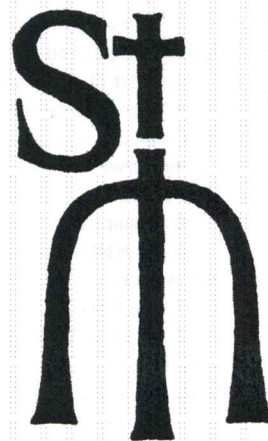


St. Mary's Church, Ash Vale

**Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council
for the year ended
31st December 2024**



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Background

Introduction - Legal Requirements

This report is presented by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and reflects the organisation, financial situation and activities of St Mary's Church throughout the year 2024.

This Annual Report conforms to the requirements of the Church Representation Rules and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. St Mary's PCC is a charitable body in law and subject to the conditions of the Charities Act 2011. PCC members are legally held to be Trustees of the Charity.

The PCC is required by law to present 'an annual report on its proceedings and on the activities of the parish generally', which will be received by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM).

The PCC - Aims, Definitions and Organisation

St Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend Neil Lambert, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the management of the Church building of St. Mary's Ash Vale.

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio (licensed Clergy and Readers, the elected Churchwardens, and Diocesan and Deanery Synod Representatives), elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), or co-opted because of special responsibilities they hold in the Church.

Elected members serve initially for three years. The PCC aims to meet at least six times a year to conduct its business and pray together.

Statutory Information and Statistics

Address:

St Mary's Church, Vale Road, Ash Vale, Aldershot, Hampshire, GU12 5JE
Diocese of Guildford; Aldershot Deanery; Group Ministry with St Peter's, Ash

email: parishoffice@ash-vale.org.uk

Charity Registration No: 1152717

Incumbent:

The Revd Neil Lambert, The Vicarage, 203 Vale Road, Ash Vale, Aldershot, Hampshire, GU12 5JE

Bank:

The Co-operative Bank, P.O. Box 250, Dell House, Southway, Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT

Independent Examiner:

Mr Derek Monds, 12 Springfield Road, Ash Vale, Aldershot, Hampshire, GU12 5EN

PCC Membership

Ex-Officio members:

Incumbent:

The Revd Neil Lambert (Chair)

Churchwarden to April 2025:

Mr Robin Barratt (Lay Chair) from April 2023

Churchwarden to April 2025:

Mr Charles Lusty (Lay Chair) from May 2022

Lay-Reader:

Mrs Jane Cox

Deanery Synod:

Mrs Nikki Glover From April 2022 to April 2026

Mr Patrick Brown from April 2023 to April 2026

Elected members:

from October 2020 to April 2026: Mr Jonathan Retallick

from October 2020 to April 2026: Mr Peter Scott

from April 2023 to April 2026: Mr Martin Lindsay

From April 2023 to April 2026: Mrs Janet Lusty

Co-opted members:

Alexandra Sanderson (Project Manager - Staff)

Mrs Anna White (Safeguarding Officer)

Sub-Committees of the PCC

The **Standing Committee** is the only legally required sub-committee. It is made up of the Vicar, Churchwardens, Treasurer, Secretary and a PCC member. The PCC member who volunteered for the standing committee was N Glover

Premises Committee: The Vicar, Churchwardens, J Retallick and the Treasurer

Electoral Roll and Church Attendance

At the APCM on 28 April 2024 the revised Electoral Roll was presented by Lesley Murphy, St Mary's Electoral Roll Officer. There are 87 names on the electoral roll, of these 63 are resident in the Parish.

The usual Sunday attendance numbers were taken over four Sundays in October.

The figures for a 'normal' Sunday were recorded as: 69 adults and 16 under-16s.

There were 3 baptisms, 0 marriages in church, 1 funerals in church and 3 funerals were conducted by the clergy elsewhere.

PCC Report for the full year Jan-Dec 2024:

The PCC met five times during the year, one of which was a special meeting to formally approve the Annual Report and Accounts for 2023. We also held a special Premises Meeting in August (in place of the scheduled PCC) to discuss urgent fabric matters arising from Quinquennial and Net Zero discussions. The key decisions taken and topics raised during 2024 which are not mentioned elsewhere in this report, are summarized below

- **Bibles funded** for 'God's Treasure Hunters' youth group to support their discipleship.
- **Outreach:** Increased social events in 2024 to build community, including the Candlemass Caleigh
- **Discipleship:** "Practicing the Way" and "Watch and Pray" selected for focus during lent, and the key practices were explored further from September.
- **Leaders Training:** PCC agreed to support Nikki Glover in training as a Licensed Lay Minister.
- **Sunday Services:** We made a decision to stop zooming the service as it was becoming very hard to manage. Services remained a mixture of East Facing and 'In the round', offering a rich variety.
- **Forward Planning:** PCC Members took part in several *Parish Needs Process* meetings with colleagues from the diocese, discerning plans for St Mary's. The vision "*Roots down...into the Gospel, Walls Down... into the Community*" remains unchanged.
- **Mission Overseas:** We sent funds to Uganda to support vulnerable women who are part of the Amaha We Uganda Programmes. At the end of the skills course, they are given the essentials to start up a micro business (e.g. hairdressing / tailoring).
- **Premises:** PCC are thankful to Robin for overseeing the Quinquennial Report and urgent actions arising from it. (see Premises Report)
- **The Stewardship Group** continued to encourage everyone to keep prayerfully considering their giving. Without regular giving the church cannot run, or invest in the future.
- **Sustainability:** PCC agreed that we need to continue towards Carbon Net Zero. We applied for and got a free VCSE scheme energy audit, funded by the government, which now informs our plans, but no grant for works was awarded as the scheme is oversubscribed. Next step is a new boiler, and a faculty request was submitted as soon as the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee) recommended its approval. Volunteers are needed to help shape the next areas to focus on in 2025.
- **Serving the Community:** The church itself may be used as a polling centre in the future, PCC agreed to this potential use for the benefit of the community.
- **Grateful Thanks:** Rachel Watts has provided invaluable administrative assistance to Neil since Jackie retired. After discussion the PCC resolved to award an honorarium in appreciation.
- **Our calling to serve the most vulnerable:** A recurring theme at PCC has been the call to serve those in need, support people who are 'on the fringes', a feeling of being sent to support those who are suffering, vulnerable or excluded in different ways. There are many being helped by foodbank, appreciating pastoral visits, being served by Community Café, being supported at Toddler Group, needing Warm Hub help, asking for prayer support, needing our help to give them a voice to access services they are entitled to, and so on. We need pastoral assistants more than ever. Please see Nikki or Revd Neil if you feel called.

Management – Staff, Premises & Finance

- Anna White is the Designated Parish Safeguarding Officer
- Peter Wickwar continued as Safeguarding Officer for Vulnerable Adults.
- Nikki Glover continued to lead the Pastoral work of the Church with the help of Sally Lowe
- Patrick Brown continued as Covenant Secretary, in addition to his role as Treasurer,
- Nikki Glover has continued in the role of Health and Safety Officer.
- Robin Barratt manages St Mary's insurance.
- Jane Cox continued as Lay Reader to the parish.
- Alex Sanderson continued as Project Manager (employed) and is designated Safeguarding lead at the Chapel (ecumenical project with HSB Methodist Circuit)
- Rachel Watts as Parish Administrator
- Toni Banks as Cleaner (employed)

St Mary's Safeguarding Report 2024

This is the Safeguarding Report for the twelve months to December 31st 2024.

St Mary's is a member of the online Parish Safeguarding Dashboard which is the Parish Safeguarding Plan. St Mary's is now a Level 2 Church. There are 3 Levels to complete on the Dashboard. This dashboard is visible to the Diocese as a check on compliance with Safeguarding issues.

The "Promoting a Safer Church" Posters are on display around the Church which give contact details of who to report to if you have Safeguarding concerns. Our St Mary's Safeguarding Policy is also on display in the entrance foyer.

Safeguarding is on the agenda at every PCC meeting.

