

WOUGHTON ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

England & Wales · Charity number 1172298

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2017-03-28

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

Contact

Address 22 Butterfield Close
Woolstone
Milton Keynes
MK15 0BZ

Phone 01908392583

Email office@woughton.org

Website Woughton.org

Activities

Objects: 1) THE PURPOSE OF THE CHARITY IS TO ADVANCE THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN THE AREA OF BENEFIT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES OF THE PARTICIPATING CHURCHES. 2) IN ACHIEVING ITS PURPOSE, THE CHARITY WILL ENGAGE IN A RANGE OF ACTIVITIES, EITHER ON ITS OWN OR WITH OTHERS, INCLUDING (BUT NOT RESTRICTED TO):A) THE CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC WORSHIP; B) THE TEACHING OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH; C) MISSION AND EVANGELISM; D) PASTORAL WORK, INCLUDING VISITING THE SICK AND THE BEREAVED; E) THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES WITH A CHRISTIAN ETHOS FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, INCLUDING (BUT NOT RESTRICTED TO) THE ELDERLY, THE YOUNG AND OTHER GROUPS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS; AND F) THE SUPPORT OF OTHER CHARITIES IN THE UK AND OVERSEAS.

Activities: The purpose of the charity is to advance the Christian faith in the area of benefit in accordance with the principles and practices of the participating churches to celebrate public worship; teach the Christian faith; mission and evangelism; pastoral work, including visiting the sick and bereaved; providing facilities with a Christian ethos for the young, elderly, special needs and other groups.

Classification

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

Geography

- Milton Keynes

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£173,604	£166,874	-	-
2023-12-31	£188,104	£185,035	-	-
2022-12-31	£174,053	£162,639	-	-
2021-12-31	£176,857	£161,095	-	-
2020-12-31	£115,106	£164,356	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Michael Davidge	Chair	2019-04-30
Charmaine Howard		2019-06-01
DANEL JOSEPH MAHON		2019-04-30
DI MILLER		2019-04-30
David Hart		2019-04-30
John Howard		2019-04-30
Kim Weston		2019-04-30
Lynn Castle		2019-04-30
MARILYN MAHON		2019-04-30
REV Ian C Herbert		2017-10-06
Rev Nicola Vidamour		2019-09-01
Rev PAUL NORRIS		2019-04-30

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**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
of the WOUGHTON ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP
at Christ the Vine Community Church – Coffee Hall
Thursday 15th May 2025 at 7:30pm**

Charity Registration number 1172298

Ecumenical Vision Statement For the Woughton Ecumenical Parish

In the light of the prayer of Christ 'may they all be one... that the world may believe that you sent me...' (Jn 17.21) and the injunction to 'spare no effort to make fast with bonds of peace the unity which the Spirit gives' (Eph 4:3), members of Woughton Ecumenical Parish commit themselves to work together in serving God's mission locally and beyond.

Members of the Parish, drawn from the four participating denominations (The Church of England, The Methodist Church, The Baptist Union and The United Reformed Church) and from other Christian traditions, seek to respond to the call of God through Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Our life together and our mission are shaped by our core values:

- Spiritually alive;
- Together in Christ;
- Reaching out;
- Welcoming all;
- Using our gifts;
- Being sustainable.

Each of our five local congregations gives expression to the above, in its worship, ministry and mission.

AGENDAS for
Annual Parochial Church Meeting of Woughton Parish,
Parochial Church Council of Woughton Parish,
Annual Congregational Meeting of Woughton Ecumenical Partnership,
At 7.30pm on Thursday 15th May 2025
Christ the Vine Community Church – Coffee Hall

Prayers led by the Team.

Rev Ian Herbert in the Chair for items 1 and 2.

1. Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- a. Approval of Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting 8th May 2024
- b. Election for churchwardens
- d. Election of PCC members as nominated in Appendix A
- e. Decision on number of elected PCC members for the year 2025/26
- f. Appointment of Deanery Synod representative

2. Parochial Church Council Meeting

- a. Co-option of PCC member
- b. Election of PCC Secretary
- c. Proposal that the WEP Treasurer should act as the PCC Treasurer for the year

Mike Davidge in the Chair

3. Annual Congregational Meeting

- a. Approval of the Minutes of Annual Congregational Meeting of WEP held on 8th May 2024
- b. Presentation of the Report
- c. Presentation of the Accounts for 2024
- d. Appointment of the Independent Examiner
- e. Ex-officio Trustees
- f. Election of Trustees of the Woughton Ecumenical Partnership (up to nine)
- g. Appointment of the Methodist Circuit Representative
- h. Appointment of Representatives to Netherfield Partnership.

Appendix A to the Agenda

Appendix B

Nominations for appointments at Partnership level 2025-2026

Annual Parochial Church Meeting:

PCC Members
all for one year
2025-26

Lynn Castle (St T)
Irene Longstaff (TF)
Don Mahon (TF)

PCC Ex-Officio *to note* Revd Ian Herbert, Revd Paul Norris,

Church Wardens

St Mary's
St Thomas'
Woolstone

Di Miller
Iola Samuels
John Howard

Deanery Synod Representatives

Di Miller, Kim Weston, Linda Kirk

Parochial Church Council:

Co-opt to PCC

Revd. Charmaine Howard

Annual Congregational Meeting:

WEP Trustees
For three years to 2025

For information: *Continuing Trustees*

Geoffrey Miller (St. M) ⁽²⁰²⁶⁾
Pamela Pow ⁽²⁰²⁷⁾

For Election

Lynn Castle (St.T)
Iola Samuels (St.T)
Mike Davidge (Chair of Trustees)
David Hart (CtV)
Don Mahon (TF)
Marilyn Mahon (TF)
John Howard (W)

Ex-Officio Trustees

Revd. Ian Herbert, Revd. Paul Norris,
Revd. Charmaine Howard,

Methodist Circuit (2)

Lynn Castle; Marilyn Mahon, Don Mahon

Netherfield Partnership (corporate member)

Revd Ian Herbert / Revd. Charmaine Howard

Other Appointments and Representatives 2025-2026

Ministry Team

Revd Ian Herbert
Revd Paul Norris
Revd Charmaine Howard

Other Ordained Ministers

Revd Christopher Bell

Preachers and worship leaders

Lynn Castle
Mike Davidge
Judy Rapp
John Howard
Linda Kirk

Safeguarding Officers

St. Mary's – Kim Weston
St. Thomas – Iola Samuels
Holy Trinity – Judy Rapp
Trinity Fishermead - Irene Longstaff
Christ the Vine –

URC Synod Representatives (appointed by local churches – 1 per church)

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

of Woughton Parish on 8th May 2024
at St Thomas' Church, Simpson.

Present: Paul Norris Kim Weston Pamela Pow
Lynn Davidge Mike Davidge Lynn Castle
Ruth Thomas Peter Thomas Gary Dickinson
Iola Samuels Geoffrey Miller David Hart
Christine Peel Jill Strong Philip Dimarcos
Ian Herbert Barbara Zimmer Kay Dimarcos
Don Mahon Marilyn Mahon Viv McGregor
Norma Baldwin Di Miller Jean Mattinsley
John Howard Ann Bell Susan Newby
Christopher Bell Angela Ollis Irene Longstaff
Natasha Cheriyan Dolly Nicholls Pat Hodges
Charmaine Howard Sue Smith David Bird
Brian Baldwin John Howard Philip Coppen
Helen Hobson Dawn Flannagan

Apologies: Barbara Albone, Angy Norris, Jennifer Harding, Pauline Rudiger,
Linda Kirk, Ruth Davies, Ann Davies, James Whysall,
Barbara Chapman, Eric Foster.

Rev Paul Norris led prayers.

Rev Ian Herbert in the chair for Items 1 & 2

1. Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- a) Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 9th May 2023 were proposed for approval by Chris Bell and seconded by Iola Samuels and all voted in favour.
- b) Nominations for churchwardens. Nominations have been received for John Howard from Woolstone Church and Iola Samuels from St Thomas' Church. These nominations had been proposed by Ian Herbert and seconded by Jean Mattinsley last year and they are now in the second year of the triennium.
- c) Approval of PCC members. Appendix A with the addition of Mandy Heart and David Hart for Christ the Vine Church was agreed .
- d) Appointment of representatives for the Anglican Deanery Synod. Kim Weston and Di Miller are serving another triennium. Linda Kirk as a third representative for Deanery Synod was proposed by Kim Weston and seconded by Mike Davidge. All in agreement.
- e) Co-option of Ministry Team as members of the PCC agreed.

Parochial Church Meeting

- a) Election of PCC Secretary. Di Miller indicated a willingness to stand again. She was proposed by Iola Samuels and seconded by Kim Weston. All in favour.

b) Proposal that the WEP Treasurer act as the Treasurer for the PCC for the year.

Mike Davidge proposed and Jean Mattinsley seconded this and all voted in favour.

An Extra Item: The PCC members present were asked by Iola Samuels

(Churchwarden) to give approval for a quote for a topographical survey to be done in St Thomas' churchyard as a matter of some urgency. The quote for the work was £580 plus VAT. The PCC members gave their approval.

Meeting ended at 7.42pm.

Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of Woughton Ecumenical Partnership held on 8th May 2024 at St Thomas' Church Simpson.

Present. 41 members of the Partnership were present in person. Apologies. There were 10 apologies recorded.

Mike Davidge in the Chair for the Annual Congregational Meeting

- a) Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting held on 9th May 2023. Approval of these Minutes was proposed by Don Mahon and seconded by Lynn Castle. All in agreement.
- b) Presentation of the Annual Report. Mike gave a brief overview of how the year had passed. Numbers in our churches are down but there is evidence of growth. There is work to be done both together and each individual church. The Ministry team have lost Rev Nicola Vidamour and there will be pressures to manage. A member raised the point that there should be a tribute paid to Rev Paul le Sueur for his faithful service to Woughton Partnership. Under the report from St Mary's Church there should have been a mention of the monthly Bible Study. Under Safeguarding it was reported that the position of Safeguarding Officer was vacant. Woughton Partnership needs a Safeguarding Lead going forward. Kim Weston, the Safeguarding Officer at St Mary's has agreed to be in touch with David Jones the Methodist Safeguarding Training Officer. Approval for the reports as a whole, proposed by Mike Davidge and seconded by David Bird. This was agreed by all.
- c) Presentation of the Accounts for 2023. These have been signed off for the end of the year and submitted to the Examiner. There was a deficit of £17,304 at the end of the year but because of donations a surplus of £3,600 is predicted for the coming year. The Approval of the Accounts was proposed by Geoffrey Miller and seconded by Mike Davidge. All voted in favour. Mike offered grateful thanks to Don and Marilyn Mahon for all their hard work.
- d) Appointment of the Independent Examiner. Don nominated Christina Sabbucido as our Independent Examiner, seconded by Jean Mattinsley. This was carried with two abstentions.
- e) Ex-Officio Trustees. Rev Ian Herbert, Rev Paul Norris and Rev Charmaine Howard are all ex-officio WEP Trustees.
- f) Election of the Trustees. The three year period for existing Trustees continues until 2025 but there was one new nomination of Pamela Pow proposed by John Howard and seconded by Ian Herbert. All in favour.
- g) Appointment of Representatives to the Methodist Area. Marilyn Mahon and Lynn Castle were proposed by Ian Herbert and seconded by Lola Samuels and agreed unanimously. Don Mahon as the WEP Treasurer is invited to join the Methodist Circuit meetings along with other LEP Treasurers.
- h) Appointment of Representatives to the Netherfield Partnership. Don Mahon proposed Ian Herbert and Charmaine Howard and this was seconded by David Bird. All in favour.

The Annual Congregational Meeting concluded at 9.10pm after prayers were led by Rev Charmaine Howard.

The Woughton Parish continues to serve this area. Services have been taking place across the Partnership although Christ the Vine has maintained the streaming service option in addition to attendance. St Mary's have reverted to a limited exchange of The Peace and the congregation deciding to use the Communion chalice and retain the use of the small Baptist service glasses for the wine to offer a choice.

In the past year at St Thomas' the church family was sad to see their Methodist minister Rev Nicola Vidamour leave for another post. She is being missed by the whole Parish. Iola Samuels as the churchwarden has submitted reports. A Quinquennial Inspection was carried out which confirmed the pressing needs of the church building. The cracks in the chancel wall have been carefully monitored by a structural engineer. Flashing on the roof needed repair and this was done. One of the more recent problems was the breakdown of the boiler and this resulted in a solution after waiting many months. Applications have been made for grants to help pay for structural work on the church. Faculties have been approved for reservations for burial plots for Memorial ashes in the churchyard. The churchyard has been well maintained throughout the year. There is now a St Thomas' Churchyard spread sheet indicating grave sites by name available online.

On behalf of St Mary's Church, Jean Mattinsley joined the PCC in the year as a representative from St Mary's standing in as the unofficial "Churchwarden". She has reported on building matters to the PCC. Earlier in the year there was a problem of a blocked drain from the vestry toilet which needed a Faculty for a large trench to be dug and a new pipe laid. The roof hatch on the top of the tower needed replacement as the wood was damaged. Later in the summer of 2024 a Quinquennial Inspection was carried out, which revealed urgent work needed on the stonework of the church.

Very little progress has been made on the boundary walls, both east and north, as the hotel is in a state of change and communications are difficult to maintain.

In the churchyard a dedicated team of volunteers have maintained the garden area very well.

The church clock finally shows and strikes the correct time.

The Church Hall has been revalued but progress has been slow. The sale is in the hands of an agency approved by the PCC and the Diocese.

Christ the Vine Community Church building is owned by the Oxford Diocese. An extension to the dining room and a disabled ramp on the east door is planned and being saved for by the congregation. Oxford Diocese have paid the money for a feasibility study for the extension and a report had been requested and was sent to the DAC. There has been a joint initiative between MKCC and CTV to limit the effect of flooding by putting in planters to soak up extra water from downflow pipes. Work has been done on the fire doors to make sure they are effective for disabled access in an emergency.

Rema Church has a booking to use the church building on a Sunday afternoon and they have renewed their booking for 2025. MKCC also rents space in the building during the week. The machine which provides boiling water in the kitchen now needs replacement.

The Fishermead Community Centre has been working towards moving forward for a Community Asset Transfer. There have been a number of difficulties which have arisen, and the process has stalled. The digital café is now ready to provide computer resources to those who need them. Volunteers have come forward to help.

The Food Larder and Breakfast Club is continuing to run each Monday with volunteers from Trinity Church, Fishermead and St Mary's Church. It is popular and fills a need.

The Manse on Fishermead has needed some painting and other maintenance and is rented out and brings in the income to WEP.

The Community Church at Woolstone. The Asset Transfer has not gone ahead. It is a listed building which makes it complicated. In fact, other options are being considered. The heating system has been very problematic with regard to both the need for a new boiler and different radiators. There have been occasions when the church was unable to open on a Sunday because of the lack of heating. Permission is being sought from the Listed Building Consent to install a new boiler. Hirings for the building have been lost due to the poor heating arrangements.

February 2025
Di Miller
PCC Secretary

Annual Report and Accounts Woughton Ecumenical Partnership Foreword

This annual report reviews the life, ministry and activities of Woughton Ecumenical Partnership and its congregations in 2024. As ever, we owe much to our Ministry team and to so many of our members who work hard to maintain our Christian community and witness.

In April we were sorry to say farewell to Rev Nicola Vidamour who moved to take up a teaching role at Wesley House in Cambridge. Nicola's contribution to the Partnership was greatly valued, in strengthening our ecumenical outlook and in building a growing congregation at St Thomas's, Simpson.

With Nicola's departure, the Trustees considered very carefully the matter of a replacement to maintain the staffing of the ministerial team in support of our shared mission. Unfortunately, the Trustees had to conclude that the current level of income was not sufficient to allow us to commit to another stipendiary ministerial post at this time.

The reduction in ministerial costs did mean that we ended the year with an income surplus but Trustees recognise that the reduced staffing level puts a greater strain on the remaining Ministry team. This will be a major topic for 2025, together with related and developing issues around what it means to be an ecumenical partnership in these circumstances.

We remain grateful for generous giving from members throughout the Partnership to keep our ministry and mission running. Our Treasurer Don Mahon, the district treasurers and the Trustees will continue to address this as a priority for us all as members so that we can look to develop our mission in our communities.

Church members continued to be involved with the food larder at Fishermead. Christ the Vine continued to host the Wellbeing Hub with its aim of bringing together local community and health groups to provide a welcoming and supportive meeting place in a café setting. St Thomas's and St Mary's regularly provide informal drop-in sessions and space for other community activities. Holy Trinity Woolstone provides a fortnightly service of worship at a local residential home.

On behalf of the Trustees I want to thank our Ministry team, our volunteer ministers (ordained and lay) and others who lead worship and all those in our churches who do so much to build our life together and maintain our witness in the community.

There are many challenges facing us in maintaining the life and mission of the Partnership but we can be confident that God goes ahead of us. Our ecumenical vision statement reminds us that, as members, we commit ourselves 'to work together in serving God's mission locally and beyond.' WEP's role is to support all of us in the part we can play in that mission as we 'seek to respond to the call of God through Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit.'

Mike Davidge
Chair of Trustees

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Annual Report and Accounts 2024

1.	Reference and Administration Details:														
1.1	Name: Woughton Ecumenical Partnership (abbreviated as WEP).														
1.2	Address: Partnership Office, Christ the Vine Community Church, Jonathans, Coffee Hall, Milton Keynes MK6 5DE Tel 01908 392583 www.woughton.org														
1.3	Trustees: <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Lynn Castle</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Marilyn Mahon</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mike Davidge</td> <td>Di Miller</td> </tr> <tr> <td>David Hart</td> <td>Geoff Miller</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rev Ian Herbert</td> <td>Rev Paul Norris</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rev Charmaine Howard</td> <td>Pamela Pow (from 8 May 2024)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>John Howard</td> <td>Iola Samuels</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Don Mahon</td> <td>Rev Nicola Vidamour (to 28 April 2024)</td> </tr> </table>	Lynn Castle	Marilyn Mahon	Mike Davidge	Di Miller	David Hart	Geoff Miller	Rev Ian Herbert	Rev Paul Norris	Rev Charmaine Howard	Pamela Pow (from 8 May 2024)	John Howard	Iola Samuels	Don Mahon	Rev Nicola Vidamour (to 28 April 2024)
Lynn Castle	Marilyn Mahon														
Mike Davidge	Di Miller														
David Hart	Geoff Miller														
Rev Ian Herbert	Rev Paul Norris														
Rev Charmaine Howard	Pamela Pow (from 8 May 2024)														
John Howard	Iola Samuels														
Don Mahon	Rev Nicola Vidamour (to 28 April 2024)														
1.4	Key Personnel: Chair: Mike Davidge Ministry Team: Rev Ian Herbert, Rev Charmaine Howard, Rev Paul Norris, Rev Nicola Vidamour (to 28 April 2024) Secretary: Di Miller Treasurer: Don Mahon WEP Administrator: Tim May														
1.5	Principal Bankers: CAFBank, Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church, Central Board of Finance of the Church of England, CCLA Investment Management.														
2.	Structure, Governance and Management:														
2.1	Governing documents: <p>Woughton Ecumenical Partnership (WEP) is established as a single congregation local ecumenical partnership. Its governing documents – the Constitution and Schedule – were approved and adopted at the inaugural congregational meeting on 18 October 2016. From this date, WEP replaced the former body known as Woughton Ecumenical Parish.</p> <p>As well as the governing documents, there is a Memorandum of Understanding made between the Bishop of Buckingham, the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Woughton and the Trustees of WEP.</p> <p>WEP is established as a charitable unincorporated association. The Charity Commission registered it as a charity on 28 March 2017 with Registered Charity Number 1172298.</p> <p>A set of Standing Orders (SOs) has been approved by the Trustees. Each one covers a specific aspect of WEP policy. Standing Financial Instructions (SFIs) form part of the SOs and work is in progress to clarify and extend the matters covered by the SFIs. The SOs and SFIs are drawn up to comply with the governing documents, relevant charity legislation and good practice as promulgated by the Charity Commission as Regulator. The SOs all have scheduled review dates and the Trustees review each document as it falls due (or sooner if need arises). New SOs and SFIs are developed when need arises.</p>														
2.2	Appointment and training of Trustees: <p>The Trustee Body consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to eleven Trustees elected by the Annual Congregational Meeting (a Trustee appointment is normally for a term of three years) • Ex officio Trustees, being the ministers of the LEP for the time being • Not more than five co-opted Trustees appointed by the Trustees. <p>During 2024, one ex officio Trustee left the Partnership and ceased to be a Trustee, one new Trustee was elected at the Annual Congregational Meeting. The other Trustees were either elected or ex officio for the whole of the year.</p>														

	All Trustees have received the Charity Commission guide 'The essential trustee'. No formal training for Trustees took place in 2024.
2.3	<p>The organizational structure of WEP and how decisions are made:</p> <p>Each of the five churches in WEP is expected to establish its own District Church Council (DCC). A DCC may take the form of an elected council or be a congregational meeting open to all members. The DCC's task is to maintain and develop the life and mission of their local church. The rules governing DCCs are contained in SO No. 8 District Church Councils.</p> <p>With regard to Trustees, our practice is to ask each church to nominate up to two Trustees to the Partnership, for approval by the Annual Congregational Meeting. A Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are elected by the Trustees. Members of the Ministry Team are ex officio Trustees.</p> <p>The Trustees have delegated to the Ministry Team matters of ministry and spiritual and pastoral care. There is an Annual Congregational Meeting to receive the Report and Accounts and elect Trustees (if there is a vacancy or a Trustee's term is expiring). The normal business of the Partnership is conducted through regular meetings of the Trustees and of the DCCs during the year. Membership data is set out in Appendix 1.</p>
2.4	<p>A statement of the major risks to which WEP is exposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate level of voluntary income to support activities contributing to WEP's objectives • Inability to find volunteers to lead activities essential to meeting WEP's objectives • Failure to comply with relevant legislation (of which Health and Safety, Discrimination including Disability, Safeguarding, Data Protection, Charity and Employment Law are the principal items) • Lack of or inadequate insurance cover to meet all eventualities including loss or damage to buildings and assets or public and employer liability • Inappropriate words or actions of church officers and church members that damage WEP's reputation • Management shortcomings in strategy, organisation, leadership, decision making or communications that prevent WEP's objectives being achieved. <p>The Partnership Trustees act to mitigate all risks.</p>
	Reference and Administration Details:
3.	WEP's Objectives
3.1	<p>Our purpose</p> <p>As set out in our Governing document, the purpose of the Charity is to advance the Christian faith in the Area of Benefit in accordance with the principles and practices of the Participating Churches.</p> <p>Our Ecumenical Vision Statement</p> <p>In the light of the prayer of Christ 'may they all be one... that the world may believe that you sent me...' (John 17.21) and the injunction to 'spare no effort to make fast with bonds of peace the unity which the Spirit gives' (Ephesians 4:3), members of WEP commit themselves to work together in serving God's mission locally and beyond.</p> <p>Members, drawn from the four participating denominations (The Church of England, The Methodist Church, The Baptist Union and The United Reformed Church) and from other Christian traditions, seek to respond to the call of God through Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>Our life together and our mission are shaped by our core values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritually alive; • Together in Christ; • Reaching out; • Welcoming all; • Using our gifts; • Being sustainable.
3.2	<p>Our Mission Objectives</p> <p>Each of our five local congregations gives expression to the above, in its worship, ministry and mission. Together across the Partnership we look to:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide regular public worship for all who wish to attend. 2. Pray for the well-being of members, adherents and people and organisations in the community. 3. Provide opportunities for children, young people and adults to learn about the Christian faith and its key teaching. 4. Undertake mission activity including both evangelism and service as appropriate. 5. Engage with the local community and other agencies to work towards meeting the needs of the community. 6. Engage in pastoral work for the benefit of members and others. 7. Offer baptism, thanksgiving, naming and blessing, marriage and funeral services for members, adherents and people in the wider community with appropriate preparation and follow-up. 8. Provide facilities and activities with a Christian ethos for the local community including the elderly, young and groups with special needs. 9. Support other charities in the United Kingdom and overseas. 10. Seek God's guidance and direction in all that we do.
3.3	<p>Our continuing objectives</p> <p>District churches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Each district church will challenge itself on how it contributes to achieving the ten Mission Objectives ○ Each district church will continue to develop and review its own mission action plan (District churches may add their own specific objectives reflecting their mission and service.) <p><i>How did we do:</i> Many activities, including worship services, community events and weddings and baptisms have now recovered following the disruptions of Covid although attendances at Sunday services and membership numbers are lower than they were. Our churches continued their efforts to keep in touch with members and local communities, particularly those known to be vulnerable, through electronic media, by phone and personal visits. Several of our churches have regular drop-in sessions offering conversation and refreshments; two churches provide worship services at two residential homes; one has established a link with a dementia care centre and another hosts worship services for pupils from (to use the school's own description) a local 'extra special, special school.' One church hosts a special Remembrance Day service for pupils from local schools. Members from several of our churches have continued to help at the food larder scheme on Fishermead. At Christ the Vine, the Wellbeing Hub continued, aiming to bring together local community and health groups to provide a welcoming and supportive meeting place in a café setting.</p> <p>The Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Encourage members to take up other training courses and to explore more formal training for local ministry <p><i>How did we do:</i> Some members took advantage of training courses, particularly including specific training on safeguarding or in support of their existing roles in our churches.</p> <p>Trustees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improve communication within the Partnership through the web site and newsletter and by encouraging cross-Partnership groups and events ○ Provide stewardship support to district churches ○ Introduce text and/or contactless giving to help raise funds for the Partnership ○ Maintain the financial health of the Partnership ○ Ensure that in all things we continue to operate in accordance with charity and other applicable laws and regulations

	<p><i>How did we do:</i> The weekly newsletter and web site continue as sources of information. The new web site is in operation and has been developing as a source of news and information for all our churches. Cross-Partnership Lent and Holy Week services were held. Members responded with great generosity to enable us to end the year in a better position than we budgeted for; we are close to restoring our financial reserves to our target level. We did though have to decide that we were not in a strong enough position financially to replace a departing stipendiary minister. Members were encouraged to use standing orders or bank transfers where possible. Contactless giving is available in one church (two from early 2025) and direct online giving is available via the CAFDonate web site. Our thanks go to the district church and Partnership treasurers for all their work to encourage good stewardship practices but we know that financial challenges lie ahead and will require continued effort to manage. On applicable laws and regulations, the Trustees continue to give close regard to these. In 2024, we continued to review our own standing orders, including our safeguarding policy, to ensure they reflect good practice. We need to do more work on reviewing strategy and what it means to be an ecumenical partnership in current circumstances.</p>
4.	<p>Activity and Achievement Reports:</p>
4.1	<p><i>Ministry Team 2024 Ian Herbert, Paul Norris, Charmaine Howard.</i></p> <p>With the departure of Revd. Nicola Vidamour at the end of April 2024, Revd. Ian Herbert took on the responsibility and pastoral responsibility of St. Thomas' Simpson. This has had an impact on the ministry team as a whole and has affected not only St. Thomas' - Simpson, but Trinity - Fishermead, and Holy Trinity – Woolstone. We as a ministry team have been able to ensure all five churches have remained open every Sunday for collective worship. This has only been possible with the generosity and support of the following people. Our sincere thanks go to; John Howard, Judy Rapp, David Hart, Mike Davidge, Revd. Chris Bell, Revd. Hannah Akebo-Betts, Lynn Castle, Linda Kirk and those from the Methodist Circuits, and other retired Ministers who have supported us on occasions over the last year. Although this last year has at times been very busy, we have seen growth in some of our churches. However, we have seen some move on due to personal circumstances, and sadly those that have passed away. Christ the Vine continued to offer worship online for those who are unable to attend in person. The Ministry team has continued to be involved with and support the outreach initiatives of all five churches.</p> <p>Although our Pastoral work is shared with church members and does not exclusively fall on the shoulders of the Ministry Team, 2024 once again saw an increase in the Ministry Team's involvement with church members and residents living in our communities. 2024 continued with a high number of funerals and the pastoral care associated with the death of a loved one.</p> <p>The beginning of 2024 once again gave us the opportunity for the whole Partnership to come together for teaching and learning about the Christian faith, through online Bible Study groups, Sunday School, and our Advent and Lent reflections. With weekly prayers at the House of Prayer, Bible Study Groups throughout the partnership, and the online Compline on a Wednesday.</p> <p>Please read the reports from each of the churches if you would like to know more about what each church has been up to.</p> <p>All five churches continue open to ensure a safe environment for all, with some still wearing face masks. Communion is given with the option of a shared chalice or individual cups.</p> <p>Thank you for your support, and help. Without you we would not have been able to ensure the wellbeing of all who attended our churches.</p> <p>2024 saw us again celebrating public worship at our Easter and Christmas services in all five churches, with a slight decrease in numbers attending.</p> <p>The Ministry Team continued to connect with local schools, homes for the elderly, community projects, residents' associations, Mum's and Toddler groups, community councils and other organizations.</p> <p>See local church reports for details of the strong community links our churches have.</p>

	<p>Our heartfelt thought and thanks go to Tim May our Partnership Administrator who continued to support the Ministry Team by taking on the day-to-day administrative tasks. Tim continues to play his part in maintenance of the web site, and PAT testing for our churches.</p> <p>The Parish has a long tradition of lay involvement. We once again take this opportunity to thank all who have supported us by offering and exercising their gifts and skills. Without you we would not have been able to be as effective in our ministry and communities as we have been.</p> <p>In 2024 we had the privilege of taking 4 weddings, 5 Baptisms, and we were asked to officiate at 5 funerals and 13 interments of Ashes, 34 services at the crematorium.</p> <p>We as a Ministry Team, continue to encourage you all to seek God's guidance on how you might be able to support the work of WEP and the local churches and communities we serve.</p> <p>Revd. Ian Herbert, Revd. Paul Norris, Revd. Charmaine Howard.</p>
4.2	<p>Secretarial Report for WEP ACM 2025</p> <p>During this past year of 2024/25 WEP has worked on behalf of the Partnership. We have held our Trustees meetings face to face with a renewed focus on reports from the five churches. We remain under strength with regard to the numbers of possible Trustees. The Annual Congregational Meeting in 2024 had a good turnout of 47 members. The Trustees have met six times during the year, in May, July, October, November 2024 and January and March 2025 The minutes of all these meetings, recorded by Di Miller as the Secretary are available to read in the Parish Office and online. In addition, we had a special Discussion Forum on March 1st 2025 of Trustees together with the PCC and chairs of District Church Councils to discuss the future of our LEP.</p> <p>Tim May, the Parish Administrator, has been working partly at home. He is in the office on some days but always on Fridays or by appointment. He has been compiling and sending out the Parish newsletters and Prayer Diary electronically, and also paper copies for those who are not on email. Tim has continued to offer his expertise through the year with PAT testing of appliances and risk assessments. Our thanks too for his help in assembling this annual report. The web site (woughton.org) is working well as are the emails associated with the web site. Tim has also been very helpful in the management of the church pages on the web site which continues to be a valuable resource for people to find out information regarding the Woughton Partnership. Tim updates the web site as he is instructed by the different churches. St Mary's Church uses woughton.net for easier access to the churchyard information but there is a link to the Parish website.</p> <p>Our prayers are now for us for guidance and discernment on the way ahead for our Partnership and for new opportunities to grow and serve God here in Woughton.</p> <p>Di Miller Secretary to WEP. March 2025</p>
4.3	<p>Christ the Vine - Church Report</p> <p>Church Ministry Sunday worship has remained at 10:45 each Sunday with Communion Services on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. The third (and fifth) Sunday of each has been designated a Cafe Service. David Hart continues to support the church by leading worship once a month. David's commitment has gone a long way to ensuring that Sunday services continue uninterrupted. We are grateful to David for his commitment and support. This year we have benefitted from and been blessed by the preaching and leading of guest speakers including Esther Squire, Chris Gill, Linda Kirk, Judy Rapp and John Howard. We continue to use Worship Lyric Videos to support our sung worship. As a church we gather for corporate worship on Sunday mornings. This is our special time to meet together as the family of God to worship. We have continued to use zoom to encourage and support those who are not able to attend church in person due to illness or other pressing reason. However,</p>

