

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST LAWRENCE, BARNWOOD. GLOUCESTER

England & Wales · Charity number 1170167

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2016-11-15

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address St. Lawrence Church Centre
32 Church Lane
Barnwood
Gloucester
GL4 3JB

Phone 01452372731

Email stlawrencebarnwood@outlook.com

Website www.stlawrencebarnwood.uk.eu.org

Activities

Objects: PROMOTING IN THE PARISH THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH, PASTORAL, EVANGELISTIC, SOCIAL AND ECUMENICAL

Activities: Regular public worship Provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation Pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved Teaching Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups Religious assemblies in school Promoting mission of Christianity through events, meetings, literature, activities for elderly, parents, toddlers Supporting charities in UK and overseas

Classification

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

Geography

- Gloucestershire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£135,320	£121,983	-	-
2023-12-31	£107,941	£105,889	-	-
2022-12-31	£90,045	£100,423	-	-
2021-12-31	£86,670	£94,744	-	-
2020-12-31	£77,374	£102,765	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ROBERT EDWIN CROFTON	Chair	2018-03-08
Belinda Sharon Nicola Francesca Edge		2020-09-23
Douglas Mackenzie Pooley		2022-04-27
Dr Lorraine Anne Lewis		2024-04-24
Dr Peter Little		2024-04-24
ELIZABETH HINTON		2016-12-14
FRANCES MULVEY		2016-12-14
JOHN WEBSTER		2016-12-14
Janet Margaret Groves		2020-09-23
MARGARET SEYERS		2016-12-14
PHILIP JAEKEL		2016-12-14
Rev AUDREY HAYMAN		2016-12-14
Timothy Alan Rawlinson		2025-04-30

Accounts

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

WEDNESDAY 30th APRIL 2025, 7.30pm

St Lawrence Church, Barnwood

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

St Lawrence Church is situated in Church Lane, Barnwood. It is part of the Diocese of Gloucester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Parish Office, 32 Church Lane, Barnwood, Gloucester, GL4 3JB.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is registered with the Charity Commission, registration number 1170167.

This report covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2024, which aligns with the church's financial year. However, election of officers and PCC members takes place at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), which normally takes place in April. In 2024 the APCM took place on 24th April.

PCC members who have served from May 2024 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent:	Revd Rob Crofton
Associate Priest:	Revd Audrey Hayman
Curate:	Revd Laine Lewis (from 30/6/24)
Readers:	Philip Jaekel, John Webster
Licensed Lay Worker:	Kate Davies
Churchwardens:	Margaret Seyers & Elizabeth Hinton
Deanery Synod Representatives:	Philip Jaekel (2026) & Elizabeth Hinton (2027)
Secretary:	Kate Davies

Elected members (with year of required re-election in brackets):

Belinda Edge	e 2020 r 2023 (2026)
Janet Groves	e 2020 r 2023 (2026)
Doug Pooley	e 2022 (2025)
Frances Mulvey	e 2023 (2026)
Peter Little	e 2024 (2027)
Yousef Shabab	e 2024 (2027)
Paul Black	e 2024 (resigned August 2024)

Non-elected officers, appointed by the PCC on 8-5-24:

Bob Hinton, Treasurer
Bob Moss, Electoral Roll Officer
Malcolm Smith, Gift Aid Officer
Kate Davies, Secretary (*ex officio*)

1. VISION AND GOVERNANCE

Structure

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Membership and Attendance

2025 is a significant date as far as Church of England electoral rolls are concerned, since a completely new roll is needed this year. This requirement occurs once every 6 years and, since the last list was produced in 2019, the time for a new compilation has now come around.

A total of 22 people who were included on the previous roll do not appear in the new version. These losses are accounted for variously by: death, ill health, leaving the area, no longer attending St Lawrence's or simply not wishing to re-join. On the other hand, 14 people who were not on the previous roll have registered for the new list. This means a net loss of 8, so the final total for the 2025 St Lawrence's Electoral Roll is 86, compared with 94 in 2024.

Anyone who wishes to apply to join the new Electoral Roll is welcome to do so after the APCM on April 30th.

Bob Moss, Electoral Roll Officer

Objectives and Activities for 2025-2026

Our objectives remain the same for the year ahead, to grow in our vision "to know and share the love of Jesus".

To help us achieve this we will continue to:

- Develop our worship services, helping people of all ages and backgrounds to encounter Jesus in worship.
- Reach out with the good news of Jesus, providing ways for people to explore the Christian faith and grow as disciples.
- Show the love of Jesus in action in our community, increasing awareness of the climate and nature crises and helping people to take practical action to care for God's creation.

Employed Staff

This year we welcomed Rev. Laine Lewis to join us as our full-time Curate-in-training, funded by the national Church. Laine has brought a wealth of gifts and experience, and her energetic ministry has been appreciated by people of all ages. Laine has worked closely with Fiona Rawlinson, our Community Family Worker (12 hours per week), and their partnership has included setting up a new weekly Toddler group, Bernie's Chat and Play. Fiona continues to support parents and families, to lead our monthly Community Lunch, and is the Chair of Governors for our C of E Primary School. Angela Sturdy continues her vital role as our Parish Administrator (12 hours per week), Sally Jaekel as our church caretaker and Fred Broady as our groundsman. Robin Jones is our paid Director of Music and his contribution with our choir continues to be much appreciated. I am very grateful to all of our Staff for their hard work and dedication.

Rev. Rob Crofton, Vicar

Parochial Church Council (PCC): A brief survey of the year

The PCC has met 8 times between May 2024 and March 2025, in person and with some members on Zoom. Each meeting included standing items such as team reports (including finance and buildings), safeguarding, reports on Deanery Synod and on Barnwood C of E Primary School. In addition, the PCC discussed matters such as the need for major repairs to the stonework and memorial tablets, the C of E developments around Prayers of Love and Faith, and new plans for apportioning the Parish Share. The

PCC meets the requirements of the new General Data Protection Regulations and continues to be vigilant in assuring proper use of data. Email lists are used to contact various groups within the congregation in accordance with PCC's legitimate purposes and the Parish Office uses a cloud hosted, web-based church management system (ChurchSuite) which helps to streamline communications and to provide a weekly Vicar's Newsletter.

The PCC also owes special thanks to Angela Sturdy, our Parish administrator. Sally Jaekel keeps the Church Centre in excellent condition which is much appreciated by all users. Fred Broady, the church groundsman, keeps the churchyard looking beautiful and tidy. John Holland is currently chairing the Buildings Team and the PCC is grateful for his work particularly around the Stonework and Repair project. Anne Roberts has helped with Grant Applications and is now supporting Bob Hinton as our Deputy Treasurer. There are many other people who get on with things quietly in the background, and the PCC is very grateful to all of them for all that they do to ensure the smooth running of our Parish and the welcome we offer to the community.

Margaret Seyers, Churchwarden, and Kate Davies, PCC Secretary

Safeguarding – Creating a Safe and Caring Community at St. Lawrence Church

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Anyone is welcome to complete the **Basic Awareness** e- learning training. This will help you to understand how safeguarding works at St. Lawrence Church and the part that you can play in keeping others safe. Alternatively, this can be completed as a face-to-face session.

The reason for safeguarding training is to raise awareness of safeguarding issues and to encourage a greater positive awareness and understanding of safeguarding amongst church members.

We aim to increase the number of people feeling confident to talk openly about safeguarding issues. Safeguarding is about creating a healthy culture. It is so much more than a tick box exercise.

Training and practical strategies for supporting others are publicised in the Vicar's Weekly Newsletter.

Look to see what a difference you can make!



National Safeguarding Standards

The five National Safeguarding standards were introduced by the Church of England in 2023.

Year 1 of the introduction of these standards saw us focus on two standards:

Standard 1 – Prevention

Standard 4 - Victims and Survivors

The focus for **Year 2** will be:

Standard 2 – Culture, Leadership and Capacity.

Standard 3 – Recognising, Assessing and Managing Risk.

National Safeguarding Standards

Standard 1	PREVENTION Church Bodies have in place a planned range of measures which together are effective in preventing abuse in their context.
Standard 2	CULTURE, LEADERSHIP AND CAPACITY Church bodies have the safe and healthy culture, effective leadership, resourcing and scrutiny arrangements necessary to deliver high quality safeguarding practices and outcomes.
Standard 3	RECOGNISING, ASSESSING AND MANAGING RISK Risk assessments, Safeguarding Agreements and associated processes are of a high standard and result in positive outcomes. The assessment and management of risk is underpinned by effective partnership working.
Standard 4	VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS Victims and survivors experience the timeliness and quality of Church bodies' responses to disclosures, and their subsequent support, as positively helping the healing process and meeting their needs.
Standard 5	LEARNING, SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT All those engaged in safeguarding related activity in Church bodies receive the type and level of learning, professional development, support and supervision necessary to respond to safeguarding situations, victims and survivors, and respondents, effectively.

As part of this work, Quality Assurance Frameworks and audits are completed. The purpose of this is to:

- To look at what this is telling us about St. Lawrence Church and our community
- To look at what this means for us in Barnwood
- To clarify the actions that need to take place

Heather Walker – Parish Safeguarding Officer

2. WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Sunday Services

Our Sunday worship continues to be the focal point of our community, enabling us to meet with God in worship, have fellowship with one another, and be strengthened and equipped to live as followers of Jesus in our daily lives. It has been good to welcome a number of new people as regular worshippers, both at our 9.45am Holy Communion Service and 11.15am Morning Worship for All Ages. The second Sunday of the month remains our 9.45am All Together Holy Communion, where we bring together both congregations.

Rev. Rob Crofton, Vicar

Music and Choir

The Choir has truly made a remarkable impact on our services this year! It has been a joy to welcome new members, especially Gareth Palfreyman, who has joined our Tenors. Their enthusiasm and talent have been a wonderful addition to our group.

As always, the dedication and hard work put into our two carol services—the Advent Service of Light and the Christmas Carol Service—were evident, with the latter seeing a fantastic turnout. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each member of the Choir for their commitment to enriching our worship experience through music. They really are a priceless gem for our Church community here in Barnwood, and I couldn't be prouder of all that they accomplish.

Despite facing several challenges in 2024, a year filled with uncertainty, the Choir has shown incredible resilience. They have continuously gathered for practice and Sunday services, proving their determination and passion. This wouldn't have been possible without the invaluable support of Kate and our talented accompanists, Liz, Alison, and Kathryn, each of whom brings their own unique flair to our music.

As we look ahead to 2025, I am thrilled to enter my twelfth year and continue to expand our repertoire while serving others through the gift of music. The journey ahead promises to be as exciting as ever!

We love to welcome singers into the choir, and if you'd like to give it a go, please contact me. You'll receive a warm welcome and expand your joke library courtesy of Alan!

I am also collating photographs or recordings of the Choir and music in Church over the years to put together a board showing our history. If you have any to contribute, I'd love to see them and take a digital copy to preserve them for the future.

Robin Jones, Director of Music

Bellringing

We have had a good year in the bell ringing chamber, we generally have enough ringers present on a Sunday morning to ring all 8 bells for the morning service and several more on practice nights.

We rang a special quarter peal with the help of some longstanding friends of the tower immediately prior to the Thanksgiving Service for Michael Mulvey, whose presence in the tower has been greatly missed. There was also general ringing before the service to enable other ringers to play tribute to him. We also rang a quarter peal in May to give thanks for the many years Brian McBurnie spent ringing with us.

On March 23rd we rang the bells half muffled in memory of our local Branch Treasurer who sadly passed away a few days before. This was a new experience for some of our ringers and a lovely sound to hear for us all, a ding with a very quiet dong, very atmospheric and solemn.

Two young people from St Lawrence started learning to ring with us in August and have made amazing progress with their bell handling, they spend an hour with us most Monday evenings and continue to improve. Our other learners are also ringing more independently and are becoming valuable integral members of the team.

St Lawrence ringers have taken the lead with keeping the bells at Upton St Leonard's ringing, though the timing of the two churches Sunday services is too close together to enable us to do more than chime the treble at Upton St Leonard's. We also form the core team for many of the ringing events in the Gloucester area which can only help us to continue to improve.

We continue to welcome visitors - ringing and otherwise, to the tower. Our bells are still considered to be some of the best in Gloucester and they are well taken care of by our Steeple Keeper Trevor.

If you would like to try out bell ringing, please get in touch or come and talk to us when we attend events at St Lawrence.

Joanna Morley – Secretary St Lawrence bell ringers

Flower Team

The flower team have enjoyed arranging the flowers in Church for weekly and Festival occasions. Many thanks to all who have given donations towards the cost of flowers, it meant we didn't have to take from church funds. Cate (Warren) and Jess (Palfreyman) are now leading the team, and I am so grateful to them, after over twenty years organising the team. It will be lovely to have some fresh ideas, and I'm sure we can all look forward to seeing the church looking beautifully decorated under their guidance.

June Edwards

Prayer

Prayer – both personal and corporate – undergirds all we are and do in our worship, ministry and mission at St Lawrence. Morning Prayer on Wednesdays is our regular weekly opportunity for reflection on Scripture together and prayer for the world, our local community, the church, and those known to us in particular need. It takes place in the Church at 9.00am, for about 45 minutes. All are welcome – do come and try it out if you haven't been before. The Monthly Prayer Meeting takes place on the Second Monday of the month from 6.45–7.45pm, in the Church Centre. We devote this one hour each month to praying together for the life and ministry of our church, and our reaching out with the good news of Jesus into our community. Again, all are welcome, do come and join in this prayer time as we pray for God's kingdom to come in our Parish.

Rev. Rob Crofton

3. EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP

The Start Course

Start is an engaging course helping people to explore God, Jesus and the journey of life in six DVD based interactive small group sessions. This year the group met from Tuesday 7th January to Tuesday 11th February and there were 10 participants. The meetings were led by Rob and Laine, with Liz Dyer and Mike Cummings in supporting roles.

Participants were invited to come along before the meeting for a catch up with others and a cup of tea. This time, along with the small discussion groups during the meeting was a valuable time to get to know and support each other as well as to explore the message of God's love and forgiveness through Jesus, and how this can impact our lives in a very positive way, enriching our lives as we walk with Him.

Each session included short video clips led by Rev. Robin Gamble (Bishop's Advisor for Church Growth in Leeds Diocese) aimed to encourage group members to start thinking about the direction of their lives, to explain what God is like and how He can be known personally.

Following the video clips, participants took part in small groups to explore questions arising from the clip and to take part in interactive exercises. This was a rich time together where people could share life experiences, ask questions and support one another. The sessions end with a short Bible passage and a prayer.

During the six weeks together, many participants expressed a wish to continue to explore the Christian faith and had found the course a valuable and enjoyable time.

Liz Dyer

Lent Studies – The Bible Course

Around 24 people have taken part in our Lent Course this year, the Bible Society's *Bible Course*. This is a comprehensive overview of the whole Bible in 8 sessions. Through engaging video presentations and small group discussions, participants have been enabled to grasp the big storyline of the whole Bible, and to see how well-known characters and events fit into that bigger picture. It has also helped us to understand God's plans and purposes in the Old Testament, and how these are fulfilled and completed in Jesus and the New Testament. Many thanks to Rev. Paul Reynolds for his hard work in producing the handouts for this course, and to Rev. Laine for co-leading this course, and to those who have facilitated the small groups. We look forward to the final two sessions after Easter.

Rev. Rob Crofton

Home Groups

Since the autumn, our homegroup has been meeting fortnightly for Bible study, prayer support and fellowship. We have been studying the Gospel of Luke, and since the beginning of Lent some of us have been joining in with the Lent Course. Following this, we shall be looking at the book of Esther in the Old Testament. There are currently nine people in the group, and in addition to our studies we have had a summer barbecue and a Christmas social evening. Homegroups are a great way to get to know people, support each other through the ups and downs of life and get to grips with the Bible, so if this is something you think you might like to do, then please do talk to Rob about it.

Paul and Alison Reynolds

4. CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND YOUTH

Explore Creation

Explore Creation is an outdoor nature-based session for families, helping them to connect with God by connecting with God's creation. It runs once a month based at the Church Centre, and is aimed at families with children up to age 10/11 (school Year 6). Harriet and Isabel Langley (Y6) have been part of the group since its start, over seven years ago, and are now very able helpers. There are several families who attend most months, as well as others who join in from time to time. We average about ten children plus some parents (with pre-school children), leaders and helpers. The team of leaders

includes Anne Woolnough, Rev. Laine Lewis and Fiona Rawlinson, and we are recruiting additional helpers and co-leaders.

We have been focusing on the 'seven senses' this school year: taste, smell, touch, hearing and sight, as well as 'magnetism' (used e.g. by birds during migration) and 'electricity' (e.g. something that bees and plants emit, and which helps creatures to survive). It has been fun to link these themes to Bible stories, crafts, arboretum trails, games and our own understanding of how God's creation works.

We are looking forward to our Good Friday workshop with outdoor trail, indoor crafts, a service and refreshments.

Petra Crofton

The HUB Youth Group

We have children from school years Y6–Y8 at our monthly meetings (i.e. aged 10-14). We meet mainly on Sunday evenings from 5.30 until 7.00pm. We offer a range of activities from crafts, wood working, outdoor shelter building, cooking, games and making fires, followed by a Bible reflection and prayer. We also share a meal together and are grateful to have had Sue Hall cater for many of these. Sophie completed her Duke of Edinburgh's Award with us and since September we now have Millie and Elspeth as helpers.

We have a group of year 6 children who joined in September from Barnwood School and at our meeting in March we had around 20 attend. We are very grateful to all the adults who volunteer especially, Steve Hutchinson, Petra Crofton, Laine Lewis and a special mention to Brenda for her sewing skills.

Fiona Rawlinson, Community Family Worker

Barnie's Toddler Group

Barnies Chat and Play started in November 2024. The aim was to reach out into the community and also to provide a first introduction to Church for Baptism families. We are grateful for a generous grant from local company Lanes Health to help with set-up costs. We meet every Thursday from 9:15-10:45am and we have around fifteen regular families attending. Many of these are baptism families but some are just from the local area. Some families have started attending the 11:15 service and some Explore Creation. Huge thanks to our amazing team: Fiona, Margaret, Maggie, Sarah and Jess, with particular mention to Alan who helps with set up and clear up, and toy-inspector Ivan who may only be three but has high standards!! We start each week with tea and toast, with blueberries for the children. We then play and chat and finish with a Bible story and our Barnies prayer. At the moment we are working our way through the Bible starting in January with Genesis and we have got as far as Joseph and his many brothers! Barnies has a lovely friendly atmosphere and is a joyful place to be, we look forward to continuing meeting together this year.

Rev. Laine Lewis, Curate

Join Together Service

Join Together is a short service held every three months on the second Sunday at 4pm, led by myself and Kate Davies. The service is specifically aimed at children with additional needs and their families, and also at very young children who enjoy instruments and stories and a more relaxed and informal environment. We use Makaton signs and pecs symbols with our specially written simple liturgy which involves lots of repetition so we can all join in. We love singing and making music with instruments and

making a very joyful noise unto the Lord. We average about twenty people a service and have welcomed families from our own church and from all over Gloucester and even one family all the way from Tredington! At Christmas we enjoyed a very sensory nativity including touching real straw and smelling incense. In March we hunted for lost sheep and we have set dates for the rest of the calendar year with our next service in June being all about kindness, using the story of the Good Samaritan.

Rev. Laine Lewis, Curate

5. SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

Baptisms

Excitingly we have had a busy year of Baptisms, with sixteen since our last report. This included the adult baptism of Bella Harmer in the 11:15 service in September, and Laine's first ever baptism which were lovely twins Florence and Oliver. We are not slowing down, with a further six baptisms in the next five weeks at the time of writing, one of these is of siblings and one will take place in an 11:15 service in May. As always families are visited at home to begin with and then invited to an evening of preparation held at the Church, where we explain the importance of baptism and also do a run through of the service. All families of pre-school children are invited to Barnie's Chat and Play, and all families are invited to Explore Creation and our other services and events. Rob, Phil and Laine take the baptisms with Fiona providing support and making links with the families. We look forward to baptising even more people in 2025.

Rev. Laine Lewis, Curate

Weddings

We conducted weddings at St Lawrence for three couples in 2024, and have three more coming up in 2025. Rev. Laine has enjoyed learning the ropes for preparing couples for marriage and conducting their wedding services, and looks forward to conducting her first wedding after she is ordained priest at the end of June.

Rev. Rob Crofton, Vicar

Funerals

Life Events are the main point of contact the Church now has with the public, at Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals. Therefore it is really important that the minister should be warm and personable, listens to their story, and tells our story. Contemporary funerals are personal, so the person's life matters, as well as building bridges to the story of God's love and our hope in Jesus. Offering spiritual support, prayer and giving a message of faith, hope, and love are also key to this ministry.

It has been another interesting year from January to December 2024 for funeral ministry at St. Lawrence Church, Barnwood. The ministry team were involved in twenty-seven Church-led funeral related services. The patterns of funeral ministry have changed and are continuing to change. There is a lot more choice and this is a short analysis of how it looked for 2024:

- One funeral took place in church followed by burial in the churchyard.
- Two funerals took place in church with committals at the crematorium.
- One graveside funeral service took place in the churchyard including a burial.
- There was one memorial service in church following a direct cremation (no funeral service and unattended at the crematorium) with a double burial of ashes in the churchyard with the second set of ashes following a church led funeral in a crematorium.

- There was one burial in the churchyard following a funeral service in a Baptist Church.
- Thirteen church led funerals for Barnwood took place at a crematorium.
- There were two church led funeral services in a cemetery chapel followed by burial in a cemetery.
- Three lots of ashes were buried in the churchyard by a church minister on a separate occasion following a church led funeral.
- One more lot of ashes were buried by a church minister in the churchyard on a separate occasion following a funeral led by a civil celebrant.
- There was one double burial of ashes buried in a churchyard into an existing grave by a church minister on a separate occasion following one with a church led funeral and the other led by a civil celebrant.
- There was also one burial of ashes in the Doris Warren Garden of Remembrance by a church minister on a separate occasion following a church led funeral.

We also held the annual All Souls Service in Church in November which was well attended, where bereaved families were invited to remember their loved ones, sing hymns, pray, listen to a short address and light candles, followed by refreshments in the church centre.

Nationally, the proportion of funerals led by Church of England ministers has been falling rapidly over the last twenty years or so. Research has shown that these days, funeral directors are looking for a swift response to funeral requests, so that they can confirm the date, time, venue and the officiating minister of funerals to grieving families as soon as possible. Diocese of Gloucester Funerals always aim to do this within twenty-four hours once the funeral director has spoken to one of our friendly administrators.

Since the launch in October 2018 the Diocese of Gloucester Funeral Project (now rebranded as Diocese of Gloucester Funerals) has seen steady growth in the number of churches it serves and the funeral requests it manages with a wide range of Lay and Ordained ministers.

In 2018 the project covered Gloucester City Deanery and managed an average of forty funerals a month and that figure increased with Forest South and Severn Vale Deaneries joining in 2020 just in time for the Pandemic with Cheltenham Deanery joining in 2022. In 2023 we expanded into North Cotswold, Tewkesbury and Winchcombe Deaneries, and have also expanded into Stroud and Cirencester Deaneries during 2023 and 2024 which is still a work in progress with service figures rising to about one thousand four hundred plus a year.

During 2024 we started discussions with Hereford and Worcester Dioceses in order to help set up similar schemes with them. These are due to be launched in 2025.

