

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL WITH ST LUKE, NEWPORT PAGNELL

England & Wales · Charity number 1153668

Details

Other names NEWPORT PAGNELL PCC

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2013-09-04

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: Regular public worship open to all. The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation. Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and bereaved. Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups. The provision of youth activities with a Christian ethos. Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and meetings and the distribution of literature.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Milton Keynes

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£135,505	£176,110	-	-
2024-12-31	£195,361	£225,945	-	-
2023-12-31	£192,484	£232,723	-	-
2022-12-31	£156,465	£157,920	-	-
2021-12-31	£106,444	£171,398	-	-
2020-12-31	£177,663	£163,906	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Nick Evans	Chair	2021-05-24
BETH MACKAY		2023-05-15
BRIAN DOUGLAS HIRD		2023-05-15
Brenda Margaret Brand		2025-05-12
CELIA VERONICA OLDHAM		2023-05-15
Hazel May Reynolds BA		2023-05-15
JOHN MAURICE FOWLER		2023-05-15
Jennifer Mazzone		2023-05-15
Judith Weeden		2026-05-11
KAREN DENISE GOFF		2023-05-15
Lindsey Anne Charlesworth		2025-05-12
MERVYN EVANS		2023-05-15
RALPH MAZZONE		2023-05-15

Accounts

The Parish of Newport Pagnell



St Peter & St Paul, High Street, Newport Pagnell, MK16 8AR
St Luke, Wolverton Road, Newport Pagnell, MK16 8JQ

ANNUAL REPORTS

for presentation to the

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

on Monday 11th May 2026



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Appendix 1	Accounts

The past year has seen a growth in the number of new people who are now permanently attending church along with 11 adults and one child attending Confirmation sessions. The reasons for this growth are unclear but it could be that we have all worked hard to cultivate a welcoming church in which new folk often talk about their new 'church family'. Others value the traditional but relaxed form of worship which we continue to practice.

There have been various social events including musical evenings which have engaged with the local community and formed the basis of the necessary statistics which we need so that we can further the church reordering process. We now have a project manager to steer us through this complex reordering process.

One of the biggest growth points has been the continued reach out to the local community through the 'Cameo' initiative. As we do not have our own parish hall this has resulted in nearly the whole of one side aisle being dedicated to this weekly family and toddler initiative. This group has been successfully and gently introduced to three Christian worship sessions at Easter, Harvest and Christmas on the same Monday mornings when the cameo group meets.

This has led to some baptism requests and a lot of conversations about the Christian faith initiated by the attendees.

Regarding regular Sunday services there is a steady increase in the amount of mixing between SSPP and St Luke's. This reflects theological growth within the congregation in that *who* we worship is becoming less important than *where* we worship.

Attention and special thanks must be given to many who play their role in practising hospitality to the unchurched and new congregation members. This is expressed by involvement throughout the year in making cakes, serving in the kitchen area and being a friendly face that new people firstly encounter.

Supporting and encouraging each other and new people continues to be a hallmark of SSPP and St Luke's. There is also a continuing thirst for more activities concerning learning more about the Christian faith which is reflected by 40 people were signing up for the 'Big Read' lent initiative.

As usual there are too many people to thank for all that occurs but special mention should go to the ministry team of our LLMs and church warden. Without them and the office my life would be considerably more difficult! Thanks too for our organist who continues to serve excellently despite the trying circumstances of a very ill spouse.

It is a great pleasure to be serving in such a mixed and diverse congregation so thanks to all of you who labour for God – whether it be 'front of house' or behind the scenes.

I have continued to enjoy the challenging role of Churchwarden, and I am still learning all the time about what is expected of a Churchwarden.

Our Parish community continues to thrive. Many new people have been welcomed into church and have continued to attend services. Numbers at services continue to rise slowly and are being maintained.

Of course, the attendances were high at the Christingle service, the Carol service, the Crib service, Midnight Mass and Christmas Day. At several of these services the church was packed, which was good to see.

Many people enter the church during the week to pray, light a candle, add a name to the Prayer Cross or just to sit quietly.

Once again, the area used by Cameo has had to be extended. There is now an influx of new people attending with their babies. This is to be welcomed especially as many of the original group have moved on to nursery or school. The volunteers work hard to set up, clear away and provide refreshments. It is refreshing to see all the mums, dads, grandparents and carers bonding with each other and forming friendships.

Social activities are important as they provide an opportunity to get to know each other better. The Bazaar, the Christmas Tree Festival, the annual lunch at The Swan, to name a few provide such occasions and were well attended.

A piano recital was given by Gill Crossland who played on our baby grand piano so professionally and concerts arranged by Where Two Rivers Meet have been successful. One or two choirs regularly give concerts in the church. It was with sadness that the Jazz concert had to be cancelled due to lack of support.

As Churchwarden, I belong to the Mission group, the Events group and I am now chairing the Reordering committee as we begin to proceed with Phase 2. This committee is in the process of getting a Feasibility study done and preparing a Statement of Needs. Slowly but surely, progress is being made.

The church does not run smoothly without the help of unseen volunteers who often pop into church and do various tasks. Thanks must go to the flower arrangers, those who serve on the sidesman, refreshment and chalice assisting rotas. Their help is invaluable. Professional cleaners are employed to clean the toilets and the servery once a week.

Finally, I would like to thank the people who support me in my role as Churchwarden, especially Nick. Their support is invaluable.

PCC Report

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a registered charity.

Registered No: 1153668

The PCC met 7 times and the Standing Committee 5 times in 2025/2026

PCC membership

The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules.

During the year, the following have served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Incumbent: Rev Nick Evans, Rector

Licensed Lay Ministers: Mervyn Evans and Karen Goff.

Churchwarden: Jennifer Mazzone

PCC Secretary: Lindsey Charlesworth

Deanery Synod representatives: Dick Smith (Treasurer), John Fowler, Mervyn Evans

Elected: Brenda Brand, Doug Hird, Beth Mackay, Ralph Mazzone, Celia Oldham
Hazel Reynolds, Marlene Smith.

PCC Sub-Committees

The Parochial Church Council operates through several sub-committees which meet between full meetings of the PCC. They are:

Standing Committee: This committee comprises the Rector, Churchwardens, PCC Secretary and Treasurer. It has delegated powers to transact some of the business of the PCC between its meetings and deals mainly with housekeeping matters.

Fabric Committee: This committee attends to the maintenance of the Parish Church, St Luke's Church and 3 Castle Meadow Close, and considers future projects.

Events Committee: Established in October 2018 as an overarching committee to support organisers of events, providing support, advice and identifying possible helpers. Also, will identify new events and provide advanced planning.

Re-order Steering group: This group was established in January 2019 and will oversee and guide the re-ordering project.

Parish Visiting team: Established January 2020 to oversee and provide for the needs of those who request visits.

Mission Group: This group arose as a direct result of our Mission Open Day held in October 2021. The group had its inaugural meeting on Thursday 20th January 2022.

Statistics

	Baptisms	Thanksgiving	Weddings	Blessings	Church Funerals	Crem Funerals
2014	28	4	23	0	14	21
2015	35	2	19	1	20	12
2016	34	0	14	1	25	5
2017	25	0	16	0	26	6
2018	13	0	12	1	24	5
2019	15	0	7	0	21	6
2020*	3	0	3	0	8	20¹
2021*	7	0	7	0	16	16¹
2022	5	0	5	0	19	6
2023	17	0	4	0	19	5
2024	4	0	7	0	18	10
2025	3	0	4	0	13	5

*Covid 19 restrictions

¹ Includes Graveside services

1. PCCs are formally obliged to report to the APCMs on whether or not the PCC 'has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and clergy discipline measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).' We work in line with Church of England Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance and believe we have complied fully with our duties and obligations.

2 Safeguarding Roles The Parish Safeguarding Officer is Hazel Reynolds. The DBS Recruiter and Verifier is Malcolm Godwin.

3. Safeguarding Policy, Guidance and Information. Our Parish Safeguarding Policy is displayed in our benefice entrance lobbies and appears on our website. Safeguarding is on the agenda at every meeting of the PCC

4. Safeguarding Learning and Development. Safeguarding learning needs to be renewed every three years; Church Officers need to repeat the core safeguarding learning pathway that is the highest required for their role. 2025 was a year when many of us revisited our relevant training pathways, renewing our focus on the integral role we play in developing thriving, healthy and safe churches. Anyone undergoing Safeguarding training for the first time starts with Basic Awareness and then continues to complete the Foundation module. The additional safeguarding learning pathways (Leadership, Safer Recruitment & People Management and Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse) also need to be renewed every three years as and where applicable. We didn't mark Safeguarding Sunday in 2025 but plan to do so in 2026. In addition, we are considering whether we could offer the Basic Awareness course to all church members this year since safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

5. DBS Comparatively few Church Officers hold roles necessitating DBS clearance, the guidelines being very precise nowadays Excluding members of our Ministry team (The Bishops' office deals with their safeguarding and DBS clearance), less than a dozen roles are involved. DBS clearance also is refreshed every 3 years, and several church officers were rechecked during 2025.

7. Concerns raised No referrals needed to be made to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team in the past 12 months

8. Any other business: In December 2025 I attended a Parish Safeguarding Officers event at the area office in Stone with Tsungai Muchegwa, our Area Safeguarding Adviser (Buckinghamshire) and Bishop Dave. I'm afraid the Diocese has not as yet produced a poster for the back of toilet doors offering support to anyone experiencing domestic abuse, so we continue to rely on one sourced through the Mothers Union

Our Branch has always been busy and active in many initiatives. The past year has not been any different. We are a strong group of committed members, and I am proud to be the Branch Leader.

Membership numbers remain stable and we are the largest branch in this area. Sadly, many branches have closed due to lack of support. Not all members attend meetings, but they support us in other ways.

Last year's programme was both interesting and varied. It is not easy compiling the programme every year.

One of our members, Julie Parker, spoke about her visit to India which was fascinating.

We learnt about the work of the Camphill Community which is invaluable to so many people.

Our meetings led by members are always great fun. We shared our favourite books and poems with each other. So many of us remembered our childhood books.

Alina nurses, something we knew little about, was interesting as was Arlene Ormston, the local Community Policewoman, who warned us about the many scams that can take us in.

Paul Hawkes stepped in at the last minute for our September meeting and what a fascinating talk he gave on Rocks and Fossils. We learnt so much.

The Branch Festival was well attended and the speaker, Ruth Maxey, the URC Minister, gave a thought-provoking talk.

In place of the Quiet Afternoon, we hosted a Lenten Pause for Thought session led by Nick. This was popular so it will be repeated in 2026.

Sue Billington, the well-known local florist, demonstrated a Christmas arrangement which inspired us to go home and have a go.

The Afternoon Tea and the Cream Teas raised funds for Mothers' Union Projects. The Cream Teas were held in St. Lukes. Both events provide lovely social events.

One of our members, Daphne Fowler, celebrated her 90th birthday with cake and wine. It was a very happy occasion.

Cameo is supported by MU members, and it continues to be very successful. We are always pleased to welcome new volunteers.

Our strong link with Woodhill Prison continues and many thanks go to Moira who works tirelessly with the prison.

Baby Basics is continuing to be well supported as the needs are still great.

We still participate in the Bazaar and Christmas Tree Festival both of which keep the Mothers' Union in the public eye. Thank you to June who has retired from organising the raffle for many years. She is a hard act to follow.

Thanks go to Pauline for continuing to send cards to those celebrating special occasions and to those who are sick or suffering a bereavement. I know that these cards are really appreciated.

I continue to send cards to couples who are getting married in our church but numbers for this are dwindling.

Our Branch provides daffodils for Mothering Sunday.

The Branch does not run by itself. Behind the scenes there is a committee who works incredibly hard. So, I give a special thank you to June, Pam, Carolyn, Sophie, Julie and Margaret. Carolyn stepped into Sophie's shoes as Treasurer while Sophie is in Singapore and for that we are grateful.

From January 2026, we are meeting in St. Lukes. The pre-school no longer meets there and since it is available and free to us, we think it is a sensible move as Brookland's rent keeps increasing. Parking is easier and there is a ramp for the less mobile.

New members are always very welcome to join our thriving branch. Please spread the word about the work of the Mothers' Union locally, nationally and worldwide. There are still many people who do not know about us or what we do and stand for. We are a strong force for good and we do make a difference.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time on 019098613088 or 07517439790 or at jennifermazzone@hotmail.com

Sunday Club

Glenda Winfield

We have been delighted to welcome some new children to Sunday Club and now have a group of 6 children who attend regularly. In our sessions, held on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, we have continued to follow the lectionary, with the majority of our lessons reflecting the readings in church. We have a group of 7 dedicated Leaders, generously giving of their time and talents. All our Leaders keep up to date with appropriate Oxford Diocese Safeguarding Training courses, renewing their certificates and DBS certificates as and when necessary.

The Sunday Club offertory has continued to sponsor a young boy called Yonatan Darge, through the charity Hand in Hand Ethiopia, a small children's charity working in Addis Ababa. The sponsorship money provides a daily meal, medical payments, school fees and materials, tutorials, clothes and shoes annually, entertainment and recreational activities.

Yonatan writes to us on a regular basis, thanking us for supporting him, and we receive regular newsletters from the charity. He has now completed his first year of vocational school and will continue his studies in the coming school year. Yonatan is reported to be in good health, participating enthusiastically in the summer personal development training. The charity comments that they are very proud of Yonatan's achievements, his strong discipline and dedication. Sunday Club will endeavour to continue sponsoring Yonatan for the next 2 years, as he completes his education, However, with small numbers in Sunday Club contributing to the offertory, we have had to think of other ways to finance our sponsorship payment. The Hand in Hand project is due to close in 2028 as new initiatives by the Ethiopian government will address the issues for which the project was initially created.

The Christmas Fair in November again provided a great opportunity to do some Christmas Crafts with the children in our community. At the same time, we created the Children's Tree, for the Christmas Tree Festival. This year the children who visited our stall created two Christmas trees. One used their white handprints on green paper plates, to form the shape of a Christmas Tree. The second tree was themed around the Christmas Hokey Cokey, a song which is a great favourite at the Crib Service. The children coloured in Nativity figures and hung them on the tree alongside the appropriate words of the song. As in previous years, the Christmas crafts table had very little space around it for most of the day. Many thanks to everyone who gave their time, talents and resources to ensure all the children enjoyed spending time with us.

The Christingle Service in early December was very well attended, with Karen Goff and her puppet Chris Tingle making his second appearance. He was a great hit with everyone and the atmosphere was amazing. Thank you to everyone who helped to assemble the various elements that made up the Christingles. We also took the opportunity at the service to begin the journey of the Travelling Crib, inviting families from the community to join in this tradition.

The Christmas Eve Crib Service was a very joyful, interactive service, with standing room only, when the Sunday Club children and leaders joined the children in a traditional Nativity Tableau. Thank you to the children who played their parts so well, their parents, the Sunday Club Leaders, Karen Goff and Nick Read.

Christmas time wouldn't be the same without a trip to the pantomime. The Sunday Club children, their families and friends were back at The Venue, this time to see Snow White. As always, the pantomime was great fun and enjoyed by us all.

On Mothering Sunday this year, we put an extra Sunday Club session in. The children did a presentation to the congregation, holding up cards showing words, such as "hugs" and "nurse," made using only the letters from the words "Mothering Sunday." They read out short sentences to describe some of the different roles mother's play. We were extremely proud of the children, who read beautifully. They were also most helpful in assisting

members of the Mothers' Union to distribute bunches of daffodils to all the ladies in church.

We look forward to the joy of Easter Day and of course the traditional Easter Egg Hunt for the children around the church after the service.

As ever, grateful thanks go to each and every one of the Sunday Club Leaders for all of their great ideas and their dedication to our little group of lovely children.

Fabric Committee

Doug Hird

The committee is a little reduced in numbers this year so the focus has been on organising activity more than actually fixing things. As a result, the main item was the replacement of the roof at St Lukes. The roof of the parish church has been significantly improved by the addition of many patches. There are now fewer leaks.

A plan of the benches in the parish church has been created which includes details of failures and photos.

The vestry rooms in St Lukes were re-decorated.

A local electrician is providing a quote for renewing lights and sockets, etc. in the tower. This needs to be done before the clock can be refurbished. For that, we need to remove some escaped mercury before the second clock firm will provide a quote.

Fabric committee members are:

Doug Hird, Nick Read, Rev Nick Evans, Jennifer Mazzone, Jenny Frost

Bellringers

Doug Hird

Fortnightly practices are continuing and benefit both the Newport and Bradwell ringers. Three new ringers are making good progress and another three "had a go" during the year. Service ringing is still not possible as the small number of ringers in the area are already committed to ring at churches having more predictable service times. The more regular First Sunday Evensong service has been easier to arrange ringing for as there are few other Evensong services in the area. These have provided the opportunity to ring seven quarter peals. These have attracted the most capable ringers from North Bucks, Bedfordshire and Northants and so are of a high quality. A full peal was rung in February 2026. The local Facebook groups gave this a total of 175 "likes."

Wedding ringing has largely been a matter of supporting other villages in the Newport Deanery, providing both ringers and technical assistance.

During the year two ex-ringers passed away:

Ron Barclay - tower captain 1986 - 1988

Reg Wright - ringer 1982 – 1992

Planned Giving is a vital part of our income, and regular members of the congregation should commit to regular giving throughout the year. During the year we held a Stewardship Campaign in October. So far the results are that 16 current members increased their giving and 5 new members joined the scheme. Overall, our annual figure increased by £8,688, although in 2025 we only saw a small portion over the 2 months left in the year. However, our overall total for 2025 was higher than the previous year. Collections also saw a slight increase.

We receive no financial support from the diocese or national church, in fact half of what we spend has to be paid to the diocese to cover the costs of our clergy and towards diocesan and national church costs. We will do a follow up campaign in 2026 and hope to gain further new members. If you are not currently members of the scheme, please consider joining. I'm at both churches most Sundays if you want more information or I can be contacted by email nppcc.treasurer@gmail.com or by telephone on 01908 730870 or 07736 840964.

Recovery of Gift Aid from HMRC consists of 2 parts. Firstly, we receive Gift Aid on a large part of our Planned Giving (some members of the scheme are not tax payers and therefore cannot Gift Aid their contributions) Secondly we are able to claim Gift Aid on small donations in our collections at services. Our claim for 2025 is slightly down again and therefore in 2026 our tax recovery income will decrease again slightly (we have to claim this in arrears) but hopefully will increase again next year with our increased Planned Giving.

Communications & Publicity report**Moira Evans**

Communication throughout the Parish seems to be effective with the dissemination of information flowing via several routes:

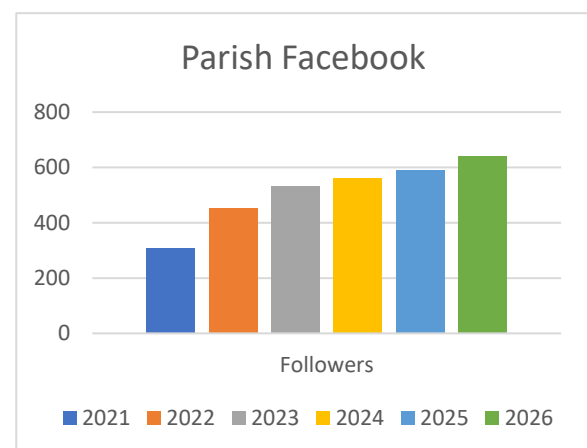
Pews News, email, Facebook posts, WhatsApp messages, Benefice planner and the website.

Facebook

The Parish Facebook page has continued to attract visitors and to date (18/03/26) the figures are:

- 642 Followers

(Likes has been discontinued by Facebook)



The town Facebook pages such as Newport Pagnell What's On and NP Chit Chat are supportive of our posts, and these are used to share big events and services to the town.

Website - used as a public facing portal for enquiries to find information they need. The 'Stop Press' feature on the Home Page is useful for highlighting the most imminent event.

Pews News and Parish Emails - are circulated electronically to the parish database and they are made available as a hard copy for those who do not use the internet.

WhatsApp is used by various different groups within the parish, and the main group currently has 55 members. The main group is used to transmit information and reminders to keep folk in touch.

Benefice Planner is available electronically and as a hard copy and contains the diary of events and services over a four-month period.

Zoom is used by one Discovery Group as well as the Confirmation Class and for meetings with church officials and the general public i.e. funeral arrangements.

Going forward it might be a useful exercise to circulate a form to all church attendees in order to capture any people that might not yet be aware of all these forms of communication.

Parish Visiting

Beth MacKay

The Parish Visiting Team has been kept busy this past year visiting members of the congregations and others who have requested a visit from someone from one of our churches. On visits we're happy to worship and pray with people, share Holy Communion, as well as have a good chat. Or we'll just chat if that's what people want. All team members are required to have regular DBS checks and relevant safeguarding training. In recent months a couple of us have also undergone bereavement support training, and, as team coordinator, I have recently enrolled on a course on pastoral care organised by the Oxford Diocese.

We visit parishioners in hospital if they want us to, and make home visits to people who are housebound or unwell or who have requested visits for any other reason. Communion Services have been held monthly at Lathbury Manor, Castlemead and Tickford Abbey as well as some very enjoyable carol services in December. We don't currently hold services at Westbury Grange as it has its own chaplain who arranges regular services there but we do visit some of the residents on a fortnightly basis. Sadly, Lathbury Manor is due to close down soon and, at the time of writing, there will only be one more service there before it closes. Our prayers are with the residents and staff who have to find alternative accommodation and jobs.

We don't just do visiting though. We also try to contact people who might need support and provide ad hoc help in cases of illness or bereavement, such as lifts to church/other places, or shopping/meals etc. Of course, we know that many other members of our church family are also regularly reaching out to others in this way and carrying out the same caring and support activities as those carried out by the team and this is exactly how it should be in a church community! Pastoral care isn't just the responsibility of one person or one designated team. To be successful it has to be a shared ministry by the whole church family in response to Jesus' command that *we love one another as he loves us*. And, as a team within the church, we very much rely on other people to alert us to situations where we may be able to help. We don't want any of our church family to fall through the net and

think that there is no one they can call on for help! ***So if you, or someone you know, would like a visit from one of our team, please speak to any one of us to arrange.***

Members of the current team are: Rev Nick Evans (Rector), Moira Evans, Mervyn Evans, Karen Goff, Carolyn Hawkes, Brian Hunt, Beth MacKay (Parish Visiting Coordinator), Pam Miller, Hazel Reynolds and Marlene Smith. If anyone would like to find out more about what we do, feel free to contact me by phone on 07989085318, by email beth.mackay@yahoo.co.uk or just come and talk to me at church.

Mission Group

Karen Goff

This group arose as a direct result of our Mission Open Day held in October 2021 with its inaugural meeting in January 2022. This group has met 4 times since the last APCM.

Our aim is to try to fulfil the Five marks of Mission (adopted by the General Synod of the Church of England in 1996):

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom (Tell)

To teach, baptise and nurture new believers. (Teach)

To respond to human need by loving service. (Tend)

To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to seek to pursue peace and reconciliation. (Transform)

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth. (Treasure)

In May 2023 our first CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other) group took place and has been running very successfully attracting a variety of carers, fathers, mothers, grandparents and their young children. The group meets on Monday mornings from 9.30 to 11.30 and continues during school holidays. Numbers of parents/carers with children continue to grow and many have become very regular. Opportunities to discuss baptisms, faith and other church events have arisen and been discussed.

A regular feature of these sessions is that a short, interactive, story, prayers and song are included at Harvest, Christmas and Easter and an appropriate gift or activity included. A Christmas Tree decorated by this group is also included in the Christmas Tree Festival.

It is lovely to see the young children with their adults wander round the church and feel very comfortable. Free refreshments are available and an opportunity to chat and get to know people from the congregation as well as other carers. Members of the congregation often pop in during the session enjoying refreshments and chatting to the attendees. Extra help is always needed for this group whether it's setting up, clearing away, making drinks or just chatting with the children and their accompanying adults.

We continue to provide 'Explore Christianity' prayer cards on a variety of topics that people are welcome to take. These are proving very popular with visitors and members of the congregation. Posters from this company have also provided display material at Advent and Easter.

Following the success of the 'Walk through the Bible' event in July 2022 and a New Testament equivalent at St Luke's in October 2024 another event 'From Malachi to Matthew' took place in June 2025. This explored what happened between the Old and New Testaments. It was very informative and enjoyable.

A small number from our congregation helped with CTNP Holiday Club and also a Light Party event as an alternative to 'trick or treating'. This was held in Portfields Community Centre and a large number of families came in for refreshments and activities.

Throughout Lent 2026 using 'Big Church Read' material 3 groups met to discuss 'The Greatest Story Ever Told' by Bear Grylls. A morning, afternoon and evening (Zoom) session were made available and over 40 people attended. Moira also used this material with a group of prisoners during her prison visits. The material provoked great discussion and thought. Many people attended these groups who had not participated in similar events before. Many have already commented about wanting to do this again using another book maybe by Andrew Ollerton who helped Bear with this book.

Nick led a workshop for Eucharistic Ministers in November 2025. Further workshops are being planned for those interested in leading intercessions, reading in church services and speaking to people who come into church during the week.

We continue to think about our mission in rural parishes but await news of deanery reorganisation to move this forward.

CTNP

Celia Oldham

Churches together Newport Pagnell are a group of Christian churches who meet regularly and share information. Joint services and events are held regularly in each of the churches and in the community to bring the Christian message to people in our town.

Holiday Club 2025

This was held at the Baptist church, which has proved to be a very suitable venue. Children joined a variety of Christian-themed activities. All volunteers worked very hard, including our younger helpers, to make the event as enjoyable as ever. The next holiday club will be held August 18th-21st, at Cedars school. This club is free and open to all primary-aged children in the community.

Easter biscuit Distribution

Easter biscuits, which included a Christian message, were distributed to shop keepers and people in the High Street on Easter Saturday.

Songs of Praise

This is an annual event which is held in the parish church in September. It is attended by members of all the Christian churches in Newport Pagnell. A member of each church chooses a hymn and gives their testimony.

Find the Nativity on the High Street

This was a lovely event for children and their families. They searched for 6 different venues to find scenes from the Nativity. The children collected tokens and received a small gift at the end.

New Year's Day walk

This was reported to be very enjoyable. A large number of people took part, visiting churches along the way, where they listened to a short reading. The final venue was St Luke's church for welcome coffee and biscuits.

United service for Christian Unity

The service was held in the Baptist church, in January. It was hoped that more families with children would attend.

World Day of Prayer

On the first Friday of March, each year, the same service is held in Christian churches around the world. This year the service was written by Christian women of Nigeria. The theme was 'I will give you rest, come.' It was held in the Parish church and was well attended. The service includes stories from 3 Nigerian women, highlighting the dangers of living as a Christian in their country.

Lent lunches

Again, these were well attended. Volunteers provided a delicious lunch of home-made soup, bread and cheese, followed by coffee and biscuits.

Medical Appointments Transport Service

323 journeys have been arranged over a 4-month period. The service's fund-raising party will be held at St Luke's on 27th June 2-4pm. The service is always looking for more volunteer drivers.

Again, this year the basic figures look poor. We show an overall deficit of £40,605.40 of receipts over payments. However, there are different reasons. Phase 1 of the Re-ordering is complete and we have taken a pause before starting the next phase. On the Restricted Funds (mainly Fabric) we had a major cost when we had to have a new roof fitted at St Luke's which was mainly funded through the legacy we received in 2024. We were able to return £10,000 to the Louise Moodie fund from the tax recovery on the Re-ordering project but unfortunately, we had to use the money during the year to cover General Expenditure costs. In March Northern Pastures Pre-School closed which resulted in a £15,000 hole in our rental income. Also in December our tenant moved out of 3 Castle Meadow Close and we will lose the £1,400 monthly income until we find a new tenant.

Legacies over recent years have helped support us financially, but we need to improve our general income to ensure we can fund everything we want to do. Our Stewardship Campaign in October saw a welcome increase in Planned Giving, but we have an increase in Parish Share of £5,000 and will have a similar increase for the next 2 years meaning in 2028 our Parish Share will be at least £15,000 more than in 2025.

Planned Giving was up £1,000 over the previous year and hopefully will be at least £10,000 more in 2026 after our Stewardship Campaign. Collections were also up slightly. Our energy costs appear to have dropped again, but we changed suppliers from 1 October, and they didn't take any bills before 31 December. Payments were taken in January of just over £1,600 for the period which means our energy costs were on a par with 2024. There is also uncertainty about what will happen this year with the situation in the Middle East. Our Tax Recovery is likely to be on a par with last year.

Our general expenditure remained fairly static.

The value of our investments have remained fairly static over 2025, ending only a few hundred pounds below last year. However the dividends we receive have dropped. Interest on our deposits have showed an increase but are dropping again as interest rates fall.

The PCC continued to use an external accountant again this year for the independent examination of the accounts. The PCC approved the accounts at the PCC meeting at the end of March.

Appendix 1

Accounts

Parochial Church Council of Newport Pagnell

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2025

Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL funds 2025 £	TOTAL funds 2024
RECEIPTS						
Voluntary Receipts						
Planned giving		35,406.67	0.00	0.00	35,406.67	34,481.31
Collections at services		8,141.66	0.00	0.00	8,141.66	7,453.58
All other giving/voluntary receipts	5a	3,304.08	5,000.00	0.00	8,304.08	35,884.69
Tax recoverable		10,927.94	0.00	0.00	10,927.94	12,898.43
		57,780.35	5,000.00	0.00	62,780.35	90,718.01
Activities for generating funds	5b	14,913.90	13,877.86	0.00	28,791.76	39,587.10
Investment Income	5c	24,459.01	8,008.28	0.00	32,467.29	32,928.86
Church activities	5d	5,244.00	0.00	0.00	5,244.00	6,542.00
Re-Ordering Project		6,222.12	0.00	0.00	6,222.12	25,585.10
Total Receipts		108,619.38	26,886.14	0.00	135,505.52	195,361.07
PAYMENTS						
Church activities						
Diocesan parish share		55,647.90	0.00	0.00	55,647.90	56,217.15
Clergy and staffing costs	5e	14,455.48	0.00	0.00	14,455.48	13,368.08
Church running costs	5f	38,248.66	57,877.95	0.00	96,126.61	65,844.08
Parish house costs		1,874.71	0.00	0.00	1,874.71	3,424.91
Mission giving and donations	5g	4,733.72	0.00	0.00	4,733.72	5,955.89
Re-ordering Project		2,932.81	0.00	0.00	2,932.81	80,894.57
		117,893.28	57,877.95	0.00	175,771.23	225,704.68
Cost of generating funds		339.69	0.00	0.00	339.69	241.23
Other Payments	3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total payments		118,232.97	57,877.95	0.00	176,110.92	225,945.91
Excess of receipts over payments		(9,613.59)	(30,991.81)	0.00	(40,605.40)	(30,584.84)
Transfers between funds	4	11,793.49	(11,793.49)	0.00	0.00	20,000.00
		2,179.90	(42,785.30)	0.00	(40,605.40)	(10,584.84)
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 January		5,592.72	53,664.34	0.00	59,257.06	69,841.90
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 December		7,772.62	10,879.04	0.00	18,651.66	59,257.06

Parochial Church Council of Newport Pagnell

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	Previous Year
Cash funds						
Cash in hand		0.00			0.00	0.00
Bank current account		624.19	6,731.00		7,355.19	11,829.14
Deposit funds		7,148.43	4,148.04		11,296.47	49,042.92
Retained Deposit on 3CMC		0.00			0.00	(1,615.00)
		7,772.62	10,879.04	0.00	18,651.66	59,257.06
Other monetary assets						
Gift Aid recoverable		10,214.89			10,214.89	10,433.20
Other income due		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
		10,214.89	0.00	0.00	10,214.89	10,433.20
Investment assets						
Investment fund shares at market value	3	200,937.27	91,081.01	138,296.70	430,314.98	430,716.56
Assets retained for church use						
	2	68,000.00	0.00	0.00	68,000.00	68,000.00
Liabilities						
Mission giving		1,077.09			1,077.09	835.63
Organist fees		394.80			394.80	429.00
Clergy and staffing costs		0.00			0.00	384.72
Employer contributions due to HMRC		669.80			669.80	650.00
Church running costs		3,207.35	0.00		3,207.35	2,027.69
		5,349.04	0.00	0.00	5,349.04	4,327.04

Notes

- The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis
- Fixed assets retained for church use is the freehold house at 3 Castle Meadow Close, purchased in 1995 on behalf of the PCC for £80,000 less a 15% equity retention held by the Diocesan Trustees (Oxford) Ltd. On 4 December 2017 the 15% Equity Retention was gifted to the PCC by the Diocesan Trustees (Oxford) Ltd in recognition of the PCC having maintained the house in good order ever since. In 2018 £55,212.17 was spent renovating the property. The market value of the house is in the region of £450,000.
- There are 3 endowment funds held on behalf of the PCC by the Diocesan Trustees (Oxford) Ltd. The Ecclesiastical Trust was established in 1990 from 69.25% of the sale of Church House. The trust is held in CCLA Church of England Investment funds for the purpose of furthering the religious and other charitable work of the parish and the income is unrestricted. The Elizabeth Darcy Charity was set up from 4 small charities to benefit the poor of the Parish. The fund is held in the M&G Charity Multi Asset fund and the income is restricted. The Chancel Repair fund was established in 1972 and is held in a CCLA Church of England Investment fund for the purpose of repair and upkeep of the Chancel and the income is restricted.

There is 1 restricted investment fund, the Hayllar Fund, which was established in 1980 and is held in 2 investment accounts with Black Rock Charities UK Bond Fund A Inc and M&G Charifund. The purpose of the fund is for the upkeep of the churches and both the capital and income is restricted for that purpose.

Parochial Church Council of Newport Pagnell

Finally, there are 2 unrestricted investments, set up from the funds left in the wills of Louise Moodie and Iris Robinson. £150,000 of Louise Moodie's bequest was invested in the CCLA Church of England Investment fund during 2017 and £50,000 of Iris Robinson's bequest was invested in the same fund in 2020, to provide a reasonable return on the funds although the capital can be spent as and when necessary.

