

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST COOKHAM DEAN

England & Wales · Charity number 1149837

Details

Other names	PCC OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST COOKHAM DEAN
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2012-11-20
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

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Activities

Objects: PROMOTING IN THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH.

Activities: All the activities relate to the operation of St John the Baptist Church and include voluntary income, Fundraising income and statutory fees retained for weddings and funerals. Expenditure relates to upkeep of the Church and Mission giving and Charitable donations

Classification

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

Geography

- Windsor And Maidenhead

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£123,271	£121,948	-	-
2024-12-31	£115,529	£101,599	-	-
2023-12-31	£119,900	£99,571	-	-
2022-12-31	£104,595	£102,983	-	-
2021-12-31	£104,277	£96,530	-	-
2020-12-31	£90,922	£93,134	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Stephen Mills	Chair	2024-01-11
Chiu Sung		2025-06-22
David Hazeldine		2014-04-30
Edward John Mercieca		2025-06-22
John Neil Sykes		2012-11-16
Katherine Mary Billinghamurst		2020-10-18
LORNA SYKES		2012-11-16
Laura Anne Satterley		2020-10-18
Louisa Beatrice Rose Knight		2025-06-22
MATHEW JAMES BILLINGHURST		2012-11-16
Marija Voronis		2025-06-22
Nicholas William Billinghamurst		2026-04-19
Philip Davidson		2026-04-19
RAY REED		2012-11-16
Rev Sophie Marion Vannesa Troczynska		2025-09-24
Richard Basil Poad		2026-04-19

Accounts



St John the Baptist
COOKHAM DEAN

**Annual Report
and Accounts
for the year ending
31 December 2025**

This Annual Report is published by the Parochial Church Council
of St John the Baptist, Cookham Dean.

AGENDAS

Agenda for the Annual Meeting of Parishioners 10.30 Sunday 19 April 2026

1. The election of two churchwardens to serve for the forthcoming year.

followed by:-

Agenda for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 19 April 2026

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 22 June 2025 - see page 24
3. Presentation of changes to the Electoral Roll
4. The annual reports on the proceedings of the PCC and the activities of the parish generally for the year ended 31 December 2025
5. Presentation of the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025
6. Appointment of Independent Examiner
7. Election of 3 Deanery Synod Representatives for 3 years
8. Election of 9 PCC members for 1 year
9. Any other business – by leave of the Chairman

Closing prayers

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Annual PCC Report for the year ending 31st December 2025

Background

The parish of St. John the Baptist Cookham Dean together with Holy Trinity Cookham forms The Benefice of The Cookhams. The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting within the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church – pastoral, evangelistic, ecumenical, and social. It also has responsibilities for the maintenance of the church and churchyard of St. John the Baptist, Church Road, Cookham Dean.

Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex officio, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) or co-opted by the PCC in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following persons served as members of the PCC:

Incumbent	The Rev'd Stephen Mills	Chair	
Associate Priest	The Rev'd Sophie Troczynska		from 24 Sep 2025
Licensed Lay Minister	Richard Simmonds	Vice Chair	until May 2025
Church Wardens	David Hazeldine		until 22 Jun 2025
	Lorna Sykes	Acting Treasurer	from 27 Nov 2025
	Mathew Billinghamurst	Vice Chair	from 22 Jun 2025
Deanery Synod Reps	Ray Reed		
	Lorna Sykes		Elected APCM 2023 for 3 years
	Mathew Billinghamurst		
Diocesan Synod Rep	John Sykes	PCC Secretary	PCC Secretary until 22 Jun 2025
Elected Members	Katherine Billinghamurst		
	Greta Dixon		until 22 Jun 2025
	Marion Elly		until 22 Jun 2025
	John Fairlie		
	Stella Fairlie		until 22 Jun 2025
	Ros Hazeldine	PCC Treasurer	until Nov 2025
	David Hazeldine		
	Laura Satterley		
	Jeremy Webb		
	Sarah Davies		from 22 Jun 2025
Co-opted Members	Chiu Sung		from 22 Jun 2025
	Louisa Knight		from 22 Jun 2025
	Edward Mercieca		from 22 Jun 2025
	Marija Voronis		from 22 Jun 2025

Overview

The post of associate priest was finally filled after two years with the arrival of Rev'd Sophie Troczynska in September. She was inducted at a service held at Holy Trinity, Cookham.

Lay Minister Richard Simmonds stepped down from his duties in the benefice in May. Thanks are due to him for his dedication, enthusiasm and competence, especially in taking funeral services, pastoral care, and home communion both to individuals and Harwood House.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Due to issues of eligibility, a postponed APCM took place on 22 June 2025, with permission from Bishop Mary. A number of long-standing PCC members did not seek re-election and our thanks are due to Stella Fairlie, Marion Elly and Greta Dixon for many years' faithful service. David Hazeldine stepped down as churchwarden but remained on the PCC with Mathew Billinghamurst being elected in his place. At a PCC meeting held immediately after the APCM, Ros Hazeldine was appointed Treasurer and David Stevens appointed as a non-PCC member Secretary. The Standing & Finance Committee was also appointed at this meeting; the Fund Raising and Fabric & Churchyard committees being elected at the next regular meeting of the PCC.

It was with sadness that Treasurer Ros Hazeldine passed away in November after a relatively short illness. We are grateful to Ros for her service as Treasurer as well as her participation in many church activities. Churchwarden Lorna Sykes was appointed by the PCC as Interim Treasurer.

There were 92 names (2024: 101, 2023:94, 2022:94; 2021:101) on the Church Electoral Roll as presented at the 2025 APCM, 47 (2024:57; 2023:54, 2022:54; 2021:56) of whom were resident in the parish with a further 18 (2024:17; 2023:17, 2022:17; 2021:21) resident in the Benefice.

Church attendance

At the beginning of the year we continued to host a number of evening services for Holy Trinity as their closure for reordering lasted until after Easter. We were delighted that Bishop Mary accepted the invitation to spend the whole of Easter with us not long after her installation as the new Bishop of Reading. The benefice Maundy Thursday Eucharist and Watch of Prayer was held at St John's. The annual Good Friday Walk of Witness from St John's to Holy Trinity was followed by the Good Friday Liturgy held at Holy Trinity School. The benefice Easter Vigil was held at St John's on Saturday evening. The regular Parish Eucharist was held on Easter Sunday, followed by Holy Trinity's Easter Carol Service in the evening.

The Nine Lessons and Carols took place on the Sunday before Christmas, the Crib Service on Christmas Eve was attended by 232 people and the Christmas Day Eucharist by 159.

There were 89 communion services during the year (2024:99; 2023:85; 2022:105; 2021:89). The midweek communion service changed to alternate weeks during the year.

Easter Day communicants were 124 (2024:68; 2023:66; 2022:70; 2021:49)

The number of Christmas communicants was 76 (2024:113; 2023:78; 2022:119; 2021:59).

The average weekly attendance was 67 adults (2024:64; 2023:60, 2022:61; 2021:48) and 3 under 16s (2024:7; 2023:8, 2022:7; 2021:5).

There were 6 baptisms during the year (2024:5; 2023:7, 2022:7; 2021:10), 2 weddings (2024:2; 2023:3, 2022:4; 2021:2), and 11 burials, memorials and interment of ashes (2024:13; 2023:11, 2022:18; 2021:14).

Whilst the attendance of under 16s at the main services fell, we continued our series of occasional Sunday afternoon Families@4 in conjunction with Cookham Dean School. Attendance at the Harvest service was 125 with 123 at the Chringle service.

Finance

The headline for 2025 is that we had a surplus of c. £1,323, which is better than we had been expecting especially as we completed the screen project within that figure. Included in that is a provision of £6,500 in respect of the HMRC Gift Aid claim for 2024/25, which had not concluded by the end of the year, but which was received in January 2026.

Both Standing Orders and Parish Giving Scheme channels were more than budgeted and we should continue to encourage people to use these methods especially as banks are increasing charges for both cheque and cash deposits, and card machines attract a retention amount.

Other Income included £5,000 from the Diocesan Development Fund and £5,523 from the Friends towards the overall cost of the Screen Project.

Diocesan Share was paid in full and was £4,000 less than budget due to the rebate whilst there was a vacancy for the Associate Priest. 2026 will see the first full year of share supporting two full time stipendiary priests.

Churchyard was £1,000 above budget, but this reflects the trend that will continue as a result of our having to outsource more and more of the work as our volunteers get older.

As usual, supporting Missions and Charities is an important part of our activity, some of this coming from specific fund-raising activities and through collections at services and funerals. In the year we supported Christian Aid, Combat Stress, The British Legion, Water Aid, Thames Hospice, the Children's Society and Elizabeth House.

At the end of the year our cash position including debtors stood at £118,417 (2024:£122,800).

Review of the year's activities

Online prayers and reflections continued to be provided on Mondays and Fridays until April. The main Sunday service continued to be livestreamed once a month on the 4th Sunday and on special occasions.

Easter Services included the ecumenical Walk of Witness between the two churches via the Stations of the Cross depicted by local artists, inaugurated in 2005.

The Remembrance Sunday service at the War Memorial and then in church was attended by 148 people including a good representation from the Scouts. The annual service of Remembrance of Loved Ones who have Died was held in November and was very much appreciated by all those who attended.

The traditional Nine Lessons and Carols service was held on 21st December with an attendance of 95. This service was also recorded and had over 50 views.

The PCC met on 5 occasions in 2025. Throughout the year the Vicar, Treasurer and Churchwardens have reported to the PCC by means of written reports circulated prior to each PCC meeting. Safeguarding is a standing agenda item and attention this year has continued on completing Basic Training for all PCC members. Katherine Billingham is our Parish Safeguarding Officer, assisted by Laura Satterley, and our thanks go to them for

undertaking this essential work.

Fenella Reekie, Headteacher at Cookham Dean School, attended the March PCC meeting to give an update of progress and activities at the school. Both Cookham Dean and Herries continued their regular visits to the church for services and events throughout the year.

As well as the attendance by Fr Stephen, Rev'd Sophie and Richard Simmonds at school assemblies, an "Open the Book" Team has been established in conjunction with Holy Trinity under the leadership of John Timewell. It is now visiting each of the state primary schools in the benefice on a twice termly basis.

The Parish Magazine continued to be produced throughout 2025, edited by John Sykes. The magazine continues to be available online as well as being distributed to each house in the parish. Thanks go to Stella and John Fairlie for the co-ordination of the distribution of the magazine in Cookham Dean. Thanks also to John Sykes for managing the magazine advertising, which makes a substantial contribution to the cost of production.

Although the number of members in the church choir is quite small compared with the past, we have still managed to provide musical support of a high standard to our worship. The PCC is grateful to David Colthup, our long-standing choirmaster and organist for 60 years, for his continued committed service and for nurturing our small but able Junior Choir.

Working parties in the churchyard took place throughout the year, which, together with the volunteer grass cutting, has seen the churchyard maintained in good condition. However, the number of volunteers is now quite small and an increasing amount of grass and hedge cutting is now done by contractors, which has, of course, to be paid for.

Flowers were provided in the church throughout the year by a band of volunteers, coordinated by Doreen Reed and Marion Elly. The PCC is grateful to all flower arrangers, especially those who decorated the church for major occasions.

The activities of the fund-raising committee under the leadership of Marion Elly had a very good year raising over £6,400 (2024: £5,600). Several social/fund-raising events were organised including the traditional Autumn Fayre in WI Hall, which again raised c. £3,000.

The pattern of Fellowship Lunches continues with the Methodists, Holy Trinity and ourselves taking it in turn to host the monthly event. Numbers have steadily increased, and a splendid Christmas lunch was held in the Jubilee Vestry in December.

The fabric of the church remains in good condition. There were no major repairs undertaken and expenditure was restricted to minor repairs and routine maintenance.

A significant investment for the future was made in a retractable screen, projector and audio-visual system in the church. This was financed from the proceeds of a Gift Day, Friends of St John the Baptist, a grant from the Diocesan Development Fund and our reserves. Great care was taken to preserve the character of the church. The screen has already been in regular use for our Families@4 services, school services and at funerals.

This PCC report for year ending December 2025 was approved at the PCC meeting on Wednesday 18 March 2026.

Signed *Mathew Billinghamurst* (Chair of the meeting)

Ministry Team report for APCM 2025

Dear Friends,

The past year has been one of change, challenge, and real opportunity within the life of our benefice.

A Year of Transition and Shared Life

2025 began in unusual circumstances, with Holy Trinity closed and spaces temporarily shared at St John the Baptist. This required generosity and flexibility, and I want to acknowledge the goodwill and hospitality shown. It set a tone for what it might mean for us to live more intentionally as one benefice.

Benefice Vision Away Day

A significant moment in the year was our Benefice Vision Day, led by Rhodri Bowen, Parish Development Adviser from the Diocese. The purpose of the day was clear, to bring both churches together to prayerfully consider how we might grow in mission, outreach, and shared purpose across the Cookhams. From my perspective, the day was energising and hopeful. There was creativity, honesty, and a genuine desire to explore how we might better fulfil the call of Christ to proclaim the good news. I came away encouraged by what felt like a renewed sense of possibility. However, it would be disingenuous not to acknowledge that the day was not well received by everyone. Some found the direction challenging, particularly the idea of closer unity between our churches. As a priest, I found that difficult, as my own experience of the day was so positive. It required me to listen carefully and to try to understand perspectives different from my own. That tension remains, and we must continue to hold it with grace, patience, and prayer.

Growing Unity Across the Benefice

Throughout the year, I have seen encouraging signs of growing connection between our two churches. Shared moments, including patronal celebrations and the reopening of Holy Trinity, have brought people together in meaningful ways. It was particularly heartening to see members of St John the Baptist present at Holy Trinity's reopening. These are the kinds of moments I hope will continue to grow. With the move of the Holy Trinity service to 10.00 am, there will be occasions when only one priest is available, and therefore only one service will take place. Rather than seeing this as a difficulty, I encourage us to see it as an opportunity to worship together, strengthening our identity as one benefice.

Worship and Easter Celebrations

Holy Week and Easter were particularly joyful. It was a blessing to welcome Bishop Mary to share in that journey with us. Attendance increased, and there was a real sense of life and warmth across both churches. These are moments we should give thanks for and build upon.

Pastoral Ministry and Bereavement

Alongside these joyful occasions, we have also walked with many through grief and loss. St John the Baptist continues to be a place of refuge and hope for those facing bereavement. It is a privilege to share in that ministry, and it is deeply encouraging to see how many find a spiritual home here amid sorrow. This speaks volumes about the compassion and kindness of this community.

Baptisms and New Life

We have also celebrated baptisms, welcoming new families and new life into the Church.

These moments remain a profound reminder of the Church's calling to be open, generous, and outward looking.

Schools and Families Ministry

Our work with Cookham Dean Primary School continues to be a real strength. It is always a joy to lead assemblies and to share in the life of the school. This connection is central to our mission, and I encourage you to continue to hold the school in your prayers.

Families@4 has remained an important part of our ministry, and I am grateful for all who have contributed to its life. As we look ahead, this area will develop further under the leadership of Revd Sophie, whose gifts, energy, and vision will help shape its future.

The Ministry of Revd Sophie

The Licensing of Revd Sophie was a significant and joyful moment in the life of the benefice. Since then, she has brought commitment, care, and a clear sense of vocation to her ministry. It has been a pleasure to work alongside her, and I am deeply grateful for her support. It was a deliberate and considered decision for Sophie to take particular responsibility for St John the Baptist. This provides her with space to grow in leadership, model discipleship, and guide the church forward. I remain convinced that this is a healthy and appropriate model, at least for several seasons. I would strongly encourage you, as members of the PCC, to support and encourage her fully in this role.

Remembering Ros Hazeldine

We also said goodbye to Ros Hazeldine, our faithful Treasurer. Ros gave so much to this church through her quiet dedication, steadfast service, and deep commitment over many years. Her contribution was not only seen in the work she did but felt in the life and stability of the church she served so faithfully. She is deeply missed. We remember her with gratitude and affection, and we pray that she may rest in peace and rise in glory. I am also mindful of David, and of the way in which the community of St John the Baptist has gathered around him with such care, compassion, and love in what continues to be a very difficult time.

Christmas and Community Engagement

As we moved into Christmas, it was wonderful to see our churches full once again, with particularly strong attendance at Christingle and carol services. These occasions remind us of the significant connection we have with the wider community, especially those who do not attend regularly.

A Call to Mission and Evangelism

This leads me to a more challenging reflection. If we are to be a church not only for today, but for the next generation, we must be intentional about mission and evangelism. We cannot simply maintain what we have inherited. If we do, we will decline. We must be willing to invest our time, energy, and resources in reaching new people, particularly families and children.

There needs to be, in my view, a clear shift in culture, from one of maintenance to one of mission.

This will require courage. It will require creativity. It will require a willingness to take risks, and at times, to make mistakes. But unless we are prepared to sow, we cannot expect to reap. We are all called, through our baptism, to be witnesses to the Gospel. This is not the responsibility of a few, but the calling of all. The words of Jesus are clear, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations." This is not optional. It is the heart of the Church's life.

Jesus also tells us that “the harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few.” The question is not whether people are out there, but whether we are willing to go to them.

If we want to see growth, renewal, and new life, then something must change. We cannot expect different results if we continue in the same patterns. We must be prepared to step beyond what is familiar, to look outward as well as inward, and to make space for those who are not yet here.

This is the work before us. And it requires all of us.

Looking Ahead to 2026

As we look to 2026, I invite you to reflect prayerfully:

- Are we using our resources with intentional purpose?
- Are we prioritising mission over maintenance?
- Are we preparing the ground for those who will come after us?

St John the Baptist has a rich and beautiful heritage. If it is to flourish into the future, we must be willing to look outward as well as inward, not simply preserving what has been, but stepping with confidence into what God is calling us to become.

There is much to be hopeful for. You have a committed priest in Revd Sophie, rooted in this place, offering leadership and vision. You have a strong and caring community. And you have a real opportunity, together, to grow in faith, in number, and in witness.

This is a moment of possibility. A moment to be bold. A moment to trust that God is already at work among us and ahead of us.

There will be challenges, but I am confident that, together, you will meet them with faith, generosity, and courage, and that, by God's grace, this church will continue not only to endure, but to flourish.

Thanks and Acknowledgements

Finally, I want to express my sincere thanks to all who have given their time, energy, and love to the life of the church this past year. In particular, I thank Mathew Billingham and Lorna Sykes for their faithful service as Churchwardens, and all those who continue to serve in so many different ways.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the members of the PCC, for your commitment, your willingness to serve, and for the responsibility you carry in helping to guide and shape the life of this church. Your role is not simply administrative, but deeply spiritual, and vital to the future of St John the Baptist.

I look forward to continuing to work with you all in the year ahead, as together we seek God's will, discern His leading, and step forward in faith.

I look forward to all that lies ahead.

With every Easter blessing,

Fr Stephen

Changes to the Electoral Roll since the last APCM

The update of the Electoral Roll took place between the 12th Feb and 26th Mar 2026.

There are now 93 people on the Electoral Roll, as opposed to 92 in 2025, there being 1 deletions and 2 additions.

Of the 93, there are 45 Resident in the Parish and a further 18 Resident in the Benefice.

Lorna Sykes
Electoral Roll Officer

Fabric and Churchyard Report for 2025

As reported in previous years, our Church's buildings, and the Churchyard, continue to be very well maintained and the Churchwardens continue to be very grateful to all the people who voluntarily look after the fabric and the grounds every week and all those who lock and unlock the building each day thus creating the opportunity for the many visits made by the public to our church.

We are also very fortunate to have so many truly delightful flower arrangements in church throughout the year and we are very much in debt to the team who provide them as we also are to those who make sure that the Church's interior is always clean and well looked after.

The following is a summary of the non-routine work, in addition to the above, carried out during 2025:

- **Church Road Lych Gate lighting**

Following a failure in November 24, the Church Road lych gate light suffered a further failure during the Crib Service on Christmas Eve. Temporary lighting was provided for the other evening services, and a temporary repair was carried out by means of a cable laid on the surface along the churchyard wall. John Sykes explained that the cable between the floodlight and the lych gate is of a type that is susceptible to ingress of moisture and the first time it failed (in November) it was the termination at the floodlight end. This time it failed at the lych gate end. Having successfully repaired the first failure in November, Ray Lewington and John Sykes completed the second permanent repair when the weather became more clement.

- **Outside Tap**

The leaking tap at the rear of the church was replaced.

- **Roof Maintenance**

Following persistent chasing, Chadbones eventually committed to do a number of small jobs on the roofs on 29 January. Whilst they seemed to have done the work as requested and the leaks over the Memorial Book and at the back of church no longer leak, we have not had a report on what they did. They did not send an invoice for the work and, when reminded, stated that the work was "their pleasure". It was agreed that we had not had good service from them, and that we should look to finding an alternative contractor for any future work.

- **Lightning Conductor**

The annual maintenance and earth test was carried out in July.

- **Heating Boilers**

Both the Church and the Jubilee Vestry boilers were serviced on Sept 11th at a cost of

£192.

It was reported that there is a slight leak in the Vestry boiler which is not critical at the moment and will be monitored.

- **Projector and Screen**

The new screen and projector were installed on 22nd-25th September, with grateful thanks to John Sykes for the considerable work of specifying and overseeing the installation. The total cost of this was £18,383.15.

- **Vestry Carpet**

This was cleaned for the first time since it was laid in 2013, at a cost of £240.

- **Churchyard Mornings**

These have continued, right up to 1st November, more or less on a monthly basis, with varying attendance. About ½ of the area is maintained by Holdford. We hope that we can continue with voluntary labour to maintain the other half, but we are mindful of the advancing age of the volunteers.

- **Appointed Architect**

Neil Barr, our appointed architect has now retired, and we are seeking a new architect which is for our Quinquennial inspection which is due in 2026.

Mathew Billinghamurst
Lorna Sykes
Churchwardens

Darby Pension Report 2025/26

The annual report was not available at the time of printing.

Annual Safeguarding Report 2025

We follow the Church of England's Safer Recruitment and People Management guidance (2021, updated version expected in 2026). The care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of the whole Church. Everyone who participates in the life of the Church has a role to play in promoting a Safer Church for all.

The PCC operates a Safe Recruiting process, which aims to keep a balance between safe recruitment and not creating an onerous bureaucratic system. The recruitment of new volunteers involves informing the recruiter so that the necessary details and references can be obtained. Procedures are always monitored to ensure that checks and training for volunteers are delivered in a timely manner and the cooperation of volunteers in this is much appreciated.

Debbie Burroughs is responsible at St John the Baptist for checks with the Disclosure and Barring Services for new and established volunteers with children and vulnerable adults. We now use Verifile which is recommended for the Diocese of Oxford.

The Church of England's Safeguarding Learning and Development Framework (2024) provides a clear framework for safeguarding training across all Church of England communities. We follow the Church of England's Safer Recruitment and People Management guidance 2021, meaning a range of safeguarding training modules are a mandatory requirement for particular Church Officer roles. Safeguarding training should be renewed every three years and people are asked to link their online training record through "Local Reporting" directly to the Safeguarding Officer's Safeguarding email. All safeguarding training records are kept securely. The resources and training equip our community to engage positively with the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults in both a practical and theologically informed way.

The PCC has complied with the duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.

Katherine Billingham
Parish Safeguarding Officer

Fundraising Events Report 2025

During 2025 we continued our Fundraising events for the Church as follows:-

- 1st March – Bangers and Bingo raised £662
- Easter Baking raised £217
- 28th June – the organ recital by Paul Leddington-Wright raised £1,109
- 13th July – The ever-popular Strawberry Tea raised £692
- 5th September – an interesting talk by Richard Poad raised £476
- 25th October – the concert by Quintessential Brass raised £424
- 22nd November – The annual Autumn Fayre raised a marvellous £2,836

These events raised a total of £6,415 compared with a total last year of £5,458.06

With grateful thanks to the fundraising committee of Marion Elly, Barbara Dent, Stella Fairlie, Marija Voronis, Louisa Knight, Doreen Reed, Judith Timewell and Lorna Sykes, and a big thank you to all who have supported these events throughout the year.

Marion Elly

Cookham Dean CE VA Primary School Report - March 2026

Report to PCC by Mrs Fen Reekie, Headteacher

Presented at PCC meeting 18 March 2026



...where we all flourish

Context

Number of pupils on roll – 200 currently on roll.

