

# MARDEN PARISH CHURCH

Annual Report

and

Financial Statements

of the Parochial Church Council

for the year ended

31 December 2024

**Charity Number: 1142437**

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## Legal and Administrative Information

Incumbent:	Revd Nicky Harvey
Curate:	Revd Vicki Young (From June 2024)
Churchwardens:	Dr Stephen Meech Mrs Janet Gowen-Smith
Representatives on the Deanery Synod:	Graham Codling Brian Woodgate
Elected PCC members:	Gay Adam Ali Bonney (Secretary) Sandra Bourne Sian Burr Jan Collins Anne Cox Sarah Davies Steve Newell Jenny Smith Mike Springett Mathew Young
Co-Opted PCC Member:	Matt McMillan (Treasurer)
Church Office:	The Vestry Hall, High Street Marden TN12 9DR
Independent Examiner:	Les Stracey Bowling Green Cottage, High Street, Marden TN12 9DP
Bankers:	NatWest Bank 3 High Street Maidstone ME14 1HJ

## Annual Report

### SAFEGUARDING

We are committed to being a 'Safe Church', and last year we followed the strict Safeguarding procedures, DBS checks and Data Protection laid out by the Church of England and the Diocese of Canterbury. We were grateful to our parish safeguarding officers Gay Adam and Janice Collins who have kept us up to date with training requirements and relevant safeguarding news. Gay Adam and Revd Nicky met regularly during the year to discuss Safeguarding requirements and to fill in the Safeguarding dashboard. Thank you to Jo Fryer, the DBS officer, who continued to maintain that checks were up to date.

Marden Church's Safeguarding Policy had its annual review by the PCC and the policy statement was displayed on our noticeboards both in the church and Vestry Hall noticeboards. A copy of Marden Church's **Data Protection** Policy is held in the church office and can be read on our website and is reviewed by the PCC every three years.

### OUTREACH AND MISSION

Marden Church has had another busy year and been active out in the wider community growing the links between the church and the village. It has been important to continue to adapt and change as a church in order to be relevant to our community and to be part of community events. This includes being a visible and approachable presence, an inclusive church welcoming to all and there to share the joys of life, including baptisms and weddings, and for those sadder times at funerals, memorial services and burials of ashes.

It was a joy to welcome the bells back in February after their refurbishment. This had only been made possible by the efforts of the village and those involved in fundraising. Our thanks should go to the bellringers who worked tirelessly to obtain funds and grants. They did a lot of barbequing at events which also included the **Saints and Sinners** cricket match. During a Deanery visit the Bishop of Dover, the Rt Revd Rose Hudson – Wilkin blessed the bells and ropes at a special Evensong.

This year the church was again used for **concerts** – a lovely way to welcome the village in to the building. There were concerts by Kent Chamber Choir and Antiphony.

Our involvement in the village included **Marden at Christmas** and the first **Apple Fest**. On **All Hallows Eve** we opened the Vestry Hall for hot drinks and activities for those walking around the village and offered mulled wine to those waiting to see the West Kent Young Farmers **Tractor Run**. These events gave us an opportunity to talk with those who came, give out our leaflets and let people know what goes on at our church. Revd Nicky was also asked to bless the fruit at the **National Fruit Show**, originally the Marden Fruit Show, at Detling Showground.

During 2024 we continued to run the **Marden Foodbank**. The foodbank is open every Monday between 9.30am and 11.30am in the Vestry Hall. It is a real lifeline for some in the community, especially in the current economic climate with the increases in the cost of living. Recipients were very grateful for the help and support they received. Involve attended on a monthly basis and provided support and practical help with benefit applications and problems affecting health and wellbeing. **Marden Pre-school** were also helped from the foodbank with various breakfast/snack items to help them feed children who arrived hungry. We were hugely grateful to all the generous individuals, businesses, the Parish Council, grants, clubs and societies in and around Marden that donated food and money to keep this vital resource going. Thank you to Kathy Young, Jan Collins, Angela Lindsell, Revd Vicki and Revd Nicky who continued to organize, shop for and manage the Marden Food Bank, on behalf of the church. As part of our outreach to those in need in our community we organised two pre-loved uniform events.