4 Fund Values

		TOTAL to 31/12/25 £	TOTAL 2024 £
Ecclesiastical Trust	CBF Investment Fund	73,520.77	76,582.38
	CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund	9,444.24	9,218.60
Elizabeth Darcy Fund	M&G NAACIF Fund	2,544.13	2,283.62
Chancel Repair Fund	CBF Investment Fund	52,787.56	54,985.78
Hayllar Fund	M&G Charifund	82,921.92	70,675.20
	Black Rock Charinco	8,159.09	8,035.64
Louise Moodie Fund	CBF Investment Fund	141,495.77	147,018.53
Iris Robinson Fund	CBF Investment Fund	59,441.50	61,916.81
		<u>430,314.98</u>	<u>430,716.56</u>

4. The movement in designated and restricted funds during the year were:

	Bal b/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Bal c/fwd
Designated					
Ecclesiastical Income Account	1,456.53	2,557.59	0.00	(3,000.00)	1,014.12
Louise Moodie Income Account	1,221.22	4,307.92	0.00	(4,000.00)	1,529.14
Iris Robinson Income Account	809.49	1,770.51	0.00	(2,000.00)	580.00
Sunday School	107.52	103.54	150.00	0.00	61.06
Memory Club	5,197.00	1,450.00	2,199.10	0.00	4,447.90
Organ Fund	19.58	5.59	0.00	0.00	25.17
Re-ordering Fund	(81,148.79)	6,222.12	2,932.81	73,700.99	(4,158.49)
Restricted					
Rental Deposit on 3CMC	1,615.00	0.00	1,615.00	0.00	0.00
Fabric Current Account	11,128.24	25,324.20	57,877.95	28,156.51	6,731.00
Fabric Deposit Account	41,578.44	1,429.31	0.00	(40,000.00)	3,007.75
Hayllar Income Account	318.62	14.42	0.00	0.00	333.04
Darcy Fund Income Account	639.04	30.45	0.00	137.76	807.25

All transactions related to weddings, funerals, etc. are processed through a separate Benefice account and the fees due to the PCC are transferred monthly in arrears into the general fund.

There are lines on the accounts for Re-ordering income and costs, and an additional page at the end of the accounts showing the Receipts and Payments for the overall project. The PCC decided to transfer the remainder of the legacy from David Lock (£12,087.83) and pay £22,500 from the Ecclesiastical Fund into the Re-ordering Fund. Now Phase 1 is complete, the £60,000 from the Louise Moodie Fund that was temporarily loaned has now been allocated permanently to the Re-ordering Fund. Other income has come from Grants, Donations and a Stewardship Appeal has been started. Money from the Iris Robinson Fund is being transferred to cover the deficit at present. As fundraising progresses this money will be returned to this fund.

The Rental Deposit on 3 Castle Meadow Close was returned on 19 December 2025 when the tenant moved out. When a new tenant is found the deposit will be held in the Deposit account but cannot be used for General Funds.

During 2025, £969.00 was received in Organ Fees and £530.00 was spent on Routine Maintenance. £439.00 will be transferred to the Organ Fund in 2026.

Parochial Church Council of Newport Pagnell

5. Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	TOTAL funds 2025	TOTAL funds 2024
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts						
a) All other giving/voluntary receipts						
Donations		1,265.73	0.00	0.00	1,265.73	1,070.52
Legacies		0.00	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	33,240.16
Grants		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40.00
Copier		329.00	0.00	0.00	329.00	207.70
Sunday School		103.54	0.00	0.00	103.54	97.51
Memory Club		1,450.00	0.00	0.00	1,450.00	1,066.00
Misc		155.81	0.00	0.00	155.81	162.80
		3,304.08	5,000.00	0.00	8,304.08	35,884.69
b) Activities for generating funds						
Fabric Donations & grants		1,000.00	13,877.86	0.00	14,877.86	17,234.43
Rent		8,079.03	0.00	0.00	8,079.03	16,979.55
Events (including Fetes)		5,365.11	0.00	0.00	5,365.11	4,418.74
Special Collections		469.76	0.00	0.00	469.76	954.38
		14,913.90	13,877.86	0.00	28,791.76	39,587.10
c) Investment Income						
Dividends on Investment Fund		8,405.87	6,534.10	0.00	14,939.97	14,760.54
Income from Investments		15,630.00	0.00	0.00	15,630.00	16,800.00
Bank and Deposit Fund Interest		423.14	1,474.18	0.00	1,897.32	1,368.32
		24,459.01	8,008.28	0.00	32,467.29	32,928.86
d) Church activities						
Fees for Batism Certificates	4	93.00	0.00	0.00	93.00	0.00
Fees for Weddings	4	1,392.00	0.00	0.00	1,392.00	1,890.00
Fees for Funerals	4	1,642.00	0.00	0.00	1,642.00	1,872.00
Contributions for Heating	4	1,148.00	0.00	0.00	1,148.00	1,515.00
Organ Fees	4	969.00	0.00	0.00	969.00	1,265.00
		5,244.00	0.00	0.00	5,244.00	6,542.00

Parochial Church Council of Newport Pagnell

Payments

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL funds 2025	TOTAL funds 2024
	Note	£	£	£	£	
e) Clergy and staffing costs						
Clergy expenses		1,211.80	0.00	0.00	1,211.80	607.32
Parish administrator		13,243.68	0.00	0.00	13,243.68	12,760.76
		14,455.48	0.00	0.00	14,455.48	13,368.08
f) Church running costs						
SSPP building running expenses		6,590.04	0.00	0.00	6,590.04	8,287.35
SL building running expenses		3,105.94	0.00	0.00	3,105.94	4,569.98
Insurance		9,668.38	0.00	0.00	9,668.38	9,032.38
Vestry Costs		4,501.00	0.00	0.00	4,501.00	5,030.53
Parish Office		4,935.40	0.00	0.00	4,935.40	5,551.05
Training		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Social Events		1,060.91	0.00	0.00	1,060.91	878.40
Choir Pay and Organists		4,579.90	0.00	0.00	4,579.90	4,523.40
Church flowers	4	448.00	0.00	0.00	448.00	748.10
Misc.		479.99	0.00	0.00	479.99	9,804.94
Sunday School	4	150.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	0.00
Memory Club	4	2,199.10	0.00	0.00	2,199.10	1,656.50
Organ Maintenance		530.00	0.00	0.00	530.00	5,470.00
SSPP Maintenance (Fabric)		0.00	12,561.18	0.00	12,561.18	7,173.00
SL Maintenance (Fabric)		0.00	45,316.77	0.00	45,316.77	3,118.45
		38,248.66	57,877.95	0.00	96,126.61	65,844.08
g) Mission giving and donations						
CTNP		100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
Christian Aid		145.15	0.00	0.00	145.15	285.88
NP Christmas Lights		150.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	150.00
The Childrens Society		835.63	0.00	0.00	835.63	720.01
Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia		800.00	0.00	0.00	800.00	800.00
Buildbuilder Trust		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	800.00
Willen Hospice		800.00	0.00	0.00	800.00	800.00
The Welcome Directory		800.00	0.00	0.00	800.00	800.00
MK Night Shelter		800.00	0.00	0.00	800.00	800.00
Water Aid		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
MK Foodbank		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Medical Detection Dogs		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	700.00
Hearing Dogs for the Deaf		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ODBF Admin Fund		177.94	0.00	0.00	177.94	0.00
St Andrews Madrigal Group		25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	0.00
Walk Through The Bible		100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
Other		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		4,733.72	0.00	0.00	4,733.72	5,955.89

Parochial Church Council of Newport Pagnell

Re-ordering Project Designated Fund

As at 31 December 2025

RECEIPTS

Donation from John & Daphne Fowler	525.00	
Donation in Memory of Thomas (Gordon) French	200.00	
Donation in Memory of Derek Senior	250.00	
Donation in Memory of Rita Millburn	350.00	
Donation in Memory of Mel Partridge	118.80	
Donation from Flower Festival June 2022	500.00	
Anonymous Donations	900.00	
Transfer of Residue of David Lock's Legacy from General Funds	12,087.83	
Transfer from Ecclesiastical Fund	22,500.00	
Transfer from Louise Moodie Fund	60,000.00	
Gift Aid from Donations	2,469.37	
Stewardship Appeal	11,417.50	
Fundraising Concerts	10,057.22	
		121,375.72
Temporary Transfers		
From Iris Robinson Fund	4,158.49	4,158.49
Grants		
Oxford Diocesan New Projects	2,500.00	
Oxford Diocesan Development Fund	30,000.00	
Benefact Trust	3,750.00	
Beatrice Lang Trust	5,000.00	
Harry Middleton Gift	15,000.00	
Newport Deanery	500.00	
VAT Recovery	29,704.58	
		86,454.58
Total Receipts		211,988.79

PAYMENTS

Architect Fees	(23,630.22)	
Measured Building Survey	(5,148.00)	
Croma Conservation Survey	(1,296.00)	
AJS Contracting	(7,920.00)	
Milton Keynes Council	(882.00)	
DrainageSurvey	(564.00)	
Statement of Significance	(1,500.00)	
Subscriptions to 'Church Grants'	(98.00)	
Project Management	(14,769.34)	
Groundworks for Served	(128.40)	
Phase 1 (Served, Toilets & South Porch)	(151,885.07)	
Fundraising Concerts	(4,159.76)	
Miscellaneous	(8.00)	
Total Payments		(211,988.79)
Closing Balance		0.00

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF NEWPORT PAGNELL

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2025 which are set out on pages 1 to 4, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and s.144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act".)

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of financial statements. You consider that the audit requirement of Regulations and section 144(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

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



J R COBLEY FCCA
COBLEY DESBOROUGH
Chartered Certified Accountants
Chartered Tax Advisors

Artisans' House
7 Queensbridge
Northampton
NN4 7BF
Tel No. 01604 823560

26th March 2026

Accounts

The Parish of Newport Pagnell



St Peter & St Paul, High Street, Newport Pagnell, MK16 8AR
St Luke, Wolverton Road, Newport Pagnell, MK16 8JQ

ANNUAL REPORTS

for presentation to the

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

on Monday 12th May 2025



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Rector's report

Rev Nick Evans

This is an active and vibrant benefice so many thanks to all those who are involved in the spiritual growth that we see around us.

There are also many new faces at St Luke's and SSPP and many of these are now regular worshippers.

Also, the church building has been increasingly used to host a number of well attended community musical events. The building was used for election hustings too during which the political candidates all said that they had enjoyed the event which was well arranged and conducted by the Churches together in Newport Pagnell. There have been several other occasions during which the mayor and local councillors have, across party lines, shared in the church led community events inside the parish church.

The last year saw the opening and full use of the new kitchen area and toilets – plus other reordering projects.

The Monday morning CAMEO families and young children initiative continues to flourish. At this child focussed short acts of worship have been well received during festival times such as Christmas, harvest and Easter.

There have been a number of outside speakers who have contributed to our spiritual growth such as the 'Walk Through the Bible' day and the various visiting speaker events that have been initiated by the MU on behalf of the church.

The congregation has also been very generous in the provision of time and resources to Woodhill prison. Our prison link person took several of the congregation to the prison during the year.

There have been many fellowship events too including a cathedral pilgrimage, picnic and local restaurant lunch. The Rectory garden party was well received too as a celebration of the SSPP patronal festival and, unknown to me beforehand, was a touching celebration of my 40 years of ordination.

Confirmation interest has also grown over the months and there continue to be 3 discovery groups within the parish and the laity regularly visit the parish care homes leading communion services.

I am grateful to the ministry team for their continued support (our LLMs and wardens). Our ministry together is facilitated greatly by efficient administration from the office and our communications officer.

The effectiveness of our shared ministry here is due to the congregation getting alongside those who drift in who often need support and an ear –

and eventually hear the Gospel. So many congregants are part of this winning formula and has been essential in nurturing the green shoots of growth that we are currently seeing. There are too many to thank but we do it all for the Lord.

The Future:

We thank Jenny Frost, who will be stepping down from her role as Church Warden. She has served commendably with loyalty, common sense and an eye for necessary detail – we will be seeking a replacement.

We will need to discern the next step in the reordering programme. To progress this project, we will need a dedicated and able fund raising team which will require time and specialist knowledge given the sums of money we need to make SSPP a church building fit for the Lord and a more comfortable place in which to worship. This will be a mammoth task. Please continue to pray for a new warden and for the reordering vision.

Churchwarden's Report **Jennifer Mazzone**

The role of Church Warden continues to be enjoyable, interesting and varied, and can at times be challenging. There is always something to learn about the role as new issues arise.

Life in our parish continues to be busy. Numbers of worshippers in both of our churches definitely remain stable and, in some cases, are increasing. Christmas services and events saw a large number of people attending. This includes Christingle, the Carol Service, the Crib Service, the Midnight Mass and services on Christmas Day. Several new members have joined both congregations and comment favourably on the welcome they have received.

Many people visit the church during the week and the Prayer Cross remains ever popular. It is encouraging that so many people feel able to enter the church to pray or just sit quietly.

Numbers attending Cameo remain high and good relationships are being formed as mums, dads, grandparents and carers sit on the floor playing with their children. There is a great atmosphere in church every Monday. Thanks must go to the volunteers who set up, make teas and coffees and clear away. Short, simple services are held at Harvest Time, Christmas and Easter.

On the social side of church activities such as the Bazaar and Christmas Tree festival, several successful concerts have been held.

Where two Rivers Meet continue to hold popular concerts in Church. The first Jazz concert created a wonderful atmosphere as well as making a healthy profit. The band will be making a return visit in October. Olney Brass is also making a return visit this year when many youngsters show how talented they are. In May, the excellent Musica Charity Choir is entertaining us. This will be a concert not to be missed. It is hoped that a professional pianist will give a recital on a Sunday afternoon with tea and cake to follow.

The addition of the Baby Grand Piano has been a great advantage at these concerts which not only provide a welcome income towards the reordering project, but are pleasurable events which bring many people into church. Thanks must go to the volunteers who work so tirelessly to make these concerts a success.

I continue to attend Mission, Events, Reordering and Fabric committee meetings which enables me to be active in all areas of Church life.

My thanks also go to the many volunteers who quietly go about cleaning, flower arranging and to those who are on the tea rota, chalice assisting and sides people. It is very much appreciated. Gavin also does a brilliant job and is always very happy to lock and unlock the church. Thanks also to Malcolm for producing most of the rotas amongst other things.

I would also like to thank Nick and Jenny as we support each other in doing God's work.

Churchwarden's Report

Jenny Frost

As New Years Day 2024 was a weekday, the CTNP Walk Of Witness started at 10am at St Luke's. Each year we are given a theme for each of the Churches in town. Ours was Wisdom. I immediately thought of one person who I associated with wisdom. Bill Watson. My mentor and my friend who, for over half a Century, has, along with Chris, served this Parish, and the people of St Luke's in particular, with wisdom, kindness, diplomacy, and love. Bill always saw his service as a privilege. There is much we can all learn from the lives, and service, of Bill and Chris Watson.

January gave way, quite quickly, to the rest of the year, and it wasn't long before Chris and I were, once more, putting the Easter Cross up in St Luke's Garden on Maundy Thursday. This cross is left bare for Good Friday and then filled with the glorious colour of Spring flowers on Easter Saturday evening and Easter Sunday morning.

It stands as a mute testimony, by St Luke's congregation, to all who see it of the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Our Lord.

St Luke's was built as a Mission Church in 1902, and with this Cross, and more, we continue to show the world that the building is a church for worship, praise, prayer and thanksgiving, before and above all other uses.

Over the Easter weekend St Luke's is a hive of activity. On Easter Saturday morning flowers are arranged, and our Easter Garden is prepared. In the evening, we hold a Service of Light followed by wine and nibbles.

Easter Sunday, the congregation bring flowers and decorate the Cross. The Rector blesses the Cross in the garden and the Easter Garden inside the Church.

The year marches on, and before I know it, we are in the Summer Holidays!

As St Luke's is hired out to Children's groups, term time, all maintenance takes place during School holidays.

2024 was no exception, and during August it was a busy period.

A new electric organ, speakers and amplifier were installed in the Chancel. St Luke's window was cleaned. The Millenium Banner was removed and cleaned and a general clear out of the organ chamber took place.

In October, we celebrated our Patronal Festival followed by a Bring and Share Lunch. It never fails to amaze me how much food there is! We had also hosted a Walk through the Bible event in October. This was New Testament in a Nutshell. An interactive event, thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended.

And, before long we are at year's end.

Celebrating Christmas!

St Luke's is always decorated by the choir and helpers. There is also a crib and travelling Wise men. Olwen had knitted a Nativity, which we place in front of the Altar.

Our congregation continues to stand at around 30-35 for our traditional St Luke's 11am service. It is usually between 45-50 at the joint 10.30am first Sunday of the Month service, and around 20 for Evensong.

We had 2 Baptisms at St Luke's in 2024. The first since before Covid. The church was packed for both. It was lovely!

During the year, the choir has met regularly, choosing hymns and practicing with Freda. They had been given new choir robes and surplices, partly paid for by a bequest from a long-standing member of the congregation, Pat Brazier. There are now 7 members to the choir, if all are present, and they are a fantastic bunch!

As previously mentioned, St Luke's is hired out term time.

As I write this in March 2025, many of you will be aware that Northern Pastures Preschool, who have hired St Luke's since 2012, have closed and vacated the building.

However, we still hire St Luke's to:

1st Newport Pagnell Rainbows, 2nd Newport Pagnell Rainbows,

4th Newport Pagnell Brownies, Newport Pagnell Ranger Guides

Ouse Valley Trefoil Guild, Newport Pagnell District Guiders and Ouse Valley Division Girl Guiding.

As I come to the end of this report, I also come to the end of my time as Churchwarden. I have served 6 continuous years in Office, and it is time for me to move on.

Thanks to all who have supported me over the past six years.

God Bless you All.

PCC Report

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a registered charity.
Registered No: 1153668

The PCC met 7 times and the Standing Committee 7 times in 2024/2025

PCC membership

The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules.

During the year, the following have served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Incumbent: Rev Nick Evans, Rector

Licensed Lay Ministers: Mervyn Evans and Karen Goff.

Churchwardens: Jennifer Mazzone and Jenny Frost

PCC Secretary until 13th May 2024: Olwen Smith

Deanery Synod representatives: Dick Smith (Treasurer), John Fowler, Mervyn Evans

Elected: Neil Ellis (until May 2024), Doug Hird, Beth Mackay, Ralph Mazzone, Celia Oldham
Hazel Reynolds, Marlene Smith.

PCC Sub-Committees

The Parochial Church Council operates through several sub-committees which meet between full meetings of the PCC. They are:

Standing Committee: This committee comprises the Rector, Churchwardens, PCC Secretary and Treasurer. It has delegated powers to transact some of the business of the PCC between its meetings and deals mainly with housekeeping matters.

Fabric Committee: This committee attends to the maintenance of the Parish Church, St Luke's Church and 3 Castle Meadow Close, and considers future projects.

Events Committee: Established in October 2018 as an overarching committee to support organisers of events, providing support, advice and identifying possible helpers. Also, will identify new events and provide advanced planning.

Re-order Steering group: This group was established in January 2019 and will oversee and guide the re-ordering project.

Parish Visiting team: Established January 2020 to oversee and provide for the needs of those who request visits.

Mission Group: This group arose as a direct result of our Mission Open Day held in October 2021. The group had its inaugural meeting on Thursday 20th January 2022.

Statistics

	Baptisms	Thanksgiving	Weddings	Blessings	Church Funerals	Crem Funerals
2014	28	4	23	0	14	21

2015	35	2	19	1	20	12
2016	34	0	14	1	25	5
2017	25	0	16	0	26	6
2018	13	0	12	1	24	5
2019	15	0	7	0	21	6
2020 *	3	0	3	0	8	20¹
2021 *	7	0	7	0	16	16¹
2022	5	0	5	0	19	6
2023	17	0	4	0	19	5
2024	4	0	7	0	18	10

*Covid 19 restrictions

¹ Includes Graveside services

Safeguarding **Hazel Reynolds**

1. PCCs are formally obliged to report to the APCMs on whether or not the PCC 'has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and clergy discipline measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).'

We work in line with Church of England Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance, and believe we have complied fully with our duties and obligations.

2 Safeguarding Roles

The Parish Safeguarding Officer is Hazel Reynolds.

The DBS Recruiter and Verifier is Malcolm Godwin.

3. Safeguarding Policy, Guidance and Information

Our up-to-date Parish Safeguarding Policy is displayed in our benefice entrance lobbies and appears on our website.

Safeguarding is on the agenda at every meeting of the PCC

In November 2024 the Parish Church marked national Safeguarding Sunday.

4. Safeguarding Learning and Development.

Safeguarding learning needs to be renewed every three years; Church Officers need to repeat the core safeguarding learning pathway that is the highest required for their role. We had a substantial Safeguarding training drive in 2022, 3 years since the previous one, so, this year, being 2025, means many of us will be revisiting the training pathways and focusing again on the integral role we play in developing thriving, healthy and safe churches.

The Basic Awareness course has again been updated but, for most of our Officers, they need only to repeat the Foundation course this year.

However, anyone undergoing Safeguarding training for the first time will start with Basic Awareness and then continue to complete the Foundation module.

The additional safeguarding learning pathways (e.g. Leadership, Safer Recruitment & People Management) also need to be renewed every three years as and where applicable.

5. DBS

Comparatively few Church Officers hold roles necessitating DBS clearance, the guidelines being much more precise now. Excluding members of our Ministry team (The Bishops' office deals with their safeguarding and DBS clearance), less than a dozen roles are involved. DBS clearance also is refreshed every 3 years and that will apply in a number of cases during 2025.

7. Concerns raised

There were no referrals made to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team in the past 12 months

Mothers' Union

Jennifer Mazzone

Once again, our branch has had a very busy and productive year and I am so proud of being the leader of such a thriving branch.

During the last year, Lyndsey Charlesworth has been enrolled bringing our numbers to fifty-five. This is fantastic. Not all members attend meetings but they support us in other ways.

As usual, our programme was both interesting and varied. It is getting increasingly difficult to find suitable speakers so are always open to any suggestions.

Both Karen and Nick have spoken at a meeting. The Deputy Lieutenant gave us an insight into his work as did Steve Karma, the Chaplain at Woodhill Prison. Ralph spoke about music in his life and the pleasure it has given him over the years and still does. We also enjoyed singing our favourite carols. The afternoons, led by members, are very enjoyable and give us a chance to get to know each other a little more.

In September, we celebrated fifty years of membership with Joan Clutton and Pam Miller, both of whom have worked tirelessly for the Mothers' Union. Following a communion service, we enjoyed cake and wine. They were both given flowers and a long service certificate. It was a wonderful occasion.

Two successful social events were held, an Afternoon Tea and the Cream Teas when, once again, we were lucky with the weather. Not only do these events raise money for projects both locally and nationally but they also provide an opportunity to meet socially and really get to know each other better.

Once again, Nick led a Quiet Afternoon, beginning with a soup and roll lunch and an afternoon of reflection.

Cameo is still going well supported by several Mothers' Union members and it is well attended each week.

We still have a strong link with Woodhill Prison, mainly thanks to Moira Evans who is a prison visitor and she is able to liaise between the prison and our branch. We provide something for each prisoner every Easter and Christmas This is obviously really appreciated. We were supported this year from the Diocesan Project Fund for which we were grateful. Several members attended a service in Advent and they found this most interesting.

Many members still provide items for Baby Basics as the need for this continues to grow.

We participate in the Bazaar and Christmas Tree Festival both of which put the Mothers' Union in the public eye.

Pauline Middleton continues to send cards to people for all occasions: bereavement, special birthdays and anniversaries. These cards are really appreciated.

I continue to send cards to couples who are getting married in our church.

Daffodils are provided by our branch for Mothering Sunday.

This Branch runs smoothly not only because the members are so supportive but also because of the strong, hardworking committee we have. Heartfelt thanks go to Pam Miller, June Weston, Sophie Cull (Treasurer), Margaret St. George (Secretary), Carolyn Hawkes and Julie Parker.

New members are always very welcome to join our thriving branch. Mothers' Union is an amazing organisation. People should be encouraged to join even if they are unable to attend meetings. We are a strong force for good and we do make a difference locally, nationally and around the world.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time on 019098613088 or 07517439790 or at jennifermazzone@hotmail.com

Sunday Club **Glenda Winfield**

We have a group of 4 children who regularly attend Sunday Club, on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. We were delighted to welcome a new 3-year-old to Sunday Club recently. We have continued to follow the lectionary, with the majority of our lessons reflecting the readings in church.

One of our Leaders, Elly Cooper, made the decision to step down from the rota during the summer break. We thank Elly for all her energy and innovative ideas, we're going to miss her. We are very grateful for all the time and support Elly has given to Sunday Club.

We are pleased to welcome Ann Townsend to the team of Sunday Club Leaders. We were delighted that Ann accepted our invitation and she will take her place on the rota in April 2025.

All our Leaders keep up to date with appropriate Oxford Diocese Safeguarding Training courses, renewing their certificates and DBS certificates as and when necessary.

The Sunday Club offertory has continued to sponsor a young boy called Yonatan Darge through the charity Hand in Hand Ethiopia, a small children's charity working in Addis Ababa. The sponsorship money

provides a daily meal, medical payments, school fees and materials, tutorials, clothes and shoes annually, entertainment and recreation activities. We receive regular newsletters from the charity, providing an update on Yonatan. He is now in Grade 12 and will take his National exam this year. Depending on his results, he will decide on his future education, at college or university. We will do our best in Sunday Club to continue sponsoring Yonatan for the next 3 years as he completes his education, However, with falling numbers in Sunday Club, we will need to consider how we can raise sufficient funds to do this. The Hand in Hand project is due to close in 2028 as new initiatives by the Ethiopian government - education for all and free school meals, now address the reasons the project was initially created.

A group of children, their families and leaders enjoyed a trip to the Bowling Alley in June. There were some great bowling skills on display from even the smallest children. It was great fun, and everyone had a wonderful time.

The Christmas Fair in November again provided a great opportunity to do some Christmas Crafts with the children in our community and to create the Children's Tree, for the Christmas Tree Festival. Our Christmas Tree was a riot of colour with rows and rows of brightly coloured baubles, forming the shape of a Christmas Tree. As in previous years, the Christmas crafts were extremely popular, with very little space around the tables for most of the day. The Nativity Trail around the church was also a great success. Many thanks to everyone who gave their talents, time and resources to ensure all the children enjoyed spending time with us.

The Christingle Service in early December was very well attended. Karen Goff introduced Chris Tingle the puppet and he was a big hit with everyone there. The atmosphere was amazing Thank you to everyone who took part in assembling the various elements that made up the Christingles. It also gave us the opportunity to begin the journey of the Travelling Crib and invite families from the community to join in this tradition.

The Christmas Eve Crib Service was a joyful occasion, with the Sunday Club children and leaders joining the Mayor (Joseph) and Mayoress (Mary), in a traditional Nativity Play. Thank you to the children who played their parts so well, their parents, the Sunday Club Leaders, Karen Goff and Nick Read.

Christmas time wouldn't be the same without a trip to the pantomime. The Sunday Club children, their families and friends were back at The

Venue, this time to see Beauty and the Beast. As always, the pantomime was great fun.

On Mothering Sunday, we put an extra Sunday Club session on. The children were most helpful in assisting members of the Mothers' Union to distribute bunches of daffodils to all the ladies in church.

At the time of writing, we are looking forward to the joy of Easter Day and the traditional Easter Egg Hunt for the children around the church after the service.

As ever, grateful thanks go to all the Sunday Club Leaders for all of their great ideas and their dedication to our little group of lovely children

Fabric Committee

Doug Hird

The fabric committee membership is unchanged:

- Doug Hird – Chair
- Nick Evans
- Jenny Frost
- Jennifer Mazzone
- Nick Read

The purpose of the committee is to carry out work where it can be done by local effort, arrange for contractors to work where we can't and keep an eye on fabric issues arising out of other activities. Malcom does a good job of liaising with the DAC to make sure we don't get into trouble.

There has been quite a lot of fabric activity during the year. This is what we would expect in the year following a Quinquennial inspection.

To summarise in no particular order:

- Tower stonework has been consolidated by Boden & Ward
- WiFi has been installed by Dick.
- The disposal of the Lady Chapel altar surrounds has been agreed.
- The French Drain proposal has produced a quote from Grays and a suggestion from AJS to arrange a full survey of drainage from the North side of the church.

- Meanwhile, the unsightly tarmac area was repaired using slabs from next to the church.
- We have two quotes for St Luke's roof, so we need to make a decision about that. With pre-school no longer in the building, arranging that should be easier.
- The parish church roof needs a number of small repairs. These are to be done by us using specialist repair tape as suggested by one of the roofers who inspected it.
- Re-ordering has resulted in a number of successful activities. The servery and South porch are finished and David Agnew has repaired and altered several benches. The heating system inspection was particularly educational and we await the report with interest.
- We are working on the restoration of the church clock, the electrical parts of which need considerable updating and the clock itself needs mechanical renovation. The need to remove some loose mercury and asbestos has slowed this down a little. The electric motor of the tune machine needs to be re-wound and a company in Sheffield is to do that.
- We have two quotes for replacing electric fittings in the tower. However, the actual cost will depend on what is found at the initial tests of the existing wiring.
- Work to update the police's CCTV relay on the top of the tower resulted in a large radio dish being fitted. This is to be replaced with a less intrusive one.
- The warning tape round the floor platforms has been renewed with hard wearing tape that is designed for that purpose.
- The photo of The King has been fixed to the wall.
- At 3 Castle Meadow Close, a number of holes in the chimney structure have been sealed off and there have been no reports of invading bats since.
- A hedge is being planted next to the new churchyard wall that was constructed by Masons.
- A lectern paper surface is being made for the pulpit. Traditional oak is being used with a small amount of ash where extra strength is needed.

Still outstanding is the re-painting the parking markings and renewing the No Parking signs in the church yard.

Re-ordering Committee
Mervyn Evans

Phase One of our reordering programme is now complete. Three splendid new toilets have been installed, the long queues of the past now a distant memory!

The south porch has been cleaned, new lime wash applied to walls, new



lighting installed and glass doors fitted.

We are very grateful to David Agnew for the refurbished pew and chairs in the porch and for the lovely cabinet made from the wood of the old doors.

David has also repaired and refurbished the crucifix that now hangs



above the South Porch.

He rebuilt the cross (using a damaged pew), burnished the figure and made a crown of thorns that he noticed had once been present.

What was a dark and unattractive space is now a highlight of the interior, a space that enhances to building.

Finally, the new servery, now complete, blends in seamlessly to the nave and provides an attractive centre for hospitality.



We are now in the early stages of planning for the next phase of the programme, the levelling of the floor and provision of improved seating and overall enhancement of the nave.

Our architect, Adrian Ringrose, is drawing up plans to present to the PCC and DAC.

We intend to work on obtaining a Faculty for the work and then to embark on fundraising.

This building has been at the centre of the community for hundreds of years and we are privileged to be able to make our mark and to ensure that the Parish Church will continue to serve the generations to come.

Committee Members

Rev Nick Evans

Mervyn Evans (Chair)

Malcolm Godwin (Administrator)

Paul Hawkes

Leon Hudston (Project Manager)

Jennifer Mazzone (Church Warden)

Ralph Mazzone (PCC member)

Dick Smith (Treasurer)

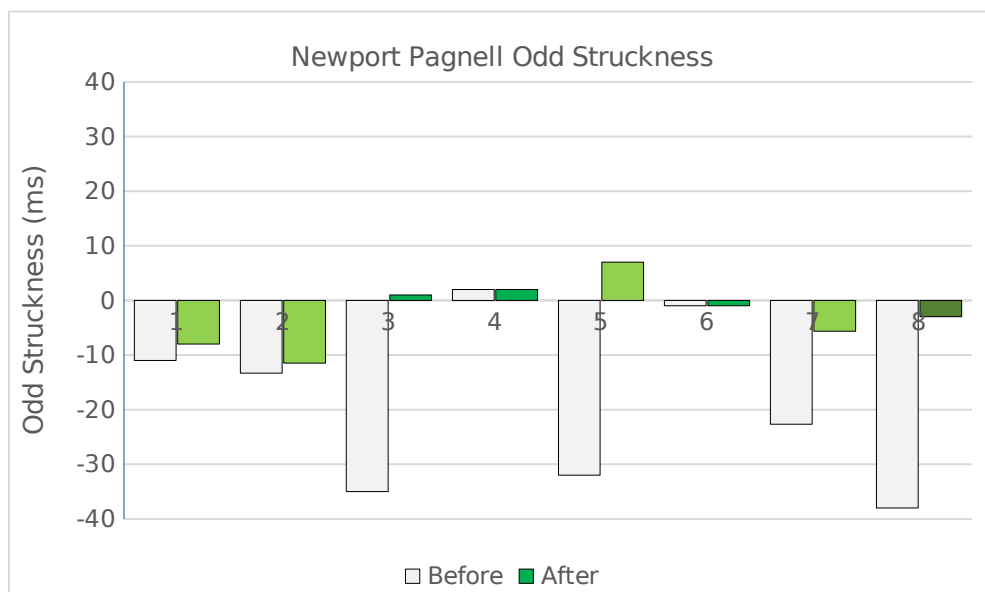
Bellringers

Doug Hird

By combining the bands of Newport Pagnell and Old Bradwell we have been able to make progress with both bands. The practices have benefited from the extra ringers so the enlarged band can ring more complex methods and to a higher standard. Practices alternate on Wednesday evenings between the two towers.

In order to re-introduce Sunday ringing, we arrange a quarter peal before each Evensong service. The band is carefully chosen from the area to produce the best ringing possible.

Following the lightning strike several electronic items had to be replaced including the ringing simulator apparatus and CCTV. At the same time a new Ikea bookcase was obtained to cope with the increasing number of interesting ringing books. Also, one of the bell ropes needed to be repaired which was done by the Ellis Ropes near Loughborough. The work to correct “odd-struckness” in some of the bells has been successfully concluded. This makes the bells more predictable for the ringers.



