

# The Parochial Church Council of Ecclesiastical Parish of Emmer Green and Caversham Park St Barnabas

England & Wales · Charity number 1164759

## Details

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|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Other names | THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST BARNABAS, EMMER GREEN, ST BARNABAS PCC, EMMER GREEN |
| Status      | Registered                                                                                                          |
| Legal form  | Previously excepted                                                                                                 |
| Registered  | 2015-12-08                                                                                                          |
| Register    | <a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>                                                             |

## Contact

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|         |                                                                                          |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Address | St. Barnabas Church<br>St. Barnabas Road<br>Emmer Green<br>Reading<br>RG4 8RA            |
| Phone   | 01189472827                                                                              |
| Email   | <a href="mailto:pccsecretary@saintbarnabas.org.uk">pccsecretary@saintbarnabas.org.uk</a> |
| Website | <a href="http://www.saintbarnabas.org.uk">www.saintbarnabas.org.uk</a>                   |

## Activities

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**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 prayer. Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups. Promotion of Christianity through events and meetings. Promoting the whole mission of the Church in the community through the provision of activities for older people, young families and other groups. Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas.

## Classification

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

## Geography

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- Reading

## Finances

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| Period end | Income   | Expenditure | Assets | Employees |
|------------|----------|-------------|--------|-----------|
| 2025-12-31 | £124,997 | £105,537    | -      | -         |
| 2024-12-31 | £100,662 | £89,284     | -      | -         |
| 2023-12-31 | £102,355 | £91,031     | -      | -         |
| 2022-12-31 | £81,068  | £81,841     | -      | -         |
| 2021-12-31 | £71,896  | £77,596     | -      | -         |
| 2020-12-31 | £92,975  | £105,366    | -      | -         |

## Trustees

| Name                          | Role | Appointed  |
|-------------------------------|------|------------|
| Awaiz Augusten Hidayet Masih  |      | 2025-04-12 |
| Bob Abel                      |      | 2016-02-17 |
| Christine Pamela Bartlett     |      | 2023-04-22 |
| David Owen Howell             |      | 2026-04-18 |
| FELICITY MAY CHAPMAN          |      | 2015-03-16 |
| Joy Angeline Abel             |      | 2022-02-15 |
| Pak Shing Chu                 |      | 2026-05-19 |
| RICHARD HAROLD CUNNINGHAM BSC |      | 2011-11-17 |
| Rev Kevin John Lovell         |      | 2022-12-17 |
| Roger Moore                   |      | 2016-03-16 |
| SANDRA JANE RICE              |      | 2025-04-18 |
| SUSIE DOWNER                  |      | 2016-03-16 |
| WENDY ELIZABETH HOWELL        |      | 2015-03-16 |

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# Accounts

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**St Barnabas Church**

The parish church for Emmer Green and Caversham Park



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# **Annual Report**

# **2025**

Issued by:

St Barnabas: the parish church for Emmer Green and Caversham Park

Grove Road, Emmer Green, RG4 8RA

[www.saintbarnabas.org.uk](http://www.saintbarnabas.org.uk)

[vicar@saintbarnabas.org.uk](mailto:vicar@saintbarnabas.org.uk)

0118 947 5214

Registered charity no. 1164759

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## Vicar's Report

2025 was my third year here at St Barnabas: this is the point where you feel you have well and truly settled into the church and community. One of the delights of being in Emmer Green and Caversham Park is that I now know so many people and feel the rhythm of the community more.

The first thing I want to say is that we are transforming lives in Emmer Green and Caversham Park. We make a real difference to a lot of people: around 3,000 every year. That's 3,000 individuals for whom the light of Christ is brought into their life through an encounter with our ministry. Many of those encounters are slight, but they are repeated, and some lives are deeply transformed. Amongst those, we brought 15 people to faith this year. God is good and God is at work at St Barnabas!

Amongst the joys of ministry, we must also acknowledge that the world around us is changing. This brings surprising opportunities, especially with young enquirers. It also brings a twofold challenge: an increased demand on our administrative workload; plus social changes which leave people less able to commit time to voluntary work.

### Our Priorities

Our three priorities remain, with another shift in emphasis. This year we needed to focus attention on building up our mission capability.

1. **Build up our mission capability.** This is about our foundation, upon which everything else depends. We continued to make progress: introducing new policies; modernising our tools for managing finance and safeguarding (these enable easier team working); and rebuilding teams where one person is 'holding the fort'. Three key areas emerged: safeguarding, buildings maintenance, and financial control. As we enter 2026, work remains to put processes around our policies; an ongoing challenge is how to resource these three key areas, so that we are safe, legal and compliant.
2. **Develop our work with families, children and young people.** Our worshipping congregation is again up around 10% on the previous year, largely due to an increase in families. Sadly this year we discontinued Busy Bees due to low numbers, however the Toddler Thursday group is well established. We have a small but steady flow of younger enquirers (from teens to early 20s), who we are discipling.
3. **Reach out into Caversham Park.** Our regular postcard-drops and litter-picks are good opportunities to make our presence felt (thank-you to those who support these). Our visibility outside church (during school run and the summer "Squash Club" afternoons) prompt regular conversations (with children as well as parents) and I notice a few even coming to church (e.g. at Christmas).

For all of us, continuing to ‘**relentlessly build trusted relationships wherever we go**’ is an activity that bears fruit. Numerous chance encounters with congregation members this year resulted in people coming into church for worship, prayer, a reassuring conversation, baptism request etc. The growing instability in our world is prompting people to explore faith: if they meet us face-to-face, experience shows they are likely to voice that curiosity with us.

## Worship

- **Sunday 9:30am worship** continued in its established pattern. For a time the numbers dipped a little but toward the end of the year several new people started to attend regularly.
- **Sunday 11:15am All Age worship** experienced rapid growth in 2024, attendances levelled out in 2025. Attendances on individual Sundays have not grown, however the total worshipping congregation is still strong: people are coming less often (a common pattern among families).
- On Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, we welcomed Bishop Mary (the new Bishop of Reading) to our morning services.
- **Sunday 8am BCP Holy Communion** once a month, continues with a loyal following.
- **Morning Prayer** (Tues in church, and online Mon/Weds/Thurs) has 4-7 people each day.
- **Wednesday Midweek Communion** has grown slightly (we put out more chairs now), usually 12-15, sometimes higher.
- The monthly service at **St Luke’s** residential home continued.

## Life Events

We were pleased to conduct 10 baptisms this year (7 babies/children and 3 adults). We also conducted 3 weddings, 7 funerals, 1 memorial service and 1 burial of ashes.

There is a beneficial synergy between life events and our other activities: the 11:15am service works well for baptism families and there is a similar crossover with Bereavement Café, Living with Loss, Toddler Thursdays and worship (especially All Souls and Blue Christmas). This makes it easier for people outside the regular congregation to benefit from what we offer.

## High Days and Holidays

Attendances at Christmas and Easter continue to rise ahead of other attendance stats. Our joint 10am service on Easter Sunday and Christmas Day seems to work well. This year we introduced Messy Christmas which was great fun and much enjoyed by those who came (thank-you Aga and Katie). These annual services require additional effort, but they hold increased significance for many who do not attend weekly.

## Prayer and Pastoral

It is encouraging to see the continued development of our **prayer ministry**: through our Prayer Chain, the prayer stations in church (including the space at the back of church, brought back into use this year), our public intercessions list and, of course, prayer in worship. We have not managed to establish **Pastoral Care Assistants** to support our pastoral work, although we did get the policies in place.

**In memoriam.** Sadly I record that a number of our former congregation members have died this year: Stasha Spoliar, Christine Fuller, Rosemary Fairweather, Linda Dudley, Douglas Rae, Mary Lewis, Chris Suddaby, Doreen Drew, Pat Stevens. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

## Families, Children and Young People

This was a year of comings and goings. We have welcomed several new families and young adults this year, some are coming regularly, one family has stopped coming, a couple of older teenagers have moved away for education. I try to maintain as much contact in- and out-side of church with the younger generations.

- **School visits and assemblies.** Our contact with Emmer Green Primary and The Hill Primary, plus the preschools, scouts and guides continues. I had an amazing Q&A session with Year 6 at The Hill in April.
- **REinspired** (run by Churches Together in Caversham). Volunteers from St Barnabas join in RE lessons in the local primary schools.
- Wednesday and Thursday **morning school runs** (join me sometime!).
- **Young Adults Discipleship group** meets on alternate Monday evenings: a small but constant group of young men who meet for bible study.

## Learning and Discipleship

**Lent course** (2 sessions/week) was well attended, including some visitors from other churches, on the topic of 'A Christian look at the Environment'. 2025 was the 1700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the **Nicene Creed**, so we ran a series of 6 sessions (twice each week) in the autumn, examining this text in close detail. Both courses prompted deep conversation and reflection. Our **Bible Study group** continued fortnightly.

## Environment Crisis

A year of mixed success. We installed new windows in the Church Hall thanks to a grant of £9k from the National Lottery Community Fund, making the hall much warmer and draught-free in winter. Our plans for installing solar panels have stalled this year. We were unable to source a contractor who met the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) requirements for independent advice, also the grant we were offered has expired.

## **Outward Facing Work**

Our new noticeboard went up in November, with a revised strapline: 'A place to belong and find the love of Jesus'.

Progress on the **Safe Space** initiative encountered further delays, culminating in a difficult decision to abandon this scheme. The fact-finding stage resulted in a design for youth access to multiple services which relied heavily on professional skills. The knock-on demand for safeguarding processes and funding in excess of £20k p.a. put the scheme beyond our resources. The need remains: we seek other possibilities more within our reach.

## **Media Appearances**

Joy Abel was the subject of an excellent 'God in the Life Of' article in the Diocesan 'Pathways' magazine, which led to her being interviewed by BBC Radio Oxford. Revd Kevin also made an appearance on ITV Meridian 6pm News, talking about our Blue Christmas service.

## **Behind the Scenes**

We made a number of background improvements this year:

We relaunched our website, using a more robust and user friendly editing platform.

Following feedback from our Independent Examiner we adopted an online accounting system. This made a major contribution to our financial controls, allows a team to work on our accounts, and brings PCC and Church Hall finances all on one sheet.

During the year we implemented a Safeguarding Hub: this has revolutionised our ability to ensure our DBS checks and safeguarding training are kept in date.

Thanks to Guy Watt, we have a modernised audio/visual system in church. All is installed and working, the final "go live" will be in 2026.

With help from Chris Fitzsimons we have a full suite of Microsoft products, integrated with our website domain, for Church Officers. This offers security of data and simplifies the handover of information when officers change.

## **Hong Kong Community**

A large community of Hong Kongers have moved to the Reading area in recent years, and are worshipping at Trinity Earley, which is full to overflowing. St Barnabas was approached as the first of four churches where some of the Hong Kong community might relocate and become part of our community here. We began a joint prayer and discernment process in December: during 2026 we look forward to welcoming a group of Hong Kongers to join our congregation.

## **And Finally**

I often say Church is going to change, but I don't know what it will look like. This year I think we began to see how we need to reshape ourselves, as we respond to changes in the world

around us. My prayer is that we stay close to God, following his guidance and trusting in his grace.

To all of you who contribute to bringing God's Kingdom into Caversham Park and Emmer Green: a huge 'thank-you'. I record particular thanks to my warden Louise, treasurer Richard, safeguarding officer Joy and all who serve on PCC.

And thanks be to God, who gives us what we need to continue his work here.

*Kevin.*

## **Churchwarden's Report**

### **Overall**

It has been a great privilege and a deep delight to have enjoyed the opportunity to be church warden, serving God, the church of St Barnabas and the community of Emmer Green and Caversham Park.

In my first year as a church warden there was much to learn; I would like to give my sincere thanks to the wider congregation, PCC, and to Revd Kevin, for the warmth, care and support shared as I learned the ropes.

### **Empowering Our Congregation**

St. Barnabas has a special depth of fellowship and is uniquely placed at the crossroads where many children, families, students, and adults pass by.

After a good spring clean, we reopened the Prayer Room for private and fellowship prayer ministry and made the beautiful large stained-glass windows more visible. We flung wide the church doors more frequently during the week and put out chalk boards to invite folk to pop in and pray. We were pleasantly surprised by the variety of people, ages and backgrounds who would come in to pray, such as three young teenage boys, one holding a football under his arm while asking if it would be okay if they came in and prayed.

Over the Summertime, prompted by the Holy Spirit, we found ourselves putting tables out by the gates inviting all to stop for free drinks, chats, and prayer. As the weather became hotter, we set up the popular 'Squash club' where folks from our congregation offered free cool squash drinks for thirsty children and students finishing their school day.

A 'Lend a Hand Crew' St Barnabas community WhatsApp group was formed, enabling congregation members to offer their time to support these and other activities, such as Messy Christmas (a big thanks to Aga Faulkner and Katie Nadarajah who led this new event).

A new 'Buildings' Projects' team has been formed, inviting new congregation members to participate in discrete projects; building both fellowship as well as improving and maintaining the buildings themselves!

## **Health & Safety**

This year we looked to review and improve the existing fire, health and safety matters across the Church, Parish Centre and Hall. New fire escape plans were produced, fire risk assessments completed and refreshed training given to Sides people. Quotes are currently being obtained for new fire doors for the Church hall.

## **Buildings**

Various improvements have been made throughout the year, across the Church, Parish Centre and Hall. These range from welding new panels onto the Church Hall, installing easier to press flushing buttons in the Parish Centre toilets, to installing fresh new signage reaching out from the church into the community, while making repairs to boilers, fixing leaks and many more.

There are further significant building projects currently in progress, which look to attend to remaining work items identified in the 2022 Quinquennial inspection (the next is due in 2027). These include repointing various areas around the church, repainting soffits and cupola, as well as finding a solution for the leak in the Parish Centre (outside the Parish Office room) among others. The newly formed 'Buildings' Projects' team are attending to this prioritised list.

My deep thanks to the many people who have supported and been involved across all these various activities. Particularly to Guy Watt, Christine Bartlett, and many others.

I would strongly encourage all to consider the deeply fulfilling role of being a Church Warden; it truly has been a joy to share fellowship and fun with many wonderful people, share the love of Jesus, and to draw ever closer to God.

## **Church Management**

### **Safeguarding**

The Safeguarding team at St Barnabas works to create a safe place for all.

Sandra Rice is taking over as the Safeguarding Officer this year. I will continue as her deputy, working on the Hub to ensure that all who hold a role in our church are appropriately trained and have current DBS checks. Susie Downer has taken over as the Verifier for DBS checks from Debbie Burton, who resigned last autumn.

Whilst there have been no local issues of safeguarding raised, there have been several general alerts from the Diocese. These have been noted but have not affected our community.

In August, we were informed of a data breach via APCS, who managed all our DBS checks. Three members of the PCC were potentially impacted by this. As a result, the PCC will be using a different organisation in 2026.

Appropriate safeguarding training has either been completed, or is in hand, for all who hold a role in our church, whether on the PCC or running a group.

In 2026 we hope to offer Basic Safeguarding training, in house, to other members of the congregation.

*Joy Abel*

## **Electoral Roll**

The parish church electoral roll is the first building block of the church's governance structure. It is a register of the lay members of the church who are entitled to vote at the APCM. Those on the roll are eligible to be elected to lay representative positions on the PCC and Deanery Synod. Deanery Synod representatives may then be elected to Diocesan Synod and General Synod. The total number on the parish church electoral roll, is an important factor in determining the number of lay representatives that a parish may have. It is only a small component of how the parish share allocation is determined.

*(source: Diocese of Oxford website)*

The number on our Electoral roll as at 31/12/2025 was 87. In April 2025 a new Electoral Roll was completed and in April 2026 it will be revised with names added and deleted as appropriate.

*Christine Bartlett*

## **Hall**

Great news – we have lovely double glazed new windows, acquired with a National Lottery grant of £9240 and we have purchased lovely new curtains to go with them. The Hall had a new floor in 2023 and really looks good inside now. The Hall is a great asset to our Church and our community. It's really well used with all sorts of groups and provides a valuable income to our Church.

During 2025, the hall increased its hired income to £22541. We were able to provide £15500 to our Church, which is very important support.

Payment by cash for party hire has been ended. Payment by Bank Transfer is now required. A keysafe using a code is now used to provide more secure access to the hall.

During the year the Hall was hired by 18 community groups, who meet weekly, and by over 54 family children's parties, which contribute a fifth of the income. And of course, our Church uses the Hall for fundraising and social events.

Thank you to all the Groups who use the Hall. The details for each are shown on the "St Barnabas Church Emmer Green" website.

Thank you to our new cleaner, Joanne, who keeps the Hall clean. Thanks to the people in our congregation who help with other maintenance – in particular to Guy Watt and David

Howell, to Bob Abel for accounts & billing, and to Christine, Wendy and Louise for the new curtains, and others for help in many ways.

*Jon Barclay, Hall Manager*

## **Worship & Ministry**

### **Choir & Music**

We ended 2025 on a high with our service of lessons and carols. We were delighted to welcome a few extra singers, including Kevin and Anita, to our Christmas choir. Sadly, illness stopped Rachel and Roberta singing with us for the service but we enjoyed singing with them in rehearsals.

Over the year we learned several new songs, including some that were inspired by music from the 11:30am services. This will make it easier to worship together when we have joint services or attend a different service from normal.

A huge thank you to everyone who has taken part in the music of the church during 2025, especially to those who are coping with health problems or supporting family members. Your dedication to enriching the worship of our congregation is what enables us to embrace a wide variety of music.

Gail Houghton and Guy Watt have both been a great support to me in leading the music. I'd particularly like to mention Gail's beautiful piano accompaniments and Guy's knowledge of how to keep the organ running smoothly. Once again, I couldn't have got through this year without the support and understanding of all the choir.

After singing with us for around 40 years, Valerie Sansom has taken the decision to retire from the choir. We'll all miss her cheerful approach and look forward to maintaining our friendships as she moves to worship in the congregation. Many thanks for her dedication through her long membership of the choir.

*Felicity Chapman*

### **Puppet Ministry**

Another year of Puppet Ministry to our local school children. During Christmas alone over 800 children and adults attended church to hear the good news of Jesus' birth. "Jesus is the true present for Christmas".

*David Howell*

### **Prayer Chain Ministry**

In May 2012 Jean Rae felt guided to start the prayer chain initiative at Saint Barnabas. This she faithfully continued until her death in March 2018. Jean was a very special and talented person whose knowledge and experience I very much appreciated. I am grateful to have known her. I felt her prayer chain to be an important part of our life at Saint Barnabas and

felt compelled to continue with Jean's ministry although anxious about following in such able and learned footsteps. It has been a privilege to do so and I have been encouraged by various comments over the years.

The prayer chain is composed of 18 individuals who have committed to pray for those who have requested prayer. We do not physically meet to do so but pray in private as and when we choose. We pray not only for those mentioned in our church prayers, but also for those who may not wish to be publicly identified but who can be assured that all requests are entirely confidentially treated within the group. There is often more detail given with regard to whatever the situation may be that requires prayer.

We pray for those in distress because of illness, bereavement, life changing events.

We pray for those who have died.

We pray for encouragement and guidance for individuals and events.

We pray with grateful, thankful hearts.

During 2025 we prayed for 23 individuals or situations.

We firmly believe in the power of prayer. We offer ourselves to God in this ministry and we give thanks for the freedom and opportunity to raise our concerns with Him.

If you feel that you may like to become part of this group you will be most welcome, or if you would appreciate prayer for yourself or someone else then please speak to me.

*Susie Downer*

## **Eco Church**

St Barnabas has silver award status from the environmental charity, A Rocha, The award covers the following areas: worship & teaching, community and global engagement, land, buildings, lifestyle. It would be wonderful to achieve the "gold award level", but without significant changes to our heating systems this will be impossible.

Efforts have been made during the year to start the solar panel process, but unfortunately this has proved rather more complex than we had hoped. However, we enthusiastically continue to do what we can: recycling, sharing information, and keeping in touch with local and national Eco networks (Greenshoots, Green Christian, Reading Fairtrade, Friends of the Earth, Tearfund).

During 2025, we maintained our commitment to be a Fairtrade church, with sales of Fairtrade goods at Easter and Christmas, promoting Fairtrade in our worship and newsletters, plus using Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar whenever possible.

Thanks to everyone for your support and interest in "all things green!"

*Christine Bartlett*

## Groups & Activities

### Parish Centre

The Parish centre is in generally good shape and continues to be utilised by church and non-church groups. We continue to be plagued by the roof leak and the central heating boiler is starting to show its age. Alas, the Safe Space will no longer be happening due to resourcing shortfalls.

Beyond our normal weekly activities there has been an increase in the hiring of the Parish Centre and Church with the following having used the buildings for regular meetings or one-off events:

Dance class mums (Term time only)

SEN (Special Educational Needs) Support Group (Term time only)

CADRA monthly meetings and AGM

CADRA “Have your say” event attended by Matt Rodda MP and the Police

Olly Stephens annual walk

Reading Family Aid AGM

True Foods AGM

Chiltern Court finance planning and Christmas lunch

Bashan Prayer House Christmas Day service

Glass Ensemble concert

Vocalist choir concert

CTC (Caversham Churches Together) leadership lunches

Hong Kong Community service

Hong Kong Leadership retreat

*David Howell*

### Bereavement Support

- **Bereavement Café**

During 2025, 11 new visitors attended the informal Café which takes place on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday every month. The average number of individuals per session was 7, and the largest was 11. People find it reassuring to meet others who are experiencing similar feelings of grief and to discover that there is no right or wrong way to cope with bereavement.

- **Living with Loss**

This group meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday each month and we talk as a group, whereas there are many different conversations going on at the same time in the Café. 8 new people participated during 2025, with an average attendance of 6, and the largest was 10. There is a core of regulars who find it comforting to be able to talk about

their ongoing grief, and new visitors seem to value group support and go away feeling less alone.

Every new visitor to one of the St Barnabas Bereavement groups comes because someone – and this may be a friend, a family member, or they themselves, feel that “they ought to be over this by now.” The general view in society now seems to be that grief is something you “get over.” By meeting other bereaved people, visitors find that grief does not have any timescale and involves learning to live with loss. We are currently very fortunate to have 3 volunteers for each group.

*Gillian Wilson*

### **Thursday Toddlers**

Thursday Toddlers was open each Thursday during term time. The number attending varied each week with a bulging 24 children one week. The group is aimed at parents, grandparents and carers many of whom dropped off siblings at Emmer Green Primary school and welcomed a short respite, a cup of coffee and conversation. Many activities were available to keep the wee ones engaged including colouring, puzzles, Play Doh and numerous cars and trains. In the summer we took advantage of the good weather to use the church garden and entertained the children with a bubble machine.

The sessions start at 8.45 and finish at 10am with songs – 10 to 15 minutes of “wheels on the bus go round and round” to the “the wise man built his house on a rock”. Noisy and fun. The sessions are run by Anne Mace, Wendy Moore, Rev’d Kevin and Roger Moore.

*Roger Moore*

### **Cleaning**

We are a small but very willing team who clean the Church and Parish Centre on Wednesday mornings. We feel that keeping things clean and tidy, is honouring to God and helps everyone who uses the building to feel comfortable. We would always welcome more help, and we can find jobs for all abilities.

*Christine Bartlett*

### **Craft Group**

Another successful year of knit and natter and friendship. Some ladies have been knitting "Fish & Chip" jumpers and hats for babies in Ghana. Rev’d Heather Turner from Shiplake organises this via her church.

Chiltern Court still "feeds" the group with new members and early this year 1 new member proved a God-send. She knits, sews and bakes. Ask her if she can make a peg bag and next week there are at least 6. The list goes on. She has been a great asset to the group. Many other members knit and sew for our fundraising events which boost the Handicraft stall. Of course, our 2 "Bring & Share" lunches proved as popular as ever. Sadly, one elderly member passed on in January.

*Wendy Howell*

### **Friday Fellowship**

Everyone is welcome at this group which meets on the second Friday of each month in the Parish Centre. There is cake, tea, scrabble, quizzes and other board games, but above all else, fellowship & friendship.

*Mary Cameron*

### **Garden Group**

Our small but very dedicated group continued to care for the church grounds and Parish Centre garden throughout the year. Some replanting was done where needed but mostly we just cared for what we already have.

Following a generous donation more decorative bark was bought and a thick layer applied to all the flower beds. This proved to be of great benefit to the plants trapping any moisture in the soil. Nearly all of them survived the high temperatures of the summer with very little watering.

Further work has been done to improve the wild area behind the Church Hall. In February a gift of snowdrops were planted in groups near to the bug house and in May poppies, everlasting primrose, teasels, yellow rattle and ox-eye daisies were added to the grassy area to encourage more insects and pollinators to come and visit.

*Juliet and Tony Holland*

### **Men's Breakfast**

Men's Breakfast celebrated its tenth anniversary in September. Since the article in the Caversham Bridge highlighting the ten years, we have attracted a further 3 members meaning that the numbers that attend on a regular basis is circa seventeen. It continues to thrive and is a permanent diary entry for so many. Social Prescribers continue to recommend us to older gentlemen to meet other men in the community and additionally men attending the Bereavement Café and Living with Loss are also being referred. The group now consists of more non-congregational members with men from other churches in Caversham/Reading and an increasing number of men that don't attend any form of worship.

*David Howell*

## **Communications**

### **Online**

We produced a weekly online bulletin and a monthly online newsletter called "Read All About It" which is sent to over 120 people with just a few copies being printed out for those not online. The website is an important "first point of contact" and is kept up to date by Kevin and Felicity. Facebook is used for advertising events and on-line Morning Prayer

*Christine Bartlett*

## Fundraising

We are still fundraising for 2 charities in Africa: Education for Life in Kenya and Masicorp in South Africa. As usual, the 3 main events were the Handyman Sale in May, Garden Party in July and most recently the Christmas Fair. I am ever grateful for all the help and encouragement I receive in organising the events. However, in late autumn, I was joined by Juliet Holland, Christine Bartlett and Marion Morgan (who is involved in Masicorp). A fresh set of ideas resulted in some different stalls and a new layout to the Hall. As Father Christmas was a bit busy this year, he only made a brief visit, but was able to give away a **free gift** to the children, ably assisted by an elf.

Our mascot, Holly Christmas, made an appearance on social media, advertising the various stalls, which appeared to draw in a large crowd and resulted in our biggest amount raised ever. Thanks should also go to the various young men who helped set up and take down tables with great efficiency.

*Wendy Howell*

## The Wider Church

### Churches Together in Caversham

We have continued our involvement in CTC this year. There is an annual meeting each April and ministers meet every month. St Barnabas makes an annual financial contribution to the running of CTC activities, members of our church support CTC missional activity across the Caversham area:

- REinspired - delivers RE lessons in primary schools, employing two part-time staff to coordinate and lead this work
- Summer holiday club – for primary school aged children for a week each summer (together with lots of teenage helpers as well as adult leaders)
- Supports a weekly drop-in centre in the Baptist church, now supported by Faith
- Messy Church and All Souls 'Light Party' events, although these have been halted recently
- CTC runs a Good Friday Walk through Caversham centre

Rev'd Kevin is currently co-chair of CTC and Roger Moore serves on the trustees of REinspired.

*Rev'd Kevin Lovell*

## Reading Deanery Synod

Reading Deanery Synod is a place where members can experience fellowship and have missional conversations enabling learning from one another. There is a culture of mutual support. It is a place to influence policy at Diocesan and even national level.

Examples of missional conversations are that in February members discussed how the last year has been, and what is going well and not going well for our church at the moment; Children, Young People & Families, and what links do we have with primary schools and secondary schools; what other missional needs and opportunities are there and what opportunities are there to work with other churches on mission?

Then in April members discussed the Deanery Churches and Young People policy including whether the priorities named in the plan are the right ones for us as a deanery, and what other voices we need to hear as we go forward together.

Then in November there was an Environmental Issues Discussion regarding the environmental priorities in each parish and what issues and questions we would like to raise with our guest speaker from the Diocese at a future synod? Then a discussion on experiences of working with the DAC such as has a parish had experience of using the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) recently, if so, what for, and what was our experience of their service to us.

An example of influencing policy is the Clergy Pension motion passed in April that “Given the increasing sense of anxiety, and in some cases, despair by clergy regarding the adequacy of pension provision, Reading Deanery Synod asks Diocesan Synod to support, as soon as is practicably possible: the restoring of clergy pensions to pre-2011 levels, and the reform of the hitherto disparate organisations making decisions that affect the welfare of retired clergy, especially with regard to the Church's Housing Assistance for the Retired Ministry (CHARM) housing scheme.”

An example of mutual support is that poorer churches are supported by more affluent Parishes through the Parish Share Scheme, the draft of which was agreed in July subject to a review of the Reading Support Allowance (RSA). The RSA was reviewed to amend the Deprivation element to benefit deprived parishes with smaller populations, and the final Parish Share Scheme was approved in November.

In July there was a presentation on the Oxford Diocese Estate Ministry Network, then in September the Estates Ministry Proforma was provided through which churches could map where there are pockets of deprivation in our parishes.

Additional topics were a presentation on Volunteering in April, and the new Associate Archdeacon of Berkshire Paul Cowan introduced himself in September.

Deanery Synod membership lasts for 3 years, and this Triennium ends on 30 June 2026. Please consider if you would stand to become a Reading Deanery Synod member for the next 3 years.

*Mark Burton*

## **Oxford Diocesan Synod**

At Oxford Diocesan Synod members discussed missional issues and issues affecting the Church today, and made decisions on items of strategic importance for Churches in the Diocese.

A critical event is the retirement of Bishop Steven and the process for appointing a new Bishop of Oxford. Everyone in the Diocese has been invited to participate in a consultation.

In March there was a Safeguarding presentation on the Independent Audit of Safeguarding in Oxford Diocese, followed by group discussions.

There was also an update on the Children and young people strategy and national bid.

In June the main item was on Living in Love and Faith. This was co-facilitated by Bishop Mary and Bishop Dave, who have different positions on the issue. It included presentations, discussion in groups, and questions and comments. It was specifically not a formal debate as this would have meant the Diocese adopting a position on an issue where there are diverse views and often strongly held opposing positions.

The 2026 draft budget, including the Parish Share Scheme allocations to deaneries was also approved. This gives sufficient notice for deaneries to formulate their own Parish Share Schemes.

The November Synod meeting approved the 2026 Budget.

It had an Environment annual update as the main item. The Bishop of Reading, Sophie Orme (Director of Property) and Hannah Mann (Environment Project Manager) gave an update on the Diocese's environmental work. This was followed by questions.

Woodstock Deanery Synod presented a motion on the Diocese providing funding for additional administrative support in benefices with three or more parishes with only one stipendiary priest, so that the priest is freed to fulfil their missional objectives in relation to serving and caring for the people of God. This was not passed, particularly as it would entail substantial cost that would have to be met by other parishes.

The Diocese resolved to enter into the Armed Forces Covenant.

Diocesan Synod also agreed the numbers of elected Lay Representatives on 2026-29 Deanery Synods.

Members have the opportunity to put formal Questions to Diocesan Synod, which then receive a formal response.

In March Questions concerned: Concerns about clergy wellbeing regarding stipends and pensions; withholding parish share relating to positions on Living in Love and Faith; of the churches in this diocese that have had solar panels installed on their roofs, how many of those are listed buildings and how does that compare with data available from other dioceses.

In June, questions concerned: The implications of the UK Supreme Court clarification that "sex" in the Equality Act 2010 means biological sex; Living in Love and Faith (LLF) proposals; Numbers of Ordinands starting training.

*Mark Burton*

## **REInspired**

REInspired Sessions are delivered in a number of primary schools in Caversham and Emmer Green. It is ecumenical, with people from a wide range of churches participating from producing resources to delivering sessions. It is good that REInspired sessions can be delivered by members of local churches so that children can learn about Christianity from Christians.

More volunteers are required, so please prayerfully consider whether you can support this important work.

There are now two Project Managers, although one of them has to take Maternity Leave.

*Mark Burton*

## **Churches Together in Caversham: Holiday Club**

CTC Holiday Club again took place at St Anne's RC Primary School. Numbers of children attending were again high. Each year there is a theme through which Bible stories are used to explore Christianity with the children. This year the theme was "Deep Sea Divers".

It is good that we have this opportunity to share the good news of Jesus with children in the Caversham area.

Please prayerfully consider whether you would volunteer for CTC Holiday Club as more volunteers are needed to replace those who are standing down.

*Mark Burton*

## Appendix 1: Administrative information

This report covers the period from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025.

The correspondence address of St Barnabas Church is Grove Road, Emmer Green, Reading, Berkshire RG4 8RA

St Barnabas is registered with the Charity Commission, registered charity number 1164759

PCC Members (and date of election) who have served during this period were:

|                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |            |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Incumbent</b>          | Rev'd Kevin Lovell                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Chair      |
| <b>Churchwardens</b>      | David Howell (Until Apr 2025)<br>Sandra Rice (Until Apr 2025)<br>Louise Morgan (From April 2025)                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Vice Chair |
| <b>Deanery Synod Reps</b> | Mark Burton (Oct 2023)<br>Roger Moore (Oct 2023)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |            |
| <b>Elected Members</b>    | Felicity Chapman (Sep 2024)<br>Susie Downer (Sep 2024)<br>Bob Abel (Sep 2024)<br>Joy Abel (co-opted April 2025)<br>Richard Cunningham-Treasurer (Apr 2025)<br>Wendy Howell (Sep 2024)<br>Christine Bartlett (Sep 2024)<br>Awaiz Masih (Apr 2025)<br>Sandra Rice (Apr 2025)<br>Guy Watt (Sep 2024) |            |
| <b>PCC Secretary</b>      | Roger Moore (until Apr 2025)<br>Christine Bartlett (from Apr 2025)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |            |

## **Appendix 2: Structure, Governance and Management**

The PCC is a charity governed by the PCC Powers Measure 1956, and the Church Representation Rules 2025).

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The Council comprises the Incumbent, the Churchwardens, a representative of the Readers, those elected to the Deanery Synod, and other members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, by those on the Electoral Roll. Eligible members of the congregation are always encouraged to join the Electoral Roll, and to consider standing for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, and for all financial matters. The full PCC met 7 times during the year.

### **Objectives**

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

It has maintenance responsibilities for the Church, Parish Centre, Church Hall and surrounding grounds.

### **Compliance**

The PCC members (the Trustees) of St Barnabas Emmer Green and Caversham Park (charity number 1164759) in agreeing this Annual Report noted that they were fully aware of the Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit and were of the opinion that the activities of St Barnabas Church met the Charity Commission requirements.

## Appendix 3: 2025 Volunteers and Activities

This list shows how many of the activities involved in running and sustaining the church were organised and who as an individual or as a team had responsibility for the various activities in 2025.

### Worship & Ministry

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Authorised Preachers       | Mark Burton, David Howell                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Sacristan                  | Joy Abel                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Choir & Music              | Felicity Chapman                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Intercessions Co-ordinator | Susie Downer                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Readers Co-ordinator       | Joy Abel                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Chalice Rota Co-ordinator  | Gail Houghton                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Chalice Administrators     | Bob Abel, Joy Abel, Christine Bartlett,<br>Mark Burton, Gail Houghton, David Howell, Awaiz<br>Masih, Paul Rice, Rohama Masih, Sandra Rice,<br>Lisa Williams, Matt Williams                         |
| AV & Live streaming        | Mark Burton                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Altar Linen                | Christine Bartlett                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Flowers                    | Wendy Howell, Gail Houghton                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Sidespeople                | week 1: Juliet Holland, Tony Holland<br>week 2 Roger Moore, Wendy Moore<br>week 3 Brian Bartlett, Christine Bartlett<br>week 4: Richard Cunningham, Sandra Rice<br>week 5: Ann Mace, Marion Morgan |
| Environmental Champion     | Christine Bartlett                                                                                                                                                                                 |

### Safeguarding

|                             |                                                                |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Parish Safeguarding Officer | Joy Abel                                                       |
| DBS Verifier                | Debbie Burton (until Sep 2025)<br>Susie Downer (from Nov 2025) |

### Church Hall

|         |             |
|---------|-------------|
| Manager | Jon Barclay |
| Finance | Bob Abel    |

### Church & Parish Centre

|                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Bookings Co-ordinator | David Howell |
|-----------------------|--------------|

|                                      |                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Cleaning team</b>                 | Christine Bartlett, Carolyn Weeks, Ann Seaman<br>Shirley Thompson, Marion Morgan, Juliet Holland.                    |
| <b>Garden Team</b>                   | Juliet Holland, Tony Holland, Christine Bartlett,<br>Brian Bartlett, Margaret Pocock, Michael Pocock<br>Jane Warren. |
| <b>Lawns &amp; Hedges</b>            | Mark Burton, Tony Holland, Guy Watt, Paul Braisher.                                                                  |
| <b>Fellowship &amp; Study Groups</b> |                                                                                                                      |
| Bible Study Group (Mon)              | Rev'd Kevin Lovell                                                                                                   |
| Craft Group                          | Wendy Howell                                                                                                         |
| Toddler Thursday                     | Roger Moore, Wendy Moore                                                                                             |
| Bereavement Café                     | Gillian Wilson                                                                                                       |
| Living with Loss                     | Gillian Wilson                                                                                                       |
| Friday Fellowship                    | Mary Cameron                                                                                                         |
| <b>Finance</b>                       |                                                                                                                      |
| Treasurer                            | Richard Cunningham                                                                                                   |
| Finance team                         | Anna Hall, Brian Bartlett                                                                                            |

**ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green and Caversham Park Reading**

**Registered Charity No: 1164759**

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**for the year ended**

**31st DECEMBER 2025**

## ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green and Caversham Park Reading

### Administrative Information

St Barnabas Church is situated on St Barnabas Road, Emmer Green, Reading RG4 8RA.  
It is in the Reading Deanery of the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England.  
It is managed by the Parochial Church Council, which is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and is a Charity registered with the Charity Commission.  
Members of the PCC are registered trustees of the charity .

1 Registered Charity No: 1164759

2 Registered Address: St Barnabas Vicarage, 20 St Barnabas Road,  
Emmer Green, Reading RG4 8RA

3 Telephone: 0118 947 5214

4 Website: [www.saintbarnabas.org.uk](http://www.saintbarnabas.org.uk)

5 Trustees and members of the Parochial Church Council :

#### Ex Officio:

Incumbent: Revd Kevin Lovell  
Wardens: David Howell, Sandra Rice (both until April 2025)  
Louise Morgan (from April 2025)

#### Elected Members:

##### Deanery Synod Representatives:

Mark Burton  
Roger Moore (Church Secretary until April 2025)

##### Members:

Bob Abel  
Joy Abel  
Christine Bartlett (Church Secretary from April 2025)  
Felicity Chapman  
Richard Cunningham (Treasurer)  
Susie Downer  
Gail Houghton (until April 2025)  
Wendy Howell  
Awaiz Masih (from April 2025)  
Guy Watt

6 Independent Examiner: William Harper  
Sunnybank, High Street, Upton, Didcot OX11 9JE

7 Bankers: Barclays Bank plc  
Leicester LE87 2BB

#### CCLA

One Angel Lane  
London EC4R 3AB

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## **ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green and Caversham Park Reading**

### **Finance Report**

#### **Financial Review**

A major change that's been made this year is to switch the main accounting records away from Excel (a spreadsheet) to an accounting system called "My Fund Accounting" designed for Church use. This gives access to the records to several users, all of whom can read and review the data, and some can enter and update it. This has enabled a Finance Team to manage our finances jointly:

- Richard Cunningham (Church treasurer)
- Bob Abel (Hall treasurer)
- Anna Hall (Bank reconciliations)
- Brian Bartlett (Financial planning)
- Revd Kevin Lovell (Incumbent)

When looking at the summary at the start of the "Financial Statements" in the pages below, I (as Church Treasurer) would like to draw attention to several points. First, our receipts exceed our payments by about £19,000. This seems good, but comes about due to two important events: (1) a number of substantial one-off donations and (2) Our Church Hall continues to provide a steady income, this year of about £16,000 after deduction of expenses. We can assume that the Hall will continue to provide but the other items cannot be depended upon in the same way.

We do need to continually review our regular giving. Despite a Generous Giving campaign this autumn, our regular planned giving in 2025 was £38,547 which is similar to the 2024 figure (bearing in mind inflation was running at 3.4%). There were some signs of a slight upturn at the end of 2025.

We find that we are unable to complete the "safe space" project and the funds unspent, including a Diocese of Oxford Development Fund grant, must now be returned, totalling £3,491.

Other than the above, the church finances continue in much the same way from last year 2024 to the year now being reported which was 2025.

#### **Reserves Policy**

It is the PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which equates to at least 3 months' unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £22,095 (using the 2025 payments figure) and is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow. (£22,321 in 2024).

**ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green and Caversham Park Reading**

**Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2025**

| <b>1 Receipts and Payments Accounts</b>            | <b>Notes</b> | <b>Unrestricted Funds</b> | <b>Designated Funds</b> | <b>Restricted Funds</b> | <b>Total 2025</b> | <b>Total 2024</b> |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                                                    |              | <b>£</b>                  | <b>£</b>                | <b>£</b>                | <b>£</b>          | <b>£</b>          |
| <b><u>Receipts</u></b>                             |              |                           |                         |                         |                   |                   |
| <b>Voluntary Receipts</b>                          |              |                           |                         |                         |                   |                   |
| Planned Giving                                     |              | 38,547                    | 0                       | 0                       | 38,547            | 38,390            |
| Collections at Services                            |              | 5,496                     | 0                       | 476                     | 5,972             | 7,020             |
| Gift Aid Tax Recovered                             |              | 9,714                     | 0                       | 347                     | 10,061            | 11,361            |
| Other giving and voluntary receipts                | <b>1(a)</b>  | 24,963                    | 0                       | 9,250                   | 34,213            | 13,473            |
|                                                    |              | 78,721                    | 0                       | 10,073                  | 88,794            | 70,245            |
| <b>Activities for generating funds</b>             | <b>1(b)</b>  | 26,034                    | 0                       | 6,183                   | 32,217            | 27,695            |
| <b>Investment Income</b>                           | <b>1(c)</b>  | 923                       | 0                       | 0                       | 923               | 718               |
| <b>Church Activities</b>                           | <b>1(d)</b>  | 3,063                     | 0                       | 0                       | 3,063             | 2,005             |
| <b>Total Receipts</b>                              |              | <b>108,741</b>            | <b>0</b>                | <b>16,256</b>           | <b>124,997</b>    | <b>100,663</b>    |
| <b><u>Payments</u></b>                             |              |                           |                         |                         |                   |                   |
| <b>Church Activities</b>                           |              |                           |                         |                         |                   |                   |
| Parish Share                                       |              | 63,441                    | 0                       | 0                       | 63,441            | 60,450            |
| Clergy and Staffing Costs                          |              | 1,140                     | 0                       | 0                       | 1,140             | 751               |
| Education for clergy/staff                         |              | 119                       | 0                       | 0                       | 119               | 0                 |
| Church Running and Service Expenses                | <b>1(e)</b>  | 2,508                     | 174                     | 771                     | 3,453             | 5,506             |
| Church Building Expenses                           | <b>1(f)</b>  | 12,556                    | 0                       | 9,240                   | 21,796            | 10,035            |
| Mission Giving and Donations                       | <b>1(g)</b>  | 2,025                     | 0                       | 6,970                   | 8,995             | 8,442             |
|                                                    |              | 81,788                    | 174                     | 16,981                  | 98,943            | 85,183            |
| <b>Cost of Generating Funds</b>                    | <b>1(h)</b>  | 6,594                     | 0                       | 0                       | 6,594             | 4,101             |
| <b>Total Payments</b>                              |              | <b>88,382</b>             | <b>174</b>              | <b>16,981</b>           | <b>105,537</b>    | <b>89,284</b>     |
| <b>Excess/(Deficit) of Receipts over Payments</b>  |              | 20,359                    | (174)                   | (725)                   | 19,460            | 11,379            |
| <b>Cash at Bank at 1st January</b>                 |              | 44,812                    | 11,400                  | 4,926                   | 61,138            | 49,760            |
| <b>Cash at Bank at 31st December</b>               |              | <b>65,171</b>             | <b>11,226</b>           | <b>4,201</b>            | <b>80,598</b>     | <b>61,139</b>     |
| <b>2 Statement of Assets and Liabilities</b>       | <b>Notes</b> | <b>Unrestricted Funds</b> | <b>Designated Funds</b> | <b>Restricted Funds</b> | <b>Total 2025</b> | <b>Total 2024</b> |
|                                                    |              | <b>£</b>                  | <b>£</b>                | <b>£</b>                | <b>£</b>          | <b>£</b>          |
| <b>Cash Funds</b>                                  |              |                           |                         |                         |                   |                   |
| Barclays Bank Church Current Account               |              | 35,558                    | 11,226                  | 4,201                   | 50,985            | 32,896            |
| Barclays Bank Hall Current Account                 |              | 8,300                     | 0                       | 0                       | 8,300             | 7,853             |
| CBF Church of England Deposit Fund                 |              | 21,312                    | 0                       | 0                       | 21,312            | 20,390            |
|                                                    |              | 65,171                    | 11,226                  | 4,201                   | 80,598            | 61,138            |
| <b>Other Monetary Assets</b>                       |              |                           |                         |                         |                   |                   |
| Income Tax recoverable                             |              | 425                       | 0                       | 0                       | 425               | 572               |
| Parish Share Refund (anticipated)                  |              | 2,200                     | 0                       | 0                       | 2,200             | 1,549             |
|                                                    |              | 2,625                     | 0                       | 0                       | 2,625             | 2,121             |
| <b>Assets retained for Church use</b>              | <b>8</b>     | <b>410,909</b>            | <b>0</b>                | <b>0</b>                | <b>410,909</b>    | <b>410,909</b>    |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                                 |              |                           |                         |                         |                   |                   |
| Balance of Safe Space grant to be returned to ODBF |              | 0                         | 0                       | 3,231                   | 3,231             | 0                 |
| Safe Space collection to be donated to Ollies Work |              | 0                         | 0                       | 260                     | 260               | 0                 |
| Other expenses                                     |              | 0                         | 0                       | 0                       | 0                 | 0                 |
|                                                    |              | 0                         | 0                       | 3,491                   | 3,491             | 0                 |

The attached notes form part of these financial statements

# ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green and Caversham Park Reading

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2025

### 1 Analysis of Receipts and Payments

|                                                               | Notes | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Designated<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Total<br>2025<br>£ | Total<br>2024<br>£ |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Receipts</b>                                               |       |                            |                          |                          |                    |                    |
| <b>a) Other giving and voluntary receipts</b>                 |       |                            |                          |                          |                    |                    |
| Donations                                                     |       | 18,775                     | 0                        | 10                       | 18,785             | 7,137              |
| Grant income                                                  |       | 189                        | 0                        | 9,240                    | 9,429              | 5,336              |
| Legacy                                                        |       | 6,000                      | 0                        | 0                        | 6,000              | 1,000              |
|                                                               |       | <b>24,963</b>              | <b>0</b>                 | <b>9,250</b>             | <b>34,213</b>      | <b>13,473</b>      |
| <b>b) Activities for generating funds</b>                     |       |                            |                          |                          |                    |                    |
| Fundraising activity                                          |       | 54                         | 0                        | 6,183                    | 6,237              | 4,652              |
| Lettings (Parish Centre)                                      |       | 580                        | 0                        | 0                        | 580                | 245                |
| Lettings (Church)                                             |       | 125                        | 0                        | 0                        | 125                | 0                  |
| Letings (Church Hall)                                         |       | 22,541                     | 0                        | 0                        | 22,541             | 19,566             |
| Parish Centre café                                            |       | 2,734                      | 0                        | 0                        | 2,734              | 3,232              |
|                                                               |       | <b>26,034</b>              | <b>0</b>                 | <b>6,183</b>             | <b>32,217</b>      | <b>27,695</b>      |
| <b>c) Investment Income</b>                                   |       |                            |                          |                          |                    |                    |
| CBF Deposit Fund Interest                                     |       | <b>923</b>                 | <b>0</b>                 | <b>0</b>                 | <b>923</b>         | <b>718</b>         |
| <b>d) Church Activities</b>                                   |       |                            |                          |                          |                    |                    |
| Fees for Weddings and Funerals<br>(statutory, PCC)            |       | 1,594                      | 0                        | 0                        | 1,594              | 1,684              |
| Fees for Weddings, Funerals and<br>Baptisms (parochial)       |       | 1,295                      | 0                        | 0                        | 1,295              | 321                |
| Internal cross-fund transfers (Vicar's<br>Discretionary Fund) |       | 174                        | 0                        | 0                        | 174                | 0                  |
|                                                               |       | <b>3,063</b>               | <b>0</b>                 | <b>0</b>                 | <b>3,063</b>       | <b>2,005</b>       |
| <b>Payments</b>                                               |       |                            |                          |                          |                    |                    |
| <b>e) Church Running and Service Expenses</b>                 |       |                            |                          |                          |                    |                    |
| Safe Space                                                    |       | 0                          | 0                        | 771                      | 771                | 1,334              |
| Altar requisites/flowers                                      |       | 399                        | 0                        | 0                        | 399                | 175                |
| Organist/choir                                                |       | 70                         | 0                        | 0                        | 70                 | 1,319              |
| Internal cross-fund transfers (Vicar's<br>Discretionary Fund) |       | 0                          | 174                      | 0                        | 174                | 0                  |
| Children & young people                                       |       | 152                        | 0                        | 0                        | 152                | 14                 |
| Church Office (Stationery/printing)                           |       | 0                          | 0                        | 0                        | 0                  | 0                  |
| Fees and subscriptions                                        |       | 674                        | 0                        | 0                        | 674                | 1,381              |
| Baptism, Wedding and Funeral<br>payments (parochial)          |       | 255                        | 0                        | 0                        | 255                | 350                |
| Churches Together in Caversham                                |       | 959                        | 0                        | 0                        | 959                | 933                |
|                                                               |       | <b>2,508</b>               | <b>174</b>               | <b>771</b>               | <b>3,453</b>       | <b>5,506</b>       |
| <b>f) Church Building Expenses</b>                            |       |                            |                          |                          |                    |                    |
| Equipment and consumables                                     |       | 2,220                      | 0                        | 0                        | 2,220              | 1,989              |
| Insurance                                                     |       | 1,918                      | 0                        | 0                        | 1,918              | 2,249              |
| Electricity, gas and water                                    |       | 5,061                      | 0                        | 0                        | 5,061              | 3,323              |
| Church Office (phone, internet, software<br>licences)         |       | 1,348                      | 0                        | 0                        | 1,348              | 915                |
| Ongoing maintenance                                           |       | 2,008                      | 0                        | 0                        | 2,008              | 1,559              |
| Hall major repairs (windows installation)                     |       | 0                          | 0                        | 9,240                    | 9,240              | 0                  |
|                                                               |       | <b>12,556</b>              | <b>0</b>                 | <b>9,240</b>             | <b>21,796</b>      | <b>10,035</b>      |
| <b>g) Mission Giving and Donations</b>                        |       |                            |                          |                          |                    |                    |
| Donations for charitable purposes                             | 6 & 7 | <b>2,025</b>               | <b>0</b>                 | <b>6,970</b>             | <b>8,995</b>       | <b>8,442</b>       |
| <b>h) Cost of Generating Funds</b>                            |       |                            |                          |                          |                    |                    |
| Church Hall expenses                                          |       | <b>6,594</b>               | <b>0</b>                 | <b>0</b>                 | <b>6,594</b>       | <b>4,101</b>       |

# ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green and Caversham Park Reading

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2025 (continued)

### 2 Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

### 3 Fund Accounting

*Unrestricted funds* are available for use at the discretion of the PCC in furtherance of the general objectives of the Church.

*Restricted funds* are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donors or through the terms of an appeal, or fund raising events or collections as agreed by the PCC.

*Designated funds* represent amounts set aside by the PCC for use at the discretion of the fund holder. This was the Vicar in the case of the Vicar's Discretionary Fund (closed during 2025). A Building Improvements Fund was established by the PCC in 2020, following receipt of a legacy, and is managed by the Churchwardens and Treasurer.

#### Wedding and Funeral fees (unrestricted funds)

Fees included in 1 (d) are those retained by the PCC. Fees received on behalf of the Diocese, vergers and organists and passed directly to them are not included, in accordance with financial guidance from the Church of England.

### 4 Designated Funds

|                          | Vicar's<br>Discretionary<br>Fund<br>£ | Building<br>Improvements<br>Fund<br>£ | 2025<br>Total<br>£ | 2024<br>Total<br>£ |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Balance at 1st January   | 174                                   | 11,226                                | 11,400             | 11,400             |
| Receipts                 | 0                                     | 0                                     | 0                  | 0                  |
| Payments                 | (174)                                 | 0                                     | (174)              | 0                  |
| Balance at 31st December | 0                                     | 11,226                                | 11,226             | 11,400             |

### 5 Restricted Funds

|                             | Grants<br>£ | Charities<br>£ | 2025<br>Total<br>£ | 2024<br>Total<br>£ |
|-----------------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Balance at 1st January      | 4,002       | 924            | 4,926              | 2,026              |
| <b>Receipts</b>             |             |                |                    |                    |
| Collections                 | 0           | 476            | 476                | 771                |
| Donations received          | 0           | 10             | 10                 | 0                  |
| Grants received             | 9,240       |                | 9,240              | 5,336              |
| Fundraising events          | 0           | 6,183          | 6,183              | 4,483              |
| Gift Aid Tax recovered      | 0           | 347            | 347                | 278                |
|                             | 9,240       | 7,016          | 16,256             | 10,868             |
| <b>Payments</b>             |             |                |                    |                    |
| Expenses (Hall windows)     | 9,240       |                | 9,240              | 0                  |
| Expenses (Safe Space)       | 771         |                | 771                | 0                  |
| Expenses (Defibrillator)    |             |                | 0                  | 2,000              |
| Funeral Donations           | 0           |                | 0                  | 0                  |
| Donations made to Charities |             | 6,970          | 6,970              | 6,417              |
|                             | 10,011      | 6,970          | 16,981             | 8,417              |
| Balance at 31st December    | 3,231       | 970            | 4,201              | 4,478              |

### 6 Donations made for Charitable purposes from Restricted Funds (2025)

|                                      | £     |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| Masiphumelele                        | 3,023 |
| Education for Life                   | 3,023 |
| Church of England Children's Society | 246   |
| Reading Street Pastors               | 339   |
| Tear Fund                            | 339   |
|                                      | 6,970 |

## ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green and Caversham Park Reading

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2025 (continued)

#### 7 Charitable Giving from Unrestricted Funds (2025)

|                                         | £            |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------|
| A Rocha UK                              | 250          |
| Age UK Berkshire                        | 250          |
| Berkshire Vision                        | 250          |
| Christians Against Poverty              | 250          |
| No 5 Safe Space                         | 250          |
| Prisoners Education Trust               | 250          |
| Reading Family Aid                      | 250          |
| Royal County of Berkshire Churches Fund | 25           |
| Wyfold Riding for the Disabled          | 250          |
| Total                                   | <u>2,025</u> |

#### 8 Fixed assets retained for Church use are:

|                                                 | 2025           | 2024           |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                                 | £              | £              |
| The Church Hall (dedicated as a Church in 1897) | N/A            | N/A            |
| The Parish Centre completed in 2009             | 332,967        | 332,967        |
| The Parish Centre Garden completed in 2010      | 18,206         | 18,206         |
| The regenerated Church Organ completed in 2016  | 59,736         | 59,736         |
|                                                 | <u>410,909</u> | <u>410,909</u> |

Fixed assets are stated at cost where known.

#### 9 Caversham Group Ministry

The following fund is held by the Rector and Churchwardens of the Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish for the benefit of the Caversham Group Ministry. The CTM treasurer provides the financial statements:

Canon Nash Memorial funds for grants to ordination candidates and others training for work in the Church of England.

**ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green and Caversham Park Reading**

**Independent examiner's report to the members/trustees of St Barnabas Church, Emmer Green and Caversham Park Parochial Church Council**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Barnabas Church Emmer Green and Caversham Park (the Trust) for the year ended 31st December 2025.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

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

**Independent examiner's statement**

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. 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.

Signed:



Name: William Harper

Address: Sunnybank, High Street, Upton, Didcot OX11 9JE

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green and Caversham Park Reading**

**Registered Charity No: 1164759**

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**for the year ended**

**31st DECEMBER 2025**

## ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green and Caversham Park Reading

### Administrative Information

St Barnabas Church is situated on St Barnabas Road, Emmer Green, Reading RG4 8RA.  
It is in the Reading Deanery of the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England.  
It is managed by the Parochial Church Council, which is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and is a Charity registered with the Charity Commission.  
Members of the PCC are registered trustees of the charity .

1 Registered Charity No: 1164759

2 Registered Address: St Barnabas Vicarage, 20 St Barnabas Road,  
Emmer Green, Reading RG4 8RA

3 Telephone: 0118 947 5214

4 Website: [www.saintbarnabas.org.uk](http://www.saintbarnabas.org.uk)

5 Trustees and members of the Parochial Church Council :

#### Ex Officio:

Incumbent: Revd Kevin Lovell  
Wardens: David Howell, Sandra Rice (both until April 2025)  
Louise Morgan (from April 2025)

#### Elected Members:

##### Deanery Synod Representatives:

Mark Burton  
Roger Moore (Church Secretary until April 2025)

##### Members:

Bob Abel  
Joy Abel  
Christine Bartlett (Church Secretary from April 2025)  
Felicity Chapman  
Richard Cunningham (Treasurer)  
Susie Downer  
Gail Houghton (until April 2025)  
Wendy Howell  
Awaiz Masih (from April 2025)  
Guy Watt

6 Independent Examiner: William Harper  
Sunnybank, High Street, Upton, Didcot OX11 9JE

7 Bankers: Barclays Bank plc  
Leicester LE87 2BB

#### CCLA

One Angel Lane  
London EC4R 3AB

#### Contents:

Page 1 Administrative Information  
Page 2 Finance Report  
Page 3 Financial Statements  
Page 4-6 Notes to the Financial Statements  
Page 7 Independent Examiner's Report

## **ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green and Caversham Park Reading**

### **Finance Report**

#### **Financial Review**

A major change that's been made this year is to switch the main accounting records away from Excel (a spreadsheet) to an accounting system called "My Fund Accounting" designed for Church use. This gives access to the records to several users, all of whom can read and review the data, and some can enter and update it. This has enabled a Finance Team to manage our finances jointly:

- Richard Cunningham (Church treasurer)
- Bob Abel (Hall treasurer)
- Anna Hall (Bank reconciliations)
- Brian Bartlett (Financial planning)
- Revd Kevin Lovell (Incumbent)

When looking at the summary at the start of the "Financial Statements" in the pages below, I (as Church Treasurer) would like to draw attention to several points. First, our receipts exceed our payments by about £19,000. This seems good, but comes about due to two important events: (1) a number of substantial one-off donations and (2) Our Church Hall continues to provide a steady income, this year of about £16,000 after deduction of expenses. We can assume that the Hall will continue to provide but the other items cannot be depended upon in the same way.

We do need to continually review our regular giving. Despite a Generous Giving campaign this autumn, our regular planned giving in 2025 was £38,547 which is similar to the 2024 figure (bearing in mind inflation was running at 3.4%). There were some signs of a slight upturn at the end of 2025.

We find that we are unable to complete the "safe space" project and the funds unspent, including a Diocese of Oxford Development Fund grant, must now be returned, totalling £3,491.

Other than the above, the church finances continue in much the same way from last year 2024 to the year now being reported which was 2025.

#### **Reserves Policy**

It is the PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which equates to at least 3 months' unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £22,095 (using the 2025 payments figure) and is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow. (£22,321 in 2024).

**ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green and Caversham Park Reading**

**Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2025**

| <b>1 Receipts and Payments Accounts</b>            | <b>Notes</b> | <b>Unrestricted Funds</b> | <b>Designated Funds</b> | <b>Restricted Funds</b> | <b>Total 2025</b> | <b>Total 2024</b> |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                                                    |              | <b>£</b>                  | <b>£</b>                | <b>£</b>                | <b>£</b>          | <b>£</b>          |
| <b><u>Receipts</u></b>                             |              |                           |                         |                         |                   |                   |
| <b>Voluntary Receipts</b>                          |              |                           |                         |                         |                   |                   |
| Planned Giving                                     |              | 38,547                    | 0                       | 0                       | 38,547            | 38,390            |
| Collections at Services                            |              | 5,496                     | 0                       | 476                     | 5,972             | 7,020             |
| Gift Aid Tax Recovered                             |              | 9,714                     | 0                       | 347                     | 10,061            | 11,361            |
| Other giving and voluntary receipts                | <b>1(a)</b>  | 24,963                    | 0                       | 9,250                   | 34,213            | 13,473            |
|                                                    |              | 78,721                    | 0                       | 10,073                  | 88,794            | 70,245            |
| <b>Activities for generating funds</b>             | <b>1(b)</b>  | 26,034                    | 0                       | 6,183                   | 32,217            | 27,695            |
| <b>Investment Income</b>                           | <b>1(c)</b>  | 923                       | 0                       | 0                       | 923               | 718               |
| <b>Church Activities</b>                           | <b>1(d)</b>  | 3,063                     | 0                       | 0                       | 3,063             | 2,005             |
| <b>Total Receipts</b>                              |              | <b>108,741</b>            | <b>0</b>                | <b>16,256</b>           | <b>124,997</b>    | <b>100,663</b>    |
| <b><u>Payments</u></b>                             |              |                           |                         |                         |                   |                   |
| <b>Church Activities</b>                           |              |                           |                         |                         |                   |                   |
| Parish Share                                       |              | 63,441                    | 0                       | 0                       | 63,441            | 60,450            |
| Clergy and Staffing Costs                          |              | 1,140                     | 0                       | 0                       | 1,140             | 751               |
| Education for clergy/staff                         |              | 119                       | 0                       | 0                       | 119               | 0                 |
| Church Running and Service Expenses                | <b>1(e)</b>  | 2,508                     | 174                     | 771                     | 3,453             | 5,506             |
| Church Building Expenses                           | <b>1(f)</b>  | 12,556                    | 0                       | 9,240                   | 21,796            | 10,035            |
| Mission Giving and Donations                       | <b>1(g)</b>  | 2,025                     | 0                       | 6,970                   | 8,995             | 8,442             |
|                                                    |              | 81,788                    | 174                     | 16,981                  | 98,943            | 85,183            |
| <b>Cost of Generating Funds</b>                    | <b>1(h)</b>  | 6,594                     | 0                       | 0                       | 6,594             | 4,101             |
| <b>Total Payments</b>                              |              | <b>88,382</b>             | <b>174</b>              | <b>16,981</b>           | <b>105,537</b>    | <b>89,284</b>     |
| <b>Excess/(Deficit) of Receipts over Payments</b>  |              | 20,359                    | (174)                   | (725)                   | 19,460            | 11,379            |
| <b>Cash at Bank at 1st January</b>                 |              | 44,812                    | 11,400                  | 4,926                   | 61,138            | 49,760            |
| <b>Cash at Bank at 31st December</b>               |              | <b>65,171</b>             | <b>11,226</b>           | <b>4,201</b>            | <b>80,598</b>     | <b>61,139</b>     |
| <b>2 Statement of Assets and Liabilities</b>       | <b>Notes</b> | <b>Unrestricted Funds</b> | <b>Designated Funds</b> | <b>Restricted Funds</b> | <b>Total 2025</b> | <b>Total 2024</b> |
|                                                    |              | <b>£</b>                  | <b>£</b>                | <b>£</b>                | <b>£</b>          | <b>£</b>          |
| <b>Cash Funds</b>                                  |              |                           |                         |                         |                   |                   |
| Barclays Bank Church Current Account               |              | 35,558                    | 11,226                  | 4,201                   | 50,985            | 32,896            |
| Barclays Bank Hall Current Account                 |              | 8,300                     | 0                       | 0                       | 8,300             | 7,853             |
| CBF Church of England Deposit Fund                 |              | 21,312                    | 0                       | 0                       | 21,312            | 20,390            |
|                                                    |              | 65,171                    | 11,226                  | 4,201                   | 80,598            | 61,138            |
| <b>Other Monetary Assets</b>                       |              |                           |                         |                         |                   |                   |
| Income Tax recoverable                             |              | 425                       | 0                       | 0                       | 425               | 572               |
| Parish Share Refund (anticipated)                  |              | 2,200                     | 0                       | 0                       | 2,200             | 1,549             |
|                                                    |              | 2,625                     | 0                       | 0                       | 2,625             | 2,121             |
| <b>Assets retained for Church use</b>              | <b>8</b>     | <b>410,909</b>            | <b>0</b>                | <b>0</b>                | <b>410,909</b>    | <b>410,909</b>    |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                                 |              |                           |                         |                         |                   |                   |
| Balance of Safe Space grant to be returned to ODBF |              | 0                         | 0                       | 3,231                   | 3,231             | 0                 |
| Safe Space collection to be donated to Ollies Work |              | 0                         | 0                       | 260                     | 260               | 0                 |
| Other expenses                                     |              | 0                         | 0                       | 0                       | 0                 | 0                 |
|                                                    |              | 0                         | 0                       | 3,491                   | 3,491             | 0                 |

The attached notes form part of these financial statements

# ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green and Caversham Park Reading

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2025

### 1 Analysis of Receipts and Payments

|                                                            | Notes | Unrestricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Designated<br>Funds<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Total<br>2025<br>£ | Total<br>2024<br>£ |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Receipts</b>                                            |       |                            |                          |                          |                    |                    |
| <b>a) Other giving and voluntary receipts</b>              |       |                            |                          |                          |                    |                    |
| Donations                                                  |       | 18,775                     | 0                        | 10                       | 18,785             | 7,137              |
| Grant income                                               |       | 189                        | 0                        | 9,240                    | 9,429              | 5,336              |
| Legacy                                                     |       | 6,000                      | 0                        | 0                        | 6,000              | 1,000              |
|                                                            |       | <b>24,963</b>              | <b>0</b>                 | <b>9,250</b>             | <b>34,213</b>      | <b>13,473</b>      |
| <b>b) Activities for generating funds</b>                  |       |                            |                          |                          |                    |                    |
| Fundraising activity                                       |       | 54                         | 0                        | 6,183                    | 6,237              | 4,652              |
| Lettings (Parish Centre)                                   |       | 580                        | 0                        | 0                        | 580                | 245                |
| Lettings (Church)                                          |       | 125                        | 0                        | 0                        | 125                | 0                  |
| Letings (Church Hall)                                      |       | 22,541                     | 0                        | 0                        | 22,541             | 19,566             |
| Parish Centre café                                         |       | 2,734                      | 0                        | 0                        | 2,734              | 3,232              |
|                                                            |       | <b>26,034</b>              | <b>0</b>                 | <b>6,183</b>             | <b>32,217</b>      | <b>27,695</b>      |
| <b>c) Investment Income</b>                                |       |                            |                          |                          |                    |                    |
| CBF Deposit Fund Interest                                  |       | <b>923</b>                 | <b>0</b>                 | <b>0</b>                 | <b>923</b>         | <b>718</b>         |
| <b>d) Church Activities</b>                                |       |                            |                          |                          |                    |                    |
| Fees for Weddings and Funerals (statutory, PCC)            |       | 1,594                      | 0                        | 0                        | 1,594              | 1,684              |
| Fees for Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms (parochial)       |       | 1,295                      | 0                        | 0                        | 1,295              | 321                |
| Internal cross-fund transfers (Vicar's Discretionary Fund) |       | 174                        | 0                        | 0                        | 174                | 0                  |
|                                                            |       | <b>3,063</b>               | <b>0</b>                 | <b>0</b>                 | <b>3,063</b>       | <b>2,005</b>       |
| <b>Payments</b>                                            |       |                            |                          |                          |                    |                    |
| <b>e) Church Running and Service Expenses</b>              |       |                            |                          |                          |                    |                    |
| Safe Space                                                 |       | 0                          | 0                        | 771                      | 771                | 1,334              |
| Altar requisites/flowers                                   |       | 399                        | 0                        | 0                        | 399                | 175                |
| Organist/choir                                             |       | 70                         | 0                        | 0                        | 70                 | 1,319              |
| Internal cross-fund transfers (Vicar's Discretionary Fund) |       | 0                          | 174                      | 0                        | 174                | 0                  |
| Children & young people                                    |       | 152                        | 0                        | 0                        | 152                | 14                 |
| Church Office (Stationery/printing)                        |       | 0                          | 0                        | 0                        | 0                  | 0                  |
| Fees and subscriptions                                     |       | 674                        | 0                        | 0                        | 674                | 1,381              |
| Baptism, Wedding and Funeral payments (parochial)          |       | 255                        | 0                        | 0                        | 255                | 350                |
| Churches Together in Caversham                             |       | 959                        | 0                        | 0                        | 959                | 933                |
|                                                            |       | <b>2,508</b>               | <b>174</b>               | <b>771</b>               | <b>3,453</b>       | <b>5,506</b>       |
| <b>f) Church Building Expenses</b>                         |       |                            |                          |                          |                    |                    |
| Equipment and consumables                                  |       | 2,220                      | 0                        | 0                        | 2,220              | 1,989              |
| Insurance                                                  |       | 1,918                      | 0                        | 0                        | 1,918              | 2,249              |
| Electricity, gas and water                                 |       | 5,061                      | 0                        | 0                        | 5,061              | 3,323              |
| Church Office (phone, internet, software licences)         |       | 1,348                      | 0                        | 0                        | 1,348              | 915                |
| Ongoing maintenance                                        |       | 2,008                      | 0                        | 0                        | 2,008              | 1,559              |
| Hall major repairs (windows installation)                  |       | 0                          | 0                        | 9,240                    | 9,240              | 0                  |
|                                                            |       | <b>12,556</b>              | <b>0</b>                 | <b>9,240</b>             | <b>21,796</b>      | <b>10,035</b>      |
| <b>g) Mission Giving and Donations</b>                     |       |                            |                          |                          |                    |                    |
| Donations for charitable purposes                          | 6 & 7 | <b>2,025</b>               | <b>0</b>                 | <b>6,970</b>             | <b>8,995</b>       | <b>8,442</b>       |
| <b>h) Cost of Generating Funds</b>                         |       |                            |                          |                          |                    |                    |
| Church Hall expenses                                       |       | <b>6,594</b>               | <b>0</b>                 | <b>0</b>                 | <b>6,594</b>       | <b>4,101</b>       |

# ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green and Caversham Park Reading

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2025 (continued)

### 2 Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

### 3 Fund Accounting

*Unrestricted funds* are available for use at the discretion of the PCC in furtherance of the general objectives of the Church.

*Restricted funds* are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donors or through the terms of an appeal, or fund raising events or collections as agreed by the PCC.

*Designated funds* represent amounts set aside by the PCC for use at the discretion of the fund holder. This was the Vicar in the case of the Vicar's Discretionary Fund (closed during 2025). A Building Improvements Fund was established by the PCC in 2020, following receipt of a legacy, and is managed by the Churchwardens and Treasurer.

#### Wedding and Funeral fees (unrestricted funds)

Fees included in 1 (d) are those retained by the PCC. Fees received on behalf of the Diocese, vergers and organists and passed directly to them are not included, in accordance with financial guidance from the Church of England.

### 4 Designated Funds

|                          | Vicar's<br>Discretionary<br>Fund | Building<br>Improvements<br>Fund | 2025<br>Total | 2024<br>Total |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                          | £                                | £                                | £             | £             |
| Balance at 1st January   | 174                              | 11,226                           | 11,400        | 11,400        |
| Receipts                 | 0                                | 0                                | 0             | 0             |
| Payments                 | (174)                            | 0                                | (174)         | 0             |
| Balance at 31st December | 0                                | 11,226                           | 11,226        | 11,400        |

### 5 Restricted Funds

|                             | Grants | Charities | 2025<br>Total | 2024<br>Total |
|-----------------------------|--------|-----------|---------------|---------------|
|                             | £      | £         | £             | £             |
| Balance at 1st January      | 4,002  | 924       | 4,926         | 2,026         |
| <b>Receipts</b>             |        |           |               |               |
| Collections                 | 0      | 476       | 476           | 771           |
| Donations received          | 0      | 10        | 10            | 0             |
| Grants received             | 9,240  |           | 9,240         | 5,336         |
| Fundraising events          | 0      | 6,183     | 6,183         | 4,483         |
| Gift Aid Tax recovered      | 0      | 347       | 347           | 278           |
|                             | 9,240  | 7,016     | 16,256        | 10,868        |
| <b>Payments</b>             |        |           |               |               |
| Expenses (Hall windows)     | 9,240  |           | 9,240         | 0             |
| Expenses (Safe Space)       | 771    |           | 771           | 0             |
| Expenses (Defibrillator)    |        |           | 0             | 2,000         |
| Funeral Donations           | 0      |           | 0             | 0             |
| Donations made to Charities |        | 6,970     | 6,970         | 6,417         |
|                             | 10,011 | 6,970     | 16,981        | 8,417         |
| Balance at 31st December    | 3,231  | 970       | 4,201         | 4,478         |

### 6 Donations made for Charitable purposes from Restricted Funds (2025)

|                                      | £     |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| Masiphumelele                        | 3,023 |
| Education for Life                   | 3,023 |
| Church of England Children's Society | 246   |
| Reading Street Pastors               | 339   |
| Tear Fund                            | 339   |
|                                      | 6,970 |

## ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green and Caversham Park Reading

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2025 (continued)

#### 7 Charitable Giving from Unrestricted Funds (2025)

|                                         | £            |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------|
| A Rocha UK                              | 250          |
| Age UK Berkshire                        | 250          |
| Berkshire Vision                        | 250          |
| Christians Against Poverty              | 250          |
| No 5 Safe Space                         | 250          |
| Prisoners Education Trust               | 250          |
| Reading Family Aid                      | 250          |
| Royal County of Berkshire Churches Fund | 25           |
| Wyfold Riding for the Disabled          | 250          |
| Total                                   | <u>2,025</u> |

#### 8 Fixed assets retained for Church use are:

|                                                 | 2025           | 2024           |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                                 | £              | £              |
| The Church Hall (dedicated as a Church in 1897) | N/A            | N/A            |
| The Parish Centre completed in 2009             | 332,967        | 332,967        |
| The Parish Centre Garden completed in 2010      | 18,206         | 18,206         |
| The regenerated Church Organ completed in 2016  | 59,736         | 59,736         |
|                                                 | <u>410,909</u> | <u>410,909</u> |

Fixed assets are stated at cost where known.

#### 9 Caversham Group Ministry

The following fund is held by the Rector and Churchwardens of the Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish for the benefit of the Caversham Group Ministry. The CTM treasurer provides the financial statements:

Canon Nash Memorial funds for grants to ordination candidates and others training for work in the Church of England.

**ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green and Caversham Park Reading**

**Independent examiner's report to the members/trustees of St Barnabas Church, Emmer Green and Caversham Park Parochial Church Council**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Barnabas Church Emmer Green and Caversham Park (the Trust) for the year ended 31st December 2025.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

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

**Independent examiner's statement**

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. 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.

Signed:



Name: William Harper

Address: Sunnybank, High Street, Upton, Didcot OX11 9JE

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026

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# Accounts

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**ST BARNABAS CHURCH EMMER GREEN**

**ANNUAL REPORT of the Parochial Church Council  
(The Trustees Report)**

**For the Period 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024**

**EMMER GREEN and CAVERSHAM PARK, ST BARNABAS**

**ANNUAL REPORT of the Parochial Church Council  
(The Trustees Report)**

**For the Period 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

## VICAR'S REPORT & OVERVIEW 2024

I am pleased to report that 2024 felt like A Good Year. Despite many difficulties in the world around us, we continued to faithfully pray, praise and serve God in this place. Through the inevitable ups and downs of life, God has once again blessed us in unexpected ways this year, most notably:

- Celebrating the centenary of the laying of the church foundation-stone
- New members, including young people, joining our regular congregation

This is an ongoing process of 're-wilding': seeking where God is working to bring growth and renewal. Many of our activities may look familiar: yet increasingly these are where God, rather than ourselves, is giving the energy. It's not perfect; some things will flourish and some may wither; the aim is to walk with God.

On a technical note, the legal process to merge the parishes of Emmer Green and Caversham Park was finally completed in August, so we are now officially the parish of 'Emmer Green and Caversham Park, St Barnabas'.

### Our Priorities

The three broad priorities remain. One of my mantras is that we '**relentlessly build trusted relationships wherever we go**': this is not new, of course, but the emphasis on relationship-building underpins all of our priorities.

1. **Develop our work with families: children and young people.** There has been a noticeable shift in attendances. Compared to 2023, the *number* of over 70s has stayed the same but they make up a smaller *proportion* of the total (previously 64%, now 53%) This is because all the lower age groups have increased in size. Our 2024 worshipping congregation is up about 20% on 2023, mostly due to growth in our under 30 age group.
2. **Reach out into Caversham Park.** We take whatever opportunities we have to raise our profile on Caversham Park. Many of our new families and life events are from Caversham Park. Our regular postcard-drops are good opportunities to make our presence felt there (thank-you to those who distribute these).
3. **Build up our mission capability.** We have made progress, strengthening our policies and procedures (more to come in 2025), improving our plan for buildings maintenance and practical plans for the future. Our financial position is improved somewhat, however the end-of-year balance does not tell the full story (and we are deeply thankful for generous legacy gifts). A significant challenge right now is a shortage of dedicated and responsible church officers to handle our practical and spiritual affairs. St Barnabas makes a substantial contribution to our community's wellbeing, but it relies on people willing to take on the roles of warden, treasurer, safeguarding officer and the like.

### Worship

- **Sunday 9:30am worship** continued in its previous pattern. Following feedback, Services of the Word continued on second Sundays, with a clearer theme, often departing from the lectionary readings and introducing variety into the liturgical pattern.
- **Sunday 11:15am All Age worship:** In January this became a weekly service (alternating between Café style and Family Communion), and the start time advanced to 11:15 in October giving us a little more time. The music at Café church has developed a wider repertoire. Attendance has increased steadily: a significant number of young people; also teenagers; also some older people – this is a truly *intergenerational* congregation. By

## Annual Report 2024

December, more 30+ attendances prompted us to change the furniture arrangements for Café church, using a larger number of smaller tables.

- **Sunday 8am BCP Holy Communion** is now firmly re-established, with a loyal following.
- **Morning prayer** (Tues in church, and online Mon/Weds/Thurs) has 4-7 people each day.
- Wednesday **Midweek Communion** continues with a consistent attendance of 10-15.
- The monthly service at **St Luke's** residential home continued.

This intentionally diverse range of worship opportunities speaks to a wider range of people. It does place additional demands on our resources, however the result is that more people are coming to church, more often. To mitigate the resource demands, I often adopt a 'pop-up' strategy: creating worship with a minimum of preparation (and increased spontaneity on the day).

### Life events

We were pleased to conduct **12 baptisms** this year (10 babies/children and 2 adults). Five young people were admitted to Holy Communion, following a change in policy. Three of our newer members were confirmed this year: Jacob Pottage, Daniel Robert and Marcel Thumwood. In November we held a bumper confirmation service at St Barnabas for what felt like the whole of Berkshire. No weddings or wedding blessings this year. We conducted **18 funerals** and memorial services.

There is a beneficial synergy between life events, our outreach activities (e.g. Bereavement Café and Toddler Thursdays) and worship (regular and special services). This makes it easier for people outside the regular congregation to benefit from what we offer.

### High Days and Holidays

Our increased activity levels at Christmas, Easter and Harvest in particular have resulted in higher attendances, around 10% more than 2023. Particularly encouraging was the higher attendances at Christmas Carol services and Christmas Day morning. It's not all about 'big' services: worship such as Easter Dawn service and the Longest Night (Blue Christmas) were particularly appreciated by those who attended.

### Prayer and pastoral

It is encouraging to see the quiet development of our **prayer ministry**, gently in-built into all we do: through our Prayer Chain, the prayer station in church, our public intercessions list and, of course, prayer in worship. Prayer is the bedrock of our faith practice: it is always heartening for a Vicar to hear someone (else) say 'we should pray now'.

I acknowledged last year that the need for pastoral visiting outstrips my personal capacity. My plan to establish **Pastoral Care Assistants** in the parish has been slowly developing this year. With new policies being finalised, I hope this will come to fruition in 2025. This will establish a team of pastoral ministers who are gifted, discerned, commissioned and supported.

**In memoriam.** Sadly I record that a number of our former congregation members have died this year: Joan Giddings, Jo Netley, Jan Raciborski, Wendy Preston, Alma Bone, Gladys Napier, Peter Hancock, Chris Hood, Ron Saban, Mary Kent and Daphne Jewiss. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

On a happier note, it was a great joy to dedicate a **new altar frontal** for ordinary time (green) on 2<sup>nd</sup> June: handmade by Ruth Thomas, it is a most welcome and beautiful addition to our altarware.

### **Families, children and young people**

We have welcomed several new families this year. However the appearance of anyone at Sunday worship (if it happens at all) is the result of a process that started months, even years before. I view this encouraging upturn as the fruit of relentless relationship-building: God is blessing this patient, grace-full work, thanks to lots of seed-sowing activities:

- Years of **school visits and assemblies**. Our contact with Emmer Green Primary and The Hill Primary, plus the preschools, scouts and guides continues.
- **REinspired** (run by Churches Together in Caversham). Volunteers from St Barnabas join in RE lessons in the local primary schools.
- Wednesday and Thursday **morning school runs**. I stand outside church and speak to everyone who passes. This builds relationships and I've had lots of fascinating conversations (join me sometime!).
- Busy Bees, Toddler Thursdays (now well established) and the contacts parents and children have with St Barnabas church members, at our services, Handyman sale, Summer Garden Party and Christmas Fair.

An unexpected development at the 11:15 services has been 4-8 **teenagers**, as well as a larger number of younger children. Gen Z behavioural research tells us their continued attendance is far from guaranteed: we need to actively nurture these new people (including parents).

### **Learning and discipleship**

Our **Alpha** course continued from 2023, into Lent 2024. **Lent courses** (2 sessions/week) were well attended, following the Diocesan 'Come and See' materials.

Our **Bible Study group** has had a change of leadership and continues fortnightly.

Another surprising turn in July was the emergence of a group of 18-year-olds who we began to nurture weekly throughout the summer. Meeting fortnightly since October, this has developed into a **Young Adults Discipleship** community, with half a dozen people in the 18-30 age range.

### **Environment crisis**

Very pleasing to report that we achieved an **Eco Church Silver Award** in July. This work continues thanks to a core group, including an environmental policy and a plan to work towards net zero carbon: first stage is a scheme to put PV cells on the church roof. We were awarded a grant of £3k (from the Diocese and National church) to help fund the feasibility study.

### **Outward facing work**

As the cost of living crisis and other challenges wear on, I am ever more convinced of the benefit of our **fellowship gatherings** on peoples' **wellbeing**. Thus, Tuesday craft, Bereavement Café, Living with Loss, Friday Fellowship, Toddler Thursdays, Men's breakfasts and all the Church Hall groups become ever more important.

The **Safe Space** initiative encountered numerous delays, chiefly through lack of resource. However, the fact-finding stage was completed in the autumn, with more robust plans for 2025.

This year's big event was **celebrating the centenary** of the foundation-stone being laid. A great series of events. Well done to everyone who put in such a lot of hard work to make it happen. To my eyes we created a 'Kingdom moment': a gentle, peaceful, joyful time, where hundreds of people came together and simply spent time enjoying one another's company. More trusted relationship-building ... and excellent feedback!

**And finally**

God continues to bless St Barnabas with committed people. We undertake this mission together: quietly, faithfully and sacrificially getting on with it week in, week out. To all of you who contribute to bringing God's Kingdom into Caversham Park and Emmer Green in any way: a huge 'thank-you'.

Nevertheless, I must particularly record thanks to my wardens, David and Sandra, treasurer Richard, safeguarding officer Joy and all who serve on PCC.

And thanks be to God: that his blessings to us allow us to be a blessing to others. Amen amen!

Kevin.

**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

This report covers the period from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 during which the parish of Emmer Green St Barnabas and the parish of Caversham Park were merged to form a new single parish of Emmer Green and Caversham Park: St Barnabas. The new parish came into existence on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024.

The new parish will use the existing St Barnabas church which is situated in Grove Road, Emmer Green, Reading. It is within the Reading Deanery, which is part of the Diocese of Oxford. The correspondence address of the PCC Secretary is 10 Barnard Close, Caversham, Reading RG4 6RZ. St Barnabas is registered with the Charity Commission who have agreed the change of name and the use of the existing charity number - 1164759.

**Emmer Green St Barnabas – 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 until 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024**

The PCC members who served during this period were:

|           |   |                              |
|-----------|---|------------------------------|
| Incumbent | - | Revd Kevin Lovell            |
| Wardens   | - | David Howell and Sandra Rice |

| Deanery Synod Representatives | Elected                    |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Mark Burton                   | 2014 (re-elected Oct 2023) |
| Roger Moore                   | 2017 (re-elected Oct 2023) |
| Members                       |                            |
| Felicity Chapman              | 2023                       |
| Susie Downer                  | 2023                       |
| Bob Abel                      | 2023                       |
| Richard Cunningham            | 2022                       |
| Wendy Howell                  | 2023                       |
| Joy Abel                      | 2022                       |
| Christine Bartlett            | 2023                       |
| Gail Houghton                 | 2024                       |

**Emmer Green and Caversham Park St Barnabas – 1<sup>st</sup> August until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

Following the merger of the two parishes to form the new parish of Emmer Green and Caversham Park: St Barnabas it was required to hold meetings to elect new churchwardens and members of the Parochial Church Council, these were held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September.

The PCC members who served during this period were:

|           |   |                              |
|-----------|---|------------------------------|
| Incumbent | - | Revd Kevin Lovell            |
| Wardens   | - | David Howell and Sandra Rice |

**Deanery Synod Representatives**

Mark Burton  
Roger Moore

**Members**

Felicity Chapman  
Susie Downer  
Bob Abel  
Richard Cunningham  
Wendy Howell  
Joy Abel  
Christine Bartlett  
Gail Houghton  
Guy Watt

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

PCCs are charities governed by two pieces of Church of England legislation: the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended and the Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended, particularly by the Church Representation and Ministers Measure 2019). The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All eligible Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The running of the church is supported by volunteers covering all areas of activity – Annex A.