Full capacity – 210 – increased class sizes to 30 per class in September 2025

Academic Achievements

Current school focus

To continue to improve and maintain outcomes for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) by developing staff skills in the teaching of children with SEND

Ensure that ALL children have access to an ambitious curriculum that challenges and supports through quality first teaching

Ensure that ALL children achieve at least expected progress in all subjects, including foundation subjects.

Ensure that ALL children have a sense of purpose at Cookham Dean and enjoy attending school

All children feel prepared for the wider world through the promotion of resilience, kindness, confidence and teamwork

Targets for end of year attainment 2025

GLD 83% - actual 79%

Phonics 61% (very low year) – actual 75%

KS2 SATS

Reading 90% (last years national data 74%) – actual 100%

Writing 82% (last years national data 72%) – actual 92%

Maths 75% (last years national data 73%) – actual 83%

Targets for end of year attainment 2026

GLD – 74%

Phonics 83%

KS2

Reading 94%

Writing 73%

Maths 87%

Awards

Eco school

Silver Sports games award

Silver Active stars award

Gold attachment aware award

SIAMS report – June 2025

Strengths

Leaders, including governors, make bold decisions inspired by the Christian vision.

Consequently, pupils and adults flourish as unique individuals because of dedicated leaders' commitment to providing the best possible opportunities for personal development.

- The inclusive curriculum is designed with the vision at its centre meaning pupils benefit from the wide range of experiences it offers. Leaders provide tailored support so that the needs of learners considered vulnerable are well met.
- Collective worship is valued by staff and pupils as a meaningful time to come together. It is deeply rooted in the vision and associated values of the school and enhances its spiritual life.
- Leaders actively create a strong culture of care and respect built on positive relationships. Pupils and adults feel valued and listened to with their feedback resulting in positive developments. Beneficial, collaborative partnerships enhance the wellbeing of members of the school and the wider community.
- Through effective leadership, the religious education (RE) curriculum is thoughtfully sequenced. As a result, pupils develop knowledge of a range of worldviews and appreciate diversity.

Development Points

Extend opportunities to embed spiritual development throughout the curriculum. This is so that pupils can broaden their experiences of reflecting on themselves, others and the big questions of life.

- Enhance pupils' understanding of how to challenge injustice. This is so that they recognise how they can actively make a positive difference to the lives of others.
- Further strengthen learning opportunities in RE so that pupils can explore their understanding in different ways. This is so they can make connections that deepen their understanding of the ways faiths and worldviews are lived out.
- Ofsted – due June 2026

School Leadership Team

Deputy head is leaving at Easter. Currently interviewing (15 applicants – 4 interviewed)

Finance

Increase in numbers at last census was at 207 which will impact on budget for 2025-2026.

We are still short of 10 pupils which we need to fill before October census.

PTA very supportive – have recently bought 15 ipads, maths resources to support curriculum, paid for trips/enrichment experiences

Spiritual Development

- Language of spirituality embedded in school – Windows, Mirrors, Doors
- Wild Worship
- Pupils 4 Praise working with Rev Sophie
- P4P leading assemblies
- Prayer week planned for summer term
- Open the Book
- IsingPop
- Families@4

Staffing

3 new teachers started in September 2025.

Mrs Fen Reekie
Headteacher

Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery Synod Annual Report for 2025

The Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery comprises 14 parishes and benefices. The Deanery Synod comprises all the clergy in the deanery and Lay Representatives elected by their respective parishes for a period of three years. The current triennium runs from 2023 to 2026. At the end of 2024 the Synod had 69 members. Attendance varied from 27 to 45 over the year.

There were three meetings of the Synod during 2025:

Tuesday 4th March 2025 at The Soltau Centre, Stubbings:

A new Deanery Secretary (Tom Etherton) was elected to replace Thomas Walton who has moved away from the area.

The Synod heard from Rev Ainsley Swift about a successful community project he was involved with in Merseyside and shaped his understanding of where we find God.

The Synod also heard from Rev Richard Terrado-Reardon about the Alma Beacon and the Windsor Homeless Project, working with the Windsor Christian Fellowship

Windsor Team Ministry was replaced on the 1st January with the Parish of Central Windsor

Thursday 22nd May 2025 at St Luke's Church, Maidenhead:

The Synod heard from Bishop Mary, the Bishop of Reading about her ministry before being a Bishop but also her experience so far in the Diocese.

The Synod heard about Bishop Mary's desire to focus on confidence in the gospel, the wellbeing of all people and the ministry of reconciliation.

General Synod member Gracy Crane gave a report on the February 2025 General Synod sessions.

Rev Ainsley Swift marked the retirement of Rev Sally Lynch from St. Luke's, as well as her role as Assistant Area Dean. The Synod thanked her for her ministry in the Deanery.

Rev Ainsley Swift also announced his appointment as Commissary to the Archdeacon and Rev Sally Lodge took on the role of interim Area Dean.

Thursday 2nd October 2025 at All Saints, Dedworth:

The Synod heard from Charlotte Wilmshurst about Domestic Abuse training within the Church of England and how we can all work together to keep people safe.

The Synod discussed, at some length, the current allocation of Parish Share and a proposal was made by Waltham St. Lawrence and Shottesbrooke to revise the current system to enable those parishes who have historically been paying more than what their allocation should have been to reduce slightly more quickly.

The Synod had received a written report from Gracy Crane about General Synod ahead of the meeting and discussed this at the meeting.

The Synod welcomed Rev Sophie Troczynska as Assistant Priest in The Cookhams.

(Continued on page 15)

Thanks to parishes' hard work and generosity, the Deanery paid £961,210 of parish share in 2025, against an allocation of £1,073,166, which was 89.6% of the requested amount from the diocese. The diocesan average was 93.1%. This was a reduction from the £925,871 paid in 2024.

In May 2025, Rev Ainsley Swift moved to a new role within the Diocese as Commissary to the Archdeacon and therefore left his role as Area Dean. Rev Sally Lodge has been appointed as Interim Area Dean until mid-2026 when a new Area Dean will be elected.

Rev'd Tom Etherton
Deanery Secretary



Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2025

Treasurer's Report and Accounts

The examined accounts for 2025 have been prepared in line with Church accounting regulations (2006) and section 43 of the Charities Act 1993. The accounts have been examined, presented to, and accepted by, the PCC.

General Fund

The general fund for the year closed with a surplus of £1,323. This is a good result, and I must, therefore, thank all the congregation who have helped us to achieve this. We received donations of £2,875 the year during and £6,997 was raised through the Autumn Fayre and various activities organised by the Fund- Raising Committee.

"Other Income" of £12,155 includes £5,523 transfer of funds from The Friends account and a grant of £5,000 from the Oxford Diocese Development Fund, for which we are very grateful, both of these sums being set against the expenditure of £18,492 for the installation of the drop-down screen and projector. This project was completed in October.

During 2025 we again increased our Missions and Charities amount donating over £5,297. We sent £360 to Christian Aid, £135 to both Combat Stress and The British Legion from Remembrance Sunday, £1,531 to Water Aid, £180 to the Children's Society, £1,900 to Thames Hospice, £1055 to Elizabeth House.

2026 Budget

The budget for 2026 has been set and agreed by the PCC. It is a deficit budget of - £5,500. This is partly due to 2026 being the first full year we are committed to paying our share of 2 full time stipendiary priests and 2026 being the year our Quinquennial inspection is due which is likely to cost c.£2k . Regular giving is still down on pre-Covid levels, and I would ask those members, contributing by way of standing orders and other planned giving, to consider an increase in their giving in 2026 in order to assist with the ever-increasing costs of maintaining our church. We are extremely grateful to those members of our congregation and the "Friends Scheme" who have pledged money throughout the year to assist with the upkeep of the churchyard and general maintenance. We have fewer regular helpers with the churchyard and need to use our contractors Holdford's more often, so if there are any new persons who would like to consider pledging money to the Friend's scheme, please talk to Robert Dent or myself. We are a small church with many expenses to keep the church in its current good repair.

Assets and Liabilities

Monetary assets at the year-end were £ 119,364 (£122,799 in 2024, £105,882 in 2023, £84,351 in 2022 and £82,083 in 2021). The decrease this year is due to funding the balance of the screen and projector project.

Other Notes

We were all saddened by the unexpected death of our Treasurer Ros Hazeldine in

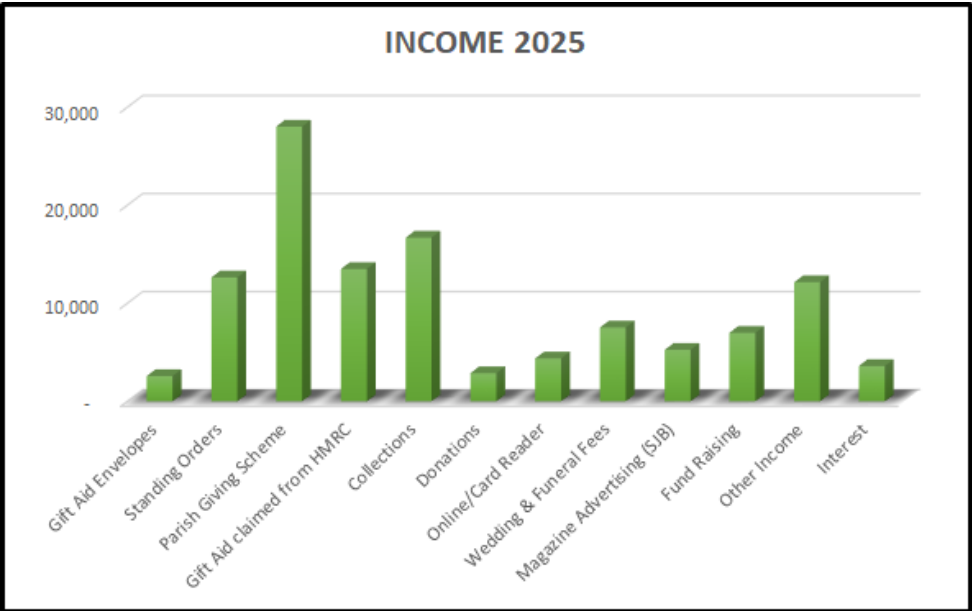
November. I have endeavoured to maintain the accounts, with grateful thanks to John Sykes and other members of the PCC, for their help and guidance during this difficult period. My thanks also to Robert Mandeville for stepping in at short notice to examine the accounts, following the resignation of the examiner appointed at last year's annual meeting.

A special thank you to Marion Elly and her fundraising team for all the work they have done to supplement the income for the church with some much-needed funds to help support Church finances. This year the Autumn Fayre was again held in the WI hall and although the weather was better than last year it was still cold. Soup and teas and coffee with delightful cakes attracted a number of supporters and we are truly grateful that the committee were able to donate a significant profit to the church.

Thanks also to Robert Dent for counting the collection at the end of each service and who handles the "Friends Scheme". The money donated has enabled us to keep the churchyard grounds looking splendid and to contribute the cost of the projector to the screen and projector project. We are very grateful to all contributors to the "Friends Scheme" and would be delighted if anyone else felt they were able to make a regular donation no matter how small; two pounds per week is over £100 per year. Please speak to me for more details.

I end with a special plea that you support fund raising activities whenever you can as every little helps. It is always great to see familiar faces and why not try to bring someone new along. I believe you often enjoy those things you have had your arm twisted to attend! It costs over £1,500 per week to keep the church open.

Lorna Sykes
Acting PCC Treasurer



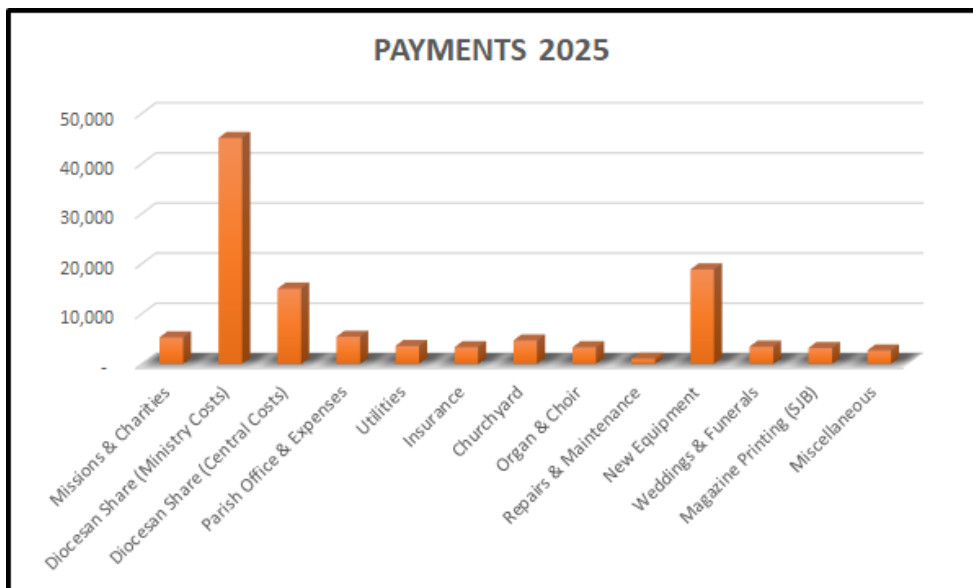
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, COOKHAM DEAN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31st December 2025
GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS

RECEIPTS	2025		2024	
Voluntary Receipts				
Gift Aid	2,581		2,823	
Standing Orders	12,644		10,180	
Parish Giving Scheme	28,030		29,112	
Income Tax Recovered on PGS	7,008		7,278	
Income Tax Recovered on GA, Standing Orders and Donations	6,500		5,954	
		56,763		55,347
Ordinary Collections	3,141		4,632	
CAF Income	7,250		6,750	
Collections for Missions and Other Charities	5,247		6,859	
Donations	2,875		2,260	
Online and Card Reader	4,377		2,624	
		22,890		23,125
		79,653		78,472
Receipts from Church Activities				
Burial & Interment Fees	6,009		5,479	
Wedding Fees	1,525		1,514	
Collections from Baptisms	152		196	
Collections from Weddings	168		201	
Collections at HTC Evensongs hosted by SJB	746		849	
		8,600		8,239
Receipts from Activities for Generating Funds				
Magazine Advertising	12,258		12,653	
Fund Raising Events (See note 1)	6,997		6,190	
		19,255		18,843
Other Receipts				
Other Income	12,155		1,556	
Gift Day (Oct 2024)	-		4,675	
		12,155		6,231
Receipts from Investments				
Interest on Investments	3,608		3,744	
		3,608		3,744
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£ 123,270		£ 115,529	

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, COOKHAM DEAN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31st December 2025
GENERAL FUND PAYMENTS

PAYMENTS	2025	2024
Missions & Charitable Giving (see Note 3)	5,297	8,471
Diocesan Share	60,168	56,222
Clergy Expenses of Office	5,418	5,133
Utilities (Electricity, Gas, Water, Internet)	3,568	2,375
Insurance	3,330	3,330
Upkeep of Churchyard	4,674	4,015
Organ & Choir (see Note 4)	3,317	3,596
Repairs & Maintenance (see Note 2)	1,051	1,741
New Equipment & Fixtures	18,865	-
Sanctuary	483	677
Printing Postage & Stationery	-	-
Magazine Printing Costs - SJB Share	3,144	3,004
Magazine Advertising - HTC Share	7,007	7,322
Miscellaneous (see Note 5)	1,247	1,651
50% share of HTC Evensong collections	373	-
Fundraising Costs (see Note 1)	582	586
Weddings & Funerals (see Note 6)	3,424	3,476
TOTAL PAYMENTS	121,947	101,599

EXCESS/(DEFICIT)	£ 1,323	£ 13,930
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ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, COOKHAM DEAN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31st December 2025
NOTES TO THE GENERAL FUND

1. FUND RAISING & SPECIAL EVENTS	Income	Costs	2025 Net	2024 Net
Morning/Afternoon Talks	578	102	476	631
Bangers & Mash	692	30	662	787
Autumn Fayre	2,886	50	2,836	2,896
Hymns & Pimms	-	-	0	
Brass Concert	724	300	424	
Strawberry Tea	692	-	692	1040
Homemade Cakes	217	-	217	250
Organ Recital	1,209	100	1,109	
	£ 6,997	582	£ 6,415	£ 5,604

2. REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	2025	2024
Mowers & Strimmers	181	180
Lightening Conductors & Fire Extinguishers	262	197
Boiler Maintenance	192	192
Roof & Gutters	-	
Green Bin	88	85
EICR & PAT testing	-	
Pest Control	-	600
Quinquennial	-	
General Repairs	329	487
	£ 1,051	£ 1,741

3. MISSIONS & CHARITABLE GIVING	2025	2024
Alzheimer's		769
Royal British Legion	135.00	245
Combat Stress	135.00	246
Gurkha Welfare Trust		265
Children's Society	180.00	440
Water Aid	1531.72	1,332
Thames Hospice	1900.15	2,009
Elizabeth House	1055.10	
Alexander Devine		627
Parkinson UK		599
Thames Valley Adventure Playground		821
RNIB		260
ODBF Admin Fund		495
Christian Aid	360	363
	£ 5,297	£ 8,471

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, COOKHAM DEAN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31st December 2025
NOTES TO THE GENERAL FUND (Continued)

4. ORGAN & CHOIR	2025	2024
Organists & Organist Expenses	2,400	2,400
Payments to Choir	60	60
Tuning Piano & Organ	720	816
Music & New Books & RSCM	137	320
	£ 3,317	£ 3,596

5. MISCELLANEOUS	2025	2024
Coffee & Refreshments	382	282
Website Hosting	258	258
Lottery Registration	-	20
GA Envelopes	-	
Village Fete Promotion	100	
CCLI	429	417
Flowers	53	
DBS checks	5	38
Miscellaneous small items	20	303
Payments to HTC from Evensong collections	373	333
Cash Withdrawals for Cash Flow purposes	-	
	£ 1,620	£ 1,651

6. WEDDING & FUNERAL COSTS	2025	2024
Oxford Diocese Board of Finance	1,644	1,310
Verger	880	920
Organist	700	960
Choir	-	-
Clergy Fees	200	286
	-	-
	£ 3,424	£ 3,476

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, COOKHAM DEAN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31st December 2025
FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH FUND

	2025	2024
Carried Forward from previous year	7,884	6,227
RECEIPTS		
Gift Aid Income	1,235	1,235
Tax Reclaimed	303	387
Donations (not gift aided)	35	35
	-	
	£ 1,573	£ 1,657
PAYMENTS		
Screen Project - Projector	5,523	-
Charges	43	
	£ 5,566	£ -
Balance at Bank	£ 3,891	£ 7,884

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, COOKHAM DEAN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31st December 2025
STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

Monetary Assets	General Fund	Friends Fund	2025	2024
Lloyds PCC Cookham Dean General Account	8,840	-	8,840	11,136
Debtors	-	-	7,590	-
Creditors/uncashed cheques	-	-	(947)	(2,091)
Lloyds PCC Cookham Dean Interest Account	29,043	-	29,043	33,779
Lloyds Friends of Cookham Dean Church General Account	-	3,891	3,891	7,884
CCLA CBF Church of England Deposit Account	70,000	-	70,000	70,000
	£ 107,882	3,891	118,417	£ 120,708

Investment Assets	2025	2024
356 CBF Church of England Investment Shares	£ 8,400	£ 8,209
Representing the A A'Bear permanent endowment fund - income upkeep of Churchyard		
Liabilities	£ -	£ -



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. John the Baptist Cookham
Dean

On accounts for the year
ended

31st Dec 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1149837

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2025.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out 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 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 (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no 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 accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

13/2/26

Name:

ROBERT HANDLEYVILLE

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

—

Address:

THE HOCKEY, HOCKEY LANE
COOKHAM SL6 9UF

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 22 June 2025 at 11.15 in the church

Note: this meeting was originally scheduled for 18 May 2025,
but was postponed with the permission of the Bishop of Reading

Present: Fr Stephen Mills, in the chair, and 34 other members.

Annual Vestry Meeting

The meeting opened with prayer.

Election of Churchwardens –Lorna Sykes and Mathew Billinghamurst had been proposed and seconded. David Hazeldine, who has stepped down after 11 years in the office, had been thanked as part of the Morning Service.

Lorna and Mathew were unanimously elected unopposed as Churchwardens.

The Vestry meeting closed at 11.20am.

Annual Parochial Meeting

Apologies for absence: Jeremy Webb, Louisa Knight and Marion Elly.

Minutes of the meeting held on 21st April 2024

These were circulated in the Annual Report and Accounts booklet. These were agreed by those who had been present as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

Changes to the Electoral Roll

A complete update of the Electoral Roll took place between 10th February and 22nd April 2025. There are now 92 people on the Electoral Roll (last year 101) with 14 additions and 23 deletions, showing an evolving turnover. 47 are resident in the Parish and a further 18 resident in the Benefice. Fr Stephen noted the extent to which we are a “gathered” congregation with people already actively making a decision to come and worship here.

The Annual Reports on the proceedings of the PCC and the activities of the parish generally for the year ended 31st December 2024. The Annual Report and Accounts were published in booklet form beforehand and taken as read. This booklet should be read in conjunction with these minutes and was distributed to all present. It is also available at the back of church and as a download from the website. The PCC report, Ministry Team Report, Fabric and Churchyard Report, Safeguarding Report, Fund Raising Report, Darby Pension Report and the report from Cookham Dean School were officially received. Of particular note were that fabric of the church is generally in good order, that safeguarding is well-established, the Darby Pension Fund provides income to 20 persons, and the excellent relationship we enjoy with Cookham Dean School.

Report of the Deanery Synod

The meeting formally received the Deanery Report, which is provided by the Deanery and outlines the activities over the year.

Presentation of the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2024

Treasurer Ros Hazeldine presented highlights of the 2024 accounts:

- I should like to say a few words about the accounts and my report, which starts on page 14 of the booklet..
- It is important to understand that the accounts show a snapshot of the position as it was at 31st December 2024 and that although last year was a challenging time for the church we ended with a good surplus.
- I was very pleased that Amanda Hannington kindly agreed to examine our accounts for the second year and was equally glad she found everything in order.
- Our income for 2024 (page 16) shows a decrease of some £4,000. Similarly fundraising was down by £1,400 but nevertheless it was a very good sum to have raised. The magazine income stayed much the same increasing by just £500. It is pleasing to see interest payments were increased considerably having moved more money to CCLA. We have been able to double the money sent to Missions and Charities through our own in-house activities and requests from families who have held funerals and thanksgiving services in this church.
- While the QR code has only been used a few times this year, the card reader continues to be activated at the end of our services, after weddings, funerals, baptisms and fund-raising activities and has generated just over £2,500, a little more than last year.
- We have not received any legacies during the year 2024, BUT WE DID HAVE A VERY SUCCESSFUL GIFT DAY, RAISING £4,675.
- Money received via planned giving PGS (The Parish Giving Scheme) has increased only marginally as a few givers have their accounts linked to increase annually by inflation. There have been no new congregation members joining in 2024, although one has started from the beginning of this year. If anyone not using this method of planned giving feels they could move to PGS I would be very willing to talk to you about the scheme and its benefits. Of course, if anyone would like to increase their monthly contributions we would also be delighted, and I can help you to achieve this.
- Before I leave income, I feel I must thank everyone who has supported our initiatives by buying cakes, going to the Autumn Fayre, making a payment to the Friends account or just coming to church each week and putting money in the collection, every little has helped.
- I have again included pie charts this year showing both income and expenditure. The colour version shows graphically just how we receive and spend our money. Pages 16 & 17.
- Our overall payments in 2024 (page 17) increased by £2,000. However, while most of the expenditure headings are very similar to those of the previous year the reduction in parish share is because we have been unable to replace Helen as assistant priest. Here again the pie chart shows our proportion of expenditure, and you will notice that I have split diocesan share to show central costs and parish ministry.
- We were delighted that once again we did not end the year with a deficit but had a significant excess of some £13,900. Thanks again to you all for your continued support.

- Monetary assets of £120,708 (page 21) is an excellent position to start this year and it has enabled us to set a break-even budget. A large amount of this is held in a CCLA bank account which is currently paying 4.45% but has been at over 5% interest for a lot of last year.
- I should like to finish by reiterating my thanks to all the people I have listed on page 15, they have all helped to make this job much easier and Amanda for certifying the accounts and agreeing to do them again next year.

Ray Reed proposed adoption of the accounts, seconded by Lorna Sykes, which were unanimously agreed.

Ros was thanked for all her work as Treasurer.

Appointment of Independent Examiner

Amanda Hannington has offered to continue as examiner, and her re-appointment was carried unanimously.