Diocese of Gloucester Funerals is based at College Green within the Department of Mission and Ministry headed up by the Director, Revd Canon Dr Sandra Millar. The team consists of Nick Partridge Diocese of Gloucester Funerals Lead who is continually working on the expansion of the original project and creating training programmes, Philip Jaekel Diocese of Gloucester Funerals Deputy Lead who spends his time covering funeral services, and at the time of writing, has now covered over eight hundred and fifty services supporting bereaved families and building on the good relationships with churches, crematoriums and cemeteries, funeral directors and gravediggers across the diocese. Also, the two administrators Annette Teschner and Nicholette Flatman who do a really great job. To support the increased number of funerals the diocese has trained a number of specialist licensed funeral ministers to support families to plan their funeral service, lead the service and follow up with bereavement care for as long as it is needed. We will be starting the next course for Funeral Ministry and Bereavement Training in May 2025.

During 2024 we also ran two different training sessions on a Saturday morning for Clergy, Curates, Curates in training, Readers, Funeral Ministers and Bereavement Support teams. The first was in February visiting Goodwins Funeral Directors in Heathville Road before going onto Gloucester Crematorium and the second in November visiting Co-operative Funeralcare Cheltenham before going onto Cheltenham Crematorium with both the funeral directors and the Crematorium Managers attending both venues. This gave the opportunity to have a guided tour behind the scenes, ask questions and this is a valuable part of the training for ministers to understand what happens behind the scenes.

During 2024 we ran two networking evening for church ministers, funeral directors and crematorium and cemetery staff and gravediggers. The first was in May in The Parliament Room at Gloucester Cathedral with Sandra Millar giving a talk on 'The advantages and disadvantages of a Church of England Funeral Service' and the second event was held in November at St. Mary de Crypt Church in Southgate Street in Gloucester with Terry Tennens, Chief Executive, National Society of Allied and Independent Funeral Directors (SAIF) and Sandra Millar on the theme 'The Day I Nearly Quit' talking about the stresses and strains of working in the funeral industry, in a safe place for storytelling, sharing and reflection.

As a team we also supported the open day in August by having a stand at Gloucester Crematorium along with crematorium and cemetery staff, funeral directors, where the public were invited to have a tour around the crematorium chapel and look behind the scenes and ask questions and experience creating memory crafts, light candles, talk and have refreshments in the hospitality suites at The Arbor.

Philip Jaekel, Reader and Funeral Minister

Barnwood C of E Primary School

The school continues to be an important part of our outreach work in the parish. Rev. Rob and Rev. Laine lead services in the school regularly and there is a weekly 'Open the Book' slot. The school have had a range of services in the Church including a special 'Leavers' service for those in year 6 moving on to other schools. An Ash Wednesday service was held in school recently with many children choosing to have a mark of ash put on their foreheads. The Governors play an active part in managing the strategic running of the school. As Community Family Worker I continue to visit weekly and maintain links between the school and Church. I am still the Chair of Governors.

Fiona Rawlinson, Community Family Worker and Chair of Governors

Refugees and Asylum-seekers

All our Iranian friends have now received refugee status and are beginning to rebuild their lives in this country. Those who left wives and children in Iran have now been reunited. We have been pleased to welcome Naval and Ryan, Yousef's family, and we pray that Naval's father will soon be well enough for her to return to Gloucester. Ryan is settling into life at Barnwood C of E Primary School.

Imazh has almost completed her Beauty course at Gloucester college and has begun to work in a salon. She is also doing some catering. Karen begins his GCSE course in September and hopes to become a vet. Hamid has passed his driving test and now hopes to find a suitable job. He has felt very privileged to become a server in church.

Mehregan is settled in Oxford with his family, and his daughter is attending the local comprehensive school. They have joined a local church, who are supporting them.

Mohsen and his wife are settled in Southampton, and he is working in a restaurant.

The other Mohsen is running a restaurant in Fulham but hoping to start a part time university course in September in Oxford and possibly open a coffee shop.

Mohammed and Sara are happily settled in Swansea and Sara is going to train as a teaching assistant starting in September. She is currently helping out at the twins' school.

Mostafa and his wife are in London. He is still having real problems with his back so is unable to work. His wife is working part time and studying to improve her English.

Amin is still in Swansea, working in a restaurant, and hopes to visit us again before long.

We hold them all in our prayers.

Margaret Seyers, Churchwarden

Gloucester Foodbank

Gloucester Foodbank is greatly appreciative of the continued generous support from the congregation of St. Lawrence. In 2024 the total weight of food and toiletries donated came to 488.45kg, which is equal to around 1,163 meals, so very well done and many thanks.

In 2023-24, Gloucester Foodbank saw an 18.7% increase in the demand for emergency food parcels with 17,037 being issued, 36.8% of them specifically for local children.

The Foodbank aims to give everyone referred to them a balanced and nutritious 3-day supply of food, and it relies on the goodwill and support of local people to enable them to do this. Toiletries and hygiene products are also extremely important.

Over 90% of food distributed by the Foodbank comes from donations, which shows how vital they are in helping them continue to help everyone referred to them.

Sue Russell, Foodbank Coordinator

Coffee Shop and Community Events Team

Coffee Shop continues to thrive on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday mornings and we are very grateful to all our volunteers who give freely of their time in the kitchen and also supplying cakes, milk etc on the day. We ask for monetary donations which helps cover heating and lighting costs etc. With utility costs and baking costs going up, we hope that donations will continue to cover the costs going forward so that we can continue to run. We have very willing but very few volunteers and we could do with extra help. Please contact Angela in the Parish Office if you would be able to help as part of a rota. This is not a very onerous task but just one or two extra helpers would make all the difference. The Walk and Talk group still meet on the same mornings and continue to patronise Coffee Shop after their walk.

The Community Events team consists of eight members from the congregation: Elizabeth Hinton (chairman), Angela Sturdy (secretary), Ann Woolnough, Sylvia Edmunds, June Edwards, Bel Edge, Fiona Rawlinson and Janet Groves who we welcomed onto the Committee this year. Sadly, Jo Paisley stepped down during the year due to health issues, but we would like to thank Jo for her longstanding service running the previous Fundraising Committee and organising events such as our annual Fayre and more recently passing on her valuable knowledge as a committee member.

We aim to organise a series of events, approximately one per month, so that hopefully there will be something to appeal to everyone. Events that we have enjoyed since April 2024 are:

- April 2024 – celebration cake after church to mark St George's Day.
- April 2024 – Quiz Night with Fish and Chips
- May 2024 – celebration cake to mark Pentecost Sunday
- May 2024 - afternoon tea to mark the 30th anniversary of Revd Audrey's ordination
- July 2024 – we welcomed Laine Lewis our new Curate with Church BBQ.
- August 2024 – tea and cake afternoon. An opportunity for people to get-together.
- September 2024 – Parish Cooked Breakfast.
- September 2024 – Music to Delight Concert in Church.
- October 2024 – Harvest Bring and Share Lunch.
- November 2024 – Festive Fayre
- December 2024 – mulled wine and mince pies after the Carol Service
- January 2025 – Quiz Night with Fish and Chips
- February 2025 – Talk and slide presentation by Janet Groves on her family business.
- March 2025 – Continental Breakfast.

In June, members of the community events team, coffee shop and community lunch attended a Food Hygiene Regulations Level 2 course. This was run by Paul Black who was our Health and Safety Officer. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Paul for all the help he provided with this and also for heading up our cooked parish breakfasts.

All our social events have been very well supported and successful, for which we would like to thank everyone. Whether this be by way of coming along, baking, cooking, donating items for sale, helping with setting up and clearing up, or all the other "behind the scenes" jobs that make the events happen. We would like to give a special mention to Robert Phelps who regularly helps with setting up for most of our Church Centre events and who also provides excellent Victoria sponges for coffee shop!

Angela Sturdy

St Lawrence Community Lunch

We have been going for over a year now and have produced a variety of lunches that has been well attended. We run on the 2nd Wednesday of each month between 12 and 2. We make a home-cooked meal with a main and pudding and sometimes there are 'seconds' for our appreciative group of diners. We had a wonderful Christmas meal with all the trimmings, crackers and decorations. We have started an informal raffle to raise money for those not as fortunate as many and have contributed towards the Foodbank.

Fiona Rawlinson, Community Family Worker

6. BUILDINGS, GROUNDS, & CARE FOR CREATION

Buildings & Churchyard Report

The Buildings Team continues to meet regularly to monitor the ongoing routine work and oversee a number of major projects under the chairmanship of John Holland.

Routine work:

Routine work is ongoing for the Church, Church Centre and churchyard. Work ensures that routine safety checks are carried out on items such as fire extinguishers and alarms. The lift, boilers, lawnmowers and other equipment is regularly serviced and trees and hedges are maintained. Unfortunately, despite regular maintenance, the Church Centre boiler failed and had to be replaced in January 2025.

Major projects:

1. The stonework around the door and the window guards. This project was highlighted last year and the team have worked with a surveyor to define the project and obtain tenders from suitable contractors. This process is progressing well, and work is due to commence this summer.
2. The damage to a number of the wall memorials was highlighted by the last quinquennial. A report into their condition was commissioned and there is a clear safety concern. Temporary work has been done to reduce the risk. Work is ongoing to obtain quotations to repair the damage and make the memorials safe.
3. Church boiler. The failure of the Church Centre boiler has highlighted the need to look at sustainable alternatives to replace the elderly Church boiler before it fails. This has become another project for the team.

Fundraising:

These projects require serious funding and the team were delighted to welcome Anne Roberts to take on the onerous task of writing to grant-making bodies to supplement the money that can be raised within the church.

Janet Groves, Secretary to Buildings Team

Eco-Church and Net Zero Carbon

Caring for God's creation is an important part of our mission as a church. Teaching about this is a core part of our work with children and families through our monthly Explore Creation sessions. We support A Rocha UK's Eco-Church programme, and have achieved our Bronze award.

Our Lent book this year was by Jo Swinney, "The Whole Easter Story – Why the Cross is Good News for All Creation". We hosted Jo Swinney for a successful launch event, together with her colleague Jo Herbert James, in February. Around 60 people attended from across churches in Gloucester, for presentation and discussion on the theme of caring for God's creation as followers of Jesus.

When our Church Centre boiler failed before Christmas, we looked hard at sustainable alternatives for replacing it, such as heat-pumps, but the cost and timescale for this project was not feasible and we were obliged to put in a new gas boiler. However, as noted above under the Buildings Team report, this has led us to start planning for a sustainable heating solution for the Church itself, as the Church boiler is old and liable to fail.

Our churchyard and church field, lovingly tended by our groundsman Fred Broady, are a great asset and excellent habitat for wildlife and wildflowers – we are hoping to enhance this in the year ahead.

If you would like to become more involved in the area of Creation Care, please get in touch!

Rev. Rob Crofton, Vicar

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

WEDNESDAY 30th APRIL 2025, 7.30pm

St Lawrence Church, Barnwood

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

St Lawrence Church is situated in Church Lane, Barnwood. It is part of the Diocese of Gloucester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Parish Office, 32 Church Lane, Barnwood, Gloucester, GL4 3JB.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is registered with the Charity Commission, registration number 1170167.

This report covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2024, which aligns with the church's financial year. However, election of officers and PCC members takes place at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), which normally takes place in April. In 2024 the APCM took place on 24th April.

PCC members who have served from May 2024 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent:	Revd Rob Crofton
Associate Priest:	Revd Audrey Hayman
Curate:	Revd Laine Lewis (from 30/6/24)
Readers:	Philip Jaekel, John Webster
Licensed Lay Worker:	Kate Davies
Churchwardens:	Margaret Seyers & Elizabeth Hinton
Deanery Synod Representatives:	Philip Jaekel (2026) & Elizabeth Hinton (2027)
Secretary:	Kate Davies

Elected members (with year of required re-election in brackets):

Belinda Edge	e 2020 r 2023 (2026)
Janet Groves	e 2020 r 2023 (2026)
Doug Pooley	e 2022 (2025)
Frances Mulvey	e 2023 (2026)
Peter Little	e 2024 (2027)
Yousef Shabab	e 2024 (2027)
Paul Black	e 2024 (resigned August 2024)

Non-elected officers, appointed by the PCC on 8-5-24:

Bob Hinton, Treasurer
Bob Moss, Electoral Roll Officer
Malcolm Smith, Gift Aid Officer
Kate Davies, Secretary (*ex officio*)

1. VISION AND GOVERNANCE

Structure

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Membership and Attendance

2025 is a significant date as far as Church of England electoral rolls are concerned, since a completely new roll is needed this year. This requirement occurs once every 6 years and, since the last list was produced in 2019, the time for a new compilation has now come around.

A total of 22 people who were included on the previous roll do not appear in the new version. These losses are accounted for variously by: death, ill health, leaving the area, no longer attending St Lawrence's or simply not wishing to re-join. On the other hand, 14 people who were not on the previous roll have registered for the new list. This means a net loss of 8, so the final total for the 2025 St Lawrence's Electoral Roll is 86, compared with 94 in 2024.

Anyone who wishes to apply to join the new Electoral Roll is welcome to do so after the APCM on April 30th.

Bob Moss, Electoral Roll Officer

Objectives and Activities for 2025-2026

Our objectives remain the same for the year ahead, to grow in our vision "to know and share the love of Jesus".

To help us achieve this we will continue to:

- Develop our worship services, helping people of all ages and backgrounds to encounter Jesus in worship.
- Reach out with the good news of Jesus, providing ways for people to explore the Christian faith and grow as disciples.
- Show the love of Jesus in action in our community, increasing awareness of the climate and nature crises and helping people to take practical action to care for God's creation.

Employed Staff

This year we welcomed Rev. Laine Lewis to join us as our full-time Curate-in-training, funded by the national Church. Laine has brought a wealth of gifts and experience, and her energetic ministry has been appreciated by people of all ages. Laine has worked closely with Fiona Rawlinson, our Community Family Worker (12 hours per week), and their partnership has included setting up a new weekly Toddler group, Bernie's Chat and Play. Fiona continues to support parents and families, to lead our monthly Community Lunch, and is the Chair of Governors for our C of E Primary School. Angela Sturdy continues her vital role as our Parish Administrator (12 hours per week), Sally Jaekel as our church caretaker and Fred Broady as our groundsman. Robin Jones is our paid Director of Music and his contribution with our choir continues to be much appreciated. I am very grateful to all of our Staff for their hard work and dedication.

Rev. Rob Crofton, Vicar

Parochial Church Council (PCC): A brief survey of the year

The PCC has met 8 times between May 2024 and March 2025, in person and with some members on Zoom. Each meeting included standing items such as team reports (including finance and buildings), safeguarding, reports on Deanery Synod and on Barnwood C of E Primary School. In addition, the PCC discussed matters such as the need for major repairs to the stonework and memorial tablets, the C of E developments around Prayers of Love and Faith, and new plans for apportioning the Parish Share. The

PCC meets the requirements of the new General Data Protection Regulations and continues to be vigilant in assuring proper use of data. Email lists are used to contact various groups within the congregation in accordance with PCC's legitimate purposes and the Parish Office uses a cloud hosted, web-based church management system (ChurchSuite) which helps to streamline communications and to provide a weekly Vicar's Newsletter.

The PCC also owes special thanks to Angela Sturdy, our Parish administrator. Sally Jaekel keeps the Church Centre in excellent condition which is much appreciated by all users. Fred Broady, the church groundsman, keeps the churchyard looking beautiful and tidy. John Holland is currently chairing the Buildings Team and the PCC is grateful for his work particularly around the Stonework and Repair project. Anne Roberts has helped with Grant Applications and is now supporting Bob Hinton as our Deputy Treasurer. There are many other people who get on with things quietly in the background, and the PCC is very grateful to all of them for all that they do to ensure the smooth running of our Parish and the welcome we offer to the community.

Margaret Seyers, Churchwarden, and Kate Davies, PCC Secretary

Safeguarding – Creating a Safe and Caring Community at St. Lawrence Church

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Anyone is welcome to complete the **Basic Awareness** e- learning training. This will help you to understand how safeguarding works at St. Lawrence Church and the part that you can play in keeping others safe. Alternatively, this can be completed as a face-to-face session.

The reason for safeguarding training is to raise awareness of safeguarding issues and to encourage a greater positive awareness and understanding of safeguarding amongst church members.

We aim to increase the number of people feeling confident to talk openly about safeguarding issues. Safeguarding is about creating a healthy culture. It is so much more than a tick box exercise.

Training and practical strategies for supporting others are publicised in the Vicar's Weekly Newsletter.

Look to see what a difference you can make!



National Safeguarding Standards

The five National Safeguarding standards were introduced by the Church of England in 2023.

Year 1 of the introduction of these standards saw us focus on two standards:

Standard 1 – Prevention

Standard 4 - Victims and Survivors

The focus for **Year 2** will be:

Standard 2 – Culture, Leadership and Capacity.

Standard 3 – Recognising, Assessing and Managing Risk.

National Safeguarding Standards

Standard 1	PREVENTION Church Bodies have in place a planned range of measures which together are effective in preventing abuse in their context.
Standard 2	CULTURE, LEADERSHIP AND CAPACITY Church bodies have the safe and healthy culture, effective leadership, resourcing and scrutiny arrangements necessary to deliver high quality safeguarding practices and outcomes.
Standard 3	RECOGNISING, ASSESSING AND MANAGING RISK Risk assessments, Safeguarding Agreements and associated processes are of a high standard and result in positive outcomes. The assessment and management of risk is underpinned by effective partnership working.
Standard 4	VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS Victims and survivors experience the timeliness and quality of Church bodies' responses to disclosures, and their subsequent support, as positively helping the healing process and meeting their needs.
Standard 5	LEARNING, SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT All those engaged in safeguarding related activity in Church bodies receive the type and level of learning, professional development, support and supervision necessary to respond to safeguarding situations, victims and survivors, and respondents, effectively.

As part of this work, Quality Assurance Frameworks and audits are completed. The purpose of this is to:

- To look at what this is telling us about St. Lawrence Church and our community
- To look at what this means for us in Barnwood
- To clarify the actions that need to take place

Heather Walker – Parish Safeguarding Officer

2. WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Sunday Services

Our Sunday worship continues to be the focal point of our community, enabling us to meet with God in worship, have fellowship with one another, and be strengthened and equipped to live as followers of Jesus in our daily lives. It has been good to welcome a number of new people as regular worshippers, both at our 9.45am Holy Communion Service and 11.15am Morning Worship for All Ages. The second Sunday of the month remains our 9.45am All Together Holy Communion, where we bring together both congregations.

Rev. Rob Crofton, Vicar

Music and Choir

The Choir has truly made a remarkable impact on our services this year! It has been a joy to welcome new members, especially Gareth Palfreyman, who has joined our Tenors. Their enthusiasm and talent have been a wonderful addition to our group.

As always, the dedication and hard work put into our two carol services—the Advent Service of Light and the Christmas Carol Service—were evident, with the latter seeing a fantastic turnout. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each member of the Choir for their commitment to enriching our worship experience through music. They really are a priceless gem for our Church community here in Barnwood, and I couldn't be prouder of all that they accomplish.

Despite facing several challenges in 2024, a year filled with uncertainty, the Choir has shown incredible resilience. They have continuously gathered for practice and Sunday services, proving their determination and passion. This wouldn't have been possible without the invaluable support of Kate and our talented accompanists, Liz, Alison, and Kathryn, each of whom brings their own unique flair to our music.

As we look ahead to 2025, I am thrilled to enter my twelfth year and continue to expand our repertoire while serving others through the gift of music. The journey ahead promises to be as exciting as ever!

We love to welcome singers into the choir, and if you'd like to give it a go, please contact me. You'll receive a warm welcome and expand your joke library courtesy of Alan!

I am also collating photographs or recordings of the Choir and music in Church over the years to put together a board showing our history. If you have any to contribute, I'd love to see them and take a digital copy to preserve them for the future.

Robin Jones, Director of Music

Bellringing

We have had a good year in the bell ringing chamber, we generally have enough ringers present on a Sunday morning to ring all 8 bells for the morning service and several more on practice nights.

We rang a special quarter peal with the help of some longstanding friends of the tower immediately prior to the Thanksgiving Service for Michael Mulvey, whose presence in the tower has been greatly missed. There was also general ringing before the service to enable other ringers to play tribute to him. We also rang a quarter peal in May to give thanks for the many years Brian McBurnie spent ringing with us.

On March 23rd we rang the bells half muffled in memory of our local Branch Treasurer who sadly passed away a few days before. This was a new experience for some of our ringers and a lovely sound to hear for us all, a ding with a very quiet dong, very atmospheric and solemn.

Two young people from St Lawrence started learning to ring with us in August and have made amazing progress with their bell handling, they spend an hour with us most Monday evenings and continue to improve. Our other learners are also ringing more independently and are becoming valuable integral members of the team.

St Lawrence ringers have taken the lead with keeping the bells at Upton St Leonard's ringing, though the timing of the two churches Sunday services is too close together to enable us to do more than chime the treble at Upton St Leonard's. We also form the core team for many of the ringing events in the Gloucester area which can only help us to continue to improve.

We continue to welcome visitors - ringing and otherwise, to the tower. Our bells are still considered to be some of the best in Gloucester and they are well taken care of by our Steeple Keeper Trevor.

If you would like to try out bell ringing, please get in touch or come and talk to us when we attend events at St Lawrence.

Joanna Morley – Secretary St Lawrence bell ringers

Flower Team

The flower team have enjoyed arranging the flowers in Church for weekly and Festival occasions. Many thanks to all who have given donations towards the cost of flowers, it meant we didn't have to take from church funds. Cate (Warren) and Jess (Palfreyman) are now leading the team, and I am so grateful to them, after over twenty years organising the team. It will be lovely to have some fresh ideas, and I'm sure we can all look forward to seeing the church looking beautifully decorated under their guidance.

June Edwards

Prayer

Prayer – both personal and corporate – undergirds all we are and do in our worship, ministry and mission at St Lawrence. Morning Prayer on Wednesdays is our regular weekly opportunity for reflection on Scripture together and prayer for the world, our local community, the church, and those known to us in particular need. It takes place in the Church at 9.00am, for about 45 minutes. All are welcome – do come and try it out if you haven't been before. The Monthly Prayer Meeting takes place on the Second Monday of the month from 6.45–7.45pm, in the Church Centre. We devote this one hour each month to praying together for the life and ministry of our church, and our reaching out with the good news of Jesus into our community. Again, all are welcome, do come and join in this prayer time as we pray for God's kingdom to come in our Parish.

Rev. Rob Crofton

3. EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP

The Start Course

Start is an engaging course helping people to explore God, Jesus and the journey of life in six DVD based interactive small group sessions. This year the group met from Tuesday 7th January to Tuesday 11th February and there were 10 participants. The meetings were led by Rob and Laine, with Liz Dyer and Mike Cummings in supporting roles.

Participants were invited to come along before the meeting for a catch up with others and a cup of tea. This time, along with the small discussion groups during the meeting was a valuable time to get to know and support each other as well as to explore the message of God's love and forgiveness through Jesus, and how this can impact our lives in a very positive way, enriching our lives as we walk with Him.

Each session included short video clips led by Rev. Robin Gamble (Bishop's Advisor for Church Growth in Leeds Diocese) aimed to encourage group members to start thinking about the direction of their lives, to explain what God is like and how He can be known personally.

Following the video clips, participants took part in small groups to explore questions arising from the clip and to take part in interactive exercises. This was a rich time together where people could share life experiences, ask questions and support one another. The sessions end with a short Bible passage and a prayer.

During the six weeks together, many participants expressed a wish to continue to explore the Christian faith and had found the course a valuable and enjoyable time.

Liz Dyer

Lent Studies – The Bible Course

Around 24 people have taken part in our Lent Course this year, the Bible Society's *Bible Course*. This is a comprehensive overview of the whole Bible in 8 sessions. Through engaging video presentations and small group discussions, participants have been enabled to grasp the big storyline of the whole Bible, and to see how well-known characters and events fit into that bigger picture. It has also helped us to understand God's plans and purposes in the Old Testament, and how these are fulfilled and completed in Jesus and the New Testament. Many thanks to Rev. Paul Reynolds for his hard work in producing the handouts for this course, and to Rev. Laine for co-leading this course, and to those who have facilitated the small groups. We look forward to the final two sessions after Easter.