During the year our links with local schools continued. **Bethany School** came regularly to help with the foodbank as part of their enrichment programme. Our links with **Marden Primary Academy** continued to grow and Revd Vicki and Revd Nicky led assemblies in school and services in church. Many classes visited during the year to help them learn about different aspects of Christianity. We also hosted visits from **Marden Scout Group** as Cubs and Beavers came to complete their faith badges and try the bells.

**Little Fishes** toddler group continued to thrive on Wednesday mornings during term time throughout the year and is an important form of outreach to the whole community. It has really helped young families by offering friendship and support as well as allowing the children to socialise. Thank you to Kathy Young, Jan Collins and Liz Bryant for all they do to make this a welcoming space each week.

Other outreach activities include the monthly Community Lunch, **Craft Group**, **Village Café** and **Charity lunches**. Thank to everyone who helps with these activities.

Our **online presence** through the website and Facebook are a significant help in spreading news of events. We continued to livestream two services a week through our Facebook page and these receive significant views. Our noticeboards have been kept up to date with details of services and events. The **pew sheet** continued to be sent out to those on the electoral roll and physical copies given out on Sunday and placed in the church porch. Copies of the pew sheet and flyers for any other events were made available at Village Café, Messy Church, Little Fishes etc. The **Parish Magazine** was published each month providing news about the church and the various village organisations. Thank you to those who edit, distribute or help in any way with the magazine.

## **NURTURING FAITH**

With all the outward facing things Marden Church does, it is vitally important that our activity is underpinned by worship and prayer. This is what enables us to know what our Good News is – God’s love for all people – and to keep going when times are tough.

There are many ways in which we ‘refuel’, both individually and together, but here are some of the things Marden Church offers to help with.

**Sunday worship** offers a chance, week by week, to ponder the Bible, pray for others, stand in the presence of God and share in the food of communion. We were able to offer a traditional language Holy Communion service at 8.00am and the 10.30am service which alternates between Morning Worship and Holy Communion. Numbers at our 10.30am Sunday worship have showed a slight increase as new people have come, found a place of welcome and stayed. This is encouraging especially as every year we say goodbye to some of our congregation either through death or because they have moved away. **Evening services** each month attract a small but loyal congregation, and our **Choral Evensongs** have attracted larger numbers. These services are an important part of what we can offer, something quite different to the morning services, so if you haven’t tried these services yet do come along. **Taizé services** take place about four times a year led by Sarah Emanuel and again these reflective, candlelit services have a small but loyal congregation. Throughout the year we maintained our **Midweek Communion service** on a Thursday. Numbers remained small but it is – at the moment - important to offer this service. **Morning Prayer** was said in church on Mondays and Wednesdays.

The smooth running of Sunday services is aided by all our **welcomers, sidespeople, intercessors** and **Bible Readers**. Thank you for the parts you play and for the time you offer to do these roles. Thank you to our **Verger** Jan Collins for all you have done in making funerals and weddings run smoothly during the year.

**Church Music.** Our worship continued to be supported by Kevin Deacon our organist and the choir, by singing a variety of music each Sunday and leading the hymns. Thank you to Anne Cox and Sarah Emanuel for their work behind the scenes that helped the choir run smoothly. The choir supported some of our major services including the Carol Service. We thank them for their commitment over the year. With the return of our refurbished bells, the **Bellringers** continued to call people to worship on a Sunday and ring for weddings and funerals.

During the season of **Lent and Holy Week** there were of course lots of extra services. Palm Sunday and Easter Day services were well attended but the services on Ash Wednesday, Compline during Holy Week and Maundy Thursday less well attended. **Mothering Sunday** gave young and old the opportunity to say thank you to parents and carers with the gift of a plant.

Our **Harvest Festival** and **Patronal Festival** both took place in September. The Harvest Festival has been moved to September to fit in with the rhythm of the harvest in the village. The church was decorated beautifully with floral displays and fresh produce, and our thanks goes to the **Flower Ladies** for their displays throughout the year.