Election of PCC members

With an Electoral Roll number of 92 we are entitled to 9 elected members on the PCC.

Nine nominations had been received as follows:-

Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Katherine Billinghurst	David Stevens	Mathew Billinghurst
Sarah Davies	David Stevens	Lorna Sykes
John Fairlie	Stella Fairlie	Sylvia Hull
David Hazeldine	Sonia Bell	Ray Reed
Rosalind Hazeldine	Ray Reed	Richard Poad
Louisa Knight	Katherine Billinghurst	Sylvia Hull
Laura Satterley	David Hazeldine	Lorna Sykes
Chiu Sung	Katie Turner	John Timewell
Jeremy Webb	Ros Hazeldine	Stella Fairlie

These were elected unopposed to the PCC.

John Sykes explained that there had been 3 other nominations for PCC but unfortunately these did not meet the requirement to have been on the Electoral Roll for more than six months. However, the PCC does have the ability to co-opt 2 members and it was planned to exercise this so as to include new and enthusiastic input to the PCC.

Note that in addition to the elected members above, the following are ex officio members of PCC:-

- Fr Stephen as Vicar and Chair,
- The Associate Priest (once appointed),
- Churchwardens Lorna Sykes and Mathew Billinghurst,
- Deanery Synod representatives Lorna Sykes, Mathew Billinghurst and Ray Reed.
- John Sykes as a member of Diocesan Synod.

Fr Stephen addressed the meeting

He said that the benefice was flourishing in both churches.

He apologised for any upset that there may have been but that he was looking forward to an amazing year ahead and the exciting joy that is Jesus Christ.

He encouraged the programme of events which draw the community and church together as well as contribute to our fund-raising.

Questions and Discussion

Elizabeth Runnacles raised the important part individuals play in the running of smaller churches such as our own, and how sorry she was to see that Richard Simmonds was no longer officiating in his role as LLM. She wished to thank him for his long service to the parish.

She also raised the practice of combining parishes that was taking place across the Church of England and pointed out that the downside of this is a loss of independence which in this church is very important to us and a vital part of our identity and character. She urged the PCC to be mindful of the implications of this when considering the future.

Fr Stephen responded by saying that this was a healthy conversation to have. Our two churches are individual, and the future was to concentrate on being more unified in our mission rather than organisationally.

John Sykes gave a diocesan perspective – so far Oxford Diocese had not had to carry out any re-organisation to specifically reduce clergy as had happened in a number of other dioceses. This was due to the diocese being well funded, a key part of which was the ability and willingness of parishes to pay share which covered the cost of their ministry (principally stipends and housing). That is why giving and paying our way is so important.

Fr Stephen reiterated that each church is self-supporting and flourishing which is a great position to be in. He said that when we do recruit an associate priest, we will have increased capacity for our mission. We are interviewing on July 14th.

John Sykes gave an update on the proposal to enhance the visual aid facilities in the church by installing a screen and projector along with associated cabling. At the moment, we are awaiting the final faculty permission from the diocese. The project will be funded from the Gift Day, a grant from the Diocesan Development Fund and the PCC reserves. It was envisaged that the principal use for the screen would be for school occasions and Families@4 services.

Fr Stephen asked the membership if they would like to “go paperless” and have the liturgy for the services on the screen rather than on paper. The response was a resounding “No!”.

Vyv Rees asked whether any associated enhancement to the sound system was planned. They are not as the system is digitally based rather than the older analogue method, and will integrate with the new visual technology, as it currently does for livestreaming.

Any Other Business

Mathew Billingham commented how inspirational it was to have Fr Stephen as vicar.

The meeting closed with The Grace at 12.08pm.

Signed..... Date

Accounts



St John the Baptist
COOKHAM DEAN

**Annual Report
and Accounts
for the year ending
31 December 2024**

This Annual Report is published by the Parochial Church Council
of St John the Baptist, Cookham Dean.

AGENDAS

Agenda for the Annual Meeting of Parishioners 10.30 Sunday 18 May 2025

1. The election of two churchwardens to serve for the forthcoming year.

Agenda for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 18 May 2025

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 21 April 2024 - see page 23
3. Presentation of changes to the Electoral Roll
4. The annual reports on the proceedings of the PCC and the activities of the parish generally for the year ended 31 December 2024
5. Presentation of the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024
6. Appointment of Independent Examiner
7. Election of PCC members
8. Any other business – by leave of the Chairman

Closing prayers

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Annual PCC Report for the year ending 31st December 2024

Background

The parish of St. John the Baptist Cookham Dean together with Holy Trinity Cookham forms The Benefice of The Cookhams. The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting within the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church – pastoral, evangelistic, ecumenical, and social. It also has responsibilities for the maintenance of the church and churchyard of St. John the Baptist, Church Road, Cookham Dean.

Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following persons served as members of the PCC:

<i>Incumbent</i>	Rev'd Stephen Mills	Chair	From 11 January 2024
<i>Associate Priest</i>	<i>Vacant</i>		
<i>Licensed Lay Minister</i>	Richard Simmonds	Vice Chair	
<i>Church Wardens</i>	David Hazeldine		
	Lorna Sykes		
<i>Deanery Synod Reps</i>	Mathew Billinghamurst		Re-elected 2023 for 3yrs
	Ray Reed		Re-elected 2023 for 3 yrs
	Lorna Sykes		Re-elected 2023 for 3 yrs
<i>Diocesan Synod Member</i>	John Sykes	Secretary	
<i>Elected Members</i>	Katherine Billinghamurst		
	Greta Dixon		
	Marion Elly		
	John Fairlie		
	Stella Fairlie		
	Ros Hazeldine	Treasurer	
	Laura Satterley		
	Jeremy Webb		

Overview

The year was characterised by the arrival of the new incumbent, Rev'd Stephen Mills in January. At short notice the induction service was transferred from Holy Trinity to Cookham Dean as Cookham Village was inaccessible due to flooding. Olivia, Bishop of Reading presided and local dignitaries including the Rt. Hon. Theresa May MP attended the service. It was a great honour to host such an important service in our village church, and thanks go to all concerned for organizing it with two days' notice!

The post of associate priest remained unfilled throughout the year despite a decision to upgrade the post from part to full time, and two rounds of advertising. Rev'd David Joynes, who had retained his permission to officiate following his retirement continued to serve in the benefice in a limited capacity until June.

Lay Minister Richard Simmonds supported and assisted our new Vicar throughout the

year and special thanks are due to him for his continuing dedication, enthusiasm and competence, especially in taking funeral services, pastoral care, and home communion both to individuals and Harwood House.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The APCM took place on 21 April 2024. The whole PCC was re-elected unopposed. The PCC Vice-chair, Secretary, Treasurer and the following committees were elected at the first regular meeting of the PCC after the APCM: Standing & Finance Committee, Fund Raising, Fabric & Churchyard.

There were 101 names (2023:94, 2022:94; 2021:101; 2020:100) on the Church Electoral Roll as presented at the 2024 APCM, 57 (2023:54, 2022:54; 2021:56; 2020:58) of whom were resident in the parish with a further 17 (2023:17, 2022:17; 2021:21; 2020:22) resident in the Benefice.

Church attendance

At the beginning of the year attendance was affected by the reduction in the number of services because of the interregnum. However, with the arrival of Fr Stephen, mid-week services were soon restored to one at each church every week. The Maundy Thursday Eucharist and Watch of Prayer was held at St John's and the Good Friday Liturgy and Dawn Eucharist at Holy Trinity. At Christmas, Holy Trinity church was undergoing refurbishment, and the benefice Christmas Eve Midnight Mass was held at St John's. Although the main Holy Trinity service on Christmas Day was held at the Holy Trinity school, St John's hosted their trilogy of Carol Services for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany as well as holding its own traditional Nine Lessons and Carols.

There were 99 communion services during the year (2023:85, 2022:105; 2021:89; 2020:67; 2019:130).

Easter communicants were 68 (2023:66, 2022:70; 2021:49; 2020:0; 2019:110),

The number of Christmas communicants was 113 (2023:78, 2022:119; 2021:59; 2020:62; 2019:123).

The average weekly attendance was 64 adults (2023:60, 2022:61; 2021:48; 2020:44; 2019:91) and 7 under 16s (2023:8, 2022:7; 2021:5; 2020:4; 2019:21).

There were 5 baptisms during the year (2023:7, 2022:7; 2021:10; 2020:1; 2019:14), 2 weddings (2023:3, 2022:4; 2021:2; 2020:1; 2019:4), and 13 burials, memorials and interment of ashes (2023:11, 2022:18; 2021:14; 2020:24; 2019:18).

Generally speaking, attendances have increased probably due to continued recovery from Covid and the end of the Interregnum.

Finance

Although lower than the previous year because of a legacy received in that year, income in 2024 was c. £20,000 higher than had been budgeted for. Planned Giving was higher than budgeted, and we managed to receive more tax back on Gift Aid than expected. The card reader has been put to good use over the year and brought in more than budgeted. Interest receipts were more than double the planned budget. We are also very grateful for all the fund raising that has happened throughout the year. Other unplanned income came from Gift Day which finally totalled £4,675.

A larger than usual amount of our income has been designated to Missions and Charities, some of this coming from our fund-raising activities and through collections received at funerals. In the year we supported Christian Aid, Combat Stress, The British Legion,

Water Aid, Alexander Devine Hospice, Thames Hospice, the Children's Society, Thames Valley Adventure Playground, Parkinson UK, Gurkha Welfare Trust, RNIB, and Alzheimer's.

The surplus for the year was c. £13,600 and our cash position stands at c. £122,800. The PCC has designated £25,000 of this as a "Net Zero Fund", in anticipation of switching to non-fossil fuel for heating at some time in the future.

Our continued thanks go to Ros Hazeldine for the administration and stewardship of our funds.

Review of the year's activities

The arrival of Fr Stephen in January marked the end of the interregnum even though the associate priest post was still vacant. Despite several rounds of advertising, the post remained vacant all year.

Online prayers and reflections continued to be provided on Mondays and Fridays. The main Sunday service continued to be livestreamed once a month on the 4th Sunday and on special occasions.

The all-age family service known as Families@4 was held on five occasions. The services were held on Mothering Sunday, St John the Baptist, Harvest, Christingle and Christmas Eve Crib and attracted congregations of 73, 50, 98, 185 and 239 respectively. During the year the engagement with Cookham Dean School in the format, preparation and running of these services has been key to the growing number of attendees and the style of the services has changed from that of previous years.

Easter Services included the ecumenical Walk of Witness between the two churches via the Stations of the Cross depicted by local artists, inaugurated in 2005.

In June, 10 members of the congregation, led by Rev'd David Joynes undertook a pilgrimage to Greece following the route of St Paul's journey to Phillipi, Thessaloniki, Delphi, Corinth and Athens.

The Remembrance Sunday service at the War Memorial and then in church was attended by 176 people including a good representation from the Scouts. The annual service of Remembrance of Loved Ones who have Died was held in November and was very much appreciated by all those who attended.

The traditional Nine Lessons and Carols service was held on 22nd December with an attendance of 125. This service was also recorded and had over 100 views.

The PCC met on 6 occasions in 2024, 5 times in person and once by correspondence. Throughout the year the Treasurer and Ministry Team have reported to the PCC by means of written reports circulated prior to each PCC meeting. Safeguarding is a standing agenda item and attention this year has been on completing Basic Training for all PCC members. Katherine Billinghurst is our Parish Safeguarding Officer, and she is now assisted by Laura Satterley, and our thanks go to them for undertaking this essential work.

Fenella Reekie, Headteacher at Cookham Dean School, attended the January and July PCC meetings to give an update of progress and activities at the school. Both Cookham Dean and Herries continued their regular visits to the church for services and events throughout the year.

As well as the attendance by Fr Stephen and Richard Simmonds at school assemblies, an "Open the Book" Team has been established in conjunction with Holy Trinity under the leadership of John Timewell. It is now visiting each of the state primary schools in the

benefice on a twice termly basis.

The Parish Magazine continued to be produced throughout 2024, edited by John Sykes. The magazine continues to be available online as well as being distributed to each house in the parish. Thanks go to Stella and John Fairlie for the co-ordination of the distribution of the magazine in Cookham Dean. Thanks also to John Sykes for managing the magazine advertising, which had declined as a result of the economic slowdown but is now recovering although it is still short of its pre-Covid level.

Although the number of members in the church choir is quite small compared with the past, we have still managed to provide musical support of a high standard to our worship. The PCC is grateful to David Colthup, our long-standing choirmaster and organist, for his continued service and for nurturing our small but able Junior Choir.

Working parties in the churchyard took place throughout the year, which, together with the volunteer grass cutting, has seen the churchyard maintained in good condition. However, the number of volunteers is now quite small and an increasing amount of grass and hedge cutting is now done by contractors, which has, of course, to be paid for.

Flowers are provided in the church throughout the year by a band of volunteers, coordinated by Doreen Reed and Marion Elly. The PCC is grateful to all flower arrangers, especially those who decorated the church for major occasions.

The activities of the fund-raising committee under the leadership of Marion Elly had a very good year raising over £5,600. Several social/fund-raising events were organised including the traditional Autumn Fayre, this year held in WI Hall, which raised c. £3,000.

The new pattern of Fellowship Lunches introduced at the restart after the pandemic has continued, with the Methodists, Holy Trinity and ourselves taking it in turn to host the monthly event. Numbers have steadily increased, and a splendid Christmas lunch was held in the Jubilee Vestry in December.

During the year we re-established our pastoral care in the parish to Harwood House, Elizabeth House and other housebound people.

The fabric of the church remains in good condition. There were no major repairs undertaken and expenditure was restricted to minor repairs and routine maintenance.

Signed

(Chair of the meeting)

Ministry Team report for APCM 2024

The Ministry Team continued to meet regularly in 2024, approximately every 4–6 weeks. Fr Stephen chaired all except one meeting.

Key Highlights of the Year:

Induction of Fr Stephen

The year commenced with Fr Stephen's Induction on 11th January. Due to flooding in Cookham, the service was moved at very short notice to St John the Baptist. It was a deeply uplifting occasion, attended by dignitaries, clergy, and parishioners.

Easter and Holy Week Services

Lent was marked by a course attended by approximately 14 people, with sessions led by different leaders each week. Holy Week services were shared between SJB, HTC, and the Methodist church. Notable services included:

- **Ash Wednesday:** Two communion services with ashing, both well attended.
- **Maundy Thursday:** Service at SJB, followed by a Watch of Prayer.
- **Good Friday:** Morning service at SJB, followed by the Walk of Witness.
- **Easter Sunday:** Services were well attended and filled with joyful celebration.

Families@4 Services

These family-focused services were held on five occasions in 2024:

- **Mothering Sunday** (73 attendees)
- **St John the Baptist Patronal Festival** (50 attendees)
- **Harvest** (98 attendees)
- **Christingle** (185 attendees)
- **Crib Service** (239 attendees)

The increasing engagement of Cookham Dean School in these services has contributed to their growing success.

Confirmation

In July, four candidates from the benefice were confirmed at St Stephen's, Clewer.

Schools and Community Engagement

Clergy continued to take regular assemblies, and the church hosted Harvest Festivals for our church schools. A major highlight was the **iSingPOP** event in October, where 180 children participated in two concerts promoting Christian values. This was so well received that another is planned for 2025.

The **Open The Book** (OTB) programme began in 2024, led by John Timewell. This storytelling initiative visits all three benefice schools once per half-term and has been well received.

Pastoral Care and Special Services

- Regular home communions were provided to **housebound parishioners** and **Harwood House** residents.
- A **monthly hymn-singing** session continued at Harwood House.
- Special services included **Remembrance for Loved Ones, Remembrance Sunday, Hymns & Pimms, Nine Lessons & Carols**, and an expanded schedule of Christmas services.

Holy Trinity's Temporary Relocation

With HTC closing for refurbishment in October, SJB hosted their evening services,

including the Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany Carol Services.

Financial and Practical Developments

- A **Gift Day** in October raised £4,500, which will contribute to the installation of a drop-down screen and projector.
- Planning continues for securing an **Associate Priest**, though recruitment efforts in 2024 did not yield applicants.

This report highlights the dedication and service of our ministry team, volunteers, and congregation members in sustaining and growing our parish life throughout 2024.

Fr Stephen Mills, on behalf of the Ministry Team

Changes to the Electoral Roll since the last APCM

The update of the Electoral Roll took place between the 10th Feb and 22nd Apr 2025.

There are 92 people on the Electoral Roll, as opposed to 101 in 2024, there being 23 deletions and 14 additions.

Of the 92, there are 47 Resident in the Parish and a further 18 Resident in the Benefice.

Lorna Sykes
Electoral Roll Officer

Fabric and Churchyard Report 2023

As reported in previous years, our Church's buildings, and the Churchyard, continue to be very well maintained and the Churchwardens continue to be very grateful to all the people who voluntarily look after the fabric and the grounds every week and all those who lock and unlock the building each day thus creating the opportunity for the many visits some of which result in interesting entries in our Visitors' Book. We are also very fortunate to have so many truly delightful flower arrangements in church throughout the year and we are very much in debt to the team who provide them as we also are to those who make sure that the Church's interior is always clean and well looked after. In addition to the items in the list below, we benefit from a lot of work performed by "Voluntary Labour" without which a significant number of further expenses would be incurred.

The following is a summary of the non-routine work, in addition to the above, carried out during 2024:

- January – Storm Henk brought down a large conifer branch and overturned a grave headstone in the northeast corner of the churchyard and uprooted an apple tree in the paddock. All of which was rectified by voluntary labour.
- February - Both churchyard mowers were serviced. £179.56 inc. V.A.T.
- February – A donation of £200 was paid to the Church's neighbours as a contribution toward the cost of repairs to the National Trust Access Road.
- April – Chemical Fogging Treatment was applied to the Church interior to deal with the infestation of flies and ladybirds. £599.99 inc. V.A.T.
- April – The Church and Vestry Boilers were serviced. £192.00 inc. V.A.T.
- June – Churchyard maintenance: As from the first grass cutting in June 2024, Holdfords are now cutting all the grass in the Churchyard area between the Mulberry House hedge and the east wall of the Church. This is in addition to the current contract area on the southeast side of the Churchyard where interments and burials are still taking place. Their monthly charge has now increased from £283.20 to £432.00
- July – The annual lightning conductor inspection was carried out. £142.80 inc. V.A.T.
- November – The annual fire extinguisher maintenance check and service was carried out. £54.00 inc. V.A.T.

David Hazeldine
Lorna Sykes
Churchwardens

Annual Safeguarding Report 2024

Annual Safeguarding Report 2024

We follow the Church of England's Safer Recruitment and People Management guidance 2021. The care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of the whole Church. Everyone who participates in the life of the Church has a role to play in promoting a Safer Church for all.

The PCC operates a Safe Recruiting process, which aims to keep a balance between safe recruitment and not creating an onerous bureaucratic system. The recruitment of new volunteers involves informing the recruiter so that the necessary details and references can be obtained. Procedures are always monitored to ensure that checks and training for volunteers are delivered in a timely manner and the cooperation of volunteers in this is much appreciated.

Debbie Burroughs is responsible at St John the Baptist for checks with the Disclosure and Barring Services for new and established volunteers with children and vulnerable adults. We continue to use the Access Personal Checking Services Ltd (APCS), which is the recommended DBS Umbrella Body for the Diocese of Oxford.

The Church of England's Practice Guidance: Safeguarding Training and Development (2021) provides a clear framework for safeguarding training across all Church of England communities. There have been some significant changes in regard to training and expectations, to further improve the safeguarding of all. We follow the Church of England's Safer Recruitment and People Management guidance 2021, meaning a range of safeguarding training modules are a mandatory requirement for particular Church Officer roles. Safeguarding training should be renewed every three years and people are asked to forward their training records once completed. All safeguarding training records are kept securely. The resources and training equip our community to engage positively with the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults in both a practical and theologically informed way.

The PCC has complied with the duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.

Katherine Billingham
Parish Safeguarding Officer

Fundraising Events Report 2024

During 2024 we continued our Fund Raising events for the Church as follows:-

17th February – Bangers and Bingo raised £787

13th March – Excellent talk by John Timewell in the WI Hall raised £278

Easter Baking raised £250.50

30th June – The ever popular Strawberry Tea raised a magnificent £1039.56

5th September – another interesting talk by Richard Poad raised £353

23rd November – The annual Autumn Fayre raised a marvellous £2,750

These events raised a total of £5,458.06

Marion Elly

Darby Pension Report 2024/25

The Fund exists to provide payments each quarter to people in Cookham who are on low incomes and who meet the requirements set out in the will of the Darby brothers. Trustees, drawn from Holy Trinity Church, Cookham, and St John the Baptist Church, Cookham Dean, have the responsibility of administering the Fund.

The investments remain under the management of CCLA, a professional company which specializes in charities and church investments. The Fund recently received some unexpected income from an account held in the name of the Samuel Lewis Fund which was consolidated into the Darby Pension Fund several years ago – this will be added to the CCLA investment account to supplement future income.

There were 20 pensioners supported by the Fund at the end of the financial year, however, there continues to be capacity to support additional pensioners. The search for new beneficiaries is ongoing and new applications are welcome.

Kate Dilley
March 2025

Cookham Dean CE VA Primary School Report - March 2025

Report to PCC by Mrs Fen Reekie, Headteacher

Presented at PCC meeting 26 March 2025

Context

Number of pupils on roll – 195 currently on roll.

Full capacity – 196.

Academic Achievements

Current focus

- Foundation curriculum – adaptive teaching, task design,
- Ensuring that our maths curriculum is challenging for all
- Ensuring all children know their times tables appropriate for their year group
- Inclusive curriculum

Current targets for end of year attainment

- GLD 83%
- Phonics 61% (very low year)
- KS2 SATS
- Reading 90% (last years national data 74%)
- Writing 82% (last years national data 72%)
- Maths 75% (last years national data 73%)

School Development

Quality of Education

- Ensure attainment of HA in maths in line with reading and writing
- All children are fluent in times tables appropriate to year group
- Teachers are using adaptive teaching methods to ensure all learners are supported



...where we all flourish

- Teachers are using strategies to ensure deeper learning in history and geography

Behaviour and Attitudes

- Ensure a culture of inclusion across the whole school
- Improve attendance with focus on reducing the number of term time holidays
- Ensure that playtimes are playful, kind and engaging

Personal Development

- Develop a language and understanding of spirituality
- Ensure that all children are encouraged to be courageous advocates

Leadership

- Further strengthen partnership working within and beyond the local authority to improve outcomes for all children and young people across the borough.
- Continue to develop CPD through Tom Sherrington's Walkthrus

Awards

- Attachment Aware Schools Award

School Leadership Team

- 3 senior teachers supporting deputy and head in areas of school development mainly around the curriculum.

Finance

- Currently setting the budget for next financial year. School is at full capacity (-1) which is good for the budget. Applying for charity funding/grants to support the curriculum. Very active PTA which have helped finance the outdoor classroom, buy laptops and enrichment opportunities.

Spiritual Development

- Language of spirituality embedded in school
- Wild Worship
- Pupils 4 Praise developing outdoor reflective garden
- P4P leading assemblies
- Prayer week planned for summer term
- SIAM expected this year
- Open the Book
- IsingPop
- Families@4

Mrs Fen Reekie
Headteacher
March 2025

Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery Synod Annual Report for 2024

The Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery comprises 14 parishes and benefices. The Deanery Synod comprises all the clergy in the deanery and Lay Representatives elected by their respective parishes for a period of three years. The current triennium runs from 2023 to 2026. At the end of 2023 the Synod had 67 members. Attendance varied from 30 to 42 over the year.

There were three meetings of the Synod during 2024:

Wednesday 7th February 2024 at All Saints Church, Dedworth:

The Synod heard from Rev Jo Ellington, chaplain at Altwood School, Maidenhead, about her experiences and learnings there, including highlights and challenges.

Rev Paul Walker (All Saints Dedworth) shared about the chaplaincy team currently visiting Windsor Girls' School, including how it works and what activities they run.

Rev Charlie Kerr (Diocese Chaplaincy Advisor) shared about prayer spaces and the use of Space Makers in primary schools.

General Synod member Daniel Matovu gave a report on the November 2023 General Synod sessions.

Thursday 16th May 2024 at St Luke's Church, Maidenhead:

The Synod heard an introduction to Anna Chaplaincy, which is a way of providing spiritual care for older people, including how that works and what it involves.

The Synod heard about some of the safeguarding issues involved when supporting older adults.

General Synod member Gracy Crane gave a report on the February 2024 General Synod sessions.