St Mary's joined over 3,000 churches across the UK and hosted its third Safeguarding Sunday. This year the theme and focus were – 'Let's talk about it'. The aim was to encourage churches to talk about how communities can work together to prevent abuse and create a world where every child and adult can feel and be safe. It was an opportunity for us to reflect on recent events following the resignation of Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury. We shared our experiences, what our church is doing to make it a safer place for everyone and thanked those who work behind the scenes to make it happen.

Our Sunday School is flourishing with many new families and their children joining our weekly Sunday School. Our young people (in Year 6 and above) have attended Danehill Ventures. Danehill Ventures is a holiday camp with a Christian focus, with various talks and workshops. The young people thoroughly enjoyed their time away.

The Safeguarding team has sought advice from the Diocesan Safeguarding Team on three occasions in the last year.

The Chapel at Ash Vale now has its own Safeguarding Officer. St Mary's helps with projects like foodbanks, toddler time. St Mary's is working jointly with the Chapel to help support the Safeguarding Officer when the need arises.

Anna White

Administration

Rachel Watts continued in the post of Parish Administrator and Alex Sanderson continued in her role as Project Manager for St Mary's and the Chapel.

Last year's APCM was held in April in Church.

The iKnow App was purchased in 2019. It has enabled the Administrator to keep all Church members who have a computer informed about what has been happening at St Mary's.

Hall Hire at St. Mary's

What groups meet? 2024 has seen the Halls in good use by regular hirers. In terms of our connections with the community, St Mary's is reaching a good range of age groups and many local people through our facilities. We have a wide range of groups using the Halls: Dog Training (weekly), Brownies and Rainbows, several dance classes, exercise classes and U3A have become regular users of the Hall for several groups. There are about 15-20 parties each year on average which take more work than regular hires.

Why is it good to hire the rooms of St Mary's out? The hire of rooms at St Mary's provides several benefits to our church community. Firstly, we are in the middle of the Parish and not far from the village, so we are able to offer a reasonably priced facility for community groups. Secondly the hire of the Halls brings in hire money which helps the financial situation a little – although currently the cost of heating the rooms is quite high when they are in use in the winter. Overall, there is a gain to the finances, but the new boiler should hopefully bring better cost benefits. Many of the people who visit the church for groups come from families that would not normally come to church, so we are providing an opportunity for people to visit 'Church' without attending a service.

How can our provision for community groups be improved? The rooms are used heavily and are showing signs of wear and tear; we need to be able to provide safe and secure rooms that are pleasant to meet in – and this includes

our toilet facilities. Our heating system works but can be temperamental (sometimes because of how it is programmed). We have a cleaner who does a good job on limited hours, so help with regular clearing of rubbish bins by church members as well as keeping spaces tidy after church or church activities would be really helpful. Our kitchen is also a little tired and the oven is not reliable for guests to use – again if church groups can ensure they leave rooms tidier than they find them this would help our environment. A clean, welcoming, well signed building shows love to our visitors and hopefully they may want to come to church for a service and therefore to spend time with God.

Who is involved with Hall hire? Jackie Scott is the Hall hire Secretary, booking in groups and arranging the heating for said groups, and is assisted by Derek Monds who sends out invoices and Patrick Brown who keeps a check on payments received, returning deposits where appropriate.

Premises Report

- 1) The Premises sub Committee at its lengthy meeting on the 14 August 2024 considered in detail the **Quinquennial Premises Report 2024** and its 176 requirements. This is an 80 paged document. It describes, with copious photographic illustrations, the architect's detailed all day survey of the church premises (but excluding the adjoining vicarage). The survey occurred in mid- January 2024.
- 2) As church warden I attended upon this architect's survey throughout the day to assist and support him as he had requested. Nye Saunders are the diocesan architects advising the bishop's staff at Church House. This architect knows the physical fabric of this church intimately. He prepared two previous surveys in 2014 and 2019: a considerable number of his previous requirements remain unimplemented.
- 3) The premises sub-committee was reconstituted by the vicar in June 2024 on the receipt of this 2024 report and its 176 requirements. The subcommittee decided it must meet again urgently and proposed the 20th September 2024. This was to aim to secure implementing the report's 90 urgent and immediate requirements asap.
- 4) However, the team is yet to meet. The committee meanwhile had familiarised itself with the 90 proposed urgent actions in the first two parts of the report. These were required to be executed either as 'immediate and urgent' or within 18 months, i.e. before June 2025. The key items which were discussed by the committee included the following:
 - Guttering to be cleared and fixings renewed and levels adjusted urgently. This requires the use of ladders and a cherry picker at higher levels. A committee member undertook to secure the use of a friend's machine who is licensed to operate it. It was decided the subcommittee must arrange for this work to be scheduled immediately and reviewed each quarter in future. It proposed to arrange 'work days' to achieve this. This has yet to occur unfortunately.
 - The seriously deteriorating access way adjoining the church's western boundary beyond the small hall and its play area and the narthex's undercroft access requires urgent action. The flagpole dumped there has now become significantly over grown by strong prolific weed growth. This is now reseeding. The pole MUST be immediately removed (March 2025) so this area can receive the urgent professional remedial action required. It must be resurfaced with an impermeable cover or with paving to prevent a recurrence of the same situation next year.
 - The fire extinguisher by the entrance door must be urgently re-mounted on the wall. This has been a requirement of 2 previous quinquennial reports; it is a statutory fire safety obligation and so failure to do so is a potential criminal offence. The vicar and church warden at the meeting undertook to do so. However, this task still remains to be done.
 - The cabling running along the floor by the small hall and narthex entrance into the office remains a trip hazard. The continuing need for it at all needs reconsideration. The subcommittee has not yet done so.
 - The flooring in the ladies' lavatories needs renovation and professional attention.
 - The sub committee's decision last August 2024 was to schedule an urgent action day.
 - Regular annual professional tests and maintenance of the services have been done (other than the main boiler which awaits imminent removal). The church insurers have confirmed that an annual inspection of

the lightning conductor is not required by them. This could be replaced by a tri-annual testing and save up to £500 in fees.

- A painting and decorating day was proposed by the subcommittee: various defined walls and other surfaces were nominated. However this has yet to be arranged by its chairman or members.
- The vicar reported to the subcommittee that the PCC had neglected on 2 occasions during his 17 year residence to redecorate his vicarage. The subcommittee agreed that this omission be rectified. The Bishop however has since at the vicar's request authorised certain expenditure at the vicarage.
- The subcommittee may wish to check whether the maintenance of a vicarage and its boundaries is the legal responsibility of the PCC. The author understands that during the vicar's occupation, this is the vicar's responsibility and disbursement of the incurred costs is a Diocesan obligation. It is only during a vacancy the costs of maintenance of a vicarage and its curtilage falls on the PCC.
- There will be a need before 2040-45 for the roof of the church to be renewed. This will enable solar panels to be installed and the interior of the roof space and the church fenestration should precede it or must be coincidentally addressed so as to optimise the insulation of the interior of the church.
- This requires a long term binding financial capital investment strategy to be achieved by the church membership. This could and should be easily secured over the relevant 15 year period out of a current annual church turnover of £160k. If £9k (i.e., about 6+% of the total current annual expenditure) is set aside - i.e., £800 a month as % of annual total costs-and wisely invested, it should be obviously achievable.
- The problem of damp created by the external entrance ramp's immediate proximity to the church's external southern wall at the south western corner of the church may have been resolved by the repointing work done in June 2024 but it must be monitored. The internal mural discolouration within the church south wall appears to be reduced.
- The water ingress internally through the western edge of the ceiling of the entrance vestibule by the doorway to the narthex probably arises from defective flashing at the edge of the flat roof externally. This is significantly exacerbated by debris which habitually clogs up the two drainage hoppers and downpipes at the western end of this flat roof. This problem is simply resolved. Fine meshed covers over the 2 hoppers and the certainty of a regular 3 monthly inspection and de-clogging of the mesh should avoid future ingress. It must be accompanied by the renewal of the existing flashing. The top edge of this renewed flashing must be cemented into the adjoining bricks pointing unlike the existing flashing.
- Due to the complex nature of the flat roofs, the PCC are being cautious in how we proceed with any repairs due to previous experiences with similar issues which didn't fully resolve the underlying problems. They will require a second opinion and seek discernment of their options before moving forward with an effective long term remedy.
- A faculty has been granted for a new gas boiler. Its installation may occur in early April if and when the requisite funds can be released by the treasurer.
- Necessary and urgent boundary wall and other identified repointing work to brick work was done by a contractor at a cost of about £1250 in early June 2024.