	<p>attendance in person is still preferred and we encourage everyone to join us in the church building on Sunday mornings. It is a way of worshipping God, getting to know each other and building our church community. Attendance has stabilised around 20 people each Sunday, however we need to continue to prioritise church attendance in the coming year. We offer tea and coffee after our church services. This is a time to stop and talk to each other so that we get to know each other better. The rotas for tea/coffee and Readers are working well, but we would love to involve more people! Thank you, Pauline, for organising these. Study Vine stopped this year as it was difficult to find leaders for the sessions and attendance was low. We need to consider how we can ensure that our mid-week groups and Bible Studies can be better facilitated so that we grow in our discipleship. Mission We worked with the local community to develop and maintain our presence in the area. The new Coffee Hall Residents Association has recently been set up and we are looking to develop our relationship with them. We collaborated with the Woughton Community Council to put on a Community Carol Singing in December. This was very successful. A good number of people from the church and the community attended. We also led a number of services in the Community including the School's Remembrance Service that was attended by primary (and some secondary) school children, the Mayor and Councillors. There were hundreds of people in attendance at the Memorial outside the church building. We also led the Community Remembrance Service, and this was well attended this year, with a significant number of people from the community joining us for tea and coffee after the service. Grapevine has maintained its core group of people who enjoy participating in gardening activities, art and craft, music making, table tennis and chatting over food and drink in the cafe. More work now needs to be done to advertise and attract new people to participate. We are also in need of more volunteers to help run the activities and the cafe. We continue to have a prayer and reflection time each week at the end of the session. More people are joining our prayer time that takes place before the session. Grapevine has raised money for the church at their Summer and Christmas Fairs. The mission plan now needs to be reviewed, and a new plan put in place. Building The church continues to be used by Admiral Nurses to provide support for Carers of people living with dementia. This is a drop-in group where carers can enjoy company and chat over tea and coffee. They also have the opportunity to talk privately and gain professional advice from the Admiral Nurses. The Drop-In sessions are the first and third Wednesday afternoon of each month. The sessions have now expanded to include craft activities to support wellbeing. Rhema Church have continued to meet each Sunday at 1pm and will continue till October 2025. We have also had a number of one-off bookings for conferences, parties and meetings. We thank Russell for his hard work and the extra time and energy he has given to recruiting and managing new bookings as well as the extra work involved in setting out furniture and cleaning after each booking. The plans for the extension have not progressed because there is a lot of background paperwork to complete and there has not been time. This is something we need to arrange a working group (including people from the community and other partnership churches) to take up in the coming months. We are still raising money for the extension and the ramp. This year we have replaced fencing panels that came down in the storms, purchased a fitted a new water boiler and also updated the lighting in the toilets.</p> <p>Minister: Rev. Charmaine Howard</p>
4.4	<p>Holy Trinity - Woolstone Annual Report</p> <p>We have had a regular attendance of between 8 and 12 worshippers each Sunday. However, this number can on occasion increase to the mid-teens. Our first Sunday of the month Cafe Service has been particularly successful, often being attended by 15 worshippers.</p> <p>Once a month the church runs a service for the residents of Parklands Nursing home. This outreach has been particularly appreciated, and our thanks go to those of our congregation who have been supporting and running it.</p> <p>Once a week there is a Bible Class meeting, and this has a regular and faithful attendance.</p>

	<p>The year has been dogged by uncertainty in relation to the future of the building and the inadequacy of the heating system. However, the end of the year has seen the resolution of both these problems. The building is to be managed on a fifteen-year lease by the Community Association and a new heating system has been fitted.</p> <p>The pattern of services has now become well established. We have Cafe Service on the first Sunday of the month. Services on the second and fourth Sundays and lay led and Holy Communion is on the third Sunday. When there are five Sundays in the month, then special arrangements are made.</p> <p>The challenge facing our church community concerns growth. How do we become more missional and how do we gain a higher profile within the community?</p> <p>John Howard Church Warden</p>
4.5	<p><u>St. Mary's</u></p> <p>As another year has flown by, work within the church has gone on, and changes have taken place to enable work of the Lord to continue, without too many gaps or upheaval. Our Churchwarden resigned and Jean stepped back into the breach and has done a sterling job and the occasional episodes of ill health of other key workers has meant that others have taken on roles to support them, and the load has been shared. Di Miller has continued to be our secretary, and I am thankful for that. Others have done their reports, but this is just brief resume.</p> <p><u>WORSHIP AND COMMUNITY</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services have remained reasonably well attended. The format of services continues as we are lucky enough to have Paul as our Minister. My grateful thanks to him for this. • The music group and organists provide us with music to enrich our worship and Jean supports St Thomas's also. • Junior Church, Lynn and Chrissie have provided some good programmes for the children, but our numbers are very low. <p><u>PRACTICAL ISSUES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ruth continues to produce our Weekly Pew sheet and gets it out to us electronically with a few hard copies available in church for visitors. My thanks to her in what has been a very busy year for her in her personal life also. <p><u>MISSION, OUTREACH AND FUNDRAISING,</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Open for you" on a Saturday continues with a small but keen group of regulars and everyone is welcome to pop in, between 10 and 12. Visitors continue to be surprised with what they find behind our old door. • We had a successful Strawberry Fayre, and the Christmas Fayre also was a great success. We had been so focused on our Audio system, that is giving a great deal to the services and other to users. • The Annual National Remembrance Service in November was well attended by the community and wreaths were laid by two of the boys from Junior Church on behalf of the church, they both described this as a great honour and the installations of Poppies grew a little bigger this year. • We have several groups of Walkers that come for refreshments and the facilities, and they raise much needed funds. • The Link Romania Shoebox appeal was well supported again. <p>My grateful thanks to all those that give their time and energy to enable the church to keep functioning in their named roles, Jean, Norma, Brian. For the cleaning teams and refreshment providers, the readers, the chair movers, the gardeners. I would like more people to become involved in any of these roles, so please step forward if you have time and energy. Kim Weston 2025</p>

St Thomas' Church Annual Report 2024/5

My thanks to all the members of St Thomas' Church for their enthusiasm and support during this past year. I am delighted to say that our membership has grown slowly, and our congregation has adapted well to the unforeseen changes that had to be made when Rev. Nicola accepted a new position as Director of Reflective Pastoral Care at Wesley College, Cambridge.

The times of our Sunday worship had to change to 11.15am. Rev. Ian Herbert agreed to Celebrate Holy Communion for us twice a month. Lynn Castle, worship leader, provides an Interactive service each month and Linda Kirk leads a monthly Café Style act of worship. Lay preachers, from the Methodist circuit, help when there is a fifth Sunday of the month, or when Rev. Ian is not available. **Our worship is enhanced** by Alan our organist and Mike and Matthew who play their guitars. **Olive** continues to arrange **beautiful floral** arrangements.

Ruth Thomas, our able secretary, is a friend to us all. Ruth ensures that our regular DCC meetings are properly managed and recorded, and members are kept up to date with news and any relevant changes. Ruth also maintains the burial records of the Churchyard.

The Churchyard is being well maintained by a new member of the congregation and our gardener. The Architect visited in February, he walked around the churchyard and was pleased to note that some of the dead trees, and hedges have either been removed or pruned. The Churchyard is now full of Spring flowers.

The Architect also looked at the historic cracks in the Chancel. Further measurements are to be made, and the results analysed. The damaged lead on the North Transept has been replaced.

Sadly, we lost the Rev. Paul LeSueur and Brian Hills. They are now at rest in the churchyard.

Alison, one of our members looks after a group of "walkers" who visit the church for tea and a chat as part of their Bi-monthly walks. **Alison** collects our contributions for the **MK Food Bank** which she delivers each month and keeps up to date with any special requests from them.

Each month a group of our members sing hymns at the Day Centre for people with a dementing illness. Some of the members have visited our Church, with the support of their staff, and are now requesting further visits so that they may enjoy a service. This is now in the planning stage.

The Guides, Brownies, Scouts and Cubs brought their colours into the church on Remembrance Sunday. After a short service we all went to the War Memorial for the formal act of Remembrance.

Charles Warren Junior School held their Christmas Concert in the church. Two performances took place so that all the parents and grandparents could attend.

We have had lots of fun with quizzes, musical concerts, poetry evenings and a Christmas Bazaar. Our fund raiser, **Pat Hodges**, has a group of helpers who, not only raise money for our church, but also for many charities. At Christmas and during the summer **the Salvation Army** lead us with hymn singing and music. The church members provided the teas.

Iola Samuels

Church Warden 4th March 2025

Ministers report Revd. Ian Herbert for St Thomas' Church, Simpson With departure of Revd. Nicola at the end of April 2024, we had to change not only our worship time but our pattern of worship. Thank you for being accommodating. Our new Sunday worship time has allowed me to also continue to serve Holy Trinity, and Trinity. Worshipping once again with you and sharing communion with you has been a real joy on the second and fourth Sundays. We have also been able to continue with worship on the first and fourth with two new services led by our home-grown layette with Lynn Castle leading a family style service on the first Sunday and Linda Kirk introducing and leading a Café style service on the third. My sincere thanks to both Lynn and Linda for having the courage to follow God's call. Our fifth Sunday worship remains flexible and again thank you to those who have kindly supported us.

However, Sundays would not happen without the wonderful support from many of you. I know lola has mentioned you, but I would also like to thank you for making St Thomas' such a warm and welcoming church. Special thanks go to lola, Ruth, Helen, Alison and of course Alan, Mike, Matthew for leading us beautifully and sprightly in our sung worship and Peter who has insured we have been able to worship through our sound system when our musicians have not been available. Huge thanks to Sean for all he has and continues to do in the graveyard and the church, and we must all give thanks for our church warden lola, Trustees lola and Lynn and our wonderful DCC who not only manage the day to day running of the church but who have also been a great support to me.

Our Christmas Eve 9.30pm Holy communion service was well attended with both new and old faces with many thanking us for having the service at 9.30 and thinking about the elderly and those with young families.

Another highlight from me is that we are seeing growth and have welcomed into our church family a number of new people, some new Christians and others who are more mature in their faith. Psalm 100:5 says "For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."

lola in her report has mentioned other highs and some of the lows we as church have faced over 2024, please do take the time to read her report.

So, as we give thanks for God's faithfulness over the last year, we look forward to all He has for us as we look forward.

In Christ

Revd. Ian Herbert

4.7

**Trinity Fishermead Ministers report Revd. Ian Herbert
Worship**

Our Sunday worship continues to be our primary focus, with our monthly Worship, Study and Prayer meeting still paused due to the external pressures of life and ill health, however, our Compline service continues at 8.30pm on Wednesdays through Zoom. Over the last year we have welcomed new people into our fellowship and sadly seen some go due to moving away from the area. Our worship pattern remains the same as previous years with Holy Communion on the first and third Sunday, family service on the second Sunday, and a service of the word on the fourth Sunday. Our services throughout the month remain Ecumenical. Our fifth Sundays are more flexible in style with Café worship and other ways of worshipping.

We have not only been able to maintain the continuity of our service but also to experience varied styles of worship. This has been achieved with and due to the support and commitment of Rev Chris Bell and Rev Hannah Akebo-Betts, not forgetting those who have kindly supported us in leading our services when we were unable to do so. Our Sunday worship is enhanced with our small but very able worship group and my thanks go to Don, Jill, Chris and Ann for leading us in our sung worship. We continue to be encouraged that a member of the congregation is presently exploring a gifting of preaching as he continues to receive guidance and support.

	<p>However, Sundays would not happen without the HUGE commitment from Don and Marilyn Mahon who without fail turn up at 09.00 every Sunday to set the church up. At times this has meant they have had to sweep and mop the floor and move tables before being able to set the chairs out, bring the altar, lectern, projector, piano and screen in and then set everything up! And I'm sure you will all join me in extending our gratitude and thanks to them both for undertaking this task.</p> <p>My thanks also go to those who help put the church away and get the Trinity Centre ready for the community larder and to Ann and Denyse for the hospitality we receive after our services, again maybe you might want to support them in this gift and commitment. Thank you to our DCC who have been a great support to me and make the decisions for the smooth running the church, Our chair Chris Bell, Secretary Marilyn Mahon, Treasurer Eben Koomson, Safeguarding Irene Longstaff, and our reps Veronica Ackah, Ann Bell, Elizabeth Bolajoko, Don Mahon, Ayo Otusanya and Rev Ian Herbert.</p> <p><u>Missional Activities:</u></p> <p>The Church continues to work with other groups in the development of a Community Hub at The Trinity Centre for Fishermead and surrounding areas and, over the past year (and in collaboration with the Trinity Centre Management Committee and Sofea) the Church continues to run the Food Larder on Monday mornings from 10am till 11:30am. A small team from Trinity church and St Marys church volunteer with one member from the local community. It is positive work, but it can also have its challenges! The aim is to support people to live more independently. It was clear that as we entered our third year a number of those who attend have gained much through making friendships and by having an awareness of the services provided by the various community agencies that regularly attended, such as – The Samaritans, Diabetes UK, Financial Advice services, Officers from Milton Keynes Council and Campbell Park Town Council, and a retired member of the Christian organisation Parish Nursing Ministries UK also attends to provide an opportunity for Blood Pressure checks and signposting to other health advice services. We also welcomed the local Pre-school children on three occasions. It is also lovely to record again that some of the members of the Food Larder have started to attend our Sunday Services. The Church continues to play a substantial role within the Trinity Centre's Management Committee and appreciation must go to the individuals involved. Overall, we sense that the efforts of the Church(es) and the Trinity Centre Management Committee have gained valuable experience in 'hands-on' missional work to their local community, lessons have undoubtedly been learnt and the various external sponsors, agencies and other observers, have recognised it as a very inclusive and successful project. So, as we give thanks for God's faithfulness over the last year, we look forward to all He has for us as we look forward.</p> <p>In Christ</p> <p>Revd. Ian Herbert</p>
4.8	<p>Marriage in the Parish</p> <p>Please refer to Ministers Report</p>
4.9	<p>Baptism and Thanksgiving Naming and Blessings:</p> <p>Please Refer to Ministers Report</p>
4.10	<p>Bereavement Care:</p> <p>Please refer to Ministers Report</p>
4.11	<p>Adults, Babies and Children (ABC):</p> <p>ABC has been held in Christ the Vine for many years and is still welcoming families. We offer a range of activities for the group, arts, crafts, and a good selection of toys for babies and children. We continue to see about 20 regular children (plus the adults) attending, of which a number of them are now from Coffee Hall. We are committed to supporting and helping this community to grow. Nicky Graves</p>

4.12	<p>The Netherfield Partnership Limited (NP Ltd):</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>
4.13	<p>Website Report (2025 AGM)</p> <p>The website continues to be hosted on Church 123, and is maintained and updated by myself, with content being posted as and when it is received. Some initial issues regarding some of the Woughton email addresses were resolved and are now functioning correctly.</p> <p>There is also a link to woughton.net, giving access to the St. Mary's Churchyard website.</p> <p>Tim May – Website Administrator</p>
4.14	<p>Safeguarding Report (2025 AGM)</p> <p>In the absence of a lead, I have been asked to provide a report.</p> <p>We continue to follow the Methodist Safeguarding Policy. The full version is available here: https://www.methodist.org.uk/safeguarding/policies-procedure-and-information/policies-and-guidance/</p> <p>A shorter version that Nicola was able to get agreed in 2024, is available on the website and every church should have a copy available to be seen it will be reviewed again at the beginning of WEP year, updated as necessary (in accordance with any changes made by the Methodist Conference) and reissued to each local church. Please ensure the Contact list for Emergency numbers is up to date and posted in your churches, it is dated April 2024 and just needs to have details added. If you do not have the updated version, please let Kim or Tim know.</p> <p>Following Rev. Nicola Vidamour leaving to go to pastures new, no one took on the role of lead for WEP but Kim Weston lead at St Mary`s Woughton on the Green, has kept a contact with David Jones and has attended meetings and anything pertinent she has passed on, though keeping track of who are the church leads has been difficult. We urgently need to find a lay lead.</p> <p>Tim May checked the documents of 3 people from WEP who renewed their DBS in 2024. These are valid for five years. Five people attended the Foundation Training run by the Methodist Circuit in 2024. One person from St. Mary`s completed the online Advanced Training but stressed how time consuming and in depth it was, and she fed her comments back to the course leaders. – David Jones the Methodist Circuit Safeguarding Lead – has continued to support us with both existing and new issues during the year and we are very grateful for his wisdom and experience. The Methodist Circuit holds a meeting for Safeguarding Leads once a quarter and these are a valuable forum for learning and sharing. Anyone is welcome to attend.</p> <p>I would like to say that foundation courses run throughout the year and are available to anyone who feels they would benefit from the increased awareness that this would give them. Contact Kim if you would like your name to put forward.</p> <p>Safeguarding is Everyone`s responsibility.</p> <p>Kim Weston Safeguarding Lead at St. Mary`s</p>

5.

Financial Review:

5.1

Independent Examiner:



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's report
on the accounts**

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Charity Name Woughton Ecumenical Partnership		
On accounts for the year ended	31st December 2024	Charity no (if any)	1172298
Set out on pages	25 to 37 <small>(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)</small>		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2024.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

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

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

**Independent
examiner's statement**

~~[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.~~

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (~~other than that disclosed below~~ *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect,:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date: 2-5-25

Name: Peter Green

Address: 34 North Twelfth Street

Milton Keynes

MK9 3BT

A statement of the principal financial policies including reserves:

1 Principal accounting policies

Trustees' responsibility in relation to the financial statements

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- 1) select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- 2) make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- 3) state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- 4) prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Reserves policy

Only the general fund meets the Charity Commission's definition for reserves, resulting in reported reserves of £25,902 at 31 December 2024. This is 70% of the reserves the policy would determine as prudent which is not less than three months' of general fund expenditure (£37,034 based on 2024 expenditure). Sudden serious income shortfall is not seen as a major risk as the majority of the Partnership's income is derived from a large number of donors as well as fees and premises lettings, none of which is individually significant. Although no single donor, on their own, is significant it should be noted there remains four Partnership couples who deliver over a fifth of total Partnership income.

1 Accounting policies

(a) Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102. In preparing the financial statements the Partnership follows best practice as set out in the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" effective January 2015.

(b) Basis of consolidation

These financial statements consolidate the financial results of the various activities of Woughton Ecumenical Partnership on a line-by-line basis. Certain of these activities are not directly managed by the trustees but delegated to groups within the Partnership. These activities have been accounted for as branches and the financial results shown within separate designated funds.

(c) Incoming resources

Voluntary income is recognised when received. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Grants (including grants for the purchase of fixed assets) are recognised in full in the year in which they have been received. Each grant is disclosed within the category of income that is most appropriate to the activity it is intended to support.

Incoming resources from charitable activities is recognised when the activity giving rise to the income takes place.

Investment income is recognised on an accruals basis.

(d) Resources expended

Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis, inclusive of VAT which cannot be recovered.

Grants & donations payable are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which the Partnership decides they should be made.

Accruals are made if the payment is not made until the following year. In all cases where such accruals have been made, either the details of the grant or donation have been communicated to the

beneficiary before the end of the year or the payment is the result of a specific appeal.

(e) Fund accounting

Charity law requires the net assets of the Partnership to be accounted for within a number of funds. The Partnership operates the following two types of funds.

Unrestricted general funds

These are funds that can be used in accordance with the Partnership's charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

- **General Fund**

This is the fund through which the normal operating activities of the Partnership are recognised.

- **Designated funds**

These are funds set aside by the trustees out of general funds for specific purposes or projects.

Currently the Partnership is designating a portion of the URC Manse letting income for the upkeep and maintenance of the property.

There are retained designations to cover repairs and maintenance for the Woolstone Chancel and WEP Property. There are also small balances on the Benevolent Fund, CVCC Mission and Ministry Fund.

The trustees have approved the delegation of day to day control to a number of Partnership groups who offer activities that the churches are not in a position to provide. The funds raised by the groups are retained and used to provide the services they offer. If the groups cease the funds return to the Partnership so are treated as designated.

The delegated groups currently operating are Adults, Babies and Children Group (ABC) who operate in Coffee Hall and the Larder Group who deliver support to the Fishermead community. The Youth Fund ceased operating during the lockdown but the funds have been retained with the aim of resuming a similar activity if volunteers become available.

Restricted Funds

These are funds that can only be used for specific purposes within the Partnership's objects. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific projects or purposes.

These expendable funds are operated by the local church councils but overseen by the trustees or (where required by Church of England rules and mostly relating to building matters) the Parochial Church Council. The income and expenditure of these funds are shown in the Restricted Fund column of the financial statements.

There are a number of funds currently in operation in the Partnership with most operated by the churches.

Christ the Vine currently have three ongoing funds.

Gift Day: Donations made specifically for local investment, mission and support to Christian charities. There were no spends against this fund during 2024.

Building Fund: gifts and donations were received throughout 2024 in order to build the fund needed to pay for building issues as they arise or are identified by the church council. Architect drawings and radiator repairs were the spends during the financial year.

Legacy: the church received a legacy from a former member for church purposes during 2022.

Flood Relief: Following flooding in Coffee Hall a fund was set up to support those who would not have the ability to pay for the repair and recovery work. This is operated by the WEP trustees in partnership with the local Parish Council. There was no need to call on the fund during the financial year.

St Mary's There are four ongoing funds and these are as follows:

Audio: The Audio Visual equipment was delivered and installed during 2023.

Clock: a donation was originally made for the repair or replacement of the tower clock mechanism. The original donors agreed that the funds remaining, following the mechanism installation, could be retained and used at the discretion of the Church Council. As well as the annual service repairs were needed on the clock during the year.

Fabric: The quinquennial report, a new bell tower hatch and roof tile repairs were charged to the fund. The congregation continue to donate for the upkeep of the main church building, tower and churchyard.

Lawnmower: the church council elected that the funds raised from the sale of the old lawnmower would be retained for the purchase of a replacement.

St Thomas' started a building fund in 2015 for the purposes of fabric and churchyard restoration. The funds have been generated through fundraising events, grant applications and donations. It was originally created to acquire a new noticeboard and repair the paths. The fund is being utilized to pay for continuing inspections in order to identify the source of the subsidence. The Diocese has offered financial support but the church continues to raise funds via quizzes, concerts, donations and grant applications.

St Thomas' legacy was received specifically for local projects but was not used during 2024.

Trinity received a gift, in 2016, to be used for local activities. The use is to be determined by the Church Council. There were no items charged against the fund in 2024.

The Baptist Association grant is still to be used. It is still intended to proceed with the project for the young people of Fishermead.

- **Endowments**

These are permanent funds. The income and expenditure of these funds is shown in the Endowments Fund column of the financial statements.

The Partnership currently has six separate permanent funds managed by CCLA. The income generated from these investments are allocated to the appropriate District in the Partnership in accordance with the Trust documents.

5.3	<p>Banking and accounting arrangements:</p> <p>The Partnership operates a number of bank accounts all managed centrally. The accounts used and their closing 2024 balances are:</p> <table data-bbox="268 309 1474 568"> <tr> <td>CAF & cash uncleared</td> <td>£4,610 (this balance includes cash on hand and the presented but uncleared items at the end of 2024)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CAF Gold</td> <td>£52,356 (this balance also includes presented but uncleared items)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church</td> <td>£77,861</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CCLA</td> <td>£25,000</td> </tr> </table> <p>All the Partnership transactions were processed through these accounts or the petty cash floats held and operated by the Adults, Babies and Children Group.</p>	CAF & cash uncleared	£4,610 (this balance includes cash on hand and the presented but uncleared items at the end of 2024)	CAF Gold	£52,356 (this balance also includes presented but uncleared items)	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church	£77,861	CCLA	£25,000
CAF & cash uncleared	£4,610 (this balance includes cash on hand and the presented but uncleared items at the end of 2024)								
CAF Gold	£52,356 (this balance also includes presented but uncleared items)								
Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church	£77,861								
CCLA	£25,000								
5.4	<p>General Unrestricted Fund outturn and budget:</p> <p>The Partnership ended 2024 with a General Fund surplus of £5,684. This is a £2k improvement on the outturn predicted in the budget, the second award of the internet café grant and fundraising activity generating significantly more funds than predicted. The favourable income movement was countered by a church quinquennial inspection, boiler maintenance and awards to various charities.</p> <p>The financial statements show the apportionment of ministry and overhead using the existing standing financial instruction. Applying this policy has meant three churches ended with a deficit.</p> <p>The initial 2025 General Fund Budget has been presented to the Material Resources Group. This predicts a £17.8k surplus returning accumulated reserves to greater than thirteen weeks. The group needs to give the figures further scrutiny before finalisation.</p>								
5.5	<p>A Report of Fund Raising Activity:</p> <p>In normal years the principle methods of raising funds are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Members' donations and, where appropriate, the recovery of tax through the Gift Aid and Small Donations schemes. ○ Subscriptions and hire fees. ○ A wide variety of fundraising events e.g., fetes, quizzes, concerts, tabletop sales etc. ○ Minor Grants to support specific Partnership activities. ○ Major Grants and special appeals to support specific significant Partnership projects or activities. ○ Fees from Funerals and Weddings. ○ Interest from deposit accounts and dividends from investments. 								
5.6	<p>Investment Policies and Performance:</p> <p>To invest the unused Partnership funds in secure interest-bearing deposit accounts. To hold these and the Partnership investments in secure and ethical funds in accordance with the Trust Deeds.</p>								

Notes to the 2024 Accounts

Partnership Unrestricted General Funds:

Incoming Resources

The Financial statements, in the Annual Report, only disclose the total of all funds operated by the Partnership for the prior year. Space does not allow for the separate reporting of the 2023 Unrestricted General Fund so the movements reported below cannot be extracted directly from the Financial Statements included in the Annual Report. The 2023 Unrestricted General Fund figures can be found in last year's Annual Report or on request from the Partnership Treasurer who can be contacted by email at treasurer@woughton.org.

- i. When compared to 2023, income from Donations and Legacies has reduced by £6,871. Note 1 of the Financial Statements reports the breakdown of this income.
Tax Efficient Giving has declined by £4,203, collections qualifying for Small Donations have increased by £696. The combination of these movements has had a negative impact on the Gift Aid and Small Donations Scheme re-claims from HMRC falling by £650.
Other Donations fell by £1,680 compared to the prior year. There were fewer irregular credit card gifts received during 2024.
Appeals for projects and charities decreased from nineteen to fifteen events. Not only was there a reduction in the number of events they did not generate the same level of income as the prior year.
The second award of the Diocesan Tier-2 Funding for the digital deprivation project was received in the financial year delivering a £3,328 improvement over 2023.
- ii. Charitable activities have risen by £1,133 from the 2023 performance. The breakdown of this income stream can be seen in Note 2 of the Financial Statements. The Wedding fees received in 2024 delivered an increase of £518. Funeral fee income has fallen by £2,463. The manse letting income has continued into 2024. The regular use of the CVCC building by another church has significantly improved its income. The two elections during the year have added to the St Mary's hire income. Building Hire improved by £3,078 more than cancelling out the decline in funeral fee income.
- iii. Other Trading Activity increased by £3,159. All components under this heading have improved. The breakdown of Other Trading Activity can be seen in Note 3. The church hall catch-up, improved returns from church events and increased generosity of visiting walkers delivered the favourable movement over the prior year.
- iv. Investments decreased by £331 compared to the previous year. Despite the bank interest rates improving over the 2024 period the fall in retained general fund reserves negatively impacted the apportionment. Dividend income from the permanent endowments is collected under the Endowments heading. Where the trust deeds stipulate the income generated has been transferred to the General Fund and allocated to the church specified in each deed. This forms part of the 'Transfers between funds' figure.
- v. Other Income is predominantly delivered from a number of sources that do not easily fit the other revenue categories. A bank refund delivered the only income in 2024.

Resources expended

- i. Raising Funds costs are £2,114 lower than 2023. The analysis of this expenditure can be seen in Note 5 of the Financial Statements. Fundraising Costs have decreased by £1,919, compared to the prior year, due to the reduced number of events including catering; Advertising & Promotion expenditure fell because the Alpha Course was not repeated in 2024.
- ii. Charitable Activities have decreased by £10,963 between years. There have been several significant adverse and favourable movements under this heading. The breakdown of the activities can be seen under Notes 6a to 6d.
- iii. Ministry and Related Staff Costs (Note 6 Sub Note (a)) have decreased by £16,904 compared to 2023. The departure of one of the stipendiary ministers in August delivered a reduction in LEP Share and Clergy Expenses. Although not reported here the transfer from the Ministry Fund supported the denominational share. The safeguarding sessions were lower than 2023 moving Training expenditure favourably by £300.
- iv. Employed Staff costs (Note 6 Sub Note (b)) rose by £1,478 compared to the prior year. The Partnership follows the Living Wage Foundation announcements published in November each year. The announcement recommended an increase which is reflected in the

movement.

- v. Premises and other resource costs (Note 6 Sub Note (c)) rose by £4,631 compared to 2023. Although Gas, Electric and Water tariffs stabilised in 2024 it delivered the bulk of the £3,189 increase in Premises running costs. There was no change in the share Woolstone paid towards centre utility costs but premises cleaning costs rose slightly from the previous year. Maintenance is £1,566 higher than the prior year. Again there were a number of movements within the headline figures. There were the normal annual service visits but there was the quinquennial and major boiler repairs at St Thomas' and lights, fire alarm system and fence repairs at CVCC in 2024.
- Parish Administration is up by £1,553 on the prior year. The purchase of a new photocopier and the architect fees for roof repair recommendations are the main reasons for the increased spend.
- Upkeep of Services/Centre Hire; there were no spends beyond the normal licences and service elements. Holy Trinity did not present an Alpha course in 2024 delivering the favourable movement between years.
- Insurance; rises in premiums delivered the £268 increase in insurance costs. The continued vacancy of the Church Hall adds to the volatility in premiums.
- Equipment & New Building Works is £3,016 lower than the previous year. There were no major purchases in 2024.
- Pastoral Care/Homeless; the purchase of the laptops for the digital deprivation project delivered the increased expenditure under this heading.
- vi. Grants and donations payable (Note 6 Sub Note (d)) decreased by £168. The grants donated to good causes decreased by £1,746 compared to 2023 when the Digital Deprivation grant transferred to the Trinity Centre is removed. Although there was a similar number of events the amounts raised for good causes was lower than the prior year.

