

**Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements
of the Parochial Church Council of St Bartholomew's Church,
Arborfield**

for the year ended 31 December 2024

Trustees Annual Report

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) presents its Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Reference and administrative information

The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission as The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew's, Arborfield, registration number 1146779.

The correspondence address of the Church is The Rectory, Church Lane, Arborfield, Berkshire RG2 9HZ.

The Trustees, members of the PCC who have served from 1 January 2024 until the date this report was approved (or as indicated) are:

	Rev Piers Bickersteth (Until 18/02/24)
	Rev Andrew Kearns (Chair since March 24) (appointed as rector 26 th Sept 24)
Minister	Iain Lingwood (since 11/11/24)
Associate Minister	Joseph Brown
Churchwardens	Lynn McBurnie
	Ruth Kershaw (since 21/04/24)
Deanery Synod reps	Poppy Brown
	Anthony Pollock
Elected members	Alison Caldwell
	Patricia Fryer
	Ian Hollamby (until 11/11/24)
	Mark McDonnell
	Rob Hughes (since 21/04/24)
	Felicity Singh
	Jonathan Green
	Alex Kershaw

Bankers Barclays Bank PLC

Independent Examiner Lisa Darby FCA

Structure, governance and management

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England and operates under the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956.

The appointment of PCC members is governed by, and set out in, the Church Representation Rules. The Trustees, members of the PCC, are either elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting or are co-opted onto the PCC and hold office for 3 years.

Objectives and activities

The principal purpose of St Bartholomew's Church, Arborfield is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The objectives of the PCC are defined by the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 as "to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church – pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical."

The trustees confirm that they have given due consideration to the Charity Commission's published guidance on the operation of public benefit.

Achievements and performance

Our aim as a Church is to honour the Lord Jesus Christ in all that we do. By his grace we are seeking to grow in our knowledge of him, our love for him and our obedience to him. We are also seeking to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to others as well, both by reaching out to others ourselves and by supporting mission partners in the UK and overseas. During 2024 we committed to support the following: Christian Community Action (CCA), Open Doors and Crosslinks.

Our Sunday services are the focus for our life as a Church as we gather to listen to the Word of God being read and preached, and as we respond to him in prayer and praise. This is also a vital time for us to grow as a fellowship and refreshments after the service provide the opportunity for relationships to build. It is our assumption, however, that our life as a Church should overflow into our daily lives and our growth groups continue to provide a natural context for relationships to develop whereby people can serve and encourage one another further.

Church at the Green marked its seventh birthday in March 2024 and continues to give thanks to God for all that He continues to do in establishing and keeping the church family, as well as building our relationships with neighbours who continue to move into the new housing locally. Piers Bickersteth retired as Rector in February 2024, and in September 2024 Rev Iain Lingwood was licensed to lead the ministry at CTG.

Andy Kearns was installed as the new Rector of Arborfield with Barkham on 26th September and continues to be based at St Bartholomew's, Arborfield.

During the year the Electoral Roll was revised in accordance with Church of England practice and the number currently on the Roll is 119.

Most of the charity's activities are undertaken by volunteers and the charity could not operate effectively without their efforts. In planning the activities, the PCC has applied the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

Financial review

Our Lord, continues to be very kind to us and we feel so blessed to have Andy Kearns take up the role of rector for the benefice. We are also very grateful to have Ruth Kershaw who has joined the team on a part-time basis as community minister. The diocese now pay Andy's salary and Ruth's is handled by the trust.

During the year the Church income was £ 119,167 (a decrease of £7,175 from 2023) and Church expenditure was £122,432 (last year £126,027(a decrease of £3, 596 from 2023).

We have made mortgage repayments of £25,542 (£13,144 Capital Repayments and £12,398 Interest Repayments) to Methodist Chapel Aid limited towards our loan of £250,000 for the refurbishment of School House.

There is £65,546 invested in a 120 day notice investment fund and £102,535 in our current accounts (£1, 724 of these funds are restricted)

We have received planning permission to move ahead with our car park and have a quote of £64,800 for this work.

Heating

Our boiler is broken and the diocese is recommending we move to under pew heating. We have an initial quote is £24,190.00p plus vat.

Reserves

The reserves policy of the charity is to hold cash reserves which equate to a minimum of 2 months income at all times. For the 2024 year end this would require approximately £19,000 of cash reserve. The unrestricted immediately accessible cash held at the year end was £166,356; so the trustees are confident their reserve policy has been complied with.

