



St. Matthew's Church, Reading

Annual Report

Year Ended 31st December 2024

Registered Charity Number: 1148083



ANNUAL REPORT

Welcome to the Annual Report of the mission and ministry of St. Matthew's Church, Southcote Lane, Reading for the year 2024.

Under the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956, the PCC is required to co-operate with the vicar in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church - pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. This report describes how this has been achieved during 2024. Further details of the activities of the PCC and of the various ministry areas of the church can be obtained by contacting those named in each report.

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Statement of Financial Activities

Our Vision:

"...a thriving, growing church at the heart of the parish, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and serving the community."

Trustees' Report for the 2024 APCM

Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules, or co-opted onto the PCC. During the year, the following served as members of the PCC:-

Vicar: The Revd. Pads Dolphin
Associate Minister: The Revd. Kirstie Dolphin
Churchwardens: Jan Ball (also PCC Secretary)
Chris Everett

Deanery Synod Representatives:

Brian Day
Mary Day

Elected Members:

Chisom Umeh (also Treasurer)
Gwyneth Rudman
Steve Rudman
Emma Noonan
Erick Nwanshi
Abigail Fryer-Saxby
Simon Beasley
Ian Bullock
Zoe Ferguson

Co-opted Members:

David Horne
Julie Bullock

Non-Voting Members:

None

The PCC held meetings in January, February, March, April, May, July, September, October and November.

Standing Committee and Finance Committee

The Standing Committee is the only committee required by law and transacts the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any direction given by the council.

If there is an urgent need to approve expenditure which cannot wait for a scheduled meeting, a Standing Committee can be convened to approve up to £500. The Standing Committee consisted of:

- the Vicar (Pads Dolphin)
- the Churchwardens (Jan Ball and Chris Everett)
- Erick Nwanshi, Emma Noonan, Mary Day

Any approvals made by a Standing Committee must be reported to the next PCC meeting and will be minuted.

The Finance Committee had the following membership:

Pads Dolphin, Chisom Umeh, Brian Day, Alan Chandler. Most of its business was conducted via email and finance was a standing item on every PCC agenda.

Review of the year

The PCC met 6 times since the last APCM.

The following items were included in the business of the PCC during 2024

New Electrical wiring in the kitchen area of the hall.

Following the February General Synod decision to approve new trial liturgy known as Prayers of Love and Faith (PLF), the PCC made a decision that the church would maintain orthodox biblical teaching.;

The purchase of a new sound mixing desk for the church was approved and the desk was installed.

New energy contracts were expertly negotiated by Karen Alderson, our Parish Administrator, which are saving us a significant amount of money.

Financial Review

The PCC is responsible for the financial affairs of St. Matthew's Church. Over the last few years voluntary income has reduced (see page 15) whilst costs have increased significantly which has been a challenge for us as a church to meet all our major financial commitments of parish share, salaries and necessary services and utilities. We are very thankful to the generous hearts of the congregation of St Matthew's who continue to give sacrificially towards the mission and ministry of St Matthew's. Below are the figures for the year 2024 compared with the previous two years.

Basis of Preparation

The accounts have been prepared using the accrual accounting method consistent with last years' accounts.

	2022	2023	2024	
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual
Voluntary Income	£97,724	£103,401		£101,240
Total Income	£114,171	£158,345		£176,066
Total Resource Used	£125,518	£156,983		£159,707
Net Income	(£11,347)	£1,362		£16,359
Unrestricted General Reserve	£66,500	£41,202		£45,034

Reserve Policy

The PCC has a policy of keeping three months running costs in reserve to cover unforeseen circumstances. months.

Health and Safety

A report on health and safety is considered at each PCC meeting. Accident books and First Aid kits are located in both the Church and Hall and the First Aid kits are inspected regularly and refilled if necessary.

Safeguarding

A report on safeguarding is considered at each PCC meeting. This takes account of all vulnerable or potentially vulnerable users of our facilities and participants in our activities. A safeguarding agreement is included in the documentation issued to all hall users.