Stewardship

Dick Smith

Planned Giving is a vital part of our income, and regular members of the congregation should commit to regular giving throughout the year. During the year, our Planned Giving continued to drop again this year by a further £3,500, as did collections at services. We cannot continue to cover this reduction and without new, regular giving we will have to reduce our expenditure to the detriment of what we provide to our congregations. With that in mind we will be holding a Stewardship Renewal, where we will be asking those already giving to review what they give and those who don't to join our regular giving. We receive no financial support from the diocese or national church, in fact half of what we spend must be paid to the diocese to cover the costs of our clergy and towards diocesan and national church costs.

Recovery of Gift Aid from HMRC consists of 2 parts. Firstly, we receive Gift Aid on a large part of our Planned Giving (some members of the scheme are not tax payers and therefore cannot Gift Aid their contributions) Secondly we are able to claim Gift Aid on small donations in our collections at services. In 2024 we saw a drop in Planned Giving and collections during the year and therefore in 2025 our tax recovery income will decrease by about £2,000 (we must claim this in arrears).

We would welcome new members to the Stewardship scheme. If you are regular attendees at any of our services, please consider joining the scheme. Contributions can be made via Standing Order or weekly envelopes. Contact me for further information (nppcc.treasurer@gmail.com or 01908 730870)

Communications & Publicity report

Moira Evans

There are many elements in the communications route that the parish continues to use with the aim that there should not be any parishioner left out from a communication exchange. Social media has proved to be a quick and efficient means of communication with parishioners and the general public and has been effective over the year, particularly with publicising events in SSPP.

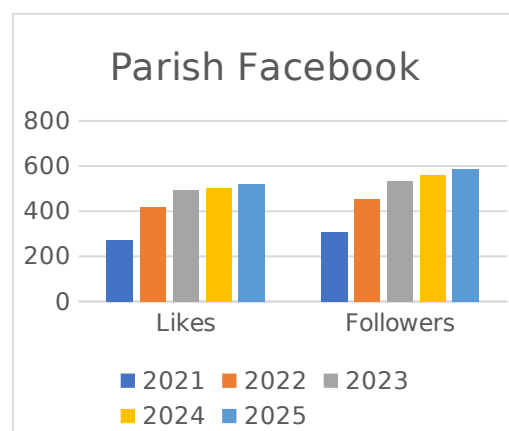
Facebook

The Parish Facebook page has continued to attract visitors and to date (14/04/25) the figures are:

- 520 Likes
- 589 Followers

This is a small increase on last year and it would be good to grow the presence on Facebook more in the future, perhaps by using more regular and engaging posts. Other town

Facebook pages such as Newport Pagnell What's On and NP Chit Chat are used to advertise church events and services throughout the year.



Website

The website is used as a public facing portal for enquiries to find information they need. The new design is working well and is easy to navigate.

Zoom

Zoom continues to be a useful tool in holding group meetings and discussions both within the parish and with the general public i.e. funeral arrangements etc.

Pews News and Parish Emails

These continue to be circulated electronically to parishioners on the parish database and they keep everyone up to date with service details and other relevant information.

Pews News continues to be made available as a hard copy for those who do not use the internet.

WhatsApp

The parish has an active WhatsApp group currently with 56 members (up from 49 last year). Other groups such as Confirmation Class, Events, Parish Visiting, Care Homes and Church Transport also use WhatsApp to communicate quickly with each other.

Benefice Planner

The diary of services and events is circulated electronically, published on Facebook, available on the website, and at the back of the churches as a hard copy. The aim is to cover 4 months at a time, so it needs producing 3 times a year, with an additional Christmas version produced in December for all the additional activity.

Parish Visiting

Beth MacKay

We are a team of people who are ready and willing to go out to visit members of the congregations and others who might appreciate a visit from someone from one of our churches - perhaps because they're elderly, housebound, in a care home, suffering from illness, recently bereaved or just lonely or struggling and in need of some company. On visits we're happy to worship and pray with people, share Holy Communion, as well as have a good chat. Or we'll just chat if that's what people want. We always contact people by phone in the first instance and only visit if they are happy for us to do so. All team members are required to have regular DBS checks and relevant safeguarding training.

Members of the team will make regular home visits to people who are housebound and have requested visits (this might be weekly, fortnightly or monthly), and also make more adhoc visits to others as needed. Communion Services are held monthly at Lathbury Manor, Castlemead and Tickford Abbey. We don't currently hold services at Westbury Grange as it has its own chaplain who arranges regular services there but we do visit some of the residents on a fortnightly basis and bring home communion regularly to one of them.

It's not just about visiting though. We also try to contact people who might need support and provide ad hoc help in cases of illness or bereavement, such as lifts to church/other places, or shopping/meals etc.

Of course, we know that many other members of our church family are also regularly reaching out to others in this way and carrying out the same caring and support activities as those carried out by the team and this is how it should be! We believe that pastoral care isn't just the responsibility of one person or one designated team. To be successful it has to be a shared ministry by the whole church family in response to Jesus' command that *we love one another as he loves us*. And, as a team within the church, we rely on other people to alert us to situations where we may be able to help. We don't want any of our church family to fall through the net and think there is no one they can call on for help! ***So if you, or someone you know, would like a visit from one of our team, please speak to any one of us to arrange.***

Members of the current team are: Rev Nick Evans (Rector), Moira Evans, Mervyn Evans, Karen Goff, Carolyn Hawkes, Brian Hunt, Beth MacKay (Parish Visiting Coordinator), Pam Miller, Hazel Reynolds and Marlene Smith. And if anyone would like to find out more about the role of a Parish Visitor, I will be happy to talk to you. My phone number is 07989085318, beth.mackay@yahoo.co.uk.

Mission Group

Karen Goff

This group arose as a direct result of our Mission Open Day held in October 2021 with its inaugural meeting in January 2022. This group has met 4 times since the last APCM.

Our aim is to try to fulfil the Five marks of Mission (adopted by the General Synod of the Church of England in 1996):

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom (Tell)

To teach, baptise and nurture new believers. (Teach)

To respond to human need by loving service. (Tend)

To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to seek to pursue peace and reconciliation. (Transform)

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth. (Treasure)

In May 2023 our first CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other) group took place and has been running very successfully attracting a variety of carers, fathers, mothers, grandparents and their young children. The group meets on Monday mornings from 9.30 to 11.30 and continues during school holidays. Numbers are so good that a larger area has been created on the south side of the church. A short, interactive story, prayers

and a song were included at Harvest, Christmas and Easter and we were able to provide appropriate gifts for the families. It is lovely to see the young children with their adults wander round the church and feel very comfortable. Free refreshments are available and an opportunity to chat and get to know people from the congregation as well as other carers. Extra help is always needed for this group whether it's setting up, clearing away, making drinks or just chatting with the children and their accompanying adults.

The Christian Resources Exhibition was held in Milton Keynes in October 2024 and a number from this group visited as well as other members from the congregation. Lots of stands were visited and we will be exploring some of the resources we were introduced to particularly material for those exploring their faith and wanting to know more. We continue to provide 'Explore Christianity' prayer cards on a variety of topics that people are welcome to take. These are proving very popular with visitors and members of the congregation. Posters from this company have also provided display material at Advent and Easter.

Following the success of the 'Walk through the Bible' event in July 2022 we held a New Testament equivalent at St Luke's in October 2024. Those who attended found it very informative and fun. Another event 'From Malachi to Matthew' exploring what happened between the Old and New Testaments has been arranged for Thursday 5th June 2025 at 7pm in the Parish Church.

We continue to think about our mission in rural parishes but await news of deanery reorganisation to move this forward. Workshops are being planned for those interested in leading intercessions, reading in church services and speaking to people who come into church during the week.

CTNP

Celia Oldham

Churches Together Newport Pagnell comprises of a group of Christian churches in Newport Pagnell. Throughout the year they organise joint events to bring the Christian message to the wider community in our town.

Holiday Club 2024

This year's Holiday Club, 'Landlubbers' had a new venue for us at Cedars School as Lovat hall was unavailable this summer. This required more planning/organising, our opening and closing up the school each day, revamped catering arrangements and greatly reduced AV facilities. The whole 50+ team simply took this in their stride and produced a wonderful event. In 14 years of Holiday Clubs I have rarely seen the 140+ children so engaged in their activities whether in their groups or all together in the

Hall. Even the year 6 children - usually 'too cool' by that age to fully take part, appeared in their pirate hats and joined in with the activities! Rather than a 'parents' Evening' we had 'Parents Morning' with around 70 adults attending at the end of Thursday's session to see what their children had been up to and I understand have made good donations to our funds.

Cedars turned out to be a very viable venue for our club and, as they did not charge us and the staff were so helpful, we would happily return there for our next Club. My thanks to all the volunteers for their hard work and enthusiasm and also to those who are also on our planning team for their commitment.

Grateful thanks to Geoff Morris, who is standing down after many years as leader. Ian Gooding, who is already part of the team, will be the new leader next year.

Songs of Praise

This is a joint service held in the Parish Church. Representatives of each church are invited to give their testimony and choose a hymn.

Finding the Nativity on the High Street

This annual event involves children finding scenes from the nativity at 6 different venues on the High Street. Despite the very cold weather, all went smoothly and was well attended. Scenes included Mary and Joseph, angels, shepherds, wise men, the inn-keeper and Quirinius.

New Year's Day Walk

More than 30 people took part on New Year's Day, despite dreadful weather. Eva was sad that lay members weren't involved in leading at every church, to give the clergy a well-earned rest. This expectation would be made clear for next year.

United Service for Christian Unity

The United Service was well attended, but it was noted that in the absence of activities for children many families with children did not take part. It would be important to bear this in mind when planning for 2026.

World Day of Prayer

The service is written by Christian women from a different country each year. On the first Friday of March, every year, the same service is held in countries all around the globe. This year it was written by women from the Cook Islands. The theme was 'I made you wonderful'. The service invited us to recognise that God created each one of us with great attention and loving care. CTNP hold the service in a different church each year. This year it was held in St. Bede's Catholic Church.

Lent Lunches

Pat Parker and Ruth Thompsett were again happy to organise the lunches, which were held in the Mead Centre for the six Friday lunchtimes, starting March 7th. On each Friday during Lent, about 100 people shared a meal of delicious home-made soup, bread, cheese and coffee.

Easter Biscuits

These were given to shopkeepers and people in the High Street. They included an Easter message.

Emergency Help Scheme

There were 181 journeys arranged in the second four months of this year, up from 148 in the previous period. As usual, the majority (113) were to Milton Keynes University Hospital, 13 were to the three sites of the Newport Pagnell Medical Centre, and the rest were well spread, with 2 to Bedford, 4 to Northampton, 1 to Amersham and 10 to Oxford being the outliers. The Scheme has a free parking concession at the Milton Keynes, Bedford, Oxford and Stoke Mandeville Hospitals, and I have been able during this period to extend this to cover Northampton, Amersham and Wycombe.

This increase in passenger levels has coincided with decreasing availability of our volunteer drivers, who do such a good job. This is due to a combination of increasing age and infirmity of the drivers themselves, and/or those of their spouses. We are therefore concentrating our publicity efforts on the recruitment of new drivers, and your help will be welcomed. As part of our discussions about this, we have decided to adopt a new name, which better describes the service we provide. We shall now be known as the Newport Pagnell Medical Appointments Transport Service – NP MATS for short. This will appear in all our publicity materials in future, always with the CTNP logo, and for the time being with the sub-heading “formerly the Emergency Help Scheme”, so as not to confuse our existing customers.

Treasurer's report

Dick Smith

Again, this year the basic figures look poor. We show an overall deficit of £30,584.84 of receipts over payments. However, on the Restricted Funds (mainly Fabric) we had a surplus of £31,250 due to a legacy of £33,000 received during the year. On the Unrestricted Funds we are showing a deficit of £41,821.76, but if you separate out the Re-ordering Project the deficit is reduced to £21,800. To cover the deficit on the Re-ordering Project we had to transfer a further £20,000 from one of our investments. Legacies over recent years have helped support us financially, but we need to improve our general income to ensure we can fund everything we want to do. The more we deplete the reserves we have, the less we will be able to afford. We cannot afford to move forward with the next phase of the Re-ordering Project without raising significant funding as if we use more of our reserves, we will not be able to cover our general costs.

Planned Giving dropped this year by £3,500 over the previous year, and collections dropped by about £800. In 2024 our Parish Share increased by £2,000. Fortunately, our energy costs dropped by £3,000, but were

still up £5.000 on 2022. Our Tax Recovery was up about £1,000 on 2023 but will drop in 2025 due to the reduction in Planned Giving and collections this year. Other income was on a par with the previous year. However, we expect to see a significant drop in rent in 2025 because the pre-school will stop using St Luke's from the end of March.

Our general expenditure increased significantly due to several one-off purchases. We bought a grand piano for SSPP costing just over £8,000, a new organ for St Lukes costing £5,000 and new choir robes for St Lukes for approximately £1,000. We also had to spend approximately £2,500 on our parish house.

The value of our investments have in general improved again over 2024 but show a drop due to the sale of a further £20,000 to cover the Re-ordering Project. This will also result in a reduction of the dividends we receive.

The PCC continued to use an external accountant again this year for the independent examination of the accounts. The PCC approved the accounts on 5th May.

Appendix 1

Accounts

Parochial Church Council of Newport Pagnell

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2024

Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL funds 2024 £	TOTAL funds 2023
RECEIPTS						
Voluntary Receipts						
Planned giving		34,481.31	0.00	0.00	34,481.31	38,047.60
Collections at services		7,453.58	0.00	0.00	7,453.58	8,269.82
All other giving/voluntary receipts	5a	2,644.53	33,240.16	0.00	35,884.69	10,296.23
Tax recoverable		12,898.43	0.00	0.00	12,898.43	11,781.69
		57,477.85	33,240.16	0.00	90,718.01	68,395.34
Activities for generating funds	5b	22,352.67	17,234.43	0.00	39,587.10	39,367.82
Investment Income	5c	26,554.11	6,374.75	0.00	32,928.86	33,941.80
Church activities	5d	6,542.00	0.00	0.00	6,542.00	6,762.00
Re-Ordering Project		25,585.10	0.00	0.00	25,585.10	44,017.50
Total Receipts		138,511.73	56,849.34	0.00	195,361.07	192,484.46
PAYMENTS						
Church activities						
Diocesan parish share		56,217.15	0.00	0.00	56,217.15	54,391.59
Clergy and staffing costs	5e	13,368.08	0.00	0.00	13,368.08	14,043.47
Church running costs	5f	55,552.63	10,291.45	0.00	65,844.08	63,650.18
Parish house costs		3,424.91	0.00	0.00	3,424.91	984.60
Mission giving and donations	5g	5,955.89	0.00	0.00	5,955.89	5,710.75
Re-ordering Project		80,894.57	0.00	0.00	80,894.57	93,943.24
		215,413.23	10,291.45	0.00	225,704.68	232,723.83
Cost of generating funds		241.23	0.00	0.00	241.23	0.00
Other Payments	3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total payments		215,654.46	10,291.45	0.00	225,945.91	232,723.83
Excess of receipts over payments		(77,142.73)	46,557.89	0.00	(30,584.84)	(40,239.37)
Transfers between funds	4	35,320.97	(15,320.97)	0.00	20,000.00	50,000.00
		(41,821.76)	31,236.92	0.00	(10,584.84)	9,760.63
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 January		47,414.48	22,427.42	0.00	69,841.90	60,081.27
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 December		5,592.72	53,664.34	0.00	59,257.06	69,841.90

Parochial Church Council of Newport Pagnell

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023
Cash funds						
Cash in hand		0.00			0.00	0.00
Bank current account		700.90	11,128.24		11,829.14	20,898.49
Deposit funds		6,506.82	42,536.10		49,042.92	50,558.41
Retained Deposit on 3CMC		-1,615.00			-1,615.00	-1,615.00
		5,592.72	53,664.34	0.00	59,257.06	69,841.90
Other monetary assets						
Gift Aid recoverable		10,433.20			10,433.20	12,144.32
Other income due		1,774.25	0.00		0.00	0.00
		12,207.45	0.00	0.00	10,433.20	12,144.32
Investment assets						
Investment fund shares at market value	3	208,935.34	78,710.84	143,070.38	430,716.56	440,436.25
Assets retained for church use						
	2	68,000.00	0.00	0.00	68,000.00	68,000.00
Liabilities						
Mission giving		835.63			835.63	1,420.01
Organist fees		429.00			429.00	591.40
Clergy and staffing costs		384.72			384.72	0.00
Employer contributions due to HMRC		650.00			650.00	618.80
Church running costs		1,883.69	144.00		2,027.69	3,329.75
		4,183.04	144.00	0.00	4,327.04	5,959.96

Notes

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis
2. Fixed assets retained for church use is the freehold house at 3 Castle Meadow Close, purchased in 1995 on behalf of the PCC for £80,000 less a 15% equity retention held by the Diocesan Trustees (Oxford) Ltd. On 4 December 2017 the 15% Equity Retention was gifted to the PCC by the Diocesan Trustees (Oxford) Ltd in recognition of the PCC having maintained the house in good order ever since. In 2018 £55,212.17 was spent renovating the property. The market value of the house is in the region of £450,000.
3. There are 3 endowment funds held on behalf of the PCC by the Diocesan Trustees (Oxford) Ltd . The Ecclesiastical Trust was established in 1990 from 69.25% of the sale of Church House. The trust is held in CCLA Church of England Investment funds for the purpose of furthering the religious and other charitable work of the parish and the income is unrestricted. The Elizabeth Darcy Charity was set up from 4 small charities to benefit the poor of the Parish The fund is held in the M&G Charity Multi Asset fund and the income is restricted. The Chancel Repair fund was established in 1972 and is held in a CCLA Church of England Investment fund for the purpose of repair and upkeep of the Chancel and the income is restricted.

There is 1 restricted investment fund, the Hayllar Fund, which was established in 1980 and is held in 2 investment accounts with Black Rock Charities UK Bond Fund A Inc and M&G Charifund. The purpose of the fund is for the upkeep of the churches and both the capital and income is restricted for that purpose.

Parochial Church Council of Newport Pagnell

Finally, there are 2 unrestricted investments, set up from the funds left in the wills of Louise Moodie and Iris Robinson. £150,000 of Louise Moodie's bequest was invested in the CCLA Church of England Investment fund during 2017 and £50,000 of Iris Robinson's bequest was invested in the same fund in 2020, to provide a reasonable return on the funds although the capital can be spent as and when necessary.

4 Fund Values

		TOTAL to 31/12/24 £	TOTAL 2023 £
Ecclesiastical Trust	CBF Investment Fund	76,582.38	74,868.75
	CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund	9,218.60	8,948.45
Elizabeth Darcy Fund	M&G NAACIF Fund	2,283.62	2,209.57
Chancel Repair Fund	CBF Investment Fund	54,985.78	53,755.40
Hayllar Fund	M&G Charifund	70,675.20	68,879.52
	Black Rock Charinco	8,035.64	8,407.66
Louise Moodie Fund	CBF Investment Fund	147,018.53	162,835.56
Iris Robinson Fund	CBF Investment Fund	61,916.81	60,531.34
		<u>430,716.56</u>	<u>440,436.25</u>

4. The movement in designated and restricted funds during the year were:

	Bal b/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Bal c/fwd
Designated					
Ecclesiastical Income Account	1,433.68	2,522.85	0.00	(2,500.00)	1,456.53
Louise Moodie Income Account	3,039.52	4,681.70	0.00	(6,500.00)	1,221.22
Iris Robinson Income Account	4,859.78	1,949.71	0.00	(6,000.00)	809.49
Sunday School	10.01	97.51	0.00	0.00	107.52
Memory Club	5,775.00	1,066.00	1,656.50	12.50	5,197.00
Organ Fund	1,911.82	77.16	0.00	(1,969.40)	19.58
Re-ordering Fund	(45,168.82)	25,585.10	80,894.57	19,329.50	(81,148.79)
Restricted					
Rental Deposit on 3CMC	1,615.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,615.00
Fabric Current Account	20,113.81	56,251.85	10,291.45	(54,945.97)	11,128.24
Fabric Deposit Account	1,498.89	79.55	0.00	40,000.00	41,578.44
Hayllar Income Account	302.57	16.05	0.00	0.00	318.62
Darcy Fund Income Account	512.15	126.89	0.00	0.00	639.04

All transactions related to weddings, funerals, etc. are processed through a separate Benefice account and the fees due to the PCC are transferred monthly in arrears into the general fund.

There are lines on the accounts for Re-ordering income and costs, and an additional page at the end of the accounts showing the Receipts and Payments for the overall project. The PCC decided to transfer the remainder of the legacy from David Lock (£12,087.83) and pay £22,500 from the Ecclesiastical Fund into the Re-ordering Fund. Other income has come from Grants, Donations and a Stewardship Appeal has been started. Money from the Louise Moodie Fund and the Iris Robinson Fund is being transferred to cover the deficit at present. As fundraising progresses this money will be returned to those funds.

The Rental Deposit on 3 Castle Meadow Close is held in the Deposit account but cannot be used for General Funds.

During 2024, £1,265 was received in Organ Fees and £1,000.00 was spent on Routine Maintenance. A further £4,470 was spent on a new organ for St Luke's. £2,660.00 was transferred from the Organ Fund towards the cost of the new organ, the remainder of the cost was funded from General Funds.

Parochial Church Council of Newport Pagnell

5. Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	TOTAL funds 2024	TOTAL funds 2023
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts						
a) All other giving/voluntary receipts						
Donations		1,070.52	0.00	0.00	1,070.52	6,517.49
Legacies		0.00	33,240.16	0.00	33,240.16	0.00
Grants		40.00	0.00	0.00	40.00	0.00
Copier		207.70	0.00	0.00	207.70	200.00
Sunday School		97.51	0.00	0.00	97.51	104.34
Memory Club		1,066.00	0.00	0.00	1,066.00	1,892.40
Misc		162.80	0.00	0.00	162.80	1,582.00
		2,644.53	33,240.16	0.00	35,884.69	10,296.23
b) Activities for generating funds						
Fabric Donations & grants		0.00	17,234.43	0.00	17,234.43	17,996.82
Rent		16,979.55	0.00	0.00	16,979.55	16,916.23
Events (including Fetes)		4,418.74	0.00	0.00	4,418.74	3,878.76
Special Collections		954.38	0.00	0.00	954.38	576.01
		22,352.67	17,234.43	0.00	39,587.10	39,367.82
c) Investment Income						
Dividends on Investment Fund		8,509.88	6,250.66	0.00	14,760.54	15,701.28
Income from Investments		16,800.00	0.00	0.00	16,800.00	16,800.00
Bank and Deposit Fund Interest		1,244.23	124.09	0.00	1,368.32	1,440.52
		26,554.11	6,374.75	0.00	32,928.86	33,941.80
d) Church activities						
Fees for Batism Certificates	4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	54.00
Fees for Weddings	4	1,890.00	0.00	0.00	1,890.00	1,848.00
Fees for Funerals	4	1,872.00	0.00	0.00	1,872.00	1,995.00
Contributions for Heating	4	1,515.00	0.00	0.00	1,515.00	1,617.00
Organ Fees	4	1,265.00	0.00	0.00	1,265.00	1,248.00
		6,542.00	0.00	0.00	6,542.00	6,762.00

Parochial Church Council of Newport Pagnell

Payments

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL funds 2024	TOTAL funds 2023
	Note	£	£	£	£	
e) Clergy and staffing costs						
Clergy expenses		607.32	0.00	0.00	607.32	1,850.75
Parish administrator		12,760.76	0.00	0.00	12,760.76	12,192.72
		13,368.08	0.00	0.00	13,368.08	14,043.47
f) Church running costs						
SSPP building running expenses		8,287.35	0.00	0.00	8,287.35	10,975.03
SL building running expenses		4,569.98	0.00	0.00	4,569.98	5,220.12
Insurance		9,032.38	0.00	0.00	9,032.38	8,529.95
Vestry Costs		5,030.53	0.00	0.00	5,030.53	6,039.30
Parish Office		5,551.05	0.00	0.00	5,551.05	6,392.47
Training		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Social Events		878.40	0.00	0.00	878.40	599.86
Choir Pay and Organists		4,523.40	0.00	0.00	4,523.40	3,462.30
Church flowers	4	748.10	0.00	0.00	748.10	960.51
Misc.		9,804.94	0.00	0.00	9,804.94	489.63
Sunday School	4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00
Memory Club	4	1,656.50	0.00	0.00	1,656.50	1,868.66
Organ Maintenance		5,470.00	0.00	0.00	5,470.00	557.40
SSPP Maintenance (Fabric)		0.00	7,173.00	0.00	7,173.00	16,897.13
SL Maintenance (Fabric)		0.00	3,118.45	0.00	3,118.45	1,507.82
		55,552.63	10,291.45	0.00	65,844.08	63,650.18
g) Mission giving and donations						
CTNP		100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
Christian Aid		285.88	0.00	0.00	285.88	0.00
NP Christmas Lights		150.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	150.00
The Childrens Society		720.01	0.00	0.00	720.01	693.25
Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia		800.00	0.00	0.00	800.00	717.50
Buildbuilder Trust		800.00	0.00	0.00	800.00	700.00
Willen Hospice		800.00	0.00	0.00	800.00	700.00
The Welcome Directory		800.00	0.00	0.00	800.00	800.00
MK Night Shelter		800.00	0.00	0.00	800.00	700.00
Medical Detection Dogs		700.00	0.00	0.00	700.00	0.00
Other		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,250.00
		5,955.89	0.00	0.00	5,955.89	5,710.75

Architect Fees	(23,630.22)	
Measured Building Survey	(5,148.00)	
Croma Conservation Survey	(1,296.00)	
AJS Contracting	(7,920.00)	
Milton Keynes Council	(882.00)	
DrainageSurvey	(564.00)	
Statement of Significance	(1,500.00)	
Subscriptions to 'Church Grants'	(98.00)	
Project Management	(13,869.34)	
Groundworks for Servery	(128.40)	
Phase 1 (Servery, Toilets & South Porch)	(150,915.07)	
Fundraising Concerts	(3,096.95)	
Miscellaneous	(8.00)	
Total Payments	(209,055.98)	
Closing Balance		0.00

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF NEWPORT PAGNELL

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2024 which are set out on pages 1 to 4, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and s.144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of financial statements. You consider that the audit requirement of Regulations and section 144(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

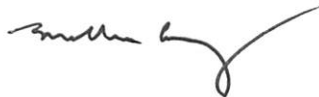
Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

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



J R COBLEY FCCA
COBLEY DESBOROUGH
Chartered Certified Accountants
Chartered Tax Advisors

Artisans' House
7 Queensbridge
Northampton
NN4 7BF
Tel No. 01604 823560

15 April 2025



Accounts

The Parish of Newport Pagnell



St Peter & St Paul, High Street, Newport Pagnell, MK16 8AR
St Luke, Wolverton Road, Newport Pagnell, MK16 8JQ

ANNUAL REPORTS

for presentation to the

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

on Monday 13th May 2024



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The last year has been a time of steady progress and change – but all in the right direction. Our community outreach has been furthered greatly by the new CAMEO ‘adults and toddlers’ sessions which meet on Monday mornings. Here, all sorts of pastoral contacts are made and members of the congregation have connected well with many young parents and grandparents.

Similarly, the Saturday concerts have attracted significant attendances and are part of the plan to help to fund the reordering of the church so that the church space is better equipped for worship and community events.

During the year we have seen visible progress with the church reordering resulting in three new toilets which are now operational along with a new kitchen area which is functional as soon to be completed. The refurbished vestry area too is now being used for various meetings and the south porch has been redecorated in readiness for a counselling area for people who need to share and talk about pastoral issues.

We continue to make fruitful relationships with the town population and this has included fostering our links with members of the town council across the political divide.

Our publicity outreach has been enhanced by the creation of a new more user- friendly website which has been well received. We continue to connect with the town population through the church Facebook page and we now have wi-fi access in all parts of the church building.

Regarding worship there are several new people who regularly worship at St Luke's and the parish church and we seem to have bounced back well from the covid days. We also now have a baby grand piano which is used for some of our worship and other community events.

We continue to have an adult confirmation class and Sunday club for the children which resulted in two youngsters receiving their first communion during the year.

The new worship rota seems to be working well and publishing details of when and where Sunday services are happening across the benefice has been helpful to most people. We continue to practise the healing ministry in, and outside, the church building and this continues to be a valued part of our ministry here.

There have been many changes over the past year and I am grateful for the help of the churchwardens and LLM team for helping and encouraging others to be part of all this. Thank you to all who volunteer their help for so many activities within SSPP and St Luke's. There are too many to name here without accidentally leaving someone out! Many thanks to those involved in Discovery Groups, flower arranging, cleaning, fabric committee, reordering, publicity, the office and those who volunteer to help run the weekly refreshment hospitality provided at services and other community events.

There is much to look forward to in the future – along with the many changes that will be occurring within the deanery as a whole. The Diocese recognises that we are understaffed regarding the availability of professional clergy compared to the huge population that our benefice serves. Our parish population is larger than that of all the other parishes in the deanery put together!

The benefice will grow significantly in the future with new housing being built at Moulsoe and NP.

Given all this, we are preparing well to provide a strong church presence for the town, now and in the future.

Thank you all for your continuing support and help over the last year.

Churchwarden's Report

Jennifer Mazzone

The role of Church Warden is varied, interesting, enjoyable and, at times, challenging. I am continuing to learn more about the role even now and that is what motivates me to be involved.

It has been a busy year. St. Peter and St. Paul and St. Lukes continue to thrive, and we are now even closer together mainly due to the joint services. This has been so good to see. congregation numbers are very stable, if not growing. New members join us and are made to feel welcome. Many visitors pop into church during the week either for private prayer or just to sit quietly. There are always requests on the Prayer Cross and these people are prayed for at the weekly Zoom Prayer Meeting.

There have been two inspections in recent months. The quinquennial, both at SSPP and SL. was a very in-depth inspection undertaken by Adrian Ringrose. From this we received a very detailed report of work which should be undertaken on the building, some of which is urgent, mostly on the stonework. Secondly there was the Archdeacon's Inspection which was undertaken by Tim Edwards from Sherington and Jo Spray from Olney. They have to make sure that everything has been documented properly and kept up to date. They inspected the registers, policies, vestments, and the silver amongst other things. Thanks to Malcolm, all was in order and the inspection ran smoothly and successfully.

Our Church celebrated the King's Coronation with a wonderful service to which the town was invited. A visiting choir sang three moving anthems.

One highlight has been the purchase of a baby grand piano. Luckily, we had a £2000 discount when purchasing it. This will be such an asset as we hope to hold an increasing number of concerts in church, both to give pleasure and to raise funds for the reordering. The music at some services may be better played on the piano. The old piano went to a centre in Ampthill for adults with special needs.

The first concert was held earlier in the year, and it was a great success. There was a full house, and a variety of music was played. The lighting in the church was amazing and we saw the building at its best. More of these evenings are being arranged on a fairly regular basis. It is my wish to introduce some lunchtime recitals, inviting young people in the town to participate. There is so much talent out there.

Another success has been Cameo. Every Monday morning the South Aisle is buzzing with children, parents, grandparents and carers all happily getting along together. They all participated at Christmas and Easter in a short service and the children had something to take home with them. This is mission.

I attend several committees (Mission, Reordering, Events and Fabric) as I feel that it is important in my role to be active in all aspects of our church life and to be aware of how we are developing as a church. It is the people who are important.

Many thanks go to so many people who quietly do all sorts of things in the church, the cleaners, flower arrangers and those who produce rotas. Be assured it is greatly appreciated. My thanks must go to Nick and Jenny as we move forward supporting each other and working together.

Churchwarden's Report

Jenny Frost

2023 started with a New Years Day joint service at St Luke's.

As it was the 250th Anniversary of John Newton's famous hymn Amazing Grace, we sang his original version penned for his New Years Day sermon in Olney (1st January 1773)

The correct title of Amazing Grace is 'Faith's review and Expectation' and it was one of many hymns Newton wrote to accompany his sermons. An apt way to start a New Year! As the year continued, we followed our usual pattern of activities at St Luke's. The Cross was put up in the garden on Maundy Thursday, to be decorated on Easter Eve or Easter Sunday by the congregation. The Easter Garden and decorations around the church were put up by the choir and others.

In May with the first coronation in 70 years the children's groups, who hire St Luke's, decorated the windows with some quite colourful pictures of the King and Queen!

In October we held our, traditional, bring and share lunch after our Patronal Festival Service. It's always amazing how much food there is!

In November both churches had their Quinquennial surveys, which will form the basis of work planned for the next 3/5 years. More of that in the Fabric report!

And then it was Advent and Christmas, another year has flown by.

We regularly have between 30-35 congregants at our 11am services and 45-50 at our joint services on the first Sunday of the month. Evening Services, except for Easter Eve and Advent, are generally lower with 20-25 in the congregation.

During the year the choir increased in size as Olwen and Ralph joined them and Freda became our organist for 11am services. They continue to meet regularly, on Saturday mornings, for practice and to choose the hymns for the coming weeks.

St Luke's is a very much used building with Northern Pastures Preschool, 1st Newport Rainbows, 2nd Newport Rainbows, 4th Newport Brownies, Newport Rangers, Ouse Valley Trefoil Guild, Newport Pagnell Girl Guiding and Ouse Valley Girlguiding all being regular hirers. Therefore, on Saturdays the flowers are arranged, the choir meet for choir practice and the church is made ready for the Sunday service with chairs and tables put out and arranged as needed for refreshments and books and, of course, for people to sit on! A church building very much in use all week by a variety of children's groups and our church

community. The planning for the CTNP Annual Holiday club also takes place in St Luke's as do Baptism and Wedding Preparation sessions.

My thanks to all those who serve on, and prepare, our rotas, the musicians, and Bill and Chris Watson for their continued, and much appreciated, support.

PCC Report

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a registered charity.

Registered No: 1153668

The PCC met 7 times and the Standing Committee 7 times in 2023/2024

PCC membership

The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules.

During the year, the following have served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Incumbent: Rev Nick Evans, Rector

Licensed Lay Ministers: Mervyn Evans and Karen Goff.

