

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MATTHEW'S, HARWELL

England & Wales · Charity number 1158861

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2014-10-14
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	11 Hoopswell Harwell Didcot Oxfordshire OX11 0FU
Phone	01235221030
Email	office@harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk
Website	http://www.harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk/

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 christianity through sermons, small groups and courses-Taking of religious assemblies in schools-Promoting the whole mission of the church through provision of activities for older people, and parents and toddlers

Classification

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

Geography

- Oxfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£125,195	£129,083	-	-
2024-12-31	£117,497	£127,352	-	-
2023-12-31	£102,804	£113,653	-	-
2022-12-31	£140,948	£116,031	-	-
2021-12-31	£109,719	£110,080	-	-
2020-12-31	£116,555	£151,822	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Adrian Bollon		2024-05-19
Adrian Rance-McGregor		2024-05-19
DR TONY HUGHES		2018-04-29
Elizabeth Clarke		2023-04-16
Jane Wooley		2026-04-19
REBECCA LYNNE LEWIS		2017-05-30
REV PAM ROLLS BA		2010-07-04
Rev Janet Radford		2014-07-01
Rev Jeremy Douglas Adam Parsons		2023-05-22
Roger Mawle		2026-04-19
Stephen Manning		2024-05-19

Accounts



ANNUAL REPORT

ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH HARWELL

2025



Website: harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk

Registered Charity 115886

Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Review of the Year – Benefice Activities	4-11
2.1 Main events including Baptisms, Weddings and Funeral Statistics	4-5
2.2 Children, Youth and Families	5-6
2.3 Discipleship, Pastoral, Social and Community Activities	7-12
2.4 World Mission	12 -13
3. Governance and Structure	13-16
4. Finance Report	17-18
5. Buildings Report	18-20
Appendix 1 Administrative Information	21
Appendix 2 St Matthew’s Church Membership	21
Appendix 3 St Matthew’s PCC Membership	22

1. Introduction

This is the annual report of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for St Matthew's Church Harwell, Oxfordshire. It covers the last financial accounting year, which was the calendar year ending 31st December 2025.

This report was approved by the PCC at its meeting on 17th March 2026, and is signed on their behalf by the Vice-Chair of the PCC, Dr Antony Hughes, as the Rector, Jeremy Parsons , has voluntarily decided to step back from ministry at this time.

Signature.....

Date

2. Review of the Year – Benefice Activities

2.1 Main events including Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals statistics

Each year St Matthew's has a Remembrance Service at the War Memorial in the Village and this year we had a special addition. The Women's Institute decided to make our own poppy carpet, helped by others in the Village. Box after box of knitted or crochet poppies arrived and were added to the carpet. On the day, it was laid out on the grass bank beside the Memorial for the Service, and then carried by the Scouts on poles to St Matthew's for Sunday Worship. Working on this carpet brought the Village together and is a fitting tribute to those whose graves lie in the Commonwealth War Grave section of our Cemetery. A photograph of the carpet is on the front of this Report.

The Sunday morning service at All Saints' takes place in the church at 9.30am. It was agreed at the July PCC meeting that there would be no service in the church on the second Sunday of the month, except when it coincided with special Sundays like Remembrance; the church congregation would join the Village Hall service at 10.30am.

A Gift Service was held at both churches in November, where shoe boxes filled with items for severely injured Ukrainian soldiers were brought, and placed around the Altar. There were around 120 boxes from Harwell and Chilton, together with another 54 from Kidlington, which were then delivered to a warehouse in Croydon. From there, they were transported by lorry to Ukraine, in time for Christmas. The team, headed by Ben from Kidlington and Tilda from Sweden, then collected the gifts and arranged for their distribution.

The beautifully wrapped boxes were delivered to severely wounded soldiers in hospitals in Eastern Ukraine; we had also sent chocolates for medics and hospital staff. It was hugely successful, with an English Santa Claus personally in attendance, and the gifts were very warmly received by the soldiers. For these men and women, the presents also served as a reminder to them that someone was thinking about them, and that they are not forgotten.

Once again, we supported the residents of the Oxford Womens Refuge at Christmas by asking congregants to donate new toys for any children staying at the Refuge with their mother. These donations were brought to the 'Toy service' on Sunday 30 November and then delivered to a Refuge worker. This enables

the mothers to give their children gifts on Christmas day which they might otherwise struggle to do. It also reminds families that they are not alone and that there is a wider community standing alongside them

Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals

	St Matthew's Harwell			All Saints' Chilton		
	2025	2024	2023	2025	2024	2023
Baptisms	6	10	8	2	6	2
Thanksgivings for a child	0	0	1	0	0	0
Weddings and Blessings	4	0	1 + 1B	2	0	2
Funerals in church	3	8	14	2	4	1
Thanksgiving services in church	0	0	0	0	0	4
Funerals at crematoria	2	0	4	1	0	1
Interments of ashes	0	1	0	5	4	5

2.2. Children, Youth and Family Work

At the March PCC meeting the Children, Young People and Families Oversight Group was endorsed by the PCC. This group has worked hard to advance the ministry to the younger members of our church community in the absence of a Children and Families Worker.

Sundays

Groups for our children and young people continued to meet twice a month at St Matthew's Harwell. CYPF Volunteers led and helped at Kids' Church and Pathfinders groups, meeting with 15-20 young people across the pre-school/primary and secondary age groups. St Matthew's vestry was also open to toddlers during these services, with Fledglings' toys available to play with. The Chilton Village Hall service continued to meet monthly run by CYPF volunteers. It attracted families who do not attend other services in the Benefice. More people from the All Saints' congregation now join the service as the 9.30 service

is now not held on the second Sunday of the month. It has been a joy to join and worship God together. On average, there were 45 adults and 24 children at the monthly Interactive services in the Chilton Village Hall.

All Age services

Six All Age services were led by a team including Rob and Marilyn Thomas, Sarah and Roger Mawle, Jan Radford, Helen Brook and Sarah Barrett. These explored some of the parables in more creative and engaging ways, and alternated between St Matthew's and All Saints' churches. At the end of the year the team decided the services were too much to continue with in addition to the rest of their volunteering roles.

Fledgelings

This baby and toddler group continued to run on Monday mornings at St Matthew's Harwell, and Wednesday morning in Chilton Community Room on Chilton Field during term time. While many families regularly come each week, there are always new faces to welcome, coming because they had heard about the group from others. Each week there is a new craft activity, plenty of toys, a snack, and a time of songs and bible story. Sadly, towards the end of the year, the numbers coming to Chilton Fledgelings dwindled, and it was decided not to continue the group there in 2026.

Youth Fellowship (YF) Groups

CYPF Volunteers, Sarah Barrett, Tim Brook and Roger Mawle have kept this popular youth group running fortnightly during term time in the absence of a CYF Worker. They met in the Church Hall on Sunday evenings engaging in a range of games and activities exploring the Christian faith in a fun and relaxed way, with an older group meeting later, on a Sunday evening. They also attended the St Aldates' youth day, and will do so again this year, had a Christmas celebration at Kaspas, and held the Easter Vigil on Easter Saturday night into Easter Sunday.

Youth Trust

We have been unable to work with Echo as we have done in previous years due to the CYF Worker post remaining vacant. Sarah Barrett has been in regular contact with Hannah Field and has continued to provide two CYF volunteers at Echo events. We also continued to advertise their events, Youth Café and Soul Sport sessions to our Church community. The Youth Café often has around 100 young people attending.

CYPF Events

We held a Light Party in October half term and Becca Lewis led the Christmas tree decorating at St Matthew's.

2.3 Discipleship, Pastoral, Social and Community Activities

Home groups play an important part in nurturing the spiritual development and pastoral care of church members. These groups meet regularly (usually weekly) to read the Bible together, to pray, and to support one another in the Christian life. Most groups have members from both parishes. There are groups meeting in the mornings, afternoons and evenings, covering all ages, from parents with toddlers to those who are retired.

In Chilton, there are three groups. One group for Mums and pre-school children and babies meets every Tuesday morning in term-time in a home in Chilton. There are 12 Mums who regularly come and 6 toddlers/pre-schoolers plus 2 new-borns who will join soon. Most of the contacts originally came from Fledglings. Generally, those who attend live in Chilton, Harwell and GWP and some of those people go to other churches in and around Chilton including Didcot churches. Jean Barton also attends this group. They often use Scripture Union thematic Bible studies but have also used Advent courses, Lent courses, The Alpha Course and Christianity Explored. The group has been meeting regularly, bar during Covid, since about 2017.

Two adult groups meet in the same home on Wednesday afternoons and evenings in term time. The afternoon group has 9 members and the evening group has about 7 members who share the leading of their studies. In 2025, these studies included reading Mark's gospel using a recording by David Suchet. This was followed by a study of Luke's gospel using resources written by Tom Wright. In Lent the groups engaged with 'Come and See', produced by the Diocese of Oxford, which contained teaching by Bishop Steven on baptism. In Advent, the groups studied 'The One True Light' by Tim Chester, along with several other home groups in the Benefice.

Around 40 people in Harwell, meet together in 5 Home groups, either weekly or fortnightly, for worship, fellowship, Bible study and prayer. Sometimes home groups will follow a study guide that focuses on a book of the Bible or a subject area, with questions to grapple with; other times, we use the lectionary readings as a starting point for discussion. Prayer, for one another, our community, churches and mission partners, and for wider national and international events,

is also an important element. Additionally, home groups provide friendship and an opportunity to get to know a smaller group of people better, and offer mutual practical and emotional support as needs arise.

Home group leaders from Harewell and Chilton, meet together every 2-3 months to share what we are all studying and to pray for our groups. We would love to hear from anyone who would be interested in joining a home group, and would try to match people to a suitable group

The *Pastoral Care* teams, and many individual members of our Churches, visit parishioners in their homes and offer a loving Christian presence and a listening ear to those who are ill, bereaved or who feel lonely. There is a Pastoral Care Team in each parish.

In Chilton, the team operates under the leadership of Pat Moseley who is joined by five other lay members plus the Associate Ministers. Some villagers already receive wonderful emotional and/or practical support from their friends and families on those (hopefully rare) occasions when such care is necessary. Other folk need reassurance of the Love of God and that “underneath are the everlasting arms”. Home visits, the Oasis Cafe and the village Warm Welcome Cafe also provide opportunities for the Team to provide pastoral care to our neighbours.

In Harwell, the team continued to support individuals in the congregation and community throughout the year, including giving lifts on a regular basis. Some of the team help with the Harwellcome in the Harwellian on a Thursday under the leadership of Elaine Shrimpton and some come regularly to the monthly coffee morning in church. Some help at Fledglings. We organised a Bring and Share lunch for Joan Impey’s 90th birthday to thank her for her long and dedicated ministry in our two churches. We meet every two months for prayer and discussion and for mutual encouragement and support; and in July this year the Harwell and Chilton teams met in Harwell for afternoon tea, which was an encouraging and enjoyable time. We continue to use the monthly prayer diary in our personal prayers along with members of the congregation.

Home Communion is offered to those parishioners who are not very mobile – particularly around Easter and Christmas but can be provided at any time. In Harwell, a member of the team provides communion to three groups of

parishioners. Our Churches also have a small team of ministers who take Communion to the new care home, Oxford Manor, in Harwell parish.

Generation Gold services, initiated by Revd Jan Radford and Revd Pam Rolls in 2015, were continued in 2025 for people of retirement age (although we interpret this loosely). The theme for the year was 'The Generosity and Provision of God' and we reflected in our quarterly services on God's generosity through the ages - including Jesus feeding 5,000 people, Jesus turning water into wine at the Wedding of Cana, God providing manna and quail to the Israelites in the wilderness and God's gift of Jesus.

We are very grateful to a willing band of helpers who assisted throughout the year with delivering invitations, catering, and playing the piano and organ, and to the generous people whose donations made our special treats and reverse collections possible. Plans are now in hand for Generation Gold for 2026 where we will be reflecting on the theme 'Unexpected Invitations'.

The *All Saints' Group* continues to meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.45pm in All Saints' Church. It is a friendly, small mixed group; new members and visitors are always welcome. During 2025, they have had speakers from Standing With Giants (who create large-scale outdoor art installations to remember those who fought for freedom), Bridewell Gardens (a mental health charity providing social and therapeutic horticulture in a working garden to adults living in Oxfordshire) and Family of Hope (a school in Uganda for children and young people with special educational needs who would otherwise not have schooling). Group members and Church members gave interesting talks on Maundy money, life as a Parish Clerk, moths and church bells (with the opportunity to ring one of the bells at the Church). They had a visit to Bridewell Gardens and evenings examining the artefacts from a box on loan from Oxfordshire Museum and reminiscing on their school days.

The Group supports the wonderful Chilton villagers who have continued to hold the monthly Charity market on Crafts End Green, raising the fantastic total of £12,941 in 2025 for various charities, local groups and good causes. The Group also supports Judy Goodall's charity quiz sheets (which this year have raised a great total of £872 for various charities) and the Warm Welcome Café (which is held every Tuesday 11am to 2pm in the Morris Room in the Village Hall).

Both our churches have continued to collect non-perishable food for *Didcot*

Emergency Foodbank throughout the year, with a special collection in both churches at Harvest time. During 2025, the need for the Foodbank continued to be more crucial as households struggled with the cost of living.

The Benefice continues to be a partner church of the *Didcot and Wallingford Area CAP (Christians Against Poverty)* Debt Centre, who celebrated ten years of the Centre in January 2025 and over 100 debt free clients during those years. As well as supporting the Debt Centre financially, members of the churches also volunteer supporting clients in their journey out of debt. The Centre is very grateful for the Christmas gifts and treats that the congregations provided for the nine families in Chilton and Harwell being helped by CAP. The number of people who became debt free in 2025 totalled 11, bringing the total to 105.

The committed Money Coaches continued to run *Money Coaching* in Didcot Baptist Church and Community Station Didcot, as well as online, if required. The new style course was delivered to six people helping them with budgeting and managing their money.

The *Oasis Café* continues to meet at All Saints' Church on most third Saturdays of the month between 10.00am and 12.00 noon, and is free to all comers. On average between 20 and 25 people enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a friendly chat in relaxed surrounding

The Community Cafe at St Matthew's meets on the first Thursday in the month at 10.30am in the morning at St Matthews Church Harwell. It is free but people like to give a donation for coffee, tea and home make cakes. Any money collected goes to CAP via the Church treasurer. We are a very informal group, and everyone is welcome.

Harwellcome Community Café restarted in September 2025 after the summer break. We aim to run until the end of May 2026 in this current series of sessions. The café continues to operate from and in conjunction with the Harwellian Club on Thursday afternoons from 2-4pm. The café is manned with a mixture of church and community volunteers, at least 2 per session. They are there to welcome people and facilitate conversations, as needed. We continue to pay for a member of Harwellian staff who serves the refreshments and also makes people feel welcome.

We have been blessed to have been awarded grants from 3 organisations this year;

- Soha Housing Community Fund

- Harwell Feast
- Connected Communities Fund – managed by Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action

These enable us to continue to offer a warm and inviting place for people to meet and to be able to enjoy free refreshments of tea, coffee and cake. People can meet friends and make new friends and connections, which benefit health and well-being. We have our regular scrabble table and other groups playing games but most people just love to chat.

There is a mixture of regulars and new people coming to the café. The attendees are from Harwell, Didcot, the villages around and occasionally from further afield. We regularly welcome 25-35 attending mostly older persons but sometimes mums with babies or family groups. The last session before Christmas saw the largest number of participants when our churches facilitated a carol singing session. This was extremely well received and enjoyed by all. The only other special session we have currently planned this year is a Scam Awareness talk by Age UK.

We continue to collect feedback as required in respect of the grant funding. One of the things we are obliged to collect is sentiment about the café - whether it has made a positive difference to attendee's lives. Every week many visitors tell us that it has made a positive difference. They comment that there is a warm welcome and that they enjoy meeting others for a chat.

The café continues to be a place where St Matthews' Church family can be working alongside the wider community to serve the community. We can with God's help show love, care and interest in respect of those that join us and facilitate good connections and conversations.

The vision for *Saturday Sanctuary* is to provide a space where all women can gather, have time to chat, breathe and feel cherished. It aims to feed everyone physically, emotionally and spiritually. There is delicious food and usually a glass of bubbles in a beautiful environment. We have lots of time for conversation and then a short testimony or thought to feed us spiritually and a time for silence to allow everyone to breathe, paint nails, write a note, do some colouring and encounter Jesus. We had a chilli night in January 2025, breakfast in April, and afternoon tea in September and February. These events have been popular and positively received by the women in our church family from both parishes. We also held two Saturday Soak events in July and November where we could all

spend more time soaking with Jesus. This was for women from our churches to have an evening of encountering Jesus through worship, dwelling in the word and sharing what we felt Jesus was saying to us. We finished with tea and brownies. We had between 15-20 at each event.

2.4 World Mission

The World Mission Group seeks to promote the engagement of our churches with World Mission and proposes to each PCC how each church could spend its world mission budget.

We focus our World Mission financial support and prayer around the Anglican Five Marks of Mission. The Marks and the corresponding organisations are:

- 1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom:** Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). The work of MAF enables mission workers to reach difficult and isolated places to share Christianity.
- 2. To teach, baptize and nurture new believers:** Scripture Union (SU). Through Bible studies, resources and camps, SU aims to share the Christian faith, and to disciple children and young people in particular.
- 3. To respond to human need by loving service:** The Leprosy Mission (TLM). TLM diagnoses, treats and offers specialist care such as reconstructive surgery, as well as rehabilitation programmes and health education in communities.
- 4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation.** Chris and Suzy Wilson are mission partners for Church Mission Society (CMS) and are based in Ethiopia and South Sudan. They work with a project that aims to equip and encourage churches in conflict-affected regions to actively work for peace.
- 5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the Earth:** ARocha a Christian conservation organisation which works in the UK and internationally.

During 2025, we continued to support financially several organisations in line with the 5 marks of mission; MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship), Scripture Union, The Leprosy Mission and ARocha.

We also continued to support financially individual mission partners: Chris and Suzy Wilson who are with Church Mission Society in Ethiopia and Endri and Dyshi Tabacu of The Light of the World church in Albania.

The three members of the world mission group have met together during 2025. The group would love more people to join if you have a heart for world mission

3. Governance and Structure

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

St Matthew's, Harwell and All Saints', Chilton each has its own PCC. St Matthews's PCC met four times and All Saints' PCC met three times in 2025

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules (2022). The membership of the PCC consists of all clergy licensed to the Benefice, Churchwardens, Deanery Synod members and other lay members elected by those on the Electoral Roll of the Church. All those who attend our services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election for the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the Parish, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

Given its wide responsibilities, PCC operate through several committees. Each committee deals with a particular aspect of Parish life. The committees report back regularly at PCC meetings, with minutes of their meetings or their decisions and recommendations being received, and discussed as necessary. The Rector is automatically a member of every committee.

The Standing Committees of St Matthew's and All Saints' are the only committees required by Church law. They meet to set PCC agendas and, occasionally, when there are urgent decisions to be made, between PCC meetings. They consist of the Clergy, Churchwardens and the Treasurer plus the Vice-chair and the Secretary. St Matthew's and All Saints' Standing Committees

met ten times in 2025.

Combined PCC

For efficiency and convenience St Matthew's, Harwell PCC and All Saints', Chilton PCC regularly hold Combined PCC meetings, where members of the two PCCs come together to discuss matters that are common to both parishes. Meetings of the Joint PCC (see below) are held as part of Combined PCC meetings. As such, voting by Joint PCC members on any decisions required by the Joint PCC generally follows discussion by the Combined PCC. The Combined PCC met twice during 2025, on Zoom.

Joint PCC

The Pastoral Measure provides for a Joint PCC in addition to the separate PCCs of our two Churches. It comprises the Benefice clergy, Churchwardens and the Treasurer plus the Vice-chair and the Secretary of each PCC.

The two PCCs can agree to place in the hands of the Joint PCC any matters involving both parishes. So far, the PCCs have delegated responsibility for the following matters to the Joint PCC:

- Safeguarding
- Staffing
- Data compliance.

Safeguarding

As always: "Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility"

Safeguarding is managed at Benefice level, currently by Judy Gold from Chilton Parish and Sue Greatbanks from Harwell Parish. Both Safeguarding Officers have continued to work together and regularly meet to discuss progress and future action necessary to continue our service in accordance with our Safeguarding Policy, an updated copy of which is submitted hereto for approval and signature. This will be loaded onto the website and annually reviewed.

DBS Checks

You will all now be aware that our former provider for DBS applications, APCS suffered a data breach in August last year. No volunteers in Chilton were

affected but unfortunately a few volunteers in Harwell were affected. As a result of this data breach, and under guidance from Church House, and with approval from both PCCs we are to change our provider to Verifile Ltd.

Until now we have continued with DBS applications for new volunteers and carried out renewal applications for volunteers whose certificates have expired. However we must wait now until Adoption Agreements for each parish appointing Verifile as our new provider are approved and signed by the PCCs. These will then be sent to Church House who wish to have sight of them.

We understand that every DBS application to Verifile will incur a charge for volunteers and to keep our costs as low as possible we want to stress the importance of the Update Service. This is a government organisation with a national record of all DBS certificates. Once an individual is registered with them (and registration is free for volunteers) each volunteer will be contacted by them every three years and invited to renew their DBS for a further three years free of charge.

Finally both Sue and Judy will need training on the Verifile system

Children's and Families Worker

Currently we have no Children's and Families worker in either parish and we regret this. However we are aware that efforts are being made to recruit one. The Children's Interactive Services in both villages have been very successful and we praise the time and effort given by volunteers to plan and produce these events and make them so well attended.

We also appreciate the All Age services in Church as again these were well staged and appealed to the whole congregation.

Training

Safeguarding training should be completed every three years by PCC members and volunteers working with children. We are pleased to report that this is generally up to date and is something we need to monitor. Since last year it has been mandatory for all bellringers to attend the online Basic Awareness course and we have advised both head bell ringers of this.

It has been suggested that the safeguarding programme 'I Know Safeguarding' could be purchased soon. This would enable us to record any safeguarding incidents that might arise in the future. Both Sue and Judy would need training on the package before being able to use it.

Dashboard

In accordance with Level 3 of the Dashboard the PCC members need to approve annually an up-to-date Action Plan setting out safer activities and safer practices. A draft copy has been supplied to us by the Diocese and will be presented later for consideration.

Any Church member who would like to view the Safeguarding Dashboard please contact Judy Gold on jgold2@btinternet.com or Sue Greatbanks on suegbs48@gmail.com

Pastoral Care

We understand that pastoral care teams under their leaders are working very well in both villages.

Judy Gold and Sue Greatbanks

Safeguarding Officers for St Matthews Harwell and All Saints Chilton

Staffing

The Benefice employs an Administrator working 20 hours a week. We are seeking a new Children and Families Worker. The role was covered, by volunteers in 2025.

Staffing matters are overseen by the Benefice employment committee, which is concerned with meeting the statutory regulations around employment, ensuring that performance assessment and development of staff employed by the PCCs is carried out, and seeing that recruitment procedures are correctly followed.

Data Compliance

In 2025, we have continued to work to ensure that our Churches are compliant with current national data governance legislation in the form of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

Governance Review

A review of the Benefice Governance was carried out by the Rector, Stephen Manning (Church Warden, St Matthew's) and an independent consultant, Geoff Maughan during the year. A Report was received by the PCCs towards the end of the year which included 25 recommendations for improvement. The Report and recommendations were accepted by both Harwell and Chilton PCCs and work on implementing them began in December.

4. Finance Report for St Matthew's Church

The PCC has the significant responsibility of setting the budget and monitoring the income and expenditure of the church. This task is carried out by the Finance Committee, which reviews in detail the different purposes of the expenditure, as well as the different forms of income and giving to the church.

Total unrestricted receipts during 2025 was £104,284, a large increase on the previous year's receipts of £81,795, primarily due to an increase in giving as a result of the stewardship campaign and a significant increase in receipts resulting from the use of the Church Hall by Wildflowers Nursery.

Total unrestricted payments increased slightly from £107,830 to £110,993, this is mainly due to an increase in the Parish share. However, in 2025 there was a net gain in unrestricted funds of £21,361, largely as a result of the PCC decision to undesignate £24,634 of Designated Funds and transfer them to Unrestricted Funds. Consequently, the unrestricted funds carried forward to 2026 are £20,736. The increase in unrestricted funds means we are now close to the required level set by our reserves policy (see below).

The designated and restricted funds established in 2024 to handle short term grants and funding for the Church Hall improvements were fully utilised in 2025 and the Wildflowers Nursery started using the Hall from the end of March 2025. As a result, the Church Hall is now making a positive contribution to church funds.

The value of the designated funds fell from £45,144 to £20,258 in the year, largely as a result of undesignating some funds and releasing them to the General fund. The two remaining funds are the Roof Repair fund and the Mission Giving fund.

The overall value of the restricted funds at the year-end was £78,456, a very small decrease during the year. The single largest restricted fund remains the Children and Families Worker extension fund which stood at £59,602 at the end of the year. The other two significant restricted funds are the sound system and

the outreach fund, both of which decreased slightly in the year as a result of payments being made.

In summary, while we have had a satisfactory year there was a small decrease in the overall level of balances being held, despite the efforts made during the year to increase the level of giving. Considering the age profile of our committed regular givers, we need to continue regular stewardship campaigns if our level of giving is to keep pace with the increased level of payments.

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance in unrestricted funds (reserves) which equates to at least two months general running costs and an additional one month's salary costs. This is currently equivalent to £19,000. It is also our policy to hold an amount equivalent to the Excess on our insurance policy and an amount for the costs of the next quinquennial inspection. This amounts to an additional £2,000. These reserves are held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies.

5. St Matthew's Buildings

The PCC is charged with the care, maintenance and insurance of the church buildings, including St Matthew's Church Hall. The property and movable goods of the church are vested in the Churchwardens, who are also responsible for inspecting the fabric of the church and making an annual report (the Fabric Report), first to the PCC and then to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

The PCC is also concerned with developing our buildings to accommodate our own activities more effectively, and to enable us to connect better with and serve the wider community. A key aim is to have a main church building that is flexible, comfortable, and accessible, whilst maintaining and even enhancing its beauty.

St Matthew's church building

St Matthew's church is a Grade 1 listed building, parts of which date back to 1190. It is kept in a good state of repair by the **Buildings Committee** and other volunteers. Some of this work is maintenance and general repairs that continue in a very similar fashion year in year out. In addition, the church is cleaned

regularly by a combination of a paid cleaner and a small faithful team of volunteers.

The Buildings Committee maintains an **Action List** of ongoing tasks. The Church Architect carried out the **Quinquennial Inspection** of the Church building in June 2021. The recommendations are being followed up and where relevant have been incorporated in the Action List. The overall condition of the church building is good and the Architect in his report commented '*It is clear....that the PCC take a great deal of care and pride in looking after the fabric of this Church*'.

The detailed Fabric Report by the Churchwardens is provided in a separate document.

The following are examples of work carried out during the last year.

- A defibrillator has been installed next to the church porch, with a donation made in memory of the late Dennis Lay.
- The Buildings Committee has continued to investigate options for permanent wiring for the floodlights and had discussions with the Church Architect and a firm of consultants in June 2025. From these it became evident that for a satisfactory system the cost would be at least £7,000. Floodlighting will therefore be put together with other options for improvements to the church building that are intended for an 'Away Day' discussion sometime in 2026.
- The lower sections of the internal walls of the north transept have been re-rendered.
- The old clock mechanism and cabinet have been moved from the extension to the east area behind organ. The Buildings Committee is considering where the mechanisms could be put on permanent display in the church.



The defibrillator near the porch
Re-rendering in progress in the north transept

Photos: Tony Hughes

The **Friends of St Matthew's** scheme to stimulate interest in the church building, and ultimately help to provide for the costs of keeping it in good order, has continued in 2025 through a Facebook page: www.facebook.com/HarwellChurchFriends. This is aimed particularly at descendants of the Harwell family lineage in the USA. The Facebook page has had a lot of visits and interest and consideration continues as to how this interest can be used to increase donations to help with the cost of maintenance of the church.

St Matthew's Church Hall

The Church Hall is now run by its own Management Committee, accountable to the PCC.

Following installation of new lighting in late 2024, the main hall was re-decorated and special panels installed on the walls and ceiling to improve the acoustics. An energy survey was carried out with a grant from VWHDC, and other repairs and improvements made to prepare for use of the hall five days a week by the Wildflowers Montessori Nursery and Pre-school.

Wildflowers started at the end of March 2025 and is now in full operation. The Nursery commissioned a Fire Safety inspection and the recommendations are being followed up by the Nursery itself (where they relate to its operations) and by the Hall Management Committee where they relate to the facilities of the Hall.

In addition to use by Wildflowers, there is on average one booking each weekend (via the joint booking system now in place with the Harwell Village Hall), one evening yoga class per week and Youth Fellowship on some Sundays.

.

Appendix 1 – Administrative Information

The correspondence address for the Rector is:

The Rectory
Church Lane
Harwell, Didcot
OX11 0EZ

The Independent Examiner of St Matthew's PCC Financial Accounts is:

Graham Beith

Five Corners
The Barrow
Harwell
OXON

Appendix 2: St Matthew's Church Membership

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll stood at 96 in April 2025, compared to 89 in April 2024.

Appendix 3 -St Matthew's PCC Membership

During 2025, the membership of St Matthew's PCC has been:

Clergy

- Revd Jeremy Parsons
- Revd Pam Rolls (Associate Minister)
- Revd Janet Radford (Assistant Minister)
- Revd Sasha Reeves (Curate)

Churchwarden

- Stephen Manning

Elected Deanery Synod representative

Adrian Bollon (from September 2025)

Other Elected representatives

- Tony Hughes (Vice-Chair)
- Elizabeth Clarke (Secretary)
- Nick Clarke (Treasurer)
- Rebecca Lewis
- Adrian Rance- McGregor
- Adrian Bollon

Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St. Matthew's, Harwell

I report to the Parochial Church Council on my examination of the accounts of St Matthew's, Harwell for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- (i) accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (ii) the accounts do not accord with those records.