General Fund:

The General Fund performance, by District, can be seen in the first section of Note 10.

The 2024 budget was approved using Standing Financial Instruction 5 to distribute ministry and overheads to the churches. The budget predicted all five churches were in a position to contribute towards ministry and overheads so the standing instruction was fully applied to the districts in 2024.

Applying SFI5 has meant that three of the churches ended 2024 with deficits. This outcome is the result of a drop in income at one church and several urgent repairs arising during the year that the budget could not have predicted at the other two. Parish Central ended with a surplus of £5,771. The positive year end position of the Church Hall is the result of the catch up of the agreed charging arrangements.

The apportionment method adopted to distribute ministry and overheads across churches does not alter the overall General Fund outcome. The Partnership ended 2024 with a surplus of £5,684.

Partnership Groups and Designations:

The summary of Partnership Groups and Designations can be seen in the second section of Note 10 titled Designated funds.

ABC (Adults, Babies and Children Group) met throughout 2024. The outcome is a small surplus of £41.

For the period of a year Christ the Vine designated 25% of their regular Sunday plate offertory towards mission activities. In 2024 £263 was called from the fund. The fund attracted interest whilst it was on deposit of £17.

The Larder is operated at Trinity church. The Larder is a subscription scheme supervised by the SOFEA group who provide the banking facilities and the food. Some members, unable to join the Direct Debit scheme pay by cash. There are also supporters of the scheme paying regularly by standing order. The funds available assisted with the purchase of food and miscellaneous items during 2024.

Part of the income from letting the Manse has been set aside to meet the cost of the repairs and any remedial work that is identified. The fund was used to pay the landlord's insurance premium and various repairs identified by the tenants during 2024.

Apart from the Mission Fund transfer to the General Fund there was no activity on the other designated funds except the apportionment of accrued interest in 2024.

Partnership Restricted Funds:

CVCC Building: The fund was initially started by an assignment of regular Sunday offertory. The fund is now operated via a dedicated church box through which donations are collected. There have been no purchases against the fund in 2024.

St Mary's Audio Visual: the installation of the audio visual equipment was completed in 2023. A small balance remains to cover snags that may arise.

St Mary's Fabric continues to receive regular gifts from supporters and, where appropriate, this is supplemented by the Gift Aid re-claim. The fund also receives money from a dedicated church box. The major spends against the fund were the quinquennial and bell tower hatch replacement.

St Mary's Clock; as well as the annual maintenance the clock underwent repairs during the year.

St Mary's Lawnmower: the church has elected to retain the money received from the sale of the old lawnmower and use this to purchase a new one. A replacement is still to be identified and bought.

St Thomas' Building; the transept underwent significant repairs during the year.

Apart from the accrued interest there was no activity on the other restricted funds with retained balances during 2023.

Investments:

CCLA Investment Management Limited, who administer the permanent trust funds the Partnership holds, appointed FNZ TA Services Limited (FNZ) in July 2023 to act as its transfer agent. The funds have been assigned new client and account numbers. They are as follows:

The Woughton-on-the-Green Church House: CB3011700-001 CCLA Investment Management Limited (was 901526). The annual income from investments is used for Woughton Parish charitable purposes.

The Woughton-on-the-Green Church – Levi Trust: CB3011676-001 CCLA Investment Management Limited (was 910581) is a fund applied in or towards an organist and tuning and minor repairs to the organ at St. Mary's Church, Woughton-on-the-Green.

Little Woolstones Church Hall (sold in 1984): CB3012071-001 CCLA Investment Management Limited (was 892591). The dividends are passed back to the Holy Trinity DCC to be used by the local church.

Simpson Church Hall (sold in 1973): CB3011979-001 CCLA Investment Management Limited (was 915131). The dividends are passed back to St Thomas' DCC to be used by the local church.

The Woughton-on-the-Green Church Trust: CB3012137-001 CCLA Investment Management Limited (was 913391) is a fund received in respect of a Deed of Variation in 1992. The annual income from investments is to be used for the repair and upkeep of the fabric of St. Mary's Church, Woughton-on-the-Green.

Woughton-on-the-Green Church Trust: CO3064185-001 CCLA Investment Management Limited (was COIF - 906017). The dividends are passed back to the DCC of St. Mary's Church, Woughton-on-the-Green.

Woughton Ecumenical Partnership

Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

Statement of Financial Activities 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Designated funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Endowments 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Full Year funds 2023 £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	1	107,874	95	11,548	0	119,517	143,949
Charitable activities	2	22,031	4,774	0	0	26,805	26,797
Other trading activities	3	7,883	1,396	1,900	0	11,179	6,219
Investment Income	4	1,139	1,674	3,460	5,170	11,443	9,861
Other		290	0	116	0	406	1,278
Total		139,217	7,939	17,024	5,170	169,350	188,104
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	5	(1,092)	(107)	(43)	0	(1,242)	(4,130)
Charitable activities	6	(147,044)	(3,113)	(13,609)	(1,866)	(165,632)	(180,905)
Other		0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		(148,136)	(3,220)	(13,652)	(1,866)	(166,874)	(185,035)
Net gains/(losses) on investments					4,254	4,254	15,967
Net income/(expenditure)		(8,919)	4,719	3,372	7,558	6,730	19,036
Transfers between funds		14,603	(12,500)	0	(2,103)	0	0
Net movement in funds		5,684	(7,781)	3,372	5,455	6,730	19,036
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		20,218	46,465	59,512	221,532	347,727	328,691
Total funds carried forward		25,902	38,684	62,884	226,987	354,457	347,727

Balance Sheet 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Designated funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Endowments 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Full Year funds 2023 £
Fixed assets:							
Investments	7	0	0	0	190,460	190,460	186,206
Total fixed assets		0	0	0	190,460	190,460	186,206
Current assets:							
Debtors	8	4,700	4	229	0	4,933	8,378
Cash at bank and in hand		21,965	38,680	62,655	36,527	159,827	154,607
Total current assets		26,665	38,684	62,884	36,527	164,760	162,985
Liabilities:							
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	9	(763)	0	0	0	(763)	(1,464)
Net current assets or liabilities		25,902	38,684	62,884	36,527	163,997	161,521
Total assets less current liabilities		25,902	38,684	62,884	226,987	354,457	347,727
<i>Net asset or liabilities excluding pension asset or liability</i>		25,902	38,684	62,884	226,987	354,457	347,727
Total net assets or liabilities		25,902	38,684	62,884	226,987	354,457	347,727
The funds of the charity:							
Unrestricted funds	10	25,902	38,684			64,586	66,683
Restricted income funds	11			62,884		62,884	59,512
Endowment funds	12				226,987	226,987	221,532
Total unrestricted funds		25,902	38,684	62,884	226,987	354,457	347,727
Total charity funds		25,902	38,684	62,884	226,987	354,457	347,727

Notes

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Designated funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Endowments 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Full Year funds 2023 £
Note 1: Donations and legacies						
Tax Efficient Giving	59,352	60	7,745	0	67,157	80,634
Small Donations	15,272	0	684	0	15,956	16,415
Gift Aid and Small Donation Re-Claim	19,026	15	1,945	0	20,986	24,425
Other Donations	7,041	0	0	0	7,041	8,966
Appeals	3,505	20	1,174	0	4,699	11,719
Grants	3,678	0	0	0	3,678	1,790
Total Donations and legacies	107,874	95	11,548	0	119,517	143,949
Note 2: Charitable activities						
Funeral Fees	4,265	0	0	0	4,265	6,788
Wedding Fees	3,092	0	0	0	3,092	2,634
Building Hire	14,674	4,774	0	0	19,448	17,375
Total Charitable activities	22,031	4,774	0	0	26,805	26,797
Note 3: Other trading activities						
Fundraising	5,735	0	1,900	0	7,635	4,425
Subscriptions	0	1,396	0	0	1,396	857
General Sales	2,148	0	0	0	2,148	937
Total Other trading activities	7,883	1,396	1,900	0	11,179	6,219
Note 4: Investments						
Bank Interest	1,139	1,674	3,460	0	6,273	4,768
Investment Income from Endowments	0	0	0	5,170	5,170	5,093
Total Investment Income	1,139	1,674	3,460	5,170	11,443	9,861
Note 5: Raising funds						
Fundraising Costs	(758)	0	(43)	0	(801)	(2,943)
Advertising & Promotion	(84)	(107)	0	0	(191)	(1,086)
Grant Application & Professional Costs	(250)	0	0	0	(250)	(101)
Total Raising funds	(1,092)	(107)	(43)	0	(1,242)	(4,130)
Note 6: Charitable activities						
(a) Ministry and Related Staff Costs						
Denominational Charges	(76,490)	0	0	0	(76,490)	(91,439)
Clergy Expenses	(3,941)	0	0	0	(3,941)	(5,596)
Manse Running Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	(1,400)
Training	(400)	(22)	0	(200)	(622)	(700)
Staff Costs (Self Employed)	0	0	0	0	0	0
	(80,831)	(22)	0	(200)	(81,053)	(99,135)
(b) Employed Staff						
	2024	2023				
Average number of part time staff	2	2				
Salaries & wages	(16,360)	(15,151)				
Employer on Costs	(992)	(723)				
	(17,352)	(15,874)				

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Designated funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Endowments 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Full Year funds 2023 £
(c) Premises and other resource costs						
Premises running costs	(16,614)	0	0	0	(16,614)	(13,425)
Maintenance	(6,617)	(770)	(9,438)	0	(16,825)	(5,543)
Parish Administration	(7,144)	0	(1,549)	0	(8,693)	(14,075)
Upkeep of Services/Centre Hire	(3,392)	(156)	0	0	(3,548)	(4,047)
Insurance	(8,531)	(572)	0	0	(9,103)	(8,825)
Equipment & New Building Works	(332)	0	(2,622)	(483)	(3,437)	(13,855)
Junior Church, ABC & Youth	(87)	(414)	0	0	(501)	(838)
Pastoral Care/Homeless	(1,850)	(1,179)	0	(1,183)	(4,212)	(826)
	(44,567)	(3,091)	(13,609)	(1,666)	(62,933)	(61,434)
(d) Grants and donations payable						
Angel Tree	(355)	0	0	0	(355)	0
Bucks Historic Churches Trust	0	0	0	0	0	(395)
Bucks Vision MK	0	0	0	0	0	(627)
Cancer Research	(100)	0	0	0	(100)	(200)
Children's Society	0	0	0	0	0	(20)
Christian Aid	(100)	0	0	0	(100)	(278)
Devon Air Ambulance	(357)	0	0	0	(357)	0
Healing Hands Network	0	0	0	0	0	(488)
Little Princess Trust	(720)	0	0	0	(720)	0
MK Bridgebuilder Trust	(146)	0	0	0	(146)	(254)
MNDA	0	0	0	0	0	(440)
National Animal Welfare Trust	0	0	0	0	0	(342)
RNLI	(574)	0	0	0	(574)	0
Salvation Army	(20)	0	0	0	(20)	(296)
Soroptimist International	0	0	0	0	0	(510)
St Mark's Meals	(300)	0	0	0	(300)	0
Tear Fund	(44)	0	0	0	(44)	(50)
Travis Cat Rescue	0	0	0	0	0	(462)
Fishermead Trinity Centre	(1,578)	0	0	0	(1,578)	0
Zimbabwe Housing Project	0	0	0	0	0	(100)
	(4,294)	0	0	0	(4,294)	(4,462)
Total Charitable activities	(147,044)	(3,113)	(13,609)	(1,866)	(165,632)	(180,905)

Note 7: Investments

Share Holdings	Quantity	Value	Movement in Valuation	Value
		December 2023 £		December 2024 £
WotG Church House (901526)	4,889	110,518	2,529	113,047
WotG Levi Trust (910581)	818	18,491	423	18,914
Little Woolstones Church Hall (892591)	1,038	23,465	537	24,002
Simpson Church Hall (915131)	218	4,928	113	5,041
WotG Church Trust (913391)	181	4,091	94	4,185
WotG Church Trust (COIF) (906017)	1,245	24,713	558	25,271
Total Investments	8,389	186,206	4,254	190,460

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Designated funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Endowments 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Full Year funds 2023 £
Gift Aid tax recoverable	3,636	4	190	0	3,830	7,154
Small Donations recoverable	955	0	39	0	994	1,064
Amounts falling due within one year	109	0	0	0	109	160
	4,700	4	229	0	4,933	8,378

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Designated funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Endowments 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Full Year funds 2023 £
Note 9: Creditors						
Amounts falling due within one year	(123)	0	0	0	(123)	0
Other creditors (Weddings)	(640)	0	0	0	(640)	(1,464)
	(763)	0	0	0	(763)	(1,464)
Note 10: Unrestricted funds						
	Balance at 1st Jan 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31st Dec 2024 £	Net Movement £
Note 10a: General funds						
WEP General	24,466	10,612	(102,711)	97,870	30,237	5,771
Christ the Vine	(3,494)	13,675	(13,074)	(1,002)	(3,895)	(401)
Holy Trinity	(1,696)	2,750	(1,002)	(2,286)	(2,234)	(538)
St Mary's	(10,627)	52,821	(9,616)	(40,787)	(8,209)	2,418
St Mary's Church Hall	(1,085)	2,148	(1,959)	0	(896)	189
St Thomas	1,631	27,073	(13,907)	(14,977)	(180)	(1,811)
Trinity Church Fishermead	11,023	30,138	(5,867)	(24,215)	11,079	56
Parish General Funds	20,218	139,217	(148,136)	14,603	25,902	5,684
Note 10b: Designated funds						
Adults, Babies and Children Group	1,136	455	(414)	0	1,177	41
Benevolent Fund	82	5	0	0	87	5
CVCC Mission	301	17	(263)	0	55	(246)
Larder Group	5,747	1,407	(1,200)	0	5,954	207
Ministry Fund	14,263	0	0	(12,500)	1,763	(12,500)
WEP Property	2,204	0	0	0	2,204	0
URC Manse	12,804	5,496	(1,343)	0	16,957	4,153
Woolstone Chancel Trust	6,567	370	0	0	6,937	370
Youth Fund	3,361	189	0	0	3,550	189
Parish Designated funds	46,465	7,939	(3,220)	(12,500)	38,684	(7,781)
Parish General & Designated funds	66,683	147,156	(151,356)	2,103	64,586	(2,097)
WEP Suspense Accounts	1,464	8,608	(9,432)	0	640	(824)
Total Unrestricted funds	68,147	155,764	(160,788)	2,103	65,226	(2,921)
Note 11: Restricted funds						
Christ the Vine: Gift Day	918	52	0	0	970	52
Christ the Vine: Building	7,879	1,118	0	0	8,997	1,118
Christ the Vine: Legacy	5,260	296	0	0	5,556	296
Coffee Hall: Flood Relief	1,295	73	0	0	1,368	73
St Mary's: AV	73	4	0	0	77	4
St Mary's: Clock	2,612	147	(1,494)	0	1,265	(1,347)
St Mary's: Fabric	36,500	9,425	(3,317)	0	42,608	6,108
St Mary's: Lawnmower	250	14	0	0	264	14
St Thomas': Building	(1,885)	5,522	(8,841)	0	(5,204)	(3,319)
St Thomas': Legacy	5,293	298	0	0	5,591	298
Trinity Church: Projects	1,058	60	0	0	1,118	60
Trinity Church: Restricted	259	15	0	0	274	15
	59,512	17,024	(13,652)	0	62,884	3,372

Note 12: Investments

		Balance at 1st Jan 2024	Dividends Received	Expenditure	Dividends Distributed	Balance at 31st Dec 2024	Net Movement
	Quantity	£	£	£	£	£	£
Woughton-on-the-Green (WotG) Church Hous	35,326	3,067	(1,866)	0	36,527	1,201	
WotG Levi Trust (910581)	0	513	0	(513)	0	0	
Little Woolstones Church Hall (892591)	0	651	0	(651)	0	0	
Simpson Church Hall (915131)	0	137	0	(137)	0	0	
WotG Church Trust (913391)	0	114	0	(114)	0	0	
WotG Church Trust (COIF) (906017)	0	688	0	(688)	0	0	
Dividend Income retained	35,326	5,170	(1,866)	(2,103)	36,527	1,201	
Investment Capital Value							
Movement in Valuation	7	186,206	4,254	0	0	190,460	4,254
		221,532	9,424	(1,866)	(2,103)	226,987	5,455

The Woughton-on-the-Green Church House annual income from investments is used for the general activities of the Woughton Parish

The Dividends Received from Little Woolstones Church Hall and Simpson Church Hall investments are passed back to the respective DCCs to be used by the local churches.

The Woughton-on-the-Green Church Trust is a local charity and the annual income from investments is to be used for the repair and upkeep of the fabric of St. Mary's Church, Woughton-on-the-Green.

The funds are managed by CCLA on behalf of the Parish.

2024 Statement of cash flows

	Current Year Total funds £	Prior year Total funds £
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(6,223)	(9,853)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	11,443	9,861
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		
Proceeds from sale of investments	0	0
Purchase of investments		
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	11,443	9,861
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	5,220	8
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	154,607	154,599
Change in cash and cash equivalents due to exchange rate movements	0	0
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	159,827	154,607

2024 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	Current Year £	Prior Year £
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	6,730	19,036
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	0	0
(Gains)/losses on investments	(4,254)	(15,967)
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(11,443)	(9,861)
Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets	0	0
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	0	0
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	3,445	(2,921)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(701)	(140)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(6,223)	(9,853)

2024 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	Current Year £	Prior Year £
Cash in hand at close of year	159,827	154,607
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	0	0
Overdraft facility repayable on demand	0	0
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	159,827	154,607

Appendix 1

WEP ADULT MEMBERSHIP ROLL 2025 (2024 numbers shaded)

WEP ADULT MEMBERSHIP ROLL 2025 (2024 numbers shaded)							
Church	Anglican	Baptist	Methodist	URC	Ecumenical	Other	Totals
Christ the Vine	12	9	1	0	0	6	28
	9	2	4	2	5	6	28
St Thomas'	33	1	4	4	1	0	43
	26	0	2	1	3	0	32
St Mary's	47	2	3	4	0	8	64
	47	2	3	4	0	12	68
Trinity	8	5	5	0	3	13	34
	7	5	5	0	2	13	32
Woolstone	7	2	0	0	0	0	9
	6	3	0	0	0	1	10
Totals for 2025	104	12	16	10	9	27	178

Totals By Year	Anglican	Baptist	Methodist	URC	Ecumenical	Other	WEP Total
2025	104	12	16	10	9	27	178
2024	95	12	14	7	10	32	170
2023	95	12	17	8	16	41	189
2022	98	13	21	10	18	43	203
2021	100	13	21	10	18	41	203
2020	99	14	25	6	26	42	211
2019	99	13	20	7	30	47	216
2018	91	15	15?	5	30	39	194
2017	85	14	18	5	28	31	181
2016	86	20	19	7	29	28	189
2015	99	19	20	7	26	31	202
2014	92	16	25	5	27	28	193
2013	91	15	29	2	24	33	194
2012	99	14	25	3	27	32	200

Appointments at Partnership Level 2024-25

Trustees of Woughton Ecumenical Partnership and Woughton PCC Members 2024-25

Representing	WEP Trustee	WEP + PCC	PCC Member
Christ the Vine Community Church	David Hart		Mandy Heart
Woolstone Church	Pamela Pow	John Howard	
St Mary's Church	Geoffrey Miller	Di Miller	Jean Mattinsley
St Thomas' Church		Lynn Castle Iola Samuels	
Trinity Church	Marilyn Mahon	Don Mahon	
Team ex officio, other ex officio, co-opted		Revd. Paul Norris Revd. Ian Herbert Revd. Charmaine Howard	

Deanery Synod Representative Di Miller, Kim Weston

Church Wardens

Christ the Vine Community Church

Woolstone Church

John Howard

St Thomas' Church

Iola Samuels

St Mary's Church

Methodist Circuit

Lynn Castle; Marilyn Mahon

Netherfield Partnership
corporate member

Ian Herbert

Trustee of Trinity Centre

Don Mahon

WOUGHTON ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

England & Wales - Charity number 1172298

Accounts

Annual Report and Accounts



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
of the WOUGHTON ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP
at St. Thomas' Church - Simpson
Wednesday 8th May 2024 at 7:30pm

Ecumenical Vision Statement For the Woughton Ecumenical Parish

In the light of the prayer of Christ 'may they all be one... that the world may believe that you sent me...' (Jn 17:21) and the injunction to 'spare no effort to make fast with bonds of peace the unity which the Spirit gives' (Eph 4:3), members of Woughton Ecumenical Parish commit themselves to work together in serving God's mission locally and beyond.

Members of the Parish, drawn from the four participating denominations (The Church of England, The Methodist Church, The Baptist Union and The United Reformed Church) and from other Christian traditions, seek to respond to the call of God through Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Our life together and our mission are shaped by our core values:

- Spiritually alive;
- Together in Christ;
- Reaching out;
- Welcoming all;
- Using our gifts;
- Being sustainable.

Each of our five local congregations gives expression to the above, in its worship, ministry and mission.

AGENDAS for
Annual Parochial Church Meeting of Woughton Parish,
Parochial Church Council of Woughton Parish,
Annual Congregational Meeting of Woughton Ecumenical Partnership,
And 47th Meeting of the Woughton Ecumenical Partnership Trustees
At 7.30pm on Wednesday 8th May 2024
St. Thomas' Church - Simpson

Prayers led by the Team.

Rev Ian Herbert in the Chair for items 1 and 2.

1. Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- a. Approval of Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting 9th May 2023
- b. Nominations for churchwardens
- d. Election of PCC members as nominated in Appendix A
- e. Decision on number of elected PCC members for the year 2024/25
- f. Appointment of Deanery Synod representative

2. Parochial Church Council Meeting

- a. Co-option of PCC member
- b. Election of PCC Secretary
- c. Proposal that the WEP Treasurer should act as the PCC Treasurer for the year

Mike Davidge in the Chair

3. Annual Congregational Meeting

- a. Approval of the Minutes of Annual Congregational Meeting of WEP held on 9th May 2023
- b. Presentation of the Report
- c. Presentation of the Accounts for 2023
- d. Appointment of the Independent Examiner
- e. Ex-officio Trustees
- f. Election of Trustees of the Woughton Ecumenical Partnership (two only required)
- g. Appointment of the Methodist Circuit Representative
- h. Appointment of a Representative to Netherfield Partnership.

Rev Ian Herbert in the Chair

4. Meeting of Trustees

- a. Election of the lay Chair, Secretary and Treasurer
- b. Election of Trustee for the Trinity Centre, Fishermead
- c. Election of the Member of the Trinity Centre Management Committee
- d. Date of next two meetings

Appendix A to the Agenda

Appendix B

Nominations for appointments at Partnership level 2024-2025

Annual Parochial Church Meeting:

PCC Members
all for one year
2024-25

Lynn Castle (St T)
Irene Longstaff (TF)
Don Mahon (TF)
Di Miller (St M)

PCC Ex-Officio *to note* Revd Ian Herbert, Revd Paul Norris,

Church Wardens

St Mary's
St Thomas'
Woolstone

David Bird
Iola Samuels
John Howard

Deanery Synod Representatives

Di Miller, Kim Weston

Parochial Church Council:

Co-opt to PCC

Revd. Charmaine Howard
Revd. Nicola Vidamour

Annual Congregational Meeting:

WEP Trustees
For three years to 2023

For information: *Continuing Trustees*

Lynn Castle (St.T)⁽²⁰²⁵⁾
Iola Samuels (St.T) ⁽²⁰²⁵⁾
Mike Davidge (Chair of Trustees)⁽²⁰²⁵⁾
David Hart (CtV)⁽²⁰²⁵⁾
Don Mahon (TF) ⁽²⁰²⁵⁾
Marilyn Mahon (TF)⁽²⁰²⁵⁾
Di Miller (St M)⁽²⁰²⁵⁾
John Howard (W) ⁽²⁰²⁵⁾
Geoffrey Miller (St. M) ⁽²⁰²⁶⁾

For Election Pamela Pow (W)

Ex-Officio Trustees

Revd. Ian Herbert, Revd. Paul Norris, Revd. Charmaine Howard,
Revd. Nicola Vidamour (until April 2024)

Methodist Circuit (2)

Lynn Castle; Marilyn Mahon, Don Mahon

Netherfield Partnership (corporate member)

Revd Ian Herbert / Revd. Charmaine Howard

Trustees' Meeting:

Trustee of Trinity Centre

Ian Herbert/Don Mahon

Other Appointments and Representatives 2024-2025

Ministry Team

Revd Ian Herbert
Revd Paul Norris
Revd Charmaine Howard
Revd Nicola Vidamour (Until April 2024)

Other Ordained Ministers

Revd Christopher Bell

Preachers and worship leaders

Lynn Castle
Mike Davidge
Judy Rapp
Linda Kirk

Safeguarding Officers

St. Mary's – Kim Weston
St. Thomas – Nicola Vidamour
Holy Trinity – Julie Rapp
Trinity Fishermead - Irene Longstaff
Christ the Vine – Paul Egerton

URC Synod Representatives (appointed by local churches – 1 per church)

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

of Woughton Parish on 9th May 2023
at St Mary's Church, Woughton on the Green.

Present: Paul Norris Kim Weston Gary Dickinson
Lynn Davidge Mike Davidge Lynn Castle
Iola Samuels Geoffrey Miller David Hart
David Bird Susan Carter William Thomas
Angela Ollis Nicola Vidamour Ruth Thomas
Ian Herbert Peter Thomas Barbara Zimmer
Don Mahon Marilyn Mahon Helen Hobson
Norma Baldwin Di Miller Jean Mattinsley
John Howard Charmaine Howard Susan Newby
Christopher Bell Ann Bell Irene Longstaff
Barry Messham Sue Messham Jennifer Harding
Dawn Flannagan Melania Hart Dolly Nicholls
Barbara Chapman Sue Smith Martin Lever
Debby Lever Michael Tinsley Annie Pandya
Ken Gosnell Linda Gosnell Linda Kirk
Philip Coppen Angy Norris Lynn Thomas

Apologies: Barbara Albone, Norma Baldwin, Brian Baldwin,
Pat Hodges, Jill Strong

Rev Ian Herbert led prayers.

Rev Ian Herbert in the chair for Items 1 & 2

1. Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- a) Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 5th April 2022 had not been included in the report booklet and could not be approved. It was proposed by Kim Weston and seconded by Sue Smith that approval of these Minutes could be agreed at the next meeting of the PCC on 16th May 2023, and this was carried unanimously.
- b) Nominations for churchwardens. Nominations have been received for David Bird from St Mary's Church, John Howard from Woolstone Church and Iola Samuels from St Thomas' Church. These nominations were proposed by Ian Herbert and seconded by Jean Mattinsley. All in favour.
- c) Approval of PCC members. Appendix A with the addition of Irene Longstaff for Trinity Fishermead was agreed.
- d) Appointment of representatives for the Anglican Deanery Synod. Kim Weston and Di Miller are willing to serve for another triennium. They were proposed by Paul Norris and seconded by Don Mahon. All in favour.
- e) -option of Ministry Team as members of the PCC agreed.

Parochial Church Meeting

- a) Election of PCC Secretary. Di Miller indicated a willingness to stand for one more year and was proposed by Kim Weston and seconded by Iola Samuels. All in favour.
- b) Proposal that the WEP Treasurer act as the Treasurer for the PCC for the year. Lynn Castle proposed, and Linda Kirk seconded this, and all voted in favour.

An Extra Item: The PCC members present were asked by Iola Samuels (Churchwarden) to give approval for a quote for a topographical survey to be done in St Thomas' churchyard as a matter of some urgency. The quote for the work was £580 plus VAT. The PCC members gave their approval.

Meeting ended at 7.45pm.

Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of Woughton Ecumenical Partnership held on 9th May 2023 at St Mary's Church Woughton

Present. 53 members of the Partnership were present in person.
Apologies. There were 8 apologies recorded.

Mike Davidge in the Chair for the Annual Congregational Meeting

- a) Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting held on 11th May 2022. Approval of these Minutes was proposed by Iola Samuels and seconded by Lynn Castle. All in agreement except for one abstention.
- b) Presentation of the Annual Report. There were a number of corrections to the booklet. This will be re-issued. Copies of the Report had been very late in production so not everyone had read it.

Mike reminded the meeting of the importance of the challenge of the Mission Objectives. In Section 4 under Ministry Team report it was incorrect to say that resources needed to be sent to Geoffrey who is no longer web master. Also, an explanation of emails not being received was that there is a problem with Gmail.

Moving on to the reports from the churches in the Partnership. There was a long discussion on the Christ the Vine report. It was centred on the view from CTV about the division of the Parish Share. It was proposed by Geoffrey Miller and seconded by David Bird that a single paragraph be removed as the wording was unfortunate. Those in favour 21 against 10 and with 13 abstentions. There was also a discussion about whether the report from ABC (Mums and Toddler group) should be part of the CTV report or separate as it had been before. It was agreed generally that ABC should have a separate report as they are a group with responsibility to the Trustees and their funds are managed directly by Don the WEP treasurer.

Reports from Holy Trinity Woolstone, St Mary's and St Thomas were accepted. In answer to a question Trinity Church Fishermead said that they have increased their membership, but the figures show one less member overall through natural wastage.

Netherfield Partnership. There has been renewed contact restarting after the Covid absence.

WEP Web report. Geoffrey Miller had submitted a report up to November 2022 when the Partnership chose to change to the new Churches 123 web site.

The web address remains woughton.org. David Hart had taken the lead on discussion on this change but informed the meeting that he is not the webmaster. Tim May in the office is helping the churches to manage their pages. The question of transferring the emails is being worked on.

Safeguarding. Nicola confirmed that all the churches have been contacted about the ongoing work for DBS checks. WEP needs a new lay lead person for Safeguarding and Nicola appealed for someone to come forward.

Approval for the reports as a whole, proposed by Mike Davidge and seconded by Don Mahon. This was carried by 30 votes with 6 against acceptance and with 11 abstentions.

- c) Presentation of the Accounts for 2022. Don Mahon explained that Ms Christina Sabucido our chosen Examiner of the accounts had been unable to do the Examination. He is looking for someone else and that final approval of the Accounts will be brought to a Trustee meeting when they have been examined. Don proposed this and Geoffrey Miller seconded the motion. Those in favour 36, those against 5 and with 3 abstentions.
Don had circulated the end of year accounts, and they showed a surplus of £712 at the end of the year. He reported that the Partnership had experienced two reasonable years despite the post-Covid difficulties. The Material Resources Group (MRG) are due to meet to discuss the Parish Share allocation and a formula for a long-term solution is being worked upon. The proposal that these accounts as presented and subject to the Examiner offering any amendments are accepted was proposed by Mike Davidge and seconded by Geoffrey Miller. Those in favour 42, those against 1 and with 2 abstentions.
Mike offered grateful thanks to Don and Marilyn Mahon for all their hard work.