Throughout the year we offered other types of services too. The **Armistice Day** service on 11<sup>th</sup> November was held inside the church and provided a chance for a quieter act of remembrance for those who came. The **Remembrance Sunday** service on the 10<sup>th</sup> was

again held outside. We were joined by the Scout Group, Parish Council and the Fire Service. The numbers for this service increased from 2023 as families feel able to come as being outside allows greater flexibility with children. The annual **All Souls' Service** was well attended and appreciated by those who came. This is a service for relatives of those we had taken funeral services for in the last 3 years, as well as those who wanted to remember a loved one.

The **Christmas Services** were again very popular and well attended by church members and those in the wider village community. Numbers of people attending these services showed an increase on the previous year. Again we had to hold two **Christingle services** to cater for numbers. We were most grateful to Peter Hall for kindly supplying all the apples for the Christingle services and for all those who helped assemble the Christingles.

At Marden Church we take seriously the faith development of our **children and families**. This year saw a tidy up of our Children's Chapel and some new resources placed there. The dresser continued to present a problem in blocking the view from the Children's Chapel into the main body of the church, but no solution was found. This area is important, and is used during the week as well as on Sundays. **Sunday Club** has met regularly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month during Communion services. The numbers remain small, and it is often difficult to plan for, but is valued by those who attend. Thank you to Kathy Young and her helpers for all they do for our young people.

It is difficult to compete with Marden Sports Club and the wide variety of other activities on Sunday mornings, but while we may not often have many children in church on Sunday mornings, we do have contact with a considerable group of children and families who appreciate what we offered. All age interactive talks at key services are received well and **Messy Church** on a Sunday afternoon is very popular. Messy Church met eight times during the year and allowed all ages to explore faith creatively. Thank you to the Messy Church volunteers who make these sessions possible. Communication with children and families was enabled by regular mailings and the production of a leaflet explaining what's on specifically for them.

**Home Groups** gave opportunities for people to meet with others, explore their faith, study the Bible and give each other mutual support. There were two Home Groups in 2024 led by Rev. John Bourne and Sarah Emanuel.

A **Lent Group** was run at the Village Club as well as during the Monday home group. This was based on 'Lent in a Bag' a resource for group or self-reflection. A lent resource was also available for children. **Advent reflections** 'In the Picture' helped people journey through Advent, and there was a paper chain Advent activity for children.

**Prayer** is an important part of the life of the church. The prayer group attended an away day at The Living Well to talk about prayer and how prayer could be made more visible in church. After this time the prayer group began to meet regularly to pray on a Friday morning and before Sunday services. As part of **Thy Kingdom Come** – a national prayer

event – the prayer team put together a 24 hour of prayer event and encouraged us to pray for our village.

The prayer tree and prayer net continue to be used and prayer resources were available in church. **Reflection prayer stations** based on the people of Holy Week were available in church over Easter. The **Labyrinth** in the churchyard was maintained and guided walks are available in the church porch.

## MINISTRY

During 2024 Revd Nicky was assisted in ministry by Sarah Emanuel, Lay Reader, and Amanda Abbitt, our Authorised Lay Minister who both preached and led services during the year. We are extremely grateful to both Sarah and Amanda for their ministries amongst us, and to Tim Kneller and Naomi Lumutenga for preaching also. In June we had the pleasure of welcoming our curate Revd Vicki Young to Marden following her ordination as Deacon in Canterbury Cathedral on 29<sup>th</sup> June.

Revd Nicky, Revd Vicki and Sarah Emanuel offered **Home Communion** to those who were unable to attend church for whatever reason. The list of **Chalice assistants** was reviewed and authorisation was sort for them to do this.

Kathy Young, our Youth and Children's worker, continued to nurture the faith of our young people. She ran Sunday Club, helped with Messy Church and sent out the baptism anniversary cards as well as regular newsletters to our baptism families letting them know about services and groups for children. Kathy is also Church Administrator, Gift Aid secretary and helped manage the Food Bank. Thank you for all you have done this year Kathy.