**OBJECTIVES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

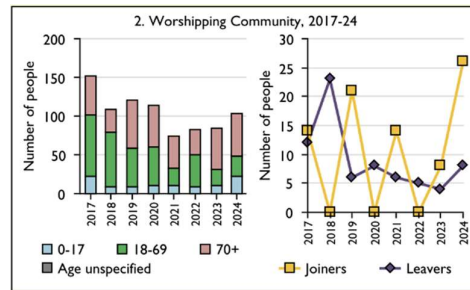
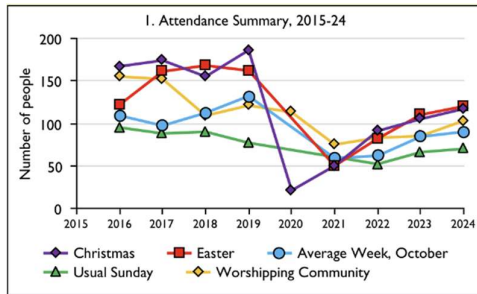
It has maintenance responsibilities for the church, parish centre and the church hall.

**COMPLIANCE**

The PCC members (the Trustees) of St Barnabas Church, Emmer Green, Reading (Number 1164759) in agreeing this Annual Report noted that they were fully aware of the Charity Commission Guidance on Public Benefit and were of the opinion that the activities of St Barnabas Church met the Charity Commission requirements.

## CHURCH ATTENDANCE

We have recently submitted our Mission Statistics for 2024 (chart below). The chart shows the detailed comparison with previous years, as seen it is clear the composition of our congregation is changing. The worshipping community is growing and, although we can report new people joining across the age range this year, as always happens when a congregation grows, we are growing younger. Our challenge is to nurture and disciple these new people into mature Christians. Also, our non-Sunday community is becoming significant: a growing number of people join us for Morning Prayer (mostly online), Weekday discipleship or Midweek Communion, who do not attend regularly on Sunday.



## CHURCH MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE

### Health and Safety

Following the retirement of the health and safety officer the position has remained unfilled. There was a trip and fall at the end of December which resulted in hospitalization. Remedial action was taken to remove the hazard.

*Roger Moore*

### Safeguarding

The past year has been challenging for the hierarchy of the Church of England. The Archbishop of Canterbury has resigned and there are challenges for other senior clerics. This is not about what has been done but about what has not been done in terms of safeguarding.

This obviously raises doubts about veracity at lower levels of the Church, at Diocesan and Parish level. It is absolutely appropriate that questions should be addressed about safeguarding of vulnerable people, both adults and children, within our Parish.

Over the past year I have tried to engage more people in the safeguarding process. It is not merely the responsibility of the Vicar and Safeguarding Officer. As we are told in the Bible, "Love the Lord your God,... and love your neighbour as yourself". Our neighbours are not merely the people we sit next to in Church. Our neighbours are around us all in the community.

To this end we have had 2 people from the congregation doing the Basic Level Safeguarding course online. I encourage more people to do the same. I have all the details needed for anyone else to do this.

Within our Parish there have been a few issues that have come to light this year. These have been managed locally, but with support from the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer as well. Any ongoing issues are monitored.

## Annual Report 2024

DBS checks have been carried out as required, for those on the PCC and those who work with young or vulnerable individuals. All PCC members have done the basic level Safeguarding course, with some doing other levels as well.

At St Barnabas we remain vigilant in terms of Safeguarding and encourage others to be more aware.

*Joy Abel, Safeguarding Officer*

### **Electoral Roll.**

The Electoral Roll is a list of church members who can vote on Church matters, attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and stand for election to the PCC. The number of names on the Electoral Roll as at 31st December 2024 was 103. A complete new roll will take place prior to the APCM in April 2025 and the revised list of names will be displayed on the noticeboard during April. If anyone has any questions concerning the Electoral Roll, please speak to Christine Bartlett, the Electoral Roll Officer.

### **Planned Giving.**

There are 44 regular givers to St Barnabas. Of these 35 contribute via Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) and 9 by Standing Order. No regular givers remain using the little envelopes that were used several years ago.

Of the PGS givers, 33 give monthly, 1 quarterly and 1 annually. 18 have agreed that their gift amount will be increased annually by a rate of inflation, and 18 have made a gift aid declaration. The average monthly total received over the last year is £3,030. Since the PGS scheme has been running there has been a steady conversion from standing orders which the treasurer welcomes as there is no need to submit a gift-aid claim, PGS doing this for us.

Of the standing order givers there are 9 givers all of whom contribute monthly. Of these, 8 have made a gift-aid declaration. The average monthly total over the last year was £663. The treasurer submits a claim for gift-aid for these givers twice a year.

*Richard Cunningham*

## **WORSHIP AND MINISTRY**

### **Puppet Ministry**

Another year of Puppet Ministry to our local school children at the major festivals. During Christmas alone we had over 800 children and adults attend church to hear the good news of Jesus' birth.

*David Howell*

### **Prayer Chain Ministry 2024**

In May 2012 Jean Rae felt guided to start the Prayer Chain initiative at St Barnabas. This she faithfully continued until her death in March 2018. Jean was a very special and talented person whose knowledge and experience I very much appreciated. I am grateful to have known her. I

## Annual Report 2024

felt her Prayer Chain to be an important part of our life at St Barnabas and felt compelled to continue with Jean's ministry although anxious about following in such able and learned footsteps. It has been a privilege to do so and I have been encouraged by various comments over the years.

The Prayer Chain is composed of 18 individuals who have committed to pray for those who have requested prayer. We do not physically meet to do so but pray in private as and when we choose. We pray not only for those mentioned in our church prayers but also for those who may not wish to be publicly identified, but who can be assured that all requests are entirely confidentially treated within the group. There is often more detail given with regard to whatever the situation may be that requires prayer.

- We pray for those in distress: because of illness, bereavement, life changing events.
- We pray for those who have died.
- We pray for encouragement and guidance for individuals and events.
- We pray with grateful, thankful hearts.

During 2024 we prayed for around 50 individuals, situations and events.

We firmly believe in the power of prayer. We offer ourselves to God in this ministry and we give thanks for the freedom and opportunity to raise our concerns with Him. If you feel that you may like to become part of this group you will be most welcome, or if you would appreciate prayer for yourself or someone else then please speak to me.

*Susie Downer*

### **Choir and music**

We ended 2024 on a high with our service of lessons and carols. We were delighted to welcome a few extra singers, including Kevin, to our Christmas choir.

Over the year we learnt new songs to sing during the 9:30am Communion services, most of these reflected the subject of the Gospel, others celebrated our wonderful environment and encouraged us to think about how we can be better stewards.

As we move into 2025, we intend to learn some of the songs that the 11:30am services use so that we can worship together more easily at joint services for special occasions.

A huge thank you to everyone who has taken part in the music of the church during 2024, especially to those who are coping with health problems or supporting family members. Your dedication to enriching the worship of our congregation is what enables us to embrace a wide variety of music.

Gail Houghton and Guy Watt have both been a great support to me in leading the music. I'd particularly like to mention Gail's beautiful piano accompaniments and Guy's growing knowledge of how to keep the organ running smoothly. Once again, I couldn't have got through this year without the support and understanding of all the choir.

*Felicity Chapman*

### **PARISH CENTRE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES**

#### **Parish Centre Manager**

The Parish centre is in good shape and continues to be utilised by church and non church groups. A small amount of income is derived from its hiring, we have not had a

push to see what can be done further to offset the increasing utilities bills. We look forward to opening the Safe Space during 2025 if the joint scoping exercise carried out by No5 and Ourselves is successful. Also in 2025 we look forward to welcoming a Special Educational Needs (SEN) support group from Emmer Green Primary School once a month.

*David Howell*

### **Tuesday Craft Group**

The group is still thriving although faces change. Recently we said goodbye to Joyce who moved away to the Scottish borders. There is no need to bring a craft as this is as much about fellowship as being productive. Just come along for a natter and fellowship. Some ladies have been knitting for "Fish & Chip babies" in Uganda, these are simple hats and jumpers. The 2 annual in-house lunches are still very popular. We open most Tuesdays except around Christmas. I'm thankful for volunteers to cover when I am on holiday.

*Wendy Howell*

### **Bereavement Support in the Parish Centre**

During 2024 new people continued to find us, usually via the internet and sometimes from as far afield as Twyford. Bereavement is such a significant life-changing event and we all react to it differently. But for everyone it involves having to find a new way of living and of learning very gradually to manage, emotionally and practically, without someone they love.

We currently are very fortunate to have 3 volunteers to help with each group.

### **Bereavement Café**

During 2024 16 new visitors attended the informal Café which takes place on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday every month. The average number of individuals per session was 8, and the largest was 12. People find it reassuring to meet others who are experiencing similar feelings of grief and to learn that there is no right or wrong way to cope with bereavement.

### **Living with Loss**

This group meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday each month and we talk as a group, whereas there are many different conversations going on at the same time in the Café. 9 new people participated during 2024, with an average attendance of 5. There is a core of regulars who find it comforting to be able to acknowledge their ongoing grief without the sense that they ought to be "over it" by now. New visitors seem to value group support and they go away feeling less alone.

*Gillian Wilson*

### **Busy Bees**

Over the last year we have had a small, committed group of people coming regularly with their children to Busy Bees. We also had one or two other people coming occasionally, but usually not at the same time, and some didn't come again. Some of the children got nursery places during the year, so stopped coming. The new provision of free nursery provision may have had an effect on numbers.

## Annual Report 2024

Also over the last few months people have moved on as the children have gone to school. This meant on several Mondays in a row no-one came and we have reluctantly decided to suspend Busy Bees for the foreseeable future.

*Debbie Burton*

### **Thursday Toddlers**

This term time activity started in 2024. It provides the opportunity for mothers, grandmothers, and childminders to meet have a cup of coffee whilst their charges play with lego, play dough, jigsaw puzzles and a wide variety of toys as well as the chance to draw pictures. It is timed to allow older children to be dropped off at school before the session starts at 8.45. It finishes with songs and the banging of drums and shaking of rattles at 10am. This is proving to be a success with up to 14 children attending.

*Roger Moore*

## **FUNDRAISING/CHARITIES REPORT FOR 2024**

### **Charity Fundraising Events: Supporting Education for Life and Masi Corp (Masiphumelele)**

The usual 3 events (Handyman Sale, Garden Party and Christmas Fair) took place as in previous years. Despite the foul weather in December, the Christmas fair was well attended and took a record amount of money. These events are now able to take card payments which often helps. As ever, I am so grateful to those who offer their time to support me and the charities. Especially those who help dispose of items after the events. For details of the monies raised, please see the Annual Financial Statements.

*Wendy Howell*

## **ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

Our main focus during the first half of 2024 was to build on our Bronze award from the charity A Rocha, and I'm pleased to say that by July we had achieved silver status in all areas i.e. worship and teaching, community and global engagement, land, buildings and lifestyle. This is part of the drive by Diocese of Oxford for every church in the Diocese to be "carbon neutral" by 2035.

The recycling point in the porch of the Parish Centre is well supported by the church community, local residents and hall users. During the year we have been developing the area behind the church hall as an area for wildlife habitats.

We continue to review everything we do and our aim is to consider the environmental impact that we have as a church and as individuals. The PCC regularly discusses environmental matters and have recently started to look at the possibility of having solar panels on the church building.

Thank you to everyone for your encouragement and keep up the good work!

*Christine Bartlett*

### **MEN'S BREAKFAST**

Men's Breakfast will celebrate 10yrs in September 2025. It continues to thrive and is a permanent diary entry for so many. Social Prescribers continue to recommend us to older gentlemen to meet other men in the community and additionally men attending the Bereavement Café and Living with Loss are also being referred. The group consists of not only our congregation but also men from other churches in Caversham and an increasing number of men that don't attend any form of worship.

*David Howell*

### **COMMUNICATION**

9.30 services continued to be streamed via Zoom during the year. Read All About It the monthly newsletter gained a few more contributions but is still in need of topical articles.

### **GARDENING GROUP**

The Gardening group continues to meet once a month to care for the Parish Centre Garden and all the gardens surrounding the church and church hall. We have been very fortunate to have been given a very generous donation again this year which means that we can buy decorative bark which works very well to keep moisture in the soil and help to suppress the weeds. We are very grateful for this.

Water butts were installed a few months ago and they will give a valuable source of free water. The new green bins will mean that we do not have to make trips to the dump.

We would love some new members on our team so do think about joining us. It would be great to see you.

*Juliet and Tony Holland*

### **ST BARNABAS HALL REPORT**

After the laying of a new floor in the Hall in 2023, we have been considering replacing the Hall windows. In 2024 quotations were obtained and it is expected that the work will go ahead in 2025.

I am pleased to say that the Hall had hired income of over £19000, similar to the previous year. We were able to provide £9000 to our Church, which is a valuable support.

During the year the Hall was hired by 16 community groups, who meet weekly, and by over 45 family children's parties, which contribute a fifth of the income. And of course, our Church uses the Hall for fundraising and social events. The result is a popular centre for our Church & the local community.

Thank you to all the Groups who use the Hall. The details for each are shown on the "St Barnabas Church Emmer Green" website. Why not look up details of any classes that might interest you? Choose from Pilates, Zumba, Age UK Tai chi, Social Group formerly Rosehill WI, Art workshop, Keep Fit and two Dance groups. Click on the Group name to reveal contact details and leaders of each group.

## Annual Report 2024

Thank you to our new cleaner, Rowan, who keeps the Hall clean. It's essential with all that use. Thanks to the people in the congregation who help with other maintenance – Guy Watt for lots of handyman work, Bob Abel for accounts & billing, and others for bins, electrical checking and so on.

*Jon Barclay, Hall Manager*

### **WIDER CHURCH REPORT 2024**

#### **Reading Deanery Synod**

Reading Deanery Synod continued to be a venue where members shared where their churches are, and consider where they will be in the next few years. Also, where members can think how they could learn from each other and support each other and explore ways to contribute together to God's Mission in Reading. Mutual Support is a key part of the culture of Reading Deanery. An example is that poorer churches are supported by more affluent Parishes through the Parish Share Scheme.

This year Children Young People and Families (CYPF) are a particular priority. Bishop Steven, the Bishop of Oxford has made CYPF a priority, for all Churches in Oxford Diocese, and introduced this firstly to the Area Dean and Lay Chair Conference.

#### **Oxford Diocesan Synod**

Oxford Diocesan Synod continued to consider and make decisions on items of strategic importance for Churches in the Diocese.

Children Young People and Families was, and continues to be, a priority:

<https://d3hgrrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/61f2fd86f0ee5/content/pages/documents/ods-24-01-youth-strategy.pdf>

In March Diocesan Synod passed the motion: "That this Synod endorses the need to significantly increase our engagement with children, young people, families and schools building on Disciples Together and to share the good news of Jesus Christ, and calls on every deanery and benefice in 2024 to develop plans and partnerships for growth".

There was more business than this.

Members have the opportunity to put formal Questions to Diocesan Synod, which then receive a formal response.

Other items were: Racial justice, disability and deaf issues; Parents And Children Together (PACT); the Mothers Union; Review of the Development Fund; Safeguarding update; Christ Church, Oxford; 2025 Budget, including the 2025 Parish Share Scheme; Church Buildings (including the work of the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC)).

Care for the environment was not forgotten. There was a Deanery motion from Witney and Sonning on The Climate and Nature Bill:

'That this Synod, aware of the important aims of the Climate and Nature Bill, the only proposed legislation before the UK Parliament which ensures a comprehensive and joined-up approach to the climate and nature emergency, whose aims are broadly:

- To make sure that the UK cuts its emissions fairly and fully to stand the best chance of keeping 1.5 degrees alive
- To make sure that the UK takes significant steps to reverse the destruction of nature by 2030

## Annual Report 2024

- To involve citizens in deciding the fairest way forward endorses the 'Zero Hour' campaign to promote the Climate and Nature Bill, and calls on the General Synod also to do so.' .

It is good that St Barnabas PCC have agreed to put solar panels on both the Hall and Church roofs, and plan to commence a fund-raising campaign to do so. It would be good for that to commence in 2025.

### **REinspired**

REinspired Sessions are delivered in a number of primary schools in Caversham and Emmer Green. It is ecumenical, with people from a wide range of churches participating from producing resources to delivering sessions. It is good that REinspired sessions can be delivered by members of local churches so that children can learn about Christianity from Christians.

More volunteers are required, so perhaps you could pray about whether you can support this important work.

There have been two Project Managers, but one of them has had to move on. Let us hope that she will be replaced soon.

### **CTC Holiday Club**

CTC Holiday Club again took place at St Anne's RC Primary School. Numbers of children attending were very high, with the Club being a few children over capacity. This year the theme was Champions, which coincided with the Summer Olympics. There were 5 Bible stories about Jesus, which were the themes for each day.

It is good that we have this opportunity to share the good news of Jesus with children in the Caversham area.

More volunteers are also needed for CTC Holiday Club.

*Mark Burton*

## **Annex A – 2024 VOLUNTEERS AND ACTIVITIES**

This statement describes how many of the activities involved in running and sustaining the Church were organized and who as an individual or as a team had responsibility for the various activities during 2023. Some activities changed responsibility and others were no longer supported. New volunteers and members are always welcome.

### **Worship and ministry**

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sacristan:                 | Joy Abel                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Choir and music:           | Felicity Chapman                                                                                                                                                               |
| Intercessions coordinator: | Susie Downer                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Puppet Ministry            | David Howell                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Prayer Chain Ministry      | Susie Downer                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Readers coordinator:       | Joy Abel                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Authorised preachers:      | Mark Burton, and David Howell                                                                                                                                                  |
| Chalice administrators:    | Bob Abel, Joy Abel, Christine Bartlett, Mark Burton, Noel Drury, Gail Houghton, David Howell, Awaiz Masih, Paul Rice, Rohama Masih, Sandra Rice, Lisa Williams, Matt Williams. |
| AV and live streaming:     | Mark Burton                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Altar linen                | Christine Bartlett                                                                                                                                                             |
| Flowers:                   | Wendy Howell and Gail Houghton                                                                                                                                                 |
| Sidespeople:               | Brian Bartlett, Christine Bartlett, Roger Moore, Wendy Moore, Richard Cunningham, Juliet Holland, Tony Holland                                                                 |
| Alpha:                     | Sandra Rice                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Environmental champion     | Christine Bartlett                                                                                                                                                             |

### **Safeguarding**

|                              |               |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Parish Safeguarding officer: | Joy Abel      |
| Safeguarding verifier:       | Debbie Burton |

### **Buildings**

|                        |                                 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Parish Centre manager: | David Howell                    |
| Church Hall manager:   | Jon Barclay                     |
| Grounds and gardening: | Juliet Holland and Tony Holland |
| Maintenance team:      | David Howell                    |

### **Fellowship and study groups**

|                         |                                     |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Busy Bees (Mon)         | Debbie Burton, Mark Burton          |
| Bible Study group (Mon) | Christine Bartlett, Gail Houghton   |
| Craft group (Tues)      | Wendy Howell                        |
| Toddler Thursday        | Anne Mace, Roger Moore, Wendy Moore |
| Bereavement Café (Fri)  | Gillian Wilson                      |
| Living with Loss (Fri)  | Gillian Wilson                      |
| Friday Fellowship       | Mary Cameron                        |
| Fundraising             | Wendy Howell                        |

**ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green and Caversham Park Reading**

**Registered Charity No: 1164759**

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**for the year ended**

**31st DECEMBER 2024**

## ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green and Caversham Park Reading

### Administrative Information

St Barnabas Church is situated on St Barnabas Road, Emmer Green, Reading RG4 8RA.  
It is in the Reading Deanery of the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England.  
It is managed by the Parochial Church Council, which is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and is a Charity registered with the Charity Commission.  
Members of the PCC are registered trustees of the charity.

- 1 Registered Charity No: 1164759
- 2 Registered Address: St Barnabas Vicarage, 20 St Barnabas Road,  
Emmer Green, Reading RG4 8RA
- 3 Telephone: 0118 947 5214
- 4 Website: [www.saintbarnabas.org.uk](http://www.saintbarnabas.org.uk)
- 5 Trustees and members of the Parochial Church Council:

#### Ex Officio:

|            |                           |
|------------|---------------------------|
| Incumbent: | Revd Kevin Lovell         |
| Wardens:   | David Howell, Sandra Rice |

#### Elected Members:

##### Deanery Synod Representatives:

Roger Moore (Church Secretary)  
Mark Burton

#### Members:

Bob Abel  
Joy Abel  
Christine Bartlett  
Felicity Chapman  
Richard Cunningham (Treasurer)  
Susie Downer  
Gail Houghton  
Wendy Howell  
Guy Watt

- 6 Independent Examiner: William Harper  
Sunnybank, High Street, Upton, Didcot OX11 9JE

- 7 Bankers: Barclays Bank plc  
Leicester LE87 28B  
  
CCLA  
One Angel Lane EC4R 3AB  
London EC4R 3AB

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| Page 9   | Independent Examiner's Report     |

# **ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green and Caversham Park Reading**

## **Finance Report**

### **Financial Review**

Overall, 2024 was similar to 2023 from the Church finances point of view. The total of receipts £100,662 exceeds the total of payments £89,284 but this does not mean we can assume that the surplus will remain positive in 2025. However, it is important to note that without the receipts from hire of the Church Hall the underlying deficit would be around £6,500.

The "CollectIn" has proved itself over this year and seen use in the charity fund raising events (e.g., Handyman sale) as well at Sunday worship and Parish centre cafe.

The income from teas and coffees has increased to £3,232 (£1,879 in 2023). Income from funerals has decreased this year to £2,005 (£2,919 in 2023). Income from hire of the Church, Parish Centre and Hall has decreased to £19,811 (£20,217 in 2023). Planned giving (Parish Giving Scheme and Standing Orders) have gone up a little £38,390. (£34,196 in 2024). Tax reclaimed from Gift Aid (from PGS, Standing Orders and Cash in offertory plate) rose a little, to £11,083 (£10,261 in 2023). We received one legacy of £1,000. Our investment income rose to £718 (£300 in 2023) because £10,000 was transferred from the main current account into the CCLA deposit account where it earns interest.

We applied to Oxford Diocese for a grant to fund the safe space and were given a grant of £5,336 with strict conditions that we account for the use and use the money only for the purpose given. In the year 2024 (as covered by this report) we spent £1,334 of that grant, but as I type this report in March 2025 we have spent another £272 so far in 2025.

### **Reserves Policy**

It is the PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which equates to at least 3 months' unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £21,197 (using the 2024 payments figure) and is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow. (£18,984 in 2023)

## Financial Statements for the Year ended 31st December 2024

| Receipts and Payments                             |                                     | Notes | Unrestricted | Designated | Restricted | Total  | Total   |         |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|--------------|------------|------------|--------|---------|---------|
| 1                                                 | Accounts                            |       | Funds        | Fund       | Funds      | 2024   | 2023    |         |
|                                                   |                                     |       | £            | £          | £          | £      | £       |         |
|                                                   |                                     |       |              |            |            |        |         |         |
| <b><u>Receipts</u></b>                            |                                     |       |              |            |            |        |         |         |
| <b>Voluntary Receipts</b>                         |                                     |       |              |            |            |        |         |         |
|                                                   | Planned Giving                      |       | 38,390       | 0          | 0          | 38,390 | 34,196  |         |
|                                                   | Collections at Services             |       | 6,250        | 0          | 0          | 6,250  | 4,544   |         |
|                                                   | Other giving and voluntary receipts | (a)   | 8,137        | 0          | 5,336      | 13,473 | 22,953  |         |
|                                                   | Gift Aid tax recovered              |       | 11,083       | 0          | 0          | 11,083 | 10,261  |         |
|                                                   |                                     |       | 63,860       | 0          | 5,336      | 69,196 | 71,954  |         |
| <b>Activities for generating funds</b>            |                                     |       | (b)          | 23,212     | 0          | 4,483  | 27,695  | 27,920  |
| <b>Investment Income</b>                          |                                     |       | (c)          | 718        | 0          | 0      | 718     | 300     |
| <b>Church Activities</b>                          |                                     |       | (d)          | 2,005      | 0          | 1,048  | 3,054   | 3,349   |
| <b>Total Receipts</b>                             |                                     |       |              | 89,795     | 0          | 10,867 | 100,662 | 103,523 |
| <b><u>Payments</u></b>                            |                                     |       |              |            |            |        |         |         |
| <b>Church Activities</b>                          |                                     |       |              |            |            |        |         |         |
|                                                   | Parish Share                        |       | 60,450       | 0          | 0          | 60,450 | 58,381  |         |
|                                                   | Clergy and Staffing Costs           |       | 751          | 0          | 0          | 751    | 608     |         |
|                                                   | Church Running and Service Expenses | (e)   | 3,267        | 0          | 0          | 3267   | 4,176   |         |
|                                                   | Church Building Expenses            | (f)   | 10,273       | 0          | 2,000      | 12,273 | 11,914  |         |
|                                                   | Mission Giving and Donations        | (g)   | 2,025        | 0          | 6,417      | 8442   | 7,259   |         |
|                                                   |                                     |       | 76,766       | 0          | 8,417      | 85,183 | 82,338  |         |
| <b>Cost of Generating Funds</b>                   |                                     |       | (h)          | 4,101      | 0          | 0      | 4,101   | 9,861   |
| <b>Total Payments</b>                             |                                     |       |              | 80,867     | 0          | 8,417  | 89,284  | 92,199  |
| <b>Excess/(Deficit) of Receipts over Payments</b> |                                     |       |              | 8,927      | 0          | 2,450  | 11,378  | 11,324  |
| <b>Cash at Bank at 1st January</b>                |                                     |       |              | 36,334     | 11,400     | 2,026  | 49,760  | 38,436  |
| <b>Cash at Bank at 31st December</b>              |                                     |       |              | 45,262     | 11,400     | 4,476  | 61,138  | 49,760  |

| 2                                              | Statement of Assets and Liabilities  | Notes | Unrestricted | Designated | Restricted | Total   | Total   |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|--------------|------------|------------|---------|---------|
|                                                |                                      |       | Fund         | Fund       | Funds      | 2024    | 2023    |
|                                                |                                      |       | £            | £          | £          | £       | £       |
| Cash Funds (as at 31st December of year shown) |                                      |       |              |            |            |         |         |
|                                                | Barclays Bank Church Current Account |       | 17,020       | 11,400     | 4,476      | 32,896  | 38,700  |
|                                                | Barclays Bank Hall Current Account   |       | 7,853        | 0          | 0          | 7,853   | 1,388   |
|                                                | CBF Church of England Deposit Fund   |       | 20,390       | 0          | 0          | 20,390  | 9,672   |
|                                                |                                      |       | 45,262       | 11,400     | 4,476      | 61,138  | 49,760  |
| Other Monetary Assets                          |                                      |       |              |            |            |         |         |
|                                                | Income Tax Recoverable               |       | 558          | 0          | 14         | 572     | 1,253   |
|                                                | Parish Share Denary Refund           |       | 1,549        | 0          | 0          | 1,549   | 1,519   |
|                                                |                                      |       | 2,107        | 0          | 14         | 2,121   | 2,772   |
| Assets retained for Church Use                 |                                      |       | 410,909      | 0          | 0          | 410,909 | 410,909 |
| Liabilities                                    |                                      |       |              |            |            |         |         |
|                                                | Loan                                 |       | 0            | 0          | 0          | 0       | 5,000   |
|                                                | Other expenses                       |       | 0            | 0          | 0          | 0       | 0       |
|                                                | Total                                |       | 0            | 0          | 0          | 0       | 5,000   |

Loan: During this year we have heard from the daughter of the person who made the loan that in their will they left a bequest to St Barnabas church of £5,000. Since this resulted in the loan being cleared no money has been sent by either the daughter or by our church. However, it does mean that the liability of £5,000 that might have been needed to repay the loan is now removed and so the loan is now shown as £0.

The attached notes form part of these financial statements

#### Notes to the financial statement for Year Ended 31st December 2024

| 1                                      | Analysis of Receipts and Payments      | Notes | Unrestricted | Designated | Restricted | Total  | Total  |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------|--------------|------------|------------|--------|--------|
|                                        |                                        |       | Funds        | Fund       | Funds      | 2024   | 2023   |
|                                        |                                        |       | £            | £          | £          | £      | £      |
| <u>Receipts</u>                        |                                        |       |              |            |            |        |        |
| a) Other giving and voluntary receipts |                                        |       |              |            |            |        |        |
|                                        | Donations                              |       | 3,650        | 0          | 0          | 3,650  | 13,953 |
|                                        | Other giving (includes grant received) |       | 3,487        | 0          | 5,336      | 8,823  | 0      |
|                                        | Legacy                                 |       | 1,000        | 0          | 0          | 1,000  | 9,000  |
|                                        |                                        |       | 8,137        | 0          | 5,336      | 13,473 | 22,953 |
| b) Activities for generating funds     |                                        |       |              |            |            |        |        |
|                                        | Fund raising events                    |       | 169          | 0          | 4,483      | 4,652  | 5,823  |
|                                        | Rent from Church and Hall Hire         |       | 19,811       | 0          | 0          | 19,811 | 20,217 |
|                                        | Parish centre cafe                     |       | 3,232        | 0          | 0          | 3,232  | 1,879  |
|                                        |                                        |       | 23,212       | 0          | 4,483      | 27,695 | 27,920 |

**c) Investment Income**

|                           |     |   |   |     |     |
|---------------------------|-----|---|---|-----|-----|
| CBF Deposit Fund Interest | 718 | 0 | 0 | 718 | 300 |
|---------------------------|-----|---|---|-----|-----|

**d) Church Activities**

|                                         |       |   |       |       |       |
|-----------------------------------------|-------|---|-------|-------|-------|
| Fees for Weddings Baptisms and Funerals | 2,005 | 0 | 0     | 2,005 | 2,919 |
| Christmas and other collections         | 0     | 0 | 771   | 771   | 0     |
| Vicar's discretionary fund              | 0     | 0 | 0     | 0     | 0     |
| Other activities                        | 0     | 0 | 278   | 278   | 430   |
|                                         | 2,005 | 0 | 1,048 | 3,054 | 3,349 |

**Payments****e) Church Running and Service Expenses**

|                            |       |   |   |       |       |
|----------------------------|-------|---|---|-------|-------|
| Alter requisites/flowers   | 175   | 0 | 0 | 175   | 924   |
| Organist/choir             | 1,319 | 0 | 0 | 1,319 | 339   |
| Vicar's discretionary fund | 0     | 0 | 0 | 0     | 0     |
| Children and young people  | 14    | 0 | 0 | 14    | 0     |
| Stationery/printing        | 0     | 0 | 0 | 0     | 174   |
| Fees and subscriptions     | 1,381 | 0 | 0 | 1,381 | 1,572 |
| Other activities           | 28    | 0 | 0 | 28    | 1,168 |
| Verger fees at Funerals    | 350   | 0 | 0 | 350   | 0     |
|                            | 3,267 | 0 | 0 | 3,267 | 4,176 |

**f) Church Building Expenses**

|                                                |        |   |       |        |        |
|------------------------------------------------|--------|---|-------|--------|--------|
| Equipment/consumables                          | 1,989  | 0 | 2,000 | 3,989  | 1,075  |
| Church insurance                               | 2,249  | 0 | 0     | 2,249  | 1,981  |
| Gas, Water, Electricity, Zoom, Phone, Internet | 4,476  | 0 | 0     | 4,476  | 4,505  |
| Maintenance                                    | 1,559  | 0 | 0     | 1,559  | 4,352  |
| Cleaning                                       | 0      | 0 | 0     | 0      | 0      |
|                                                | 10,273 | 0 | 2,000 | 12,273 | 11,914 |

**g) Mission giving and Donations**

|                                   |       |   |       |       |       |
|-----------------------------------|-------|---|-------|-------|-------|
| Donations for charitable purposes | 2,025 | 0 | 6,417 | 8,442 | 7,259 |
|                                   | 2,025 | 0 | 6,417 | 8,442 | 7,259 |

**h) Cost of generating funds**

|                      |       |   |   |       |       |
|----------------------|-------|---|---|-------|-------|
| Fund raising events  | 0     | 0 | 0 | 0     | 325   |
| Church hall expenses | 4,101 | 0 | 0 | 4,101 | 9,536 |
|                      | 4,101 | 0 | 0 | 4,101 | 9,861 |

#### 4 Designated Funds

|                          | Vicar's<br>Discretionary<br>Funds<br>£ | Building<br>Improvements<br>Fund<br>£ | Other<br>Funds<br>£ | 2024<br>Total<br>£ | 2023<br>Total<br>£ |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Balance at 1st January   | 174                                    | 11,226                                | 0                   | 11,400             | 0                  |
| Receipts                 | 0                                      | 0                                     | 0                   | 0                  | 0                  |
| Payments                 | 0                                      | 0                                     | 0                   | 0                  | 0                  |
| Balance at 31st December | 174                                    | 11,226                                | 0                   | 11,400             | 0                  |

#### 5 Restricted Funds

|                                 | Safe Space<br>£ | Other<br>funds<br>£ | 2024<br>Total<br>£ | 2023<br>Total<br>£ |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Balance at 1st January</b>   | 0               | 2,026               | 2,026              | 27                 |
| <b>Receipts</b>                 |                 |                     |                    |                    |
| Grant received                  | 5,336           | 0                   | 5,336              | 0                  |
| Donations received              | 0               | 278                 | 278                | 2,000              |
| Fund raising events             | 0               | 4,483               | 4,483              | 4,218              |
| Christmas and other collections | 0               | 771                 | 771                | 1,015              |
|                                 | 5,336           | 5,531               | 10,867             | 7,233              |
| <b>Payments</b>                 |                 |                     |                    |                    |
| Expenses – Defibrillator        | 0               | 2,000               | 2,000              | 0                  |
| Funeral donations               | 0               | 0                   | 0                  | 0                  |
| Donations made to charities     | 1,334           | 5,083               | 6,417              | 5,234              |
|                                 | 1,334           | 7,083               | 8,417              | 5,234              |
| <b>Balance at 31st December</b> | 4,002           | 474                 | 4,476              | 2,026              |

**Donations made from Restricted Funds for Charitable purposes during the year were as follows:  
(Different charities were supported in 2023)**

|                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| No 5 Young People              | 1,334        |
| Bishop of Oxford Outreach Fund | 190          |
| Christian Aid                  | 116          |
| Education for Life             | 2,388        |
| Masiphumelele                  | 2,388        |
| <b>Total</b>                   | <b>6,417</b> |

**7 Charitable Giving 2024**

**The following gifts were made from Unrestricted funds during the year:  
(Different charities were supported in 2023)**

|                                         |              |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------|
| Faith Christian Group                   | 250          |
| Wyfold Riding for the Disabled          | 250          |
| CIRDIC                                  | 500          |
| Reading Family Aid                      | 250          |
| A Rocha                                 | 250          |
| Reading Street Pastors                  | 250          |
| 3rd Reading Boys Brigade                | 250          |
| Royal County of Berkshire Churches Fund | 25           |
| Total                                   | <u>2,025</u> |

**8 Fixed assets retained for Church use are:**

**2024                      2023**

|                                                 |                |                |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| The Church Hall (dedicated as a church in 1897) | N/A            | N/A            |
| The Parish Centre completed in 2009             | 332,967        | 332,967        |
| The Parish Centre garden completed in 2010      | 18,206         | 18,206         |
| The regenerated Church Organ completed in 2016  | 59,736         | 59,736         |
|                                                 | <u>410,909</u> | <u>410,909</u> |

**2 Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

**3 Fund Accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the PCC in furtherance of the general objectives of the Church. Restricted funds are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donors or through the terms of an appeal, or fund raising events or collections as agreed by the

PCC. The Designated fund represents amounts set aside by the PCC for use at the discretion of the PCC.

(1d) Fees for Weddings and Funerals are the fees retained by the PCC. Fees received on behalf of the Diocese, vergers and organists and passed directly to them are not included for 2023 in accordance with financial guidance from the Church of England.

5 The Restricted Fund balance in hand comprises two parts: (1) a grant to set up a "safe space" where young people are protected from bullying and threats, and (2) remaining donations which are to be paid to charities.

### ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green and Caversham Park Reading

Independent examiner's report to the members/trustees of St Barnabas Church, Emmer Green and Caversham Park, Parochial Church Council

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Barnabas Church Emmer Green and Caversham Park (the Trust) for the year ended 31st December 2024.

#### Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

#### Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. 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.

Signed:



Name: William Harper

Address: Sunnybank, High Street, Upton, Didcot OX11 9JE

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025

Draft Version of 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025

**ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green and Caversham Park Reading**

**Registered Charity No: 1164759**

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**for the year ended**

**31st DECEMBER 2024**

## ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green and Caversham Park Reading

### Administrative Information

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It is in the Reading Deanery of the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England.  
It is managed by the Parochial Church Council, which is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and is a Charity registered with the Charity Commission.  
Members of the PCC are registered trustees of the charity.

- 1 Registered Charity No: 1164759
- 2 Registered Address: St Barnabas Vicarage, 20 St Barnabas Road,  
Emmer Green, Reading RG4 8RA
- 3 Telephone: 0118 947 5214
- 4 Website: [www.saintbarnabas.org.uk](http://www.saintbarnabas.org.uk)
- 5 Trustees and members of the Parochial Church Council:

#### Ex Officio:

|            |                           |
|------------|---------------------------|
| Incumbent: | Revd Kevin Lovell         |
| Wardens:   | David Howell, Sandra Rice |

#### Elected Members:

##### Deanery Synod Representatives:

Roger Moore (Church Secretary)  
Mark Burton

#### Members:

Bob Abel  
Joy Abel  
Christine Bartlett  
Felicity Chapman  
Richard Cunningham (Treasurer)  
Susie Downer  
Gail Houghton  
Wendy Howell  
Guy Watt

- 6 Independent Examiner: William Harper  
Sunnybank, High Street, Upton, Didcot OX11 9JE

- 7 Bankers: Barclays Bank plc  
Leicester LE87 28B  
  
CCLA  
One Angel Lane EC4R 3AB  
London EC4R 3AB

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# **ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green and Caversham Park Reading**

## **Finance Report**

### **Financial Review**

Overall, 2024 was similar to 2023 from the Church finances point of view. The total of receipts £100,662 exceeds the total of payments £89,284 but this does not mean we can assume that the surplus will remain positive in 2025. However, it is important to note that without the receipts from hire of the Church Hall the underlying deficit would be around £6,500.

The "CollectIn" has proved itself over this year and seen use in the charity fund raising events (e.g., Handyman sale) as well at Sunday worship and Parish centre cafe.

The income from teas and coffees has increased to £3,232 (£1,879 in 2023). Income from funerals has decreased this year to £2,005 (£2,919 in 2023). Income from hire of the Church, Parish Centre and Hall has decreased to £19,811 (£20,217 in 2023). Planned giving (Parish Giving Scheme and Standing Orders) have gone up a little £38,390. (£34,196 in 2024). Tax reclaimed from Gift Aid (from PGS, Standing Orders and Cash in offertory plate) rose a little, to £11,083 (£10,261 in 2023). We received one legacy of £1,000. Our investment income rose to £718 (£300 in 2023) because £10,000 was transferred from the main current account into the CCLA deposit account where it earns interest.

We applied to Oxford Diocese for a grant to fund the safe space and were given a grant of £5,336 with strict conditions that we account for the use and use the money only for the purpose given. In the year 2024 (as covered by this report) we spent £1,334 of that grant, but as I type this report in March 2025 we have spent another £272 so far in 2025.

### **Reserves Policy**

It is the PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which equates to at least 3 months' unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £21,197 (using the 2024 payments figure) and is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow. (£18,984 in 2023)

## Financial Statements for the Year ended 31st December 2024

| Receipts and Payments                      |                                     | Notes | Unrestricted | Designated | Restricted | Total   | Total   |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|--------------|------------|------------|---------|---------|
| 1                                          | Accounts                            |       | Funds        | Fund       | Funds      | 2024    | 2023    |
|                                            |                                     |       | £            | £          | £          | £       | £       |
| <u>Receipts</u>                            |                                     |       |              |            |            |         |         |
| Voluntary Receipts                         |                                     |       |              |            |            |         |         |
|                                            | Planned Giving                      |       | 38,390       | 0          | 0          | 38,390  | 34,196  |
|                                            | Collections at Services             |       | 6,250        | 0          | 0          | 6,250   | 4,544   |
|                                            | Other giving and voluntary receipts | (a)   | 8,137        | 0          | 5,336      | 13,473  | 22,953  |
|                                            | Gift Aid tax recovered              |       | 11,083       | 0          | 0          | 11,083  | 10,261  |
|                                            |                                     |       | 63,860       | 0          | 5,336      | 69,196  | 71,954  |
| Activities for generating funds            |                                     | (b)   | 23,212       | 0          | 4,483      | 27,695  | 27,920  |
| Investment Income                          |                                     | (c)   | 718          | 0          | 0          | 718     | 300     |
| Church Activities                          |                                     | (d)   | 2,005        | 0          | 1,048      | 3,054   | 3,349   |
| Total Receipts                             |                                     |       | 89,795       | 0          | 10,867     | 100,662 | 103,523 |
| <u>Payments</u>                            |                                     |       |              |            |            |         |         |
| Church Activities                          |                                     |       |              |            |            |         |         |
|                                            | Parish Share                        |       | 60,450       | 0          | 0          | 60,450  | 58,381  |
|                                            | Clergy and Staffing Costs           |       | 751          | 0          | 0          | 751     | 608     |
|                                            | Church Running and Service Expenses | (e)   | 3,267        | 0          | 0          | 3267    | 4,176   |
|                                            | Church Building Expenses            | (f)   | 10,273       | 0          | 2,000      | 12,273  | 11,914  |
|                                            | Mission Giving and Donations        | (g)   | 2,025        | 0          | 6,417      | 8442    | 7,259   |
|                                            |                                     |       | 76,766       | 0          | 8,417      | 85,183  | 82,338  |
| Cost of Generating Funds                   |                                     | (h)   | 4,101        | 0          | 0          | 4,101   | 9,861   |
| Total Payments                             |                                     |       | 80,867       | 0          | 8,417      | 89,284  | 92,199  |
| Excess/(Deficit) of Receipts over Payments |                                     |       | 8,927        | 0          | 2,450      | 11,378  | 11,324  |
| Cash at Bank at 1st January                |                                     |       | 36,334       | 11,400     | 2,026      | 49,760  | 38,436  |
| Cash at Bank at 31st December              |                                     |       | 45,262       | 11,400     | 4,476      | 61,138  | 49,760  |

| 2                                              | Statement of Assets and Liabilities  | Notes | Unrestricted | Designated | Restricted | Total   | Total   |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|--------------|------------|------------|---------|---------|
|                                                |                                      |       | Fund         | Fund       | Funds      | 2024    | 2023    |
|                                                |                                      |       | £            | £          | £          | £       | £       |
| Cash Funds (as at 31st December of year shown) |                                      |       |              |            |            |         |         |
|                                                | Barclays Bank Church Current Account |       | 17,020       | 11,400     | 4,476      | 32,896  | 38,700  |
|                                                | Barclays Bank Hall Current Account   |       | 7,853        | 0          | 0          | 7,853   | 1,388   |
|                                                | CBF Church of England Deposit Fund   |       | 20,390       | 0          | 0          | 20,390  | 9,672   |
|                                                |                                      |       | 45,262       | 11,400     | 4,476      | 61,138  | 49,760  |
| Other Monetary Assets                          |                                      |       |              |            |            |         |         |
|                                                | Income Tax Recoverable               |       | 558          | 0          | 14         | 572     | 1,253   |
|                                                | Parish Share Denary Refund           |       | 1,549        | 0          | 0          | 1,549   | 1,519   |
|                                                |                                      |       | 2,107        | 0          | 14         | 2,121   | 2,772   |
| Assets retained for Church Use                 |                                      |       | 410,909      | 0          | 0          | 410,909 | 410,909 |
| Liabilities                                    |                                      |       |              |            |            |         |         |
|                                                | Loan                                 |       | 0            | 0          | 0          | 0       | 5,000   |
|                                                | Other expenses                       |       | 0            | 0          | 0          | 0       | 0       |
|                                                | Total                                |       | 0            | 0          | 0          | 0       | 5,000   |

Loan: During this year we have heard from the daughter of the person who made the loan that in their will they left a bequest to St Barnabas church of £5,000. Since this resulted in the loan being cleared no money has been sent by either the daughter or by our church. However, it does mean that the liability of £5,000 that might have been needed to repay the loan is now removed and so the loan is now shown as £0.