- d) Appointment of the Independent Examiner. Don will let Trustees know when he has found a suitable person to act as Examiner for our Accounts. See above in item c.
- e) Ex-Officio Trustees. Rev Ian Herbert, Rev Nicola Vidamour, Rev Paul Norris and Rev Charmaine Howard are all ex-officio WEP Trustees.
- f) Election of the Trustees. The three-year period for existing Trustees continues until 2025 but there was one new nomination of Geoffrey Miller proposed by Mike Davidge and seconded by Paul Norris. This was carried with 3 abstentions.
- g) Appointment of Representatives to the Methodist Area. Marilyn Mahon and Lynn Castle were proposed by Mike Davidge and seconded by Ian Herbert and agreed unanimously. Don Mahon as the WEP Treasurer is invited to join the Methodist Circuit meetings along with other LEP Treasurers.
- h) Appointment of Representatives to the Netherfield Partnership. Mike Davidge proposed Ian Herbert and Charmaine Howard, and this was seconded by Marilyn Mahon and this was carried except for one abstention.

The Annual Congregational Meeting concluded at 9pm after prayers were led by Rev Nicola Vidamour.

Parochial Church Council Report 2024 -- Di Miller, PCC Secretary

Woughton Parish has returned to normal with services taking place across the Partnership although Christ the Vine has continued to maintain a streaming service option in addition to attendance. Numbers across the Parish appeared to be slow to return to pre-pandemic levels. At the previous AGM in 2023 St Mary's Church voted to have the Communion chalice back but also retained the the small glasses for members who wished to use them.

In the past year at St Thomas' Iola Samuels as the churchwarden submitted reports. These have mostly related to the continuing problems concerning the large cracks in the wall of the chancel. The Diocesan Architect has been fully consulted. The Archdeacon and the Diocesan Advisory Council have been kept in the picture and an offer was made for serious financial assistance from them for the repairs to this ancient building. This has yet to appear. In addition, Bucks Historic Church Society had a meeting of its Trustees at the church which gave them an insight into the problems. There was a survey into tree roots near the church which cost the Parish £875. No remedial work has been recommended. Other problems have included flashing on the roof which needs repair.

On behalf of St Mary's Church, Churchwarden David Bird has given the reports.

In November the new Audio-Visual System was installed and has proved to be a real asset for services and other events. It can use the internet for music and pictures as well as texts. This has been paid for by fundraising and donations.

There has not been any solution to the damage to the east churchyard wall caused by a tree falling from the hotel grounds and also a break in a section of the north wall. Apparently, the hotel is up for sale but has been used to house asylum seekers for this whole year. Developments are awaited.

In the churchyard the policy of rewilding continues and once a year there is an autumn cut. There is a new notice board overlooking the road at the front which has enclosed spaces to keep notices dry. The most recent problem in the churchyard has been the blockage to the main drain from the vestry toilet caused by the collapse of the pitch fibre material which was used for the pipes. Remedial work is planned.

The church clock has been examined repeatedly and new parts made and finally shows and strikes the correct time. The work is paid for out of the clock fund.

The Church Hall is still in the hands of an estate agency approved by the PCC and the Diocese. The insurance for the building has been paid and a recent survey has been undertaken to assess the building. No news as yet.

Christ the Vine Community Church building is owned by the Diocese. An extension to the dining room is planned and a grant was applied for to pay for more architects' drawings and a feasibility study. This was circulated to the Trustees and the PCC. Rev Charmaine Howard has been working on a Statement of Need for this extension. Christ the Vine Community Church has a Restricted Fund into which their members pay for the extension and the planned ramp to the east door.

In addition, the CCTV hub needed replacing for the general security of the building and Russell the caretaker who lives in the flat above.

The Fishermead Community Centre continues to work towards the Asset Transfer from the MK Council. Before new computers can be bought for the digital café, after the burglary, a much more secure method of housing the replacement computers has been arranged.

The Manse on Fishermead had a Quinquennial Report in 2022 highlighting problems which need action. Small repairs need doing and outside painting to be done this coming Spring. There is a new claim by the insurers to claim back some of the money it paid out as the subsidence was definitely caused by tree roots. As WEP paid an excess sum, it is in our interest to claim this. The Manse is rented out and brings in the income to WEP.

The Community Church at Woolstone. The discussions with the MK Council to make an Asset Transfer in respect of the building have been put on hold indefinitely. The new heating system is going to be a hybrid one when the MK Council decides. An application was made for increased storage facilities to be built at the rear of the church. Reports from two structural surveys have not been released as yet. Fencing has been replaced and a new all-weather play area installed.

February 2024
Di Miller
PCC Secretary

Annual Report and Accounts Woughton Ecumenical Partnership Foreword

This annual report reviews the life, ministry and activities of Woughton Ecumenical Partnership and its congregations in 2023. As ever, we owe much to our Ministry team and to so many of our members who work hard to maintain our sense of Christian community and witness.

Church members continued to be involved with food larder schemes in Tinkers Bridge and Fishermead. Christ the Vine continued to host the Wellbeing Hub with its aim of bringing together local community and health groups to provide a welcoming and supportive meeting place in a café setting.

On the financial side, we knew we would have to draw quite heavily on our reserves but, in the end, to a lesser extent than we had budgeted for. We are again grateful for generous giving from members throughout the Partnership. Staff costs remain our biggest investment in mission and the rising costs and financial pressures that we all face present significant challenges for the Partnership in 2024 and beyond. We are so grateful to all who donate to keep our ministry running. Our Treasurer Don Mahon, the district treasurers and the Trustees will continue to address this as a priority for us all as members so that we can take forward our mission in our communities.

There are many challenges facing us in maintaining the life and mission of the Partnership, but we can be confident that God goes ahead of us. Our ecumenical vision statement reminds us that, as members, we commit ourselves 'to work together in serving God's mission locally and beyond.' WEP's role is to support all of us in the part we can play in that mission as we 'seek to respond to the call of God through Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit.'

Since the end of 2023, we have been very sad to learn that Rev Nicola Vidamour will be leaving Woughton to take up a significant teaching role at Wesley House in Cambridge. Nicola has made an immense contribution to the ecumenical life of Woughton, particularly in her role as minister at St Thomas's, Simpson.

On behalf of the Trustees, I want to thank our Ministry team, our volunteer ministers (ordained and lay) and others who lead worship and all those in our churches who do so much to build our life together and maintain our witness in the community.

Mike Davidge
Chair of Trustees

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Annual Report and Accounts 2023

1.	Reference and Administration Details:
1.1	Name: Woughton Ecumenical Partnership, abbreviated to WEP.
1.2	Address: Partnership Office, Christ the Vine Community Church, Jonathans, Coffee Hall, Milton Keynes MK6 5DE Tel 01908 392583. www.woughton.org
1.3	Trustees: Lynn Castle Mike Davidge David Hart Rev Ian Herbert Rev Charmaine Howard John Howard Don Mahon Marilyn Mahon Di Miller Geoffrey Miller (elected from 16 May 2023, co-opted until then) Rev Paul Norris Iola Samuels Rev Nicola Vidamour
1.4	Key Personnel: Chair: Mike Davidge Ministry Team: Rev Ian Herbert, Rev Charmaine Howard, Rev Paul Norris, Rev Nicola Vidamour Secretary: Di Miller Treasurer: Don Mahon WEP Administrator: Tim May
1.5	Principal Bankers: CAF Bank, Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and Central Board of Finance of the Church of England.
2.	Structure, Governance and Management:
2.1	Governing documents: Woughton Ecumenical Partnership (WEP) is established as a single congregation local ecumenical partnership. Its governing documents – the Constitution and Schedule – were approved and adopted at the inaugural congregational meeting on 18 October 2016. From this date, WEP replaced the former body known as Woughton Ecumenical Parish. As well as the governing documents, there is a Memorandum of Understanding made between the Bishop of Buckingham, the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Woughton and the Trustees of WEP. WEP is established as a charitable unincorporated association. The Charity Commission registered it as a charity on 28 March 2017 with Registered Charity Number 1172298. A set of Standing Orders (SOs) has been approved by the Trustees. Each one covers a specific aspect of WEP policy. During 2023, a working group appointed by the Trustees continued to carry out a review of SOs and reported back to the Trustees with recommendations for any changes needed. Standing Financial Instructions (SFIs) form part of the SOs and work is in progress to clarify and extend the matters covered by the SFIs. The SOs and SFIs are drawn up to comply with the governing documents, relevant charity legislation and good practice as promulgated by the Charity Commission as Regulator. The SOs all have scheduled review dates, and the Trustees review each document as it falls due (or sooner if need arises). New SOs and SFIs are developed when need arises.
2.2	Appointment and training of Trustees: The Trustee Body consists of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to eleven Trustees elected by the Annual Congregational Meeting (normally for a term of three years) • Ex officio Trustees, being the ministers of the LEP for the time being. • Not more than five co-opted Trustees appointed by the Trustees. During 2023, one Trustee was a co-opted member until the Annual Congregational Meeting when he became an elected Trustee. The other Trustees were either elected or ex officio for the whole of the year.

	All Trustees have received the Charity Commission guide 'The essential trustee'. No formal training for Trustees took place in 2023.
2.3	<p>The organisational structure of WEP and how decisions are made:</p> <p>There are five Local Church Councils (LCCs) whose task is to maintain and develop the life and mission of their local church. The rules governing LCCs are contained in SO No. 8 Local Church Councils. Our practice is to ask each church to nominate up to two Trustees to the Partnership, for approval by the Annual Congregational Meeting. A Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are elected by the Trustees. Members of the Ministry Team are ex officio Trustees.</p> <p>The Trustees have delegated to the Ministry Team matters of ministry and spiritual and pastoral care. There is an Annual Congregational Meeting to receive the Report and Accounts and elect Trustees (if there is a vacancy or a Trustee's term is expiring). The normal business of the Partnership is conducted through regular meetings of the Trustees and of the LCCs during the year. Membership data is set out in Appendix 1.</p>
2.4	<p>The relationship between WEP and Milton Keynes Mission Partnership:</p> <p>WEP was a member of Milton Keynes Mission Partnership until the Mission Partnership was closed in May 2023. Nicola Vidamour continued as a Trustee of WEP and was a Trustee of Mission Partnership until it closed.</p>
2.5	<p>A statement of the major risks to which WEP is exposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate level of voluntary income to support activities contributing to WEP's objectives. • Inability to find volunteers to lead activities essential to meeting WEP's objectives. • Failure to comply with relevant legislation (of which Health and Safety, Discrimination, including Disability, Safeguarding, Data Protection, Charity and Employment Law are the principal items) • Lack of or inadequate insurance cover to meet all eventualities including loss or damage to buildings and assets or public and employer liability. • Inappropriate words or actions of church officers and church members that damage WEP's reputation. • Management shortcomings in strategy, organisation, leadership, decision making, or communications mean that WEP's objectives are not achieved. <p>The Partnership Trustees act to mitigate all risks.</p>
3.	WEP Aims and Objectives:
3.1	<p>Our purpose</p> <p>As set out in our Governing document, the purpose of the Charity is to advance the Christian faith in the Area of Benefit in accordance with the principles and practices of the Participating Churches.</p> <p>Our Ecumenical Vision Statement</p> <p>In the light of the prayer of Christ 'may they all be one... that the world may believe that you sent me...' (John 17.21) and the injunction to 'spare no effort to make fast with bonds of peace the unity which the Spirit gives' (Ephesians 4:3), members of WEP commit themselves to work together in serving God's mission locally and beyond.</p> <p>Members, drawn from the four participating denominations (The Church of England, The Methodist Church, The Baptist Union and The United Reformed Church) and from other Christian traditions, seek to respond to the call of God through Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>Our life together and our mission are shaped by our core values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritually alive; • Together in Christ; • Reaching out; • Welcoming all; • Using our gifts; • Being sustainable.
3.2	<p>Our Mission Objectives</p> <p>Each of our five local congregations gives expression to the above, in its worship, ministry and mission. Together across the Partnership we look to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide regular public worship for all who wish to attend. 2. Pray for the well-being of members, adherents and people and organisations in the community.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Provide opportunities for children, young people and adults to learn about the Christian faith and its key teaching. 4. Undertake mission activity including both evangelism and service as appropriate. 5. Engage with the local community and other agencies to work towards meeting the needs of the community. 6. Engage in pastoral work for the benefit of members and others. 7. Offer baptism, thanksgiving, naming and blessing, marriage and funeral services for members, adherents and people in the wider community with appropriate preparation and follow-up. 8. Provide facilities and activities with a Christian ethos for the local community including the elderly, young and groups with special needs. 9. Support other charities in the United Kingdom and overseas. 10. Seek God's guidance and direction in all that we do.
3.3	<p>Our continuing objectives</p> <p>District churches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Each district church will challenge itself on how it contributes to achieving the ten Mission Objectives ○ Each district church will continue to develop and review its own mission action plan (District churches may add their own specific objectives reflecting their mission and service.) <p><i>How did we do:</i> Many activities, including worship services, community events and weddings and baptisms returned to more typical levels following the disruptions of Covid. Numbers at Sunday services are recovering slowly. Our churches continued their efforts to keep in touch with members and local communities, particularly those known to be vulnerable, through electronic media, by phone and personal visits. One church ran a successful and well-attended Alpha course during the year.</p> <p>The Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Offer Easter Cracked and Christmas Cracked to all local schools with the appropriate year group ○ Encourage members to take up other training courses and to explore more formal training for local ministry <p><i>How did we do:</i> It was not possible to offer Easter Cracked or Christmas Cracked in 2023 through lack of people able to help with these activities. On a more positive aspect, members from several of our churches have continued to help at food larder schemes on Fishermead and Tinkers Bridge. At Christ the Vine, the Wellbeing Hub continued, aiming to bring together local community and health groups to provide a welcoming and supportive meeting place in a café setting. Some members took advantage of training courses, including specific training on safeguarding.</p> <p>Trustees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improve communication within the Partnership through the web site and newsletter and by encouraging cross-Partnership groups and events ○ Provide stewardship support to district churches ○ Introduce text and/or contactless giving to help raise funds for the Partnership ○ Maintain the financial health of the Partnership ○ Ensure that in all things we continue to operate in accordance with charity and other applicable laws and regulations <p><i>How did we do:</i> The weekly newsletter and web site continue as sources of information. The new web site is in operation and has been developing as a source of news and information for all our churches. Cross-Partnership Lent and Holy Week services were held. Members responded with great generosity to enable us to end the year in a better position than we budgeted for but we do need to restore our financial reserves to our target level. Members were encouraged to use standing orders or bank transfers where possible. Contactless giving is available in one church and direct online giving via the CAFDonate web site. Our thanks go to the district church and Partnership treasurers for all their work to encourage good stewardship practices, but we know that financial challenges lie ahead and will require continued effort to manage. On applicable laws and regulations, the Trustees continue to give close regard to these. In 2023, we continued to review our own standing orders, including our safeguarding policy, to ensure they reflect good practice. We need to do more work on developing strategy and a common understanding of how the Partnership functions. We need to restore a shared sense of working and worshipping together.</p> <p>During the year we were delighted to be able to re-appoint Rev Nicola Vidamour as Methodist</p>

	<p>minister within the team but in 2024 greatly saddened to hear that she had been appointed to a very significant role at Wesley College, Cambridge. She goes with our deep gratitude for all she has contributed to the life of the Partnership and especially for her work with the congregation at St Thomas's.</p>
4.	<p>Activity and Achievement Reports:</p>
4.1	<p><i>Ministry Team 2023 Ian Herbert, Nicola Vidamour, Paul Norris, Charmaine Howard.</i></p> <p>2023 saw all restriction with regard to Covid lifted and our normal pattern of service resumed, although some have not returned to corporate worship in person. Throughout the year we have seen the majority of our congregation return, although there are still some who are not attending, and some who have moved/passed away and have gone on to other churches, in addition there are some who continue to worship online, and we are seeing new faces in some of our churches.</p> <p>Our appreciation and thanks must go to all who have supported us in 2023. Revd. Chris Bell, Mike Davidge, John Howard, Lynn Castle, Judy Rapp, Linda Kirk, David Hart and Revd. Hannah Akebo Betts, who have supported our five churches by leading services and preaching. This ensured that we were able to maintain a weekly service in all five churches in the partnership.</p> <p>Although our Pastoral work is shared with church members and does not exclusively fall on the shoulders of the Ministry Team, 2023 once again saw an increase in the Ministry Team's involvement with church members and residents living in our communities. 2023 continued with a high number of funerals and the pastoral care associated with the death of a loved one.</p> <p>The beginning of 2023 once again gave us the opportunity for the whole Partnership to come together for teaching and learning about the Christian faith, through online Bible Study groups, Sunday School, and our Advent and Lent reflections. The online Tuesday morning Bible Study and Prayer time hosted and led by Revd. Charmaine Howard, the Tuesday afternoon Sunday Sermon Reflection, and monthly Bible Study hosted by Trinity, Fishermead and led by Revd. Chris Bell, Wednesday evening online Compline and evening prayer led by Revd. Ian Herbert. We were once again able to offer an All-Soul Service held at St. Thomas' Simpson.</p> <p>Please read the reports from each of the churches if you would like to know more about what each church has been up to.</p> <p>As the churches were all open, we were still faced with the challenge of ensuring a safe environment for all, with some still wearing face masks. Communion is given with the option of a shared chalice or individual cups.</p> <p>Thank you for your support, and help. Without you we would not have been able to ensure the wellbeing of all who attended our churches.</p> <p>2023 saw us again celebrating public worship at our Easter and Christmas services in all five churches, with a slight decrease in numbers attending.</p> <p>The Ministry Team continued to connect with local schools, homes for the elderly, community projects, residents 'associations, Mum's and Toddler groups, community councils and other organizations.</p> <p>See local church reports for details of the strong community links our churches have. Throughout 2023, Our thanks and gratitude go to Tim May our Partnership Administrator who continued to support the Ministry Team by taking on the day-to-day administrative tasks. Tim continued to play his part in maintenance of the web site.</p> <p>The Parish has a long tradition of lay involvement. We once again take this opportunity to thank all who have supported us by offering and exercising their gifts and skills. Without you we would not have been able to be as effective in our churches and communities as we</p>

	<p>have been. In 2023 we were able to take 9 weddings, 14 funerals and 11 interments of Ashes, 41 services at the crematorium. We the Ministry Team, encourage you all to seek God's guidance on how you might be able to support the work of WEP and the local churches and communities we serve.</p> <p>Revd. Ian Herbert, Revd. Paul Norris, Revd. Charmaine Howard, Revd. Nicola Vidamour</p>
4.2	<p>Secretarial Report for WEP ACM 2024</p> <p>During this past year of 2023/24 WEP has worked across the Partnership. We have held our Trustees meetings face to face. We remain under strength with regard to the numbers of possible Trustees. The Annual Congregational Meeting in 2023 had a good turnout of members. The Trustees have met five times during the year, in May, July, October, November 2023 and January 2024. The Minutes of all these meetings, recorded by Di Miller as the Secretary are available to read in the Parish Office and online. A variety of services are taking place in the churches on Sundays and also include funerals and marriages. These numbers are down on pre-Covid levels.</p> <p>Tim May, Parish Administrator, has been working partly remotely and is in the office on some days but always on Fridays or by appointment. He has been compiling and sending out the Parish newsletter and Prayer Diary electronically and also paper copies for those who are not on email. Tim has delivered these for which we record our thanks. Tim has continued to offer his expertise through the year with PAT testing of appliances and risk assessments. Our thanks too for his help in collating this annual report. The web site (woughton.org) is fully operational and the emails associated with the web site are working. Each church is responsible for its own page and continues to be a valuable resource for people to find out information regarding the Woughton Partnership. St Mary's Church uses woughton.net for easier access to the graveyard information but there is a link to the Parish website.</p> <p>Our prayers are now for us to work together in the future. We look for new opportunities to grow and serve God here in Woughton.</p> <p>Di Miller Secretary to WEP. February 2024</p>
4.3	<p>Christ the Vine Community Church Report</p> <p>Church Ministry: There are 28 church membership forms completed this year. Sunday worship has remained at 10:45 each Sunday with Communion Services on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. The third (and fifth) Sunday of each has been designated a Cafe Service. David Hart leads worship once a month usually on the first Sunday of the month. We are grateful to David for his commitment and support. This year we have been blessed by the preaching and worship leading of several guest speakers including Esther Squire, Chris Gill, Linda Kirk and John Howard. To support our sung worship, we use videoed hymns and songs from Worship Lyric Videos. This works well but we still pray for a worship leader to join us and lead us in sung worship. Sunday morning is the time that we have set aside to worship God together as the family of God. To ensure as many of us as possible can attend and participate fully in our Sunday Services, we have continued to use Zoom. However, attendance in person and on Zoom has dropped. Collective worship on a Sunday is important, let us not give up on worshipping together (Hebrews 10:25) but make this a priority as it is the only time we have set aside to meet with each other and with God. We have reinstated fellowship together over tea and coffee after the Sunday service. Thank you to everyone who is on the rota. It is a time to meet and get to know each other so that we can provide that support and encouragement for each other that is spoken of in the Bible. Study Vine continues to meet on Thursday mornings at 10:30 (term time only) on Zoom. This is a time when we meet to study the Bible together and discuss its implications</p>

for our lives. We use a study guides and booklets as well as videos from well-known Christian speakers and authors to help us study the texts. This Bible Study session is attended by a small group of around 6 people each week. It would be great if more of us could get together to study together, learn from each other and grow in our faith. If you are not already part of this group, please consider joining. It is open to all. Thank you, Anna, for your work in preparing and leading this group.

Mission: We worked with the local community to develop and maintain our presence in the area. The Coffee Hall Residents Association closed this year and a new Association is being organised to replace it. We collaborated with the Woughton Community Council to put on a Community Carol Singing event on Winter Solstice. This was very successful. A good number of people from the church and the community attended. Grapevine has maintained its core group of people (about 30) who enjoy participating in gardening activities, art and craft, music making, table tennis and chatting over food and drink in the cafe. The Prayer and Reflection time at the end of the session each week is now an established part of Grapevine and has a regular of attendance of around 18 - 20 each week. The Christmas Fair was held in conjunction with Grapevine to raise funds for the church. Meet Up Mondays meet for prayer, fellowship, board games and food each week. This attracts around 8 - 10 people regularly. The Easter Event was very successful and very well attended by the local children and their families. Easter Eggs were donated by the Salvation Army as presents for the children. The families heard and read the Easter Story and did craft activities based on the different parts of the story. The Pumpkin Carving was also a great success. The church was full. The children and their families heard that Jesus is the Light of the World who is there for them to support help and love them. Jesus brings hope into the world. The children and adults carved pumpkins of hope. The Mission Action plan needs to be evaluated and a new action plan needs to be produced, so that we build on what has gone well and plan new activities to move the church forward in the next three years.

Building: The church continues to be used by Admiral Nurses to provide support for Carers of people living with dementia. This is a drop-in group where carers can enjoy company and chat over tea and coffee. They also have the opportunity to talk privately and gain professional advice from the Admiral Nurses. The Drop-In sessions are the first and third Wednesday afternoon of each month. We aim to increase the number of lettings to improve the church income. Rhema Church have started to meet each Sunday at 1pm and will continue till October 2024. We have also had a number of one-off bookings for conferences, parties and meetings. We thank Russell for his hard work and the extra time and energy he has given to recruiting and managing new bookings as well as the extra work involved in setting out furniture and cleaning after each booking.

Our Verse for the Year: *Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially those who belong to the family of believers. (Galatians 6:10)*

Chair: Mrs Pauline Rudiger

Minister: Rev. Charmaine Howard

4.4

Annual Report – Trinity Woolstone

January 2023 saw the start of our Alpha Course. Catering was managed by Judy and Mildred, and we are extremely grateful to them for their work. The course attracted 15 people and was greatly enjoyed by all; however the real benefit was the opportunity to spend 13 evenings focusing on God and the redemptive activity of Jesus. It was a real privilege. Faith in some was found, in some was strengthened and in all, understood more deeply. We hope to run further Alpha courses for the partnership, but this will only be possible if there are sufficient volunteers for the catering.

In many ways our church has grown during 2023. We now have over 20 regular worshippers. However, attendance is intermittent, and it is often the case that on a Sunday we have less than 10 worshippers. The pattern of worship is now well established; the first Sunday of the month being a cafe service, the second led by Judy, the third, communion led by Ian, the fourth led by John and specific arrangements for the fifth Sundays.

	<p>Sue and Sophie continue to be responsible for our music and we are very grateful to them for their contribution. It remains difficult for us to get commitment for elements of the management of the Partnership. We continue to have a vacant Trustee appointment and have been unable to fill some of the other positions to which we have an entitlement. However, we have now established a regular weekly Bible Study Group and we are grateful to Sue for her leadership in this respect.</p> <p>The relationship between the Church and the Community Centre continues to improve as we work together on specific projects. Sadly, the Pre-School, hosted by the Community Centre, has had to close, however, this has released the building for other uses during the day. It is very much our hope that in next year's report we will be able to share the development of a number of church inspired daytime activities. In addition, we are planning to further our outreach by working with the residents of Parklands Nursing Home in Woolstones.</p> <p>John Howard Warden</p>
4.5	<p><u>St Mary's Woughton on the Green</u></p> <p>This has been another busy year, we have maintained our numbers, though we don't see some of the members they are kept abreast of what is going on by the weekly pew sheet, we have seen some new faces and have remained strong as a church and community.</p> <p>The District Church Council DCC has met 9 times during the year, we have had open discussions and planned ahead for activities and work that is required, meetings always start with prayer, and I am grateful to Di Miller for being our minute secretary.</p> <p>David Bird, our Church warden, is well supported in his role by Jean Mattinsley and between them and the Baldwins, and all the other teams, gardeners, cleaners, and flower arrangers the Church and grounds are kept in good condition and problems dealt with as quickly as possible.</p> <p>The report will give more detail, but these are the bullet points of it.</p> <p><u>Worship and community</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services are reasonably well attended. • The music group and organist give their time and talents for a variety of services and Jean supports St Thomas's also. • Junior church, Lynn Davidge and Chrissie Baldwin, lead a small group of children with activities and it was a shame to lose the two Garcia children as the family were moved to another area, but contact remains, and they are doing well. Thank you to Lynn and Chrissie and their helpers and it has been a joy to see the children develop. • Audio visual, we have finally completed the fund raising for this throughout the year, it has been a long journey, but it has already proved to be a boon at services. • Occasional offices, 3 weddings, Baptisms 2 infants, 1 child, 6 funerals, 6 interments of ashes. <p><u>Practical Issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Weekly Pew sheet with local information is produced by Ruth Davis and I would like to thank her for this weekly update, it is invaluable. • We noticed some issues with the WC and drainage and AWA came and informed us that it was not their drain, but confirmed that it had deteriorated. Work has just been

completed to restore it to a good function again, my thanks to the team of volunteers that manned the church whilst this work was being carried out.

- We have continued to maintain our building and grounds, but still face a situation over the walls due to a lack of response from the Hotel which occurred once the building was taken over by the Home Office. We will endeavour to get a resolution on this as soon as possible. The lighting in the car park has also not been sorted. Sadly, this is the same as last year but with the Home Office moving out and their residents, we will start the process again.
- Church Hall, the progress on this has been slow and is in the hands of Oxford Diocese, however any maintenance and care have been taken care of.

Mission, Outreach, and Fundraising

- “Open for You” continues on a Saturday, 10 am to 12 noon, for a chat and refreshment and visitors who come in to see the church and are surprised by what they find within our old walls.
- We have had a couple of fundraising events that have been very successful in the form of a Summer Fayre and Christmas Event.
- The Walkers come regularly now and provide an opportunity for friendship and provide much needed funds.
- We are blessed with keen preserve makers, Angy and Val and Jean`s Cards, which give a boost to funds.
- The Annual National Remembrance Service was well attended by the Village and wreaths were laid. The community and church worked together to produce an art installation which was crocheted and knitted and was draped over the church wall by the memorial, it was received well by the locals and visitors alike.
- The Link Romania shoebox appeal was well supported again.

My thanks to the DCC members that give their time to plan the work of the church. During the latter part of the year Norma and Brian Baldwin were both unwell and it was noticeable by the number of roles that we had to cover, my thanks to them for all they do and I would hope that we can lighten their load by streamlining some of their tasks and others volunteering to assist them.

My grateful thanks to Rev Paul Norris for his continued ministry to us all and for the whole congregation for their regular membership and support during what has been a busy year again.

Kim Weston DCC Chair

4.6

St Thomas' Church Annual Report 2023

My thanks to Reverend Nicola for her leadership and friendship during the past year, to Ruth, our secretary who continues to provide us with an interesting weekly Newsletter, guidance and support at our DCC meetings. My thanks to our friendly Church family which has grown a little during the past year. Our Church services are well attended.

The short illness and death of Jean Gillman, wife of our organist Alan, was a shock to us all. She is greatly missed by our Church family. Her funeral was in November and her ashes will be interred in our churchyard soon.

Thanks to **Rev Paul Le Sueur** who continues to provide us with interesting sermons and prayers each month. Rev Paul and Jill have donated Paul's beautifully engraved work desk to St Thomas' Church.

To Linda Kirk and Lynn Castle for their support in our leading worship.

Thanks to Mike and Matthew Lucas for playing music twice a month for our services, Jean Mattinsley for playing when she can and Peter Thomas who is now able to provide music for

our services via his phone through our music system when needed. Music enhances worship and we are lucky to have Hilary who is leading St Thomas choir.

Structural building problems in the Chancel Mike Lucas advises on matters of finance. Working through “listed places of worship” we have succeeded in claiming back all the VAT from the Investigative work to find the cause of the huge cracks in the chancel.

In July we invited the Trustees of Buckinghamshire Historic Churches Trust to hold their Trustee meeting in our Church. After tea they were shown the problems with cracks in the chancel. Bishop Alan Wilson said he would discuss the severity of the problem with Archdeacon Guy.

Archdeacon Guy visited St Thomas Church on 27th September 2023, he too was sad to see the severe damage to the walls in the Chancel. He told us that he would arrange for the DAC to visit, we were not to spend any more money on the building. The Diocese of Oxford would be leading and advising the way forward. Copies of the costs and reports from all the investigative work were forwarded to the Archdeacon in September 2023 and January 2024.

We have enjoyed lots of fun, fundraising, bring and share events, not only for our Church funds but also for other charities. Thank you, Pat, for arranging these events. Members of the local Salvation Army have joined us for worship, concerts, teas and fundraising.

Rev Nicola continues to lead the **monthly hymn singing at the local Day Centre**. This is enjoyed by the members of the Day Centre, their staff and our little group.

A new fun service on 7th October. We held a **“Dog and Collar” service**. Dogs of various sizes attended with their masters, all well behaved. The dogs had doggie treats and the adult’s tea and cake.

St. Thomas’ Church Carol service was a great success. The Church was set up coffee shop style, followed by tea and mince pies.

The children from Charles Warren Academy held a wonderful Christmas concert in the Church. This was very well attended by parents.