## FUNDRAISING

As a church we receive no money from the government or from the Diocese, so the church relied on fundraising activities throughout the year to generate much needed income for church funds (bills, insurance, repairs etc) and the parish share payment. We are very grateful to all who come along to support these events. Numerous events were held and these included:

- A Summer Market was held in the church, with a number of stalls including cakes, provisions, crafts, refreshments, teddy zip wire
- Cream Teas were held in the Vicarage Garden during five consecutive Sunday afternoons during August and September.
- In September, Marden Church took part in the Ride & Stride in support of the Friends of Kent Churches
- The East Peckham Silver Band performed a concert in church as part of our Patronal festival weekend at the end of September.
- A Harvest Quiz and Supper was held to celebrate Harvest festival
- Apple Fest



- The Christmas Market held in the church at the end of November was very successful and a lovely way to start the Christmas season.
- The Christmas Tree festival in the church, together with pumpkin soup and rolls were available for all, as part of the Marden at Christmas celebrations.

These events can only take place if we all come forward to help in some way. In the coming year please do think of offering time to help with our fundraising efforts – both behind the scenes and on the day.

## **AWAY GIVING**

Throughout 2024 Marden Church continued to focus on a charity a month to support. Charities show a breadth of local, national and international causes. Each month – usually the first Friday of the month – a soup or ploughman’s lunch is offered along with cake and refreshments. A raffle is also held. This takes place in the Vestry Hall and is open to anybody to attend in return for a donation. Occasionally we have a representative from a charity with us who will give a brief talk about their charities work.

## **PCC**

**The Parochial Church Council** has met six times during the year with the **Finance and Standing Committee** meeting in between to carry out any business required by the PCC. Alongside the Incumbent the PCC is responsible for promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church building, the Churchyard and the Vestry Hall. During the year the PCC has discussed many things including finance, insurance, services and maintenance issues. The various sub committees report back to the PCC about their activities and findings for discussion and approval.

Stephen Meech and Janet Gowen-Smith continued to serve as Churchwardens, and we are hugely grateful for all that they did during the year, and for the support they gave Revd Nicky in her ministry.

Matt McMillan continued as our treasurer, and we are grateful to him for keeping the PCC up to date with financial matters and the day to day running of church finances. As always money matters feature heavily in PCC discussions particularly around finding the parish share payment and how we can raise funds for the church and its activities.

## **VESTRY HALL**

The Vestry Hall is our church hall, and its oversight has been organised by a committee led by Graham Codling. During the year it was necessary to update the hire agreement for hall users due to changes in Safeguarding requirements and to make non church groups hiring the hall aware of their need for their own public liability insurance. The hall is used by many people for parties and functions, wakes and church groups.

During the year Barbara Judd stepped down after many years of loyal service as our Hall bookings officer. We are very grateful for all Barbara has done in this role and making

people who book the hall feel welcome. Kathy Young has taken over this role. We are also grateful to Sandra Osborn who has kept the hall clean and tidy over the year.

## **CHURCH**

Our church continued to remain open each day during 2024. The church is visited quite a lot during the day by those wanting a quiet place to pray or who are just visiting. Leaflets on the church's history and other leaflets, including the pew sheet, are available on the table inside the door. Leaflets for marriage, baptism and labyrinth walks are placed in the porch where there is also our prayer tree.

In 2024 we finally had our delayed Quinquennial Inspection (QI). The report was as good as we could have expected with nothing major being identified that needed urgent attention. In response to the QI the pews in the church were checked by Gulliver Timbers, who confirmed that the insect damage was historic and not new. They also confirmed that there were no issues with the timber in the Priests Room.

The old grey chairs used in church were replaced during 2024. They had served us well but had become scruffy and torn. They were replaced by second hand chairs from another church. These look much better when put out for large services such as weddings and Memorial services.

On the return of the bells the clock was again able to strike the hour. This had been missed by the village while the bells were being refurbished. I would like to thank our **Steeplekeeper** Chris Barker, aided by other bellringers in his absence, for attending to the clock and keeping it to the correct time by winding it twice a week.

The roof and gutters had their annual inspection in the Autumn, and debris cleared as necessary. As required by the church insurers Trinitas, the lead on the roof was marked with 'Selectamark' and the correct signs displayed both inside and outside the church.

## **CHURCHYARD**

Marden Church has a large churchyard surrounding it and this has continued to be maintained by the Community Payback team. They have paid particular attention to keeping the graves and boundary wall free from ivy as well as keeping the new ashes plot and the war graves tidy. The churchyard is used by many people in the village for a variety of reasons so we are grateful it is now maintained so well.