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



Graham Beith
Five Corners
The Barrow
Harwell
OXON

Date:

3/4 / 2026

St. Matthew's Church, Harwell
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

Receipts & Payments Account

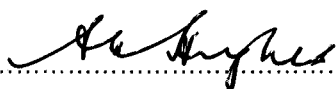
	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Receipts					
Voluntary Receipts					
Planned Giving (note 5a)	58,152			58,152	52,144
Collections at Services	2,328			2,328	1,641
Collections at Community Buildings	548			548	523
Other voluntary receipts (note 5b)	11,361	0	15,375	26,736	25,519
Non-recurring income (note 5c)	0	0	500	500	5,315
Gift Aid received	14,110		25	14,135	15,486
Investment income (note 5d)	4,576			4,576	5,327
Receipts from Church activities (note 5e)	13,209	0	5,011	18,220	11,542
Total Receipts	104,284	0	20,911	125,195	117,497
Payments					
Church Activities					
Diocesan Parish Share	51,920			51,920	48,902
Ministry (note 5f)	17,509	0	2,100	19,609	23,323
Maintenance, Utilities & Insurance (note 5g)	23,608	2,752	4,676	31,036	27,772
Administration & Stationery (note 5h)	6,191	0	0	6,191	5,168
Missions & Charities	7,071			7,071	6,999
Other (note 5i)	4,694	0	8,562	13,256	15,188
Total Payments	110,993	2,752	15,338	129,083	127,352
Excess of Receipts over Payments	-6,709	-2,752	5,573	-3,888	-9,855
Transfers Between Funds	28,070	-22,134	-5,936	0	0
Excess of Receipts over Payments after Transfers	21,361	-24,886	-363	-3,888	-9,855
Cash and Bank current and deposit accounts 1 Jan	-625	45,144	78,819	123,338	133,193
Excess receipts over payments after transfers	21,361	-24,886	-363	-3,888	-9,855
Cash and Bank current and deposit accounts 31 Dec	20,736	20,258	78,456	119,450	123,338

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Cash Funds					
Cash	81			81	31
Bank Current and Deposit Accounts	20,655	2,504		23,159	31,262
CBF Deposit Account		17,754	78,456	96,210	92,045
Total Cash Funds	20,736	20,258	78,456	119,450	123,338
Debtors					
Gift Aid recoverable	1,911			1,911	1,846
Total Debtors	1,911	0	0	1,911	1,846
Assets Retained for Church Use					
Church Hall (note 2)				137,644	137,644
Liabilities				0	
Total Liabilities	0	0	0	0	

The attached notes on pages 4 to 6 form part of these financial statements.

These financial statements were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 17/3, 2026
and signed on their behalf by



Chairman



Jeremy Parsons



Trustee (and Treasurer)

Nick Clarke

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 asset retained for church use is the Church Hall, built in 1994, at cost.
- 3 It is the policy of this church to hold in reserves the equivalent of two months general running costs and an additional one month's salary costs. It is also our policy to hold an amount equivalent to the Excess on our insurance policy and an amount for costs arising from the next quinquennial inspection.
- 4 Movements in designated and restricted funds (including tax reclaimed where applicable as part of income) over the year were:

	Bal B/fwd £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfer £	Bal C/fwd £
Designated					
Legacies	25,134		500	-24,634	0
Church Hall Project	2,252		2,252		0
Roof Repair Fund	5,070			6,000	11,070
Mission Giving Legacies	9,188				9,188
Insurance reserve and excess	3,500			-3,500	0
	<u>45,144</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,752</u>	<u>-22,134</u>	<u>20,258</u>
Restricted					
Assorted Collections	1,144	420	420	-1,144	0
Bells	2,025	2,721	3,276		1,470
CAP Money Course	479		209		270
CAP Centre	0	152	152		0
CFW extension fund	56,929	6,170		-3,497	59,602
Chilton joint account	0	3,338	3,338		0
Christmas Together	795				795
Church Fabric/Redecoration	1,000	860		-860	1,000
Church/Hall Deposits	200		200		0
Church Hall Grants	1,365		1,365		0
Defibrillator	0	3,000	2,077		923
Fledglings Garden Fund	35		35		0
Generation Gold	597	20	225		392
Harwellcome Café	0	1,157			1,157
Memorial Fund	526				526
ODBF Fees	702	1,673	2,375		0
Organ Repair Fund	1,302				1,302
Outreach	7,309	1,400	1,529	-435	6,745
Rector's Discretionary fund	386				386
Sound System Upgrade	4,025		137		3,888
	<u>78,819</u>	<u>20,911</u>	<u>15,338</u>	<u>-5,936</u>	<u>78,456</u>

5 Receipts and Payments Analysis (Receipts exclude Gift Aid received)

Receipts	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
(a) Planned Giving					
Gift-aided Planned Giving	54,936			54,936	48,918
Other Planned Giving	3,216			3,216	3,226
Total Planned Giving	58,152	0	0	58,152	52,144
(b) Other Giving and Donations					
General	11,361			11,361	5,073
Assorted Collections			420	420	1,954
Bells			2,696	2,696	2,025
CAP Centre			152	152	292
Roof Repair Fund				0	70
CFW Extension			6,170	6,170	8,860
Defibrillator			3,000	3,000	
Harwellcome Café			657	657	0
Church Fabric/Redecoration			860	860	800
Didcot Foodbank				0	250
Generation Gold			20	20	275
Outreach			1,400	1,400	4,720
Sound System Upgrade				0	1,200
Total Donations	11,361	0	15,375	26,736	25,519
(c) Non-recurring income					
Grants			500	500	5315
Total Non-recurring income	0	0	500	500	5,315
(d) Receipts from Investments					
Bank interest	410			410	688
CBF Deposit Account interest	4,166			4,166	4,639
Total Receipts from Investments	4,576	0	0	4,576	5,327
(e) Receipts from Church activities					
Fees	2,198		1,673	3,871	3,158
Church Hall income	11,011			11,011	3,238
Chilton joint account			3,338	3,338	5,146
Total Receipts from Church Activities	13,209	0	5,011	18,220	11,542

Payments	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
(f) Ministry					
Associate Minister's Expenses	100			100	260
CAP Money Courses			209	209	67
CFW extension	2,955			2,955	5,878
Curate's Expenses	227			227	876
Administrator	12,009			12,009	11,716
Youth Work and Kids Church	612			612	225
Outreach	435		1,529	1,964	1,763
Generation Gold			225	225	1,496
Services	771		137	908	642
Organist	400			400	400
Total Ministry	17,509	0	2,100	19,609	23,323
(g) Maintenance and Utilities					
Church Cleaning	843			843	726
Church Maintenance	7,395	500	3,276	11,171	7,406
Church Utilities	4,694			4,694	7,998
Church Hall Maintenance and Cleaning	3,141	2,252	1,400	6,793	6,040
Church Hall Utilities	4,456			4,456	2,635
Church Insurance	2,912			2,912	2,552
Church Hall Insurance	167			167	415
Total Maintenance and Utilities	23,608	2,752	4,676	31,036	27,772
(h) Administration & Stationery					
Administration	384			384	0
Bank charges	200			200	200
Stationery	104			104	68
Office costs	1,779			1,779	1,772
Website	2,886			2,886	2,869
Outsourced Printing	171			171	259
Consultancy	667			667	0
Total Administration and Stationery	6,191	0	0	6,191	5,168
(i) Other					
Gifts, Subs and Courses	598			598	622
Miscellaneous	185			185	204
O.D.B.F. fees			2,375	2,375	3,144
CAP Debt Centre	3,911		152	4,063	3,858
Chilton Joint Account			3,338	3,338	5,146
Defibrillator			2,077	2,077	
Didcot Foodbank				0	250
Church Hall Deposits			200	200	
Assorted Collections			420	420	1,964
Total Other	4,694	0	8,562	13,256	15,188

- 6 In addition, during 2025, £4,568 was received from the Diocese on behalf of the Didcot Youthwork Trust under the terms of a funding agreement between the Diocese and the Trust. These funds were transferred to the Trust as soon as the funds were received from the Diocese and these amounts are not included in these financial statements as the PCC has no control over these funds and is simply acting as an agent for the Trust.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St. Matthew's, Harwell

I report to the Parochial Church Council on my examination of the accounts of St Matthew's, Harwell for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- (i) accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (ii) the accounts do not accord with those records.

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



Graham Beith
Five Corners
The Barrow
Harwell
OXON

Date:

3/4 / 2026

St. Matthew's Church, Harwell
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

Receipts & Payments Account

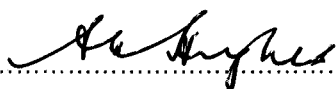
	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Receipts					
Voluntary Receipts					
Planned Giving (note 5a)	58,152			58,152	52,144
Collections at Services	2,328			2,328	1,641
Collections at Community Buildings	548			548	523
Other voluntary receipts (note 5b)	11,361	0	15,375	26,736	25,519
Non-recurring income (note 5c)	0	0	500	500	5,315
Gift Aid received	14,110		25	14,135	15,486
Investment income (note 5d)	4,576			4,576	5,327
Receipts from Church activities (note 5e)	13,209	0	5,011	18,220	11,542
Total Receipts	104,284	0	20,911	125,195	117,497
Payments					
Church Activities					
Diocesan Parish Share	51,920			51,920	48,902
Ministry (note 5f)	17,509	0	2,100	19,609	23,323
Maintenance, Utilities & Insurance (note 5g)	23,608	2,752	4,676	31,036	27,772
Administration & Stationery (note 5h)	6,191	0	0	6,191	5,168
Missions & Charities	7,071			7,071	6,999
Other (note 5i)	4,694	0	8,562	13,256	15,188
Total Payments	110,993	2,752	15,338	129,083	127,352
Excess of Receipts over Payments	-6,709	-2,752	5,573	-3,888	-9,855
Transfers Between Funds	28,070	-22,134	-5,936	0	0
Excess of Receipts over Payments after Transfers	21,361	-24,886	-363	-3,888	-9,855
Cash and Bank current and deposit accounts 1 Jan	-625	45,144	78,819	123,338	133,193
Excess receipts over payments after transfers	21,361	-24,886	-363	-3,888	-9,855
Cash and Bank current and deposit accounts 31 Dec	20,736	20,258	78,456	119,450	123,338

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Cash Funds					
Cash	81			81	31
Bank Current and Deposit Accounts	20,655	2,504		23,159	31,262
CBF Deposit Account		17,754	78,456	96,210	92,045
Total Cash Funds	20,736	20,258	78,456	119,450	123,338
Debtors					
Gift Aid recoverable	1,911			1,911	1,846
Total Debtors	1,911	0	0	1,911	1,846
Assets Retained for Church Use					
Church Hall (note 2)				137,644	137,644
Liabilities				0	
Total Liabilities	0	0	0	0	

The attached notes on pages 4 to 6 form part of these financial statements.

These financial statements were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 17/3, 2026
and signed on their behalf by



Chairman

Jeremy Parsons



Trustee (and Treasurer)

Nick Clarke

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 asset retained for church use is the Church Hall, built in 1994, at cost.
- 3 It is the policy of this church to hold in reserves the equivalent of two months general running costs and an additional one month's salary costs. It is also our policy to hold an amount equivalent to the Excess on our insurance policy and an amount for costs arising from the next quinquennial inspection.
- 4 Movements in designated and restricted funds (including tax reclaimed where applicable as part of income) over the year were:

	Bal B/fwd £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfer £	Bal C/fwd £
Designated					
Legacies	25,134		500	-24,634	0
Church Hall Project	2,252		2,252		0
Roof Repair Fund	5,070			6,000	11,070
Mission Giving Legacies	9,188				9,188
Insurance reserve and excess	3,500			-3,500	0
	<u>45,144</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,752</u>	<u>-22,134</u>	<u>20,258</u>
Restricted					
Assorted Collections	1,144	420	420	-1,144	0
Bells	2,025	2,721	3,276		1,470
CAP Money Course	479		209		270
CAP Centre	0	152	152		0
CFW extension fund	56,929	6,170		-3,497	59,602
Chilton joint account	0	3,338	3,338		0
Christmas Together	795				795
Church Fabric/Redecoration	1,000	860		-860	1,000
Church/Hall Deposits	200		200		0
Church Hall Grants	1,365		1,365		0
Defibrillator	0	3,000	2,077		923
Fledglings Garden Fund	35		35		0
Generation Gold	597	20	225		392
Harwellcome Café	0	1,157			1,157
Memorial Fund	526				526
ODBF Fees	702	1,673	2,375		0
Organ Repair Fund	1,302				1,302
Outreach	7,309	1,400	1,529	-435	6,745
Rector's Discretionary fund	386				386
Sound System Upgrade	4,025		137		3,888
	<u>78,819</u>	<u>20,911</u>	<u>15,338</u>	<u>-5,936</u>	<u>78,456</u>

5 Receipts and Payments Analysis (Receipts exclude Gift Aid received)

Receipts	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
(a) Planned Giving					
Gift-aided Planned Giving	54,936			54,936	48,918
Other Planned Giving	3,216			3,216	3,226
Total Planned Giving	58,152	0	0	58,152	52,144
(b) Other Giving and Donations					
General	11,361			11,361	5,073
Assorted Collections			420	420	1,954
Bells			2,696	2,696	2,025
CAP Centre			152	152	292
Roof Repair Fund				0	70
CFW Extension			6,170	6,170	8,860
Defibrillator			3,000	3,000	
Harwellcome Café			657	657	0
Church Fabric/Redecoration			860	860	800
Didcot Foodbank				0	250
Generation Gold			20	20	275
Outreach			1,400	1,400	4,720
Sound System Upgrade				0	1,200
Total Donations	11,361	0	15,375	26,736	25,519
(c) Non-recurring income					
Grants			500	500	5315
Total Non-recurring income	0	0	500	500	5,315
(d) Receipts from Investments					
Bank interest	410			410	688
CBF Deposit Account interest	4,166			4,166	4,639
Total Receipts from Investments	4,576	0	0	4,576	5,327
(e) Receipts from Church activities					
Fees	2,198		1,673	3,871	3,158
Church Hall income	11,011			11,011	3,238
Chilton joint account			3,338	3,338	5,146
Total Receipts from Church Activities	13,209	0	5,011	18,220	11,542

Payments	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
(f) Ministry					
Associate Minister's Expenses	100			100	260
CAP Money Courses			209	209	67
CFW extension	2,955			2,955	5,878
Curate's Expenses	227			227	876
Administrator	12,009			12,009	11,716
Youth Work and Kids Church	612			612	225
Outreach	435		1,529	1,964	1,763
Generation Gold			225	225	1,496
Services	771		137	908	642
Organist	400			400	400
Total Ministry	17,509	0	2,100	19,609	23,323
(g) Maintenance and Utilities					
Church Cleaning	843			843	726
Church Maintenance	7,395	500	3,276	11,171	7,406
Church Utilities	4,694			4,694	7,998
Church Hall Maintenance and Cleaning	3,141	2,252	1,400	6,793	6,040
Church Hall Utilities	4,456			4,456	2,635
Church Insurance	2,912			2,912	2,552
Church Hall Insurance	167			167	415
Total Maintenance and Utilities	23,608	2,752	4,676	31,036	27,772
(h) Administration & Stationery					
Administration	384			384	0
Bank charges	200			200	200
Stationery	104			104	68
Office costs	1,779			1,779	1,772
Website	2,886			2,886	2,869
Outsourced Printing	171			171	259
Consultancy	667			667	0
Total Administration and Stationery	6,191	0	0	6,191	5,168
(i) Other					
Gifts, Subs and Courses	598			598	622
Miscellaneous	185			185	204
O.D.B.F. fees			2,375	2,375	3,144
CAP Debt Centre	3,911		152	4,063	3,858
Chilton Joint Account			3,338	3,338	5,146
Defibrillator			2,077	2,077	
Didcot Foodbank				0	250
Church Hall Deposits			200	200	
Assorted Collections			420	420	1,964
Total Other	4,694	0	8,562	13,256	15,188

- 6 In addition, during 2025, £4,568 was received from the Diocese on behalf of the Didcot Youthwork Trust under the terms of a funding agreement between the Diocese and the Trust. These funds were transferred to the Trust as soon as the funds were received from the Diocese and these amounts are not included in these financial statements as the PCC has no control over these funds and is simply acting as an agent for the Trust.

Accounts



ANNUAL REPORT

ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH HARWELL

2024

Website: harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk

Registered Charity 115886

Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Review of the Year – Benefice Activities	4-11
2.1 Main events including Baptisms, Weddings and Funeral Statistics	4
2.2 Children, Youth and Families	5-7
2.3 Pastoral, Social and Community Activities	7-10
2.4 World Mission	10-11
3. Looking Forward –Plans and Challenges for 2025	11-12
4. Governance and Structure	12-14
5. Finance Report	14-15
6. Buildings Report	15-18
Appendix 1 Administrative Information	18
Appendix 2 St Matthew’s Church Membership	18
Appendix 3 St Matthew’s PCC Membership	19

1. Introduction

This is the annual report of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for St Matthew's Church Harwell, Oxfordshire. It covers the last financial accounting year, which was the calendar year ending 31st December 2024.

The primary aim of our Church and its PCC is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. Specifically, our Church vision, adopted during 2015, is: "Growing God's Church, wider, deeper and closer".

The details of what our Church has been doing over the last year to further its vision are given in section 2.

This report was approved by the PCC at its meeting on 4th March 2025 and is signed on their behalf by the Chair of the PCC, Revd Jeremy Parsons.

Speaking personally, 2024 marked my first full year as Rector of Harwell and Chilton, enjoying the cycle of the church year and really getting to know the church and wider community. I would like to thank all the many people who, whether in up-front and visible ways, or working behind the scenes, give so generously of their time, energy and talents to make our churches places of welcome for all, and to share in ministry and service in the name of Jesus Christ.



Revd Jeremy Parsons, Rector

2. Review of the Year – Benefice Activities

2.1 Main events including Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals statistics

Roger Mawle ran an Alpha Course over eight weeks on a Monday evening at St Matthew's Church. There were 20 participants. There was also an Alpha course for the older youth in the Autumn term. It was a small but lovely group of 4 teenagers and with some great conversations.

All Saints' Chilton continued to follow a Church of England initiative *Season of Invitation* encouraging the congregation to invite friends and neighbours to festival services. The second Sunday in September at the Interactive Service regular attendees were encouraged to ask people along and share lunch together. Every household was invited to the Harvest service and cream teas in the afternoon. About 70 teas were served and many people enjoyed going up the bell tower and a couple of ringers were recruited.

A Gift Service was held at both Churches at the end of October, where shoe boxes were filled with items for wounded service men in Ukraine. The presents were distributed at hospitals in Eastern Ukraine. We contributed to around 600 Christmas boxes collected, meaning they could be shared even more widely than we had originally anticipated. The impact of these gifts has been tremendous, not only for the injured soldiers, but also on Ben and Tilda who arranged the distribution.

A Toy Service on the first Sunday of Advent, held at both Churches, collected gifts and toys for children living at the Oxford Women's Refuge. These gifts were an amazing blessing to them as they cope with the trauma they have experienced.

Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals

	St Matthew's Harwell			All Saints' Chilton		
	2024	2023	2022	2024	2023	2022
Baptisms	10	8	7	6	2	3
Thanksgivings for a child	0	1	0	0	0	0
Weddings	0	1 + 1B	3	0	2	2
Funerals in church	8	14	8	4	1	4
Thanksgiving services in church	0	0	1	0	4	4
Funerals at crematoria	0	4	4	0	1	0
Interments of ashes	1	0	0	4	5	4

2.2. Children, Youth and Family Work

Sundays

Groups for our children and young people continued to meet twice a month at St Matthew's Harwell. CYF Volunteers led and helped at Kids' Church and Pathfinders groups, meeting with 15-20 young people across the pre-school/primary and secondary age groups. Our vestry was also open to toddlers during these services with Fledgelings' toys available to play with. On average, there were 32 adults and 17 children/teenagers at the monthly Interactive services in the Chilton Village Hall.

Fledgelings

This baby and toddler group continued to run on Monday mornings at St Matthew's Harwell, and Wednesday morning in Chilton Community Room on Chilton Field during term time. The groups have grown in popularity and attendance, with some weeks reaching 60 people in Harwell. New members have reported hearing about how friendly and engaging the groups are, especially the story and song section. Lucy Ryan and Sarah Mawle have updated the Fledgelings programme introducing new craft, messy play, stories and songs

keeping God's love" at the centre of it all. Lucy has updated some of the Fledgelings toys in Harwell and they are now more accessible to all in the vestry.

Holiday Club

We were unable to run Holiday Club this year due to the CYF Worker post remaining vacant throughout 2024.

Reflective spaces

We were unable to run Reflective Spaces in the village primary schools due to the CYF Worker post remaining vacant throughout 2024.

Youth Fellowship (YF) Groups

CYF Volunteers, Sarah Barrett, Tim Brook and Roger Mawle have kept this popular youth group running fortnightly during term time in the absence of a CYF Worker. They met in the Church Hall on Sunday evenings engaging in a range of games and activities exploring the Christian faith in a fun and relaxed way. Roger Mawle and other CYF volunteers also led a Youth Alpha Group following on from some YF groups.

Youth Trust

We have been unable to work with Echo as we have done in previous years due to the CYF Worker post remaining vacant. However, Lucy and Sarah Barrett have been in regular contact with Hannah Field and have continued to provide two CYF volunteers at Echo events. We also continued to advertise their events, Youth Café and Soul Sport sessions to our Church community. The Youth Café often has around 100 young people attending.

CYF Events

Lucy and the faithful team of CYF volunteers ran a variety of events throughout the year: during school holidays including summer picnics and games for Fledgelings groups, Craft and Song Time at our Church Open Tower during the Village's Hare Trail, Fork Biscuit Baking and Summer Craft and a Light Party in October half term. These events were mainly targeted at pre-school and primary aged children but a few of our young people from YF got involved by volunteering at some of these events.

In the days up to Christmas, our popular Christmas Tree Decorating event attracted many local families, including Fledgelings families. Volunteers, Sarah Barrett and Esther Corbishley also coordinated a "Living Advent Calendar" in the village for local families to learn more about the Christmas story.

2.3 Pastoral, Social and Community Activities

The *Pastoral Care* teams, and many individual members of our Churches', visit parishioners in their homes and offer a loving Christian presence and a listening ear to those who are ill, bereaved or who feel lonely.

There is a Pastoral Care Team in each parish.

In Chilton, the Team operates under the leadership of Pat Moseley who is joined by five other lay members plus the Associate Ministers. Some villagers already receive wonderful emotional and/or practical support from their friends and families on those (hopefully rare) occasions when such care is necessary. Other folk need reassurance of the Love of God and that "underneath are the everlasting arms". Home visits, the Oasis Cafe and the Warm Welcome Cafe provide opportunities for the Team to provide pastoral care to our neighbours.

In Harwell, Marilyn Thomas became the leader of the Pastoral Care Team in July and there are now eleven other members. The Chilton team joined us in September for a training morning in the Church Hall, and the Harwell team meet every two months for prayer and discussion for mutual encouragement and support. A monthly prayer diary has been made covering both parishes which was given out to anyone in both congregations who wanted it, so that everyone on the electoral roll can be prayed for at least once a month.

Home Communion is normally offered four times a year to those parishioners who are not very mobile – Easter, Summer, Harvest, and Christmas. Our Churches are also part of a team of ministers who take Communion to the new care home, Oxford Manor (formerly Alma Barn Lodge), in Harwell parish.

Generation Gold services, initiated by Revd Jan Radford and Revd Pam Rolls in 2015, were continued in 2024. Our theme for the year was 'The Seasons' and we reflected on the characteristics of the different seasons at our quarterly services.

At our September meeting in Chilton Village Hall we enjoyed a wonderful harvest lunch which was served to us by a professional caterer. We are very grateful to a willing band of helpers who assisted throughout the year with delivering invitations, catering, and playing the piano and organ, and to the generous people whose donations made our special treats and reverse collections possible. Plans are now in hand for *Generation Gold* for 2025 where we will be reflecting on the theme 'God Provides', beginning with Jesus feeding the 5,000.

Both our churches have continued to collect non-perishable food for *Didcot Emergency Foodbank* throughout the year, with a special collection in both churches at Harvest time. During 2024, the need for the Foodbank became more crucial as households struggled with the cost of living crisis.

The Benefice continues to be a partner church of the *Didcot and Wallingford Area CAP (Christians Against Poverty)* Debt Centre. As well as supporting the Debt Centre financially, members of the churches also volunteer supporting clients in their journey out of debt. The Centre is very grateful for the Christmas gifts and treats that the congregations provided for the eight families in Chilton and Harwell being helped by CAP. The number of people who became debt free in 2024 totalled 18, bringing the total to 95 over ten years.

The committed Money Coaches continued to run *CAP Money Courses* now called *Money Coaching* in Didcot Baptist Church as well as online if required. The new style course was delivered to six people helping them with budgeting and managing their money. Often people signed up to attend the course but did not turn up, so it has been decided to run the courses next year in a secular venue hoping to encourage greater attendance.

All Saints' Group continue to meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.45pm in All Saints Church. We welcome women and men from both Chilton and Harwell. Speakers during 2024 have covered a wide range of topics, Morocco, Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue, Reverend Jeremy Parsons, Costa Rica, 80th Anniversary of D-Day, Festival Spirit "Making dreams a reality" an amazing charity providing full festival experiences for life-limited and disabled people, Joan Impey's "Road to Ordination", Doctoring in the 21st century, and "See Saw".

The All Saints' Group, with great support from Chilton villagers, have continued to hold the monthly Charity market on Crafts End Green raising the great total of £12,072.35 in 2024.

The *Oasis Café* continues to meet at All Saints' Church on most third Saturdays of the month between 10.00am and 12.00 noon, and is free to all comers. On average twenty- two people enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a convivial chat in relaxed surrounding

The Community Cafe at St Matthew's meets on the first Thursday in the month at 10.30am in the morning at St Matthews Church Harwell. It is free but people like to give a donation for the refreshments. Any money collected goes to CAP via the Church treasurer. We are a very informal group. Our numbers are increasing, but vary with the time of year and the weather.

Harwellcome Community Café.

The Harwellcome cafe is a joint venture, organised by St Matthews and hosted by the Harwellian. It arose out of the Warm Spaces initiative. The cafe runs every Thursday from 1- 4pm at the Harwellian.

Debbie Greenfield successfully applied for Community grant funding for the cafe and for the Music for Memories which is held monthly. This enables us not only to offer a warm friendly place to meet, but free refreshments which are welcomed by all. We quite often have over 30 visitors per week not just from Harwell but from other local communities and many of our visitors come regularly.

The volunteers are a mixture of church and community volunteers who come to welcome and if necessary chat with those that come along. We are fortunate to have a member of the Harwellian staff who works to provide the refreshments paid for with the grant funding.

There are board games for visitors to use if they want to and we have a regular group of Scrabble players. We sometimes hold special events such as advice on housing, home insulation and hearing loss depending on what is available. The most important thing is that visitors receive a warm welcome and a place to talk with others if they want to. The conversations are many and varied.

It is a place for St Matthew's to be amongst the community and to, with God's help, show His love and care. We are required in respect to the grant funding to undertake some sort of feedback which we do quite simply. Every week many visitors are feeding back to us that we are making a positive difference to their lives.

Sanctuary

The vision for Saturday Sanctuary is to provide a space where all women can gather, have time to chat, breathe and feel cherished. We aim to feed everyone physically, emotionally and spiritually. We have delicious food and usually a glass of bubbles in a beautiful environment. We have lots of time for conversation and then a short testimony or thought to feed us spiritually and time for silence to allow everyone to breath, paint nails, write a note, do some colouring and encounter Jesus.

January, March and September were afternoon tea and in June we had a Summer soiree evening. We averaged about 40 people, most are women from our church but we also get lots of friends. It's a very welcoming and accessible event.

We also hosted a Saturday Soak evening, after feeling a prompt to provide a space where we could all spend more time soaking with Jesus and that is what we tried to do. This was for women from our churches to have an evening of encountering Jesus through worship, dwelling in the word and sharing what we felt Jesus was saying to us. We finished with tea and brownies. We had about 15 women and hope to do a similar evening again in 2025, after Easter.

2.4 World Mission

The World Mission Group seeks to promote the engagement of our churches with world mission and proposes to each PCC how each church could spend its world mission budget.

We focus our World Mission financial support and prayer around the Anglican Five Marks of Mission. The Marks and the corresponding organisations are:

- 1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom:** Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). The work of MAF enables mission workers to reach difficult and isolated places to share Christianity.
- 2. To teach, baptize and nurture new believers:** Scripture Union (SU). Through Bible studies, resources and camps, SU aims to share the Christian faith, and disciple children and young people in particular.
- 3. To respond to human need by loving service:** The Leprosy Mission (TLM). TLM diagnoses, treats and offers specialist care such as reconstructive surgery, as well as rehabilitation programmes and health education in communities.

- 4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation.** Chris and Suzy Wilson are mission partners for Church Mission Society (CMS) and are based in Ethiopia and South Sudan. They work with a project that aims to equip and encourage churches in conflict-affected regions to actively work for peace.
- 5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the Earth.** ARocha, a Christian conservation organisation which works in the UK and internationally.

During 2024, we continued to support financially several organisations in line with the 5 marks of mission; MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship), Scripture Union, The Leprosy Mission and ARocha.

We also continued to support financially several individual mission partners: Chris and Suzy Wilson who are with Church Mission Society in Ethiopia; Endri and Dyshi Tabacu of The Light of the World church in Albania, and John Abu Bakker with Fellowship For Neighbours, India.

The three members of the world mission group have met together during 2024. The group would love more people to join if you have a heart for world mission.

3. Looking Forward – Plans and Challenges for 2025

During 2025 we will be continuing with a focus on children, young people and families. We aim to be a deeply intergenerational church, a community of disciples that spans the generations. We will make this more and more evident in our services and events, recognising that a flourishing and sustainable church must make room for and include everyone: each generation, every stage of faith, the full spectrum of Christian spirituality, embracing human diversity as a reflection of God's image. We are called to deep Christian unity, not to uniformity.