Iola Samuels
Church Warden 26/02/2024

4.7

Trinity Church, Fishermead

1. Like most Churches, Trinity has experienced something of a continuing journey into ‘normality’ after the pressures and challenges of the Covid pandemic. It would seem that a small number of our pre-Covid congregation have ‘moved on’, but others have joined our worshipping community.
2. This year we would highlight the life of the Church under the following two main headings: -

Worship:
3. Our 2 musicians are now accompanied by two vocalists for our Morning Services and our worship has, for some time now, regularly included a medley of Hymns/songs as the congregation gather and settle their hearts before the Service commences.
4. Our Sunday morning Services are conducted by Rev Ian Herbert, Rev Hannah Akebo-Betts, and Rev Christopher Bell with their varied approaches to leading worship and different styles of preaching have been appreciated. Ian in particular has incorporated a Family Time during his services, and this has been successful in encouraging the congregation to form small groups and pray openly together. Our Church Secretary’s weekly email also encourages congregation involvement by suggesting prayer for particular individuals in our fellowship, for the occupants of streets within our ‘catchment area’ and for the ministry and mission of the Church.
5. We are also encouraged that a member of the congregation is presently exploring a gifting of preaching and is receiving guidance and support.
6. Although our monthly Worship, Study and Prayer Meeting has faltered because of the external pressures of life and ill health, a Compline service is held (through Zoom) on Wednesday, each week.

Missional Activities:

7. A Community Hub:

The Church has desired to cooperate with others in the development of a Community Hub for Fishermead and surrounding areas and, over the past year (and in collaboration with the Trinity Centre Management Committee and Sofea) the Church has run a Food Larder on Monday mornings from 10am till 11:30am. The scheme functions through a small team of Church volunteers (plus one person from St. Mary's, Woughton and one member of the local community) – its positive work, but it can involve challenges too! The aim is to support people to live more independently. To achieve this the Scheme utilises surplus food that would otherwise be designated for landfill. For a one-off fee of £10 and then £3.50 per week thereafter, members can obtain up to 10 food items plus free fruit and vegetables. It is clear that a number of those who attend have gained through making friendships and by having an awareness of the services provided by the various community agencies that regularly attended, such as – The Samaritans, Sugar Diabetes UK, Financial Advice services, Officers from Milton Keynes Council and Campbell Park Town Council, groups of Pre-school children. A retired member of the Christian organisation Parish Nursing Ministries UK also attends to provide an opportunity for Blood Pressure checks and signposting to other health advice services.

8. From the outset, a Café operated by another small band of Christian volunteers (MGB - Making Good Better) has worked in conjunction with the Food Larder in order to provide free tea/coffee as well as very reasonably priced breakfasts. In a slightly separate, but associated way, the Centre is also used during the remainder of the week as a location for 'Warm Spaces' as follows: -

Tuesday: (12.00-3.00 p.m.) MGB provide lunches.

Wednesday: (4.30-6.30 p.m.) MGB provide breakfasts. The Grace Church provide an early evening meal.

Thursday: (10.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.) A local body entitled: 'Action Speaks' provide a lunch

Friday: (10.30a.m. -3.00 p.m.): 'Action Speaks' provide a lunch.

9. We can report that our order for a number of Laptops has now been received and within the near future we will, therefore, be able to open an Internet Café at the Centre. We hope that this will give new educational and experiential opportunities to local residents of all ages.
10. It is also lovely to record that some of the members of the Food Larder have started to attend our Sunday Services.
11. It is a reality that, in a relatively small congregation the day-to-day fellowship activities are generally conducted by an even smaller core group – we are blessed with a keen, active and effective group who frequently 'go the additional mile(s)'. The congregation therefore record their grateful thanks not only to them, but to others who help 'behind the scenes' as their life's circumstances permit. Just one example – a young man who is unable to attend Sunday worship because of work commitments, often interrupts his journey to work in order to help set out the worship area.
12. It is also fair to state that the Church plays a substantial role within the Centre's Management Committee and appreciation must go to the individuals involved. Overall, we sense that the efforts of the Church(es) and the Trinity Centre Management Committee have gained valuable experience in 'hands-on' missional work to their local community, lessons have undoubtedly been learnt and the various external sponsors, agencies and other observers, have recognised it as a very

	<p>inclusive and successful project.</p> <p>The Church, too, is pleased that there has been evidence of God's wider blessings upon the community. Praise His Name.</p> <p>Rev. C. M. Bell</p> <p>(on behalf of Trinity Church, Fishermead)</p>
4.8	<p>Marriage in the Parish</p> <p>Please refer to Ministers Report</p>
4.9	<p>Baptism and Thanksgiving Naming and Blessings:</p> <p>Please Refer to Ministers Report</p>
4.10	<p>Bereavement Care:</p> <p>Please refer to Ministers Report</p>
4.11	<p>Adults, Babies and Children (ABC):</p> <p>ABC has been held in Christ the Vine for many years and is still welcoming families. We offer a range of activities for the group, arts, crafts, and a good selection of toys for babies and children. There are now 20 regular children (plus the adults) attending. We are committed to supporting and helping this community to grow.</p>
4.12	<p>The Netherfield Partnership Limited (NP Ltd):</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>
4.13	<p>Website Report (2024 AGM)</p> <p>The website continues to be hosted on Church 123, and is maintained and updated by myself, with content being posted as and when it is received. Some initial issues regarding some of the Woughton email addresses were resolved and are now functioning correctly.</p> <p>There is also a link to woughton.net, giving access to the St. Mary's Churchyard website.</p> <p>Tim May – Website Administrator</p>
4.14	<p>Safeguarding Report (2024 AGM)</p> <p>We continue to follow the Methodist Safeguarding Policy. The full version is available here: https://www.methodist.org.uk/safeguarding/policies-procedure-and-information/policies-and-guidance/</p> <p>A shorter version – which should be on the website and on the noticeboard of every local church – was being reviewed by the Trustees this time last year and is still stuck in that process. It should be reviewed annually, updated as necessary (in accordance with any changes made by the Methodist Conference) and reissued to each local church. The trustees have also had some conversations about bullying and the need for a code of conduct.</p> <p>Rev. Nicola Vidamour has continued to cover the role of Safeguarding Lead in the absence of a lay volunteer. We urgently need to find a replacement for her.</p> <p>Tim May and Nicola Vidamour are authorised to do DBS online applications and checked the documents of 13 people from WEP who renewed their DBS in 2023. These are valid for five years. Five people attended the Foundation Training run by the Methodist Circuit in 2023. One person did part of the online Advanced Training but found it too difficult and time-consuming to complete. Training needs renewing every four years.</p> <p>David Jones – the Methodist Circuit Safeguarding Lead – has continued to support us with both existing and new issues during the year and we are very grateful for his wisdom and experience. The Methodist Circuit holds a meeting for Safeguarding Leads once a quarter</p>

and these are a valuable forum for learning and sharing. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Revd Nicola Vidamour

Interim Safeguarding Lead

5.

Financial Review:

5.1

Independent Examiner:



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's report
on the accounts**

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Charity Name Woughton Ecumenical Partnership		
On accounts for the year ended	31 st December 2023	Charity no (if any)	1172298
Set out on pages	25 to 36 <small>(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)</small>		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2023.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

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

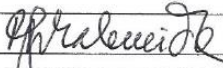
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed:  **Date:** 10th March 2024

Name: Cristina Sabucido

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

ACCA

Address:

3 Turners Mews
Neath Hill, Milton Keynes
MK14 6HH

Address:

3 Turners Mews

Neath Hill, Milton Keynes

MK14 6HH

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

A statement of the principal financial policies including reserves:

1 Principal accounting policies

Trustees' responsibility in relation to the financial statements

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- 1) select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- 2) make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- 3) state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- 4) prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Reserves policy

Only the general fund meets the Charity Commission's definition for reserves, resulting in reported reserves of £20,218 at 31 December 2023. This is half the figure the reserves policy would determine as prudent which is not less than three months' of general fund expenditure (£40,303 based on 2023 expenditure). Sudden serious income shortfall is not seen as a major risk as the majority of the Partnership's income is derived from a large number of donors as well as fees and premises lettings, none of which is individually significant. Although no single donor, on their own, is significant it should be noted there remains four Partnership couples who deliver over a fifth of total Partnership income.

1 Accounting policies

(a) Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102. In preparing the financial statements the Partnership follows best practice as set out in the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" effective January 2015.

(b) Basis of consolidation

These financial statements consolidate the financial results of the various activities of Woughton Ecumenical Partnership on a line-by-line basis. Certain of these activities are not directly managed by the trustees but delegated to groups within the Partnership. These activities have been accounted for as branches and the financial results shown within separate designated funds.

(c) Incoming resources

Voluntary income is recognised when received. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Grants (including grants for the purchase of fixed assets) are recognised in full in the year in which they have been received. Each grant is disclosed within the category of income that is most appropriate to the activity it is intended to support.

Incoming resources from charitable activities is recognised when the activity giving rise to the income takes place.

Investment income is recognised on an accruals basis.

(d) Resources expended

Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis, inclusive of VAT which cannot be recovered.

Grants & donations payable are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which the Partnership decides they should be made.

Accruals are made if the payment is not made until the following year. In all cases where such accruals have been made, either the details of the grant or donation have been communicated to the

beneficiary before the end of the year or the payment is the result of a specific appeal.

(e) Fund accounting

Charity law requires the net assets of the Partnership to be accounted for within a number of funds. The Partnership operates the following two types of funds.

Unrestricted general funds

These are funds that can be used in accordance with the Partnership's charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

- **General Fund**

This is the fund through which the normal operating activities of the Partnership are recognised.

- **Delegated funds**

With the exception of the URC Manse and Ministry Fund these funds are not directly managed by the trustees but by groups delegated to run and oversee these activities on behalf of the Partnership and its trustees. These funds are shown in the Designated Fund column of the financial statements

Adults, Babies and Children Group (ABC) have returned to operating at pre-pandemic levels. With the cessation of the Homeless Group the funds have been transferred to the Larder Group who are reaching out to a similar section of the community the Partnership serves.

- **Designated Funds**

These are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects. Currently the Partnership has no major plans that might require designations. There remains a small balance of the plate giving that the CVCC membership elected to prioritise for local mission plans in 2022.

Restricted Funds

These are funds that can only be used for specific purposes within the Partnership's objects. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific projects or purposes.

These expendable funds are operated by the local church councils but overseen by the trustees or (where required by Church of England rules and mostly relating to building matters) the Parochial Church Council. The income and expenditure of these funds are shown in the Restricted Fund column of the financial statements.

There are a number of funds currently in operation in the Partnership with most operated by the churches.

Christ the Vine currently have three ongoing funds.

Gift Day: Donations made specifically for local investment, mission and support to Christian charities. There were no spends against this fund during 2023.

Building Fund: gifts and donations were received throughout 2023 in order to build the fund needed to pay for building issues as they arise or are identified by the church council. Architect drawings and radiator repairs were the spends during the financial year.

Legacy: the church received a legacy from a former member for church purposes during 2022.

Flood Relief: Following flooding in Coffee Hall a fund was set up to support those who would not have the ability to pay for the repair and recovery work. This is operated by the WEP trustees in partnership with the local Parish Council. There was no need to call on the fund during the financial year.

St Mary's There are four ongoing funds and these are as follows:

Audio: The Audio Visual equipment was now been delivered and installed during 2023.

Clock: a donation was originally made for the repair or replacement of the tower clock mechanism. The original donors agreed that the funds remaining, following the mechanism installation, could be retained and used at the discretion of the Church Council. The fund was not used during the financial year.

Fabric: The cleaning of gutters & downpipes were carried out during 2023. The congregation

continue to donate for the upkeep of the main church building, tower and churchyard.

Lawnmower: the church council elected that the funds raised from the sale of the old lawnmower would be retained for the purchase of a replacement.

St Thomas' started a building fund in 2015 for the purposes of fabric and churchyard restoration. The funds have been generated through fundraising events, grant applications and donations. It was originally created to acquire a new noticeboard and repair the paths. The fund is being utilized to pay for continuing inspections in order to identify the source of the subsidence. The Diocese has offered financial support but the church continues to raise funds via quizzes, concerts, donations and grant applications.

A legacy received specifically for local St Thomas' projects has not been used during 2023.

Trinity received a gift, in 2016, to be used for local activities. The use is to be determined by the Church Council. There were no items charged against the fund in 2023.

The Baptist Association grant is still to be used. It is still intended to proceed with the project for the young people of Fishermead.

- **Endowments**

These are permanent funds. The income and expenditure of these funds is shown in the Endowment Fund column of the financial statements.

The Partnership currently has six separate permanent funds managed by CCLA. The income generated from these investments are allocated to the appropriate District in the Partnership in accordance with the Trust documents.

5.3	<p>Banking and accounting arrangements:</p> <p>The Partnership operates a number of bank accounts all managed centrally. The accounts used and their closing 2023 balances are:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>CAF</td> <td>£6,715 (this balance includes the presented but uncleared items at the end of 2023)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CAF Gold</td> <td>£49,770</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Central Board of Finance</td> <td>£74,085</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CCLA</td> <td>£23,740</td> </tr> </table> <p>All the Partnership transactions were processed through these accounts or the petty cash floats held and operated by St Mary's, the Adults, Babies and Children Group and the Larder Group.</p>	CAF	£6,715 (this balance includes the presented but uncleared items at the end of 2023)	CAF Gold	£49,770	Central Board of Finance	£74,085	CCLA	£23,740
CAF	£6,715 (this balance includes the presented but uncleared items at the end of 2023)								
CAF Gold	£49,770								
Central Board of Finance	£74,085								
CCLA	£23,740								
5.4	<p>General Unrestricted Fund outturn and budget:</p> <p>The Partnership ended 2023 with a General Fund deficit of £17,304. This is a £5.8k improvement on the outturn predicted in the budget. Although a budgeted large one-off gift did not come in the Partnership benefitted from a number of large non-recurrent gifts that could not have been predicted or relied upon when the budget computations were concluded. The utility contract renewals delivered lower tariffs than had been predicted and these as well as the non-recurrent gifts delivered a significant portion of the favourable movement.</p> <p>The financial statements show the apportionment of ministry and overhead using the existing standing financial instruction. Although the outturn of one of the churches challenges the operation of the standing financial instruction it has been retained in the reporting in the absence of an approved alternative.</p> <p>The 2024 General Fund Budget is close to completion but could not be concluded until the method of apportioning the ministry and central overheads has been identified and agreed. The management of a church unable to meet its local costs has also to be resolved.</p>								
5.5	<p>A Report of Fund Raising Activity:</p> <p>In normal years the principle methods of raising funds are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Member's donations and, where appropriate, the recovery of tax through the Gift Aid and Small Donations schemes. ○ Subscriptions and hire fees. ○ A wide variety of fundraising events e.g., fetes, quizzes, concerts, tabletop sales etc. ○ Minor Grants to support specific Partnership activities. ○ Major Grants and special appeals to support specific significant Partnership projects or activities. ○ Fees from Funerals, Weddings & Thanksgiving, naming and blessings. ○ Interest from deposit accounts and dividends from investments. 								
5.6	<p>Investment Policies and Performance:</p> <p>To invest the unused Partnership funds in secure interest-bearing deposit accounts. To hold these and the Partnership investments in secure and ethical funds in accordance with the Trust Deeds.</p>								
5.7	<p>Notes to the 2023 Accounts</p> <p>Partnership Unrestricted General Funds:</p> <p>Incoming Resources</p> <p>The Financial statements, in the Annual Report, only disclose the total of all funds operated by the Partnership for the prior year. Space does not allow for the separate reporting of the 2022 Unrestricted General Funds so the movements reported below cannot be extracted directly from the Financial Statements included in the Annual Report. The 2022 Unrestricted General Fund figures can be found in last year's Annual Report or on request from the Partnership Treasurer who can be contacted by email at treasurer@woughton.org.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. When compared to 2022, income from Donations and Legacies has increased by £2,141. Note 1 of the Financial Statements reports the breakdown of this income. 								

Tax Efficient Giving has risen by £62, collections qualifying for Small Donations have increased by £2,022. The combination of these movements has had a positive impact on the Gift Aid and Small Donations Scheme re-claims from HMRC rising by £445.

Other Donations fell by £1,277 compared to the prior year. Changes in personal circumstances or congregation sizes moved many of the donations out of this heading to tax efficient or small donations giving. Charity Voucher income increased in 2023. The significant CAF Donate donor increased the size and number of donations they made in 2023.

Appeals for projects and charities increased from ten to nineteen events delivering a £4,775 improvement.

Services have returned to being continuous throughout the year so there was no change to the Chapmans Educational Foundation grant. There was a one-off coronation grant for St Thomas' garden fund. There were no further applications to the Diocesan Tier-2 Funding for the digital deprivation project in the financial year. This delivered the £3,886 decline.

- ii. Charitable activities have seen a fall of £1,078 from the 2022 performance. The breakdown of this income stream can be seen in Note 2 of the Financial Statements. There were fewer Weddings in 2023 delivering a decrease of £2,323. Funeral fee income has also fallen slightly. The manse letting income continued but there was an increase in CVCC's rental revenue delivering the bulk of the £1,491 favourable movement compared to 2022.
- iii. Other Trading Activity increased by £82. With the restrictions removed events and activities have returned to pre-pandemic levels. The outcome is an increase of £843 in Fundraising activities. The General Sales income reduced by £761 on the prior year. This is predominantly a change in the Church Hall insurance costs passed on under the revised arrangements. The breakdown of Other Trading Activity can be seen in Note 3.
- iv. Investments have increased by £1,013 compared to the previous year. The bank interest rates have increased incrementally over the 2023 period. Interest income from the permanent endowments is collected under the Endowments heading. Where the trust deeds stipulate the interest generated has been transferred to the General Fund and allocated to the church specified in each deed. This forms part of the 'Transfers between funds figure'.
- v. Other Income is predominantly delivered from a number of sources that do not easily fit the other revenue categories. There were no transactions under this heading in 2023.

Resources expended

- i. Raising Funds costs are £1,393 higher than 2022. The analysis of this expenditure can be seen in Note 5 of the Financial Statements. Fundraising Costs have increased by £864, compared to the prior year, due to the increased number of events; Advertising & Promotion expenditure included the Alpha Course expenses.
- ii. Charitable Activities have increased by £16,078 between years. There have been several significant adverse and favourable movements under this heading. The breakdown of the activities can be seen under Notes 6a to 6d.
- iii. Ministry and Related Staff Costs (Note 6 Sub Note (a)) have increased by £6,723 compared to 2022. The LEP Share and Clergy Expenses enjoyed no supporting offsets of cost in 2023. The complete removal of Covid-19 restrictions allowed ministers to fulfil a complete diary of commitments increasing the expenses claimed; the manse running costs were charged against designated funds. The safeguarding sessions were similar to 2022 only moving Training expenditure favourably by £50.
- iv. Employed Staff costs rose by £1,510 compared to the prior year. The Partnership follows the Living Wage Foundation announcements published in November each year. The cost of living crisis meant the rate rise announcements were significantly higher than in recent years. See Note 6 Sub Note (b).
- v. Premises and Other Resource Costs (Note 6 Sub Note (c)) increased by £10,893 from 2022. The most significant movements occurred on the following sub headings:

Premises running costs rose by £6,146 compared to 2022. The energy crisis saw tariffs on Gas, Electric and Water all increase in 2023 delivering £6,002 of the adverse movement from 2022. There was only a small increase in the share of utilities at Woolstone compared to the prior year. Premises cleaning costs also rose slightly from the previous year.

Maintenance is £801 higher than the prior year. Again there were a number of movements within the headline figures. There were the normal annual service visits but there was cedar reduction work, roof and toilet repairs at St Mary's and lock and security camera replacement at CVCC in 2023.

Partnership Administration is up by £694 on the prior year. All Partnership telephone contracts increased in price during the financial year. Photocopy activity was up on the prior year. The purchase of document boxes added to the stationery costs for 2023.

Upkeep of Services/Centre Hire; as well as the normal licenses and service elements there was the hire of Holy Trinity for an Alpha course and purchase of hymn books at St Thomas'.

Insurance; rises in premiums delivered the £559 increase in insurance costs. Following the review of cover St Mary's and the Church Hall premiums saw the greatest rise.

Equipment & New Building Works is £2,135 higher than the previous year. The purchases are non-recurrent in nature so it is difficult to draw any conclusions from the movement between years. Personal gifts allowed for the investment in a noticeboard at St Mary's and audio equipment at St Thomas' during 2023.

There were decreases on the remaining categories in Sub Note (c) but these are too small to comment on.

- vi. Grants and donations payable (Note 6 Sub Note (d)) decreased by £3,048. The grants donated to good causes increased by £938 in 2023 when the significant Digital Deprivation grant, transferred to the Trinity Centre, is removed from the 2022 figures.

General Fund:

The General Fund performance, by District, can be seen in the first section of Note 10.

The 2023 budget was approved using Standing Financial Instruction 5 to distribute ministry and overheads to the churches. Four of the five churches were able to deliver the first contribution but none fully met the second portion of the contribution.

This has meant that all churches ended 2023 with deficits. Parish Central ended with a small surplus of £642. The year end position of the Church Hall is the result of the agreed charging arrangements.

The apportionment method adopted to distribute ministry and overheads across churches does not alter the overall Unrestricted General Fund outcome. The Partnership ended 2023 with a deficit of £17,304.

Partnership Groups and Designations:

The summary of Partnership Groups and Designations can be seen in the second section of Note 10 titled Designated funds.

ABC (Adults, Babies and Children Group) met throughout 2023. The outcome is a call on accumulated funds of £152.

For the period of a year Christ the Vine designated 25% of their regular Sunday plate offertory towards mission activities. In 2023 £701 was called from the fund for mission activities. The fund attracted interest whilst it was on deposit of £38.

The Homeless Group (the Soup Run); with the ceasing of the Homeless operations the trustees approved the transfer of the funds to the Larder, at their July meeting. The Larder is operated at Trinity church. A number of those formerly served by the Homeless Group attend the Larder. The Larder is a subscription scheme supervised by the SOFEA group who provide the banking facilities and the food. Some members, unable to join the Direct Debit scheme, pay cash. There are also supporters of the scheme paying regularly by standing order. The Larder team have purchased food and miscellaneous items during 2023.

Part of the income from letting the Manse has been set aside to meet the cost of the repairs and any remedial work that is identified. The fund was used to pay the insurance premium, the Quinquennial and fence repair during 2023.

There was no activity on the other designated funds except the accrued interest in 2023.

Partnership Restricted Funds:

CVCC Building: The fund was initially started by an assignment of regular Sunday offertory. The fund is no operated via a dedicated church box to collect the donations. The fund has been used to pay for architect drawings and radiator valve repairs.

St Mary's Audio Visual: the installation of the audio visual equipment was completed in 2023.

St Mary's Fabric continues to receive regular gifts from supporters and, where appropriate, this is supplemented by the Gift Aid re-claim. The fund also receives money from a dedicated church box. Most recently the fund has been used to pay for gutter clearing.

St Mary's Lawnmower: the church has elected to retain the money received from the sale of the old lawnmower and use this to purchase a new one.

St Thomas' Building; the work on the Chancel subsidence is continuing with further architect and surveyor site visits. The Diocese has offered assistance with the cost of the survey and inspection work. The church continues to seek avenues to meet the financial exposure that the subsidence has visited upon them with personal gifts, fundraising events and grant applications.

Apart from the accrued interest there was no activity on the other restricted funds with retained balances during 2023.

Investments:

CCLA Investment Management Limited, who administer the permanent trust funds the Partnership holds, appointed FNZ TA Services Limited (FNZ) in July 2023 to act as its transfer agent. The funds have been assigned new client and account numbers. They are as follows:

The Woughton-on-the-Green Church House: 901526 CCLA Investment Management Limited (was 127001608S). The annual income from investments is used for Woughton Parish charitable purposes.

The Woughton-on-the-Green Church – Levi Trust: 910581 CCLA Investment Management Limited (was 127001566S) is a fund applied in or towards an organist and tuning and minor repairs to the organ at St. Mary's Church, Woughton-on-the-Green.

Little Woolstones Church Hall (sold in 1984): 892591 CCLA Investment Management Limited (was 127002702S). The dividends are passed back to the Holy Trinity DCC to be used by the local church.

Simpson Church Hall (sold in 1973): 915131 CCLA Investment Management Limited (was 127002582S). The dividends are passed back to St Thomas' DCC to be used by the local church.

The Woughton-on-the-Green Church Trust: 913391 CCLA Investment Management Limited (was 127002774S) is a fund received in respect of a Deed of Variation in 1992. The annual income from investments is to be used for the repair and upkeep of the fabric of St. Mary's Church, Woughton-on-the-Green.

Woughton-on-the-Green Church Trust: 906017 CCLA Investment Management Limited (was COIF - 546050001T). The dividends are passed back to the DCC of St. Mary's Church, Woughton-on-the-Green.

Woughton Ecumenical Partnership

Financial statements to the month ended 31 December 2023

Statement of Financial Activities 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowments	Total	Full Year
		funds	funds	funds		funds	funds
		2023	2023	2023		2023	2023
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	1	114,745	12,723	16,481	0	143,949	128,851
Charitable activities	2	20,898	5,544	355	0	26,797	27,747
Other trading activities	3	4,724	857	638	0	6,219	7,524
Investment Income	4	1,470	1,040	2,258	5,093	9,861	6,395
Other		0	0	1,278	0	1,278	3,536
Total		141,837	20,164	21,010	5,093	188,104	174,053
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	5	(3,206)	(774)	(150)	0	(4,130)	(3,079)
Charitable activities	6	(158,007)	(3,816)	(18,372)	(710)	(180,905)	(159,560)
Total		(161,213)	(4,590)	(18,522)	(710)	(185,035)	(162,639)
Net gains/(losses) on investments					15,967	15,967	(22,672)
Net income/(expenditure)		(19,376)	15,574	2,488	20,350	19,036	(11,258)
Transfers between funds		2,072	0	0	(2,072)	0	0
Net movement in funds		(17,304)	15,574	2,488	18,278	19,036	(11,258)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		37,522	30,891	57,024	203,254	328,691	339,949
Total funds carried forward		20,218	46,465	59,512	221,532	347,727	328,691

Balance Sheet 2023

		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowments	Total	Full Year
		funds	funds	funds		funds	funds
		2023	2023	2023		2023	2023
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets:							
Investments	7	0	0	0	186,206	186,206	170,239
Total fixed assets		0	0	0	186,206	186,206	170,239
Current assets:							
Debtors	8	5,671	2,504	203	0	8,378	5,457
Cash at bank and in hand		16,011	43,961	59,309	35,326	154,607	154,599
Total current assets		21,682	46,465	59,512	35,326	162,985	160,056
Liabilities:							
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	9	(1,464)	0	0	0	(1,464)	(1,604)
Net current assets or liabilities		20,218	46,465	59,512	35,326	161,521	158,452
Total assets less current liabilities		20,218	46,465	59,512	221,532	347,727	328,691
<i>Net asset or liabilities excluding pension asset or liability</i>		20,218	46,465	59,512	221,532	347,727	328,691
Total net assets or liabilities		20,218	46,465	59,512	221,532	347,727	328,691
The funds of the charity:							
Unrestricted funds	10a, 10b	20,218	46,465			66,683	68,413
Restricted income funds	11			59,512		59,512	57,024
Endowment funds	12				221,532	221,532	203,254
Total unrestricted funds		20,218	46,465	0	0	66,683	68,413
Total charity funds		20,218	46,465	59,512	221,532	347,727	328,691

Notes

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Designated funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Endowments 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Full Year funds 2022 £
Note 1: Donations and legacies						
Tax Efficient Giving	63,555	10,061	7,018	0	80,634	67,743
Small Donations	14,576	0	1,839	0	16,415	15,624
Gift Aid and Small Donation Re-Claim	19,676	2,517	2,232	0	24,425	20,944
Other Donations	8,721	45	200	0	8,966	11,063
Appeals	7,867	100	3,752	0	11,719	8,241
Grants	350	0	1,440	0	1,790	5,236
Total Donations and legacies	114,745	12,723	16,481	0	143,949	128,851
Note 2: Charitable activities						
Funeral Fees	6,728	0	60	0	6,788	6,974
Wedding Fees	2,574	0	60	0	2,634	4,897
Building Hire	11,596	5,544	235	0	17,375	15,876
Total Charitable activities	20,898	5,544	355	0	26,797	27,747
Note 3: Other trading activities						
Fundraising	3,787	0	638	0	4,425	5,602
Subscriptions	0	857	0	0	857	224
General Sales	937	0	0	0	937	1,698
Total Other trading activities	4,724	857	638	0	6,219	7,524
Note 4: Investment Income						
Bank Interest	1,470	1,040	2,258	0	4,768	1,329
Investment Income from Endowments	0	0	0	5,093	5,093	5,066
Total Investment Income	1,470	1,040	2,258	5,093	9,861	6,395
Note 5: Raising funds						
Fundraising Costs	2,677	116	150	0	2,943	2,517
Advertising & Promotion	529	557	0	0	1,086	562
Grant Application & Professional Costs	0	101	0	0	101	0
Total Raising funds	3,206	774	150	0	4,130	3,079
Note 6: Charitable activities						
(a) Ministry and Related Staff Costs						
Mission Partnership LEP Share	91,439	0	0	0	91,439	85,098
Clergy Expenses	5,596	0	0	0	5,596	4,648
Manse Running Expenses	0	1,400	0	0	1,400	516
Training	700	0	0	0	700	1,004
	97,735	1,400	0	0	99,135	91,266
(b) Employed Staff						
	2023	2022				
Average number of part time staff	2	2				
Salaries & wages	15,874	14,364				
Employer on Costs	0	0				
	15,874	14,364				

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Designated funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Endowments 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Full Year funds 2022 £
(c) Premises and other resource costs						
Premises running costs	13,425	0	0	0	13,425	8,784
Maintenance	5,051	0	492	0	5,543	8,086
Parish Administration	5,591	1,069	7,415	0	14,075	14,290
Upkeep of Services/Centre Hire	3,900	147	0	0	4,047	3,173
Insurance	8,263	562	0	0	8,825	7,704
Equipment & New Building Works	3,348	42	10,465	0	13,855	2,566
Junior Church, ABC & Youth	242	596	0	0	838	817
Pastoral Care/Homeless	116	0	0	710	826	1,000
	39,936	2,416	18,372	710	61,434	46,420
(d) Grants and donations payable						
All We Can	0	0	0	0	0	399
British Heart Foundation	0	0	0	0	0	248
Bucks Historic Churches Trust	395	0	0	0	395	0
Bucks Vision MK	627	0	0	0	627	506
Cancer Research	200	0	0	0	200	0
Children's Society	20	0	0	0	20	0
Christian Aid	278	0	0	0	278	0
Community Voices Water Eaton	0	0	0	0	0	483
Dyfi Osprey Project	0	0	0	0	0	416
Freedom from Torture	0	0	0	0	0	347
Healing Hands Network	488	0	0	0	488	310
Macmillan(M Mahon)	0	0	0	0	0	32
MK Bridgebuilder Trust	254	0	0	0	254	48
MK Prison Fellowship	0	0	0	0	0	129
MNDA	440	0	0	0	440	0
National Animal Welfare Trust	342	0	0	0	342	0
Salvation Army	296	0	0	0	296	92
Soroptimist International	510	0	0	0	510	0
Tear Fund	50	0	0	0	50	41
The Mount Coffee Club	0	0	0	0	0	458
Travis Cat Rescue	462	0	0	0	462	0
Trinity Centre - Internet Café	0	0	0	0	0	3,986
Water Aid Donation	0	0	0	0	0	15
Zimbabwe Housing Project	100	0	0	0	100	0
	4,462	0	0	0	4,462	7,510
Total Charitable activities	158,007	3,816	18,372	710	180,905	159,560