Quinquennial Inspection

The quinquennial inspection was carried out in August 2020 and is therefore due for renewal this year. There are several cracks in the masonry around the church which are being actively monitored with crack gauges. It is not yet clear if and when repairs will be required. There is a church working party which will be ensuring the required inspections and repairs are completed.

Going concern

The Charity is reliant on the support of voluntary donations to enable it to continue operating. The trustees believe that support will continue and that the Charity will continue to operate.

Responsibilities of trustees

Charity law requires the PCC to prepare financial statements for each accounting year which record the receipts and payments of the charity for the year.


The PCC is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011.

We also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

With regard to the PCC's obligations to safeguard children and vulnerable adults, the members of the PCC confirm that they have complied with their duties under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on Mar 31, 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Andrew Kearns
Rev Andrew Kearns
Chairman


Patricia Fryer (Mar 31, 2025 05:22 GMT+1)
Patricia Fryer
Treasurer

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S, ARBORFIELD

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Bartholomew's, Arborfield ('the charity') for the year ended 31 December 2024 on pages 6 to 9 following.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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

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

1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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

Lisa Darby

Lisa Darby (Mar 31, 2025 15:30 GMT+1)

Lisa Darby FCA

Stewardship
1 Lamb's Passage
LONDON
EC1Y 8AB

Date: Mar 31, 2025

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S, ARBORFIELD
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2024 £	2023 £
Income receipts							
Voluntary receipts	2(a)	105,245	50	-	-	105,295	114,866
Church activities	2(b)	2,836	-	-	-	2,836	9,119
Investment income	2(c)	5,317	3	-	5,716	11,036	2,357
Total receipts		<u>113,398</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,716</u>	<u>119,167</u>	<u>126,342</u>
Payments							
Church activities	3(a)	30,219	5	-	525	30,750	34,672
Ministry costs	3(b)	57,954	-	-	-	57,954	44,856
Mission and charitable gifts	3(c)	5,026	424	-	-	5,450	15,143
		<u>93,199</u>	<u>429</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>525</u>	<u>94,154</u>	<u>94,672</u>
Car Park building work		2,736	-	-	-	2,736	7,187
Loan repayments		-	-	-	25,542	25,542	24,168
		<u>2,736</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,542</u>	<u>28,278</u>	<u>31,356</u>
Total payments		<u>95,935</u>	<u>429</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26,067</u>	<u>122,432</u>	<u>126,027</u>
Net of receipts / (payments) before transfers		17,463	(376)	-	(20,351)	(3,265)	314
Transfers between funds		(20,647)	366	(70)	20,351	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>(3,185)</u>	<u>(10)</u>	<u>(70)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,265)</u>	<u>314</u>
Cash funds as at last year end		82,404	1,674	87,267	-	171,345	171,031
Cash funds at this year end	A	<u>79,219</u>	<u>1,664</u>	<u>87,197</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>168,080</u>	<u>171,345</u>

The notes on pages 8-9 form part of these accounts.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S, ARBORFIELD

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	General funds £	Restricted funds £	Designated funds £	Endowment funds £	2024 £	2023 £
A Cash funds						
Cash at bank with immediate access	60,535	-	42,000	-	102,535	69,117
United Trust Account - Investment	18,685	1,664	45,197	-	65,546	102,228
	<u>79,219</u>	<u>1,664</u>	<u>87,197</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>168,080</u>	<u>171,345</u>
B Other monetary assets						
Gift aid due to charity	9,304	-	-	-	9,304	2,557
Prepayment	2,132	-	-	-	2,132	2,075
Other debtors	236	-	-	-	236	-
	<u>11,672</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,672</u>	<u>4,632</u>
Total current assets	<u>90,891</u>	<u>1,664</u>	<u>87,197</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>179,752</u>	<u>175,977</u>
C Liabilities						
Falling due within one year						
Diocesan Board of Finance	1,030	-	-	-	1,030	852
Accounts payable	682	-	-	-	682	730
Grant obligations	4,000	-	-	-	4,000	-
Fee for Independent Examination	1,512	-	-	-	1,512	1,500
Other creditors	650	-	-	-	650	351
	<u>7,874</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,874</u>	<u>3,433</u>
Total net current assets	<u>83,017</u>	<u>1,664</u>	<u>87,197</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>171,878</u>	<u>172,544</u>
D Assets and secured liabilities retained for charity's own use						
School House used as clergy accommodation (2021 valuation by Haslams, Chartered Surveyors)	-	-	-	750,000	750,000	750,000
Church Hall sliding partitions (trustees deem these to be fully depreciated in 2024)	-	-	-	-	-	11,034
Other Church Assets	2,887	-	-	-	2,887	-
	<u>2,887</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>750,000</u>	<u>752,887</u>	<u>761,034</u>
Liabilities secured on School House						
Capital Loan payments falling due within less than one year	-	-	-	13,158	13,158	13,158
Capital Loan payments falling due after one year	-	-	-	197,368	197,368	210,526
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>210,526</u>	<u>210,526</u>	<u>223,684</u>
Total assets less secured liabilities	<u>2,887</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>539,474</u>	<u>542,361</u>	<u>537,350</u>