The PCC would like to thank everyone who has worked so hard during the year to help support the mission and ministry of St. Matthews.

Signed on Behalf of the PCC

Jan Ball and Chris Everett. (church wardens)

Report on the Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll of St Matthew's in 2024 sees us with 56 adult members

Applications for membership of the Electoral Roll can be made at any time during the year and applications forms are available in the Welcome Area. Forms should be completed and handed to a member of the Clergy, to the church office or to me.

Erick Nwanshi (electoral roll officer)

Deanery Synod Report

Deanery Synod is a forum where parishes from across Reading can come together to discuss issues and opportunities that transcend our parish boundaries. It is a forum for sharing ideas, addressing common challenges and linking into the wider mission of the Diocese. St Matthew's deanery synod representatives for 2024 were Brian and Mary Day.

Report for 2024

Four meetings took place this year as per the usual pattern.

The February meeting discussed and approved the re-introduction of Deanery Membership Fee of £27 per person to cover the cost of hosting meetings, website and general running costs.

Small group discussions took place on the missional needs and opportunities arising in parishes.

Kathryn Aboud, the Berkshire Enabler and Youth Ministry specialist, talked about the Reading Youth Hub proposal from our bishops to put children, young people and families at the centre of a more Christ-like church. This would involve discerning, training and supporting paid youth workers and youth work volunteers.

At the June meeting Children and Young People and Families (CYPF) data was discussed.

Each parish had previously been asked to complete a survey commissioned by the Bishop of Oxford, The Rt. Rev'd Steven Croft our Diocesan Bishop.

A deanery wide preparation of the new Mission Action Plan was started by reviewing financial trends, range of churchmanship across the Deanery, and determining the condition, use and geographical location of Building Stock.

Joanna Laynesmith (St. John and St. Stephen) spoke about churches becoming Ecochurches . They had achieved their gold award, the first church in the Oxford Diocese. (Perhaps St. Matthew's should be looking to improve its green credentials?)

The September meeting saw The Area Dean, the Rev'd Canon Mike Smith present a summary of (CYPF) which gave cause for optimism as 18 out of 20 benefices do church based pre-school work, and 16 out of 20 work with primary and secondary schools involving a total of 304 volunteers.

Kathryn Aboud explained the Axis apprentice scheme that the Diocese was preparing a bid to the National Church to fund the training of Youth Ministers for 2 years. Mentors would be provided and a realistic salary would be paid to apprentices. There would be some cost to the parishes. The meeting was filled with optimism at the proposal.

Unfortunately by the November meeting our hopes had been dashed as the Axis youth apprenticeship scheme had been removed from the Diocesan bid!

The Area Dean who was extremely disappointed to say the least and asked Mark Humphriss, Diocesan Secretary and Andrew Anderson-Gear, Director of Mission and Ministry to attend and explain the removal of the bid. This produced a lively exchange of views! After which the Diocese committed to work closely with the Deanery to see if any proposal could be saved.

The Parish Share for 2025 was ratified resulting in St. Matthew's paying £49,102 and increase of 3.25% for 2025. It was noted that a parish priest now costs upwards of £65,000 per year when salary, housing, council tax and other expenses are costed in.

Mary and Brian Day

Churchwardens' report

2024 was the year that saw Pads and Kirstie leave St Matthews for a new life in South Africa. It marked the end of an era and ushered in a time of holding the fort and preparing the ground for the next incumbent.

I became warden in April and together with Jan we were left with the unenviable task of trying to keep things going, whilst at the same time making preparation by way of the Parish profile for whoever will take up the reins for the next chapter in the St Matthew's story. One thing that I came to appreciate in a way that I never would have been able to, if I hadn't taken on this responsibility, is just how hard a vicar works. It's all too easy to take people for granted when they're always there but when they're gone you realise what a blessing and a gift they were to the church and to the parish, so thank you Pads and Kirstie!