Note 7: Investments

	Quantity	Value December 2022 £	Movement in Valuation £	Value December 2023 £
WotG Church House (901526)	4,889	101,014	9,504	110,518
WotG Levi Trust (910581)	818	16,901	1,590	18,491
Little Woolstones Church Hall (892591)	1,038	21,447	2,018	23,465
Simpson Church Hall (915131)	218	4,504	424	4,928
WotG Church Trust (913391)	181	3,740	351	4,091
WotG Church Trust (COIF) (906017)	1,245	22,633	2,080	24,713
Total Investments	8,389	170,239	15,967	186,206

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Designated funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Endowments 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Full Year funds 2022 £
Note 8: Debtors						
Gift Aid tax recoverable	4,462	2,504	188	0	7,154	4,057
Small Donations recoverable	1,049	0	15	0	1,064	1,046
Amounts falling due within one year	160	0	0	0	160	354
	5,671	2,504	203	0	8,378	5,457
Note 9: Creditors						
Amounts falling due within one year	0	0	0	0	0	48
Other creditors (Weddings)	1,464	0	0	0	1,464	1,556
	1,464	0	0	0	1,464	1,604
Note 10a: Unrestricted funds						
	Balance at 1st Jan 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31st Dec 2023 £	Net Movement £
Undesignated fund						
WEP General	23,824	12,505	(117,919)	106,056	24,466	642
Christ the Vine	3,759	9,899	(11,646)	(5,506)	(3,494)	(7,253)
Holy Trinity	(1,107)	5,004	(1,864)	(3,729)	(1,696)	(589)
St Mary's	(2,990)	56,246	(12,760)	(51,123)	(10,627)	(7,637)
St Mary's Church Hall	(368)	937	(1,654)	0	(1,085)	(717)
St Thomas	3,267	29,922	(13,022)	(18,536)	1,631	(1,636)
Trinity Church Fishermead	11,137	27,324	(2,348)	(25,090)	11,023	(114)
Parish General Funds	37,522	141,837	(161,213)	2,072	20,218	(17,304)
Note 10b: Unrestricted funds						
Designated funds						
Adults, Babies and Children Group	1,288	444	(596)	0	1,136	(152)
Benevolent Fund	79	3	0	0	82	3
CVCC Mission	964	38	(701)	0	301	(663)
Homeless Group	5,141	45	0	(5,186)	0	(5,141)
Larder Group	0	827	(266)	5,186	5,747	5,747
Ministry Fund	1,763	12,500	0	0	14,263	12,500
URC Manse	9,899	5,932	(3,027)	0	12,804	2,905
WEP Property	2,204	0	0	0	2,204	0
Woolstone Chancel Trust	6,319	248	0	0	6,567	248
Youth Fund	3,234	127	0	0	3,361	127
Parish Designated Funds	30,891	20,164	(4,590)	0	46,465	15,574
Total Unrestricted funds	68,413	162,001	(165,803)	2,072	66,683	(1,730)
Note 11: Restricted funds						
Christ the Vine: Building	2,475	7,186	(1,782)	0	7,879	5,404
Christ the Vine: Gift Day	883	35	0	0	918	35
Christ the Vine: Legacy	5,062	198	0	0	5,260	198
Coffee Hall: Flood Relief	1,246	49	0	0	1,295	49
St Mary's: AV	7,369	2,865	(10,161)	0	73	(7,296)
St Mary's: Clock	2,513	99	0	0	2,612	99
St Mary's: Fabric	31,671	5,009	(180)	0	36,500	4,829
St Mary's: Lawnmower	0	250	0	0	250	250
St Thomas': Building	(555)	5,069	(6,399)	0	(1,885)	(1,330)
St Thomas': Legacy	5,093	200	0	0	5,293	200
Trinity Church: Projects	1,018	40	0	0	1,058	40
Trinity Church: Restricted	249	10	0	0	259	10
	57,024	21,010	(18,522)	0	59,512	2,488

Note 12: Endowment Dividends

	Balance at 1st Jan 2023	Dividends Received	Expenditure	Dividends Distributed	Balance at 31st Dec 2023	Net Movement
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Woughton-on-the-Green (WotG) Church House (901526)	33,015	3,021	(710)	0	35,326	2,311
WotG Levi Trust (910581)	0	505	0	(505)	0	0
Little Woolstones Church Hall (892591)	0	641	0	(641)	0	0
Simpson Church Hall (915131)	0	135	0	(135)	0	0
WotG Church Trust (913391)	0	112	0	(112)	0	0
WotG Church Trust (COIF) (906017)	0	679	0	(679)	0	0
Dividend Income retained	33,015	5,093	(710)	(2,072)	35,326	2,311
Investment Capital Value						
Movement in Valuation	7	170,239	15,967	0	0	186,206
		203,254	21,060	(710)	(2,072)	221,532
						18,278

The Trust Funds have been assigned to new managers. This does not change the performance or purpose of the funds. The funds will continue to be distributed in line with the terms of the trust documents so there will be no change in the way the Partnership can use the dividends. The new fund managers have allocated new fund numbers which have been appended to each investment above.

The Woughton-on-the-Green Church House annual income from investments is used for the general activities of the Woughton Parish

The Woughton-on-the-Green Church – Levi Trust is a fund applied in or towards an organist and tuning and minor repairs to the organ at St. Mary's Church, Woughton-on-the-Green.

The Dividends Received from Little Woolstones Church Hall and Simpson Church Hall investments are passed back to the respective DCCs to be used by the local churches.

The purpose of the remaining Woughton-on-the-Green Church Trusts is the repair and upkeep of the fabric of St. Mary's Church, Woughton-on-the-Green.

2023 Statement of cash flows

	Current Year Total funds £	Prior year Total funds £
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(9,853)	3,607
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	9,861	6,395
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		
Proceeds from sale of investments	0	0
Purchase of investments		
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	9,861	6,395
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	8	10,002
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	154,599	144,597
Change in cash and cash equivalents due to exchange rate movements	0	0
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	154,607	154,599

2023 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	Current Year £	Prior Year £
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	19,036	(11,258)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	0	0
(Gains)/losses on investments	(15,967)	22,672
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(9,861)	(6,395)
Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets	0	0
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	0	0
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(2,921)	1,248
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(140)	(2,660)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(9,853)	3,607

2023 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	Current Year £	Prior Year £
Cash in hand at close of year	154,607	154,599
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	0	0
Overdraft facility repayable on demand	0	0
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	154,607	154,599

WEP ADULT MEMBERSHIP ROLL 2024 (2023 numbers shaded)

WEP ADULT MEMBERSHIP ROLL 2023 (2022 numbers shaded)							
Church	Anglican	Baptist	Methodist	URC	Ecumenical	Other	Totals
Christ the Vine	9	2	4	2	5	6	28
	10	2	5	3	7	10	37
St Thomas'	26	0	2	1	3	0	32
	21	1	3	1	6	2	34
St Mary's	47	2	3	4	0	12	68
	48	2	4	4	0	12	70
Trinity	7	5	5	0	2	13	32
	6	5	5	0	3	16	35
Woolstone	6	3	0	0	0	1	10
	10	2	0	0	0	1	13
Totals for 2024	95	12	14	7	10	32	170

Totals By Year	Anglican	Baptist	Methodist	URC	Ecumenical	Other	WEP Total
2024	95	12	14	7	10	32	170
2023	95	12	17	8	16	41	189
2022	98	13	21	10	18	43	203
2021	100	13	21	10	18	41	203
2020	99	14	25	6	26	42	211
2019	99	13	20	7	30	47	216
2018	91	15	15?	5	30	39	194
2017	85	14	18	5	28	31	181
2016	86	20	19	7	29	28	189
2015	99	19	20	7	26	31	202
2014	92	16	25	5	27	28	193
2013	91	15	29	2	24	33	194
2012	99	14	25	3	27	32	200

Appointments at Partnership Level 2023-24

Trustees of Woughton Ecumenical Partnership and Woughton PCC Members 2023-24

Representing	WEP Trustee	WEP + PCC	PCC Member
Christ the Vine Community Church	David Hart		
Woolstone Church		John Howard	
St Mary's Church	Geoffrey Miller	Di Miller	
St Thomas' Church		Lynn Castle Iola Samuels	
Trinity Church	Marilyn Mahon	Don Mahon	
Team ex officio, other ex officio, co-opted		Rev. Paul Norris Rev. Ian Herbert Rev. Nicola Vidamour Rev. Charmaine Howard	David Bird

Deanery Synod Representative Di Miller, Kim Weston

Church Wardens

Christ the Vine Community Church

Woolstone Church
John Howard

St Thomas' Church
Iola Samuels

St Mary's Church
David Bird

Methodist Circuit

Lynn Castle; Marilyn Mahon

Netherfield Partnership
corporate member

Ian Herbert

Trustee of Trinity Centre

Don Mahon

WOUGHTON ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

England & Wales - Charity number 1172298

Accounts

Annual Report and Accounts



Charity Number: 1172298



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
of the WOUGHTON ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP
at St Mary's Church – Woughton on the Green
Tuesday 9th May 2023 at 7:30pm

Ecumenical Vision Statement

For the Woughton Ecumenical Parish

In the light of the prayer of Christ 'may they all be one... that the world may believe that you sent me...' (Jn 17.21) and the injunction to 'spare no effort to make fast with bonds of peace the unity which the Spirit gives' (Eph 4:3), members of Woughton Ecumenical Parish commit themselves to work together in serving God's mission locally and beyond.

Members of the Parish, drawn from the four participating denominations (The Church of England, The Methodist Church, The Baptist Union and The United Reformed Church) and from other Christian traditions, seek to respond to the call of God through Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Our life together and our mission are shaped by our core values:

- Spiritually alive;
- Together in Christ;
- Reaching out;
- Welcoming all;
- Using our gifts;
- Being sustainable.

Each of our five local congregations gives expression to the above, in its worship, ministry and mission.

AGENDAS for
Annual Parochial Church Meeting of Woughton Parish,
Parochial Church Council of Woughton Parish,
Annual Congregational Meeting of Woughton Ecumenical Partnership,
And 46th Meeting of the Woughton Ecumenical Partnership Trustees
At 7.30pm on Wednesday 9th May 2023
St. Mary's – Woughton on the Green

Prayers led by the Team.

Rev Ian Herbert in the Chair for items 1 and 2.

1. Annual Parochial Church Meeting
 - a. Approval of Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting 5th April 2022
 - b. Nominations for churchwardens
 - d. Election of PCC members as nominated in Appendix A
 - e. Decision on number of elected PCC members for the year 2023/24
 - f. Appointment of Deanery Synod representative
2. Parochial Church Council Meeting
 - a. Co-option of PCC member
 - b. Election of PCC Secretary
 - c. Proposal that the WEP Treasurer should act as the PCC Treasurer for the year

Mike Davidge in the Chair

3. Annual Congregational Meeting
 - a. Approval of the Minutes of Annual Congregational Meeting of WEP held on 11th May 2022
 - b. Presentation of the Report
 - c. Presentation of the Accounts for 2022
 - d. Appointment of the Independent Examiner
 - e. Ex-officio Trustees
 - f. Election of Trustees of the Woughton Ecumenical Partnership (two only required)
 - g. Appointment of the Methodist Circuit Representative
 - h. Appointment of a Representative to Netherfield Partnership.

Rev Ian Herbert in the Chair

4. Meeting of Trustees
 - a. Election of the lay Chair, Secretary and Treasurer
 - b. Election of Trustee for the Trinity Centre, Fishermead
 - c. Election of the Member of the Trinity Centre Management Committee
 - d. Date of next two meetings

Appendix A to the Agenda

Appendix B

Nominations for appointments at Partnership level 2023-2024

Annual Parochial Church Meeting:

PCC Members <i>all for one year 2023-24</i>	Lynn Castle (St T) Irene Longstaff (TF) Don Mahon (TF) Di Miller (St M)						
PCC Ex-Officio <i>to note</i>	Revd Ian Herbert, Revd Paul Norris,						
Church Wardens	<table> <tr> <td><i>St Mary's</i></td> <td>David Bird</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>St Thomas'</i></td> <td>Iola Samuels</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Woolstone</i></td> <td>John Howard</td> </tr> </table>	<i>St Mary's</i>	David Bird	<i>St Thomas'</i>	Iola Samuels	<i>Woolstone</i>	John Howard
<i>St Mary's</i>	David Bird						
<i>St Thomas'</i>	Iola Samuels						
<i>Woolstone</i>	John Howard						
Deanery Synod Representatives	Di Miller, Kim Weston						

Parochial Church Council:

Co-opt to PCC	Revd. Charmaine Howard Revd. Nicola Vidamour
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Annual Congregational Meeting:

WEP Trustees
For three years to 2023

For information: *Continuing Trustees*

Lynn Castle (St T)⁽²⁰¹⁹⁾
Iola Samuels (St.T)⁽²⁰²¹⁾
Mike Davidge (Chair of Trustees)⁽²⁰¹⁹⁾
David Hart (CtV)⁽²⁰¹⁹⁾
Don Mahon (TF)⁽²⁰¹⁹⁾
Marilyn Mahon (TF)⁽²⁰¹⁹⁾
Di Miller (St M)⁽²⁰¹⁹⁾
John Howard (W)⁽²⁰¹⁹⁾

For Election Geoffrey Miller (St. M)

Ex-Officio Trustees

Revd. Ian Herbert, Revd. Nicola Vidamour, Revd. Paul Norris,
Revd. Charmaine Howard

Methodist Circuit (2) Lynn Castle; Marilyn Mahon, Don Mahon

Netherfield Partnership (corporate member) *Revd Ian Herbert / Rev.Charmaine Howard*

Trustees Meeting:

Trustee of Trinity Centre	Ian Herbert/Don Mahon
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Other Appointments and Representatives 2023-2024

Ministry Team

Revd Ian Herbert
Revd Paul Norris
Revd Charmaine Howard
Revd Nicola Vidamour

Other Ordained Ministers

Revd Christopher Bell

Preachers and worship leaders

Lynn Castle
Mike Davidge
Judy Rapp

Safeguarding Officers

St. Mary's – Kim Weston
St. Thomas – Nicola Vidamour
Holy Trinity - ???
Trinity Fishermead - Irene Longstaff
Christ the Vine - ???

URC Synod Representatives (appointed by local churches – 1 per church)

**Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
of Woughton Parish on 5th April 2022
St. Mary's Church Woughton on the Green & via Zoom**

Present: Ian Herbert Geoffrey Miller
Paul Norris Lynn Castle
Nicola Vidamour Kim Weston
Charmaine Howard David Hart
Susan Newby Melania Hart
John Howard Sue Smith
Mike Davidge Lynn Davidge
Iola Samuels Norma Baldwin
Pat Hodges Chris Bell
Don Mahon
Marilyn Mahon
Jayne Carvell-Taylor

Apologies: Beccy Herbert, Angy Norris
Sue Smith

Rev Paul Norris led us in Worship.

Rev Ian Herbert in the chair for Items 1 & 2

1. Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- a) Due to the incorrect version of the PCC Report in the main APCM Report, Ian invited Revd. Nicola Vidamour to read out the correct report so that members could agree the correct report. After reading, the report was then requested to be accepted as a true and accurate record of 2021, this was proposed by Mike Davidge and seconded by Kim Weston. All in favour.
- b) Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 6th April 2021 were proposed for approval by Norma Baldwin and seconded by Lynn Castle. All in favour.
- c) Nominations for churchwardens. Nominations have been received for David Bird from St Mary's Church, John Howard from Woolstone Church and Iola Samuels from St Thomas' Church. There was no nomination for Christ the Vine. These nominations were proposed by Kim Weston and seconded by Norma Baldwin. All in favour.
- d) Election of PCC members. Appendix A with corrections was proposed by Kim Weston and seconded by Lynn Castle. All in favour.
- e) The number of elected PCC members for the year 2022/23 to be decided. The meeting decided to keep the number at two from each congregation.
- f) Appointment of representatives for the Anglican Deanery Synod. Kim Weston and Di Miller and Don Mahon as the Parish was elected as the third representative from WEP.

2. Parochial Church Meeting

- a) Election of PCC secretary. Di Miller had advised that she would be stepping down as Secretary at this meeting. Ian advised that that Tim May (Partnership Administrator had agreed to act as PCC and Trustee Secretary. Charmain Howard questioned how that works, as her understanding of the constitution stated that an individual would need to be a member of the church to fulfil the role of secretary, as this was an officer's post. It was agreed that Tim May would therefore be the PCC and Trustee Minute taker, all in favour of Tim's willingness to stand for one more year and was proposed by David Bird and seconded by Marilyn Mahon. All in favour. The decision on the Secretary role would be discussed at the first Trustee meeting.
- b) Proposal that the Don Mahon remain as the WEP Treasurer and Treasurer for the PCC for the year. Revd. Paul Norris proposed and seconded by Kim Weston. All in favour.

Meeting ended at 7.45pm.

**Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of Woughton Ecumenical
Partnership held on 11th May 2022 at St Thomas' Church Simpson**

Present. 53 members of the Partnership were present in person.
Apologies. There were 8 apologies recorded.

Mike Davidge in the Chair for the Annual Congregational Meeting

- a) Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting held on 6th April 2021. Approval of these Minutes was proposed by Mike Davidge and seconded by Lynn Castle. All in agreement.
- b) Presentation of the Annual Report. Mike thanked everyone for their reports and offered people the chance to talk to other church representatives from around the Parish during the tea break afterwards.

The Reports were proposed for acceptance by Mike Davidge and seconded by Lynn Castle. All in favour.

- c) Presentation of the Accounts for 2021. Don Mahon reported that the year had ended with a small surplus of £521 which was good news in a difficult year. Despite a gloomy prediction the news is positive because of the generosity of members. More members have converted over to standing orders which makes a big difference. Don appealed for those who had not yet changed to consider doing so. Fund raising appeals have also raised money. The question of Restricted Funds is a live issue to be decided by the Trustees. The allocation of funds will be decided at the next Trustees meeting. In answer to a question Don explained that Gift Aid can only be applicable if the donor pays income tax. He asked that if donors fall out of the tax bracket, could they let him know.

The Finance Report was proposed for acceptance by Mike Davidge and seconded by David Bird. All in agreement. Mike expressed his and our very grateful thanks to Don and Marilyn who give much of their time to the financial affairs of the Partnership.

- d) Appointment of the Independent Examiner. Mike Davidge proposed that Christina Sabucido be appointed to this role again. This was seconded by Jill Strong and all agreed. This year's accounts have been approved and a signed document is available for inspection from Don.
- e) Ex-Officio Trustees. Rev Ian Herbert, Rev Paul Norris, Rev Nicola Vidamour and Rev Charmaine Howard are ex-officio Trustees.
- f) Election of Trustees of the Woughton Ecumenical Partnership. This part of the agenda was chaired by Rev Paul Norris. The new three year period continues now until 2025. The Trustees are nominated from Christ the Vine Community Church, David Hart; from Trinity Fishermead, Don and Marilyn Mahon; from Woolstone, John Howard; from St Mary's, Kim Weston and Di Miller and from St Thomas', Lynn Castle and Lola Samuels. Mike Davidge is a Trustee under the Constitution and his nomination as a Trustee was proposed by Kim Weston and seconded by Lola Samuels. All in agreement. All the Trustee nominations then went to a vote proposed by Barbara Zimmer and seconded by Martin Lever. Everyone present in favour.
- g) Appointment of representatives to the Methodist Area. Marilyn Mahon and Lynn Castle were proposed by Lola Samuels and seconded by John Castle and the meeting agreed. Don Mahon as the WEP Treasurer is invited to join the Methodist Circuit meetings along with the other LEP Treasurers.
- h) Appointment of Representatives to the Netherfield Partnership. Lynn Castle proposed Rev Ian Herbert and Rev Charmaine Howard, seconded by Dawn Flannagan and the meeting agreed unanimously.

The meeting ended at 7.55pm
Rev Paul Norris closed with prayer.

Parochial Church Council Report 2023 -- Di Miller, PCC Secretary

The Woughton Parish has been returning to a normal life after two years of the pandemic. Services have been taking place across the Partnership although Christ the Vine has maintained the streaming service option in addition to attendance. At St Mary's mask wearing became optional and many people chose to do without. The congregation remained in favour of using the small Baptist service glasses for the Communion wine.

In the past year at St Thomas' Iola Samuels as the churchwarden submitted reports. In summary these have related to the continuing problems concerning the large the cracks in the wall of the chancel. Structural engineers have needed to visit every 2 months to check on movement. The VAT bill of £2,142 on the fact finding work was paid by successfully applying to The Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme. Later in year the crack in the chancel wall became much more serious and the window on the south wall was so unstable it needed to be removed. The window embrasure was boarded up. Bucks Historic Churches Trust have been approached for financial help. Fund raising among the church members is being undertaken. A successful application was made to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to have a green plaque at the entrance to the churchyard signifying a war grave. Faculties have been approved for reservations for burial plots in the churchyard and funds have been gathered to employ a gardener to look after the area.

On behalf of St Mary's Church, Churchwarden David Bird has given the reports. There are ongoing problems with damage to the east churchyard wall caused by a tree falling from the hotel grounds and a section of the north wall. Efforts have been made throughout the year to communicate with the hotel owners which have proved fruitless. The hotel is still being used to house asylum seekers.

In the churchyard a Faculty has been obtained for a grave reservation and work has been needed to prune the large cedar tree just outside the porch area as high winds have resulted in damage to its branches.

Simon Head has replaced Brian Baldwin as the Tower Captain. The church clock has been re-engineered and finally shows and strikes the correct time. A replacement gas heater has been installed in the Old Organ Loft (kitchen area). Total cost £2172 inc VAT. It has been necessary to replace light fittings in this area too.

The Church Hall needs to be revalued as progress has been slow. The sale is in the hands of an agency approved by the PCC and the Diocese. The insurance for the building is also under review as it has dropped in value.

Christ the Vine Community Church building is owned by the Diocese. An extension to the dining room is planned and it was agreed by PCC and WEP Trustees, after a DAC meeting, that a grant should be applied for to pay for more architects' drawings and a feasibility study. The new initiative, a Wellbeing Hub was started last year together with the Grapevine which continues to be open every Friday. Electrical work which needed to be done has been paid for by the Archdeacon's Discretionary Fund. Three replacement heaters in the kitchen, dining room and entrance hall have been fitted.

Christ the Vine Church has not been used by the Winter Night Shelter this year as there are insufficient volunteers.

The Fishermead Community Centre continues to work together going forward for a Community Asset Transfer ie a transfer of ownership. It was reported that recent financial turbulence has pushed back the planned transfer. During the year several computers for the digital café were stolen. The insurance company have paid out for the claim. A much more secure method of housing the replacement computers is being arranged as well as CCTV and then the new machines will be bought. The Diocese have paid a grant towards the digital café.

A new initiative has been the setting up of a food larder each Monday run by SOFEA. A café also operates on a Monday with various support organisations holding counselling sessions and this has led to vibrant social interaction.

The Manse on Fishermead was granted a Certificate of Structural Adequacy after subsidence work was done. It is rented out and brings in the income to WEP.

The Community Church at Woolstone. The discussions with the MK Council to make an Asset Transfer in respect of the building have been put on hold indefinitely. The heating system is on the list for upgrade but is still waiting.

The church is planning to hold an Alpha course in early 2023 and is hoping to boost member numbers in so doing. Normal services have resumed.

Churchyard trees have been felled where necessary and the toilets have been refurbished in the summer. Woolstone Management have redecorated the main hall and included the chancel as well.

February 2023
Di Miller
PCC Secretary

Annual Report and Accounts
Woughton Ecumenical Partnership
Foreword

This annual report reviews the life, ministry and activities of Woughton Ecumenical Partnership and its congregations in 2022. The after-effects of the Covid pandemic gradually eased during the year as people felt more confident about meeting together, both for worship and social and fund-raising events. As ever, we owe much to our Ministry team and so many of our members who have worked so hard to restore our sense of Christian community and witness.

Experience gained during lockdowns with online services continues to be used by some of our congregations and some further development of these is planned.

Some of our important community actions returned in 2022, including ABC (the group for parents and toddlers) at Christ the Vine. Experience gained in 2020 working with Woughton Community Council on a food parcel scheme and the successful food larder scheme in Tinkers Bridge led to the opening during 2022 of another food larder on Fishermead with significant involvement from members of Trinity Church and the wider Partnership.

At Christ the Vine, the Wellbeing Hub continued with its aim of bringing together local community and health groups to provide a welcoming and supportive meeting place in a café setting.

On the financial side, we started the year expecting to have to draw quite heavily on our reserves but we ended the year just about in balance, thanks again to generous giving from members throughout the Partnership. Staff costs remain our biggest investment in mission but, as we all know, costs in general have risen dramatically over the last year, particularly on energy and building costs, two of our main areas of expenditure. We are so grateful to all who donate to keep our ministry running but we know the pressures on costs and income will continue with us. Our Treasurer Don Mahon, the district treasurers and the Trustees will continue to address this as a priority for us all as members so that we can take forward our mission in our communities.

There are many challenges facing us but we can be confident that God goes ahead of us. Our ecumenical vision statement reminds us that, as members, we commit ourselves 'to work together in serving God's mission locally and beyond.'

WEP's role is to support all of us in the part we can play in that mission as we 'seek to respond to the call of God through Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit.'

On behalf of the Trustees I want to thank our Ministry team, our volunteer ministers (ordained and lay) and others who lead worship and all those in our churches who do so much to build our life together – those who have worked so hard in such difficult circumstances to maintain our church life and witness.

Mike Davidge
Chair of Trustees

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Annual Report and Accounts 2021

1.	Reference and Administration Details:
1.1	Name: Woughton Ecumenical Partnership, abbreviated to WEP.
1.2	Address: Partnership Office, Christ the Vine Community Church, Jonathans, Coffee Hall, Milton Keynes MK6 5DE Tel 01908 392583. www.woughton.org
1.3	Trustees: Lynn Castle Don Mahon Mike Davidge Marilyn Mahon David Hart Di Miller Rev Ian Herbert Rev Paul Norris Rev Charmaine Howard Iola Samuels John Howard Rev Nicola Vidamour Geoff Miller (co-opted from 4 October 2022) Kim Weston (resigned 6 August 2022)
1.4	Key Personnel: Chair: Mike Davidge Ministry Team: Rev Ian Herbert, Rev Charmaine Howard, Rev Paul Norris, Rev Nicola Vidamour Secretary: Di Miller Treasurer: Don Mahon WEP Administrator: Tim May
1.5	Principal Bankers: CAF Bank, Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and Central Board of Finance of the Church of England.
2.	Structure, Governance and Management:
2.1	Governing documents: Woughton Ecumenical Partnership (WEP) is established as a single congregation local ecumenical partnership. Its governing documents – the Constitution and Schedule – were approved and adopted at the inaugural congregational meeting on 18 October 2016. From this date, WEP replaced the former body known as Woughton Ecumenical Parish. As well as the governing documents, there is a Memorandum of Understanding made between the Bishop of Buckingham, the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Woughton and the Trustees of WEP. WEP is established as a charitable unincorporated association. The Charity Commission registered it as a charity on 28 March 2017 with Registered Charity Number 1172298. A set of Standing Orders (SOs) has been approved by the Trustees. Each one covers a specific aspect of WEP policy. During 2022 the Trustees appointed a working group to carry out a full review of Standing Orders and to report back to the Trustees with recommendations for any changes needed. This exercise will continue in 2023. Standing Financial Instructions (SFIs) form part of the SOs and work is in progress to clarify and expand the matters covered by the SFIs. The SOs and SFIs are drawn up to comply with the governing documents, relevant charity legislation and good practice as promulgated by the Charity Commission as regulator. The SOs all have scheduled review dates and the Trustees review each document as it falls due (or sooner if need arises). New SOs and SFIs are developed when need arises.