Churchwardens: Jennifer Mazzone and Jenny Frost

PCC Secretary: Olwen Smith

Deanery Synod representatives: Dick Smith (Treasurer), John Fowler, Mervyn Evans

Elected: Neil Ellis (from April 2023), Doug Hird, Brian Hunt (until April 2023), Beth Mackay, Kimonie Nicholls (until April 2023), Ralph Mazzone, Celia Oldham (from April 2023), Hazel Reynolds, Marlene Smith.

PCC Sub-Committees

The Parochial Church Council operates through several sub-committees which meet between full meetings of the PCC. They are:

Standing Committee: This committee comprises the Rector, Churchwardens, PCC Secretary and Treasurer. It has delegated powers to transact some of the business of the PCC between its meetings and deals mainly with housekeeping matters.

Fabric Committee: This committee attends to the maintenance of the Parish Church, St Luke's Church and 3 Castle Meadow Close, and considers future projects.

Events Committee: Established in October 2018 as an overarching committee to support organisers of events, providing support, advice and identifying possible helpers. Also, will identify new events and provide advanced planning.

Re-order Steering group: This group was established in January 2019 and will oversee and guide the re-ordering project.

Parish Visiting team: Established January 2020 to oversee and provide for the needs of those who request visits.

Mission Group: This group arose as a direct result of our Mission Open Day held in October 2021. The group had its inaugural meeting on Thursday 20th January 2022.

Statistics

	Baptisms	Thanksgiving	Weddings	Blessings	Church Funerals	Crem Funerals
2014	28	4	23	0	14	21
2015	35	2	19	1	20	12
2016	34	0	14	1	25	5
2017	25	0	16	0	26	6
2018	13	0	12	1	24	5
2019	15	0	7	0	21	6
2020*	3	0	3	0	8	20 ¹
2021*	7	0	7	0	16	16 ¹
2022	5	0	5	0	19	6
2023	17	0	4	0	19	5

*Covid 19 restrictions

¹ Includes Graveside services

1. Safeguarding appears on the agenda at every PCC meeting. We continue to work in line with Church of England Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.

2. Formal Obligation

PCCs are formally obliged to report to the APCMs on whether or not the PCC 'has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and clergy discipline measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).'

3. Safeguarding Roles

The Parish Safeguarding Officer is Hazel Reynolds. In the latter part of 2023, she became the Benefice Safeguarding Officer. The DBS Recruiter and Verifier is Malcolm Godwin.

4. Safeguarding Policy, Guidance and Information

Our up to date Parish Safeguarding Policy is displayed in our entrance lobbies and appears on our website.

5. Safeguarding Learning and Development.

We had a Safeguarding training drive in 2022/2023, refreshing the training of appropriate parish workers and volunteers; we are required to refresh our training at least every 3 years. Access to the Safeguarding Training Portal is through the Oxford Diocesan website; we did offer face to face training to a few church officers in both Basic Awareness and Foundation, during 2022, but most were completed online.

At the time of writing, there are only a few church officers due to complete some Safeguarding training pathways before the end of 2024.

6. Safer Recruitment and People Management

In 2022 the Parish Administrator and I produced the Safer Recruitment Pack to guide and direct those church officers responsible for recruitment in our Parish; primarily it is volunteers we're recruiting either for Clubs like the Memory Club or for in-house groups like our Sunday Club, and Parish Visitors (a PCC sub-committee).

The pack includes Volunteer role description forms, person specifications, volunteer application form, sample interview questions, reference request form and letter template, volunteer appointment letter template, parish volunteer agreement template, and Confidential Declaration Form for use in those instances when an enhanced DBS would be sought.

This process has most recently been followed when recruiting a new Sunday Club helper and two new Memory Club volunteers.

7. DBS Fewer Church Officers now need to have DBS clearance, the guidelines for when it's required being more precise. Excluding members of our Ministry team (The Bishops' office deals with their safeguarding and DBS clearance), 10 Church Officers hold DBS clearance, and it needs to be refreshed for 1 person this year.

8. Safeguarding Sunday

We marked Safeguarding Sunday at our combined service held in St Peter & St Paul's on Sunday 19th November 2023; the objective being to raise awareness of safeguarding, and highlight the work done behind the scenes to protect children and vulnerable people. We could focus our next event on children and hold it at the 9.30 service, if we could be assured of at least 6 young people attending.

9. Concerns raised

Two Safeguarding concerns were raised in the past 12 months and resolved through liaison with the Diocese.

Mothers' Union

Jennifer Mazzone

I am very proud of our branch of the Mothers' Union here in Newport Pagnell. We are still a very strong branch, and I was pleased to enrol Nicola Gatward as a member in December. We now have fifty-seven paid up members and I am enrolling Lyndsey Charlesworth as a member soon. The more members we have, the more we can spread the word about the work of the Mothers' Union.

We had an interesting and varied programme last year. It is not always easy to find appropriate speakers.

We all enjoyed Love to Move led by Sue Maison. We had Bible Reflections and speakers from Children's Air Ambulance, from MAF and the Community Larder. Nick based his talk around Lent and also led the ever-popular Quiet Afternoon. Several meetings have been led by members and these are always interesting and thought provoking.

We held our two usual social events, an Afternoon Tea, and the Cream Teas when, once again, we were lucky with the weather. Not only do these events raise money for projects and the Relief Fund but they also provide an opportunity to meet socially and really get to know each other better.

Several members attended the Spring Meeting in Furzton. As usual, it gave us an opportunity to meet with members from other branches.

Another happy occasion was the celebration for the Diamond Wedding of Brenda and Mike, two of our most stalwart and supportive members. Following a Communion service, which included their wedding hymns, we had a cake, made by Linda Ramsay, and toasted the happy couple.

A great success in our church has been the introduction of Cameo. (Come and Meet Each Other) Our branch was successful in obtaining a grant from the Diocese. With this we were able to provide toys and other equipment. We are still getting new attendees and we have had to enlarge the area to accommodate the numbers attending.

We now have a strong link with Woodhill Prison, mainly thanks to Moira who is a prison visitor, and she is able to liaise between the prison and our branch. We provided a bag of goodies for each Christian prisoner at Easter including a card and an egg. For Christmas, they received another bag which included a card, a little booklet, two small chocolate bars, a cross and a pack of cards. This Easter we have given every prisoner an Easter egg. This is obviously really appreciated, and we hope this link with prison continues.

Many members still provide items for Baby Basics as the need for this continues to grow.

Pauline continues to send cards to people for all occasions: bereavement, special birthdays, and anniversaries. Thank you, Pauline. These cards are really appreciated.

I continue to send cards to couples who are getting married in our church and some members continue to assist at Baptism Preparation meetings by providing refreshments and running a creche.

Daffodils are provided by our branch for Mothering Sunday.

We run the raffle at the Bazaar which is always very lucrative. June Weston continues to organise this.

Thanks also go to Sophie, Carolyn, Pam and Margaret for dressing our entry to the Christmas tree Festival. It was both unusual and popular.

I would like to thank all branch members for their continued support of me and the branch. Special thanks must go to the committee: Sophie Cull (Treasurer), Margaret St. George (Secretary), Pam Miller, June Weston, Linda Ramsay and Carolyn Hawkes. They are all so enthusiastic and work very hard for the branch. Linda Ramsay resigned from the committee at our AGM and Julie Parker has joined our happy band.

New members are always very welcome to join our thriving branch. Please spread the word about the work of the Mothers' Union and encourage people to join this amazing organisation. There are still many people who do not know about us or what we do and stand for. We are a strong force for good and we do make a difference locally, nationally and around the world.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time on 019098613088 or 07517439790 or at jennifermazzone@hotmail.com

We have a group of 7 children who regularly attend Sunday Club on the second and fourth Sundays of the month and we were delighted to welcome a new little girl to Sunday Club recently. We have continued to follow the lectionary, with the majority of our lessons reflecting the readings in church.

One of our Leaders, Rebecca Harrison, decided to step down from the rota during the summer break. We thank Rebecca for all the time and support she has given to Sunday Club; we are extremely grateful.

Welcome Hannah! We were very pleased that Hannah Ellis accepted the invitation to join our team of Leaders, into which Hannah has settled very well.

Our Leaders have been working through and keeping up to date with appropriate Oxford Diocese Safeguarding Training courses throughout the year.

The Sunday Club offertory continues to support Hand in Hand in Ethiopia, a small children's charity working in Addis Ababa. We receive regular newsletters from the charity, providing an update on Yonatan Darge, the young boy we sponsor. Yonatan is reported to be doing very well academically and enjoys playing football with his friends after school. With the sponsorship money, the charity is able to provide a daily meal, medical payments, school fees and materials, tutorials, clothes and shoes annually, entertainment and recreation activities.

The Christmas Fair in November was a great opportunity to do some Christmas Crafts with the children in our community and to make some decorations for the Children's Christmas Tree, created from fir tree branches and pine cones, for the Christmas Tree Festival. As in previous years, the Christmas crafts were extremely popular, with very little space around the tables for most of the day. The Nativity Trail around the church was again a great success. Many thanks to everyone who gave their time, talents and resources to make this occasion so enjoyable and successful.

The Christingle Service in early December was amazing. The atmosphere was wonderful and it was enjoyed by all who came along. Thank you to everyone who took part in assembling all the various elements that made up the Christingles. It was also an opportunity to begin the journey of the Travelling Crib and invite families from the community to join in this tradition.

The Christmas Eve Crib Service was a joyful occasion, and the Sunday Club children and leaders were amazing, re-enacting the traditional Nativity Play. Thanks go to the children who played their parts so well, their parents, the Sunday Club Leaders, Karen Goff and Nick Read.

It was so exciting for Sunday Club children, their families and friends to be back at The Venue for this year's Pantomime, Jack and The Beanstalk, in late December. As always, the pantomime was great fun and enjoyed by everyone.

On Mothering Sunday the children were most helpful in assisting the Mothers' Union to distribute bunches of daffodils.

On Easter Day we had lovely Sunday Club session with lots of children and this was followed by the traditional Easter Egg Hunt after the service.

Grateful thanks go to all the Sunday Club Leaders for their all of their great ideas and their dedication to our lovely little group of children.

Fabric Committee

Doug Hird

As usual there have been a number of ongoing maintenance activities this year and a few more noticeable things.

The floor beneath the piano was reinforced which showed that the rest of the flooring needs attention, or complete removal. Allied to this has been the successful disposal of a number of the Victorian benches.

A letter to the trustees of the Revis alms-houses resulted in the removal of the old blue van and we have decided to fit stricter "No Parking" signs to make our point more strongly.

At the most recent meeting of the committee the most significant items of concern in the quinquennial inspections for both churches were discussed. The common theme being water.

- Gutters, downpipes, gullies and drainage - we can address most of these ourselves.
- Loose surface stonework:
 - inaccessible areas – employ a stonemason with cherry picker
 - accessible areas - ourselves (any stones needing replacement to be done by stonemason)
- Lead roof repairs - all roofs - to be done by roofer.
- Chancel tiles and St Luke's roof - to be done by roofer.
- Areas of loose internal plaster - do we have a plasterer?

Engaging contractors for these comprise the main focus of our activities for 2024.

The installation of a mesh WiFi system in SSPP was also discussed and subsequently installed by Dick Smith.

The committee proposed for 2024 is the same as for 2023:

- Doug Hird – Chair
- Nick Read

- Nick Evans
- Jennifer Mazzone
- Jenny Frost
- Neil Ellis

Re-ordering Committee

Mervyn Evans

“A building that celebrates the past, lives in the present and embraces the future.”

Progress During the Year

It has been good to see Phase One of the reordering project happening at last.

The new toilets were installed in time for the Christmas Lights event, the refurbishment of the South Porch is complete with new lighting installed.

The crucifix has been most wonderfully restored by David Agnew, with a new cross made



from the wood of one of the old pews and is now in its new location above the south porch door.

The new servery is functional, the electrics, water and drainage are all fitted and some of the internal cabinets are in place.

We hope to have the servery completed in the next month or two, but this element of the project has been delayed slightly by the need to change contractors.

It is encouraging that the costs of Phase One have been in line with the original estimates.

It is perhaps appropriate to cast our minds back to the vision which provided the impetus for the reordering project. In 2019 we proposed the following:

“Renewing the Historic Heart of the Town”

Among the priorities identified for the building were:

- A flexible place of worship.*
- A place for community use, for life events such as weddings, baptisms, funerals, hospitality and welcome.*

c. *A venue for history, heritage and culture. Concerts, school visits. Here the emphasis is on a warm and hospitable space with high quality facilities, toilets and signage.*

d. *Environmentally friendly, a centre of excellence, a potential to generate income, a sound investment for future generations.*

The new facilities have gone some way to meeting these needs. The additional toilets, improved catering facilities and the refurbished south porch have enhanced our offering to the community.

In March we held the first of a series of fund-raising concerts 'The Parlour Sessions' and it was a great community event.

At the time of writing a second concert is planned for 11th May, and we hope that, as before, all tickets will be sold.



As we come to the end of this first phase of reordering, our attention turns to the challenge of Phase Two. Here, learning from experience, we will focus on obtaining the necessary Faculty approval before going out for large grants as many of the grant-making bodies will not consider any application until all the approvals are in place. As a reminder, here are the intentions for the next phases of the project:

Proposals

Phase 2

- 1. Removal of pews and pew platforms. Six pews to retained and used for social seating in the aisles.*
- 2. Laying new, level, flooring in place of the pew platforms.*
- 3. Renewing the heating system.*
- 4. Renewing the lighting in the Nave.*
- 5. Redecoration of the Nave.*
- 6. Purchase of new seating.*

Phase 3

1. Reconfiguring the sanctuary and providing ramped access to a new dais.

Early estimates for Phase Two suggest that we will need to raise some £600k, a considerable sum of money, but we are confident that it is achievable. The committee tries to have a short weekly meeting, normally on Friday mornings in the Parish Office. We would welcome more involvement though, so do speak to any member of the team if you would like to get involved, no experience necessary!

Finally, the committee would like to thank all for their patience during the process and for their generous support.

The Reordering Sub-Committee comprises Mervyn Evans (Chair), Jennifer Mazzone, Ralph Mazzone, Dick Smith, Malcolm Godwin, Paul Hawkes and Leon Hudston (Project Manager).

Bellringers

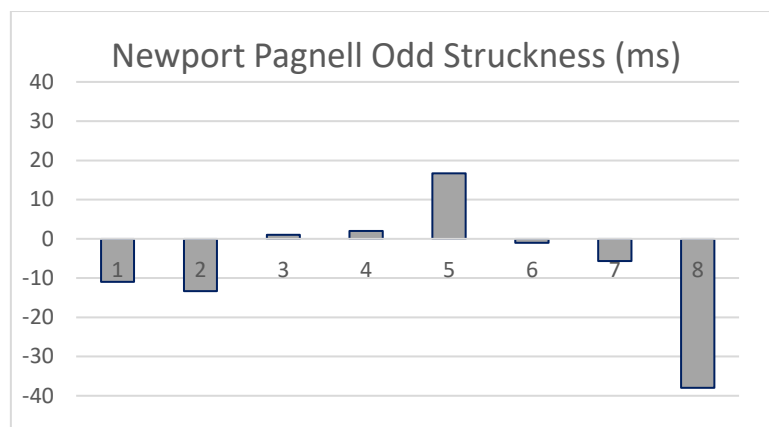
Doug Hird

Ringling at Newport continues at a relatively low level. This is not unusual at the moment though. There is no 8-bell tower in North Bucks that regularly runs an 8-bell practice and many 6-bell towers have no ringing at all. The ringers we do have are spread thinly throughout North Bucks so any meaningful progress can only be made by combining our efforts. This is where the Oxford Diocesan Guild shows its value in holding together the art in the diocese. The North Bucks Branch runs regular practices, training events and social events which benefit individuals and strengthen ringing in individual towers. Survival is only assured through ringers being non-parochial but this requires some organisation and communication.

A post on Facebook for volunteers to come along elicited no response. There will be other occasions when we can try again though.

We have had a number of visiting bands and some local groups have made use of the ringing simulator to practice advanced methods without disturbing the locals.

Work on the bells is ongoing to make the striking as true as possible. This involves measuring the delay between the swing of a bell and its strike. The target is less than 5ms error. So far only three of the bells fall within that.



To remedy this, tapered nylon washers are being made to bias the clapper positions.

The clock is becoming increasingly unreliable and inspections and servicing by the clock firms have identified wear in some of the bushings. So the clock will, at some point, need to be overhauled. The striking of the quarters, hours and tune machine are beset with electrical problems. These are also on the shopping list.

Stewardship

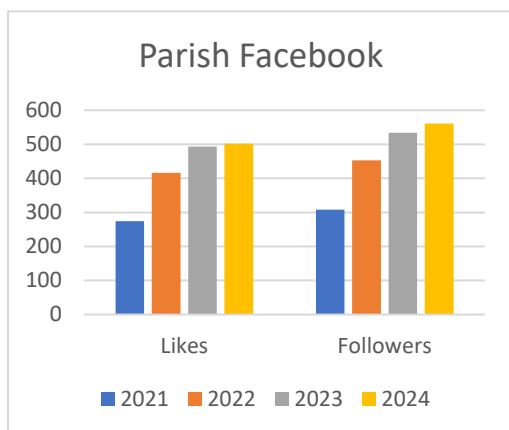
Dick Smith

Planned Giving is a vital part of our income, and regular members of the congregation should commit to regular giving throughout the year. During the year, our Planned Giving dropped slightly by £500. However, Parish costs continue to rise and we need to see that growth continue going forward. Although it was good to see some new members of the congregation joining the scheme, we continue to lose long-term members who have either died or whose financial situation has changed.

Recovery of Gift Aid from HMRC consists of 2 parts. Firstly we receive Gift Aid on a large part of our Planned Giving (some members of the scheme are not tax payers and therefore cannot Gift Aid their contributions) Secondly we are able to claim Gift Aid on small donations in our collections at services. In 2023 we saw a drop in Planned Giving but collections were significantly higher and in 2024 our tax recovery income will increase by about £1,100 (we have to claim this in arrears).

We would welcome new members to the Stewardship scheme. If you are regular attendees at any of our services, please consider joining the scheme. Contact me for further information (nppcc.treasurer@gmail.com or 01908 730870)

Most of our communications with parishioners and the general public is now done electronically through various social media routes as well as standard emails.



Facebook

The Parish Facebook page has continued to attract visitors and to date (15/04/24) the figures are:

- 502 Likes
- 561 Followers

The 'like' counter is the number of people that have liked our Facebook page. When a new visitor likes our page, the default setting is that they also follow our page. When someone 'follows' our page, it means

that our Facebook page posts will appear on their personal Facebook feed.

Other town Facebook pages such as Newport Pagnell What's On and NP Chit Chat are used to advertise church events and services throughout the year.

Website

Our website (npparish.org.uk) was redesigned recently and now provides a cleaner and easier navigation journey for people looking for information about our services, church activity or other life events. It is clear

that the website is primarily an outward facing resource tool for the general public as the new site was live for 2 weeks before any parishioner noticed!

Zoom

The Parish has a Zoom account and Zoom video conferencing has enabled us to continue our weekly Zoom Prayer meetings. One Discovery Group meeting also takes place on Zoom as do some parish and diocesan meetings.

Pews News and Parish Emails

These continue to be circulated to parishioners on the parish database and keep everyone up to date with service details and other relevant information.

Pews News continues to be made available as a hard copy for those who do not use the internet.

WhatsApp

The parish has an active WhatsApp group currently with 49 members (up from 45 last year). Other groups such as Confirmation Class, Events and Church Transport also use WhatsApp to communicate quickly with each other.

Benefice Planner

The diary of services and events is circulated electronically, published on Facebook, available on the website, and at the back of the churches as a hard copy. The aim is to cover 4 months at a time so it needs producing 3 times a year.

Parish Visiting

Beth MacKay

We are a team of people who are ready and willing to go out to visit members of the congregations and others who might appreciate a visit from someone from one of our churches - perhaps because they're elderly, housebound, in a care home, suffering from illness, recently bereaved or just lonely or struggling and in need of some company. On visits we're happy to worship and pray with people, share Holy Communion, as well as have a good chat. Or we'll just chat if that's what people want. We always contact people by phone in the first instance and only visit if they are happy for us to do so. All team members are required to have regular DBS checks and relevant safeguarding training.

Members of the team make regular home visits to people who are housebound and have requested visits (this might be weekly, fortnightly or monthly), and also make more adhoc visits to others as needed. Communion Services are held monthly at Lathbury Manor, Castlemead and Tickford Abbey. We don't currently hold services at Westbury Grange as it has its own chaplain who arranges regular services there but we do visit two of the residents on a regular basis and bring home communion to one of them.

It's not just about visiting though. We also make phone calls to people who might need support and provide ad hoc help in cases of illness or bereavement, such as lifts to church/other places, or shopping/meals etc. Of course, we know that many other members of our church family are regularly reaching out to others and carrying out the same caring and support activities as those carried out by the team and we believe that pastoral care isn't just the responsibility of one person or one designated team. To be successful it has to be a shared ministry by us all in response to Jesus' command that *we love one another as he loves us*. And, as a team within the church, we rely on other people to alert us to situations where we may be able to help.

Members of the current team are: Mervyn Evans, Rev Nick Evans (Rector), Karen Goff, Carolyn Hawkes, Brian Hunt, Beth MacKay (Parish Visiting Coordinator), Pam Miller, Sue Maison, Hazel Reynolds and Marlene Smith. If anyone would like to find out more about the role of a Parish Visitor, I will be happy to talk to you. My phone number is 07989085318.

This group arose as a direct result of our Mission Open Day held in October 2021 with its inaugural meeting in January 2022. This group has met 3 times since the last APCM.

Our aim is to try to fulfil the Five marks of Mission (adopted by the General Synod of the Church of England in 1996):

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom (Tell)

To teach, baptise and nurture new believers. (Teach)

To respond to human need by loving service. (Tend)

To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to seek to pursue peace and reconciliation. (Transform)

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth. (Treasure)

In May 2023 our first CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other) group took place and has been running very successfully attracting a variety of carers, fathers, mothers, grandparents and their young children. The group meets on Monday mornings from 9.30 to 11.30 and continues during school holidays. Numbers are so good that a larger area has been created on the south side of the church. A short, interactive story, prayers and a song were included at Christmas and Easter and we were able to provide appropriate gifts for the families. It is lovely to see the young children with their adults wander round the church and feel very comfortable. Free refreshments are available and an opportunity to chat and get to know people from the congregation as well as other carers.

‘Explore Christianity’ material has been very popular providing prayer cards on a variety of topics that people are welcome to take. Posters from this company have also provided display material at Advent and Easter. This company also has a 3 session course called ‘Hope explored’ which we are thinking of using in the right setting. The diocese also has some online courses that we are exploring.

Following the success of the ‘Walk through the Bible’ event in July 2022 we are planning another one based on the New Testament.

We continue to think about our mission in rural parishes but await news of deanery reorganisation to move this forward.

CTNP is a group of Christian churches in Newport Pagnell. We organise joint events throughout the year to help spread God's word to the people of this town.

Holiday Club summer 2023

The Holiday Club took place from August 21st to 24th, and 146 children attended for at least one day: 121 had 100% attendance. We were blessed with dry weather throughout, and this meant that every group had the chance to go outside and launch air-powered prayer rockets in the area behind Lovat Bank. This reflected the Space Academy theme, which was enhanced by daily contributions from Revd Dave Gregory of the Baptist Church, who conducted simple scientific experiments, which greatly appealed to the children. They also learned the key stories from the book of Daniel, created lots of crafts, and enjoyed a drama serial.

All this was only possible because of the 36 adult volunteers and 23 young helpers who took part.

Alternative premises will need to be found for summer 2024, as the Baptist Church is being refurbished.

Songs of Praise 22nd October 2023

This service was well attended by members of all churches in Newport Pagnell. Representatives from each of the churches gave their testimony then chose a hymn. The service was followed by coffee and biscuits which gave the opportunity for members from the different churches to socialise.

Finding the Nativity on the High Street 21st December 2023

This followed the same format as previous years, with scenes from the nativity being staged at various churches in Newport Pagnell. Children received a stamp on their card for each scene they visited. Many thanks to all those who gave up their time to ensure the event was a success. It was asked that in future, before the carols at the end, it is emphasised that all the churches are involved. All ministers were in attendance.

New Year's Day walk 2024

This event is organised by the laity of the churches. It involved a walk around each of the Newport Pagnell Churches. There was a short 10-minute service at each church. The theme was 'Spiritual Gifts'.

United Service for Christian Unity 24th January 2024

This took place at the Parish Church. Ministers from all the churches in Newport Pagnell took part. The service included readings, reflections and hymns chosen by the clergy. There was a large congregation which included members from all the churches.

World Day of Prayer 1st March 2024

The service is written by Christian women from a different country each year. It is prepared about 5 years in advance. On the first Friday of March, every year, the same service is held in countries all around the globe. This year the service was written by the women of Palestine. NPCT hold the service in a different church each year. This year it was in the Methodist church. About 50 people attended, including several from SSPP. The theme was 'Bear with one another in love'. The service included readings, songs, and stories from the women of Palestine. Members from various churches took part in the service. This was followed by coffee and cake.

Lent Lunches

Some of the long-term helpers felt it was time to step down, so there was an appeal for new recruits. Fortunately, many answered the call and the lunches were able to go ahead. On each Friday during Lent, around 100 people partook in sharing a meal of tasty home-made soup, cheese, and a roll, followed by coffee and cake. There was a lovely, communal atmosphere. Grateful thanks to all those who helped in organising, making soup, baking and serving food. The money raised goes to Christian Aid.

Walk of Witness on Good Friday

This was not a CTNP event this year. However, Members of SSPP had their own walk of witness.

Easter Biscuits

Biscuits were handed out to the shopkeepers and passers-by on the High Street, together with an Easter message. Thank you to all those who helped bag the biscuits and give them out.

The Emergency Help Scheme

In the past year over 250 journeys were arranged. Just under half of these were to Milton Keynes University Hospital. Of the remainder, the bulk were in Milton Keynes too, but 23 were to locations further afield, including, for the first time, the Horton General Hospital in Banbury. Sadly, there were 3 requests where no driver was available. Our aim is 100% success rate, of course, and we are hopeful that we will be able to meet the demand with our existing community of drivers, although, as I have mentioned, new drivers are always welcome.

EHS funds have increased since last year, due to some generous donations, and we remain solvent. Our single greatest item of expenditure is our public liability insurance premium. We wish to thank our friends for their generous support during the last 12 months.

CTNP Website

The website has been recently set up and is run by Chris Rowe. It is intended to link with the websites of Newport Pagnell churches. Chris may ask for a £50 contribution from each church.

Treasurer's report

Dick Smith

If you look at the basic figures we show a deficit of £40,239.37 of receipts over payments. On the Restricted Funds (mainly Fabric) we had a surplus of £11,500 due to donations received towards the Vestry refurbishment that was undertaken in 2022. On the Unrestricted Funds we are showing a deficit of £53,370.42, but if you separate out the Re-ordering Project the deficit is only £1,780. To cover the deficit on the Re-ordering Project we had to transfer £50,000 from one of our investments. Although fundraising was started in the later part of the year, we received income of only £5,250 and we also received grants of £37,500. Legacies over recent years have helped support us financially, although we had none in 2023, but we need to improve our general income to ensure we can fund everything we want to do. The more we deplete the reserves we have, the less we will be able to afford. We cannot afford to move forward with the next phase of the Re-ordering Project without raising significant funding as if we use more of our reserves we will not be able to cover our general costs.

Planned Giving dropped this year by £500 over the previous year, and collections have risen by nearly £2,000, but we are still £3,000 below that raised in 2019. In 2023 we had a huge rise in energy costs of approximately £8,000, although the costs will reduce this year they will still be in the region of £4,000 above those in 2022. Our Tax Recovery recovered slightly in 2022 and has risen again in 2023. Rent was nearly doubled as the Pre-school at St Luke's has been paying the full cost during 2023. Fee income however was fairly static and is below pre-pandemic levels, we only see a fraction of the weddings we used to have.

Our general expenditure remained relatively static, except for energy costs and the Re-ordering Project. Parish Share was held at the same level by the Diocese in 2023, but we will see an increase in 2024 of approximately £2,000 and may well see a significant increase in 2025 of around 10%.

The value of our investments have in general improved over 2023, but show a drop due to the sale of £50,000 to cover the Re-ordering Project. This will also result in a reduction of the dividends we receive.

The PCC continued to use an external accountant again this year for the independent examination of the accounts. The PCC approved the accounts at the PCC meeting on 22 April.

Appendix 1

Accounts

Parochial Church Council of Newport Pagnell

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2023

Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL funds 2023 £	TOTAL funds 2022 £
RECEIPTS						
Voluntary Receipts						
Planned giving		38,047.60	0.00	0.00	38,047.60	38,576.86
Collections at services		8,269.82	0.00	0.00	8,269.82	6,437.12
All other giving/voluntary receipts	5a	2,802.84	7,493.39	0.00	10,296.23	46,172.26
Tax recoverable		11,781.69	0.00	0.00	11,781.69	10,217.36
		60,901.95	7,493.39	0.00	68,395.34	101,403.60
Activities for generating funds	5b	21,371.00	17,996.82	0.00	39,367.82	15,153.25
Investment Income	5c	27,896.01	6,045.79	0.00	33,941.80	33,085.99
Church activities	5d	6,762.00	0.00	0.00	6,762.00	5,103.80
Re-Ordering Project		44,017.50	0.00	0.00	44,017.50	1,718.80
Total Receipts		160,948.46	31,536.00	0.00	192,484.46	156,465.44
PAYMENTS						
Church activities						
Diocesan parish share		54,391.59	0.00	0.00	54,391.59	54,294.57
Clergy and staffing costs	5e	14,043.47	0.00	0.00	14,043.47	13,196.12
Church running costs	5f	45,245.23	18,404.95	0.00	63,650.18	73,639.50
Parish house costs		984.60	0.00	0.00	984.60	532.11
Mission giving and donations	5g	5,710.75	0.00	0.00	5,710.75	6,240.61
Re-ordering Project		93,943.24	0.00	0.00	93,943.24	9,430.38
		214,318.88	18,404.95	0.00	232,723.83	157,333.29
Cost of generating funds		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	587.28
Other Payments	3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total payments		214,318.88	18,404.95	0.00	232,723.83	157,920.57
Excess of receipts over payments		(53,370.42)	13,131.05	0.00	(40,239.37)	(1,455.13)
Transfers between funds	4	51,590.12	(1,590.12)	0.00	50,000.00	0.00
		(1,780.30)	11,540.93	0.00	9,760.63	(1,455.13)
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 January		49,194.78	10,886.49	0.00	60,081.27	61,536.39
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 December		47,414.48	22,427.42	0.00	69,841.90	60,081.26

Parochial Church Council of Newport Pagnell

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
Cash funds						
Cash in hand		0.00			0.00	0.00
Bank current account		784.68	20,113.81		20,898.49	10,545.19
Deposit funds		48,244.80	2,313.61		50,558.41	51,151.07
Retained Deposit on 3CMC		-1,615.00			-1,615.00	-1,615.00
		47,414.48	22,427.42	0.00	69,841.90	60,081.26
Other monetary assets						
Gift Aid recoverable		12,144.32			12,144.32	11,059.47
Other income due		0.00	0.00		0.00	25.60
		12,144.32	0.00	0.00	12,144.32	11,085.07
Investment assets						
Investment fund shares at market value	3	223,366.90	77,287.18	139,782.17	440,436.25	457,369.80
Assets retained for church use						
	2	68,000.00	0.00	0.00	68,000.00	68,000.00
Liabilities						
Mission giving		1,420.01			1,420.01	1,843.25
Organist fees		591.40			591.40	285.60
Clergy and staffing costs		0.00			0.00	0.00
Employer contributions due to HMRC		618.80			618.80	595.00
Re-ordering Project		0.00			0.00	2,017.39
Church running costs		3,161.77	167.98		3,329.75	16,663.84
		5,791.98	167.98	0.00	5,959.96	21,405.08

Notes

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis
2. Fixed assets retained for church use is the freehold house at 3 Castle Meadow Close, purchased in 1995 on behalf of the PCC for £80,000 less a 15% equity retention held by the Diocesan Trustees (Oxford) Ltd. On 4 December 2017 the 15% Equity Retention was gifted to the PCC by the Diocesan Trustees (Oxford) Ltd in recognition of the PCC having maintained the house in good order ever since. In 2018 £55,212.17 was spent renovating the property. The market value of the house is in the region of £450,000.
3. There are 3 endowment funds held on behalf of the PCC by the Diocesan Trustees (Oxford) Ltd . The Ecclesiastical Trust was established in 1990 from 69.25% of the sale of Church House. The trust is held in CCLA Church of England Investment funds for the purpose of furthering the religious and other charitable work of the parish and the income is unrestricted. The Elizabeth Darcy Charity was set up from 4 small charities to benefit the poor of the Parish The fund is held in the M&G Charity Multi Asset fund and the income is restricted. The Chancel Repair fund was established in 1972 and is held in a CCLA Church of England Investment fund for the purpose of repair and upkeep of the Chancel and the income is restricted.

Parochial Church Council of Newport Pagnell

There is 1 restricted investment fund, the Hayllar Fund, which was established in 1980 and is held in 2 investment accounts with Black Rock Charities UK Bond Fund A Inc and M&G Charifund. The purpose of the fund is for the upkeep of the churches and both the capital and income is restricted for that purpose.

Finally, there are 2 unrestricted investments, set up from the funds left in the wills of Louise Moodie and Iris Robinson. £150,000 of Louise Moodie's bequest was invested in the CCLA Church of England Investment fund during 2017 and £50,000 of Iris Robinson's bequest was invested in the same fund in 2020, to provide a reasonable return on the funds although the capital can be spent as and when necessary.

