregation would be made, with an invitation to up their monthly giving or make one -off donations to repair the reserves.

The Outlook for 2023

Having reviewed our financial position and the Stewardship Plan, in November, the PCC resolved to "keep all church activities going as they are until at least the end of calendar year 2023". In early 2023, the PCC will consider the results of the Stewardship Plan and through 2023 will regularly review a rolling twelve month forecast of the future level of reserves. If necessary, the planned level of church activities will be revised.

Parochial Church Council of St Sebastian, Wokingham

Financial statements

For the year ending 31 December 2022

Financial administration

A Finance Committee appointed by the PCC has responsibility for oversight of routine financial administration, annual budgeting, and preparation of financial reports. We would like to thank Christina Gorham for her work as Finance Officer.

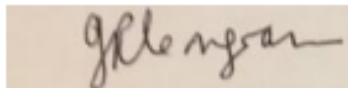
Provision of information to independent examiners

Each of the members of the PCC at the time when this report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as he/she is aware, there is no relevant financial information of which the charity's independent Examiners are unaware, and
- that he/she has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a trustee in order to be aware of any information needed by the independent examiners in connection with preparing his report and to establish that the independent examiner is aware of that information.

Independent examiner

A resolution proposing the re-appointment of Jacob George as independent examiner of the charity will be put to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 19th April 2023.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John Congram', on a light-colored rectangular background.

John Congram - Treasurer

Date: 15th March 2023

Parochial Church Council of St Sebastian, Wokingham

Notes to the financial statements Year ended 31 December 2022

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

		General Fund	Designated Funds	Total Unrestricted Funds	Total Restricted Funds	TOTAL	TOTAL	Capital Reserves
	£	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2021	2022
INCOME	Notes		note 7		note 9			
Donations and Legacies	2(a)	121,913		121,913	1,518	123,431	127,193	
Income Charitable activities	2(b)	2,164		2,164		2,164	484	
Income from Investments	2(c)	958		958	1,084	2,042	1,419	
Income from Trading Activities	2(d)	20,090		20,090		20,090	15,760	
TOTAL INCOME		145,125	0	145,125	2,602	147,727	144,836	0
EXPENDITURE								
Parish Share and Fees	3(a)	85,093		85,093		85,093	82,575	
Mission and Charitable Giving	3(b), 12	9,924		9,924	694	10,617	12,720	
Staff Costs	3(c), 4	45,520		45,520	703	46,222	32,955	
Ministry Costs	3(d)	4,008		4,008	678	4,686	5,874	
Premises Costs	3(e)	19,714		19,437	924	20,638	38,008	
Other Church Activities	3(f)	5,025		5,025	137	5,162	4,241	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		169,283	0	169,283	3,135	172,419	178,373	0
		(24,158)						
NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS (LOSSES)		(24,158)	0	(24,158)	(534)	(24,692)	(31,537)	0
Net (loss) gain on investments			(3,390)	(3,390)		(3,390)	4,882	
Transfer of Vision Fund		19,252	(19,252)	0				
Adjustment to Restricted Funds					(550)	(550)		
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(4,906)	(22,642)	(27,548)	(1,084)	(28,632)	(26,655)	0
OPENING BALANCES		34,378	49,488	83,866	9,196	93,062	119,717	296,495
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(4,906)	(22,642)	(27,548)	(1,084)	(28,632)	(26,655)	0
CLOSING BALANCES		29,472	26,846	56,318	8,112	64,430	93,062	296,495

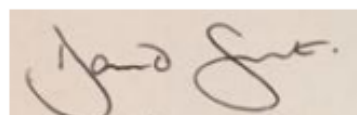
Parochial Church Council of St Sebastian, Wokingham

Notes to the financial statements Year ended 31 December 2022

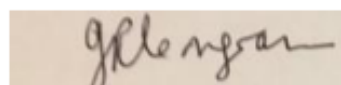
BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	£	2022	2021
	<i>Note</i>		
ASSETS			
Fixed Assets			
Investments Fixed Assets	5a	1,750	1,750
Tangible	5b	296,495	296,495
Total Fixed Assets		298,245	298,245
Current Assets			
Debtors and Prepayments	6	1,167	345
Current asset investments	7a	19,252	22,642
Cash at bank and in hand		55,292	75,989
Total Current Assets		75,711	98,976
Current Liabilities			
Creditors - falling due within one year	8	13,031	7,664
NET CURRENT ASSETS		62,680	91,312
TOTAL NET ASSETS		360,925	389,557
PARISH FUNDS			
Restricted Funds	9	8,112	9,195
Unrestricted Funds - Designated Funds	7b	26,846	49,489
Unrestricted Funds - General Fund		29,472	34,378
		64,430	93,062
Church Capital Reserves		296,495	296,495
CLOSING BALANCES		360,925	389,557

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 15th March 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



David Smart
PCC Chair



John Congram
PCC Treasurer

The notes on pages 8 to 14 form part of these financial statements.