The attached notes form part of these financial statements

#### Notes to the financial statement for Year Ended 31st December 2024

| 1                                             | Analysis of Receipts and Payments      | Notes | Unrestricted | Designated | Restricted | Total  | Total  |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------|--------------|------------|------------|--------|--------|
|                                               |                                        |       | Funds        | Fund       | Funds      | 2024   | 2023   |
|                                               |                                        |       | £            | £          | £          | £      | £      |
| <b><u>Receipts</u></b>                        |                                        |       |              |            |            |        |        |
| <b>a) Other giving and voluntary receipts</b> |                                        |       |              |            |            |        |        |
|                                               | Donations                              |       | 3,650        | 0          | 0          | 3,650  | 13,953 |
|                                               | Other giving (includes grant received) |       | 3,487        | 0          | 5,336      | 8,823  | 0      |
|                                               | Legacy                                 |       | 1,000        | 0          | 0          | 1,000  | 9,000  |
|                                               |                                        |       | 8,137        | 0          | 5,336      | 13,473 | 22,953 |
| <b>b) Activities for generating funds</b>     |                                        |       |              |            |            |        |        |
|                                               | Fund raising events                    |       | 169          | 0          | 4,483      | 4,652  | 5,823  |
|                                               | Rent from Church and Hall Hire         |       | 19,811       | 0          | 0          | 19,811 | 20,217 |
|                                               | Parish centre cafe                     |       | 3,232        | 0          | 0          | 3,232  | 1,879  |
|                                               |                                        |       | 23,212       | 0          | 4,483      | 27,695 | 27,920 |

**c) Investment Income**

|                           |     |   |   |     |     |
|---------------------------|-----|---|---|-----|-----|
| CBF Deposit Fund Interest | 718 | 0 | 0 | 718 | 300 |
|---------------------------|-----|---|---|-----|-----|

**d) Church Activities**

|                                         |       |   |       |       |       |
|-----------------------------------------|-------|---|-------|-------|-------|
| Fees for Weddings Baptisms and Funerals | 2,005 | 0 | 0     | 2,005 | 2,919 |
| Christmas and other collections         | 0     | 0 | 771   | 771   | 0     |
| Vicar's discretionary fund              | 0     | 0 | 0     | 0     | 0     |
| Other activities                        | 0     | 0 | 278   | 278   | 430   |
|                                         | 2,005 | 0 | 1,048 | 3,054 | 3,349 |

**Payments****e) Church Running and Service Expenses**

|                            |       |   |   |       |       |
|----------------------------|-------|---|---|-------|-------|
| Alter requisites/flowers   | 175   | 0 | 0 | 175   | 924   |
| Organist/choir             | 1,319 | 0 | 0 | 1,319 | 339   |
| Vicar's discretionary fund | 0     | 0 | 0 | 0     | 0     |
| Children and young people  | 14    | 0 | 0 | 14    | 0     |
| Stationery/printing        | 0     | 0 | 0 | 0     | 174   |
| Fees and subscriptions     | 1,381 | 0 | 0 | 1,381 | 1,572 |
| Other activities           | 28    | 0 | 0 | 28    | 1,168 |
| Verger fees at Funerals    | 350   | 0 | 0 | 350   | 0     |
|                            | 3,267 | 0 | 0 | 3,267 | 4,176 |

**f) Church Building Expenses**

|                                           |        |   |       |        |        |
|-------------------------------------------|--------|---|-------|--------|--------|
| Equipment/consumables                     | 1,989  | 0 | 2,000 | 3,989  | 1,075  |
| Church insurance                          | 2,249  | 0 | 0     | 2,249  | 1,981  |
| Gas,Water,Electricity,Zoom,Phone,Internet | 4,476  | 0 | 0     | 4,476  | 4,505  |
| Maintenance                               | 1,559  | 0 | 0     | 1,559  | 4,352  |
| Cleaning                                  | 0      | 0 | 0     | 0      | 0      |
|                                           | 10,273 | 0 | 2,000 | 12,273 | 11,914 |

**g) Mission giving and Donations**

|                                   |       |   |       |       |       |
|-----------------------------------|-------|---|-------|-------|-------|
| Donations for charitable purposes | 2,025 | 0 | 6,417 | 8,442 | 7,259 |
|                                   | 2,025 | 0 | 6,417 | 8,442 | 7,259 |

**h) Cost of generating funds**

|                      |       |   |   |       |       |
|----------------------|-------|---|---|-------|-------|
| Fund raising events  | 0     | 0 | 0 | 0     | 325   |
| Church hall expenses | 4,101 | 0 | 0 | 4,101 | 9,536 |
|                      | 4,101 | 0 | 0 | 4,101 | 9,861 |

#### 4 Designated Funds

|                          | Vicar's<br>Discretionary<br>Funds<br>£ | Building<br>Improvements<br>Fund<br>£ | Other<br>Funds<br>£ | 2024<br>Total<br>£ | 2023<br>Total<br>£ |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Balance at 1st January   | 174                                    | 11,226                                | 0                   | 11,400             | 0                  |
| Receipts                 | 0                                      | 0                                     | 0                   | 0                  | 0                  |
| Payments                 | 0                                      | 0                                     | 0                   | 0                  | 0                  |
| Balance at 31st December | 174                                    | 11,226                                | 0                   | 11,400             | 0                  |

#### 5 Restricted Funds

|                                 | Safe Space<br>£ | Other<br>funds<br>£ | 2024<br>Total<br>£ | 2023<br>Total<br>£ |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Balance at 1st January</b>   | 0               | 2,026               | 2,026              | 27                 |
| <b>Receipts</b>                 |                 |                     |                    |                    |
| Grant received                  | 5,336           | 0                   | 5,336              | 0                  |
| Donations received              | 0               | 278                 | 278                | 2,000              |
| Fund raising events             | 0               | 4,483               | 4,483              | 4,218              |
| Christmas and other collections | 0               | 771                 | 771                | 1,015              |
|                                 | 5,336           | 5,531               | 10,867             | 7,233              |
| <b>Payments</b>                 |                 |                     |                    |                    |
| Expenses – Defibrillator        | 0               | 2,000               | 2,000              | 0                  |
| Funeral donations               | 0               | 0                   | 0                  | 0                  |
| Donations made to charities     | 1,334           | 5,083               | 6,417              | 5,234              |
|                                 | 1,334           | 7,083               | 8,417              | 5,234              |
| <b>Balance at 31st December</b> | 4,002           | 474                 | 4,476              | 2,026              |

**Donations made from Restricted Funds for Charitable purposes during the year were as follows:  
(Different charities were supported in 2023)**

|                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| No 5 Young People              | 1,334        |
| Bishop of Oxford Outreach Fund | 190          |
| Christian Aid                  | 116          |
| Education for Life             | 2,388        |
| Masiphumelele                  | 2,388        |
| <b>Total</b>                   | <b>6,417</b> |

**7 Charitable Giving 2024**

**The following gifts were made from Unrestricted funds during the year:  
(Different charities were supported in 2023)**

|                                         |              |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------|
| Faith Christian Group                   | 250          |
| Wyfold Riding for the Disabled          | 250          |
| CIRDIC                                  | 500          |
| Reading Family Aid                      | 250          |
| A Rocha                                 | 250          |
| Reading Street Pastors                  | 250          |
| 3rd Reading Boys Brigade                | 250          |
| Royal County of Berkshire Churches Fund | 25           |
| Total                                   | <u>2,025</u> |

**8 Fixed assets retained for Church use are:**

**2024                      2023**

|                                                 |                |                |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| The Church Hall (dedicated as a church in 1897) | N/A            | N/A            |
| The Parish Centre completed in 2009             | 332,967        | 332,967        |
| The Parish Centre garden completed in 2010      | 18,206         | 18,206         |
| The regenerated Church Organ completed in 2016  | 59,736         | 59,736         |
|                                                 | <u>410,909</u> | <u>410,909</u> |

**2 Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

**3 Fund Accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the PCC in furtherance of the general objectives of the Church. Restricted funds are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donors or through the terms of an appeal, or fund raising events or collections as agreed by the

PCC. The Designated fund represents amounts set aside by the PCC for use at the discretion of the PCC.

(1d) Fees for Weddings and Funerals are the fees retained by the PCC. Fees received on behalf of the Diocese, vergers and organists and passed directly to them are not included for 2023 in accordance with financial guidance from the Church of England.

5 The Restricted Fund balance in hand comprises two parts: (1) a grant to set up a "safe space" where young people are protected from bullying and threats, and (2) remaining donations which are to be paid to charities.

### ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green and Caversham Park Reading

Independent examiner's report to the members/trustees of St Barnabas Church, Emmer Green and Caversham Park, Parochial Church Council

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Barnabas Church Emmer Green and Caversham Park (the Trust) for the year ended 31st December 2024.

#### Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

#### Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. 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.

Signed:



Name: William Harper

Address: Sunnybank, High Street, Upton, Didcot OX11 9JE

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025

Draft Version of 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025

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# Accounts

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**ST BARNABAS CHURCH EMMER GREEN**

**ANNUAL REPORT of the Parochial Church Council  
(The Trustees Report)**

**For the Period ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

## VICAR'S REPORT & OVERVIEW 2023

My first year has been a year of getting to know St Barnabas: its congregation and the wider community: it has been a time of listening and noticing what God is doing here, at this time. I would characterise our progress this year as 're-wilding' following Covid: not putting things back as they were pre-Covid; but prayerfully rebuilding in a way that acknowledges our present needs and resources.

### Priorities this year

As I outlined at last years' APCM, three broad themes emerged almost immediately, which define our direction of travel. They remain, although my understanding of their significance has become more nuanced:

1. **Develop our work with families: children and young people.** This has emerged as our biggest single priority. 64% of our worshipping congregation are now over 70 years old (compared to a CofE average of 36%), we have lost three-quarters of our working-age congregation since 2016. These figures are approximate (we are guessing people's dates of birth) but the general demographic picture is clear. We are largely a congregation of retired people seeking to encourage people the age of our children and grandchildren.
2. **Reach out into Caversham Park.** I have found a tricky balance here: we must keep Caversham Park in our minds and plans, yet we also have our buildings in Emmer Green, especially our church and parish centre which offer considerable potential for mission and are under-utilised. Thus our vision is relentlessly outwards and towards Caversham Park: we use every opportunity to be seen as "The Parish church for Caversham Park and Emmer Green" yet we are building from a bricks-and-mortar base in Emmer Green.
3. **Build up our mission capability.** We are a smaller, older, yet more committed congregation than we were a few years ago. God continues to bless us with gifts and energies: the Spirit is in and among us. Nevertheless we must manage practical issues such as our financial income/expenditure (which we have made good progress on, though more remains to be done in 2024). We need dedicated and responsible church officers able to handle our practical and spiritual affairs. We also need to continually build up our spiritual gifts through study and practice.

There is too much to cover everything, but here are some points I would draw attention to:

### Worship

- **Sunday 9:30am worship** has continued in its previous pattern, with constant attendance around 45-50.
- **Sunday 11:30am All Age worship:** 2023 began with Café church once a month. In March we introduced a Family Communion (3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays). Attendance has been steady with several regular families (by the end of the year attendances of 20+ are not unusual). We look forward to an 11:30am service every Sunday in 2024.
- **Sunday 8am BCP Holy Communion** was introduced (1<sup>st</sup> Sundays) in October with a small but faithful congregation.
- **Morning prayer** (Tues in church, also this year midweek Mon/Weds/Thurs online,) has a following of 4-7 people each day.
- Wednesday **Midweek Communion** continues with a consistent attendance of 10-15 people.

We see a steady flow of new people coming for worship: some visiting, some stay and become regulars. I am working within our gifts and capabilities to offer a diverse range of worship opportunities and to continually improve the quality of what we offer.

### **Life events**

Delighted to conduct **14 baptisms** this year (from tiny babies to mature adults), including two baptisms at our Easter dawn service. We had the first **confirmation** for five years – congratulations to Ted Lamb. We held one **wedding blessing** service but no weddings this year. We conducted 10 **funerals** and memorial services.

### **Prayer and pastoral**

St Barnabas remains an iconic faith building in the community. People seek us out in times of trouble and difficulty: I have sought to open church more hours during the week for prayer and reflection: this has borne fruit. The **prayer station** at the front of church has become a valuable resource. **Visiting** is a constant challenge (the need being greater than my capacity). I am very grateful to the informal network of pastoral care which is going on constantly between members of the congregation – a wonderful testimony to our commitment to mutual care. In my first year, I am particularly thankful for those of you who alert me to situations which have deteriorated significantly.

Sadly I must record that a number of our congregation have died this year: Jim Dunkley, May Smith, Barbara Tee and Eric Dixon. During the year Jannika Samuel also has moved into a permanent care home, which unfortunately means she is no longer able to attend worship.

### **Families, children and young people**

Much of my work this year is about building **trusted relationships with families**, through whatever contact is possible: baptisms; funerals; our 11:30 services; meeting families who come to Christmas services or our fundraising/social events. I also stand outside church gates during school drop-off twice a week and chat to parents and children as they pass. I am thankful to all those of you who join me in this task of ‘giving God a good reputation’: it is slow and unremarkable work, but eventually (in 3+ years’ time) will bear fruit.

**Busy Bees** has continued on Monday afternoons. I take every opportunity to get into **schools** for assemblies or to encourage schools to visit church, keeping good contact with Emmer Green Primary and The Hill Primary and with Emmer Green preschool and the Kindergarten opposite church (with significant activity around Christmas, Easter and Harvest). I have joined other volunteers supporting REinspired to deliver RE classes.

A major initiative for St Barnabas is our involvement in creating a **Safe Space Hub** for young people. An outcome of the knife crime forum, we received a Diocesan grant for £10,500 to undertake the setting-up phase, after this we will know what the hub will look like, hopefully opening sometime in 2024.

As our Family Communion services have grown, in December I initiated a conversation to consider allowing baptised children to receive **Holy Communion before confirmation**. This will conclude next year.

### **Learning and discipleship**

In my experience learning churches are growing churches: the opportunity to explore faith in a safe setting is a core requirement. Our **Bible Study group** has continued on Monday evenings. We also ran an **Alpha Course** in the autumn. During **Lent** we held insightful group sessions, exploring where we had seen God at work. Later in autumn, another series of challenging group conversations probed into **deeper questions** of

faith. I often explore questions of faith with individuals, in the context of preparation for baptism/confirmation, during pastoral visits and in conversation generally.

### **Environment crisis**

We joined **Eco Church**, achieving a **Bronze award** in November: this both recognises the work we have already been doing, plus it encouraged us to take more specific actions. Our **recycling station** has proved particularly popular.

### **Outward facing work**

- Since October, we have **opened the Parish centre on Wednesday and Thursday** mornings as a warm space and community drop-in for hot drinks and refreshments. We have a small toddler group beginning to meet on Thursdays. I had hoped for higher footfall, but significant pastoral contacts have been made.
- Friday afternoons. **Friday Friendship**, also **Bereavement Café** and **Living with Loss**, these are all really important gatherings: open to community but offering Christian fellowship, love, and hope to those who need it. The **Craft group** and **Mens' breakfasts** meet similar needs.
- In January I introduced **iKnow** (a church administration software package), this allows much better email communication with congregation and our wider fringe audience (it also greatly simplifies the management of baptisms and funerals). We use our website and Facebook constantly to promote our activities. We now have two large colourful 'Welcome' flags outside church to indicate that we are open.
- In May, we held a watch party in the parish centre, for the **Coronation** of King Charles III.

### **And finally...**

I offer a huge, heartfelt 'thank-you' to everyone who supports St Barnabas sacrificially in so many ways:

- My wardens, David and Sandra, treasurer Richard, safeguarding officer Joy and all who serve on PCC.
- All who ensure worship happens smoothly: choir and musicians, sacristan, readers, intercessors, sidespeople, tea- and coffee-makers.
- All who maintain and clean our buildings, grounds, and manage the hire of our premises so diligently.
- All who contribute so much to making our social/fundraising/community events happen, supporting needy people both near and far.
- All who contribute financially to the parish, especially those who give regularly.

And thanks be to God: for the opportunity to serve him in this place; to show his glory to those in our community; and to reflect his love and care for all people through our mission and ministry. Being church in the 2020s is a challenging task: it calls us to be something quite different to the churches we grew up in. Nevertheless I look to the future with hope.

Kevin.

Kevin

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

St Barnabas Church is situated in Grove Road, Emmer Green, Reading. It is within the Reading Deanery, which is part of the Diocese of Oxford. The correspondence address of the PCC Secretary is 10 Barnard Close, Caversham, Reading RG4 6RZ. St Barnabas is registered with the Charity Commission as a charity – number 1164759.

The PCC members who served during the calendar year 2023 were:

|           |   |                              |
|-----------|---|------------------------------|
| Incumbent | - | Revd Kevin Lovell            |
| Wardens   | - | David Howell and Sandra Rice |

| Deanery Synod Representatives | Elected                     |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mark Burton                   | re-elected 2023             |
| Roger Moore                   | re-elected 2023             |
| Members                       |                             |
| Felicity Chapman              | 2023                        |
| Susie Downer                  | 2023                        |
| Bob Abel                      | 2023                        |
| Irene Lindsay                 | 2021                        |
| Noel Drury                    | 2021 (resigned during year) |
| Richard Cunningham            | 2022                        |
| Wendy Howell                  | 2023                        |
| Joy Abel                      | 2022                        |
| Christine Bartlett            | 2023                        |

## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Parish St Barnabas, Emmer Green comes within the Benefice of St Barnabas Emmer Green and Caversham Park which consists of two separate parishes. From the beginning of 2021 only St Barnabas had a functioning PCC.

PCCs are charities governed by two pieces of Church of England legislation: the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended and the Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended, particularly by the Church Representation and Ministers Measure 2019). The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All eligible Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC held 8 meetings during the year. The work of other groups are reflected in this report.

The running of the church is supported by volunteers covering all areas of activity – Annex A.

## **OBJECTIVES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

It has maintenance responsibilities for the church and the church hall.

## **COMPLIANCE**

The PCC members (the Trustees) of St Barnabas Church, Emmer Green, Reading (Number 1164759) in agreeing this Annual Report noted that they were fully aware of the Charity Commission Guidance on Public Benefit and were of the opinion that the activities of St Barnabas Church met the Charity Commission requirements.

## **CHURCH ATTENDANCE**

Significant changes have taken place to the types and frequency to our service schedule. The 8am BCP service was reintroduced in October and the introduction of a family friendly Communion service at 11:30 bi-weekly.

The Worshipping Community has steadily increased since 2021 (75) to 85 in 2023. However, this is circa 50% lower than 2016 (155). The Worshipping Community as a % of the electoral roll (ER) is about 80% a steady growth from 2021 (65%) but in 2016 it was 112%. Percentage of the Worshipping Community that is of working age is only 24%, this is why it is so important that we support the hard work being undertaken to nurture the Café church and Family Friendly Communion services.

Conclusion over the last 7 years (2016 – 2023)

- The membership (ER number) has fallen by 23%
- The size of the worshipping community has fallen by 45% (Nation average 13%)
- The Sunday attendance had fallen by 31%
- The average weekly attendance has fallen by 23%

Caveat – It's my belief that figures recorded in 2016 may have been inconsistent in their recording. However, this doesn't change the downward trend.

Easter, Christmas and School service attendances remain high, with a clear indication that they are valued by the community.

*David Howell*

## **CHURCH MANAGEMENT**

### **Health and Safety**

Following the retirement of the health and safety officer the position has remained unfilled. There have been no events of concern during the year.

*Roger Moore*

## **Safeguarding**

I have again had the privilege of serving as the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) at St Barnabas Church for the last year.

During this time, the one outstanding safeguarding issue has been brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

All relevant DBS checks have been completed and recorded. My thanks go to Debbie Burton for overseeing this area of work. The Ministry Team have completed all necessary training in Safeguarding. I have also completed my Leadership Safeguarding Learning Pathway. Safeguarding is addressed at every PCC meeting.

The Leaders of all the groups that meet within the Parish Centre have completed their Foundation Level training, and safeguarding is also raised regularly at the Pastoral Care group meetings. We all share in the responsibility of being mindful of the vulnerabilities of others around us, and loving, respecting and caring for our neighbours.

There is a copy of the Safeguarding Policy on display in both the Parish Centre and the Hall.

My contact details are also displayed in the Parish Centre.

In November I attended a Spiritual Abuse workshop run by the Diocese in Christchurch Cathedral in Oxford. This was followed by a service during which all the PSOs were both sworn in and blessed by Bishop Steven.

*Joy Abel, Safeguarding Officer*

## **Electoral Roll.**

The Electoral Roll is a list of church members who can vote on Church matters, attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and stand for election to the PCC. The number of names on the Electoral Roll as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 was 104. A revision of the roll will take place prior to the APCM and the revised list of names will be displayed on the noticeboard during April. If anyone has any questions concerning the Electoral Roll, please speak to

*Christine Bartlett.*

## **WORSHIP AND MINISTRY**

### **Puppet Ministry**

We have a flourishing relationship with the local school for all the major festivals. During Christmas alone we had over 800 children and adults attend church to hear the good news of Jesus' birth.

David Howell

### **Prayer Chain Ministry 2023**

In May 2012 Jean Rae felt guided to start the Prayer Chain initiative at St Barnabas. This she faithfully continued until her death in March 2018. Jean was a very special and talented person whose knowledge and experience I very much appreciated. I am grateful to have known her. I felt her Prayer Chain to be an important part of our life at St Barnabas and felt compelled to continue with Jean's ministry although anxious about following in such able and learned footsteps. It has been a privilege to do so and I have been encouraged by various comments over the years.

## Annual Report 2023 – Final

The Prayer Chain is composed of 18 individuals who have committed to pray for those who have requested prayer. We do not physically meet to do so but pray in private as and when we choose. We pray not only for those mentioned in our church prayers but also for those who may not wish to be publicly identified, but who can be assured that all requests are entirely confidentially treated within the group. There is often more detail given with regard to whatever the situation may be that requires prayer.

We pray for those in distress: because of illness, bereavement, life changing events.

We pray for those who have died.

We pray for encouragement and guidance for individuals and events.

We pray with grateful, thankful hearts.

During 2023 we prayed for more than 70 individuals, situations and events.

We firmly believe in the power of prayer. We offer ourselves to God in this ministry and we give thanks for the freedom and opportunity to raise our concerns with Him.

If you feel that you may like to become part of this group you will be most welcome, or if you would appreciate prayer for yourself or someone else then please speak to me.

*Susie Downer*

### **Choir and music**

We ended 2023 on a high with our traditional service of lessons and carols. We were delighted to welcome a few extra singers, including Kevin, to our Christmas choir.

Over the year we learnt new songs to sing during the 9:30am Communion services, most of these reflected the subject of the Gospel, others celebrated our wonderful environment and encouraged us to think about how we can be better stewards.

As we move into 2024, we intend to learn some of the songs that the 11:30am services use so that we can worship together more easily at joint services for special occasions.

A huge thank you to everyone who has taken part in the music of the church during 2023, especially to those who are coping with health problems or supporting family members. Your dedication to enriching the worship of our congregation is what enables us to embrace a wide variety of music.

Gail Houghton and Guy Watt have both been a great support to me in leading the music. I'd particularly like to mention Gail's beautiful piano accompaniments and Guy's growing knowledge of how to keep the organ running smoothly. Once again, I couldn't have got through this year without the support and understanding of all the choir.

*Felicity Chapman*

### **PARISH CENTRE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES**

#### **Parish Centre Manager**

The Parish centre is in good shape and continues to be utilised by church and non church groups. A small amount of income is derived from its hiring, but this should be reviewed to see what can be done further to offset the increasing utilities bills. We look forward to opening the Safe Space during 2024 if the fact-finding exercise carried out by No5 is successful.

*David Howell*

#### **Tuesday Craft Group**

## Annual Report 2023 – Final

All is well. There is no need for a skill. Just come along for a natter and fellowship. The 2 annual in-house lunches are very popular. We open most Tuesdays except around Christmas. I'm thankful for volunteers to cover when I am on holiday

*Wendy Howell*

### **Bereavement Support**

During 2023 new people continued to attend both groups. One of the most frequently expressed reasons for wanting to meet with others who are grieving is because the bereaved person has received strong messages from people near to them that it is time to move on. The reality is that the loss of someone you love will remain a loss and during the bereavement journey the individual will find their own way of learning to live with this fundamental change to their lives. There is no set timescale for this.

We currently have 3 volunteers helping at each group, and are very fortunate to have been able to recruit someone new to join the team.

#### Bereavement Café

During 2023 16 new visitors have attended this informal drop-in on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday every month, some once, some several times. The average number of individuals per session was 7, and the largest was 11. A significant number of people come every so often when they feel the need to talk to someone who understands but is not directly involved.

#### Living with Loss

This group meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday each month and provides an ongoing support group. 8 new people participated during 2023, with an average attendance of 5. There is a core of regulars, and some people attend either group according to their availability. Group support can be amazingly helpful to anyone going through a particularly difficult time.

*Gillian Wilson*

### **Busy Bees**

Busy Bees is for pre-school children and those who care for them and is run by myself (Debbie), Mark Burton, Wendy Moore and Roger Moore.

Busy Bees have a small but regular group of families that come to Busy Bees, although attendance can be variable. There are also some families who come occasionally. We also welcome school-age siblings during half term holidays and if they are off school because there is a teacher training day at their school.

We sing songs with Mark playing his guitar, tell Bible stories and have some sort of crafty activity. During the craft activity we have drinks and biscuits where people have time to get to know each other.

Busy Bees meets every Monday in the Parish Centre from 2pm to 3pm during term time, including half term holidays.

*Debbie Burton*

## **FUNDRAISING/CHARITIES REPORT FOR 2023**

### **Charity Fundraising Events**

The weather was kind to us and all the events took place as usual. Handyman Sale in May, Summer Garden Party in July and the Christmas Fair in December. The Garden Party was enhanced by the addition of the Blue-Sky Big Band. Special thanks to Guy Watt for organising this.

The Christmas Fair also made a record amount of money thanks to some additional pre-sales and a donation from an ex member of the church. The monies were shared between Education for Life and Masiphumelele. As ever, I am thankful for all those who step forward to help me make these events happen.

*Wendy Howell*

### **Charities**

Donations of £250 were made to 7 charities chosen by congregation members from general funds.

Against Breast Cancer, Reading Family Aid, Reading Mencap, Reading Street Pastors, Sue Ryder Duchess of Kent Hospice, The Ben Kinsella Trust, Wyfold Riding for the Disabled.

*Wendy Howell*

## **ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

During the second half of 2023, the Eco Church survey was completed for St Barnabas. This is part of the drive by Diocese of Oxford for every church in the Diocese to be “carbon neutral” by 2035. St Barnabas achieved a bronze award largely from good practises built up over many years. The survey covers 5 areas: worship and teaching, community and global engagement, land, buildings and lifestyle. It is necessary to reach a certain level in all these areas before an award is given. The plan is now to go for a silver award, which is I think achievable with a few simple and affordable changes. A recycling point has been set up in the porch of the Parish Centre which has been well received and supported by many. Thank you to everyone for your encouragement and keep up the good work!

*Christine Bartlett*

## **MEN’S BREAKFAST**

Men’s Breakfast continues to thrive and is a permanent diary entry for so many. Social Prescribers continue to recommend us to older gentlemen to meet other men in the community and additionally men attending the Bereavement Café and Living with Loss are also being referred.

*David Howell*

## **COMMUNICATION**

Read All About It and its Calendar continued to be published each month and was supplemented by the issue of a weekly email with Notices.

Updated wifi was installed by Guy Watt which enabled the use of a card reader.

Ann Mace joined the team of Zoom operators.

## **BUILDING MANAGEMENT**

The church remains well maintained. No work has been carried out since the last APCM to address the matters raised in the Quinquennial.

New WIFI routers have been added in the Parish Centre and Church to enhance the reach.

Gutters are still regularly cleared to prevent issues. We have carried out several minor maintenance repairs during the year carried out by members of the congregation. The major expenditure jobs during 2023 were the pointing of the top eight rows of brick work around the Parish Centre and to correct the water damage of the ceiling in the passageway to the vicar's office. The sewage pump has had several issues and is now working normally.

To the best of my knowledge no work is currently being undertaken on the vicarage

*David Howell*

## **GARDENING GROUP**

Throughout the year we have been busy with general tidying, weeding, pruning and collecting sticks and leaves from around the church and church hall. We have two large bins behind the church hall where we put all the leaves. These will give us some lovely rich leaf mould in a year or two to use on the beds. Next to them is a fairly big stick pile creating homes for insects etc. New seed was put on the Parish Garden grass last spring and a huge overgrown Viburnum and Laural by the church hall were given a rather drastic haircut. Both have benefitted and have sent up some healthy new shoots. It is much easier to get round with the lawn mower now!

In the Parish garden several plants like the Penstemons and Salvias died as a result of the cold winter. Due to a very generous donation we were able to replant and cover the beds with a thick layer of bark chippings to help keep the weeds out and moisture in.

We are a friendly bunch and would love more people to join us. We will always find a job to suit you so don't worry.

*Juliet and Tony Holland*

## **ST BARNABAS HALL REPORT**

The important upgrade this year has been the laying of a new floor in the Hall. The old polished pine floor was splintering and it was recommended to lay a new Karndean vinyl floor with plywood under. I arranged four quotes and the least costly was over £5000. The vinyl chosen is called Golden Brushed Oak, but it contains no wood, is advertised as extremely durable and should last in excess of 15 years. The work was expertly carried out and the finished product is level, durable and very attractive.

I have managed the Hall since 2013, this being my tenth report. I am pleased to say that the Hall had hired income of over £19000, which was almost back to pre-pandemic levels. We were able to provide £15500 to our Church, which is a valuable support. The Hall was hired for over 60 family children's parties and 17 community groups, who meet weekly. And of course, our

## Annual Report 2023 – Final

Church uses the Hall for fundraising and social events. The result is a popular centre for our Church & the local community.

Thank you to all the Groups who use the Hall. The details for each are shown on The St Barnabas Church Emmer Green website. Why not look up details of any classes that might interest you? Click on “Hall”, then “External Groups”. Choose from Pilates, Zumba, Age UK Taichi, Social Group formerly Rosehill WI, Art workshop, Keep Fit and two Dance groups. Click on the Group name to reveal contact details and leaders of each group.

Thank you to Joanne Earley, who keeps the Hall clean. Its essential with all that use. Thanks to the people in the congregation who help with other maintenance – Guy Watt for lots of handyman work, Bob Abel for accounts & billing, and others for bins, electrical checking and so on.

*Jon Barclay, Hall Manager    Hall phone 07580 029910*

### **WIDER CHURCH REPORT 2023**

#### **Reading Deanery Synod**

Reading Deanery Synod is important – not just because it decides our Parish Share, but it is where members can share where their churches are, and consider where they will be in the next few years. Also, it is where members can think how they could learn from each other and support each other.

Mutual support includes the Reading Deanery Quinquennial Inspection Scheme, a mutual support scheme whereby money is pooled and the Deanery pays the Churches’ Quinquennial Inspection fees. Also poorer churches are supported by more affluent Parishes through the Parish Share Scheme.

Deanery Synod is a place to be inspired when members to share where God is working in their churches and explore ways to contribute together to God’s Mission in Reading. For, whilst as a church we are the Body of Christ in our local area, we are part of the wider Body of Christ in Reading and beyond.

#### **Oxford Diocesan Synod**

Care for the environment featured strongly in 2023. The Bishop of Oxford, Bishop Steven likened the climate crisis to the Horsemen of the Apocalypse from the Book of Revelation. What can we do? On a small scale Diocesan Synod passed the Wantage Deanery Synod Motion on using locally sourced flowers and not using Oasis, to reduce carbon emissions and pollution. More widely, the Reading Deanery Synod Motion about policy for approving Solar Panels on Church roofs was passed with an amendment.

It is pleasing to see how an environmental Motion passed by Reading Deanery Synod can progress to have a national Impact that may enable churches to pursue a green agenda and put solar panels on their Church roof – to be a prophetic voice within the community and an encouragement to others to care for Creation.

It would be even more pleasing were St Barnabas to agree to put solar panels on both the Hall and Church roofs, and commence a fund-raising campaign to do so.

Also, Oxford Diocese is very wealthy compared with the least affluent dioceses and agreed mutual support for poorer dioceses for 2025-29. It is very heartening that we can demonstrate our Christianity through supporting the poor.

### **REInspired**

Schools are required to deliver a RE Curriculum, but many staff nowadays do not feel confident in delivering it, and are often not aware of what actually goes on in churches or what Christians believe. Therefore they welcome delivery by Christians, who in this area are “subject experts”.

It is good that REInspired sessions can be delivered by members of local churches so that children can learn about Christianity from Christians. Of course, there is always a need for more people to volunteer – could that be you?

It is important to note that we are not permitted to evangelise in schools, and REInspired Sessions start with a phrase like: “we are not here to tell you what to believe, but to tell you what we believe”

REInspired Sessions are delivered in a number of primary schools, but it is unfortunate that no Reinspired sessions take place at Highdown School.

### **CTC Holiday Club**

CTC Holiday Club again took place at St Anne’s RC Primary School. Numbers of children attending were higher than the previous year. It is good that we are able to share the good news of Jesus and inspiring to be in a hall full of children loudly singing and doing actions to worship songs.

More volunteers are also needed for CTC Holiday Club.

*Mark Burton*

## **Annex A – 2023 VOLUNTEERS AND ACTIVITIES**

This statement describes how many of the activities involved in running and sustaining the Church were organized and who as an individual or as a team had responsibility for the various activities during 2023. Some activities changed responsibility and others were no longer supported. New volunteers and members are always welcome.

### **Worship and ministry**

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sacristan:                 | Joy Abel                                                                                                                                                            |
| Choir and music:           | Felicity Chapman                                                                                                                                                    |
| Intercessions coordinator: | Susie Downer                                                                                                                                                        |
| Puppet Ministry            | David Howell                                                                                                                                                        |
| Pray Chain Ministry        | Susie Downer                                                                                                                                                        |
| Readers coordinator:       | Joy Abel                                                                                                                                                            |
| Authorised preachers:      | Mark Burton, Noel Drury and David Howell                                                                                                                            |
| Chalice administrators:    | Bob Abel, Joy Abel, Christine Bartlett, Mark Burton, Noel Drury, Gail Houghton, David Howell, Awaiz Masih, Rohama Masih, Sandra Rice, Lisa Williams, Matt Williams. |
| AV and live streaming:     | Mark Burton                                                                                                                                                         |
| Altar linen                | Christine Bartlett                                                                                                                                                  |
| Flowers:                   | Wendy Howell and Gail Houghton                                                                                                                                      |
| Sidespeople:               | Brian Bartlett, Christine Bartlett, Roger Moore, Wendy Moore, Richard Cunningham, Wendy Howell, Juliet Holland, Tony Holland                                        |
| Alpha:                     | Sandra Rice                                                                                                                                                         |
| Environmental champion     | Christine Bartlett                                                                                                                                                  |

### **Safeguarding**

|                              |               |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Parish Safeguarding officer: | Joy Abel      |
| Safeguarding verifier:       | Debbie Burton |

### **Buildings**

|                        |                                 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Parish Centre manager: | David Howell                    |
| Church Hall manager:   | Jon Barclay                     |
| Grounds and gardening: | Juliet Holland and Tony Holland |
| Maintenance team:      | David Howell                    |

### **Fellowship and study groups**

|                         |                                     |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Busy Bees (Mon)         | Debbie Burton, Mark Burton          |
| Bible Study group (Mon) | Noel Drury                          |
| Craft group (Tues)      | Wendy Howell                        |
| Drop-in (Weds)          | Bob Abel, Joy Abel                  |
| Drop-in (Thurs)         | Anne Mace, Roger Moore, Wendy Moore |
| Bereavement Café (Fri)  | Gillian Wilson                      |
| Living with Loss (Fri)  | Gillian Wilson                      |
| Friday Fellowship       | Mary Cameron                        |
| Fundraising             | Wendy Howell                        |

## Annex B – Charities

### SUMMARY OF CHARITABLE DONATIONS MADE IN 2023

#### Restricted Fund-Raising

| Receipts (£)                                   |             | Payments (£)                      |             |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Handyman Sale, Garden Party and Christmas Fair | 4191        | Education for Life                | 2095        |
| Fish and Chip Supper                           | 60          | Masiphumelele                     | 2099        |
| Christmas collections                          | 718         | Faith Christian Group             | 125         |
| Christingle Service                            | 166         | CIR Drop-in Centre                | 520         |
| Retiring Collections                           | 383         | The Children's Society            | 225         |
|                                                |             | Embrace the Middle East           | 395         |
| <b>Total</b>                                   | <b>5518</b> | <b>Total</b>                      | <b>5459</b> |
|                                                |             | Note: £59 carried forward to 2024 |             |

#### Donations made from General Funds

| Payments (£)                      |             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Reading Family Aid                | 250         |
| Wyfold Riding for the Disabled    | 250         |
| Reading Street Pastors            | 250         |
| Sue Ryder Duchess of Kent Hospice | 250         |
| Against Breast Cancer             | 250         |
| Reading Mencap                    | 250         |
| Disasters Emergency Committee     | 25          |
| Berkshire Historic Churches Trust | 25          |
| The Ben Kinsella Trust            | 250         |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>1800</b> |

**ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading**

**Registered Charity No: 1164759**

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**for the year ended**

**31st DECEMBER 2023**

## **ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading**

### **Administrative Information**

St Barnabas Church is situated on St Barnabas Road, Emmer Green, Reading RG4 8RA. It is in the Reading Deanery of the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England. It is managed by the Parochial Church Council, which is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and is a Charity registered with the Charity Commission. Members of the PCC are registered trustees of the charity.

- 1 Registered Charity No: 1164759
- 2 Registered Address: St Barnabas Vicarage, 20 St Barnabas Road,  
Emmer Green, Reading RG4 8RA
- 3 Telephone: 0118 947 5214
- 4 Website: [www.saintbarnabas.org.uk](http://www.saintbarnabas.org.uk)
- 5 Trustees and members of the Parochial Church Council:

#### Ex Officio:

|            |                           |
|------------|---------------------------|
| Incumbent: | Revd Kevin Lovell         |
| Wardens:   | David Howell, Sandra Rice |

#### Elected Members:

|                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Deanery Synod Representatives: | Mark Burton                    |
|                                | Roger Moore (Church Secretary) |

#### Members:

|                                |
|--------------------------------|
| Bob Abel                       |
| Joy Abel                       |
| Christine Bartlett             |
| Felicity Chapman               |
| Richard Cunningham (Treasurer) |
| Susie Downer                   |
| Wendy Howell                   |
| Irene Lindsay                  |

- 6 Independent Examiner: William Harper  
Sunnybank, High Street, Upton, Didcot OX11 9JE
- 7 Bankers: Barclays Bank plc  
Leicester LE87 28B  
  
CCLA  
One Angel Lane EC4R 3AB  
London EC4R 3AB

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| Page 3   | Independent Examiner's Report     |
| Page 4   | Financial Statements              |
| Page 5-7 | Notes to the Financial Statements |

# **ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading**

## **Finance Report**

### **Financial Review**

Overall, 2023 was similar to 2022 from the Church finances point of view. We received several legacies which make our finances look satisfactory; however these are one-off items and can't be predicted. Our 2023 total of donations and bequests was £22,953 (£4,313 in 2022)

One important and exciting development is the use of the new "CollectIn" which means those without cash but with a credit or debit card can make a contribution. This has resulted in collections at services rise to £4,544 (£3,235 in 2022).

Another interesting development is the involvement of Revd Kevin Lovell and myself (treasurer, Richard Cunningham) in an initiative being run from the Oxford diocese office named "Cornerstone." This sets out some 'pathways' to increase regular giving and it is intended to try one in our parish.

The income from teas and coffees has also gone up, almost certainly due to the CollectIn to £1,879 (£1,518 in 2022).

Income from weddings and funerals has increased this year to £1,751 (£873 in 2022).

Our investment income rose to £300 (£122 in 2022)

Income from hire of the Parish Centre has decreased to £782. (£1,983 in 2022)

Planned giving (Parish Giving Scheme and Standing Orders) have gone down a little too, £34,196 in 2023. (£35,940 in 2022).

Tax reclaimed from Gift Aid also fell a little, to £10,261. (£10,888 in 2022).

The contribution to parish finances from the Church Hall also fell a little to £15,500 (£17,850 in 2022).

### **Reserves Policy**

It is the PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which equates to at least 3 months' unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £18,984 (using the 2023 payments figure) and is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow. (£19,222 in 2022)

## **ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading**

Independent examiner's report to the members/trustees of St Barnabas Church, Emmer Green,  
Parochial Church Council

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Barnabas Church Emmer Green (the Trust) for the year ended 31st December 2023.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

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

### **Independent examiner's statement**

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. 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.