One of the main responsibilities for wardens is the upkeep of the grounds and buildings and in this regard 2024 was a busy year. With the buildings, priority was given to upgrading the electrical systems to the hall which were antiquated, inadequate and not up to present day safety standards. The works carried out were -

1. Replacing and upgrading the consumer units (fuse -boards) located in the kitchen and lobby area cupboard.
2. Rewiring the office, kitchen and training room
3. Installing new heaters to the office and training room respectively.

The training room was completed in April, repurposing what was once a tired waste of space into a spacious well-equipped extension to the kitchen and a new ministry initiative. A creative spin off from this resulted in extra storage space being made with wall to wall fitted cupboards to the rear of the hall stage as well as a built-in cupboard to the lobby area of the ladies' toilets.

There was also some redecoration carried out with the kitchen, and lobby area of the ladies' toilets being painted.

Regarding the grounds, a work party carried out a site clear up in the autumn with hedges being severely cut back and weed growth around buildings removed. I was also greatly relieved that we managed to remove the top course of bricks to the wall between the main church building and the hall which were being held on by gravity and potentially dangerous.

So many people work hard all year round to keep the building and the grounds looking ship-shape but special mention must go out to Simon Beasley who keeps the grass cut along with a whole host of other practical jobs he manages to carry out, with Erick also proving to be quite the dab-hand with a drill!

But last and by no means least a big thank you to Lynn because without her fundraising efforts the completion of the training room, maintenance work and new storage space wouldn't have been possible.

Looking after the practicalities that are required to ensure the smooth running of the church is one aspect of a church warden's responsibility but we are also tasked to help watch over

the spiritual wellbeing of the church as well and to this end 2024 was, in addition to all the above, a busy year in terms of ministry.

Our ministry is both pastoral and missional and in terms of the pastoral the 10am, 11.45 and midweek services continued, albeit with the challenge of having to keep things going without a vicar once Pads and Kirstie left in August,

Again, so many people stepped up to ensure things kept going and despite the challenges we managed admirably.

In addition to the pastoral the missional work of the church went from strength to strength with a whole host of activity taking place such as:-

1. Southtots
2. After School Hub
3. Cookery School
4. Street Pastors
5. RE Inspired
6. Men's Group

As well as all this I need to mention that St Matthew's also ran out as winners in the 2024 Pangbourne Dragon Boat Races and achieved a long-held ambition for Pads!

All in all, a busy and eventful year, not without its challenges, as with any year, but one we can look back on with thankfulness to The LORD for his faithfulness and provision.

Chris Everett and Jan Ball

Family & Children's Reports:-

Kidz Church Report including Family times.

I would like to say a huge thank you to Zoe, who helped in KC but has decided to move over to teach in the youth group. A very big thank you to Rose Rolfe who is very dedicated to getting alongside the little ones in KC and Simon Beasley who has been a huge support in teaching in KC to give me the odd Sunday in church or when I'm on holiday. Thank you! The numbers at the beginning of the year were quite low but fluctuated throughout the year.

We have enjoyed learning about parables and miracles which involve acting, building large boats to get into and plenty of games.

Family times are happening now twice a month instead of weekly. It's a time to all connect and learn something as one big family. If you enjoy family times and learn from them you may like to join our KC team as that is one big family time. We would love some more helpers.

Lynn Everett - Children and Families Community Support Worker

Creche Report

Creche runs in the chapel most Sundays that we have little ones in church. Debbie, Julie and Lydia have stepped down from running creche, a very big thank you to them for all the work they put in.

Mekdez, Cindy, Amy, Deanna (when she is well) and Rose are doing a great job of providing a creche as and when we have babies and toddlers coming to church.

Creche runs 3 weeks out of 4 with a selection of quiet toys in the church for the 4th week.

We would love to grow the team so please consider joining us. You don't need lots of experience, you just need to love children.

Lynn Everett - Children and Families Community Support Worker

Youth Report

A big thank you to our wonderful church family who have stepped up to help with the youth Liberty, David, Eleanor, Sharon, Sylvia, Zoe, Kirstie and Pads.