Rev. Rob Crofton

Home Groups

Since the autumn, our homegroup has been meeting fortnightly for Bible study, prayer support and fellowship. We have been studying the Gospel of Luke, and since the beginning of Lent some of us have been joining in with the Lent Course. Following this, we shall be looking at the book of Esther in the Old Testament. There are currently nine people in the group, and in addition to our studies we have had a summer barbecue and a Christmas social evening. Homegroups are a great way to get to know people, support each other through the ups and downs of life and get to grips with the Bible, so if this is something you think you might like to do, then please do talk to Rob about it.

Paul and Alison Reynolds

4. CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND YOUTH

Explore Creation

Explore Creation is an outdoor nature-based session for families, helping them to connect with God by connecting with God's creation. It runs once a month based at the Church Centre, and is aimed at families with children up to age 10/11 (school Year 6). Harriet and Isabel Langley (Y6) have been part of the group since its start, over seven years ago, and are now very able helpers. There are several families who attend most months, as well as others who join in from time to time. We average about ten children plus some parents (with pre-school children), leaders and helpers. The team of leaders

includes Anne Woolnough, Rev. Laine Lewis and Fiona Rawlinson, and we are recruiting additional helpers and co-leaders.

We have been focusing on the 'seven senses' this school year: taste, smell, touch, hearing and sight, as well as 'magnetism' (used e.g. by birds during migration) and 'electricity' (e.g. something that bees and plants emit, and which helps creatures to survive). It has been fun to link these themes to Bible stories, crafts, arboretum trails, games and our own understanding of how God's creation works.

We are looking forward to our Good Friday workshop with outdoor trail, indoor crafts, a service and refreshments.

Petra Crofton

The HUB Youth Group

We have children from school years Y6–Y8 at our monthly meetings (i.e. aged 10-14). We meet mainly on Sunday evenings from 5.30 until 7.00pm. We offer a range of activities from crafts, wood working, outdoor shelter building, cooking, games and making fires, followed by a Bible reflection and prayer. We also share a meal together and are grateful to have had Sue Hall cater for many of these. Sophie completed her Duke of Edinburgh's Award with us and since September we now have Millie and Elspeth as helpers.

We have a group of year 6 children who joined in September from Barnwood School and at our meeting in March we had around 20 attend. We are very grateful to all the adults who volunteer especially, Steve Hutchinson, Petra Crofton, Laine Lewis and a special mention to Brenda for her sewing skills.

Fiona Rawlinson, Community Family Worker

Barnie's Toddler Group

Barnies Chat and Play started in November 2024. The aim was to reach out into the community and also to provide a first introduction to Church for Baptism families. We are grateful for a generous grant from local company Lanes Health to help with set-up costs. We meet every Thursday from 9:15-10:45am and we have around fifteen regular families attending. Many of these are baptism families but some are just from the local area. Some families have started attending the 11:15 service and some Explore Creation. Huge thanks to our amazing team: Fiona, Margaret, Maggie, Sarah and Jess, with particular mention to Alan who helps with set up and clear up, and toy-inspector Ivan who may only be three but has high standards!! We start each week with tea and toast, with blueberries for the children. We then play and chat and finish with a Bible story and our Barnies prayer. At the moment we are working our way through the Bible starting in January with Genesis and we have got as far as Joseph and his many brothers! Barnies has a lovely friendly atmosphere and is a joyful place to be, we look forward to continuing meeting together this year.

Rev. Laine Lewis, Curate

Join Together Service

Join Together is a short service held every three months on the second Sunday at 4pm, led by myself and Kate Davies. The service is specifically aimed at children with additional needs and their families, and also at very young children who enjoy instruments and stories and a more relaxed and informal environment. We use Makaton signs and pecs symbols with our specially written simple liturgy which involves lots of repetition so we can all join in. We love singing and making music with instruments and

making a very joyful noise unto the Lord. We average about twenty people a service and have welcomed families from our own church and from all over Gloucester and even one family all the way from Tredington! At Christmas we enjoyed a very sensory nativity including touching real straw and smelling incense. In March we hunted for lost sheep and we have set dates for the rest of the calendar year with our next service in June being all about kindness, using the story of the Good Samaritan.

Rev. Laine Lewis, Curate

5. SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

Baptisms

Excitingly we have had a busy year of Baptisms, with sixteen since our last report. This included the adult baptism of Bella Harmer in the 11:15 service in September, and Laine's first ever baptism which were lovely twins Florence and Oliver. We are not slowing down, with a further six baptisms in the next five weeks at the time of writing, one of these is of siblings and one will take place in an 11:15 service in May. As always families are visited at home to begin with and then invited to an evening of preparation held at the Church, where we explain the importance of baptism and also do a run through of the service. All families of pre-school children are invited to Barnie's Chat and Play, and all families are invited to Explore Creation and our other services and events. Rob, Phil and Laine take the baptisms with Fiona providing support and making links with the families. We look forward to baptising even more people in 2025.

Rev. Laine Lewis, Curate

Weddings

We conducted weddings at St Lawrence for three couples in 2024, and have three more coming up in 2025. Rev. Laine has enjoyed learning the ropes for preparing couples for marriage and conducting their wedding services, and looks forward to conducting her first wedding after she is ordained priest at the end of June.

Rev. Rob Crofton, Vicar

Funerals

Life Events are the main point of contact the Church now has with the public, at Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals. Therefore it is really important that the minister should be warm and personable, listens to their story, and tells our story. Contemporary funerals are personal, so the person's life matters, as well as building bridges to the story of God's love and our hope in Jesus. Offering spiritual support, prayer and giving a message of faith, hope, and love are also key to this ministry.

It has been another interesting year from January to December 2024 for funeral ministry at St. Lawrence Church, Barnwood. The ministry team were involved in twenty-seven Church-led funeral related services. The patterns of funeral ministry have changed and are continuing to change. There is a lot more choice and this is a short analysis of how it looked for 2024:

- One funeral took place in church followed by burial in the churchyard.
- Two funerals took place in church with committals at the crematorium.
- One graveside funeral service took place in the churchyard including a burial.
- There was one memorial service in church following a direct cremation (no funeral service and unattended at the crematorium) with a double burial of ashes in the churchyard with the second set of ashes following a church led funeral in a crematorium.

- There was one burial in the churchyard following a funeral service in a Baptist Church.
- Thirteen church led funerals for Barnwood took place at a crematorium.
- There were two church led funeral services in a cemetery chapel followed by burial in a cemetery.
- Three lots of ashes were buried in the churchyard by a church minister on a separate occasion following a church led funeral.
- One more lot of ashes were buried by a church minister in the churchyard on a separate occasion following a funeral led by a civil celebrant.
- There was one double burial of ashes buried in a churchyard into an existing grave by a church minister on a separate occasion following one with a church led funeral and the other led by a civil celebrant.
- There was also one burial of ashes in the Doris Warren Garden of Remembrance by a church minister on a separate occasion following a church led funeral.

We also held the annual All Souls Service in Church in November which was well attended, where bereaved families were invited to remember their loved ones, sing hymns, pray, listen to a short address and light candles, followed by refreshments in the church centre.

Nationally, the proportion of funerals led by Church of England ministers has been falling rapidly over the last twenty years or so. Research has shown that these days, funeral directors are looking for a swift response to funeral requests, so that they can confirm the date, time, venue and the officiating minister of funerals to grieving families as soon as possible. Diocese of Gloucester Funerals always aim to do this within twenty-four hours once the funeral director has spoken to one of our friendly administrators.

Since the launch in October 2018 the Diocese of Gloucester Funeral Project (now rebranded as Diocese of Gloucester Funerals) has seen steady growth in the number of churches it serves and the funeral requests it manages with a wide range of Lay and Ordained ministers.

In 2018 the project covered Gloucester City Deanery and managed an average of forty funerals a month and that figure increased with Forest South and Severn Vale Deaneries joining in 2020 just in time for the Pandemic with Cheltenham Deanery joining in 2022. In 2023 we expanded into North Cotswold, Tewkesbury and Winchcombe Deaneries, and have also expanded into Stroud and Cirencester Deaneries during 2023 and 2024 which is still a work in progress with service figures rising to about one thousand four hundred plus a year.

During 2024 we started discussions with Hereford and Worcester Dioceses in order to help set up similar schemes with them. These are due to be launched in 2025.

Diocese of Gloucester Funerals is based at College Green within the Department of Mission and Ministry headed up by the Director, Revd Canon Dr Sandra Millar. The team consists of Nick Partridge Diocese of Gloucester Funerals Lead who is continually working on the expansion of the original project and creating training programmes, Philip Jaekel Diocese of Gloucester Funerals Deputy Lead who spends his time covering funeral services, and at the time of writing, has now covered over eight hundred and fifty services supporting bereaved families and building on the good relationships with churches, crematoriums and cemeteries, funeral directors and gravediggers across the diocese. Also, the two administrators Annette Teschner and Nicholette Flatman who do a really great job. To support the increased number of funerals the diocese has trained a number of specialist licensed funeral ministers to support families to plan their funeral service, lead the service and follow up with bereavement care for as long as it is needed. We will be starting the next course for Funeral Ministry and Bereavement Training in May 2025.

During 2024 we also ran two different training sessions on a Saturday morning for Clergy, Curates, Curates in training, Readers, Funeral Ministers and Bereavement Support teams. The first was in February visiting Goodwins Funeral Directors in Heathville Road before going onto Gloucester Crematorium and the second in November visiting Co-operative Funeralcare Cheltenham before going onto Cheltenham Crematorium with both the funeral directors and the Crematorium Managers attending both venues. This gave the opportunity to have a guided tour behind the scenes, ask questions and this is a valuable part of the training for ministers to understand what happens behind the scenes.

During 2024 we ran two networking evening for church ministers, funeral directors and crematorium and cemetery staff and gravediggers. The first was in May in The Parliament Room at Gloucester Cathedral with Sandra Millar giving a talk on 'The advantages and disadvantages of a Church of England Funeral Service' and the second event was held in November at St. Mary de Crypt Church in Southgate Street in Gloucester with Terry Tennens, Chief Executive, National Society of Allied and Independent Funeral Directors (SAIF) and Sandra Millar on the theme 'The Day I Nearly Quit' talking about the stresses and strains of working in the funeral industry, in a safe place for storytelling, sharing and reflection.

As a team we also supported the open day in August by having a stand at Gloucester Crematorium along with crematorium and cemetery staff, funeral directors, where the public were invited to have a tour around the crematorium chapel and look behind the scenes and ask questions and experience creating memory crafts, light candles, talk and have refreshments in the hospitality suites at The Arbor.

Philip Jaekel, Reader and Funeral Minister

Barnwood C of E Primary School

The school continues to be an important part of our outreach work in the parish. Rev. Rob and Rev. Laine lead services in the school regularly and there is a weekly 'Open the Book' slot. The school have had a range of services in the Church including a special 'Leavers' service for those in year 6 moving on to other schools. An Ash Wednesday service was held in school recently with many children choosing to have a mark of ash put on their foreheads. The Governors play an active part in managing the strategic running of the school. As Community Family Worker I continue to visit weekly and maintain links between the school and Church. I am still the Chair of Governors.

Fiona Rawlinson, Community Family Worker and Chair of Governors

Refugees and Asylum-seekers

All our Iranian friends have now received refugee status and are beginning to rebuild their lives in this country. Those who left wives and children in Iran have now been reunited. We have been pleased to welcome Naval and Ryan, Yousef's family, and we pray that Naval's father will soon be well enough for her to return to Gloucester. Ryan is settling into life at Barnwood C of E Primary School.

Imazh has almost completed her Beauty course at Gloucester college and has begun to work in a salon. She is also doing some catering. Karen begins his GCSE course in September and hopes to become a vet. Hamid has passed his driving test and now hopes to find a suitable job. He has felt very privileged to become a server in church.

Mehregan is settled in Oxford with his family, and his daughter is attending the local comprehensive school. They have joined a local church, who are supporting them.

Mohsen and his wife are settled in Southampton, and he is working in a restaurant.

The other Mohsen is running a restaurant in Fulham but hoping to start a part time university course in September in Oxford and possibly open a coffee shop.

Mohammed and Sara are happily settled in Swansea and Sara is going to train as a teaching assistant starting in September. She is currently helping out at the twins' school.

Mostafa and his wife are in London. He is still having real problems with his back so is unable to work. His wife is working part time and studying to improve her English.

Amin is still in Swansea, working in a restaurant, and hopes to visit us again before long.

We hold them all in our prayers.

Margaret Seyers, Churchwarden

Gloucester Foodbank

Gloucester Foodbank is greatly appreciative of the continued generous support from the congregation of St. Lawrence. In 2024 the total weight of food and toiletries donated came to 488.45kg, which is equal to around 1,163 meals, so very well done and many thanks.

In 2023-24, Gloucester Foodbank saw an 18.7% increase in the demand for emergency food parcels with 17,037 being issued, 36.8% of them specifically for local children.

The Foodbank aims to give everyone referred to them a balanced and nutritious 3-day supply of food, and it relies on the goodwill and support of local people to enable them to do this. Toiletries and hygiene products are also extremely important.

Over 90% of food distributed by the Foodbank comes from donations, which shows how vital they are in helping them continue to help everyone referred to them.

Sue Russell, Foodbank Coordinator

Coffee Shop and Community Events Team

Coffee Shop continues to thrive on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday mornings and we are very grateful to all our volunteers who give freely of their time in the kitchen and also supplying cakes, milk etc on the day. We ask for monetary donations which helps cover heating and lighting costs etc. With utility costs and baking costs going up, we hope that donations will continue to cover the costs going forward so that we can continue to run. We have very willing but very few volunteers and we could do with extra help. Please contact Angela in the Parish Office if you would be able to help as part of a rota. This is not a very onerous task but just one or two extra helpers would make all the difference. The Walk and Talk group still meet on the same mornings and continue to patronise Coffee Shop after their walk.

The Community Events team consists of eight members from the congregation: Elizabeth Hinton (chairman), Angela Sturdy (secretary), Ann Woolnough, Sylvia Edmunds, June Edwards, Bel Edge, Fiona Rawlinson and Janet Groves who we welcomed onto the Committee this year. Sadly, Jo Paisley stepped down during the year due to health issues, but we would like to thank Jo for her longstanding service running the previous Fundraising Committee and organising events such as our annual Fayre and more recently passing on her valuable knowledge as a committee member.

We aim to organise a series of events, approximately one per month, so that hopefully there will be something to appeal to everyone. Events that we have enjoyed since April 2024 are:

- April 2024 – celebration cake after church to mark St George's Day.
- April 2024 – Quiz Night with Fish and Chips
- May 2024 – celebration cake to mark Pentecost Sunday
- May 2024 - afternoon tea to mark the 30th anniversary of Revd Audrey's ordination
- July 2024 – we welcomed Laine Lewis our new Curate with Church BBQ.
- August 2024 – tea and cake afternoon. An opportunity for people to get-together.
- September 2024 – Parish Cooked Breakfast.
- September 2024 – Music to Delight Concert in Church.
- October 2024 – Harvest Bring and Share Lunch.
- November 2024 – Festive Fayre
- December 2024 – mulled wine and mince pies after the Carol Service
- January 2025 – Quiz Night with Fish and Chips
- February 2025 – Talk and slide presentation by Janet Groves on her family business.
- March 2025 – Continental Breakfast.

In June, members of the community events team, coffee shop and community lunch attended a Food Hygiene Regulations Level 2 course. This was run by Paul Black who was our Health and Safety Officer. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Paul for all the help he provided with this and also for heading up our cooked parish breakfasts.

All our social events have been very well supported and successful, for which we would like to thank everyone. Whether this be by way of coming along, baking, cooking, donating items for sale, helping with setting up and clearing up, or all the other "behind the scenes" jobs that make the events happen. We would like to give a special mention to Robert Phelps who regularly helps with setting up for most of our Church Centre events and who also provides excellent Victoria sponges for coffee shop!

Angela Sturdy

St Lawrence Community Lunch

We have been going for over a year now and have produced a variety of lunches that has been well attended. We run on the 2nd Wednesday of each month between 12 and 2. We make a home-cooked meal with a main and pudding and sometimes there are 'seconds' for our appreciative group of diners. We had a wonderful Christmas meal with all the trimmings, crackers and decorations. We have started an informal raffle to raise money for those not as fortunate as many and have contributed towards the Foodbank.

Fiona Rawlinson, Community Family Worker

6. BUILDINGS, GROUNDS, & CARE FOR CREATION

Buildings & Churchyard Report

The Buildings Team continues to meet regularly to monitor the ongoing routine work and oversee a number of major projects under the chairmanship of John Holland.

Routine work:

Routine work is ongoing for the Church, Church Centre and churchyard. Work ensures that routine safety checks are carried out on items such as fire extinguishers and alarms. The lift, boilers, lawnmowers and other equipment is regularly serviced and trees and hedges are maintained. Unfortunately, despite regular maintenance, the Church Centre boiler failed and had to be replaced in January 2025.

Major projects:

1. The stonework around the door and the window guards. This project was highlighted last year and the team have worked with a surveyor to define the project and obtain tenders from suitable contractors. This process is progressing well, and work is due to commence this summer.
2. The damage to a number of the wall memorials was highlighted by the last quinquennial. A report into their condition was commissioned and there is a clear safety concern. Temporary work has been done to reduce the risk. Work is ongoing to obtain quotations to repair the damage and make the memorials safe.
3. Church boiler. The failure of the Church Centre boiler has highlighted the need to look at sustainable alternatives to replace the elderly Church boiler before it fails. This has become another project for the team.

Fundraising:

These projects require serious funding and the team were delighted to welcome Anne Roberts to take on the onerous task of writing to grant-making bodies to supplement the money that can be raised within the church.

Janet Groves, Secretary to Buildings Team

Eco-Church and Net Zero Carbon

Caring for God's creation is an important part of our mission as a church. Teaching about this is a core part of our work with children and families through our monthly Explore Creation sessions. We support A Rocha UK's Eco-Church programme, and have achieved our Bronze award.

Our Lent book this year was by Jo Swinney, "The Whole Easter Story – Why the Cross is Good News for All Creation". We hosted Jo Swinney for a successful launch event, together with her colleague Jo Herbert James, in February. Around 60 people attended from across churches in Gloucester, for presentation and discussion on the theme of caring for God's creation as followers of Jesus.

When our Church Centre boiler failed before Christmas, we looked hard at sustainable alternatives for replacing it, such as heat-pumps, but the cost and timescale for this project was not feasible and we were obliged to put in a new gas boiler. However, as noted above under the Buildings Team report, this has led us to start planning for a sustainable heating solution for the Church itself, as the Church boiler is old and liable to fail.

Our churchyard and church field, lovingly tended by our groundsman Fred Broady, are a great asset and excellent habitat for wildlife and wildflowers – we are hoping to enhance this in the year ahead.

If you would like to become more involved in the area of Creation Care, please get in touch!

Rev. Rob Crofton, Vicar

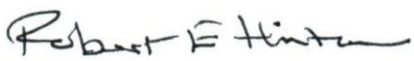
BARNWOOD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT AND NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024
Presented to the APCM on Wednesday 30th April 2025

Basis of Accounts

The accounts for the PCC of St Lawrence Church in the parish of Barnwood have been prepared on a "Receipts and Payments" basis using the "Cash Book" accounting program provided by the Gloucester Diocesan Board of Finance for this purpose. The Version Number is V5.2 - 2 issued December 2015.

The final accounts have been independently examined by Mr Andrew Matson.

These accounts and their examination are, to the best of the PCC's knowledge, compliant with the requirements of the Charities Act 1993 and those of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), 2005 revisions.

Robert Hinton . . .  . 09/03/25

(Treasurer)

Andrew Matson . . .  . 09/03/25

(Independent Examiner)

Approved by members of the Parochial Church Council and signed on their behalf by:

Rob Crofton . . . 

(Vicar)

Margaret Seyers . . . 

(Church Warden)

DATE: . . 12/03/2025.

Accounts

2023 Annual Financial Report and Accounts
Presented to the APCM of St Lawrence Church, Barnwood
on 24th April 2024

Introduction

The PCC's accounts for the year ending 31st December 2023 have been prepared in the usual way on a Receipts and Payments basis using the "Cash Book" program provided by the Diocese of Gloucester. The results have been reviewed and signed-off by a Chartered Accountant, Andrew Matson. We continue to be very grateful to him for carrying out this essential task, free of any charge to us.

Full details of the accounts are shown in Table 1, under the headings of Total Funds, Unrestricted Funds, Designated Funds and Restricted Funds. A comparison of the Total Funds with the equivalent figure from 2022 is shown in the final column. A visual pie-graph of income and expenditure is also shown in Figure 1.

The figures shown in Table 1 have not been rounded, but they have been rounded to the nearest £100 and in bold font for ease of presentation and reading in this report. Numbered paragraphs in this text correspond with the numbers in the "Notes" column of Table 1.

Overview of the Year

1. Total Income – from all sources totalled **£107,900**, it is still not back to pre-Covid levels of around **£118,000** but it is an increase of **£18,000** (20%) on the total in 2022. Nearly £7,000 of this came from a grant from a local charity (The Sylvanus Lyson Trust) to employ a new support worker. The majority of the remainder arose from increased Giving and its associated Tax Recovery with smaller increases in Legacies and Hall Lettings and Other Income from solar panels and community events.

2. Total Resources Expended on all items, totalled **£105,900**. It is also increased on 2022 but by a more modest **£5,500** (5%). It was driven primarily by increases in Administration Costs as we increased staffing levels (funded from the restricted Sylvanus Lyson Trust – see (1) above) and the so-called "Cost of Raising Funds", which includes Church Centre running costs, especially the costs of installing lift shaft safety lighting, see (11) below. Some other costs actually reduced, for example the reduction in support for our refugee colleagues from our restricted funds during 2023.

3. Net (Outgoing)/Incoming Resource - over the year was a small margin of **£2,100**. It is comfortably better than 2022 when we had a deficit of **£10,400** between total income and expenditure.

4. Investment Assets – these grew in capital value by **£7,100**. Of this total, **£4,600** was from the Designated Music Fund (now reclassified as the majority of the PCC's available reserves). The remaining **£2,500** was from the various other restricted endowment funds with dividends and interest for running and maintaining the Churchyard, upkeep of church fabric and the provision of church services.

5. Net Funds Carried into 2024 - totalled **£97,300** after net gains of **£9,200** over the figure carried into 2023 of **£88,100**. These are effectively the PCC's "Reserves" and comprise two categories:

Available reserves – are funds which could be used by the PCC for any purpose. At the end of 2023 they comprised **£3,000** of unrestricted funds and **£53,500** of designated funds. Total available reserves are therefore **£56,500**.

Restricted Reserves – are the funds held by the PCC which can only be used for the purposes specified by their respective original donors. These finished the year at **£40,800**, mainly boosted by receipt of cash from the Sylvanus Lysons Trust, and an increase in their capital value by **£2,500**. The majority of these reserves are held in share-based funds.

Minimum Available Reserves Level - the PCC's self-imposed floor of **£50,000** of Unrestricted and Designated funds was agreed several years ago. It was judged by the PCC, at the time, to be a suitable safety margin to keep the church functioning in an emergency for around six months, i.e. it is around half of the PCC's annual turnover. At the end of 2023 the PCC's available reserves were around **£56,500**, i.e. £6,500 above this floor. It is a small increase on the closing valuation of the end of 2022 of **£54,600**.