Deanery Lay Chair Jim Tucker gave a brief report on the Deanery Morning held on 27th April alongside Bracknell Deanery, thinking about how we can help with Children and young people.

Wednesday 16th October 2024 at St Stephen and St Agnes Church, Windsor:

A small update to the Parish Share allocation formula was approved to stay consistent with the Diocese's formula.

Several parishes shared some of their learnings around working with children and young people:

St Andrew's Clewer: Wild Worship, worshipping with children outside in nature.

St Mary's Maidenhead: three aspects of and three reflections on work with secondary school age children.

St Mary's White Waltham: how to put youth work at the heart of church life, gradually growing a bigger team, and teaching children creatively.

General Synod member Daniel Matovu reported on the range of topics discussed at the July 2024 General Synod sessions.

(Continued on page 13)

Other Deanery Matters

Thanks to parishes' hard work and generosity, the Deanery paid £ 925,871 of parish share in 2024, against an allocation of £ 1,031,299, which was 89.8% of the requested amount from the diocese. The diocesan average was 93.6%. This was a reduction from the £ 931,978 paid in 2023.

During 2024, the PCCs of Windsor Parish Church, Clewer St Stephen & St Agnes, and Windsor Holy Trinity all voted to replace the New Windsor Team Ministry with one parish of Central Windsor. With the support of the Deanery Standing & Pastoral Committee and the Archdeaconry of Berkshire this change was approved by the Church Commissioners and came into effect on 1 January 2025, with Reverend Canon Sally Lodge continuing as Rector.

Thomas Walton
Deanery Secretary



Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2024

2024 Treasurer's Report and Accounts

The audited accounts for 2024 have been prepared in line with Church accounting regulations (2006) and section 43 of the Charities Act 1993. The accounts have been examined, presented to, and accepted by, the PCC.

General Fund

The general fund for the year closed with a surplus of £13,930 though a deficit budget had been set. We were truly delighted with this result, and I must, therefore, thank all the congregation who have helped us to achieve this. Our Gift Day last October certainly contributed to this with £4,675 being donated. In addition, we received donations of £2,260 the year during and £6,190 was raised through the Autumn Fayre and various activities the Fund- Raising Committee organised.

During 2024 we again increased our Missions and Charities amount donating over £8,470. We sent £363 to Christian Aid, £245.50 to both Combat Stress and The British Legion from Remembrance Sunday, £1,332 to Water Aid (£1062 of this was raised through Hymns and Pimms and David Colthup's blackberries), £769 to Alzheimer's, £265 to the Gurkha Welfare Trust, £440 to the Children's Society, £2,009 to Thames Hospice, £821 to Thames Valley Adventure Playground, £260 to RNIB, £599 to Parkinson UK and £627 to Alexander Devine from our Christmas Day service.

2025 Budget

The budget for 2025 has been set and agreed by the PCC. It is a break-even budget. We are mindful that, although we have had a surplus for the last four years, for the 3 years before that we have ended each year in deficit, and we will need to examine carefully any expenditure that is not absolutely necessary for the upkeep of the church. Regular giving is still down on pre-Covid levels, and I would ask those members, contributing by way of standing orders and other planned giving, to consider an increase in their giving in 2025 in order to assist with the ever-increasing costs of maintaining our church. We are extremely grateful to those members of our congregation and the "Friends Scheme" who have pledged money throughout the year to assist with the upkeep of the churchyard and general maintenance. We have fewer regular helpers with the churchyard and need to use our contractors Holdford's more often, so if there are any new persons who would like to consider pledging money to the Friend's scheme, please talk to Robert Dent or myself. We are a small church with many expenses to keep the church in its current good repair. The attached graphs show only too well how our Planned Giving does not cover our Diocesan Share.

Assets and Liabilities

Monetary assets at the year-end were £ 122,799 (£105,882 in 2023, £84,351 in 2022 and £82,083 in 2021). The increase this year is in part due to our Giving Day and the careful management of expenditure.

Other Notes

My thanks to Amanda Hannington for examining the accounts and for her advice, this is Amanda's second year, and the PCC is very grateful to her. I must also thank all members of the PCC, for their help and guidance throughout the year.

A special thank you to Marion Elly and her fundraising team for all the work they have done to supplement the income for the church with some much-needed funds to help support Church finances. This year the Autumn Fayre was again held in the WI hall and although the weather was better than last year it was still cold. Soup and teas and coffee with delightful cakes attracted a number of supporters and we are truly grateful that the committee were able to donate a significant profit to the church.

Thanks also to Robert Dent for counting the collection at the end of each service and who handles the "Friends Scheme". The money donated has enabled us to keep the churchyard grounds looking splendid and we receive lots of encouraging comments, but it does all cost. We are very grateful to all contributors to the "Friends Scheme" and would be delighted if anyone else felt they were able to make a regular donation no matter how small; two pounds per week is over £100 per year. Please speak to one of the Churchwardens or me.

I end with a special plea that you support fund raising activities whenever you can as every little helps. It is always great to see familiar faces and why not try to bring someone new along. I believe you often enjoy those things you have had your arm twisted to attend! It costs over £1,500 per week to keep the church open.

Ros Hazeldine
PCC Treasurer

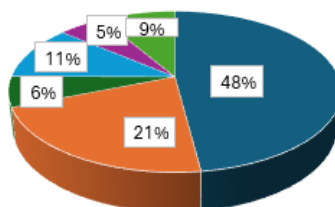
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, COOKHAM DEAN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31st December 2024
GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS

RECEIPTS	2024		2023	
Voluntary Receipts				
Gift Aid	2,823		3,664	
Standing Orders	10,180		10,585	
Donations	2,260		3,333	
Income Tax Recovered on GA, Standing Orders and Donations	5,954		5,387	
Parish Giving Scheme	29,112		28,350	
Income Tax Recovered on PGS	7,278		7,088	
Ordinary Collections	4,632		4,897	
CAF Income	6,750		6,610	
Collections for Missions and Other Charities	6,859		3,105	
QR Code and Card Reader	2,624		2,591	
		78,472		75,610
Receipts from Church Activities				
Burials & Interments	5,479		5,564	
Weddings	1,514		3,124	
Collections from Baptisms	196		234	
Collections from Weddings	201			
Evensongs from HTC	849			
		8,239		8,922
Receipts from Activities for Generating Funds				
Magazine Advertising	12,653		12,126	
Fund Raising Events (See note 1)	6,190		7,588	
		18,843		19,714
Other Receipts				
Other income	1,556		13,971	
Gift Day October 2024	4,675			
		6,231		13,971
Receipts from Investments				
Interest on Investments	3,744		1,683	
		3,744		1,683
TOTAL RECEIPTS		£ 115,529		£ 119,900

SJB Income 2024

[continued on next page

- Planned Giving
- Collections and other giving
- Wedding & Funeral Fees
- Magazine Adverts
- Fund Raising
- Other Income

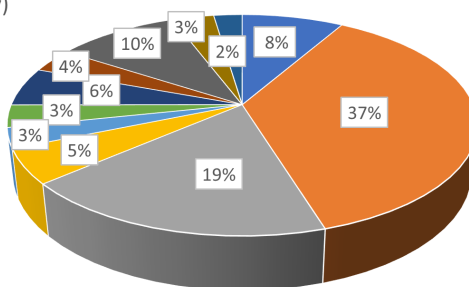


ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, COOKHAM DEAN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31st December 2024
GENERAL FUND PAYMENTS

PAYMENTS	2024	2023
Missions & Charitable Giving (See note 3)	8,471	4,026
Diocesan Share	56,222	56,604
Clergy Expenses of Office	5,133	5,252
Services (Heat, Light, Water & Sewage)	2,375	2,521
Insurance	3,330	3,137
Upkeep of Churchyard	4,015	3,049
Organ & Choir (See note 4)	3,596	3,228
Repairs & Maintenance (See note 2)	1,741	1,624
New Equipment & Fixtures	-	-
Sanctuary	677	187
Printing Postage & Stationery	-	-
Magazine Printing Costs	3,004	2,892
Magazine Share to HTC	7,322	6,901
Miscellaneous (See note 5)	1,651	5,760
Fundraising Costs (See note 1)	586	389
Weddings & Funerals (See note 6)	3,476	4,001
TOTAL PAYMENTS	101,599	99,571
EXCESS/(DEFICIT)	£ 13,930	£ 1,612

SJB Payments 2024

- Missions & Charities
- Diocesan Share (Parish Ministry)
- Diocesan Share (Central Costs)
- Clergy & Office costs
- Magazine Printing
- Insurance
- Churchyard & Maintenance
- Organ & chior
- Miscellaneous
- Weddings & Funerals
- Utilities



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, COOKHAM DEAN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31st December 2024
NOTES TO THE GENERAL FUND

1 Fund Raising & Special Events	Income		Costs	2024 Net		2023 Net
Morning/Afternoon Talks	656		25	631		
Choir Dinner				0		
Letter to Parish re upkeep of churchyard				0		
Bangers & Mash	787			787		595
Sedar Meal				0		152
Autumn Fayre	3,457		561	2,896		2,762
Hymns & Pimms **				0		
Brass Concert				0		918
Flower Festival				0		
Strawberry Tea	1,040			1,040		584
Home made cakes	250			250		150
Tom Way talk				0		868
Scences from the Dean				0		
Easy Fund Raising scheme (buying on line)				0		
Organ Recital postponed until 2023				0		1,268
	£ 6,190		586	5,604		7,297

** Please note we raised £1,062 at this event and it has been included within Water Aid under Missions & Charitable Giving note 3

2 Repairs & Maintenance	2024	2023
Mowers & Strimmers	180	368
Lightening Conductors & Fire Extinguishers	197	288
Boiler Maintenance	192	506
Roof & Gutters		462
Green Bin	85	75
EICR & PAT testing		
Removing flies from church	600	
Internet Connections		
Quinquennial		
General Repairs	487	
	£ 1,741	£ 1,699

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3 Missions & Charitable Giving			2024		2023	
Discretionary Fund						
Christ Church Oxford						
Church Army						
USPG						
Christian Aid			363		306	
Church Housing Trust						
Yeldall Christian Centre						
The Barnabus Fund						
Train a Priest						
Liveability						
Helen & Douglas House						
CHECT						
The Connection (St. Martins)						
Bible Society						
			£ 363		£ 306	
AUTUMN FAYRE						
St John the Baptist Church						
Cookham Dean Village Hall						
			£ -		£	
Collections and Other Giving						
Alzheimer's			769			
Royal British Legion			245		172	
Combat Stress			246		172	
Gurkha Welfare Trust			265			
Children's Society			440		781	
Water Aid			1332		505	
Thames Hospice			2009			
Ukraine						
DEC Appeal					440	
Bumblebee Conservation Trust					469	
White Chapel Mission for Homeless					469	
Winston's Wish					620	
Parkinson UK			599			
Thames Valley Adventure Playground			821			
RNIB			260			
ODBF Admin Fund			495			
Roald Dahl					45	
Alexander Devine			627		48	
			£ 8,108		£ 3,721	
TOTAL MISSIONS & CHARITABLE GIVING			£ 8,471		£ 4,026	

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, COOKHAM DEAN
 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31st December 2024
 NOTES TO THE GENERAL FUND (Continued)

	2024	2023
4 Organ & Choir		
Organists & Guest Organist Expenses	2,400	2,400
Payments to Choir	60	65
Tuning Piano & Organ	816	636
Music & New Books & RSCM	320	127
	£ 3,596	£ 3,228

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31st December 2024
 NOTES TO THE GENERAL FUND (Continued)

	2024	2023
5 Miscellaneous		
Coffee & Refreshments	282	272
Baptism Cards, Books		
Website Hosting	258	249
Lottery Registration	20	20
GA Envelopes		
Collections for gifts to clergy leaving		3,175
CCLI	417	403
Specified Gifts (JA)		
DSB checks	38	19
J&M Sewing for vestments, altar frontal etc		1,422
Payments to HTC from Evensong collections	333	
Sundry items (Sunbeams & Easter Eggs)		58
Miscellaneous small items	303	92
	£ 1,651	£ 5,710

6 Wedding & Funeral Costs

Oxford Diocese Benevolent Fund	1,310	1,827
Verger	920	888
Organist	960	960
Choir		
Vicars	286	326
HTC Printing		
	£ 3,476	£ 4,001

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ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, COOKHAM DEAN
 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31st December 2024
 FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH FUND

	2024	2023
Carried Forward from previous year	6,227	6,321
RECEIPTS		
Gift Aid Income	1,235	1,565
Tax Reclaimed	387	788
Donations (not gift aided)	35	35
	1,657	2,388
PAYMENTS		
Hymnal Plus		2481
	-	2,481
Balance at Bank	£ 7,884	£ 6,227

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, COOKHAM DEAN
 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31st December 2024
 STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

Monetary Assets	General Fund	Friends Fund	2024		2023
Lloyds PCC Cookham Dean Accounts	44,915		44,915		49,655
Debtors			0		0
Creditors/uncashed cheques	-2,091		-2,091		-1,494
Lloyds Treasurers Account (Friends)		7,884	7,884		6,227
CBF Church of England Deposit Account	70,000		70,000		50,000
	£ 112,824	7,884	120,708		104,388
Investment Assets			2024		2023
356 CBF Church of England Investment Shares			8,209		8,025
Representing the A A' Bear permanent endowment fund - income upkeep of Churchyard					
Liabilities			0		0

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council (PCC)
of St John the Baptist Church, Cookham Dean
on the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2024**

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner

As members of the PCC, you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. You consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of the Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

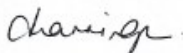
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

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 Charities Act;
- to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities 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.

Signed:



Date: 23.3.2025

Amanda Hannington
87, Kiln Road, Emmer Green, RG4 9PE

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 21 April 2024 at 10.35 in the church

Present: Fr Stephen Mills, in the chair, and 30 other members.

Annual Vestry Meeting

- Election of Churchwardens – David Hazeldine and Lorna Sykes have both been proposed and seconded. David & Lorna were unanimously re-elected unopposed as Churchwardens.
The meeting thanked David and Lorna for their work over the last year.
- The Vestry meeting closed at 10.40am.

Annual Parochial Meeting

- **Apologies for absence**
Received from Elizabeth Runnacles, Richards Simmonds, Richard Poad, David Colthup and Diane Bush.
- **Minutes of the meeting held on 30th April 2023**
These were circulated in the Annual Report and Accounts booklet.
These were agreed by those who had been present as a correct record, and signed by the chairman.
- **Changes to the Electoral Roll**
The update of the Electoral Roll took place between 10th and 24th March 2024. There are now 101 people on the Electoral Roll, 7 more than last year, with 9 additions and 2 deletions due to deaths. 57 are resident in the Parish and a further 17 resident in the Benefice. Fr Stephen emphasised how much this should be taken as encouragement and offered thanks to God for adding to our numbers. This has a knock-on effect on the size of our PCC – see minute below.
- **The Annual Reports on the proceedings of the PCC and the activities of the parish generally for the year ended 31st December 2023**
The annual reports were published beforehand and taken as read. The PCC report, Ministry Team Report, Fabric and Churchyard Report, Safeguarding Report, Fund Raising Report, Darby Pension Report and the report from Cookham Dean School were officially received. It was noted that despite the fact that most of the year had been spent in interregnum and the departure of Rev Helen in November, the worship and activities of the Parish had been maintained with particular thanks to David Joynes and Richard Simmonds, and the churchwardens.
- **Report of the Deanery Synod**
The meeting formally received the Deanery Report, which is provided by the Deanery

and outlines the activities over the year.

- **Presentation of the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2023**

Ros Hazeldine presented highlights of the 2023 accounts:

- I should like to say a few words about the accounts and my report, which start on page 14 of the Annual Report and Accounts booklet.
- It is important to understand that the accounts show a snapshot of the position as it was at 31st December 2023 and that last year was a challenging time for the church
- I was very pleased that Amanda Hannington kindly took on the role of Independent Examiner for our accounts and equally glad she found everything in order. I would like to publicly thank Arthur Giorgi, our previous examiner for the many years he checked our accounts.
- Our income for 2023 (page 16) shows an increase of some £15,000, an excellent result. We were able to resume all our usual fundraising and I think you will agree that £7,588 is a very good sum to have raised. The magazine income we received from advertisers was considerably down – this being attributed to some of the small advertisers having a hard time after Covid, although we have a few new ones this year. It is pleasing to see interest payments were increased and we were able to hold activities which enabled us to raise over £3,000 towards the money we sent to Missions and Charities.
- While the QR code has not been used this year the card reader continues to be activated at the end of our services, after weddings, funerals, baptisms and fund-raising activities and has generated just over £2,500.
- We received a legacy of £9,121 during the year 2023.
- Money received via planned giving PGS (The Parish Giving Scheme) has increased only marginally as a few givers have their accounts linked to increase annually by inflation. There have been no new congregation members joining. If anyone not using this method of planned giving feels they could move to PGS I would be very willing to talk to you about the scheme and its benefits. Of course, if anyone would like to increase their monthly contributions we would also be delighted, and I can help you to achieve this.
- Before I leave income, I feel I must thank everyone who has supported our initiatives by buying cakes, going to the Autumn Fayre, making a payment to the Friends account or just coming to church each week and putting money in the collection, every little has helped.
- I have again included pie charts this year showing both income and expenditure. These show graphically just how we receive and spend our money. Pages 15 & 17.
- Our overall payments in 2023 (page 17) were similar to those in 2022. However, while many of the expenditure headings are higher the reduction in parish share because of the interregnum has significantly helped to even expenditure out. Here again the pie chart shows our proportion of expenditure, and you will notice that I have split diocesan share to show central costs and those associated with our own parish ministry.

- We were delighted that once again we did not end the year with a deficit but had a significant excess of some £20,000. Thanks again to you all for your continued support.
- Monetary assets of £104,389 (page 21) was an excellent position to start this year and it has enabled us to set an almost break-even budget. A large amount of this is held in a CCLA bank account which is currently paying 5.3% interest.
- I should like to finish by reiterating my thanks to all the people I have listed on page 15, they have all helped to make this job much easier and with special thanks to Angela who has shown me how to do the Gift Aid return and Amanda for certifying the accounts and agreeing to do them again next year.
- Ray Reed commented that it was an excellent financial result especially so given the circumstances. Fr Stephen commented that such a result comes from faithful and diligent pursuit of the Kingdom and is God's gift to us.
- Vyv Rees asked whether our share would be increased because of the increase in income. Ros replied that it is not based on income but is based on the resources we use, essentially our clergy and their housing. We have had some relief through the year due to the clergy vacancies which, whilst modest, has contributed to the surplus.
- John Sykes emphasised the point made by Ros about the Parish Giving Scheme and encouraged people to switch to it from Gift Aid envelopes. It saves a great deal of administration and helps cash flow considerably in respect of the receipt of the Gift Aid tax rebate.
- Ray Reed proposed adoption of the accounts, seconded by Mathew Billingham, which was unanimously agreed.
- Lorna Sykes thanked Ros for all her hard work as Treasurer.

• **Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Amanda Hannington has offered to continue as examiner. Her re-appointment was proposed by John Sykes and seconded by Ray Reed, and carried unanimously.

• **Election of PCC members**

Due to the Electoral Roll number going over 100, we are entitled to appoint an additional 3 members to the PCC, making 12. This was a great opportunity for the existing experienced PCC members to be joined by some new members.

Nine nominations had been received as follows:-

Nominee	Proposer	Second
Katherine Billingham	John Sykes	Ros Hazeldine
Greta Dixon	John Sykes	Richard Simmonds
Marion Elly	Elizabeth Runnacles	Ros Hazeldine
John Fairlie	Stella Fairlie	Lorna Sykes
Stella Fairlie	John Fairlie	Lorna Sykes
Rosalind Hazeldine	Marion Elly	Lorna Sykes
Laura Satterley	Jeremy Webb	John Sykes
Richard Simmonds	John Sykes	David Hazeldine
Jeremy Webb	Ros Hazeldine	Greta Dixon

These 9 were elected unopposed to the PCC. It was noted that the PCC can co-opt members and would seek to do over the coming year.

Also members of PCC are Fr Stephen as Vicar and Chair, the Associate Priest (once appointed), the Churchwardens (David Hazeldine & Lorna Sykes), John Sykes by virtue of being a member of Diocesan Synod, and the Deanery Synod representatives Lorna Sykes, Mathew Billinghamurst and Ray Reed.

- **Any Other Business**

Mathew Billinghamurst commented how great it was to have Fr Stephen join us as our vicar, and this sentiment was universally supported.

- **Fr Stephen addressed the meeting**

He thanked Mathew for his comments and thanked everyone for the welcome that he and David had received since arriving. It had been hugely comforting and encouraging that they had been accepted openly as the partners that they are.

He congratulated the St John's congregation on the quality and enthusiasm of its eucharistic worship, its music and choir, organisation and administration and its generosity.

Looking to the future, he made reference to the diocesan initiative for every parish to concentrate on its mission to children and young people. He wants to re-establish Kids club in 2025, will be working closely with the schools, and increasing the number of Families@4 services.

As far as appointing a replacement for Rev Helen is concerned, discussions are in progress to deliberately make the post more missional in relation to children and young people.

He is also planning to run some discipleship courses and confirmation classes.

In all that we will be doing he was looking forward to an open, inclusive and collaborative approach.

He then closed with a prayer with thanks for what we have and for God's blessing for the future.

- The meeting closed at 11.14am.

Signed.....

Date

Accounts



St John the Baptist
COOKHAM DEAN

**Annual Report
and Accounts
for the year ending
31 December 2023**

This Annual Report is published by the Parochial Church Council
of St John the Baptist, Cookham Dean.

AGENDAS

Agenda for the Annual Meeting of Parishioners 10.30 Sunday 21 April 2024

1. The election of two churchwardens to serve for the forthcoming year.

Agenda for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 21 April 2024

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 30 April 2023 - see page 23
3. Presentation of changes to the Electoral Roll
4. The annual reports on the proceedings of the PCC and the activities of the parish generally for the year ended 31 December 2023
5. Presentation of the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023
6. Appointment of Independent Examiner
7. Election of PCC members
8. Any other business – by leave of the Chairman

Closing prayers

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Annual PCC Report for the year ending 31st December 2023

Background

The parish of St. John the Baptist Cookham Dean together with Holy Trinity Cookham forms The Benefice of The Cookhams. The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting within the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church – pastoral, evangelistic, ecumenical, and social. It also has responsibilities for the maintenance of the church and churchyard of St. John the Baptist, Church Road, Cookham Dean.

Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following persons served as members of the PCC:

<i>Incumbent</i>	Revd Nick Plant	Chair	to 29 January 2023
<i>Associate Priest</i>	Revd Helen Chamberlain		to 5 November 2023
<i>Licensed Lay Minister</i>	Richard Simmonds	Vice Chair	
<i>Church Wardens</i>	David Hazeldine		
	Lorna Sykes		
<i>Deanery Synod Reps</i>	Mathew Billinghamurst		Re-elected 2023 for 3yrs
	Ray Reed		Re-elected 2023 for 3 yrs
	Lorna Sykes		Re-elected 2023 for 3 yrs
<i>Diocesan Synod Member</i>	John Sykes	Secretary	
<i>Elected Members</i>	Katherine Billinghamurst		
	Greta Dixon		
	Marion Elly		
	John Fairlie		
	Stella Fairlie		
	Ros Hazeldine	Treasurer	
	Laura Satterley		
	Jeremy Webb		

Overview

- The year was characterised by the retirement of the Incumbent, Rev'd Nick Plant, in January and movement in November of the stipendiary Associate Priest, Rev'd Helen Chamberlain, to be Incumbent of a parish in Yorkshire. In addition, self-supporting Associate Priest, Rev'd David Joynes, had retired at the end of December 2022, but retained permission to officiate and continued to serve in the benefice in a more limited capacity. Therefore, for most of the year the benefice was in interregnum. Although an appointment of Incumbent was made in late October, the Induction did not take place until January 2024.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- The APCM took place on 30 April 2023 and in the absence of a vicar was chaired by Lorna Sykes, churchwarden. The whole PCC was re-elected and the Secretary and

Treasurer were elected at a special meeting of the PCC immediately after the APCM to maintain continuity before the next regular PCC and through the interregnum process. The following committees were elected at the first regular meeting of the PCC after the APCM: Standing & Finance Committee, Fund Raising, Fabric & Churchyard.

There were 94 names (2022:94; 2021:101; 2020:100) on the Church Electoral Roll as presented at the 2023 APCM, 54 (2022:54; 2021:56; 2020:58) of whom were resident in the parish with a further 17 (2022:17; 2021:21; 2020:22) resident in the Benefice. These totals are unchanged from the previous year, although there was movement within those resident in the parish.