The Valley Park development saw its first homes occupied late last year, and 2025 will see rapid growth. We will have an additional focus in 2025 on strengthening ties with GWP Church, and we plan to recruit a youth minister with a special focus on Western Valley (the civic parish that includes the Great Western Park and Valley Park developments), as well as strengthening our children & families work.

As our communities continue to grow and change, we will need to find new ways to work together in each of our contexts. We are greatly blessed with all that God has placed into our hands, and I have already seen the enthusiasm our churches are bringing to the opportunities, and of course the challenges, that come with growth and change.

4. Governance and Structure

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

St Matthew's, Harwell and All Saints', Chilton each has its own PCC. St Matthews' PCC met four times and All Saints' PCC met three times in 2024

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules (2022). The membership of the PCC consists of all clergy licensed to the Benefice, Churchwardens, Deanery Synod members and other lay members elected by those on the Electoral Roll of the Church. All those who attend our services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election for the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the Parish, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

Given its wide responsibilities, PCC operate through several committees. Each committee deals with a particular aspect of Parish life. The committees report back regularly at PCC meetings, with minutes of their meetings or their decisions and recommendations being received, and discussed as necessary. The Rector is automatically a member of every committee.

Standing Committees of St Matthew's and All Saints'

These are the only committees required by Church law. They meet to set PCC agendas and, occasionally, when there are urgent decisions to be made, between PCC meetings. They consist of the Clergy, Churchwardens and the Treasurer plus the Vice-chair and the Secretary. St Matthew's and

All Saints' Standing Committee met six times in 2024.

Combined PCC

For efficiency and convenience St Matthew's, Harwell PCC and All Saints', Chilton PCC regularly hold Combined PCC meetings, where members of the two PCCs come together to discuss matters that are common to both parishes. Meetings of the Joint PCC (see below) are held as part of Combined PCC meetings. As such, voting by Joint PCC members on any decisions required by the Joint PCC generally follows discussion by the Combined PCC. The Combined PCC met twice during 2024, on Zoom.

Joint PCC

The Pastoral Measure provides for a Joint PCC in addition to the separate PCCs of our two Churches. It comprises the Benefice clergy, Churchwardens and the Treasurer plus the Vice-chair and the Secretary of each PCC.

The two PCCs can agree to place in the hands of the Joint PCC any matters involving both parishes. So far, the PCCs have delegated responsibility for the following matters to the Joint PCC:

- Safeguarding
- Staffing
- Data compliance.

Safeguarding

The Benefice complies fully with national and Church of England law on Safeguarding. Safeguarding is managed at Benefice level, currently by Judy Gold from Chilton Parish and Sue Greatbanks from Harwell Parish. Both Safeguarding Officers have continued to work together and regularly meet to discuss progress and future action necessary to continue our service in accordance with our Safeguarding Policy.

Sue and Judy have carried on with DBS applications for volunteers whose Certificates have expired and checks for new volunteers. We would like to stress the importance and need of registering with the Update Service as it makes the renewal of a DBS certificate so simple and time saving. Registration with the Service must be completed within 30 days of issue of a certificate and is free for volunteers. Safeguarding training should be completed every three years by PCC

members and volunteers working with children. We are pleased to report that this is generally up to date.

Staffing

The Benefice employs an Administrator working 20 hours a week and a Children and Families Worker. We have a vacancy for a Children and Families Worker vacancy which was covered, in 2024, by a combination of volunteers and temporary freelance paid help.

Staffing matters are overseen by the Benefice employment committee which is concerned with meeting the statutory regulations around employment, ensuring that performance assessment and development of staff employed by the PCCs is carried out, and that recruitment procedures are correctly followed.

Data Compliance

In 2024, we have continued to work to ensure that our Churches are compliant with current national data governance legislation in the form of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

5. Finance Report

Finance

The PCC has the significant responsibility of setting the budget and monitoring the income and expenditure of the church. This task is carried out by the Finance Committee, which reviews in detail the different purposes of the expenditure, as well as the different forms of income and giving to the church.

Financial Position

The final financial position for St Matthews church showed a deficit of £9,855. While regular general planned giving has remained broadly level during the last five years, costs have increased, so reserves have been depleted to fund this deficit (see reserves policy below).

St. Matthews participates in the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), which removes significant administration time from the handling of regular giving. Currently the PGS accounts for more than half of regular giving and regular donors.

Income in 2024 was £117,497. Expenditure in 2024 was £127,352.

We are grateful for the continued support for the Children and Families Worker Fund, which allowed the role to be financed without access to the stretched general giving pool. The level of the Fund at the end of 2024 was £56,929 which has given us confidence in our recruiting campaign for the future.

Reserves Policy

Reserves are held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet the cost of emergencies. It has previously been a PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on free reserves of at least 6 months unrestricted payments, although this figure is now 4 months after funding the current account deficit. A fundraising campaign is taking place in 2025 with the aim of increasing regular giving to our general fund, which will allow us to plan our expenditure with greater confidence.

As at 31st December 2024 the PCC held £45,144 in unrestricted reserves after transfer into the current account

Buildings

The PCC is charged with the care, maintenance and insurance of the church buildings, including St Matthew's Church Hall. The property and movable goods of the church are vested in the Churchwardens, who are also responsible for inspecting the fabric of the church and making an annual report (the Fabric Report) first to the PCC and then to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

The PCC is also concerned with developing our buildings to accommodate our own activities more effectively, and to enable us to connect better with and serve the wider community. A key aim is to have a main church building that is flexible, comfortable, and accessible, whilst maintaining and even enhancing its beauty.

St Matthew's church building

St Matthew's church is a Grade 1 listed building, parts of which date back to 1190. It is kept in a good state of repair by the **Buildings Committee** and other volunteers. Some of this work is maintenance and general repairs that continue in a very similar fashion year in year out. In addition, the church is cleaned

regularly by a combination of a paid cleaner and a small faithful team of volunteers.

The Buildings Committee maintains an **Action List** of ongoing tasks. The Church Architect carried out the **Quinquennial Inspection** of the Church building in June 2021. The recommendations are being followed up and where relevant have been incorporated in the Action List. The overall condition of the church building is good and the Architect in his report commented '*It is clear....that the PCC take a great deal of care and pride in looking after the fabric of this Church*'.

The detailed Fabric Report by the Churchwardens is provided in a separate document.

The following are examples of work carried out during the last year.

- The south porch rendering has been repaired and the walls and ceiling re-decorated. The notice boards were painted and re-mounted. The lower walls of the vestry have also been re-decorated with Classidur paint.
- The external oak doors have been treated with teak oil and the metalwork painted with Hammerite water based black paint. All metal windows and ferrous glazing bars have been cleaned off and painted with Hammerite water based black paint.
- Flooding of the lobby of the extension has been a continuing problem when there has been exceptionally heavy rainfall. The problem is caused by the very large amount of water falling on the north side of the church roof, overwhelming the gutters and running under the extension door. A plan drawn up to re-lay the paving and provide a new drainage channel has now been implemented.
- The gutters and downpipes have all been cleaned and repainted.
- Swift boxes have been installed in the south and east windows of the bell chamber.



Re-decorated porch and notice boards Improved drainage by the Extension door

Photos: Tony Hughes

The **Friends of St Matthew's** scheme to stimulate interest in the church building, and ultimately help to provide for the costs of keeping it in good order, has continued in 2024 through a Facebook page: **www.facebook.com/HarwellChurchFriends**.

This is aimed particularly at descendants of the Harwell family lineage in the USA. The Facebook page has had a lot of visits and interest and consideration continues as to how this interest can be used to increase donations to help with the cost of maintenance of the church.

St Matthew's Church Hall

The Church Hall is located on the corner of The Park and Wellshead, approximately 100m south of the church. Its fabric is generally in good order; the surrounding grass and boundary hedges are cut when necessary.

The Hall has been used less than is ideal during 2024. In November 2023 the PCC had agreed to set up a new Project Group to pick up from the conclusions of the Working Group that reported in March 2023, in order to map out a path for the future of the Hall, and to advise the PCC of the best options to follow in the short and longer terms. This Group started work in early 2024 and recommended that every effort should be made to increase bookings for the hall, and that a number of improvements should be made to make the Hall more attractive to users. These included soundproofing in the main hall, better lighting and re-decoration of the main hall. The PCC accepted the recommendations, and provided a starting budget for improvements. Some members of the Group then formed a new Hall Management Committee, that has very energetically obtained grants to add to the budget, implemented improvements, established a trial booking system in collaboration with the Village Hall, and, importantly, found a potential

user that would use the hall on every weekday. It has also taken over general maintenance of the Hall from the Church Buildings Committee.

Appendix 1 – Administrative Information

The correspondence address for the Rector is:

The Rectory
Church Lane
Harwell, Didcot
OX11 0EZ

The Independent Examiner of the PCC Financial Accounts is:

Mrs Jane Moreton
Harrow House
Burr Street
Harwell, Didcot
OX11 0DT

Appendix 2: St Matthew's Church Membership

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll stood at **89** in April 2024 compared to 66 in April 2023

Appendix 3 -St Matthew's PCC Membership

During 2024, the membership of St Matthew's PCC has been:

Clergy

- Revd Jeremy Parsons
- Revd Pam Rolls (Associate Minister)
- Revd Janet Radford (Assistant Minister)
- Rev'd Sasha Reeves (Curate)

Churchwarden

- Jane Woolley

Elected Deanery Synod representatives

none

Other Elected representatives

- Tony Hughes (Vice-Chair)
- Elizabeth Clarke (Secretary)
- Tim Roberts (Treasurer)
- Rebecca Lewis
- Liz Roberts
- Phil Johnston
- Adrian Lance- McGregor
- Adrian Bollon
- Stephen Manning

Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St. Matthew's, Harwell

I report to the Parochial Church Council on my examination of the accounts of St Matthew's, Harwell for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- (i) accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (ii) the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Jane Moreton
Harrow House
Burr Street
Harwell
OXON



28/3/2025

St. Matthew's Church, Harwell
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Receipts & Payments Account

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Receipts					
Voluntary Receipts					
Planned Giving (note 5a)	52,144			52,144	52,538
Collections at Services	1,641			1,641	1,239
Collections at Community Buildings	523			523	850
Other voluntary receipts (note 5b)	5,073	70	20,376	25,519	30,606
Non-recurring income (note 5c)			5,315	5,315	3,298
Gift Aid received	13,487		1,999	15,486	16,972
Investment income (note 5d)	5,327			5,327	3,512
Receipts from Church activities (note 5e)	3,600	858	7,084	11,542	10,993
Total Receipts	81,795	928	34,774	117,497	120,008
Payments					
Church Activities					
Diocesan Parish Share	48,902			48,902	46,161
Ministry (note 5f)	19,930	0	3,393	23,323	33,720
Maintenance, Utilities & Insurance (note 5g)	22,439	873	4,460	27,772	40,047
Administration & Stationery (note 5h)	5,168			5,168	5,070
Missions & Charities	6,999			6,999	8,000
Other (note 5i)	4,392		10,796	15,188	13,216
Total Payments	107,830	873	18,649	127,352	146,214
Excess of Receipts over Payments	-26,035	55	16,125	-9,855	-26,206
Transfers Between Funds	49,421	-41,038	-8,383	0	0
Excess of Receipts over Payments after Transfers	23,386	-40,983	7,742	-9,855	-26,206
Cash and Bank current and deposit accounts 1 Jan	-24,011	86,127	71,077	133,193	159,399
Excess receipts over payments after transfers	23,386	-40,983	7,742	-9,855	-26,206
Cash and Bank current and deposit accounts 31 Dec	-625	45,144	78,819	123,338	133,193

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Cash Funds					
Cash	31			31	40
Bank Current and Deposit Accounts	-656	31,918		31,262	45,748
CBF Deposit Account		13,226	78,819	92,045	87,405
Total Cash Funds	-625	45,144	78,819	123,338	133,193
Debtors					
Gift Aid recoverable	1,347		499	1,846	1,947
Total Debtors	1,347	0	499	1,846	1,947
Assets Retained for Church Use					
Church Hall (note 2)				137,644	137,644
Liabilities					
ODBF Fees			702	702	2,108
Total Liabilities	0	0	702	702	2,108

The attached notes on pages 4 to 6 form part of these financial statements.

These financial statements were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 16 March 2025
and signed on their behalf by



Chairman

Jeremy Parsons



Trustee (and Treasurer)

Tim Roberts

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 asset retained for church use is the Church Hall, built in 1994, at cost.
- 3 Movements in designated and restricted funds (including tax reclaimed where applicable as part of income) over the year were:

	Bal B/fwd £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfer £	Bal C/fwd £
Designated					
Bell Repairs	267		267		0
Bosher Legacy	11,561				11,561
Church Hall Project	0	858	606	2,000	2,252
Chancel Repair Fund	5,000	70			5,070
Phase 2 Building	39,039			-39,039	0
Mission Giving Legacies	16,187			-6,999	9,188
Staples Legacy	9,896				9,896
E Gill Legacy	3,677				3,677
Insurance reserve and excess	500			3,000	3,500
	86,127	928	873	-41,038	45,144
Restricted					
Administrator Fund	1,705			-1,705	0
Altar frontal fund	869			-869	0
Assorted Collections	1,144	1,964	1,964		1,144
Baptism Bibles	99		99		0
Bells	0	2,025			2,025
CAP Money Course	546		67		479
CAP Centre	0	292	292		0
CFW extension fund	52,058	10,749		-5,878	56,929
Chilton joint account	0	5,146	5,146		0
Christmas Together	795				795
Church Fabric/Redecoration	1,000	800		-800	1,000
Church/Hall Deposits	0	200			200
Church Hall Grants	0	5,315	3,950		1,365
Didcot Foodbank	0	250	250		0
Fledglings Garden Fund	185		150		35
Generation Gold	1,818	275	1,496		597
Memorial Fund	526				526
ODBF Fees	2,108	1,738	3,144		702
Organ Repair Fund	433			869	1,302
Outreach	4,320	4,720	1,731		7,309
Rector's Discretionary fund	386				386
Sound System Upgrade	3,085	1,300	360		4,025
	71,077	34,574	18,649	-8,383	78,819

4 Receipts and Payments Analysis (Receipts exclude Gift Aid received)

Receipts	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
(a) Planned Giving					
Gift-aided Planned Giving	48,918			48,918	48,917
Other Planned Giving	3,226			3,226	3,621
Total Planned Giving	52,144	0	0	52,144	52,538
(b) Other Giving and Donations					
General	5,073			5,073	2,649
Administrator				0	5,100
Assorted Collections			1,954	1,954	1,979
Bells			2,025	2,025	0
CAP Centre			292	292	497
Chancel Repair Fund		70		70	0
CFW Extension			8,860	8,860	17,165
Church Fabric/Redecoration			800	800	720
Didcot Foodbank			250	250	187
Generation Gold			275	275	135
Holiday Club				0	590
Organ Repair Fund				0	434
Outreach			4,720	4,720	0
Sound System Upgrade			1,200	1,200	1,050
Total Donations	5,073	70	20,376	25,519	30,606
(c) Non-recurring income					
VAT reclaim - LPW grant				0	3,298
Grants			5,315	5,315	0
Total Non-recurring income	0	0	5,315	5,315	3,298
(d) Receipts from Investments					
Bank interest	688			688	798
CBF Deposit Account interest	4,639			4,639	2,714
Total Receipts from Investments	5,327	0	0	5,327	3,512
(e) Receipts from Church activities					
Fees	1,420		1,738	3,158	4,581
Church Hall income	2,180	858	200	3,238	2,237
Chilton joint account			5,146	5,146	4,175
Total Receipts from Church Activities	3,600	858	7,084	11,542	10,993

Payments	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
(f) Ministry					
Associate Minister's Expenses	260			260	403
Minister's Expenses				0	660
CAP Money Courses			67	67	126
CFW extension	5,878			5,878	12,930
Curate's Expenses	876			876	
Administrator	11,716			11,716	11,265
Youth Work and Kids Church	225			225	1,628
Outreach	32		1,731	1,763	689
Harwell Helpers				0	2,893
Generation Gold			1,496	1,496	920
Services	543		99	642	1,806
Organist	400			400	400
Total Ministry	19,930	0	3,393	23,323	33,720
(g) Maintenance and Utilities					
Church Cleaning	726			726	707
Church Maintenance	6,779	267	360	7,406	25,499
Church Utilities	7,998			7,998	6,294
Church Hall Maintenance and Cleaning	1,334	606	4,100	6,040	1,020
Church Hall Utilities	2,635			2,635	3,621
Church Insurance	2,552			2,552	2,499
Church Hall Insurance	415			415	407
Total Maintenance and Utilities	22,439	873	4,460	27,772	40,047
(h) Administration & Stationery					
Administration				0	202.87
Bank charges	200			200	200
Stationery	68			68	67
Office costs	1,772			1,772	1,556
Website	2,869			2,869	2,735
Outsourced Printing	259			259	309
Total Administration and Stationery	5,168	0	0	5,168	5,070
(i) Other					
Gifts, Subs and Courses	622			622	1,162
Miscellaneous	204			204	238
O.D.B.F.fees			3,144	3,144	511
CAP Debt Centre	3,566		292	3,858	4,847
Chilton Joint Account			5,146	5,146	4,175
Didcot Foodbank			250	250	187
Assorted Collections			1,964	1,964	2,096
Total Other	4,392	0	10,796	15,188	13,216

- 5 In addition, during 2024, £6,790 was received from the Diocese on behalf of the Didcot Youthwork Trust under the terms of a funding agreement between the Diocese and the Trust. These funds were transferred to the Trust as soon as the funds were received from the Diocese and these amounts are not included in these financial statements as the PCC has no control over these funds and are simply acting as an agent for the Trust.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St. Matthew's, Harwell

I report to the Parochial Church Council on my examination of the accounts of St Matthew's, Harwell for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- (i) accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (ii) the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Jane Moreton
Harrow House
Burr Street
Harwell
OXON



28/3/2025

St. Matthew's Church, Harwell
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Receipts & Payments Account

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Receipts					
Voluntary Receipts					
Planned Giving (note 5a)	52,144			52,144	52,538
Collections at Services	1,641			1,641	1,239
Collections at Community Buildings	523			523	850
Other voluntary receipts (note 5b)	5,073	70	20,376	25,519	30,606
Non-recurring income (note 5c)			5,315	5,315	3,298
Gift Aid received	13,487		1,999	15,486	16,972
Investment income (note 5d)	5,327			5,327	3,512
Receipts from Church activities (note 5e)	3,600	858	7,084	11,542	10,993
Total Receipts	81,795	928	34,774	117,497	120,008
Payments					
Church Activities					
Diocesan Parish Share	48,902			48,902	46,161
Ministry (note 5f)	19,930	0	3,393	23,323	33,720
Maintenance, Utilities & Insurance (note 5g)	22,439	873	4,460	27,772	40,047
Administration & Stationery (note 5h)	5,168			5,168	5,070
Missions & Charities	6,999			6,999	8,000
Other (note 5i)	4,392		10,796	15,188	13,216
Total Payments	107,830	873	18,649	127,352	146,214
Excess of Receipts over Payments	-26,035	55	16,125	-9,855	-26,206
Transfers Between Funds	49,421	-41,038	-8,383	0	0
Excess of Receipts over Payments after Transfers	23,386	-40,983	7,742	-9,855	-26,206
Cash and Bank current and deposit accounts 1 Jan	-24,011	86,127	71,077	133,193	159,399
Excess receipts over payments after transfers	23,386	-40,983	7,742	-9,855	-26,206
Cash and Bank current and deposit accounts 31 Dec	-625	45,144	78,819	123,338	133,193

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Cash Funds					
Cash	31			31	40
Bank Current and Deposit Accounts	-656	31,918		31,262	45,748
CBF Deposit Account		13,226	78,819	92,045	87,405
Total Cash Funds	-625	45,144	78,819	123,338	133,193
Debtors					
Gift Aid recoverable	1,347		499	1,846	1,947
Total Debtors	1,347	0	499	1,846	1,947
Assets Retained for Church Use					
Church Hall (note 2)				137,644	137,644
Liabilities					
ODBF Fees			702	702	2,108
Total Liabilities	0	0	702	702	2,108

The attached notes on pages 4 to 6 form part of these financial statements.

These financial statements were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 16 March 2025
and signed on their behalf by



Chairman

Jeremy Parsons



Trustee (and Treasurer)

Tim Roberts

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 asset retained for church use is the Church Hall, built in 1994, at cost.
- 3 Movements in designated and restricted funds (including tax reclaimed where applicable as part of income) over the year were:

	Bal B/fwd £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfer £	Bal C/fwd £
Designated					
Bell Repairs	267		267		0
Bosher Legacy	11,561				11,561
Church Hall Project	0	858	606	2,000	2,252
Chancel Repair Fund	5,000	70			5,070
Phase 2 Building	39,039			-39,039	0
Mission Giving Legacies	16,187			-6,999	9,188
Staples Legacy	9,896				9,896
E Gill Legacy	3,677				3,677
Insurance reserve and excess	500			3,000	3,500
	86,127	928	873	-41,038	45,144
Restricted					
Administrator Fund	1,705			-1,705	0
Altar frontal fund	869			-869	0
Assorted Collections	1,144	1,964	1,964		1,144
Baptism Bibles	99		99		0
Bells	0	2,025			2,025
CAP Money Course	546		67		479
CAP Centre	0	292	292		0
CFW extension fund	52,058	10,749		-5,878	56,929
Chilton joint account	0	5,146	5,146		0
Christmas Together	795				795
Church Fabric/Redecoration	1,000	800		-800	1,000
Church/Hall Deposits	0	200			200
Church Hall Grants	0	5,315	3,950		1,365
Didcot Foodbank	0	250	250		0
Fledglings Garden Fund	185		150		35
Generation Gold	1,818	275	1,496		597
Memorial Fund	526				526
ODBF Fees	2,108	1,738	3,144		702
Organ Repair Fund	433			869	1,302
Outreach	4,320	4,720	1,731		7,309
Rector's Discretionary fund	386				386
Sound System Upgrade	3,085	1,300	360		4,025
	71,077	34,574	18,649	-8,383	78,819

4 Receipts and Payments Analysis (Receipts exclude Gift Aid received)

Receipts	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
(a) Planned Giving					
Gift-aided Planned Giving	48,918			48,918	48,917
Other Planned Giving	3,226			3,226	3,621
Total Planned Giving	52,144	0	0	52,144	52,538
(b) Other Giving and Donations					
General	5,073			5,073	2,649
Administrator				0	5,100
Assorted Collections			1,954	1,954	1,979
Bells			2,025	2,025	0
CAP Centre			292	292	497
Chancel Repair Fund		70		70	0
CFW Extension			8,860	8,860	17,165
Church Fabric/Redecoration			800	800	720
Didcot Foodbank			250	250	187
Generation Gold			275	275	135
Holiday Club				0	590
Organ Repair Fund				0	434
Outreach			4,720	4,720	0
Sound System Upgrade			1,200	1,200	1,050
Total Donations	5,073	70	20,376	25,519	30,606
(c) Non-recurring income					
VAT reclaim - LPW grant				0	3,298
Grants			5,315	5,315	0
Total Non-recurring income	0	0	5,315	5,315	3,298
(d) Receipts from Investments					
Bank interest	688			688	798
CBF Deposit Account interest	4,639			4,639	2,714
Total Receipts from Investments	5,327	0	0	5,327	3,512
(e) Receipts from Church activities					
Fees	1,420		1,738	3,158	4,581
Church Hall income	2,180	858	200	3,238	2,237
Chilton joint account			5,146	5,146	4,175
Total Receipts from Church Activities	3,600	858	7,084	11,542	10,993

Payments	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
(f) Ministry					
Associate Minister's Expenses	260			260	403
Minister's Expenses				0	660
CAP Money Courses			67	67	126
CFW extension	5,878			5,878	12,930
Curate's Expenses	876			876	
Administrator	11,716			11,716	11,265
Youth Work and Kids Church	225			225	1,628
Outreach	32		1,731	1,763	689
Harwell Helpers				0	2,893
Generation Gold			1,496	1,496	920
Services	543		99	642	1,806
Organist	400			400	400
Total Ministry	19,930	0	3,393	23,323	33,720
(g) Maintenance and Utilities					
Church Cleaning	726			726	707
Church Maintenance	6,779	267	360	7,406	25,499
Church Utilities	7,998			7,998	6,294
Church Hall Maintenance and Cleaning	1,334	606	4,100	6,040	1,020
Church Hall Utilities	2,635			2,635	3,621
Church Insurance	2,552			2,552	2,499
Church Hall Insurance	415			415	407
Total Maintenance and Utilities	22,439	873	4,460	27,772	40,047
(h) Administration & Stationery					
Administration				0	202.87
Bank charges	200			200	200
Stationery	68			68	67
Office costs	1,772			1,772	1,556
Website	2,869			2,869	2,735
Outsourced Printing	259			259	309
Total Administration and Stationery	5,168	0	0	5,168	5,070
(i) Other					
Gifts, Subs and Courses	622			622	1,162
Miscellaneous	204			204	238
O.D.B.F.fees			3,144	3,144	511
CAP Debt Centre	3,566		292	3,858	4,847
Chilton Joint Account			5,146	5,146	4,175
Didcot Foodbank			250	250	187
Assorted Collections			1,964	1,964	2,096
Total Other	4,392	0	10,796	15,188	13,216

- 5 In addition, during 2024, £6,790 was received from the Diocese on behalf of the Didcot Youthwork Trust under the terms of a funding agreement between the Diocese and the Trust. These funds were transferred to the Trust as soon as the funds were received from the Diocese and these amounts are not included in these financial statements as the PCC has no control over these funds and are simply acting as an agent for the Trust.

Accounts



Annual Report 2023



photo by Hannah Platt

ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH HARWELL

Website: harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk

Registered Charity No 1158861

Contents

1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. REVIEW OF THE YEAR – BENEFICE ACTIVITIES.....	4
2.1 MAIN EVENTS INCLUDING BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS STATISTICS.....	4
2.2. CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY WORK.....	6
2.3 PASTORAL, SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES.....	7
2.4 WORLD MISSION.....	9
3. LOOKING FORWARD – PLANS AND CHALLENGES FOR 2024.....	11
4. GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE.....	12
5. FINANCE REPORT.....	14
6. BUILDINGS.....	15
APPENDIX 1 – ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION.....	18
APPENDIX 2: ST MATTHEW’S CHURCH MEMBERSHIP.....	19
APPENDIX 3 -ST MATTHEW’S PCC MEMBERSHIP.....	19
APPENDIX 4: INCOME & EXPENDITURE V BUDGET JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31 2023.....	20

1. Introduction

This is the Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the Church of St Matthew's in Harwell, Oxfordshire. It covers the last financial accounting year, which was the calendar year ending 31 December 2023.

The primary aim of our Church and its PCC is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. Specifically, our Church Vision, which was adopted during 2015, is:

'Growing God's church, wider, deeper and closer'

The details of what our Church has been doing over the last year to further its vision are given in section 2.

This Report was approved by the PCC at its meeting on 5th March 2024 and is signed on their behalf by the Chair of the PCC, Revd Jeremy Parsons.

On a personal note, I would like to thank all those who so ably led, guided and kept the church in good heart through a significant period of interregnum. One whose contribution was significant was the late Dr Peter Barton. I knew him only briefly, but long enough to have experienced his warmth, generosity and godly wisdom. The PCC is united in gratitude for his service; may he rest in peace and rise in glory.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Parsons', written in a cursive style.

Revd Jeremy Parsons, Rector

2. Review of the Year – Benefice Activities

2.1 Main events including Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals statistics

The Benefice of St Matthew's, Harwell and All Saints', Chilton was in the ninth month of an interregnum at the start of the year. In the absence of a Rector, the churchwardens were responsible for running the churches. We are grateful to them for taking on all the extra work involved. Their task was made easier by the support of our volunteer leaders and preachers, and by our hard-working paid Administrator and Children and Families worker.

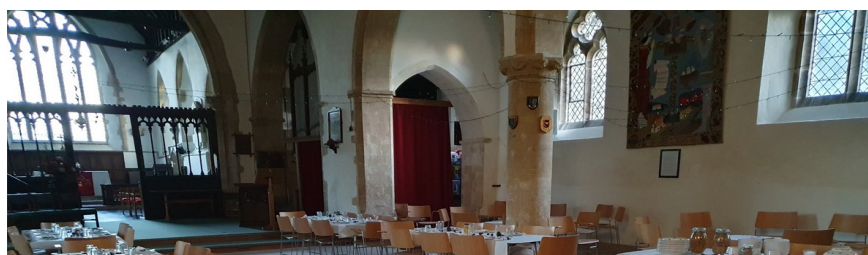
At the beginning of March, a second round of interviews was held to find a new Rector. Revd. Jeremy Parsons was offered the post which he accepted. We were thrilled that Jeremy, Ruth and family moved into the Rectory just before he was licensed by the Rt. Revd. Gavin Collins, Bishop of Dorchester on 22nd May.



Jeremy's first Sunday Service was also the first *Praise in the Park* since Covid, and was attended on a sunny Sunday morning by over 150. The Celebration Choir and Church Orchestra led the singing.



All Saints' PCC decided to follow a Church of England initiative *Season of Invitation* to encourage people back to church following Covid. The first invitation cards were delivered to every home in Chilton for the Harvest service at the end of September, this was followed by Remembrance Sunday, and then the *Carols by Candlelight* and Christmas Services. We have welcomed a few people back to regular worshipping on a Sunday, and will continue to invite people, hopefully in person, to other festival services.





adies yummy breakfast, that and a short reflection and prayer very popular. About 50 people came and similar events are planned for 2024.

This was the four-week course chosen for *Advent Central* which was based on the Film *Scrooge/ A Christmas Carol*

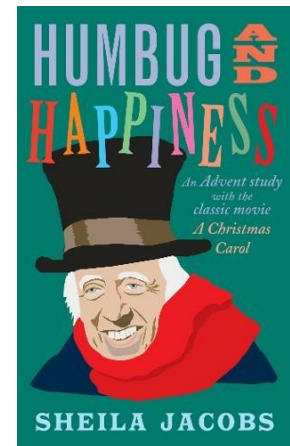


Photo supplied by Yvonne Sanderson
Our *Christmas Toy Service* gifts were sent to Lyman in the Donetsk region of Ukraine.

Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals

	St Matthew's Harwell			All Saints' Chilton		
	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021
Baptisms	8	7	7	2	3	0
Thanksgivings for a child	1	0	2	0	0	0
Weddings	0	3	4	2	2	2

Funerals in church	14	8	10	1	4	2
Thanksgiving services in church	0	1	0	0	4	0
Funerals at crematoria	4	4	3	1	0	3
Interments of ashes	0	0	1	5	4	3

2.2. Children, Youth and Family Work

Sundays

Groups for our young people continued to meet twice a month at St Matthew's Harwell. Kids' Church and Pathfinders regularly meet with 15-20 young people across the primary and secondary age groups. There is still the opportunity to hold a creche during these weeks too, although volunteers would need to be sought for this. Chilton Interactive continues to meet monthly, averaging around 60 people per service including families who do not attend other regular church services.

YF (Youth Fellowship) has been running fortnightly, meeting at the Harwell Church Hall on Sunday evenings 6.30-7.45. The average attendance is 10 young people although we have 16 young people who will attend at one time or another. It was encouraging to have some join us to help prepare for Holiday Club who took on the role of young leaders during the week. It would be great to keep these links going.

Fledgelings

This preschool group continues to be well attended at both Harwell and Chilton, especially Harwell. Harwell will need to increase the number of volunteers involved in refreshments.

Holiday Club

We had over 30 adults helping through the week supporting 80 primary school children. We also benefitted from the help of 10 young people of secondary school age. We had a great week at Holiday Club at Chilton school and received positive feedback from families who came. 65 came to our holiday club celebration BBQ which was positive. We need to consider ways of meeting and serving these families through the year to continue to build relationships with them.

Schools

St Matthew's hosted Harwell school's harvest assembly, Sarah Barrett taught a few RE lessons to year 2 and continued with the Wellbeing Club. The two Chilton reception classes visited All Saints' in September and both Sarah and Revd Pam Rolls, Associate Minister, taught RE lessons in Chilton school. Sarah held assemblies in both schools during 2023. Both school choirs attended the carol services in the villages to sing.

Reflective spaces

Reflective spaces took place in both schools during June, with over 500 children coming through the tent. This was supported by planning and resources from BeSpace and 20 volunteers from our congregations.

Youth Trust

Youth Cafe and Soul Sport have continued to run termly, which Sarah supported. Four ECHO events were held through the year, two of which were at St Matthew's. It would be encouraging to develop a wider volunteer base for these events, and for the termly Youth Cafe and Soul Sport.

Light Party

We held our Light Party on 31st October and 40 young people joined us, including some families from Holiday Club.

Remembrance

Beavers and Cubs joined us for a short talk and craft and prayer time in each village hall after the main act of remembrance.

We were unable to resource the Easter trail and Advent doors this year due to the continuing recruitment for a Children and Family Worker.

2.3 Pastoral, Social and Community Activities

The *Pastoral Care* teams (and many individual members of our churches) visit parishioners in their homes and offer a loving Christian presence and a listening ear to those who are ill, bereaved or who feel lonely. Oversight of pastoral care in the Benefice is the responsibility of Revd. Pam Rolls.

There is a pastoral care team in each parish. In Chilton, the team operates under the leadership of Dr Pat Moseley with four other lay members plus the Rector and Associate Minister. In Harwell, the team has become very small, and we are still prayerfully and carefully seeking a new leader for it. It is hoped that they will be appointed soon and that other team members will be recruited.

Home Communion is normally taken four times a year to those parishioners who are not very mobile – Easter, Summer, Harvest and Christmas. Our churches are also represented in a team of ministers who take Communion to the new care home, Alma Barn Lodge, in Harwell parish.

Generation Gold services, initiated by Revd Jan Radford and Revd Pam Rolls in 2015, were continued in 2023. Our theme for the year was 'The Homes that Jesus visited' and we

reflected on different homes at our quarterly services – the home of Zacchaeus, the crowded house where four friends lowered their friend through the roof to Jesus for him to receive healing, the home of Martha and Mary and, finally, Jesus' first home in the stable.

At our September meeting in Chilton Village Hall we enjoyed a wonderful cream tea which was served to us by a professional caterer. We are very grateful to a willing band of helpers who assisted throughout the year with delivering invitations, catering, and playing the piano and organ, and to the generous people whose donations made our special treats and reverse collections possible. Plans are now in hand for Generation Gold for 2024 where we will be reflecting on 'The Seasons'.

Both our churches have continued to collect non-perishable food for *Didcot Emergency Foodbank* throughout the year, with a special collection in both churches at Harvest time. During 2023, the need for the Foodbank became more crucial as households struggled with the cost of living crisis.

The Benefice continues to be a partner church of the *Didcot and Wallingford Area CAP (Christians Against Poverty)* Debt Centre. As well as supporting the Debt Centre financially, members of the churches also volunteer supporting clients in their journey out of debt. The Centre is very grateful for the Christmas gifts and treats that the congregations provided for the five families in Chilton and Harwell being helped by CAP. The number of people who became debt free in 2023 totalled 20, bringing the total to 76 over nine years.

The committed Money Coaches continued to run *CAP Money Courses* in three different venues through the year, St Matthew's, Didcot Baptist Church and Wantage Baptist Church helping nine people with budgeting and managing their money. The team have received training for a new style course which they will launch in 2024.

The newly named *All Saints' Group* evolved during 2023 when they welcomed men to become members of All Saints' Women's Group. It serves both parishes and meets at All Saints' Church on the second Tuesday of the month. The group has enjoyed listening to speakers on a variety of subjects; The Felix Fund, a charity to support individuals, working with bomb disposal; scams and frauds; SOFEA (South Oxfordshire Food and Education Alliance); 180 years of regional trains; Bees; the Blaeu Globes of Winchester Cathedral; Marilyn Thomas' Spiritual Journey and Quakers. They shared their memories of Queen Elizabeth's Coronation, and enjoyed a guided tour around Blewbury led by the local history group.

The All Saints' Group have continued to hold the monthly markets raising over £12,000 in 2023 for charities.

The *Oasis Café* continues to meet at All Saints' Church on most third Saturdays of the month between 10.00am and 12.00 noon, and is free to all comers. On average twenty people enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a convivial chat in relaxed surroundings.

The Community Cafe meets on the first Thursday in the month at 10.30am in the morning at St Matthews Church Harwell. It is free but people like to give a donation for the

refreshments. Any money collected goes to CAP via the Church treasurer. We are a very informal group. Our numbers are increasing, with our regulars and visitors the attendance is usually over fifteen.

2.4 World Mission

The World Mission Group seeks to promote the engagement of our churches with world mission and proposes to each PCC how each church could spend its world mission budget. During 2023, we continued to support financially a number of organisations in line with the 5 marks of mission; MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship), Scripture Union, The Leprosy Mission and A Rocha.

We focus our World Mission financial support and prayer around the Anglican Five Marks of Mission. The Marks and the corresponding organisations are:

1. **To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom:** Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). The work of MAF enables mission workers to reach difficult and isolated places to share Christianity.
2. **To teach, baptize and nurture new believers:** Scripture Union (SU). Through Bible studies, resources and camps, SU aims to share the Christian faith, and disciple children and young people, in particular.
3. **To respond to human need by loving service:** The Leprosy Mission (TLM). TLM diagnoses, treats and offers specialist care such as reconstructive surgery, as well as rehabilitation programmes and health education in communities.
4. **To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation.** Chris and Suzy Wilson are mission partners for Church Mission Society (CMS) and are based in Ethiopia and South Sudan. They work with a project that aims to equip and encourage churches in conflict-affected regions to actively work for peace.
5. **To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the Earth.** A Rocha, a Christian conservation organisation which works in the UK and internationally.

We also continued supporting financially a number of individual mission partners: We are support Chris and Suzy Wilson who are with Church Mission Society in Ethiopia; Endri and Dyshi Tabacu of The Light of the World church in Albania, and John Abu Bakker with Fellowship For Neighbours, India.

The four members of the world mission group met a number of times together during 2023. The group would love more people to join them.

Helen Brook, Peter Barclay-Watt, Georgina Greer and Yvonne Sanderson.

3. Looking Forward – Plans and Challenges for 2024

Central to our future is a strong and continuing focus on work with children, youth and families. In the year ahead, we will be looking to move this even closer to the centre of all we do, while maintaining a full commitment to ministry of and with people at every age and stage of life.

The long-anticipated Valley Park development will have its first homes built and occupied during 2024. This is an exciting opportunity for our church to express the vision to grow “wider, deeper and closer,” though, of course, this opportunity also carries challenges.

Our new Rector, Revd Jeremy Parsons joined us during 2023, and we enter 2024 with Revd Sasha Reeves (who has a special focus on Valley Park) having transferred her curacy to the Benefice. Other notable changes to the team include our Children and Families Worker Sarah Barrett stepping down, with some parts of her role being taken on by Lucy Ryan while we continue to recruit for a half or full-time worker.

As the Benefice grows in population, in diversity and in the range of opportunities, we have the challenge both to maintain and grow established areas of ministry, and to expand into new areas. We are working (with the support of an experienced adviser) on a project to improve our decision-making structures so we are better able to develop these and other aspects of ministry, and to make the best use of the many gifts of our congregations, leaders, staff and volunteers.

Partnerships with other local churches continue to be important to us, the most established being our involvement with CAP and with ECHO (the Greater Didcot Christian Children and Youthwork Trust). The year ahead is an exciting one for us all, and we continue to thank God for the privilege of working “to grow God’s church wider, deeper and closer” in the communities we serve.

4. Governance and Structure

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

St Matthew's, Harwell and All Saints', Chilton each has its own PCC. Each PCC met four times during 2023.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules (2022). The membership of the PCC consists of all clergy licensed to the Benefice, Churchwardens, Deanery Synod members and other lay members elected by those on the Electoral Roll of the church. All those who attend our services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election for the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the Parish, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

Given its wide responsibilities, the PCCs operate through several committees. Each committee deals with a particular aspect of Parish life. The committees report back regularly at PCC meetings, with minutes of their meetings or their decisions and recommendations being received, and discussed as necessary. The Rector is automatically a member of every committee.

Standing Committees of St Matthew's and All Saints'

These are the only committees required by Church law. They meet to set PCC agendas and, occasionally, when there are urgent decisions to be made, between PCC meetings. They consist of the Clergy, Churchwardens and the Treasurer plus the Vice-chair and the Secretary. They met twice in 2023.

Combined PCC

For efficiency and convenience St Matthew's, Harwell PCC and All Saints', Chilton PCC regularly hold Combined PCC meetings, where members of the two PCCs come together to discuss matters that are common to both parishes. Meetings of the Joint PCC (see below) are held as part of Combined PCC meetings. As such, voting by Joint PCC members on any decisions required by the Joint PCC generally follows discussion by the Combined PCC. The Combined PCC met four times during 2023, on Zoom.

Joint PCC

The Pastoral Measure provides for a Joint PCC in addition to the separate PCCs of our two Churches. It comprises the Benefice clergy, Churchwardens and the Treasurer plus the Vice-chair and the Secretary of each PCC.

The two PCCs can agree to place in the hands of the Joint PCC any matters involving both parishes. So far, the PCCs have delegated responsibility for the following matters to the Joint PCC:

- Safeguarding
- Staffing
- Data compliance

Safeguarding

The Benefice complies fully with national and Church of England law on safeguarding. Each Church has a Safeguarding Officer: Sue Greatbanks for St Matthew's and Judy Gold for All Saints'. Sue was newly appointed in June 2022 and has been undergoing training. Judy and Sue work collaboratively together across the Benefice and as equals. This replaced the previous system where one Safeguarding Officer was deputy to the other. The Joint PCC reviews and approves the Safeguarding Policy annually.

Staffing

The Benefice employs an Administrator working 20 hours a week and a Children and Families Worker. We are currently recruiting to fill our Children and Families Worker vacancy which is being covered by a combination of volunteers and temporary freelance paid help.

Staffing matters are overseen by the Benefice employment committee which is concerned with meeting the statutory regulations around employment, ensuring that performance assessment and development of staff employed by the PCCs is carried out, and that recruitment procedures are correctly followed.

Data Compliance

In 2023, we have continued to work to ensure that our Churches are compliant with current national data governance legislation in the form of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

5. Finance Report

The PCC has the significant responsibility of setting the budget and monitoring the income and expenditure of the Church. This task is carried out by the Finance Committee, which reviews in detail the different purposes of the expenditure, as well as the different forms of income and giving to the Church.

Financial Position

The final financial position for St Matthew's Church was more than £4,007 better than budgeted, although still showing a deficit of £10,849. The main contributors to this outcome have been lower than planned church maintenance costs, as well as a temporary rebate on the parish share prior to the arrival of the new rector.

St. Matthew's participates in the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), which removes significant administration time from the handling of regular giving. Currently the PGS accounts for 56% of regular giving and 67% of regular donors.

Income in 2023 was £102,804. Expenditure in 2023 was £113,653.

We are grateful for the continued support for the Children and Families Worker Fund, which allowed the role to be financed without access to the stretched general giving pool. The level of the Fund at the end of 2023 was £52,056 which gives us confidence in recruiting for the future.

See Appendix 4 for a summary of income and expenditure compared to previous years, as well as the budget for 2024.

Reserves Policy

Reserves are held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet the cost of emergencies. It has been a PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on free reserves of at least 6 months unrestricted payments, although this figure is being reviewed. In the case of St Matthew's Church this would be around £64,450 for 2024.

At 31st December 2023, the PCC held £62,319 in unrestricted reserves (£86,128 in Designated Funds less a negative balance of £23,809 in the General Fund).

6. Buildings

The PCC is charged with the care, maintenance and insurance of the Church buildings, including St Matthew's Church Hall. The property and movable goods of the church are vested in the Churchwardens, who are also responsible for inspecting the fabric of the church and making an annual report (the Fabric Report) first to the PCC and then to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

The PCC is also concerned with developing our buildings to accommodate our own activities more effectively, and to enable us to connect better with and serve the wider community. A key aim is to have a main Church building that is flexible, comfortable, and accessible, whilst maintaining and even enhancing its beauty.

St Matthew's Church building

St Matthew's Church is a Grade 1 listed building, parts of which date back to 1190. It is kept in a good state of repair by the Buildings Committee and other volunteers. Some of this work is maintenance and general repairs that continue in a very similar fashion, year in year out. In addition, the Church is cleaned regularly by a combination of a paid cleaner and a small faithful team of volunteers.

The Buildings Committee maintains an Action List of ongoing tasks. The Church architect carried out the Quinquennial Inspection of the church building in June 2021. The recommendations are being followed up, and where relevant, have been incorporated in the Action List. The overall condition of the Church building is good and the architect in his report commented *"It is clear.....that the PCC take a great deal of care and pride in looking after the fabric of this Church"*.

The detailed Fabric Report by the Churchwardens is provided in a separate document.

The following are examples of work carried out during the last year.

- Three finial crosses on the Church roof, that had been broken for many years, have been replaced with new crosses with the aid of the legacy from the estate of Edwin Stringer. At the same time the other two intact crosses were inspected and the fixing of the one on the porch re-made. The other cross on the nave roof was found to be satisfactory.
- While the scaffolding was in place for the work on the finial crosses, spalled stonework on the parapet between the nave and chancel was repaired by a replacement coping stone. Repairs were also made to the stonework around the east window and the iron crossbar cleaned and repainted.
- A wiping seal has been fitted to the bottom of the extension door to help avoid flooding of the lobby that has occurred several times during 2023 during exceptionally heavy rainfall. A temporary drainage channel has also been dug from the paving to soak away to the nearby drain. A plan has been drawn up to re-lay the paving and

- provide a new drainage channel.
- Following the analysis carried out in 2022 of how energy costs could be reduced, cavity wall insulation (polymer beads) was injected into the external walls of the extension in January 2023.
- The chandelier was taken down, parts cleaned and the chandelier re-mounted in March 2023, the first time this has been done since December 2018.
- A new desktop computer and worktop have been installed to replace the laptops previously used at the sound desk with the audio-visual (AV) system. Since the Wi-Fi connection from the router in the Church Office to the AV system has often been unsatisfactory, an Ethernet cable has been laid to connect the router to the area by the sound desk.

The

extension door, site of flooding
Work to replace the broken finial
crosses

Photos by David Pyke and Tony Hughes

The **Friends of St Matthew's** scheme to stimulate interest in the Church building, and ultimately help to contribute to the costs of keeping it in good order, has continued in 2023 through a Facebook page: www.facebook.com/HarwellChurchFriends. This is aimed particularly at descendants of the Harwell family lineage in the USA. The Facebook page has had a lot of visits and interest and consideration continues as to how this interest can be used to increase donations to help with the cost of maintenance of the Church.

St Matthew's Church Hall

The Church Hall is located on the corner of The Park and Wellshead, approximately 100m south of the church. Its fabric is generally in good order; the surrounding grass and boundary hedges are cut when necessary.

The Hall has been used less than is ideal during 2023. Bookings during the course of the year have been managed by the Church Administrator. In the absence of a Hall Manager,

maintenance has been carried out by the Buildings committee and Churchwardens. We are grateful for all those who manage the Church Hall and help to keep it clean and tidy and in working order. There are a number of general repairs and grounds work that need to be carried out each year and the details of these can be found in the Log Book.

A Working Morning was organised in September to clean gutters, clean windows and cut the hedges. In preparation for the Winter the Hall heating system was re-programmed so that it would not be heating the Hall unnecessarily when the Hall is not in use.

Since an interest had been expressed in purchasing the Hall, a Working Group set up by the PCC to review the situation reported its findings in March 2023. The Group concluded that sale of the Hall offered no obvious way forward at present and judged that many significant and unfavourable factors meant that this would not be the right time to be selling it. The Group also felt that some improvements could be made to the Hall facilities to counteract some of its perceived deficiencies, and that this might open up the possibility of other uses. In November 2023, the PCC agreed to set up a new Project Group to pick up from these conclusions, so as to map out a path for the future of the Hall, and to advise the PCC of the best options to follow in the short and longer terms. This Group started work in early 2024.

Appendix 1 – Administrative Information

The correspondence address for the Rector is:

The Rectory
Church Lane
Harwell, Didcot
OX11 0EZ

The Independent Examiner of the PCC Financial Accounts is:

Mrs Jane Moreton
Harrow House
Burr Street
Harwell, Didcot
OX11 0DT

Appendix 2: St Matthew's Church Membership

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll stood at 66 in April 2023 compared to 77 in April 2022.

Appendix 3 -St Matthew's PCC Membership

During 2023, the membership of St Matthew's PCC has been:

Clergy

- Revd Jeremy Parsons (Rector from May)
- Revd Pam Rolls (Associate Minister)
- Revd Janet Radford (Assistant Minister)

Churchwardens

- Eliza Wheaton
- Jane Woolley

Elected Deanery Synod representatives

- Gordon Gill (resigned)
- Sid Gale

Other Elected representatives

- Tony Hughes (Vice-Chair)
- Elizabeth Clarke (Secretary)
- Tim Roberts (Treasurer)
- Rebecca Lewis
- Liz Roberts
- Phill Johnston

Appendix 4: Income & Expenditure V Budget January 1 to December 31 2023

Income	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Church Hall income			
Letting income	2,237.00		
Church Hall income - Other	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,000.00</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Total Church Hall income	2,237.00	2,000.00	111.85%
Donations/legacies			
Donations Gift-Aided	204.60		
Other donations	2,444.79		
Donations/legacies - Other	<u>0.00</u>	<u>3,000.00</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Total Donations/legacies	2,649.39	3,000.00	88.31%
Fees			
Burial	2,585.00		
other	(623.00)		
Fees - Other	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,500.00</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Total Fees	1,962.00	2,500.00	78.48%
Holiday Club Donations			
Gift-Aided	448.58		
Other	141.22		
Holiday Club Donations - Other	<u>0.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Total Holiday Club Donations	589.80	500.00	117.96%
Interest Income			
Business Reserve	798.03		
CBF Reserve	1,864.25		
Interest Income - Other	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,500.00</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Total Interest Income	2,662.28	1,500.00	177.49%
loose			
GASDS	1,238.39		
GASDS Commty Bldng - Fledglings	850.65		
loose - Other	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,500.00</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Total loose	2,089.04	1,500.00	139.27%
Planned Giving			
Gift-Aided Donations	49,116.82	54,000.00	90.96%

Other Planned Giving	<u>3,621.47</u>	<u>4,000.00</u>	<u>90.54%</u> <u>90.93%</u>
Total Planned Giving	52,738.29	58,000.00	90.93%
Tax Recovered			
Donations	172.50		
GASDS Fledglings	235.55		
GASDS Tax received	236.10		
Planned Giving	12,284.32		
Tax Recovered - Other	<u>0.00</u>	<u>14,000.00</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Total Tax Recovered	12,928.47	14,000.00	92.35%
Transfer from Restricted Fund	21,650.34	29,300.00	73.89%
VAT Reclaim	<u>3,297.90</u>		
Total Income	<u>102,804.51</u>	<u>112,300.00</u>	<u>91.55%</u>
Total Income	<u>102,804.51</u>	<u>112,300.00</u>	<u>91.55%</u>
	102,804.51	112,300.00	91.55%

The different totals between Receipts in the Annual Accounts (£81,154) vs Income in the Income & Expenditure (£102,804) statement, is that the transfer from Restricted Funds (£21,650) is itemised separately in the Annual Accounts, rather than as part of Receipts, which reflect external giving to the church only, in line with accounting practice.

Expense

Agreed Expenditure for Harwell			
Mission and Local Giving	8,000.00	8,004.00	99.95%
Total Agreed Expenditure for Harwell	8,000.00	8,004.00	99.95%
Fixed Expenditure for Harwell			
Parish Share & synod	46,161.08	47,959.00	96.25%
Total Fixed Expenditure for Harwell	46,161.08	47,959.00	96.25%
Harwell PCC Expenses			
Administration	202.87		
Associate Minister's expenses	403.25	100.00	403.25%
Bank Charges	200.00	200.00	100.0%
Church cleaning	706.72	1,000.00	70.67%
Church Hall			
Church Hall cleaning & maintain	1,019.71	1,500.00	67.98%
Church Hall Insurance	406.62	800.00	50.83%
Church Hall utilities	3,620.60	3,000.00	120.69%
Total Church Hall	5,046.93	5,300.00	95.23%
Church Insurance	2,498.83	4,800.00	52.06%
Church maintenance	6,129.41	11,810.00	51.9%
Church utilities	6,293.51	7,000.00	89.91%
Gifts, Subscriptions and Course			
Courses	232.45		
Gifts	741.11		
Subscriptions and Fees	163.00		
Gifts, Subscriptions and Course - Other	0.00	500.00	0.0%
Total Gifts, Subscriptions and Course	1,136.56	500.00	227.31%
Minister's Expenses	659.99	100.00	659.99%
Miscellaneous			
Christmas Trees	238.00	150.00	158.67%
Miscellaneous - Other	0.00	50.00	0.0%
Total Miscellaneous	238.00	200.00	119.0%
Office Costs	1,556.02	1,000.00	155.6%
Organists etc.	400.00	400.00	100.0%
Outreach			
CAP Debt Centre	4,333.00	4,333.00	100.0%
CFW expenses	1,896.43	800.00	237.05%
CFW remuneration	11,033.91	17,500.00	63.05%
Holiday Club	1,369.29	1,500.00	91.29%
Home Groups	0.00	100.00	0.0%
Youth Work			
CRB Fees	158.26		
Fledglings	25.00		

Youth Fellowship	33.10		
Youth Work - Other	0.00	500.00	0.0%
Total Youth Work	216.36	500.00	43.27%
Outreach - Other	67.94		
Total Outreach	18,916.93	24,733.00	76.49%
Outsourced Printing	309.05	300.00	103.02%
Secretary's remuneration	11,265.36	11,000.00	102.41%
Services			
Sound equipment	206.93		
Services - Other	495.37	500.00	99.07%
Total Services	702.30	500.00	140.46%
Stationery	66.88	150.00	44.59%
Subscriptions & other courses	25.00		
Visiting Speaker	0.00	100.00	0.0%
Website	2,734.59	2,000.00	136.73%
Total Harwell PCC Expenses	59,492.20	71,193.00	83.57%
Total Expense	113,653.28	127,156.00	89.38%
Profit for the Year	(10,848.77)	(14,856.00)	73.03%

If you would like to see a copy of this Annual Report in large print, or discuss any parts of particular interest to you, please contact the Church Administrator on 01235 834256 or office@harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk

Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St. Matthew's, Harwell

I report to the Parochial Church Council on my examination of the accounts of St Matthew's, Harwell for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- (i) accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (ii) the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Jane Moreton
Harrow House
Burr Street
Harwell
OXON



20/3.....2024

St. Matthew's Church, Harwell
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Receipts & Payments Account

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Receipts					
Voluntary Receipts					
Planned Giving (note 4a)	52,738	0	0	52,738	57,994
Collections at Services	1,239			1,239	605
Collections at Community Buildings	851			851	821
Other voluntary receipts (note 4b)	3,239	0	27,377	30,616	82,137
Non-recurring income (note 4c)	3,298			3,298	1,723
Gift Aid received	12,928		4,044	16,972	21,053
Investment income (note 4d)	2,662	850	0	3,512	692
Receipts from Church activities (note 4e)	4,199	0	6,794	10,993	11,606
Total Receipts	81,154	850	38,204	119,708	176,631
Payments					
Church Activities					
Diocesan Parish Share	46,161			46,161	47,477
Ministry (note 4f)	28,014	0	5,706	33,720	32,641
Maintenance, Utilities & Insurance (note 4g)	20,675	19,370		40,045	0
Administration & Stationery (note 4h)	5,070			5,070	7,749
Missions & Charities	8,000			8,000	7,100
Other (note 4i)	5,733		7,483	13,216	15,782
Total Payments	113,653	19,370	13,189	146,212	129,634
Excess of Receipts over Payments	-32,499	-18,520	25,015	-26,504	46,998
Transfers Between Funds	21,650		-21,650	0	43
Excess of Receipts over Payments after Transfers	-10,849	-18,520	3,365	-26,004	47,041
Cash and Bank current and deposit accounts 1 Jan	-12,960	104,648	67,711	159,399	111,749
Excess receipts over payments after transfers	-10,849	-18,520	3,365	-26,004	47,041
Cash and Bank current and deposit accounts 31 Dec	-23,809	86,128	71,076	133,395	158,790

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Cash Funds					
Cash	40			40	64
Bank Current and Deposit Accounts	-23,849	69,798		45,949	52,635
CBF Deposit Account		16,330	71,076	87,406	83,591
Total Cash Funds	-23,809	86,128	71,076	133,395	136,290
Debtors					
Gift Aid recoverable	1,497		450	1,947	2,641
Total Debtors	1,497	0	450	1,947	4,625
Assets Retained for Church Use					
Church Hall (note 2)				137,644	137,644
Liabilities					
ODBF Fees			2,108	2,108	0
Total Liabilities	0	0	2,108	2,108	0

The attached notes on pages 4 to 6 form part of these financial statements.