As part of our involvement with Eco Church and Gods Acre parts of the churchyard were again left to grow naturally and left uncut for a good part of the year. Pathways are cut through the long grass and the prayer labyrinth is maintained, while these areas grow. The number of bluebells in the churchyard is increasing and a kent pyramidal orchid was spotted too.

As part of the **Health and Safety** checks the gravestones were 'wobble' tested to make sure they were safe. One wobbly monument identified was repaired by the family.

We continue to bury ashes in the new ashes plot which runs alongside the footpath on the east boundary. This brings a lot of comfort to those who have lost loved ones in the village and those connected with the church through the electoral roll. This area complies with the Diocesan guidelines for Churchyards regarding burial of ashes and memorial tablets.

It should be noted that the church boundary is to the fir trees only. The area between the fir trees and the station carpark netting is the responsibility of Network Rail. One tree was felled in this area by them, as it had fallen into the railway carpark. They have put up new fencing at the station to prevent train passengers accessing the footpath bridge over the railway and through the churchyard.

### **THE ELECTORAL ROLL**

In April 2024 the electoral roll stood at 143. A complete revision of the roll is due next year and this will give us a better idea of our roll number.

### **Financial review**

The Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2024 is set out on page 17 and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2024 on page 18.

In 2024 total receipts for unrestricted funds were £126,727, this compares to £124,844 in 2023. This increase was largely due to legacies gifted to the church in 2024 of £7,480 and other charitable generating activities increasing to £11,747 in 2024, compared to £9,490 in 2023. This is offset by Vestry Hall rent decreasing to £9,189 in 2024 from £9,697 in 2023 and general giving including gift aid being down £6,850.

Total designated fund receipts in 2024 decreased to £42,654, comprising donations of £16,070 for the Marden Food Bank, £22,222 for the Restoration of the Bells Fabric Fund, £4,362 for charitable giving. In comparison, total designated fund receipts in 2023 were £47,092.

In 2024 net total funds showed a deficit of £32,037 compared with a surplus of £17,516 in 2023. This surplus comprised a £32,654 deficit in restricted funds as the restoration of the bell fund was completed.

At the year-end 2024 total unrestricted funds carried forward were £30,595 (2023: £29,978) and total designated funds carried forward were £16,366 (2023: £49,020). Net assets at the year-end 2024 were £46,961 (2023: £78,998) and included bank balances of £54,867 (2023: £69,351).

As at 31 December 2024 total designated funds of £16,366 included £8,438 for the Food Bank (2023: £9,025), £7,928 for Fabric General Fund (2023: £9,173) and £0 for the Restoration of the Bells Fabric Fund (2023: £30,822).

## **Reserves policy**

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds equating to at least three months' unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to approximately £30,000. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. PCC hit this target in 2024 with unrestricted funds of £38,501 carried forward at the end of the year (versus £29,978 at 2023 year-end).

Designated funds of £16,366 at the year-end were exclusively for the use of the Food Bank, and the General Fabric Fund.

## **Going concern**

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the PCC has a reasonable expectation that it has adequate unrestricted funds to meet its debts as they fall due. The PCC has a reasonable expectation that it has adequate unrestricted funds if there is a shortfall in donations to meet the commitments for the next 12 months.

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

### **The PCC**

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the governing body of St Michael & All Angels Church, Marden. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

At the PCC meetings all matters regarding the running of the church and its finances were discussed. At each of its meetings the Council received reports from the Incumbent relating to Mission and Ministry, the Parish Safeguarding Officer, the Treasurer, the Churchwardens regarding church fabric and maintenance, from meetings of Deanery and Diocese, the Vestry Hall Committee and from the Youth and Children's Worker and the Food Bank.

The Vicar, other ministers (lay or ordained), the Churchwardens and the representatives at the Deanery & Diocesan Synods are, by nature of their role, members of the PCC. The remaining 12 members are elected at the Annual Meeting. As at the date of this Report there are currently 11 elected members.

The PCC members who have served from the APCM 2024 are set out on page 3. Sandra Bourne will be retiring at the APCM 2025 and Sian Burr and Jenny Smith will be eligible for re-election.

With an electoral roll of between 100 and 200, the PCC is entitled to have 12 elected members.