School House is held under an endowment trust deed dated 1st December 1871 for the education of the children of Arborfield and Barkham in the principles of the Church of England at the Coombs Primary School. It is occupied as a residence by the church's associate minister for this purpose. The rent saved from renting accommodation for the church's associate minister from a third party will fund the loan repayments. There is therefore no additional liability on the PCC arising from this arrangement.

The above loan which is secured on the School House is repayable in equal half yearly instalments and is repayable in full by 2041.

Consecrated property, beneficed property and moveable church furnishings which require a special faculty for disposal are excluded from the above list of charity assets.

The accounts were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Andrew Kearns
Andrew Kearns (Mar 31, 2025 10:04 GMT+1)

Rev Andrew Kearns

Date: Mar 31, 2025

The notes on pages 9-10 form part of these accounts.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S, ARBORFIELD

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1 Accounting policies

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and comprise a statement that shows the charity's receipts and payments, a statement that summarises the charity's assets and liabilities and related notes. The accountancy profession have determined that only accounts prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards present a 'true and fair' view and, as these receipts and payments accounts have not (and cannot) be prepared in accordance with accounting standards, these accounts do not present (and are not intended to present) a 'true and fair' view of the charity's financial activities and state of affairs.

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the PCC in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the PCC for particular purposes. Restricted funds are donations which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors; they include donations received from appeals for specific activities or projects.

	General funds £	Restricted funds £	Designated funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
2 a) Voluntary income						
Regular donations under gift aid	68,301	-	-	-	68,301	65,150
Other regular donations	16,755	-	-	-	16,755	16,040
Total regular receipts	85,056	-	-	-	85,056	81,190
One-off donations under gift aid	8,360	-	-	-	8,360	1,810
Other one-off donations	990	50	-	-	1,040	585
Collections	274	-	-	-	274	409
Total receipts from one-off donations	9,624	50	-	-	9,674	2,804
Gift aid reclaimed	10,565	-	-	-	10,565	30,872
	105,245	50	-	-	105,295	114,866
b) Church activities						
Clergy fees	2,256	-	-	-	2,256	3,212
Other activities and fees	580	-	-	-	580	5,907
	2,836	-	-	-	2,836	9,119
c) Investment income						
Rental Income	-	-	-	5,716	5,716	120
Dividends from CBF investment funds	5,317	3	-	-	5,320	2,237
	5,317	3	-	5,716	11,036	2,357
	General funds £	Restricted funds £	Designated funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
3 a) Church activities						
Church @ the Green	2,276	-	-	-	2,276	-
Church running costs	11,261	-	-	-	11,261	12,950
Office cost and central costs	6,928	-	-	-	6,928	9,892
Insurance	3,739	-	-	525	4,264	4,646
Independent examination	2,042	-	-	-	2,042	1,968
School House costs	957	-	-	-	957	-
Assigned fees	852	-	-	-	852	544
Other charitable activities	65	-	-	-	65	363
Other costs	2,099	5	-	-	2,104	4,309
	30,219	5	-	525	30,750	34,672
b) Ministry costs						
Associate Minister	27,132	-	-	-	27,132	39,378
Youth worker	375	-	-	-	375	4,479
Parish Share	28,902	-	-	-	28,902	-
Other ministry expenses	1,545	-	-	-	1,545	999
	57,954	-	-	-	57,954	44,856
c) Mission and charitable gifts						
Christian Community Action	-	-	-	-	-	2,500
South Central Gospel	-	-	-	-	-	500
Crosslinks	5,016	-	-	-	5,016	3,394
Open Doors	-	-	-	-	-	2,500
Church at the Green	-	-	-	-	-	5,500
Individuals	-	-	-	-	-	500
Bibles given to school leavers	-	424	-	-	424	249
Friends of the Cathedral	10	-	-	-	10	-
	5,026	424	-	-	5,450	15,143

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S, ARBORFIELD

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

4 Staff and trustees

The church has no direct employees. Its activities are carried out by volunteers and by staff employed by an independent charity (The Arborfield and Barkham Parish Churches Trust). Grants paid to that trust to meet these costs are included in the ministry section of note 3 above.