6. Legacies – were received from the estates of the late Joan Hulme and George Ridgeon totalling **£1,500**. Both were Unrestricted.

7. Interest and Dividends – of **£2,500** were little changed from 2022 as we made no changes to our investment portfolio during the year and interest rates and dividend returns remained similar to 2022.

8. Donations and Grants to Charities were made of £1,100, a small increase on 2022. They comprised the usual restricted annual donation to Christian Aid arising from after-service Sunday coffee with other collections for the Syrian Earthquake Appeal, and a small agreed annual grant to EcoChurch which was funded by a parishioner. In our present financial situation, we are still unable to return to our previous practice of making a grant to Barnwood School of £2,000 each year.

9. Mission and Evangelism – at **£2,600** was a reduction on last year's **£4,500**, as we distributed the cash raised through the restricted Refugee Support Fund. More details of our work with refugees will be given later.

10. Parish Share – this was paid in full at **£56,000**, the same as 2022 as there was no change to the Diocesan request of 2022 in recognition of the challenging financial position of the majority of churches across the Diocese. As with 2022, the PCC chose to defer payments of around **£4,000** of the Diocesan request to nearer the end of the year; this ensured we had sufficient cash to sustain the required level of reserves at all times without breaching our floor throughout the year. The final payments, to complete the full Diocesan request, were made in mid-December.

11. Running Costs of the Church, Church Centre (Cost of Raising Funds) and Churchyard - totalled **£13,100**. This increased by £2,200 over 2022. It was mainly driven by the long-outstanding requirement to improve the safety of maintenance workers in the Centre lift shaft by the installation of LED strips along its length. Lanes Health Foods provided a restricted grant of **£1,650** to fund this.

12. Support Costs of **£1,700** are a general catch-all category so varies between years depending which costs are included within it. In 2023 it included the new card-reading terminal sited in the church at £400 and all the tea, coffee, biscuits and refreshments for all church activities.

13. Administration and Staff Costs – of **£26,000** showed another year-on-year increase, this time by around **£4,700** from 2022 at **£21,200**. It was mainly due to an increase of 10% in staff salaries to maintain our lower paid workers in line with the Government's Living Wage guidelines, retaining differentials between staff, and paying two months of salary for our new Communities' and Families' Worker, as our new appointee commenced employment in November.

Other Points of Interest

Refugee Support Fund – this fund has received **£4,800** of restricted donations over the past two years, including Gift Aid, which has enabled us to support our refugee friends to the tune of **£4,300** by the end of 2023 with a balance moving forward of **£500** retained for other such causes. This year we were unable to provide Christmas presents and a Christmas party for our refugee colleagues, as members of the group obtained their refugee status and left Barnwood for new futures around Christmas. However, we were able to give each refugee a departure gift of £100 each to help them set up in a new location. We continue to provide a bus pass for a young person in the group, to continue attending full-time school in Churchdown.

Card Giving – the two SumUp card machines took donations of around **£2,200** compared to around **£1,600** in 2022. Its true turnover was greater than this, as one couple paid for a complete wedding costing around £1,000 on a credit card. In such cases, the PCC charges a small premium of 1.5% to recover its usage costs of these machines.

Easy-Fund-Raising – this scheme enables online retailers to donate a small proportion of their online sales receipts to good causes, provided that if buyers have signed up to the scheme and made known the fund they wish it to be donated to. It raised just £200 in 2023 of which almost half appeared to be a one-off goodwill donation from the company which runs it.

Sylvanus Lyson's Fund – a grant totalling £17,000 over three years has been agreed from this fund to support the employment of a Community Family Worker. Fiona Rawlinson was appointed to this post in October and will work under the direction of the vicar to further the mission of the Church. A further donation from a parishioner of £1,000 has also been received to support this. Calculations suggest that this cash will be sufficient to cover the full cost of this post in its first year. However, it will need a subsidy of around £6,000 from PCC funds as it tapers off over the three years of its duration, depending on wage inflation. Almost £7,000 was received from this trust for its first year of operation, the majority of which remains in our restricted reserves at the end of 2023 for use in 2024.

Solar Panels – the PCC's long-standing loan from the Diocese for the purchase of these panels in Dec 2011 was paid off in full, from the electricity generation income, by early 2023. All generation income now comes directly to the PCC. With a design life of the solar panel installation of 25 years, the PCC should receive this income for the next 13 years or so of around £2,600 pa now and index linked by Retail Price Indexation (RPI) every year thereafter.

Fund Raising – there were no events in 2023 in this specific category. However, our parishioners and the local community have enjoyed a series of events organised primarily by the Community Events Team. These included the now fortnightly mid-week coffee mornings, a summer barbeque, a Persian evening, a plant sale, and a curry night. Net of costs, these raised around £1,800 in unrestricted funds.

Gift Day – this was extremely well supported and raised £7,650 including Gift Aid in unrestricted funds.

In Conclusion

Overall, the PCC's finances were put under less pressure in 2023 than in 2022 but it remained a close call between income and expenditure every month. This situation necessitated the PCC to retain some of its Parish Share commitment to the Diocese until the end of the year, by which time it was confident that it could pay the full request of **£56,000** without dipping beyond the agreed sum of **£50,000** of available reserves.

After paying its full Parish Share, the PCC used its remaining income from all sources through 2023 and the gain in value of its Designated investment assets to:

- Provide a full programme of Christian worship on Sundays, Christian festivals, personal services (weddings, baptisms and funerals), with a choir and an organist along with regular community events in a social environment;
- Employ four part-time staff rising to five by the end of the year for office administration, churchyard maintenance, centre cleaning, directing music and, latterly, for ministry to and organisation of events for the communities and families within the parish;
- Run its premises in a safe and satisfactory manner including maintaining a Grade II* listed church, with heating, lighting, health and safety, energy efficiency, etc. following guidance from the recent QQI report and in compliance with all Diocesan guidance and relevant national standards, laws and regulations.
- Assist in the financial and physical support of a group of around 11 fellow Christians from Iran on their arrival in Barnwood, the establishment of their refugee status and their subsequent departure, along with other charitable work.

At the end of the year the PCC's total reserves had increased to over **£97,000** and included available (unrestricted and designated) reserves of **£56,500**. This final figure was only realised at the end of the year due to an upturn in the market value of the PCC's portfolio of share-based investments and enabled the PCC to pay its requested Parish Share in full.

The PCC also prepared and approved a balanced budget forecast for 2024 with income forecast close to £100,000 and expenditure just £900 below this. At this stage it includes a reduction in its Parish Share by £4,000 to £52,000 to achieve this. The PCC was subsequently requested by the Diocese to improve this to £60,000 and we will make best endeavours to meet this target provided it does not breach the PCC-agreed reserves floor of £50,000.

Bob Hinton – Treasurer to the PCC

28th Feb 2024

APPENDIX 1 – The 2024 Budget Forecast

Introduction - this budget was produced at the end of October 2023 using the actual data for the latest 10 months of data (Jan to Oct) together with the last two months of 2022 (Nov and Dec). Each outturn figure was then considered and adjusted upwards or downwards to reflect expected or known changes of income and expenditure from this dataset.

The PCC also holds a significant number of Restricted cash reserves totalling around £41,000: these can only be used for the purpose specified at the time of donation by their donor. Restricted cash and reserves do not form a part of this forecast. It is therefore only comparable with the outturn sums of the Unrestricted and Designated columns of Table 1.

2024 Final Forecast – see Table 2

Income - with the changes detailed below, then the 2023 outturn figure of **£94,800** increases by 5.2% to **£99,700** in 2024.

Expenditure - The corresponding figure for 2023 was **£97,800** increasing marginally by 1% to **£98,800** in 2024.

Income vs Expenditure - a narrow positive margin arises from these forecasts of just **£900**. This figure is very sensitive to unpredictable changes in either income or expenditure over a whole year or so. For example we already have a bill for £2,150 lined up for payment in February 2024 for further lift repairs! It may assist in understanding the PCC's wish to carry such reserves of this order.

Diocesan Request vs Deanery Commitment. One complication in this process was that the **Deanery** requested all PCCs to provide a Parish Share commitment figure for 2024 – to which the PCC responded with an affordable and hence firm commitment of **£52,000** and in line with this budget at the time. It represents a **£4,000** or 7% decrease on the 2023 figure of **£56,000**. While simultaneously the **Diocese** made a direct request to all of its parishes requesting a 7% increase in our Parish Share to **£60,000**.

The PCC continues with its base case budget forecast but with the offer to the Diocese to make all efforts to meet this higher target Parish Share without breaching its agreed available reserves floor of at least **£50,000** throughout the year. Please be aware that the budget figures in this Appendix were prepared at the end of October 2023 and based on projections to the 2023 year-end, not on the actual year-end data which is the subject of this review at the actual outturn for 2023.

We will therefore continue to focus on reducing our cost base and increasing income, especially through regular giving, in order to move towards paying a higher level of Parish Share than this budget figure of **£52,000**. No firm agreement can be made at this stage for 2024 as the budget forecast suggest there is a risk of breaching the PCC's floor of available reserves.

TABLE 1 - BARNWOOD's Receipts & Payments Account
for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note Numbers	2023	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	2022
		£	£	£	£	£
INCOME						
Voluntary income:						
Planned giving		49,808	49,808	-	-	35,812
Collections, donations & other giving		17,837	5,846	351	11,640	19,337
Income tax recovered		11,713	11,314	60	339	9,875
Legacies	(6)	1,534	1,534	-	-	-
Activities for generating funds						
Magazine/Bookstall sales/Hall Lettings etc		13,694	13,694	-	-	12,416
Income from other Properties		-	-	-	-	-
Annual Fete/events		-	-	-	-	387
Investment income:						
Interest & dividends	(7)	2,478	170	1,445	863	2,427
Income from charitable activities:						
Parochial fees		6,139	6,139	-	-	7,932
Other incoming resources:						
Insurance claims		-	-	-	-	-
Gain on disposal of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-
Loans received		-	-	-	-	-
Other		4,738	4,738	-	-	1,858
		-	-	-	-	-
Total incoming resources	(1)	107,941	93,243	1,856	12,842	90,044
EXPENDITURE						
Charitable activities:						
Donations/Grants to charities	(8)	(1,143)	-	-	(1,143)	(943)
Mission & Evangelism	(9)	(2,577)	(627)	(602)	(1,348)	(4,506)
Parish Share	(10)	(55,982)	(55,982)	-	-	(55,982)
Clergy expenses		(1,219)	(1,219)	-	-	(1,492)
Church running expenses	)	(5,751)	(3,323)	(750)	(1,678)	(5,310)
Churchyard maintenance	) (11)	(1,720)	(705)	-	(1,015)	(834)
Cost of raising funds (Centre running costs)	)	(5,619)	(3,969)	-	(1,650)	(4,781)
Running costs:						
Support costs	(12)	(1,671)	(1,671)	-	-	(277)
Administration costs (inc. staff costs)	(13)	(25,955)	(23,983)	(729)	(1,243)	(21,225)
Other		(4,252)	(4,252)	-	-	(3,266)
Governance costs						
Major expenditure						
Repairs to church buildings		-	-	-	-	(1,806)
Repairs to other property		-	-	-	-	-
Capital purchases/additions		-	-	-	-	-
Loan repayments		-	-	-	-	-
Total resources expended	(2)	(105,889)	(95,731)	(2,081)	(8,077)	(100,422)
Net (outgoing)/ incoming resources	(3)	2,052	(2,488)	(225)	4,765	(10,378)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before gains		2,052	(2,488)	(225)	5	(10,378)
Gains on investment assets	(4)	7,121	-	4,573	2,548	(10,895)
Net movement in funds		9,173	(2,488)	4,348	7,313	(21,273)
Funds brought forward at 1 Jan 2023		88,094	5,439	49,163	33,492	109,367
Funds carried forward at 31 Dec 2023	(5)	97,267	2,951	53,511	40,805	88,094

*produced using the Diocesan Cashbook v5

BARNWOOD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT AND NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

Presented to the APCM on Wednesday 24th April 2024

Basis of Accounts

The accounts for the PCC of St Lawrence Church in the parish of Barnwood have been prepared on a "Receipts and Payments" basis using the "Cash Book" accounting program provided by the Gloucester Diocesan Board of Finance for this purpose. The Version Number is V5.2 - 2 issued December 2015.

The final accounts have been independently examined by Mr Andrew Matson.

These accounts and their examination are, to the best of the PCC's knowledge, compliant with the requirements of the Charities Act 1993 and those of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), 2005 revisions.

Robert Hinton



(Treasurer)

Andrew Matson



(Independent Examiner)

Approved by members of the Parochial Church Council and signed on their behalf by:

Rob Crofton



(Vicar)

Margaret Seyers



(Church Warden)

DATE:



Accounts

Introduction

The PCC's accounts for the year ending 31st December 2022 have been prepared in the usual way on a Receipts and Payments basis using the "Cash Book" program provided by the Diocese of Gloucester.

These accounts have been reviewed and signed-off by a Chartered Accountant, Andrew Matson; we are extremely grateful to him for carrying out this essential task, free of any charge to the PCC.

In this report, please note:

Detailed figures showing the receipts and payments are shown in Table 1. A visual pie-graph is shown in Figure 1.

The main numbers in this text are shown in bold type, these have been rounded to the nearest £100 for clarity and can largely be traced to the figures in Table 1 by their respective paragraph numbers. The 2021 equivalent numbers are shown in parenthesis after each figure and in the final column of Table 1.

This report excludes any financial account of the £20,000 grant received in 2021 from ECLAS (Equipping Christian Leadership in an Age of Science). This grant has now been fully used by Petra and Rob Crofton for the purpose it was intended. Full accounts for this project have been supplied to ECLAS for its use and review. An independent review of these, via the PCC, has not been carried out.

Summary of the Main Points – see Table 1

1. **Total Income** – income from all sources including giving, Gift Aid tax recovery, hall rentals, and parochial fees totalled **£90,000** (£86,700).
2. **Total Expenditure** - including Parish Share, staff salaries, running expenses for the church, centre and churchyard, charitable giving and utility bills was **£100,400** (94,700).
3. **The Shortfall** over the year was therefore around **£10,400** (£8,100), a moderate increase on the loss in 2021, but not dissimilar.
4. **Funding this loss** – the PCC transferred **£10,000** (£7,000) from its designated Music Fund, via a PCC resolution into unrestricted funds for general church use. A small sum of **£300** was also redesignated from redundant designated funds that were no longer required.
5. **Investment Portfolio Losses** - further losses of around **£10,900** (gain of £12,500) were sustained across the entire portfolio due to market conditions following the political and economic turbulence of 2022.
6. **PCC Total Reserves** – these commenced the year at **£109,400** and finished the year, following these losses, at **£88,100** (109,400).
7. **Available Reserves** – these are simply defined as those which could be used by the PCC for any purpose and, at the beginning of the year they comprised unrestricted cash of **£3,900** and designated cash of **£67,500** (total £71,400). By the end of the year the figures were, respectively, **£5,500** and **£49,000** (total £54,500).

8. **Minimum Available Reserves Level** - the PCC's self-imposed floor of £50,000 was agreed several years ago. It was judged by the PCC, at the time, to be a suitable safety margin to keep the church functioning in an emergency for six months, i.e. it is around half of the PCC's annual turnover. At the end of 2022 we are only £4,500 above this level but hopeful that our reserves will return to former levels of capital growth. In contrast, those reserves grew by **£12,500** in 2021 and by £6,200 in 2020.

Further Detailed Points of Table 1

9. **Giving and Tax Recovery** – Planned giving of **£35,800** (37,500) and Tax Recovery of **£9,900** (£12,000) were both below 2021 levels. But this was more than compensated by increased Collections and Other Giving to **£19,300** (£8,300). It was primarily driven by donations to special appeals, especially the restricted Refugee Support Funds and some generous one-off donations by parishioners including £1,000 to a potential new post, see (23) below.
10. **Legacies** - none were received in 2022 following receipt of **£7,200** in 2021 from the estates of Juliet Bond and Fannie Storr.
11. **Hall Lettings and Parochial Fees** - at **£12,400** (£8,500) and **£7,900** (£6,000) respectively, were significantly up on 2021 levels as church activities returned towards pre-Covid levels. Note that prior to Covid, hall letting income had reached nearly £18,000 pa.
12. **Interest and Dividends** – at **£2,400** (£2,600) fell by £200 as our finances had necessitated selling **£10,000** of Music Fund shares, see (4) above.
13. **Donations and Grants** (to other bodies) – at **£900** (£3,800) fell sharply mainly as a result of a PCC decision not to give our planned £2,000 to Barnwood School as our reserves continued to decline towards our floor level. The majority of the donations we did make were from restricted funds donated for specific causes, especially Christian Aid, after-service coffee donations of £600 and donations to the Royal School of Church Music and to a poor family in the parish.
14. **Mission and Evangelism** – at **£4,500** (£700) increased sharply from last year as we collected and distributed the cash raised through the restricted Refugee Support Fund and with increased expenditure celebrating baptisms and Petra's ongoing work with youth groups. More details of the work with refugees will be given later.
15. **Parish Share** – this was paid in full at **£56,000** (£56,200) – a marginal reduction on 2021. The PCC agreed to delay a small proportion of these regular payments in August until later in the year once we could see our way forward financially and to avoid breaching our reserves floor.
16. **Church, Centre (Cost of Raising Funds) and Churchyard Running Costs** - totalled **£10,900** (£15,000). This primarily arises from reductions in church centre running costs in 2022 along with reductions in Churchyard maintenance costs and the removal of the majority of music costs into Staff Costs see (17) below.
17. **Administration and Staff Costs** – at **£21,200** (£14,600) showed a significant increase on 2021 primarily due to the inclusion of the Director of Music's stipend, see (16) above, staff salary increases, increased normal working hours for Angela from 9 hrs to 12 hrs/week and full payment of holidays whether taken or not for the members of staff with hourly contracts and holiday entitlement.

18. **Repairs to Church Buildings** – of **£1,800** were the full cost of extending the WiFi into the church via an underground cable; it was funded from the restricted Warren bequest.

Other Points of Interest

19. **Refugee Support Fund** – the PCC set up a restricted fund to provide mission and outreach to refugees temporarily resident in the Barnwood area. It collected £3,000 by the end of the year with a further £1,300 collected (both sums include Gift Aid) to provide Christmas presents and lunches for our refugee friends along with members of our church, including Bishop Rachael. To date a total of £3,400 has been spent on items such as cash Christmas presents of £100 to each person, bicycles, helmets and lights, several laptops, baby equipment, travel assistance, mobile phones, drawing equipment and other diverse items for everyday living. The two funds were combined at the end of the year with a total of £1,000 remaining including a hangover of Gift Aid from the final quarter of the year.
20. **Staff Salaries** – we raised salaries to all four staff members by 5% from 1st April 2022 in line with HMG Living Wage recommendations. Our lowest paid worker was paid £9.98/hr and differentials were maintained.
21. **Card Giving** – there has been a gradual take-up of this transaction method. Our SumUp card reader has taken £2,600 this year with around half of this paying for one of the big weddings booked for 2023 with a 1.5% surcharge to cover the card companies' processing fees.
22. **Easy Fund Raising** – this scheme, enables online retailers to donate a small proportion of their sales to good causes if buyers have signed up to the EFR scheme. It raised just £150 this year, a similar sum to 2021. It may not be helped by its bombardment of shoppers with continuous offers once they sign-up to this well-meaning scheme.
23. **Sylvanus Lyson's Fund** – a grant of £17,000 has been agreed from this fund to support the employment of an outreach and communications officer to work alongside the Parish Administrator (Angela) for a three-year period to further the mission of the Church. No suitable applicant has been appointed yet, but one payment of the grant of £600 and a donation from a parishioner towards this post of £1,000 have been received to date. The total of £1,600 is maintained in the PCC's restricted funds, until required. A second parishioner has offered to donate a further £1,000 per year to further support this new post.

In Conclusion

24. **Overall the PCC's finances were put under severe strain in 2022**, largely due to the Covid pandemic and its effect on congregation attendance and their giving combined with a large fall in the value of investments on world-wide markets. Fortunately, the PCC was able to meet the majority of its financial commitments to its parishioners, its staff, suppliers and the Diocese. Its only exception was that it could no longer donate £2,000 to Barnwood School, or any other charities from its own funds. Some donations were possible from special collections, mainly to Christian Aid from after-service coffee in the customary manner.

25. **Help for Refugees** - on the upside, our congregation provided much support to fellow Christians from Iran with a substantial financial support package on their arrival in Barnwood to assist with their work, childcare, travel and leisure activities.
26. **Reserves** - the financial consequences of such a tough year is that the PCC's available funds ended the year uncomfortably close to the £50,000 floor set by the PCC a few years ago.
27. **A budget for 2023** – was presented, discussed and agreed with the PCC by the end of 2022 with the aim to reduce the annual deficit as the economic climate recovers. Its key points are presented below.

The 2023 Budget

28. **Procedure** – in the usual manner, the PCC was presented with a draft budget at its November 2022 meeting based on the previous 12 months of actual data with modifications to reflect the anticipated needs of 2023 at its time of preparation. The PCC reviewed and finalised this, with results given in the following paragraphs. It is judged that these figures represent a realistic central scenario. Taking item-by-item they include the following changes.
29. **Giving – up by £1,200** – increase at around half of the current inflation rate (i.e. 5% with inflation at 10%). Also assumes we will lose at least one giver due to moving out of area, etc and maybe more in 2023 with corresponding reduction in giving by around £100 per month. It is hoped that regular giving could improve beyond this forecast as younger members of the congregation start to join the Parish Giving Scheme or use the card giving machine which is now in regular service.
30. **Gift Aid – up by £200** – assumed to remain at the same percentage of giving levels as in 2022 of 21% at the time of preparation.
31. **Fund Raising – assumed to rise to £1,000** from a few sponsored events or similar specific fund-raising activities to be reinstated during the course of the year.
32. **Parish Fees – up by £700** and arising from the 10% rise set by the Church of England for statutory fees and knocked through to other fees which the PCC receives.
33. **Parish Centre Hire – up by £2,200** as a result of increasing all room hire rates by 10% and an assumed increase in the number of bookings by a further 10% over 2022 levels as we recover further from the Covid slump.
34. **Income from Other Church Activities – up by £700** as a result of expanding the activities associated with current monthly coffee mornings, and other social event occasions and organised by the newly-formed Community Events Team (CET).
35. **Solar Panels – new income stream of £2,000** as we receive the full benefit of solar panel generation income as the loan to the Diocese is expected to be paid-off shortly into 2023.
36. **Parish Share – no change from current level of £56,000.** And as agreed by the Diocese.
37. **Barnwood School** – no change as no donation possible in 2022.

38. **Salaries and Wages** – up by 10% in April as we retain existing staff hours with an across-the-board pay increase in-line with the September 2022 inflation figure; the benchmark used in many annual negotiations as the new financial year begins.
39. **Administration** – up by £150 with a view to the possible purchase of a refillable inkjet printer to replace the increasingly unreliable office machine. A temporary replacement has been donated for the present. A special fund may be considered in 2023 to purchase a full replacement office machine but this could cost between £1,000 and £4,000 depending on the model chosen.
40. **Churchyard Maintenance – increase by £1,000** as a result of potential extra tree maintenance likely to be required as we have spent little on this except for hedge trimming in 2022.
41. **Other Costs – up 10% or around £1,000** - they include clergy expenses, mission and evangelism, children and youth work, minor repairs, music, cost of trading and routine maintenance but not heating and lighting, see below.
42. **Heating and Lighting Costs** – no change – we currently have a significant credit of around £1,000 with the energy companies and fixed price contracts for most of our energy for the rest of the year.
43. **The Results of these changes** - are summarised as follows:
- a) An increase in income over 2022 by £7,300 (9%) to **£87,600**.
 - b) A corresponding increase in expenditure by a more modest £3,200 (4%) to **£92,800**.
 - c) Full payment of the requested Parish Share to the Diocese of £56,000. It is equivalent to 64% of total income and represents about one and a half times the level of our budgeted planned income.
 - d) A forecast deficit for 2023 of around £5,000 to be met from the remainder of the PCC's available reserves, of £4,900, see (6) above. The majority of this is held within the PCC's music fund. Sufficient available cash must remain in the main account to accommodate month-by-month cash-flow variances in income and expenditure without breaching the reserves floor for any significant length of time.
 - e) It is hoped that the PCC's invested reserves will grow in capital value sufficient to maintain its available reserves above this £50,000 floor.