### **Committees**

Various groups and committees met between PCC meetings as appropriate and reported back to the PCC for discussion and decision. These groups and committees include the Finance and Standing Committee, the Vestry Hall Committee, the Charities Committee and the Fabric Committee.

### **Finance and Standing Committee**

This is the only committee required by law. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any direction given by the PCC. It oversees the general finances of our Church work by monitoring income and expenditure. In 2024, it comprised the Incumbent, Churchwardens, Treasurer, and the PCC Secretary and met as necessary to discuss matters arising between PCC meetings.

### **Vestry Hall Committee**

This group had the responsibility of overseeing the maintenance and running of the Vestry Hall.

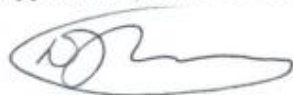
### **Charities Committee**

Marden Church supported a number of charities over the year, with a particular focus given to a specific named charity each month of the year. The charity was promoted throughout the month, with information and leaflets displayed on a large board by the entrance door to the church. Donations to the charity are placed in the box by the church door or made on-line to the treasurer. The total is given to the charity at the end of the month, together with any extra fundraising events held during the month.

We continue with our Mission objective of SHARING GOD'S LOVE IN:

- WORSHIPPING TOGETHER
- LEARNING AND GROWING TOGETHER
- SERVING OTHERS.

Approved by the PCC on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Rev'd Nicky Harvey  
*Chairperson for 2024*

## **Statement of the PCC's responsibilities**

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the Charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- a) select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- b) make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- c) state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- d) prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

## **Independent examiner's report to the Parochial Church Council of St Michael and All Angels, Marden**

I report to the members of the Parochial Church Council (the PCC) on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 18 to 26.

This report is made solely to the PCC, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I may state to the PCC those matters I am required to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the PCC for this report or for the opinions I have formed.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As members of the PCC, you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. The PCC consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the 2011 Act and that an independent examination is needed.

I report in respect of my examination of the financial statements of the PCC under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act).

### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, I can confirm that no matters have come to my attention giving me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those accounting records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements covering the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008.

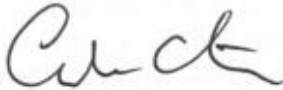
In connection with my examination, I have considered the ability of the PCC to continue as a going concern.

**Independent Examiner's report (continued)**

In examining the financial statements, I have concluded that the PCC's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate because:

- after making due inquiries and the the work that I have preformed I have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the PCC's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date of signing the Annual Report and Financial Statemets; and
- the Parish Share payable to the Diocese of Canterbury is a voluntary payment and can be deferred if the PCC does not have sufficient unrestricted funds to make this payment.

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



L D Stracey ACMA  
Bowling Green Cottage  
High Street  
Marden  
Kent TN12 9DP

1 April 2025  
*May*



## Statement of Financial Activities

*for the year ended 31 December 2024*

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
<b>Incoming resources</b>					
Voluntary income	2(a)	85,208	42,654	<b>127,862</b>	131,670
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	11,747	-	<b>11,747</b>	9,490
Income from investments	2(c)	-	-	-	-
Church activities	2(d)	20,583	-	<b>20,583</b>	21,079
Other incoming resources	2(e)	9,189	-	<b>9,189</b>	9,697
		<u>126,727</u>	<u>42,654</u>	<u><b>169,381</b></u>	<u>171,936</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
Fundraising activities	3(a)	155	-	<b>155</b>	49
Church activities:					
Diocesan Parish Share	3(b)	77,681	-	<b>77,681</b>	86,099
Church improvements	3(c)	-	54,289	<b>54,289</b>	-
Other church activities	3(d)	48,274	21,019	<b>69,293</b>	68,272
		<u>126,110</u>	<u>75,308</u>	<u><b>201,418</b></u>	<u>154,420</u>
<b>Net (outgoing)/incoming resources</b>		617	(32,654)	<b>(32,037)</b>	17,516
Balance brought forward at start of the year		29,978	49,020	<b>78,998</b>	71,300
Transfer to Fabric Fund		-	-	-	-
Transfer funds to Marden Dementia Friendly Community (With Living Memories)		-	-	-	(9,818)
<b>Total funds carried forward at end of the year</b>		<u>30,595</u>	<u>16,366</u>	<u><b>46,961</b></u>	<u>78,998</u>

The notes on pages 19 to 25 form an integral part of these financial statements.