Signed:

Name: William Harper

Address: Sunnybank, High Street, Upton, Didcot OX11 9JE

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**Financial Statements for the Year ended 31st December 2023**

| 1                            | Receipts and Payments Accounts                    | Notes | Unrestricted Funds<br>£ | Designated Fund<br>£ | Restricted Funds<br>£ | Total<br>2023<br>£ | Total<br>2022<br>£ |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Receipts</b>              |                                                   |       |                         |                      |                       |                    |                    |
| <b>Voluntary Receipts</b>    |                                                   |       |                         |                      |                       |                    |                    |
|                              | Planned Giving                                    |       | 34,196                  | 0                    | 0                     | 34,196             | 35,940             |
|                              | Collections at Services                           |       | 4,544                   | 0                    | 0                     | 4,544              | 4,703              |
|                              | Other giving and voluntary receipts               | a)    | 20,953                  | 0                    | 2,000                 | 22,953             | 4,313              |
|                              | Gift Aid tax recovered                            |       | 10,261                  | 0                    | 0                     | 10,261             | 10,284             |
|                              |                                                   |       | <b>69,954</b>           | <b>0</b>             | <b>2,000</b>          | <b>71,954</b>      | <b>55,240</b>      |
|                              | <b>Activities for generating funds</b>            | b)    | 22,687                  | 0                    | 5,233                 | 27,920             | 24,833             |
|                              | <b>Investment Income</b>                          | c)    | 300                     | 0                    | 0                     | 300                | 122                |
|                              | <b>Church Activities</b>                          | d)    | 2,181                   | 0                    | 0                     | 2,181              | 873                |
|                              | <b>Total Receipts</b>                             |       | <b>95,122</b>           | <b>0</b>             | <b>7,233</b>          | <b>102,355</b>     | <b>81,068</b>      |
| <b>Payments</b>              |                                                   |       |                         |                      |                       |                    |                    |
| <b>Church Activities</b>     |                                                   |       |                         |                      |                       |                    |                    |
|                              | Parish Share                                      |       | 58,381                  | 0                    | 0                     | 58,381             | 57,227             |
|                              | Clergy and Staffing Costs                         |       | 608                     | 0                    | 0                     | 608                | 1,267              |
|                              | Church Running and Service Expenses               | e)    | 3,033                   | 0                    | 0                     | 3,033              | 3,063              |
|                              | Church Building Expenses                          | f)    | 11,914                  | 0                    | 0                     | 11,914             | 9,040              |
|                              | Mission Giving and Donations                      | g)    | 2,000                   | 0                    | 5,234                 | 7,234              | 6,951              |
|                              |                                                   |       | <b>75,936</b>           | <b>0</b>             | <b>5,234</b>          | <b>81,170</b>      | <b>77,548</b>      |
|                              | <b>Cost of Generating Funds</b>                   |       | 9,861                   | 0                    | 0                     | 9,861              | 4,293              |
|                              | <b>Total Payments</b>                             |       | <b>85,797</b>           | <b>0</b>             | <b>5,234</b>          | <b>91,031</b>      | <b>81,841</b>      |
|                              | <b>Excess/(Deficit) of Receipts over Payments</b> |       | 9,325                   | 0                    | 1,999                 | 11,324             | -773               |
|                              | <b>Cash at Bank at 1st January</b>                |       | 27,010                  | 11,400               | 27                    | 38,437             | 39,210             |
|                              | <b>Cash at Bank at 31st December</b>              |       | 36,335                  | 11,400               | 2,026                 | 49,761             | 38,437             |
| 2                            | Statement of Assets and Liabilities               | Notes | Unrestricted Fund<br>£  | Designated Fund<br>£ | Restricted Funds<br>£ | Total<br>2023<br>£ | Total<br>2022<br>£ |
| <b>Cash Funds</b>            |                                                   |       |                         |                      |                       |                    |                    |
|                              | Barclays Bank Church Current Account              |       | 25,275                  | 11,400               | 2,026                 | 38,701             | 23,112             |
|                              | Barclays Bank Hall Current Account                |       | 1,388                   | 0                    | 0                     | 1,388              | 7,110              |
|                              | CBF Church of England Deposit Fund                |       | 9,672                   | 0                    | 0                     | 9,672              | 9,371              |
|                              |                                                   |       | <b>36,335</b>           | <b>11,400</b>        | <b>2,026</b>          | <b>49,761</b>      | <b>39,593</b>      |
| <b>Other Monetary Assets</b> |                                                   |       |                         |                      |                       |                    |                    |
|                              | Income Tax Recoverable                            |       | 1,253                   | 0                    | 0                     | 1,253              | 682                |
|                              | Parish Share Denary Refund                        |       | 1,519                   | 0                    | 0                     | 1,519              | 1,783              |
|                              |                                                   |       | <b>2,772</b>            | <b>0</b>             | <b>0</b>              | <b>2,772</b>       | <b>2,465</b>       |
|                              | <b>Assets Retained for Church Use</b>             |       |                         |                      |                       | <b>410,909</b>     | <b>410,909</b>     |
| <b>Liabilities</b>           |                                                   |       |                         |                      |                       |                    |                    |
|                              | Loan                                              |       | 5,000                   | 0                    | 0                     | 5,000              | 5,000              |

Loan: At 31st December 2023 an indefinite loan of £5,000 remained outstanding. This sum had been assigned to the Organ Fund but, with the completion of the organ regeneration, is now available, by agreement, for general church purposes at the discretion of the Vicar and Wardens.

The attached notes form part of these financial statements

# Notes to the financial statement for Year Ended 31st December 2023

| 1                                             | Analysis of Receipts and Payments      | Notes | Unrestricted Funds<br>£ | Designated Fund<br>£ | Restricted Funds<br>£ | Total 2023<br>£ | Total 2022<br>£ |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Receipts</b>                               |                                        |       |                         |                      |                       |                 |                 |
| <b>a) Other giving and voluntary receipts</b> |                                        |       |                         |                      |                       |                 |                 |
|                                               | Donations                              |       | 11,953                  | 0                    | 2,000                 | 13,953          | 4,012           |
|                                               | Legacy                                 |       | 9,000                   | 0                    | 0                     | 9,000           | 301             |
|                                               |                                        |       | <b>20,953</b>           | <b>0</b>             | <b>2,000</b>          | <b>22,953</b>   | <b>4,313</b>    |
| <b>b) Activities for generating funds</b>     |                                        |       |                         |                      |                       |                 |                 |
|                                               | Fund raising events                    |       | 591                     | 0                    | 5,233                 | 5,824           | 5,465           |
|                                               | Rent from Church, Centre and Hall Hire |       | 20,217                  | 0                    | 0                     | 20,217          | 17,850          |
|                                               | Parish centre cafe                     |       | 1,879                   | 0                    | 0                     | 1,879           | 1,518           |
|                                               |                                        |       | <b>22,687</b>           | <b>0</b>             | <b>5,233</b>          | <b>27,920</b>   | <b>24,833</b>   |
| <b>c) Investment Income</b>                   |                                        |       |                         |                      |                       |                 |                 |
|                                               | CBF Deposit Fund Interest              |       | 300                     | 0                    | 0                     | 300             | 122             |
| <b>d) Church Activities</b>                   |                                        |       |                         |                      |                       |                 |                 |
|                                               | Fees for Weddings and Funerals         |       | 1,751                   | 0                    | 0                     | 1,751           | 873             |
|                                               | Vicar's discretionary fund             |       | 0                       | 0                    | 0                     | 0               | 0               |
|                                               | Other activities                       |       | 430                     | 0                    | 0                     | 430             | 0               |
|                                               |                                        |       | <b>2,181</b>            | <b>0</b>             | <b>0</b>              | <b>2,181</b>    | <b>873</b>      |
| <b>Payments</b>                               |                                        |       |                         |                      |                       |                 |                 |
| <b>e) Church Running and Service Expenses</b> |                                        |       |                         |                      |                       |                 |                 |
|                                               | Alter requisites/flowers               |       | 924                     | 0                    | 0                     | 924             | 19              |
|                                               | Organist/choir                         |       | 339                     | 0                    | 0                     | 339             | 100             |
|                                               | Children and young people              |       | 0                       | 0                    | 0                     | 0               | 785             |
|                                               | Stationery/printing                    |       | 174                     | 0                    | 0                     | 174             | 524             |
|                                               | Fees and subscriptions                 |       | 1,596                   | 0                    | 0                     | 1,596           | 1,635           |
|                                               |                                        |       | <b>3,033</b>            | <b>0</b>             | <b>0</b>              | <b>3,033</b>    | <b>3,063</b>    |
| <b>f) Church Building Expenses</b>            |                                        |       |                         |                      |                       |                 |                 |
|                                               | Equipment/consumables                  |       | 1,075                   | 0                    | 0                     | 1,075           | 306             |
|                                               | Church insurance                       |       | 1,981                   | 0                    | 0                     | 1,981           | 1,606           |
|                                               | Utilities                              |       | 4,505                   | 0                    | 0                     | 4,505           | 4,332           |
|                                               | Maintenance                            |       | 4,353                   | 0                    | 0                     | 4,353           | 2,796           |
|                                               | Cleaning                               |       | 0                       | 0                    | 0                     | 0               | 0               |
|                                               |                                        |       | <b>11,914</b>           | <b>0</b>             | <b>0</b>              | <b>11,914</b>   | <b>9,040</b>    |
| <b>g) Mission giving and Donations</b>        |                                        |       |                         |                      |                       |                 |                 |
|                                               | Donations from collections at Funerals |       | 0                       | 0                    | 0                     | 0               | 0               |
|                                               | Donations for charitable purposes      | 6,7   | 2,000                   | 0                    | 5,234                 | 7,234           | 6,951           |
|                                               |                                        |       | <b>2,000</b>            | <b>0</b>             | <b>5,234</b>          | <b>7,234</b>    | <b>6,951</b>    |
| <b>h) Cost of generating funds</b>            |                                        |       |                         |                      |                       |                 |                 |
|                                               | Fund raising events                    |       | 325                     | 0                    | 0                     | 325             | 0               |
|                                               | Church hall expenses                   |       | 9,536                   | 0                    | 0                     | 9,536           | 4,293           |
|                                               |                                        |       | <b>9,861</b>            | <b>0</b>             | <b>0</b>              | <b>9,861</b>    | <b>4,293</b>    |

## 4 Designated Funds

There were no transactions to the Vicar's Fund or the Building Fund in 2023

## 5 Restricted Funds

|                                 | Charities<br>£ | 2023<br>Total<br>£ | 2022<br>Total<br>£ |
|---------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Balance at 1st January</b>   | 27             | 27                 |                    |
| <b>Receipts</b>                 |                |                    |                    |
| Donations received              | 2,000          | 2,000              | 0                  |
| Collections at Funerals         | 0              | 0                  | 0                  |
| Christmas and other collections | 1,015          | 1,015              | 1,468              |
| Fund raising events             | 4,218          | 4,218              | 3,482              |
| Gift Aid Tax recovered          | 0              | 0                  | 196                |
|                                 | <b>7,233</b>   | <b>7,233</b>       | <b>5,146</b>       |
| <b>Payments</b>                 |                |                    |                    |
| Donations made to charities     | 6              | 5,234              | 4,951              |

Version of 30<sup>th</sup> March 2024

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                  |                |                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Balance at 31st December</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 2,026                                                            | 2,026          | 27             |
| <b>6 Donations for Charitable purposes from Events and Collections</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                  |                |                |
| Education for Life                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 2,095                                                            |                |                |
| Masiphumelele                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 2,099                                                            |                |                |
| Church of England Childrens Society                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 225                                                              |                |                |
| Embrace the Middle East                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 395                                                              |                |                |
| CIRDIC                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 395                                                              |                |                |
| Disasters Emergency Committee                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 25                                                               |                |                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>5,234</b>                                                     |                |                |
| <b>7 Charitable Giving 2023</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                  |                |                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | The following gifts were made from general funds during the year |                |                |
| Against Breast Cancer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 250                                                              |                |                |
| CIRDIC                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 250                                                              |                |                |
| Reading Family Aid                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 250                                                              |                |                |
| Reading Mencap                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 250                                                              |                |                |
| Reading Street Pastors                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 250                                                              |                |                |
| Sue Ryder Duchess of Kent Hospice                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 250                                                              |                |                |
| The Ben Kinsella Trust                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 250                                                              |                |                |
| Wyfold Riding for the Disabled                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 250                                                              |                |                |
| Total, 2023                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>2,000</b>                                                     |                |                |
| <b>8 Fixed assets retained for Church use are:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                  |                |                |
| The Church Hall dedicated as a church in 1897                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                  | N/A            | N/A            |
| The Parish Centre completed in 2009                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                  | 332,967        | 332,967        |
| The Parish Centre garden completed in 2010                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                  | 18,206         | 18,206         |
| The regenerated Church Organ completed in 2016                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                  | 59,736         | 59,736         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                  | <b>410,909</b> | <b>410,909</b> |
| <b>2 Basis of Accounting</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                  |                |                |
| The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                  |                |                |
| <b>3 Fund Accounting</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                  |                |                |
| Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the PCC in furtherance of the general objectives of the Church. Restricted funds are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donors or through the terms of an appeal, or fund raising events or collections as agreed by the PCC. The Designated fund represents amounts set aside by the PCC for use at the discretion of the PCC. |                                                                  |                |                |
| (1d) Fees for Weddings and Funerals are the fees retained by the PCC. Fees received on behalf of the Diocese, vergers and organists and passed directly to them are not included for 2023 in accordance with financial guidance from the Church of England.                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                  |                |                |
| 5 The Restricted Fund balance in hand comprises a donation of £2,000 to be applied in 2024, and small sums remaining to be paid to charities.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                  |                |                |

## ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading

Independent examiner's report to the members/trustees of St Barnabas Church, Emmer Green,  
Parochial Church Council

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Barnabas Church Emmer Green (the Trust) for the year ended 31st December 2023.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

### Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. 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.

Signed:



Name: William Harper

Address: Sunnybank, High Street, Upton, Didcot OX11 9JE

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading**

**Registered Charity No: 1164759**

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**for the year ended**

**31st DECEMBER 2023**

## **ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading**

### **Administrative Information**

St Barnabas Church is situated on St Barnabas Road, Emmer Green, Reading RG4 8RA. It is in the Reading Deanery of the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England. It is managed by the Parochial Church Council, which is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and is a Charity registered with the Charity Commission. Members of the PCC are registered trustees of the charity.

- 1 Registered Charity No: 1164759
- 2 Registered Address: St Barnabas Vicarage, 20 St Barnabas Road,  
Emmer Green, Reading RG4 8RA
- 3 Telephone: 0118 947 5214
- 4 Website: [www.saintbarnabas.org.uk](http://www.saintbarnabas.org.uk)
- 5 Trustees and members of the Parochial Church Council:

#### Ex Officio:

|            |                           |
|------------|---------------------------|
| Incumbent: | Revd Kevin Lovell         |
| Wardens:   | David Howell, Sandra Rice |

#### Elected Members:

|                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Deanery Synod Representatives: | Mark Burton                    |
|                                | Roger Moore (Church Secretary) |

#### Members:

|                                |
|--------------------------------|
| Bob Abel                       |
| Joy Abel                       |
| Christine Bartlett             |
| Felicity Chapman               |
| Richard Cunningham (Treasurer) |
| Susie Downer                   |
| Wendy Howell                   |
| Irene Lindsay                  |

- 6 Independent Examiner: William Harper  
Sunnybank, High Street, Upton, Didcot OX11 9JE
- 7 Bankers: Barclays Bank plc  
Leicester LE87 28B  
  
CCLA  
One Angel Lane EC4R 3AB  
London EC4R 3AB

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| Page 2   | Finance Report                    |
| Page 3   | Independent Examiner's Report     |
| Page 4   | Financial Statements              |
| Page 5-7 | Notes to the Financial Statements |

# **ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading**

## **Finance Report**

### **Financial Review**

Overall, 2023 was similar to 2022 from the Church finances point of view. We received several legacies which make our finances look satisfactory; however these are one-off items and can't be predicted. Our 2023 total of donations and bequests was £22,953 (£4,313 in 2022)

One important and exciting development is the use of the new "CollectIn" which means those without cash but with a credit or debit card can make a contribution. This has resulted in collections at services rise to £4,544 (£3,235 in 2022).

Another interesting development is the involvement of Revd Kevin Lovell and myself (treasurer, Richard Cunningham) in an initiative being run from the Oxford diocese office named "Cornerstone." This sets out some 'pathways' to increase regular giving and it is intended to try one in our parish.

The income from teas and coffees has also gone up, almost certainly due to the CollectIn to £1,879 (£1,518 in 2022).

Income from weddings and funerals has increased this year to £1,751 (£873 in 2022).

Our investment income rose to £300 (£122 in 2022)

Income from hire of the Parish Centre has decreased to £782. (£1,983 in 2022)

Planned giving (Parish Giving Scheme and Standing Orders) have gone down a little too, £34,196 in 2023. (£35,940 in 2022).

Tax reclaimed from Gift Aid also fell a little, to £10,261. (£10,888 in 2022).

The contribution to parish finances from the Church Hall also fell a little to £15,500 (£17,850 in 2022).

### **Reserves Policy**

It is the PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which equates to at least 3 months' unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £18,984 (using the 2023 payments figure) and is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow. (£19,222 in 2022)

## **ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading**

Independent examiner's report to the members/trustees of St Barnabas Church, Emmer Green,  
Parochial Church Council

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Barnabas Church Emmer Green (the Trust) for the year ended 31st December 2023.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

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

### **Independent examiner's statement**

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. 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.

Signed:

Name: William Harper

Address: Sunnybank, High Street, Upton, Didcot OX11 9JE

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**Financial Statements for the Year ended 31st December 2023**

| <b>1</b>                     | <b>Receipts and Payments Accounts</b>             | <b>Notes</b> | <b>Unrestricted Funds</b> | <b>Designated Fund</b> | <b>Restricted Funds</b> | <b>Total 2023</b> | <b>Total 2022</b> |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                              |                                                   |              | <b>£</b>                  | <b>£</b>               | <b>£</b>                | <b>£</b>          | <b>£</b>          |
| <b>Receipts</b>              |                                                   |              |                           |                        |                         |                   |                   |
| <b>Voluntary Receipts</b>    |                                                   |              |                           |                        |                         |                   |                   |
|                              | Planned Giving                                    |              | 34,196                    | 0                      | 0                       | 34,196            | 35,940            |
|                              | Collections at Services                           |              | 4,544                     | 0                      | 0                       | 4,544             | 4,703             |
|                              | Other giving and voluntary receipts               | a)           | 20,953                    | 0                      | 2,000                   | 22,953            | 4,313             |
|                              | Gift Aid tax recovered                            |              | 10,261                    | 0                      | 0                       | 10,261            | 10,284            |
|                              |                                                   |              | <b>69,954</b>             | <b>0</b>               | <b>2,000</b>            | <b>71,954</b>     | <b>55,240</b>     |
|                              | <b>Activities for generating funds</b>            | b)           | 22,687                    | 0                      | 5,233                   | 27,920            | 24,833            |
|                              | <b>Investment Income</b>                          | c)           | 300                       | 0                      | 0                       | 300               | 122               |
|                              | <b>Church Activities</b>                          | d)           | 2,181                     | 0                      | 0                       | 2,181             | 873               |
|                              | <b>Total Receipts</b>                             |              | <b>95,122</b>             | <b>0</b>               | <b>7,233</b>            | <b>102,355</b>    | <b>81,068</b>     |
| <b>Payments</b>              |                                                   |              |                           |                        |                         |                   |                   |
| <b>Church Activities</b>     |                                                   |              |                           |                        |                         |                   |                   |
|                              | Parish Share                                      |              | 58,381                    | 0                      | 0                       | 58,381            | 57,227            |
|                              | Clergy and Staffing Costs                         |              | 608                       | 0                      | 0                       | 608               | 1,267             |
|                              | Church Running and Service Expenses               | e)           | 3,033                     | 0                      | 0                       | 3,033             | 3,063             |
|                              | Church Building Expenses                          | f)           | 11,914                    | 0                      | 0                       | 11,914            | 9,040             |
|                              | Mission Giving and Donations                      | g)           | 2,000                     | 0                      | 5,234                   | 7,234             | 6,951             |
|                              |                                                   |              | <b>75,936</b>             | <b>0</b>               | <b>5,234</b>            | <b>81,170</b>     | <b>77,548</b>     |
|                              | <b>Cost of Generating Funds</b>                   |              | 9,861                     | 0                      | 0                       | 9,861             | 4,293             |
|                              | <b>Total Payments</b>                             |              | <b>85,797</b>             | <b>0</b>               | <b>5,234</b>            | <b>91,031</b>     | <b>81,841</b>     |
|                              | <b>Excess/(Deficit) of Receipts over Payments</b> |              | 9,325                     | 0                      | 1,999                   | 11,324            | -773              |
|                              | <b>Cash at Bank at 1st January</b>                |              | 27,010                    | 11,400                 | 27                      | 38,437            | 39,210            |
|                              | <b>Cash at Bank at 31st December</b>              |              | 36,335                    | 11,400                 | 2,026                   | 49,761            | 38,437            |
| <b>2</b>                     | <b>Statement of Assets and Liabilities</b>        | <b>Notes</b> | <b>Unrestricted Fund</b>  | <b>Designated Fund</b> | <b>Restricted Funds</b> | <b>Total 2023</b> | <b>Total 2022</b> |
|                              |                                                   |              | <b>£</b>                  | <b>£</b>               | <b>£</b>                | <b>£</b>          | <b>£</b>          |
| <b>Cash Funds</b>            |                                                   |              |                           |                        |                         |                   |                   |
|                              | Barclays Bank Church Current Account              |              | 25,275                    | 11,400                 | 2,026                   | 38,701            | 23,112            |
|                              | Barclays Bank Hall Current Account                |              | 1,388                     | 0                      | 0                       | 1,388             | 7,110             |
|                              | CBF Church of England Deposit Fund                |              | 9,672                     | 0                      | 0                       | 9,672             | 9,371             |
|                              |                                                   |              | <b>36,335</b>             | <b>11,400</b>          | <b>2,026</b>            | <b>49,761</b>     | <b>39,593</b>     |
| <b>Other Monetary Assets</b> |                                                   |              |                           |                        |                         |                   |                   |
|                              | Income Tax Recoverable                            |              | 1,253                     | 0                      | 0                       | 1,253             | 682               |
|                              | Parish Share Denary Refund                        |              | 1,519                     | 0                      | 0                       | 1,519             | 1,783             |
|                              |                                                   |              | <b>2,772</b>              | <b>0</b>               | <b>0</b>                | <b>2,772</b>      | <b>2,465</b>      |
|                              | <b>Assets Retained for Church Use</b>             |              |                           |                        |                         | <b>410,909</b>    | <b>410,909</b>    |
| <b>Liabilities</b>           |                                                   |              |                           |                        |                         |                   |                   |
|                              | Loan                                              |              | 5,000                     | 0                      | 0                       | 5,000             | 5,000             |

Loan: At 31st December 2023 an indefinite loan of £5,000 remained outstanding. This sum had been assigned to the Organ Fund but, with the completion of the organ regeneration, is now available, by agreement, for general church purposes at the discretion of the Vicar and Wardens.

The attached notes form part of these financial statements

# **Notes to the financial statement for Year Ended 31st December 2023**

| 1                                             | Analysis of Receipts and Payments      | Notes | Unrestricted Funds<br>£ | Designated Fund<br>£ | Restricted Funds<br>£ | Total 2023<br>£ | Total 2022<br>£ |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Receipts</b>                               |                                        |       |                         |                      |                       |                 |                 |
| <b>a) Other giving and voluntary receipts</b> |                                        |       |                         |                      |                       |                 |                 |
|                                               | Donations                              |       | 11,953                  | 0                    | 2,000                 | 13,953          | 4,012           |
|                                               | Legacy                                 |       | 9,000                   | 0                    | 0                     | 9,000           | 301             |
|                                               |                                        |       | <b>20,953</b>           | <b>0</b>             | <b>2,000</b>          | <b>22,953</b>   | <b>4,313</b>    |
| <b>b) Activities for generating funds</b>     |                                        |       |                         |                      |                       |                 |                 |
|                                               | Fund raising events                    |       | 591                     | 0                    | 5,233                 | 5,824           | 5,465           |
|                                               | Rent from Church, Centre and Hall Hire |       | 20,217                  | 0                    | 0                     | 20,217          | 17,850          |
|                                               | Parish centre cafe                     |       | 1,879                   | 0                    | 0                     | 1,879           | 1,518           |
|                                               |                                        |       | <b>22,687</b>           | <b>0</b>             | <b>5,233</b>          | <b>27,920</b>   | <b>24,833</b>   |
| <b>c) Investment Income</b>                   |                                        |       |                         |                      |                       |                 |                 |
|                                               | CBF Deposit Fund Interest              |       | 300                     | 0                    | 0                     | 300             | 122             |
| <b>d) Church Activities</b>                   |                                        |       |                         |                      |                       |                 |                 |
|                                               | Fees for Weddings and Funerals         |       | 1,751                   | 0                    | 0                     | 1,751           | 873             |
|                                               | Vicar's discretionary fund             |       | 0                       | 0                    | 0                     | 0               | 0               |
|                                               | Other activities                       |       | 430                     | 0                    | 0                     | 430             | 0               |
|                                               |                                        |       | <b>2,181</b>            | <b>0</b>             | <b>0</b>              | <b>2,181</b>    | <b>873</b>      |
| <b>Payments</b>                               |                                        |       |                         |                      |                       |                 |                 |
| <b>e) Church Running and Service Expenses</b> |                                        |       |                         |                      |                       |                 |                 |
|                                               | Alter requisites/flowers               |       | 924                     | 0                    | 0                     | 924             | 19              |
|                                               | Organist/choir                         |       | 339                     | 0                    | 0                     | 339             | 100             |
|                                               | Children and young people              |       | 0                       | 0                    | 0                     | 0               | 785             |
|                                               | Stationery/printing                    |       | 174                     | 0                    | 0                     | 174             | 524             |
|                                               | Fees and subscriptions                 |       | 1,596                   | 0                    | 0                     | 1,596           | 1,635           |
|                                               |                                        |       | <b>3,033</b>            | <b>0</b>             | <b>0</b>              | <b>3,033</b>    | <b>3,063</b>    |
| <b>f) Church Building Expenses</b>            |                                        |       |                         |                      |                       |                 |                 |
|                                               | Equipment/consumables                  |       | 1,075                   | 0                    | 0                     | 1,075           | 306             |
|                                               | Church insurance                       |       | 1,981                   | 0                    | 0                     | 1,981           | 1,606           |
|                                               | Utilities                              |       | 4,505                   | 0                    | 0                     | 4,505           | 4,332           |
|                                               | Maintenance                            |       | 4,353                   | 0                    | 0                     | 4,353           | 2,796           |
|                                               | Cleaning                               |       | 0                       | 0                    | 0                     | 0               | 0               |
|                                               |                                        |       | <b>11,914</b>           | <b>0</b>             | <b>0</b>              | <b>11,914</b>   | <b>9,040</b>    |
| <b>g) Mission giving and Donations</b>        |                                        |       |                         |                      |                       |                 |                 |
|                                               | Donations from collections at Funerals |       | 0                       | 0                    | 0                     | 0               | 0               |
|                                               | Donations for charitable purposes      | 6,7   | 2,000                   | 0                    | 5,234                 | 7,234           | 6,951           |
|                                               |                                        |       | <b>2,000</b>            | <b>0</b>             | <b>5,234</b>          | <b>7,234</b>    | <b>6,951</b>    |
| <b>h) Cost of generating funds</b>            |                                        |       |                         |                      |                       |                 |                 |
|                                               | Fund raising events                    |       | 325                     | 0                    | 0                     | 325             | 0               |
|                                               | Church hall expenses                   |       | 9,536                   | 0                    | 0                     | 9,536           | 4,293           |
|                                               |                                        |       | <b>9,861</b>            | <b>0</b>             | <b>0</b>              | <b>9,861</b>    | <b>4,293</b>    |

## **4 Designated Funds**

There were no transactions to the Vicar's Fund or the Building Fund in 2023

## **5 Restricted Funds**

|                                 | Charities<br>£ | 2023<br>Total<br>£ | 2022<br>Total<br>£ |
|---------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Balance at 1st January</b>   | 27             | 27                 |                    |
| <b>Receipts</b>                 |                |                    |                    |
| Donations received              | 2,000          | 2,000              | 0                  |
| Collections at Funerals         | 0              | 0                  | 0                  |
| Christmas and other collections | 1,015          | 1,015              | 1,468              |
| Fund raising events             | 4,218          | 4,218              | 3,482              |
| Gift Aid Tax recovered          | 0              | 0                  | 196                |
|                                 | <b>7,233</b>   | <b>7,233</b>       | <b>5,146</b>       |
| <b>Payments</b>                 |                |                    |                    |
| Donations made to charities     | 6              | 5,234              | 4,951              |

Version of 30<sup>th</sup> March 2024

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                |                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Balance at 31st December</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 2,026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 2,026          | 27             |
| <b>6 Donations for Charitable purposes from Events and Collections</b>                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                |                |
| Education for Life                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 2,095                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                |                |
| Masiphumelele                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 2,099                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                |                |
| Church of England Childrens Society                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 225                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                |                |
| Embrace the Middle East                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 395                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                |                |
| CIRDIC                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 395                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                |                |
| Disasters Emergency Committee                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 25                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                |                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>5,234</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                |                |
| <b>7 Charitable Giving 2023</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | The following gifts were made from general funds during the year                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                |                |
| Against Breast Cancer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 250                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                |                |
| CIRDIC                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 250                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                |                |
| Reading Family Aid                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 250                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                |                |
| Reading Mencap                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 250                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                |                |
| Reading Street Pastors                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 250                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                |                |
| Sue Ryder Duchess of Kent Hospice                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 250                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                |                |
| The Ben Kinsella Trust                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 250                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                |                |
| Wyfold Riding for the Disabled                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 250                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                |                |
| Total, 2023                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>2,000</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                |                |
| <b>8 Fixed assets retained for Church use are:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                |                |
| The Church Hall dedicated as a church in 1897                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | N/A            | N/A            |
| The Parish Centre completed in 2009                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 332,967        | 332,967        |
| The Parish Centre garden completed in 2010                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 18,206         | 18,206         |
| The regenerated Church Organ completed in 2016                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 59,736         | 59,736         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>410,909</b> | <b>410,909</b> |
| 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Basis of Accounting<br>The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                |                |
| 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Fund Accounting<br><br>Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the PCC in furtherance of the general objectives of the Church. Restricted funds are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donors or through the terms of an appeal, or fund raising events or collections as agreed by the PCC. The Designated fund represents amounts set aside by the PCC for use at the discretion of the PCC. |                |                |
| (1d) Fees for Weddings and Funerals are the fees retained by the PCC. Fees received on behalf of the Diocese, vergers and organists and passed directly to them are not included for 2023 in accordance with financial guidance from the Church of England. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                |                |
| 5 The Restricted Fund balance in hand comprises a donation of £2,000 to be applied in 2024, and small sums remaining to be paid to charities.                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                |                |

## ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading

Independent examiner's report to the members/trustees of St Barnabas Church, Emmer Green,  
Parochial Church Council

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Barnabas Church Emmer Green (the Trust) for the year ended 31st December 2023.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

### Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. 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.

Signed:



Name: William Harper

Address: Sunnybank, High Street, Upton, Didcot OX11 9JE

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024

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# Accounts

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Annual Report 2022 – Final

**ST BARNABAS CHURCH EMMER GREEN**

**ANNUAL REPORT of the Parochial Church Council  
(The Trustees Report)**

**For the Period ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

## VICAR'S REPORT 2022

Since I was only installed as Vicar on 15<sup>th</sup> December, there is not a great deal I can report on. Nevertheless, I would like to place a few comments on record.

Firstly, to thank you all for the warm welcome Gill and I received on moving into the parishes. With all the settling in that goes on when you move, it is always helpful to see smiling friendly faces and cards with messages of welcome. I was thankful to meet so many people over the Christmas period, including many young people from schools and uniformed organisations.

Secondly, to thank the PCC and all those who worked so hard during the vacancy, maintaining so much of the work of St Barnabas. As I begin ministering with you, I can see the importance of your having maintained relationships both within the congregation and (equally important) with people and organisations beyond the worshipping congregation.

Inevitably, the combined effect of a vacancy and Covid-19 has meant some things have not continued. Recent years have been challenging, I believe this will continue, albeit for different reasons. On one level we are now 'building back' after Covid; but in other ways I suspect it has jolted us from a time of relative stability into a much more volatile and anxious world. And yet God is still with us.

Around 2,600 years ago God's people were dragged into a volatile and anxious world (Babylon). Their instinct was to return to their past life, but God called them to put down roots in the new place, saying: 'seek the welfare of the city ... for in its welfare you will find your welfare' (Jeremiah 29:7). St Barnabas seems to understand the concept of 'welfare', although precisely how God is calling us to embody that at this time, in Caversham Park and Emmer Green, is evolving.

As I look to the future, there are no clear answers to the missional challenges we face. I believe we should look, listen and experiment. Make broad plans for the future, whilst equipping ourselves for a more entrepreneurial mission and ministry. That means being ready to seize upon missional opportunities as they appear. *What* we do will be much less important than *the way* we do it. Our Lenten discipline for 2023 - attuning ourselves to notice where God is at work – is one such tool that will equip us to spot those opportunities.

Kevin

## **PCC OVERVIEW OF YEAR**

The PCC's main focus of business throughout the year was the recruitment of a new incumbent. In January the Associate Archdeacon, Liz Jackson, took a service and afterwards answered questions from the congregation. Unfortunately, it was felt that the session produced more confusion than clarity. Even PCC members were themselves confused about the issue of Caversham Park.

To help to take matters forward and to shed light on the process for recruiting a new minister Rhodri Bowen attended a PCC meeting and explained his role as the Diocesan Parish Development Advisor which was "to walk alongside church communities to help them discern their mission and vision". He clarified the difference between his role and that of the Associate Archdeacon which was centred on the process of pastoral reorganization and recruitment of a new minister.

Rhodri outlined the stages in the recruitment process including the two key meetings the first at which the two representatives who would act on behalf of the church during the recruitment process would be selected and the second at which the Parish Profile, Role Description and Person Description would be agreed.

When drafting the Parish Profile Rhodri suggested that the section dealing with mission and vision would be the most challenging and offered to facilitate a 'Vision' event for the whole congregation which took place on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March. The event was well attended and enabled the capture of thoughts and ideas which could be fed into the drafting of the Parish Profile etc. The key statements upon which the Profile, Role Description and Person Description were based are below.

We are a church which:

- values the relationships built up between its members and provides a welcome to newcomers which encourages them to become fully involved.
- offers a variety of mainly traditional church services and provides a space which is comfortable for people of different traditions.
- promotes a deeper understanding of the gospel message through bible study, alpha courses and children's services.
- acts as a focal point for the wider community - for activities within the church's buildings, for contacts with local schools, and for support in times of sorrow.
- is committed to supporting two educational charities in Africa through our fund-raising events as well as other local charities proposed by the congregation.
- Encourages active Lay leadership.

Five themes for Mission

- Further growth of involvement with schools and the development of youth provision.
- Establishing the new parish and developing a presence within Caversham Park and the new housing development on the golf club site.

## Annual Report 2022 – Final

- Growing the involvement of families and younger people whilst maintaining the ministry to the more elderly in church and at home.
- Being church based but reaching out and being connected with the community visiting care homes, on-line, in the home, at work, where people are.
- Improve the variety of services to include modern songs, junior choir, junior band.
- Develop the Lay team to be a strong part of the ministry.

Drafting posed a challenge for the PCC. All the necessary documents would need to be ready for agreement by the Associate Archdeacon by the beginning of June in order to interview candidates at the beginning of September.

However, to move ahead the “suspension” of the benefice needed to be lifted and there were still hurdles to be jumped. To move things along and following advice from the Associate Archdeacon, the PCC decided: to recommend that the two parishes in the Benefice of St Barnabas with Caversham Park be merged to form a single parish, and to seek an incumbent vicar rather than a temporary appointee.

Joy Abel and David Howell were elected by the PCC to act on its behalf during the selection process: including shortlisting and interviews.

Three candidates were shortlisted out of a field of eight and each gave a short talk to the congregation. Over lunch there was an opportunity to speak informally. The Revd Kevin Lovell was selected and following his notice period he and his wife Gill moved into the vicarage in November and he took services before and during Christmas.

Although we are not yet a single parish the formal approval process is underway. The resolution proposed by the Diocese and agreed by the PCC is below.

The PCC of St Barnabas Emmer Green agreed unanimously to support the draft Proposals:

- For the union of the parish of Emmer Green Saint Barnabas and the parish of Caversham Park, being the parishes, which comprise the area of the benefice of Emmer Green Saint Barnabas and Caversham Park in the Diocese of Oxford.
- and for the parish church of the parish of Emmer Green Saint Barnabas to be the parish church of the new parish.
- and further for the new parish to be named “The Parish of Emmer Green and Caversham Park Saint Barnabas”.

*Roger Moore*

*PCC Secretary*

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

St Barnabas Church is situated in Grove Road, Emmer Green, Reading. It is within the Reading Deanery, which is part of the Diocese of Oxford. The correspondence address of the PCC Secretary is 10 Barnard Close, Caversham, Reading RG4 6RZ. St Barnabas is registered with the Charity Commission as a charity – number 1164759.

The PCC members who served during the calendar year 2022 were:

|           |   |                                   |
|-----------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Incumbent | - | Revd Kevin Lovell (from December) |
| Warden    | - | David Howell                      |

|              |   |              |
|--------------|---|--------------|
| Asst Wardens | - | Wendy Howell |
|              |   | Joy Abel     |

| Deanery Synod Representatives | Elected                    |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Mark Burton                   | 2014 (re-elected Oct 2020) |
| Roger Moore                   | 2017 (re-elected Oct 2020) |
| Members                       |                            |
| Felicity Chapman              | 2015                       |
| Susie Downer                  | 2016                       |
| Bob Abel                      | 2016                       |
| Irene Lindsay                 | 2021                       |
| Noel Drury                    | 2021                       |
| Richard Cunningham            | 2021                       |

## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Parish St Barnabas, Emmer Green comes within the Benefice of St Barnabas Emmer Green and Caversham Park which consists of two separate parishes. From the beginning of 2021 only St Barnabas had a functioning PCC.

PCCs are charities governed by two pieces of Church of England legislation: the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended and the Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended, particularly by the Church Representation and Ministers Measure 2019). The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All eligible Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC held 11 meetings during the year plus Section 11 and 12 meetings associated with the recruitment of the new incumbent. The work of other groups are reflected in this report.

The running of the church is supported by volunteers covering all areas of activity – Annex A.

## **OBJECTIVES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

It has maintenance responsibilities for the church and the church hall.

## **COMPLIANCE**

The PCC members (the Trustees) of St Barnabas Church, Emmer Green, Reading (Number 1164759) in agreeing this Annual Report noted that they were fully aware of the Charity Commission Guidance on Public Benefit and were of the opinion that the activities of St Barnabas Church met the Charity Commission requirements.

## **CHURCH ATTENDANCE**

Up until mid-December when Kevin arrived, we'd been reliant on visiting clergy for the majority of our Sunday and weekday services and should therefore be extremely thankful for the support of the Area Dean Mike Smith and the clergy of the Reading Deanery.

For our main 9:30 services in 2021 the average was 35 gathered with an online presence of 8 meaning an average of 43 per service, which was well below the pre-pandemic 2019 figure of 69. However, 2022 has seen an increase of gathered to 47 with an online presence of 8 making the average 55. Still not recovered from the pre-covid numbers but nevertheless encouraging and something to build on.

The Wednesday 10:30 communion maintained its average of 8 and the Tuesday 8:30 Morning service was sustained throughout the year.

Also encouraging were Easter day Communion service which was attended by 76 adults and midnight Mass 38.

We managed to retain our links with The Hill School, Emmer Green Primary School, Kindergarten and the Preschool for all the festivals (Easter, Harvest and Nativity). Additionally, Emmer Green Primary Year 2 visited church to understand what a church is. And the good news is they are already booked in for 2023.

Our "All Age" Service at 11:30 on the first Sunday of the month remains informal, vibrant well structured with a loyal congregation of 4 families with occasional visitors. 2023 will be exciting as we learn to be more adventurous and experimental under Kevin's guidance.

*David Howell*

## **CHURCH MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE**

### **Health and Safety**

Following the retirement of the health and safety officer the position has remained unfilled. There have been no events of concern during the year.

*Roger Moore*

## **Safeguarding**

I have had the privilege of continuing as Safeguarding Officer for St Barnabas for yet another year.

I am happy to report that this has been a quiet year regarding safeguarding issues. An ongoing concern is being monitored, following discussion with the Diocesan Safeguarding team. Since the last report, all necessary DBS checks are up to date. My thanks go to Debbie Burton for taking control of this aspect. Members of the Ministry Team have completed or renewed their safeguarding training requirements, as appropriate. Members of the PCC will be refreshing their training in the next year. This is an ongoing process which I monitor. There is a copy of the safeguarding policy on display in both the Parish Centre and the Church Hall.

In November I gave a short talk on safeguarding during the morning service. This was to remind the congregation that safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone. Any member of the congregation can access appropriate online training through the C of E training portal. Safeguarding is about being mindful of the vulnerabilities of others around us, and loving, respecting and caring for our neighbours of all ages.

*Joy Abel, Safeguarding Officer*

## **Electoral Roll.**

The present electoral roll, as of 31st December 2022, contains 106 names, of which 30 are recorded as not resident within the 'old' boundary of St Barnabas. (That makes those in Caversham Park seem 'not resident.') If you wish to be added to the roll, please ask me and I will explain what is required and can supply a form.

*Richard Cunningham, Electoral Roll Officer*

## **Planned Giving.**

I continue to record who-gave-what week-by-week for our giving schemes on which we can claim a tax refund under "Gift Aid" from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC). These are: Standing orders, Weekly green envelopes in the offertory plate, the central Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), and Once-off envelopes.

(For those who don't know about Gift Aid: if you give your income to St Barnabas, it's no longer 'yours' and so HMRC will refund the income tax. At the present rate of tax £1 earned results in 20p of tax paid, leaving you with 80p; so when you give 80p we get 20p more when we claim that refund from HMRC, and so £1 given by you results in £1.25 received by us.)

Since my report in last year's annual APCM paperwork, I have made two claims to HMRC (excluding PGS) which have resulted in payments totalling £4,073.25; the last one was submitted for giving up to 31st October 2022. The HMRC "Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme" (GASDS) means we can claim Gift Aid on cash donations up to £30 where we have no signed declaration, and a claim for GASDS was included in these two claims.

The PGS scheme carries out a claim to HMRC monthly on our behalf and over the period 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022 reports that it has claimed £6210.27 from HMRC.

## Annual Report 2022 – Final

At present there are about 17 who contribute by standing orders, and about 30 who give by PGS. Those who pay by once-off envelopes tend to be once-off visitors, perhaps attending a baptism or funeral. Cash in the offertory plate results in a GASDS claim.

The small green envelopes that were used by regular givers remain in use by four givers, but we have saved some money by re-using un-used envelope sets printed for a previous financial year. The givers are asked to correct the printed date on the envelope and write on the date which they placed the envelope in the offertory. Their anonymity is preserved because the envelopes carry a number which is known only to me and the giver. I anticipate that we will continue to use up the old envelopes, which will last for several years yet.

A way to increase our income is for those who pay income tax but who give outside any of the methods I have mentioned in my first paragraph, to join one of these schemes. Please approach me, and I will provide details of the scheme; you will certainly be asked to sign a declaration to say that you wish that income tax you have paid on your gift is be reclaimed.

A recent introduction at PGS now allows a one-off payment to be made to our church via PGS using Credit or Debit cards, or Apple or Google pay. It works by the giver scanning on their mobile phone or tablet computer a QR-code (that's the small black and white squares in one big square thing) and then they find their phone/tablet is on the PGS web-page for our church, where they can make an on-line donation. I am trying (as I write this) to get that QR-code and a poster up so we might increase our giving from visitors who say "I'm sorry, I don't have any cash with me." Please look out for this in the Parish Centre, and promote it when appropriate. Finally, my thanks to all those who continue to support St Barnabas Church through the gift of money. Your help is so important in all that we do.

*Richard Cunningham, Planned giving officer*

## **WORSHIP AND MINISTRY**

### **Choir and Music**

We ended 2022 on a high with our traditional service of lessons and carols. We were delighted to welcome a few extras to our Christmas choir and to welcome our new vicar to preside over this service, although it was less than a week after his installation.

Many members of the choir are battling with their health and/or complex family needs, but they still find the time to practice and lead music for services. Services at St Barnabas are enriched by their dedication.

I'd like to give a special thanks to Mary Lewis who has stepped down from the choir after 40 years. She was keen that we didn't make any fuss, so we haven't made a formal presentation, but we want to celebrate her long service in the choir at St Barnabas.

Gail Houghton and Guy Watt have both been a great support to me in leading the music. I'd particularly like to mention Gail's beautiful piano accompaniments and Guy's growing knowledge of how to keep the organ running smoothly. I couldn't have got through this year without the support and understanding of all the choir.

*Felicity Chapman*

### **Children's Church**

#### Easter Egg Hunt

Following on from the previous year's Easter Egg Hunt, we organised another Easter Egg Hunt.

## Annual Report 2022 – Final

We had 7 families (1 family cancelled at last minute, and 1 didn't turn up) consisting of:  
11 Adults (including 1 grandmother)  
10 Children (including 1 baby)

### Busy Bees

Busy Bees continues to run in the Parish Centre 2-3pm on Monday afternoons during Term Time (including Half-term holidays).