These financial statements were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 5th 3, 2024
and signed on their behalf by



Chairman

Jeremy Parsons



Trustee (and Treasurer)

Tim Roberts

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 asset retained for church use is the Church Hall, built in 1994, at cost.
- 3 Movements in designated and restricted funds (including tax reclaimed where applicable as part of income) over the year were:

	Bal B/fwd £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfer £	Bal C/fwd £
Designated					
Bell Repairs	267				267
Bosher Legacy	11,562				11,562
Chancel Repair Fund	0			5,000	5,000
Phase 2 Building	38,189	850			39,039
Mission Giving Legacies	16,187				16,187
Staples Legacy	9,896				9,896
E Stringer Legacy	14,547		14,547		0
E Gill Legacy	9,000		323	-5,000	3,677
Ullmer Legacy	4,500		4,500		0
Insurance excess	500				500
	104,648	850	19,370	0	86,128
Restricted					
Administrator Fund	3,758	5,947		-8,000	1,705
Altar frontal fund	869				869
Assorted Collections	1,144	2,096	2,096		1,144
Baptism Bibles	99				99
CAP Money Course	572	100	126		546
CAP Centre	0	514	514		0
CFW extension fund	44,959	20,027		-12,930	52,056
Chilton joint account	0	4,175	4,175		0
Christmas Together	795				795
Church Fabric/Redecoration	1,000	720		-720	1,000
Didcot Foodbank	0	187	187		0
Fledglings Garden Fund	185				185
Generation Gold	2,603	135	920		1,818
Harwell Helpers	2,893		2,893		0
Memorial Fund	526				526
ODBF Fees	0	2,619	511		2,108
Organ Repair Fund	0	434			434
Outreach	4,941		621		4,320
Rector's Discretionary fund	386				386
Sound System Upgrade	2,939	1,250	1,104		3,085
Youth Fund	42		42		0
	67,711	38,204	13,189	-21,650	71,076

4 Receipts and Payments Analysis (Receipts exclude Gift Aid received)

Receipts	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
(a) Planned Giving					
Gift-aided Planned Giving	48,917			48,917	54,186
Other Planned Giving	3,621			3,621	3,808
Total Planned Giving	52,538	0	0	52,538	57,994
(b) Other Giving and Donations					
General	2,649			2,649	36,052
Administrator			5,100	5,100	8,838
Assorted Collections			1,979	1,979	1,169
Bosher Legacy				0	11,561
CAP Money Course			100		
CAP Centre			497	497	110
CFW Extension			17,165	17,165	17,860
Church Fabric/Redecoration			720	720	0
Didcot Foodbank			187	187	0
Generation Gold			135	135	1,030
Holiday Club	590			590	729
Mission Giving Legacies				0	4,788
Organ Repair Fund			434	434	
Sound System Upgrade			1,050	1,050	
Total Donations	3,239	0	27,367	30,606	82,137
(c) Non-recurring income					
VAT reclaim - LPW grant	3,298			3,298	0
Grants				0	1723
Total Non-recurring income	3,298			3,298	1,723
(d) Receipts from Investments					
Bank interest	798			798	152
CBF Deposit Account interest	1,864	850		2,714	540
Total Receipts from Investments	2,662	850	0	3,512	692
(e) Receipts from Church activities					
Fees	1,962		2,619	4,581	7,674
Church Hall income	2,237			2,237	1,760
Chilton joint account			4,175	4,175	2,173
Total Receipts from Church Activities	4,199	0	6,794	10,993	11,606

Payments	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
(f) Ministry					
Associate Minister's Expenses	403			403	462
Minister's Expenses	660			660	0
CAP Money Courses			126	126	
CFW extension	12,930			12,930	16,854
Administrator	11,265			11,265	10,241
Youth Work and Kids Church	1,586		42	1,628	1,743
Outreach	68		621	689	16
Harwell Helpers			2,893	2,893	1,018
Generation Gold			920	920	854
Services	702		1,104	1,806	833
Organist	400			400	620
Total Ministry	28,014	0	5,706	33,720	32,641
(g) Maintenance and Utilities					
Church Cleaning	707			707	683
Church Maintenance	6,129	19,370		25,499	4,155
Church Utilities	6,294			6,294	5,138
Church Hall Maintenance and Cleaning	1,020			1,020	1,186
Church Hall Utilities	3,621			3,621	2,190
Church Insurance	2,499			2,499	4,759
Church Hall Insurance	407			407	775
Total Maintenance and Utilities	20,677	19,370	0	40,047	18,885
(h) Administration & Stationery					
Administration	203			203	3149.69
Bank charges	200			200	200
Stationery	67			67	124
Office costs	1,556			1,556	1,233
Website	2,735			2,735	2,611
Outsourced Printing	309			309	431
Total Administration and Stationery	5,070	0	0	5,070	7,749
(i) Other					
Gifts, Subs and Courses	1,162			1,162	467
Miscellaneous	238			238	293
O.D.B.F. fees			511	511	6,772
CAP Debt Centre	4,333		514	4,847	3,443
Chilton Joint Account			4,175	4,175	0
Didcot Foodbank			187	187	0
Assorted Collections			2,096	2,096	1,351
Total Other	5,733	0	7,483	13,216	12,326

- 5 In addition, during 2023 £5,533 was received from the Diocese on behalf of the Didcot Youthwork Trust under the terms of a funding agreement between the Diocese and the Trust. These funds were transferred to the Trust as soon as the funds were received from the Diocese and these amounts are not included in these financial statements as the PCC has no control over these funds and are simply acting as an agent for the Trust.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St. Matthew's, Harwell

I report to the Parochial Church Council on my examination of the accounts of St Matthew's, Harwell for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

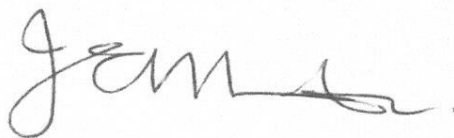
Independent examiner's statement

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

- (i) accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (ii) the accounts do not accord with those records.

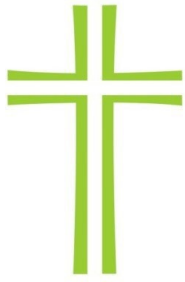
I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Jane Moreton
Harrow House
Burr Street
Harwell
OXON



20/3.....2024

Accounts



ST MATTHEW'S
H A R W E L L

Annual Report 2023



Registered Charity No 1158861

Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. REVIEW OF THE YEAR - BENEFICE ACTIVITIES	4
2.1 WORSHIP SERVICES.....	4
2.2 BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS	7
2.3 PRAYER	8
2.4 BELL-RINGING	8
2.5 YOUTH AND FAMILIES.....	9
2.6 EVANGELISM & DISCIPLESHIP.....	16
2.7 PASTORAL CARE	18
2.8 SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY.....	19
2.9 WORLD MISSION	21
2.10 STAFFING	22
3. LOOKING FORWARD - KEY PLANS AND CHALLENGES	24
4. GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE	25
5. FINANCE	27
6. BUILDINGS	28
APPENDIX 1: ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION	31
APPENDIX 2: ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH MEMBERSHIP.....	32
APPENDIX 3: ST MATTHEW'S PCC MEMBERSHIP	32
APPENDIX 4: INCOME AND EXPENDITURE IN 2021 AND 2022 AND BUDGET FOR 2023 ..	33

1. Introduction

This is the annual report of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the Church of St Matthew's in Harwell, Oxfordshire. It covers the last financial accounting year, which was the calendar year ending 31 December 2022.

The primary aim of our church and its PCC is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England.

Specifically, our church vision, which was adopted during 2015, is:

'Growing God's church, wider, deeper and closer'

The details of what our church has been doing over the last year to further its vision are given in section 2.

This report was approved by the PCC at its meeting on 7 March 2023 and is signed on their behalf by the Vice-Chair of the PCC, Dr Antony Hughes, the post of Rector currently being vacant.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dr Antony Hughes', is written over a faint, light-colored rectangular stamp or watermark.

Signature

Date 7 March 2023

2. Review of the year – Benefice activities

Our church forms part of the Benefice of St Matthew's, Harwell with All Saints', Chilton. These two churches, in neighbouring villages, share a ministry team of one full time stipendiary member of clergy, two part time non-stipendiary ministers, five retired clergy with Permission to Officiate, two Licensed Lay Ministers with Permission to Officiate, and two authorised preachers. The churches also share three paid lay members of staff covering one full-time post (currently a job share) and one part-time post.

Some people from Harwell or St Matthew's attend and support church services, events and groups in Chilton or in All Saints' and vice versa – either regularly or occasionally. There are many other areas of sharing and co-operation between the two churches, such as safeguarding, engagement with world mission, and publicity and communications. For these reasons, the lives of our two church communities are somewhat intertwined and it is not always possible to delineate strictly between them in practice. This report therefore covers activities in both churches.

With the lifting of Covid restrictions in February, church life returned to something resembling pre-pandemic normality in 2022.

The other main backdrop to the year was that we were without a Rector from the end of March once Rev Dr Jonathan Mobey returned to being a GP. We ran a process to find a new Rector in the autumn but it was unsuccessful. We will try again in early 2023 and pray for the right outcome.

In the absence of a Rector, the churchwardens were responsible for running the churches. We are grateful to them for taking on all the extra work involved. Their task was made easier by the support of our volunteer leaders and preachers, and by our hard-working paid Administrator and Children & Families workers.

2.1 Worship services

Every Sunday we meet to worship God, hear His Word, pray together, and encourage one another. Our services range from the quiet, traditional ones - from the Book of Common Prayer - to contemporary, family-friendly ones.

Most services are organ- or piano-led. In addition, St Matthew's has an all-age orchestra, which in 2022 accompanied on average one service a month and at festivals such as Christmas and Easter. St Matthew's also has an occasional brass group. All Saints' has a small regular choir with additional members at festivals.

Following a trial of a modified service pattern during September-December 2021, we made further modifications in February 2022 to address concerns raised at a PCC away day in January. The new service pattern was designed to improve the integration of families and children with the rest of the

congregation at All Saints'. We then made a further change in September 2022. This was to simplify things such that St Matthew's has just one Sunday morning service start time of 10.30am and no separation of the 'Family Praise' and the 'Morning Worship' parts of the service.

We ceased the weekly online service in September 2022 which had been instigated during the pandemic. The need for it had reduced considerably with the relaxation of Government restrictions and the provision of in-person worship services throughout 2022.

Table 1 displays the revised service pattern across the benefice as of September 2022.

Revised service pattern as of September 2022		
Worship services	All Saints', Chilton	St Matthew's, Harwell
Sundays 8am	-	-
Sundays 9.30am	Morning Worship on 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays (BCP Morning Prayer on 2nd Sundays alternate months); Holy Communion on 1st and 3rd Sundays	-
Sundays 10.30am	Interactive Family Service in Village Hall on 2nd Sundays	Family Praise followed by Morning Worship on 1 st , 3 rd and 4 th Sundays Holy Communion on 2 nd Sundays and Family Communion on 5 th Sundays
Sundays 6pm	-	Evening Prayer on 1st and 3rd Sundays; BCP on 2nd and 5th Sundays; Holy Communion on 4th Sundays
Thursdays 11am	Holy Communion 2nd Thursdays	Holy Communion 4th Thursdays

Table 1: Revised service pattern

In February a **Christingle Service** was held in both churches. Christingles – symbolising God's gifts and Jesus as the light of the world - were assembled by the congregation from an orange, red ribbon, four cocktail sticks with fruit and sweets and a candle.



Photo: Christingle Service; Steve Hale

In **Holy Week**, we held a service on Maundy Thursday at St Matthew's and an Easter Saturday Vigil service at All Saints'. There was a morning service at both churches on Good Friday and on Easter Sunday, plus an evening service at St Matthew's on Easter Sunday.

The **Stone Service** led by Rev Pam Rolls was held at Harwell Memorial Stone on Saturday 4th June, the closest Saturday to 5th June. It commemorates the RAF glider pilots leaving in 1944 to participate in the D Day landings in Normandy. It was attended by civilians, local groups and military personnel.

We held services at both All Saints' and St Matthew's on **Remembrance Sunday** in November, and shorter Acts of Remembrance in All Saints' Church and at Harwell War Memorial on the High Street. The Children & Families worker organised an activity for primary school aged children in the village hall in each village during the Remembrance Sunday church service.



Photo: Rev Pam Rolls at Harwell Memorial Stone Service; Bob Girling

During **Advent** we held afternoon and evening 'carols by candlelight' services with mulled wine and mince pies at each church. The weather was bitterly cold and thankfully all these services could be held inside this year. There was a crib service in each church on 23rd/24th December. Christmas Eve and Christmas Day culminated in the traditional midnight communion and morning services at each church.



Photo: All Saints'; Steve Hale

2.2 Baptisms, weddings and funerals

Baptisms, weddings and funerals are important occasions, both in their own right and as pastoral opportunities. The number of these services can vary enormously from year to year because the absolute numbers are relatively small.

We can see from the data in Table 2 that the number of baptisms, weddings and funeral services in church held steady in 2022 following the lifting of Government restrictions related to the pandemic.

Each baptism involves at least one pastoral visit before the service and follow-up as appropriate. Most baptisms are for children of families who are not regular attenders at church.

Each wedding involves several meetings with the couples and a rehearsal, and much liaison and administration, including with the Church Administrator, organists and vergers/sides people. Most

wedding couples live locally, but some have a connection through family or having previously lived in the parishes.

Each funeral involves at least one meeting with the next of kin, liaison with the family, the Funeral Director, organists and vergers/sides people. Pastoral follow up is carried out by the officiating minister as appropriate.

	St Matthew's Harwell			All Saints' Chilton		
	2022	2021	2020	2022	2021	2020
Baptisms	7	7	1	3	0	0
Thanksgivings for a child	0	2	0	0	0	0
Weddings	3	4	0	2	2	0
Funerals in church	8	10	8	4	2	4
Thanksgiving services in church	1	0	0	4	0	0
Funerals at crematoria	4	3	4	0	3	0
Interments of ashes	0	1	2	4	3	1

Table 2: Number of baptisms, weddings and funerals

2.3 Prayer

Prayer is an essential part of the life of our churches.

Both churches maintain a list of individuals to pray for during the times of intercession in Sunday services.

Outside of formal worship services, and in addition to private prayer by individuals and in home groups, we have:

- A Benefice online weekly prayer meeting on Saturday mornings attended regularly by six people
- A Benefice Prayer Chain of 53 people which enables emergency and continuing prayer for anyone within the church or for issues known to church members

2.4 Bell-ringing

St Matthew's Church tower has eight bells, and All Saints' tower has six. Both churches have

enthusiastic bell ringing teams. The bells were rung on most Sundays in 2022, for weddings and some funerals. On other occasions peals and quarter peals were rung by the home or visiting bands. They were also rung for Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June and then again, muffled, to mark her death in September.

2.5 Youth and Families

Provision for youth and families is an aspect of the Benefice's work into which significant resources are invested. This reflects the acknowledged importance of reaching the young, not least in growing our churches.

Children & Families Worker (C&FW)

Alongside Sarah Barrett who continued in the role, Rev Brendan Bailey was appointed to job share with Sarah as of 1 January 2022. Eliza Wheaton, one of the St Matthew's churchwardens, took over as line manager for the C&FWs during the Rector vacancy.



Brendan stepped down in September 2022. Sarah has continued in the role with the PCC agreeing to pay her for additional hours worked while we review how and when to replace Brendan.

Children and Young People's Sunday groups

On Sundays we continue to offer an all-age service in Harwell or Chilton every Sunday morning.



On the first and third Sundays of the month, most families attend the 10.30am service at St Matthew's. We start with a time of praise and worship together as a congregation and then the children move into Kids Church (for primary school ages) or Pathfinders (for secondary school ages).

The content of Kids Church and Pathfinders

Photos: Chilton Interactive; Sarah Barrett

is based on what is being preached in the main service. This means that families all focus on the same Bible passage and broad theme.

On the second Sunday of the month, we hold the Chilton Interactive service in Chilton village hall. This offers an informal, cafe-style church where everyone stays together for the service. Most of the attendees are the core church families from Harwell and Chilton. They are joined by a few other families who only attend this Interactive service. Some of the congregation from the earlier 9.30am All Saints' church service join for coffee at the start. A few of them stay on for the Interactive service too.

On the fourth Sunday of the month, families are invited to attend an all-age service at their 'home' church in Harwell or Chilton.

A key learning point from the pandemic was the benefit of bringing our families from across the Benefice to worship together; they found it helpful to have a wider group of fellow-Christian parents, and by concentrating children's Sunday morning groups at St Matthew's, we have also been able to run fewer but better attended groups which are easier to staff.

Summer Holiday Club

2022 saw the return to a larger scale Holiday Club than was possible during the pandemic. This was held at Harwell Primary school for one week of August. The theme was 'Diary of a Disciple' which covers the whole of Luke's gospel – quite a challenge in one week!



Photos: Holiday Club - children arriving in their dens on the first day; Vicky Johnston

Approximately 80 children attended, including six of secondary school age. These older children helped in dens and with afternoon activities. They also led the drama and some of the games.

More than 40 adult volunteers served at Holiday Club. It would be impossible to run it without this level of commitment from church volunteers and others in the community.

Fledgelings

Fledgelings is a term time group for pre-school aged children and their parents/carers. It takes place each week in term time in both Harwell (in St Matthew's church) and in Chilton (in the Community Room on Chilton Field).

The group provides play and activities for the children and company and conversation for the adults. The sessions incorporate a 'See & Know' singing and story-time with an explicitly Christian curriculum.

The average weekly attendance (adults plus children) during 2022 was about 40 in Chilton and about 50 in Harwell. Both groups are supported by volunteers who help make refreshments and provide a warm welcome and support to the carers attending.



Photos: Fledgelings at Chilton; Sarah Barrett

Schools

Children & Families Worker, Sarah Barrett, continued to lead assemblies at both Harwell and Chilton Primary Schools during 2022. This included at Harvest and Advent. Sarah also continued to volunteer for the 'wellbeing group' at Harwell school from January to the end of the summer term. She is hoping to be able to restart this group soon.

We held Reflective (Prayer) spaces in a marquee at both Harwell and Chilton Primary schools across two weeks of the summer term. This was well supported by volunteers who led nearly 40 sessions and saw approximately 500 children. As requested by the schools we explored the values of resilience, respect and responsibility and the theme of friendship. Both schools have asked that we return in 2023.



Year 3 and 4 pupils from Chilton Primary School visited All Saints' Church. Children in the Reception class will do so in early 2023.

At Harwell Primary School, Sarah Barrett was invited to speak to Year 6 at Christmas about the significance of Christmas to Christians and to their leavers' assembly at the end of the school

year. At Chilton Primary School, Sarah was asked to teach an RE lesson to Year 5 and 6 pupils about prophecies made about Jesus and how they came to fruition. It has been great to be of support to the schools in these ways.



Photos: Reflective Spaces; Sarah Barrett

Community and Special Events for children and families

Looking for further opportunities to share the Gospel and to have a positive impact on the community, we continued to provide several special events during 2022.

We ran an **Easter trail** around both our villages which involved looking at posters displayed in people's windows. The trail finished in church where we had several 'Prayer Space' activities relating to Holy Week.

At the end of October we held a '**Light Party**' in St Matthew's church which was attended by most of our regular church families. We also extended the invitation to Didcot Ridgeway Community Church and to Didcot Baptist church. It was lovely to welcome families from other churches to this event and we hosted over 40 children in total.

In November, on **Remembrance Sunday**, we ran a session for children in the village hall in both Harwell and Chilton during the church service which followed each community's act of Remembrance.

In Chilton, the community's act of Remembrance was held in the church. Any children present, including Beavers and Cubs, were then invited to join a session in the village hall. This involved a game, songs, a brief talk, craft and prayer.



Photos: An Advent Door in Harwell;
Yvonne Sanderson

In Harwell, the community's act of Remembrance was held at the war memorial on the High Street. Children from Beavers, Cubs and Scouts plus regular attendees of Kids Church were then invited to the village hall for a brief talk, craft and prayer.

In December we ran '**Advent Doors**' as a way of hearing part of the Christmas story each day from a home in each village.

We held **Christmas tree decorating** sessions in each church. This was attended by approximately 40 people at each church. At Harwell the participants were mostly from Fledgelings families (babies and toddlers). In Chilton the attendees tended to be primary school aged children.



Photos: Christmas tree decorating in All Saints';
Sarah Barrett

We also set up Narnia-themed 'prayer spaces' in both churches to coincide with the Christmas tree decorating session. These spaces explored the themes of being unique, of friendship, saying sorry and asking for help. The one in St Matthew's was left up for a few extra days and was visited by members of the congregation after the Sunday service, by Fledgelings and by adults attending the community cafe.



Photos: Narnia-themed 'prayer spaces' in church; Sarah Barrett

As already mentioned in section 2.1, we held a **crib service and an afternoon carol service** aimed at children and families in both churches. The choir from the relevant village primary school was invited to sing at the afternoon carol services. This was very successful and was well received by the schools.

All Saints' crib service had slightly fewer attendees than in previous years but it was encouraging to see families attend who do not usually attend church and whose relationships were made through Fledgelings.

Youth: ECHO and YF

'ECHO-cannot be contained' is the working name of the Greater Didcot Christian Children and Youth Work Trust. The Trust is an ecumenical working partnership of six local churches. It reaches out to youth attending the four secondary schools in Greater Didcot and Year 6 pupils in 14 feeder primary schools.

The Trust was founded by our benefice in 2021 as a Christian response to the high levels of social isolation and loneliness observed in secondary school aged young people and a strong shared desire to see young people introduced to the Christian faith. Its activities are shaped by a young persons' shaping group. The Trust has opened a twice weekly after-school youth cafe and after-school sports club to provide opportunities for young people to meet with their peers in a social setting. It aims to improve their mental health, fitness and overall wellbeing. Added to this is a Christian discipleship hub and termly youth worship events.

Six youth worship events were held during 2022, two of which were hosted at St Matthew's. The youth cafe runs in the Hub at Didcot Baptist Church every Thursday. Soul Sports has been running for three terms at St Birinus School and the first 'ECHO explore' (continuing the Christmas celebrations and exploring what Christians believe) started in January 2023.

Several young people from our churches have attended various of these ECHO events. It is an exciting initiative to be part of and support.

We ran our first **YF** (youth fellowship) session in November 2022 at St Matthew's church hall after a gap of two years during the pandemic. We are planning to run fortnightly YF sessions on Sunday evenings from the beginning of 2023.

2.6 Evangelism & Discipleship

Our churches seek to fulfil the Great Commission to make disciples through loving service, evangelism and discipleship – sharing the good news of Jesus in word and deed and helping individuals to grow in faith. This is done through our worship services but also through other groups and activities.

Nine people participated in the **Alpha Course** which took place in person this year, starting at the end of January through to Easter. The Holy Spirit Day was held in the Centre for Reflection in Aston Tirrold, which was a key experience on the personal faith journey of many of the participants, who are all now more actively involved in church, for example joining a Home Group.



Twenty-four members of our congregations took part in the **Living in Love and Faith Course** produced by the Church of England to enable churches across the country to participate in a process of learning and praying together as part of discerning a way forward in relation to matters of

identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. The four sessions covered a spectrum of different views, but the general consensus was that it had been most helpful to hear the perspectives of the variety of people whose different situations were presented in the short films provided. The participants did not always agree but listened respectfully to each other which enabled safe and sensitive conversations.

Home Groups continue to be important for growing in the faith of Christ, developing relationships, sharing views, and learning from one another, as well as trusting and supporting one another. Rev Jean Barton is responsible for encouraging and supporting the Home Groups and Elaine Shrimpton is now assisting her. They hope to increase awareness of Home Groups and encourage more to join by providing information via the projected news slides at the beginning of Sunday services.

During 2022, about 52 people met regularly face to face in Home Groups to study the Bible. There are six groups covering all ages, from parents with toddlers to those who are retired. There are a mix of evening and daytime groups with four of the groups having members from both Churches. Three groups have recently studied 'Bold I Approach' about prayer.

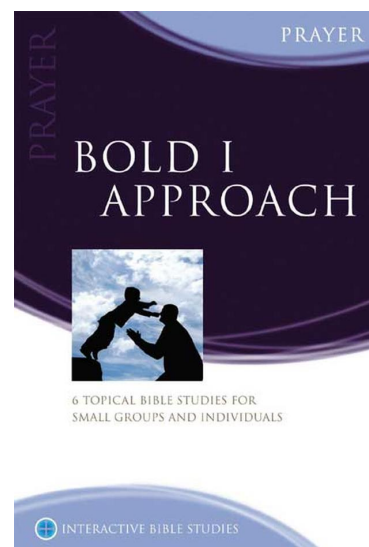


Image: Home Group course book

Our churches part-fund the Didcot and Wallingford Area **CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Debt Centre** which was set up in January 2015 to cover just Wallingford and expanded to Didcot in January 2017. The Centre's formal aims are:

- The relief of poverty by providing a debt counselling and debt management service
- The advancement of Christianity in Didcot, Wallingford and the surrounding area.

The Centre employs a Centre Manager and two part time Debt Coaches who between them are currently able to take on four new clients each month, supported by an employed administrator and by church members who befriend and support the client families.

This year was more typical, and the Centre was able to get back up to a consistent 2-3 referrals per month, totaling 38 new referrals across the year with seven clients becoming debt free. At the end of 2022 there were 48 families on the books – in set-up, on debt plans or going through insolvency. These numbers are all up on the previous year.



The Debt Centre is very blessed to have 45 volunteers helping and supporting the clients in so many ways including FareShare deliveries as well as prayer. Clients are also blessed with items of furniture, white goods and bikes.



Photo: Chilton August Charity Market in aid of CAP Debt Centre; Liz Roberts

The social events held for clients included a summer BBQ at St Matthew's and a Film and Pizza evening in December hosted by Wallingford Ridgeway Community Church. Gifts were delivered on Valentine's Day and at Easter. At Christmas, the usual deliveries of hampers to the clients and their families are always well received and a chance to show God's love for them.

Enormous thanks are due to the Charity Market in Chilton, who held their August Market to raise funds for the local Debt

Centre. As well as raising awareness of the cause, an amazing £903 was donated to the Debt Centre to help All Saints' contribution to its annual commitment of funding.

A highly committed team of trained Money Coaches in our churches continue to offer the **CAP Money Course**. There was one online course with only one attendee. No one signed up for the

student course in 2022, so it will be advertised earlier in 2023. The coaches were pleased to be able to offer their first in-person course since the pandemic on a Saturday morning at Didcot Baptist Church in October. Four delegates completed the course.

2.7 Pastoral Care

The **Pastoral Care teams** (and many individual members of our churches) visit parishioners in their homes and offer a loving Christian presence and a listening ear to those who are ill, bereaved or who feel lonely. Oversight of pastoral care in the Benefice is the responsibility of Rev Pam Rolls.

There is a pastoral care team in each parish. In Chilton, the team now operates under the leadership of Dr Pat Moseley who took over from Mrs Audrey Slater in 2022. Our thanks go to Audrey for her faithful and diligent service over many years; we are very glad that Audrey continues to serve in the team. In Harwell, the team has become very small, and we are still prayerfully and carefully seeking a new leader for it. It is hoped that a candidate will be appointed soon and that other team members will be recruited.

Funerals provide special opportunities for ministering to our parishioners. Funeral ministry is usually carried out by our clergy or by licensed or approved lay leaders, with follow-up visits to bereaved families taking place wherever possible.



Home Communion are normally taken four times a year to parishioners who are not very mobile – Easter, summer, Harvest and Christmas. During 2022 this ministry was reduced as several recipients died or moved into care. Our Churches are also part of a team of ministers who take communion to the new care home, Alma Barn Lodge, in Harwell Parish.

Generation Gold services, initiated by Rev Jan Radford and Rev Pam Rolls in 2015, were continued in 2022. Our theme for the year was 'Birds from the Bible' and we reflected on different birds at our quarterly services – including doves, eagles, ravens and robins (although the latter do not actually feature in the Bible!).



At our September meeting in Chilton Village Hall we enjoyed a wonderful fish and chip lunch supplied by 'Village Fish and Chips' who provided delicious food and showed an interest in our meetings and themes. We are very grateful to a willing band of helpers who assisted with delivering invitations, catering, and playing the piano and organ, and to the generous people whose donations made our special treats and reverse collections possible.

Plans are now in hand for Generation Gold for 2023 where we will be reflecting on 'The homes that Jesus visited'.

Both our Churches have continued to collect non-perishable food for **Didcot Emergency Foodbank** throughout the year, with a special collection in both churches at Harvest time. During 2022 the need for the Foodbank became more crucial as households struggled with the cost-of-living crisis.

2.8 Social and Community

Our churches host various social events for the benefit and care of the church and wider community.



Photo: Foodbank collection; Deborah Evans

The **All Saints' Women's Group** in Chilton offers evening fellowship. It serves both parishes and invites speakers on a wide variety of subjects. The group met through the year on the second Tuesday of the month in person, when possible, or otherwise on Zoom. They have covered a wide range of topics from 'What happens to our waste' a very informative talk by our local Waste and Recycling Officer, to 'Archway' the Oxford and Abingdon Charity which supports people with acute loneliness, learning about 'Changi Quilts', watching a presentation of amazing photographs of

Winchester Cathedral, and hearing about the life and family of Anne Frank. In April Rev Brendan Bailey spoke about his Christian Faith and in May they 'Carried on Cruising' with Carol Pigott. The Zoom meetings covered sharing tips on plants and volunteering. In December they enjoyed readings on the theme of 'Oxfordshire Christmases', singing carols and eating festive food.



Photo: Monthly Charity Market on Crafts End Green;
Bob Girling

The group have continued to hold the monthly Charity Markets, raising a total of £11,736 over the year, sometimes in very difficult conditions, with cold gusty winds and rain and in the height of summer seeking shade from the blistering sun. They have been so well supported by their members both in Chilton and Harwell and very loyal friends in the village. Charities they have helped in 2022 are 'The Porch', Ovarian Cancer Awareness, DEC Ukrainian Appeal, CAP, Brain Tumour Research, Hamlin Fistula UK, Prostate Cancer, Seesaw, Young Dementia UK, the Oncology Unit at the Churchill Hospital and through their combined market and plant sale, Christian Aid.

In November the Women's Group celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a lunch in the Village Hall, attended by 40 members and guests. There was much to celebrate, remembering their beginnings as a Young Wives Group, changing as seemed appropriate with time to Wives Group and then later, to be inclusive, to All Saints' Women's Group. At present they are considering yet another change to perhaps 'All Saints' Tuesday Group' as they welcome their first men as members. In 1972 the annual subscription was just 15p, rising to 25p six years later. In 2023 it stands at £10. They welcome new members to join.

Following its trial in December 2021, the **Church Community Cafe** continues to run in St Matthew's on the first Thursday of the month, between 10.00am and 12.00 noon. There is a regular attendance by 15 people who enjoy meeting together over a cup of tea or coffee.



Photo: Church Community Cafe at St Matthew's; Deborah Evans

Oasis Cafe was launched in May 2022 as an opportunity for Chilton villagers to gather once a month for a coffee (or tea!) and a convivial chat in relaxed surroundings. The event is held in All Saints' church on the 3rd Saturday morning of each month, between 10.00am and 12.00 noon, and is free to all comers. At first a dozen or so people dropped in to take part but in successive gatherings numbers have risen to 30+ and discussions have ranged from village history to electric cars and steam engines.

The Harwell Helps Ukrainians Group was set up by Harwell village in 2022 to help the Ukrainian refugees who have moved to Harwell to flee the war in their country. St Matthew's church was made readily available to host English lessons and cafe afternoons where they could meet fellow Ukrainians and villagers. Just before Christmas, All Saints' church and St Matthew's church



Photo: Oasis Cafe at All Saints'; Pam Rolls



Photo: Collection of items for Ukraine; Steve Hale

hall were used to collect and sort items such as warm clothing, nonperishable food and toiletries to be sent to help those still in Ukraine. A lorry full of boxes was collected by the 'Support Ukraine UK' Charity.

2.9 World Mission

The World Mission Group seeks to promote the engagement of our churches with world mission and proposes to each PCC how each church could spend its World Mission budget.

They focus our World Mission financial support and prayer around the Anglican Five Marks of Mission. The Marks and the corresponding organisations are:

- 1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom:** Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). The work of MAF enables mission workers to reach difficult and isolated places to share Christianity.
- 2. To teach, baptize and nurture new believers:** Scripture Union (SU). Through Bible studies,

resources and camps SU aims to share the Christian faith and disciple children and young people in particular.

3. To respond to human need by loving service: The Leprosy Mission (TLM). TLM diagnoses, treats and offers specialist care such as reconstructive surgery, as well as rehabilitation programmes and health education in communities.

4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation. Chris and Suzy Wilson are Mission Partners for Church Mission Society (CMS) in Ethiopia.

5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth. A Rocha, a Christian Conservation organisation who work in the UK and internationally.