Church Attendance

- Although the steady recovery of attendance following the COVID-19 pandemic continued, attendance was affected by some reduction in the number of services as a result of the interregnum. Mid-week services alternated between the two churches week by week, and the Christmas and Easter Vigil services were held in just one of the churches rather than in both. Christmas Eve fell on a Sunday, and with the Vigil being held at Holy Trinity, there was just one Christmas communion service at Cookham Dean.
- There were 85 communion services during the year (2022:105; 2021:89; 2020:67; 2019:130).
- Easter communicants were 66 (2022:70; 2021:49; 2020:0; 2019:110),
- The number of Christmas communicants was 78 (2022:119; 2021:59; 2020:62; 2019:123).
- The average weekly attendance was 60 adults (2022:61; 2021:48; 2020:44; 2019:91) and 8 under 16s (2022:7; 2021:5; 2020:4; 2019:21).
- There were 7 baptisms during the year (2022:7; 2021:10; 2020:1; 2019:14), 3 weddings (2022:4; 2021:2; 2020:1; 2019:4), and 11 burials, memorials and interment of ashes (2022:18; 2021:14; 2020:24; 2019:18).

Review of the year's activities

- The year was dominated by changes to the clergy team, and the benefice was in interregnum from the end of January to the end of the year.
- It is the churchwardens that are responsible for running the benefice during an interregnum rather than any other clergy.
- The appointment of a Vicar is a process laid down by the diocese and involves a period of discernment and the writing of a Benefice "Profile" which describes our current mission and hopes for the future.
- There were three joint meetings of the PCC with the PCC of Holy Trinity, all held in the Jubilee Vestry as part of this process of the appointment of a new Vicar. These meetings were attended by the Archdeacon of Berkshire, Ven. Stephen Pullin and the Benefice Patron, Charles Rogers.
- Disappointingly, the first round of advertising for the post did not result in any applications.
- The post was readvertised once the summer holiday months had passed, and a number of applications received. Interviews were held and Rev'd Stephen Mills

was appointed. It was not possible or practical to induct him before January 2024.

- It is hoped to start recruitment of a replacement for Rev'd Helen as soon as possible.
- The churchwardens and the PCC are grateful to Rev'd Helen, Fr David and Richard Simmonds, Lay Minister, for keeping the services going across both churches with the minimum requirement to bring in clergy from other parishes.
- Online prayers and reflections continued to be provided on Mondays and Fridays. The main Sunday service continued to be livestreamed once a month on the 4th Sunday and on special occasions.
- The all-age family services previously known as 4th@4 were rebranded Families@4 and held on selected occasions, rather than every month. The services held on Mothering Sunday, St John the Baptist, Harvest and Christingle, attracted congregations of 103, 61, 57 and 162 respectively. Rev'd Helen's contribution and energy in the success of these services over the years has been considerable, but there is a determination to continue and develop them further.
- Our Children's Church "Sunbeams" group is now disbanded as our mission to children is now concentrated on our contact with the schools and our Families@4 services.
- Easter Services included the now traditional Walk of Witness between the two churches via the Stations of the Cross depicted by local artists. This was Michael Johnson's last year of organizing the artwork since the event was inaugurated in 2005.
- The Remembrance Sunday service at the War Memorial and then in church was attended by 130 people including a good representation from the Scouts. The annual service of Remembrance of Loved Ones who have Died was held in November and was very much appreciated by all those who attended.
- The traditional Nine Lessons and Carols service was held on 17 December with an attendance of 109. This service was also recorded and had over 100 views.
- The Christmas Eve Crib Service returned in its traditional form for the first time since 2019 with an attendance of 82 adults and 70 children. Due to the interregnum, the Vigil service was held at Holy Trinity and there was just one Christmas communion service at Cookham Dean on Christmas morning with an attendance of 125. This was undoubtedly affected by the fact that Christmas Eve fell on a Sunday when the usual Sunday services were held.
- The PCC met on 7 occasions in 2023 in its own right, all in person. Throughout the year each sub-committee, Treasurer and Ministry Team have reported to the PCC by means of written reports circulated prior to each PCC meeting.
- Income in 2023 was c. £15,000 higher than was anticipated. This was mainly due to planned and other giving being higher than budgeted. Both the Parish Giving Scheme and the weekly giving in the plate were higher than budgeted, and donations and the card reader both brought in more than budgeted. We also received a legacy which was not expected, and interest payments were greatly improved. We also had a very good year for fund raising throughout the year. With expenditure running just below budget, the result was a surplus of c. £20,000, leaving a Cash Balance at the end of the year of c. £106,000. Our thanks go to Ros Hazeldine for the administration and stewardship of our funds.
- Fenella Reekie, Headteacher at Cookham Dean School, attended the January and

July PCC meetings to give an update of progress and activities at the school. Both Cookham Dean and Herries resumed their regular visits to the church for services throughout the year, following their suspension during COVID-19.

- The Parish Magazine continued to be produced throughout 2023, edited by John Sykes. The magazine continues to be available online as well as being distributed to each house in the parish. Thanks go to Stella and John Fairlie for the co-ordination of the distribution of the magazine in Cookham Dean. Thanks also to John Sykes for managing the magazine advertising, which had declined as a result of the pandemic, and which fell further during the economic crisis. It is, though now starting to show signs of a recovery.
- Although the number of members in the church choir has fallen, we have still managed to provide musical support of a high standard to our worship. The PCC is grateful to David Colthup, our choirmaster and organist for his continued service and for nurturing our small but able Junior Choir. St. John's "Orchestra" continues to support the Families@4 with augmentation of children from Cookham Dean School.
- Working parties in the churchyard took place throughout the year, which, together with the volunteer grass cutting, has seen the churchyard maintained in good condition. However, the number of volunteers has fallen, and an increasing amount of grass cutting is done by contractors, which has of course, to be paid for.
- Flowers are provided in the church throughout the year by a band of volunteers, coordinated by Marion Elly and Doreen Reed. The PCC is grateful to all flower arrangers, especially those who decorated the church for major occasions.
- The activities of the fund-raising committee under the leadership of Marion Elly had a very good year raising over £7000. Several social/fund-raising events were organised including the traditional Autumn Fayre, this year held in WI Hall, which raised £2750.
- As well as raising funds for our own purposes, events were also held to support other charities, including Water Aid and The Children's Society.
- The new pattern of Fellowship Lunches introduced at the restart after the pandemic has continued, with the Methodists, Holy Trinity and ourselves taking it in turn to host the monthly event. Numbers have steadily increased, and a splendid Christmas lunch was held in the Jubilee Vestry in December.
- During the year we re-established our pastoral care in the parish to Harwood House, Elizabeth House and other housebound people.
- The fabric of the church remains in good condition. There were no repairs undertaken other than routine maintenance.

PCC report for year ending December 2023 approved at the PCC meeting on 12th March 2024

Signed

(Chair of the meeting)

Ministry Team report for APCM 2023

- The Ministry Team continued to meet regularly, approximately monthly, in 2023, all in person meetings. Fr Nick chaired the January meeting, then Revd Helen took over the chair until the November meeting, then the chair passed between the church wardens. The chair will be Fr Stephen for future meetings.
- 4th@4 All Age Service continued to be popular, with the best attendance being on Mothering Sunday, St John the Baptist Patronal, Harvest & Christingle. Due to lower attendance when the 4th Sunday coincides, e.g. with half term, it was decided to rebrand the service "Families@4" so that we can choose on which Sunday to hold the service.
- Fr Nick's leaving service was held on 29th January at HTC. It was a very moving service and there was a splendid Cheese & Wine party afterwards.
- Holy Week and Easter services:
 - Wednesday of Holy Week we held the Seder meal in the Jubilee Vestry.
 - Maundy Thursday with foot washing was at SJB. There was a watch of prayer at SJB only.
 - Good Friday – children's service at SJB was poorly attended. The Walk of Witness went well and the Liturgy was moving, as ever.
 - Easter Sunday - the 8am was poorly attended. The dawn service was at HTC, but only attended by about 20 people. 9.15 SJB went very well, with about 120 attending.
- There has been a short service each Monday to pray for the Ukraine, alternating between the two churches. Attendance has been about 10-12 each time. These services were all run by a churchwarden.
- We organised specially themed services for the coronation weekend, but attendance was not great.
- Due to the Interregnum our weekday services have alternated between Weds 10am at SJB and Thurs 7.30am at HTC.
- The Ministry Team had a social evening at St John's House, hosted by Revd Helen, in August.
- Helen's last service in the Cookhams was on 5th Nov at HTC and was very well attended. This was followed by coffee and cake in the Parish Centre. It was a lovely send off for Helen & Daven. Most of the Ministry Team attended Helen's Induction in Cleckheaton on 27th Nov.
- Clergy have hosted Harvest Festivals in church for both our church schools. Clergy have taken regular assemblies when possible. We were pleased to welcome Herries, Cookham Dean and Holy Trinity schools into church for their end of term and Christmas services.
- Harvest Festivals at SJB and HTC were well attended, providing good collections for Food Share. The 4th@4 All Age Benefice Harvest service was attended by 60 people.
- On 10th Sept we were very pleased to take 7 candidates from The Cookhams for

Confirmation at St Michael's Bray. A further 2 candidates were confirmed in Reading Minster on 10th December.

- Despite the reduced capacity on the Ministry Team, we were still able to offer services of Remembrance for Loved Ones on both churches, a service on Remembrance Sunday at both churches and Christingle services in both churches. We have also been able to take home communion to several housebound parishioners and to Harwood House on a regular basis. Some members of the team also visit Harwood House monthly for a hymn singing hour.
- Christingles at both churches were very good and well attended (162 for the SJB Families@4), and the 'make your own' kits worked very well.
- Christmas services were quite a challenge, with Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday and the reduced number of clergy available! In person Crib services were much appreciated and very well attended, HTC 300, SJB 170. We could only hold 1 "Midnight" service, which was at HTC, and attendance not great. 9.15 SJB Christmas morning very well attended (125), lower numbers at HTC 11am but 6.30pm carols was well attended. Overall, the Christmas season went very well, with grateful thanks for all the hard work on the trees, cribs, flowers, music etc.
- Overall, 2023 was a challenging year for the Ministry Team, with all the team having to undertake extra duties to enable the Benefice to continue to operate as "near normal" as possible.
The 4 churchwardens got to grips with the process for appointing a new vicar, which was a steep learning curve for them all. The whole team were involved in "interview day", which, we're pleased to say, resulted in the appointment of Stephen Mills as the next vicar of The Benefice of the Cookhams. Grateful thanks to everyone involved in the appointment process. On, in 2024, to the appointment of a new Associate Priest!

Lorna Sykes, on behalf of the Ministry Team

Changes to the Electoral Roll since the last APCM

The update of the Electoral Roll took place between the 10th and 24th March 2024.

There are 101 people on the Electoral Roll, as opposed to 94 in 2023, there being 2 deletions and 9 additions.

Of the 101, there are 57 Resident in the Parish and a further 17 Resident in the Benefice.

Lorna Sykes
Electoral Roll Officer

Fabric and Churchyard Report 2023

As reported in previous years, our Church's buildings, and the Churchyard, continue to be very well looked after and the Churchwardens continue to be very grateful to all the people who voluntarily look after the fabric and the grounds every week and all those who lock and unlock the building each day thus creating the opportunity for the many visits some of which result in interesting entries in our Visitors' Book. We are also very fortunate to have so many truly delightful flower arrangements in church throughout the year and we are very much in debt to the team who provide them as we also are to those who make sure that the Church's interior is always clean and well looked after.

The following is a summary of the non-routine work, in addition to the above, carried out during 2023:

- January – Repairs to the south side roof were carried out and an occasional, but significant, leak was cured as a result - £462.00 inc. V.A.T.
- March – The central heating boilers, in both the vestry and the church, were serviced and safety-checked and Carbon Monoxide alarms were installed - £506.40 inc. V.A.T.
- March – New Altar Vestments were received. These were given to the Church by Fr. Nick Plant who wanted his retirement collection to be used to purchase something for SJB's long-term benefit.
- June – Voluntary Labour inspected the Vestry roof and cleared it of dead leaves etc. The roof and surrounding masonry were found to be in good order.
- July – The very long hedge that marks the eastern boundary of the Churchyard was trimmed by Voluntary Labour.
- July – The annual lightning conductor inspection was carried out – £142.80 inc. V.A.T.
- August – The annual fire extinguisher maintenance check and service were carried out – £145.20 inc. V.A.T.
- August – The "Friends" purchased "Hymnal Plus". This is a piece of computer software that can be used, via SJB's existing sound-system, to provide a substitute musical accompaniment for SJB's services should the organ be unavailable. It is important to note that this move was made with the full knowledge and agreement of David Colthup.
- October – A new front roller and frame for one of the lawn mowers was purchased and fitted by Voluntary Labour – £44.75 inc. V.A.T.

David Hazeldine
Lorna Sykes
Churchwardens

Annual Safeguarding Report 2023

We follow the Church of England's Safer Recruitment and People Management guidance 2021. The care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of the whole Church. Everyone who participates in the life of the Church has a role to play in promoting a Safer Church for all.

The PCC operates a Safe Recruiting process, which aims to keep a balance between safe recruitment and not creating an onerous bureaucratic system. The recruitment of new volunteers involves informing the recruiter so that the necessary details and references can be obtained. Procedures are always monitored to ensure that checks and training for volunteers are delivered in a timely manner and the cooperation of volunteers in this is much appreciated.

Debbie Burroughs is responsible at St John the Baptist for checks with the Disclosure and Barring Services for new and established volunteers with children and vulnerable adults. We continue to use the Access Personal Checking Services Ltd (APCS), which is the recommended DBS Umbrella Body for the Diocese of Oxford.

The Church of England's Practice Guidance: Safeguarding Training and Development (2021) provides a clear framework for safeguarding training across all Church of England communities. There have been some significant changes in regard to training and expectations, to further improve the safeguarding of all. We follow the Church of England's Safer Recruitment and People Management guidance 2021, meaning a range of safeguarding training modules are a mandatory requirement for particular Church Officer roles. Safeguarding training should be renewed every three years and people are asked to forward their training records once completed. All safeguarding training records are kept securely. The resources and training equip our community to engage positively with the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults in both a practical and theologically informed way.

The PCC has complied with the duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.

Katherine Billingham

Darby Pension Report 2023/24

The Fund exists to provide payments each quarter to people in Cookham who are on low incomes and who meet the requirements set out in the will of the Darby brothers. Trustees, drawn from Holy Trinity Church, Cookham, and St John the Baptist Church, Cookham Dean, have the responsibility of administering the Fund.

The investments remain under the management of CCLA, a professional company which specializes in charities and church investments. Fund finances continue to remain healthy with investment income matching that of previous years.

This income has exceeded expenditure in recent years due to the falling number of pensioners supported, as such the Fund currently holds an excess in its bank account and continues to have capacity to support additional pensioners.

There were 19 pensioners supported by the Fund at the end of the year.

Kate Dilley
March 2024

Fundraising Report 2023

During 2023 we continued our Fund Raising events for the Church as follows: -

26th January – A splendid illustrated talk by wildlife photographer Tom Way raised £680

22nd April – Bangers and Bingo was moved to the WI Hall as ticket sales were slow but raised £684

12th June – Paul Leddington-Wright gave an excellent organ recital for us and, as he most generously refused to take a fee, we raised £1,300 and attracted 100 people to the Church.

16th July – We held a Strawberry Tea in the Jubilee Vestry and Churchyard which produced £584.

16th September – We had a splendid concert by a Brass Quintet which was excellent and raised £700.

18th November – The Autumn Fayre was moved to the WI Hall this year as the number of Stalls had reduced but it still raised £2750

Easter Baking raised £150 not a great amount but worth doing.

These events raised a total of £6,848

Marion Elly

Cookham Dean CE VA Primary School Report - January 2024

Report by Mrs Fen Reekie, Headteacher

Context

Number of pupils on roll – 191

Full capacity – 196.

6 spaces in year 4

1 space in year 1

1 over PAN in year 3 (from an appeal) and 1 in reception (LAC)



...where we all flourish

Staffing

Fully staffed with experienced staff. 2 ECT – 1 in their first year and 1 in their second year. Deputy Head working 3 days a week (1 teaching day/1.5 days SENCO/0.5 days leadership)

Priority Areas for 2022-2023

- Improve whole school reading for pleasure in line with Reading Framework 2023 – book worms, new curriculum books funded by PTA, birthday books
- Ensure that the implementation of all foundation subjects is as impactful as the intent – new curriculum
- Ensure that all adults in the class have an impact on learning outcomes – suite of training for teachers and teaching assistants
- Ensure opportunities are provided for children to move from short term to long term memory

- Ensuring that all TAs are trained in SEND strategies -
- To promote positive mental health for staff and pupils – SLT very conscious of reducing workload – helped my new curriculum
- To enhance outdoor provision in curriculum time and play time – introduction of OPAL
- Improve school attendance with a focus on disadvantaged in line with DfE attendance review – supporting families where attendance is an issue (Early Help support/EWO)
- Encourage all children to be courageous advocates (Rotakids, School Council, Eco Warriors,
- Develop a suite of whole school professional development based on research by Tom Sherrington
- To monitor the wellbeing of staff – all staff given birthday off, cake, supportive for personal reasons,
- Develop stakeholder understanding of our school's culture and vision (“where everyone flourishes”), -
- Further strengthen partnership working within and beyond the local authority to improve outcomes for all children and young people across the borough. – CYP strategic board, EH board, School Sports Partnership

Curriculum Development

Ofsted focus – foundation subjects (history, geography, art, D&T, music) new scheme of work implemented.

Health and Wellbeing

Currently working with staff and parents on healthy eating when it is packed lunches.

Emotional Wellbeing Ambassadors have been trained to support mental wellbeing in the children.

ELSA and nurture groups continue to run for focus children and groups of children.

Finance

Budgets continue to be tight for the next coming years. Lack of full classes at census day will have an impact on the budget going forward.

Stakeholders

Parent questionnaire – 87.5% would recommend CDPS

Mrs Fen Reekie
Headteacher
January 2024

Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery Report for 2023

The Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery comprises 14 parishes and benefices. The Deanery Synod comprises all the clergy in the deanery and Lay Representatives elected by their respective parishes for a period of three years. July 2023 marked the start of a new triennium after Synod elections for lay representatives at parish annual meetings earlier in the year. At the end of 2023 the Synod had 68 members. Attendance varied from 31 to 38 over the year.

There were three meetings of the Synod during 2023:

Wednesday 8th February 2023 at All Saints Church, Boyne Hill, Maidenhead:

- Representatives of four Deanery churches shared experiences of studying the Bible
- All Saints Dedworth shared about their Life Groups and their use of the Bible Course by the Bible Society
- St Andrew's Clewer shared about a group which read the whole Bible together over five years, meeting up regularly to discuss what they had read.
- St Mary's Maidenhead shared a personal experience of studying Philippians, and how it had helped in spiritual growth, joy, and dependence on God.
- All Saints Boyne Hill (including an Iranian refugee) shared about their use of a book "Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes", interpreting Scripture through first-century eyes, including how Jesus offered new life and gave value to women.

Tuesday 23rd May 2023 at St Michael's Church, Bray:

- General Synod member Gracy Crane gave a detailed report on what had happened at the February 2023 General Synod sessions, in particular the motion and proposed amendments relating to Living in Love and Faith.
- Synod members discussed and gave feedback on their past and present use of online church, with a diverse discussion and many examples of blessings as well as some challenges.

Tuesday 17th October 2023 at the Soltau Centre, Stubbings:

- Bishop Olivia, Bishop of Reading, addressed the Synod under the title of "Our church: where are we and where do we go from here?", sharing her thoughts on history; post-pandemic trends and statistics; tired volunteers and clergy; a recent clergy survey; Living in Love and Faith; the challenge of making Jesus known to unchurched people; and the vision of a "simpler, bolder, humbler" church.
- Synod members shared questions and comments with Bishop Olivia.
- General Synod member Daniel Matovu reported on the range of topics discussed at the July 2023 General Synod sessions.

Thanks to parishes' hard work and generosity, the Deanery paid £ 931,978 of parish share in 2023, against an allocation of £ 1,000,714, which was 93.1% of the requested amount from the diocese. The diocesan average was 94.5%. This was a reduction from the £ 1,019,381 paid in 2022.

Rod Broad took over the position of Deanery Treasurer in October 2023 and the Deanery would like to thank Jim Tucker for managing the responsibility whilst the position was vacant.

Thomas Walton
Deanery Secretary



Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2023

2023 Treasurer's Report and Accounts

The audited accounts for 2023 have been prepared in line with Church accounting regulations (2006) and section 43 of the Charities Act 1993. The accounts have been examined, presented to, and accepted by, the PCC.

General Fund

The general fund for the year closed with a surplus of £20,329 though a deficit budget had been set. We were truly delighted with this result, and I must, therefore, thank all the congregation who have helped us to achieve this. £3,333 was received as donations and £7,588 was raised through the Autumn Fayre and various activities the Fund Raising Committee organised.

During 2023 we again increased our Missions and Charities donating over £4,000. We sent £306.25 to Christian Aid, £172 to both Combat Stress and The British Legion from Remembrance Sunday,

£504.67 to Water Aid, £440 to DEC Earthquake Appeal, £469 to both White Chapel Mission for Homeless and Bumblebee Conservation Trust, £620 to Winston's Wish from our Christmas Day service, £45 to Roald Dahl (from Copas carol singing) £48 to Alexander Devine and £780.50 to the Children's Society.

2024 Budget

The budget for 2024 has been set and agreed by the PCC and predicts a small deficit by the end of year, £800. We are mindful that, although we have had a surplus for the last three years, for the 3 years before that we have ended each year in deficit and we will need to examine carefully any expenditure that is not absolutely necessary for the upkeep of the church. Regular giving is still down on pre-Covid levels, and I would ask those members, contributing by way of standing orders and other planned giving, to consider an increase in their giving in 2024 in order to assist with the ever-increasing costs of maintaining our church. We are extremely grateful to those members of our congregation and the "Friends Scheme" who have pledged money throughout the year to assist with the upkeep of the churchyard and general maintenance, but we are a small church with many expenses to keep the church in its current good repair. The graphs opposite show only too well how our Planned Giving does not cover our Diocesan Share.

Assets and Liabilities

Monetary assets at the year-end were £ 104,389 (£84,351 in 2022 and £82,083 in 2021). The increase this year is in part due to a legacy for which we are most

grateful. Please consider making a similar provision in your own will.

Other Notes

My thanks to Amanda Hannington for examining the accounts and her advice, this is Amanda’s first year, and the PCC is very grateful to her. I must also mention Angela Plant for her assistance with HMRC in respect of the Gift Aid reclaim and all members of the PCC, for their help and guidance throughout the year.

A special thank you to Marion Elly and her fundraising team for all the work they have done to supplement the income for the church with some much-needed funds to help support Church finances. This year the Autumn Fayre was held in the WI hall and although the weather was absolutely appalling, soup and teas and coffee with delightful cakes attracted a number of supporters and we are truly grateful that the committee saw fit to donate most of the funds raised to the church. Thanks also to Robert Dent for counting the collection at the end of each service and who handles the “Friends Scheme”. The money donated has enabled us to keep the churchyard grounds looking splendid and we receive lots of encouraging comments, but it does all cost. We have also used some of this money to purchase a device called “Hymnal Plus” which can play any music needed in the church. This can be used if the organist is unavailable for any reason. We are very grateful to all contributors to the “Friends Scheme” and would be delighted if anyone else felt they were able to make a regular donation no matter how small, a pound per week is over £50 per year. Please speak to one of the Churchwardens or me.

I end with a special plea that you support fund raising activities whenever you can as every little helps. It is always great to see familiar faces and I believe you often enjoy those things you have had your arm twisted to attend! It costs over £1,000 per week to keep the church open.