Parochial Church Council of St Sebastian, Wokingham

Notes to the financial statements Year ended 31 December 2022

1. Accounting policies

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (SORP (FRS 102)) and the Charities Act 2011.

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets and certain of the freehold properties which are at valuation as described in the notes.

The financial statements 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, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Capital reserves (or permanent endowment funds) are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the capital reserves may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending on the purpose for which the capital reserve was established. The PCC has a single permanent endowment (capital reserves) established by trust in 1968 relating to the Upkeep of the Church and Churchyard.

Restricted funds represent income from trusts and endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. These funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund.

Restricted funds include an upkeep of church and churchyard fund held under trust deed together with several other restricted funds.

Unrestricted funds are general funds that can be used to fund ongoing Church expenditure. These represent the remaining income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC, including amounts designated by the PCC for fixed assets for its own use or for spending on a future project and which are therefore not included in its 'free reserves' as disclosed in the trustees' report.

Designated unrestricted funds are monies set aside by the PCC from unrestricted funds for specific purposes. That purpose is not binding on the PCC, though the PCC must be mindful of the intent when considering using the funds for other purposes. It is the simplest and most flexible way to ring fence money for special needs.

"Major Maintenance Fund", setup in January 2012 to cover large repair and maintenance items relating to the church and buildings.

"Jubilee Club Fund", setup in September 2017 representing funds and expenditure relating to this church group.

"Legacy Fund" (formally "Mike Page Legacy Fund") – during 2019, the PCC received a legacy of £5,000 from the estate of Mike Page a much-loved member of the congregation. The PCC has designated these funds whilst considering options to invest funds in a way that would honour Mike's memory. In 2021 the PCC received gifts in memory of the wonderful servant of the church Eric Fudge, and these have been similarly designated.

Parochial Church Council of St Sebastian, Wokingham

Notes to the financial statements Year ended 31 December 2022

Income

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resources to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Rental income from the letting of the PCC property is recognised when the rental is due. Investment income is included in the accounts when receivable. Investment gains and losses include any gain or loss on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year. All other income is accounted for gross.

Expenditure

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

It is the policy of the PCC that at least 10% of our voluntary unrestricted giving (and related recoveries of income tax) should be used for missionary and charitable giving: at the year-end amounts are accrued to comply with this policy.

Fixed assets

As Consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the statutory definition of "charity" by Section 10(2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 such assets are not capitalised in the financial statements.

Moveable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). No value is placed on these assets in the financial statements. No individual item has cost more than £1,000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Freehold properties are either stated at cost when built by the Parish or stated at valuation when donated to the PCC. Fixed asset investments are stated at cost.

Other Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £1,000. They are valued at cost or else, for gifts-in-kind, at a reasonable estimate of their open market value on receipt. Depreciation is calculated to write off the capitalized cost of fixed assets less their currently anticipated residual fair value over their estimated useful lives as follows: *Land* - Nil / *Buildings** - Nil / *Fixtures & Fittings* - 20 years

*No depreciation is provided on buildings as the currently estimated residual value of the properties is not less than their carrying value.

Current assets

Current asset investments are stated at current market value.