As is to be expected we have had a variable number of children, from 2 to 10. Some families come sporadically, and others are much more regular.

Many families come when they are on maternity / paternity leave and have to go back to work when their leave is up.

Shirley, along with Rene, have been long standing members of our group. I would like to thank them for time they have given to Busy Bees over many years.

Thank you to all who make Busy Bees a success.

### All Age Service

The All Age Service on the first Sunday of the month at 11:30am has become a regular event, where families can come to a short family friendly service, at a time which is more suitable for them.

Refreshments (including homemade cakes) are served in the time between the main service and All Age Service. Thanks go to Wendy Moore and Margaret McKinley for helping to make the cakes.

We have a mix of lively songs, a Bible story, prayers and a short talk. Birthdays are celebrated with help from Zac (a glove puppet).

*Debbie Burton*

### **Prayer Chain**

In 2022 I was very pleased to add one more individual to the list of those who continue to covenant to pray and honour God's name. Our group now numbers 16. I would love to hear from anyone interested in joining the group or who would appreciate prayer being offered on their behalf or for someone known to them.

We have prayed for:

- Those in distress because of illness, bereavement, life-changing events
- Those who have died
- Encouragement and guidance for individuals and events
- With thankful hearts

We have remembered in our prayers over 75 individuals, situations, or events.

We give thanks for the freedom and opportunity to raise our concerns with God.

*Susie Downer*

### **Puppet Ministry**

During the first post COVID period puppets have played a major part in reconnecting our local school for all the major festivals. During Christmas alone we had over 500 children attend church to hear the good news of Jesus' birth.

## Annual Report 2022 – Final

*David Howell*

### **PARISH CENTRE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES**

#### **Parish Centre Manager**

The Parish centre is still greatly underutilised. Hopefully, during 2023 we will see the Thursday drop in start up again and maybe a drop in for young people to have a safe space on their way home. The Tuesday and Friday's activities are thriving.

*David Howell*

### **FUNDRAISING/CHARITIES REPORT FOR 2022**

#### **Fundraising**

All was back to normal in 2022 and I am pleased to say that all 3 regular events took place raising money for Education for Life and Masiphumelele. In June we were able to meet up with Glyn & Jane Davies and catch up on events in Kenya. Dates for 2023 are as follows. Handyman Sale May 13<sup>th</sup> (a week later due to the coronation), Garden Party July 15<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Fair December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Two car boot sales were attended raising money for church funds. My grateful thanks go to all those who help in any way to make sure these events happen and are fun.

*Wendy Howell*

#### **Charitable Giving**

Decisions about which charities to support from 2021 funds were delayed and consequently payments of £400 were instead made to five charities at the beginning of 2022 (Reading Family Aid, Wyfold Riding for the Disabled, Reading Street Pastors, Christian Community Action and Yeldall Manor)."

"It had been hoped that a second round of payments could be made from 2022 funds towards the end of the year and suggestions were sought from the congregation, as had been the previous practice. However, financial constraints meant that once again the payments would need to be deferred to the next year. The PCC has, however, agreed a list of 8 charities which will receive £250 each from 2023 funds."

At the beginning of 2022, 5 Charities each received £400. (This was in lieu of 2021) Reading Family Aid, Wyfold Riding for the Disabled, Reading Street Pastors, CIRDIC, Yeldall Manor.

*Wendy Howell*

## Annual Report 2022 – Final

### **Charities**

Eight charities received a total of £4,950 in 2022 from our fund-raising activities and collections at services. A further £2,000 was donated to five local charities from general funds. The details are contained in Annex B.

*Bob Abel*

### **Craft Group**

This is still a thriving group that meets regularly on Tuesday mornings, to mostly chat and catch up with friends. They meet throughout the year, only stopping between Christmas and New Year. I am grateful to certain members who take over the reins if I am not available. As usual, we had a summer Bring & Share lunch and the same at Christmas.

*Wendy Howell*

### **MEN'S BREAKFAST**

Men's Breakfast is alive and well. We have a regular attendance of between 10 and 12 with 50% of those being from St Barnabas and the remainder a mixture of other Caversham Churches or men that don't worship anywhere. I frequently get contacted by the area Social Prescribers who are looking for men's groups for older gentlemen to meet other men in the community.

*David Howell*

### **BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT IN THE PARISH CENTRE**

Everyone experiences grief differently. Each person has to find their own way to live with what has happened, and within their own timescale. But bereavement is often very lonely. Meeting with others who are on the same journey can be really helpful. It provides a valuable opportunity to share feelings with people who have suffered a loss too, who will respect your story, and give encouragement when it is most needed.

### **Bereavement Café**

This informal drop-in has been meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday each month since October 2021. During that time 29 individuals have attended, some once, some several times. One person has been almost every time and has now taken over the refreshments.

8 of our visitors have come from as far afield as Whitley, Woodley, Calcot, Tilehurst and Sonning Common.

**Living with Loss** has been meeting monthly since the Parish Centre opened in 2010. The group began as a drop in but over time has become more of a support group and continues to be very much valued. Since October 2021, Living with Loss has moved from the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in the month. Anyone who has experienced loss of any kind is warmly welcomed. During the past year the average attendance has been 6.

*Gillian Wilson*

### **Friday Afternoon Friendship Group**

We meet on the second and fourth Friday of the month at 2 p.m. in the Parish Centre for tea, cake, chatter and activities. The latter often include (easy) quizzes, board games, cards etc. – chosen by members. We're always delighted to welcome newcomers so if you'd like to come along, please just pop in or get in touch.

Mary Cameron,  
Tel: 0118 972 2942  
Mob: 0790 747 1101  
Email: [marycam7@googlemail.com](mailto:marycam7@googlemail.com)

*Mary Cameron*

### **COMMUNICATION**

The first edition of "Read all About It" was published at the beginning of 2021 and has continued each month through 2022. Thanks to Marion for her services in 2021/22; we are now looking for somebody else to look after the newsletter.

During the year, every week, services have been broadcast to the church community using Zoom and a simple camera and fixed position. A small group of AV operators has managed this role. The PCC recognized the limitations and agreed to invest in a more versatile set up that was easier to use. Work on developing a costed proposal is in abeyance awaiting review in 2023.

### **BUILDING MANAGEMENT**

The fabric of the church was inspected in August as part of the quinquennial review. The report's conclusion was that the church is well maintained, and it was acknowledged that work had been carried out since the last review to address the matters raised in the previous report. Expensive matters for the future will be the replacement of the Perspex panels covering the east window of the chancel, the west window of the nave and the south window of the prayer room adjoining the porch. These panels have become opaque and discoloured restricting the light and visibility of the stained-glass windows. Consideration will also be given to replacing the torn insulation of the feed and expansion tanks in the boiler room plus external painting."

We've not had any recurrence of the leak in the Parish Centre roof as we've managed to keep the gutters relatively clear of debris. We had several minor maintenance jobs to carry out which have been repaired by members of the congregation. The major expenditure jobs for 2023 will be to point the top eight rows of brick work around the Parish Centre and to correct the water damage of the ceiling in the passage way to the vicar's office.

We are extremely grateful for the work and time that Guy Watt does for us.

I no longer have any responsibility for the vicarage since Kevin and Gill moved in. However, we have to acknowledge that they have had maintenance issues, which they've been working with the Diocese to rectify and that are ongoing.

*David Howell*

### **GARDENING GROUP**

The Garden group met regularly throughout 2022 and the weather was generally kind to us. The summer heatwave stressed a few plants as it was impossible to give them all sufficient water

## Annual Report 2022 – Final

however most plants seem to have survived. When planting in the future we will only use drought tolerant varieties. A generous donation enabled us to cover the gardens in a thick layer of chopped bark. This mulch has been very helpful to keep weeds down and moisture in the soil. We were very pleased to have Christine and Brian join us. The more people in the team the merrier!

Juliet and Tony Holland

### **ST BARNABAS HALL REPORT 2022**

Yes, the Hall is back in action through 2022, hired for 60 family children's parties and 15 community groups who meet weekly. And of course, our Church uses the Hall for fundraising and social events. The result is a popular centre for our Church & the local community, and a useful source of income for our Church - £13,500 in 2022. It's a win win win asset!

It's an interesting calculation that 60 children's parties each with about 20 children means that 1200 children have had fun here. Then there are the Guides, 2 Brownie and a Rainbow group, and everyone else. Thank you to all the Groups who use the Hall. The details for each are shown on The St Barnabas Church Emmer Green website. Why not look up details of any classes that might interest you? Click on "Hall", then "External Groups". Choose from Pilates, Zumba, Age UK Taichi, Rosehill WI, Art workshop, Keep Fit and two Dance groups. Click on the Group name to reveal contact details and leaders of each group.

We revarnished the wood floor with volunteers from our congregation – thank you. And we welcome a new cleaner, Joanne Earley, who has kept the Hall clean. It's essential with all that use. Thanks to the people in the congregation who help with other maintenance – Bob Abel in particular for accounts & billing, and others for bins, electrical checking and so on.

*Jon Barclay, Hall Manager    Hall phone 07580 029910*

### **WIDER CHURCH REPORT 2022 – READING DEANERY SYNOD & OXFORD DIOCESAN SYNOD REINSPIRED AND CTC HOLIDAY CLUB**

#### **Reading Deanery Synod & Oxford Diocesan Synod**

##### **Reading Deanery Synod**

Reading Deanery Synod entered the post-Covid new normal in 2022. Meetings took place in person, but were also hybrid meetings, so that those who were unable to attend in person (for example testing positive for Covid) could attend remotely.

There is now an Area Dean, Mike Smith of Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham, and Reading Deanery Synod now has a Secretary.

##### **March Meeting**

The first meeting of the year was held here at St Barnabas Church – it is good to be able to host Synod.

Synod heard about the Greyfriars Atrium development and had a presentation about PACT (Parents and Children Together), a Reading-based charity mainly focused on helping the

## Annual Report 2022 – Final

adoption process including providing ongoing care and support to adopted children and their (new) family.

Members of the Parish Share Committee were elected.

### **June Meeting**

The second meeting was held at St Peter's Earley Church Hall.

Synod heard about the large number of Hong Kong refugees now attending Southlake St James Church. There was also a presentation about ECO Churches – churches were advocated to join this initiative.

Deanery Synod then passed the following motion:

*“Reading Deanery Synod a) propose that all reasonable steps are taken to influence HM Government to amend planning regulations so that there is a presumption of permission for the installation of solar panels on the roofs of churches, and facilitate the installation of heat pumps, even if the churches are listed buildings; and b) propose that Oxford Diocesan Synod pass a motion to support this proposal, and refer this motion to General Synod.”*

“Reading Deanery Share 2023 Principles” were approved, and the 2023 Parish Share Scheme was approved.

### **November Meeting**

There was a presentation about Citizens UK. It was agreed that Reading Deanery Synod would join Citizens UK as an umbrella organisation for churches in the Deanery, the membership fee would be paid from the Reading Deanery MAP Fund.

Th 2023 Parish Shares were ratified at the same level as had been presented to the June Synod Meeting – Diocesan Synod had agreed that LLMs and SSMs could claim the Diocesan portion of fees for Services they take after Deanery Synod had finalised its Parish Share Scheme, but there was sufficient headroom not to increase the proposed Parish Shares.

There was a presentation about REInspired (which was originally set up by Churches Together in Earley and East Reading (CTEER)).

Churches had been asked to complete Cost of Energy Crisis Questionnaires and the analysis would be used to inform strategy at a higher level.

The Solar Panel Proposal is to be discussed at Diocesan Synod in March 2023, and it may be necessary to amend the motion to gain more support and Deanery Synod authorised the Lay Chair to negotiate a new motion for this purpose.

## **Oxford Diocesan Synod**

### **March Meeting**

This meeting was held via Zoom. It has been agreed that one meeting a year will be in person, and the other 2 via Zoom. The reduction in travelling will reduce Carbon emissions.

There was a presentation on Discipleship and an update by the Bishop of Oxford on Christ Church, Oxford.

Most of the Synod Meeting was taken up by an update and listening exercise on Living in Love and Faith.

### **June Meeting**

This was held at St James Church Centre, Gerrards Cross, and was the first in-person meeting for 2 years.

Responses were given to formal questions asked about the discussion on human sexuality, and the independent review of Christ Church Oxford.

The Bishop of Oxford, Bishop Steven gave a presidential address focussing on the environment and the climate emergency.

Synod approved Net Zero work to vicarages in the Diocese.

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The Parish Share Review Group reported on the Parish Share resulting in the proposed new Parish Share Scheme. (Deaneries are allocated a total Deanery Share, and they are delegated authority to devise their own Parish Share Scheme, or they may use the Diocesan Scheme.) The new scheme allocates more ministry costs to each parish, but this has resulted in less mutual support, which has meant some less affluent areas paying more Share than they would have done under the previous scheme.

Diocesan Synod agreed that LLMs and SSMs could claim the Diocesan portion of fees for Services they take. The sums involved would have to be added to the previously agreed Deanery Shares.

There was also a Safeguarding update presented by the Chair of the Safeguarding Panel and the new Head of Safeguarding.

### **November Meeting**

This meeting was held via Zoom.

Bishop Steven gave an address on the next stage of the Living in Love and Faith process.

There was a report on the Lambeth Conference.

The 2023 budget was approved.

The main item was the Christ Church Governance Review.

The elected Lay Representation on Deanery Synods 2023-2026 (the number of lay representatives that each church will have) was approved.

### **REInspired**

REInspired sessions returned to the pre-Covid pattern, and a large number of sessions took place in primary schools in Caversham and Emmer Green. It is good that RE sessions can be delivered by members of local churches so that children can learn about Christianity from Christians.

### **CTC Holiday Club**

CTC Holiday Club took place at St Anne's RC Primary School. Numbers of children attending were a little lower than pre-Covid. A number of Ukrainian refugees attended.

*Mark Burton*

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### Annex A – 2022 VOLUNTEERS AND ACTIVITIES

This statement describes how many of the activities involved in running and sustaining the Church were organized and who as an individual or as a team had responsibility for the various activities during 2022. Some activities changed responsibility and others were no longer supported. New volunteers and members are always welcome.

|                                                  |                                |                                                    |                       |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Worship and Ministry                             |                                | Building                                           |                       |
| Intercessions                                    | Susie Downer                   | Verger                                             | vacant                |
| Servers                                          |                                | Centre Manager                                     | David Howell          |
| Sacristan                                        | Vacant                         | Gardens                                            | Tony & Juliet Holland |
| Sidespeople                                      |                                | Maintenance team                                   | vacant                |
| AV System                                        | Mark Burton                    | Hall Manager                                       | Jon Barclay           |
| Altar linen                                      | Christine Bartlett             | Display Boards                                     |                       |
| Lesson Reading                                   | Joy Abel                       |                                                    |                       |
| Flowers                                          | Wendy Howell and Gail Houghton |                                                    |                       |
| Alpha                                            |                                |                                                    |                       |
| Children's church:<br>Debbie Burton, Mark Burton |                                | Choir and Music Group<br>Felicity Chapman and Team |                       |
|                                                  |                                |                                                    |                       |
| Bible study notes                                | vacant                         |                                                    |                       |
| Chalice                                          | vacant                         |                                                    |                       |
| Fellowship Groups                                |                                |                                                    |                       |
| Monday evening                                   | Noel Drury                     |                                                    |                       |
| Thursday (day)                                   | Ruth Thomas                    |                                                    |                       |
| Tuesday (even)                                   |                                |                                                    |                       |
| Wed Bible Study                                  |                                |                                                    |                       |
| Thursday Fellowship                              |                                |                                                    |                       |
| Study & Discussion Group                         | Mark Burton                    |                                                    |                       |
| Living with Loss                                 | Gillian Wilson                 |                                                    |                       |
| Bereavement Cafe                                 | Gillian Wilson                 |                                                    |                       |
| Tea & Fellowship                                 | Mary Cameron                   |                                                    |                       |
| Activities                                       |                                |                                                    |                       |
| H&S                                              | vacant                         |                                                    |                       |
| Parish Safeguarding Officer                      | Joy Abel                       |                                                    |                       |
| Parish Safeguarding Verifier                     | Debbie Burton                  |                                                    |                       |
| Centre Drop-Ins                                  | Wendy & David Howell           |                                                    |                       |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Friday Tea   | Mary Cameron                   |                                                    |                       |
| Busy Bees                                        | Debbie Burton, Mark Burton     |                                                    |                       |
| Fund Raising                                     | Wendy Howell and Team          |                                                    |                       |
| Catering Team                                    |                                |                                                    |                       |
| Sunday tea                                       | Wendy Howell                   |                                                    |                       |
|                                                  |                                |                                                    |                       |

## Annual Report 2022 – Final

### Annex B – Charities

#### SUMMARY OF CHARITABLE DONATIONS MADE IN 2022

##### Restricted Fund-raising

| Receipts (£)                                 |          | Payments (£)                                                                        |                            |
|----------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Handyman Sale, Garden Party & Christmas Fair | 3,480.05 | Education for Life<br>Masiphumelele                                                 | 1,743.02<br>1,740.03       |
| Christmas collections                        | 354.95   | Faith Christian Group<br>CIR Drop-in Centre                                         | 177.48<br>177.47           |
| Christingle Service                          | 107.86   | The Children's Society                                                              | 107.86                     |
| Retiring collections                         | 1,004.86 | DEC Ukraine Appeal<br>DEC Pakistan Flood Appeal<br>Bishop of Oxford's Outreach Fund | 272.76<br>394.50<br>337.60 |
| Total                                        | 4,947.72 | Total                                                                               | 4,950.72                   |
|                                              |          | Note: £3 overspend due to bank error                                                |                            |

##### Donations made from General Funds

| Payments (£)                   |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Christian Community Action     | 400.00   |
| Reading Family Aid             | 400.00   |
| Wyfold Riding for the Disabled | 400.00   |
| Yeldall Manor                  | 400.00   |
| Reading Street Pastors         | 400.00   |
| Total                          | 2,000.00 |

**ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading**

**Registered Charity No: 1164759**

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**for the year ended**

**31st DECEMBER 2022**

## ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading

### Administrative Information

St Barnabas Church is situated on St Barnabas Road, Emmer Green, Reading RG4 8RA.  
It is in the Reading Deanery of the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England.  
It is managed by the Parochial Church Council, which is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and is a Charity registered with the Charity Commission.  
Members of the PCC are registered trustees of the charity .

- 1 Registered Charity No: 1164759
- 2 Registered Address: St Barnabas Vicarage, 20 St Barnabas Road, Emmer Green, Reading RG4 8RA
- 3 Telephone: 0118 947 8239
- 4 Website: [www.saintbarnabas.org.uk](http://www.saintbarnabas.org.uk)
- 5 Trustees and members of the Parochial Church Council :

#### Ex Officio:

**Incumbent:** Revd Kevin Lovell (from 15 Dec 2022)  
(In vacancy until 15 Dec 2022)  
**Warden:** David Howell  
**Assst Wardens:** Wendy Howell  
Joy Abel

#### Elected Members:

##### Deanery Synod Representatives:

Mark Burton  
Roger Moore (Church Secretary)

##### Members:

Bob Abel (Treasurer)  
Felicity Chapman  
Richard Cunningham  
Susie Downer  
Noel Drury  
Irene Lindsay

- 6 Independent Examiner: William Harper  
Sunnybank, High Street, Upton, Didcot OX11 9JE
- 7 Bankers: **Barclays Bank plc**  
Leicester LE87 2BB  
  
**CCLA**  
Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street,  
London EC4V 4ET

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## ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading

### Finance Report

#### Financial Review

2022 has been a year of transition in which, after the lifting of Covid restrictions, more people returned to attend regular Church services and to use, and pay for, the facilities offered by the Church Hall. It is encouraging that we ended the year with a deficit of only £772, despite rising inflation, which reached 10.5% in December. This has been achieved by tight control of expenditure, by volunteers managing cleaning and minor maintenance, and by the willingness of the congregation to tolerate reduced heating during the winter months, which has kept our fuel bills manageable.

Planned giving of £35,940 in 2022 was £477 less than the previous year (2021: £36,417), reflecting the loss of seven contributors, but balanced to some extent by those uprating in line with inflation and two new people joining the Parish Giving Scheme. Collections at services for general funds increased by £1,152 (£3,235 in 2022; £2,083 in 2021) as more people felt confident in attending Church. There were less donations, however, decreasing by £1,618 from £5,931 in 2021 to £4,313 in 2022 (which included a grant from the Diocese of £1,021 to assist with energy bills). Gift aid tax recovered was similar in both years (£10,088 in 2022; £10,025 in 2021). Not all of the regular users of the Hall have felt able to return post-Covid, but income from hiring increased by £8,988 (from £8,862 in 2021 to £17,850 in 2022). In pre-Covid years, Hall rents regularly exceeded £20,000, representing a quarter of the Church's unrestricted income and we are steadily recovering to that condition. Income from the Parish Centre café has increased by £953 from £565 in 2021 to £1,518 in 2022 and other activities for generating funds produced £1,983 in 2022, up £117 on the 2021 figure (£1,866). Investment income increased from £5 in 2021 to £122 in 2022. Only three funerals and one wedding were conducted in the Church during the year, generating £873 in fees for the PCC compared with £1,114 in 2021. In summary, unrestricted receipts increased by £9,030 from £66,892 (in 2021) to £75,922 (in 2022).

Unrestricted expenditure in 2022 (£76,890) was £8,206 more than in 2021 (£68,684). The amount paid for the Parish Share increased by £1,425 (£55,802 in 2021; £57,227 in 2022). Although the Diocese had kept the Share the same as in 2021, because of the difficulties experienced by many parishes during the pandemic, the rebate received from the Deanery for paying in full in 2021 was reduced. The cost of generating funds (£4,293) was £2,126 higher than in 2021 (£2,167) as the energy and cleaning costs of the Hall increased in response to the doubling in the number of sessions booked by users. There were also increases in Clergy costs of £598 (£669 in 2021; £1,267 in 2022), mainly from the recruitment process for a new Vicar; of £706 in Church running expenses (£2,357 in 2021; £3,063 in 2022); and of £1,351 in Church building expenses (£7,689 in 2021; £9,040 in 2022). Continuing efforts are being made to contain expenditure through the use of volunteers, with only essential maintenance work being funded for the time being. Nevertheless, it was possible in 2022 to make a payment of £2,000 to five local charities from general funds for the first time since 2019.

A £15,000 legacy was received in 2020 and placed into a Designated Fund for work on the Church's buildings falling outside the definition of normal or routine maintenance. £11,225 remains in this Fund which will be used for projects approved by the PCC, although there was no expenditure in 2022. These funds could be reassigned at the discretion of the PCC should the need arise. £174 is also held in the Vicar's Discretionary Fund, which was not used during the vacancy.

Three fund raising activities (a Household and Handyman Sale, a summer Garden Party and a Christmas Fair) raised £3,482 for the two charities which we support in Africa (Education for Life and Masiphumelele), £279 less than in 2021 (£3,761). In addition, collections at services for particular charities allowed us to send £1,468 to five other charities (£661 in 2021).

Unrestricted funds showed a deficit of £968 for 2022 (deficit of £1,792 in 2021) and the accumulated balance on our general fund at 31st December 2022 was £27,011 (£27,979 in 2021). This level of reserves (see Reserves Policy below) represents around 4 months cover for our current annual running costs.

The bank balances held at 31st December 2022 were £38,437 of which £17,640 was held on current accounts with Barclays Bank for regular running costs and a further £9,371 held on deposit with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund to meet any emergency requirement. In addition the Barclays account holds £11,399 in a designated fund and £27 in restricted funds.

The challenge for the future will be to reverse the deficit and to generate sufficient income to ensure that we can continue to pay the Parish Share, can undertake the already approved building improvement projects, and have sufficient funds to pay for unexpected maintenance needs. The recent appointment of a new Vicar will inject new energy into this process.

#### Reserves Policy

It is the PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which equates to at least 3 months' unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £19,222 (using the 2022 payments figure) and is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow.

**ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading**

**Independent examiner's report to the members/trustees of St Barnabas Church, Emmer Green,  
Parochial Church Council**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Barnabas Church Emmer Green (the Trust) for the year ended 31st December 2022.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

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

**Independent examiner's statement**

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. 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.

Signed:



Name: William Harper

Address: Sunnybank, High Street, Upton, Didcot OX11 9JE

Date: 3rd February 2023

**ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading**

**Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2022**

| <b>1 Receipts and Payments Accounts</b>           | <b>Notes</b> | <b>Unrestricted Funds</b> | <b>Designated Fund</b> | <b>Restricted Funds</b> | <b>Total 2022</b>     | <b>Total 2021</b>     |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|                                                   |              | <b>£</b>                  | <b>£</b>               | <b>£</b>                | <b>£</b>              | <b>£</b>              |
| <b><u>Receipts</u></b>                            |              |                           |                        |                         |                       |                       |
| <b>Voluntary Receipts</b>                         |              |                           |                        |                         |                       |                       |
| Planned Giving                                    |              | 35,940                    | 0                      | 0                       | 35,940                | 36,417                |
| Collections at Services                           |              | 3,235                     | 0                      | 1,468                   | 4,703                 | 3,262                 |
| Other giving and voluntary receipts               | <b>1(a)</b>  | 4,313                     | 0                      | 0                       | 4,313                 | 5,931                 |
| Gift Aid Tax Recovered                            |              | 10,088                    | 0                      | 196                     | 10,284                | 10,050                |
|                                                   |              | <u>53,576</u>             | <u>0</u>               | <u>1,664</u>            | <u>55,240</u>         | <u>55,660</u>         |
| <b>Activities for generating funds</b>            | <b>1(b)</b>  | 21,351                    | 0                      | 3,482                   | 24,833                | 15,054                |
| <b>Investment Income</b>                          | <b>1(c)</b>  | 122                       | 0                      | 0                       | 122                   | 5                     |
| <b>Church Activities</b>                          | <b>1(d)</b>  | 873                       | 0                      | 0                       | 873                   | 1,177                 |
| <b>Total Receipts</b>                             |              | <u><b>75,922</b></u>      | <u><b>0</b></u>        | <u><b>5,146</b></u>     | <u><b>81,068</b></u>  | <u><b>71,896</b></u>  |
| <b><u>Payments</u></b>                            |              |                           |                        |                         |                       |                       |
| <b>Church Activities</b>                          |              |                           |                        |                         |                       |                       |
| Parish Share                                      |              | 57,227                    | 0                      | 0                       | 57,227                | 55,802                |
| Clergy and Staffing Costs                         |              | 1,267                     | 0                      | 0                       | 1,267                 | 669                   |
| Church Running and Service Expenses               | <b>1(e)</b>  | 3,063                     | 0                      | 0                       | 3,063                 | 2,357                 |
| Church Building Expenses                          | <b>1(f)</b>  | 9,040                     | 0                      | 0                       | 9,040                 | 11,429                |
| Mission Giving and Donations                      | <b>1(g)</b>  | 2,000                     | 0                      | 4,951                   | 6,951                 | 5,172                 |
|                                                   |              | <u>72,597</u>             | <u>0</u>               | <u>4,951</u>            | <u>77,548</u>         | <u>75,429</u>         |
| <b>Cost of Generating Funds</b>                   | <b>1(h)</b>  | 4,293                     | 0                      | 0                       | 4,293                 | 2,167                 |
| <b>Total Payments</b>                             |              | <u><b>76,890</b></u>      | <u><b>0</b></u>        | <u><b>4,951</b></u>     | <u><b>81,841</b></u>  | <u><b>77,596</b></u>  |
| <b>Excess/(Deficit) of Receipts over Payments</b> |              | <b>(968)</b>              | <b>0</b>               | <b>195</b>              | <b>(773)</b>          | <b>(5,700)</b>        |
| <b>Cash at Bank at 1st January</b>                |              | 27,979                    | 11,399                 | <b>(168)</b>            | 39,210                | 44,910                |
| <b>Cash at Bank at 31st December</b>              |              | <u><b>27,011</b></u>      | <u><b>11,399</b></u>   | <u><b>27</b></u>        | <u><b>38,437</b></u>  | <u><b>39,210</b></u>  |
| <b>2 Statement of Assets and Liabilities</b>      | <b>Notes</b> | <b>Unrestricted Fund</b>  | <b>Designated Fund</b> | <b>Restricted Fund</b>  | <b>Total 2022</b>     | <b>Total 2021</b>     |
|                                                   |              | <b>£</b>                  | <b>£</b>               | <b>£</b>                | <b>£</b>              | <b>£</b>              |
| <b>Cash Funds</b>                                 |              |                           |                        |                         |                       |                       |
| Barclays Bank Current Accounts                    |              | 17,640                    | 11,399                 | 27                      | 29,066                | 29,960                |
| CBF Church of England Deposit Fund                |              | 9,371                     | 0                      | 0                       | 9,371                 | 9,250                 |
|                                                   |              | <u><b>27,011</b></u>      | <u><b>11,399</b></u>   | <u><b>27</b></u>        | <u><b>38,437</b></u>  | <u><b>39,210</b></u>  |
| <b>Other Monetary Assets</b>                      |              |                           |                        |                         |                       |                       |
| Income Tax recoverable                            |              | 682                       | 0                      | 0                       | 682                   | 743                   |
| Parish Share Deanery Refund                       |              | 1,783                     | 0                      | 0                       | 1,783                 | 1,788                 |
|                                                   |              | <u><b>2,465</b></u>       | <u><b>0</b></u>        | <u><b>0</b></u>         | <u><b>2,465</b></u>   | <u><b>2,531</b></u>   |
| <b>Assets retained for Church use</b>             | <b>8</b>     | <u><b>410,909</b></u>     | <u><b>0</b></u>        | <u><b>0</b></u>         | <u><b>410,909</b></u> | <u><b>410,909</b></u> |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                                |              |                           |                        |                         |                       |                       |
| Loan                                              |              | 5,000                     | 0                      | 0                       | 5,000                 | 5,000                 |
| Other expenses                                    |              | 0                         | 0                      | 0                       | 0                     | 0                     |
|                                                   |              | <u><b>5,000</b></u>       | <u><b>0</b></u>        | <u><b>0</b></u>         | <u><b>5,000</b></u>   | <u><b>5,000</b></u>   |

Loan: At 31st December 2022 an indefinite loan of £5,000 remained outstanding. This sum had been assigned to the Organ Fund but, with the completion of the organ regeneration, is now available, by agreement, for general church purposes at the discretion of the Vicar and Wardens.

The attached notes form part of these financial statements

**ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2022**

**1 Analysis of Receipts and Payments**

|                                               | Notes | Unrestricted<br>Fund<br>£ | Designated<br>Fund<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Total<br>2022<br>£ | Total<br>2021<br>£ |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Receipts</b>                               |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| <b>a) Other giving and voluntary receipts</b> |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| Donations                                     |       | 4,012                     | 0                       | 0                        | 4,012              | 5,931              |
| Legacy                                        |       | 301                       | 0                       | 0                        | 301                | 0                  |
|                                               |       | <b>4,313</b>              | <b>0</b>                | <b>0</b>                 | <b>4,313</b>       | <b>5,931</b>       |
| <b>b) Activities for generating funds</b>     |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| Fund raising events                           |       | 1,983                     | 0                       | 3,482                    | 5,466              | 5,627              |
| Rent from Church & Hall Hire                  |       | 17,850                    | 0                       | 0                        | 17,850             | 8,862              |
| Parish Centre café                            |       | 1,518                     | 0                       | 0                        | 1,518              | 565                |
|                                               |       | <b>21,351</b>             | <b>0</b>                | <b>3,482</b>             | <b>24,833</b>      | <b>15,054</b>      |
| <b>c) Investment Income</b>                   |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| CBF Deposit Fund Interest                     |       | 122                       | 0                       | 0                        | 122                | 5                  |
| <b>d) Church Activities</b>                   |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| Fees for Weddings and Funerals                |       | 873                       | 0                       | 0                        | 873                | 1,153              |
| Vicar's Discretionary Fund                    |       | 0                         | 0                       | 0                        | 0                  | 0                  |
| Other Activities                              |       | 0                         | 0                       | 0                        | 0                  | 24                 |
|                                               |       | <b>873</b>                | <b>0</b>                | <b>0</b>                 | <b>873</b>         | <b>1,177</b>       |
| <b>Payments</b>                               |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| <b>e) Church Running and Service Expenses</b> |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| Altar requisites/flowers                      |       | 19                        | 0                       | 0                        | 19                 | 752                |
| Organist/choir                                |       | 100                       | 0                       | 0                        | 100                | 45                 |
| Vicar's Discretionary Fund                    |       | 0                         | 0                       | 0                        | 0                  | 0                  |
| Children & young people                       |       | 785                       | 0                       | 0                        | 785                | 550                |
| Stationery/printing                           |       | 524                       | 0                       | 0                        | 524                | 402                |
| Fees and subscriptions                        |       | 1,635                     | 0                       | 0                        | 1,635              | 608                |
| Other activities                              |       | 0                         | 0                       | 0                        | 0                  | 0                  |
|                                               |       | <b>3,063</b>              | <b>0</b>                | <b>0</b>                 | <b>3,063</b>       | <b>2,357</b>       |
| <b>f) Church Building Expenses</b>            |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| Equipment/consumables                         |       | 306                       | 0                       | 0                        | 306                | 45                 |
| Church insurance                              |       | 1,606                     | 0                       | 0                        | 1,606              | 1,889              |
| Utilities                                     |       | 4,332                     | 0                       | 0                        | 4,332              | 4,000              |
| Maintenance                                   |       | 2,796                     | 0                       | 0                        | 2,796              | 5,448              |
| Cleaning                                      |       | 0                         | 0                       | 0                        | 0                  | 47                 |
|                                               |       | <b>9,040</b>              | <b>0</b>                | <b>0</b>                 | <b>9,040</b>       | <b>11,429</b>      |
| <b>g) Mission Giving and Donations</b>        |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| Donations from collections at Funerals        | 6     | 0                         | 0                       | 0                        | 0                  | 39                 |
| Donations for charitable purposes             | 6 & 7 | 2,000                     | 0                       | 4,951                    | 6,951              | 5,133              |
|                                               |       | <b>2,000</b>              | <b>0</b>                | <b>4,951</b>             | <b>6,951</b>       | <b>5,172</b>       |
| <b>h) Cost of Generating Funds</b>            |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| Fund raising events                           |       | 0                         | 0                       | 0                        | 0                  | 0                  |
| Church Hall expenses                          |       | 4,293                     | 0                       | 0                        | 4,293              | 2,167              |
|                                               |       | <b>4,293</b>              | <b>0</b>                | <b>0</b>                 | <b>4,293</b>       | <b>2,167</b>       |

(1d) Fees for Weddings and Funerals are the fees retained by the PCC. Fees received on behalf of the Diocese, vergers and organists and passed directly to them are not included for 2021 in accordance with financial guidance from the Church of England, although they have been included in the Financial Statements for 2018 and earlier years.

**ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2022 (continued)**

**2 Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

**3 Fund Accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the PCC in furtherance of the general objectives of the Church.

Restricted funds are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donors or through the terms of an appeal, or fund raising events or collections as agreed by the PCC.

The designated fund represents amounts set aside by the PCC for use at the discretion of the fund holder.

**4 Designated Funds**

|                          | Vicar's<br>Discretionary<br>Fund<br>£ | Building<br>Improvements<br>Fund<br>£ | 2022<br>Total<br>£ | 2021<br>Total<br>£ |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Balance at 1st January   | 174                                   | 11,225                                | 11,399             | 15,139             |
| Receipts                 | 0                                     | 0                                     | 0                  | 0                  |
| Payments                 | 0                                     | 0                                     | 0                  | 3,740              |
| Balance at 31st December | 174                                   | 11,225                                | 11,399             | 11,399             |

**5 Restricted Funds**

|                               | Charities<br>£ | 2022<br>Total<br>£ | 2021<br>Total<br>£ |
|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Balance at 1st January        | (168)          | (168)              | 0                  |
| <b>Receipts</b>               |                |                    |                    |
| Donations received            | 0              | 0                  | 0                  |
| Collections at Funerals       | 0              | 0                  | 39                 |
| Christmas & Other Collections | 1,468          | 1,468              | 1,179              |
| Fundraising events            | 3,482          | 3,482              | 3,761              |
| Gift Aid Tax recovered        | 196            | 196                | 25                 |
|                               | <u>5,146</u>   | <u>5,146</u>       | <u>5,004</u>       |
| <b>Payments</b>               |                |                    |                    |
| Expenses                      | 0              | 0                  | 0                  |
| Funeral Donations             | 0              | 0                  | 39                 |
| Donations made to Charities   | 4,951          | 4,951              | 5,133              |
|                               | <u>4,951</u>   | <u>4,951</u>       | <u>5,172</u>       |
| Balance at 31st December      | <u>27</u>      | <u>27</u>          | <u>(168)</u>       |

**6 Donations made for Charitable purposes were as follows:**

|                                  | £            |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Education for Life               | 1,743        |
| Masiphumelele                    | 1,740        |
| The Children's Society           | 108          |
| Faith Christian Group            | 178          |
| CIRDIC                           | 177          |
| Disasters Emergency Committee    | 667          |
| Bishop of Oxford's Outreach Fund | 338          |
|                                  | <u>4,951</u> |

The Charities fund includes collections and sale proceeds from fund raising events donated to charitable causes as nominated each year by the PCC plus donations given at funerals.

**ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2022 (continued)**

**7 Charitable Giving: 2022**                      The following gifts were made from General Funds during the year:

|                            | £                   |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Christian Community Action | 400                 |
| Reading Family Aid         | 400                 |
| Wyfold RDA                 | 400                 |
| Yeldall Manor              | 400                 |
| Reading Street Pastors     | 400                 |
| <b>Total: 2022</b>         | <b><u>2,000</u></b> |

**8 Fixed assets retained for Church use are:**

|                                                | <b>2022</b>           | <b>2021</b>           |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|                                                | £                     | £                     |
| The Church Hall dedicated as a Church in 1897  | N/A                   | N/A                   |
| The Parish Centre completed in 2009            | 332,967               | 332,967               |
| The Parish Centre Garden completed in 2010     | 18,206                | 18,206                |
| The regenerated Church Organ completed in 2016 | 59,736                | 59,736                |
|                                                | <b><u>410,909</u></b> | <b><u>410,909</u></b> |

Fixed assets are stated at cost where known.

**9 Caversham Group Ministry**

The following fund is held by the Rector and Churchwardens of the Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish for the benefit of the Caversham Group Ministry. The CTM treasurer provides the financial statements:

Canon Nash Memorial funds for grants to ordination candidates and others training for work in the Church of England.

**ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading**

**Registered Charity No: 1164759**

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**for the year ended**

**31st DECEMBER 2022**

## ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading

### Administrative Information

St Barnabas Church is situated on St Barnabas Road, Emmer Green, Reading RG4 8RA.

It is in the Reading Deanery of the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England.

It is managed by the Parochial Church Council, which is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and is a Charity registered with the Charity Commission.

Members of the PCC are registered trustees of the charity .

- 1     **Registered Charity No:** 1164759
- 2     **Registered Address:**                      St Barnabas Vicarage, 20 St Barnabas Road, Emmer Green, Reading RG4 8RA
- 3     **Telephone:**                                      **0118 947 8239**
- 4     **Website:**                                        [www.saintbarnabas.org.uk](http://www.saintbarnabas.org.uk)
- 5     **Trustees and members of the Parochial Church Council :**

#### Ex Officio:

**Incumbent:**                      Revd Kevin Lovell (from 15 Dec 2022)  
                                            (In vacancy until 15 Dec 2022)

**Warden:**                         David Howell

**Assst Wardens:**                Wendy Howell  
                                            Joy Abel

#### Elected Members:

##### Deanery Synod Representatives:

Mark Burton  
Roger Moore (Church Secretary)

##### Members:

Bob Abel (Treasurer)  
Felicity Chapman  
Richard Cunningham  
Susie Downer  
Noel Drury  
Irene Lindsay

- 6     **Independent Examiner:**                      William Harper  
                                            Sunnybank, High Street, Upton, Didcot OX11 9JE
  - 7     **Bankers:**                                        **Barclays Bank plc**  
                                            Leicester LE87 2BB
- CCLA**  
Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street,  
London EC4V 4ET

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## ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading

### Finance Report

#### Financial Review

2022 has been a year of transition in which, after the lifting of Covid restrictions, more people returned to attend regular Church services and to use, and pay for, the facilities offered by the Church Hall. It is encouraging that we ended the year with a deficit of only £772, despite rising inflation, which reached 10.5% in December. This has been achieved by tight control of expenditure, by volunteers managing cleaning and minor maintenance, and by the willingness of the congregation to tolerate reduced heating during the winter months, which has kept our fuel bills manageable.

Planned giving of £35,940 in 2022 was £477 less than the previous year (2021: £36,417), reflecting the loss of seven contributors, but balanced to some extent by those uprating in line with inflation and two new people joining the Parish Giving Scheme. Collections at services for general funds increased by £1,152 (£3,235 in 2022; £2,083 in 2021) as more people felt confident in attending Church. There were less donations, however, decreasing by £1,618 from £5,931 in 2021 to £4,313 in 2022 (which included a grant from the Diocese of £1,021 to assist with energy bills). Gift aid tax recovered was similar in both years (£10,088 in 2022; £10,025 in 2021). Not all of the regular users of the Hall have felt able to return post-Covid, but income from hiring increased by £8,988 (from £8,862 in 2021 to £17,850 in 2022). In pre-Covid years, Hall rents regularly exceeded £20,000, representing a quarter of the Church's unrestricted income and we are steadily recovering to that condition. Income from the Parish Centre café has increased by £953 from £565 in 2021 to £1,518 in 2022 and other activities for generating funds produced £1,983 in 2022, up £117 on the 2021 figure (£1,866). Investment income increased from £5 in 2021 to £122 in 2022. Only three funerals and one wedding were conducted in the Church during the year, generating £873 in fees for the PCC compared with £1,114 in 2021. In summary, unrestricted receipts increased by £9,030 from £66,892 (in 2021) to £75,922 (in 2022).

Unrestricted expenditure in 2022 (£76,890) was £8,206 more than in 2021 (£68,684). The amount paid for the Parish Share increased by £1,425 (£55,802 in 2021; £57,227 in 2022). Although the Diocese had kept the Share the same as in 2021, because of the difficulties experienced by many parishes during the pandemic, the rebate received from the Deanery for paying in full in 2021 was reduced. The cost of generating funds (£4,293) was £2,126 higher than in 2021 (£2,167) as the energy and cleaning costs of the Hall increased in response to the doubling in the number of sessions booked by users. There were also increases in Clergy costs of £598 (£669 in 2021; £1,267 in 2022), mainly from the recruitment process for a new Vicar; of £706 in Church running expenses (£2,357 in 2021; £3,063 in 2022); and of £1,351 in Church building expenses (£7,689 in 2021; £9,040 in 2022). Continuing efforts are being made to contain expenditure through the use of volunteers, with only essential maintenance work being funded for the time being. Nevertheless, it was possible in 2022 to make a payment of £2,000 to five local charities from general funds for the first time since 2019.

A £15,000 legacy was received in 2020 and placed into a Designated Fund for work on the Church's buildings falling outside the definition of normal or routine maintenance. £11,225 remains in this Fund which will be used for projects approved by the PCC, although there was no expenditure in 2022. These funds could be reassigned at the discretion of the PCC should the need arise. £174 is also held in the Vicar's Discretionary Fund, which was not used during the vacancy.