Ros Hazeldine, PCC Treasurer



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, COOKHAM DEAN
 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31st December 2023
 GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS

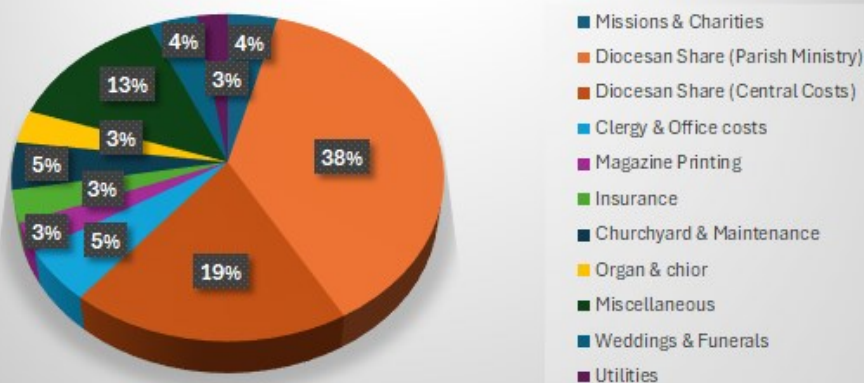
RECEIPTS	2023		2022	
Voluntary Receipts				
Gift Aid	3,664		3,917	
Standing Orders	10,585		11,445	
Donations	3,333		3,143	
Income Tax Recovered on GA, Standing Orders and Donations	5,387		5,882	
Parish Giving Scheme	28,350		27,054	
Income Tax Recovered on PGS	7,088		6,764	
Ordinary Collections	4,897		2,917	
CAF Income	6,610		5,350	
Collections for Missions and Other Charities	3,105		3,310	
QR Code and Card Reader	2,591		2,519	
	75,610		72,301	
Receipts from Church Activities				
Burials & Interments	5,564		5,332	
Weddings	3,124		4,035	
Collections from Baptisms	234		331	
	8,922		9,698	
Receipts from Activities for Generating Funds				
Magazine Advertising	12,126		15,310	
Fund Raising Events (See note 1)	7,588		5,701	
	19,714		21,011	
Other Receipts				
Other income	13,971		1,234	
	13,971		1,234	
Receipts from Investments				
Interest on Investments	1,683		351	
	1,683		351	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£ 119,900		£ 104,595	

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ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, COOKHAM DEAN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31st December 2023
GENERAL FUND PAYMENTS

PAYMENTS	2023	2022
Missions & Charitable Giving (See note 3)	4,026	3,449
Diocesan Share	56,604	63,237
Clergy Expenses of Office	5,252	3,684
Services (Heat, Light, Water & Sewage)	2,521	3,346
Insurance	3,137	2,914
Upkeep of Churchyard	3,049	2,116
Organ & Choir (See note 4)	3,228	3,264
Repairs & Maintenance (See note 2)	1,624	3,152
New Equipment & Fixtures		-
Sanctuary	187	307
Printing Postage & Stationery		-
Magazine Printing Costs	2,892	3,144
Magazine Share to HTC	6,901	9,141
Miscellaneous (See note 5)	5,760	843
Fundraising Costs (See note 1)	389	61
Weddings & Funerals (See note 6)	4,001	4,325
TOTAL PAYMENTS	99,571	102,983
EXCESS/(DEFICIT)	£ 20,329	£ 1,612

SJB Payments 2023



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, COOKHAM DEAN
 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31st December 2023
 NOTES TO THE GENERAL FUND

1 Fund Raising & Special Events	Income			Costs	2023 Net		2022 Net
Morning/Afternoon Talks							
Choir Dinner							
Letter to Parish re upkeep of churchyard							
Bangers & Mash	685			90	595		689
Sedar Meal	152				152		
Autumn Fayre	2,963			201	2,762		2,796
Hymns & Pimms							
Brass Concert	918				918		
Flower Festival							
Strawberry Tea	584				584		518
Home made cakes	150				150		217
Tom Way talk	868				868		
Scences from the Dean							1356
Easy Fund Raising scheme (buying on line)							
Organ Recital postponed until 2023	1,268				1,268		64
	£ 7,588				7,297		5,640

2 Repairs & Maintenance	2023	2022
Mowers & Strimmers	368	
Lightening Conductors & Fire Extinguishers	288	197
Boiler Maintenance	506	611
Roof & Gutters	462	
Green Bin	75	69
EICR & PAT testing		996
Removing flies from church		599
Internet Connections		680
Quinquennial		
General Repairs		
	£ 1,699	£ 3,152

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3 Missions & Charitable Giving			2023		2022	
Discretionary Fund						
Christ Church Oxford						
Church Army						
USPG						
Christian Aid			306		30	
Church Housing Trust						
Yeldall Christian Centre						
The Barnabus Fund						
Train a Priest						
Liveability						
Helen & Douglas House						
CHECT						
The Connection (St. Martins)						
Bible Society						
			£ 306		£ 30	
AUTUMN FAYRE						
St John the Baptist Church			2,762		2,796	
Cookham Dean Village Hall			50			
			£ 2,812		£ 2,796	
Collections and Other Giving						
USPG (Lent Boxes)						
Royal British Legion			172		118	
Combat Stress			172		118	
Clergy Support Trust (formerly Sons of the Clergy)						
Children's Society			781		1,487	
Water Aid			505		1,216	
Thames Hospice						
Ukraine					480	
DEC Appeal			440			
Bumblebee Conservation Trust			469			
White Chapel Mission for Homeless			469			
Winston's Wish			620			
Roald Dahl			45			
Alexander Devine			48			
* Actual figure £1,164 in 2021 and in 2022 £ because personal cheques were added			£ 3,721		£ 3,419	
TOTAL MISSIONS & CHARITABLE GIVING			£ 6,839		£ 6,245	

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, COOKHAM DEAN
 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31st December 2023
 NOTES TO THE GENERAL FUND (Continued)

	2023	2022
4 Organ & Choir		
Organists & Guest Organist Expenses	2,400	2,200
Payments to Choir	65	45
Tuning Piano & Organ	636	709
Music & New Books & RSCM	127	310
	£ 3,228	£ 3,264

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31st December 2023
 NOTES TO THE GENERAL FUND (Continued)

	2023	2022
5 Miscellaneous		
Coffee & Refreshments	272	156
Baptism Cards, Books	-	5
Website Hosting	249	258
Lottery Registration	20	40
GA Envelopes		
Collections for gifts to clergy leaving	3,175	
CCLI	403	376
Specified Gifts (JA)		
DSB checks	19	
J&M Sewing for vestments, altar frontal etc	1,422	
Sundry items (Sunbeams & Easter Eggs)	58	
Miscellaneous small items	92	8
	£ 5,710	£ 843
6 Wedding & Funeral Costs		
Oxford Diocese Benevolent Fund	1,827	2,295
Vergers	888	660
Organist	960	810
Choir		410
Vicars	326	150
HTC Printing		
	£ 4,001	£ 4,325

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ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, COOKHAM DEAN
 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31st December 2023
 FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH FUND

	2023	2022
Carried Forward from previous year	6,321	4,421
RECEIPTS		
Gift Aid Income	1,565	1,815
Tax Reclaimed	788	
Donations (not gift aided)	35	85
	2,388	1,900
PAYMENTS		
Hymnal Plus	2,481	
	2,481	-
Balance at Bank	£ 6,227	£ 6,321

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, COOKHAM DEAN
 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31st December 2023
 STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

Monetary Assets	General Fund	Friends Fund	2023		2022
Lloyds PCC Cookham Dean Accounts	49,655		49,655		58,682
Debtors	0		0		0
Creditors/uncashed cheques	-1,494		-1,494		-652
Lloyds Treasurers Account (Friends)		6,227	6,227		6,321
CBF Church of England Deposit Account	50,000		50,000		20,000
	£ 98,162	6,227	104,389		84,351
Investment Assets			2023		2022
356 CBF Church of England Investment Shares			8,025		7,335
Representing the A A'Bear permanent endowment fund - income upkeep of Churchyard					
Liabilities			0		0

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council (PCC)
of St John the Baptist Church, Cookham Dean
on the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2023**

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. You consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of the Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

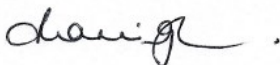
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

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 Charities Act;
- to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities 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.

Signed:



Date:

15.3.2024

Amanda Hannington
2 Lea Road, Sonning Common, RG4 9LJ

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 30 April 2023 at 10.30 in the church

Present: Lorna Sykes, Churchwarden, in the chair in the absence of the Vicar, and 22 other members.

Annual Vestry Meeting

1. Election of Churchwardens – David Hazeldine and Lorna Sykes have both been proposed and seconded. David & Lorna were unanimously elected as Churchwardens. The meeting thanked David and Lorna for their work over the last year.
2. The Vestry meeting closed at 10.35am.

Annual Parochial Meeting

• Apologies for absence

Received from Helen Chamberlain, Barbara Dent, Robert Dent, Jeremy Webb, Anthea Webb, and Laura Satterley.

• Minutes of the meeting held on 8th May 2022

These were circulated in the report's booklet.

Proposed by Greta Dixon, seconded by Richard Simmonds and agreed as a correct record, and signed by the chairman.

• Changes to the Electoral Roll

The update of the Electoral Roll took place between 2nd and 15th April 2023. There are 94 people on the Electoral Roll, the same as last year, but with 1 addition and 1 deletion. 54 are resident in the Parish and a further 17 resident in the Benefice.

• The Annual Reports on the proceedings of the PCC and the activities of the parish generally for the year ended 31st December 2022

The annual reports were published beforehand and taken as read. The PCC report, Ministry Team Report, Fabric and Churchyard Report, Safeguarding Report, Fund Raising Report, Darby Pension Report and the report from Cookham Dean School were officially received. Proposed by Richard Simmonds and seconded by Ros Hazeldine.

• Report of the Deanery Synod

The meeting formally received the Deanery Report, which is provided by the Deanery and outlines the activities over the year. Proposed by Stella Fairlie and seconded by Marion Elly.

• Presentation of the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2022

Ros Hazeldine presented highlights of the 2022 accounts:

I should like to say a few words about the accounts and my report, which start on page 14 of the booklet.

It is important to understand that the accounts show a snapshot of the position as it was at 31st December 2022 and that year continued to be a challenging time for the church.

I was very pleased that Arthur, our accounts examiner, found everything in order once again.

Our income for 2022 (page 16) was very similar to the previous year with just £300 more received. We were able to resume all our usual fundraising activities but have been rather disappointed that they have not been as well supported as we had hoped. Donations were significantly down, but we were nevertheless able to collect and hold activities which enabled us to send over £3,000 to Missions and Charities.

While the QR code has not been used this year, the card reader continues to be used at the end of services, after weddings, funerals, baptisms and fund-raising activities and has generated just over £2,500.

No legacies were received in 2022.

I have introduced the pie charts this year showing both income and expenditure. The colour version shows graphically just how we receive and spend our money.

We received more income via planned giving PGS (The Parish Giving Scheme) as one or two more of the congregation moved to this way of giving and some generously increased their monthly contributions. If anyone not using this method of planned giving feels they could move to PGS I would be very willing to talk to you about the scheme and its benefits. Of course, if anyone would like to increase their monthly contributions we would also be delighted, and I can help you to achieve this.

Before I leave income, I feel I must thank everyone who has supported our initiatives by buying cakes, going to the Autumn Fayre, making a payment to the Friends account or just coming to church each week and putting money in the collection, every little has helped.

Our payments in 2022 (page 17) were somewhat higher than in 2021. This is primarily because Parish share and utilities were higher, and we were able to send more money to our missions and charities, most other expenditure was similar to 2021. Here again the pie chart shows just how much we spend on Parish Share. Mention should also be made to the fact that we have enhanced the building by carrying out some of the overdue maintenance such as PAT testing all our electrical appliances, having the Electrical Installation Condition Report inspection and doing the updates it suggested. Most significantly we have installed Wi-Fi to the church and vestry. This was made possible by the grant from the Diocese of Oxford paying the connection and upfront costs.

We were delighted that once again we did not end the year with a deficit. Thanks again to you all for your continued support.

Monetary assets of £84,351 (page 21) was an excellent position to start this year and it has enabled us to set a break-even budget.

I should like to finish by reiterating my thanks to all the people I have listed on page 15, they have all helped to make this job much easier and with special thanks to Angela who will show me how to do the Gift Aid return and Arthur who continued to help with the auditing even after he had moved but says this is his last year.

Lorna Sykes thanked Ros for all her hard work as Treasurer.

Elizabeth Runnacles enquired about the level of Diocesan Share which represents 67% of our outgoings. It was explained that approximately 70% of this is the direct cost of our own clergy and their housing. It was felt that this would be worth showing on the pie chart next year. Members were encouraged to have a look at a document on the Diocesan website called "On the Money" which gives details in simple terms of where the diocese gets its income and what it spends it on.

Ray Reed proposed adoption of the accounts, seconded by Mathew Billinghurst, which was unanimously agreed.

- **Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Arthur Giorgi now feels that it is time for him to step down as Independent Examiner. Ros has thanked him for the many years of service to the church, and the PCC echoed those thanks.

We have been offered the services of Amanda Hannington. She has a history of working in banks and building societies Barclays and Nationwide. She has been treasurer to a local football club and is currently working as a Finance Analyst.

Her appointment was proposed by Ros Hazeldine and seconded by Mathew Billinghurst, and carried unanimously.

- **Election of 3 Deanery Synod Representatives**

There were three nominations:-

Lorna Sykes, Mathew Billinghurst and Ray Reed, who were duly elected unopposed.

John Sykes is also a member of Deanery Synod by virtue of being a member of Diocesan Synod

- **Election of 9 PCC members**

This year all nine existing members were nominated for re-election. This was welcomed in the interests of continuity through the interregnum.

The nominations for the 9 places were as follows:-

Katherine Billinghurst

Greta Dixon

Marion Elly

John Fairlie

Stella Fairlie

Rosalind Hazeldine

Laura Satterley
Richard Simmonds
Jeremy Webb

These 9 were elected unopposed to the PCC.

Also on PCC are the Rev'd Helen as a member of clergy, the Churchwardens (David Hazeldine & Lorna Sykes), John Sykes by virtue of being a member of Diocesan Synod, and the Deanery Synod representatives Lorna Sykes, Mathew Billinghamurst and Ray Reed.

- **The Appointment of a new Vicar**

David Hazeldine gave an update on the progress in appointing a new vicar.

- It is a long process and we are as far through it as we could have expected to be at this stage.
- The joint PCCs held what is known as a Section 11 meeting on 15th February, which appointed the four parish representatives for the interview and selection process to be the 4 churchwardens from the 2 parishes. They also appointed John Sykes from SJB and Tim Sharples from HTC to assist with the drafting of the Profile - the prospectus that we have to prepare as part of the process.
- The Profile is nearing completion and will be formally ratified by what is known as a Section 12 meeting which is the joint PCCs plus the Archdeacon and Patron, and is scheduled for 24 May.
- The survey /questionnaire seeking view on the choice of vicar attracted 80 responses and these have been incorporated into the Profile.
- The advert for the job should be out in June and 12 July has been fixed as the interview date.
- Bearing in mind that the successful candidate is likely to be on 3 months' notice, their arrival is going to be October at the very soonest.

- **Thanks**

In the absence of a Vicar, Richard Simmonds gave a vote of thanks to the churchwardens and to all who keep our church in clean and good working order. He also thanked everyone involved in the welcome we give to our congregations and to all involved in the organisation of social events.

He then closed with a prayer and supplication for God's blessing.

- **AOB**

None

The meeting closed at 11.13am.

Signed.....

Date

Accounts

St. John the Baptist, Cookham Dean

Annual PCC Report year ending 31st Dec 2022



Background

The parish of St. John the Baptist Cookham Dean together with Holy Trinity Cookham forms The Benefice of The Cookhams. The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting within the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church – pastoral, evangelistic, ecumenical, and social. It also has responsibilities for the maintenance of the church and churchyard of St. John the Baptist, Church Road, Cookham Dean.

Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following persons served as members of the PCC:

Incumbent	The Revd Nick Plant	Chairman	
Associate Priest	The Revd Helen Chamberlain		
Associate Priest	The Revd David Joynes		
Licensed Lay Minister	Richard Simmonds	Vice Chairman	
Church Wardens	David Hazeldine		
	Lorna Sykes		
Deanery Synod Reps	Mathew Billinghamurst		Elected APCM 2020 for 3 years
	Ray Reed		Elected APCM 2020 for 3 years
	Lorna Sykes		Elected APCM 2020 for 3 years
Diocesan Synod Member	John Sykes	PCC Secretary	
Elected Members	Katherine Billinghamurst		
	Greta Dixon		
	Marion Elly		from APCM May 2022
	John Fairlie		
	Stella Fairlie		
	Ros Hazeldine	PCC Treasurer	
	Laura Satterley		
	Chiu Sung		to APCM May 2022
	Jeremy Webb		

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- The APCM took place on 8 May 2022. The following committees were elected at the first meeting of the PCC after the APCM: Standing & Finance Committee, Fund Raising, Fabric & Churchyard.

There were 94 names (2021:101; 2020:100; 2019:104) on the Church Electoral Roll as presented at the 2022 APCM, 54 (2021:56; 2020:58; 2019:59) of whom were resident in the parish with a further 17 (2021:21; 2020:22; 2019:21) resident in the Benefice.

Church attendance

- At the start of the year church attendance was still affected by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. There were 105 communion services during the year (2021:89; 2020:67; 2019:130). There was the full range of services at Easter for the first time since 2019 although attendance was affected as congregations gained confidence. Easter communicants were 70 (2021:49; 2020:0; 2019:110). The steady recovery of congregations continued through the year, and the number of communicants on Christmas Eve /Christmas Day was 119 (2021:59; 2020:62; 2019:123). The average weekly attendance was 61 adults (2021:48; 2020:44; 2019:91) and 7 under 16s (2021:5; 2020:4; 2019:21). There were 7 baptisms during the year (2021:10; 2020:1; 2019:14), 4 weddings (2021:2; 2020:1; 2019:4), and 18 burials, memorials and interment of ashes (2021:14; 2020:24; 2019:18).

Review of the year

- After two years dominated by the COVID-19 Pandemic, 2022 was the year when activities and attendance began to return to normal levels. There were no closed periods as there had been in 2020 and 2021.
- A roadmap for recovery had been instigated in 2021 and re-establishment of rotas and lay participation steadily increased throughout 2022, including the daily opening of the church.
- The services and activities for Easter followed the traditional pattern for the first time since 2019 including the reinstatement of the traditional Stations of the Cross Walk of Witness between the two churches.
- Alongside a steady return of the congregation to church, online prayers and reflection continued to be provided on Mondays and Fridays. The main Sunday service continued to be livestreamed or recorded once a month on the 4th Sunday and on special occasions.

St. John the Baptist, Cookham Dean

Annual PCC Report year ending 31st Dec 2022

- The monthly 4th@4 all-age family service was held with the usual school holiday breaks. Attendance varied but on a number of occasions, such as Mothering Sunday, Harvest and Christingle, the congregations were 92, 85 and 140 respectively. Bishop Olivia visited us for the October service and gave the address.
- The Remembrance Sunday service at the War Memorial and then in church was attended by the Scouts and the annual service of Remembrance of Loved Ones who have Died was held in November.
- The main Christmas Services were held as usual, but the arrangement for a quieter Crib Service along the lines of the previous year was repeated with families visiting the church over a 2-hour period on Christmas Eve. The Vigil service was also retained at 9pm rather than the Midnight Mass timing. The main seasonal services of the Nine Lessons and Carols and Christmas Morning were livestreamed. The church was full for the Christmas morning service with an attendance of 192.
- The PCC met on 6 occasions in 2022, twice by Zoom and four times in person. Throughout the year each sub-committee, Treasurer and Ministry Team have reported to the PCC by means of written reports circulated prior to each PCC meeting.
- Fenella Reekie, Headteacher at Cookham Dean School, attended the July PCC meeting to give an update of progress at the school to maintain the link between church and school, as one direct result of the pandemic was that the school has not been able to attend their usual services at the church and ministerial visits to school were suspended. Both Cookham Dean and Herries returned to the church for their Christmas services.
- At the beginning of the year, the smaller congregations impacted income from collections, although a significant proportion of our income is planned giving by Direct Debit or through the Parish Giving Scheme. But as the year progressed this made a steady recovery, which with careful control of expenditure and the help of a number of fundraising events resulted in a surplus for the year of c. £1600, with our Parish Share being paid in full. This is an encouraging result, and a break-even budget for 2023 has been set with confidence. Thanks go to Angela Plant for undertaking the task of reclaiming our Gift Aid from money donated in envelopes.
- The Parish Magazine continued to be produced throughout 2022, edited by John Sykes. The magazine continues to be available online as well as being distributed to each house in the parish. Thanks go to Stella and John Fairlie for the co-ordination of the distribution of the magazine in Cookham Dean. Thanks also to John Sykes for managing the magazine advertising, which has shown signs of a slowdown during the pandemic, and which is now under pressure through the economic crisis.
- Our Children's Church "Sunbeams" group, under the guidance of Richard Simmonds and Laura Satterley continues, but the low number of children attending Sunday morning church has meant that it remains on an ad hoc week-by-week basis.
- Although the number of members in the church choir has fallen, we have still managed to provide musical support of a high standard to our worship. The PCC is grateful to David Colthup, our choirmaster and organist, for supporting services through these difficult times. St. John's "Orchestra" continues to support the 4th@4 with augmentation from children from Cookham Dean School.
- Working parties in the churchyard took place throughout the year, which, together with the volunteer grass cutting, has seen the churchyard maintained in good condition. However, the number of volunteers has fallen, and an increasing amount of grass cutting is done by contractors, which has of course, to be paid for.
- Flowers are provided in the church throughout the year by a band of volunteers, coordinated by Marion Elly and Doreen Reed. The PCC is grateful to all flower arrangers, especially those who decorated the church for major occasions.
- The activities of the fund-raising committee under the leadership of Marion Elly have gradually got back to a more normal level of activity. Several social/fund-raising events were organised including the traditional Autumn Fayre in the Village Hall which raised £2700.
- As well as raising funds for our own purposes, events were also held to support other charities, including Water Aid and The Children's Society.
- In June, as part of the village's celebration of the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we held a Songs of Praise service in a marquee on the Old Cricket Common which attracted around 60 people.
- In September we presented "Scenes in the Dean", an illustrated presentation for four voices depicting events in the history of Cookham Dean and its church since its foundation in 1845. Originally written by a former Vicar, the late Revd John Copping, it was originally presented in 1995 for the 150th anniversary of the church and had been updated by the late Charles Elly for the 175th anniversary in 2020. The pandemic

St. John the Baptist, Cookham Dean
Annual PCC Report year ending 31st Dec 2022

meant that this could not be performed during the anniversary year itself, but was presented in this, our 177th year.

- The new pattern of Fellowship Lunches introduced at the restart after the pandemic has continued, with the Methodists, Holy Trinity and ourselves taking it in turn to host the monthly event. Numbers have steadily increased, and a splendid Christmas lunch was held in the Jubilee Vestry in December.
- During the pandemic we were been unable to exercise our usual pastoral care in the parish to Harwood House, Elizabeth House and other housebound people, but this has now started to resume albeit with appropriate precautions as these locations remain very vulnerable.
- The fabric of the church remains in good condition. During the year the electrical installation and portable appliances were tested, an Energy Audit was carried out and a high speed internet connection and Wi-fi installed into the church, financed with assistance of a grant from the Diocese.