Kirstie and Pads retired and David felt it was time to step down, thank you for your dedication to the youth and the valuable lessons you have taught them.

Zoe joined the youth team in September and Eleanor stepped down whilst pregnant.

This left us with Liberty and Zoe as teachers with Sharon and Sylvia as helpers.

For this reason, the youth work only took place two Sundays a month, the other two Sundays they came and helped in kidz church or on PA/AV.

November to December we decided to mix youth with KC to help support my remaining holiday that I took to look after my sick father. The youth have been very kind in accepting this and join in playing the games with the children as well as helping out where they can.

The youth have been very consistent and come to church most weeks.

We would love to do more with them so please let me know if you feel this is a ministry you would like to explore by helping or teaching.

Lynn Everett - Children and Families Community Support Worker

St Matthews Church HUB (the name the hub families gave us)

The hub has been such a blessing and has gone from strength to strength. The funds and people just keep coming. God is clearly blessing this ministry.

Over this last year we have served up 1779 dinners, averaging around 55 meals a week. To date we have cooked and served up 3512 meals at the hub. A typical meal will be roast dinner, spag bol, mac cheese, pizza baguette, sausage and mash, curry, jacket potatoes and much more. Everything, most of the time, is cooked from scratch with plenty of veg and lovely salads. We always have a selection of home-made puddings.

The money has been provided to pay for the running of the hub and for me to fundraise for the whole of this year and 2025 is also covered.

What does the hub look like?

It's mostly women who come along with their children after school. Some dads also come along to Chris's delight. They come into the hall and help themselves to tea and coffee, we have a snack and crafts out for the children as well as our lovely outside space for football and games. At 4.45pm we clear the mess and start to serve food. Once all the food is

consumed and puddings have been demolished Chris takes the kids outside for a game of 44 IT and the adults start the big clear up. Most families stay and help tidy up as well as help serve food and cook.

We need more help so what would that look like?

Coming along and chatting to the families who attend the hub, washing up like Steve Rudman does on a regular basis, collecting shopping for us, making a pudding, helping cook, helping set up or dedicating time to pray while the hub is running.

We continue to collect food weekly from 3 organisations and distribute the food to the families on a Thursday morning as well as use what we can to keep the food bill down. As you can imagine this takes a great deal of time as does the regular shopping and cooking for 50/60 people every week. It's a huge commitment that has seen God's blessing. If you would like to be involved we would love your help. It doesn't have to be every week – any time given would be greatly appreciated.

To date God has provided £68,317 through fundraising to run the hub. PRAISE GOD.

Pads is no longer mopping the floor!!!!

Help is needed as the floor has to be mopped every Friday. This is exhausting work after cooking, serving food and spending time helping people out. If you are fit and able to mop a floor WE NEED YOU....

Lynn Everett - Children and Families Community Support Worker

St Matthews Cookery School

We hit the ground running this year with our new ministry of running a cookery school for children and adults. We started the cookery school on the 24th April when the training room was completed.

To date we have run a cookery school for 4 adults, 9 youth and 20 children with 22 children on the waiting list. We also have quite a few adults waiting their turn.

A typical session will be for 2 hours over 4 days. The children will bake a cake one day, decorate it the next and learn to make something with pastry. They always end their session by either cooking for the hub, or providing cream tea for their families. In each session they learn tools of how to cope with early stages of mental health issues, anxieties, fears and much more. Each session is tailor made for the individuals attending.

Feed back from families has been amazing. One little boy told his mum he doesn't need to be so scared now as Jesus is with him wherever he goes, another told his mum that he now understood the feelings in his body when he's anxious and is starting to use the tools he was given straight away. The cookery school is about making children feel proud of what they can achieve and filling them with as much positivity as we can.

Two boys planned, prepared and cooked a 3 course meal for 27 people. The sense of achievement they showed on their faces was worth every potato we peeled.