Parochial Church Council of St Sebastian, Wokingham

Notes to the financial statements Year ended 31 December 2022

2. Income and Endowments

	General Fund	Designated Funds	Total Unrestricted Funds	Total Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	Total
	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2021
INCOME						
2(a) Donations and Legacies						
Gift Aided Income						
Other Tax efficient giving	744		744	50	794	1,049
Planned Giving	96,225		96,225		96,225	103,890
Sub-Total Gift Aided Income	96,969	0	96,969	50	97,019	104,939
Tax recoverable	20,473		20,473		20,473	20,959
Collections at Services	926		926	694	1,619	484
Other Donations non gift aid	2,545		2,545		2,545	810
Nominated Gifts			0		0	0
Grant Received	1,000		1,000	774	1,774	0
Legacies					0	0
Sub-Total Donations and Legacies	121,913	0	121,913	1,518	123,431	127,193
2(b) Income Charitable activities						
Charitable Activities - Fees	1,976		1,976		1,976	407
Charitable Activities - Other	188		188		188	57
Sub-Total Income Charitable activities	2,164		2,164		2,164	464
2(c) Income from Investments						
Sykes Legacy Divds & Interest	958		958		958	371
Dividends Restricted Funds				1,084	1,084	1,048
Sub-Total Income from Investments	958		958	1,084	2,042	1,419
2(d) Income from Trading Activities						
Church Hall Rental Income	4,480		4,480		4,480	860
St Sebs Lodge Rental Income	15,610		15,610		15,610	14,900
Sub-Total Income from Trading Activities	20,090		20,090		20,090	15,760
TOTAL INCOME	145,125	0	145,125	2,602	147,727	144,836

Parochial Church Council of St Sebastian, Wokingham

Notes to the financial statements Year ended 31 December 2022

3. Expenditure

	General Fund	Designated Funds	Total Unrestricted Funds	Total Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	TOTAL
	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2021
EXPENDITURE						
3(a) Parish Share and Fees						
Diocese and Deanery Fees	1,375		1,375		1,375	(552)
Parish Share	83,718		83,718		83,718	83,127
Sub-total 3(a) Parish Share and Fees	85,093		85,093		85,093	82,575
3(b) Mission and Charitable Giving	9,923.64		9,924	694	10,617	12,720
3(c) Staff Costs	45,520		45,520	703	46,222	32,955
3(d) Ministry Costs						
Church Services Costs	2,131		2,131		2,131	4,509
Education Evangelism & Pastoral	73		73		73	0
Family and Youth	1,804		1,804	678	2,482	1,365
Sub-total Ministry Costs	4,008		4,008	678	4,686	5,874
3(e) Premises Costs	19,714		19,714	924	20,638	38,008.00
3(f) Other Church Activities						
Communications	2,417		2,417		2,417	2,544
Independent Examiner's Fee	500		500		500	500
Other Administration Expenses	2,109		2,109	137	2,245	1,197
Sub-total Other Church Activities	5,025		5,025	137	5,162	4,241
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	169,284		169,284	3,135	172,419	176,373

4. Staff Costs

	2022	2021
Salaries	45,539	32,331
Social Security Costs		425
Pension Contributions	683	199
Total Staff Costs	46,222	32,955

There were 4 employees in post until September when 1 new employee joined as a cleaner for the hall.
There were 5 employees for the rest of the year.
There were no employee benefits to key management personnel in this year or previous years.

Parochial Church Council of St Sebastian, Wokingham

Notes to the financial statements Year ended 31 December 2022

5. Fixed assets

(a) Investments – at 31 December 2022

	£
CBF Investment fund - 1,764 shares	1,750
	<u>1,750</u>

The CBF Investment funds represents permanent endowment (capital reserves) relating to the Upkeep of the Church and Churchyard restricted fund.

(b) Tangible fixed assets - freehold land and buildings – at 31 December 2022

	£
Actual/deemed cost	296,495
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>0</u>
Net Book Value	<u>296,495</u>

Freehold land and buildings comprise the church hall and the parish centre, both of which were built by the PCC and are stated at cost of £201,495, and St Sebastian's Lodge which is stated at a valuation made in the year of donation to the PCC of £95,000. It is not considered that the current value of the freehold properties is lower than their stated cost and accordingly no depreciation has been provided. The PCC do not see any benefit in obtaining a current valuation of these properties.

6. Debtors

	31 Dec 22	31 Dec 21
	£	£
Tax Recoverable	83	270
Other Debtor	230	
Accounts Receivable	854	75
	<u>1,167</u>	<u>345</u>

7a. Current Asset Investments

The investments being Barclays Ordinary Shares are stated at the market value prevailing at 31 December 2022.

7b. Designated Funds

Given the fall in the level of our income the PCC is preparing to cover the expected deficit in 2022 from our Unrestricted Reserves, so has decided to consolidate the designated Vision Fund back into the General Fund. This leaves three designated funds: the Major Maintenance Fund, the Jubilee Club Fund and the Legacy Fund (representing gifts we have received in memory of Mike Page and Erik Fudge).