The PCCs also continued to support financially a number of individual mission partners: in addition to Chris and Suzy Wilson, we also supported Endri and Dyshi Tabacu of The Light of the World church in Albania, and John Abu Bakker of Fellowship For Neighbours, India.

The four members of the World Mission group met together during 2022, sometimes over Zoom, but more recently in-person. The group would love more people to join it.

2.10 Staffing

Over the last five years or so, the Benefice has increased its investment in paid staff. Currently it funds two paid roles:

- A Benefice Administrator and PA to the Rector – 20 hours per week (see section below for more detail).
- A Children & Families Worker – working 40 hours per week (see section 2.5 for activities). This was a job share until September when Rev Brendan Bailey stepped down. We hope to recruit a replacement during 2023.

This investment reflects the following factors:

- The increasing administrative and communications workload
- The strategic decision that young children and their families should be a key area of focus for us.
- The gradual reduction in availability of volunteer time due to societal trends.

The employment of paid staff is a large responsibility – both financially and in managerial terms. In recognition of this, the Benefice established an Employment sub-committee of the Joint PCC in April 2017.

Administrative support

The benefice has a paid Administrator working 20 hours per week. A key focus of the role is

communications activity. There are also various records, documents, bookings and practical arrangements to organise.

The Administrator creates and prints service and notice sheets each week and the Ridgeway Broadsheet magazine 8 times each year; produces an Easter card and a Christmas card to promote special services and events; maintains the calendar, rotas and news items on the church website; posts to social media; manages St Matthew's Church Hall bookings, prepares various reports for the Diocese, Christian Copyright Licensing International, and the County Council; manages the office; and provides PA support to the Rector.



Image: the 2022 church Christmas card delivered to every home in the Benefice

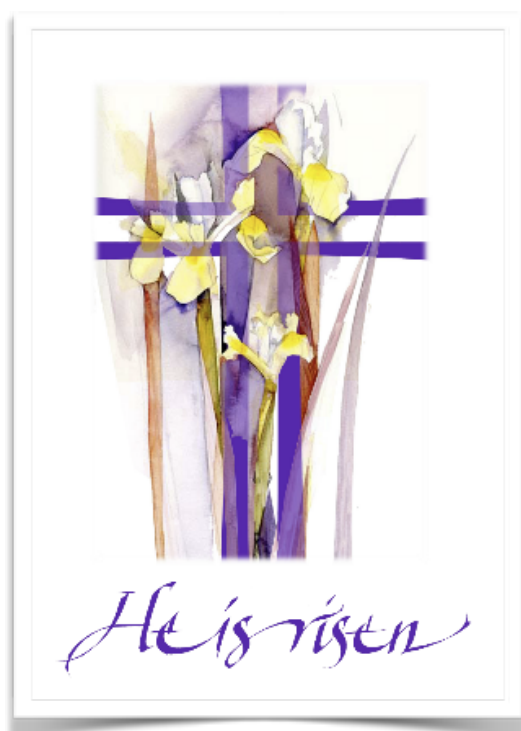


Image: the 2022 church Easter card delivered to every home in the Benefice



Image: front page of the Broadsheet May 2022

During 2022, the focus of the Administrator's work shifted away from supporting the production of weekly online worship services, to materials to support in-person worship services.

3. Looking forward – key plans and challenges

Our immediate challenge in 2023 is to appoint a new Rector. We continue to pray that the right candidate will be prompted to apply. Once appointed, we will need to make plans so that they will feel really welcomed and can take up the reins of office smoothly.

In the meantime, our strategy of focusing growth on families and youth remains, alongside providing a ministry to people of all ages.

Raising and stewarding both human and financial resources is an ongoing challenge, but we are mindful that where we are following God's lead, He will provide the means for His work to be done.

The funding of the Church Administrator's role is a key issue which will need to be near the top of the new Rector's in-tray.

The pandemic has been replaced by the war in Ukraine and the cost-of-living crisis as the international backdrop to our lives. We must remain vigilant about the needs arising in our communities from these situations. We need to consider carefully any implications for how we deploy our time, energy, assets and finances.

We continue to be an outward-looking benefice and open to ecumenical collaboration with other churches. This will take on a particular focus as the building of the large 'Valley Park' housing development commences – quite possibly during 2023 (this is almost entirely within Harwell parish, but on the 'Didcot side' of the A34). The wider Wallingford Deanery, to which we belong, faces financial challenges. We will need to engage constructively with how these are best addressed.

4. Governance and structure

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

St Matthew's, Harwell and All Saints', Chilton each has its own PCC. Each PCC met four times during 2022 – all meetings were in person rather than on Zoom.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The membership of the PCC consists of all clergy licensed to the Benefice, Churchwardens, Deanery Synod members and other lay members elected by those on the Electoral Roll of the church. All those who attend our services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

Given its wide responsibilities, the PCCs operate through several committees. Each committee deals with a particular aspect of parish life. The committees report back regularly at PCC meetings, with minutes of their meetings or their decisions and recommendations being received and discussed as necessary. The Rector is automatically a member of every committee.

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by Church law. It meets or liaises occasionally when there are urgent decisions to be made between PCC meetings. It consists of the clergy, Churchwardens and the Treasurer plus the Vice-chair and the Secretary.

Combined PCC

For efficiency and convenience St Matthew's, Harwell PCC and All Saints', Chilton PCC regularly hold Combined PCC meetings, where members of the two PCCs come together to discuss matters that are common to both parishes. Meetings of the Joint PCC (see below) are held as part of Combined PCC meetings. As such, voting by Joint PCC members on any decisions required by the Joint PCC generally follows discussion by the Combined PCC. The Combined PCC met eight times during 2022, mostly on Zoom (four of these meetings were to do with the Rector vacancy process).

Joint PCC

The Pastoral Measure provides for a Joint PCC in addition to the separate PCCs of our two churches. It comprises the clergy, Churchwardens and the Treasurer plus the Vice-chair and the Secretary of each PCC.

The two PCCs can agree to place in the hands of the Joint PCC any matters involving both parishes. So far, the PCCs have delegated responsibility for the following matters to the Joint PCC:

- Safeguarding
- Staffing
- Data compliance.

Safeguarding

The Benefice complies fully with national and Church of England law on safeguarding. Each church has a Safeguarding Officer: Sue Greatbanks for St Matthew's and Judy Gold for All Saints'. Sue was newly appointed in June 2022 and has been undergoing training. Judy and Sue work collaboratively together across the benefice and as equals. This replaced the previous system where one Safeguarding Officer was deputy to the other. The Joint PCC reviews and approves the **Safeguarding Policy** annually.

Staffing

The Benefice **Employment Committee** is concerned with meeting the statutory regulations around employment, ensuring the performance assessment and development of staff employed by the PCCs is carried out, and recruitment procedures are correctly followed.

Data compliance

In 2022 we have continued to work to ensure that our churches are compliant with data governance legislation (GDPR).

5. Finance

Setting a budget and monitoring the income and expenditure of the church are key responsibilities of the PCC.

The **Finance Committee** oversees the finances of the PCC by monitoring income and expenditure, budgeting and reviewing the planned giving.

Financial position

The financial position of St Matthew's Church for 2022 was £24,917 better than budgeted. This is primarily due to receipt of a significant bequest and lower than budgeted expenditure on church maintenance, together with an increase of 8% in planned giving. This increase came with a corresponding increase in the tax recovered via Gift Aid.

St Matthew's participates in the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). In 2022, PGS accounted for 58% of our planned giving receipts and 53% of planned giving donors.

Income in 2022 was £140,948. **Expenditure** in 2022 was £116,031.

We are grateful to all who continue to support the C&FW post. The restricted fund for this had a balance of £44,959 at the year end, which allows us to cover salaries and expenses for the coming year.

See Appendix 4 for a summary of income and expenditure for the years 2021 and 2022 and the budget for 2023.

Reserves policy

Reserves are held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on free reserves which equates to at least six months' unrestricted payments. In the case of St Matthew's Church this would be around £63,000 for 2023.

At 31 December 2022 the PCC held £91,688 in unrestricted reserves (£104,648 in designated funds less a negative balance of -£12,960 in the General fund).

6. Buildings

The PCC is charged with the care, maintenance and insurance of the church buildings, including St Matthew's Church Hall. The property and movable goods of the church are vested in the Churchwardens, who are also responsible for inspecting the fabric of the church and making an annual report (the Fabric Report) first to the PCC and then to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

The PCC is also concerned with developing our buildings to accommodate our own activities more effectively, and to enable us to connect better with and serve the wider community. A key aim is to have a main church building that is flexible, comfortable, and accessible, whilst maintaining and even enhancing its beauty.

St Matthew's church building

St Matthew's church is a Grade 1 listed building, parts of which date back to 1190. It is kept in a good state of repair by the **Buildings Committee** and other volunteers. Some of this work is maintenance and general repairs that continue in a very similar fashion year in year out. In addition, the church is cleaned regularly via a combination of a paid cleaner and a small faithful team of volunteers.

The Buildings Committee maintains an **Action List** of ongoing tasks. The Church Architect carried out the **Quinquennial Inspection** of the Church building in June 2021. The recommendations are being followed up and where relevant have been incorporated in the Action List. The overall condition of the church building is good and the Architect in his report commented '*It is clear... that the PCC take a great deal of care and pride in looking after the fabric of this Church*'.

The detailed Fabric Report by the Churchwardens is provided in a separate document.

The following are examples of work carried out during the last year.

- During the hot weather in the summer some ridge sections of the steel roof on the extension lifted because their nails became detached. This was repaired by the original roof installers in October 2022.
- The project to examine the feasibility of replacing the inner wooden porch door with glass doors was reviewed in the light of escalations of the likely costs beyond what could be provided by the earmarked legacy. There were also some technical issues including there being no acceptable solution for disposal or storage of the old wooden door. The PCC decided to put the project on hold and instead agreed that an alternative use of the legacy should be discussed with the benefactor's widow. As a result, a project to use the legacy to restore the three broken finial crosses on the church roof has been pursued.
- Options for reducing electricity usage have been examined, since costs are increasing. The largest cost is for heating. Management of the heating system, by using only the heaters

required for the part of the building actually in use, is now being done. The only scope for reducing heat losses that looks like a worthwhile financial investment at present is putting cavity wall insulation in the external walls of the church extension. This has now been done. Other possibilities such as secondary window glazing will be kept under review if electricity prices increase even further.

- The storage area behind the organ has been cleared and tidied with new shelving. Some stored items have been moved to the upstairs cupboard in the extension, where disposal of unwanted items has made extra space available. The new shelving behind the organ provides storage space for Fledgelings equipment that previously was in the vestry.

Examples of other work are in the Fabric Report.



Photo: Lifted ridge of extension roof,
August 2022; Tony Hughes



Photo: Remains of finial cross on South Transept roof;
Tony Hughes

The **Friends of St Matthew's** scheme to stimulate interest in the church building, and ultimately help to provide for the costs of keeping it in good order, has continued in 2022 through a Facebook page: www.facebook.com/HarwellChurchFriends

This is aimed particularly at descendants of the Harwell family lineage in the USA. The Facebook page has had a lot of visits and interest and consideration continues as to how this interest can be used to increase donations to help with the cost of maintenance of the church.

St Matthew's Church Hall

The Church Hall is located on the corner of The Park and Wellshead, approximately 100m south of the church. Its fabric is generally in good order; the surrounding grass and boundary hedges are cut when necessary.

Bookings are managed by the Church Administrator. In the absence of a Hall Manager, maintenance has been carried out by the Buildings Committee and Churchwardens. Plumbing repairs and repairs to the rainwater goods have now been completed. We are grateful for all those

who manage the Church Hall and help to keep it clean and tidy and in working order.

Over the years the Hall has been used by church groups and church-affiliated groups. Some further groups and individuals have also rented the Hall, which helps to offset the cost of its upkeep, though the costs have always exceeded the income by around £2,000 annually in recent years.

The aim of allowing the Hall to be used by non-church groups is to:

- Bring the broader community into contact with the church
- Defray the cost of running the Hall
- Provide an economic venue for church or church-affiliated groups.

The Hall has been used less than is ideal during 2022. The future of the Church Hall is being reviewed by the PCC, in particular whether it might be sold if surplus to requirements. This includes consideration of what might be done with the proceeds to enhance the church building to compensate for the reduction in facilities, or to otherwise advance the aims of the church. No decision has yet been reached. During 2022 the PCC received advice from solicitors who had been instructed to investigate what constraints, if any, might be imposed by the Charity Commissioners to any sale or change of use.

The income for the Hall in 2022 (not including any Scout cleaning contribution) was £1,760. Expenditure on maintenance, cleaning, utilities and insurance was £4,150.

Appendix 1: Administrative information

St Matthew's Church is situated on Church Lane, Harwell. It is part of the Wallingford Deanery in the Archdeaconry of Dorchester in the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is:

The Rectory
Church Lane
Harwell
Didcot
OX11 0EZ

Until 31 March 2022, the Rector was Rev Dr Jonathan Mobey. The post was vacant for the rest of the year.

The Independent Examiner of the PCC financial accounts is:

Mrs Jane Moreton
Harrow House
Burr Street
Harwell
Didcot
OX11 0DT

Appendix 2: St Matthew's church membership

The Electoral Roll is a list of those entitled to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. It is also a crude indicator of church membership.

The Electoral Roll is maintained by Mike Pepper. At April 2022 the roll stood at 77 as compared with 73 in April 2021.

Appendix 3: St Matthew's PCC membership

During 2022, the membership of St Matthew's PCC has been:

Clergy

- Rev Dr Jonathan Mobey (the Incumbent) – until 31 March 2022
- Rev Pam Rolls (Associate Minister)
- Rev Janet Radford (Assistant Minister)

Churchwardens

- Eliza Wheaton
- Allan Macarthur

Elected Deanery Synod representatives

- Gordon Gill
- Sid Gale

Other elected representatives

- Tony Hughes (Vice-Chair)
- Jane Woolley (Secretary)
- Phill Johnston (Treasurer)
- Rebecca Lewis
- Liz Roberts – elected by PCC members in May 2022

Co-opted representatives

- Hazel Connelly¹ – in March 2022 and September 2022
- Tim Roberts – in November 2022

¹ Pre and then post the annual meeting

Appendix 4: Income and expenditure in 2021 and 2022 and budget for 2023

The full and independently examined Accounts for 2022 are published separately. They should be read in conjunction with this report.

	2021 (actual)	2022 (actual)	2023 (budget)
INCOME			
Envelopes/planned giving	49,160	57,994	58,000
Gift Aid recovered	11,636	16,100	14,000
VAT reclaimed (LPW grant)	869	-	-
Loose Alms	973	1,426	1,500
Grants	5,982	1,723	-
Donations/legacies/other	12,698	36,052	3,000
Fees	2,128	1,816	2,500
Church Hall income	1,147	1,760	2,000
Holiday Club	327	729	500
Interest	33	888	1,500
Transfers from Restricted /Designated funds			
Children & Families Worker fund	16,284	16,811	18,300
Administrator fund	11,550	6,932	11,000
Chilton Joint Account	(3,850)	(1,283)	-
Insurance Claim – roof repair	62	-	-
Major Repairs	720	-	-
Total income	109,720	140,948	112,300
EXPENDITURE			
Parish Share	48,204	47,477	47,959
Mission Giving	6,944	7,100	8,004
Joint PCC	34,955	37,472	39,983
Harwell PCC	19,978	23,982	31,210
Total expenditure	110,080	116,031	127,156
Surplus/Deficit	(361)	24,550	(14,856)

Fund Balances

There was a negative balance on the **General** fund at 31 December 2022 of **-£12,960**.

Designated funds (designated by the PCC for particular purposes but which could be otherwise spent if the PCC so decided) total **£104,648**.

Restricted funds (which can only be used for the purpose for which they were given) total **£67,711** including £44,959 for the C&FW post.

If you would like to see a copy of this Annual Report in large print, or discuss any parts of particular interest, please contact the Church Administrator on 01235 834256 or via our website:

www.harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk

Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St. Matthew's, Harwell

I report to the Parochial Church Council on my examination of the accounts of St Matthew's, Harwell for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

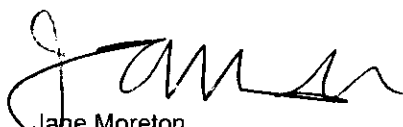
I report in respect of my examination of the accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- (i) accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (ii) the accounts do not accord with those records.

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



Jane Moreton
Harrow House
Burr Street
Harwell
OXON

22/3/2023

St. Matthew's Church, Harwell
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Receipts & Payments Account

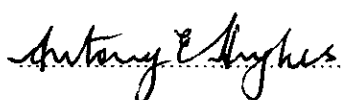
	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Receipts					
Voluntary Receipts					
Planned Giving (note 4a)	57,994			57,994	49,160
Collections at Services	605			605	555
Collections at Community Buildings	821			821	418
Other voluntary receipts (note 4b)	36,781	16,350	29,007	82,138	58,667
Non-recurring income (note 4c)	1,723			1,723	6,851
Gift Aid received	16,100		4,953	21,053	17,715
Investment income (note 4d)	887	364	0	1,251	46
Receipts from Church activities (note 4e)	3,576		8,031	11,607	9,214
Total Receipts	118,487	16,714	41,991	177,192	142,626
Payments					
Church Activities					
Diocesan Parish Share	47,477			47,477	48,204
Ministry (note 4f)	30,726		1,872	32,598	28,162
Maintenance, Utilities & Insurance (note 4g)	18,886			18,886	21,387
Administration & Stationery (note 4h)	7,749			7,749	4,672
Missions & Charities	7,100			7,100	6,944
Other (note 4i)	4,093		11,639	15,732	13,970
Total Payments	116,031	0	13,511	129,542	123,339
Excess of Receipts over Payments	2,456	16,714	28,480	47,650	19,287
Transfers Between Funds	22,460	0	-22,460	0	0
Excess of Receipts over Payments after Transfers	24,916	16,714	6,020	47,650	19,287
Cash and Bank current and deposit accounts 1 Jan	-37,876	87,934	61,691	111,749	92,462
Excess receipts over payments after transfers	24,916	16,714	6,020	47,650	19,287
Cash and Bank current and deposit accounts 31 Dec	-12,960	104,648	67,711	159,399	111,749

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Cash Funds					
Cash	63			63	68
Bank Current and Deposit Accounts	-13,023	87,668		74,645	28,089
CBF Deposit Account		16,980	67,711	84,691	83,592
Total Cash Funds	-12,960	104,648	67,711	159,399	111,749
Debtors					
Gift Aid recoverable	1,393		1,248	2,641	4,625
Total Debtors	1,393	0	1,248	2,641	4,625
Assets Retained for Church Use					
Church Hall (note 2)				137,644	137,644
Liabilities					
ODBF Fees					864
Total Liabilities	0	0	0	0	864

The attached notes on pages 4 to 6 form part of these financial statements.

These financial statements were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 07.03.2023 and signed on their behalf by



Chair

Tony Hughes



Trustee (and Treasurer)

Tim Roberts

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 asset retained for church use is the Church Hall, built in 1994, at cost.
- 3 Movements in designated and restricted funds (including tax reclaimed where applicable as part of income) over the year were:

	Bal B/fwd £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfer £	Bal C/fwd £
Designated					
Bell Repairs	267				267
Bosher Legacy	0	11,562			11,562
Phase 2 Building	37,825	364			38,189
Mission Giving Legacies	11,399	4,788			16,187
Staples Legacy	9,896				9,896
E Stringer Legacy	14,547				14,547
E Gill Legacy	9,000				9,000
Ullmer Legacy	4,500				4,500
Insurance excess	500				500
	87,934	16,714	0	0	104,648
Restricted					
Administrator Fund	0	10,190		-6,432	3,758
Altar frontal fund	1,369			-500	869
Assorted Collections	1,144	1,351	1,351		1,144
Baptism Bibles	99				99
CAP Money Course	572				572
CAP Centre	0	110	110		0
CFW extension fund	40,491	21,279		-16,811	44,959
Chilton joint account	0	2,173	3,456	1,283	0
Christmas Together	795				795
Church Fabric/Redecoration	1,000	0			1,000
Fledglings Garden Fund	185				185
Generation Gold	2,427	1,030	854		2,603
Harwell Helpers	3,911	0	1,018		2,893
Memorial Fund	526	0			526
ODBF Fees	864	5,858	6,722		0
Outreach	4,941				4,941
Rector's Discretionary fund	386				386
Sound System Upgrade	2,939				2,939
Youth Fund	42				42
	61,691	41,991	13,511	-22,460	67,711

4 Receipts and Payments Analysis (Receipts exclude Gft Aid received)

Receipts	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
(a) Planned Giving					
Gift-aided Planned Giving	54,186			54,186	44,925
Other Planned Giving	3,808			3,808	4,235
Total Planned Giving	57,994			57,994	49,160
(b) Other Giving and Donations					
General	36,052			36,052	12,698
Administrator			8,838	8,838	9,240
Altar Frontal Fund			0	0	0
Assorted Collections			1,169	1,169	820
Baptism Bibles			0	0	0
Bosher Legacy		11,562		11,562	0
CAP Centre			110	110	0
CFW Extension			17,860	17,860	21,860
Church Fabric/Redecoration				0	720
Didcot Foodbank			0	0	10
Funeral Collections				0	77
Generation Gold			1,030	1,030	0
Gill Legacy				0	9,000
Harwell Helpers				0	536
Holiday Club	729			729	328
Insurance Claim - Roof				0	2,278
Memorial Fund				0	101
Mission Giving Legacies		4,788		4,788	1,000
Total Donations	36,781	16,350	29,007	82,138	57,667
(c) Non-recurring income					
VAT reclaim - LPW grant				0	869
Grants	1,723			1,723	5982
Total Non-recurring income	1,723			1,723	6,851
(d) Receipts from Investments					
Bank interest	152			152	3
CBF Deposit Account interest	735	364		1,099	44
Total Receipts from Investments	887	364	0	1,251	46
(e) Receipts from Church activities					
Fees	1,816		5,858	7,674	5,765
Church Hall income	1,760			1,760	1,147
Chilton joint account			2,173	2,173	2,302
Total Receipts from Church Activities	3,576	0	8,031	11,607	9,213

Payments	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
(f) Ministry					
Associate Minister's Expenses	462			462	353
CFW extension	16,811			16,811	16,283
Administrator	10,241			10,241	9,718
Youth Work and Kids Church	1,743			1,743	722
Outreach	16			16	0
Harwell Helpers			1,018	1,018	231
Generation Gold			854	854	
Church Mission Society				0	20
Services	833			833	835
Organist	620			620	0
Total Ministry	30,726	0	1,872	32,598	28,162
(g) Maintenance and Utilities					
Insurance Claim - Roof				0	3,197
Church Cleaning	683			683	768
Church Maintenance	4,155			4,155	3,960
Church Utilities	5,138			5,138	4,336
Church Hall Maintenance and Cleaning	1,186			1,186	2,273
Church Hall Utilities	2,190			2,190	1,944
Church Insurance	4,759			4,759	4,221
Church Hall Insurance	775			775	687
Total Maintenance and Utilities	18,886	0	0	18,886	21,387
(h) Administration & Stationery					
Administration	3,150			3,150	314
Bank charges	200			200	200
Stationery	124			124	100
Office costs	1,233			1,233	1,326
Website	2,611			2,611	2,327
Outsourced Printing	431			431	405
Total Administration and Stationery	7,749	0	0	7,749	4,672
(i) Other					
Gifts, Subs and Courses	467			467	389
Miscellaneous	293			293	169
Tower Floodlighting				0	89
Alter Frontal Fund				0	100
O.D.B.F. fees			6,722	6,722	2,773
CAP Debt Centre	3,333		110	3,443	3,333
Chilton Joint Account			3,456	3,456	6,152
Didcot Foodbank			0	0	85
Assorted Collections			1,351	1,351	881
Total Other	4,093	0	11,639	15,732	13,970

- 5 In addition, during 2022 £51,981 was received from the Diocese on behalf of the Didcot Youthwork Trust under the terms of a funding agreement between the Diocese and the Trust. These funds were transferred to the Trust as soon as the funds were received from the Diocese and these amounts are not included in these financial statements as the PCC has no control over these funds and are simply acting as an agent for the Trust.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St. Matthew's, Harwell

I report to the Parochial Church Council on my examination of the accounts of St Matthew's, Harwell for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

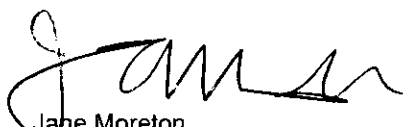
I report in respect of my examination of the accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- (i) accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (ii) the accounts do not accord with those records.

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



Jane Moreton
Harrow House
Burr Street
Harwell
OXON

22/3/2023

St. Matthew's Church, Harwell
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Receipts & Payments Account

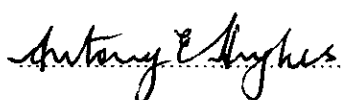
	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Receipts					
Voluntary Receipts					
Planned Giving (note 4a)	57,994			57,994	49,160
Collections at Services	605			605	555
Collections at Community Buildings	821			821	418
Other voluntary receipts (note 4b)	36,781	16,350	29,007	82,138	58,667
Non-recurring income (note 4c)	1,723			1,723	6,851
Gift Aid received	16,100		4,953	21,053	17,715
Investment income (note 4d)	887	364	0	1,251	46
Receipts from Church activities (note 4e)	3,576		8,031	11,607	9,214
Total Receipts	118,487	16,714	41,991	177,192	142,626
Payments					
Church Activities					
Diocesan Parish Share	47,477			47,477	48,204
Ministry (note 4f)	30,726		1,872	32,598	28,162
Maintenance, Utilities & Insurance (note 4g)	18,886			18,886	21,387
Administration & Stationery (note 4h)	7,749			7,749	4,672
Missions & Charities	7,100			7,100	6,944
Other (note 4i)	4,093		11,639	15,732	13,970
Total Payments	116,031	0	13,511	129,542	123,339
Excess of Receipts over Payments	2,456	16,714	28,480	47,650	19,287
Transfers Between Funds	22,460	0	-22,460	0	0
Excess of Receipts over Payments after Transfers	24,916	16,714	6,020	47,650	19,287
Cash and Bank current and deposit accounts 1 Jan	-37,876	87,934	61,691	111,749	92,462
Excess receipts over payments after transfers	24,916	16,714	6,020	47,650	19,287
Cash and Bank current and deposit accounts 31 Dec	-12,960	104,648	67,711	159,399	111,749

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Cash Funds					
Cash	63			63	68
Bank Current and Deposit Accounts	-13,023	87,668		74,645	28,089
CBF Deposit Account		16,980	67,711	84,691	83,592
Total Cash Funds	-12,960	104,648	67,711	159,399	111,749
Debtors					
Gift Aid recoverable	1,393		1,248	2,641	4,625
Total Debtors	1,393	0	1,248	2,641	4,625
Assets Retained for Church Use					
Church Hall (note 2)				137,644	137,644
Liabilities					
ODBF Fees					864
Total Liabilities	0	0	0	0	864

The attached notes on pages 4 to 6 form part of these financial statements.

These financial statements were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 07.03.2023 and signed on their behalf by



Chair

Tony Hughes



Trustee (and Treasurer)

Tim Roberts

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 asset retained for church use is the Church Hall, built in 1994, at cost.
- 3 Movements in designated and restricted funds (including tax reclaimed where applicable as part of income) over the year were:

	Bal B/fwd £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfer £	Bal C/fwd £
Designated					
Bell Repairs	267				267
Bosher Legacy	0	11,562			11,562
Phase 2 Building	37,825	364			38,189
Mission Giving Legacies	11,399	4,788			16,187
Staples Legacy	9,896				9,896
E Stringer Legacy	14,547				14,547
E Gill Legacy	9,000				9,000
Ullmer Legacy	4,500				4,500
Insurance excess	500				500
	87,934	16,714	0	0	104,648
Restricted					
Administrator Fund	0	10,190		-6,432	3,758
Altar frontal fund	1,369			-500	869
Assorted Collections	1,144	1,351	1,351		1,144
Baptism Bibles	99				99
CAP Money Course	572				572
CAP Centre	0	110	110		0
CFW extension fund	40,491	21,279		-16,811	44,959
Chilton joint account	0	2,173	3,456	1,283	0
Christmas Together	795				795
Church Fabric/Redecoration	1,000	0			1,000
Fledglings Garden Fund	185				185
Generation Gold	2,427	1,030	854		2,603
Harwell Helpers	3,911	0	1,018		2,893
Memorial Fund	526	0			526
ODBF Fees	864	5,858	6,722		0
Outreach	4,941				4,941
Rector's Discretionary fund	386				386
Sound System Upgrade	2,939				2,939
Youth Fund	42				42
	61,691	41,991	13,511	-22,460	67,711

4 Receipts and Payments Analysis (Receipts exclude Gft Aid received)

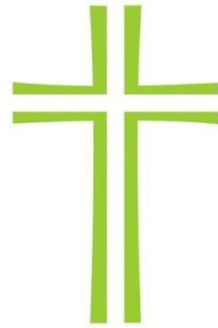
Receipts	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
(a) Planned Giving					
Gift-aided Planned Giving	54,186			54,186	44,925
Other Planned Giving	3,808			3,808	4,235
Total Planned Giving	57,994			57,994	49,160
(b) Other Giving and Donations					
General	36,052			36,052	12,698
Administrator			8,838	8,838	9,240
Altar Frontal Fund			0	0	0
Assorted Collections			1,169	1,169	820
Baptism Bibles			0	0	0
Bosher Legacy		11,562		11,562	0
CAP Centre			110	110	0
CFW Extension			17,860	17,860	21,860
Church Fabric/Redecoration				0	720
Didcot Foodbank			0	0	10
Funeral Collections				0	77
Generation Gold			1,030	1,030	0
Gill Legacy				0	9,000
Harwell Helpers				0	536
Holiday Club	729			729	328
Insurance Claim - Roof				0	2,278
Memorial Fund				0	101
Mission Giving Legacies		4,788		4,788	1,000
Total Donations	36,781	16,350	29,007	82,138	57,667
(c) Non-recurring income					
VAT reclaim - LPW grant				0	869
Grants	1,723			1,723	5,982
Total Non-recurring income	1,723			1,723	6,851
(d) Receipts from Investments					
Bank interest	152			152	3
CBF Deposit Account interest	735	364		1,099	44
Total Receipts from Investments	887	364	0	1,251	46
(e) Receipts from Church activities					
Fees	1,816		5,858	7,674	5,765
Church Hall income	1,760			1,760	1,147
Chilton joint account			2,173	2,173	2,302
Total Receipts from Church Activities	3,576	0	8,031	11,607	9,213

Payments	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
(f) Ministry					
Associate Minister's Expenses	462			462	353
CFW extension	16,811			16,811	16,283
Administrator	10,241			10,241	9,718
Youth Work and Kids Church	1,743			1,743	722
Outreach	16			16	0
Harwell Helpers			1,018	1,018	231
Generation Gold			854	854	
Church Mission Society				0	20
Services	833			833	835
Organist	620			620	0
Total Ministry	30,726	0	1,872	32,598	28,162
(g) Maintenance and Utilities					
Insurance Claim - Roof				0	3,197
Church Cleaning	683			683	768
Church Maintenance	4,155			4,155	3,960
Church Utilities	5,138			5,138	4,336
Church Hall Maintenance and Cleaning	1,186			1,186	2,273
Church Hall Utilities	2,190			2,190	1,944
Church Insurance	4,759			4,759	4,221
Church Hall Insurance	775			775	687
Total Maintenance and Utilities	18,886	0	0	18,886	21,387
(h) Administration & Stationery					
Administration	3,150			3,150	314
Bank charges	200			200	200
Stationery	124			124	100
Office costs	1,233			1,233	1,326
Website	2,611			2,611	2,327
Outsourced Printing	431			431	405
Total Administration and Stationery	7,749	0	0	7,749	4,672
(i) Other					
Gifts, Subs and Courses	467			467	389
Miscellaneous	293			293	169
Tower Floodlighting				0	89
Alter Frontal Fund				0	100
O.D.B.F. fees			6,722	6,722	2,773
CAP Debt Centre	3,333		110	3,443	3,333
Chilton Joint Account			3,456	3,456	6,152
Didcot Foodbank			0	0	85
Assorted Collections			1,351	1,351	881
Total Other	4,093	0	11,639	15,732	13,970

- 5 In addition, during 2022 £51,981 was received from the Diocese on behalf of the Didcot Youthwork Trust under the terms of a funding agreement between the Diocese and the Trust. These funds were transferred to the Trust as soon as the funds were received from the Diocese and these amounts are not included in these financial statements as the PCC has no control over these funds and are simply acting as an agent for the Trust.