2.2	<p>Appointment and training of Trustees: The Trustee Body consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to eleven Trustees elected by the Annual Congregational Meeting (normally for a term of three years) • Ex officio Trustees, being the ministers of the LEP for the time being • Not more than five co-opted Trustees appointed by the Trustees. <p>During 2022, one person was co-opted as a Trustee, the other Trustees are either elected or ex officio.</p> <p>All Trustees have received the Charity Commission guide 'The essential trustee'. Formal training for Trustees is planned but to date none has taken place.</p>
2.3	<p>The organisational structure of WEP and how decisions are made: There are five Local Church Councils (LCCs) whose task is to maintain and develop the life and mission of their local church. The rules governing LCCs are contained in SO No. 8 Local Church Councils. Our practice is to ask each church to nominate up to two Trustees to the Partnership, for approval by the Annual Congregational Meeting. A Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are elected by the Trustees. Members of the Ministry Team are ex officio Trustees. The Trustees have delegated to the Ministry Team matters of ministry and spiritual and pastoral care. There is an Annual Congregational Meeting to receive the Report and Accounts and elect Trustees (if there is a vacancy or a Trustee's term is expiring). The normal business of the Partnership is conducted through regular meetings of the LCCs and the Trustees during the year. Membership data is set out in Appendix 1.</p>
2.4	<p>The relationship between WEP and Milton Keynes Mission Partnership: WEP was a member of Milton Keynes Mission Partnership during 2022. Mission Partnership's aim was to advance the Christian faith by drawing together Christian communities from Milton Keynes and the surrounding areas to further the 'Five Marks of Mission' which had been adopted by the Forum of Churches Together in England. In March 2022 members of Mission Partnership voted to dissolve the organisation (and that process was concluded in 2023). Nicola Vidamour continued as a Trustee of WEP and was a Trustee of Mission Partnership throughout 2022.</p>
2.5	<p>A statement of the major risks to which WEP is exposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate level of voluntary income to support activities contributing to WEP's objectives • Inability to find volunteers to lead activities essential to meeting WEP's objectives • Failure to comply with relevant legislation (of which Health and Safety, Discrimination, including Disability, Safeguarding, Data Protection, Charity and Employment Law are the principal items) • Lack of or inadequate insurance cover to meet all eventualities including loss or damage to buildings and assets or public and employer liability • Inappropriate words or actions of church officers and church members that damage WEP's reputation • Management shortcomings in strategy, organisation, leadership, decision making or communications mean that WEP's objectives are not achieved. <p>The Partnership Trustees act to mitigate all risks.</p>
3.	<p>WEP Aims and Objectives:</p>
3.1	<p>Our purpose As set out in our Governing document, the purpose of the Charity is to advance the Christian faith in the Area of Benefit in accordance with the principles and practices of the Participating Churches.</p> <p>Our Ecumenical Vision Statement In the light of the prayer of Christ 'may they all be one... that the world may believe that you sent me...' (John 17.21) and the injunction to 'spare no effort to make fast with bonds of peace the unity which the Spirit gives' (Ephesians 4:3), members of WEP commit themselves to work together in serving God's mission locally and beyond.</p> <p>Members, drawn from the four participating denominations (The Church of England, The Methodist Church, The Baptist Union and The United Reformed Church) and from other Christian traditions,</p>

	<p>seek to respond to the call of God through Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Our life together and our mission are shaped by our core values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritually alive; • Together in Christ; • Reaching out; • Welcoming all; • Using our gifts; • Being sustainable.
3.2	<p>Our Mission Objectives Each of our five local congregations gives expression to the above, in its worship, ministry and mission. Together across the Partnership we look to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide regular public worship for all who wish to attend. 2. Pray for the well-being of members, adherents and people and organisations in the community. 3. Provide opportunities for children, young people and adults to learn about the Christian faith and its key teaching. 4. Undertake mission activity including both evangelism and service as appropriate. 5. Engage with the local community and other agencies to work towards meeting the needs of the community. 6. Engage in pastoral work for the benefit of members and others. 7. Offer baptism, thanksgiving, naming and blessing, marriage and funeral services for members, adherents and people in the wider community with appropriate preparation and follow-up. 8. Provide facilities and activities with a Christian ethos for the local community including the elderly, young and groups with special needs. 9. Support other charities in the United Kingdom and overseas. 10. Seek God's guidance and direction in all that we do.
3.3	<p>Our continuing objectives</p> <p>District churches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Each district church will challenge itself on how it contributes to achieving the ten Mission Objectives ○ Each district church will continue to develop and review its own mission action plan <p>(District churches may add their own specific objectives reflecting their mission and service.)</p> <p><i>How did we do:</i> Many activities, including worship services, community events and weddings and baptisms returned but with some modifications to meet Covid guidelines. We were delighted that seven people from our congregations were ecumenically confirmed at a service for all the Milton Keynes LEPs. Our churches continued their efforts to keep in touch with members and local communities, particularly those known to be vulnerable, through electronic media, by phone and personal visits where safe to do so.</p> <p>The Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide at least one night's accommodation a week for the Winter Night Shelter scheme ○ Offer Easter Cracked and Christmas Cracked to all local schools with the appropriate year group ○ Encourage members to take up other training courses and to explore more formal training for local ministry <p><i>How did we do:</i> The Winter Night Shelter ran at Christ the Vine for several years but the charity has changed its approach and did not require the facilities for winter 2022-23. Church members helped to establish a new food larder scheme in Fishermead and others continued their involvement with the larder on Tinkers Bridge. At Christ the Vine, the Wellbeing Hub continued, aiming to bring together local community and health groups to provide a welcoming and supportive meeting place in a café setting. The Easter Cracked and Christmas Cracked events for local schools restarted. Some members took advantage of training courses, including specific training on safeguarding.</p>

	<p>Trustees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improve communication within the Partnership through the web site and newsletter and by encouraging cross-Partnership groups and events ○ Provide stewardship support to district churches ○ Introduce text and/or contactless giving to help raise funds for the Partnership ○ Maintain the financial health of the Partnership ○ Ensure that in all things we continue to operate in accordance with charity and other applicable laws and regulations <p><i>How did we do:</i> The weekly newsletter and web site continue as sources of information. Much work was done during the year to revise and update the web site. The new web site is now in operation and further improvements will come during 2023. Cross-Partnership groups and events were not yet fully re-established, although Lent and Holy Week services were able to go ahead while the Annual Congregational Meeting was notably well attended and provided a social time after the business meeting. Members responded with great generosity to maintain a sound financial position in the year and people were encouraged to use standing orders or bank transfers where possible. We introduced contactless giving (but only one church has so far taken this up on a permanent basis) and direct online giving via the CAFDonate web site. Our thanks go to the district church and Partnership treasurers for all their work to encourage good stewardship practices but we know that financial challenges lie ahead and will require continued effort to manage. On applicable laws and regulations, the Trustees continue to give close regard to these. In 2022, we continued to review our own standing orders, including our safeguarding policy, to ensure they reflect good practice. We need to do more work on developing strategy in the context of the Partnership.</p>
4.	<p>Activity and Achievement Reports:</p>
4.1	<p><i>Ministry Team 2022 Ian Herbert, Nicola Vidamour, Paul Norris, Charmaine Howard.</i></p> <p>At the beginning of 2022 our churches were still feeling the effects of the Pandemic. Throughout the year we have seen the majority of our congregation return, although there are still some who are not attending, and some who have moved/passed away and have gone on to other churches, in addition to those who have continued to worship online, although we are seeing new faces in all churches.</p> <p>Our appreciation and thanks must go to all who have supported us in 2022. Revd. Chris Bell, Mike Davidge, John Howard, Lynn Castle, Judy Rapp, and David Hart and Revd. Hannah Akebo Betts, who have supported our five churches by leading services and preaching. This ensured that we were able to maintain a weekly service in all five churches in the partnership.</p> <p>Although our Pastoral work is shared with church members and does not exclusively fall on the shoulders of the Ministry Team, 2022 once again saw an increase in the Ministry Team's involvement with church members and residents living in our communities. 2022 continued with a high number of funerals and the pastoral care associated with the death of a loved one.</p> <p>The beginning of 2022 once again gave us the opportunity for the whole Partnership to come together for teaching and learning about the Christian faith, through online Bible Study groups, Sunday School, and our Lent reflections. The online Tuesday morning Bible Study and Prayer time hosted and led by Revd. Charmaine Howard, the Tuesday afternoon Sunday Sermon Reflection, and monthly Bible Study hosted by Trinity, Fishermead and led by Revd. Chris Bell, Wednesday evening online Compline and evening prayer led by Revd. Ian Herbert. We were once again able to offer an All Soul Service held at St. Thomas' Simpson.</p> <p>Please read the reports from each of the churches if you would like to know more about what each church has been up to.</p> <p>As the churches were all open, we were still faced with the challenge of ensuring a safe environment for all, with some still wearing face masks. Communion continued with no common cup until each church felt comfortable with sharing the chalice.</p>

	<p>Thank you for your patience, support, and help. Without you we would not have been able to ensure the wellbeing of all who attended our churches.</p> <p>2022 saw us again celebrating public worship at our Easter and Christmas services in all five churches, with an increase in numbers attending.</p> <p>The Ministry Team continued to connect with local schools, homes for the elderly, community projects, residents 'associations, Mum's and Toddler groups, community councils and other organizations.</p> <p>See local church reports for details of the strong community links our churches have. Throughout 2022, Tim May our Partnership Administrator continued to support the Ministry Team by taking on the day-to-day administrative tasks. Tim continued to play his part in maintenance of the web site.</p> <p>The Parish has a long tradition of lay involvement. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have supported us by offering and exercising their gifts and skills. Without you we would not have been able to be as effective in our churches and communities as we have been.</p> <p>In 2022 we were able to take 13 weddings, 59 funerals and 9 interments of Ashes. Seven of our church members were confirmed and we took 4 baptisms.</p> <p>As we look to the future, we the Ministry Team, encourage you all to seek God's guidance on how you might be able to support the work of WEP in the local churches and communities we serve.</p> <p>Revd. Ian Herbert, Revd. Paul Norris, Revd. Charmaine Howard, Revd. Nicola Vidamour</p>
4.2	<p>Secretarial Report for WEP ACM 2023</p> <p>During this past year of 2022/23 WEP has returned to a normal life. We have held our Trustees meetings face to face. We are not as yet at full strength with the numbers of possible Trustees. The Annual Congregational Meeting in 2022 was held on two occasions because the first ACM was not quorate. The second attempt attracted a very good turnout of members (53) and was held at St Thomas' on 11th May 2022. The Trustees have met five times during the year. The Minutes of all these meetings are available to read in the Parish Office and online. Services have resumed in the churches, although some churches have offered streaming for their services as a hybrid.</p> <p>Tim May, Parish Administrator, has been working partly remotely and is in the office on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays or by appointment. He has been compiling and sending out the Parish newsletter and Prayer Diary electronically and also paper copies for those who are not on email. Tim has delivered these for which we record our thanks. In addition, over the past year Tim has been taking the Minutes at some of the Trustee meetings and also the PCC meetings. Tim has also offered his expertise through the year with PAT testing of appliances and risk assessments. Our thanks too for his help in collating this annual report. The web site (woughton.org) has been moved during the year to a different hosting site Churches 123. Each church is responsible for its own page and continues to be a valuable resource for people to find out information regarding the Woughton Partnership.</p> <p>Our prayers are now for us to work together as a responsible Partnership. We look for new opportunities to grow and serve God here in Woughton.</p> <p>Di Miller Secretary to WEP. February 2023</p>
4.3	<p>CHRIST THE VINE COMMUNITY CHURCH REPORT</p> <p>2022 has been a challenging year for the church, as we have faced many difficulties. However, through it all, we have continued to develop our relationship with God and our communities.</p>

Our Relationship with God

Despite the challenges of the past year, we have come through lockdown with a strong sense of God's grace and mercy. We have continued to worship both in-person and online on Sundays, praising God for all he has done and is doing in our lives. We have also continued to develop our relationship with God through our weekly Bible Study group, Study Vine. This group meets on Zoom on Thursday mornings and typically includes videos, Bible readings, discussion, reflection, and prayer. The group has been a source of strength and support for us during these challenging times.

Blessings Course

We held the Blessings Course during the summer on Monday mornings for six weeks. This small group met to pray for the church and its communities, and also to walk the streets of Coffee Hall speaking blessings on the people, the shops, offices, schools, places of work and worship and all the homes. The course ended with a fellowship meal.

Mission

As the Blessings Course ended, praying continued and the group became a "Meet Up Mondays" group which meets for prayers followed by board games, table tennis, and a light lunch. There are currently 11 regular attenders and a few more people who attend on occasion.

Grapevine

The Grapevine Wellbeing Hub was created to meet the community's need for such provision and is open on Fridays from 10 am till 2 pm. There are now 30 regular users of the Grapevine Wellbeing Hub who enjoy participating in gardening activities, art and craft, music making, table tennis, and chatting over food and drink in the cafe. A prayer and reflection time is offered at the end of each session and is very well attended.

Dementia Services

The church is currently used by Admiral Nurses to provide support for Carers of people living with dementia. This is a drop-in group where carers can enjoy company with others and chat over tea and coffee.

Coffee Hall Residents Association

We worked with the Coffee Hall Residents Association, (CHRA) the Woughton Community Council, and the Royal British Legion to offer our communities Family Fun Days, Christmas Fairs, and Remembrance Services.

Conclusion

Our verse for the year is 2 Chronicles 7:14. We chose this verse because we understood God's call for us to draw near to him, to make him the centre and focus of our attention and lives. And that requires us to pray, rest in his presence and allow him to heal us, our relationships, and our land. We plan to continue this in 2023.

David Hart April 2023

4.4

Annual Report – Holy Trinity, Woolstone

During our worship in 2022, we introduced a Café style service on the first Sunday of each month. This service has been well received, and on occasions we have seen new faces. We continue with the individual cups for communion, as this is a preference for our congregation. We celebrated in partnership with Woolstone Management Community, Her Majesty the Queens Platinum Jubilee, with a afternoon tea, which saw over 180 people from Woolstone and Springfield joining us for this celebration. Our Christmas services were well attending with our midnight communion service having a congregation of 52, of which 48 were non-church members, we continue to see occasional visitors to our services.

I want to acknowledge here my thanks for the support and encouragement, we as church have received during 2022. To Sue, Sophie, and Judith, for leading us in our Sunday worship, to John and Judy for committing to lead us in worship and preaching the word.

	<p>Friends, thank you for remaining faithful to Holy Trinity, it has been another tough year for many of us, we have lost loved ones, suffered sickness, felt fearful, lonely, and lost, so together let us continue to hold our church, our community, and our city in our prayers as we seek God's vision for us.</p> <p>In Christ</p> <p>Revd. Ian Herbert (Rector)</p>
4.5	<p><u>St Mary's Woughton on the Green report by Kim Weston DCC Chair</u></p> <p>This has been a year of mixed emotions with joy, sadness and uncertainty, a daily occurrence but with God's will, we have maintained our numbers, seen some new beginnings and remained strong as a church and community.</p> <p>The District Church Council DCC has met 9 times during the year, now face to face and have had open discussions and planned ahead, meetings always start with prayer, and I am grateful to Di Miller for being our minute secretary.</p> <p>David Bird, our Church warden, is well supported in his role by Jean Mattinsley and between them and the Baldwins, and all the other teams, garden, cleaners, flower arrangers, the Church and grounds are kept in good condition and problems dealt with as quickly as possible.</p> <p>Obviously our own AGM report was lengthy so these are the bullet points of it.</p> <p><u>Worship and community</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services continued in the new format, post Covid and are well attended. • The music group and organist give their time and talents for a variety of services and Jean supports St Thomas's also. • Junior church, Lynn Davidge and Chrissie Baldwin, lead a small group of children with activities and we display their work for all to see. Thank you to them and their helpers and it has been a joy to see the children develop. • Audio visual, we hope that very shortly the system will be fully functional, as we have done fund raising successfully throughout the year, it has been a long road but we believe that it will be a real asset. • We were delighted that we had six members confirmed in November 2022. • Occasional offices, 7 weddings, 4 Baptisms, 1 funeral, 4 interment of ashes, 2 memorial service 4 Blessings. <p><u>Practical Issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We sprung a leak on a mains pipe outside the chancel and it was on the AWA side of the meter, it has been repaired and we are still waiting the finishing work to be done, but the weather has been against them. • The Weekly Pew sheet with local information is produced by Ruth Davis and I would like to thank her for this weekly update, it is invaluable. • The Cedar Tree needed to have some urgent work done, as we lost several branches during the winter winds and a large branch was getting very long and was just touching the chancel roof, we had to apply for permission on this protected tree and as soon as it was gained, the work was carried out. • We needed new lighting in the organ loft as the holders had deteriorated and did not pass inspection and were replaced with LED. • We had to replace the outside tap, as this had been damaged due to misuse, the new one seems to be proving to be easier. • We have continued to maintain our building and grounds but still face a situation over the walls due to lack of response from the Hotel which occurred once the building was taken over by the Home Office. We will endeavour to get a resolution on this as soon as possible. The lighting in the car park has also not been sorted.

- Church Hall , the progress on this has been slow and is in the hands of Oxford Diocese , however any maintenance and care have been taken care of.

Mission, Outreach, and Fundraising

- “Open for You” continues on a Saturday, 10 am to 12 noon , we have a small band of regulars , for chat and refreshment and visitors who come in to see and are surprised by what they find within our old walls.
- We have had a couple of fundraising events that have been very successful in the form of an Afternoon Tea and Flower show in July.
- Winter Welcome, in Sept which was done jointly with the community, but all the funds came to us, these were well supported .
- The Walkers come regularly now and provide an opportunity for friendship and provide much needed funds
- We are blessed with keen preserve makers, Angy and Val and Jean`s Cards, which give a boost to funds.
- The Annual National Remembrance Service was well attended by the Village and wreaths were laid .

My thanks to Rev Paul Norris for his continued ministry to us all and for the whole congregation for their regular membership and support during what has been a busy year again.

4.6

St. Thomas’ ACM 2023

Minister’s Report

It seems appropriate that the death and resurrection of Lazarus was the lectionary gospel reading for today as the death and funerals of our sister, Alison and our brothers, John and Eric, are still very live and poignant memories in my heart and mind and soul as I look back on the last year. We have wept, as the friends and family of Lazarus did, and we have proclaimed together that Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

2022 will also be remembered because of the death of the Queen. Earlier in the year, we had a wonderful celebration of her Platinum Jubilee, complete with knitted flowers and crown, and Eric as our Archbishop!

Iola’s report has already mentioned many other highlights of the year – as well as the ongoing issues with the chancel. I know that all of you will want to echo my thanks to Iola for her exemplary service as church warden – and to assure her of our continuing prayers for her daughter, Rebecca and all the family.

I also want to express gratitude to Paul le Sueur, Lynn Castle and Linda Kirk for their support with leading worship; to say thank you for the music to Mike, Matthew, Megan, Alan and Jean Mattinsley - and to Hilary and the recently formed choir; to Pat for organising the concerts and quizzes; to all the members of the DCC and particularly to Ruth who is an outstanding secretary and to Mike, our financial consultant; to everyone who helps with providing refreshments and clearing up afterwards, counting money, cleaning, giving out books, putting up hymn numbers, arranging flowers, looking after the churchyard, running the walkers’ teas, singing hymns with our friends across the road, and offering support for weddings, baptisms and funerals. And I want to thank all of you not just for what you do but for who you are as individuals and for who we are together as a Christian community. I feel part of the body of Christ in this place and that is a gift and a joy.

I am looking forward to another year of ministry amongst you and I thank God for this church – both the building and the people.

Grace and peace.

Rev. Nicola Vidamour

25th March 2023

Church Warden's report for St Thomas' Church ACM 26th March 2023

Once again "thank you" to you all for your support during this past year. Thank you also to Rev Nicola for her guidance and leadership, and to Ruth our capable secretary.

The Chancel, the large cracks in the walls remain!

We have spent more money on investigative work and now the architect thinks that the problems may be caused by the large number of trees that surround the chancel. We are waiting further advice from an arboriculturist. A leaded glass window slipped out and this is now boarded and made safe.

Some flashing on the north side of the church now needs repairing. We are waiting for a quote for the work and for the cost of scaffolding.

The Rev Paul Le Sueur celebrated the 60th Anniversary of ordination in June. A lovely celebration.

The churchyard is looking good. The gardener worked hard following the year of biodiversity. Pat arranged a quiz for the "gardening fund" and members made donations. Thank you to everyone who made this happen.

Reverend Nicola celebrated the launch of her new book "Where Two rivers Meet" on the 2nd July. Her mother, family members, her friends from her school days, friends from her professional life and many of us from of St. Thomas' Church all enjoyed this book launch.

A new sound system was installed into the church in October. This was an anonymous donation from a very good friend of St Thomas' church.

We all thought that Alison Lucas was recovering from her surgery, when sadly she died in September. She is now at rest in St Thomas' churchyard. We also lost John Castle in September.

Eric's Coles last public duty was laying the wreath on Remembrance Day. Just before Christmas Eric became ill and was admitted to hospital. At 96 years Eric died peacefully. A fund was set up in Eric's memory to help with the cost of the major repairs to the chancel. This fund now stands at £1,686 [inclusive of Gift Aid]. We are also planning to purchase new hymn books in memory of Eric.

Philip Coppen was persuaded to have his beard shaved! This raised £770 in sponsorship for the Building Fund.

Our visits to the Day Centre in Simpson continue each month. Rev Nicola and five members from St Thomas take percussion instruments to the Day Centre. The clients and the staff join in the hymn singing.

In December the children from Charles Warren Academy held their Christmas concert in Church. The atmosphere was wonderful with Mums and Dads all enjoyed the Christmas Spirit.

The making of Christingles. The uniformed organisations [guides Scouts] joined us in Church to make Christingles. The young people and their leaders had a great fun.

Thanks to Pat who continues to run Quizzes for our Church funds, the gardening fund and other charities.

This past year has been busy, we have welcomed new members, and, enjoyed fellowship and fun.

Iola Samuels Church Warden

4.7

Trinity Church, Fishermead

In March 2022 we launched the Community Larder, and over the course of 2022 we saw the numbers increase. The Community Larder has enabled the team of committed volunteers to interact and build relationships with those living in our community. A huge thanks to Don & Marilyn Mahon, Chris & Ann Bell, Kim Weston, Irene and Ophelia and those from the

	<p>community who occasionally support us. Over 2022 we've seen our congregation increase with new members joining, although there is no regular pattern at the moment. Our online sermon reflection on a Tuesday, monthly Bible Study and Evening Prayer/Compline remains with a faithful few. Our children's work supported by Marilyn and Ann, for whom we give thanks, for their continued commitment with a small number of children. Highlight of 2022, our Harvest Service, where the congregation joined together in clearing and removing garden waste from the Trinity Centre garden. Easter, Advent and Christmas service were of great joy, as we saw members of our congregation returning.</p> <p>I want to acknowledge here my thanks for the support and encouragement we as church have received during 2022. To Don and Jill, for leading us in our Sunday worship, to Chris and Hannah for committing to lead us in worshiping and preaching the word. To Chris for leading us our online Tuesday afternoon Bible reflection and first Sunday of the month Bible Study, and to Ann for taking on the role of hospitality and refreshments. To Marilyn, Don, Gabriel and Elizabeth, for setting the church up, and for all those who help pack away the church, and setup for the Larder.</p> <p>Friends, thank you for remaining faithful to Trinity, it has been another tough year for many of us, we have lost loved ones, suffered sickness, felt fearful, lonely and lost, so together let us continue to hold our church, our community and our city in our prayers as we seek God's vision for us.</p> <p>In Christ</p> <p>Revd. Ian Herbert (Rector)</p>
4.8	<p>Marriage in the Parish</p> <p>Please refer to Ministers Report</p>
4.9	<p>Baptism and Thanksgiving Naming and Blessings:</p> <p>Please Refer to Ministers Report</p>
4.10	<p>Bereavement Care:</p> <p>Please refer to Ministers Report</p>
4.11	<p>Adults, Babies and Children (ABC):</p> <p>ABC has been held in Christ the Vine for many years, and we as a Partnership thank Nikki and Anna for the quality of their work. The range of activities provided for the group is extensive, and there are now 20 regular children (plus their adults) attending. We are committed to supporting and helping this community to grow.</p>
4.12	<p>The Netherfield Partnership Limited (NP Ltd):</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>
4.13	<p>Webmaster's Report for 2023 AGM</p> <p>In the early part of the year, the website continued much as before with content being posted as and when it was received.</p> <p>During the year, the Trustees decided that they would like a more modern and mobile-device-friendly website and the Communications Group was tasked to develop this under the direction of David Hart. The new website on Church 123 was authorised to go live at the November 2022 Trustees meeting.</p> <p>Geoffrey Miller, Webmaster</p>

Safeguarding Report for 2023 APCM

Safeguarding Policy

We continue to follow the Methodist Safeguarding Policy. The full version is available here: https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/28840/safeguarding_policy_and_procedures_for_the_methodist_church_in_britain-march_2023.pdf

A shorter version – which should be on the website and on the noticeboard of every local church – is in the process of being reviewed and will hopefully be available soon.

Resignation of Safeguarding Lead

Kim Weston resigned as safeguarding lead with immediate effect on 29th December 2022. We would like to express our appreciation to Kim for taking on this role and for the work she did during her time in office. Revd Nicola Vidamour is currently covering this role but we urgently need to find a new lay person to take on this responsibility.

DBS Checks

These are valid for five years. Tim May or Nicola Vidamour are authorised to do the online applications and document checks. All those who have substantial contact (i.e. more than handing someone a cup of coffee or a hymnbook) with children, young people and vulnerable adults requires a DBS check. Anyone who preaches or takes a service also needs to have a DBS check and complete the relevant training.

Training

The Methodist Circuit runs Foundation Training sessions regularly and a number of people from WEP have attended these in the last year. This needs renewing every four years. There is now a new Advanced Training which is obligatory for the roles listed below. Thankfully, those who have done the Anglican Church Leadership Module (formerly known as C2) do not need to do the Methodist Advanced Training. Once the Advanced Training has been done, the Foundation Training does not need to be repeated/renewed.

- Church Wardens
- Safeguarding Leads
- Those in paid or volunteer roles working with children, young people and vulnerable adults
- Lay people exercising pastoral leadership in a local church
- Preachers and worship leaders

Nicola Vidamour

5. Financial Review:

5.1 Independent Examiner:



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the
accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees	Woughton Ecumenical Partnership		
On accounts for the year ended	31st December 2022	Charity no (if any)	1172298
	Set out on pages 25 to 36		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended ...

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

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

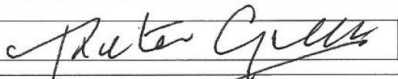
Independent examiner's statement
[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. *Delete [] if not applicable.*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (~~other than that disclosed below~~*) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:  Date: 8th Aug. 2023
Name: PETER GREEN

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

IER

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34 North Twelfth Street
MILTON KEYNES
MK9 3BT
Oct 2018

A statement of the principal financial policies including reserves:**1 Principal accounting policies****Trustees' responsibility in relation to the financial statements**

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- 1) select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- 2) make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- 3) state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- 4) prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Reserves policy

Only the general fund meets the Charity Commission's definition for reserves, resulting in reported reserves of £37,522 at 31 December 2022. The trustees seek to maintain reserves at not less than three months' general fund expenditure (i.e. £35,936 based on 2022 expenditure), believing that this provides a prudent buffer against unforeseen spends. Sudden serious income shortfall is not seen as a major risk as the majority of the Partnership's income is derived from a large number of donors as well as fees and premises lettings, none of which is individually significant. Although no single donor, on their own, is significant it should be noted that four Partnership couples deliver just over a fifth of total Partnership income.

1 Accounting policies**(a) Basis of accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102. In preparing the financial statements the Partnership follows best practice as set out in the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" effective January 2015.

(b) Basis of consolidation

These financial statements consolidate the financial results of the various activities of Woughton Ecumenical Partnership on a line-by-line basis. Certain of these activities are not directly managed by the trustees but delegated to groups within the Partnership. These activities have been accounted for as branches and the financial results shown within separate designated funds.

(c) Incoming resources

Voluntary income is recognised when received. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Grants (including grants for the purchase of fixed assets) are recognised in full in the year in which they have been received. Each grant is disclosed within the category of income that is most appropriate to the activity it is intended to support.

Incoming resources from charitable activities is recognised when the activity giving rise to the income takes place.

Investment income is recognised on an accruals basis.

(d) Resources expended

Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis, inclusive of VAT which cannot be recovered.

Grants & donations payable are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which the Partnership decides they should be made. Accruals are made if the payment is not made until the

following year. In all cases where such accruals have been made, either the details of the grant or donation have been communicated to the beneficiary before the end of the year or the payment is the result of a specific appeal.

(e) Fund accounting

Charity law requires the net assets of the Partnership to be accounted for within a number of funds. The Partnership operates the following two types of funds.

Unrestricted general funds

These are funds that can be used in accordance with the Partnership's charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

- **General Fund**

This is the fund through which the normal operating activities of the Partnership are recognised.

- **Delegated funds**

With the exception of the URC Manse and Ministry Fund these funds are not directly managed by the trustees but by groups delegated to run and oversee these activities on behalf of the Partnership and its trustees. These funds are shown in the Designated Fund column of the financial statements

Following the lifting of restrictions Adults, Babies and Children Group (ABC) have returned to normal operations remaining alert to any guidance changes should they arise. The lockdown meant there was a development of alternative support for the homeless served by the Soup Run so the team have decided to cease their activities.

- **Designated Funds**

These are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects. Currently the Partnership has no major plans that might require designations. On the resumption of services in April 2021, the congregation of Christ the Vine elected to prioritise their local mission plans over their local running costs and obligations to the wider Partnership and designated a portion of their regular weekly offertory to achieve their mission aims.

Restricted Funds

These are funds that can only be used for specific purposes within the Partnership's objects. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific projects or purposes.

These expendable funds are operated by the local church councils but overseen by the trustees or (where required by Church of England rules and mostly relating to building matters) the Parochial Church Council. The income and expenditure of these funds are shown in the Restricted Fund column of the financial statements.

There are a number of funds currently in operation in the Partnership with most operated by the churches.

Christ the Vine currently have three ongoing funds.

Gift Day: Donations made specifically for local investment, mission and support to Christian charities. There were no spends against this fund during 2022.

Building Fund: gifts and donations were received throughout 2022 in order to build the fund needed to pay for building issues as they arise or are identified by the church council. The urgent electrical inspection, broken window and radiator repairs were the main spends during the financial year.

Legacy: the church received a legacy from a former member for church purposes during 2022.

Suspense: The CVCC church members had decided at a congregational meeting how their offertory was to be split signing declarations to affirm this decision. However, no approval had been sought from the trustees either before or at the time the decision was made. The offertory was temporarily held in suspense from the date the trustees were advised the church had made its decision until the formal presentation to the WEP trustees. The funds were then distributed in accordance with the instructions issued by the trustees.

Flood Relief: Following flooding in Coffee Hall a fund was set up to support those who would not have the ability to pay for the repair and recovery work. This is operated by the WEP trustees in partnership with the local Parish Council. There was no need to call on the fund during the financial year.