God is blessing this ministry with the finances to run one day a week. This usually happens in bulk sessions during school holidays and one-off sessions on a Tuesday. In July I filled out a

fundraising request from Sainsbury's. I asked for £6K, the maximum was £10K but I didn't want to be greedy as they had already given us £10K the year before. I had a call regarding my application and after explaining what we are doing and who it is reaching I was told to expect more than the amount I had requested. £10K came into the bank a few weeks later with the promise of more money when that runs out.

God has provided £33,030 through fundraising to date. PRAISE HIM WHO IS WORTHY.
Lynn Everett - Children and Families Community Support Worker

RE Inspired report

RE inspired Report

We had our first full year working with Southcote Primary School since Covid. What a joy to share our faith with pupils in the school. At its heart it's about being inspired and making Christianity 'come alive' in RE.

Sessions are based on the local authority RE syllabus and featured 'Noah' with Foundation 2 told through 'Godly Play' and acting out the story using a large parachute to 'Death, Funerals and the Christian Response' with Year 6 when the seven stages of grief are discussed and the 'hope of heaven' explored through a simple but thought provoking story 'Waterbugs and Dragonflies'. We also provided sessions on Christmas, Easter, Baptism and Prayer told through stories and craft work.

We welcomed a new member on our team but of course lost two in Pads and Kirstie. We are an ecumenical group of volunteers and would dearly love some more people to join us. Drop into a session and see what we do!

Mary Day

Southtots report

It has been another wonderful year with Southtots. We are continuing to fill all the spaces offered and regularly still have waiting lists for the sessions each week.

Friendships old and new continue to thrive and it is such a joy to see the children grow in their development. Each session brings new conversations with the parents/grandparents/carers including talking about church life and what happens at St Matthew's. Over time these conversations become deeper and on a more personal level as the trust grows and we find we can talk much more about our faith.

We have welcomed a number of new families throughout the year to Southtots, joining those that have been faithful regulars to our group. The children show much excitement at Southtots from running through the doors as soon as they open at 10am, to joining in with their friends for the Bible story and even at the mention of Jonathan's name they go and sit down waiting for him to arrive for singing time!

Throughout the year we were able to have Blessings tables, where we put out on a table, toys and books that have been gifted to Southtots but not needed. The children and adults can take whatever they wish. We have been able to bless so many children over the last year.

In the summer we were able to purchase our own branded polo shirts, which enables our team to be instantly identifiable to attendees at each session.

We celebrated our Second Birthday in September with our annual visit from the Pop Up Play Village and had a special Christmas treat for our toddlers with a softplay session by L and V Softplay company. Both these events were fully attended and enjoyed by all!

I couldn't run Southtots without the help of a wonderful, energetic, dedicated team of Julie, Jane, Sharon, Mamta and Jonathan. Who all so faithfully give up their Friday mornings to volunteer at Southtots. Very sadly we will be saying goodbye to Julie in the next few months. Julie has helped with Southtots from the very beginning and we (including all the parents/carers and children) will all miss Julie very much. I would like to say a huge heartfelt thank you to her and the whole Southtots team for their commitment in helping at Southtots and making it the popular, fun-filled group that families from the local community (and beyond!) love coming to.

I give continued thanks, praise and glory to God our Father for all that He has provided and continues to provide for Southtots.

If you would like to join our wonderful team then please do let me know.

Abbie

Safeguarding Report

It's been a busy year!

Karen and Lynn have been very busy behind the scenes, making sure that all our volunteers who work with children in church have all the required paperwork, DBS checks and safeguarding training completed. So, moving forward, it should just be a case of me checking who needs to renew their DBS check (every three years) and training. So, a big thank you to them both for their hard work.

The members of the PCC have completed their training, and I have completed all the training that is required of the safeguarding officer.

I have liaised with and sort advice from the Diocesan Safeguarding team where necessary about any safeguarding incidents that have occurred.

Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility and so if you ever have any concerns or incidents to report please do email me safeguarding@st-matts.org.uk

Amy Cadle Safeguarding Officer

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Parochial Church Council of Reading, St. Matthew

This report on the accompanying financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and the examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 145(1) of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under charity law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner' 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 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act.have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Hooi Cheeseman

Mrs Hooi Cheeseman ACA
28 Bellamy Close
Uxbridge, Middlesex
UB10 8SJ

Date: 8 April 2025

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF READING, ST.MATTHEW

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted £	2024 Restricted £	Total Funds £	2023 Total Funds £
Incoming Resources					
Voluntary Income	2a	101,240	-	101,240	103,401
Other Ordinary Income	2b	18,572	-	18,572	17,728
Material income	2c	270	55,984	56,254	37,216
Total Incoming Resources		120,082	55,984	176,066	158,345
Cost of Charitable Activities					
Clergy Expenses	3a	3,236		3,236	4,668
The Church and Services	3b	15,339		15,339	18,911
Other Parish Expenses	3c	44,378	22,245	66,623	72,021
Payments outside the Parish	3d	48,137	101	48,238	48,568
Development and maintenance	3e	5,160	-	5,160	3,418
Other operating expenses	3f	-	21,111	21,111	9,397
Total Resources Expended		116,250	43,457	159,707	156,983
Net Incoming (Outgoing) Resources		3,832	12,527	16,359	1,362
Transfer between funds			-	-	-
Net movements in funds		3,832	12,527	16,359	1,362
Balances Brought Forward at 1st Jan		41,202	26,660	67,862	66,500
Balances Carried Forward at 31st Dec		45,034	39,187	84,221	67,862

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF READING, ST.MATTHEW
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024**

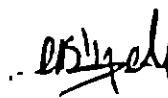
	Notes	Unrestricted £	2024 Restricted £	Total Funds £	2023 Total Funds £
Fixed Assets		12,245		12,245	14,089
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors & Prepayments	5	3,619	-	3,619	2,791
Bank & Cash Balances		32,883	39,187	72,070	54,987
		36,502	39,187	75,689	57,778
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within 1 year	6	3,713	-	3,713	4,005
NET CURRENT ASSETS		32,789	39,187	71,976	53,773
NET ASSETS		45,034	39,187	84,221	67,862
PARISH FUNDS	7				
General Reserve		45,034		45,034	41,202
Restricted Funds:					
Training Room Fund		-	12,090	12,090	6,830
Jubilee Fund			984	984	1,084
Warm Hub Fund			26,113	26,113	18,746
Total Parish Funds		45,034	39,187	84,221	67,862

The attached notes form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the PCC on **14th April 2025** and signed on their behalf by



Janet Ball (PCC Church Warden)



Ms Chisom Umeh(PCC Treasurer)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF READING. ST.MATTHEW
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of preparation

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations and in accordance with the 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 Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and with the Charities Act 2011.

The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

The accounts have been prepared using the accrual accounting method.

There are no material uncertainties about the PCC's ability to continue, and so the going concern of accounting has been adopted.

The accounts are presented in pound sterling and rounded to the nearest pound.

1.2 Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following policies are applied to the particular categories of income:

- Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received.
- Tax refunds are recognised when the claim to HMRC is submitted.
- Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is entitled to the use of the resources, their ultimate receipt is considered reasonably certain and the amounts due are reliably quantifiable.
- Interest as and when accrued by the payer.

All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

1.3 Resources expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accrual basis. The diocesan parish share expected to be paid over is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

1.4 Funds accounting

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from endowments which is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor. Where these funds have unspent balances, interest on their pooled investment is apportioned to the individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds represent funds of the PCC that are not subject to restrictions regarding their use. Such funds include income funds which are to be spent on the PCC's general purposes and that part of the Legacy Fund which is not restricted by the terms of the

Designated funds are general funds set aside by the PCC for use in the future. Project funds are designated for particular projects for administration purposes only. Designated funds remain unrestricted and the PCC will move any surplus to other general funds.