Robin Barratt,
Church Warden.

Finance (Patrick Brown)

Summary

Our hope in 2023 was to address the annual deficit of around £20,000 from previous years which we managed to achieve and ended with a surplus of £1,300. This was good news at the time.

In 2024 we stabilised this surplus at around the same figure despite having to face an unexpected settlement for around £2,500 for the costs of our gas supplies after it was discovered that our old gas meter had been under recording since its installation in 2013 (see below for more details).

The surplus in 2024 was achieved through a number of generous donations and an increase in regular planned giving, both of which are going to difficult to sustain in 2025 and in future years. It is therefore essential to continue the good work achieved through the 2023 stewardship campaign and to regularly ask members to review their giving in light of ongoing inflationary increases.

Details

Our **overall net worth** at the end of 2024 was around £75,100 as compared with £83,000 the previous year – an overall reduction of around £7,900. This reduction was as a result an increases in general funds of around £1,300 and a reduction in restricted funds of around £9,200.

The increase in general funds was the net difference between income and expenditure whereas the reduction in restricted funds was the net difference between income and expenditure of £9,900 offset by an increase in invested income of around £700.

Invested funds increased in value by around £700 in 2024 as compared to an increase of around £2,600 in 2023. This reduction was as a result of the weaker market trading conditions in 2024 resulting in lower share valuation increases, whereas reinvested dividends remained at the same level as 2023 of around £800. The market value of our shares as at 31 December 2024 was around £31,700 as compared to £30,200 in 2023, an overall increase of £1,500.

Income during the year was around £169,100 which was £12,900 lower than the previous year's income of £182,000. This reduction was a combination of an increase in unrestricted income of around £5,800 and a reduction in restricted income of around £18,700.

The increase in unrestricted income was mainly as a result of increases in planned giving and sundry donations of £5,100 and £1,600 respectively, offset by a reduction in gift aid received of £1,000. Whereas the reduction in restricted income was mostly as a result of a reduction in once of grants of around £23,000 offset to a small extent by increases in planned giving, sundry donations and gift aid received of £1,600, £1,700 and £700 respectively.

Expenditure during the year was around £177,700 was £10,700 higher than the previous year's expenditure of £167,000. This was made up of increases in unrestricted and restricted expenditure of around £6,300 and £4,400 respectively.

The main reason for the increase in unrestricted expenditure was the increase in the Parish Share of around £4,900. The other main differences are too numerous to outline here but can be found in detail in section 3.1 to the notes of the accounts.

The main reasons for the increase in restricted expenditure was increases in the food parcels project and utilities costs of around £6,800 and £2,500 respectively, which were offset by reductions in the costs of the Chapel and Uganda projects of around £1,600 and £3,500 respectively.

The increase in utilities costs were mostly as a result of the settlement costs of the under recording of the Smart gas meter. This under recording was first discovered in March 2024 when British Gas installed a new meter when the old meter become faulty and was no longer transmitting Smart readings. . As a result we were faced with a bill in May 2024 of just over £17,700 (VAT inclusive). Following a number of months negotiation, and to avoid the potential of being taken to court, we settled on a repayment plan of just under £2,500. This was subsequently funded from once off generous donations so that this increased cost didn't impinge on our unrestricted funds and our bottom line.

The **Community Centre** showed a gain of £1,100 as compared to a gain of £1,800 in 2023, an overall reduction of £700. This reduction was mainly as a result of an expected rebate in 2024 of £500 on our credit balance, but this was subsequently consumed by the increase in actual electricity costs during the year.

Although the church buildings do not appear specifically in the Church accounts as they are consecrated property and are therefore excluded from the financial statements, the PCC has a responsibility for their insurance. **Our insurance cover** through the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group was £6.65 million for buildings and contents, £10 million for employers' liability and £10 million for public and products liability. The insurance premium (including tax) paid during 2023 was around £1,650.

Missions and Charities: Outward Giving

The PCC agreed a total of around £8,000 of financial support to a variety of missions and charities both at home and overseas from our planned giving which is in line with our commitment to giving 10% of our planned income.

At the PCC meeting on 24 January 24 the PCC confirmed that 90% of this financial support would be given to the same 3 recipients as previous years , which are:

30% (£2,400) each to: Amaha We Uganda, Young peoples' work including Danehill support costs and Weeks' & Retallick's Music and Arts Ministry. Of the remaining 10% (£800) only £340 was used on small donations, each of £100 or less.

Review of Progress and Achievements

Project Manager's report – January to December 2024

The Project Manager role at St Mary's is a part-time position, 16.5 paid hours per week. Alexandra Sanderson continued in this role throughout 2024.

The role profile covers 2 key priorities, and the Food Parcels project:

Priority 1. Opening up the church for the community during the week

Priority 2. Project Management at The Chapel (ecumenical project jointly with Hants Surrey Border Methodist Circuit at the former Methodist church on Wharf Road).

Foodbank: The Ash Villages Food Parcels Project started out as a COVID project and has now become the local foodbank for Ash, Ash Vale, Ash Green and Tongham

1.1 Priority 1: Opening up the Church

- **Tuesday Little Lambs Library** baby and toddler group Tuesdays 10:00-11:30am in term time. This group continues to thrive under the care of our wonderful team, including Heather on refreshments, Nikki and Karen on pastoral support and Peter on music. The families love it when Rev. Neil visits to chat at the craft table. We were all very sad to lose Margaret Damen this year, she is much missed.
- **Friday Community café** (& warm welcome venue) Fridays 10:00-13:00 offers a warm welcome all year round and special warm hub facilities in winter. We have forged links with the food parcels team for referrals and hand out excess food at cafe each week. We are a registered as a Surrey CC warm hub and have given out lots of extra support (electric blankets, fuel vouchers etc) to families in crisis through this connection. Guest 'clinics' have included Guildford Wellbeing Team, Co-Op Community Champions and local councillors. Richard Lucas is a regular visitor, attending to be available for local people and listen to their concerns. We held a special event for MacMillan in September.
- **Daily Food shelf:** We have added a food shelf outside so that food can be on offer 24/7 365. We add tins when the team is in the church, and encourage others to contribute whatever they can. Feel free to add your tins too!
- **Parishioner Magazine** continued to be online only. We continue to publish articles online via the church website on the Parishioner page and via the Parishioner Facebook page. News and contributions welcomed: parishioner@ash-vale.org.uk
- **Lots of Community Events at St Mary's:**
 - **Pancake Day** was celebrated in the usual style with races and pancakes
 - **Summer Fair "Children's zone"** was buzzing with lots of support from our various community groups, thank you to all who contributed! The September date worked well and was well attended.
 - **St Nicholas Day** lantern walk was reinvented overnight as an indoor event due to bad weather. Everyone had an amazing time and enjoyed the new format. Lots of lovely feedback from families who enjoyed the adventure. Thank you to Kyle who was an amazing St Nic!
 - **Christingle Journey event** was also well attended with over 100 people joining us for Christingle making, bonfire, live nativity, refreshments at the 'inn' and Neil's famous food on Christmas Eve. We found that a week-day is less well attended, and the team was very tired for Midnight Mass, so in 2025 we may try scheduling this for the weekend just before Christmas.