Bob Hinton – Treasurer to the PCC

4th March 2023

Table I - Barnwood PCC's Receipts and Payments Accounts - 2022

	Notes	2022				2021
		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	TOTAL	TOTAL
		£	£	£	£	£
Receipts						
Voluntary income:						
Planned giving		35,637	105	70	35,812	37,476
Collections, donations & other giving	9.	12,558	183	6,597	19,338	8,275
Income tax recovered		9,664	-	211	9,875	11,972
Legacies	10.	-	-	-	-	7,163
Activities for generating funds						
Magazine/Bookstall sales/Hall Lettings etc	11.	12,416	-	-	12,416	8,540
Income from other Properties		-	-	-	-	-
Annual Fete/events		387	-	-	387	4,353
Investment income:						
Interest & dividends	12.	41	1,545	806	2,392	2,629
Income from charitable activities:		-	-	-	-	-
Parochial fees		7,932	-	-	7,932	6,008
Other incoming resources:						
Insurance claims		-	-	-	-	-
Gain on disposal of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-
Loans received		-	-	-	-	-
Other		1,122	736	-	1,858	254
Total incoming resources	1.	79,757	2,569	7,684	90,010	86,670

Payments						
Charitable activities:						
Donations/Grants to charities	13.	(100)	-	(843)	(943)	(3,828)
Mission & Evangelism inc Children's Work	14.	(422)	(808)	(3,276)	(4,506)	(701)
Parish Share	15.	(55,982)	-	-	(55,982)	(56,238)
Clergy expenses		(1,492)	-	-	(1,492)	(1,385)
Church running expenses		(2,838)	(1,035)	(1,437)	(5,310)	(5,842)
Churchyard maintenance	16.	(429)	-	(405)	(834)	(1,849)
Cost of raising funds		(4,781)	-	-	(4,781)	(7,350)
Running costs:						
Support costs		(277)	-	-	(277)	(72)
Administration costs (inc. staff costs)	17.	(19,044)	(1,444)	(738)	(21,226)	(14,622)
Other		(3,110)	(156)	-	(3,266)	(2,858)
Governance costs		-	-	-	-	-
Major expenditure						
Repairs to church buildings	18.	-	-	(1,806)	(1,806)	-
Repairs to other property		-	-	-	-	-
Capital purchases/additions		-	-	-	-	-
Loan repayments		-	-	-	-	-
Total resources expended	2.	(88,475)	(3,443)	(8,505)	(100,423)	(94,745)
Net (outgoing)/ incoming resources	3.	(8,718)	(874)	(821)	(10,413)	(8,075)
Transfers between funds	4.	10,337	(10,337)	-		-
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before gains		1,619	(11,211)	(821)	(10,413)	(8,075)
Gains on investment assets	5.	-	(7,151)	(3,537)	(10,688)	12,465
Net movement in funds		1,619	(18,362)	(4,358)	(21,101)	4,390
Funds brought forward at 1 Jan 2022		3,886	67,483	37,998	109,367	104,977
Funds carried forward at 31 Dec 2022	6.	5,505	49,121	33,640	88,266	109,367
Available Reserves	7.	54,626			Not Applicable	

*produced using the Diocesan Cashbook v5

BARNWOOD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT AND NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021

Basis of Accounts

The accounts for the PCC of St Lawrence Church in the parish of Barnwood have been prepared on a "Receipts and Payments" basis using the "Cash Book" accounting program provided by the Gloucester Diocesan Board of Finance for this purpose. The Version Number is V5.2 - 2 issued December 2015.

The final accounts have been independently examined by Mr Andrew Matson.

These accounts and their examination are, to the best of the PCC's knowledge, compliant with the requirements of the Charities Act 1993 and those of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), 2005 revisions.

Robert Hinton
(Treasurer)

Andrew Matson
(Independent Examiner)

Approved by members of the Parochial Church Council and signed on their behalf by:

Rob Crofton
(Vicar)

Margaret Seyers
(Church Warden)

DATE:

1. 2021 - Overview

The PCC started the year with total cash and investment assets of nearly **£105,000** following a substantial overall loss in 2020 of around **£19,000**.

By the end of 2021 it had a significant deficit between income and expenditure of just over **£8,000**.

This deficit was adequately financed by a growth in capital assets of nearly **£13,000**.

The net effect was an increase in the PCC's total cash and investment funds by almost **£5,000** at the end of 2021 to near **£110,000**.

It was helped in its endeavours by some significant upsides compared to 2020, including a reduction in Parish Share, two legacies, ~~a sponsored bird-watch~~, additional hall lettings, additional Gift Aid tax recovery and a sponsored fund-raising event.

There were some downsides too, mainly as overall giving decreased with a much poorer response to the Gift Day request.

The PCC paid its full Parish Share due of over **£55,000** following an agreed **£9,000** subsidy from a fund known as the Diocesan Stipends Fund. We then overpaid our Parish Share by an additional **£1,000** near the end of the year as the likely outturn of its finances became clearer. This reduced the level of this subsidy to **£8,000** in response to the Deanery's request to assist other local churches still struggling with their finances more than ourselves.

The PCC continued to pay its four members of staff at rates comparable with other organisations and in-line with government policy on the "Living Wage". We also made **£800** of payments to staff who could not meet their contracted working hours due to Covid. We were grateful to Robin Jones for agreeing to work outside of his contract (i.e. leading the choir and playing the organ) and took up making video recordings of services for streaming via our website.

The PCC was also able to renew its annual grant to Barnwood School in 2021 of **£2,000** which had been interrupted in 2020 due to the large net deficit referred to above.

In conclusion, the PCC's finances have survived the Covid-related difficulties of 2021 by dint of generous donations, bequests and fund-raising together with large growth in the value of its assets and a reduction by the Diocese in its Parish Share. Total assets actually grew by nearly £5,000.

We enter 2022 with optimism and in the knowledge that the PCC has enough funds available in its reserves to meet the likely budget forecast -deficit of **£19,000** for 2022 without breaching its self-imposed minimum level of reserves of **£50,000** and in the hope that the financial climate will improve further as Covid restrictions lift.

2. Notes to the Accounts - Receipts and Payments

Table 1 shows the breakdown of virtually all cash that passed through the PCC's Receipts and Payments Accounts in 2021. These notes are aimed at providing some explanation of how they arose and why they are different from 2020.

- a) **Referring back to 2020** - the first year of Covid, see the final column of figures on the RHS of the table. Here you will recall that the PCC's income dropped to an all-time low of **£77,373** with a much smaller reduction in expenditure of **£102,767**. It was partially compensated by an increase in the value of our investment portfolio by **£6,244** but the net deficit of the PCC's total assets was still **£19,150** with a final balance of **£104,989** to carry forward into 2021.

Now returning to 2021 and compared to 2020, the PCC had the benefits of:

- b) **Reduced Parish Share - £56,238** - reduced by £8,000 - thanks to support from the Diocesan Stipends Fund.
- c) **Two legacies**
 - **Fannie Storr - £2,000** - it is hoped to designate this cash for some special purchase in the future but, for the moment, it is being used to finance day-to-day church activities.
 - **Juliet Bond - £5,163** - a further legacy from one of the beneficiaries of the late Juliet Bond's estate, who subsequently died and kindly passed their legacy from Juliet of **A\$10,000** to the PCC, equating to the sum above at the prevailing exchange rate.
- d) **Annual Fete and Events £4,353 - up from £154** primarily comprised two items:
 - **Sponsored Bird watch** - Andy Langley raised nearly £2,440 net of Gift Aid for church funds, mainly by donations from church Members, and with the assistance of his employer, Ecclesiastical Insurance Group (EIG), which doubled the collection by £1,865 from the majority of the donations it received. A further £1,400 was donated, via the PCC, to A Rocha's Eco Church project.
 - **Coffee morning** - there was also a good response to this event, just prior to Christmas, which raised £340 excluding Gift Aid.
- e) **Gain on Investment Assets - £12,465 up from £6,244** - The PCC's invested reserves grew significantly (by 14%) in capital value on an opening balance of **£92,834** following the good performance of the majority of our funds held by the PCC using the Churches, Charities and Local Authorities (CCLA) fund managers.
- f) **Income tax recovery - £11,972, up from £8,573** - primarily due to shorter turn-around times of claims to HMRC and the hangover of claims from 2020, including its Gift Day.

- g) **Hall lettings - £8,540 - up from £5,687** - lettings started to pick up; this is encouraging but it is still around half of the pre-Covid levels of 2019.

However, there were some decreases in income or increases in expenditure to partially balance these upsides:

- h) **Planned giving and Collections, donations & other giving - £45,751 - down from £52,403** - this was mainly due to a much reduced response to the Gift Day campaign which was down about £3,500 from 2020 and also to the reduced number of services, smaller plate collections, the departure or death of some parishioners and changes in donations by others.
- i) **Donations/grants to charities - £3,828, up from £555**, this is good news for the recipient charities as the PCC was able to:
- Restore its usual grant to the Barnwood School Governor's fund of **£2,000**
 - Donate **£1,400** of Sponsored Bird Watch funds to the A Rocha - Ecochurch as mentioned in (d) above.
 - Make further smaller donations of restricted funds arising from the Long Table, Christian Aid and Children's Society appeals.

3. Notes to the Accounts - Balances and Assets

Table 2 shows the cash and investments held by the PCC at the beginning and end of the year together with their respective gains and losses. Here are the main points:

- a) **Total Assets valuation** - the year opened with a total asset and cash accounts valuation of **£104,989**. All income, including all receipts, dividends and interest together with capital growth totalled **£111,60199,485** which more than offset all payments out of **£94,744**, and the total asset valuation at the end of the year was **£109,3817710**, a net increase of **£4,392741**. We take this total asset valuation forward to commence 2022.
- b) **Reserve Fund** - this fund was virtually all spent in 2020 to survive the first year of Covid 19. There now seems little hope of replenishing it for the foreseeable future and the PCC is using the Music Fund to top-up shortfalls. It is likely this minor residual balance of **£100** will be cashed in and the fund closed in 2022.
- c) **Warren Fund - £238** was drawn down from this fund to finance the final bill for the architect's fees to repair the South door. This fund is restricted to the upkeep, maintenance and repair of the church and churchyard. The balance is **£4,895**. As an interest-bearing cash fund with very low returns, **£1,800** has been ear-marked by the PCC for the costs of installing WiFi in the church early in 2022. It had originally been ear-marked to fund the South door repairs, but priority is now being given to the WiFi project.
- d) **Music Fund** - all dividends totalling **£1,840** were withdrawn from the Music Fund to pay for the majority of the church's music costs (mainly the Director of

Music's stipend). A further **£9,000** was withdrawn and redesignated for general use to meet the shortfall between income and expenditure across-the-board. We were fortunate that the assets value of this fund grew by just over £9,000 so the balance at the end of the year was marginally higher than the opening balance.

- e) **Investments Assets** – with the exception of the Music Fund, the PCC only spent the interest and dividends arising from its investment portfolio. Using the Churchyard fund as an example, with a beginning-of-year valuation of **£21,530** and total dividend returns and capital growth of **£3,722**, its total returns were around 17%.

4. Additional Points to Note

- a) **Energy usage** – The PCC changed energy suppliers early in the year to Ecotricity which provides carbon-free electricity and carbon-offset gas. It plans to move to carbon-free gas in the future, but such gas-producing plants are in their early stages of development. It is more expensive than non-green suppliers but lowering the carbon footprint of the church is seen as a key priority and the PCC's take-up of three-year contracts has protected us from the current energy price increases until the end of 2023. Total energy used through the year was very similar to the much-lower figures of 2020 as follows:

Comparative Energy Usage across three consecutive years (kWh)			
	2021	2020	2019
Church Gas	11,300	14,600	22,600
Centre Gas	15,000	18,500	30,000
Church Power	900	750	1,850
Centre Power	3,300	3,200	4,900

- b) **Solar Panels**—these produced an income of £2,000 (2020—£2,096) from 3,365 kWh of generation which was retained by the Diocese to pay off the solar panel loan. It is now fully paid off and this income will be added to the PCC's accounts for the remaining 14 years of the contract. It has, in effect, been cost free to the PCC as income to date has been used to pay off the 4% pa loan from to from their installation costs back in 2011. Future costs could be incurred if the panels require any long term maintenance. One half of the installation did actually fail within the first year or so of operation, but this was covered by the installer's guarantee. The panels have since been fault free. **[DRAFT – final income not known yet** – these produced 3,365 kWh of generation in 2021 and a corresponding income of £1,948. It reduced the residual of our loan from the Diocese to £2,219 after the accrual of £65 of interest. At this rate of income the loan should be paid off during the first few months of 2023. After that the PCC should benefit by around £2,000 of income pa for the remaining 13 years of the contract (2036) at no cost to the PCC unless the installation requires any maintenance. To date it has had none except for a faulty connection in its first year of operation which was covered by the installer's guarantee.]

- c) Installation of WiFi in the Church** – the PCC has accepted quotes totalling £1,800 for the installation of three WiFi aerials in the church to give it full 4G signal coverage (including the bell tower). It comprises digging a trench to accommodate a hard-wired link between the Parish Office and the Vestry. A Faculty application has been made to the Diocese and approval has just been granted. It is anticipated that the installation will start in early February.
- d) Planned Giving** – the majority of cash donated to the church came via the Parish Giving Scheme run centrally by the Diocese of Gloucester. Here is the pattern of planned giving via the various methods of giving:

Method of Giving	No. of Givers	Cash raised (ex Gift Aid)
Parish Giving Scheme and Employee Giving scheme	30	£24,862
Standing Orders	9	£10,288
Gift Aid envelopes in church	5	£261

- e) Easy Fund Raising** – this is a giving technology whereby the PCC receives a small percentage of an individual's on-line card-based expenditure which was introduced in St Lawrence at the end of 2020. It has not been widely used but it produced a sum of £142 in 2021.
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Following the second year of Covid 19 and the effects it had on PCC finances, we are anticipating some recovery in 2022. This budget has been compiled by the Finance Team and agreed by the PCC. It foresees another year of difficult times ahead with few of the upsides in (2) above which kept 2021 so buoyant by the end of the year. Its assumptions include:

Income

- a) **Hall lettings and other church activities** - return slowly through the year to a total for the full year of 2/3 of pre-Covid 2019 levels, equivalent to £12,000 pa plus coffee shop every fortnight raising £40 per session.
- b) **Giving and Gift Aid** – increase by half rate of inflation (2%) as many people do not inflate their giving and a similar Gift Day to 2021 but with no hang-over of Gift Aid claims from previous year.

- c) **Fund-Raising** – very limited in 2022 as no fund-raising team in place, but a couple of well-attended coffee mornings should provide around £500 each.
- d) **Dividends and interest** - to fall by around 10% as reserves are spent progressively to meet deficit budget.
- e) **Parochial fees** - return to 2019 levels as funerals and weddings return to the church but inflated by around 10% in line with the three years of inflationary increases in fees since 2019.

Expenditure

- f) **Barnwood school grant** – continue at the present level for 2021 of £2,000.
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Resulting 2022 Budget

These changes from 2021 produced another unbalanced Receipts and Payment budget account with an Income of around **£81,000** and total expenditure of around **£98,000** and hence a forecast deficit of around **£17,000**.

Still, with available reserves (unrestricted plus designated) of nearly **£72,000** and the PCC's agreed floor of such reserves of **£50,000**, we have **£22,000** headroom to meet a deficit of that magnitude. [.](#)

As we start 2022, the final line of Table 2 shows we have around **£4,000** of unrestricted cash in these available reserves, but at a rate of loss of £1,500 per month we will shortly be drawing down from the Music Fund again.

Further upside is possible if additional fund-raising activities could be organised, including another sponsored event as in 2021. Further legacies are unpredictable in the budgeting process, but they are always welcome if people wish to consider the church in their will. They are also tax efficient. Church Centre Hall rentals may return to pre-pandemic levels faster than expected although several groups have already cancelled for 2022.

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In addition to the usual income and expenditure streams, the Vicar, Treasurer and Church Wardens agreed to accept a grant of £20,000 into the PCC's bank account for the purposes of funding a project of work initiated and directed by Petra Crofton with a co-director, Rob Crofton.

This grant is held in the PCC's main cash account, but it is restricted and is not owned by the PCC. It was provided by the Templeton Foundation via a Durham University-based organisation called "Equipping Christian Leadership in an Age of Science". (ECLAS). It is now financing a project entitled Science, Faith and Creation Care.

The grant and its associated expenditure stream are available for inspection if required but would add unnecessary complexity to these accounts. To date the PCC has paid out £2,063 of the total grant with a balance of £17,937 remaining in the main bank account, see the bottom of Table 2 point (f). This has been stripped out of these accounts, but, for bank reconciliation purposes, it is shown at the bottom of the Balances and Assets sheet (Table 2).

It is anticipated that the majority of this grant will have been spent by the end of 2022 as laid out in the grant application by its directors. All payments from the fund are subject to the PCC's usual approvals process via authorised signatories.

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Prepared by Bob Hinton – PCC Treasurer

Accounts

BARNWOOD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT AND NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021

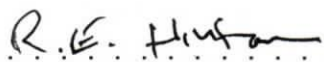
Basis of Accounts

The accounts for the PCC of St Lawrence Church in the parish of Barnwood have been prepared on a "Receipts and Payments" basis using the "Cash Book" accounting program provided by the Gloucester Diocesan Board of Finance for this purpose. The Version Number is V5.2 - 2 issued December 2015.

The final accounts have been independently examined by Mr Andrew Matson.

These accounts and their examination are, to the best of the PCC's knowledge, compliant with the requirements of the Charities Act 1993 and those of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), 2005 revisions.

Robert Hinton



(Treasurer)

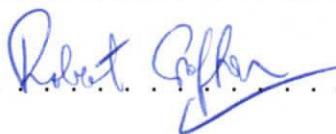
Andrew Matson

 27.02.22

(Independent Examiner)

Approved by members of the Parochial Church Council and signed on their behalf by:

Rob Crofton



(Vicar)

Margaret Seyers



(Church Warden)

DATE:

30/3/22

1. 2021 - Overview

The PCC started the year with total cash and investment assets of nearly **£105,000** following a substantial overall loss in 2020 of around **£19,000**.

By the end of 2021 it had a significant deficit between income and expenditure of just over **£8,000**.

This deficit was adequately financed by a growth in capital assets of nearly **£13,000**.

The net effect was an increase in the PCC's total cash and investment funds by almost **£5,000** at the end of 2021 to near **£110,000**.

It was helped in its endeavours by some significant upsides compared to 2020, including a reduction in Parish Share, two legacies, additional hall lettings, additional Gift Aid tax recovery and a sponsored fund-raising event.

There were some downsides too, mainly as overall giving decreased with a much poorer response to the Gift Day request.

The PCC paid its full Parish Share due of over **£55,000** following an agreed **£9,000** subsidy from a fund known as the Diocesan Stipends Fund. We then overpaid our Parish Share by an additional **£1,000** near the end of the year as the likely outturn of its finances became clearer. This reduced the level of this subsidy to **£8,000** in response to the Deanery's request to assist other local churches still struggling with their finances more than ourselves.

The PCC continued to pay its four members of staff at rates comparable with other organisations and in-line with government policy on the "Living Wage". We also made **£800** of payments to staff who could not meet their contracted working hours due to Covid. We were grateful to Robin Jones for agreeing to work outside of his contract (i.e. leading the choir and playing the organ) and took up making video recordings of services for streaming via our website.

The PCC was also able to renew its annual grant to Barnwood School in 2021 of **£2,000** which had been interrupted in 2020 due to the large net deficit referred to above.

In conclusion, the PCC's finances have survived the Covid-related difficulties of 2021 by dint of generous donations, bequests and fund-raising together with large growth in the value of its assets and a reduction by the Diocese in its Parish Share. Total assets actually grew by nearly **£5,000**.

We enter 2022 with optimism and in the knowledge that the PCC has enough funds available in its reserves to meet the likely budget forecast deficit of **£19,000** for 2022 without breaching its self-imposed minimum level of reserves of **£50,000** and in the hope that the financial climate will improve further as Covid restrictions lift.

2. Notes to the Accounts – Receipts and Payments

Table 1 shows the breakdown of virtually all cash that passed through the PCC's Receipts and Payments Accounts in 2021. These notes are aimed at providing some explanation of how they arose and why they are different from 2020.

- a) **Referring back to 2020** - the first year of Covid, see the final column of figures on the RHS of the table. Here you will recall that the PCC's income dropped to an all-time low of **£77,373** with a much smaller reduction in expenditure of **£102,767**. It was partially compensated by an increase in the value of our investment portfolio by **£6,244** but the net deficit of the PCC's total assets was still **£19,150** with a final balance of **£104,989** to carry forward into 2021.

Now returning to 2021 and compared to 2020, the PCC had the benefits of:

- b) **Reduced Parish Share - £56,238** – reduced by £8,000 - thanks to support from the Diocesan Stipends Fund.
- c) **Two legacies**
- **Fannie Storr - £2,000** - it is hoped to designate this cash for some special purchase in the future but, for the moment, it is being used to finance day-to-day church activities.
 - **Juliet Bond - £5,163** - a further legacy from one of the beneficiaries of the late Juliet Bond's estate, who subsequently died and kindly passed their legacy from Juliet of **A\$10,000** to the PCC, equating to the sum above at the prevailing exchange rate.
- d) **Annual Fete and Events £4,353 - up from £154** primarily comprised two items:
- **Sponsored Bird watch** - Andy Langley raised nearly £2,440 net of Gift Aid for church funds, mainly by donations from church Members, and with the assistance of his employer, Ecclesiastical Insurance Group (EIG), which doubled the collection by £1,865 from the majority of the donations it received. A further £1,400 was donated, via the PCC, to A Rocha's Eco Church project.
 - **Coffee morning** - there was also a good response to this event, just prior to Christmas, which raised £340 excluding Gift Aid.
- e) **Gain on Investment Assets - £12,465 up from £6,244** - The PCC's invested reserves grew significantly (by 14%) in capital value on an opening balance of **£92,834** following the good performance of the majority of our funds held by the PCC using the Churches, Charities and Local Authorities (CCLA) fund managers.
- f) **Income tax recovery - £11,972, up from £8,573** - primarily due to shorter turn-around times of claims to HMRC and the hangover of claims from 2020, including its Gift Day.
- g) **Hall lettings - £8,540 – up from £5,687** – lettings started to pick up; this is encouraging but it is still around half of the pre-Covid levels of 2019.

However, there were some decreases in income or increases in expenditure to partially balance these upsides:

- h) **Planned giving and Collections, donations & other giving - £45,751 – down from £52,403** – this was mainly due to a much reduced response to the Gift Day campaign which was down about £3,500 from 2020 and also to the reduced number of services, smaller plate collections, the departure or death of some parishioners and changes in donations by others.
- i) **Donations/grants to charities – £3,828, up from £555**, this is good news for the recipient charities as the PCC was able to:

- Restore its usual grant to the Barnwood School Governors' fund of **£2,000**
- Donate **£1,400** of Sponsored Bird Watch funds to the A Rocha – Ecochurch as mentioned in (d) above.
- Make further smaller donations of restricted funds arising from the Long Table, Christian Aid and Children's Society appeals.