**Statement of assets and liabilities**  
*at 31 December 2024*

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	5	-	16,252
Cash at bank	6	54,867	69,351
		<u>54,867</u>	<u>85,603</u>
<b>Creditors:</b>			
Amounts falling due within one year	7	(7,906)	(6,605)
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>46,961</u>	<u>78,998</u>
<b>Funds</b>			
Unrestricted funds	4	30,595	29,978
Designated funds	4	16,366	49,020
<b>Total funds</b>		<u>46,961</u>	<u>78,998</u>

The notes on pages 19 to 25 form an integral part of these financial statements.

These financial statements on pages 17 to 25 were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:



Rev'd Nicky Harvey  
*Chairperson for 2024*

**Notes** *(forming part of the financial statements)*

**1. Accounting Policies**

***Basis of preparation of the financial statements***

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (2015) preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements are presented in sterling and rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law.

The primary objective of the charity is to promote the gospel of Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrine and practice of the Church of England. The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognized at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

The church is a registered charity in England and Wales. The trustees are the members of the PCC.

***Going concern***

At the time of approving the accounts, the PCC has a reasonable expectation that the Church has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Therefore the PCC continues to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

In addition the PCC has a reasonable expectation that it has adequate unrestricted funds if there is a shortfall in donations to meet the commitments for the restoration of the church bells.

***Funds accounting***

Unrestricted funds are general funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and can be used by the PCC for general purposes.

## **Notes** *(continued)*

### **1. Accounting Policies** *(continued)*

#### ***Funds accounting*** *(continued)*

Designated funds represent donations or grants received for specific future purposes. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given and any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year are carried forward as a balance on that fund.

The designated funds comprise donations and grants for the Restoration of the Church Bells Fund, the General Fabric Fund, Living Memories (dissolved 2023) and Marden Food Bank.

#### ***Incoming resources***

All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognized when received. Tax recoverable on gift aid donations is recognized when the incoming resource, to which it relates, is received. All other income is recognized when it is receivable.

#### ***Resources expended***

The voluntary diocesan Parish Share is accounted for when due except where there is a strong possibility or no likelihood that the PCC will not have the funds to meet the payment and it is then accounted for on a receipts and payments basis. All other expenditure is generally recognized when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

#### ***Current assets***

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown in debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short term deposits include cash held on deposit at the bank.

**Notes** *(continued)*

**2. Incoming Resources**

**(a) Voluntary income**

	<b>Unrestricted funds £</b>	<b>Designated funds £</b>	<b>Total 2024 £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>
Planned giving	53,487	-	<b>53,487</b>	52,441
Collections at services	4,286	-	<b>4,286</b>	2,936
Gift aid recovered	15,111	-	<b>15,111</b>	17,153
Donations	4,844	42,654	<b>47,498</b>	59,140
Legacies, grants and other income	7,480	-	<b>7,480</b>	-
	<b>85,208</b>	<b>42,654</b>	<b>127,862</b>	<b>131,670</b>

**(b) Activities for generating funds**

	<b>Unrestricted funds £</b>	<b>Designated funds £</b>	<b>Total 2024 £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>
Fundraising activities	11,747	-	<b>11,747</b>	9,490

**(c) Investment income**

	<b>Unrestricted funds £</b>	<b>Designated funds £</b>	<b>Total 2024 £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>
Interest income	-	-	-	-

**(d) Church activities**

	<b>Unrestricted funds £</b>	<b>Designated funds £</b>	<b>Total 2024 £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>
Fees from weddings, funerals etc.	10,022	-	<b>10,022</b>	11,687
Magazine income	10,561	-	<b>10,561</b>	9,392
	<b>20,583</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,583</b>	<b>21,079</b>

**Notes** *(continued)*

**2. Incoming Resources** *(continued)*

**(e) Other incoming resources**

	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Designated funds</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Vestry hall income	9,189	-	<b>9,189</b>	9,697

**3. Resources expended**

**(a) Cost of generating funds**

	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Designated funds</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fundraising activities	155	-	<b>155</b>	49

**(b) Parish Share**

The Parish Share for the years ended 31 December 2024 and 31 December 2023 has been paid in full. Arrears amounting £25,484 for the Parish Share for the year ending 31 December 2020 had not been accrued for as at 31 December 2022 as it was not possible to make the payment due to insufficient available funds. The Parish Share is not a legally enforceable liability and is a voluntary contribution payable when funds permit. In 2023, following PCC approval, an amount of £12,664 was paid to the Diocese of Canterbury in full and final settlement of the arrears as the Diocese offered a 50% discount. At 31 December 2023 and 31 December 2024, the Parish Share was fully up to date.