4 Fund Values

		TOTAL to 30/12/23 £	TOTAL 2022 £
Ecclesiastical Trust	CBF Investment Fund	74,868.75	68,430.56
	CBF Short Duration Bond Fund	8,948.45	8,475.52
Elizabeth Darcy Fund	M&G NAACIF Fund	2,209.57	2,172.43
Chancel Repair Fund	CBF Investment Fund	53,755.40	49,132.81
Hayllar Fund	M&G Charifund	68,879.52	70,536.96
	Black Rock Charinco	8,407.66	8,271.06
Louise Moodie Fund	CBF Investment Fund	162,835.56	195,024.40
Iris Robinson Fund	CBF Investment Fund	60,531.34	55,326.06
		<u>440,436.25</u>	<u>457,369.80</u>

4. The movement in designated and restricted funds during the year were:

	Bal b/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Bal c/fwd
Designated					
Ecclesiastical Income Account	18,572.98	2,860.70	0.00	(20,000.00)	1,433.68
Louise Moodie Income Account	2,072.93	5,966.59	0.00	(5,000.00)	3,039.52
Iris Robinson Income Account	16,786.78	2,073.00	0.00	(14,000.00)	4,859.78
Sunday School	55.67	104.34	150.00	0.00	10.01
Memory Club	5,738.76	1,892.40	1,868.66	12.50	5,775.00
Organ Fund	2,037.12	60.70	0.00	(186.00)	1,911.82
Re-ordering Fund	(17,083.20)	44,017.50	93,943.24	21,840.12	(45,168.82)
Restricted					
Rental Deposit on 3CMC	1,615.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,615.00
Fabric Current Account	8,705.22	31,403.66	18,404.95	(1,590.12)	20,113.81
Fabric Deposit Account	1,452.35	46.54	0.00	0.00	1,498.89
Hayllar Income Account	293.17	9.40	0.00	0.00	302.57
Darcy Fund Income Account	435.75	76.40	0.00	0.00	512.15

This year the Flowers Account was closed. Over recent years there has been no significant income besides the money from wedding fees. The fees and the flowers costs are shown in the main account.

All transactions related to weddings, funerals, etc. are processed through a separate Benefice account and the fees due to the PCC are transferred monthly in arrears into the general fund.

There are lines on the accounts for Re-ordering income and costs, and an additional page at the end of the accounts showing the Receipts and Payments for the overall project. The PCC decided to transfer the remainder of the legacy from David Lock (£12,087.83) and pay £20,000 from the Ecclesiastical Fund into the Re-ordering Fund. Other income has come from Grants, Donations and a Stewardship Appeal has been started. Money from the Louise Moodie Fund and the Iris Robinson Fund is being transferred to cover the deficit at present. As fundraising progresses this money will be returned to those funds.

The Rental Deposit on 3 Castle Meadow Close is held in the Deposit account but cannot be used for General Funds.

Parochial Church Council of Newport Pagnell

During 2023, £1,248 was received in Organ Fees and £557.40 was spent on Routine Maintenance. £690.60 will be transferred to the Organ Fund in 2024 to cover the surplus.

5. Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	TOTAL funds 2023	TOTAL funds 2022
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts						
a) All other giving/voluntary receipts						
Donations		319.10	6,198.39	0.00	6,517.49	100.00
Legacies		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	39,000.00
Grants		0.00		0.00	0.00	1,680.00
Copier		200.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	302.00
Sunday School		104.34	0.00	0.00	104.34	208.81
Memory Club		1,892.40	0.00	0.00	1,892.40	4,659.38
Misc		287.00	1,295.00	0.00	1,582.00	222.07
		2,802.84	7,493.39	0.00	10,296.23	46,172.26
b) Activities for generating funds						
Fabric Donations & grants		0.00	17,996.82	0.00	17,996.82	1,313.15
Rent		16,916.23	0.00	0.00	16,916.23	8,523.95
Events (including Fetes)		3,878.76	0.00	0.00	3,878.76	4,088.35
Special Collections		576.01	0.00	0.00	576.01	1,227.80
		21,371.00	17,996.82	0.00	39,367.82	15,153.25
c) Investment Income						
Dividends on Investment Fund		9,726.33	5,974.95	0.00	15,701.28	15,596.04
Income from Investments		16,800.00	0.00	0.00	16,800.00	16,800.00
Bank and Deposit Fund Interest		1,369.68	70.84	0.00	1,440.52	689.95
		27,896.01	6,045.79	0.00	33,941.80	33,085.99
d) Church activities						
Fees for Batism Certificates	4	54.00	0.00	0.00	54.00	48.00
Fees for Weddings	4	1,848.00	0.00	0.00	1,848.00	2,063.80
Fees for Funerals	4	1,995.00	0.00	0.00	1,995.00	1,342.00
Contributions for Heating	4	1,617.00	0.00	0.00	1,617.00	804.00
Organ Fees	4	1,248.00	0.00	0.00	1,248.00	846.00
		6,762.00	0.00	0.00	6,762.00	5,103.80

Parochial Church Council of Newport Pagnell

Payments

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL funds 2023	TOTAL funds 2022
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
e) Clergy and staffing costs						
Clergy expenses		1,850.75	0.00	0.00	1,850.75	1,367.29
Parish administrator		12,192.72	0.00	0.00	12,192.72	11,828.83
		14,043.47	0.00	0.00	14,043.47	13,196.12
f) Church running costs						
SSPP building running expenses		10,975.03	0.00	0.00	10,975.03	4,695.12
SL building running expenses		5,220.12	0.00	0.00	5,220.12	2,763.55
Insurance		8,529.95	0.00	0.00	8,529.95	8,007.76
Vestry Costs		6,039.30	0.00	0.00	6,039.30	3,897.52
Parish Office		6,392.47	0.00	0.00	6,392.47	5,243.16
Training		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Social Events		599.86	0.00	0.00	599.86	395.75
Choir Pay and Organists		3,462.30	0.00	0.00	3,462.30	5,188.20
Church flowers	4	960.51	0.00	0.00	960.51	993.50
Misc.		489.63	0.00	0.00	489.63	425.85
Sunday School	4	150.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	150.00
Memory Club	4	1,868.66	0.00	0.00	1,868.66	1,527.47
Organ Maintenance		557.40	0.00	0.00	557.40	1,032.00
SSPP Maintenance (Fabric)		0.00	16,897.13	0.00	16,897.13	34,889.35
SL Maintenance (Fabric)		0.00	1,507.82	0.00	1,507.82	4,430.27
		45,245.23	18,404.95	0.00	63,650.18	73,639.50
g) Mission giving and donations						
NP Christmas Lights		150.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	150.00
The Childrens Society		693.25	0.00	0.00	693.25	648.11
Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia		717.50	0.00	0.00	717.50	650.00
Buildbuilder Trust		700.00	0.00	0.00	700.00	650.00
Willen Hospice		700.00	0.00	0.00	700.00	650.00
The Welcome Directory		800.00	0.00	0.00	800.00	650.00
MK Night Shelter		700.00	0.00	0.00	700.00	650.00
Water Aid		650.00	0.00	0.00	650.00	750.00
Bucks Clergy Charity		100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
Hearing Dogs for the Deaf		500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
Other		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,442.50
		5,710.75	0.00	0.00	5,710.75	6,240.61

Parochial Church Council of Newport Pagnell

Re-ordering Project Designated Fund

As at 31 December 2023

RECEIPTS

Donation from John & Daphne Fowler	525.00	
Donation in Memory of Thomas (Gordon) French	200.00	
Donation in Memory of Derek Senior	250.00	
Donation in Memory of Rita Millburn	350.00	
Donation in Memory of Mel Partridge	118.80	
Donation from Flower Festival June 2022	500.00	
Anonymous Donations	800.00	
Transfer of Residue of David Lock's Legacy from General Funds	12,087.83	
Transfer from Ecclesiastical Fund	20,000.00	
Gift Aid from Donations	250.00	
Stewardship Appeal	5,267.50	
		74,739.95
Temporary Transfers		
From Louise Moodie Fund	34,390.82	
From Iris Robinson Fund	10,778.00	
		45,168.82
Grants		
Oxford Diocesan New Projects	2,500.00	
Oxford Diocesan Development Fund	30,000.00	
Benefact Trust	3,750.00	
Beatrice Lang Trust	5,000.00	
VAT Recovery	1,590.12	
		42,840.12
Total Receipts		128,358.07

PAYMENTS

Architect Fees	(23,630.22)	
Measured Building Survey	(5,148.00)	
Croma Conservation Survey	(1,296.00)	
AJS Contracting	(7,920.00)	
Milton Keynes Council	(882.00)	
DrainageSurvey	(564.00)	
Statement of Significance	(1,500.00)	
Subscriptions to 'Church Grants'	(98.00)	
Project Management	(11,888.57)	
Groundworks for Served	(128.40)	
South Porch Lighting	(11,158.48)	
Phase 1 (Served & Toilets)	(64,136.40)	
Miscellaneous	(8.00)	
Total Payments		(128,358.07)
Closing Balance		0.00

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF NEWPORT PAGNELL

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2023 which are set out on pages 1 to 4, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and s.144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act".)

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of financial statements. You consider that the audit requirement of Regulations and section 144(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

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



J R COBLEY FCCA
COBLEY DESBOROUGH
Chartered Certified Accountants
Chartered Tax Advisors

Artisans' House
7 Queensbridge
Northampton
NN4 7BF
Tel No. 01604 823560

19th April 2024

Accounts

The Parish of Newport Pagnell



St Peter & St Paul, High Street, Newport Pagnell, MK16 8AR
St Luke, Wolverton Road, Newport Pagnell, MK16 8JQ

ANNUAL REPORTS

for presentation to the

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

on Monday 15th May 2023



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The last year has been one of building upon the lessons learned from Covid times and getting 'back to normal' where that is appropriate. We have continued to effectively use social media to advertise who we are and successfully publicise our services and events. We have a large Facebook following so our outreach has expanded into areas which had previously been untapped.

We have had time to evaluate the new pattern of service times across the benefice. The congregation has adapted remarkably well to the changes and the use of social media has been partly responsible for this. Many new congregants report to me of how they explored services times etc on the parish FB and web pages. This was also very effective in attracting people to the Queen's Jubilee and funeral commemoration and Remembrance services during the year.

We had four adults confirmed by Bishop Alan and have another group of new people showing interest as a result of becoming a part of the church family over recent months.

There has certainly been an influx of new worshippers in the parish church and St Luke's. What has been a delight is to see how both congregations mix so well during the twice monthly 10.30am services. It was good to see so many new people helping out at various events throughout the year and this involvement during the week is a sign of more folk being grounded in the Faith.

The reordering is continuing to move along in definitely the right direction, and it has been helpful too to have use of a new meeting room in the choir vestry area. The PCC have had some meetings here during the daytime and we have moved ahead on the 'flourishing in ministry day' which was held earlier in the year.

Regarding worship, there continues to be a sizeable Wednesday morning congregation which attracts new people and a sense of fellowship after the service. It has been good to rotate the ministry team to preach at these midweek services so there is greater involvement across the team. People continue to stay on for healing prayer and we have had some remarkable answers to prayer in these sessions.

Our Discovery Groups have all started up again now and we have also been involved in the delivery of a separate Lent course.

It has been terrific to see such a growth in the Mother's Union again this year as we see committed Christians continue to join this organisation. The youngsters' Sunday Club also contributes to the life of the church on Sundays and at special festivals such as Christmas.

A significant event for us all was the deaconing of Kimonie Nicholls at Christchurch Cathedral last summer. It has been my diocesan role to be what is called her 'training incumbent' and this year is meant to be very much one of theological reflection with some training in practical tasks. The bishop decides whether deacons will be priested this year and where they may serve the rest of their curacy, so we continue to pray for discernment

regarding the future. Our continuing thanks go to Kimonie for her contribution to our worship and parish life over the past 10 months or so.

We continue to seek for a director of music to help with the choir at St Luke's and to accompany the congregational worship. We are all grateful to the choir at St Luke's for cheerfully continuing to produce music on the computer and for the wide selection of songs and hymns they provide.

It is always difficult to single out anyone in particular out for thanks – because someone always accidentally gets missed. The truth is that there are so many congregation members who contribute to Christ's mission here in addition to myself, the wardens and ministry team. The Diocese has commented on how well the parish has developed and that is down to you all – God is really working in Newport Pagnell.

Churchwarden's Report

Jennifer Mazzone

I have continued to enjoy my role in the parish as Church Warden over the past twelve months.

It has been so good to get back to some sort of normality in our worship. The rota of services seems to be working well and we are all getting used to it. I strongly feel that it is due to this that we are now a more united parish especially at combined services. Attendances at all services have been maintained and new people have joined us and become regular worshippers. The Wednesday morning service has had to move to the Nave as numbers were too big to stay in the Lady Chapel.

The work on the Vestry has been completed. A new carpet has been laid in the Priest's Vestry and the parquet floor polished on the other side. Everything is packed away in cupboards so it should be easier to keep the place tidy. The colour of paint on the walls has made it a much lighter space. Several meetings have already taken place in it. It is a quiet place for any confidential discussions. Thanks go to Ralph and Malcolm for helping me to see this project through.

The PCC met one Saturday morning in St. Luke's to take part in a session on "Flourishing Together." It was led by Gill Lovell, the Diocesan Development Officer. It was a useful day and provided us with helpful ideas as to how to move forward as a parish. From this we are now investigating "Care of the Clergy." This is a nationwide initiative to help congregations understand how to support our clergy effectively. In our church, a small group of people are working on this and the outcomes will be discussed with the congregation in due course.

I sit on the Events Committee, the Mission Group and the Reordering committee. I feel that it is important for me as Church Warden to be involved with all aspects of church life.

I would like to thank all those people who have the unenviable task of sorting out the many rotas required to allow our worship to run smoothly.

I would especially like to thank Nick and Jenny for their continued support over the past twelve months. We are a good team and work well together.

Churchwarden's Report

Jenny Frost

As 2022 started we were still being careful due to the Coronavirus pandemic. This meant that although St Luke's had been in use since October 2021, there had only been one service in the morning on Christmas Day 2021.

On 1st January 2022, the CTNP New Year's Day walk started at St Luke's with 30 people attending. This was a good sign that people were feeling more confident about going to Church in a smaller building.

The decision had been taken to start a new service rota for the Benefice. This means that on the first Sunday of the month a Holy Communion service is held at St Luke's at 10.30am. The first of these services was held on 6th February 2022 with 56 people attending. As the new rota means that on the 2nd and 4th Sunday's there is a service at St Peter and St Paul's at 09.30, and St Luke's at 11am (Our pre-pandemic service times) it has been good to note that we regularly have about 30 congregants at our 11am services. This is around the same number as pre-pandemic. The Joint service on the first Sunday usually has a congregation of between 45-65. Evensong, on the 3rd Sunday, usually has a congregation of between 20-25.

On Maundy Thursday the Cross was erected in the garden as our witness to the passers-by. This cross is usually bare until Easter Sunday when we decorate it with flowers. As the service on Easter Sunday fell on a 3rd Sunday, when our service is a 6pm Evensong service, it was lovely to be able to decorate it at the Easter Saturday Service of Light and for Nick to bless it for us. My thanks to Bill and Chris Watson for erecting the cross and all the many other things they do in St Luke's.

As the year rolled on we went from the Joy and excitement of the Platinum Jubilee to the sadness on the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 2nd in September. She had been the only monarch most of us had ever known. In June the Preschool children and Brownie's had each decorated a window in St Luke's for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The morning service on Sunday 11th September was a more subdued Morning Prayer than Kimonie had originally intended. Thanks to Kimonie for leading us in worship on that day. My thanks also to those who sat with me in St Peter and St Paul's from Friday 9th September until Saturday 17th when we watched the Proclamation of the King on someone's i-pad. As we sat there we welcomed people, some of whom wanted to simply sit and pray, and some who wanted someone to chat to, we provided tea, coffee and biscuits as well as a listening ear.

In October we once again were able to enjoy St Luke's traditional bring and share lunch at our Patronal Festival.

As the seasons drew closer to Christmas, we held an Advent Evening service at St Luke's. there were 34 people there, a very good number for a Winter's evening. Our last service of 2022 was on Christmas Day with 28 congregants.

All in all St Luke's has bounced back well following the closure in March 2020.

At Easter we had recommenced use of the Common Cup and singing! I have included a short report from Pat Hudson our Music Co-ordinator at St Luke's.

CHOIR

When we returned after covid in February 2022 to worshipping regularly in St Luke's, our organist Emma Heseltine who had been with us for 10 years handed in her resignation. It was with great sadness we heard of her resignation and with even greater sadness four weeks later when we heard that she had died suddenly the day after Mothering Sunday. Our choir were determined to carry on and after talking to Nick and to Jenny, I was appointed music co-ordinator. We have started to meet fortnightly to choose and to practice the hymns for several weeks. I then email the chosen hymns to the Wardens, Choir members and Olwen Smith, Clergy and to Bill Watson for the Pews News.

We have been very grateful for the help and encouragement we have received from, at first Nick Read who recorded some hymn music for us and now Jennifer Mazzone who plays the organ for us at the joint services. Olwen Smith comes to our practices and finds the music to our chosen hymns on her laptop. On the weeks we have no one to play the organ Olwen plays the music through the AV system for us to sing to. We are enjoying working this way and keeping the choir tradition alive in St Luke's. We have been delighted by the words of encouragement we have received from the congregation and the Church Wardens.

As the Fabric Chairperson will be submitting a full report on the fabric at both churches, all that I can say is a huge 'Thank you' to Doug Hird for all the work he has carried out in the past year.

We continue to hire St. Luke's to Community Groups. These are Guiding groups and a Preschool. The groups which hire St Luke's are:

Northern Pastures Preschool: daytime term time only

1st Newport Rainbows: one evening: Term- time.

2nd Newport Rainbows: one evening: Term-time.

4th Newport Brownies: one evening: Term- time.

Newport Ranger Guides: one evening: Term -time.

All that remains is for me to say a huge 'Thank you' to all those who volunteer on our rotas for refreshments, reading, intercessions, flowers and the co-ordinators.

I'd also like to thank Nick for his inspirational sermons and support, and Jennifer for her support and Malcolm in the office for all he does.

I'd like to thank all those who have supported me as Warden since 2019 and to wish my successor every blessing.

PCC Report

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a registered charity.

Registered No: 1153668

The PCC met 7 times and the Standing Committee 6 times in 2022

PCC membership

The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules.

During the year, the following have served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Incumbent: Rev Nick Evans, Rector

Curate: Rev Kimonie Nicholls

Licensed Lay Ministers: Mervyn Evans and Karen Goff.

Churchwardens: Jennifer Mazzone (from May 2021) and Jenny Frost

PCC Secretary: Olwen Smith

Deanery Synod representatives: Kimonie Nicholls (until April 2022), Dick Smith (Treasurer), John Fowler, Mervyn Evans (from April 2022)

Elected: Lynda Evans (until April 2022), Doug Hird, Brian Hunt, Beth Mackay, Ralph Mazzone, Nick Read (until April 2022), Hazel Reynolds, Marlene Smith.

PCC Sub-Committees

The Parochial Church Council operates through several sub-committees which meet between full meetings of the PCC. They are:

Standing Committee: This committee comprises the Rector, Churchwardens, PCC Secretary and Treasurer. It has delegated powers to transact some of the business of the PCC between its meetings and deals mainly with housekeeping matters.

Fabric Committee: This committee attends to the maintenance of the Parish Church, St Luke's Church and 3 Castle Meadow Close, and considers future projects.

Events Committee: Established in October 2018 as an overarching committee to support organisers of events, providing support, advice and identifying possible helpers. Also, will identify new events and provide advanced planning.

Re-order Steering group: This group was established in January 2019 and will oversee and guide the re-ordering project.

Parish Visiting team: Established January 2020 to oversee and provide for the needs of those who request visits.

Mission Group: This group arose as a direct result of our Mission Open Day held in October 2021. The group had its inaugural meeting on Thursday 20th January 2022.

Statistics

	Baptisms	Thanksgiving	Weddings	Blessings	Church Funerals	Crem Funerals
2014	28	4	23	0	14	21
2015	35	2	19	1	20	12
2016	34	0	14	1	25	5
2017	25	0	16	0	26	6
2018	13	0	12	1	24	5
2019	15	0	7	0	21	6
2020*	3	0	3	0	8	20¹
2021*	7	0	7	0	16	16¹
2022	5	0	5	0	19	6

*Covid 19 restrictions

¹ Includes Graveside services

1. Introduction

Safeguarding is on the agenda at every meeting of the PCC although in 2022/23 the main focus has been on refresher training, it being 3 years since our last safeguarding training drive.

We work in line with Church of England Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.

2. Formal Obligation

PCCs are formally obliged to report to the APCMs on whether or not the PCC 'has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and clergy discipline measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).'

3. Safeguarding Roles

The Parish Safeguarding Officer is Hazel Reynolds.

The DBS Recruiter and Verifier is Malcolm Godwin.

4. Safeguarding Policy, Guidance and Information

Our up to date Parish Safeguarding Policy is displayed in our entrance lobbies and appears on our website.

5. Safeguarding Learning and Development.

In July 2021 Oxford Diocese wrote 'all Church Officers are required to complete Basic Awareness and participants completing any other safeguarding pathways will be asked to complete Basic Awareness and Foundation in preparation. Additional roles now required to complete Basic Awareness and Foundation include PCC members'. 'Safeguarding learning needs to be renewed every three years. Church Officers need to repeat the core safeguarding learning pathway that is the highest required for their role. Even if a person completed C0 and C1 previously it is recommended they complete both new versions of Basic Awareness and Foundation through the Safeguarding Training Portal as the content has been significantly revised'. 'The additional safeguarding learning pathways also need to be renewed every three years'.

Our parish had a training drive on C0 and C1 in 2019; a fresh drive was the focus of a presentation to the PCC on 23rd May 2022, when the production of a Safer Recruitment Pack was promised.

19 church officers completed Basic Awareness in the last 12 months; 5 people have recently been reminded to complete this pathway. There are 3 others for whom a revised version is being provided; they are not church goers but volunteer at the Memory Club.

16 church officers completed Foundation in the past 12 months; 7 people have been reminded and most will complete it by end of May. The 3 Memory Club volunteers for whom a revised version is being prepared, will cover some of the Foundation learning as well.

[The revised content of both Basic Awareness and Foundation learning refers to a great many Christian roles and functions, very unfamiliar and strange to non-church goers. Their comments and reactions have been referred to the Oxford Diocese Head of Safeguarding.]

Access to the Safeguarding Training Portal is through the Diocesan website; we did offer face to face training to a few church officers in both Basic Awareness and Foundation, but most were completed online.

2 church officers completed the 2 part Leadership learning pathway, but 3 still have it to complete.

2 church officers have completed the Domestic Abuse training pathway, but 2 others still have to complete this.

Finally, there are 3 Church officers due to complete the Safer Recruitment and People Management pathway.

I expect the results of our training drive will look more encouraging by the end of May 2023.

PCC members received copies of the Church of England Safeguarding pocket guide; more will be made available at the APCM and could be offered more widely to members of our congregations during services in 2023.

DBS

Considerably fewer Church Officers now need to have DBS clearance, the guidelines for when it's required being much more precise now. Again, excluding members of our Ministry team (The Bishops' office deals with their safeguarding and DBS clearance), 10 Church Officers hold enhanced DBS clearance, but it needs to be refreshed for 4 during 2023. DBS clearance has now to be refreshed every 3 years too.

6. Safer Recruitment and People Management

In July 2022 the Parish Administrator and I produced the Safer Recruitment Pack to guide and direct those church officers responsible for recruitment in our Parish; primarily it is volunteers we're recruiting either for Clubs like the Memory Club or for in-house groups like our Sunday Club, and Parish Visitors, a PCC sub-committee.

The pack includes Volunteer role description forms, person specifications, volunteer application form, sample interview questions, reference request form and letter template, volunteer appointment letter template, parish volunteer agreement template, and Confidential Declaration Form for use in those instances when an enhanced DBS would be sought.

7. Concerns raised

Only one referral was made to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team in the past 12 months, some discussion ensued but the matter was not pursued further.

Mothers' Union

Jennifer Mazzone

2022 was definitely a more positive year than the previous two or three and it was busy for us as a branch.

Here in Newport Pagnell, we are going from strength to strength. Six new members were enrolled during the year: Brenda Brand, Penny Keens, Celia Oldham, Julie Parker, Pat Woods and Clare Dalton. It is always a pleasure to welcome people into the Mothers' Union as many branches are decreasing in number or closing down so this is an achievement for us. The more members we have the more we are able to spread the word about the work of the Mothers' Union, locally, nationally and internationally.

Last year's programme was both interesting and varied. Maureen Weston spoke of her time as Diocesan President and Tom Jones spoke of his time in Papua New Guinea (one of our linked Diocese). Other speakers included Mervyn Evans (Church reordering), Kimonie Nicholls (Training for the Diaconate), Blood Bikers, Moira Evans (Prison Visiting) and we ran our own meeting based around the theme of Advent. All the speakers were most interesting and thought provoking. Karen Goff spoke on the theme "Transformation Now" at our Branch Festival. In January we took part in Love to Move which was great fun and caused much hilarity.

The Quiet Afternoon, led by Nick, was once again well supported and provided a welcome relief from the hustle and bustle of life.

Two social events were held to raise money for the Relief Fund and AFIA. The Afternoon Tea and the Cream Teas were both very successful and raised healthy profits. Apart from raising money, it was so good to meet socially and welcome visitors to these events.

We continue with all our other projects:

Christmas Cards and Donations for the prisoners at Woodhill. Thanks to Moira for organising this.

Baby Basics. Many members knit or donate goods for this worthy cause.

Pauline continues to send cards to people for all occasions such as special anniversaries and birthdays, for those bereaved or those who are ill. Thank you, Pauline. They are much appreciated.

Cards sent to wedding couples.

Members assist in Baptism Preparation by serving refreshments and running a crèche.

Daffodils are provided for Mothering Sunday.

The Flower Festival I managed to do an arrangement for this.

The Christmas Tree Festival Thanks to Pam, Margaret and Sophie for decorating our tree.

Raffle at the Bazaar Thanks to June for organising this once again. It made over £400.

We need to spread the word about the work of the Mothers' Union amongst people we meet so that they may learn about this wonderful organisation we are all proud to be a part of.

We continue to pray for each other in the country and around the world. It makes such a difference and praying is something we can all do in whatever situation we find ourselves. We are a strong force for good.

I would like to thank all branch members for their continued support of me and the branch. Special thanks must go to the committee: Sophie Cull (Treasurer), Margaret St. George (Secretary), Pam Miller, June Weston, Linda Ramsay and Carolyn Hawkes. They are all so enthusiastic and work very hard for the branch.

New members are always very welcome to join our thriving branch. You do not have to attend meetings to be a member. You are joining a wonderful, proactive organisation which has a voice on the many serious issues that we face in the modern world.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time on 019098613088 or 07517439790 or at jennifermazzone@hotmail.com

Sunday Club

Glenda Winfield

It was with a huge sigh of relief that in February 2022, with the lifting of most Covid restrictions in the UK, that Sunday Club was able to meet together once more. We currently have a group of 7 children who regularly attend Sunday Club on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. In our most recent sessions we have been following the lectionary, where the majority of lessons have mirrored the readings of those in church.

We were all very sad to hear that Rita Millburn, who was Sunday Club Leader for many years, had passed away in May. Rita was much-loved by both the children and leaders and greatly missed when she made the decision to step down from the team.

The children created a lovely display for the Flower Festival in June celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. They used lots of flowers in lots of various sizes of jam jars, all tied together with ribbon in a beautiful bouquet.

Sunday Club families and members of the congregation were invited to a Picnic in the park at Riverside Meadow in early September. It was a great afternoon and so good for the children to be able to meet up and play together.

The Christmas Fair in November was a great opportunity to do some Christmas Crafts with the children in our community. It was so popular that there was very little space around the table for most of the day, which means that next time Sunday Club will need a much larger area to work in! The Nativity Trail around the church was again a great success. This was also a good opportunity to create the Children's Christmas Tree for the Christmas Tree Festival in December and this time the tree was created from tree branches, pine cones and decorations which the children had made. Many thanks to everyone who gave their time, talents and resources to make all of this occasion so enjoyable and successful.

The Christingle Service in early December was, as ever, an atmospheric service, well attended and enjoyed by all who came along. Thank you to everyone who assembled at home all the various elements that made up the Christingles. It was also a good opportunity to relaunch the Travelling Crib and invite families from the community to join in this tradition.

What a joy it was to be able to re-enact The Nativity in the traditional way on Christmas Eve. Thanks go to the children who played their parts so well, their parents, the Sunday Club Leaders, Karen Goff and Nick Read.

It was so exciting for Sunday Club children, their families and friends to be back at The Venue for the Pantomime Robin Hood in late December. As always, the pantomime was great fun and enjoyed by everyone.

Thank you for those involved with the refurbishing of the Vestry. It is now a very pleasant space in which the children meet for Sunday Club and the cupboard space to store all of our resources is invaluable.

The Sunday Club offertory has continued to support Hand in Hand in Ethiopia, a small children's charity working in Addis Ababa. We receive regular newsletters from the charity, providing an update on Yonatan Darge, the young boy we sponsor. Yonatan is reported to be doing very well academically and enjoys playing football with his friends after school. With the sponsorship money, the charity is able to provide a daily meal, medical payment, school fees and materials, tutorials, clothes and shoes annually, entertainment and recreation activities.

On Mothering Sunday the children assisted the Mothers' Union with the distribution of bunches of daffodils and of course there was the traditional Easter Egg Hunt after the Easter Sunday service.

Grateful thanks go to all the Sunday Club Leaders for their all of their innovative ideas and dedication.

Members:

- Doug Hird (Chair)
- Jenny Frost
- Jenifer Mazzone
- Nick Evans
- Nick Read

As usual, the focus of the committee has been on doing actual work rather than having meetings to talk about work. So the small number of meetings we have had concentrated on current concerns and activities.

To summarise what has been done during 2022:

At the Parish Church:

- One of the parking signs has been replaced and a talk with the neighbours seems to have improved matters.
- The stonework on the south side of the church has been made safe and repaired.
- New LED lighting has been fitted over the ringing platform.
- The flag-pole was re-rope in time for the Jubilee.
- The vestry was re-decorated.

At St Lukes:

- The outdoor electrical socket has been re-instated.
- The cable between the church and shed has been replaced.
- The EICR (Electrical Installation Condition Report) inspection was carried out.
- Cracks in the internal brickwork were attended to.
- New lights were fitted at the altar end.
- Some missing roof tiles were replaced.

This year, the Quinquennial inspections at the parish church and St Luke's will provide the focus for the next set of activities.

"A building that celebrates the past, lives in the present and embraces the future."

Progress During the Year

Steady progress has been made during the past year on the first phase of our reordering project. We have been in frequent consultation with the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) addressing their concerns over the finer details of the proposals. Chroma Conservation were employed to carry out a survey of the south porch and the report has been submitted to the DAC. Boden and Ward have submitted a proposal for the repairs to the stonework in the porch and the new porch door has been modified to address some aesthetic reservations voiced by the DAC.

David Agnew and Leon Hudston have constructed an excellent mock-up of the proposed new servery in the south-west corner of the nave which has allowed the congregation to get a better idea of what is intended.

Open days were held on the 5th May and again on the 31st March to keep the local community informed of the changes and an article on the project appeared in the March edition of the Phonebox magazine.

Funding

The PCC have agreed to underwrite the whole project with funding up to £150,000. An application for support was made to the Diocesan Development Fund which resulted in a grant of £30,000, a good start to our fundraising appeal. It is estimated that the entire project will cost in the order of £1m, so we still have a way to go. The sub-committee visited Castlethorpe church where a similar, though smaller, project has just been completed and much useful advice was obtained and several potential sources of funds identified. However, further applications are on hold pending the issue of a Notification of Approval (NOA) from the DAC. The NoA should be issued after a couple of issues arising from the conservation report have been addressed.

Fundraising will become a major factor this year and volunteers to assist in planning fundraising events and writing fund applications would be very welcome. If you would like to help in these vital roles, then please speak to Mervyn, Jennifer, Ralph, Malcolm, or Dick Smith.

Proposals

The proposals for reordering are:

Phase 1 (Estimated cost £176,000)

1. Replacement of the existing toilet and servery in the west end with three toilets, one of which will be accessible.
2. Relocation of the servery to a purpose-built enclosure under the west window.
3. Refurbishment of the south porch.

Phase 2

1. Removal of pews and pew platforms. Six pews to be retained and used for social seating in the aisles.
2. Laying new, level, flooring in place of the pew platforms. The tiled area at the west end and the tiled aisles will be retained.
3. Renewing the heating system.
4. Renewing the lighting in the Nave.
5. Redecoration of the Nave.
6. Purchasing new seating.

Phase 3

1. Reconfiguring the sanctuary and providing ramped access to a new dais.

Our small band of ringers, supported by ringers from neighbouring towers, continues to practice on Wednesday evenings. Similarly, the small number of weddings that want bells are supported by combined North Bucks bands. On Sundays, the variable service timings have resulted in most of the ringers who do live in Newport going to other towers, such as Great Linford and Bletchley, where the service times are the same time every week. We did ring four bells at Christmas as we happened to have that many ringers in the church before the service.

Ringling was carried out in accordance with national guidance following the death of Queen Elizabeth II and the accession of King Charles III. The “Ring for the King” initiative is generating recruitment interest in nearby towers. While this is unlikely to produce many ringers in time for the coronation, it can only help.

The Inter-branch striking competition between the North Bucks Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild and the Towcester Branch of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild was held at Newport in the summer. This was a good social event and was welcome following Covid. The Towcester Branch were winners but the competition was closer than in previous years.

We had a recent visit by the Great Linford Explorer Scouts where 22 youngsters had a good look round the tower and bells, enjoyed the night time view and had a go on the bells.

A little work has been done on the bells during the year. Prior to the inter-branch striking competition the odd-struckness in the clappers was measured, using an odd-struckness meter, and corrected in bells 1-7. Two of the bell ropes were temporarily lent to Olney for the Dickens of a Christmas Peal. Two of their ropes failed just before the event and ours are the same specification. The Olney ropes having been repaired, our ropes are back in place and two of ours have since had the same treatment.

The annual visits of the clock maintenance man are usually educational. This year, I found out how to make the clock beat more evenly. That will be useful at Olney where it is quite uneven. He agreed that the electrical control arrangement for the hours, quarters and tune machine could be modified without having to make very significant changes. This sort of approach is usually looked upon favourably by the DAC so I will put together a plan for the PCC to consider this year. Even without a working control mechanism, the tune machine can still play the national anthem for the coronation. Some fine tuning of the pegs in the tune barrel will be needed to make it recognisable though.