Accounts

Annual Report 2021



ST MATTHEW'S
H A R W E L L



Registered Charity No 1158861

Contents

1. INTRODUCTION 3

2. REVIEW OF THE YEAR – BENEFICE ACTIVITIES..... 4

2.1 WORSHIP SERVICES 5

2.2 BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS 10

2.3 PRAYER 11

2.4 BELL-RINGING.....11

2.5 YOUTH AND FAMILIES.....11

2.6 EVANGELISM & DISCIPLESHIP 18

2.7 PASTORAL CARE.....20

2.8 SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY 22

2.9 WORLD MISSION 24

2.10 STAFFING.....25

3. LOOKING FORWARD – KEY PLANS AND CHALLENGES 27

4. GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE 28

5. FINANCE 30

6. BUILDINGS.....31

APPENDIX 1: ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION 34

APPENDIX 2: ST MATTHEW’S CHURCH MEMBERSHIP 35

APPENDIX 3: ST MATTHEW’S PCC MEMBERSHIP 35

Front cover photo: Allan Macarthur

1. Introduction

This is the annual report of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the Church of St Matthew's in Harwell, Oxfordshire. It covers the last financial accounting year, which was the calendar year ending 31 December 2021.

The primary aim of our church and its PCC is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England.

Specifically, our church vision, which was adopted during 2015, is:

“Growing God’s church, wider, deeper and closer”

The PCC works with the Rector, the Rev Dr Jonathan Mobey, to fulfil this vision.

The details of what our church has been doing over the last year to further its vision are given in section 2.

This report was approved by the PCC at its meeting on 1 March 2021 and is signed on their behalf by Rev Dr Jonathan Mobey, Rector and Chair of the PCC.

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Mobey', written over a faint horizontal line.

Date 1 March 2022

2. Review of the year – Benefice activities

Our church forms part of the Benefice of St Matthew's, Harwell with All Saints', Chilton. These two churches, in neighbouring villages, share a ministry team of one full time stipendiary member of clergy, two part time non-stipendiary ministers, two retired clergy and one Licensed Lay Minister with Permission to Officiate, and two authorised preachers. The churches also share three paid lay members of staff covering one full time and one part time post.

Some people from Harwell or St Matthew's attend and support church services, events and groups in Chilton or in All Saints' and vice versa – either regularly or occasionally. There are many other areas of sharing and co-operation between the two churches, such as safeguarding, engagement with world mission, and publicity and communications. For these reasons, the lives of our two church communities are somewhat intertwined and it is not always possible to delineate strictly between them in practice. This report therefore covers activities in both churches.

Much of 2021 was once again overshadowed by the Covid-19 pandemic and the ensuing restrictions on face-to-face contact. This had a major impact on many aspects of church life and we had to adapt our activities accordingly. But what has not changed is our determination to reflect the light and love of the Lord Jesus Christ into our communities.

The effects of the pandemic on church life in 2021 were less severe than in 2020. From April/May we were able to introduce some in-person Sunday services again (whilst continuing our online provision), and singing was allowed in church from July. In September we reintroduced a full pattern of services. However, in December the omicron variant of Covid-19 caused some national restrictions to be reinstated. Although most church services were unaffected by this, we made some changes to reduce the risk of transmission. For example, in the run up to Christmas we moved some popular services into the churchyard and we did not serve refreshments indoors.

2.1 Worship services

Every Sunday in normal times we meet together to worship God, hear from His Word, pray together, and encourage one another. Our services range from the quiet, traditional ones from the Book of Common Prayer, to contemporary, family-friendly ones.

The majority of services in normal times are organ- or piano-led. In addition, St Matthew's has an all-age orchestra, which accompanies on average two services a month and at festivals such as Christmas and Easter. St Matthew's also has had contributions from a harp-led string group, a brass group, and a guitar-led band. All Saints' has a small regular choir with additional members at festivals.

As in 2020, we published a pre-recorded worship service online every Sunday morning hosted via YouTube.

In the early part of 2021 we held telephone services. From April/May we held face-to-face intergenerational 'interactive' Sunday services at St Matthew's for families in the benefice, and evening service alternating between the two churches, before a fuller in-person service pattern resumed for all in September. See section 2.5 for more details. These 'interactive' services provided us with the experience and inspiration to include them in a trial of a revised face-to-face service pattern from the start of September. Tables 1 and 2 below display the previous and trial revised service patterns across the benefice.

The rationale for implementing a revised service pattern was:

The interruption to the usual service pattern created by the pandemic provided a good opportunity to try something new

Holding a weekly intergenerational 'interactive' service with children's groups in one location and at a consistent time would better serve existing and new church families. Attracting families is a key part of our growth strategy.

The original proposal was for the intergenerational 'interactive' service to replace the more traditional Sunday morning service at St Matthew's. Traditional services would be available at 6pm in Harwell or at 9.30am at All Saints'. However the PCCs decided that this would be a step too far because it risked alienating those who favour a more traditional style of service. So the compromise enacted was to hold two Sunday morning services at St Matthew's – an intergenerational 'interactive' service at 10am followed by a more traditional service at 11.30am.

Feedback from the congregations during the trial was sought both formally via a questionnaire and informally via conversations with members of the PCC and Senior Leadership Team. This feedback was reviewed at a benefice PCC Away Day in January 2022. The intergenerational 'interactive' service was generally well received and attendance was high. However, key issues of concern identified with the revised service pattern were:

- The separation of families and children from the rest of the All Saints' congregation
- The challenge of staffing two Sunday morning services at St Matthew's

A further revision to the service pattern to try to address these issues was agreed by the Joint PCC and will be applied from 20 February 2022.

Pre-pandemic usual pattern of worship services		
Worship services	All Saints', Chilton	St Matthew's, Harwell
Sundays 8am	Holy Communion (BCP) on 2nd and 4th Sundays	Holy Communion (BCP) on 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays
Sundays 9.30am	All Age Worship on 1st Sundays; Morning Worship on 2nd and 4th Sundays (BCP on second Sunday on alternate months); Holy Communion on 3rd and 5th Sundays	-
Sundays 10.30am (monthly)	Pebbles Family Service in Chilton Village Hall on 2nd Sundays	-
Sundays 11am		All Age Worship on 1st Sundays; Morning Worship on 3rd and 4th Sundays; Holy Communion on 2nd and 5th Sundays
Sundays 6.15pm	Evening Prayer on 5th Sundays	Evening Prayer on 1st and 3rd Sundays (BCP on 3rd); Holy Communion on 4th Sundays
Midweek	Alternately with Harwell on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Ascension Day; also Good Friday, Easter Eve Vigil, Carol Services, Midnight Christmas Communion	Alternately with Chilton on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Ascension Day; also Good Friday, Carol Services, Midnight Christmas Communion

Table 1: Pre-pandemic pattern of worship services

Trial revised service pattern September 2021 – February 2022		
Worship services	All Saints', Chilton	St Matthew's, Harwell
Sundays 8am	-	-
Sundays 9.30am	Morning Worship on 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays (BCP Morning Prayer on 2nd Sundays alternate months); Holy Communion on 1st and 3rd Sundays	-
Sundays 10am	-	'Interactive' service every week
Sundays 10.30am (monthly)	Pebbles Family Service in Chilton Village Hall on 2nd Sundays	-
Sundays 11.30am		Morning Worship on 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays; Holy Communion on 2nd and 5th Sundays
Sundays 6pm	-	Evening Prayer on 1st and 3rd Sundays; BCP on 2nd and 5th Sundays; Holy Communion on 4th Sundays
Thursdays 11am	Holy Communion 2nd Thursdays	Holy Communion 4th Thursdays
Other midweek	Alternately with Harwell on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Ascension Day; also Good Friday, Easter Eve Vigil, Carol Services, Midnight Christmas Communion	Alternately with Harwell on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Ascension Day; also Good Friday, Carol Services, Midnight Christmas Communion

Table 2: Trial revised pattern of worship services

We held online services on Maundy Thursday (an Agape meal) and Good Friday. We held in-person services in both All Saints' and St Matthew's on Easter Sunday morning and an Easter Vigil service in All Saints' churchyard.

We held services at both All Saints' and St Matthew's on Remembrance Sunday in November, and shorter Acts of Remembrance in All Saints' Churchyard and at Harwell War Memorial.

In mid-December we held afternoon and evening carol services in All Saints' Church. By the following week concerns arising from the omicron wave of the pandemic had intensified and so the equivalent carol services at St Matthew's were held in the churchyard. We also held a Christmas Eve Crib Service in St Matthew's Churchyard.



Photo: All Saints' in Advent; John Berry

2.2 Baptisms, weddings and funerals

Baptisms, weddings and funerals are important occasions both in their own right, and as pastoral opportunities. The number of these services can vary enormously from year to year, with the number of weddings and baptisms in 2021 being very significantly impacted by the pandemic. Figures for the last three years are shown in Table 3.

Each baptism involves at least one pastoral visit before the service and follow-up as appropriate. Most baptisms are for children of families who are not regular attenders at church.

Each wedding involves several meetings with the couples and a rehearsal, and much liaison and administration, including with the Church Administrator, organists and vergers/sides people. Most wedding couples live locally, but some have a connection through family or having previously lived in the parishes.

Each funeral involves at least one meeting with the next of kin, liaison with the family, the Funeral Director, organists and vergers/sides people. Pastoral follow up is carried out by the officiating minister as appropriate.

	St Matthew' Harwell			All Saints' Chilton		
	2021	2020	2019	2021	2020	2019
Baptisms	7	1	5	0	0	4
Thanksgivings for a child	2	0	2	0	0	0
Weddings	4	0	4	2	0	2
Funerals in church	10	8	7	2	4	7
Thanksgiving services in church	0	0	2	0	0	1
Funerals at crematoria	3	4	3	3	0	5
Interments of ashes	1	2	2	3	1	3

Table 3: Numbers of baptisms, weddings and funerals

2.3 Prayer

Prayer continues to be an essential part of the life of our churches. Until the beginning of the pandemic we had a weekly prayer meeting held at 8.30am on Saturday mornings at both churches, and a once a month night prayer led by the choir and held at All Saints' on a Wednesday evening at 8.30pm. In April 2021 we started a Benefice online weekly prayer meeting on Saturday mornings instead.

There is also a group of 50+ people who are part of a Benefice Prayer Chain. This enables emergency and continuing prayer for anyone within the church or for issues known to church members. In addition, both churches maintain a list of individuals to pray for during the times of intercession in Sunday services.

2.4 Bell-ringing

St Matthew's Church tower has eight bells, and All Saints' tower has six. Both churches have enthusiastic bell ringing teams. The bells were rung on most Sundays until the beginning of the pandemic and for weddings, some funerals, and on other occasions such as quarter peals. Regular bell ringing recommenced in July 2021

2.5 Youth and Families

Provision for youth and families is an aspect of the Benefice's work into which significant resource is invested. This reflects the acknowledged importance of reaching the young, not least in growing our churches.

Children & Families Worker (C&FW)

During 2020 donations and pledges from church members were requested to support the C&FW post for a further 5 years from January 2021 with the existing two jobsharers, Melanie Shields and Sarah Barrett, continuing in the role. In October 2021, Melanie Shields resigned, and the vacancy was advertised. Brendan Bailey was appointed to replace Melanie and started in the role on 1 January 2022.

In January 2022, the employment of the C&FWs transferred to the Greater Didcot Christian Children & Youthwork Trust in which the Benefice is a partner (see section 3). This has no impact on the C&FW's funding, line management or duties.

Children and Young People's Sunday groups

2021 started with a third national lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The C&FWs continued to provide online sessions on Sundays via Zoom aimed at families which they had started during the first lockdown in 2020. This enabled us to reach core church families on a regular basis. Content included a series on Jesus's "I am" statements.

Once restrictions were eased again in the summer, we switched from online back to face-to-face Sunday services aimed at families at 10.30am. These were held at St Matthew's where the large space makes social distancing relatively easy. At some of these services everyone remained altogether. At others we split into groups for adults, primary school (Kids Church) and secondary school (Pathfinders) aged young people.

We also experimented with different ways to make these family services more intergenerational and more interactive than usual, including more discussion and question time. The services attracted both families with children and other members of our congregation who wanted to attend a more informal service style. This pattern continued until September, when it was feasible to start running other face-to-face services in the Benefice again.

From September, we trialed a new pattern of Sunday morning services in the Benefice as detailed in section 2.1.

A key learning point from the pandemic has been the strength of bringing our families from across the Benefice to worship together. It has been helpful for the parents to have a wider group of fellow Christian parents. By concentrating children's Sunday groups at St Matthew's, we have also been able to run fewer but better attended groups which are easier to staff. This has though left a concern about the separation of families and children from the rest of the All Saints' congregation, as mentioned in section 2.1.

Summer Holiday Club

As in previous years we ran a week-long Holiday Club for primary school aged children. This was held in the last week of July and repeated in the second week of August. We had approximately 45 primary school aged children attend each week. We held it in St Matthew's church and the Church Hall. The content was based on Mark's gospel. The theme was 'Heroes Academy' and we talked about Jesus being the ultimate and only true superhero.

The feedback we received was very positive. Parents were again grateful that we were able to run something albeit on a smaller scale during the pandemic than prior to it. The smaller scale was necessary because of locating it in church premises rather than at Harwell or Chilton primary school.

Feedback from leaders and parents shows that some prefer the smaller-scale holiday clubs on church premises and some prefer it when we use one of the primary schools and can make it a larger-scale event.



Photo: Holiday Club – week 1 – Cup Challenge; Jane Woolley

Fledgelings

Fledgelings is a term time group for pre-school aged children and their parents/carers. The group provides play and activities for the children and company and conversation for the adults. The sessions incorporate a 'See & Know' singing and story-time with an explicitly Christian curriculum.

During the third national lockdown in January to March, Fledgelings met weekly online to enable the adults to chat together. This was attended by fewer people than in 2020.

In April we were able to return to face-to-face Fledgelings in St Matthew's church with its large spaces. We ran two sessions of two hours each on both Mondays and Wednesdays. We limited attendance at each session to 12 families. Families had to try as far as possible to remain socially distanced on blankets they brought with them. Each child was provided with their own tray of toys. We continued with our 'See and Know' session led from the front which also included a pack with instrument, bible and craft per child.

In June we were able to meet together more freely and so ran a more 'normal' Fledgelings at St Matthew's where children and adults could move around and not be limited to their blanket anymore. We rotated toys so none were used again within 72 hours and we did not serve refreshments. We were still unable to use the Community Room in Chilton at this point.

In September Fledgelings returned to normal at both St Matthew's and the Community Room in Chilton.

The C&FWs also undertook significant pastoral care work among Fledgelings parents outside of Fledgelings sessions to provide practical, emotional and spiritual support.



Schools



One of the C&FWs has continued to lead assemblies in Harwell Primary School in 2021 including at Harvest and Advent. They also continued to volunteer for the 'Wellbeing group' at the school when this has been allowed to run. In addition, they contributed to a week-long 'Reflective Spaces' event at Harwell school. The C&FW visited each class for a 40-minute session covering thankfulness and 'I am special.'

The C&FWs are looking forward to further developing schools work in 2022.

Community & Special Events for children and families

Looking for further opportunities to share the Gospel and to have a positive impact on the community, we provided a number of special events this year. Many of our normal such activities were adapted in view of the Covid-19 pandemic

For **Mothering Sunday** we delivered posies to Fledgelings mums and carers as well as to women in our regular congregations and wider community. This was extremely well received and a really lovely opportunity to say hello to people during the lockdown.



Photo: Mothering Sunday posies ready for delivery; Jonathan Mobey

We were able to run an **Easter trail** around both our villages putting posters up in windows. Each trail finished in church where we had several 'Prayer Space' activities relating to each day of Holy Week.

At the end of October we held a '**Light Party**' in St Matthew's church which was attended by most of our regular church families.

In All Saints' we were able to meet in church in November for an act of **Remembrance**. The children, including from Cubs and Beavers, then went to the Village Hall for a short service together including a game, songs, brief talk, craft and prayer. At St Matthew's, due to Covid the Scouts group were unable to be inside together and so after the act of Remembrance children from church, Cubs, Scouts and Beavers met on the Rectory lawn for a short talk and activity.

In December we ran '**Advent Doors**' in our usual way of hearing part of the story each day from a home in each village.



Image: Advert for 'Advent Doors'

We also held **Christmas tree decorating** sessions in each church. This was well attended and some families said it had become part of their Christmas tradition. It was particularly popular in St Matthew's where we had over 60 visit us, many of whom were Fledgelings families. It would be great to find more opportunities of this type to keep reaching people through the year.



Photo: Indoor Christmas tree at St Matthew's; Deborah Evans

We had planned to hold two **Crib service and two carol services** across the Benefice but plans had to change due to the emergence of the Omicron variant of Covid-19 in December. Our Chilton Carol service was held inside All Saints' Church as planned. St Matthew's carol services in the afternoon and evening, though, were both held in the churchyard. This worked well and both were very well attended. The church orchestra, with 16 players, accompanied the afternoon service and a keyboard accompanied the evening service. A single Crib service was held outside at St Matthew's.



Photo: Jonathan Mobey preaching at St Matthew's afternoon carol service; Deborah Evans

2.6 Evangelism & Discipleship

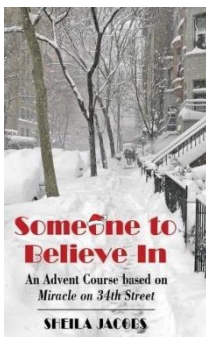
Our churches seek to fulfil the Great Commission to make disciples through loving service, evangelism and discipleship – sharing the good news of Jesus in word and deed and helping individuals to grow in faith. This is done through our worship services but also through other groups and activities.

Following the previous Alpha and Christianity Explored courses, the same group of people went on to The Prayer Course on Zoom with a couple of other people attending. In addition to the three leaders 11 other people attended.

Home groups play an important part in nurturing the spiritual development and pastoral care of church members. These groups meet regularly (usually weekly) to read the Bible together, to pray, and to support one another in the Christian life. Most groups have members from both parishes. There are groups meeting in the mornings, afternoons and evenings, covering all ages, from parents with toddlers to those who are retired.

During the pandemic groups have adapted to the social restrictions and the shielding requirements of members by meeting outdoors and online where necessary, and maintaining contact with members by phone. The groups are always happy for new members to join.

During 2021 there were around 50 people meeting either via Zoom or face-to-face across six home groups.



For the four weeks of Advent we ran 'Advent Central' in St Matthew's on Wednesday evenings. This used material and themes from the Christmas film, 'A miracle on 39th Street'.

Image: Advent Central course book

Our churches part-fund the Didcot and Wallingford Area **CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Debt Centre** which was set up in January 2015 to cover just Wallingford and expanded in January 2017. The Centre's formal aims are:

- The relief of poverty by providing a debt counselling and debt management service
- The advancement of Christianity in Didcot, Wallingford and the surrounding area.



The Centre employs a Centre Manager and a Debt Coach who between them are currently able to take on four new clients each month, supported by an employed administrator and by church members who befriend and support the client families.

Once again 2021 was not a typical year due to the pandemic, but the Centre was able to get back up to a consistent 2-3 referrals per month, totalling 26 new referrals across the year. Five clients became debt free during the year. At the end of 2021 there were 39 families on the books – in set-up, on Debt plans or going through insolvency.

The Debt Centre is very blessed to have 30 volunteers helping and supporting the clients in so many ways including FareShare deliveries as well as prayer. Clients are also blessed with items of furniture, white goods and bikes.

The social events held for clients were more limited than usual due to the pandemic. When restrictions allowed, an afternoon tea was held in July where one person made a faith response. A Fish and Chip Supper was held in November with a local testimony. Gifts were delivered on Valentine's Day and at Easter. At Christmas, the usual deliveries of hampers to the clients and their families are always well received and a chance to show God's love for them.

A highly committed team of trained Money Coaches in our churches continue to offer **CAP Money Courses** online. Eight courses were offered through the year including a student course. Six people attended. Online courses attract people from all over the country rather than just locally so introduction to our local churches is not possible but hopefully encourages them to attend their local church if they don't already. One in-person course was offered as a weekday daytime course at Didcot Baptist Church. This was at the request of the Debt Centre Manager. Five delegates attended.

2.7 Pastoral Care

The **Pastoral Care teams** (and many individual members of our churches) take on quiet, practical support for those in need of help, whether short or long-term, at home or, for example, in hospital. Oversight of pastoral care in the Benefice is the responsibility of Rev Pam Rolls.

There is a pastoral care team in each parish. In Chilton, the team operates under the leadership of Mrs Audrey Slater. In Harwell, the team has become very small, and we are still prayerfully and carefully seeking a new leader for it. It is hoped that a candidate will be appointed soon and that other team members will be recruited.

Because of Covid the possibility of visiting parishioners in hospitals and care homes was severely curtailed so contact has been carried out by phone. When visiting restrictions have been lighter we have been able to visit some homes including the new Alma Barn Lodge care home on the Didcot Road near Harwell.

Funerals provide special opportunities for ministering to our parishioners. Funeral ministry is usually carried out by our clergy or by licensed or approved lay leaders, with follow-up visits to bereaved families taking place wherever possible. Under Covid restrictions funerals have had to be undertaken in a different format with fewer attendees who are seated in a socially distanced way. Some services have been conducted in the cemetery at Harwell and in the churchyard at Chilton.

Home Communions are taken four times a year to parishioners who are not very mobile – Easter, summer, Harvest and Christmas. During 2021 this ministry was limited as potential recipients shielded from the pandemic but a few home communions were administered to housebound parishioners.

Generation Gold services, initiated by Rev Jan Radford and Rev Pam Rolls in 2015, were continued in 2021. Our theme for the year was 'Lessons from the Land'. In the first half of the year we were unable to hold services in-person but instead delivered to our members an Easter gift in spring and a bowl of strawberries in summer. These gifts were accompanied by letters containing Bible passages and messages of encouragement. We were very grateful to a willing band of helpers who assisted with the deliveries which were much appreciated by the recipients.

In October we were able to meet in person again at last. We celebrated Harvest with a service and simple jacket potato lunch in Chilton Village Hall. We welcomed 60 people to this event. We were also delighted to be able to meet together again in December in St Matthew's Church to focus on Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. The 'Lesson from the Land' here was 'spices'. Plans are now in hand for Generational Gold for 2022.



Photo: Generation Gold Easter boxes; Carol Pigott



Photo: Generation Gold Harvest Lunch; Kate Evans



Photo: Generation Gold service in December; Deborah Evans

Both our Churches have continued to collect non-perishable food for **Didcot Emergency Foodbank** throughout the year with a special collection in both churches at Harvest time. The Foodbank issued food to 4,330 adults and children in 2021 (includes repeat visits). That compares with 3,044 in 2020, and 1,546 five years ago.

Photo: Harvest at All Saints'; Alex Reich



year,
at

2.8 Social and Community

Our churches host various social events for the benefit and care of the church and wider community.

Harwell Evergreens was a daytime social group for older residents but sadly the group closed in December. The **All Saints' Women's Group** in Chilton offers evening fellowship. Both groups serve both parishes and invite speakers on a wide variety of subjects.

All Saints' Women's Group held its monthly meetings for the first two-thirds of the year via Zoom. In these sessions members learned a little more about each other through the topics discussed. For example, in January the topic was a favourite poem or short reading. These included 'Beatitudes for the learning disabled', Psalm 23 and 'Heaps of stuff' by Pam Ayres. At the March meeting, Rev Pam Rolls led the group through Holy Week. Another month members shared a favourite or unusual recipe.

From September onwards, Women's Group was able to meet face-to-face again in All Saints' church. Meetings included a talk about women working on the waterways during WW2 and a talk about the work and support provided by the Be Free Young Carers charity. The December meeting had Christmas readings and carols.

The Women's Group continued to raise money for charity. During the third lockdown it organized 'Bake-ins' where villagers could pre-order baking and come and collect it in a safe way. These raised £2,263. The Group re-started its charity markets in April. The plant sale held in aid of Christian Aid in May alone raised £1,600 despite limiting advertising to Chilton village only. The markets raised a total of £7,418. The Group also devised five 'cryptic quizzes' which raised a further £975. Charities supported included Be Free Young Carers, Ovarian Cancer Research, the Oxfordshire branch of Crohn's and Colitis UK, Brain Tumour Research and the Children's Air Ambulance.



Photo: Members of the Women's Group being presented with a certificate by the Rotary Club of Abingdon Vesper in thanks for the money they have raised; Richard Benton

Harwell Evergreens decided to finish during December 2021 due to committee members' other commitments. Most of the remaining funds were used for a celebration meal for members in the Church Hall on 16 December. Mr Peter Selby gave up his afternoon to entertain the group with his flute. The Evergreens leader, Gill Gay, said that she thoroughly enjoyed her time working with the members and hoped that the group had made a valuable contribution towards church life.

A new monthly community event called 'Church Community Cafe' was trialed in St Matthew's in early December. It was held 10am-12 noon on a Thursday. The intention is for this event to resume on the first Thursday in March 2022 once the omicron wave of the pandemic is behind us.

2.9 World Mission

The World Mission Group seeks to promote the engagement of our churches with world mission and proposes to each PCC how each church could spend its World Mission budget.

We focus our World Mission financial support and prayer around the Anglican Five Marks of Mission. The Marks and the corresponding organisations are:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom: Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). The work of MAF enables mission workers to reach difficult and isolated places to share Christianity.

2. To teach, baptize and nurture new believers: Scripture Union (SU). Through Bible studies, resources and camps SU aims to share the Christian faith and disciple children and young people in particular.

3. To respond to human need by loving service: The Leprosy Mission (TLM). TLM diagnoses, treats and offers specialist care such as reconstructive surgery, as well as rehabilitation programmes and health education in communities.

4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation. Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW). CSW is a Christian organisation working in over 20 countries across Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America, defending everyone's right to freedom of religion or belief.

5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth. A Rocha, a Christian Conservation organisation who work in the UK and internationally.

During 2021 we continued to support financially a number of organisations in line with the 5 marks of mission; MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship), Scripture Union, The Leprosy Mission and Arocha.

We also continued to support financially a number of individual mission partners: Heather and David Sharland have now finished their time with Church Mission Society in Uganda and have returned to the UK. We are now supporting Chris and Suzy Wilson and their children who are with Church Mission Society in Ethiopia; Endri and Dyshi Tabacu of The Light of the World church in Albania, and John Abu Bakker with Fellowship For Neighbours, India.

The four members of the World Mission group met together during 2021 over Zoom. The group would love more people to join it and they continue to pray for this increased membership.

2.10 Staffing

Over the last five years or so, the Benefice has increased its investment in paid staff. Currently it funds two paid roles:

- A Benefice Administrator and PA to the Rector – 20 hours per week (see section below for more on this)
- A Children & Families Worker – working 40 hours per week – currently a job share (see section 2.5 for activities).

This investment reflects the following factors:

- The increasing administrative and communications workload
- The strategic decision that young children and their families should be a key area of focus for us
- The gradual reduction in availability of volunteer time due to societal trends.

The employment of paid staff is a large responsibility – both financially and in managerial terms. In recognition of this, the Benefice established an Employment sub-committee of the Joint PCC in April 2017.

Administrative support

The Benefice has a paid Administrator working 20 hours per week. A key focus of the role is communications activity. There are also various records, documents, bookings and practical arrangements to organise.

In a normal year, the Administrator creates and prints service and notice sheets each week and the Ridgeway Broadsheet magazine 8 times each year; produces an Easter card and a Christmas card to promote special services and events; maintains the calendar, rotas and news items on the church website; posts to social media; manages St Matthew's Church Hall bookings, prepares various reports for the Diocese, Christian Copyright Licensing International, and the County Council; manages the office; and provides PA support to the Rector.