3. Notes to the Accounts – Balances and Assets

Table 2 shows the cash and investments held by the PCC at the beginning and end of the year together with their respective gains and losses. Here are the main points:

- Total Assets valuation** – the year opened with a total asset and cash accounts valuation of **£104,989**. All income, including all receipts, dividends and interest together with capital growth totalled **£111,601** which more than offset all payments out of **£94,744**, and the total asset valuation at the end of the year was **£109,381**, a net increase of **£4,392**. We take this total asset valuation forward to commence 2022.
- Reserve Fund** – this fund was virtually all spent in 2020 to survive the first year of Covid 19. There now seems little hope of replenishing it for the foreseeable future and the PCC is using the Music Fund to top-up shortfalls. It is likely this minor residual balance of **£100** will be cashed in and the fund closed in 2022.
- Warren Fund - £238** was drawn down from this fund to finance the final bill for the architect's fees to repair the South door. This fund is restricted to the upkeep, maintenance and repair of the church and churchyard. The balance is **£4,895**. As an interest-bearing cash fund with very low returns, **£1,800** has been ear-marked by the PCC for the costs of installing WiFi in the church early in 2022. It had originally been ear-marked to fund the South door repairs, but priority is now being given to the WiFi project.
- Music Fund** - all dividends totalling **£1,840** were withdrawn from the Music Fund to pay for the majority of the church's music costs (mainly the Director of Music's stipend). A further **£9,000** was withdrawn and redesignated for general use to meet the shortfall between income and expenditure across-the-board. We were fortunate that the assets value of this fund grew by just over £9,000 so the balance at the end of the year was marginally higher than the opening balance.
- Investments Assets** – with the exception of the Music Fund, the PCC only spent the interest and dividends arising from its investment portfolio. Using the Churchyard fund as an example, with a beginning-of-year valuation of **£21,530** and total dividend returns and capital growth of **£3,722**, its total returns were around 17%.

4. Additional Points to Note

- Energy usage** – The PCC changed energy suppliers early in the year to Ecotricity which provides carbon-free electricity and carbon-offset gas. It plans to move to carbon-free gas in the future, but such gas-producing plants are in their early stages of development. It is more expensive than non-green suppliers but lowering the carbon footprint of the church is seen as a key priority and the PCC's take-up of three-year contracts has protected us

from the current energy price increases until the end of 2023. Total energy used through the year was very similar to the much-lower figures of 2020 as follows:

Comparative Energy Usage across three consecutive years (kWh)			
	2021	2020	2019
Church Gas	11,300	14,600	22,600
Centre Gas	15,000	18,500	30,000
Church Power	900	750	1,850
Centre Power	3,300	3,200	4,900

- b) **Solar Panels** – these produced 3,365 kWh of generation in 2021 and a corresponding income of £1,948. It reduced the residual of our loan from the Diocese to £2,219 after the accrual of £65 of interest. At this rate of income the loan should be paid off during the first few months of 2023. After that the PCC should benefit by around £2,000 of income pa for the remaining 13 years of the contract (2036) at no cost to the PCC unless the installation requires any maintenance. To date it has had none except for a faulty connection in its first year of operation which was covered by the installer's guarantee.
- c) **Installation of WiFi in the Church** – the PCC has accepted quotes totalling £1,800 for the installation of three WiFi aerials in the church to give it full 4G signal coverage (including the bell tower). It comprises digging a trench to accommodate a hard-wired link between the Parish Office and the Vestry. A Faculty application has been made to the Diocese and approval has just been granted. It is anticipated that the installation will start in early February.
- d) **Planned Giving** – the majority of cash donated to the church came via the Parish Giving Scheme run centrally by the Diocese of Gloucester. Here is the pattern of planned giving via the various methods of giving:

Method of Giving	No. of Givers	Cash raised (ex Gift Aid)
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Prepared by Bob Hinton – PCC Treasurer

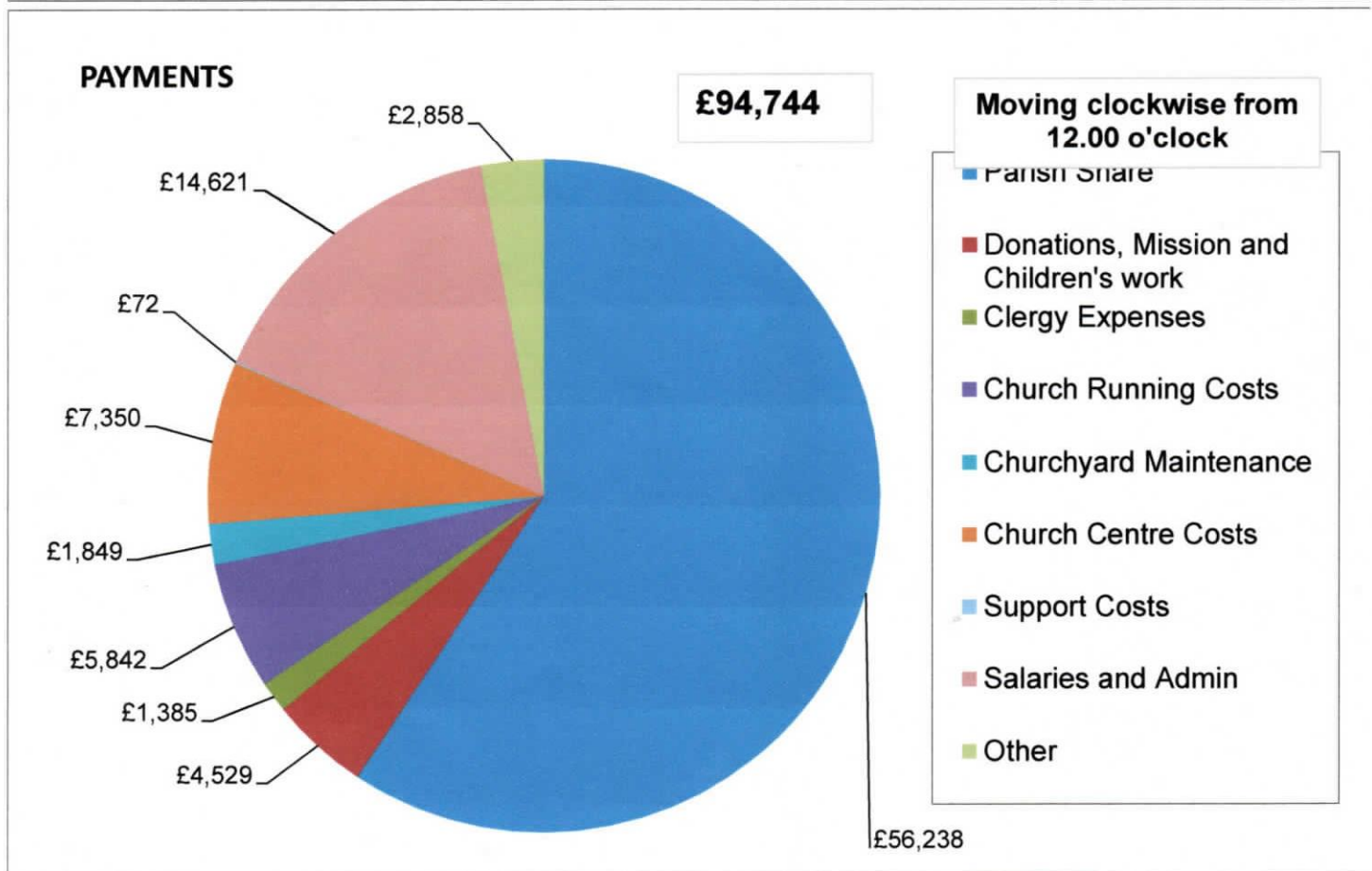
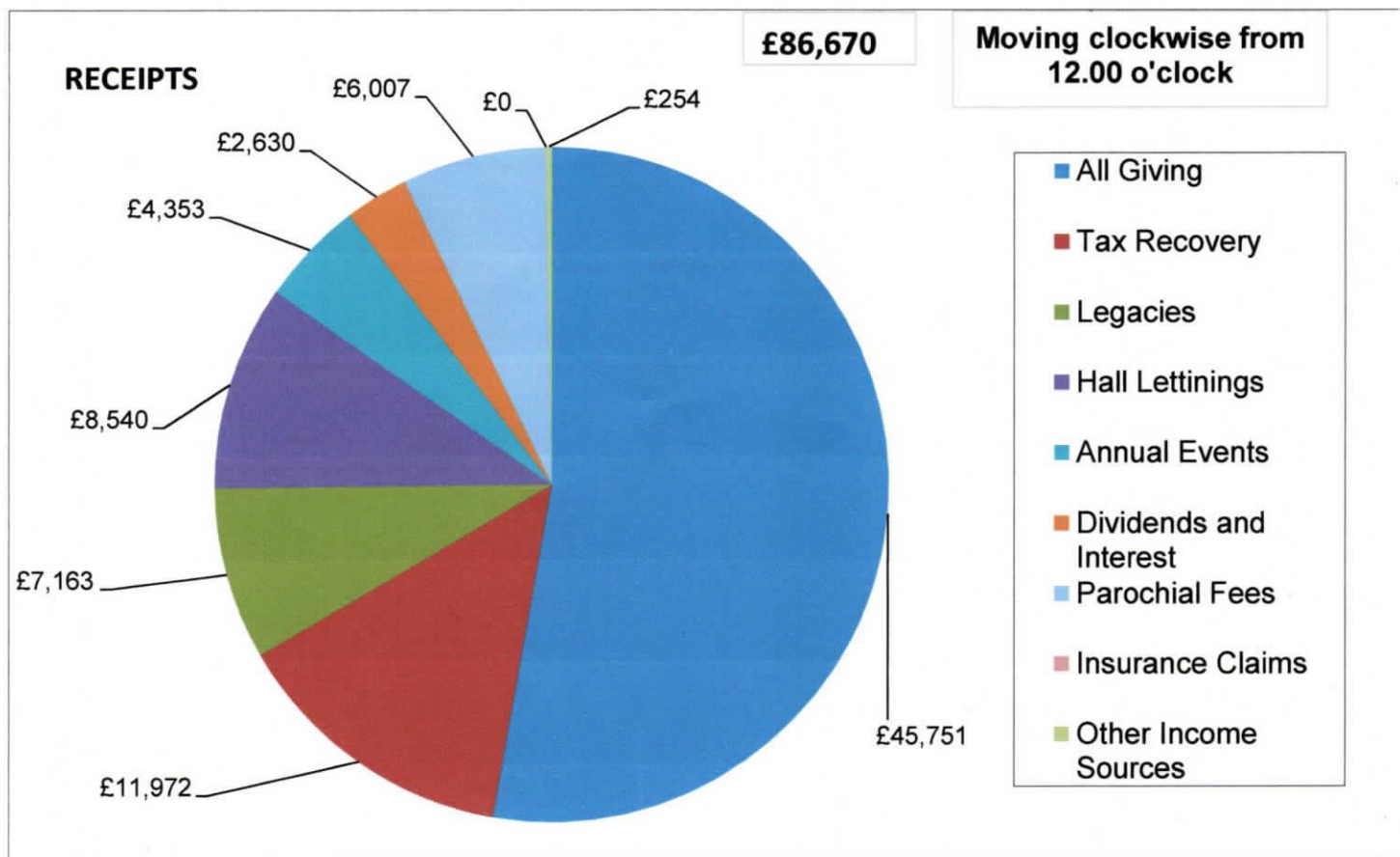
Table 1 - Barnwood PCC's Receipts and Payments Accounts - 2021

	Notes	2021			2020	
		Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	TOTAL £	
Receipts						
Voluntary income:						
Planned giving	(h)	37,186	20	270	37,476	
Collections, donations & other giving		7,261	320	694	8,275	
Income tax recovered	(f)	11,972	-	-	11,972	
Legacies	(c)	7,163	-	-	7,163	
Activities for generating funds						
Magazine/Bookstall sales/Hall Lettings etc	(g)	8,540	-	-	8,540	
Income from other Properties		-	-	-	-	
Annual Fete/events	(d)	4,353	-	-	4,353	
Investment income:						
Interest & dividends		4	1,840	786	2,630	
Income from charitable activities:		-	-	-	-	
Parochial fees		6,007	-	-	6,007	
Other incoming resources:						
Insurance claims		-	-	-	-	
Gain on disposal of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	
Loans received		-	-	-	-	
Other		132	2	120	254	
Total incoming resources		82,618	2,182	1,870	86,670	
Payments						
Charitable activities:						
Donations/Grants to charities	(i)	(3,410)	-	(418)	(3,828)	
Mission & Evangelism inc Children's Work		(373)	-	(328)	(701)	
Parish Share	(b)	(56,238)	-	-	(56,238)	
Clergy expenses		(1,385)	-	-	(1,385)	
Church running expenses		(3,149)	(2,453)	(240)	(5,842)	
Churchyard maintenance		(1,152)	-	(697)	(1,849)	
Cost of raising funds		(7,350)	-	-	(7,350)	
Running costs:						
Support costs		(72)	-	-	(72)	
Administration costs (inc. staff costs)		(14,122)	-	(499)	(14,621)	
Other		(2,738)	-	(120)	(2,858)	
Governance costs		-	-	-	-	
Major expenditure						
Repairs to church buildings		-	-	-	-	
Repairs to other property		-	-	-	-	
Capital purchases/additions		-	-	-	-	
Loan repayments		-	-	-	-	
Total resources expended		(89,989)	(2,453)	(2,302)	(94,744)	
Net (outgoing)/ incoming resources	(a)	(7,371)	(271)	(432)	(8,074)	
Transfers between funds		7,030	(7,590)	560	(0)	
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before gains		(341)	(7,861)	128	(8,074)	
Gains on investment assets	(e)	-	8,763	3,703	12,466	
Net movement in funds		(341)	902	3,831	4,392	
Funds brought forward at 1 Jan 2021		4,348	66,570	34,071	104,989	
Funds carried forward at 31 Dec 2021		4,007	67,472	37,902	109,381	

TABLE 2 - Barnwood PCC's Balances and Assets - 2021

		Opening Balance	Investment Gain	Transactions Dividends and Interest in	Transactions Out	Closing Balance
Cash Accounts						
Main General Account - NatWest - Unrstd, Rstd & Dsgntd		£6,923	£0	£100,379	(£99,229)	£8,073
Reserve Account - CBF - Unrestricted	(b)	£100	£0	£0	(£0)	£100
Warren Fund CBF fund - Restricted	(c)	£5,132	£0	£3	(£240)	£4,895
TOTAL		£12,155		£100,382	(£99,469)	£13,068
Investment Assets (e)						
Church Music Fund CBF 616108001S - Designated	(d)	£65,808	£8,763	£1,840	(£10,840)	£65,571.16
Moulder Memorial (1) CBF 116002040F - Restricted		£584	(£39)	£15	(£15)	£545
Moulder Graves CBF116002041F - Restricted		£291	(£19)	£8	(£8)	£272
Churchyard CBF 116002220S - Restricted		£21,530	£3,096	£626	(£626)	£24,626
Pepperill Bequest CBF 116002198S - Restricted		£1,963	£282	£57	(£57)	£2,245
Moulder Memorial (2) CBF 116002342S - Restricted		£2,331	£335	£68	(£68)	£2,666
Lemon-Priday CBF 116002426S - Restricted		£327	£47	£10	(£10)	£374
TOTAL		£92,834	£12,465	£2,623	(£11,623)	£96,300
Investment Breakdown						
Unrestricted / Designated		£65,808	£8,763	£1,840	(£10,840)	£65,571
Restricted		£27,026	£3,703	£783	(£783)	£30,728
TOTAL		£92,834	£12,465	£2,623	(£11,623)	£96,300
PCC Overall Assets and Cash position						
Unrestricted / Designated		£70,918	£8,763	£93,563	(£92,442)	£71,479
Restricted		£34,071	£3,703	£5,573	(£2,302)	£37,902
TOTAL	(a)	£104,989	£12,465	£99,136	(£94,744)	£109,381
Templeton Foundation / ECLAS grant						
TOTAL		£0	£0	£20,000	(£2,063)	£17,937
Total Cash in Main General account across the year		£6,923	£0	£120,379	(£101,292)	£26,010

FIG. 1 - Barnwood PCC's Receipts and Payments Pie Chart - 2021



Accounts

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH, BARNWOOD
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

St Lawrence Church is situated in Church Lane, Barnwood. It is part of the Diocese of Gloucester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Parish Office, 32 Church Lane, Barnwood, Gloucester, GL4 3JB.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is registered with the Charity Commission, registration number 1170167.

This report covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2020 which aligns with the church's financial year. However, election of officers and PCC members takes place at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, which normally takes place in April. In 2020 due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the APCM took place over Zoom on 30th September.

PCC members who have served from September 2020 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent:	Revd Rob Crofton
Associate Priest:	Revd Audrey Hayman
Readers:	Philip Jaekel, John Webster
Churchwardens:	Carole Jonah, Margaret Seyers
Deanery Synod Representatives:	Philip Jaekel (term ends 2023), Elizabeth Hinton (term ends 2021)
Secretary:	Kate Davies

Elected members (with year of required re-election in brackets):

Andrew Brown	elected 2016 re-elected 2019 (resigned 2021)
Frances Mulvey	elected 2016 re-elected 2019 (2022)
Robin Jones	elected 2017 re-elected 2020 (2023)
Jane Brown	elected 2018 (2021)
Andy Langle	elected 2019 (2022), Gift Aid Officer
Brian McBurnie	elected 2019 (2022)
Belinda Edge	elected 2020 (2023)
Janet Groves	elected 2020 (2023)
Bob Russell	elected 2020 (2023)

Non-elected officers, appointed by the PCC on 14-10-20

Kate Davies, Secretary
Bob Hinton, Treasurer
Bob Moss, Electoral Roll Officer

ADMINISTRATION

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

St Lawrence PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting the whole mission of the Church - pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical - in the ecclesiastical parish. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Parish Centre.

Membership and Attendance

Membership of the Electoral roll changed very little this year. In April 2020 there were 92 names on the Electoral Roll (65 resident in the parish, 31 non-resident). In September 2020 there were 90 names on the Electoral Roll, 65 resident in the parish, 30 non-resident.

An average of 72 people watched our video services and 24 attended Sunday services included in the annual count taken in October. Special services in Advent and at Christmas could not take place in person but views of our special video services reached over 679 people.

Objectives and Activities for 2021-22

Our aim in the year ahead is to grow in our vision "to know and share the love of Jesus".

To help us achieve this we will:

- Renew our pattern of services, to create more varied opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to encounter Jesus in worship
- Reach out with the message of Jesus, providing courses for people to explore the Christian faith and grow as disciples.
- Show the love of Jesus in action in our community, especially by increasing awareness of the climate and nature crisis and helping people to take practical action to care for God's creation.

PCC

The PCC met 8 times in the year, mainly on Zoom. Each meeting included standing items such as team reports (including finance and buildings), safeguarding, reports on Deanery Synod and on Barnwood Primary School. In addition the PCC discussed matters including the establishment of a new Church Centre and Staff Management Committee, and the Church's role in hosting the FareShare project. There was a high level of focus on maintaining worship services (in person and online) throughout the pandemic as well as work to make our buildings "Covid-Secure".

Leadership and Administration

The Vicar's Sounding Board group did not meet due to the pandemic although Rob continued to meet the churchwardens and deputy wardens online to discuss Covid-related and other matters and to receive support.

The PCC meets the requirements of the new General Data Protection Regulations and continues to be vigilant in assuring proper use of data. Email lists are used to contact various groups within the congregation in accordance with the PCC's legitimate purposes and the parish office is now using a cloud hosted, web-based church management system (Churchsuite) which is helping to streamline communications and to provide a weekly Vicar's Newsletter.

Gillian King stepped down as Churchwarden this year as she relocated to Scotland to begin a new life. She will be much missed as she has made a tremendous contribution to the life of St Lawrence. Margaret Seyers agreed to take on the role of warden to work alongside Carole Jonah and together with Assistant Warden, Bob Russell, they continued to support the vicar in these challenging times.

The PCC also owes special thanks to Angela Sturdy and Pat Barnes, Parish administrators. Sadly, we had to say goodbye to Pat as she felt the time had come to retire. Sally Jaekel has kept the Centre in excellent condition and has shouldered extra responsibility ensuring the centre is Covid-safe. Fred Broady, the church groundsman, has kept on top of the huge amount of work required to keep the churchyard looking

beautiful. PCC is very grateful to Andrew Brown, Buildings Team lead, who has ensured that all jobs, big and small, have been successfully completed. Andrew has now decided to step back from all these responsibilities and we are pleased that Janet Groves is now chairing the Buildings Team. Paul Black is acting on Health and Safety matters and has been a tower of strength during the pandemic, Bob Russell is taking on some responsibilities for churchyard matters and Andrew Sturdy along with Angela Sturdy is taking a lead role in maintaining the Parish centre.

PASTORAL CARE AND COMMUNICATION

Pastoral Care Team

In April 2020, a new pastoral care team was set up to respond to the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on the church community across the parish, when meeting for worship, prayer and fellowship was no longer possible and pastoral care would need to be organised in a different way.

The team of 12 members is led and coordinated by Jane Brown and consists of Clergy, Readers, wardens, and others already involved in pastoral care. Contact details are publicised in the weekly news so that people can get in touch if they would like support or prayers.

Pastoral visiting of people in their own homes was not possible last Spring, and whilst many people could keep in touch via their computer there were some who did not have this opportunity and could feel isolated from church life, missing worship and fellowship. Where this was the case a weekly Worship from Home service sheet and Vicar's message were hand delivered.

During the last year, many people have received regular pastoral support, through a telephone call, or doorstep visit when permissible, from a member of the team. Others have heard about the team and asked for prayers especially at times of illness, bereavement or worry. Where prayers are requested, whole team praying can be offered and further support given if required. In all contacts, members of the pastoral care team have offered a friendly voice, care and prayer and a connectedness to the St Lawrence church community.

Safeguarding

Jane Brown was reappointed as Parish Safeguarding Officer for St Lawrence in 2020 and continues to act as key link between Gloucester Diocese and the parish concerning safeguarding matters.

Safeguarding is a standing agenda item at each PCC meeting and the Trustees are aware of their responsibilities as outlined in the Church of England and House of Bishops Parish Safeguarding Handbook. Disclosure and Barring checks and renewals for all relevant post holders and roles have been processed efficiently and policies renewed and signed off when due.

There has been a Church of England review of safeguarding training and to increase the level of consistency nationally a new online training programme has been implemented. This programme is now being accessed by those who are required to train or refresh according to the role or work they do for St Lawrence. Robust training will help to develop the culture of safeguarding in the church community. Jane has completed the Leadership level training.

Communications

The pandemic and the lockdowns brought isolation and meant we quickly had to establish regular means of communication to keep people in touch with what was going on. We developed this on a number of fronts. Central to our strategy was the start of a '**Vicar's weekly email**', compiled by Rob and sent out from the Office on Thursday each week, using our new Churchsuite database of contacts. This has kept people up to date with what is happening in the life of the church, and also provided subjects for people's prayers. It has replaced for the time being the weekly 'notice sheets' in church. We also created a list of all church members who do not have easy access to the internet, and offered them to receive a **printed copy of the weekly email**. These have been hand-delivered, mainly by Sally Jaekel (our Church Centre Manager), but

also by volunteers Jane Brown (Pastoral Care Coordinator) and Elizabeth Hinton, along with the weekly 'Worship at Home' materials. In this way we have attained a regular weekly communication with everyone in our church family, including those who are physically unable to get out to church, which we had never managed before.