1.2 Project Management at the Chapel:

- **Monday Chapel Café** (& Warm Welcome Venue) has continued running since Feb 2023 and was much appreciated by all who attended. In response to demand we continued it all year (term time only) and we built a wonderful Chapel Café community and a lovely team including Andy and Carolina who have been a superb help to us all.
- **Wednesday Chapel Kids** Baby & Toddler Group continued to run for the extended opening times 11:00-14:00 with chat, story and songs, then play & craft / community garden activity, then break for a shared lunch, then sensory play after lunch to finish. Chapel Kids entered the Christmas Tree Exhibition at St Peter's in Ash in November and their tree decorations were lovely! We were all sad to lose our Methodist Minister Revd. Gina Hoff when she moved to a new role in July. We are delighted to welcome Revd. Anne Day who has taken on the role and already brought her creative clay making skills to the Chapel both as a toddler activity and in the form of beautiful ceramics at the Christmas Fair. We are also very thankful for Natalie who plays the accordion for song time every week.
- **Wednesdays Chapel Craft** ran weekly 20:00-22:00. Members are a great support to one another and the creations they share are beautiful. Their knitted sheep are still a feature at Little Lambs toddler group and they are an amazing recourse for people seeking expert advice when a project gets tricky!
- **Sundays NWCLF:** The Chapel is delighted to continue to be the local home of New Way Christian Life Fellowship, who have been granted a worship licence and meet here most Sundays. Joint services & fellowship at St Marys have been wonderful. Luke Tuibure is a member of the Chapel Management Committee and has been a big help, leading working parties and supporting site maintenance.
- **Chapel Music** - run by Matt and Dan Weeks, whose ministry reaches local, national and international audiences and we look forward to the Resound Worship concert in 2025. We are hugely thankful for their support of the Chapel Project.
- **Chapel Arts** run by Jono and Debi Retallick has continued to serve the local community with home education groups, Monthly Makes and their artwork reaches out both nationally and internationally. They have also brought creativity to Picnic and Play and the Light Party again this year to the delight of all who attended.
- **Picnic and Play** (July/August) in the holidays ran on Wednesdays in the summer. Well received and much appreciated by the local community. Neil's Pancakes and clay modelling were particularly well received and everyone enjoyed their picnics, disco, games and activities. Huge thanks to all involved.
- **Love & Light Party** (31 October) was a huge success, with a wonderful opportunity to share joy and light with the community. Rev. Neil preached and we had a super team of volunteers who ran the activities, baked, served refreshments and looked after everyone.
- **Christmas Fair** at the Chapel was a lovely event. We had some amazing donations including lots of nearly new, great raffle, and guest stalls including Selina's crafts, Sues sweets and cakes, Revd. Anne's ceramics and Karen's cards for the Children's Society.
- **Theatre Rocket** continued to use the Chapel and we were delighted to have them. They enjoyed some spectacular successes at competitions again this year.
- **Pilates with Lindi** at the Chapel has been a great success, so much so that they moved to a larger venue in summer. We wish them every blessing.

1.3 Ash Villages Food Parcels Project:

This is a joint project between St Mary's church and Carla Morson's local Ash Villages Support Circle. Food Parcels continued to be much needed in 2024.

- **Fundraising:** Our funding needs have increased significantly and grant applications work is a significant part of the workload now. The team has grown to more than 30 volunteers (plus more at Christmas) and we are supporting more families than ever. We delivered 1040 parcels in 2024 and fed 3331 people. Having great links with the warm welcome hubs, we can also now cross-refer for community warm welcomes, fuel vouchers and we distributed the donated electric blankets and other 'warm hub essentials' provided by Surrey County Council to families in need. The project has its own web page now as part of the St Mary's website.
- **Hubbub Community Fridge:** We worked with our co-op community team and secured a Hubbub grant to open the Ash Vale Community Fridge in 2023. This now allows us to pass on all excess donations to the wider community. It also allows community members to donate any good food they would otherwise throw away.
- **Harvest:** Local scouts, rainbows, cubs, brownies, schools, companies and churches as well as individuals made wonderful contributions to our Food Parcels shelves at Harvest. Huge thanks to all involved.
- **Christmas Food Bank:** We were once again delighted and amazed by local people's generosity at Christmas where donations allowed us to provide food, winter warmers and Christmas gifts for 83 families. Donations came from individuals, schools, churches and community groups, businesses and more. Every Food Parcel recipient (adults and children) received a gift as well as their food hamper that week.

St Mary's and the Chapel give grateful thanks for all volunteering and funding support received in 2024. This includes generous donations of time, talents and funds from local people, community funding from Co-op community fund, Surrey CC Warm Hub funding, Methodist Circuit funding towards Project Manager wages, Methodist district funding towards the Chapel warm spaces, Lottery funds for foodbank and more. Without your financial help we could not stay open as a church or employ our Project Manager or stock the foodbank. Without your time and talents as volunteers we could not deliver any of these projects. Without your donations for events, fundraising, community fridge, and Food Parcels we could not deliver help for the local community. You are making all the difference! We look forward to working with you in 2025. Thank you for all you do.

If you would like to contact our Project Manager about any of the above events and groups please phone or text Alex on 07730 609446 or you can email to Projectmanager@ash-vale.org.uk

Grants Received 2024:

Received	Amount	Organisation	Restricted Use
Mar-24	1,000	Hubbub Foundation Co-op	Chapel Community Fridge
Mar-24	1,171	Co-op Community Grant 1st Payment	Food Parcels Project
Oct-24	750	SCC Warm Hubs Grant	Friday Café Warm Hub
Oct-24	5,000	Co-op Local Community Fund Grant	Food Parcels Project
Nov-24	2,007	Co-op Community Grant 2nd Payment	Food Parcels Project
	<u>9,928</u>		

Pastoral Care (Nikki Glover and Sally Lowe)

Sally and I have continued with the pastoral visits within the community, but unfortunately due to ill health and my LLM training, we haven't been able to make as many visits as needed. Sally has still been able to send cards and keep in contact by phone though. The afternoon tea that we put on for the over 65's every other month has continued to be very well attended, averaging on 20 people coming each time. Please pray for the ongoing pastoral work. Nikki

Fellowship Groups

Six Bible Study groups continued to meet regularly, some weekly, some fortnightly, through 2024. Many followed the 'Practicing the Way' course and found it an extremely helpful guide to growing as Jesus' disciples. For many, putting into practice the disciplines outlined in the course led to a deepening of their relationship with Jesus.

In addition to the regular Bible Study groups, the Seekers Group continued led by Steve Cox. After the end of the course, some of the group decided to meet once a month for study, prayer and fellowship. They too followed 'Practicing the Way'.

A small Alpha Group was run in the autumn led by Jane Cox and Lesley Murphy.

Thursday Friends

Thursday friends continues provide fellowship and support to older members of our congregation thanks to the dedication of Irene Cummings. During the summer break members take turn in hosting each week and the Christmas lunch was a great success, thanks to everyone who brought food and seasonal fellowship.

Youth and Children's Ministry

Sunday School Report:

Our lovely Sunday School is entirely run by volunteers (Alex is part of the team too, but is not paid to work on Sundays). This year's Sunday School register has 14 - 16 children who attend regularly, plus more who come less often, but are always a welcome addition to the group. We love having the older children in with us, as they are very helpful assisting the little ones in participating, and when we have enough helpers we offer deeper discussions and more complex activities for the older group. We have a lovely, diverse group of leaders and helpers which means the activities are varied too. We have had everything from magic sand to Lego, and from cookie decorating to colouring. We continue follow the lectionary, and other special themes used in church, so that families can discuss the same topics together when they get home after church, and the children's work shown off at "show and tell" during the notices at the end of each service reflects on the same themes as the grown-ups have been exploring in church. We again had a special "Safeguarding Sunday" this year, and all learned the "Use your Roar" song and reminded ourselves about letting trusted grown-ups know if we are worried about anything. A huge thank you to all who have been involved in Sunday school in 2024, and we all look forward to more fun and learning in 2025.