Images: the 2021 church Easter card and Christmas card delivered to every home in the Benefice

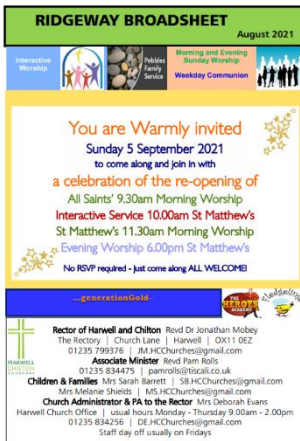


Image: front page of the Broadsheet August 2021

During 2021, as in 2020, the focus of the Administrator's work shifted away from the production of materials to support in-person worship services and towards supporting the production of weekly online worship services, though support for in-person services increased again as the year went on.

3. Looking forward – key plans and challenges

Our strategy of focusing growth on families and youth remains, alongside providing a ministry to people of all ages.

Now that the Greater Didcot Christian Children & Youthwork Trust has come into being we hope to begin to see the fruits of this for the young people in our communities. Further fundraising is required for the Trust and a recently appointed trustee with fundraising experience has given a lead on this task.

We will continue to monitor how well the re-revised worship service pattern works to balance the needs of families (who generally prefer a more informal worship style) and those who prefer more traditional services.

We continue to be an outward-looking benefice and open to ecumenical collaboration with other churches. This will take on a particular focus as the building of the large 'Valley Park' housing development (which is almost entirely within Harwell parish, but on the 'Didcot side' of the A34) commences, and financial challenges in the wider Deanery are addressed.

Key expressions of our collaborative, ecumenical approach are our active partnership with churches through the Greater Didcot Christian Children & Youthwork Trust and our active participation in the debt counselling service, CAP. Use of this debt counselling service is growing and its capacity may be put to the test with the large rise in the cost of domestic heating and the 'cost of living crisis' predicted for 2022.

Our Rector, Jonathan Mobey, has decided to return to practise medicine full time from the end of March 2022. He has led and inspired us through some much-needed changes and will be sorely missed. The impending interregnum period will be demanding for the Churchwardens and other members of the Senior Leadership Team. Thankfully we are blessed with a preaching and leading team who are strong in number and in faith.

Raising and stewarding both human and financial resources is an ongoing challenge, but we are mindful that where we are following God's lead, he will provide the means for His work to be done.

4. Governance and structure

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

St Matthew's, Harwell and All Saints', Chilton each has its own PCC. St Matthew's PCC met five times and All Saints' PCC met four times during 2021 – all remotely via Zoom because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The membership of the PCC consists of all clergy licensed to the Benefice, Churchwardens, Deanery Synod members and other lay members elected by those on the Electoral Roll of the church. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

Given its wide responsibilities, the PCCs operate through a number of committees. Each committee deals with a particular aspect of parish life. The committees report back regularly at PCC meetings, with minutes of their meetings or their decisions and recommendations being received and discussed as necessary. The Rector is automatically a member of every committee.

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by Church law. It meets or liaises occasionally when there are urgent decisions to be made between PCC meetings. It consists of the clergy, Churchwardens and the Treasurer plus the Vice-chair and the Secretary.

Combined PCC

For efficiency and convenience St Matthew's, Harwell PCC and All Saints', Chilton PCC regularly hold Combined PCC meetings, where members of the two PCCs come together to discuss matters that are common to both parishes. Meetings of the Joint PCC (see below) are held as part of Combined PCC meetings. As such, voting by Joint PCC members on any decisions required by the Joint PCC generally follows discussion by the Combined PCC. The Combined PCC met five times during 2021.

Joint PCC

The Pastoral Measure provides for a Joint PCC in addition to the separate PCCs of our two churches. It comprises the clergy, Churchwardens and the Treasurer plus the Vice-chair and the Secretary of each PCC.

The two PCCs can agree to place in the hands of the Joint PCC any matters involving both parishes. So far, the PCCs have delegated responsibility for the following matters to the Joint PCC:

- Safeguarding
- Staffing
- Data compliance.

Safeguarding

The Benefice complies fully with national and Church of England law on safeguarding. During 2021 the Benefice's **Safeguarding Officer**, Mr Mel Gibson, sadly died. Mrs Judy Gold was **Deputy Safeguarding Officer** and held the reins for the rest of the year while a replacement Safeguarding Officer was sought. The Joint PCC reviews and approves the **Safeguarding Policy** annually.

Staffing

The Benefice **Employment Committee** is concerned with meeting the statutory regulations around employment, ensuring the performance assessment and development of staff employed by the PCCs is carried out, and recruitment procedures.

Data compliance

In 2021 further work was undertaken to ensure that the churches are compliant with data governance legislation (GDPR).

5. Finance

Setting a budget and monitoring the income and expenditure of the church are key responsibilities of the PCC.

The **Finance Committee** oversees the finances of the PCC by monitoring income and expenditure, budgeting and reviewing the planned giving.

Financial position

The financial position of St Matthew's Church for 2021 was £7,621 better than budgeted. This is largely a result of lower than budgeted expenditure on church maintenance and outreach activities, accompanied by increased donations as a result of the Giving Appeal in December.

Loose alms were down because the coronavirus pandemic caused a reduction in people attending Sunday services, weddings and funerals. Planned giving showed a small increase for the first time in five years, increasing from £48.4k to £49.1k (excluding gift aid).

Income in 2021 was £109,719. **Expenditure** in 2021 was £110,080.

We are grateful to all who continue to support the C&FW post. The restricted fund for this shows a current balance of £40,491, more than sufficient to cover salaries for the coming year.

See Appendix 4 for a summary of income and expenditure for the years 2020 and 2021 and the budget for 2022.

Reserves policy

Reserves are held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on free reserves which equates to at least six months' unrestricted payments. In the case of St Matthew's Church this would be around £50,000 for 2022.

At 1st January 2021 there was a negative opening balance in the General fund of -£37,515. On 31 December 2021 there was a negative closing balance of -£37,876 to take forward into 2022, and reserves in Designated Funds were £87,934.

6. Buildings

The PCC is charged with the care, maintenance and insurance of the church buildings, including St Matthew's Church Hall. The property and movable goods of the church are vested in the

Churchwardens, who are also responsible for inspecting the fabric of the church and making an annual report (the Fabric Report) first to the PCC and then to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

The PCC is also concerned with developing our buildings to accommodate our own activities more effectively, and to enable us to connect better with and serve the wider community. A key aim is to have a main church building that is flexible, comfortable, and accessible, whilst maintaining and even enhancing its beauty. Investigating plans to improve the entrance area have continued during 2021, but progress has been limited by technical questions and difficulties of getting information from contractors.

St Matthew's church building

St Matthew's church is a Grade 1 listed building, parts of which date back to 1190. It is kept in a good state of repair by the **Buildings Committee** and other volunteers. Some of this work is maintenance and general repairs that continue in a very similar fashion year in year out. In addition, the church is cleaned regularly via a combination of a paid cleaner and a small faithful team of volunteers.

The Buildings Committee maintains an **Action List** of ongoing tasks. The Church Architect carried out the **Quinquennial Inspection** of the Church building (delayed from 2020) in June 2021. The recommendations have been incorporated in the Action List. The overall condition of the church building is good and the Architect in his report commented *'It is clear....that the PCC take a great deal of care and pride in looking after the fabric of this Church'*.

The detailed Fabric Report by the Churchwardens is provided in a separate document.

The following are examples of work carried out during the last year.

- Some stone tiles from near the ridge on the south side of the chancel roof became detached in early November. A specialist contractor inspected the area, made repairs, and also reported on the overall state of the chancel roof. In their estimation replacement might be necessary within 5 to 10 years. This situation will be discussed with the Church Architect before recommending how this work could be planned.
- The PCC has considered whether a roof alarm should be installed to discourage any further thefts of lead. The only vulnerable lead now remaining is on the roof of the south aisle. Having reviewed the pros and cons, including the economic case, the PCC concluded that there was not a good case for installing a roof alarm. The Buildings Committee will investigate different security options based on more lighting instead.
- A swarm of bees settled in the eaves near the porch in May and had to be removed to a new home.

Examples of other work are in the Fabric Report.



Photo: Bees under the eaves, May 2021;
Steve Light, Shire Pest Solutions



Photo: Missing stone tiles on the chancel
roof, November 2021; Tony Hughes

The **Friends of St Matthew's** scheme to stimulate interest in the church building, and ultimately help to provide for the costs of keeping it in good order, has continued in 2021 through a Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/HarwellChurchFriends. This is aimed particularly at descendants of the Harwell family lineage in the USA. The Facebook

page has had a lot of visits and interest and consideration continues as to how this interest can be used to increase donations to help with the cost of maintenance of the church.

St Matthew's Church Hall

The Church Hall is located on the corner of The Park and Wellshead, approximately 100m south of the church. Its fabric is generally in good order, with the surrounding grass and boundary hedges cut regularly.

In normal times, the Hall is used by church groups and church-affiliated groups. Some further groups and individuals also rent the Hall, which helps to offset the cost of its upkeep, though the costs have always exceeded the income by around £2,000 annually in recent years. The use of the Hall by a range of organisations means that it has different day to day management requirements than the church building. The Hall has a paid cleaner.

The aim of allowing the Hall to be used by non-church groups is to

- Bring the broader community into contact with the church
- Defray the cost of running the Hall
- Provide an economic venue for church or church-affiliated groups.

Bookings are managed via a calendar on the church website. The biggest single user is the Scout Group, who make a significant contribution to the paid cleaning which helps to sustain the Hall as a venue for all groups.

Due to lockdowns and restrictions on meeting indoors the Hall has been used much less than usual during 2021. The Hall was used for Holiday Club in the Summer and some bookings resumed in the Autumn. Bookings during the course of the year have been managed by the church administrator.

Maintenance issues, lawns and hedges were managed by the Rector until the early Autumn when, in the absence of a Hall Manager, the maintenance was taken over by the Buildings Committee. The heating and ventilation systems have been checked and reset to fit with regular users. A new front door has been fitted, plumbing repairs carried out, and repairs to the rainwater goods are underway.

Following an approach from another organisation during 2021, the PCC has been considering the pros and cons of selling the Hall and using the proceeds to develop new facilities in the main church building instead. The PCC has instructed solicitors to liaise with the Charity Commission and the Diocese about the possibility. No decision has yet been reached.

The income for the Hall in 2021 (not including the Scout cleaning contribution) was £1,147. Expenditure on maintenance, cleaning, utilities and insurance was £4,905.

Appendix 1:

Administrative information

St Matthew's Church is situated on Church Lane, Harwell. It is part of the Wallingford Deanery in the Archdeaconry of Dorchester in the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is:

The Rectory
Church Lane
Harwell
Didcot
OX11 0EZ

The Rector is Rev Dr Jonathan Mobey.

The Independent Examiner of the PCC financial accounts is:

Mrs Jane Moreton
Harrow House
Burr Street
Harwell
Didcot
OX11 0DT

Appendix 2:

St Matthew's church membership

The Electoral Roll is a list of those entitled to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. It is also a crude indicator of church membership.

The Electoral Roll is maintained by Mike Pepper. As of April 2021 the roll stood at 73 as compared with 68 in September 2020.

Appendix 3:

St Matthew's PCC membership

During 2021, the membership of St Matthew's PCC has been:

Clergy

- Rev Dr Jonathan Mobey (the Incumbent)
- Rev Pam Rolls (Associate Minister)
- Rev Janet Radford (Assistant Minister)

Churchwardens

- Rebecca Lewis (until the Annual Meeting in May¹)
- Eliza Wheaton (from the Annual Meeting in May)
- Allan Macarthur

Elected Deanery Synod representatives

- Gordon Gill
- Sid Gale

Other elected representatives

- Tony Hughes (Vice-Chair)
- Jane Woolley (Secretary)
- Phill Johnston (Treasurer)
- Rebecca Lewis from May 2021
- Michelle Walker

Co-opted representatives

There were no co-opted members

¹ Strictly speaking, Rebecca Lewis remained a churchwarden until Eliza Wheaton was formally invested in September

Appendix 4: Income and expenditure in 2020 and 2021 and budget for 2022

The full and independently examined Accounts for 2021 are published separately. They should be read in conjunction with this report.

	2020 (actual)	2021 (actual)	2022 (budget)
INCOME			
Envelopes/planned giving	48,484	49,160	54,000
Gift Aid recovered	14,946	11,636	12,500
VAT reclaimed (LPW grant)	5,290	869	-
Loose Alms	826	973	1,500
Grants	-	5,982	-
Donations/legacies/other	5,969	12,698	3,000
Fees	880	2,128	2,500
Church Hall income	1,886	1,147	2,500
Holiday Club	29	327	500
Interest	325	33	50
Transfers from Restricted / Designated funds			
Children & Families Worker	17,795	16,284	18,100
Administrator	12,128	11,550	10,000
Chilton Joint Account	(3,850)	(3,850)	-
Insurance Claim – roof repair	8,747	62	-
Major Repairs	-	720	-
Youth Fund	-	-	-
CAP Debt Centre	3,100	-	-
Total income	116,555	109,719	104,150
EXPENDITURE			
Parish Share	49,854	48,204	47,959
Mission Giving	7,800	6,9440	7,100
Joint PCC	38,959	34,956	38,183
Harwell PCC	55,209	19,980	24,630
Total expenditure	151,822	110,080	117,872
Surplus/Deficit	(35,267)	(361)	(13,722)

Fund Balances

There was a negative balance on the **General** fund at 31 December 2021 of **-£37,876**.

Designated funds (designated by the PCC for particular purposes but which could be otherwise spent if the PCC so decided) total **£87,934**.

Restricted funds (which can only be used for the purpose for which they were given) total **£61,691** including £40,491 for the C&FW post.

If you would like to see a copy of this Annual Report in large print, or discuss any parts of particular interest, please contact the Church Administrator on 01235 834256 or via our website:

www.harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk

Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St. Matthew's, Harwell

I report to the Parochial Church Council on my examination of the accounts of St Matthew's, Harwell for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- (i) accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (ii) the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Jane Moreton
Harrow House
Burr Street
Harwell
OXON



Date;

1/4/2022

St. Matthew's Church, Harwell
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

Receipts & Payments Account

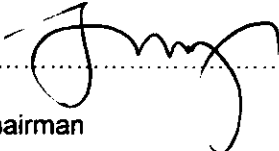
	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Receipts					
Voluntary Receipts					
Planned Giving (note 4a)	49,160			49,160	48,484
Collections at Services	555			555	582
Collections at Community Buildings	418			418	244
Other voluntary receipts (note 4b)	13,025	10,000	35,642	58,667	51,264
Non-recurring income (note 4c)	6,851			6,851	5,290
Gift Aid received	11,636		6,079	17,715	21,891
Activities for generating funds (note 4d)			0	0	0
Investment income (note 4e)	33	13	0	46	454
Receipts from Church activities (note 4f)	3,275		5,939	9,214	8,214
Total Receipts	84,953	10,013	47,660	142,626	136,423
Payments					
Church Activities					
Diocesan Parish Share	48,204			48,204	49,854
Ministry (note 4g)	27,260		902	28,162	36,103
Maintenance, Utilities & Insurance (note 4h)	19,109	0	2,278	21,387	54,873
Administration & Stationery (note 4i)	4,672			4,672	4,083
Missions & Charities	6,944			6,944	7,800
Other (note 4j)	3,891		10,079	13,970	14,667
Total Payments	110,080	0	13,259	123,339	167,380
Excess of Receipts over Payments	-25,127	10,013	34,401	19,287	-30,957
Transfers Between Funds	24,766	0	-24,766	0	0
Excess of Receipts over Payments after Transfers	-361	10,013	9,635	19,287	-30,957
Cash and Bank current and deposit accounts 1 Jan	-37,515	77,921	52,056	92,462	123,419
Excess receipts over payments after transfers	-361	10,013	9,635	19,287	-30,957
Cash and Bank current and deposit accounts 31 Dec	-37,876	87,934	61,691	111,749	92,462

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Cash Funds					
Cash	68			68	7
Bank Current and Deposit Accounts	-37,944	66,033		28,089	8,907
CBF Deposit Account		21,901	61,691	83,592	83,548
Total Cash Funds	-37,876	87,934	61,691	111,749	92,462
Debtors					
Gift Aid recoverable	3,536		1,089	4,625	3,618
Charities Trust				0	0
VAT recoverable (LPW scheme)				0	0
Total Debtors	3,536	0	1,089	4,625	3,618
Assets Retained for Church Use					
Church Hall (note 2)				137,644	137,644
Liabilities					
CMS collection boxes in homes				0	0
ODBF Fees			864	864	0
Total Liabilities	0	0	864	864	0

The attached notes on pages 4 to 6 form part of these financial statements.

These financial statements were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 1 March 2022 and signed on their behalf by



Chairman

Jonathan Mobey

 30/3/22

Trustee (and Treasurer)

Phill Johnston

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 asset retained for church use is the Church Hall, built in 1994, at cost.
- 3 Movements in designated and restricted funds (including tax reclaimed where applicable as part of income) over the year were:

	Bal B/fwd £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfer £	Bal C/fwd £
Designated					
Bell Repairs	267				267
Phase 2 Building	37,812	13			37,825
Mission Giving Legacies	10,399	1,000			11,399
Staples Legacy	9,896				9,896
E Stringer Legacy	14,547				14,547
E Gill Legacy	0	9,000			9,000
Ullmer Legacy	4,500				4,500
Insurance excess	500				500
	<u>77,921</u>	<u>10,013</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>87,934</u>
Restricted					
Administrator Fund	0	11,550		-11,550	0
Altar frontal fund	1,469		100		1,369
Assorted Collections	1,067	958	881		1,144
Baptism Bibles	99				99
CAP Money Course	572				572
CFW extension fund	31,419	25,356		-16,284	40,491
Chilton joint account	0	2,302	6,152	3,850	0
Christmas Together	795				795
Church Fabric/Redecoration	1,000	720		-720	1,000
CMS	20		20		0
Didcot Foodbank	0	85	85		0
Fledglings Garden Fund	185				185
Generation Gold	3,078		651		2,427
Harwell Helpers	3,605	536	231		3,911
Insurance Claim - roof repair	0	2,340	2,278	-62	0
Memorial Fund	350	176			526
ODBF Fees	0	3,637	2,773		864
Outreach	4,941				4,941
Rector's Discretionary fund	386				386
Sound System Upgrade	2,939				2,939
Tower Floodlighting	89		89		0
Youth Fund	42				42
	<u>52,056</u>	<u>47,660</u>	<u>13,259</u>	<u>-24,766</u>	<u>61,691</u>

4 Receipts and Payments Analysis (Receipts exclude Gift Aid received)

Receipts	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
(a) Planned Giving					
Gift-aided Planned Giving	44,925			44,925	45,446
Other Planned Giving	4,235			4,235	3,038
Total Planned Giving	49,160			49,160	48,484
(b) Other Giving and Donations					
General	12,698			12,698	5,968
Administrator			9,240	9,240	9,240
Assorted Collections			820	820	181
CFW Extension			21,860	21,860	17,585
Church Fabric/Redecoration			720	720	0
Didcot Foodbank			10	10	320
Funeral Collections			77	77	0
Generation Gold			0	0	1,000
Gill Legacy		9,000		9,000	0
Harwell Helpers			536	536	7,892
Holiday Club	327			327	29
Insurance Claim - Roof			2,278	2,278	8,747
Memorial Fund			101	101	300
Mission Giving Legacies		1,000		1,000	0
Total Donations	13,025	10,000	35,642	57,667	51,264
(c) Non-recurring income					
VAT reclaim - LPW grant	869			869	5,290
Covid Grants	5,982			5,982	0
Total Non-recurring income	6,851			6,851	5,290
(d) Activities for Generating Funds					
Tower Floodlighting			0	0	0
(e) Receipts from Investments					
Bank interest	3			3	25
CBF Deposit Account interest	30	13		43	429
Total Receipts from Investments	33	13	0	46	454
(f) Receipts from Church activities					
Fees	2,128		3,637	5,765	3,185
Church Hall income	1,147			1,147	1,886
Chilton joint account			2,302	2,302	3,143
Total Receipts from Church Activities	3,275	0	5,939	9,214	8,214

Payments	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
(g) Ministry					
Minister's Expenses	0			0	65
Associate Minister's Expenses	353			353	310
CFW extension	16,283			16,283	17,293
Administrator	9,718			9,718	11,361
Youth Work and Kids Church	722			722	1,048
Outreach				0	392
Harwell Helpers			231	231	4,509
Church Mission Society			20	20	0
Christmas Together	0		0	0	203
Services	184		651	835	754
Organist				0	168
Total Ministry	27,260	0	902	28,162	36,103
(h) Maintenance and Utilities					
Insurance Claim - Lead Roof	919		2,278	3,197	37,162
Church Cleaning	768			768	831
Church Maintenance	3,960		0	3,960	3,355
Church Utilities	4,336			4,336	4,236
Church Hall Maintenance and Cleaning	2,274			2,274	2,099
Church Hall Utilities	1,944			1,944	2,422
Church Insurance	4,221			4,221	4,101
Church Hall Insurance	687			687	668
Total Maintenance and Utilities	19,109	0	2,278	21,387	54,873
(i) Administration & Stationery					
Administration	314			314	0
Bank charges	200			200	200
Stationery	100			100	133
Office costs	1,326			1,326	1,373
Website	2,327			2,327	2,020
Outsourced Printing	405			405	358
Total Administration and Stationery	4,672	0	0	4,672	4,083
(j) Other					
Gifts, Subs and Courses	389			389	1,274
Miscellaneous	169			169	164
Tower Floodlighting			89	89	0
Altar Frontal Fund			100	100	0
O.D.B.F. fees			2,773	2,773	2,305
CAP Debt Centre	3,333			3,333	3,333
Chilton Joint Account			6,152	6,152	6,993
Didcot Foodbank			85	85	320
Assorted Collections			881	881	181
CAP			0	0	97
Total Other	3,891	0	10,079	13,970	14,667

Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St. Matthew's, Harwell

I report to the Parochial Church Council on my examination of the accounts of St Matthew's, Harwell for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- (i) accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (ii) the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Jane Moreton
Harrow House
Burr Street
Harwell
OXON



Date;

1/4/2022

St. Matthew's Church, Harwell
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

Receipts & Payments Account

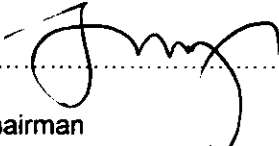
	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Receipts					
Voluntary Receipts					
Planned Giving (note 4a)	49,160			49,160	48,484
Collections at Services	555			555	582
Collections at Community Buildings	418			418	244
Other voluntary receipts (note 4b)	13,025	10,000	35,642	58,667	51,264
Non-recurring income (note 4c)	6,851			6,851	5,290
Gift Aid received	11,636		6,079	17,715	21,891
Activities for generating funds (note 4d)			0	0	0
Investment income (note 4e)	33	13	0	46	454
Receipts from Church activities (note 4f)	3,275		5,939	9,214	8,214
Total Receipts	84,953	10,013	47,660	142,626	136,423
Payments					
Church Activities					
Diocesan Parish Share	48,204			48,204	49,854
Ministry (note 4g)	27,260		902	28,162	36,103
Maintenance, Utilities & Insurance (note 4h)	19,109	0	2,278	21,387	54,873
Administration & Stationery (note 4i)	4,672			4,672	4,083
Missions & Charities	6,944			6,944	7,800
Other (note 4j)	3,891		10,079	13,970	14,667
Total Payments	110,080	0	13,259	123,339	167,380
Excess of Receipts over Payments	-25,127	10,013	34,401	19,287	-30,957
Transfers Between Funds	24,766	0	-24,766	0	0
Excess of Receipts over Payments after Transfers	-361	10,013	9,635	19,287	-30,957
Cash and Bank current and deposit accounts 1 Jan	-37,515	77,921	52,056	92,462	123,419
Excess receipts over payments after transfers	-361	10,013	9,635	19,287	-30,957
Cash and Bank current and deposit accounts 31 Dec	-37,876	87,934	61,691	111,749	92,462

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Cash Funds					
Cash	68			68	7
Bank Current and Deposit Accounts	-37,944	66,033		28,089	8,907
CBF Deposit Account		21,901	61,691	83,592	83,548
Total Cash Funds	-37,876	87,934	61,691	111,749	92,462
Debtors					
Gift Aid recoverable	3,536		1,089	4,625	3,618
Charities Trust				0	0
VAT recoverable (LPW scheme)				0	0
Total Debtors	3,536	0	1,089	4,625	3,618
Assets Retained for Church Use					
Church Hall (note 2)				137,644	137,644
Liabilities					
CMS collection boxes in homes				0	0
ODBF Fees			864	864	0
Total Liabilities	0	0	864	864	0

The attached notes on pages 4 to 6 form part of these financial statements.

These financial statements were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 1 March 2022 and signed on their behalf by


Chairman

 30/3/22
Trustee (and Treasurer)

Jonathan Mobey

Phill Johnston

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 asset retained for church use is the Church Hall, built in 1994, at cost.
- 3 Movements in designated and restricted funds (including tax reclaimed where applicable as part of income) over the year were:

	Bal B/fwd £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfer £	Bal C/fwd £
Designated					
Bell Repairs	267				267
Phase 2 Building	37,812	13			37,825
Mission Giving Legacies	10,399	1,000			11,399
Staples Legacy	9,896				9,896
E Stringer Legacy	14,547				14,547
E Gill Legacy	0	9,000			9,000
Ullmer Legacy	4,500				4,500
Insurance excess	500				500
	77,921	10,013	0	0	87,934
Restricted					
Administrator Fund	0	11,550		-11,550	0
Altar frontal fund	1,469		100		1,369
Assorted Collections	1,067	958	881		1,144
Baptism Bibles	99				99
CAP Money Course	572				572
CFW extension fund	31,419	25,356		-16,284	40,491
Chilton joint account	0	2,302	6,152	3,850	0
Christmas Together	795				795
Church Fabric/Redecoration	1,000	720		-720	1,000
CMS	20		20		0
Didcot Foodbank	0	85	85		0
Fledglings Garden Fund	185				185
Generation Gold	3,078		651		2,427
Harwell Helpers	3,605	536	231		3,911
Insurance Claim - roof repair	0	2,340	2,278	-62	0
Memorial Fund	350	176			526
ODBF Fees	0	3,637	2,773		864
Outreach	4,941				4,941
Rector's Discretionary fund	386				386
Sound System Upgrade	2,939				2,939
Tower Floodlighting	89		89		0
Youth Fund	42				42
	52,056	47,660	13,259	-24,766	61,691

4 Receipts and Payments Analysis (Receipts exclude Gift Aid received)

Receipts	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
(a) Planned Giving					
Gift-aided Planned Giving	44,925			44,925	45,446
Other Planned Giving	4,235			4,235	3,038
Total Planned Giving	49,160			49,160	48,484
(b) Other Giving and Donations					
General	12,698			12,698	5,968
Administrator			9,240	9,240	9,240
Assorted Collections			820	820	181
CFW Extension			21,860	21,860	17,585
Church Fabric/Redecoration			720	720	0
Didcot Foodbank			10	10	320
Funeral Collections			77	77	0
Generation Gold			0	0	1,000
Gill Legacy		9,000		9,000	0
Harwell Helpers			536	536	7,892
Holiday Club	327			327	29
Insurance Claim - Roof			2,278	2,278	8,747
Memorial Fund			101	101	300
Mission Giving Legacies		1,000		1,000	0
Total Donations	13,025	10,000	35,642	57,667	51,264
(c) Non-recurring income					
VAT reclaim - LPW grant	869			869	5,290
Covid Grants	5,982			5,982	0
Total Non-recurring income	6,851			6,851	5,290
(d) Activities for Generating Funds					
Tower Floodlighting			0	0	0
(e) Receipts from Investments					
Bank interest	3			3	25
CBF Deposit Account interest	30	13		43	429
Total Receipts from Investments	33	13	0	46	454
(f) Receipts from Church activities					
Fees	2,128		3,637	5,765	3,185
Church Hall income	1,147			1,147	1,886
Chilton joint account			2,302	2,302	3,143
Total Receipts from Church Activities	3,275	0	5,939	9,214	8,214

Payments	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
(g) Ministry					
Minister's Expenses	0			0	65
Associate Minister's Expenses	353			353	310
CFW extension	16,283			16,283	17,293
Administrator	9,718			9,718	11,361
Youth Work and Kids Church	722			722	1,048
Outreach				0	392
Harwell Helpers			231	231	4,509
Church Mission Society			20	20	0
Christmas Together	0		0	0	203
Services	184		651	835	754
Organist				0	168
Total Ministry	27,260	0	902	28,162	36,103
(h) Maintenance and Utilities					
Insurance Claim - Lead Roof	919		2,278	3,197	37,162
Church Cleaning	768			768	831
Church Maintenance	3,960		0	3,960	3,355
Church Utilities	4,336			4,336	4,236
Church Hall Maintenance and Cleaning	2,274			2,274	2,099
Church Hall Utilities	1,944			1,944	2,422
Church Insurance	4,221			4,221	4,101
Church Hall Insurance	687			687	668
Total Maintenance and Utilities	19,109	0	2,278	21,387	54,873
(i) Administration & Stationery					
Administration	314			314	0
Bank charges	200			200	200
Stationery	100			100	133
Office costs	1,326			1,326	1,373
Website	2,327			2,327	2,020
Outsourced Printing	405			405	358
Total Administration and Stationery	4,672	0	0	4,672	4,083
(j) Other					
Gifts, Subs and Courses	389			389	1,274
Miscellaneous	169			169	164
Tower Floodlighting			89	89	0
Altar Frontal Fund			100	100	0
O.D.B.F. fees			2,773	2,773	2,305
CAP Debt Centre	3,333			3,333	3,333
Chilton Joint Account			6,152	6,152	6,993
Didcot Foodbank			85	85	320
Assorted Collections			881	881	181
CAP			0	0	97
Total Other	3,891	0	10,079	13,970	14,667