Three fund raising activities (a Household and Handyman Sale, a summer Garden Party and a Christmas Fair) raised £3,482 for the two charities which we support in Africa (Education for Life and Masiphumelele), £279 less than in 2021 (£3,761). In addition, collections at services for particular charities allowed us to send £1,468 to five other charities (£661 in 2021).

Unrestricted funds showed a deficit of £968 for 2022 (deficit of £1,792 in 2021) and the accumulated balance on our general fund at 31st December 2022 was £27,011 (£27,979 in 2021). This level of reserves (see Reserves Policy below) represents around 4 months cover for our current annual running costs.

The bank balances held at 31st December 2022 were £38,437 of which £17,640 was held on current accounts with Barclays Bank for regular running costs and a further £9,371 held on deposit with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund to meet any emergency requirement. In addition the Barclays account holds £11,399 in a designated fund and £27 in restricted funds.

The challenge for the future will be to reverse the deficit and to generate sufficient income to ensure that we can continue to pay the Parish Share, can undertake the already approved building improvement projects, and have sufficient funds to pay for unexpected maintenance needs. The recent appointment of a new Vicar will inject new energy into this process.

#### Reserves Policy

It is the PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which equates to at least 3 months' unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £19,222 (using the 2022 payments figure) and is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow.

**ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading**

**Independent examiner's report to the members/trustees of St Barnabas Church, Emmer Green,  
Parochial Church Council**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Barnabas Church Emmer Green (the Trust) for the year ended 31st December 2022.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

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

**Independent examiner's statement**

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. 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.

Signed:



Name: William Harper

Address: Sunnybank, High Street, Upton, Didcot OX11 9JE

Date: 3rd February 2023

ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading

**Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2022**

| <b>1 Receipts and Payments Accounts</b>           | <b>Notes</b> | <b>Unrestricted Funds</b> | <b>Designated Fund</b> | <b>Restricted Funds</b> | <b>Total 2022</b> | <b>Total 2021</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                                                   |              | <b>£</b>                  | <b>£</b>               | <b>£</b>                | <b>£</b>          | <b>£</b>          |
| <b>Receipts</b>                                   |              |                           |                        |                         |                   |                   |
| <b>Voluntary Receipts</b>                         |              |                           |                        |                         |                   |                   |
| Planned Giving                                    |              | 35,940                    | 0                      | 0                       | 35,940            | 36,417            |
| Collections at Services                           |              | 3,235                     | 0                      | 1,468                   | 4,703             | 3,262             |
| Other giving and voluntary receipts               | <b>1(a)</b>  | 4,313                     | 0                      | 0                       | 4,313             | 5,931             |
| Gift Aid Tax Recovered                            |              | 10,088                    | 0                      | 196                     | 10,284            | 10,050            |
|                                                   |              | <b>53,576</b>             | <b>0</b>               | <b>1,664</b>            | <b>55,240</b>     | <b>55,660</b>     |
| <b>Activities for generating funds</b>            | <b>1(b)</b>  | <b>21,351</b>             | <b>0</b>               | <b>3,482</b>            | <b>24,833</b>     | <b>15,054</b>     |
| <b>Investment Income</b>                          | <b>1(c)</b>  | <b>122</b>                | <b>0</b>               | <b>0</b>                | <b>122</b>        | <b>5</b>          |
| <b>Church Activities</b>                          | <b>1(d)</b>  | <b>873</b>                | <b>0</b>               | <b>0</b>                | <b>873</b>        | <b>1,177</b>      |
| <b>Total Receipts</b>                             |              | <b>75,922</b>             | <b>0</b>               | <b>5,146</b>            | <b>81,068</b>     | <b>71,896</b>     |
| <b>Payments</b>                                   |              |                           |                        |                         |                   |                   |
| <b>Church Activities</b>                          |              |                           |                        |                         |                   |                   |
| Parish Share                                      |              | 57,227                    | 0                      | 0                       | 57,227            | 55,802            |
| Clergy and Staffing Costs                         |              | 1,267                     | 0                      | 0                       | 1,267             | 669               |
| Church Running and Service Expenses               | <b>1(e)</b>  | 3,063                     | 0                      | 0                       | 3,063             | 2,357             |
| Church Building Expenses                          | <b>1(f)</b>  | 9,040                     | 0                      | 0                       | 9,040             | 11,429            |
| Mission Giving and Donations                      | <b>1(g)</b>  | 2,000                     | 0                      | 4,951                   | 6,951             | 5,172             |
|                                                   |              | <b>72,597</b>             | <b>0</b>               | <b>4,951</b>            | <b>77,548</b>     | <b>75,429</b>     |
| <b>Cost of Generating Funds</b>                   | <b>1(h)</b>  | <b>4,293</b>              | <b>0</b>               | <b>0</b>                | <b>4,293</b>      | <b>2,167</b>      |
| <b>Total Payments</b>                             |              | <b>76,890</b>             | <b>0</b>               | <b>4,951</b>            | <b>81,841</b>     | <b>77,596</b>     |
| <b>Excess/(Deficit) of Receipts over Payments</b> |              | <b>(968)</b>              | <b>0</b>               | <b>195</b>              | <b>(773)</b>      | <b>(5,700)</b>    |
| <b>Cash at Bank at 1st January</b>                |              | <b>27,979</b>             | <b>11,399</b>          | <b>(168)</b>            | <b>39,210</b>     | <b>44,910</b>     |
| <b>Cash at Bank at 31st December</b>              |              | <b>27,011</b>             | <b>11,399</b>          | <b>27</b>               | <b>38,437</b>     | <b>39,210</b>     |
| <b>2 Statement of Assets and Liabilities</b>      | <b>Notes</b> | <b>Unrestricted Fund</b>  | <b>Designated Fund</b> | <b>Restricted Fund</b>  | <b>Total 2022</b> | <b>Total 2021</b> |
|                                                   |              | <b>£</b>                  | <b>£</b>               | <b>£</b>                | <b>£</b>          | <b>£</b>          |
| <b>Cash Funds</b>                                 |              |                           |                        |                         |                   |                   |
| Barclays Bank Current Accounts                    |              | 17,640                    | 11,399                 | 27                      | 29,066            | 29,960            |
| CBF Church of England Deposit Fund                |              | 9,371                     | 0                      | 0                       | 9,371             | 9,250             |
|                                                   |              | <b>27,011</b>             | <b>11,399</b>          | <b>27</b>               | <b>38,437</b>     | <b>39,210</b>     |
| <b>Other Monetary Assets</b>                      |              |                           |                        |                         |                   |                   |
| Income Tax recoverable                            |              | 682                       | 0                      | 0                       | 682               | 743               |
| Parish Share Deanery Refund                       |              | 1,783                     | 0                      | 0                       | 1,783             | 1,788             |
|                                                   |              | <b>2,465</b>              | <b>0</b>               | <b>0</b>                | <b>2,465</b>      | <b>2,531</b>      |
| <b>Assets retained for Church use</b>             | <b>8</b>     | <b>410,909</b>            | <b>0</b>               | <b>0</b>                | <b>410,909</b>    | <b>410,909</b>    |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                                |              |                           |                        |                         |                   |                   |
| Loan                                              |              | 5,000                     | 0                      | 0                       | 5,000             | 5,000             |
| Other expenses                                    |              | 0                         | 0                      | 0                       | 0                 | 0                 |
|                                                   |              | <b>5,000</b>              | <b>0</b>               | <b>0</b>                | <b>5,000</b>      | <b>5,000</b>      |

**Loan:** At 31st December 2022 an indefinite loan of £5,000 remained outstanding. This sum had been assigned to the Organ Fund but, with the completion of the organ regeneration, is now available, by agreement, for general church purposes at the discretion of the Vicar and Wardens.

The attached notes form part of these financial statements

**ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2022**

**1 Analysis of Receipts and Payments**

|                                               | Notes | Unrestricted<br>Fund<br>£ | Designated<br>Fund<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Total<br>2022<br>£ | Total<br>2021<br>£ |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Receipts</b>                               |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| <b>a) Other giving and voluntary receipts</b> |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| Donations                                     |       | 4,012                     | 0                       | 0                        | 4,012              | 5,931              |
| Legacy                                        |       | 301                       | 0                       | 0                        | 301                | 0                  |
|                                               |       | <b>4,313</b>              | <b>0</b>                | <b>0</b>                 | <b>4,313</b>       | <b>5,931</b>       |
| <b>b) Activities for generating funds</b>     |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| Fund raising events                           |       | 1,983                     | 0                       | 3,482                    | 5,466              | 5,627              |
| Rent from Church & Hall Hire                  |       | 17,850                    | 0                       | 0                        | 17,850             | 8,862              |
| Parish Centre café                            |       | 1,518                     | 0                       | 0                        | 1,518              | 565                |
|                                               |       | <b>21,351</b>             | <b>0</b>                | <b>3,482</b>             | <b>24,833</b>      | <b>15,054</b>      |
| <b>c) Investment Income</b>                   |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| CBF Deposit Fund Interest                     |       | <b>122</b>                | <b>0</b>                | <b>0</b>                 | <b>122</b>         | <b>5</b>           |
| <b>d) Church Activities</b>                   |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| Fees for Weddings and Funerals                |       | 873                       | 0                       | 0                        | 873                | 1,153              |
| Vicar's Discretionary Fund                    |       | 0                         | 0                       | 0                        | 0                  | 0                  |
| Other Activities                              |       | 0                         | 0                       | 0                        | 0                  | 24                 |
|                                               |       | <b>873</b>                | <b>0</b>                | <b>0</b>                 | <b>873</b>         | <b>1,177</b>       |
| <b>Payments</b>                               |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| <b>e) Church Running and Service Expenses</b> |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| Altar requisites/flowers                      |       | 19                        | 0                       | 0                        | 19                 | 752                |
| Organist/choir                                |       | 100                       | 0                       | 0                        | 100                | 45                 |
| Vicar's Discretionary Fund                    |       | 0                         | 0                       | 0                        | 0                  | 0                  |
| Children & young people                       |       | 785                       | 0                       | 0                        | 785                | 550                |
| Stationery/printing                           |       | 524                       | 0                       | 0                        | 524                | 402                |
| Fees and subscriptions                        |       | 1,635                     | 0                       | 0                        | 1,635              | 608                |
| Other activities                              |       | 0                         | 0                       | 0                        | 0                  | 0                  |
|                                               |       | <b>3,063</b>              | <b>0</b>                | <b>0</b>                 | <b>3,063</b>       | <b>2,357</b>       |
| <b>f) Church Building Expenses</b>            |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| Equipment/consumables                         |       | 306                       | 0                       | 0                        | 306                | 45                 |
| Church insurance                              |       | 1,606                     | 0                       | 0                        | 1,606              | 1,889              |
| Utilities                                     |       | 4,332                     | 0                       | 0                        | 4,332              | 4,000              |
| Maintenance                                   |       | 2,796                     | 0                       | 0                        | 2,796              | 5,448              |
| Cleaning                                      |       | 0                         | 0                       | 0                        | 0                  | 47                 |
|                                               |       | <b>9,040</b>              | <b>0</b>                | <b>0</b>                 | <b>9,040</b>       | <b>11,429</b>      |
| <b>g) Mission Giving and Donations</b>        |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| Donations from collections at Funerals        | 6     | 0                         | 0                       | 0                        | 0                  | 39                 |
| Donations for charitable purposes             | 6 & 7 | 2,000                     | 0                       | 4,951                    | 6,951              | 5,133              |
|                                               |       | <b>2,000</b>              | <b>0</b>                | <b>4,951</b>             | <b>6,951</b>       | <b>5,172</b>       |
| <b>h) Cost of Generating Funds</b>            |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| Fund raising events                           |       | 0                         | 0                       | 0                        | 0                  | 0                  |
| Church Hall expenses                          |       | 4,293                     | 0                       | 0                        | 4,293              | 2,167              |
|                                               |       | <b>4,293</b>              | <b>0</b>                | <b>0</b>                 | <b>4,293</b>       | <b>2,167</b>       |

(1d) Fees for Weddings and Funerals are the fees retained by the PCC. Fees received on behalf of the Diocese, vergers and organists and passed directly to them are not included for 2021 in accordance with financial guidance from the Church of England, although they have been included in the Financial Statements for 2018 and earlier years.

**ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2022 (continued)**

**2 Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

**3 Fund Accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the PCC in furtherance of the general objectives of the Church. Restricted funds are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donors or through the terms of an appeal, or fund raising events or collections as agreed by the PCC. The designated fund represents amounts set aside by the PCC for use at the discretion of the fund holder.

**4 Designated Funds**

|                                 | Vicar's<br>Discretionary<br>Fund<br>£ | Building<br>Improvements<br>Fund<br>£ | 2022<br>Total<br>£ | 2021<br>Total<br>£ |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Balance at 1st January</b>   | 174                                   | 11,225                                | <b>11,399</b>      | <b>15,139</b>      |
| Receipts                        | 0                                     | 0                                     | 0                  | 0                  |
| Payments                        | 0                                     | 0                                     | 0                  | 3,740              |
| <b>Balance at 31st December</b> | 174                                   | 11,225                                | <b>11,399</b>      | <b>11,399</b>      |

**5 Restricted Funds**

|                                 | Charities<br>£ | 2022<br>Total<br>£ | 2021<br>Total<br>£ |
|---------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Balance at 1st January</b>   | <b>(168)</b>   | <b>(168)</b>       | <b>0</b>           |
| <b>Receipts</b>                 |                |                    |                    |
| Donations received              | 0              | 0                  | 0                  |
| Collections at Funerals         | 0              | 0                  | 39                 |
| Christmas & Other Collections   | 1,468          | 1,468              | 1,179              |
| Fundraising events              | 3,482          | 3,482              | 3,761              |
| Gift Aid Tax recovered          | 196            | 196                | 25                 |
|                                 | <b>5,146</b>   | <b>5,146</b>       | <b>5,004</b>       |
| <b>Payments</b>                 |                |                    |                    |
| Expenses                        | 0              | 0                  | 0                  |
| Funeral Donations               | 0              | 0                  | 39                 |
| Donations made to Charities     | 4,951          | 4,951              | 5,133              |
|                                 | <b>4,951</b>   | <b>4,951</b>       | <b>5,172</b>       |
| <b>Balance at 31st December</b> | <b>27</b>      | <b>27</b>          | <b>(168)</b>       |

**6 Donations made for Charitable purposes were as follows:**

|                                  | £            |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Education for Life               | 1,743        |
| Masiphumelele                    | 1,740        |
| The Children's Society           | 108          |
| Faith Christian Group            | 178          |
| CIRDIC                           | 177          |
| Disasters Emergency Committee    | 667          |
| Bishop of Oxford's Outreach Fund | 338          |
|                                  | <b>4,951</b> |

The Charities fund includes collections and sale proceeds from fund raising events donated to charitable causes as nominated each year by the PCC plus donations given at funerals.

**ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2022 (continued)**

**7 Charitable Giving: 2022** The following gifts were made from General Funds during the year:

|                            | £                   |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Christian Community Action | 400                 |
| Reading Family Aid         | 400                 |
| Wyfold RDA                 | 400                 |
| Yeldall Manor              | 400                 |
| Reading Street Pastors     | 400                 |
| <b>Total: 2022</b>         | <b><u>2,000</u></b> |

**8 Fixed assets retained for Church use are:**

|                                                | <b>2022</b>           | <b>2021</b>           |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|                                                | £                     | £                     |
| The Church Hall dedicated as a Church in 1897  | N/A                   | N/A                   |
| The Parish Centre completed in 2009            | 332,967               | 332,967               |
| The Parish Centre Garden completed in 2010     | 18,206                | 18,206                |
| The regenerated Church Organ completed in 2016 | 59,736                | 59,736                |
|                                                | <b><u>410,909</u></b> | <b><u>410,909</u></b> |

Fixed assets are stated at cost where known.

**9 Caversham Group Ministry**

The following fund is held by the Rector and Churchwardens of the Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish for the benefit of the Caversham Group Ministry. The CTM treasurer provides the financial statements:

Canon Nash Memorial funds for grants to ordination candidates and others training for work in the Church of England.

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# Accounts

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**ST BARNABAS CHURCH EMMER GREEN**

**ANNUAL REPORT of the Parochial Church Council  
(The Trustees Report)**

**For the Period ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021**

## **UNDERSTANDING THE PAST AND LOOKING TO THE FUTURE**

During 2021 the PCC took the opportunity to address a number of issues which have become ever more relevant with the departure of the Rev Derek Chandler and the uncertainties associated with an interregnum and what St Barnabas will be like in the future.

The Covid 19 pandemic and its impact on church life and the ability to maintain social cohesion has generated the need to look carefully even forensically at ourselves.

During discussions members provided a variety of views on the role of the PCC and also what the church should be like going forward including the importance of: providing encouragement and support, defining a strategy for the 'new normal', helping people back into the world, caring for the elderly who are now less able than 12 months ago, keeping in mind the general public, seizing the opportunity to think deeply and clearly about what should be done, recognizing the injured in our church and community and the importance of children and families.

Rev Chandler was a catalyst in these discussions prompting for consideration by the PCC a number of questions. What sort of church community are we now? What do we aspire to become? Members indicated a strong desire for a return of in person fellowship with the opportunity to have a chat over a cup of tea. Some were genuinely excited by the prospect of regathering, others were concerned. Others expressed the desire to reinstate Bible study groups. Whilst regathering was seen as critical, the importance of maintaining and developing the online service was also seen as important. It was suggested that 'online' would become more important for the elderly. The importance of learning from past initiatives was identified. Identifying lost sheep and bringing them back into the fold.

Of particular concern was young families' ministry. A number of specific questions were raised including: What is the goal? Are we simply seeking to re-establish what we did before in relation to ministry to young families? Will that even be possible or relevant? Will it work? Views included: the importance of talking to families and establishing what they want, the possibility of developing parenting sessions possibly with other local churches, adopting a simple approach, having a warm and friendly atmosphere, re-establishing and developing connections with schools, using local specialist help for example youth workers and RE inspired team, avoiding taking on too much, learning lessons from past initiatives, offering free coffee and cake to mums on the school run.

For the future and before we can fill our vacancy, we need to determine the vision, hopes and sense of direction for the mission and ministry of our church and this will need the involvement of the whole church community not just the PCC and Leadership Team. We will need to spell out our 'story' where we have come from, where we are now and where we hope to be in the future. We need to be honest and realistic about where we are as a church and where we might hope to be in 5 years' time. It is from this sense of direction for the mission and ministry that the key priorities for the role of the new minister will emerge along with the key personal gifts, skills and attributes of the person appointed which will be needed to help us work towards our vision and mission. Potential candidates should be able to see what the challenges and opportunities of our benefice are and to judge how their particular gifts and skills might "fit".

There is a lot to be done and the way ahead will not be straightforward.

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

St Barnabas Church is situated in Grove Road, Emmer Green, Reading. It is within the Reading Deanery, which is part of the Diocese of Oxford. The correspondence address of the PCC Secretary is 10 Barnard Close, Caversham, Reading RG4 6RZ. St Barnabas is registered with the Charity Commission as a charity – number 1164759.

The PCC members who served during the calendar year 2021 were:

|             |   |                                                    |
|-------------|---|----------------------------------------------------|
| Incumbent   | - | Revd Derek Chandler (Chairman) until July 2021     |
| Curate      | - | Revd Leonard Onugha (from Sep 2020) until May 2021 |
| Wardens     | - | David Howell<br>Mark Burton (until March 2021)     |
| Asst Warden | - | Wendy Howell (from March 2021)                     |

| Deanery Synod Representatives | Elected                    |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Mark Burton                   | 2014 (re-elected Oct 2020) |
| Roger Moore                   | 2017 (re-elected Oct 2020) |
| Members                       |                            |
| Susie Downer                  | 2016                       |
| Felicity Chapman              | 2015                       |
| Wendy Howell                  | 2015                       |
| Bob Abel                      | 2016                       |
| Irene Lindsay                 | 2021                       |
| Noel Drury                    | 2021 Co-opted              |
| Richard Cunningham            | 2021 Co-opted              |

### Other officers not members of PCC

|                  |          |      |
|------------------|----------|------|
| Ass Churchwarden | Joy Abel | 2021 |
|------------------|----------|------|

## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Parish comes within the Benefice of St Barnabas and Caversham Park. Both are separate parishes. From the beginning of 2021 only St Barnabas had a functioning PCC. Derek Chandler until his departure was the C of E incumbent for Caversham Park Parish as well as St Barnabas.

PCCs are charities governed by two pieces of Church of England legislation: the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended and the Church Representation Rules. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All eligible Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC held 5 meetings during the year. The work of other groups are reflected in this report.

The running of the church is supported by volunteers covering all areas of activity – Annex A

Again in 2021 the pandemic had an impact on church activities.

## **OBJECTIVES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

It has maintenance responsibilities for the church and the church hall.

## **COMPLIANCE**

The PCC members (the Trustees) of St Barnabas Church, Emmer Green, Reading (Number 1164759) in agreeing this Annual Report noted that they were fully aware of the Charity Commission Guidance on Public Benefit and were of the opinion that the activities of St Barnabas Church met the Charity Commission requirements.

## **CHURCH ATTENDANCE**

From the beginning of August 2021 our patterns of service changed due to the departure of Revd Derek Chandler and the start of the interregnum, which meant we became reliant on visiting clergy.

Because of this change it is difficult to provide an accurate average attendee figure that would be meaningful. However, as an estimate for 2021 overall it would be an averaging of 35 gathered with an online presence of 8 meaning an average of 43 per service, which is well below the pre-pandemic 2019 figure of 69. Towards the end of 2021 the average is slightly higher at a total of 50.

The Wednesday 10:30 communion maintained its average of 8 and the 8am Sunday service was postponed for the period of the interregnum.

The largest attended Service excluding schools was the Christingle with 32 Children and 57 adults, total attendance 89.

During Christmas we had School services with a total of 430 children and 118 adults at various services

*David Howell*

## **CHURCH MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE**

### **Overview of PCC year**

February saw the PCC discussing:

- “Come and See” an initiative, overlapping Alpha, aimed at giving those who may be seeking to refresh their faith or wish to understand what Christianity means in everyday life.
- The pros and cons of keeping the church open faced with the serious concerns of the Covid 19 pandemic and after robust discussion voting to maintain the church open for worship

The PCC used the April meeting to clear a number of administrative matters including:

- resolving unanimously to co-opt Noel Drury and electing Richard Cunningham.

- confirming the appointments of Bob Abel as Treasurer, Roger Moore as Secretary, and Richard Cunningham as Electoral Roll Officer
- noting that Bill Harper had been appointed Independent Examiner at the APCM
- and electing David Howell as Lay Vice Chair.

The PCC also discussed the Diocesan policy on dignity and respect focussing on what we should do rather than avoiding what we shouldn't do. It was decided that:

- A Self Care audit should be undertaken
- A PCC Code of Conduct should be produced
- There should be an annual PCC Away Day to foster team working

At the June meeting members said goodbye to Derek and wished him and Hayley well in the new challenges and opportunities they faced.

Members also considered the development of a new AV system which might include a single pan/tilt/zoom camera and a new projector integrated with the current church audio system. Work to produce costed proposals is in hand.

Derek's leaving necessitated a change to the pattern of services. Given the requirement to have communion every Sunday and the limited availability of clergy the following was agreed:

- That Readings and Prayers of intercession will from 4<sup>th</sup> July 2021 normally be carried out in church.
- That the COGS Service at 9.30am on the first Sunday of the month would be suspended and replaced by a communion service.
- Also decides that from 4<sup>th</sup> July 2021 there will be an All-Age Service at 11.30am on the first Sunday of the month Lay Lead.
- That the 8am communion service will be suspended until further notice

Towards the end of the year the PCC recommended Noel Drury be considered as an Authorized Lay Preacher and apart from general administrative matters, focussed on the vacancy. There was an Extraordinary PCC meeting at which the Associate Archdeacon Liz Jackson gave an insight into the vacancy process and explained that resolving Caversham Park Parish was a key issue.

*Roger Moore*

## **Health and Safety**

There have been no general health and safety issues/concerns during a year where the Covid 19 pandemic has dominated health and safety. The church's approach to the pandemic and meeting governmental and CofE guidelines and regulations is highlighted in a number of sections of this report.

Notwithstanding the central concern of Covid 19, it is important any general health and safety issues are identified and notified.

Many thanks need to go to Douglas Rae who stood down in 2021 from the role of Health and Safety officer. Over the years he has been diligent, providing constructive advice and guidance in an unassuming and low key way.

*Roger Moore*

## **Safeguarding**

Although 2021 was an atypical year for St Barnabas Church, safeguarding for all members of the congregation has continued regardless. Gradually groups have been meeting again and we have tried to make sure that group leaders are aware of the process of referral if there are any concerns for members of the groups.

I attended the Area Safeguarding Meeting in March, on zoom. It was announced that the DBS checks will now have to be renewed every 3 years rather than 5-yearly as was the case previously. Some church members have already updated their DBS and others will do so in 2022.

Some of the levels of safeguarding training have been relabelled and fresh training or retraining will be organised in 2022. The notices concerning safeguarding were updated in both the Parish Hall and the Parish Centre.

There has been one cause of concern which is being monitored as we move forward. The Diocesan Safeguarding team has been helpful in this process. The process of accessing support from the Diocese has been helped as there is now a "Dashboard" scheme and I have registered St Barnabas with this for future use.

*Joy Abel, Safeguarding Officer*

## **Electoral Roll.**

The present electoral roll, as of 31st December 2021, contains 116 names, of which 31 are recorded as not resident within the parish boundary. If you wish to be added to the roll, please ask me and I will explain what is required and can supply a form.

*Richard Cunningham, Electoral Roll Officer*

## **Planned Giving.**

I continue to record who-gave-what week-by-week for our giving schemes on which we can claim a tax refund under "Gift Aid" from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC). These are: Standing orders, Weekly green envelopes in the offertory plate, the central Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), and Once-off envelopes.

(For those who don't know about Gift Aid: if you give your income to St Barnabas, it's no longer 'yours' and so HMRC will refund the income tax. At the present rate of tax £1 earned results in 20p of tax paid, leaving you with 80p; so when you give 80p we get 20p more when we claim that refund from HMRC, and so £1 given by you results in £1.25 received by us.)

Since my report in last year's annual APCM paperwork, I have made two claims to HMRC (excluding PGS) which have resulted in payments totalling £4,050.74; the last one was submitted for giving up to 31st October 2021. The HMRC "Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme" (GASDS) means we can claim Gift Aid on cash donations up to £30 where we have no signed declaration, and a claim for GASDS was included in these two claims.

The PGS scheme carries out a claim to HMRC monthly on our behalf and over the period 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021 reports that it has claimed £5,999.64 from HMRC. At present there are about 20 who contribute by standing orders, and about 33 who give by PGS. Those who pay by once-off envelopes tend to be once-off visitors, perhaps attending a baptism or funeral. Cash in the offertory plate results in a GASDS claim.

The small green envelopes that were used by regular givers remain in use by four givers, but we have saved some money by re-using un-used envelope sets printed for a previous financial year. The givers are asked to correct the printed date on the envelope and write on the date which they placed the envelope in the offertory. Their anonymity is preserved because the envelopes carry a number which is known only to me and the giver. I anticipate that we will continue to use up the old envelopes, which will last for several years yet.

A way to increase our income is for those who pay income tax but who give outside any of the methods I have mentioned in my first paragraph, to join one of these schemes. Please approach me, and I will provide details of the scheme; you will certainly be asked to sign a declaration to say that you wish that income tax you have paid on your gift is be reclaimed.

Finally, my thanks to all those who continue to support St Barnabas Church through the gift of money. Your help is so important in all that we do.

*Richard Cunningham, Planned giving officer*

## **WORSHIP AND MINISTRY**

### **Choir and Music**

2021 saw the gradual introduction of masked singing back into services. By the end of the year we had returned to a near normal service, just omitting the hymns before the Gospel and after the peace. When the current spike in COVID-19 infections retreats, we'll discuss returning these hymns to the service too.

In November, we started rehearsing carols in the hope that we'd be able to hold our usual service of lessons and carols on the Sunday before Christmas. It was great to have a choir of 23 for rehearsals, some joining us from the congregation and others from outside the church. After careful consideration, the choir members all took a lateral flow test on the day of the service, and we sang with masks. We've been overwhelmed by the response to this service. Many thanks to everyone involved, especially John Volland and the readers.

Regular members of the choir have been a huge support over this difficult period, showing great willingness to adapt to an ever-changing situation. Without their lead the music of the church would be much poorer - thank you all for your support. I'm also delighted to report that we have a few new choir members and others who plan to join us again for Christmas 2022.

Many thanks to everyone who has sung with us this year, with particular thanks to Helen Lam for her help at choir practices, Gail Houghton for accompanying the choir for the All-Souls' service, and to Guy Watt for his beautiful trumpet playing.

*Felicity Chapman*

### **Children's Church**

Children's Church stopped running as we do not have children of the right age coming to Church. Families stopped attending Church during the Covid pandemic even when the Church opened for in-person worship. We have run it previously when there was only 1 child but this doesn't work very well and at the moment Mark and I are the only people around to run it.

The Easter Egg Hunt at Easter was enjoyed by about 10 families. The Family Ministry Team began to organise events for families. There were events over the summer – (Rounders and Alternative Olympics) which were enjoyed by those who attended but were less well attended.

*Debbie Burton*

## **Prayer Chain**

In 2021 I was very pleased to add two more individuals to the list of those who continue to covenant to pray and honour God's name.

We have prayed for:

- Those in distress because of illness, bereavement, life-changing events
- Those who have died
- Encouragement and guidance for individuals and events
- With thankful hearts

We have remembered in our prayers over 70 individuals, situations or events.

We give thanks for the freedom and opportunity to raise our concerns with God, something that the pandemic cannot overcome.

I am very happy to discuss the Prayer Chain with anyone who may be interested either in joining it or who would appreciate prayers being offered on their behalf or both.

*Susie Downer*

## **Puppet Ministry**

The puppets came out of furlough and returned after the pandemic to our schools and for the first time a full nativity show in church.

*David Howell*

## **The Study and Discussion Group**

The Study and Discussion Group is made up of a small number of Saint Barnabas members, which meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 2.30pm at Irene Lindsay's home, 'Serenity' 13 Saint Barnabas Road.

Our aim is to study the Bible or other suitable Christian material and then discuss how we can apply its teaching to our everyday lives today.

We choose our future programme together. During the early part of the month the reading for the next meeting is circulated, together with a list of questions we may wish to discuss.

Sessions begin and end with a prayer, or the grace, and all members of the group are encouraged, into leading those prayers if they wish (they do not have to). Obviously, the group is open to all members of St. Barnabas and we would certainly welcome you if you feel you would like to 'test the waters!'

Do contact Mark on 9543777 or Irene on 3480485 if you have any questions or would like to receive the material for next month.

*Irene Lindsay*

## **PARISH CENTRE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES**

### **Parish Centre Manager**

The Parish centre started to return to normal, but minus Happy Feet, Mini Maestro's and the Thursday drop in.

*David Howell*

## **Busy Bees**

Busy Bees moved to online Sessions because of the Covid Pandemic and numbers viewing decreased, so we stopped broadcasting in December 2020. We did not hold in-person Busy Bees sessions for much of 2021 because of the Pandemic, but Busy Bees restarted at the beginning of September 2021.

Since restarting in September we have had varying numbers from 1 family to 10 families, the average being about 7 families. At the moment we have a few families with older children and more young children / babies.

Thank you to all who make Busy Bees a success – Mark, Wendy, Roger, Shirley and Rene.

*Debbie Burton*

## **Fundraising/Charities Report for 2021**

### **Fundraising**

In 2020, none of the usual events could take place due to COVID. As 2021 dawned and restrictions were eased, I was able to plan for the Annual Handyman sale. The weather was kind so as many stalls as possible were held outside, and those inside the hall were spaced out and a one-way system was operated. Mask wearing, Hand sanitising and check and trace were also carried out. We had a great turnout of customers who appeared to be so glad to be out and see people, even if they didn't buy anything!

The Summer Garden Party and Christmas Fair were easier to organise as life was getting back to normal. After an initial panic due to many regular stall holders being busy at the time of the Christmas Fair, others rallied to my call and to them and everyone else, I am eternally grateful. These events are valued in the community as a way of meeting up in these still difficult times and of course, provide money to our 2 charities, Education for Life in Kenya and Masiphumelele in South Africa.

### **Charitable Giving**

Due to financial constraints, the church was not able to make donations to our list of charities in 2020.

I'm pleased to say that the financial situation eased at the end of 2021. The list of charities that we support was revisited, but as time was short the decision was made to support only 5 that have a connection with church members. These will receive £400 each from 2022 funds.

- Reading Family Aid
- Reading Street Pastors
- Wyfold Riding for the Disabled
- Yeldall Manor
- CIRDIC

Towards the end of 2022, the congregation will once again be asked to nominate charities that St. Barnabas might consider to support going forward.

*Wendy Howell*

### **Charities**

In 2021 the lifting of some Covid restrictions enabled £5,172 to be collected for seven charities from fund-raising activities and collections at services. The details are set out in Annex B.

*Bob Abel*

## **Men's Breakfast**

Men's Breakfast resumed in July, just in time to say farewell to Derek. The numbers steadily increased throughout the year.

*David Howell*

## **Tuesday Craft Group**

Due to COVID this had to stop but as restrictions lifted, we met again in a very safe way. We restricted the numbers and sat in small groups wearing masks whilst walking about. Tea and biscuits were "delivered" to the ladies, similar to the practice in restaurants. It was a great relief for many that we could meet up again once a week for just over an hour. One lady who was very apprehensive about starting again decided to try it and was seen skipping on her way home. When asked, she said it was so nice to be out and about again and meeting with friends. The numbers have gradually grown back to between 15-18. We were able to hold our Bring & Share Christmas lunch last December.

It is my pleasure to serve these ladies who always have something to share with each other. We have a great laugh!

*Wendy Howell*

## **Parish Centre – Bereavement Support**

Bereaved people often have the impression that, after a certain time, their friends and relatives consider it "healthy" for them to "move on." However, grief is different for everyone, and each person has to find their own way to live with what has happened, and within their own timescale.

Living with Loss has been meeting monthly since 2010, initially as a drop in. The group gradually changed to a more formal support group and continues to be very much valued by the existing members. Unfortunately, this format began to seem intimidating to some people attending for the first time, giving rise to the need for a separate meeting with a different style.

Since October 2021, Living with Loss has moved from the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in the month.

Bereavement Café. This new venture began on 1<sup>st</sup> October and will continue to take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month. The informal drop-in Café provides an opportunity for anyone who has experienced a loss, either recently or sometime ago, to meet others in a similar position for mutual support and understanding. The Café has been advertised in Caversham Bridge, Round and About, and via Caversham Library, the Weller Centre, funeral directors and GP surgeries. 11 individuals have attended across the 1<sup>st</sup> 4 meetings, including 3 men and 2 people from Coley and 1 from Caversham Heights.

*Gillian Wilson*

## **Friday Afternoon Friendship Group**

We meet on the second and fourth Friday of the month @ 2 p.m. in the Parish Centre for tea, cake, chatter and activities. The latter often include (easy) quizzes, board games, cards etc. – chosen by members. We're always delighted to welcome newcomers so if you'd like to come along, please just pop in or get in touch.

Mary Cameron,  
Tel: 0118 972 2942

Mob: 0790 747 1101  
Email: [marycam7@googlemail.com](mailto:marycam7@googlemail.com)

*Mary Cameron*

## **COMMUNICATION**

The first edition of "Read all About It" was published at the beginning of the year. Subsequent editions included short histories of PCC members and also members of the congregation describing their faith journeys

During the year, every week services have been broadcast to the church community using Zoom and a simple camera and fixed position. A small group of AV operators has managed this role. The PCC recognized the limitations and agreed to invest in a more versatile set up that was easier to use. ( see Overview of PCC) Work on developing a costed proposal is underway.

## **BUILDING MANAGEMENT**

The fabric of all three buildings remain strong with no new issues since the last report. We took oversight of the Vicarage on Derek's departure.

We continue to have a leak in the Parish Centre if the gutters are not cleaned on a regular basis.

The two major expenditure items where to rectify a breakdown in the Parish Centre Central Heating system and replace the wooden retaining walls in the garden.

The vicarage has undergone a significant maintenance programme and the Diocese have now let out the property for 9 months. This means that we no longer have to inspect the build twice a week.

*David Howell*

## **ST BARNABAS HALL REPORT 2021**

The use of the Hall in 2021 gradually increased through the year. The two regular users who teach Dance to youngsters, were the only groups to run from Christmas till Easter. Government restrictions applied to spacing and cleaning in the Hall until July, causing many groups to postpone restarting, and resulting in the cancellation of our February Fish and Chip supper.

The two Brownie groups restarted after Easter, and Ami Roy Yoga and Maureen Maude Keep Fit were back in action again from May. Harriet Wilkinson ran her evening Pilates class from June for the rest of the year. Daniela's Zumba class, Age UK Tai Chi and Guides all started in July. The Hall was in use for the St Barnabas Garden Party and for Dereks leaving Party. In September the Wednesday Art Group, Rosehill WI and a new schools Tutor Group started and then lastly Sue Hopcutts morning Pilates class returned in October. Singing for the Brain on Fridays sadly did not restart. But we do have a new User in a Theatre Group rehearsing on two sessions each week.

Thank you to all the Groups who use the Hall. The details for each are shown on The St Barnabas Church website. Thank you Felicity, for your help updating the website details. Everyone is free to look up details of any classes that might interest you. The contact details are shown for the leaders of each group.

In September family childrens parties restarted and I'm delighted that there were 16 parties in the Hall in the months up to Christmas. It's an ideal space for parties, well thought of and popular.

So without lockdowns, Hall rental income increased to £8,862 in 2021 compared to a total in 2020 of £6413. Income to the Hall supports our Church by a considerable amount, but in 2021 that support had to be almost halved. We hope that 2022 will bring less restrictions and an increase in rental income. We pray for an end to this pandemic by means of vaccines, and that social life, and life in our Church & Hall, can return to normal.

Thank you to Guy Watt for constructing a new external notice board. The old one was falling to pieces. Small items of maintenance were carried out, by painting the porch doors, external windowsills and varnishing over damaged bits of the hall floor.

Thanks to Shirley Choules who kept the Hall clean when it was in action. Thanks to the people in the congregation who help with other maintenance – Bob Abel for accounts & billing, and others for bins, electrical checking and so on.

*Jon Barclay, Hall Manager    Hall phone 07580 029910*

## **WIDER CHURCH REPORT 2021 – READING DEANERY SYNOD & OXFORD DIOCESAN SYNOD REINSPIRED AND CTC HOLIDAY CLUB**

### **Reading Deanery Synod & Oxford Diocesan Synod**

#### **Zoom Meetings**

We all got used to meeting via Zoom. We had to learn the new protocols for attending remotely via Zoom.

Some people like face-to-face meetings, but feedback from Diocesan Synod members was that a lot of people did like meeting via Zoom. It is certainly safer, and the green dividend is that avoids the necessity for travel to meetings.

These are a couple of Issues that we have discussed

#### **Holy Communion**

When churches were closed for Public Worship, there were no Holy Communion Services. When churches were permitted to open, then Communion was permitted to be “of one kind” (people taking the bread only), and people taking both bread and wine was only permitted in exceptional circumstances. A lot of people were interested in being able to share wine together but from separate cups, as happens in many non-conformist churches.

This issue was being discussed by Church of England theologians, but progress was slow. We had a very useful discussion about the issue.

Witney Deanery put a motion to Diocesan Synod, that it:

- i) acknowledges the health advice behind receiving communion in one kind during the global pandemic of Covid-19 and the theological advice that communion in one kind is nevertheless ‘complete communion’
- ii) notes that in practice this has caused hurt to some who have been unable to receive bread and wine together
- iii) recognises that within the Deanery of Witney there is a diversity of theological opinion on this matter
- iv) calls on Diocesan Synod to ask the House of Bishops to offer assistance, advice and teaching on this matter (in particular to address online communion, remote consecration of communion and individual communion cups.)

This Synod requests the House of Bishops to offer assistance, advice and teaching on this matter (to address online communion, remote consecration of communion and individual communion cups.)’

This is one way that we can influence the National Church. However, the outcome has been that use of individual cups for communion is not permitted in the Church of England

### **Committee Governance**

Whilst this may appear a dry topic, good governance is essential for well run organisations. It enables transparency and accountability and effectiveness. So the function, membership and terms office of all boards and committees are being reviewed. This is a long process.

### **Parish Share Review Group**

Oxford Diocese is also reviewing how Parish Share will be calculated in future. The first stage is a review by the Parish Share Review Group. I have been appointed a member of this group. Recommendations will not be put to Diocesan Synod until the middle of 2022.

### **Reading Deanery Synod**

Reading Deanery Synod has continued to function but has encountered difficulties. We do not have a Deanery Secretary, which has made administration very difficult. The Deanery agreed to operate a model of dividing the Deanery into 4 areas, and for there to be an Area Dean and three Associate Area Deans, and a Lay Chair and three Associate Lay Chairs, and One of the Area Dean Team, and one of the Lay Chair Team would be responsible for each of the areas.

Roger Moore was elected as an Associate Lay Chair, and I was elected Lay Chair, and am also continuing as Deanery Treasurer.

### **Financial Impact of Covid-19**

Oxford Diocese agreed not to increase Deanery Shares for 2021 despite an increase in costs. Therefore, Reading Deanery agreed not to increase 2021 Parish Shares. Despite all the problems Reading Deanery managed to its 2021 Deanery Share, although the Deanery had to use its reserves to do so, which was appropriate as several churches also had to do so.

### **REinspired**

Owing to Covid, schools were reluctant to have visitors in. For most of the year only the managers were able to lead some sessions in some schools. In the Autumn Term a few in-person sessions were arranged, and I took part in a session at Caversham Primary School. It is good that children have access to RE sessions led by Christians and hopefully more sessions will be able to take place next year.

### **CTC Holiday Club**

CTC Holiday Club was different in 2021. Instead of a week, it was planned to have one day in a different church each Friday. I volunteered to lead the session at Grace Church, but unfortunately, Debbie & I caught Covid, so we had to cancel the session planned for St Barnabas.