God's Treasure Hunters

God's Treasure Hunters Started in Summer 2023, aimed at the older children aged 10 years and up, and continued to meet in 2024 until July. We met from 4pm until 6pm on Sunday afternoons, usually meeting in church for games, bible study, food and prayers. We also had some outings which the children fundraised for with bake sales, and we visited Forest Kids Ash which was a great way to enjoy a meeting in the open air. Several of the group attended the Ventures Danehill youth camp, the older ones in the Summer and younger ones in October. Due to the team of leaders not having capacity to continue, the group stopped meeting from September. We have made a focussed effort to have discussion materials and activities for teens at Sunday school in the second half of 2024 on the weeks when we had 3 leaders for the session, but we need more leaders to be able to do it weekly. We urgently need either funds for a youth worker or parent volunteers (or both!) so that this work can start up again with a real focus on delivering something worthwhile for our tweens and teenagers. It will be a key challenge for our church in 2025. Please see Revd. Neil if you can help with funds, time or both!

Worship at St Mary's

We have a fantastic worship community at St Mary's who lead at the 10.30am service each week. A number of volunteers give their time and energy to make this happen. I think it is really fantastic that a wide and varied amount of music is used in the services. Some weeks you can be singing a hymn that is hundreds of years old, then a timeless chorus from the 1980's and then a contemporary worship song written this year, all in the same service. We also use a good number of songs written by people from within the church which is also a very healthy sign and the worship team feel particularly encouraged in that area!

Some of the worship team gather informally every now and again to practice new songs that we think might be good for congregational worship, and also to trial new compositions from our writers.

Pete and Jackie Scott still run the church choir each week. They support the worship from within the congregation Sunday by Sunday, but also feature heavily when it comes to the big church festivals.

Pete is regularly at Little Lambs and helps out by playing songs for the young children and parents.

We really hope to keep growing in the way we lead the sung worship at St Mary's in two ways: Firstly, to continue to seek an encounter with God as we worship, and to allow the Holy Spirit to work in us and change us as we sing. And secondly, to learn what it means to not just "lead worship" but to "lead community". This is about the way songs are chosen; songs that in their nature value community. And also how singing is encouraged throughout the whole church body in a way that values everybody, and says all are welcome, all can join in, we value each and every one.

PRAYER MINISTRY 2024

Prayer chain (Rachel Watts)

This email prayer chain run by Rachel continues to be a mainstay of prayer ministry at St Marys. Connecting church members to one another in a commitment to pray for situations, and people both known and unknown to us

personally. It has and continues to be a real blessing for church members and their loved ones. Both requests for prayer, updates and praise for answered prayer are received by Rachel and emailed out to church members.

What's App

A small group of Church members are in this group where requests for prayer are posted or pinged, if appropriate Rachel will also put these on the prayer chain after checking with the person who submitted the prayer request. Sometimes prayer requests are put forward which are for the What's App group only and this would be specified by the person who has submitted the request.

Prayer Meetings

WEEKLY – Tuesday at 11.45 am at St Marys after Little Lambs attending by a small group of people, at least 2 to a maximum of 4 or 5.

MONTHLY – The first Friday of every month at St Marys from 6.30 – 7.15pm. Attended by between 2 and 6 people. Led by different members of the prayer team, (Karen, Lindy, Steve Cox, Jane Cox and Robin).

Prayer Ministry After the Sunday Service

The team consisting of Karen and Robin, Kate and Peter W, Jane Cox and Eileen Monds, Derek Monds and Sarah Mould. The team work in pairs and usually stick to the same pairing and the same Sunday in the month over 4 Sundays - arranging swaps or cover for holidays or sickness. Lindy, Ben Philpot and Helen are also sometimes able to stand in if cover is needed or there is a 5th Sunday in the month. This ministry is seems appreciated by members of our church family when they feel they are in need of someone to share and pray with them.

Intercessory Prayers

Rachel organizes a rota of people to lead our Intercessory Prayers as part of our regular Sunday Services.

World Day of Prayer 2024

The World Day of Prayer written by the Christian Women of Palestine was hosted by St Marys in March 2024. This was well attended by people from churches in Ash, Ash Vale and Tongham with a few people coming from outside the area.

Prayer Request Box at Bartlett Group Practise Doctors Surgery

There is a Prayer Request Box in the surgery which is emptied from time to time and requests are then circulated for prayer by Rachel via the email prayer chain.

The Wider Church - Aldershot Deanery Synod

During 2024 there were two regular meetings held. These were held at the Church of the Good Shepherd in February and at Holy Trinity in June. There was also a special meeting for the Parish Needs Process was held in July at Fleet where synod members, clergy and PCC members were invited. A number of members of St. Mary's attended this meeting (see also Forward Planning in the report from the PPC)

Over the two regular meetings, two main topics were discussed:

The Racial Justice Covenant

On Racial Justice Sunday, Beverley Hunt spoke at the Cathedral about the need to address racism and spoke about 2 documents which should be discussed in Synod, PCC's and the pews. All synod members were encouraged to read the documents which should have been sent to clergy.

At the February meeting it was recommended that following 4 principles of the racial justice covenant be adopted biennially by the parishes/Deanery

1. Disciples: We commit to Jesus Christ as individuals, as churches and as part of society.
2. Diversity: We commit to encourage, build up and celebrate the racial diversity of the Body of Christ across Guildford Diocese.
3. Representation: We commit to improve the inclusion, participation, and representation of UKME/GMH (UK Minoritised Ethnic / Genetic Ethnic Heritage) people in our congregations, our lay and ordained leadership and in our diocesan staff.
4. Accountability: We commit to accountability and transparency in parish and diocesan systems, structures, and processes, with clear goals for racial diversity and inclusion

This covenant was formally adopted at the June meeting.

Foundations in Ministry Course

At the February meeting Matt Grove, who leads the Diocesan Foundations in Ministry course, talked about what training is available within the diocese for those that feel God calling them to serve in any way in the church. This ranged from long term, part time training to become an ordained or licensed lay minister, to shorter part time courses for music worship leading, occasional worship service leader, occasional preacher and children's ministry. There is also an array of information on the diocese website to browse for anyone interested, whatever age and educational background you have, don't let that make you feel hesitant to answer Gods call.

This was further discussed at the June meeting.

Ecumenical News

"Ecumenical relations, also known as ecumenism, are the effort to seek Christian unity by cultivating meaningful relationships and understanding by and between the many different Christian churches and Christian Communities." [Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago.]

Being one church the Body of Christ is what we are but also what we strive for.

Working together with other denominations should always be part of any mission we do. The first thing that comes to mind is that we join together with Holy Angels Ash Roman Catholic Church each Remembrance and Good Friday in public places but through the year the two denominations we work closely with are the Methodist church through the work at the chapel in fact I'm a licensed Methodist clergy person which is done on an annual basis. The other denomination is nonconformist the 'New Way Christian Fellowship'. As a church and also for myself we have found great blessing in working with both. It is also good to recognise that within St Marys itself we have many different denominations even people of no faith! God is good!

Vive la difference!

In the Community

Harvest Service, we were pleased to welcome the Scouts to our harvest service in 2024. Gifts from the service were sent to the Ash Villages Food Parcels Project

Hear here - Hearing Aid repair Clinic

Some of you will know and have visited the Hear here clinic which is held on the first Friday of every month in the Church. It is run in association with the NHS and Guildford Diocese and there are now 50+ volunteers (Hearhere Champions) around the Diocese – almost one in every church. The clinic aims to provide a service to hearing aid users by offering a maintenance service, providing batteries and spare parts and also some advice on how to use hearing aids if anyone is struggling. Because the clinics take place in churches it means that people don't have to travel to a hospital or surgery for spare parts, and this releases pressure on the vital services at NHS facilities. Most people who visit St Mary's come from within a 2-mile radius. All the clinics are run by trained volunteers and the one at St Mary's has been run for at least 6 years by Jackie Scott. Over that time, it has become known around the village and people who have visited pass the message on to their friends – word of mouth is a powerful thing! It is another opportunity to share the love of Jesus with our neighbours through caring for basic needs.

St Mary's Hear here clinic runs at the same time as Friday café and this means that some of the clients come through to the café while they wait or after they have been seen. Often coffee is brought to them while they sit in the queue. It has become a friendly and welcoming space where repeat visits from clients means that relationships are being built.