Included in the staff employed by the independent charity are:

Rev Andrew Kearns was employed by the Arborfield and Barkham Parish Churches Trust until September 2024. During this period Rev Andrew Kearns and family received accommodation in the recently renovated School House. The cost of this accommodation was covered by the PCC with a peppercorn rent of £10 pcm being paid by the minister. [NB by kind permission of the diocese the Kearns family moved into the rectory on 16th August and School House remained vacant until 27th September]

In September 2024 Rev Kearns was appointed Rector and is now employed by the Diocese.

The PCC pay Arborfield and Barkham Parish Churches Trust a proportion of benefice's parish share, which Arborfield and Barkham Parish Churches Trust subsequently provide to the Diocese (2024: £28,902) who provide Rev. Kearns with a stipend and accommodation to carry out his role as Rector. As Rector Rev. Kearns remains a member of the PCC and hence a trustee. [Note the benefice is made up of 4 churches who all pay a proportion of the parish share which is why the parish share is not paid directly to the Diocese] "□"

In September 2024 Rev Iain Lingwood was appointed Associate Minister, he is a member of the PCC and hence a trustee. He is employed by the Arborfield and Barkham Parish Churches Trust. Since 27th October 2024 Rev. Lingwood and the family receive accommodation in the School House which is rented from the PCC by the Arborfield and Barkham Parish Churches Trust at a rate of £1782 pcm. In addition Iain Lingwood pays a peppercorn rent of 10 pcm to the PCC.

Ruth Kershaw who is a member of the PCC and hence a trustee is employed by the Arborfield and Barkham Parish Churches Trust in the role of Community Worker. Ruth was appointed on 1st October 2024.

No other person connected with the PCC has been paid remuneration or other benefits from the funds of the PCC, other than the direct reimbursement of expenses with no profit element.

5 Fund movements

	Opening balance £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Closing balance £
General funds	<u>82,404</u>	<u>113,398</u>	<u>(95,935)</u>	<u>(20,647)</u>	<u>79,219</u>
Restricted funds:					
Bell fund	1,402	50	(5)	5	1,452
Women's Ministry fund	60	-	-	(60)	-
Ditchfield prize fund	212	3	(424)	421	212
Other nominated gifts	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>1,674</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>(429)</u>	<u>366</u>	<u>1,664</u>
Endowment funds:					
School House fund	-	5,716	(26,067)	20,351	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>5,716</u>	<u>(26,067)</u>	<u>20,351</u>	<u>-</u>
Designated funds:					
Women's Ministry fund	70	-	-	(70)	-
Sustain Ministry Legacy fund	87,197	-	-	-	87,197
	<u>87,267</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(70)</u>	<u>87,197</u>
Total funds	<u>171,345</u>	<u>119,167</u>	<u>(122,432)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>168,080</u>

The Bell fund relates to income and expenditure received and paid directly in relation to the Church bells and the bell ringing lessons.

The restricted Women's Ministry fund relates to income, donations and costs that are in relation to the Women's ministry that the church runs. This fund is closed in 2024.

The Ditchfield prize fund relates to income to be applied in providing one or more prizes for religious knowledge to one or more children in school every year.

The School House endowment fund has been created following the surrender of the lease of the School House. The School House is held in accordance with the terms of the original trust deed dated 1 December 1871.

The Sustain Ministry Legacy fund relates to a legacy gift received that will contribute towards the continued ministry running costs of the church. This includes such costs as Minister costs and children & youth ministry costs.

The transfer from the general fund into the Ditchfield prize fund is a contribution towards the purchase of bibles for school leavers.

The transfer from the general fund into the School House endowment fund is a contribution towards the mortgage repayment on the School House.

The transfer from the general fund into the Bell fund is a contribution towards the annual bell expenditure incurred during 2024.

The transfer from the designated Women's Ministry fund to the general fund reflects the closure of this fund.