*Mark Burton*

## Annex A – 2021 VOLUNTEERS AND ACTIVITIES

This statement describes how many of the activities involved in running and sustaining the Church were organized and who as an individual or as a team had responsibility for the various activities during 2021. Many activities were in abeyance due to Covid 19 restrictions. Some activities changed responsibility and others were no longer supported. New volunteers and members are always welcome.

| Worship and Ministry                             |                                                                                                   | Building                                           |                          |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Intercessions                                    | Sandra Rice<br>now Susie Downer                                                                   | Verger                                             | vacant                   |
| Servers                                          | Elaine Bloomfield                                                                                 | Centre Manager                                     | David Howell             |
| Sacristan                                        | Vacant                                                                                            | Gardens                                            | Tony & Juliet<br>Holland |
| Sidespeople                                      | Richard Cunningham                                                                                | Maintenance team                                   | vacant                   |
| Sound system                                     | vacant                                                                                            | Hall Manager                                       | Jon Barclay              |
| Altar linen                                      | Susie Downer                                                                                      | Display Boards                                     | Richard Cunningham       |
| Lesson Reading                                   | Joy Abel                                                                                          |                                                    |                          |
| Flowers                                          | Wendy Howell                                                                                      |                                                    |                          |
| Alpha                                            |                                                                                                   |                                                    |                          |
| Children's church:<br>Debbie Burton, Mark Burton |                                                                                                   | Choir and Music Group<br>Felicity Chapman and Team |                          |
| Bible study notes                                | vacant                                                                                            |                                                    |                          |
| Chalice                                          | vacant                                                                                            |                                                    |                          |
| Fellowship Groups                                |                                                                                                   |                                                    |                          |
| Monday evening                                   | Noel Drury                                                                                        |                                                    |                          |
| Thursday (day)                                   | Ruth Thomas                                                                                       |                                                    |                          |
| Tuesday (even)                                   |                                                                                                   |                                                    |                          |
| Wed Bible Study                                  |                                                                                                   |                                                    |                          |
| Thursday Fellowship                              | Shirley Corti                                                                                     |                                                    |                          |
| Study & Discussion                               | Mark Burton                                                                                       |                                                    |                          |
| Living with Loss                                 | Gillian Wilson                                                                                    |                                                    |                          |
| Bereavement Cafe                                 | Gillian Wilson                                                                                    |                                                    |                          |
| Tea & Fellowship                                 | Mary Cameron                                                                                      |                                                    |                          |
| Activities                                       |                                                                                                   |                                                    |                          |
| H&S                                              | vacant                                                                                            |                                                    |                          |
| Safeguarding                                     | Joy Abel                                                                                          |                                                    |                          |
| Centre Drop-Ins                                  | Wendy & David Howell                                                                              |                                                    |                          |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday Tea                       | Gillian Wilson & Team                                                                             |                                                    |                          |
| Busy Bees                                        | Derek Chandler, Shirley Corti, Wendy Moore, Mark Burton, Debbie Burton, Rene Hood and Roger Moore |                                                    |                          |
| Fund Raising                                     | Wendy Howell and Team                                                                             |                                                    |                          |
| Catering Team                                    | Shirley Corti                                                                                     |                                                    |                          |
| Sunday tea                                       | Wendy Howell                                                                                      |                                                    |                          |
|                                                  |                                                                                                   |                                                    |                          |

## **Annex B – CHARITIES**

### **SUMMARY OF CHARITABLE DONATIONS MADE IN 2021**

#### **Restricted Fund Raising**

| Receipts                                                                                             |           | Payments               |                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Christmas collections                                                                                | £341.58   | £341.58                | CIR Drop in Centre                  |
| Handyman Sale, Garden Party<br>& Christmas Fair plus some other<br>donations for 2 African charities | £4,510.97 | £2,255.48<br>£2,255.49 | Masiphumelele<br>Education for Life |
| Retiring collection                                                                                  | £136.01   | £136.01                | Yeldall Manor                       |
| Retiring collection                                                                                  | £80.15    | £80.15                 | Royal British Legion                |
| Christingle Service                                                                                  | £64.55    | £64.55                 | The Childrens Society               |
| Totals                                                                                               | £5,133.26 | £5,133.26              |                                     |

#### **Donations at Funeral Services**

| Receipts             |        | Payments |                                      |
|----------------------|--------|----------|--------------------------------------|
| Two Funeral Services | £39.00 | £39.00   | Sue Ryder Duchess of Kent<br>Hospice |
| Totals               | £39.00 | £39.00   |                                      |

#### **Donations made from Genral Funds**

No donations were made from General Funds in 2021. It is hoped to resume our practice of making £2,000 to £3,000 available for local charities in 2022.

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**ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading**

**Registered Charity No: 1164759**

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**for the year ended**

**31st DECEMBER 2021**

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## ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading

### Administrative Information

St Barnabas Church is situated on St Barnabas Road, Emmer Green, Reading RG4 8RA.  
It is in the Reading Deanery of the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England.  
It is managed by the Parochial Church Council, which is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and is a Charity registered with the Charity Commission.  
Members of the PCC are registered trustees of the charity .

- 1 Registered Charity No: 1164759
- 2 Registered Address: St Barnabas Vicarage, 20 St Barnabas Road, Emmer Green, Reading RG4 8RA
- 3 Telephone: 0118 947 8239
- 4 Website: [www.saintbarnabas.org.uk](http://www.saintbarnabas.org.uk)
- 5 Trustees and members of the Parochial Church Council :

#### Ex Officio:

**Incumbent:** Revd Derek Chandler (Chairman) (until July 2021)  
**Curate:** Revd Leonard Onugha (until May 2021)  
**Wardens:** David Howell  
Mark Burton (until Mar 2021)  
**Asstt Warden:** Wendy Howell (from Mar 2021)

#### Elected Members:

##### Deanery Synod Representatives:

Mark Burton  
Roger Moore (Church Secretary)

##### Members:

Bob Abel (Treasurer)  
Felicity Chapman  
Richard Cunningham (co-opted Apr 2021)  
Susie Downer  
Noel Drury (co-opted Apr 2021)  
Irene Lindsay (elected Mar 2021)  
Wendy Howell

- 6 Other officers not members of the PCC:  
**Asstt Warden:** Joy Abel (from Mar 2021)
- 7 Independent Examiner: William Harper  
Sunnybank, High Street, Upton, Didcot OX11 9JE
- 8 Bankers: **Barclays Bank plc**  
Leicester LE87 2BB  
  
**CCLA**  
Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street,  
London EC4V 4ET

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| Page 4   | Financial Statements              |
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## ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading

### Finance Report

#### Financial Review

A second year of Covid restrictions made 2021 difficult to manage financially, with payments outstripping receipts by £5,700. The loss of a contribution from the sister Church in the Benefice, and reduced income from Hall rental and normal Church activities, initially suggested that we would have difficulty paying our Parish Share. However, this was reduced by the Diocese and a legacy received in 2020 did ensure that we would not run out of funds in the immediate future. Tight control of expenditure has helped to keep the deficit for the year manageable, but in the longer term we will need to generate sufficient income to balance the budget and ensure that we can pay for eg unexpected maintenance needs.

Planned giving of £36,417 in 2021 was £859 higher than the previous year (2020: £35,548), and ordinary collections recovered from £992 in 2020 to £2,083 (an increase of £1,091). Donations, however, decreased from £10,276 in 2020 to £5,931 in 2021 (down £4,345). Included within the 2020 figure was the £5,000 p.a. contributed by Caversham Park Church LEP in recognition of the ministry provided to them by the Incumbent. This contribution stopped when the Church of England withdrew from the LEP at the end of 2020. Gift aid tax recovered was up by £369 (£9,656 in 2020; £10,025 in 2021). The fees received for weddings and funerals amounted to £1,114 in 2021 (£2,228 in 2020), the decrease of £1,114 reflecting payments made at the end of 2020 for weddings scheduled for early in 2021. Continuing Covid restrictions affected the income from the hiring out of the Church Hall but there was some recovery over the disappointing figure of £6,413 in 2020 (£8,862 in 2021, an increase of £2,449). There is some way still to go before the Hall again reaches its full potential and this has wider implications; the amount received in 2019 (£21,211) represented 24% of the Church's unrestricted income. In summary, unrestricted receipts increased by £891 from £66,001 (in 2020) to £66,892 (in 2021).

Unrestricted expenditure in 2021 (£68,684) was £2,238 less than in 2020 (£70,922). The amount paid to the Diocese for the Parish Share reduced by £3,346 (£59,148 in 2020; £55,802 in 2021) in recognition of the difficulties experienced by many parishes during the pandemic. The cost of generating funds (£2,167) was £733 less than in 2020 (£2,900). On the other hand, Clergy costs increased by £588 (£669 in 2021; £81 in 2020), Church running expenses (£2,357) were £175 higher than in 2020 (£2,182), and Church building expenses increased by £1,078 from £6,611 in 2020 to £7,689 in 2021. Significant efforts have been made to restrain expenditure during the year with cleaning, for instance, now being done by volunteers and maintenance being confined for the moment to essential work.

In 2020, a £15,000 legacy received from the estate of a long-standing Church member was placed into a Designated Fund for work on the Church's buildings falling outside the definition of normal or routine maintenance. £3,740 was spent from this fund in 2021 on upgrading the woodwork in the Parish Garden. Other projects which had been previously approved will be progressed when more normal conditions return post-Covid-19, although these funds could be reassigned at the discretion of the PCC should the need arise.

As restrictions on meeting in public were reduced during 2021, it proved possible to reinstate our three fund raising activities (a Household and Handyman Sale, a summer Garden Party and a Christmas Fair) and these, together with a substantial donation, raised £4,511 for the two charities which we support in Africa (Education for Life and Masiphumelele). In addition, collections at services allowed us to send £661 to five other charities. None of these donations were possible in 2020. No payments were made from general funds to local charities, but these are expected to resume in 2022.

Unrestricted funds showed a deficit of £1,792 for 2021 (deficit of £4,916 in 2020) and the accumulated balance on our general fund at 31st December 2021 was £27,979 (£29,771 in 2020). This level of reserves (see Reserves Policy below) represents almost 5 months cover for our current annual running costs, although these are much lower than normal because of the influence the Covid restrictions have had on the Church's normal activities.

The bank balances held at 31st December 2021 were £39,210 of which £18,729 was held on current accounts with Barclays Bank for regular running costs and a further £9,250 held on deposit with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund to meet any emergency requirement. In addition one of the Barclays accounts holds £11,399 in a designated fund and a deficit of £168 in restricted funds representing refunds of gift aid tax expected from HMRC in 2022.

As the country learns to live with Covid, and provided more dangerous variants of the virus do not emerge which require strong Government action, it should be possible to return to something resembling normal conditions during 2022. That could well turn out to be another difficult year but we do at least start it from a relatively healthy financial position.

#### Reserves Policy

It is the PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which equates to at least 3 months' unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £17,171 (using the 2021 payments figure) and is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow.

**ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading**

**Independent examiner's report to the members/trustees of St Barnabas Church, Emmer Green,  
Parochial Church Council**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Barnabas Church Emmer Green (the Trust) for the year ended 31st December 2021.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

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

**Independent examiner's statement**

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. 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.

Signed:



Name: William Harper

Address: Sunnybank, High Street, Upton, Didcot OX11 9JE

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022

ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

| 1 Receipts and Payments Accounts                  | Notes        | Unrestricted Funds       | Designated Fund        | Restricted Funds       | Total 2021        | Total 2020        |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                                                   |              | £                        | £                      | £                      | £                 | £                 |
| <b>Receipts</b>                                   |              |                          |                        |                        |                   |                   |
| <b>Voluntary Receipts</b>                         |              |                          |                        |                        |                   |                   |
| Planned Giving                                    |              | 36,417                   | 0                      | 0                      | 36,417            | 35,548            |
| Collections at Services                           |              | 2,083                    | 0                      | 1,179                  | 3,262             | 992               |
| Other giving and voluntary receipts               | 1(a)         | 5,931                    | 0                      | 0                      | 5,931             | 25,426            |
| Gift Aid Tax Recovered                            |              | 10,025                   | 0                      | 25                     | 10,050            | 9,707             |
|                                                   |              | 54,456                   | 0                      | 1,204                  | 55,660            | 71,673            |
| <b>Activities for generating funds</b>            | 1(b)         | 11,293                   | 0                      | 3,761                  | 15,054            | 7,266             |
| <b>Investment Income</b>                          | 1(c)         | 5                        | 0                      | 0                      | 5                 | 39                |
| <b>Church Activities</b>                          | 1(d)         | 1,138                    | 0                      | 39                     | 1,177             | 2,283             |
| <b>Total Receipts</b>                             |              | <b>66,892</b>            | <b>0</b>               | <b>5,004</b>           | <b>71,896</b>     | <b>81,261</b>     |
| <b>Payments</b>                                   |              |                          |                        |                        |                   |                   |
| <b>Church Activities</b>                          |              |                          |                        |                        |                   |                   |
| Parish Share                                      |              | 55,802                   | 0                      | 0                      | 55,802            | 59,148            |
| Clergy and Staffing Costs                         |              | 669                      | 0                      | 0                      | 669               | 407               |
| Church Running and Service Expenses               | 1(e)         | 2,357                    | 0                      | 0                      | 2,357             | 2,182             |
| Church Building Expenses                          | 1(f)         | 7,689                    | 3,740                  | 0                      | 11,429            | 6,646             |
| Mission Giving and Donations                      | 1(g)         | 0                        | 0                      | 5,172                  | 5,172             | 220               |
|                                                   |              | 66,517                   | 3,740                  | 5,172                  | 75,429            | 68,603            |
| <b>Cost of Generating Funds</b>                   | 1(h)         | 2,167                    | 0                      | 0                      | 2,167             | 2,900             |
| <b>Total Payments</b>                             |              | <b>68,684</b>            | <b>3,740</b>           | <b>5,172</b>           | <b>77,596</b>     | <b>71,503</b>     |
| <b>Excess/(Deficit) of Receipts over Payments</b> |              | <b>(1,792)</b>           | <b>(3,740)</b>         | <b>(168)</b>           | <b>(5,700)</b>    | <b>9758</b>       |
| <b>Cash at Bank at 1st January</b>                |              | <b>29,771</b>            | <b>15,139</b>          | <b>0</b>               | <b>44,910</b>     | <b>35,152</b>     |
| <b>Cash at Bank at 31st December</b>              |              | <b>27,979</b>            | <b>11,399</b>          | <b>(168)</b>           | <b>39,210</b>     | <b>44,910</b>     |
| <b>2 Statement of Assets and Liabilities</b>      | <b>Notes</b> | <b>Unrestricted Fund</b> | <b>Designated Fund</b> | <b>Restricted Fund</b> | <b>Total 2021</b> | <b>Total 2020</b> |
|                                                   |              | £                        | £                      | £                      | £                 | £                 |
| <b>Cash Funds</b>                                 |              |                          |                        |                        |                   |                   |
| Barclays Bank Current Accounts                    |              | 18,729                   | 11,399                 | (168)                  | 29,960            | 35,665            |
| CBF Church of England Deposit Fund                |              | 9,250                    | 0                      | 0                      | 9,250             | 9,245             |
|                                                   |              | <b>27,979</b>            | <b>11,399</b>          | <b>(168)</b>           | <b>39,210</b>     | <b>44,910</b>     |
| <b>Other Monetary Assets</b>                      |              |                          |                        |                        |                   |                   |
| Income Tax recoverable                            |              | 575                      | 0                      | 168                    | 743               | 666               |
| Parish Share Deanery Refund                       |              | 1,788                    | 0                      | 0                      | 1,788             | 3,213             |
|                                                   |              | <b>2,363</b>             | <b>0</b>               | <b>168</b>             | <b>2,531</b>      | <b>3,879</b>      |
| <b>Assets retained for Church use</b>             | <b>8</b>     | <b>410,909</b>           | <b>0</b>               | <b>0</b>               | <b>410,909</b>    | <b>410,909</b>    |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                                |              |                          |                        |                        |                   |                   |
| Loan                                              |              | 0                        | 0                      | 5,000                  | 5,000             | 5,000             |
| Other expenses                                    |              | 0                        | 0                      | 0                      | 0                 | 0                 |
|                                                   |              | <b>0</b>                 | <b>0</b>               | <b>5,000</b>           | <b>5,000</b>      | <b>5,000</b>      |

**Loan:** At 31st December 2021 an indefinite loan of £5,000 remained outstanding. This sum had been assigned to the Organ Fund but, with the completion of the organ regeneration, is now available, by agreement, for general church purposes at the discretion of the Vicar and Wardens.

The attached notes form part of these financial statements

**ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2021**

**1 Analysis of Receipts and Payments**

|                                               | Notes | Unrestricted<br>Fund<br>£ | Designated<br>Fund<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Total<br>2021<br>£ | Total<br>2020<br>£ |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Receipts</b>                               |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| <b>a) Other giving and voluntary receipts</b> |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| Donations                                     |       | 5,931                     | 0                       | 0                        | 5,931              | 10,426             |
| Legacy                                        |       | 0                         | 0                       | 0                        | 0                  | 15,000             |
|                                               |       | <b>5,931</b>              | <b>0</b>                | <b>0</b>                 | <b>5,931</b>       | <b>25,426</b>      |
| <b>b) Activities for generating funds</b>     |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| Fund raising events                           |       | 1,866                     | 0                       | 3,761                    | 5,627              | 363                |
| Rent from Church Hall Hire                    |       | 8,862                     | 0                       | 0                        | 8,862              | 6,413              |
| Parish Centre café                            |       | 565                       | 0                       | 0                        | 565                | 490                |
|                                               |       | <b>11,293</b>             | <b>0</b>                | <b>3,761</b>             | <b>15,054</b>      | <b>7,266</b>       |
| <b>c) Investment Income</b>                   |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| CBF Deposit Fund Interest                     |       | 5                         | 0                       | 0                        | 5                  | 39                 |
| <b>d) Church Activities</b>                   |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| Fees for Weddings and Funerals                |       | 1,114                     | 0                       | 39                       | 1,153              | 2,283              |
| Vicar's Discretionary Fund                    |       | 0                         | 0                       | 0                        | 0                  | 0                  |
| Other Activities                              |       | 24                        | 0                       | 0                        | 24                 | 0                  |
|                                               |       | <b>1,138</b>              | <b>0</b>                | <b>39</b>                | <b>1,177</b>       | <b>2,283</b>       |
| <b>Payments</b>                               |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| <b>e) Church Running and Service Expenses</b> |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| Altar requisites/flowers                      |       | 752                       | 0                       | 0                        | 752                | 20                 |
| Organist/choir                                |       | 45                        | 0                       | 0                        | 45                 | 233                |
| Vicar's Discretionary Fund                    |       | 0                         | 0                       | 0                        | 0                  | 0                  |
| Children & young people                       |       | 550                       | 0                       | 0                        | 550                | 560                |
| Stationery/printing                           |       | 402                       | 0                       | 0                        | 402                | 876                |
| Fees and subscriptions                        |       | 608                       | 0                       | 0                        | 608                | 491                |
| Other activities                              |       | 0                         | 0                       | 0                        | 0                  | 2                  |
|                                               |       | <b>2,357</b>              | <b>0</b>                | <b>0</b>                 | <b>2,357</b>       | <b>2,182</b>       |
| <b>f) Church Building Expenses</b>            |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| Equipment/consumables                         |       | 45                        | 0                       | 0                        | 45                 | 81                 |
| Church insurance                              |       | 1,889                     | 0                       | 0                        | 1,889              | 0                  |
| Utilities                                     |       | 4,000                     | 0                       | 0                        | 4,000              | 3,210              |
| Maintenance                                   |       | 1,708                     | 3,740                   | 0                        | 5,448              | 2,946              |
| Cleaning                                      |       | 47                        | 0                       | 0                        | 47                 | 409                |
|                                               |       | <b>7,689</b>              | <b>3,740</b>            | <b>0</b>                 | <b>11,429</b>      | <b>6,646</b>       |
| <b>g) Mission Giving and Donations</b>        |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| Donations from collections at Funerals        | 6     | 0                         | 0                       | 39                       | 39                 | 55                 |
| Donations for charitable purposes             | 6 & 7 | 0                         | 0                       | 5,133                    | 5,133              | 165                |
|                                               |       | <b>0</b>                  | <b>0</b>                | <b>5,172</b>             | <b>5,172</b>       | <b>220</b>         |
| <b>h) Cost of Generating Funds</b>            |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| Fund raising events                           |       | 0                         | 0                       | 0                        | 0                  | 466                |
| Church Hall expenses                          |       | 2,167                     | 0                       | 0                        | 2,167              | 2,434              |
|                                               |       | <b>2,167</b>              | <b>0</b>                | <b>0</b>                 | <b>2,167</b>       | <b>2,900</b>       |

(1d) Fees for Weddings and Funerals are the fees retained by the PCC. Fees received on behalf of the Diocese, vergers and organists and passed directly to them are not included for 2021 in accordance with financial guidance from the Church of England, although they have been included in the Financial Statements for 2018 and earlier years.

**ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2021 (continued)**

**2 Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

**3 Fund Accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the PCC in furtherance of the general objectives of the Church.

Restricted funds are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donors or through the terms of an appeal, or fund raising events or collections as agreed by the PCC.

Designated funds represent amounts set aside by the PCC for use at the discretion of the fund holder. This is the Vicar in the case of the Vicar's Discretionary Fund. A Building Improvements Fund was established by the PCC in 2020, following receipt of a legacy, and is managed by the Churchwardens and Treasurer.

**4 Designated Funds**

|                          | Vicar's<br>Discretionary<br>Fund | Building<br>Improvements<br>Fund | 2021<br>Total | 2020<br>Total |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                          | £                                | £                                | £             | £             |
| Balance at 1st January   | 174                              | 14,965                           | 15,139        | 500           |
| Receipts                 | 0                                | 0                                | 0             | 15,000        |
| Payments                 | 0                                | 3,740                            | 3,740         | 361           |
| Balance at 31st December | 174                              | 11,225                           | 11,399        | 15,139        |

**5 Restricted Funds**

|                               | Charities    | 2021<br>Total | 2020<br>Total |
|-------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
|                               | £            | £             | £             |
| Balance at 1st January        | 0            | 0             | (35)          |
| <b>Receipts</b>               |              |               |               |
| Donations received            | 0            | 0             |               |
| Collections at Funerals       | 39           | 39            | 55            |
| Christmas & Other Collections | 1,179        | 1,179         | 150           |
| Fundraising events            | 3,761        | 3,761         | 0             |
| Gift Aid Tax recovered        | 25           | 25            | 50            |
|                               | <b>5,004</b> | <b>5,004</b>  | <b>255</b>    |
| <b>Payments</b>               |              |               |               |
| Expenses                      | 0            | 0             | 0             |
| Funeral Donations             | 39           | 39            | 55            |
| Donations made to Charities   | 5,133        | 5,133         | 165           |
|                               | <b>5,172</b> | <b>5,172</b>  | <b>220</b>    |
| Balance at 31st December      | <b>(168)</b> | <b>(168)</b>  | <b>0</b>      |

**6 Donations made for Charitable purposes were as follows:**

|                        | £            |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Education for Life     | 2,255        |
| Masiphumelele          | 2,255        |
| The Children's Society | 65           |
| CIRDIC                 | 342          |
| Yeldall Manor          | 136          |
| Royal British Legion   | 80           |
|                        | <b>5,133</b> |

**Funeral donations:**

|           | £         |
|-----------|-----------|
| Sue Ryder | 39        |
|           | <b>39</b> |

The Charities fund includes collections and sale proceeds from fund raising events donated to charitable causes as nominated each year by the PCC plus donations given at funerals.

**ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2021 (continued)**

- 7 Charitable Giving : 2021**                      No gifts were made from General Funds during the year:

| <b>8 Fixed assets retained for Church use are:</b> | <b>2020</b>           | <b>2019</b>           |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|                                                    | <b>£</b>              | <b>£</b>              |
| The Church Hall dedicated as a Church in 1897      | N/A                   | N/A                   |
| The Parish Centre completed in 2009                | 332,967               | 332,967               |
| The Parish Centre Garden completed in 2010         | 18,206                | 18,206                |
| The regenerated Church Organ completed in 2016     | 59,736                | 59,736                |
|                                                    | <b><u>410,909</u></b> | <b><u>410,909</u></b> |

Fixed assets are stated at cost where known.

**9 Caversham Group Ministry**

The following fund is held by the Rector and Churchwardens of the Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish for the benefit of the Caversham Group Ministry. The CTM treasurer provides the financial statements:

Canon Nash Memorial funds for grants to ordination candidates and others training for work in the Church of England.

**ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading**

**Registered Charity No: 1164759**

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**for the year ended**

**31st DECEMBER 2021**

## ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading

### Administrative Information

St Barnabas Church is situated on St Barnabas Road, Emmer Green, Reading RG4 8RA.  
It is in the Reading Deanery of the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England.  
It is managed by the Parochial Church Council, which is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and is a Charity registered with the Charity Commission.  
Members of the PCC are registered trustees of the charity .

- 1 Registered Charity No: 1164759
- 2 Registered Address: St Barnabas Vicarage, 20 St Barnabas Road, Emmer Green, Reading RG4 8RA
- 3 Telephone: 0118 947 8239
- 4 Website: [www.saintbarnabas.org.uk](http://www.saintbarnabas.org.uk)
- 5 Trustees and members of the Parochial Church Council :

#### Ex Officio:

**Incumbent:** Revd Derek Chandler (Chairman) (until July 2021)  
**Curate:** Revd Leonard Onugha (until May 2021)  
**Wardens:** David Howell  
Mark Burton (until Mar 2021)  
**Assst Warden:** Wendy Howell (from Mar 2021)

#### Elected Members:

##### Deanery Synod Representatives:

Mark Burton  
Roger Moore (Church Secretary)

##### Members:

Bob Abel (Treasurer)  
Felicity Chapman  
Richard Cunningham (co-opted Apr 2021)  
Susie Downer  
Noel Drury (co-opted Apr 2021)  
Irene Lindsay (elected Mar 2021)  
Wendy Howell

- 6 Other officers not members of the PCC:  
**Assst Warden:** Joy Abel (from Mar 2021)
- 7 Independent Examiner: William Harper  
Sunnybank, High Street, Upton, Didcot OX11 9JE
- 8 Bankers: **Barclays Bank plc**  
Leicester LE87 2BB  
  
**CCLA**  
Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street,  
London EC4V 4ET

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Page 2 Finance Report  
Page 3 Independent Examiner's Report  
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## ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading

### Finance Report

#### Financial Review

A second year of Covid restrictions made 2021 difficult to manage financially, with payments outstripping receipts by £5,700. The loss of a contribution from the sister Church in the Benefice, and reduced income from Hall rental and normal Church activities, initially suggested that we would have difficulty paying our Parish Share. However, this was reduced by the Diocese and a legacy received in 2020 did ensure that we would not run out of funds in the immediate future. Tight control of expenditure has helped to keep the deficit for the year manageable, but in the longer term we will need to generate sufficient income to balance the budget and ensure that we can pay for eg unexpected maintenance needs.

Planned giving of £36,417 in 2021 was £859 higher than the previous year (2020: £35,548), and ordinary collections recovered from £992 in 2020 to £2,083 (an increase of £1,091). Donations, however, decreased from £10,276 in 2020 to £5,931 in 2021 (down £4,345). Included within the 2020 figure was the £5,000 p.a. contributed by Caversham Park Church LEP in recognition of the ministry provided to them by the Incumbent. This contribution stopped when the Church of England withdrew from the LEP at the end of 2020. Gift aid tax recovered was up by £369 (£9,656 in 2020; £10,025 in 2021). The fees received for weddings and funerals amounted to £1,114 in 2021 (£2,228 in 2020), the decrease of £1,114 reflecting payments made at the end of 2020 for weddings scheduled for early in 2021. Continuing Covid restrictions affected the income from the hiring out of the Church Hall but there was some recovery over the disappointing figure of £6,413 in 2020 (£8,862 in 2021, an increase of £2,449). There is some way still to go before the Hall again reaches its full potential and this has wider implications; the amount received in 2019 (£21,211) represented 24% of the Church's unrestricted income. In summary, unrestricted receipts increased by £891 from £66,001 (in 2020) to £66,892 (in 2021).

Unrestricted expenditure in 2021 (£68,684) was £2,238 less than in 2020 (£70,922). The amount paid to the Diocese for the Parish Share reduced by £3,346 (£59,148 in 2020; £55,802 in 2021) in recognition of the difficulties experienced by many parishes during the pandemic. The cost of generating funds (£2,167) was £733 less than in 2020 (£2,900). On the other hand, Clergy costs increased by £588 (£669 in 2021; £81 in 2020), Church running expenses (£2,357) were £175 higher than in 2020 (£2,182), and Church building expenses increased by £1,078 from £6,611 in 2020 to £7,689 in 2021. Significant efforts have been made to restrain expenditure during the year with cleaning, for instance, now being done by volunteers and maintenance being confined for the moment to essential work.

In 2020, a £15,000 legacy received from the estate of a long-standing Church member was placed into a Designated Fund for work on the Church's buildings falling outside the definition of normal or routine maintenance. £3,740 was spent from this fund in 2021 on upgrading the woodwork in the Parish Garden. Other projects which had been previously approved will be progressed when more normal conditions return post-Covid-19, although these funds could be reassigned at the discretion of the PCC should the need arise.

As restrictions on meeting in public were reduced during 2021, it proved possible to reinstate our three fund raising activities (a Household and Handyman Sale, a summer Garden Party and a Christmas Fair) and these, together with a substantial donation, raised £4,511 for the two charities which we support in Africa (Education for Life and Masiphumelele). In addition, collections at services allowed us to send £661 to five other charities. None of these donations were possible in 2020. No payments were made from general funds to local charities, but these are expected to resume in 2022.

Unrestricted funds showed a deficit of £1,792 for 2021 (deficit of £4,916 in 2020) and the accumulated balance on our general fund at 31st December 2021 was £27,979 (£29,771 in 2020). This level of reserves (see Reserves Policy below) represents almost 5 months cover for our current annual running costs, although these are much lower than normal because of the influence the Covid restrictions have had on the Church's normal activities.

The bank balances held at 31st December 2021 were £39,210 of which £18,729 was held on current accounts with Barclays Bank for regular running costs and a further £9,250 held on deposit with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund to meet any emergency requirement. In addition one of the Barclays accounts holds £11,399 in a designated fund and a deficit of £168 in restricted funds representing refunds of gift aid tax expected from HMRC in 2022.

As the country learns to live with Covid, and provided more dangerous variants of the virus do not emerge which require strong Government action, it should be possible to return to something resembling normal conditions during 2022. That could well turn out to be another difficult year but we do at least start it from a relatively healthy financial position.

#### Reserves Policy

It is the PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which equates to at least 3 months' unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £17,171 (using the 2021 payments figure) and is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow.

**ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading**

**Independent examiner's report to the members/trustees of St Barnabas Church, Emmer Green,  
Parochial Church Council**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Barnabas Church Emmer Green (the Trust) for the year ended 31st December 2021.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

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

**Independent examiner's statement**

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. 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.

Signed:



Name: William Harper

Address: Sunnybank, High Street, Upton, Didcot OX11 9JE

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022

ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2021

| 1 Receipts and Payments Accounts                  | Notes        | Unrestricted Funds       | Designated Fund        | Restricted Funds       | Total 2021        | Total 2020        |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                                                   |              | £                        | £                      | £                      | £                 | £                 |
| <b>Receipts</b>                                   |              |                          |                        |                        |                   |                   |
| <b>Voluntary Receipts</b>                         |              |                          |                        |                        |                   |                   |
| Planned Giving                                    |              | 36,417                   | 0                      | 0                      | 36,417            | 35,548            |
| Collections at Services                           |              | 2,083                    | 0                      | 1,179                  | 3,262             | 992               |
| Other giving and voluntary receipts               | 1(a)         | 5,931                    | 0                      | 0                      | 5,931             | 25,426            |
| Gift Aid Tax Recovered                            |              | 10,025                   | 0                      | 25                     | 10,050            | 9,707             |
|                                                   |              | 54,456                   | 0                      | 1,204                  | 55,660            | 71,673            |
| <b>Activities for generating funds</b>            | 1(b)         | 11,293                   | 0                      | 3,761                  | 15,054            | 7,266             |
| <b>Investment Income</b>                          | 1(c)         | 5                        | 0                      | 0                      | 5                 | 39                |
| <b>Church Activities</b>                          | 1(d)         | 1,138                    | 0                      | 39                     | 1,177             | 2,283             |
| <b>Total Receipts</b>                             |              | <b>66,892</b>            | <b>0</b>               | <b>5,004</b>           | <b>71,896</b>     | <b>81,261</b>     |
| <b>Payments</b>                                   |              |                          |                        |                        |                   |                   |
| <b>Church Activities</b>                          |              |                          |                        |                        |                   |                   |
| Parish Share                                      |              | 55,802                   | 0                      | 0                      | 55,802            | 59,148            |
| Clergy and Staffing Costs                         |              | 669                      | 0                      | 0                      | 669               | 407               |
| Church Running and Service Expenses               | 1(e)         | 2,357                    | 0                      | 0                      | 2,357             | 2,182             |
| Church Building Expenses                          | 1(f)         | 7,689                    | 3,740                  | 0                      | 11,429            | 6,646             |
| Mission Giving and Donations                      | 1(g)         | 0                        | 0                      | 5,172                  | 5,172             | 220               |
|                                                   |              | 66,517                   | 3,740                  | 5,172                  | 75,429            | 68,603            |
| <b>Cost of Generating Funds</b>                   | 1(h)         | 2,167                    | 0                      | 0                      | 2,167             | 2,900             |
| <b>Total Payments</b>                             |              | <b>68,684</b>            | <b>3,740</b>           | <b>5,172</b>           | <b>77,596</b>     | <b>71,503</b>     |
| <b>Excess/(Deficit) of Receipts over Payments</b> |              | <b>(1,792)</b>           | <b>(3,740)</b>         | <b>(168)</b>           | <b>(5,700)</b>    | <b>9758</b>       |
| <b>Cash at Bank at 1st January</b>                |              | <b>29,771</b>            | <b>15,139</b>          | <b>0</b>               | <b>44,910</b>     | <b>35,152</b>     |
| <b>Cash at Bank at 31st December</b>              |              | <b>27,979</b>            | <b>11,399</b>          | <b>(168)</b>           | <b>39,210</b>     | <b>44,910</b>     |
| <b>2 Statement of Assets and Liabilities</b>      | <b>Notes</b> | <b>Unrestricted Fund</b> | <b>Designated Fund</b> | <b>Restricted Fund</b> | <b>Total 2021</b> | <b>Total 2020</b> |
|                                                   |              | £                        | £                      | £                      | £                 | £                 |
| <b>Cash Funds</b>                                 |              |                          |                        |                        |                   |                   |
| Barclays Bank Current Accounts                    |              | 18,729                   | 11,399                 | (168)                  | 29,960            | 35,665            |
| CBF Church of England Deposit Fund                |              | 9,250                    | 0                      | 0                      | 9,250             | 9,245             |
|                                                   |              | <b>27,979</b>            | <b>11,399</b>          | <b>(168)</b>           | <b>39,210</b>     | <b>44,910</b>     |
| <b>Other Monetary Assets</b>                      |              |                          |                        |                        |                   |                   |
| Income Tax recoverable                            |              | 575                      | 0                      | 168                    | 743               | 666               |
| Parish Share Deanery Refund                       |              | 1,788                    | 0                      | 0                      | 1,788             | 3,213             |
|                                                   |              | <b>2,363</b>             | <b>0</b>               | <b>168</b>             | <b>2,531</b>      | <b>3,879</b>      |
| <b>Assets retained for Church use</b>             | <b>8</b>     | <b>410,909</b>           | <b>0</b>               | <b>0</b>               | <b>410,909</b>    | <b>410,909</b>    |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                                |              |                          |                        |                        |                   |                   |
| Loan                                              |              | 0                        | 0                      | 5,000                  | 5,000             | 5,000             |
| Other expenses                                    |              | 0                        | 0                      | 0                      | 0                 | 0                 |
|                                                   |              | <b>0</b>                 | <b>0</b>               | <b>5,000</b>           | <b>5,000</b>      | <b>5,000</b>      |

**Loan:** At 31st December 2021 an indefinite loan of £5,000 remained outstanding. This sum had been assigned to the Organ Fund but, with the completion of the organ regeneration, is now available, by agreement, for general church purposes at the discretion of the Vicar and Wardens.

The attached notes form part of these financial statements

**ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2021**

**1 Analysis of Receipts and Payments**

|                                               | Notes | Unrestricted<br>Fund<br>£ | Designated<br>Fund<br>£ | Restricted<br>Funds<br>£ | Total<br>2021<br>£ | Total<br>2020<br>£ |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Receipts</b>                               |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| <b>a) Other giving and voluntary receipts</b> |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| Donations                                     |       | 5,931                     | 0                       | 0                        | 5,931              | 10,426             |
| Legacy                                        |       | 0                         | 0                       | 0                        | 0                  | 15,000             |
|                                               |       | <b>5,931</b>              | <b>0</b>                | <b>0</b>                 | <b>5,931</b>       | <b>25,426</b>      |
| <b>b) Activities for generating funds</b>     |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| Fund raising events                           |       | 1,866                     | 0                       | 3,761                    | 5,627              | 363                |
| Rent from Church Hall Hire                    |       | 8,862                     | 0                       | 0                        | 8,862              | 6,413              |
| Parish Centre café                            |       | 565                       | 0                       | 0                        | 565                | 490                |
|                                               |       | <b>11,293</b>             | <b>0</b>                | <b>3,761</b>             | <b>15,054</b>      | <b>7,266</b>       |
| <b>c) Investment Income</b>                   |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| CBF Deposit Fund Interest                     |       | 5                         | 0                       | 0                        | 5                  | 39                 |
| <b>d) Church Activities</b>                   |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| Fees for Weddings and Funerals                |       | 1,114                     | 0                       | 39                       | 1,153              | 2,283              |
| Vicar's Discretionary Fund                    |       | 0                         | 0                       | 0                        | 0                  | 0                  |
| Other Activities                              |       | 24                        | 0                       | 0                        | 24                 | 0                  |
|                                               |       | <b>1,138</b>              | <b>0</b>                | <b>39</b>                | <b>1,177</b>       | <b>2,283</b>       |
| <b>Payments</b>                               |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| <b>e) Church Running and Service Expenses</b> |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| Altar requisites/flowers                      |       | 752                       | 0                       | 0                        | 752                | 20                 |
| Organist/choir                                |       | 45                        | 0                       | 0                        | 45                 | 233                |
| Vicar's Discretionary Fund                    |       | 0                         | 0                       | 0                        | 0                  | 0                  |
| Children & young people                       |       | 550                       | 0                       | 0                        | 550                | 560                |
| Stationery/printing                           |       | 402                       | 0                       | 0                        | 402                | 876                |
| Fees and subscriptions                        |       | 608                       | 0                       | 0                        | 608                | 491                |
| Other activities                              |       | 0                         | 0                       | 0                        | 0                  | 2                  |
|                                               |       | <b>2,357</b>              | <b>0</b>                | <b>0</b>                 | <b>2,357</b>       | <b>2,182</b>       |
| <b>f) Church Building Expenses</b>            |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| Equipment/consumables                         |       | 45                        | 0                       | 0                        | 45                 | 81                 |
| Church insurance                              |       | 1,889                     | 0                       | 0                        | 1,889              | 0                  |
| Utilities                                     |       | 4,000                     | 0                       | 0                        | 4,000              | 3,210              |
| Maintenance                                   |       | 1,708                     | 3,740                   | 0                        | 5,448              | 2,946              |
| Cleaning                                      |       | 47                        | 0                       | 0                        | 47                 | 409                |
|                                               |       | <b>7,689</b>              | <b>3,740</b>            | <b>0</b>                 | <b>11,429</b>      | <b>6,646</b>       |
| <b>g) Mission Giving and Donations</b>        |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| Donations from collections at Funerals        | 6     | 0                         | 0                       | 39                       | 39                 | 55                 |
| Donations for charitable purposes             | 6 & 7 | 0                         | 0                       | 5,133                    | 5,133              | 165                |
|                                               |       | <b>0</b>                  | <b>0</b>                | <b>5,172</b>             | <b>5,172</b>       | <b>220</b>         |
| <b>h) Cost of Generating Funds</b>            |       |                           |                         |                          |                    |                    |
| Fund raising events                           |       | 0                         | 0                       | 0                        | 0                  | 466                |
| Church Hall expenses                          |       | 2,167                     | 0                       | 0                        | 2,167              | 2,434              |
|                                               |       | <b>2,167</b>              | <b>0</b>                | <b>0</b>                 | <b>2,167</b>       | <b>2,900</b>       |

(1d) Fees for Weddings and Funerals are the fees retained by the PCC. Fees received on behalf of the Diocese, vergers and organists and passed directly to them are not included for 2021 in accordance with financial guidance from the Church of England, although they have been included in the Financial Statements for 2018 and earlier years.

**ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2021 (continued)**

**2 Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

**3 Fund Accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the PCC in furtherance of the general objectives of the Church.

Restricted funds are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donors or through the terms of an appeal, or fund raising events or collections as agreed by the PCC.

Designated funds represent amounts set aside by the PCC for use at the discretion of the fund holder. This is the Vicar in the case of the Vicar's Discretionary Fund. A Building Improvements Fund was established by the PCC in 2020, following receipt of a legacy, and is managed by the Churchwardens and Treasurer.

**4 Designated Funds**

|                          | Vicar's<br>Discretionary<br>Fund | Building<br>Improvements<br>Fund | 2021<br>Total | 2020<br>Total |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                          | £                                | £                                | £             | £             |
| Balance at 1st January   | 174                              | 14,965                           | 15,139        | 500           |
| Receipts                 | 0                                | 0                                | 0             | 15,000        |
| Payments                 | 0                                | 3,740                            | 3,740         | 361           |
| Balance at 31st December | 174                              | 11,225                           | 11,399        | 15,139        |

**5 Restricted Funds**

|                               | Charities    | 2021<br>Total | 2020<br>Total |
|-------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
|                               | £            | £             | £             |
| Balance at 1st January        | 0            | 0             | (35)          |
| <b>Receipts</b>               |              |               |               |
| Donations received            | 0            | 0             |               |
| Collections at Funerals       | 39           | 39            | 55            |
| Christmas & Other Collections | 1,179        | 1,179         | 150           |
| Fundraising events            | 3,761        | 3,761         | 0             |
| Gift Aid Tax recovered        | 25           | 25            | 50            |
|                               | <b>5,004</b> | <b>5,004</b>  | <b>255</b>    |
| <b>Payments</b>               |              |               |               |
| Expenses                      | 0            | 0             | 0             |
| Funeral Donations             | 39           | 39            | 55            |
| Donations made to Charities   | 5,133        | 5,133         | 165           |
|                               | <b>5,172</b> | <b>5,172</b>  | <b>220</b>    |
| Balance at 31st December      | <b>(168)</b> | <b>(168)</b>  | <b>0</b>      |

**6 Donations made for Charitable purposes were as follows:**

|                        | £            |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Education for Life     | 2,255        |
| Masiphumelele          | 2,255        |
| The Children's Society | 65           |
| CIRDIC                 | 342          |
| Yeldall Manor          | 136          |
| Royal British Legion   | 80           |
|                        | <b>5,133</b> |

**Funeral donations:**

|           | £         |
|-----------|-----------|
| Sue Ryder | 39        |
|           | <b>39</b> |

The Charities fund includes collections and sale proceeds from fund raising events donated to charitable causes as nominated each year by the PCC plus donations given at funerals.

**ST BARNABAS CHURCH Emmer Green Reading**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2021 (continued)**

- 7 Charitable Giving : 2021** No gifts were made from General Funds during the year:

| <b>8 Fixed assets retained for Church use are:</b> | <b>2020</b>           | <b>2019</b>           |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|                                                    | <b>£</b>              | <b>£</b>              |
| The Church Hall dedicated as a Church in 1897      | N/A                   | N/A                   |
| The Parish Centre completed in 2009                | 332,967               | 332,967               |
| The Parish Centre Garden completed in 2010         | 18,206                | 18,206                |
| The regenerated Church Organ completed in 2016     | 59,736                | 59,736                |
|                                                    | <b><u>410,909</u></b> | <b><u>410,909</u></b> |

Fixed assets are stated at cost where known.

**9 Caversham Group Ministry**

The following fund is held by the Rector and Churchwardens of the Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham Parish for the benefit of the Caversham Group Ministry. The CTM treasurer provides the financial statements:

Canon Nash Memorial funds for grants to ordination candidates and others training for work in the Church of England.