1.5 Fixed assets

Consecrated Land and Buildings and Moveable Church Furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s10 Charities Act 2012. No value is placed on moveable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated beneficed buildings and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities and separately disclosed.

Other Fixtures Fittings and Office Equipment

Low value equipment (less than £1,000) used within church premises is written off in the year of acquisition.

Capitalised electronic equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over a period between three and ten years.

1.6 Current assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at the end of each year are shown as debtors subject to provision for amounts that may prove irrecoverable. Bank balances are all short term deposits with the Building Society or at the bank.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF READING, ST.MATTHEW
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2. Incoming Resources

	Unrestricted £	2024 Restricted £	Total Funds £	2023 Total £
a. Voluntary Income				
Tax Recoverable on gift aids	16,869	-	16,869	14,457
Planned Giving	61,068	-	61,068	68,598
Collections at Services & Church Programmes	5,623	-	5,623	7,934
Donations	17,680	-	17,680	3,981
Donations - Youth Worker	-	-	-	-
Total Voluntary Income	101,240	-	101,240	103,401
b. Other Ordinary Income				
Chapel/Church Income	559	-	559	570
Church Hall Income	12,853	-	12,853	14,210
Photocopying & Printing Income	250	-	250	-
Fees collected on behalf of Diocese	241	-	241	1,268
Fees for PCC	1,853	-	1,853	249
Ministry	-	-	-	50
Parish Share Rebate	2,621	-	2,621	1,381
Organists Fees	195	-	195	-
	18,572	-	18,572	17,728
c. Material Income				
Warm Hub Donations	-	31,384	31,384	37,034
Training Room Donations	-	24,600	24,600	-
Charitable Donations - Jubilee Fund	270	-	270	181
	270	55,984	56,254	37,216
Total Incoming Resources	120,082	55,984	176,066	158,345

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF READING, ST.MATTHEW
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3 Cost of charitable activities

	Unrestricted Costs £	2024 Restricted Costs £	Total Costs £	2023 Total Costs £
a. Clergy Expenses				
The Ministry	3,236	-	3,236	4,668
	3,236	-	3,236	4,668
b. The Church & Services				
Church cleaning	10	-	10	75
Church Flowers	105	-	105	86
Church Yard	52	-	52	302
Electricity	11,647	-	11,647	13,857
Insurance	795	-	795	882
Regular Maintenance Church	365	-	365	1,458
Upkeep of Services	2,248	-	2,248	2,145
Water Rates Church	116	-	116	106
	15,339	-	15,339	18,911
c. Other Parish Expenses				
Children's Ministry	1,340	-	1,340	2,651
Music Ministry	88	-	88	796
Youth Ministry	465	-	465	(207)
Lay Staff				
Salaries	22,366	20,580	42,946	44,804
Staff Development	94	-	94	157
Staff IT Facility	291	-	291	451
Personal Expenses of Lay Staff	186	-	186	304
	22,938	20,580	43,518	45,716
Church Hall running costs	9,942	1,200	11,142	12,058
Mission within the Parish	2,652	-	2,652	2,191
Administration	1,175	-	1,175	1,035
Audit and accountancy fees	-	-	-	25
Bank Fees	2	-	2	-
CLI Licence	926	-	926	861
Depreciation charge	1,379	465	1,844	3,500
Gifts	335	-	335	618
Other Ordinary Parish Expenses	424	-	424	156
Photocopying & Printing Costs	1,756	-	1,756	1,619
Telephone & Broadband	796	-	796	793
TV Licence	159	-	159	159
Payroll costs	-	-	-	50
	6,953	465	7,418	8,817
	44,378	22,245	66,622	72,021
d. Payments Outside the Parish				
Charitable Donations	1,820	101	1,921	1,895
Fees to Diocese -Payment	608	-	608	733
Parish Share	45,709	-	45,709	45,940
	48,137	101	48,238	48,568