PCC report for year ending December 2022 approved at the meeting on 28th March 2023

Signed

(Chair of the meeting)

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, COOKHAM DEAN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31st December 2022
GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS

RECEIPTS	2022		2021	
Voluntary Receipts				
Gift Aid	3,917		4,953	
Standing Orders	11,445		11,320	
Donations	3,143		7,654	
Income Tax Recovered on GA, Standing Orders and Donations	5,882		5,988	
Parish Giving Scheme	27,054		24,795	
Income Tax Recovered on PGS	6,764		6,167	
Ordinary Collections	2,917		1,867	
CAF Income	5,350		5,540	
Collections for Missions and Other Charities	3,310		2,740	
QR Code and Card Reader	2,519		2,851	
		72,301		73,875
Receipts from Church Activities				
Burials & Interments	5,332		5,237	
Weddings	4,035		1,700	
Collections from Baptisms	331		271	
		9,698		7,208
Receipts from Activities for Generating Funds				
Magazine Advertising	15,310		15,541	
Fund Raising Events (See note 1)	5,701		6,574	
		21,011		22,115
Other Receipts				
Other income	1,234		849	
		1,234		849
Receipts from Investments				
Interest on Investments	351		231	
		351		231
TOTAL RECEIPTS		£ 104,595		£ 104,278

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, COOKHAM DEAN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31st December 2022
GENERAL FUND PAYMENTS

PAYMENTS	2022		2021
Missions & Charitable Giving (See note 3)	3,449		2,916
Diocesan Share	63,237		61,642
Clergy Expenses of Office	3,684		3,363
Services (Heat, Light, Water & Sewage)	3,346		1,248
Insurance	2,914		2,744
Upkeep of Churchyard	2,116		1,777
Organ & Choir (See note 4)	3,264		2,412
Repairs & Maintenance (See note 2)	3,152		2,309
New Equipment & Fixtures	-		-
Sanctuary	307		20
Printing Postage & Stationery	-		-
Magazine Printing Costs	3,144		2,884
Magazine Share to HTC	9,141		9,633
Miscellaneous (See note 5)	843		2,027
Fundraising Costs (See note 1)	61		170
Weddings & Funerals (See note 6)	4,325		3,383
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£ 102,983		£ 96,530
EXCESS/(DEFICIT)	£ 1,612		£ 7,748

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, COOKHAM DEAN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31st December 2022
NOTES TO THE GENERAL FUND

1 Fund Raising & Special Events	Income			Costs	2022 Net		2021 Net
Morning/Afternoon Talks					0		299
Choir Dinner					0		0
Letter to Parish re upkeep of churchyard					0		1,980
Bangers & Mash	689				689	*	-90
Harvest					0		0
Autumn Fayre	2,857			61	2,796		3,140
Hymns & Pimms					0		0
Christingle					0		0
Flower Festival					0		0
Strawberry Tea	518				518		581
Home made cakes	217				217		468
Tom Way talk postponed until 2021/2					0		0
Scences from the Dean	1,356				1,356		0
Easy Fund Raising scheme (buying on line)					0		26
Organ Recital postponed until 2023	64				64		0
	£ 5,701			61	5,640		£ 6,404

* paid in advantage in2021 for 2022

2 Repairs & Maintenance

Mowers & Strimmers			319
Lightening Conductors & Fire Extinguishers	197		191
Boiler Maintenance	611		
Roof & Gutters			
Green Bin	69		
EICR & PAT testing	996		
Removing flies from church	599		
Internet Connections	680		
Quinquennial			1310
General Repairs			490
	£ 3,152		£ 2,310

3 Missions & Charitable Giving					2002		2021
Discretionary Fund							
Christ Church Oxford							
Church Army							
USPG							
Christian Aid					30		170
Church Housing Trust							
Yeldall Christian Centre							
The Barnabus Fund							
Train a Priest							
Liveability							
Helen & Douglas House							
CHECT							
The Connection (St. Martins)							
Bible Society							
					£	30	£ 170
AUTUMN FAYRE							
St John the Baptist Church					2796		3208
					£	2796	£ 3,208
Collections and Other Giving							
USPG (Lent Boxes)							
Royal British Legion					118		115
Combat Stress					118		100
Clergy Support Trust (formerly Sons of the Clergy)							
Children's Society					1,487	*	1,144
Water Aid					1,216		611
Thames Hospice							388
Ukraine					480		
DEC Appeal							
RABI							388
* Actual figure £1,164 in 2021 and in 2022 £ because personal cheques were added					£	3,419	£ 2,746
TOTAL MISSIONS & CHARITABLE GIVING					£	6,245	£ 6,124

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, COOKHAM DEAN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31st December 2022
NOTES TO THE GENERAL FUND (Continued)

	2022	2021
4 Organ & Choir		
Organists & Guest Organist Expenses	2,200	2,000
Payments to Choir	45	20
Tuning Piano & Organ	709	282
Music & New Books & RSCM	310	110
	£ 3,264	£ 2,412

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31st December 2022
NOTES TO THE GENERAL FUND (Continued)

	2022	2021
5 Miscellaneous		
Coffee & Refreshments	156	161
Baptism Cards, Books	5	100
Website Hosting	258	258
Lottery Registration	40	
GA Envelopes		284
COVID-19 cleaning etc.		280
CCLI	376	655
Specified Gifts (JA)		100
DSB checks		55
Sundry items (Sunbeams & Easter Eggs)		
Miscellaneous small items	8	134
	£ 843	£ 2,027

6 Wedding & Funeral Costs

Oxford Diocese Benevolent Fund	2,295	1,873
Verger	660	700
Organist	810	445
Choir	410	240
Vicars	150	125
HTC Printing		
	£ 4,325	£ 3,383

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, COOKHAM DEAN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31st December 2022
FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH FUND

	2022	2021
Carried Forward from previous year	4,421	3,192
RECEIPTS		
Gift Aid Income	1815	1480
Tax Reclaimed		97
Donations (not gift aided)	85	85
	1,900	£ 1,662
PAYMENTS		
K J Chadbone for roof		0
Downpipe		0
Gas Meter Box		433
	-	433
Balance at Bank	£ 6,321	£ £ 4,421

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, COOKHAM DEAN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31st December 2022
STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

Monetary Assets	General Fund	Friends Fund		2022
Lloyds PCC Cookham Dean Accounts	58,682			58,682
Debtors				0
Creditors/uncashed cheques	-652			-652
Lloyds Treasurers Account (Friends)		6,321		6,321
CBF Church of England Deposit Account	20,000			20,000
	£ 78,030	6,321		84,351
Investment Assets				2022
356 CBF Church of England Investment Shares				7,335
Representing the A A'Bear permanent endowment fund - income upkeep of Churchyard				
Liabilities				0

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council (PCC)
of St John the Baptist Church, Cookham Dean
on the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2022**

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. You consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of the Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations from the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

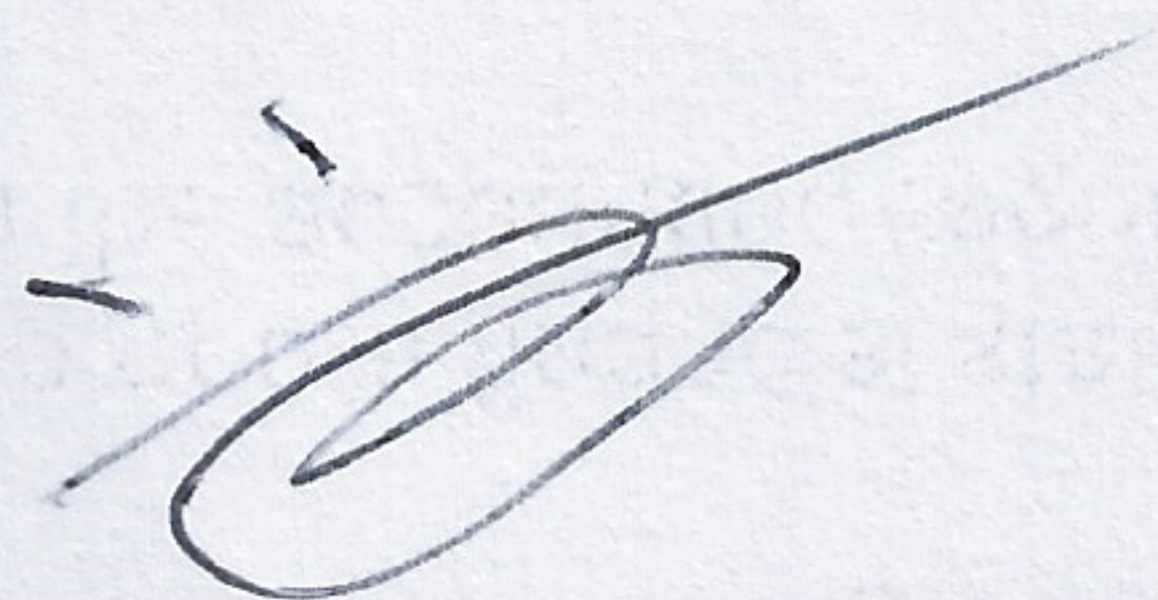
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

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 Charities Act;
- to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities 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.

Signed:



Date: 06.03.2023

Arthur R Giorgi B.Com. CA (Retired)

341 Dunford Road, Hade Edge, Holmfirth, West Yorkshire HD9 2RT

Accounts



St John the Baptist
COOKHAM DEAN

**Annual Report
and Accounts
for the year ending
31 December 2021**

This Annual Report is published by the Parochial Church Council
of St John the Baptist, Cookham Dean.

AGENDAS

Agenda for the Annual Meeting of Parishioners 10.30 Sunday 8 May 2022

1. The election of two churchwardens to serve for the forthcoming year.

Agenda for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 8 May 2022

1. Apologies for absence
 2. Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 27 June 2021
 3. Presentation of changes to the Electoral Roll
 4. The annual reports on the proceedings of the PCC and the activities of the parish generally for the year ended 31 December 2021
 5. Presentation of the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021
 6. Appointment of Independent Examiner
 7. Election of nine PCC members
 8. Vicar's Reflection
 9. Any other business – by leave of the Chairman
- Closing prayers

The first PCC meeting will be on 17 May 2022 at 8pm, at which the Treasurer, Secretary and Vice-Chair will be appointed, along with membership of committees and trustee bodies

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Annual PCC Report for the year ending 31st December 2021

Background

The parish of St. John the Baptist Cookham Dean together with Holy Trinity Cookham forms The Benefice of The Cookhams. The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting within the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church – pastoral, evangelistic, ecumenical, and social. It also has responsibilities for the maintenance of the church and churchyard of St. John the Baptist, Church Road, Cookham Dean.

Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following persons served as members of the PCC:

<i>Incumbent</i>	The Revd Nick Plant	Chairman	
<i>Associate Priest</i>	The Revd Helen Chamberlain		
<i>Associate Priest</i>	The Revd David Joynes		
<i>Assistant Curate</i>	The Revd John Ainslie		to July 2021
<i>Licensed Lay Minister</i>	Richard Simmonds	Vice-Chairman	from April 2021
<i>Church Wardens</i>	David Hazeldine		
	Lorna Sykes		
	Mathew Billinghamurst		Elected APCM 2020 for 3 years
<i>Deanery Synod</i>	Ray Reed		Elected APCM 2020 for 3 years
	Lorna Sykes		Elected APCM 2020 for 3 years
<i>Diocesan Synod</i>	John Sykes	PCC Secretary	
<i>Elected Members</i>	Katherine Billinghamurst		
	Greta Dixon		
	Charles Elly	Vice-Chairman	to March 2021
	John Fairlie		
	Stella Fairlie		from July 2021
	Ros Hazeldine	PCC Treasurer	
	Laura Satterley		
	Mike Springate		to June 2021
	Chiu Sung		from June 2021
	Jeremy Webb		

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- The APCM took place on 27 June 2021. The following committees were elected at the first meeting of the PCC after the APCM: Standing & Finance Committee, Fund Raising, Fabric & Churchyard.

There were 101 names (2020:100; 2019:104) on the Church Electoral Roll as presented at the 2021 APCM, 56 (2020:58; 2019:59) of whom were resident in the parish and a further 21 (2020:22; 2019:21) in the Benefice.

Church attendance

- Church attendance was again severely disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. There were 89 communion services during the year (2020:67; 2019:130). There were limited services at Easter with communicants of 49 (2020:0; 2019:110). The number of communicants on Christmas Eve /Christmas Day was 59 (2020:62; 2019:123). Over the 42 weeks when the church was open, the average weekly attendance was 48 adults (2020:44; 2019:91) and 5 under 16s (2020:4; 2019:21). There were 10 baptisms during the year (2020:1; 2019:14), 2 weddings (2020:1; 2019:4), and 14 burials, memorials and interment of ashes (2020:24; 2019:18).

Review of the year

- As in 2020, the year was dominated by the response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The “second wave” of the pandemic had already escalated in the run up to Christmas 2020, and although not mandatory, the decision was made to close the church immediately after Christmas. It reopened on 14th March 2021, which was Mothering Sunday.
- In the closed period, a Sunday Eucharist service was livestreamed from the church by a member of the clergy accompanied by a technician. Use was made of the recorded choral and organ music made available by the Church of England to enhance the services. The clergy team recorded a daily prayer and reflection from their homes, and these were posted on the Worship Channel established for the benefice and accessed through the church websites.
- The services for Easter were planned to accommodate the limited capacity of the church due to social distancing. The traditional Stations of the Cross Walk of Witness was not held, but a re-make of the 2020 video was made with the members of the clergy reading the bible passages and reflections. This was made available on Good Friday and attracted over 250 views. It was also used by the Diocese as one of their Easter season offerings of on-line worship.
- Easter Sunday saw the return of the church choir although no singing by the congregation was allowed.
- After Easter, and with a steady return of the congregation to church, daily online prayers were provided on Mondays and Fridays only. The main Sunday service continued to be livestreamed each week up until July after which livestreaming/recording was done once a month on the 4th Sunday. Our livestream service on 20th June was used by the Diocese as its “Church at Home” Sunday service.
- The previous pattern of 8am Communion Services in the benefice started again in September, but at SJB attendance was frequently zero, and so the PCC decided in October to discontinue the service for the moment. It is still held at HTC on the first Sunday using the Book of Common Prayer.
- The 4th@4 all-age service returned on 26th September with a Harvest Service. There was a good attendance, but the service in October was at the end of half term and the spread of COVID particularly amongst children reduced the numbers significantly. The November service was Christingle when numbers were back up again.
- The service from the church on Remembrance Sunday was also livestreamed and

made use of the recording made the previous year at the War Memorial. The annual service of Remembrance of Loved Ones who have Died was also livestreamed.

- Christmas Services were planned with the capacity of the church in mind. A booking arrangement for children to visit the crib was held in the place of the usual Crib Service. The seasonal services of the Nine Lessons and Carols and Christmas Morning were recorded and made available to watch online.
- The PCC met on 6 occasions in 2021, four times by Zoom and then twice in person in September and November. Throughout the year each sub-committee, Treasurer, Deanery Synod and Ministry Team have reported to the PCC by means of written reports circulated prior to each PCC meeting.
- Fenella Reekie, Headteacher at Cookham Dean School, attended the March and November PCC meetings to give an update of progress at the school and strengthen the link between church and school. As a direct result of the pandemic, Cookham Dean School have not been able to attend their usual services at the church during the year. School visits by the Ministry Team continued to be suspended.
- The closure of the church and the smaller congregations impacted income from collections, although a significant proportion of our income is planned giving by Direct Debit or through the Parish Giving Scheme. But with careful control of expenditure and the help of a number of fund-raising events there was a surplus for the year of c. £6500, with our Parish Share being paid in full. This, in the circumstances, is an extraordinary result, but 2022 is likely to be just as challenging. Thanks go to Angela Plant for undertaking the task of reclaiming our Gift Aid from what money was donated in envelopes.
- The Parish Magazine continued to be produced throughout 2021, edited by John Sykes. Only one edition was “lost” with the March and April editions being combined into an Easter edition. The magazine continues to be available online as usual. Thanks go to Stella & John Fairlie for the co-ordination of the distribution of the magazine in Cookham Dean; especially in mobilizing our distributors during the various social restrictions. Thanks also to John Sykes for managing the magazine advertising, which has held up very well despite the disruption of 2020.
- Our Children’s Church “Sunbeams” group, restarted again under the guidance of Richard Simmonds and Laura Satterley, but the low number of children attending church has meant that it is on a week-by-week basis for the moment.
- The restrictions on singing have gradually been lifted through the year in a series of stages. The year started with no choir, then to singing outside when weather permitted, and then socially distanced in the choir stalls. The PCC is grateful to David Colthup, our choirmaster and organist, for supporting services through these various stages. St. John’s “Orchestra” staged a comeback for the 2021 Christingle.
- Our volunteer rotas for sidesmen, readers, intercessors and sound operators which had been suspended since 2020, started up again in July and offer a warm welcome to all and smooth running of the services.
- Despite the pandemic and because it is an outside activity, working parties in the churchyard took place throughout the year, which, together with the volunteer grass cutting, has seen the churchyard maintained in good condition.
- The requirement to limit access to the church during and after lockdown periods meant that the cleaners’ rota had to be suspended, with the task of cleaning the

church carried out weekly by Lorna and John Sykes. The rota was re-established in July, coordinated by Barbara Dent, with grateful thanks to all involved. The church brass is cleaned by a separate “team” and is always shiny – thank you to the team!

- Flowers are provided in the sanctuary throughout the year by a band of volunteers, coordinated by Marion Elly and Doreen Reed. The PCC is grateful to all flower arrangers, especially those who decorated the church for major occasions.
- The activities of the fund-raising committee under the leadership of Marion Elly were severely curtailed by the social restrictions for a second year. Fund raising relies on the capacity to organise events and the willingness of people to attend and participate, and as a consequence have been difficult to get moving again. However, the committee undertook to organise our traditional Autumn Fayre in the Village Hall which raised over £3000, which was a major contributor to the favourable financial outcome for the year.
- The Cookham Kids Holiday Club, usually run for the first week of the school summer holiday was not held again this year. In 2020 an online alternative was provided, and this was repeated this year, but engagement was low, as schools themselves had been making extensive use of online learning.
- The monthly Friendship Lunches were suspended from the start of the first lockdown in 2020, which was particularly hard on the group of people who attend particularly value the friendship and togetherness that these lunches provide. It was not possible to restart these in the same format due to the reduced number of volunteers available. Following discussions with Holy Trinity and the Methodists it was decided to run the lunches on a shared basis with the venue changing from month to month. These started in September and a splendid Christmas lunch was held in the Jubilee Vestry in December.
- Since lockdown we have been unable to exercise our usual pastoral care in the parish to Harwood House, Elizabeth House, Riverside and other housebound people.

PCC report for year ending December 2021 approved at the meeting on 6th April 2022

Signed



(Chair of the meeting)

Ministry Team report for APCM 2022

- The Ministry Team continued to meet regularly on Zoom. We have endeavoured to keep up with the ever-changing advice from the Church of England and HM Government.
- We began the year in a self-imposed lockdown, due to the high rate of cases in the area and very few people being vaccinated at this stage. The clergy offered recorded online services until we took the decision to open both churches on Mothering Sunday. There were also regular offerings from the HTC music department.
- In January, about 25 people met together for Evening Prayer by Zoom. Attendees also welcomed the opportunity to chat with others in smaller breakout groups. This worship group continued until late Spring.
- We had a well-received programme of online and live worship for Holy Week and Easter, comprising:
 - Evening Prayer by Zoom Mon-Wed
 - Maundy Thursday Eucharist with recorded foot-washing and reflection
 - Good Friday liturgy. Online Stations of the Cross on YouTube.
 - Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday evening, in place of the Dawn Eucharist
 - Capacity services on Easter morning at both churches, and a Carol service in the evening on YouTube.
- We are now offering baptisms during the Sunday Eucharist, or as a stand-alone service.
- The Men's Breakfast restarted successfully in August.
- The Fellowship lunch has restarted, and is now a group venture between HTC, SJB and Cookham Methodist Church.
- We have reintroduced the 4th@4 at SJB, the first one was attended by about 80 people.
- Nippers, which restarted in September, has slowly grown again. We have 8 families on the books, most attending regularly. As a result of this contact, we have four extra baptisms booked for 2022.
- The Hungry Hare went alfresco between May and October 2021, continuing to provide for informal pastoral one to one sessions and discussions about discipleship all in the open air when weather allowed. This was not widely promoted during the winter months to minimise Covid spread.
- Mark and Richard continued to offer YouTube Worship on Mondays and Fridays throughout the year.
- The weekly Bible Study via Zoom, led by members of the Ministry Team, continues to be popular. It followed a Lent course and an Advent course at the appropriate times, which brought in more people.
- Local schools are using clergy videos for teaching and online assemblies. Most appreciated were 'Water to Wine' and 'Shrove Tuesday/Ash Wednesday'. We led an online Christmas service for Holy Trinity School.

- Christingles at both churches were very good and the 'make your own' kits worked very well. There was good feedback about how welcoming the services were. Christmas services were well (and comfortably) attended; of particular note were the Crib 'walk pasts' at both churches which proved very successful. Overall, the Christmas season went very well, with grateful thanks for all the hard work on the trees, cribs, flowers, music etc.
- For the time being, we have made some temporary adjustments to services:
 - HTC evening services restricted to two per month
 - SJB evening services restricted to six per year
 - Monthly Matins at SJB curtailed
 - One 8am service per month on the first Sunday at HTC

Fr Nick

Changes to the Electoral Role since the last APM

The update of the Electoral Roll took place between 10th and 24th April 2022.

There are 94 people on the Electoral Roll compared to 101 in 2021, there being seven deletions and no additions.

Of the 94, there are 54 Resident in the Parish and a further 17 Resident in the Benefice.

Lorna Sykes
Electoral Roll Officer

Fabric and Churchyard Report 2021

Following on from May 2016, our quinquennial inspection of the building was due in 2021. It took place on 10th June and the report drew our attention to the need for continuing with routine maintenance and protective external painting of guttering and associated iron work and oiling of oak timbers. No structural problems were identified, and the report was, as on previous occasions, complimentary about the condition of the building and its grounds and stated that the parish is doing a very good job of looking after St. John the Baptist Church. While this is exactly what we would all like to be the case, it also hides a potential long-term truth because it creates the impression that the future of SJB is miraculously secure; we can simply rely on it being there for us week after week. This is not, of course, the case and we all need to recognise that if we continue to rely on the efforts and financial contribution of others, there may, one day, come a time when the Church is no longer available for us. Our congregation is decreasing in number and the week-by-week financial offerings are also reducing so the Churchwardens will be failing in our duty if we do not point this out. We will, therefore, be looking to our congregation, both regular and occasional, to increase their contributions and, where possible, commit to regular giving. We will also be looking at ways to try and reduce our expenditure.

Fortunately, we still benefit from members of our congregation, sometimes working in teams and sometimes individually, who routinely do a lot of work to make sure that

Cookham Dean Church and the churchyard is not neglected. As always, the Churchwardens and clergy are hugely grateful to these people as they also are for all the acts of voluntary labour that appear in the list below.

The following is a summary of the non-routine work carried out during 2021:

- February – The Churchyard tap was replaced by voluntary labour at zero cost to the Church.
- March – A new gas meter was fitted by SSE at zero cost to the Church.
- April – A “Whitebeam” tree was planted near the north-facing Lych Gate. This was a donation made by Tom Copas who also paid for appropriate arboreal work on this side of the Churchyard which has significantly improved the openness and appearance of this area.
- April – Voluntary labour replaced 2 posts in the fence of the compost area in the extreme east facing-Churchyard thus reducing the cost to just materials – £56.99.
- May – The tool shed door, boiler room door and associated railings were repainted by voluntary labour at zero cost to the Church.
- May – Following comment by SSE (when they were on site in March) that it was unsatisfactory because it was not made of fire-proof materials, the gas meter cupboard (at the extreme northeast corner of the Churchyard) was replaced by voluntary labour thus again reducing the cost to the Church to just materials – £432.67.
- June – Quinquennial Inspection – £1,310.44
- July – The annual lightning conductor inspection was carried at a cost of £142.50.
- July – The annual fire extinguisher maintenance check service, was carried out at a cost of £48.00.
- August – The long hedge that forms the Churchyard boundary with Mulberry House was cut back by Holdford at a cost of £354.00.
- September – The programme of light bulb replacement, which had been started a year ago, was completed so all CFB light bulbs have now been replaced with LEDs thus significantly reducing our energy use while also improving the lighting in Church.

September – The Notice Board, which is situated close to the Church Road Lych Gate, was returned to its usual position have been restored off-site by voluntary labour at zero cost to the Church.

October – The mechanism of the vestry clock was replaced by voluntary labour at zero cost to the Church.

December – The labels for the light switches in the cupboard near to the font were replaced by voluntary labour at zero cost to the Church.

David Hazeldine
Lorna Sykes
Churchwardens

Annual Safeguarding Report 2021

We follow the Church of England's Safer Recruitment and People Management guidance 2021. The care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of the whole Church. Everyone who participates in the life of the Church has a role to play in promoting a Safer Church for all.

The PCC operates a Safe Recruiting process, which aims to keep a balance between safe recruitment and not creating an onerous bureaucratic system. The recruitment of new volunteers involves informing the recruiter so that the necessary details and references can be obtained. Procedures are always monitored to ensure that checks and training for volunteers are delivered in a timely manner and the cooperation of volunteers in this is much appreciated.

Debbie Burroughs is responsible at St John the Baptist for checks with the Disclosure and Barring Services for new and established volunteers with children and vulnerable adults. We continue to use the Access Personal Checking Services Ltd (APCS), which is the recommended DBS Umbrella Body for the Diocese of Oxford.