Planned Giving is a vital part of our income, and regular members of the congregation should commit to regular giving throughout the year. During the year, our Planned Giving continued to recover from the pandemic and our income rose by £1,750 against our 2021 income and is almost back to the 2019 level. However, Parish costs continue to rise and we need to see that growth continue going forward. As with last year, it was refreshing to see some new members of the congregation joining the scheme, but unfortunately during the period we also lost several long-term members.

Recovery of Gift Aid from HMRC consists of 2 parts. Firstly we receive Gift Aid on a large part of our Planned Giving (some members of the scheme are not tax payers and therefore cannot Gift Aid their contributions) Secondly we are able to claim Gift Aid on small donations in our collections at services. In 2022 we saw a continued recovery of both planned giving and collections and in 2023 our tax recovery income will increase by about £1,250 (we have to claim this in arrears).

We would welcome new members to the Stewardship scheme. We still need to hold a Stewardship Campaign to increase membership of our Stewardship scheme, but in the meanwhile, if you are regular attendees at any of our services please consider joining the scheme. Contact me for further information (nppcc.treasurer@gmail.com or 01908 730870)

Communications & Publicity report

Moira Evans

The internet is now a well-established route for communications throughout the parish with several social media and electronic forms of communication.

FACEBOOK

The Parish Facebook page has continues to attract visitors and to date the figures are:

- 493 Likes (2022 416, 2021 274)
- 534 Followers (2022 453, 2021 308)

The 'like' counter is the number of people that have liked our Facebook page. When a new visitor likes our page, the default setting is that they also follow our page. When someone 'follows' our page, it means that our Facebook page posts will appear on their personal Facebook feed.



Other town Facebook pages are used to advertise church events and services throughout the year.

Website

Our website (npparish.org.uk) also provides a source of information with all the service and events detailed and other relevant parish information.

ZOOM

The Parish has a Zoom account and Zoom video conferencing has enabled us to continue our weekly Zoom Prayer meetings. Some Discovery Group meetings also take place on Zoom as do many parish and diocesan meetings.

Pews News and Parish Emails

These continue to be circulated to parishioners on the parish database and keep everyone up to date with service details and other relevant information.

Pews News continues to be made available as a hard copy for those who do not use the internet.

WhatsApp

The parish has an active WhatsApp group currently with 45 members (up from 36 in 2022). Other groups such as Events and Church Transport also use WhatsApp to communicate quickly with each other.

Benefice Planner

The diary of services and events is circulated electronically, available on the website and at the back of the churches as a hard copy. Currently the planner covers is distributed quarterly.

Parish Visiting

Beth MacKay

Parish Visitors are currently making fortnightly or monthly home visits to six people and are making occasional visits to others as needed. Communion Services are held monthly at Lathbury Manor, Castlemead and Tickford Abbey. We don't currently hold services at Westbury Grange as it has its own chaplain who arranges regular services there but we do visit three of the residents on a regular basis and bring home communion to one of them.

It's not just about visiting though. We also make phone calls to people who might need support and provide ad hoc help in cases of illness or bereavement, such as lifts to church/other places, or shopping/meals etc. Of course, we know that many other members of our church family are regularly reaching out to others and carrying out the same caring and support activities as those carried out by the team and we believe that pastoral care isn't just the responsibility of one person or one designated team. To be successful it has to be a shared ministry by us all in response to Jesus' command that *we love one another as he loves us*. And, as a team within the church, we rely on other people to alert us to situations where we may be able to help.

Members of the current team are: Mervyn Evans, Rev Nick Evans (Rector), Karen Goff, Carolyn Hawkes, Brian Hunt, Beth MacKay (Parish Visiting Coordinator), Pam Miller, Sue Maison, Rev Kimonie Nicholls, Hazel Reynolds and Marlene Smith. All members of the team are required to undergo regular DBS checks and safeguarding training. If anyone would like to find out more about the role of a Parish Visitor, I will be happy to talk to you. My phone number is 07989085318.

Mission Group

Karen Goff

This group arose as a direct result of our Mission Open Day held in October 2021 with its inaugural meeting in January 2022. This group has met 6 times since the last APCM.

Our aim is to try to fulfil the Five marks of Mission (adopted by the General Synod of the Church of England in 1996):

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom (Tell)

To teach, baptise and nurture new believers. (Teach)

To respond to human need by loving service. (Tend)

To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to seek to pursue peace and reconciliation. (Transform)

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth. (Treasure)

On Saturday 9th July 2022 this group helped organise a 'Walk through the Bible event' which was advertised throughout the town and all the churches. 31 people attended and found it a very worthwhile and enjoyable event. There were some concerns about timing and uncomfortable seating but we would like to run similar events maybe using St Luke's.

We welcomed Neil and Hannah Ellis to a meeting in July 2022. They felt there was a need in the town for mothers and carers of young babies and toddlers to have somewhere to go after dropping older children at school. After further discussions we are pleased that a new group called CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other) will start meeting on Friday mornings 9.30 – 11.30 from Friday 21st April with the support of the Mothers' Union. Thank you to everyone who has been involved in getting this exciting new project started.

Prayer cards and an opportunity to talk to those attending the All Souls service were well received.

Baptism preparation sessions have been well attended and a number of baptisms have taken place. On the 5th Sunday of April (30th) at the combined non eucharistic 10.30 service the focus will be Baptism and 2 families will be present to have their children baptised.

Karen, Mervyn and Kimonie shared the leading of 3 Lent groups in March 2023. Material was used written by John Birch from the Faith and Worship website. The material led to interesting and reflective discussion examining our journey through Lent to Easter. The

sessions were based on the lectionary readings through the Sundays of Lent. Feedback from these groups has been very positive and we would use material like this again. 2 people have joined a Discovery group because of attending the Lent course.

Priorities for future meetings include considering mission to rural parishes but with deanery reorganisation we may have to wait for those decisions to be made; updating displays to make them appealing to visitors and explaining Christianity in accessible language and exploring Discipleship courses or similar for those wishing to explore their faith.

Treasurer's report

Dick Smith

2022 has been a better year and has seen a reasonable recovery following the pandemic.

Overall, we saw a deficit in 2022 of less than £1,500. During the year we received part of a substantial legacy for the fabric of our churches. It enabled us, together with some other donations, to totally refurbish the vestry, fitting new cupboards, updating the toilet, and painting throughout. This now allows the space to be used as a meeting room. We also spent nearly £9,500 on our Re-ordering Project. This money came out of general funds, but we hope to start fundraising in 2023 and if successful this money can be returned to general funds. Looking at our general costs we still had a deficit of £8,500, but that was due to funding for the Re-ordering Project. Legacies over recent years have helped support us financially, but we need to improve our general income to ensure we can fund everything we want to do. The more we deplete the reserves we have, the less we will be able to afford.

Planned Giving has risen this year by £1,750 over the previous year, and collections have risen by over £2,000 as we have been able to hold more services during the year, but we are only getting back towards the position we were in before the pandemic and this year we will see a significant rise in costs (especially for energy) as inflation has risen sharply during 2022. Our Tax Recovery recovered slightly in 2022 and will rise again in 2023 due to the improved planned giving and collections. As mentioned earlier, we were fortunate to receive part of a legacy for work on our fabric, and we hope to receive the balance of that legacy in 2023 but we also saw some improvement in most other income. Rent was reduced because we supported the Pre-school at St Luke's who were struggling financially and accepted a much lower figure for much of the year. That has now returned to normal. Fee income however was fairly static.

Our general expenditure remained relatively static, organ costs dropped following the purchase of the organ last year and fabric obviously increased due to the vestry refurbishment. Parish Share has been held at the same level by the Diocese following the pandemic and will be held again in 2023, but we anticipate an increase in 2024.

The value of our investments have dropped back to their 2020 levels but this is not unusual and does not affect the actual dividends we receive.

The PCC agreed to use an external accountant this year for the independent examination of the accounts. This is partially because with the anticipated re-ordering project our income is likely in 2023 to exceed £250K and we will then have to use a qualified accountant for the inspection. The PCC approved the accounts at the PCC meeting on 30 April.

Appendix 1

Accounts

Parochial Church Council of Newport Pagnell

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO 31 DECEMBER 2022

Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL funds 2022 £	TOTAL funds 2021 £
RECEIPTS						
Voluntary Receipts						
Planned giving		38,576.86	0.00	0.00	38,576.86	36,799.98
Collections at services		6,437.12	0.00	0.00	6,437.12	4,126.79
All other giving/voluntary receipts	5a	7,172.26	39,000.00	0.00	46,172.26	2,167.90
Tax recoverable		10,217.36	0.00	0.00	10,217.36	9,113.61
		62,403.60	39,000.00	0.00	101,403.60	52,208.28
Activities for generating funds	5b	13,840.10	1,313.15	0.00	15,153.25	16,554.00
Investment Income	5c	27,186.67	5,899.32	0.00	33,085.99	31,680.57
Church activities	5d	5,103.80	0.00	0.00	5,103.80	6,002.00
Re-Ordering Project		1,718.80	0.00	0.00	1,718.80	0.00
Total Receipts		110,252.97	46,212.47	0.00	156,465.44	106,444.85
PAYMENTS						
Church activities						
Diocesan parish share		54,294.57	0.00	0.00	54,294.57	58,621.86
Clergy and staffing costs	5e	13,196.12	0.00	0.00	13,196.12	12,398.50
Church running costs	5f	34,319.88	39,319.62	0.00	73,639.50	86,024.66
Parish house costs		532.11	0.00	0.00	532.11	1,175.36
Mission giving and donations	5g	6,240.61	0.00	0.00	6,240.61	5,852.84
Re-ordering Project		9,430.38	0.00	0.00	9,430.38	7,325.16
		118,013.67	39,319.62	0.00	157,333.29	171,398.38
Cost of generating funds		587.28	0.00	0.00	587.28	0.00
Other Payments	3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total payments		118,600.95	39,319.62	0.00	157,920.57	171,398.38
Excess of receipts over payments		(8,347.98)	6,892.85	0.00	(1,455.13)	(64,953.53)
Transfers between funds	4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		(8,347.98)	6,892.85	0.00	(1,455.13)	(64,953.53)
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 January		57,542.75	3,993.64	0.00	61,536.39	126,489.92
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 December		49,194.77	10,886.49	0.00	60,081.26	61,536.39

Parochial Church Council of Newport Pagnell

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	TOTAL 2021 £
Cash funds						
Cash in hand		0.00			0.00	0.00
Bank current account		1,839.97	8,705.22		10,545.19	2,580.70
Deposit funds		48,969.80	2,181.27		51,151.07	60,570.69
Retained Deposit on 3CMC		-1,615.00			-1,615.00	-1,615.00
		49,194.77	10,886.49	0.00	60,081.26	61,536.39
Other monetary assets						
Gift Aid recoverable		11,059.47			11,059.47	9,795.82
Other income due		25.60	0.00		25.60	303.18
		11,085.07	0.00	0.00	11,085.07	10,099.00
Investment assets						
Investment fund shares at market value	3	250,350.46	78,808.02	128,211.32	457,369.80	514,142.67
Assets retained for church use						
	2	68,000.00	0.00	0.00	68,000.00	68,000.00
Liabilities						
Mission giving		1,843.25			1,843.25	1,326.79
Organist fees		285.60			285.60	2,491.00
Clergy and staffing costs		0.00			0.00	0.00
Employer contributions due to HMRC		595.00			595.00	583.40
Re-ordering Project		2,017.39			2,017.39	0.00
Church running costs		3,415.84	13,248.00		16,663.84	966.82
		8,157.08	13,248.00	0.00	21,405.08	5,368.01

Notes

- The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis
- Fixed assets retained for church use is the freehold house at 3 Castle Meadow Close, purchased in 1995 on behalf of the PCC for £80,000 less a 15% equity retention held by the Diocesan Trustees (Oxford) Ltd. On 4 December 2017 the 15% Equity Retention was gifted to the PCC by the Diocesan Trustees (Oxford) Ltd in recognition of the PCC having maintained the house in good order ever since. In 2018 £55,212.17 was spent renovating the property. The market value of the house is in the region of £375,000 to £400,000.
- There are 3 endowment funds held on behalf of the PCC by the Diocesan Trustees (Oxford) Ltd. The Ecclesiastical Trust was established in 1990 from 69.25% of the sale of Church House. The trust is held in CCLA Church of England Investment funds for the purpose of furthering the religious and other charitable work of the parish and the income is unrestricted. The Elizabeth Darcy Charity was set up from 4 small charities to benefit the poor of the Parish. The fund is held in the M&G Charity Multi Asset fund and the income is restricted. The Chancel Repair fund was established in 1972 and is held in a CCLA Church of England Investment fund for the purpose of repair and upkeep of the Chancel and the income is restricted.

Parochial Church Council of Newport Pagnell

There is 1 restricted investment fund, the Hayllar Fund, which was established in 1980 and is held in 2 investment accounts with Black Rock Charities UK Bond Fund A Inc and M&G Charifund. The purpose of the fund is for the upkeep of the churches and both the capital and income is restricted for that purpose.

Finally, there are 2 unrestricted investments, set up from the funds left in the wills of Louise Moodie and Iris Robinson. £150,000 of Louise Moodie's bequest was invested in the CCLA Church of England Investment fund during 2017 and £50,000 of Iris Robinson's bequest was invested in the same fund in 2020, to provide a reasonable return on the funds although the capital can be spent as and when necessary.

4 Fund Values

		TOTAL to 31/12/22 £	TOTAL 2021 £
Ecclesiastical Trust	CBF Investment Fund	68,430.56	77,560.75
	CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund	8,475.52	9,789.20
Elizabeth Darcy Fund	M&G NAACIF Fund	2,172.43	2,242.29
Chancel Repair Fund	CBF Investment Fund	49,132.81	55,688.24
Hayllar Fund	M&G Charifund	70,536.96	74,697.60
	Black Rock Charinco	8,271.06	10,411.68
Louise Moodie Fund	CBF Investment Fund	195,024.40	221,045.09
Iris Robinson Fund	CBF Investment Fund	55,326.06	62,707.82
		<u>457,369.80</u>	<u>514,142.67</u>

4. The movement in designated and restricted funds during the year were:

	Bal b/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Bal c/fwd
Designated					
Ecclesiastical Income Account	16,063.36	2,509.61	0.00	0.00	18,572.97
Louise Moodie Income Account	11,223.70	5,849.23	0.00	(15,000.00)	2,072.93
Iris Robinson Income Account	24,810.58	1,976.20	0.00	(10,000.00)	16,786.78
Sunday School	(3.14)	208.81	150.00	0.00	55.67
Memory Club	2,594.35	4,659.38	1,527.47	12.50	5,738.76
Organ Fund	1,905.73	26.39	0.00	105.00	2,037.12
Re-ordering Fund	(9,871.62)	1,718.80	9,430.38	500.00	(17,083.20)
Restricted					
Rental Deposit on 3CMC	1,615.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,615.00
Fabric Current Account	1,926.32	45,948.52	39,319.62	150.00	8,705.22
Fabric Deposit Account	1,433.49	18.86	0.00	0.00	1,452.35
Hayllar Income Account	289.37	3.80	0.00	0.00	293.17
Darcy Fund Income Account	344.46	91.29	0.00	0.00	435.75

The flower arrangers have a separate bank account and produce separate accounts. Payments are made into their account from the general funds to cover the cost of flowers for the year. The residual balance held in their bank account is negligible.

All transactions related to weddings, funerals, etc. are processed through a separate Benefice account and the fees due to the PCC are transferred monthly in arrears into the general fund.

There is now a line on the accounts for Re-ordering costs, and an additional page at the end of the accounts showing the Receipts and Payments for the overall project. The PCC decided to transfer the remainder of the legacy from David Lock into the Re-ordering Fund (£12,087.83) Money from the Louise Moodie Fund and the Iris Robinson Fund is being transferred to cover the deficit at present. Once the project progresses and fundraising begins then the money will be returned to the fund.

The Rental Deposit on 3 Castle Meadow Close is held in the Deposit account but cannot be used for General Funds.

Parochial Church Council of Newport Pagnell

During 2021 £2,100 was spent on a thorough clean of the SL organ and £48,975 was spent on a new electronic organ for SSPP. This was funded from the Organ Fund. During 2022, £846 was received in Organ Fees and £1,032 was spent on Routine Maintenance. £186 will be transferred from the Organ Fund in 2023 to cover the deficit.

5. Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	TOTAL funds 2022	TOTAL funds 2021
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts						
a) All other giving/voluntary receipts						
Donations		100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	330.00
Legacies		0.00	39,000.00	0.00	39,000.00	500.00
Grants		1,680.00	0.00	0.00	1,680.00	0.00
Copier		302.00	0.00	0.00	302.00	431.50
Sunday School		208.81	0.00	0.00	208.81	0.00
Memory Club		4,659.38	0.00	0.00	4,659.38	510.50
Misc		222.07	0.00	0.00	222.07	395.90
		7,172.26	39,000.00	0.00	46,172.26	2,167.90
b) Activities for generating funds						
Fabric Donations & grants		0.00	1,313.15	0.00	1,313.15	492.50
Rent		8,523.95	0.00	0.00	8,523.95	11,675.98
Events (including Fetes)		4,088.35	0.00	0.00	4,088.35	2,275.89
Special Collections		1,227.80	0.00	0.00	1,227.80	2,109.63
		13,840.10	1,313.15	0.00	15,153.25	16,554.00
c) Investment Income						
Dividends on Investment Fund		9,724.57	5,871.47	0.00	15,596.04	14,830.94
Income from Investments		16,800.00	0.00	0.00	16,800.00	16,800.00
Bank and Deposit Fund Interest		662.10	27.85	0.00	689.95	49.63
		27,186.67	5,899.32	0.00	33,085.99	31,680.57
d) Church activities						
Fees for Batism Certificates	4	48.00	0.00	0.00	48.00	11.00
Fees for Weddings	4	2,063.80	0.00	0.00	2,063.80	2,111.00
Fees for Funerals	4	1,342.00	0.00	0.00	1,342.00	1,669.00
Contributions for Heating	4	804.00	0.00	0.00	804.00	1,266.00
Organ Fees	4	846.00	0.00	0.00	846.00	945.00
		5,103.80	0.00	0.00	5,103.80	6,002.00

Parochial Church Council of Newport Pagnell

Payments

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL funds 2022	TOTAL funds 2021
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
e) Clergy and staffing costs						
Clergy expenses		1,367.29	0.00	0.00	1,367.29	710.50
Parish administrator		11,828.83	0.00	0.00	11,828.83	11,688.00
		13,196.12	0.00	0.00	13,196.12	12,398.50
f) Church running costs						
SSPP building running expenses		4,695.12	0.00	0.00	4,695.12	3,729.07
SL building running expenses		2,763.55	0.00	0.00	2,763.55	2,078.62
Insurance		8,007.76	0.00	0.00	8,007.76	7,944.84
Vestry Costs		3,897.52	0.00	0.00	3,897.52	3,295.63
Parish Office		5,243.16	0.00	0.00	5,243.16	6,051.05
Training		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Social Events		395.75	0.00	0.00	395.75	0.00
Choir Pay and Organists		5,188.20	0.00	0.00	5,188.20	1,505.00
Church flowers	4	993.50	0.00	0.00	993.50	410.00
Misc.		425.85	0.00	0.00	425.85	594.15
Sunday School	4	150.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	150.00
Memory Club	4	1,527.47	0.00	0.00	1,527.47	667.64
Organ Maintenance		1,032.00	0.00	0.00	1,032.00	51,915.00
SSPP Maintenance (Fabric)		0.00	34,889.35	0.00	34,889.35	6,839.66
SL Maintenance (Fabric)		0.00	4,430.27	0.00	4,430.27	844.00
		34,319.88	39,319.62	0.00	73,639.50	86,024.66
g) Mission giving and donations						
CTNP		265.00	0.00	0.00	265.00	0.00
NP Christmas Lights		150.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	150.00
The Childrens Society		648.11	0.00	0.00	648.11	552.84
Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia		650.00	0.00	0.00	650.00	750.00
Buildbuilder Trust		650.00	0.00	0.00	650.00	750.00
Willen Hospice		650.00	0.00	0.00	650.00	750.00
The Welcome Directory		650.00	0.00	0.00	650.00	750.00
MK Night Shelter		650.00	0.00	0.00	650.00	750.00
Water Aid		750.00	0.00	0.00	750.00	0.00
Christian Aid		407.50	0.00	0.00	407.50	0.00
MK Foodbank		120.00	0.00	0.00	120.00	140.00
Barnabus Fund		650.00	0.00	0.00	650.00	0.00
Other		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,260.00
		6,240.61	0.00	0.00	6,240.61	5,852.84

Parochial Church Council of Newport Pagnell

Re-ordering Project Designated Fund

As at 31 December 2022

RECEIPTS

Donation from John & Daphne Fowler	525.00
Donation in Memory of Thomas (Gordon) French	200.00
Donation in Memory of Derek Senior	250.00
Donation in Memory of Rita Millburn	350.00
Donation in Memory of Mel Partridge	118.80
Donation from Flower Festival June 2022	500.00
Anonymous Donations	800.00
Transfer of Residue of David Lock's Legacy from General Funds	12,087.83
Temporary Transfer from Louise Moodie Fund	15,000.00
Temporary Transfer from Iris Robinson Fund	2,083.20
	29,831.63

Grants	
Oxford Diocesan New Projects	2,500.00
	2,500.00

Total Receipts	34,414.83
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PAYMENTS

Architect Fees	(21,612.83)
Measured Building Survey	(5,148.00)
DrainageSurvey	(564.00)
Deposit for South Porch Lighting	(474.00)
Statement of Significance	(1,500.00)
Subscriptions to 'Church Grants'	(98.00)
Project Management	(5,010.00)
Miscellaneous	(8.00)

Total Payments	(34,414.83)
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Closing Balance	0.00
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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF NEWPORT PAGNELL

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2022 which are set out on pages 1 to 4, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and s.144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act".)

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of financial statements. You consider that the audit requirement of Regulations and section 144(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

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



J R COBLEY FCCA
COBLEY DESBOROUGH
Chartered Certified Accountants
Chartered Tax Advisors

Artisans' House
7 Queensbridge
Northampton
NN4 7BF
Tel No. 01604 823560

26 April 2023



Accounts

The Parish of Newport Pagnell



St Peter & St Paul, High Street, Newport Pagnell, MK16 8AR
St Luke, Wolverton Road, Newport Pagnell, MK16 8JQ

ANNUAL REPORTS

for presentation to the

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

on Monday 25th April 2022



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Appendix 1	Accounts

It has been a strange year – blighted again by covid restrictions with the church opening for short periods and then closing again according to various risk assessments.

However, folk have kept closely bonded together through phone calls, zoom prayer and social meetings and the use of a phone App. Thanks too to the team for continuing to video sermons and Wednesday morning prayer slots during the pandemic.

As the virus threat began to wane there have been various debates about when parts of the liturgy could be reinstated. Sometimes things haven't been easy since each church has had to provide its own risk assessment and folk all have their own ideas as to what it was safe to do. Singing was a particular concern. I followed the diocesan guidelines and recommendations. The previous year was easier since there was the same set of rules that all churches had to follow.

The priority was, and is, to keep as many folk as safe as possible. Numbers have held up well when the church reopened again.

Despite the various restrictions encouraging things have been sprouting within the parish.

It has been wonderful to see how the congregations of St Luke's and SSPP have worshipped together when St Luke's had to close due to its covid risk assessment.

This has helped in the streamlining of a new service rota which was agreed by the PCCs of all four churches in the benefice.

It is unsustainable to continue with the pattern of our eucharistic tradition as we did pre covid since we relied heavily upon retired ageing clergy who were not always available and were not pastorally engaged within the benefice during the week. This led to myself dashing around the benefice on a Sunday without sufficient time to draw breath and meet the congregation and new people before and after services. The diocese commented upon me having to conduct too many services and the fatigue that this entails. The emphasis is now upon meeting together to break bread rather than stressing which building we use.

There have also been ongoing diocesan initiated discussions during the year. These concern the pastoral reorganisation of the whole deanery. This may lead to our 'grouping' together with other churches in the deanery. This process is occurring across the C of E since it is deemed that there needs to be root and branch reorganisation of the English parish structure for financial reasons and due to the shortage of clergy.

Sadly, despite extensive advertising, no director of music was appointed for the parish church so the very small choir has been disbanded. Our thanks go to those few who have faithfully assisted us with our music for many years. The St Luke's choir has resumed singing again with the easing of covid restrictions. We intend to advertise for a Director of Music for St Luke's following the departure of their DOM to pastures new. Many thanks to Emma for her imaginative and excellent choice of music over the last 10 years.

In autumn we had a parish open day which was well attended by various members of the public. This event was an excellent example of teamwork. This embodied music, prayer displays, hospitality and stalls explaining what we believe as Christians.

A mission group and parish visiting team has been set up so that we can more effectively reach out to the local community. These are lay led as is our ministry in our local nursing and care homes which has now resumed.

There have been a number of new congregants who have made SSPP and St Luke's their home and the Wednesday morning service has now resumed again.

The Mother's Union continues to grow and we have now switched from zoomed meetings to normal meetings.

The PCC had a fruitful away day and the plans for the reordering of the church interior are progressing well.

We continue to sponsor and be involved with Kimonie's training for ordination and look forward to her ordination as deacon this summer.

Despite the limitations we have grown together as the Body of Christ and are in a stronger position to further our outreach to the local community. This is all underpinned by a faithful weekly prayer group, which itself has expanded during the pandemic. The zoom facility has enabled the less mobile and elderly to be part of this very important aspect of the church's life.

There are too many people to thank for the progress made over the last year but particular thanks go to the churchwardens, LLMs and office staff for helping to steer us all through a tricky and changeable year.

Many of the congregation deserve thanks too for continuing to publicly worship despite various limitations and restrictions to our liturgy due to the diocesan and national covid guidelines.

There are various green shoots emerging and we can look forward to 2022-23.

Churchwarden's Report

Jenny Frost

With both churches closed from Christmas 2020 until Easter 2021, it may seem like the Pandemic had won a victory. Not so... the use of Zoom ensured a Prayer group and a Discovery Group both went ahead.

During Holy Week Compline services were held in both St Peter & St Paul's and St Luke's.

We reopened St Peter & St Paul's on Easter Sunday, whilst at St Luke's our traditional Easter Cross was, once again, adorned with flowers as a testimony to all who went past. Thanks to Bill and Chris Watson for putting the cross up for Good Friday and taking it down after Easter Monday.

At last year's APCM Jennifer answered the call to walk alongside me as Churchwarden. I have enjoyed her company and want to thank her for answering God's call.

With the pandemic still causing restrictions to be in place St Luke's remained closed for worship until October when we held a service of Evening Worship on 17th October to celebrate St Luke's Day. Refreshments were served after the service and Olwen was on hand, with her camera, to record the moment!

With restrictions easing, albeit carefully, we have held Evening Worship at St Luke's since October.

In November, at St Peter & St Paul's we had the Poppy cascade at the Altar and the uniformed organisations paraded for the Centenary of the Royal British Legion on Remembrance Sunday.

On Christmas Day we held our first morning service at St Luke's since March 2020.

We continue to hire St Luke's to a Preschool, Brownie Pack, Rainbows group, Ranger Troupe and the Trefoil Guild.

All that remains is for me to say thank you to all those who have made worship possible in very difficult circumstances.

Also, my thanks to Nick for his continued support and inspiration.

Churchwarden's Report

Jennifer Mazzone

It's a year since I felt called to offer my services as Churchwarden, a role that I have thoroughly enjoyed to date. It has not been without challenges, but it has been very fulfilling.

The pandemic has caused difficult decisions to be made but, thankfully, we seem to be returning to some sort of normality. The long-awaited new rota of services is now in place. One advantage of this is that we can still worship together at joint services as these have brought us closer together as a church community over the past months.

In October an Away Day for the PCC was arranged at The Cross and Stable, Downs Barn. It was advantageous to meet together out of town and other than at PCC meetings. It provided a good starting point from which to move forward as a PCC in fellowship.

I was on the interviewing panel to appoint a new Director of Music. We advertised extensively but, unfortunately, we were unable to appoint a suitable person. Grateful thanks go to Nick Read for taking on the role of organist.

Jenny and I attended a training day for Churchwardens in Haselmere in October which was surprisingly most useful. We signed up for two workshops namely Church Buildings and Vocation. From the latter we have taken up the opportunity to work with Gill Lovell, the Parish Diocesan Development Advisor. She is leading a new initiative, "Flourishing Together." The process has begun for the PCC to meet with Gill and see how we can work together more efficiently than we do now.

The vestry had become a "dumping ground" for a long time. This has now been cleared out and plans are afoot to transform it into a pleasant place for small church meetings e.g. sub committees or a quiet area for Nick to meet privately with people. It will be completely redecorated with a new toilet, cupboards for storage and the present parquet floor will be made good. The priest's vestry will also be decorated and carpeted. The work will be undertaken by a contractor and financed by an anonymous donor.

I would like to thank those who have supported me throughout this year especially Nick and Jenny and also the ministry team, Simon Weedon and Malcolm.

We must now move forward in our mission and spiritual lives so we pray that we can all work together to achieve this.

PCC Report

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a registered charity.

Registered No: 1153668

The PCC met 8 times and the Standing Committee 7 times in 2021

PCC membership

The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules.

During the year, the following have served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Incumbent: Rev Nick Evans, Rector

Licensed Lay Ministers: Mervyn Evans and Karen Goff.

Churchwardens: Jennifer Mazzone (from May 2021) and Jenny Frost

PCC Secretary: Olwen Smith

Deanery Synod representatives: Kimonie Nicholls, Dick Smith (Treasurer), John Fowler.

Elected: Lynda Evans, Doug Hird, Brian Hunt, Beth Mackay, Ralph Mazzone, Nick Read, Hazel Reynolds, Marlene Smith.

PCC Sub-Committees

The Parochial Church Council operates through several sub-committees which meet between full meetings of the PCC. They are:

Standing Committee: This committee comprises the Rector, Churchwardens, PCC Secretary and Treasurer. It has delegated powers to transact some of the business of the PCC between its meetings and deals mainly with housekeeping matters.

Fabric Committee: This committee attends to the maintenance of the Parish Church, St Luke's Church and 3 Castle Meadow Close, and considers future projects.

Events Committee: Established in October 2018 as an overarching committee to support organisers of events, providing support, advice and identifying possible helpers. Also, will identify new events and provide advanced planning.

Re-order Steering group: This group was established in January 2019 and will oversee and guide the re-ordering project.

Parish Visiting team: Established January 2020 to oversee and provide for the needs of those who request visits.

Mission Group: This newly formed group arose as a direct result of our Mission Open Day held in October 2021. The group had its inaugural meeting on Thursday 20th January 2022 and has had one other meeting.

Statistics

	Baptisms	Thanksgiving	Weddings	Blessings	Church Funerals	Crem Funerals
2014	28	4	23	0	14	21
2015	35	2	19	1	20	12
2016	34	0	14	1	25	5
2017	25	0	16	0	26	6
2018	13	0	12	1	24	5
2019	15	0	7	0	21	6
2020*	3	0	3	0	8	20 ¹
2021*	7	0	7	0	16	16 ¹

*Covid 19 restrictions

¹ Includes Graveside services

Safeguarding

Hazel Reynolds

The Parish Safeguarding Policy was unanimously approved by the PCC and signed by the Rector and Warden in April 2021.

My responsibilities as Parish Safeguarding Officer include **ensuring our Safeguarding training** is up to date. In 2021 an updated Safeguarding Learning and Development Framework was issued by the House of Bishops. . New Safeguarding Learning Pathways were introduced; moving away from safeguarding learning being a single training event to it becoming more of a journey - an ongoing journey to ensure our safeguarding behaviours are as good as we can make them. All Church Officers are required to complete Basic Awareness training and the vast majority require completion of Foundation training as well. More advanced training is offered on the Leadership pathway, a course in two separate parts. In addition there is Safer Recruitment and People Management, and another focussing on Domestic Abuse.

ALL SAFEGUARDING LEARNING NEEDS TO BE RENEWED EVERY THREE YEARS.

About 40 individuals in our Church need to do Basic Awareness and Foundation during spring 2022. Many of us did the old C0 and C1 courses three years ago, at St Luke's, in spring 2019; the new versions contain significantly revised content so we're all being asked to complete them both this time; generally, every three years we'd just repeat the core safeguarding learning pathway which is the **highest** required for our particular role.

The new list of courses every church officer is required to complete is nearly complete and will be shared with each person in the next few weeks.

Access to the Safeguarding Training Portal is through the Diocesan website.

It's hoped the vast majority of people can complete these courses online. The Diocese accept that some may find it difficult to complete Basic Awareness and Foundation through the portal. I am happy to support a small group through this process, perhaps using a few computers in the Parish office.

On satisfactory completion of these online sessions, one receives an online certificate. That needs to be shared with the Parish Administrator so our training records are kept up to date. We will accept evidence of Basic Awareness and Foundation having been done at another Parish church in the Diocese.

DBS checks help access whether applicants for paid or voluntary roles have criminal records or are on any barring lists which would raise concern about their suitability to work in the sector. Most importantly, these background checks help us safeguard the people in our care. It is illegal however to make a check in an inappropriate instance. Getting this right is another of my tasks. The Diocese only ask us to repeat these checks every 5 years. We do not accept DBS clearance evidence even from other churches - If appropriate to obtain, then we make our own enquiries. We have only a few fresh checks to make during this year.

I am working on a new **volunteer application form**, and reference request form; role descriptions and person specifications will follow later in the year. Any new volunteers to help with Sunday Club, or becoming a bell ringer, or volunteering with the Memory Club will complete the new application form - all part of the new Safer Recruitment safeguarding training

Mothers' Union

Jennifer Mazzone

2021 was still quite a difficult year and we hope that 2022 will be an improvement for us all.