	Major Maintenance Fund	Legacy Fund	Jubilee Club Fund	Vision Fund - Invest	Total Designated Funds
Opening Balance (31.12.21)	20,000	5,453	1,393	22,642	49,488
Total Income	0	0	0	0	0
Total Expense	0	0	0	0	0
Net (loss) gain on investments				(3,390)	(3,390)
Transfers to General Fund				(19,252)	(19,252)
Closing Balance (31.12.22)	<u>20,000</u>	<u>5,453</u>	<u>1,393</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>26,846</u>

Parochial Church Council of St Sebastian, Wokingham

Notes to the financial statements Year ended 31 December 2022

8. Creditors - amounts falling due within one year

	31 Dec 22	31 Dec 21
Rent in Advance -Hall	330	
Accruals	1,919	2,133
Utilities Accrual	3,244	798
Tithing Provision	4,379	3,227
HMRC Payroll Creditor/Debtor	797	739
Parochial Fees	740	639
Pension B&CE Creditor	285	128
Accounts Payable	1,337	
	13,031	7,664

9. Restricted Funds

	Opening Balance (1/1/22)	Total Income	Total Expense	Prior Year Adjustment	Closing Balance (31/12/22)
Church / CYard Fund	3,036	1,084			4,120
Grant from Wokingham United Charity	5,000		1,008		3,992
Grant from Wokingham Without P. C.	550			550	0
Grant from Diocese - Energy		774	774		0
Charitable Collections		694	694		0
Other Restricted Funds	609	50	659		0
Total Restricted Funds	9,195	2,602	3,135	550	8,112

Restricted funds include an upkeep of Church and churchyard fund together with several other funds, including grants awarded for specific purposes by Wokingham United Charities (£3,992)

10. Disclosure of trustee and staff remuneration, related party and other transactions

PCC member Mary Unwin is also a Governor of St Sebastian's School. During the year, the PCC made grants of £1,319 to the school to pay for bibles for the children and staff and pay the Core Support charge from the Diocese.

No other payments or expenses were paid to any other member of the PCC or person closely connected to them or related parties, other than the re-imbursement of expenses incurred by PCC members in respect of Church activities.

PCC indemnity insurance cover is provided for all PCC members as part of the Ecclesiastical Parish Plus Insurance policy entered on annual basis. The annual premium for the combined church, parish centre and hall insurance, which also covers areas such as employer's liability, property damage, consequential loss, and financial loss, is £4,122 for the year to 30 April 2023. The cost of the indemnity insurance cover is not separately identifiable.

11. Fees payable to the Independent Examiner

The independent examiner fee is £500.

Parochial Church Council of St Sebastian, Wokingham

Notes to the financial statements Year ended 31 December 2022

12. Charitable grants and special collections

The Church is committed to give at least 10% of its unrestricted voluntary income to support the work of charities and reach out to those in need across the world and in the UK. In 2022, we granted a total of £9,465 (2021: £20,053), funded by the 10% tithe (£10,617 2021: £12,720). In 2021 we made grants totalling £9,000 relating to unspent tithes from earlier years. Below, accumulated funds from unspent tithing allocations, are set out and the total is shown as a creditor in Note 8 Creditors.

During the year, charitable grants were made to the following organisations:

Gifts in 2022 to Charities and Organisations

	£	£
	From 2022 Tithe	Subtotals
St Sebastians C of E Primary School -Diocesan Core Support	980	
<i>Bibles for Children</i>	339	1,319
Yeldall Christian Centre	1,300	
Just Around The Corner (JAC)	600	
Soulscape	700	
Crowthorne Food Bank	31	2,631
Mitiyana Charity	1,200	
Open Doors	1,200	
Univida	1,200	
Elim International Missions (Bulembu Ministries / Dan Smart)	200	
St Columba's Presbyterian Church - support Edson Choma	1,021	4,821
Specific Collections - Tearfund Ukraine	438	
- Crowthorne Food Bank	69	
- Tearfund Quiz	187	694.00
Total Spend		9,465
2022 Tithe		10,617
Set aside for future giving		1,152
Balance of Tithes brought forward 1/1/22		3,227
Total Balance carried forward 31 December 2022		4,379