**(c) Church improvements**

	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Designated funds</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Restoration of Bells	-	54,289	<b>54,289</b>	-
	-	54,289	<b>54,289</b>	-

The total cost of the restoration of the church bells of £54,289 includes an amount of £15,693 which was paid in 2022 and was included in prepayments at 31 December 2023 (see note 5). The restoration of the church bells was completed in March and the cost was primarily covered by donations received in 2024 and prior years and the shortfall of £1,245 was covered by a transfer from the fabric fund.

**Notes** *(continued)*

**3. Resources expended** *(continued)*

**(d) Other church activities**

	<b>Unrestricted funds £</b>	<b>Designated funds £</b>	<b>Total 2024 £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>
Fees remitted to diocese	4,880	-	<b>4,880</b>	6,033
Food bank	-	16,657	<b>16,657</b>	16,555
Church giving	-	4,362	<b>4,362</b>	4,996
Magazine expenses	4,734	-	<b>4,734</b>	4,841
Vestry hall expenses	3,486	-	<b>3,486</b>	3,045
Office expenses	2,519	-	<b>2,519</b>	3,489
Church utilities	11,494	-	<b>11,494</b>	8,323
Ministry expenses	21,161	-	<b>21,161</b>	19,634
Living Memories	-	-	-	1,356
	<b>48,274</b>	<b>21,019</b>	<b>69,293</b>	<b>68,272</b>

Living Memories expenses exclude £9,818 was transferred to Marden Dementia Friendly Community (With Living Memories) during the prior year (Note 8).

**4. Analysis of net assets by fund**

	<b>Unrestricted funds £</b>	<b>Designated funds £</b>	<b>Total 2024 £</b>
Debtors	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand	38,501	16,366	<b>54,867</b>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(7,906)	-	<b>(7,906)</b>
	<b>30,595</b>	<b>16,366</b>	<b>46,961</b>

**5. Debtors**

	<b>Unrestricted funds £</b>	<b>Designated funds £</b>	<b>Total 2024 £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>
Gift aid receivable	-	-	-	559
Prepayments	-	-	-	15,693
	-	-	-	16,252

The prepayment in 2023 pertained to the church bells (see note 3c).

**Notes** *(continued)*

**6. Cash at bank**

	<b>2024</b>	2023
	<b>£</b>	£
Unrestricted funds	<b>38,501</b>	69,351
Designated funds	<b>16,366</b>	-
	<b>54,867</b>	69,351

**7. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2024</b>	2023
	<b>£</b>	£
Deferred income from magazine advertising	<b>7,906</b>	6,528
Vestry Hall rents received in advance	-	77
Wedding deposits received in advance	-	-
	<b>7,906</b>	6,605

**8. Designated funds**

	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>
Balance at 1 January 2023	<b>49,020</b>
Incoming resources	<b>42,654</b>
Resources expended	<b>(75,308)</b>
	<b>16,366</b>

*Designated funds comprise:*

	<b>2024</b>	2023
	<b>£</b>	£
Marden Food Bank	<b>8,438</b>	9,025
Living Memories	-	-
Restoration of Bells Fund	-	30,822
Fabric Fund General	<b>7,928</b>	9,173
	<b>16,366</b>	49,020



**Notes** *(continued)*

**8. Designated funds** *(continued)*

*The balance on the Restoration of Bells Fund can be analysed as follows:*

	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>
Balance at 1 January 2024	<b>30,822</b>
Donations received during the year	<b>22,222</b>
Transfer from the fabric fund	<b>1,245</b>
Spent in the year	<b>(54,289)</b>
Balance at 31 December 2024	<b>-</b>