The clinic has grown and usually there are about 12 clients to see in a 2-hour period. The clinic runs on a first come, first served basis, which means that sometimes there is a short wait for clients, but most are patient and considerate and practically all go away feeling they have been helped. In the last year Peter Scott has started to help by pointing people in the right direction, offering a steadying hand, distributing batteries and chatting to help people feel at ease.

As the number of visitors is growing more help would be welcomed. It is a non-threatening way to get involved and another opportunity to make people feel part of our church community if only for the short time they are with us. Peter is about to train to be able to repair hearing aids too, which will hopefully mean people wait less long. If anyone would like to offer receptionist skills once a month that would be fantastic.

Vicar's Report (St Mary's 2024)

St Mary's is always changing, and yet always seems to remain the same. And both of these are good things. God is always leading us to new things, and at the same time the truth of his love does not change and neither does his word. He is truly immutable omnipotent and eternal. A true foundation and rock. This gives us hope in a world that seems to be like a rough sea, and in our little corner of Ash Vale we do not neglect to meet together to as it says in Hebrews 10: 24 *to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.* We must encourage one another, worship together, and to study His word. Simply because there is no other way. *You have the words of eternal life, where shall we go?* His disciples responded to Jesus. So, as we reflect on the highlights and lowlights of 2024, we find both encouragement and warnings.

Highlights for myself speaking personally include:

- 1) Food Parcels Project, and Asylum seekers work, and Community Fridge, where we have been led to work with the very poor and those in need. This is not just an action but a direction that we feel St Mary's is going in. As we hold the beatitudes always like a signpost before us of where God wants us.
- 2) The flower arranging team never fail to inspire me with their creations. Beauty is truly an important element of coming close to God.
- 3) Sunday school – I am sure everybody who sees what happens at Sunday school secretly wishes they could be part of it and not be stuck in church. A dedicated team of leaders make this happen and it's clear that we are lucky to have the best children in the South of England attending our church!
- 4) We were blessed to have Rachel who bravely took up the mantle of church administrator working from home.
- 5) 2024 we discovered Practising the Way course, it had a big impact and we continue to use it, along with promoting the Lectio 365 and Every Day with Jesus to help us in our daily bible reading.
- 6) Uganda has been very fruitful; we have reached 1 million trees planted and started the work with the Women of Hope this year. We were fortunate enough that Jasper could go and visit the team in October and encourage them.
- 7) We were blessed with 2 excellent church wardens and a great team on the PCC. It was always a blessing to meet with Patrick's hand firmly on the financial rudder, which we always give thanks for. We give thanks that 2024 was the first year for many years when we were in the black and not the red, which seems like God saying "you're kind of going in the right direction". We are very thankful and humbled by those that give sacrificially for God's work to continue in this place.
- 8) As always it has been a joy to work alongside our Fijian brothers and sisters as we reach out to people in Ashale with the Good News of Jesus Christ that are truly a blessing.
- 9) We are celebrating Nikki being on the LLM course and are already seeing the fruit of that.
- 10) The music group and choir are really coming in to their own, St Mary's have always been blessed with great music, and they really do help facilitate our worship & praise.
- 11) At this time of year we reflect on friends who have passed away from St Mary's, including John Cumner in January, Margaret Damen quite unexpectedly, and Stacey who will be greatly missed by the Friday Café regulars. Our prayers are with all those who are grieving a recent loss.
- 12) There are so many thank yous that spring to mind when I look back over the year. One for a special mention is my Church Warden Robin, who took this on when he should have been taking things easier, and we do appreciate all the help that he has given to so many. There are many more to thank, but we will save this for the APCM.
- 13) We met with the Archdeacon to review our parish plan, and it is very evident that possibly our biggest challenge is to provide for our teenagers. We lack the volunteers to run a regular group. Our team made a brave attempt but the capacity just isn't there. Which means we need to find funds for a part time youth worker, and a team of volunteers to help. Please keep this in your prayers as it is vital for the long-term future of the church. This is a hard ask when we are already fundraising for a new boiler, but is a must-do challenge for 2025.
- 14) It is interesting to me that more and more, the "fuzzy edges" of toddler groups, Café, and outreach events feel like our "centre" who never miss the opportunity to get together. Our challenge is to keep and build up our "core" and to do this we must not neglect to meet together. Sundays and Homegroups are as essential as they ever were. It is where we meet to listen to God, and to be sent out.

Hebrews 10:24 – 25

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary's Ash Vale
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

Report to the PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary's Ash Vale on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner.

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for the stated 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 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.

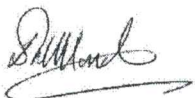
Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all 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:
 - a. To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - b. 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.



Derek H Monds | Eng MIET
13 Springfield Road

Annual Accounts (Patrick Brown)

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ending 31st December 2024

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2023
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources	2					
Incoming resources from generated funds						
Voluntary income	2.1	102,083	47,548	—	149,631	160,877
Activities for generating funds	2.2	18,447	563	—	19,010	20,247
Investment income		46	872	—	918	852
Incoming resources from charitable activities		93	—	—	93	59
Other incoming resources		(500)	—	—	(500)	—
Total incoming resources		120,169	48,983	—	169,152	182,035
Resources expended	3					
Cost of generating funds						
Cost of generating voluntary income	3.1	678	75	—	753	774
Fundraising trading cost of goods sold and	3.2	532	—	—	532	275
Charitable activities		117,627	58,815	—	176,442	165,171
Governance costs		—	—	—	—	810
Total resources expended		118,837	58,890	—	177,727	167,030
Gains / losses on investment assets	6.2	—	688	—	688	2,559
Net incoming / outgoing resources before transfer		1,331	(9,218)	—	(7,887)	17,564
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds	5	—	—	—	—	—
Net movement in funds		1,331	(9,218)	—	(7,887)	17,564
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		6,846	76,151	—	82,997	65,433
Total funds carried forward		8,177	66,933	—	75,111	82,997

The notes to the Financial Statement for the year are from pages 19 onward and form part of this account.

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Equipment	6.1	1,059	—
Investments	6.2	31,713	30,179
		<u>32,772</u>	<u>30,179</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	7.1	6,263	8,545
Cash at bank and in hand	7.2	55,007	61,616
		<u>61,270</u>	<u>70,161</u>
Liabilities			
Creditors	8	18,932	17,343
Net current assets less current liabilities		<u>42,338</u>	<u>52,818</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>75,111</u>	<u>82,997</u>
Total net assets less liabilities		<u>75,111</u>	<u>82,997</u>
Represented by			
Unrestricted			
Unrestricted - General fund		6,575	5,173
Designated			
Designated - Community Development		423	423
Designated - Emergency Relief Fund		1,179	1,250
Restricted			
Restricted - Chapel Fund		(277)	(767)
Restricted - Children's Society		276	169
Restricted - Community Fridge Grant		—	1,265
Restricted - Flood Forum		40	40
Restricted - Emergency Relief Fund		835	855
Restricted - Energy Reserve		611	—
Restricted - Food Parcels Project		17,621	29,713
Restricted - Maintenance Fund		—	150
Restricted - PCC Investment Fund		31,716	30,181
Restricted - PCC Memorial Fund		518	492
Restricted - Postcode Community Trust Fund		3,350	3,350
Restricted - Project Manager		7,249	5,831
Restricted - Refugee Project		382	269
Restricted - Roof Appeal		259	109
Restricted - Special Collections		2,450	2,250
Restricted - Warm Hubs Fund		267	934
Restricted - Uganda Project		1,444	1,311
Restricted - Young People		194	—
Funds of the church		<u>75,111</u>	<u>82,997</u>

Approved by the PCC on 23 March 2025 and signed on their behalf by:
The Revd. Neil Lambert (PCC chairman) and Mr. Patrick Brown (PCC Treasurer)

Patrick Brown *Neil Lambert*

1 Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP 2005.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the financial statements of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

1.2 Fund Accounting

General or unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

Restricted funds are those funds that may be spent on restricted purposes and details of the funds held and the restrictions are provided in note 9,

1.3 Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital sources

Planned giving collections and similar donations are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Tax received under Gift Aided giving is recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain. Funds raised by fetes and special events are accounted for gross. Sales of books and magazines from the church bookstall are accounted for gross.