3 Cost of charitable activities (cont'd)

	Unrestricted Costs £	2024 Restricted Costs £	Total Costs £	2023 Total Costs £
e. Development and maintenance				
Hall/Garden Maintenance & Redecoration	3,345	-	3,345	2,161
Set-up of a community garden	-	-	-	-
Projector for Church Hall	-	-	-	-
Other expenditure	1,815	-	1,815	1,256
	<u>5,160</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,160</u>	<u>3,418</u>
Total Development and maintenance costs	<u>5,160</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,160</u>	<u>3,418</u>
f. Other operating expenses				
Training room expenses	(0)	12,440	12,440	1,600
Warm Hub expenses	0	8,671	8,671	7,797
Total other operating expenses	<u>(0)</u>	<u>21,111</u>	<u>21,111</u>	<u>9,397</u>
Total Resources Used	<u>116,250</u>	<u>43,457</u>	<u>159,707</u>	<u>156,983</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF READING, ST.MATTHEW
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4 Staff costs

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries & NI	42,946	44,804
	<u>42,946</u>	<u>44,804</u>

The average number of employees during the year was 2 (2023:3).

Trustees (PCC members) received no remuneration during the year (2023: none).

During the year, 6 trustees (PCC members) were reimbursed expenses amounting to £860 relating to general running costs and meeting expenses. Pads and Kirstie Dolphin were recompensed £1,700, as disclosed in the Clergy - The Ministry expense account (note 3)

	2024 £	2023 £
5 Debtors & Prepayments		
Trade debtors	1,180	1,631
Tax recoverable on gift aids	-	234
Other debtors	1,467	-
Prepayments	972	926
	<u>3,619</u>	<u>2,791</u>

	2024 £	2023 £
6 Creditors		
Trade creditors	558	695
Other creditors	1,537	881
Accruals	1,618	2,429
	<u>3,713</u>	<u>4,005</u>

7 Parish Funds

The movements in funds during the year were:

	Balance £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfer £	Balance £
General Reserve	40,170	119,064	(115,760)	1,259	44,734
7a Designated:					
Children & Music Ministry Fund	686	126		(812)	-
Kidz Church Gift	-	300			300
Dragon Boat Fund		591	(490)	(101)	(0)
Wreath-making event	346			(346)	-
	<u>1,031</u>	<u>1,018</u>	<u>(490)</u>	<u>(1,259)</u>	<u>300</u>
Unrestricted Funds	41,202	120,062	(116,250)	-	45,034
7b Restricted:					
Training Room Fund	6,830	24,600	(19,340)	-	12,090
Jubilee Fund	1,085		(101)	-	984
Warm Hub Fund	18,746	31,384	(24,016)	-	26,113
	<u>26,660</u>	<u>55,984</u>	<u>(43,456)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>39,187</u>
	<u>67,862</u>	<u>176,066</u>	<u>(159,706)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>84,221</u>

7a Designated Funds

Children & Music Ministry Fund was used in 2024 to support family and children's ministries in the church. Any unused surplus fund was transferred back to general reserve.

The Kidz Church Gift was for the children's church which is run alongside our Sunday morning service.

The Dragon Boat Fund was for the 2024 annual charity dragon boat race run by the Rotary Club of Pangbourne. The church entered a team and any unused surplus was transferred back to general reserve.

The wreath making was an outreach event and any unused fund was transferred back to general reserve.

7b Restricted Funds

The Training Room Fund was to cover the refurbishment of the committee room into a training room to help in the early stages of mental health in children and adults through cooking. This funds will also cover somme of the wages of an employee and other related training expenses.

The Jubilee Fund was is to cover expenses incurred on families with hardship.

The Warm Hub Fund represents donations received specifically for provision of warm hubs (including staff costs and capital improvement of facilities) for people within the parish who is struggling with keeping their own home warm.

The PCC has a policy of keeping three months running costs in reserve to cover unforeseen circumstances. During 2024 this amounted to £43,060.