With the advent of the video services, the church **website** has been updated and used much more regularly, and we have created a St Lawrence **Youtube Channel** as a home for all our videos. In addition to the website, we publicise events on our **A Church Near You** page, the C of E's official 'shop window' for people looking for a service or event near them. And the church **Facebook page**, administered and kept up to date by Kate Davies, has a regular following and is another means of telling various communities about what is happening at St Lawrence. Various **WhatsApp** groups are used within the church for planning and keeping groups up to date, including a 'Families' WhatsApp group for those with younger families or grandchildren. Finally, one important means of communicating with the many who pass our Church buildings and grounds is our **noticeboards**, and Angela Sturdy has kept these up to date with the latest news about services etc.

OUR WORSHIP AND DISCIPLESHIP

Worship during Lockdown

Our life as a worshipping community was greatly marked by the effects of the pandemic and the three lockdowns. During the first lockdown (March-June 2020) we were not allowed to use our church building, and we quickly had to generate new ways of enabling people to worship in their homes and stay connected to one another. We began producing video services which were well received (many thanks to Robin Jones and Nina Crofton for their work on editing), we produced weekly printed 'Worship at Home' materials for those without access to the internet, and we established a weekly online 'Coffee' time via Zoom, for fellowship and conversation on a Sunday morning. In the autumn we began holding a weekly service of Holy Communion at 9.00am, but this was suspended again at the start of the third lockdown (January 2021) out of recognition for the seriousness of the Covid situation. At both Christmas and Easter we were able to provide a variety of services and ways for people to celebrate these major festivals, both online and in person. At Easter these included outdoor services for Good Friday and Easter day, which allowed people to gather and sing (singing has not been allowed in church throughout this period).

After Christmas we introduced a monthly 'All Age' video service, with more elements for families and children. It has been good for many of us to be able to return to church recently, and we look forward to welcoming everyone once the restrictions are lifted. I offer my sincere thanks to all the members of the Worship Team for their partnership in planning and leading our worship, and their hard work and many contributions this year (Rev. Audrey Hayman, Canon John Webster, Phil Jaekel, Kate Davies, Robin Jones, and churchwardens Margaret Seyers and Carole Jonah). *Rev. Rob Crofton*

Church Choir

The beginning of 2020 started well for our Choir. After completing our special services for Christmas, we continued to sing regularly at our main 9:45am service. Unfortunately, with COVID-19 hitting us, we had to stop singing in our Church building. We have, however, kept singing independently of one another and have also joined a few Royal School of Church Music online events. Sadly, we lost Annabel Taylor on Sunday 24th May 2020. Annabel was a highly valued member of the Choir and had sung for many years including playing for occasional services such as Baptisms. Annabel is terribly missed by all of us and we look forward to the time when we can give her a truly musical send off – including many of her favourites from Don Besig. The Choir continue to be in contact with one another going into 2021, and are looking forward to returning to singing in our beautiful Church. *Robin Jones – Director of Music*

Bell Ringing

We have all missed the sound of bell ringing during the last year. Bell ringing is a group activity and takes place in a small room where we stand elbow to elbow and the ventilation is limited, hence there has been little ringing since 23rd March 2020 due to the Coronavirus pandemic, 3 national lockdowns and various levels of restrictions between times. We did manage some ringing on 3 or 4 of the 8 bells in August and September following thorough risk assessments and the wielding of the tape measure to ensure social distancing between ringers. We also had to make use of hand sanitiser and wear masks whilst in the tower. We were only able to ring 4 bells when ringers from 2 families were available. In addition we were able to toll the tenor for Remembrance Day. Some of the band are making the most of being able to ring virtually using a ringing programme written for us due to the pandemic so we've been able to practise methods (or tunes) but we're hoping muscle memory will help with the real exercise of handling a rope when we are eventually invited back into the tower.

We look forward to calling the congregation to services again and hope that it won't be too long until we're all vaccinated and back at St Lawrence's.

Frances Mulvey – Tower Captain

Church Flowers

Unfortunately, the Flower Team have not been able to arrange any flowers in the Church for the past year, except for Christmas. The Church was open for a short time over that period so that arrangers were able to decorate with Holly, Ivy and some silk flowers and a Christmas wreath. Sadly, Michael Gent died early this year from Covid. He was a very experienced and talented flower arranger and will be greatly missed, arranging at the Flower Festivals and his beautiful pedestal arrangements in the Chancel. Thank you to Robin Peacey for a donation in memory of Bridget, money to be used for any purpose connected with flowers for the Church. Looking forward to this year, we hope it won't be too long before our flower arrangers are able to bring some colour back into our lovely Church.

June Edwards

OUR CONTACTS WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Barnwood Church of England Primary School

Our close relationship with the school was maintained, although the opportunities for interaction were much reduced due to the pandemic. For most of the period Rob was not able to go into school to do assemblies, and our Open the Book team was suspended. We were also not able to host school services in church. We shared video services with the school, such as the ISingPop Christmas Celebration (280 views on Youtube) and our Climate Sunday service.

In May and June, we ran a nature art and writing competition for children at Barnwood C of E Primary School, celebrating British wildlife. This was a very appropriate theme for lockdown, and each child received an e-book with fun facts and a photo of 26 British animal and plant species, from Auks (like puffins) to Zebra spiders. The children were invited to choose one species, find another fascinating fact and create a picture of their plant or animal. We received a wonderful number of creative contributions, from painted newts and hedgehogs to collaged eider ducks and mistletoe. Each entrant received a prize, either a nature themed adventure novel or a craft set, and all entries can be admired at: [Barnwood C of E Primary School - Art Competition \(barnwoodprimary.co.uk\)](http://Barnwood C of E Primary School - Art Competition (barnwoodprimary.co.uk))

We had some lovely feedback from teachers and families in response to the competition; it was a welcome distraction and opportunity to be creative during lockdown. Rob went into the school just before Easter 2021 to deliver Fair Trade (Real) Easter eggs with mini-activity booklets about Easter. He went into each classroom to share about the Easter story and hand out the gifts, which were very generously sponsored by a congregation member. Many thanks!

Rob and Petra Crofton

Families and youth work

Explore Creation (for families) and the HUB youth group

Communications and social media

throughout the pandemic we have connected with families through the Explore Creation (closed) Facebook group and the HUB (closed) Facebook group. We have reached out with ideas for activities and (online) events, assured families of our prayers and invited the group members to get in touch if there was anything we could do for them, pastorally or practically. We have offered various self-guided nature-based art and outdoor activities, which were much appreciated.

In person activities and contact

Just before Christmas we invited everyone to take part in a socially distanced Christingle(-making) trail in the arboretum, which was well received. Despite the wind and drizzle we had some 8 families taking part. We offered an Easter trail for families on Holy Saturday (2021), again with staggered start times and well-spaced stations. About 120 people signed up (30 families) and we had some 30 spontaneous takers (people who happened to be in the park and arboretum that afternoon). This trail explained the story of Jesus from Palm Sunday until Easter Sunday, the origins of Easter and its traditions and challenged the children to answer questions, make little crafts, look out for signs of spring in the arboretum and hunt for plastic eggs, to be exchanged for chocolate ones. All in all we had a wonderful afternoon, with lots of conversations and opportunity to (re)connect with families.

In the lead-up to Christmas we visited each family connected to the church through services, Explore Creation, and baptism and wedding ministry. We gave them a FairTrade Advent calendar with the Christmas story explained, an invitation to Christmas services and a craft pack for the children. The HUB youth received a Fair Trade chocolate bar, a woodwork craft and some other Christmas crafts. This was a good opportunity to reconnect with all these families. This outreach was repeated just before Easter (2021), when we visited 30 families on their doorstep to give them a Real Easter egg (Fair Trade chocolate) for each child, and the invitation for our Easter services. Once again, we had wonderful conversations and many families came to one or more Easter events. We are very grateful to our anonymous donors who generously paid for the chocolate calendars and Easter eggs. Thank you!

We did QR trail in the park in September for the HUB youth group, with a picnic, talk and some ball games. We also managed to host two HUB sessions just before the lockdown in January, with fire building and barbecuing sausages and marshmallows over our individual fires. All COVID regulation were met, and we had a wonderful time with some 24 young people. During the first weekend of May we are resuming our HUB activities with (outdoor) wood whittling sessions and pizza. We are hoping to offer two more summer activities after May. We have split the group into two, so we can more easily work within the current COVID restrictions. We are very grateful to Steve Hutchinson from Scripture Union for giving his time and sharing his skills and wisdom with us in a volunteer capacity. Without him, an outdoor youth group such as the HUB would not be possible. Most of our children are currently in Y6 at Barnwood C of E primary school or are former pupils. The group is very committed and keen and parents have been incredibly supportive. We are looking forward to carrying on and expanding this valuable youth ministry in the coming months.

Petra Crofton

Fareshare, Barnwood

After approximately 6 months the Barnwood Fareshare project has been operating from the St Lawrence Church Centre. Councillor David Brown with Lindsey Meek and myself meet every Tuesday morning to sort out non-perishable food stock, which David has collected from a local central distribution point. Food is donated by Super Markets, Manufacturers and DEFRA which is re-distributed to locations like St Lawrence. More recently, parents of pupils who attend Barnwood School, have donated food to Fareshare. Parishioners of St Lawrence have made donations. Once the food donations are sorted by type, food

parcels are created and currently delivered weekly to approximately 15 families locally. Recently, we have agreed that the St Lawrence Centre, after the pandemic, will also start to include the Hucclecote area.

Paul Black

Food Bank

The 2020 certificate from Gloucester Foodbank gives the following information: the total weight of donations from St Lawrence Church during 2020 amounted to 454.7kg. This is compared to 815.75kg in 2019. Bearing in mind that the 2020 amount of 454.7kg only comprises donations brought into the office this is a very creditable amount and grateful thanks are due to those who contributed in this way.

In addition to food donations delivered directly to the church, many people have been donating in their local supermarkets or sending monetary donations to Gloucester Foodbank.

We would also like to thank Angela Sturdy for taking on the task of delivering the food donations from St Lawrence Church to Gloucester Foodbank on a regular basis.

Jenny Moss

Comfort and Joy – Christmas meals

We were delighted to join with the Gloucester Diocese and the Long Table in providing a delicious cooked meal for people who needed a bit of extra love this Christmas. It could be grandparents who had to spend Christmas on their own, people in the community who we knew were vulnerable, parents with a newborn baby, or just a lovely Christmas offering of a meal, a gift from our church family.

We identified 48 neighbours and church family members who would benefit and be blessed by these meals. The Long Table meals were nutritious traditional Christmas meals suitable for meat-eaters, vegetarians, vegans and for those who needed gluten free meals, provided in containers which could be frozen, cooked in a microwave or cooked in an oven. We collected the meals from Long Table in Stroud which came in individual gift bags including place mats, party hats and Christmas cards.

Members of St Lawrence Church made and laminated book marks, cooked minced pies and shortbread, ordered books for children and adults from the J.John website and included these in the bags as a blessing from us in addition to what the Long Table provided. A small team of volunteers then delivered the meals during the week of Christmas.

It was a privilege to deliver the meals to people, especially neighbours who do not attend church. During this year of Covid and lockdowns it was wonderful to be able to come together as a church family to bless others.

Carole Jonah

THANK YOU

The PCC's thanks go to everyone who has contributed to the running of every aspect of our Church life during this difficult year. This report is evidence of the great number of activities and events which have happened in and around the church despite the restrictions Covid has imposed. We are fortunate to enjoy the tireless work, positive support and generosity from so many volunteers, without whom our contribution to the community would be so much less. In the same way, the PCC acknowledges the work of each member of the Ministry Team who, together with our Vicar, provide the leadership for our worshipping life.

REPORT ON THE FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF THE CHURCH 2020

This report was made to the Parochial Church Council [PCC] under Section 50 of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018 and has been approved for presentation to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Background

Ecclesiastical Exemption enables organisations like the C of E and other denominations to manage their own buildings without the need to obtain Listed Building Consent for routine repairs. This valuable concession is given on the basis that each diocese effectively manages its churches to a high standard in accordance with conservation best practice. In our case, we have the support of the Gloucester Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) made up of a panel of highly experienced church architects, structural engineers, and specialists in stained glass, pipe organs, church furnishings and the like. Part of the management process requires a five yearly (quinquennial) inspection of the church and the churchyard by an architect or surveyor with appropriate conservation qualifications. As well as routine maintenance, the architect will look at structural stability to ensure that pinnacles or parapets do not fall off the tower, that visitors can safely walk through the churchyard without tripping, that trees and boundaries are maintained, and the church contents are in good order. The resulting report is then used by our own 'Buildings Team' as the basis for its maintenance and repair programme over the ensuing five years, according to urgency.

Listed Building and Listed Monuments

St Lawrence Church is a Grade II* Listed Building (List Entry Number: 1271586), dating from around 1150. Its north aisle, arcading and lady chapel were added in the 13th Century and the tower is reputed to date from around 1514, attributed to Abbot Parker. Additional 'Listings' are given for two table tombs (1271587) near the north side of the tower and an early memorial (1419345) inscribed 'Elizabeth Bayliss 1635'. The Bayliss headstone is the earliest monument within the churchyard and is described as a rare example of a pre-1650 headstone. Exact details of the Listings can be found at [The List Search Results for Barnwood | Historic England](https://historicengland.org.uk/) (<https://historicengland.org.uk/>)

This report deals with the church and its contents, the surrounding churchyard, church field and the church centre for the year 2020.

Quinquennial Inspection (QI)

- Jessica Holland BA(Hons) Dip Arch PhD AABC from the practice of Donald Insall Associates (Bath office) continues with ongoing projects. Jessica is a teaching fellow at Bath University and an advisor to Bristol DAC as well as listed for QI inspections in Gloucester Diocese.

Outstanding work from the 2016 QI, some of which is advisory, includes the eroding stonework around the south doorway of the church, repair of the north porch rainwater drainage and levelling of footpaths in the churchyard.

- Our next Quinquennial Inspection is due in 2021 and arrangements are in hand.

Church

- There were no additions, removal or repairs to the church contents in 2020.
- Progress towards repair of the south doorway stonework has been hampered by the difficulty of finding suitable replacement sandstone for the badly deteriorating bluish coloured sandstone mouldings. The search is now over, settling on 'pennant' sandstone from one of the Forest of Dean quarries. The architect has been instructed to obtain tenders for the work required.

- **North Porch Rainwater Drainage**
Investigation of a blocked drain serving the north porch in late 2019 discovered a major infestation of tree roots. Referral to Ecclesiastical Insurance gained some assistance through a specialist drainage investigation company and agreement that at least some of the damage was covered by the church insurance policy. Replacement of the fractured cast iron down pipe and the installation of a new drain and soakaway was completed in early 2020.
- **Fixed Electrical Wiring & Portable Appliance Testing.**
The church wiring and portable electrical appliances were tested in November under our five-yearly programme and passed as satisfactory. Minor recommendations were dealt with by the Buildings Team.
- **Lightning Conductor**
Inspected in March 2020 by our usual contractor and found to be in good working order. We have decided to drop the frequency of testing from 12 monthly to 30 months. This follows discussion with Ecclesiastical Insurance and will achieve some saving in costs.
- **Sanctus Bellcote**
Occasional leakage from the Sanctus bellcote above the chancel arch was noted on at least two occasions in 2020 and has been reported to the architect. The problem seems to occur in heavy weather and is most likely due to breakdown of the pointing at the edge of the clay tiles. This will be further investigated in 2021 as part of the quinquennial inspection.

Churchyard & Church Field

- **Clinch Memorials**
Representations were received from the 'Clinch' family in early 2020 concerning two memorials temporarily relocated when the church centre was built in 2000. This was to clear a space for the builder's yard area, required for the storage of materials and plant while the construction work took place. However, over the course of a two-year construction project, the intended return of the memorials was overlooked by both the PCC and the Clinch family until very recently. On review of the construction records, the PCC readily agreed to honour the original undertaking and the memorials were returned to their original positions.
- **Trees & Hedges**
The four exceptionally large oak trees in the north-west of the churchyard, the current area for burials, required attention to remove a significant accumulation of dead wood on safety grounds. Our usual tree surgeon, who has looked after the trees for many years, commented on the unexpected degree of die-back. Perhaps a sign of climate change? The work was completed after consultation with the local authority tree officer and approval by our archdeacon. The Church Lane hedge received its annual cut in late July, once bird nesting was over, and a dead silver birch removed from near the double gated Church Lane entrance in October.
- **Churchyard levelling** - excess spoil from new graves was used to level several depressions in the churchyard. Grass seed was sown after breaking down the very heavy clay subsoil. Fine summer weather and near drought conditions in June and July meant that occasional watering was required, though with a good result.
- **Winter flooding** has affected the north west of the churchyard for many years, especially after heavy winter rain. The occasional surface ponding usually drains away within a day or two. However, the PCC is starting to receive complaints from those tending graves due to a perceived increase in the amount of flooding, made worse by two consecutive very wet winters. The problem has now spread to incorporate part of the area reserved for the interment of ashes, especially the area in front of 'Kirsty's Bench'. Discussions have taken place with the families affected, our usual gravedigger, the DAC and one of the local monumental masons, for ideas on how the problem might be resolved. So far, no simple solution has come to light and further investigation will be required in 2021. One wonders if this is another example of climate change, predicted to increase the frequency and severity of flooding events.

- The well-used water butt collapsed in June due to a perished plinth and some settlement of the ground. Opportunity was taken to fit a long planned second water butt to deal with frequent running dry of water supplies in the summer months. Thanks have been received from several churchyard visitors.
- Churchyard Working Party – Cancelled due the Covid pandemic.
- Topple Testing - Deferred until 2021.
The field was cut once, in June, with some patches left to encourage wildflowers and wildlife. Experimental sowing of yellow rattle in 2019 was mostly unsuccessful due to severe competition from the aggressive and dominant couch grass. Further trials are planned for 2021 with a wider range of wildflower seeds.

Church Centre

- Routine maintenance for the centre ranges from blocked sinks and leaking toilets to replacement of batteries in the emergency lighting system as well as organising servicing of the fire extinguishers and the fire alarm. The building remains in generally excellent condition both in terms of structure and contents. Sally Jaekel keeps the interior to a remarkably high standard and must be congratulated for frequent compliments about the clean and tidy condition from the many visiting groups using the facility.
- While bookings have been reduced throughout 2020 due to the Covid pandemic, those that have continued – food parcel distribution, the AA support group and from time to time when permitted, exercise classes, have required enhanced cleaning in accordance with our own Covid protocols and the Government's 'Covid Secure' guidelines. Sally, Angela and Pat must be congratulated in running a tight ship in terms of our Covid precautions.

The condition of the bin store beneath the spiral fire escape steps is, however, a cause for concern due to continual water ingress. There is little that can be done to deal with the fundamental issue of no waterproofing beneath the steps, omitted from the original design. While not an immediate structural problem, it does prevent storage of anything other than the plastic waste bin.

- Passenger Lift
Passenger lifts are expensive things to maintain! The regulations require us to have routine servicing every quarter (by Curti Lifts) plus separate half-yearly statutory inspection by an approved inspector, in our case by British Engineering. The latter has required the undertaking of a periodic (every ten years) 'rupture valve test' at a cost of about £1,200 plus VAT. This is the testing of a safety device that prevents the lift from crashing to the floor if the hydraulic lifting mechanism were to catastrophically fail. The work has been booked with PCC approval and should be completed in early 2021.
- A new external light (LED) was fitted to the church centre stair turret in November to deal with a dark patch in the courtyard, kindly funded by a parishioner. It operates on a dusk to dawn sensor and will provide all night illumination to at least part of the courtyard area.

Fixed Electrical Wiring & Portable Appliance Testing.

Inspection of the fixed wiring and portable electrical appliances was undertaken in November under our five-yearly programme. While mainly in particularly good condition, problems were found with a disintegrated emergency light fitting, water logging of unused but 'live' wiring in the bin store and evidence of overheating affecting one of the circuit breakers. Two of the circuit breakers require replacement. The system is safe but further minor works are required in early 2021 before a test certificate can be issued.

Buildings Team

In normal times, the Buildings Team meets quarterly to discuss and plan a maintenance programme for the premises and organise repair works. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic starting in March reduced our

meetings to once in January and again by video link in December. Planned working parties were cancelled and topple testing of the churchyard memorials deferred until later in 2021. That said, we have managed to make good progress in the year as per the above report and we are well placed for our 2021 Quinquennial Inspection.

Membership in 2020 comprised Andrew Brown as Chair and Secretary supported by Alan Seyers, Andrew Sturdy, John Holland, Brian McBurnie, Peter Walker and Bob Russell. Our wardens, Margaret and Gillian, attended as ex officio officers.

New volunteers are always welcome, especially those with practical skills and able to help with routine building maintenance or working in the churchyard. Please speak to any member of team if you can help in any way.

On a personal note, after several years of fascinating work and the forming of many friendships, the writer has decided to retire from the Buildings Team. This will be with effect from the end of January 2021 and is made possible by a very generous offer from Janet Groves, who has kindly agreed to take on the role of Chair. Moreover, plans are in place to reallocate specific work areas amongst team members to ensure a smooth transition, and whom I must thank most sincerely for their long and loyal support.

BARNWOOD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT AND NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2020

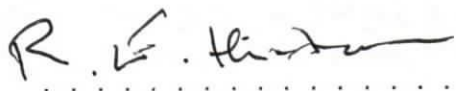
Basis of Accounts

The accounts for PCC of St Lawrence Church in the parish of Barnwood have been prepared on a "Receipts and Payments" basis using the "Cash Book" accounting program provided by the Gloucester Diocesan Board of Finance for this purpose. The Version Number is V5.2 - 2 issued December 2015.

The final accounts have been independently examined by Mr Andrew Matson.

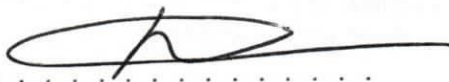
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Robert Hinton



(Treasurer)

Andrew Matson



(Independent Examiner)

Approved by members of the Parochial Church Council and signed on their behalf by:

Rob Crofton



(Vicar)

Margaret Seyers



(Church Warden)

DATE:

17th March 2021

1. Overview

The past year has been dominated by Covid 19 which has financially challenged many organisations. St Lawrence Church has been no exception.

Table 1 – Receipts and Payments shows all of the cash which passed through the PCC's accounts over the year separated into unrestricted, designated and restricted cash components by category together with a comparison with total income from 2019 and a summary of the PCC's financial balances at the end of the year.

The significant points to note are:

- a) The PCC carried forward into the year from 2019 total cash and investment assets of **£124,139**. This was divided into the usual three fund types.
- b) It received income across all activities of **£77,374**, (2019 - £111,149), a significant reduction compared to 2019 by 30%. The biggest hits on unrestricted cash were taken on hall lettings - down £11,500; annual fetes and events – down £6,500; and parochial fees – down £4,000.
- c) It spent **£102,765** (2019 – £112,968) a much smaller reduction of 10% compared with 2019 and mainly arising from reducing costs across-the-board and cutting out virtually all charitable donations including £2,000 to Barnwood School.
- d) Expenditure exceeded income to give a net deficit of **£25,391** (2019 - £1,819).
- e) Our investment portfolio grew in capital value by **£6,245**, and we finished the year with net cash and investment assets of **£104,993** to carry forward into 2021.

The PCC had anticipated much of this deficit in its R & P when it set its unrestricted budget for the year with a net deficit of around £11,000. In addition it expected the drawdown of Restricted funds of £2,100 from the LIFE initiative and a churchyard insurance claim, both received into the accounts the previous year (2019). The effective additional loss for 2020 compared to budget, and most likely due to Covid, was therefore around £12,000.