Other Income

Rental income from lettings of the Community Centre and church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for when due and payable, the interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same accounting year.

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31st December.

1.4 Resources Used

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Any parish share unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these financial statements as an operational (although not a legal liability) and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet.

1.5 Fixed Assets

Consecrated property and moveable church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the financial statements by s.10 (2) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Moveable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are accounted for as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the Church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Items acquired since 1 January 2000 have been capitalized and depreciated in the financial statements over their current anticipated useful economic life (initially over ten years) on a straight-line basis.

All expenditure incurred in the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and individual items under £1,000 are written off when the asset is acquired.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis for purchases at purchase price of

over £4,999	-	over ten years
£1001 - £4,999	-	over five years

Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

1.6 Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31st December.

1.7 Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31st December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectible. Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

1.8 Current Liabilities

Amounts owed by the PCC at 31st December in respect of church fees and suppliers of goods or services to the 31st December for which accounts have not been received. They include unfulfilled commitments made by the PCC in respect of Christmas and outward giving.

2 Incoming Resources

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
Voluntary income						
Gift Aid - Bank	57,245	—	5,961	—	63,206	56,128
Gift Aid planned giving	1,600	—	—	—	1,600	1,850
Other planned giving	6,213	—	399	—	6,612	6,737
Other planned giving - Envelopes	373	—	—	—	373	339
Loose plate collections	601	—	—	—	601	614
One-off Gift Aid gifts	12,591	—	11,567	—	24,158	21,855
Donations appeals etc	2,657	—	9,160	—	11,817	10,029
Sundry Donations - Community Café	646	—	—	—	646	549
Sundry Donations - Little Lambs	187	—	—	—	187	215
Chapel Arts	—	—	347	—	347	160
Chapel Kids	—	—	182	—	182	51
Chapels Share of Project Managers Costs	—	—	5,570	—	5,570	5,570
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	18,244	—	4,038	—	22,282	22,572
GASDS	706	34	396	—	1,136	1,164
Non-recurring one-off grants	—	—	9,928	—	9,928	33,044
Sunday Coffee Money	461	—	—	—	461	—
Contactless Payment - Services/Coffee	390	—	—	—	390	—
Thursday Friends	—	135	—	—	135	—
	101,914	169	47,548	—	149,631	160,877
Activities for generating funds						
Ceilidhs	1,222	—	—	—	1,222	—
Quiz Nights	—	—	—	—	—	764
Strawberry Tea	—	—	80	—	80	—
Table Top Sales	—	—	83	—	83	—
Summer Fairs	327	—	400	—	727	1,020
Hire of Church	100	—	—	—	100	—
Church hall lettings - fund raising	—	16,348	—	—	16,348	16,249
Church Hall Lettings - Returnable Deposits	—	450	—	—	450	800
Sunday Coffee Money	—	—	—	—	—	478
Contactless Payment - Services/Coffee	—	—	—	—	—	747
Thursday Friends	—	—	—	—	—	189
	1,649	16,798	563	—	19,010	20,247
Investment income						
Dividends	—	—	846	—	846	810
Bank and building society interest	23	23	26	—	72	42
	23	23	872	—	918	852
Incoming resources from charitable activities						
Fees for weddings and funerals	93	—	—	—	93	59
	93	—	—	—	93	59
Other incoming resources						
Utilities Refund	—	(500)	—	—	(500)	—
	—	(500)	—	—	(500)	—
Total incoming resources	103,679	16,490	48,983	—	169,152	182,035

2.1 Voluntary Income

During 2024 the income from our Sunday Coffee and Thursday Friends were reclassified from 'Activities for generating funds' to 'Voluntary income' as they were not considered fund raising activities as reported in previous years. This has resulted in no 2023 income for these activities been shown as 'Voluntary income'.

2.2 Activities for Generating Funds

As a result of the reclassification of Sunday Coffee and Thursday Friends income (see note 2.1) no income for these activities is shown in 'Activities for generating funds' for 2024 as it shown as 'Voluntary income' for 2024.

3 Resources Expended

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
Cost of generating voluntary income						
SumUp Contactless	55	—	75	—	129	—
Friday Cafe - Cost of Fund Raising	1	—	—	—	1	—
Little Lambs - Cost of Fund Raising	3	—	—	—	3	—
Friday Cafe Costs	303	—	—	—	303	—
Sunday Coffee Money	311	—	—	—	311	—
Sunday Coffee Money - Contactless Costs	7	—	—	—	7	—
Cost of fetes and other events	—	—	—	—	—	774
	678	—	75	—	753	774
Fundraising trading cost of goods sold and other costs						
Fund Raising Events Costs	532	—	—	—	532	—
Sunday Coffee Money	—	—	—	—	—	275
	532	—	—	—	532	275
Cost of generating funds						
Charitable activities						
Giving to missionary societies	2,400	—	—	—	2,400	2,190
Giving - relief and development agencies	2,610	—	—	—	2,610	2,220
Home mission	2,530	—	518	—	3,049	2,985
Secular charities	—	—	—	—	—	50
Ministry parish share etc	81,970	—	—	—	81,970	78,060
Salary of parish administrator	—	—	—	—	—	2,762
Salary of Project Manager	—	—	14,217	—	14,217	13,671
Vicar's telephone	480	—	—	—	480	548
Health & Safety	92	—	—	—	92	105
Parish training and mission	1,377	—	—	—	1,377	120
Youth & Families Work	238	—	68	—	306	889
St Nicholas Day	203	—	—	—	203	—
Picnic & Play (Holiday Hunger)	—	—	404	—	404	638
Love & Light Party	—	—	244	—	244	—
Churches Together	24	—	—	—	24	—
Pastoral	80	71	1,020	—	1,171	764
Mission / Hospitality	861	—	—	—	861	100
Food Parcels	—	—	25,517	—	25,517	18,762
Food & Prescriptions	—	—	859	—	859	783
Transport Costs	—	—	—	—	—	90
Church running - insurance	—	1,163	—	—	1,163	1,123
Computer Equipment / Consumables	2,901	—	—	—	2,901	2,496
Audio Visual	434	—	—	—	434	261
Organ & Choir	270	—	—	—	270	192
Church maintenance	1,345	—	150	—	1,495	3,061
Upkeep of services	1,260	—	—	—	1,260	1,473
Flowers	—	—	—	—	—	105
Baptism & Confirmation	100	—	—	—	100	—
Organist & Verger Fees	25	—	—	—	25	—
Little Lambs	39	—	—	—	39	46
Administration	1,103	—	—	—	1,103	92
Social Events	476	—	—	—	476	81
Study Groups	—	—	—	—	—	100
Church running - electric	—	1,056	275	—	1,331	978
Church running - gas	—	2,339	1,013	—	3,353	2,033
Church running - water	—	213	—	—	213	233
Chapel - Community Fridge	—	—	2,265	—	2,265	1,735
Hire of Chapel	—	—	—	—	—	210
Chapel	—	—	8,783	—	8,783	10,400
Uganda	—	—	1,556	—	1,556	5,075
Hall running - electricity	—	1,056	275	—	1,331	978
Hall running - gas	—	2,302	1,051	—	3,353	2,086
Hall running - insurance	—	498	—	—	498	481
Hall running - maintenance	—	5,363	—	—	5,363	5,345
Hall running - water	—	213	—	—	213	233
Hall Running - Supplies	—	570	—	—	570	807
Hall running - return of deposit	—	450	—	—	450	811
Chapel Utilities	—	—	599	—	599	—
Quinquennial	1,251	—	—	—	1,251	—
Equipment Depreciation	265	—	—	—	265	—
	102,334	15,293	58,815	—	176,442	165,171
Governance costs						
Governance costs examination/audit fee	—	—	—	—	—	810
	—	—	—	—	—	810
Total resources expended	103,544	15,293	58,890	—	177,727	167,030

3.1 Cost of generating funds

As a result of the reclassification of Sunday coffee income in 2024 (see notes 2.1 and 2.2) the costs of the provision of Sunday coffee were reclassified from 'Fundraising trading cost of goods sold and other...' to 'Cost of generating voluntary income'. This had resulted in no 2023 income for this activity been shown as 'Cost of Generating Funds'.