During the first half of 2021 (January to July) we continued with our Zoom meetings which, although only a small number took part in them, were most enjoyable. Each meeting had a theme as a focus. These meetings kept us in touch with each other and were much appreciated. Thanks to Nick and Moira for setting this up for us. In September we finally met in person in church for a cup of tea, cake and a chat. It was a good chance to have a catch up and it was well attended. Our Branch Festival was held in October to which the URC ladies were invited and a few of them attended. Kimonie gave a good talk on the theme for the year. Also, in October our Quiet Afternoon, led by Nick, was very successful and more people attended than were expected. Dr. Sam Muthuvelo returned as our speaker in November and spoke about his life as a GP and his journey to the Ministry. It was good to have one of our members speaking in December on 16 Days of Activism. Sophie Cull gave us an insight into the dreadful things so many women endure. Hearing Dogs was the focus of our meeting in January when John Jannison spoke to us about the work of these wonderful dogs. We held a raffle and so we were able to give him a good donation for this worthwhile charity. Thank you to June for running this and also ordering cards and calendars and selling cards at meetings.

It has been so good to meet again in person and I have been really pleased with the good attendance at these meetings.

Pauline Middleton has still been sending cards out on special occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries, illness and bereavement. Thank you, Pauline, for continuing to do this so efficiently. The cards are always appreciated. About 600 Christmas cards were delivered to Woodhill Prison so that each inmate could send a card to a loved one. The response for card donations was amazing and we have some left over and ready for this year. Thank you to Moira for organising this. I sent out a few wedding cards last year but hoped to send more in 2022. Baby Basics is ongoing and members are still involved in this worthwhile and necessary project. Our Branch had an exhibition board at the Open Day in Church. We must let people know of the work of the Mothers' Union as much as possible. The Anti Slavery exhibition was also in church for a week in February. The knitted chains were an amazing sight.

The Branch ran the ever popular raffle at the Bazaar and raised a substantial amount of money. Thanks to June for your hard work organising this. We also participated in the Christmas Tree Festival. Thanks to Pam and Margaret. The tree looked amazing.

The Branch now has 52 members which is fantastic. Two members moved away and, unfortunately, three long standing members died. They were Daphne Miller, Barbara Simpson and

latterly Betty Lillford. It was difficult to attend funerals due to the pandemic but we remembered Daphne and Barbara at a Wednesday morning service when Pam spoke about Barbara and I did the same for Daphne. Barbara's son and daughter in law attended and were very moved and grateful that we wanted to remember her in this way. Donations in memory of Barbara were given to our branch and over £200 was then sent to AFIA.

Good News! I have recently enrolled three new members into our branch, Hannah and Neil Ellis and Sue Maison. These are always happy occasions.

We continue to pray for each other and all members in this country and around the world. It makes such a difference and praying is something that we can all do in whatever situation we find ourselves.

I would like to thank all branch members for their continued support of me and the branch. Special thanks must go to the committee and Nick for their valued support.

Pat Parker and Linda Ramsay have been on the committee for many years and have stood as Secretary and Treasurer for a long time. They both feel that now is the time to retire from these posts. They were thanked at the AGM for their hard work and presented with a card and Gift Token.

New members are always welcome to join our branch. You do not have to attend meetings to be a member. You are joining a wonderful, proactive organisation which has a voice on many serious issues we face in the modern world.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time on 01908613088 or jennifermazzone@hotmail.com if you wish to learn more about the Mothers' Union.

Sunday Club

Glenda Winfield

As we entered the second year of restrictions created by the global Covid pandemic, the children continued to be able to access the Together at Home Sunday Packs online each week, providing a lectionary or non-lectionary, Old or New Testament lesson, with pictures to colour, puzzles and activities. There were also some opportunities for Sunday Club to meet on Zoom.

Despite Covid restrictions, there have fortunately been some glimpses of normality.

In July Sunday Club families and members of the congregation were invited to a Picnic in the park at Riverside Meadow. It was a beautiful afternoon and so good for the children to meet up and play together after such a long time apart.

At the Mission Day in October the children's craft activities and Cheeky Pandas Prayer Trail around the church both proved to be a big success, with lots of children joining in and enjoying being creative.

The Christmas Fair in November was another opportunity to do some Christmas Crafts with the children in our community. The Nativity Trail around the church proved to be very popular. There was also the chance to create the Children's Christmas Tree from bamboo poles and some beautiful handmade decorations for display at the Christmas Tree Festival held in December.

Grateful thanks go to everyone who gave their time and talents to make all of these occasions so enjoyable and successful.

The Christingle Service in December was an emotional, atmospheric service, well attended and enjoyed by all once again. Thank you to all those who assembled at home all the various elements that made up the Christingles.

Sunday Club Leaders, the children and friends once again put together an online Nativity Crib Service for Christmas Eve. With no rehearsal beforehand, the children bravely went ahead and played their parts. Thanks go to the children and their friends, parents, Sunday Club Leaders, Karen Goff, Nick Read and members of St Luke's congregation who all ensured that even Covid could not stop the Crib Service, and that great Newport Pagnell tradition the Christmas Hokey Cokey, going ahead.

What a joy it was for the Sunday Club children, their families and friends to be back at The Venue for the Pantomime Cinderella in late December. It was a great performance, as always, and a fantastic atmosphere.

The Sunday Club offertory has continued to support Hand in Hand in Ethiopia, a small children's charity working in Addis Ababa. We receive regular newsletters from the charity. The most recent news we had is that, after a difficult year with Covid and the threat of civil war, the children are all back in school and the feeding centre is serving hot meals again. Four of their university students have graduated with good results and are looking for jobs. The political situation in Ethiopia remains tense which, with the added Covid restrictions, they say makes life very challenging. Yonathan Darge, the young boy Sunday Club sponsors, is reported to be doing well.

With the removal of Covid restrictions it was an absolute joy for the Sunday Club to begin meeting again in church in February. The children are currently doing a project on "Our Church" which will be followed by a series of lessons for Lent. We are now looking forward to the joy of Easter and return of some more of the traditional activities such as Mothering Sunday flowers and the Easter Egg Hunt.

Fabric Committee

Doug Hird

Covid has reduced the number of face to face meetings the committee could have but those that have happened were positive and helpful. The focus of these sessions is usually to go through the list of outstanding items. Items are gradually being ticked off the list as work is done by committee members or outside contractors. At the same time, we keep finding new items to add to the list.

We have also had a few sessions at St Luke's to check through the list. Not all have been self-explanatory so it was helpful to investigate items and discuss what to do.

Re-ordering Committee

Mervyn Evans

The past year has seen steady progress on the reordering programme. The first phase (Phase One) aims to replace the existing toilet and small kitchen with three toilets, to relocate the kitchen to a new servery in the south-west corner of the nave and to refurbish the south porch.

The architects, JBKS, have completed the technical drawings for Phase One of the project and a Project Manager, Leon Hudston, has been appointed. An open day was held on 9th October when several Newport and Milton Keynes councillors came and were briefed on our plans. The plans were again displayed and explained to members of the public at the Mission Day on 16th October.

A draft of our faculty proposals was submitted to the DAC for comment and a reply has been received. The response was positive, and our proposals should be going out from the DAC for consultation shortly.

The DAC Church Buildings Officer dealing with our project has changed, it is now Mrs Sophie Hammond. As Mrs Hammond has not been to Newport Pagnell a visit has been arranged for the morning of May 5th when representatives from the DAC and other interested parties will have an opportunity to see the church and assess our proposals. Our architect, Jeremy Bell, will be present and we are inviting members of the town council and other users to come along to give their views. Members of the PCC are also encouraged to attend and meet and greet the visitors.

The estimated cost of Phase One has been reassessed and the build cost has been estimated at £160,000 (£176,000 with 10% contingency). A fundraising appeal will begin shortly and we will be making applications to funding bodies. However, most of the funding bodies will require that we have a faculty approved before considering an application.

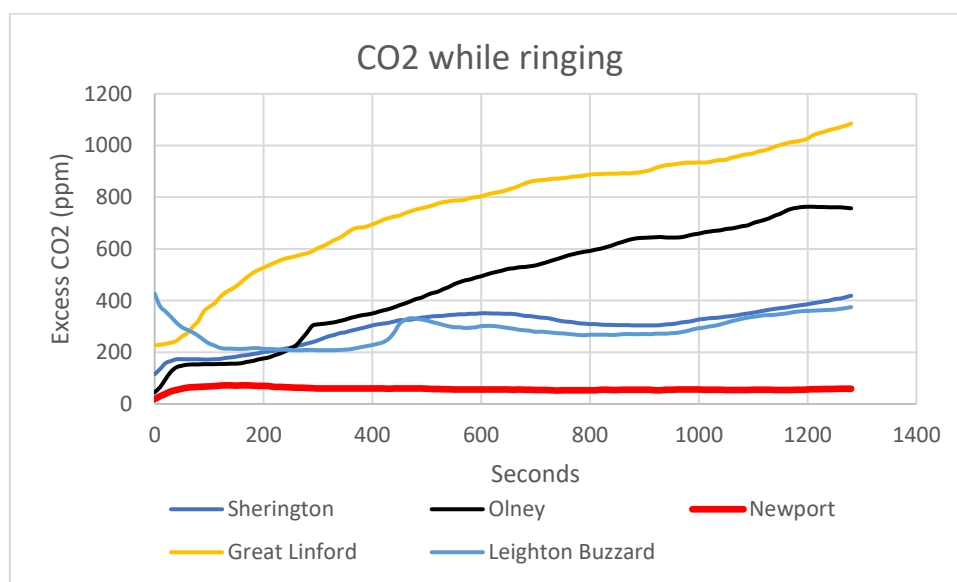
The reordering sub-committee is quite small comprising Mervyn Evans (Chair), Malcolm Godwin (Parish Administrator), Jennifer Mazzone, Dick Smith, Ralph Mazzone and Leon Hudston (Project Manager). As the project continues and the fundraising gets underway, we will need more help, so please do step forward and offer your services if you can – no building experience necessary!

Mervyn Evans

Bellringers

Doug Hird

Once restrictions eased Newport was one of the first towers in North Bucks to re-start ringing. The first practices were experimental in nature. The CO2 meter provided valuable feedback on the effectiveness of ventilation. The target is to be less than 1000 parts per million and the level to be stable.



This showed that the large body of air in Newport church provides sufficient ventilation to allay any concerns. Other towers are not so fortunate and Newport ringers are currently helping the Olney ringers to develop and test improved ventilation there.

The return to ringing has been a slow process throughout North Bucks. Not everyone is comfortable coming out to ring but practices are starting to return to normal. Here we even have a new learner. Surveys and general observation show that most ringers are recruited from families

and friends of existing ringers. This is an approach we intend to continue with an amnesty of lapsed ringers who can bring their children.

The new timetable of services leads to a need to train a lot more ringers than before if we are to support services at Newport as well as other churches in the Newport Deanery. However, a Deanery model of ringing looks like the only way that we will be able to continue. Some raising of awareness of ringing as a skilled performance art will also be needed if people are to appreciate what is involved and the background of this art form.



Upstairs, the bell frame has been cleaned and re-painted, the belfry floor has also been given similar treatment to make the belfry look like it would have appeared in 1911. The wall paint recommended by the DAC has improved the look of the clock room and belfry walls and consolidated the crumbly surface. This paint is cheaper than the paint we have used in the ringing platform and seems to do the job. The old kitchen cupboard has been replaced with a more substantial metal workbench. The wobbly wooden steps from the church roof into the clock room have been replaced with a piece of sandstone paving from a local garden centre. That took a bit of explaining at the till.

There is still much to do upstairs and it is hoped that a good summer will allow us to make more progress. Then we can get onto completing the decorating we started at Lathbury in 1976.

Stewardship

Dick Smith

Planned Giving is a vital part of our income, and regular members of the congregation should commit to regular giving throughout the year. During the year, our Planned Giving rose £1,350 against our 2020 income despite the continuing effects of the pandemic, but is still £1,650 below the 2019 figure. It was refreshing to see some new members of the scheme, but during the period we also lost several long-term members.

Recovery of Gift Aid from HMRC consists of 2 parts. Firstly, we receive Gift Aid on a large part of our Planned Giving (some members of the scheme are not tax payers and therefore cannot Gift Aid their contributions) Secondly we are able to claim Gift Aid on small donations in our collections at services. In 2021 we saw a drop in the tax recovery income of about £2,400, £700 of that was due to reduced Planned Giving in 2020, but the remaining £1,700 was due to the reduction in collections as only a fraction of our normal services were held. In 2021 income from Planned Giving rose again by £200 and from collections have risen by £800. These will be income for 2022 (we have to claim this in arrears). Hopefully in 2022 we will see a further increase in services and therefore a further increase in tax recovery.

We would welcome new members to the Stewardship scheme. We still need to hold a Stewardship Campaign to increase membership of our Stewardship scheme but that is not likely to happen until at least the latter part of the year. However, if you are regular attendees at any of our services please consider joining the scheme. Contact me for further information (nppcc.treasurer@gmail.com or 01908 616508)

We've all learnt one thing from 2 years of lockdown, social distancing and mask wearing - we need face to face fellowship with one another to grow and thrive as human beings and as Christians. The summer of 2021 saw the committee gearing up to go forth and organise events – when of course we were all hit by another lockdown.

Social Events depend on social interaction and that made for a quiet Autumn and Winter. Like green shoots in the spring, we have now burst forth with a calendar of events that will keep us all occupied well into the Autumn.

The positive response from the congregations has shown how much the fellowship that we share has been missed.

A reminder of some of what is planned for this year is shown below.

Saturday	14th May	Parish Outing to St Albans Cathedral
Sunday	22nd May	MU Afternoon Tea – a fundraising event at Brooklands
Frid– Sun	3rd -5th June,	Floral Jubilee Flower Festival in the Parish Church with refreshments
Saturday	25th June	Rectory Garden Party Lunch to celebrate the Patronal Festival of St Peter & St Paul
Saturday	9th July	Walk through the Bible, a live event in the Parish Church

The committee is reliant on the ideas of the members of the congregation to stage events and on the generous help given by the many volunteers.

We meet about once every 3 months for no more than 2 hours round a table and thrash out ideas for the future. We look at what we have done before and what worked and didn't work.

Our role is to support anyone who comes along with an idea to organise an event.

We are conscious that many of our projects support the mission outreach of our church – both to the congregation and to our community.

It's a friendly committee of men and women whose membership has changed over time, and we welcome new voices and new ideas.

Committee Members 2021-22

Julie Eldridge

Lynda Evans (Chair)

Moirra Evans

Bridget Frost (joined March 2022)

Brian Hunt

Beth Mackay

Jennifer Mazzone

Dick Smith

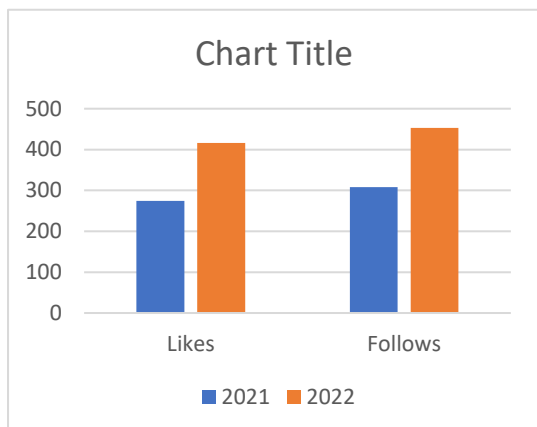
Olwen Smith

Over the last year use of the internet has continued to be a blessing in the parish, with services being posted online and other news and announcements shared over social media.

FACEBOOK

The Facebook page has increased its visibility to almost double last year. We have to date:

- 416 Likes (2021 274)
- 453 Followers (2021 308)



The like counter is the number of people that have liked our Facebook page. When a new visitor likes our page, the default setting is that they also follow our page. When someone follows our page, it means that our Facebook page posts will appear on their personal Facebook feed.

The Sunday reading and sermon was posted weekly up to the easing of lockdown in early December though one or two services are still posted. They have been boosted every week at a cost of £5 a time to reach out to Christians within a 20 mile radius.

Many posts are shared thus increasing our publicity and outreach.

Website

Our website (npparish.org.uk) also provided a link to our services that are hosted on our YouTube channel. We only use the YouTube channel for this purpose; it reflects the Facebook content and enables people without Facebook accounts to view the services.

The website also contains details about church opening, services and weekly Pews News.

Visits to the website have decreased slightly to 3,620 from 1 April to 8 March compared to 4,285 last year.

ZOOM

The Parish has a Zoom account and Zoom video conferencing has enabled us to stay in touch via a weekly Parish Chat hour until Sept 2021, plus weekly Prayer meetings which have continued on Zoom. Some Discovery Group meetings have also taken place on Zoom and some continue to do so.

PCC and Standing Committee meetings have taken place over Zoom as well as monthly Mothers Union meetings plus many other one to one meetings.

The use of Zoom is decreasing as the covid regulations have lifted.

Pews News and Parish Emails

These continue to be circulated to parishioners on the parish database and keep everyone up to date with service details and other relevant information.

Pews News continues to be made available as a hard copy for those who do not use the internet.

WhatsApp

The parish has an active WhatsApp group currently with 36 subscribers. Everyone with a mobile phone is invited to join as this is a quick, informal, and easy way of sharing news and staying in touch.

Benefice Planner

The diary of services and events is circulated by Pews News, available on the website and at the back of the churches as a hard copy. Currently the planner covers the next two months, and it is hope in the future to revert to an annual booklet.

Home Communion

Marlene Smith

Due to the pandemic Home Communion visits stopped in March 2020. We were able to visit Tickford Abbey on 13 December 2021, but they have been back in lock down ever since. However we are beginning to resume visits to Castlemead in April and hope to go to the other homes shortly. We have also resumed visits to individuals.

If there is someone you know who you think would like to receive home communion please speak to them, and if they consent to their details being passed on, please contact me so that I can arrange with them for an appropriate person to take them communion.

Parish Visiting

Beth MacKay

Home visits by members of the Parish Visiting Team had to be curtailed during the various periods of lockdown but we have tried to keep in touch with people via telephone and other forms of communication. As restrictions have gradually been eased in recent months, face-to-face visits have started to happen again. At a meeting of the Team in November it was agreed that the main concerns of this group should be for: the elderly, ill and vulnerable; care home/sheltered housing residents; the recently bereaved; and anyone we're aware of who has been missing from church and who might just welcome a phonecall to ask if they're ok.

We are attempting to raise awareness in the congregations asking people to alert us to situations where the Team may be able to help. We've also produced a leaflet which will shortly be distributed to care homes and other residential complexes for the elderly. It is hoped that these efforts will help us to reach out to more people who might benefit from the kind of pastoral care we are able to offer. On visits we're happy to worship and pray with people, share Holy Communion, as well as have a good chat. Or if people prefer, we'll just chat. And if they would like a visit from the Rector or other member of the clergy we can arrange that too.

Members of the current team are Lynda Evans, Mervyn Evans, Nick Evans (Rector), Karen Goff, Carolyn Hawkes, Brian Hunt, Beth MacKay (Parish Visiting Coordinator), Pam Miller, Kimonie Nicholls, Hazel Reynolds and Marlene Smith (Home Communion Coordinator). We are also delighted that Sue Maison will be joining the Team as soon as the necessary formalities can be carried out.

This newly formed group arose as a direct result of our Mission Open Day held in October 2021. The group had its inaugural meeting on Thursday 20th January 2022 and has had one other meeting.

Our aim is to try to fulfil the Five marks of Mission (adopted by the General Synod of the Church of England in 1996):

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom (Tell)

To teach, baptise and nurture new believers. (Teach)

To respond to human need by loving service. (Tend)

To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to seek to pursue peace and reconciliation. (Transform)

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth. (Treasure)

Our priorities at the moment are to improve baptism preparation in order to welcome new families into the congregation; to ensure displays in church are relevant to the season and appeal to anyone visiting the church during the week as well as on a Sunday; to start Lent groups and explore the possibility of Alpha groups starting in the Autumn; to organise a 'Walk through the Bible event' on Saturday 9th July 2022.

Memory Club**Hazel Reynolds**

The Memory Club continues to thrive. We were one of the very first clubs to restart, albeit with various precautions in place, in spite of Covid-19 but having benefitted enormously from the successful vaccination campaign and permitted to use St Luke's church premises from 12th April 2021 while The Brookland's centre remained shut.

We now have 4 Memory clubs in MK; NPMC and the other I run in Stony Stratford, one in Aspley Guise and, since November 2021, there is one in Bletchley, based at the Water Eaton Church centre. That latest club is supported by a paid organiser in addition to the normal team of volunteers.

Our efforts are much appreciated by our members and their families. There remains a dearth of social engagement opportunities for those affected by dementia and the isolation caused by Covid wreaked havoc in many lives. I am delighted that Carolyn Hawkes from SSPP has joined us as a volunteer now; I really need to attract another couple of volunteers in the near future.

Our Church administrator is a strong support when it comes to name badges, posters and copying. Now that the Covid threat is diminished, perhaps we can organise another singsong in the church for a Sunday afternoon; when we did this pre-Covid it was much enjoyed by lots of folks including some of my members.

We are fortunate to again be one of the local Co-op charities for this year.

Our new Club leaflet is ready for printing; it's rather more elaborate than the previous version and 500 copies are being printed by a local printer who gave us a good price.

2021 has been another difficult year due to the pandemic.

Overall, we saw a deficit in 2021 of almost £65,000, but that is not a true reflection of the state of our Finances. We spent £49,000 on a new electronic organ at SSPP and £2,100 on a deep clean of the organ at SL. This was funded from the Organ Fund that has been accumulated over many years for just such a situation. We also spent nearly £7,500 on our Re-ordering Project. This money came out of general funds, but once the project progresses and we start fund raising this money will be returned. Adjusting for these unusual expenses bring the true deficit down to around £6,500, which considering the problems due to the pandemic are not excessive. Last year, adjusting for the legacies received we made a loss of £16,000 so things have improved this year. Over the longer term we cannot afford to continue making a deficit each year, but we have significant reserves to cope over the short term.

Planned Giving has risen this year by £1,100 over the previous year, and collections have risen by £1,000 as we have been able to hold more services during the year and this will hopefully rise further in 2022 as the situation returns back to normal. Our Tax Recovery dropped significantly by £2,400 but this was anticipated following our income in 2020. We expect our recovery to be about £1,500 higher in 2022. We didn't have the luxury of any significant legacies in 2021 but most other income showed a recovery, and dividends from our investments rose £1,500 and income from Fees (Weddings and Funerals) was up £4,000. 3 Castle Meadow Close had a tenant throughout the year which maintained that income and there were a couple of events near the end of the year which boosted our income.

With a reduction still in services our general expenditure remained relatively static, with the exception of the Organ costs explained above. The PCC continued its support of Outside Charities despite the situation as many of these charities have also struggled financially but we are not a poor parish and felt we should support them in these difficult times.

The value of our investments have continued to increase by £60,000 this year.

Reg Wright has continued to undertake the independent examination of the accounts this year, and I would like to thank him for his work. The PCC approved the accounts at the PCC meeting on 14 March.

Appendix 1

Accounts

Parochial Church Council of Newport Pagnell

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO 31 DECEMBER 2021

Receipts and Payments Accounts

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	TOTAL funds 2021	TOTAL funds 2020
	Note	£	£	£	£	
RECEIPTS						
Voluntary Receipts						
Planned giving		36,799.98	0.00	0.00	36,799.98	35,655.12
Collections at services		4,126.79	0.00	0.00	4,126.79	3,049.64
All other giving/voluntary receipts	5a	2,167.90	0.00	0.00	2,167.90	81,163.73
Tax recoverable		9,113.61	0.00	0.00	9,113.61	11,536.58
		52,208.28	0.00	0.00	52,208.28	131,405.07
Activities for generating funds	5b	16,061.50	492.50	0.00	16,554.00	13,431.54
Investment Income	5c	26,292.61	5,387.96	0.00	31,680.57	30,756.88
Church activities	5d	6,002.00	0.00	0.00	6,002.00	2,070.00
Total Receipts		100,564.39	5,880.46	0.00	106,444.85	177,663.49
PAYMENTS						
Church activities						
Diocesan parish share		58,621.86	0.00	0.00	58,621.86	58,599.09
Clergy and staffing costs	5e	12,398.50	0.00	0.00	12,398.50	12,917.78
Church running costs	5f	78,341.00	7,683.66	0.00	86,024.66	33,082.95
Parish house costs		1,175.36	0.00	0.00	1,175.36	1,235.19
Mission giving and donations	5g	5,852.84	0.00	0.00	5,852.84	6,424.08
Re-ordering Project		7,325.16	0.00	0.00	7,325.16	1,647.40
		163,714.72	7,683.66	0.00	171,398.38	113,906.49
Cost of generating funds		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Payments	3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50,000.00
Total payments		163,714.72	7,683.66	0.00	171,398.38	163,906.49
Excess of receipts over payments		(63,150.33)	(1,803.20)	0.00	(64,953.53)	13,757.00
Transfers between funds	4	150.00	(150.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00
		(63,000.33)	(1,953.20)	0.00	(64,953.53)	13,757.00
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 January		120,543.08	5,946.84	0.00	126,489.92	112,732.92
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 December		57,542.75	3,993.64	0.00	61,536.39	126,489.92

Parochial Church Council of Newport Pagnell

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL 2021 £	TOTAL 2020
Cash funds						
Cash in hand		0.00			0.00	0.00
Bank current account		654.38	1,926.32		2,580.70	3,800.17
Deposit funds		58,503.37	2,067.32		60,570.69	124,304.75
Retained Deposit on 3CMC		-1,615.00			-1,615.00	-1,615.00
		57,542.75	3,993.64	0.00	61,536.39	126,489.92
Other monetary assets						
Gift Aid recoverable		9,795.82			9,795.82	8,975.86
Other income due		303.18	0.00		303.18	809.63
		10,099.00	0.00	0.00	10,099.00	9,785.49
Investment assets						
Investment fund shares at market value	3	283,752.91	85,109.28	145,280.48	514,142.67	454,405.48
Assets retained for church use						
	2	68,000.00	0.00	0.00	68,000.00	68,000.00
Liabilities						
Mission giving		1,326.79			1,326.79	307.14
Organist fees		2,491.00			2,491.00	2,491.00
Clergy and staffing costs		0.00			0.00	0.00
Employer contributions due to HMRC		583.40			583.40	602.60
Church running costs		966.82	0.00		966.82	2,486.43
		5,368.01	0.00	0.00	5,368.01	5,887.17

Notes

- The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis
- Fixed assets retained for church use is the freehold house at 3 Castle Meadow Close, purchased in 1995 on behalf of the PCC for £80,000 less a 15% equity retention held by the Diocesan Trustees (Oxford) Ltd. On 4 December 2017 the 15% Equity Retention was gifted to the PCC by the Diocesan Trustees (Oxford) Ltd in recognition of the PCC having maintained the house in good order ever since. In 2018 £55,212.17 was spent renovating the property. The market value of the house is in the region of £375,000 to £400,000.
- There are 3 endowment funds held on behalf of the PCC by the Diocesan Trustees (Oxford) Ltd. The Ecclesiastical Trust was established in 1990 from 69.25% of the sale of Church House. The trust is held in CCLA Church of England Investment funds for the purpose of furthering the religious and other charitable work of the parish and the income is unrestricted. The Elizabeth Darcy Charity was set up from 4 small charities to benefit the poor of the Parish. The fund is held in the M&G Charity Multi Asset fund and the income is restricted. The Chancel Repair fund was established in 1972 and is held in a CCLA Church of England Investment fund for the purpose of repair and upkeep of the Chancel and the income is restricted.

Parochial Church Council of Newport Pagnell

There is 1 restricted investment fund, the Hayllar Fund, which was established in 1980 and is held in 2 investment accounts with Black Rock Charities UK Bond Fund A Inc and M&G Charifund. The purpose of the fund is for the upkeep of the churches and both the capital and income is restricted for that purpose.

Finally, there are 2 unrestricted investments, set up from the funds left in the wills of Louise Moodie and Iris Robinson. £150,000 of Louise Moodie's bequest was invested in the CCLA Church of England Investment fund during 2017 and £50,000 of Iris Robinson's bequest was invested in the same fund in 2020, to provide a reasonable return on the funds although the capital can be spent as and when necessary.

4 Fund Values

		TOTAL to 31/12/21 £	TOTAL 2020 £
Ecclesiastical Trust	CBF Investment Fund	77,560.75	67,853.94
	CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund	9,789.20	10,485.91
Elizabeth Darcy Fund	M&G NAACIF Fund	2,242.29	2,057.05
Chancel Repair Fund	CBF Investment Fund	55,688.24	48,718.80
Hayllar Fund	M&G Charifund	74,697.60	65,883.36
	Black Rock Charinco	10,411.68	11,165.49
Louise Moodie Fund	CBF Investment Fund	221,045.09	193,381.06
Iris Robinson Fund	CBF Investment Fund	62,707.82	54,859.87
		514,142.67	454,405.48

4. The movement in designated and restricted funds during the year were:

	Bal b/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Bal c/fwd
Designated					
Ecclesiastical Income Account	13,812.39	2,250.97	0.00	0.00	16,063.36
Louise Moodie Income Account	17,381.40	5,617.46	0.00	(11,775.16)	11,223.70
Iris Robinson Income Account	29,614.10	1,606.46	0.00	(6,409.98)	24,810.58
Sunday School	146.86	0.00	150.00	0.00	(3.14)
Memory Club	2,723.99	510.50	667.64	27.50	2,594.35
Organ Fund	53,362.18	17.15	0.00	(51,473.60)	1,905.73
Re-ordering Fund	(2,546.46)	0.00	7,325.16	0.00	(9,871.62)
Restricted					
Rental Deposit on 3CMC	1,615.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,615.00
Fabric Current Account	2,812.16	5,797.82	7,683.66	1,000.00	1,926.32
Fabric Deposit Account	1,432.74	0.75	0.00	0.00	1,433.49
Hayllar Income Account	1,288.82	0.55	0.00	(1,000.00)	289.37
Darcy Fund Income Account	413.12	81.34	0.00	(150.00)	344.46

The flower arrangers have a separate bank account and produce separate accounts. Payments are made into their account from the general funds to cover the cost of flowers for the year. The residual balance held in their bank account is negligible.

All transactions related to weddings, funerals, etc. are processed through a separate Benefice account and the fees due to the PCC are transferred monthly in arrears into the general fund.

There is now a line on the accounts for Re-ordering costs, and an additional page at the end of the accounts showing the Receipts and Payments for the overall project. The PCC decided to transfer the remainder of the legacy from David Lock into the Re-ordering Fund (£12,087.83) Money from the Louise Moodie Fund is being transferred to cover the deficit at present. Once the project progresses and fundraising begins then the money will be returned to the fund.

The Rental Deposit on 3 Castle Meadow Close is held in the Deposit account but cannot be used for General Funds.

Parochial Church Council of Newport Pagnell

During 2021 £2,100 was spent on a thorough clean of the SL organ and £48,975 was spent on a new electronic organ for SSPP. This was funded from the Organ Fund. During 2021, £398.60 was transferred from the Organ Fund to cover the deficit in 2020, £945 was received in Organ Fees and £840 was spent on Routine Maintenance. £105 will therefore be transferred to the Organ Fund in 2022.

5. Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	TOTAL funds 2021	TOTAL funds 2020
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts						
a) All other giving/voluntary receipts						
Donations		330.00	0.00	0.00	330.00	571.00
Legacies		500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	79,777.32
Grants		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Copier		431.50	0.00	0.00	431.50	84.80
Sunday School		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.74
Memory Club		510.50	0.00	0.00	510.50	417.00
Misc		395.90	0.00	0.00	395.90	293.87
		2,167.90	0.00	0.00	2,167.90	81,163.73
b) Activities for generating funds						
Fabric Donations & grants		0.00	492.50	0.00	492.50	3,855.06
Rent		11,675.98	0.00	0.00	11,675.98	8,326.46
Events (including Fetes)		2,275.89	0.00	0.00	2,275.89	9.90
Special Collections		2,109.63	0.00	0.00	2,109.63	1,240.12
		16,061.50	492.50	0.00	16,554.00	13,431.54
c) Investment Income						
Dividends on Investment Fund		9,444.44	5,386.50	0.00	14,830.94	13,447.63
Income from Investments		16,800.00	0.00	0.00	16,800.00	16,800.00
Bank and Deposit Fund Interest		48.17	1.46	0.00	49.63	509.25
		26,292.61	5,387.96	0.00	31,680.57	30,756.88
d) Church activities						
Fees for Batism Certificates	4	11.00	0.00	0.00	11.00	0.00
Fees for Weddings	4	2,111.00	0.00	0.00	2,111.00	745.00
Fees for Funerals	4	1,669.00	0.00	0.00	1,669.00	669.00
Contributions for Heating	4	1,266.00	0.00	0.00	1,266.00	348.00
Organ Fees	4	945.00	0.00	0.00	945.00	308.00
		6,002.00	0.00	0.00	6,002.00	2,070.00

Parochial Church Council of Newport Pagnell

Payments

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL funds 2021	Previous Year
	Note	£	£	£	£	
e) Clergy and staffing costs						
Clergy expenses		710.50	0.00	0.00	710.50	1,355.86
Parish administrator		11,688.00	0.00	0.00	11,688.00	11,561.92
		12,398.50	0.00	0.00	12,398.50	12,917.78
f) Church running costs						
SSPP building running expenses		3,729.07	0.00	0.00	3,729.07	3,931.46
SL building running expenses		2,078.62	0.00	0.00	2,078.62	2,273.19
Insurance		7,944.84	0.00	0.00	7,944.84	7,891.02
Vestry Costs		3,295.63	0.00	0.00	3,295.63	2,725.85
Parish Office		6,051.05	0.00	0.00	6,051.05	5,148.15
Training		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Social Events		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	139.98
Choir Pay and Organists		1,505.00	0.00	0.00	1,505.00	1,435.00
Church flowers	4	410.00	0.00	0.00	410.00	330.00
Misc.		594.15	0.00	0.00	594.15	130.88
Sunday School	4	150.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	150.00
Memory Club	4	667.64	0.00	0.00	667.64	197.49
Organ Maintenance		51,915.00	0.00	0.00	51,915.00	996.00
SSPP Maintenance (Fabric)		0.00	6,839.66	0.00	6,839.66	3,505.75
SL Maintenance (Fabric)		0.00	844.00	0.00	844.00	4,228.18
		78,341.00	7,683.66	0.00	86,024.66	33,082.95
g) Mission giving and donations						
CTNP		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
NP Christmas Lights		150.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	100.00
The Childrens Society		552.84	0.00	0.00	552.84	576.08
Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia		750.00	0.00	0.00	750.00	750.00
Buildbuilder Trust		750.00	0.00	0.00	750.00	750.00
Willen Hospice		750.00	0.00	0.00	750.00	962.50
The Welcome Directory		750.00	0.00	0.00	750.00	750.00
MK Night Shelter		750.00	0.00	0.00	750.00	750.00
Water Aid		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	750.00
MK Foodbank		140.00	0.00	0.00	140.00	935.50
NP Baptist Church (Afghan Refugees)		1,260.00	0.00	0.00	1,260.00	0.00
Other		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		5,852.84	0.00	0.00	5,852.84	6,424.08

Parochial Church Council of Newport Pagnell

Re-ordering Project Designated Fund

As at 31 December 2021

RECEIPTS

Donation from John & Daphne Fowler	525.00	
Transfer of Residue of David Lock's Legacy from General Funds	12,087.83	
Temporary Transfer from Louise Moodie Fund	9,871.62	
		22,484.45
Grants		
Oxford Diocesan New Projects	2,500.00	
		2,500.00
Total Receipts		24,984.45

PAYMENTS

Architect Fees	(16,987.45)	
Measured Building Survey	(5,148.00)	
Statement of Significance	(1,500.00)	
Subscription to 'Church Grants'	(49.00)	
Project Management	(1,300.00)	
Total Payments		(24,984.45)
Closing Balance		0.00

NEWPORT PAGNELL BENEFICE FEES ACCOUNTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2021		2020	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Newport Pagnell				
Weddings	5,710.00		2,000.00	
Funerals	10,585.00		4,027.00	
Baptism Certificates	11.00		0.00	
Lathbury				
Weddings	538.00		0.00	
Funerals	0.00		27.00	
Moulsoe				
Weddings	0.00		505.00	
Funerals	29.00		521.00	
	<u>16,873.00</u>		<u>7,080.00</u>	
EXPENDITURE				
ODBF	6,937.00		3,092.00	
Newport Pagnell PCC	6,216.00		2,070.00	
Lathbury PCC	284.00		14.00	
Moulsoe PCC	15.00		546.00	
Retired Clergy	141.00		0.00	
Clergy Travel Expenses	420.00		361.00	
Organist	616.00		261.00	
Choir	0.00		0.00	
Bellringers	480.00		320.00	
Bell Fund	120.00		80.00	
Vergers	1,118.00		336.00	
Refunds	526.00		0.00	
Miscellaneous expenses	0.00		0.00	
	<u>16,873.00</u>		<u>7,080.00</u>	
Net surplus/(deficit)	<u>0.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>	
Funds at 1 January		0.00		0.00
Funds at 31 December		0.00		0.00

NEWPORT PAGNELL BENEFICE FEES ACCOUNTS

BALANCE SHEET at 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2020		2020	
	£	£	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors and prepayments	0.00		0.00	
Cash at bank	<u>212.00</u>		<u>134.00</u>	
		212.00		134.00
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Accruals	120.00		0.00	
Income Received in Advance	<u>92.00</u>		<u>134.00</u>	
		212.00		134.00
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>0.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>

NEWPORT PAGNELL P.C.C CHURCH FLOWERS

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021

	<u>RECEIPTS</u>		<u>BACS PAYMENTS</u>
BALANCE 1ST JAN	£17.64	GENERAL FLOWERS	£60.00
P.C.C FUNDS PROVIDED	<u>£410.00</u>	EASTER	£38.00
	<u>£427.64</u>	WEDDINGS	£245.00
		CHRISTMAS	£55.00
		OASIS	£18.00
		DEC : OASIS RING	<u>£7.90</u>
			<u>£423.90</u>
BALANCE AT BANK	£3.74	BALANCE DEC 31st	<u>£3.74</u>
			<u>£427.64</u>

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF THE PARISH OF NEWPORT PAGNELL

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PCC AND THE EXAMINER

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under Section 145 of the 2011 Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 act and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF THIS REPORT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the 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 you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on these accounts.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirement
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records 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.



REGINALD. G. WRIGHT
1 Severn Drive
NEWPORT PAGNELL

NEWPORT PAGNELL PCC ANNUAL INSPECTION OF 2021 ACCOUNTS

INTRODUCTION

Receipts and payments accounting has been used for the 2021 accounts. I am satisfied that the Charity's income level is within the limit for this method of accounting to be appropriate.

PROBITY MATTERS

1. Bank balance statements, investment statements, dividends and interest were checked and found to be correctly recorded.
2. All invoices were examined for correct approval, relevance and reasonableness.
3. A check on collections proved satisfactory all being properly recorded and timely banked.
4. Planned giving has been correctly recorded and gift aid tax recovery checked.

POINTS ARISING

I have not found anything that requires noting or further investigation by the PCC.

OTHER MATTERS

I wish my thanks to be recorded to your treasurer Dick Smith for his clear and excellent bookkeeping. Every transaction has been accurately recorded and properly apportioned indicating the lengthy time he has given to this work.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. G. Wright', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Reginald G. Wright
1 Severn Drive
NEWPORT PAGNELL

Accounts

The Parish of Newport Pagnell



St Peter & St Paul, High Street, Newport Pagnell, MK16 8AR
St Luke, Wolverton Road, Newport Pagnell, MK16 8JQ

ANNUAL REPORTS

for presentation to the

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

on Monday 24th May 2021



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Appendix 1	Accounts

We all know that the last year has entailed unprecedented new challenges for every church in the land but the St Luke's and SSPP congregations have risen admirably to this challenge. The activities described in this annual report reveal how much has still been going on despite the effects of church closure and quarantining of individuals and families.

One of the biggest growth points has been the increased use of social media technology in order to reach out to the existing congregation and a new developing on-line congregation. It has been good to see how the ministry team have all embraced these new patterns of worship and communication. This has been a very steep learning curve for us all and this new knowledge and experience is something which we can continue to use fruitfully and appropriately in the future. For example, during the winter months it may be a good idea to continue with live zoom prayer meetings which enable more folk to participate.

Many members of the congregation, of all ages, have been able to learn to use FB, the web site and zoom technology in order to keep in touch and attend on line worship and social gatherings. We have tried to keep in touch with those who do not have computer technology through phone calls and sending hard copies of the Pews News to them.

When we have been open for worship it has been encouraging to see the St Luke's and SSPP congregations worshipping together and all keen to resume Sunday services in the parish church and at St Luke's as soon as possible. Thank you to the congregation of St Luke's for worshipping at SSPP during a time when the risk assessment meant that we couldn't currently use St Luke's for worship.

There have been no problems with the congregations following the appropriate safety guidelines and the congregations have proved to be adaptable and supportive of the necessary changes we've all had to make regarding service content and timings.

In many ways, despite the covid restrictions, many congregants have expressed that they have experienced a deeper sense of fellowship together than before the pandemic. Perhaps a shared technology and all having to cope with similar restrictions has helped to see more acutely how much we need and value each other. The Sunday Club too have played their part in worship and reaching out to the public. Their Christmas video production was superb and received 2.8K views on FB.

The mission and ministry of the church has continued despite worship restrictions and this a testimony to the spiritual growth and resolve of the congregations in the benefice.

The church has generally been open in the week during the pandemic. During this time many have helped to use visual stimuli to help engage the public with God. For example, the Remembrance Day poppy cascade display was warmly received by the public – as were the bell tolls and prayer stall in front of the resurrection garden to mark the passing of Prince Philip.

This has all happened at a time when the covid infection and death toll was particularly high in the NP and MK area (I've conducted the funerals of 15 covid related funerals).

We have all tried to encourage each other and the public to keep our faith in God alive rather than simply focus only on covid issues.

Of course, normal pastoral visiting has been severely restricted and this is something we need to resume more vigorously once the pandemic is over – although people have kept in touch through phone and social media. The Wednesday What's App group is an example of how we have kept in touch with each other. The MU, Prayer group, bible study, lent study group and other groups have continued and adapted to these current unprecedented circumstances. The ability of the parish to adapt to these difficult circumstances is remarkable and encouraging for the future.

Thank you to Jenny Frost the warden, all the ministry team and to Malcolm for holding things together administratively. Thank you too to Moira Evans, our communications officer, who has helped to train us to more effectively use social media – something that has been very necessary over the last year.

Thanks also to Dick Smith for keeping our books balanced at a time when the last 12 months have presented obvious financial challenges for many institutions.

So many others too have kept the Good News of the Gospel alive during a very difficult period in our national and local history. We look forward to interesting times ahead and to where God may be leading us.

Well, I could say, "not much to report as our church buildings were closed" but our buildings are not Church! Church is the living and breathing people of God and we very much continued to worship Him. We worshiped in our homes, watching streamed services from around the Country, from our Diocese of Oxford or recorded services from our own Ministry team here in Newport Pagnell. Either from their homes or from the Church.

We learnt how to use the technology of our day, to record Spiritual reflections, hymns, prayers, and 'post' them online. We got to grips with Zoom and held Standing Committee meetings and PCC meetings by Zoom. (Not my preferred way of holding meetings!)

During March 2020, a Parish Facebook page and WhatsApp Group chat were set up. The Chat for people to keep in touch and post encouraging messages to each other. The Facebook page used in conjunction with the Benefice Website to post services, reflections, and information about any activities. Pews News was emailed to people and posted to those not having access to the internet.

During Holy Week 2020 a small group posted Reflections for Holy week. Thanks to Olwen, Beth, Kimonie & Lynda. The Easter Cross in St Luke's garden was put up by Bill and Chris Watson who decorated it on Easter Sunday. Thank you, Bill, and Chris. During that period, the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul was closed to all, so the Easter gardens were not set up in 2020.

Once we were permitted to open for Private Prayer, we opened the Lady Chapel, leaving out the Prayer Cross so people could request prayers which were then taken by the Rector and incorporated into his prayers for the day.

Our Spiritual life was fed by these online services, but we were all incredibly pleased to be able to meet each other again when we held our first, in person, service on 26th July 2020 in St Peter and St Paul's. Holy Communion in person! It was a treat!

A River of Remembrance was set up in November with the people of the town invited to decorate a stone red and put in in our 'river' in St Peter and St Paul's. This was advertised on the Facebook page and on Newport Chit Chat and was very well received. The stones are still on the Alter of the Transfiguration in the North Aisle.

During Advent, a series of reflections were held in all 4 churches of the Benefice. A service was recorded in St Luke's for Christmas Eve and the Crib Service was online.

Our last service of 2020 was on Christmas Day in St Peter and St Paul's.

During the year we had started with very little technological knowhow. As time progressed the online services began to incorporate hymns, so at home we could sing! We were treated to Jennifer, Ralph, Sarah, and Jonny during the Advent reflections, many thanks to them for enhancing our worship with your music.

Thanks to Nick for his continued Spiritual leadership and getting to grips with technology! My thanks also to Malcolm, Mervyn, Lynda, Kimonie, Dick, Marlene, and Moira for all their 'backstage' help with putting services together, posting them online and all the administrative duties necessary to enable all our services to be held.

PCC Report

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a registered charity.

Registered No: 1153668

The PCC met 4 times and the Standing Committee 6 times in 2020

PCC membership

The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules.

During the year, the following have served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Incumbent: Rev Nick Evans, Rector

Licensed Lay Ministers: Mervyn Evans and Karen Goff.

Churchwardens: Kimonie Nicholls (until October 2020) and Jenny Frost

PCC Secretary: Olwen Smith

Deanery Synod representatives: Kimonie Nicholls, Dick Smith (Treasurer), John Fowler and Beth Mackay (until October 2020)

Elected: Elly Cooper (from October 2020), Lynda Evans, Doug Hird, Brian Hunt, Beth Mackay (from October 2020), Jennifer Mazzone, Ralph Mazzone, Nick Read, Hazel Reynolds (from October 2020), Marlene Smith and Bill Watson. (Until October 2020 – Pat Hudson, Linda MacDonald, Ann Townsend.)

PCC Sub-Committees

The Parochial Church Council operates through several sub-committees which meet between full meetings of the PCC. They are:

Standing Committee: This committee comprises the Rector, Churchwardens, PCC Secretary and Treasurer. It has delegated powers to transact some of the business of the PCC between its meetings and deals mainly with housekeeping matters.

Fabric Committee: This committee attends to the maintenance of the Parish Church, St Luke's Church and 3 Castle Meadow Close, and considers future projects.

Events Committee: Established in October 2018 as an overarching committee to support organisers of events, providing support, advice and identifying possible helpers. Also, will identify new events and provide advanced planning.

Re-order Steering group: This group was established in January 2019 and will oversee and guide the re-ordering project.

Parish Visiting team: Established January 2020 to oversee and provide for the needs of those who request visits.

Statistics

	Baptisms	Thanksgiving	Weddings	Blessings	Church Funerals	Crem Funerals
2014	28	4	23	0	14	21
2015	35	2	19	1	20	12
2016	34	0	14	1	25	5
2017	25	0	16	0	26	6
2018	13	0	12	1	24	5
2019	15	0	7	0	21	6
2020*	3	0	3	0	8	20 ¹

*Covid 19 restrictions

¹ Includes Graveside services

Safeguarding

Julie Eldridge

Despite the pandemic, Safeguarding remains a priority for the Church of England overall and in our parish in particular. We have kept our Safeguarding Policy up to date and it continues to be reviewed annually and to be in line with the requirements of the Church's statutory bodies. As a Church we follow accepted standards of due diligence with regard to DBS checking all those who work with children and vulnerable adults for the Parish, and will continue to update these checks in line with guidance.

Training for our volunteers, officials and ministry team is kept regularly under review and arrangements are in place to facilitate any required updates.

In addition to the Safeguarding Policy we have also introduced a Safeguarding Action Plan which ensures that we stay abreast of any changes in national requirements and also keeps us sensitive to local needs.

During this past year we have been particularly concerned to remain in touch with our congregation and people have been able to join services online for the first time. This has been particularly valuable to those vulnerable members of our community and those who are feeling particularly isolated by new working practices. However, we are not complacent and as lockdown restrictions are eased it will remain important to ensure that what we have learned during the last year continues to inform our safeguarding practices moving forwards.

We have made one referral to the diocese this year but this was simply to refer an action plan to their team. No further action was required and the ministry team have continued to support the vulnerable individual in question.

There is no need for me to say what a difficult year 2020 was and 2021 has started off in the same way.

Mothers' Union has suffered like all organisations but locally we have done our best to keep in contact with members via Zoom, email and telephone calls. Financially Mothers' Union has also been affected but people were very generous with donations from Branches and from individuals.

So, lockdown arrived. Daffodils that had been ordered for Mothering Sunday had to be cancelled and we were confined to our homes. The programme for the rest of the year was cancelled.

However, Mothers' Union did not go away.

Pauline Middleton has still been sending cards out on special occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries, illness and bereavement. Thank you, Pauline, for continuing to do this so efficiently. The cards are always appreciated.

600 Christmas cards were delivered to Woodhill Prison so that each inmate could send a card to a loved one. The response for cards was amazing. Thank you to Moira for organising this.

Obviously and sadly, I have not sent out any wedding cards but hoped to do so this year.

Baby Basics has been a great success and by Moira putting all about it on social media the response has been overwhelming. I think that people were glad to have a focus and get out their knitting needles. Thank you to Rachel, Linda and Sophie for coordinating this.

As I said earlier, we have all attempted to keep in contact with each other especially with those who live on their own or do not have the internet. Each committee member has tried to maintain contact with members for which they are responsible.

We have met monthly, on normal MU meetings, via Zoom. Sometimes, after a time of prayer, we have had speakers, Steve Urwin and Mervyn, and Nick has led Reflections on Advent and Epiphany. We now have a theme each month which has been so successful. Thank you to Nick and Moira for so expertly setting this up. A social chat usually follows.

Newsletters are regularly sent out to keep our members up to date.

Sadly, Betty Pointer, aged 95, has recently died. She was a supporter of our Branch and the Mothers' Union for many years.

Barbara Simpson, who is in a Care Home, is now a member of the Praying Fellowship so she will still feel a part of the Mothers' Union as she is also an avid supporter.

Good News! We now have three new fully paid up members in our Branch: Sarah Mazzone, Jonny Price and Barbara Samm. I will enrol them when allowed and welcome them properly. We now have eight men in the Branch which is excellent. We are always looking for new members to join this amazing organisation.

We must look forward with hope, especially now that the vaccine has arrived and we pray that we may soon be able to meet physically.

The work of the Mothers' Union must still go on and people around the world need us more than ever at this time. We must continue to pray. It makes such a difference and praying is something that we can all do in whatever situation we find ourselves.

Take care and keep safe and well.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time on 01908613088 or jennifermazzone@hotmail.com if you wish to learn more about the Mothers' Union.

During the Coronavirus Pandemic and two lockdowns Together at Home Sunday Packs have been distributed to the children weekly, giving them usually the opportunity of an Old or New Testament lesson, lectionary or non-lectionary, with pictures to colour, puzzles and activities. Additional resources are also provided for various festivals. The children have on occasion sent their drawings and colourings for inclusion in Pews News.

There was an opportunity at the beginning of August when we were blessed with a lovely sunny day and Sunday Club was able to meet together outside in the church grounds. The children brought some of the artwork they had created during lockdown, for display on the noticeboard in church. A paper chain was also created, with the children writing on the links all of the things they were grateful for during the lockdown. The children then went into church at the close of the service for a blessing.

Not even a global pandemic stopped the Crib Service on Christmas Eve. With some great innovative ideas, careful planning, Zoom meetings and people with fantastic technological skills who created the service and recorded it, an online Crib Service was broadcast in line with tradition at 5pm on Christmas Eve. The children played their parts brilliantly. Thanks go to parents, Sunday Club Leaders, members of the Ministry Team and organist who also played their part, not forgetting the Mayor of Newport Pagnell, the Landlady of the Kings Arms and children from the community. Even that great Newport Pagnell tradition the Christmas Hokey Cokey was included in the service. Many thanks to everyone who brought all this together and made it happen, a triumph over adversity.

On Mothering Sunday, Sunday Club were invited to take part in the online service by writing and reading the intercessions. The children did remarkably well, some of them reading to camera for the first time. Thank you everyone, it was lovely to see all the children's faces again after such a long time apart.

The opportunity to be able to meet again in church for the Palm Sunday and Easter Day services was so welcome. Whilst we weren't able to have the traditional Easter Egg Hunt after the Easter Day service, an Easter Egg was given to all the children at the end of the service.

The Sunday Club offertory has continued to support Hand in Hand in Ethiopia, a small children's charity working in Addis Ababa. The most recent news we have had from the charity is that, after a difficult year, the children are all back in school and the feeding centre is up and running, giving the children their lunchtime meals every school day. Yonathan Darge, the young boy Sunday Club sponsors, is reported to be doing well. In total 270 children are being supported by the charity, who provide schooling, uniform, shoes, materials, healthcare, pastoral care and lots of love. Five of their university students have graduated and been offered jobs. The political situation in Ethiopia remains tense which, with the added Covid restrictions they say makes life very challenging.

With the easing of the lockdown, let us hope and pray that it won't be too long before we can return to some sort of normality and Sunday Club will be able to meet together once again.

In the year of Covid, we have had little opportunity to meet as a committee or to do much actual work. We did meet once to re-appoint a chairman and propose the list of people on the committee. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bill Watson for his contribution over the years.

As with most other activities this year, a lot has moved on-line and communication by e-mail has taken over from meetings in the church.

However, there has been some activity. We have been keeping an eye on the organ and re-ordering projects, contractors have been in to make measurements or to carry out work and the spreadsheet "to-do list" continues to be referred to and updated. Our thanks to Malcolm for keeping things moving.

We anticipate that a relaxation of restrictions over forthcoming months will result in a lot more noticeable activity. There will be opportunities for all sorts of people to contribute.

Reordering Progress Report

"A building that celebrates the past, lives in the present and embraces the future."

Progress During the Year

During the last year of lockdown the architects, JBKS, have been working on draft plans for Phase 1 of the reordering of the west end of the parish church. The first stage of work will replace the existing kitchen and toilet with three toilets. A new kitchen will be built in the south west corner of the nave, under the west window. The south porch will be refurbished with partially glazed doors internally and externally and the well in front of the internal doors will be filled in to be level with the nave floor. A reminder of the scope of the whole project is given below.

Proposals

The proposals for reordering are:

Phase 1

1. Replacement of the existing toilet and servery in the west end with three toilets, one of which will be accessible.
2. Relocation of the servery to a purpose-built enclosure under the west window.
3. Refurbishment of the south porch.

Phase 2

1. Removal of pews and pew platforms. Six pews to be retained and used for social seating in the aisles.
2. Laying new, level, flooring in place of the pew platforms. The tiled area at the west end and the tiled aisles will be retained.
3. Renewing the heating system.
4. Renewing the lighting in the Nave.
5. Redecoration of the Nave.
6. Purchasing new seating.

Phase 3

1. Reconfiguring the sanctuary and providing ramped access to a new dais.

What Comes Next?

Once we can safely meet together, the plans will be presented to the congregation and interested parties for discussion. If the proposals are accepted, then we will move ahead with fund raising and the preparation of a faculty.

Finance

The architect estimates that the works for Phase 1 will cost in the region of £150,000 but a more carefully costed estimate will need to be prepared before we commit to any work.

Fundraising will begin this year and a dedicated fundraising group will need to be set up. If you would like to help in this vital role, then please speak to Mervyn, Malcolm or Dick Smith.

Bellringers

Doug Hird

This was the year of Covid when there was very little ringing anywhere. During the few weeks when a limited amount of ringing could be done, we were able to ring four bells for Sunday services but that is all. At Christmas, the 1887 tune machine was put into use. The errors in Adeste Fideles were put right and O Come All Ye Faithful rang out over the town and on YouTube.

During this time, the number of ringers who ring at Newport has reduced due to natural attrition. That effect is expected to continue into next year as normal ringing is not expected to resume until the middle of 2021. At the moment we have about 5 ringers but we should have 16. The dominant activity during 2021 is expected to be in recruiting and teaching new people.

The absence of ringing has created an opportunity to carry out some jobs up the tower. Painting the bellframe has been on the quinquennial report for a while. That job is now complete, along with the painting of all the clock hammers and levers. There is still some cleaning of the belfry floor to be done as it has accumulated a lot of oil over the decades. A number of holes in the floors, remains of old clock weight mechanisms, have been made good, thus improving safety when working on the bells.

The correction of the tunes on the tune machine is progressing with 4 of the 14 now as good as they are going to be.

The flag pole is now half painted and is waiting for better weather to complete this task.

The electrical wiring remains a concern. When the belfry lights are turned on the trip blows downstairs so something is not right there. We are looking for an electrician with a head for heights. The power supply to the clock and chimes also need to be looked at so a complete re-wire is in order.

The clock and tune machine still work but the quarter and hour chimes do not. At the last service, noticeable wear in the clock was identified which will result in unreliability at some point. We are still waiting for quotes from the clock firms.

We will need a new flag soon as the old one is becoming quite tatty.

Planned Giving is a vital part of our income, and regular members of the congregation should commit to regular giving throughout the year. During the year, due to the pandemic, Planned Giving has dropped by a further £3,000 below the 2019 figure.

Recovery of Gift Aid from HMRC dropped by about £600 in 2020, but with the drop in Planned Giving and a lack of normal collections during 2020, our income in 2021 is likely to be £1,500-2,000 down on 2020 (we have to claim this in arrears).

We would welcome new members to the Stewardship scheme. We had hoped to hold a Stewardship Campaign in 2020 but that was impossible in the circumstances. It is unlikely now that we will be able to run a campaign in 2021, but if you are regular attendees at any of our services please consider joining the scheme. Contact me for further information (nppcc.treasurer@gmail.com or 01908 616508)

Events Committee**Lynda Evans**

As you can imagine, this has been a quiet year for the committee. Social Distancing has not allowed for a gathering together, though the regular weekly Zoom meetings for a coffee and chat have been most welcome for those who could take part. The 'Bring a Bloom' event came out of a general discussion at one of these meetings, as we chatted about how to mark Mothering Sunday in a year when we could not hold our usual service in church.

Members of the public were invited to place a flower in prepared vases in the Parish Church to remember all those women who have played mothering roles in our lives.

Moirra produced excellent publicity for social media and by Mothering Sunday, the Rector was able to bless a veritable flower garden at his recorded service.

The committee met for a short time in the Parish Church in November, when those present agreed to continue as members and that I continue as chair until the 2021 APCM.

Pat Hudson stood down, and we would like to thank her for her valuable experience and support.

If the 'opening up' dates remain the same as the ones given by the Prime Minister earlier this year, we will meet late May to make provisional plans for future events.

Much depends on social distancing rules and any continuing mask wearing conditions that are imposed in the months to come.

We cannot plan in detail until we know how close we can get to each other!

We are hoping at the very least to be able to reinstate some form of coffee and chat in the summer.

As soon as we are given the 'all clear', we will be back to planning the lunches, festivals, fairs, picnics and general get-togethers that play such a large part of our fellowship.

In the meantime, if you have an idea for an event that you would like to organise in the coming year, do let the committee know so that we that can support you.

Committee Members

Julie Eldridge
Lynda Evans (Chair)
Moirra Evans
Jennifer Mazzone

Beth Mackay
Brian Hunt
Dick Smith
Olwen Smith

Over the last year use of the internet has been vital in parish communication.

FACEBOOK

The Facebook page has hosted the midweek and Sunday services. We have to date:

- 274 Likes
- 308 Followers

The like counter is the number of people that have liked our Facebook page. When a new visitor likes our page, the default setting is that they also follow our page. When someone follows our page, it means that our Facebook page posts will appear on their personal Facebook feed.

The Sunday service is boosted every week at a cost of £5 a time to reach out to Christians within a 50 mile radius. This means the FB service regularly reaches over 2K people though it is difficult to assess from the View Count whether they watch for 10 seconds, 10 minutes or almost the whole service, only **complete** play-throughs are logged.

For example, February 2021:

Date	Reach	Views	Thruplays
7 Feb	2,768	1,600	417
14 Feb	2,491	1,600	432
21 Feb	2,279	1,400	416
28 Feb	2,768	1,600	417

We have also used Facebook to publicise our Service details and any other relevant information such as the Advent Memes etc.

WEBSITE

Our website (npparish.org.uk) also provides a link to our services that are hosted on our YouTube channel. We only use the YouTube channel for this purpose; it reflects the Facebook content and enables people without Facebook accounts to view the services. Using the same example as Facebook for February 2021:

Date	Views
7 Feb	29
14 Feb	23
21 Feb	25
28 Feb	17

The website also contains details about church opening, services and weekly Pews News.

Visits to the website have increased with 4,285 from March 25th 2020 to the 31st March 2021. That is roughly 350 visits per month.

ZOOM

The Parish has a Zoom account and Zoom video conferencing has enabled us to stay in touch via a weekly Parish Chat hour, plus weekly Prayer meetings and Discovery Group meetings. Additionally, a Lent Study Group ran for 4 weeks with 20 people taking part. PCC and Standing Committee meetings have taken place over Zoom as well as monthly Mothers Union meetings plus many other one to one meetings.

Pews News

This has been compiled weekly and provides a further communication avenue to parishioners. It gives details of the Sunday Service readings, intercessions, any relevant notices as well as weekly interesting and informative content. It is made available as a hard copy for those who do not use

the internet. Bill Watson is to be commended for his untiring efforts in providing this source of communication.

Emails

The Parish Administrator has kept everyone on the database up to date with regular emails providing links to Zoom meetings, details about services and other activity plus the weekly Pews News. Thanks must be expressed to Malcolm Godwin for his work in keeping everyone connected.

Publicity

Although activity has been limited over the last year we have managed to garner press coverage in the MK Citizen, Phonebox and Diocesan Social Media for our Remembrance Exhibition of painted stones and the Mother's Day Flower Display.

Home Communion

Marlene Smith

Due to the pandemic home Communion visits stopped in March 2020. We are looking forward to being able to recommence visits later in the year once it is safe to do so.

If there is someone you know who you think would like to receive home communion please speak to them, and if they consent to their details being passed on, please contact me so that I can arrange with them for an appropriate person to take them communion.

Parish Visiting

Kimonie Nicholls

Since the parish visiting team was established in January 2020 it has, sadly, not got off to a good start because of the restrictions due to the coronavirus pandemic. During the past year the team have kept in touch via a zoom meeting and are reaching out to those whom they were already visiting via telephone. It is hoped that as we come out of the various lockdown restrictions, the team will be able to re-establish regular contact with those who were having regular visits prior to the pandemic, and to develop some of the ideas they had discussed to enable them to reach out to a greater number of people who they feel may benefit from a visit.

The current team comprises: Lynda Evans, Mervyn Evans, Nick Evans (Rector), Karen Goff, Carolyn Hawkes, Brian Hunt, Beth Mackay, Pam Miller, Kimonie Nicholls (co-ordinator) and Hazel Reynolds.

Parish and St Luke's choir

Nothing to report.

Memory Club

Hazel Reynolds

The Covid-19 pandemic brought about the closure of the Brooklands Centre and our Memory Club meetings with it. There was a brief interlude during October when Brooklands reopened, subject to Covid secure precautionary measures - 2 metre social distancing, face masks, hand sanitising and extensive cleaning, and we held two Memory Club meetings which were well attended and much appreciated (more successful I gather than the 3 lunch clubs Brooklands themselves ran for a few weeks) but then we went into Tier 4, immediately followed by lockdown, and Brooklands closed again.

The Brooklands Trustees have refused to reopen the building for just the Memory Club or indeed even their own activities which support those with vulnerabilities, and the latest news is that they are unlikely to open until the end of June 2021.

Throughout lockdown the Government made exceptions for groups supporting those with particular needs, provided numbers did not exceed 15 and social distancing etc was preserved. But most venues capable of supporting groups of that size, allowing for 2 metre distancing, were firmly closed. Our temporary arrangement to use St Luke's church is only feasible because it could reopen for the use of the pre-school, and equally legitimately our vulnerable group of people affected by dementia. We had our first meeting on Monday 12th April and the 6 couples who were booked to attend were all present. We still wear face masks and socially isolate and now we have all had at least one vaccination and, in most cases, both. We all thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to meet socially and communicate with others after the long winter months of relative isolation.

Sadly, we have lost a number of our previous members; January was a bad month for falls and hospital admissions - some caught Covid, others emerged with new hips but there was no physio available so some can barely walk now; some now need nursing care; some carers simply couldn't cope any longer and those they cared for went into residential care and for some that expedited their passing. Diagnoses continue to be made, albeit with long waiting times, and we have quite a number of new members.

What is sad is how little support there has been and still is for vulnerable people of whatever age or need. As far as people affected by dementia is concerned I am reminded of what Jesus said about the harvest being plentiful but the workers being few.

2020 has been a difficult year due to the pandemic. We were saved due to a significant legacy of £80,163. We also received a small legacy of £1,000.

Planned Giving was over £3,000 down on the previous year, although the Standing Orders kept coming in but Stewardship Envelopes were sporadic because services were suspended for a large part of the year. Fortunately, many members caught up with their envelope giving when services restarted but there were a number who have never returned to services because they have been self-isolating and we lost their income. Collections however were not as lucky and the lack of services saw a drop of £7,000. Our Tax Recovery dropped slightly as anticipated because we receive that a year in arrears, but this year will see a significant drop with the drop in Planned Giving and the drop in GASD due to the lack of collections. All other income (excluding the legacy) were down. Income from Fees (Weddings and Funerals) was also down because we only had 1 wedding and few funerals in church. Fortunately 3 Castle Meadow Close had a tenant throughout the year and that boosted our income by £7,000 above 2019, but our other rental income was reduced by the same amount and there were no Events so that income was lost.

Fortunately, due to the lack of services some of our Expenditure decreased significantly as well. Although we still had to pay Insurance and Water Rates, heating and lighting was slightly reduced, and we had little costs for organists during the period. Vestry Costs were also significantly reduced. Fabric Costs were also significantly reduced as there were no major projects during the year. The PCC continued its support of Outside Charities despite the situation as many of these charities have also struggled financially but we are not a poor parish and felt we should support them in these difficult times.

Our investments this year saw an increase of £62,000 but most of that was from £50,000 put in a new investment from the legacy we received.

Overall we showed a surplus of £13,750, but if you discount the income from the legacy we really made a loss of about £16,000. Things haven't improved since the start of 2021 so I anticipate a significant loss this year.

Reg Wright has continued to undertake the independent examination of the accounts this year, and I would like to thank him for his work. The PCC approved the accounts at the PCC meeting on 19 April.

We hope to progress the Re-ordering Project in 2021 but that will require significant Fundraising to cover the costs.

Appendix 1

Accounts

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF THE PARISH OF NEWPORT PAGNELL

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PCC AND THE EXAMINER

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under Section 145 of the 2011 Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 act and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF THIS REPORT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the 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 you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on these accounts.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirement
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records 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.



REGINALD. G. WRIGHT
1 Severn Drive
NEWPORT PAGNELL

NEWPORT PAGNELL PCC ANNUAL INSPECTION OF 2020 ACCOUNTS

INTRODUCTION

Receipts and payments accounting has again been used for the 2020 accounts. I am satisfied that the Charity's income level is within the limit for this method of accounting to be appropriate.

PROBITY MATTERS

1. Bank balance statements, investment statements, dividends and interest were checked and found to be correctly recorded.
2. All invoices were examined for correct approval, relevance and reasonableness.
3. A check on collections proved satisfactory all being properly recorded and timely banked.
4. Planned giving has been correctly recorded and gift aid tax recovery checked.

POINTS ARISING

I have not found anything that requires noting or further investigation by the PCC.

OTHER MATTERS

I wish my thanks to be recorded to your treasurer Dick Smith for his full cooperation and helpful assistance in this examination.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R.G. Wright', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Reginald G. Wright
1 Severn Drive
NEWPORT PAGNELL