The Church of England's Practice Guidance: Safeguarding Training and Development (2021) provides a clear framework for safeguarding training across all Church of England communities. There have been some significant changes in regard to training and expectations, to further improve the safeguarding of all. We follow the Church of England's Safer Recruitment and People Management guidance 2021, meaning a range of safeguarding training modules are a mandatory requirement for particular Church Officer roles. Safeguarding training should be renewed every three years and people are asked to forward their training records once completed. All safeguarding training records are kept securely. The resources and training equip our community to engage positively with the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults in both a practical and theologically informed way.

The PCC has complied with the duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.

Katherine Billinghamurst

Fundraising Report 2021

Once again our activities have been curtailed by Covid but some events were possible:-

- Cake sales raised £467
- A Strawberry Tea hosted by Ray and Doreen Reed raised £581
- The Autumn Fayre raised £3,208
- When Tom Way cancelled his visit and talk in December, Richard Poad gave us a very interesting talk on "3 Men in a Boat" which raised £311
- There was an appeal for churchyard work which raised £1,980

In all this totalled £6,500 which, in the circumstances was much appreciated.

Marion Elly

Darby Pension Report to December 2021

The Fund exists to provide payments each quarter to people in Cookham who are on low incomes and who meet the requirements set out in the will of the Darby brothers. Trustees, drawn from Holy Trinity Church, Cookham, and St John the Baptist Church, Cookham Dean, have the responsibility of administering the Fund.

The investments continue to be managed by CCLA, a professional company which specializes in charities and church investments. Given the uncertainty in financial markets over the last year the Fund finances remained healthy with income matching that of previous years. The overall annual income exceeded expenditure at the end of the year and it is forecast to remain in excess of spending going forward.

Once COVID restrictions eased in the summer the Trustees met in person for the first time since 2020. With a healthy balance in the Fund bank accounts and fewer pensioners than in previous years a decision was taken to increase the quarterly payment from September onwards. The majority of pensioners have now opted to receive their quarterly payments online.

Unfortunately, two of the pensioners supported by the Fund sadly passed away during 2021 – however, in one case entitlement was passed onto the widow. Further to this a new pensioner was added to the list and as such there were 20 pensioners supported by the Fund at the end of 2021. The Fund continues to have capacity to support additional pensioners and is actively looking for new proposals.

Kate Dilley

February 2022

Cookham Dean CE VA Primary School Report for 2021

Vision and Values

With the return to 'normal' school life, we have been looking at our vision 'Where all children flourish'. We discussed this as staff team and decided that, although the word flourish felt right, we all felt that our vision is about all of our community – staff, parents, governors as well as children and so therefore we have amended our vision to 'Where we all flourish'. We are now looking at linking a bible verse to this vision and after input from Fr Nick and Rev Helen, our Pupils 4 Praise children are choosing which verse they think is more appropriate.

In addition, we continue to instil our Christian values of community, joy, peace, trust, endurance, friendship and forgiveness.

Pupil population

In September 2021, we increased our class size from 27 to 28 in a class for financial reasons. All of our classes are full apart from Years 4,5 and 6 which each have 27 children. We have waiting lists for all other groups. We currently have 193 on roll with 3 vacancies.

For our reception 2022 intake, we had 111 children apply for a place at Cookham Dean. We are not sure where they put us on their preference list but National Offer Day is 19th April so we should receive final numbers shortly after.

Staffing

It has been a difficult year and Spring term was particularly difficult with 9 members of staff off with covid at one time (including the head teacher) and with 25% of children off meant blended learning was a priority (children learning from home online with children in the classroom). This was particularly stressful for staff. Some staff are struggling now with long covid and we are seeing an impact on mental health and family life.

Attainment and progress

For the last 2 years, there has been no official data collection for attainment and progress. This year, Year 6 will sit their SATS as well as Year 2, Year 4 will sit the MTC (Multiplication Tables Check) and Year 1 will sit their phonics screening tests. Results will be released at the end of the summer term.

Curriculum

Staff have worked hard this year to ensure that the curriculum provided is well sequenced and builds on prior learning. All subject leaders have written a long term plan which covers the national curriculum objectives for each year group. Most subject leaders have conducted learning walks in their subjects so that they can see first hand how their subject is taught as well as having the opportunity to talk to pupils and look in books. We have had a curriculum review with the local authority this term and a reading review with an external consultant to validate the work that we are doing.

We have thought about how we link subjects across our curriculum and have developed key concepts that can tie in subjects - resilience, community, individuality, democracy, responsibility, consequences.

Enrichment

Our programme of curriculum enrichment continues to be a focus. Whole key phase trip to the Albert Hall to experience a classical music concert was a highlight. Our visitors and curriculum linked trips continue to engage our children in the curriculum eg. Trip to St Albans to understand the impact of the Romans, a visit from Maidenhead's Astronomical Society to demonstrate how a telescope works.

We have an extensive extra-curricular programme that enhances our school programme consisting of many sporting clubs but this term we have introduced an art club and a cookery club alongside our sewing club.

Church

We have been developing the role of Chaplain with Rev Jo Ellington at school. She has been working with our Pupils 4 Praise – a group of 5 and 6 children who are working with our RE lead to ensure a pupil voice in school around collective worship and reflection. This term, we invited BeSpace into school who turned our library into a prayer space for a week. Children from all year groups were encouraged to engage in 4 reflection activities throughout the week.

We continue to support the church with the 4@4 service – where children are invited to write prayers, read scriptures and take part in the service.

Community

Our local community continues to be very important to us. Our Rotakids children, who work with Cookham Bridge Rotary, have collected needed items for a women's refuge and have made Easter cards for Elizabeth House and shared lunch with Elizabeth House visitors, as well as litter pick in our local neighbourhood.

This year we entered a kart into the Gravity Grand Prix, had a stall at the Cookham Dean fete and will hopefully be a part of the Jubilee celebrations.

Leadership

We continue to develop our young leaders at school. There are many opportunities for children to take part in school life – school council, sports ambassadors, eco-warriors, rotakids, pupils4praise, emotional wellbeing ambassadors, librarians, gardeners. Each child is given the tools to work together as a team to ensure our school continues to move forward.

Mrs Fen Reekie
Headteacher
April 2022

Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery Report for 2021

The Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery comprises 14 parishes and benefices. The Deanery Synod comprises all the clergy in the deanery and Lay Representatives elected by their respective parishes for a period of three years. The current triennium has been shortened due to Covid-19 and runs from January 2021 to May 2023. At the end of 2021 the Synod had 70 members. Attendance varied from 44 to 52 over the year.

There were three meetings of the Synod during 2021:

Wednesday 10th February 2021 on Zoom:

- Jim Tucker was re-elected as Lay Chair, and the new Deanery Standing Committee was elected.
- Area Dean Ainsley, Associate Area Dean Sally and Lay Chair Jim introduced the new Deanery Mission Action Plan, talked through active initiatives in the Deanery, and described the new plan as a working document, which will be updated over time.
- Synod members shared their thoughts on what they had been learning about mission during the pandemic and how this could affect the mission action plan.

Thursday 27th May 2021 on Zoom:

- Ian Macdonald, Diocesan Youth Adviser and Discipleship Enabler for Berkshire, spoke about how the church could better reach out into the parishes, particularly about reaching young people with authenticity, building relationships and intergenerational community.
- Synod members had an opportunity to ask questions to Ian.
- Lay Chair Jim updated the Synod on proposals for a formula to determine parish share allocation.
- John Sykes informed the Synod about upcoming Diocesan Synod and General Synod elections.

Tuesday 28th September 2021 on Zoom:

- Rev Polly Falconer, Diocesan UK Minority Ethnic Development Enabler, spoke about moving "From Lament to Action" in understanding and celebrating other cultures. She spoke of some of her experiences as a black woman, and described some of the work she is doing to help the diocese and churches acknowledge the riches of diversity in our churches. Synod members spent some time discussing in breakout groups and asked questions.
- Lay Chair Jim proposed a new system of parish share allocation within the Deanery, moving towards a formula-based system, to be brought in gradually over a number of years. Synod members shared many comments and asked many questions about these proposals. The proposal was voted on and approved by a large majority.

Thanks to parishes' hard work and generosity, despite the ongoing challenges of Covid-19, the Deanery paid 94.2% of its parish share for 2021, a total of £ 961,058 against an allocation of £1,020,191. This was a reduction from the £1,024,799 allocated and paid in 2020.



Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2021

2021 Treasurer's Report and Accounts

The audited accounts for 2021 have been prepared in line with Church accounting regulations (2006) and section 43 of the Charities Act 1993. The accounts have been examined, presented to, and accepted by, the PCC.

General Fund

The general fund for the year closed with a surplus of £7,748 though a deficit budget had been set. We were truly delighted with this result as we had ended with a deficit in the last three years. I must, therefore, thank all the congregation who gave so generously when asked to help with maintaining the churchyard grounds, supporting the "Bakers of Cookham Dean", buying at the Autumn Fayre and generally donating. £7,653 was received as donations and £6,573 was raised through the Autumn Fayre and various activities the Fund Raising Committee organised. We have also been able to send £2,916 to various charities throughout the year, e.g., Water Aid (Hymns & Pimms), The Children's Society (supplemented by singing to the turkeys, The Crib Walk Through and Christmas Day Service) and The British Legion and Combat Stress using the collections from Remembrance Sunday.

2022 Budget

The budget for 2022 has been set and agreed by the PCC and predicts a deficit position of £15,338 by the end of year. We are mindful that, although we had a surplus last year, for the 3 years before we have ended each year in deficit and we will need to examine carefully any expenditure that is not absolutely necessary for the upkeep of the church. Regular giving is still down on pre-Covid levels and I would ask those members, contributing by way of standing orders and other planned giving, to consider an increase in their giving in 2022 in order to assist with the ever-increasing costs of maintaining our church. We are extremely grateful to those members of our congregation and friends of Cookham Dean who have pledged money throughout the year to assist with the upkeep of the churchyard and general maintenance but we are a small church with many expenses to keep the church in its current good repair.

Assets and Liabilities

Monetary assets at the year-end were £82,083 (£71,836 in 2020, £73,131 in 2019 and £77,603 in 2018).

My thanks to Arthur Giorgi for examining the accounts from deepest Yorkshire and for his advice, to Angela Plant for her assistance with HMRC in respect of the Gift Aid reclaim and all members of the PCC, for their help and guidance throughout the year.

A special thank you to Marion Elly and her fundraising team for all the work they have done to be creative during lock down by cooking meals and cakes on numerous occasions and raising some much-needed funds to help support Church finances. It was a delight to be able to have an Autumn Fayre again and we are truly grateful that the committee saw fit to donate the funds raised to the church. Thanks also to Robert Dent who handles the "Friends Scheme". The money donated has enable us to keep the churchyard grounds looking splendid and we receive lots of encouraging comments but it does all cost. We are very grateful to all contributors to the "Friends Scheme" and would be delighted if anyone else felt they were able to make a regular donation no matter how small. Please speak to one of the Churchwardens or me.

I end with a special plea that you support fund raising activities, as we start to re-establish our activities this year, to help reduce our forecast deficit. It costs over £1,000 per week to keep the church open.

Ros Hazeldine, PCC Treasurer

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, COOKHAM DEAN
 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31st December 2021
 GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS

RECEIPTS	2021		2020	
Voluntary Receipts				
Gift Aid	4,953		6,542	
Standing Orders	11,320		10,705	
Donations	7,654		8,936	
Income Tax Recovered on GA, Standing Orders and Donations	5,988		6,150	
Parish Giving Scheme	24,795		23,731	
Income Tax Recovered on PGS	6,167		5,933	
Ordinary Collections	1,867		1,634	
CAF Income	5,540		6,310	
Collections for Missions and Other Charities	2,740		686	
QR Code and Card Reader	2,851			
		73,875		70,628
Receipts from Church Activities				
Burials & Interments	5,237		7,045	
Weddings	1,700		826	
Collections from Baptisms	271			
		7,208		7,871
Receipts from Activities for Generating Funds				
Magazine Advertising	15,541		7,914	
Fund Raising Events (See note 1)	6,574		2,757	
		22,115		10,671
Other Receipts				
Other income	849		1437	
		849		1,437
Receipts from Investments				
Interest on Investments	231		315	
		231		315
TOTAL RECEIPTS		£ 104,277		£ 90,922

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, COOKHAM DEAN
 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31st December 2021
 GENERAL FUND PAYMENTS

PAYMENTS	2021	2020
Missions & Charitable Giving (See note 3)	2,916	686
Diocesan Share	61,642	60,817
Clergy Expenses of Office	3,363	5,401
Services (Heat, Light, Water & Sewage)	1,248	2,403
Insurance	2,744	2,888
Upkeep of Churchyard	1,777	1,354
Organ & Choir (See note 4)	2,412	2,577
Repairs & Maintenance (See note 2)	2,309	1,112
New Equipment & Fixtures	-	-
Sanctuary	20	236
Printing Postage & Stationery	-	-
Magazine Printing Costs	2,884	10,453
Magazine Share to HTC	9,633	-
Miscellaneous (See note 5)	2,027	866
Fundraising Costs (See note 1)	170	420
Weddings & Funerals (See note 6)	3,383	3,922
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£ 96,530	£ 93,135
EXCESS/(DEFICIT)	£ 7,748	£ -2,213

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, COOKHAM DEAN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31st December 2021
NOTES TO THE GENERAL FUND

1 Fund Raising & Special Events	Income		Costs	2021 Net	2020 Net
Morning/Afternoon Talks	311		12	299	
Choir Dinner				0	
Letter to Parish re upkeep of churchyard	1,980			1,980	
Bangers & Mash			90	-90 *	1,096
Harvest				0	
Autumn Fayre- just homemade food & cakes in 2021	3,208		68	3,140	1,219
Hymns & Pimms				0	
Christingle				0	57
Flower Festival				0	
Strawberry Tea	581			581	
Home made cakes	468			468	
Tom Way talk postponed until 2021				0	-60
G&S Evening				0	
Easy Fund Raising scheme (buying on line)	26			26	
Sponsored Walk				0	25
	£ 6,574		170	6,403	£ 2,337
* paid in advantage for next year					
2 Repairs & Maintenance					
Mowers & Strimmers				319	272
Lightening Conductors & Fire Extinguishers				191	209
Boiler Maintenance					174
Roof & Gutters					342
Green Bin					65
Drain Channels & Gutters					
Security Light					50
Tree Survey					
Quinquennial				1,310	
General Repairs				490	
				£ 2,309	£ 1,112

[continued on next page

3 Missions & Charitable Giving					2021		2020
Discretionary Fund							
Christ Church Oxford							
Church Army							
USPG							
Christian Aid					170		
Church Housing Trust							
Yeldall Christian Centre							
The Barnabus Fund							
Train a Priest							
Liveability							
Helen & Douglas House							
CHECT							
The Connection (St. Martins)							
Bible Society							
					£ 170	£ -	
AUTUMN FAYRE							
St John the Baptist Church					3208		
					£ 3208	£ 0	
Collections and Other Giving							
USPG (Lent Boxes)							
Royal British Legion					115		
Combat Stress					100		
Clergy Support Trust (formerly Sons of the Clergy)							
Children's Society					1,144	*	627
Water Aid					611		59
Thames Hospice					388		
DEC Appeal							
RABI					388		
* Actual figure £817 in 2020 and £1,164 in 2021 because personal cheques were added					£ 2,746	£ 686	
TOTAL MISSIONS & CHARITABLE GIVING					£ 6,124	£ 686	

[continued on next page

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, COOKHAM DEAN
 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31st December 2021
 NOTES TO THE GENERAL FUND (Continued)

	2021	2020
4 Organ & Choir		
Organists & Guest Organist Expenses	2,000	2,200
Payments to Choir	20	0
Tuning Piano & Organ	282	270
Music & New Books & RSCM	110	107
	£ 2,412	£ 2,577

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31st December 2020
 NOTES TO THE GENERAL FUND (Continued)

	2021	2020
5 Miscellaneous		
Coffee & Refreshments	161	22
Baptism Cards, Books	100	72
Website Hosting	258	267
Lottery Registration		0
GA Envelopes	284	0
COVID-19 cleaning etc.	280	160
CCLI	655	277
Specified Gifts (JA)	100	0
DSB checks	55	0
Sundry items (Sunbeams & Easter Eggs)		36
Miscellaneous small items	134	32
	£ 2,027	£ 866
6 Wedding & Funeral Costs		
Oxford Diocese Benevolent Fund	1,873	2,472
Verger	700	755
Organist	445	495
Choir	240	
Vicars	125	200
HTC Printing		
	£ 3,383	£ 3,922

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, COOKHAM DEAN
 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31st December 2021
 FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH FUND

	2021	2020
Carried Forward from previous year	3,192	3,275
RECEIPTS		
Gift Aid Income	1480	385
Tax Reclaimed	97	97
Donations (not gift aided)	85	185
	1,662	£ 667
PAYMENTS		
K J Chadbone for roof		558
Downpipe		192.02
Gas Meter Box	432.67	
	433	750
Balance at Bank	£ 4,421	£ £ 3,192

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, COOKHAM DEAN
 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31st December 2021
 STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

Monetary Assets	General Fund	Friends Fund	2021
Lloyds PCC Cookham Dean Account	57,663	4,421	62,084
Debtors			0
Creditors/uncashed cheques	-1,244.14		-1,244
Lloyds Treasurers Account (Friends)			0
CBF Church of England Deposit Account	20,000		20,000
	£ 76,419	4,421	80,840
Investment Assets			2021
356 CBF Church of England Investment Shares			8,313
Representing the A A'Bear permanent endowment fund - income upkeep of Churchyard			
Liabilities			0

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council (PCC)
of St John the Baptist Church, Cookham Dean
on the Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2021**

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner

The members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The PCC considers that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of the Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations from the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no 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 Charities Act;
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities 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.

Signed:



Date: 09.02.2022

Arthur R Giorgi B.Com. CA (Retired)
341 Dunford Road, Hade Edge, Holmfirth, West Yorkshire HD9 2RT

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 27 June 2021 at 10.45 in the church

Present: Revd. Nick Plant in the chair and 22 other members.

Annual Vestry Meeting

Election of Churchwardens – David Hazeldine and Lorna Sykes have both been proposed and seconded. David & Lorna were unanimously elected as Churchwardens.

Fr Nick thanked David & Lorna for their support in the past year.

The Vestry meeting closed at 10.50am.

Annual Parochial Meeting

Apologies for absence

Received from Jean Keene, Sherry Smith, Marion Elly, Mathew Billingham, Katherine Billingham, David Joynes, Helen Chamberlain, Ray Reed and Doreen Reed.

Minutes of the meeting held on 18th October 2020

These were circulated in the report's booklet.

Proposed by Richard Simmonds, seconded by Greta Dixon and agreed as a correct record, and subsequently signed by the chairman.

Presentation of the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2020

Ros presented highlights of the 2020 accounts:

Good morning I should like to say a few words about the accounts and my report, which start on page 15.

The accounts show a snapshot of the position as at 31st December 2020 6 months ago, and the last 15 months have seen some very challenging times for our church and are reflected in these accounts.

This was my second year of preparing the churches accounts and I was very pleased that the auditor found everything in order once again.

Sadly, our income for 2020 was almost £19 and half thousand (£19,470) down on 2019 and this was mainly attributed to fewer people giving in the ordinary Sunday collections as church was closed for many weeks and more importantly we were unable to hold many of the fund raising activities we had planned for the

year. If it had not been for Bangers and Bingo and the parish bakers we would have been in a worst position so many thanks to all those involved.

We were forward thinking and introduced the QR code for those technical online viewers and over Christmas this did boost income by a small amount. Of course, many of you are aware of this year's introduction of the card reader and we are hoping this will help income when we present next year's accounts. The other very exciting fund raising opportunity we have introduced is for those of you who regularly shop online. Please talk to Lorna or me at the end and we can send you a link which will enable you to help church funds by a simple click before every online shop you do.

No legacies were received in 2020. We received more via planned giving PGS (The Parish Giving Scheme) as some of the congregation moved to this way of giving and some generously increased their monthly contributions, hence the reduction in income tax received on planned giving via standing order or church attendance. By the way, following the discussion last year at the APCM, I have split the amount received from this scheme to show the contributions and tax received separately. It would be great if anyone not using this method of planned giving felt they could move to PGS and I would be very willing to talk to anyone about the scheme and its benefits.

I feel I must make mention of the increase in donations this year up by nearly £6,000 (£5,849). The congregation and friends in the village have been most generous in giving to help us through this difficult period.

Our payments in 2020 (page 17) were lower than the previous year by just over £22 and a half thousand (£22,507). As you can see there was a reduction in most lines and sadly the biggest casualty was the contributions we were able to make to missions and charities.

There was a deficit of £2,213 in 2020 and sadly this was the third year running a deficit was recorded. This is because our everyday expenditure continues to rise and our income declines as people move away or very sadly are dying.

Monetary assets of £71,836 (page 21) is a good position to be in but one which we need to try and maintain. We have sadly set a deficit budget for 2021 and all I can say is that we are currently having a very challenging year. Now at the halfway point in the year we are still not able to resume all the activities we would have wished and those that are happening are restricted by the COVID regulations.

I should like to finish by reiterating my thanks to all the people I have listed on page 15, they have all helped to make this job much easier. And a plug for you to buy your strawberry tea tickets if you haven't already done so our first fundraising event of the year.

The meeting thanked Ros for all her hard work as Treasurer over the continued difficult period.

Robert Dent proposed adoption of the accounts, Lorna Sykes seconded this, and it was unanimously agreed.

Appointment of independent examiner

Arthur Giorgi has agreed to continue as independent examiner, with grateful thanks. Proposed by Ros Hazeldine and seconded by Sylvia Hull.

The annual reports on the proceedings of the PCC and the activities of the parish generally for the year ended 31st December 2020

The annual reports were published beforehand and taken as read. John Sykes commented that the report this year was in a slightly different format to previous years because activities had been restricted due to the pandemic. The report on the proceedings of the PCC had been written bearing in mind the future historical significance of creating a record of how the church had reacted to the pandemic. Receiving of the reports was noted by the meeting.

Report of the Deanery Synod

The Deanery Report is provided by the Deanery and outlines the activities of Deanery over the year. Deanery Synod had met twice in the year via Zoom.

Changes to the Electoral Roll

The update of the Electoral Roll took place between 30th May and 12th June 2021. There are 101 people on the Electoral Roll, of which 56 are resident in the Parish and a further 21 resident in the Benefice. It was noted that since the finalising of the Electoral Roll, one member, resident in the parish, had died.

Election of 9 PCC members

This year seven of the existing members have been nominated for re-election. The meeting recorded its sadness at the death of Charles Elly, vice chair of the PCC and a long standing member of the PCC, and tireless worker for the parish. Mike Springate has not sought re-election and is now resident in Harwood House. The meeting recorded its grateful thanks for their service.

8 nominations were received for 9 places –

Katherine Billingham
Greta Dixon
John Fairlie
Rosalind Hazeldine
Laura Satterley
Chiu Sung
Richard Simmonds
Jeremy Webb

These 8 were elected unopposed to the PCC.

Also on PCC are the clergy (Nick, Helen, David & John), churchwardens (David Hazeldine & Lorna Sykes), John Sykes by virtue of being a member of Diocesan Synod, and the Deanery Synod representatives elected last year, Lorna Sykes, Mathew Billingham and Ray Reed.

Vicar's remarks

Fr Nick gave an outline of past 9 months since the last APCM during which the many challenges caused by the pandemic continued. But there had also been many opportunities for online meetings, services and bible study. Lockdown forced us to look at what worship really means to us.

Significant occasions had to be marked in other ways. For Remembrance we made

a video in the absence of being able to meet even outside at the War Memorials. The Christmas celebrations were a mixture of online and in person based on the capacity of our churches. As a parish we should be congratulated on keeping going and sticking to the rules, irrespective of their idiosyncrasies. Christmas was a milestone in that the decision to close the church was taken immediately as the pandemic wave established itself.

Looking back, whilst living through the pandemic has been a challenge, it has been a time of great creativity and learning.

Looking to the future, the Ministry Team is currently planning to resume other services such as 8am and 4th@4 in September. Sunbeams needs a completely fresh start and there will be a meeting soon to explore what form this might take.

The Diocesan Mission of 3 C's - Compassionate, Contemplative and Courageous has stood us in good stead through this period, and foremost we serve God's mission, not our own. We also need to remember St Paul's words that "nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus". So, we need to continue to stay strong and be faithful.

Thanks

Fr Nick thanked the many people who do so many jobs within the church and beyond in the community.

Richard Simmonds thanked Fr Nick for his leadership and custody of the parish during this challenging time.

AOB

None

The meeting closed at 11.20am with the blessing.

Signed.....

Date