3.2 Fundraising trading cost of goods sold and other costs

As a result of the reclassification of Sunday coffee expenditure (see note 3.1) no expenditure for this activities is shown in 'Fundraising trading cost of goods sold and other costs' for 2024 as it shown as 'Cost of generating funds'.

4 Staff Costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	17,826	19,860
Pension	1,378	1,513
Tax and NI	326	162
Total staff costs	19,530	21,535

During the year we employed on a part-time basis a project manager and a cleaner for the full financial year. Whereas, last year we employed both these part-time employees as well as a part-time parish administrator until the end of May 2023.

5 Transfers Between Funds

During 2024 there were no transfers between restricted and unrestricted funds.

6 Fixed Assets

6.1 Equipment

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Market value as at 1st January	—	—	—	—
Acquisitions at cost	—	1,324	1,324	—
Depreciation	—	(265)	(265)	—
Asset value written off	—	—	—	—
Market value as at 31st December	—	1,059	1,059	—

During 2024 we purchased 2 replacement speakers and amplifier as the previous ones were becoming unreliable

6.2 Investments

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Market value as at 1st January	—	30,179	30,179	26,810
Acquisitions at cost (reinvested dividends)	—	846	846	810
Net unrealised gain / (loss)	—	688	688	2,559
Sale of Shares (Transfer to funds)	—	—	—	—
Market value as at 31st December	—	31,713	31,713	30,179

Original value of the investment was £20,000. The market value quoted includes the revaluation of shares and dividends reinvested at the year end

7 Current Assets

7.1 Debtors

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Tax recoverable	4,106	757	4,863	6,312
GASDS	534	694	1,228	836
Paid in advance	(289)	—	(289)	—
Hall Hire	86	—	86	669
Utilities refund	—	—	—	500
Sundry debtors	143	232	375	228
	4,580	1,683	6,263	8,545

7.2 Cash in Bank and in Hand

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
CCLA Deposit Accounts (4)	1,438	1,366
Co-op Current Account	38,302	32,618
Lloyds Current Account	13,887	26,215
Lloyds Community Centre Account	1,380	958
Cash in hand General	—	259
Food Parcels	—	200
	<u>—</u>	<u>459</u>
	<u>55,007</u>	<u>61,616</u>

8 Liabilities

Creditors

	2024 £	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £
Annual outward giving (current year)	7,200	-	7,200	-
Outward Giving 2021	-	-	-	1,081
Outward Giving 2022	1,245	-	1,245	1,960
Outward Giving 2023	4,380	-	4,380	6,570
British Gas Lite (Electric)	172	-	172	-
British Gas (Gas)	753	-	753	763
Castle Water	119	-	119	-
Administration	1,000	-	1,000	-
Refugee Xmas Gifts	-	38	38	752
Vicarge Phone	480	-	480	-
Chapel Project	-	364	364	781
Nest Pension	39	81	120	-
Returnable Deposits	50	-	50	50
Food Parcels Project	-	2,342	2,342	3,994
Other creditors	645	24	669	1,392
	<u>16,083</u>	<u>2,849</u>	<u>18,932</u>	<u>17,343</u>

9 Funds

9.1 Designated funds

Designated funds are funds held by the PCC to capture the cost of specific activities and, with the exception of the Community Development Fund, and the Emergency Relief, their net surpluses/deficits transferred back to the general fund at year end.

9.2 Restricted funds

The main restricted funds are:

- The Chapel fund, which during previous years was used to support the work and costs associated with the upkeep of the Chapel, was transferred to the Chapel's own bank account during 2014. From 2015 onwards the balance of income and expenditure through St. Mary's books are transferred to the Chapel's own bank account.
- The Children's Society fund is used for collections for the Children's Society particularly from the funds collected from the annual Christingle Event.
- The Community Fridge Grant was for the installation of an external fridge to Chapel and ongoing utility and other support costs to enable for surplus food to be offered to anyone who would like make use of it. The funds held by the PCC were transferred to Chapel bank account in November 2024.
- The Emergency Relief Fund was created in 2020 to provide support for church members who needed urgent financial support.
- The Energy Reserve Fund was set up in 2024 to provide for the costs of the under payment of our gas usage as a result of the historic under reading of our old smart meter when it was replaced with new meter in March 2024.
- Food Parcels Project was set up to provide food parcels and has completely superseded the previous Covid-19 Fund.
- The PCC Investment fund may be used for religious purposes only.
- The Postcode Community Trust fund was created in 2018 as a result of a successful bid for funding for the Project Manager costs (50%) and specific arts & crafts equipment (50%).
- The Project Manager fund was created in 2016 to partly provide for the costs of employing a part-time project manager from a re-occurring but reducing grant from the diocese. It is now currently funded from voluntary donations and from the Chapel activities.
- The Refugee Project was set up in 2018 to support a Syrian refugee family to settle in Ash Vale under the Government scheme run through Guildford Borough Council. The project was closed down in early 2023 and the Fund is now used for the ongoing support of refugees in our area.
- Special collection fund is used for once-off single donations for specific purposes rather than set up a separate fund for each donation. Currently the fund is made up of £1,000 in memory of Marge Wilson, £1,250 for the future costs of solar panels for the church and £200 for environmental certification
- The Uganda Project fund which may be used to support our work with our partners in Uganda (including the cost of visits to and from Uganda).
- The Warm Hubs Fund is a Surrey County Council grant funded initiative to provide warm spaces for people to be able to drop in for friendship and refreshments. Currently both the Chapel Café and the Church Friday Café are supported by separate grants in this fund.

- The other restricted funds are normally raised for their specific purposes and expended during the same year with the exception of the Memorial Fund which was set up to support local churches in need.

Movement in Funds

	Balances as at 1st January 2024 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Gains and Losses £	Balances as at 31st December 2024 £
Unrestricted						
General fund	5,173	103,679	103,544	1,268	—	6,575
	5,173	103,679	103,544	1,268	—	6,575
Designated						
Community Development Fund	423	—	—	—	—	423
Community Centre Fund	—	16,321	15,222	(1,099)	—	—
Emergency Relief Fund	1,250	—	71	—	—	1,179
Thursday cafe	—	169	—	(169)	—	—
	1,673	16,490	15,293	(1,268)	—	1,602
Total (non restricted funds)	6,846	120,169	118,837	—	—	8,177
Restricted						
The Bible Society	—	350	350	—	—	—
Chapel Fund	(767)	9,537	9,047	—	—	(277)
Children's Society	169	276	169	—	—	276
Community Fridge Grant	1,265	1,000	2,265	—	—	—
Emergency Relief Fund	855	1,000	1,020	—	—	835
Energy Reserve	—	3,188	2,577	—	—	611
Flood Forum	40	—	—	—	—	40
Food Parcels Project	29,713	15,889	27,980	—	—	17,621
Maintenance Fund	150	—	150	—	—	—
PCC Investment Fund	30,181	846	—	—	688	31,716
PCC Memorial Fund	491	27	—	—	—	518
Picnic & Play - Holiday Hunger	—	407	407	—	—	—
Postcode Community Trust Fund	3,350	—	—	—	—	3,350
Project Manager	5,831	12,470	11,052	—	—	7,249
Refugee Projects	269	935	823	—	—	382
Roof Appeal	109	150	—	—	—	259
Special Collections	2,250	200	—	—	—	2,450
Uganda Project	1,311	1,698	1,564	—	—	1,444
Warm Hubs Fund	934	750	1,417	—	—	267
Young People	—	262	68	—	—	194
Sub total	76,151	48,984	58,890	—	688	66,934
Total funds	82,997	169,153	177,727	—	688	75,111