The decision to agree this deficit budget at the beginning of 2020 was not taken lightly by the PCC, but it was secure in the knowledge that it held more than sufficient available reserves (unrestricted and designated) of nearly £90,000 to meet such a shortfall. The PCC also anticipated a giving campaign during the year to shrink this shortfall.

A Pie Chart summary of the breakdown of income and expenditure is shown in **Figure 1**.

Table 2 – Account balances shows the PCC's portfolio of cash and investment assets along with their net growth and drawdown. Note that the opening and closing balances in the accounts show minor discrepancies in the R & P accounts due to rounding.

The significant points to note are:

- a) The majority of assets, £92,834 out of £104,990 (88%), are now maintained in professionally managed investment funds and these, historically, have shown significant capital growth and provided a good dividend income.
- b) Four funds have been drawn upon, including closure of one fund, to meet the deficit, these being from the general account, the Church Meadow Fund, the Reserve Account and the Church Music Fund.

2. Notes to the Accounts

Referring to Table 1

- (1) **Total giving (£40,377 + £12,026 = £52,403)** – this held up well overall during the Pandemic and the outturn was on budget forecast and only 3% short of 2019 levels. Much of the reason for this was the Gift Day, which raised £8,600 prior to GA tax reclaim. This compared favourably with the 2019 Gift Day which raised around half of that.

The Giving Campaign during the year only appeared to have a marginal impact on planned regular giving and of course. During the year there was a substantial drop-off in cash and envelopes from the usual church plate collections due to far fewer services and lower attendance levels. However, it may well have assisted with the Gift Day, the income from which compensated for this drop off.

The church plate collections and the envelope scheme now form a much smaller proportion of overall income as we strive to achieve as much of our regular income as possible via the Parish Giving Scheme or via standing orders which are less sensitive to short term fluctuations in service frequency and attendance levels.

- (2) **Income tax recovered (£8,573)** – this appears £4,000 short of the 2019 levels, but it is mainly due to delays in submitting some of the Gift Aid claims to HMRC for 2020 as well as the 3% reduction in income compared to 2019 and a lower proportion of Gift Aided donations. Back-dated GA claims are now being submitted and should pay out around £2,500 early in 2021.
- (3) **Hall lettings (£5,687)** – these were much reduced on 2019 levels due to a reduction in the need for off-site meeting facilities by the City and County Councils, the NHS and the Social Care sector. Clubs and societies (e.g. Yoga, baby massage, Probus and floristry classes) also cancelled the majority of their bookings just after the beginning of the pandemic and some credits will need to be issued in 2021.
- (4) **Fund raising events (£154)** – the only event that actually took place in 2020 was a Parish Breakfast in February.
- (5) **Interest and Dividends (£2,934)** – this was reduced marginally on 2019 levels as we drew down some of our reserves to fund the deficit. This is particularly significant with the sale of some of the Music Fund Shares with their much higher dividends compared to the interest rates on our cash accounts.
- (6) **Parochial Fees (£6,263)** – also much reduced compared to 2019 as only four weddings were held during the year, in other years we have held as many as 10. Funerals were also reduced as most people opted to use the Crematorium.
- (7) **Other income (£1,360)** – this was largely due to cash that passed through the PCC's accounts for restricted or designated use. Much of it arose from wedding fees that were paid back under "Other Costs", see (14) below.
- (8) **Donations and grants to charities (£555)** – these comprised only the restricted cash collected during the early part of the year at Sunday morning coffee gatherings for Christian Aid of £295, half of which was carried forward from 2019.

We also paid £260 for 52 meals to be delivered to people and families via the Long Table Appeal. A further £140 of collected cash is being carried over for future donation to the LTA. After careful consideration the PCC made the difficult decision that they could not afford to make their normal donation of £2,000 to Barnwood School, due to the impact that the Pandemic has had on church income during the year.

- (9) **Parish Share (£64,238)** - the PCC committed to this level of Parish Share at the commencement of 2020 and met that commitment in full. It accounted for over 90% of its income for the year.
- (10) **Church running expenses (£7,026)** – these appear 10% higher than 2019 despite using the church far less. They comprised:
 - The restricted component arose from spending the claim paid out by Ecclesiastical Insurance for repairs to the guttering on the porch in 2019. In addition, the restricted Warren bequest was used to fund the specifications to repair the South door stonework.
 - The designated component was the use of the dividends from the Music Fund to fund the Director of Music's stipend,
 - Unrestricted cash funded a fall arrester to facilitate escape from the tower and the electrical safety testing and maintenance of the fixed wiring, lightning conductors, portable appliances and the fire extinguishers.
- (11) **Churchyard maintenance (£1,734)** – this was primarily the costs of employing contractors to cut the boundary hedges, fell a large dead oak and flail church field. Andrew Brown maintained the churchyard machinery, but numerous spare parts were still required. The Groundsman's hourly payments are accounted under "Staff Costs" below. The restricted grant from the War Graves Commission, together with restricted dividends from the Churchyard fund were used to finance general churchyard work and fuel for the machinery as the actual graves required no specific maintenance.
- (12) **Cost of Raising Funds (£5,318)** – this is essentially the costs of running the Church Centre together with the very small costs of holding fund raising activities. Centre running costs included the general repairs and routine maintenance, energy, water, lift servicing, building insurance, fixed wiring and portable appliance testing, Covid PPE, etc. It was considerably less than 2019 as the Centre was used much less than usual. However, we can expect some larger lift maintenance costs in 2021.
- (13) **Administration costs (£16,851)** - these were largely the costs of paying staff together with all office costs for telecoms, printing, postage, etc. The advent of on-line communications and no requirement for staff to work outside their contracted hours helped to reduce these costs compared with 2019. The cost of paying staff for hours not worked under the terms and conditions of their contracts during Covid lockdowns was around £2,750.
- (14) **Other Costs (£3,901)** – apparently £1,000 higher than 2019, they comprised designated and some restricted cash which arose from the repayment of fees collected for services that did not take place, referred to under (7) above. The unrestricted element comprised primarily the Church insurance premium together

with some minor expenditure. The residual restricted element was the cash that passed through the accounts but was not part of routine church activities.

3. Cash and Investment Assets

Table 2 shows the cash and investments held by the PCC at the beginning and end of the year. Here are the main points:

- (1) **Total Assets valuation** - the year opened with a total asset and cash accounts valuation of **£124,139**. despite the losses in the receipts and payments accounts of **£25,391**, it closed with a valuation of only **£19,121** less at **£104,993**. This was due to the increase in the value of all the underlying investment accounts **by £6,245**.
- (2) **Church Meadow Fund** - the **£4,516** in this designated cash fund was drawn down, the account closed, and the cash redesignated by the PCC for unrestricted church use.
- (3) **Reserve Fund** - virtually all of the **£9,000** in this unrestricted account was drawn down and used for general church funds. A small cash balance of **£100** remains in the account with the intention to rebuild these cash reserves once the church's finances improve in future years.
- (4) **Warren Fund** - **£567** was drawn down from this restricted fund to finance the specification of repairs to the South Door stonework. The residual balance was **£5,132**.
- (5) **Music Fund** - **£10,000** was drawn down from this designated fund and the cash redesignated by the PCC for unrestricted church use. The residual balance, after the increases in its valuation, was **£65,808**.
- (6) **Capital Valuation** - all Investment Funds increased in value by around 6.5% due to prevailing market conditions and reduced the Church's overall loss from the £25,391 of the P and L account by **£6,245** to a figure of **£19,146**.
- (7) This portfolio of cash and investment assets also produced a total income of interest and dividends of **£2,934**. See Note 5 of Table 1. This, together with the capital gains of **£6,245** on our investments, gave an overall return of over 7.4% across our entire cash and investment portfolio of **£124,139** at the beginning of the year.

4. Additional Points to Note

- (1) **2020 Assistance from the Diocese** - the Diocese is well aware that many of its churches have faced, or soon will be facing financial difficulties from the effects of Covid 19, just as we are. To this end it is prepared to provide some additional funding to all churches which must be applied for during the first half of 2021.

Now that the full extent of these losses has been established, we will consider making such an application to try to replenish some of the funds we have had to spend during this year. However, one of the criteria for aiding PCCs will be the level

of reserves that are held, and we are still relatively well-endowed in this respect with our residual balance of over £70,000 of unrestricted and designated reserves.

- (2) **Energy usage** – unsurprisingly, due to extensive periods of shutdown during the year, both the church and church centre consumed considerably less energy. The comparative figures in kWh are:

	2020 (kWh)	2019 (kWh)	Decrease (%)
Church Gas	14,600	22,600	35
Centre Gas	18,500	30,000	48
Church Power	750	1,850	60
Centre Power	3,200	4,900	35

- (3) **Solar Panels** – these produced an income of £2,096 which was retained to pay off the solar panel loan to the Diocese. At this rate the 3% pa loan should be paid off by the end of next year (2022) and this income with RPI price escalation will flow into the PCC's accounts from 2023 onwards. Hopefully for the duration of the contract which is a further 13 years.

- (4) **Additional cash passing through church accounts** – we collected and passed through the following sums:

Statutory Fees for weddings and funerals passed to the Diocese	£1,024
Statutory Fees passed through to visiting ministers	£577
Non-Statutory fees passed through to vergers, bellringers, stonemason	£1,561

5. Budget for 2021

Following a year of such difficult financial times, the Finance Team has set a target budget for 2021 which is largely based on the 2019 outturn (and hence the 2020 budget forecast) as the 2020 outturn has been so heavily distorted by the effects of the Covid outbreak. The major variations from the original 2020 budget are:

Income:

- **Hall lettings and Other church activities** (e.g. Monday Coffee Shop) to return slowly through the year but back to normal levels to start the winter season. Assume the total income to be around 2/3 of normal.
- **Fund-Raising** team to raise £2,000 target by the end of the year. The team is still to be appointed.
- **Giving** to include a 10% reduced Gift day compared to 2020, a target 5% increase in all planned giving, a return to normal levels by the end of the year of plate giving and the known increases and decreases in regular giving as communicated to the Treasurer to date.
- **Gift Aid** to follow these changes in giving.

- **Dividends and interest** to reduce by 20% from current and likely future draw-down of reserves.
- **Parochial fees** – return to 2019 levels of weddings and funerals.

Expenditure

- **Barnwood school grant** – to resume at 2019 level of £2,000.
- **Parish share** – to be reduced by £9,000 from its 2020 level to £55,240 and to be financed by the Diocesan Stipendiary Fund.
- **Staff salaries** – no increase, although all salaries continue to be at least at the level of the Real Living Wage for 2021/22.
- **Maintenance costs** – increase by £1,000 on previous years as contractors will be required to undertake some of the work previously undertaken by Andrew Brown. A Quinquennial Inspection Report costing £700 will also be required in 2021.
- **Music** – Additional costs of £700 for organ maintenance as none carried out in 2020.
- **Flowers** – return to normal levels at a cost of £500 but financed largely by individual designated donations as needed.
- **Energy** – return to 2019 levels of consumption but with 23% increase in costs for three-year contract with new 100% green energy supplier.

Resulting Budget

These changes produced a second unbalanced Receipts and Payments budget with an Income of around £90,5000 and total expenditure of around £97,600 and hence a forecast deficit of around £7,000 to be financed from some unrestricted cash remaining in the current account from 2020 and topped-up as necessary from further redesignation of a proportion of the Music Fund currently valued at nearly £66,000.

It is hoped, for the third year in a row, that there will be further capital growth of the PCC's investment funds, but this cannot be guaranteed.

Table I - Barnwood PCC's Receipts and Payments Accounts - 2020

	Notes	2020				2019
		Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	TOTAL £	TOTAL £
Receipts						
Voluntary income:						
Planned giving	1	40,142	-	235	40,377	46,722
Collections, donations & other giving		10,733	-	1,293	12,026	9,434
Income tax recovered	2	8,573	-	-	8,573	12,605
Legacies		-	-	-	-	-
Activities for generating funds						
Magazine/Bookstall sales/Hall Lettings etc	3	5,687	-	-	5,687	17,136
Income from other Properties		-	-	-	-	-
Annual Fete/events	4	154	-	-	154	6,813
Investment income:						
Interest & dividends	5	71	2,076	787	2,934	3,033
Income from charitable activities:						
Parochial fees	6	6,263	-	-	6,263	10,047
Other incoming resources:						
Insurance claims		-	-	-	-	3,535
Gain on disposal of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-
Loans received		-	-	-	-	-
Other	7	337	530	493	1,360	1,824
Total incoming resources		71,960	2,606	2,808	77,374	111,149
Payments						
Charitable activities:						
Donations/Grants to charities	8	-	-	(555)	(555)	(3,744)
Mission & Evangelism inc Children's Work		(236)	-	(1,445)	(1,681)	(1,819)
Parish Share	9	(64,238)	-	-	(64,238)	(63,632)
Clergy expenses		(1,336)	-	-	(1,336)	(1,960)
Church running expenses	10	(3,584)	(1,982)	(1,460)	(7,026)	(6,539)
Churchyard maintenance	11	(1,190)	-	(544)	(1,734)	(5,373)
Cost of raising funds	12	(5,318)	-	-	(5,318)	(8,522)
Running costs:						
Support costs		(15)	-	(110)	(125)	-
Administration costs (inc. staff costs)	13	(16,662)	-	(189)	(16,851)	(18,426)
Other	14	(2,780)	(556)	(565)	(3,901)	(2,953)
Governance costs						
Major expenditure						
Repairs to church buildings		-	-	-	-	-
Repairs to other property		-	-	-	-	-
Capital purchases/additions		-	-	-	-	-
Loan repayments		-	-	-	-	-
Total resources expended		(95,359)	(2,538)	(4,868)	(102,765)	(112,968)
Net (outgoing)/ incoming resources		(23,399)	68	(2,060)	(25,391)	(1,819)
Transfers between funds						
		17,574	(17,510)	(64)	(0)	-
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before gains						
		(5,825)	(17,442)	(2,124)	(25,391)	(1,819)
Gains on investment assets						
		-	4,526	1,719	6,245	15,118
Net movement in funds						
		(5,825)	(12,916)	(405)	(19,146)	13,299
Funds brought forward at 1 Jan 2020						
		10,204	79,187	34,748	124,139	110,840
Funds carried forward at 31 Dec 2020						
		4,379	66,271	34,343	104,993	124,139

Table 2 - Barnwood PCC's Balances of Cash and Investment Accounts - 2020

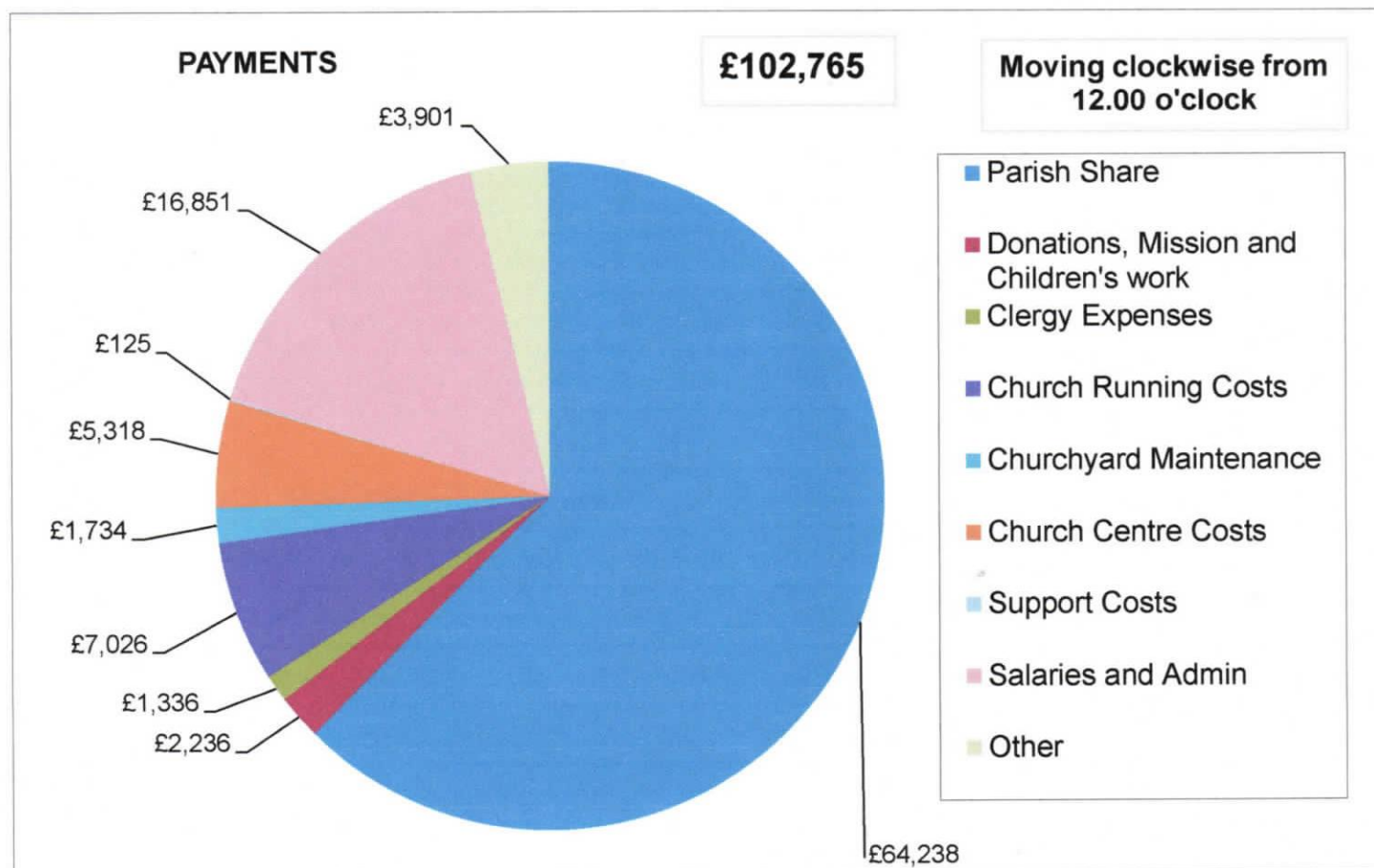
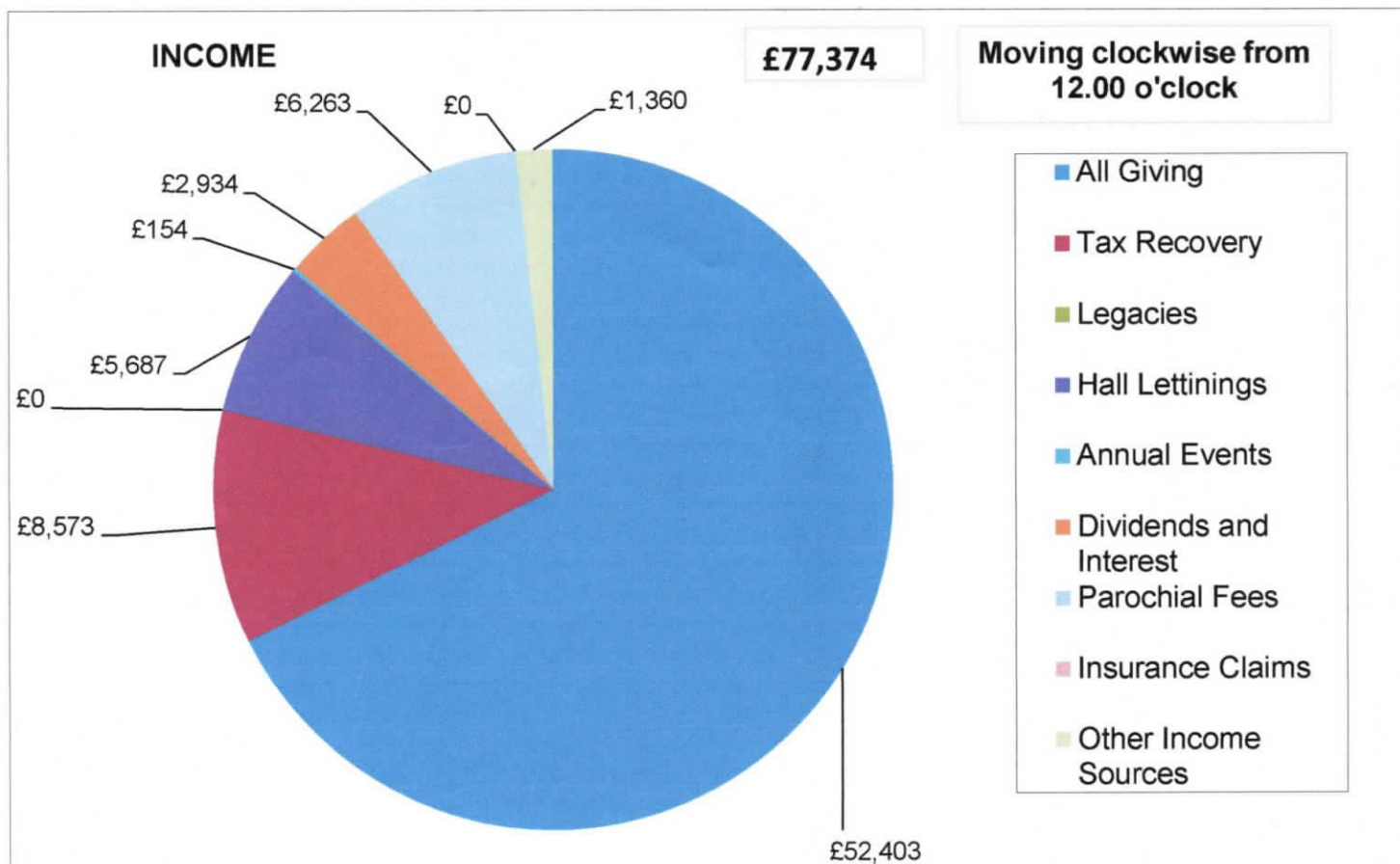
Cash Accounts	Opening Balance	Increase/ (Decrease)	Closing Balance
Main General Account - NatWest - Unrstd, Rstd & Dsgntd	£8,336	(£1,413)	£6,923
Church Meadow - CBF fund - Designated	£4,516	(£4,516)	£0
Warren Fund CBF fund - Restricted	£5,696	(£564)	£5,132
Reserve Account - CBF - Unrestricted	£9,000	(£8,900)	£100
TOTAL	£27,548	(£15,393)	£12,155

Investment Assets	Opening Value	Increase/ (Decrease)	Closing Value
Church Music Fund CBF 616108001S - Designated	£71,283	-£5,474	£65,808
Moulder Memorial CBF 116002040F - Restricted	£564	£20	£584
Moulder Graves CBF116002041F - Restricted	£281	£10	£291
Churchyard CBF 116002220S - Restricted	£20,140	£1,391	£21,530
Pepperill Bequest CBF 116002198S - Restricted	£1,836	£127	£1,963
Moulder Memorial (2) CBF 116002342S - Restricted	£2,180	£151	£2,331
Lemon-Priday CBF 116002426S - Restricted	£306	£21	£327
TOTAL	£96,590	-£3,756	£92,834

Investment Breakdown	Opening Balance	Increase/ (Decrease)	Closing Balance
Unrestricted / Designated	£71,283	(£5,474)	£65,808
Restricted	£25,307	£1,719	£27,026
TOTAL	£96,590	(£3,756)	£92,834

PCC Overall Assets and Cash position	Opening Balance	Increase/ (Decrease)	Closing Balance
Unrestricted / Designated	£89,390	(£18,826)	£70,564
Restricted	£34,748	(£323)	£34,425
TOTAL	£124,138	(£19,148)	£104,990

FIG. 1 - ST LAWRENCE'S CHURCH RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS 2020



BARNWOOD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT AND NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2020

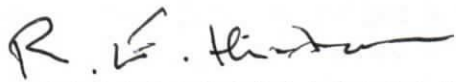
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