	<p>St Mary's have received donations for specific major developments or repairs to the church building at Woughton on the Green. There are three ongoing funds and these are as follows:</p> <p>Audio: There was only the purchase of a microphone stand during 2022 but gifts, donations and fundraising events continue to generate the funds necessary for the acquisition of the Audio Visual equipment.</p> <p>Clock: a donation was originally made for the repair or replacement of the tower clock mechanism. The original donors agreed that the funds remaining, following the mechanism installation, could be retained and used at the discretion of the Church Council. The fund was used to pay for some minor maintenance work on the clock mechanism.</p> <p>Fabric: a gas heater and ceramic hob were replaced during 2022. The congregation continue to donate for the upkeep of the main church building, tower and churchyard.</p> <p>St Thomas' started a building fund in 2015 for the purposes of fabric and churchyard restoration. The funds have been generated through fundraising events, grant applications and donations. It was originally created to acquire a new noticeboard and repair the paths. The fund is being utilized to pay for continuing inspections in order to identify the source of the subsidence. The movements caused by the subsidence has necessitated minor repairs to keep the building intact and protected from the elements. Quizzes, concerts, donations and grant applications are generating the cash needed to pay for the completion of the inspection that will identify what is required to sure up the site and protect the building.</p> <p>A legacy received specifically for local St Thomas' projects has not been used during 2022.</p> <p>Trinity received a gift, in 2016, to be used for local activities. The use is to be determined by the Church Council. The fund was used to purchase polo shirts and jackets in 2022.</p> <p>The Baptist Association grant is still to be used. It is still intended to proceed with the project for the young people of Fishermead. The fall out from the pandemic continued to be a delaying factor during the financial year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endowments <p>These are permanent funds. The income and expenditure of these funds is shown in the Endowment Fund column of the financial statements.</p> <p>The Partnership currently has six separate permanent funds managed by CCLA. The income generated from these investments is allocated to the appropriate District in the Partnership in accordance with the Trust documents.</p>								
5.3	<p>Banking and accounting arrangements:</p> <p>The Partnership operates a number of bank accounts all managed centrally. The accounts used and their closing 2022 balances are:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="252 1406 1461 1617"> <tr> <td>CAF</td> <td>£8,701 (presented cheques and deposits but uncleared at the end of 2022 would add a further £1,013 to the closing balance)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CAF Gold</td> <td>£50,521</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Central Board of Finance</td> <td>£70,920</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CCLA</td> <td>£23,002</td> </tr> </table> <p>All the Partnership transactions were processed through these accounts or the petty cash floats held and operated by St Mary's, the Adults, Babies and Children Group and the Homeless Group.</p> <p>Detailed figures were presented to the trustees on a quarterly basis.</p>	CAF	£8,701 (presented cheques and deposits but uncleared at the end of 2022 would add a further £1,013 to the closing balance)	CAF Gold	£50,521	Central Board of Finance	£70,920	CCLA	£23,002
CAF	£8,701 (presented cheques and deposits but uncleared at the end of 2022 would add a further £1,013 to the closing balance)								
CAF Gold	£50,521								
Central Board of Finance	£70,920								
CCLA	£23,002								
5.4	<p>General Unrestricted Fund outturn and budget:</p> <p>The Partnership ended 2022 with a small General Fund surplus of £676. This is a £15k improvement on the outturn predicted in the budget. Although there were no appeals the Partnership still benefitted from a number of large one-off gifts that could not have been predicted or relied upon when computing the budget. Tax Efficient Giving also improved delivering a beneficial impact on the tax recovered through the Gift Aid scheme. There were also improvements in Other and Activity Income but these income strands were moderated by allocations to external bodies.</p> <p>Utilities & Rates expenditure was also considerably lower than budget. This also contributed to the final surplus.</p>								

	<p>The financial statements show the apportionment of ministry and overhead using the existing standing financial instruction. The generous one-off gifts meant only the first call on churches was needed.</p> <p>Although the outcome of the 2022 budget computations challenged the long standing ministry and overhead apportionment methodology the outturn allowed for the continuation of the existing approach.</p> <p>The 2023 General Fund Budget is close to completion but could not be concluded until the method of apportioning the ministry and central overheads has been identified and agreed.</p>
5.5	<p>A Report of Fund Raising Activity:</p> <p>In normal years the principle methods of raising funds are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Member's donations and, where appropriate, the recovery of tax. ○ Subscriptions and hire fees. ○ A wide variety of fundraising events e.g., fetes, quizzes, concerts, tabletop sales etc. ○ Minor Grants to support specific Partnership activities. ○ Major Grants and special appeals to support specific significant Partnership projects or activities. ○ Fees from Funerals, Weddings & Thanksgiving, naming and blessings. ○ Interest from deposit accounts and dividends from investments.
5.6	<p>Investment Policies and Performance:</p> <p>To invest the unused Partnership funds in secure interest-bearing deposit accounts. To hold these and the Partnership investments in secure and ethical funds in accordance with the Trust Deeds.</p>
5.7	<p>Notes to the 2022 Accounts</p> <p>Partnership Unrestricted General Funds:</p> <p>Incoming Resources</p> <p>The Financial statements, in the Annual Report, only disclose the total of all funds operated by the Partnership in 2021. Space does not allow for the separate reporting of the prior year Unrestricted General Funds so the movements reported below cannot be extracted directly from the Financial Statements included in the Annual Report. The 2021 Unrestricted General Fund figures can be found in last year's Annual Report or on request from the Partnership Treasurer who can be contacted by email at treasurer@woughton.org.</p> <p>i. When compared to 2021, income from Donations and Legacies has decreased by £5,693. Note 1 of the Financial Statements reports the breakdown of this income.</p> <p>Tax Efficient Giving has fallen by £12,141, collections qualifying for Small Donations have increased by £6,195. The combination of these movements has had a negative impact on the Gift Aid and Small Donations Scheme re-claims from HMRC falling by £1,275.</p> <p>The appeals promoted throughout 2021 ceased but there were still a number of ad hoc one-off large donations. These went some way in easing the fall. The full year celebration of church services throughout 2022 was the main reason for the increased plate giving.</p> <p>Other Donations fell by £1,995 compared to the prior year. The appeal donations that did not attract any form of income tax recovery were included under this heading. So the fall is predominantly due to the appeals ceasing and the donations returning to their normal levels.</p> <p>Although the income arose in different churches Appeals for specific projects remained almost the same as the previous year.</p> <p>There was no change to the Chapmans Educational Foundation grant even though activities remained affected by the pandemic. There was a Diocesan grant received in support of the digital deprivation project that Trinity Church is undertaking in partnership with the Trinity Centre.</p> <p>ii. Charitable activities have seen a rise of £2,755 from the 2021 performance. The breakdown of this income stream can be seen in Note 2 of the Financial Statements. There were more Weddings in 2022 delivering an increase of £1,369. Funeral fee income has also risen slightly. The manse letting income continued but there was an</p>

increase in St Thomas' rental revenue delivering the bulk of the £1,180 favourable movement compared to 2021.

- iii. Other Trading Activity increased by £970. The continued easing of restrictions meant that events and activities gradually returned to pre-pandemic levels. The outcome is an increase of £790 in Fundraising activities. The General Sales income increased moderately, up by £180 on the prior year. This was predominantly a change in the Church Hall insurance costs passed on under the current arrangements. The breakdown of Other Trading Activity can be seen in Note 3.
- iv. Investments has increased by £446 compared to the previous year. The bank interest rates on all deposits increased significantly towards the end of 2022. Interest income from the permanent endowments is collected under the Endowments heading. Where the trust deeds stipulate the interest generated has been transferred to the General Fund and allocated to the church specified in each deed. This forms part of the 'Transfers between funds figure'.
- v. Other Income is predominantly delivered from a number of sources that do not easily fit the other revenue categories. There were a number of donations received from funerals or events to pass on to a charity or cause.

Resources expended

- i. Raising Funds costs are £589 lower than 2021. The analysis of this expenditure can be seen in Note 5 of the Financial Statements. Fundraising Costs have increased by £611, compared to the prior year, due to the increased number of events; Advertising & Promotion expenditure decreased by £240. There were no visits by the Diocesan architect or independent valuers in 2022 delivering a £960 reduction compared to the prior year.
- ii. Charitable Activities have increased by £1,332 between years. There have been several significant adverse and favourable movements under this heading. The breakdown of the activities can be seen under Notes 6a to 6d.
- iii. Ministry and Related Staff Costs (Note 6 Sub Note (a)) have fallen by £3,698 compared to 2021. The LEP Share and Clergy Expenses have decreased £3,994; the manse running costs are very similar to the previous year. There were two safeguarding sessions and a retreat during 2022 increasing Training expenditure by £250 compared to the prior year.
- iv. Employed Staff costs rose by £128 compared to the prior year. The Partnership follows the Living Wage Foundation announcements published in November each year. There were rate rises announced in both 2021 and 2022 delivering the increase. See Note 6 Sub Note (b).
- v. Premises and Other Resource Costs (Note 6 Sub Note (c)) has fallen by £95 from 2021. The most significant movements occurred on the following sub headings:

Premises running costs saw further savings and are down by £499 compared to 2021. Within the headline figures there are expenditure movements both up and down but there was an overall decrease of £1,497 on Gas, Electric and Water. The Partnership resumed paying the share of utilities at Woolstone adding £474 to the 2022 running costs. When the tenants moved into the manse there was a Council Tax refund in 2021. This was not repeated in 2022 and delivered a further adverse movement under this category. A review of the stock levels meant Premises cleaning materials needed replenishing and increased the costs compared to the previous year.

Maintenance is £264 lower than the prior year. Again a number of movements within the headline figures. There were the normal annual service visits but there was arboricultural work at St Mary's and the five year electrical work at CVCC in 2022.

Partnership Administration is down by £62 on the prior year. The bulk of the Parish Office Costs adverse movement, between years, is the increased use of photocopying. This is offset by lower Professional Fees because there were no site visits during the year.

Upkeep of Services/Centre Hire; services had fully resumed in 2022. This meant that flowers and service elements were once again being purchased regularly delivering an increase over the previous year.

Insurance; normal rises in premiums delivered the £333 increase in insurance costs.

Equipment & New Building Works is £227 lower than the previous year. The purchases are non-recurrent in nature so it is difficult to draw any conclusions from the movement between years. A personal gift allowed for the investment in audio equipment at St Thomas' during 2022.

There were increases on the remaining categories in Sub Note (c) but these arose from the full resumption of Junior Church and ABC activities; bible purchases needed for the rise in Baptism/Naming and Blessing services also contributed to the adverse movement.

- vi. Grants and donations payable (Note 6 Sub Note (d)) were up by £5,253 compared to 2021. The restrictions being lifted allowed more fund-raising events to be staged during 2022 for good causes. The transfer of the Digital Deprivation grant to the Trinity Centre added £3,986 to the Grants and donations outlay.

General Fund:

The General Fund performance, by District, can be seen in the first section of Note 9.

A budget was not approved in 2022. The absence meant the apportionment of ministry and overheads was based on the outturn positions of the churches. A gift made specifically for minister costs has meant that only the local church surpluses was needed to pay the remaining ministry and overhead expenditure.

This has meant that all churches ended 2022 in a breakeven position. Parish Central ended with a small surplus of £498. The year end position of the Church Hall is merely the result of the payment arrangements.

The apportionment method adopted to distribute ministry and overheads across churches does not alter the overall Unrestricted General Fund outcome. The Partnership ended 2022 with a surplus of £676.

Partnership Groups and Designations:

The summary of Partnership Groups and Designations can be seen in the second section of Note 9 titled Designated funds.

ABC (Adults, Babies and Children Group) met throughout 2022. The data is incomplete but the latest position is a £26 surplus. This will change when the final receipts and payments are compiled and included. The financial activity will not be material enough to undermine the overall Partnership position.

For the period of a year Christ the Vine designated 25% of their regular Sunday plate offertory towards mission activities. When the designation proposal was presented to the trustees it was not approved. However, the sum that accumulated over the twelve month period has been retained and used to fund various local CVCC initiatives and activities.

The Homeless Group (the Soup Run); alternative ways of supporting the homeless were developed during lockdown replacing the support originally provided by the Soup Run. Given this development the Soup Run decided to cease its operations.

Part of the income from the letting of the Manse has been set aside to meet the cost of the subsidence repairs once the remedial work required has been identified.

There was no activity on the other designated funds except the accrued interest in 2022.

Partnership Restricted Funds:

CVCC Building: The fund was initially started by an assignment of regular Sunday offertory. The fund has subsequently been moved to be correctly built up with donations and grants restricted specifically for the purpose. It has been used to repair the radiators, fence and window. The electrical inspection was also charged to the fund but this was offset by a Diocesan grant awarded for this purpose. A computer was included in the submitted capital plan so the purchase has been charged against this fund.

Christ the Vine received a legacy to support the church. Given the donor has specified the gift be used by the local church it has been treated as restricted.

St Mary's continue to receive gifts for the next phase of the Audio Visual installation. A microphone stand was charged to the fund during 2022.

St Mary's also retain the remainder of a gift intended to replace or repair the clock mechanism. It has been used for maintenance work carried out on the clock mechanism in 2022.

St Mary's Fabric continues to receive regular gifts from supporters and, where appropriate, this is supplemented by the Gift Aid re-claim. The fund also receives money from a dedicated church box. Most recently the fund has been used to pay for a replacement gas heater and ceramic hob.

St Thomas': Building; the work on the Chancel subsidence is continuing with further architect and surveyor site visits. There was further ground movements during 2022 which eventually necessitated the boarding up of a window. The expenditure was ameliorated with a recovery of VAT through the Listed Places of Worship scheme. The church members have responded to this urgent work with a number of personal gifts, fundraising events and grant applications. The church continues to seek avenues to meet the financial exposure that the subsidence has visited upon them.

Trinity Church: Restricted; the church is partnered with the Trinity Centre in the operation of the Fishermead Digital Deprivation initiative. The church has also partnered with SOFEA to open a Community Larder. It has used its restricted fund to purchase polo shirts and fleeces with the church logos printed on them to raise visibility while working with the partners.

Apart from the accrued interest there was no activity on the other restricted funds with retained balances.

Investments:

The Partnership holds six permanent trust funds all managed by CCLA. Five are invested in the CBF Church of England Fund as income shares and one in the COIF Charities Investment Fund as income units. They are as follows:

The Woughton-on-the-Green Church House (127001608S) annual income from investments is used for Woughton Parish charitable purposes.

The Woughton-on-the-Green Church – Levi Trust (127001566S) is a fund applied in or towards an organist and tuning and minor repairs to the organ at St. Mary's Church, Woughton-on-the-Green.

The Dividends Received from (127002702S) Little Woolstones Church Hall, sold in 1984, are passed back to the DCC to be used by the local church.

The Dividends Received from (127002582S) Simpson Church Hall, sold in 1973, are passed back to the DCC to be used by the local church.

The Woughton-on-the-Green Church Trust (127002774S) is a fund received in respect of a Deed of Variation in 1992. The annual income from investments is to be used for the repair and upkeep of the fabric of St. Mary's Church, Woughton-on-the-Green.

The Dividends Received from Woughton-on-the-Green Church Trust (COIF - 546050001T) are passed back to the DCC of St. Mary's Church, Woughton-on-the-Green.

Woughton Ecumenical Partnership

Financial statements to the month ended 31 December 2022

Statement of Financial Activities 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Designated funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Endowments 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Full Year funds 2021 £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	1	112,604	2,657	13,590	0	128,851	140,458
Charitable activities	2	21,976	5,771	0	0	27,747	25,037
Other trading activities	3	4,642	224	2,658	0	7,524	6,384
Investments	4	457	246	626	5,066	6,395	4,933
Other		698	0	2,838	0	3,536	45
Total		140,377	8,898	19,712	5,066	174,053	176,857
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	5	(1,813)	0	(1,266)	0	(3,079)	(2,640)
Charitable activities	6	(141,929)	(925)	(6,127)	(10,579)	(159,560)	(158,455)
Total		(143,742)	(925)	(7,393)	(10,579)	(162,639)	(161,095)
Net gains/(losses) on investments					(22,672)	(22,672)	24,178
Net income/(expenditure)		(3,365)	7,973	12,319	(28,185)	(11,258)	39,940
Transfers between funds		4,041	433	(2,412)	(2,062)	0	0
Net movement in funds		676	8,406	9,907	(30,247)	(11,258)	39,940
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		36,846	22,485	47,117	233,501	339,949	300,009
Total funds carried forward		37,522	30,891	57,024	203,254	328,691	339,949

Balance Sheet 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Designated funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Endowments 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Full Year funds 2021 £
Fixed assets:							
Investments	12	0	0	0	170,239	170,239	192,911
Total fixed assets		0	0	0	170,239	170,239	192,911
Current assets:							
Debtors	7	4,935	5	517	0	5,457	6,705
Cash at bank and in hand		34,191	30,886	56,507	33,015	154,599	144,597
Total current assets		39,126	30,891	57,024	33,015	160,056	151,302
Liabilities:							
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	8	(1,604)	0	0	0	(1,604)	(4,264)
Net current assets or liabilities		37,522	30,891	57,024	33,015	158,452	147,038
Total assets less current liabilities		37,522	30,891	57,024	203,254	328,691	339,949
<i>Net asset or liabilities excluding pension asset or liability</i>		37,522	30,891	57,024	203,254	328,691	339,949
Total net assets or liabilities		37,522	30,891	57,024	203,254	328,691	339,949
The funds of the charity:							
Endowment funds	11				203,254	203,254	233,501
Restricted income funds	10			57,024		57,024	47,117
Unrestricted funds	9	37,522	30,891			68,413	59,331
Total unrestricted funds		37,522	30,891	0	0	68,413	59,331
Total charity funds		37,522	30,891	57,024	203,254	328,691	339,949

Notes

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Designated funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Endowments 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Full Year funds 2021 £
Note 1: Donations and legacies						
Tax Efficient Giving	63,493	1,091	3,159	0	67,743	81,078
Small Donations	12,554	497	2,573	0	15,624	6,359
Gift Aid and Small Donation Re-Claim	19,231	345	1,368	0	20,944	21,867
Other Donations	9,998	724	341	0	11,063	13,047
Appeals	3,092	0	5,149	0	8,241	7,237
Grants	4,236	0	1,000	0	5,236	5,870
Legacies	0	0	0	0	0	5,000
Total Donations and legacies	112,604	2,657	13,590	0	128,851	140,458
Note 2: Charitable activities						
Baptism Fees	0	0	0	0	0	0
Funeral Fees	6,974	0	0	0	6,974	6,768
Wedding Fees	4,897	0	0	0	4,897	3,528
Building Hire	10,105	5,771	0	0	15,876	14,741
Total Charitable activities	21,976	5,771	0	0	27,747	25,037
Note 3: Other trading activities						
Fundraising	2,944	0	2,658	0	5,602	4,539
Subscriptions	0	224	0	0	224	327
General Sales	1,698	0	0	0	1,698	1,518
Total Other trading activities	4,642	224	2,658	0	7,524	6,384
Note 4: Investments						
Bank Interest	457	246	626	0	1,329	29
Investment Income from Endowments	0	0	0	5,066	5,066	4,904
Total Investments	457	246	626	5,066	6,395	4,933
Note 5: Raising funds						
Fundraising Costs	1,813	0	704	0	2,517	1,440
Advertising & Promotion	0	0	562	0	562	240
Grant Application & Professional Costs	0	0	0	0	0	960
Total Raising funds	1,813	0	1,266	0	3,079	2,640
Note 6: Charitable activities						
(a) Ministry and Related Staff Costs						
Mission Partnership LEP Share	85,098	0	0	0	85,098	91,443
Clergy Expenses	4,648	0	0	0	4,648	2,618
Manse Running Expenses	516	0	0	0	516	470
Training	750	0	0	254	1,004	500
	91,012	0	0	254	91,266	95,031
(b) Employed Staff						
	2022	2021				
Average number of part time staff	2	2				
Salaries & wages	14,294	14,341				
National insurance contributions	70	151				
	14,364	14,492				

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Designated funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Endowments 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Full Year funds 2021 £
(c) Premises and other resource costs						
Premises running costs	7,279	0	0	1,505	8,784	7,778
Maintenance	4,250	455	3,381	0	8,086	6,725
Parish Administration	4,897	0	1,893	7,500	14,290	6,358
Upkeep of Services/Centre Hire	3,173	0	0	0	3,173	2,985
Insurance	7,704	0	0	0	7,704	7,371
Equipment & New Building Works	1,213	0	853	500	2,566	14,576
Junior Church, ABC & Youth	347	470	0	0	817	339
Pastoral Care/Homeless	180	0	0	820	1,000	243
	29,043	925	6,127	10,325	46,420	46,375
(d) Grants and donations payable						
All We Can	399	0	0	0	399	0
British Heart Foundation	248	0	0	0	248	0
Bucks Vision	506	0	0	0	506	0
Cancer Research	0	0	0	0	0	100
Community Voices Water Eaton	483	0	0	0	483	0
Dyfi Osprey Project	416	0	0	0	416	0
Fishermead Trinity Centre	0	0	0	0	0	300
Freedom from Torture	347	0	0	0	347	0
Healing Hands Network	310	0	0	0	310	0
Leaving Gift	0	0	0	0	0	25
Macmillan	32	0	0	0	32	0
MK-Act	0	0	0	0	0	232
MK Bridgebuilder Trust	48	0	0	0	48	156
MK Food Bank	0	0	0	0	0	20
MK Prison Fellowship	129	0	0	0	129	0
RNLI	0	0	0	0	0	396
Salvation Army	92	0	0	0	92	91
Simpson Garden Group	0	0	0	0	0	413
Streetlight Trust	0	0	0	0	0	334
Tear Fund	41	0	0	0	41	67
The Mount Coffee Club	458	0	0	0	458	0
Trinity Centre - Internet Café	3,986	0	0	0	3,986	0
Wader Quest	0	0	0	0	0	323
Water Aid Donation	15	0	0	0	15	0
Zimbabwe Housing Project	0	0	0	0	0	100
	7,510	0	0	0	7,510	2,557
Total Charitable activities	141,929	925	6,127	10,579	159,560	158,455
Note 7: Debtors						
Gift Aid tax recoverable	3,759	5	293	0	4,057	5,004
Small Donations recoverable	822	0	224	0	1,046	797
Amounts falling due within one year	354	0	0	0	354	904
	4,935	5	517	0	5,457	6,705
Note 8: Creditors						
Amounts falling due within one year	48	0	0	0	48	581
CVCC - Donations					0	2,838
Other creditors (Weddings)	1,556	0	0	0	1,556	845
	1,604	0	0	0	1,604	4,264

Note 9: Unrestricted funds

	Balance at 1st Jan 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31st Dec 2022 £	Net Movement £
Undesignated fund						
WEP General	23,326	14,373	(109,102)	95,227	23,824	498
Christ the Vine	3,759	10,361	(8,704)	(1,657)	3,759	0
Holy Trinity	(1,107)	2,992	(1,089)	(1,903)	(1,107)	0
St Mary's	(2,990)	51,752	(5,881)	(45,871)	(2,990)	0
St Mary's Church Hall	(546)	1,600	(1,422)	0	(368)	178
St Thomas	3,267	31,129	(11,621)	(19,508)	3,267	0
Trinity Church Fishermead	11,137	28,170	(5,923)	(22,247)	11,137	0
Parish General Funds	36,846	140,377	(143,742)	4,041	37,522	676
Designated funds						
Adults, Babies and Children Group	1,262	238	(212)	0	1,288	26
Benevolent Fund	78	1	0	0	79	1
Christ the Vine: Designated	0	789	(258)	433	964	964
Homeless Group	4,978	163	0	0	5,141	163
Ministry Fund	0	1,763	0	0	1,763	1,763
WEP Property	2,204	0	0	0	2,204	0
URC Manse	4,526	5,828	(455)	0	9,899	5,373
Woolstone Chancel Trust	6,242	77	0	0	6,319	77
Youth Fund	3,195	39	0	0	3,234	39
Parish Designated Funds	22,485	8,898	(925)	433	30,891	8,406
Parish General & Designated Funds	59,331	149,275	(144,667)	4,474	68,413	9,082
WEP Suspense Accounts	845	11,924	(11,213)	0	1,556	711
	60,176	161,199	(155,880)	4,474	69,969	9,793

Note 10: Restricted funds

Christ the Vine: Gift Day	872	11	0	0	883	11
Christ the Vine: Boiler/Baptistry	36	0	0	(36)	0	(36)
Christ the Vine: Building	0	5,287	(3,274)	462	2,475	2,475
Christ the Vine: Legacy	5,000	62	0	0	5,062	62
Christ the Vine: Suspense	0	2,838	0	(2,838)	0	0
Coffee Hall: Flood Relief	1,230	16	0	0	1,246	16
St Mary's: AV	3,699	3,754	(84)	0	7,369	3,670
St Mary's: Clock	2,660	33	(180)	0	2,513	(147)
St Mary's: Fabric	30,243	3,645	(2,217)	0	31,671	1,428
St Thomas': Building	(3,461)	3,982	(1,076)	0	(555)	2,906
St Thomas': Legacy	5,031	62	0	0	5,093	62
Trinity Church: Projects	1,006	12	0	0	1,018	12
Trinity Church: Restricted	801	10	(562)	0	249	(552)
	47,117	19,712	(7,393)	(2,412)	57,024	9,907

Note 11: Endowments

Trust income retained	40,590	5,066	(10,579)	(2,062)	33,015	(7,575)
Total Endowment Investments	192,911	(22,672)	0	0	170,239	(22,672)
	233,501	(17,606)	(10,579)	(2,062)	203,254	(30,247)

Note 12: Investments

	Share Holdings Quantity	Value December 2022 £	Dividends Received £	Dividends Distributed £	Value December 2021 £
WotG Church House (127001608S)	4,889	101,014	3,004		114,491
WotG Levi Trust (127001566S)	818	16,901	503	(503)	19,156
Little Woolstones Church Hall (127002702S)	1,038	21,447	638	(638)	24,308
Simpson Church Hall (127002582S)	218	4,504	134	(134)	5,105
WotG Church Trust (127002774S)	181	3,740	111	(111)	4,239
WotG Church Trust (COIF) (546050001T)	1,245	22,633	676	(676)	25,612
	8,389	170,239	5,066	(2,062)	192,911

2022 Statement of cash flows

	Current Year Total funds £	Prior year Total funds £
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	3,607	8,894
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	6,395	4,933
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		
Proceeds from sale of investments	0	0
Purchase of investments		
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	6,395	4,933
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	10,002	13,827
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	144,597	130,770
Change in cash and cash equivalents due to exchange rate movements	0	0
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	154,599	144,597

2022 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	Current Year £	Prior Year £
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(11,258)	39,940
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	0	0
(Gains)/losses on investments	22,672	(24,178)
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(6,395)	(4,933)
Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets	0	0
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	0	0
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	1,248	(5,549)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(2,660)	3,614
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	3,607	8,894

2022 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	Current Year £	Prior Year £
Cash in hand at close of year	154,599	144,597
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	0	0
Overdraft facility repayable on demand	0	0
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	154,599	144,597

WEP ADULT MEMBERSHIP ROLL 2022 (2021 numbers shaded)

WEP ADULT MEMBERSHIP ROLL 2023 (2022 numbers shaded)							
Church	Anglican	Baptist	Methodist	URC	Ecumenical	Other	Totals
Christ the Vine							37
	10	2	5	3	7	10	37
St Thomas'	21	1	3	1	6	2	39
	21	1	3	1	8	5	39
St Mary's							70
	44	2	7	5	0	10	68
Trinity	5	4	5	0	2	13	29
	6	5	5	0	3	18	37
Woolstone	10	2	0	0	0	1	13
	17	3	1	1	0	0	22
Totals for 2022	95	12	17	8	16	41	189

Totals By Year	Anglican	Baptist	Methodist	URC	Ecumenical	Other	WEP Total
2022	95	12	17	8	16	41	189
2021	98	13	21	10	18	43	203
2020	100	13	21	10	18	41	203
2019	99	14	25	6	26	42	211
2018	99	13	20	7	30	47	216
2017	91	15	15?	5	30	39	194
2016	85	14	18	5	28	31	181
2015	86	20	19	7	29	28	189
2014	99	19	20	7	26	31	202
2013	92	16	25	5	27	28	193
2012	91	15	29	2	24	33	194
2011	99	14	25	3	27	32	200

**Appointments at Partnership Level 2020-21
Trustees of Woughton Ecumenical Partnership
and Woughton PCC Members 2022-23**

Representing	WEP Trustee	WEP + PCC	PCC Member
Christ the Vine Community Church	David Hart		Mandy Heart
Woolstone Church		John Howard	
St Mary's Church	Kim Weston/Geoffrey Miller	Di Miller	
St Thomas' Church		Lynn Castle Iola Samuels	
Trinity Church	Marilyn Mahon	Don Mahon	
Team ex officio, other ex officio, co-opted		Rev. Paul Norris Rev. Ian Herbert Rev. Nicola Vidamour Rev. Charmaine Howard	David Bird

Deanery Synod Representative Di Miller, Kim Weston

Church Wardens

Christ the Vine Community Church

David Hart

Woolstone Church

John Howard

St Thomas' Church

Iola Samuels

St Mary's Church

David Bird

United Area Meeting

Lynn Castle; Marilyn Mahon

Netherfield Partnership
corporate member

Ian Herbert

Trustee of Trinity Centre

Andrew Buckley

Member of Trinity Centre
Management Committee

Ken MacLeod

WOUGHTON ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

England & Wales - Charity number 1172298

Accounts

Annual Report



**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
of the WOUGHTON ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP
at St. Mary's Church & via Zoom
5th April 2022 at 7:30pm**

Ecumenical Vision Statement For the Woughton Ecumenical Parish

In the light of the prayer of Christ 'may they all be one... that the world may believe that you sent me...' (Jn 17.21) and the injunction to 'spare no effort to make fast with bonds of peace the unity which the Spirit gives' (Eph 4:3), members of Woughton Ecumenical Parish commit themselves to work together in serving God's mission locally and beyond.

Members of the Parish, drawn from the four participating denominations (The Church of England, The Methodist Church, The Baptist Union and The United Reformed Church) and from other Christian traditions, seek to respond to the call of God through Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Our life together and our mission are shaped by our core values:

- Spiritually alive;
- Together in Christ;
- Reaching out;
- Welcoming all;
- Using our gifts;
- Being sustainable.

Each of our five local congregations gives expression to the above, in its worship, ministry and mission.

AGENDAS for

Annual Parochial Church Meeting of Woughton Parish,
Parochial Church Council of Woughton Parish,
Annual Congregational Meeting of Woughton Ecumenical Partnership,
And 45th Meeting of the Woughton Ecumenical Partnership Trustees

At 7.30pm on Wednesday 5th April 2022 St Mary's (not quorate)

At 7.30pm on Wednesday 11th May 2022 St. Thomas' Church – Simpson & via Zoom

Prayers led by the Team.

Rev Ian Herbert in the Chair for items 1 and 2.

1. Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- a. Approval of Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting 6th April 2021
- b. Nominations for churchwardens
- d. Election of PCC members as nominated in Appendix A
- e. Decision on number of elected PCC members for the year 2022/23
- f. Appointment of Deanery Synod representative

2. Parochial Church Council Meeting

- a. Co-option of PCC member
- b. Election of PCC Secretary
- c. Proposal that the WEP Treasurer should act as the PCC Treasurer for the year

Mike Davidge in the Chair

3. Annual Congregational Meeting

- a. Approval of the Minutes of Annual Congregational Meeting of WEP held on 6th April 2021
- b. Presentation of the Report
- c. Presentation of the Accounts for 2021
- d. Appointment of the Independent Examiner
- e. Ex-officio Trustees
- f. Election of Trustees of the Woughton Ecumenical Partnership (two only required)
- g. Appointment of the Methodist Circuit Representative
- h. Appointment of a Representative to Netherfield Partnership.

Rev Ian Herbert in the Chair

4. Meeting of Trustees

- a. Election of the lay Chair, Secretary and Treasurer
- b. Election of Trustee for the Trinity Centre, Fishermead
- c. Election of the Member of the Trinity Centre Management Committee
- d. Date of next two meetings

Appendix A to the Agenda

Appendix B

Nominations for appointments at Partnership level 2022-2023**Annual Parochial Church Meeting:**

PCC Members <i>all for one year</i> 2022-22	Lynn Castle (St T) Vacant (CVCC) Don Mahon (TF) Di Miller (St M)
PCC Ex-Officio <i>to note</i>	Revd Ian Herbert, Revd Paul Norris,
Church Wardens	<i>Christ the Vine</i> David Hart <i>St Mary's</i> David Bird <i>St Thomas'</i> Iola Samuels <i>Woolstone</i> John Howard
Deanery Synod Representatives	Di Miller, Kim Weston

Parochial Church Council:

Co-opt to PCC	Revd. Charmaine Howard Revd. Nicola Vidamour
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Annual Congregational Meeting:

WEP Trustees
For three years to 2022

For information: *Continuing Trustees*

Lynn Castle (St T)⁽²⁰¹⁹⁾
Iola Samuels (St.T)⁽²⁰²¹⁾
Mike Davidge (Chair of Trustees)⁽²⁰¹⁹⁾
David Hart (CtV)⁽²⁰¹⁹⁾
Don Mahon (TF)⁽²⁰¹⁹⁾
Marilyn Mahon (TF)⁽²⁰¹⁹⁾
Kim Weston (St M)⁽²⁰¹⁹⁾
Di Miller (St M)⁽²⁰¹⁹⁾
John Howard (W)⁽²⁰¹⁹⁾

Ex-Officio Trustees

Revd. Ian Herbert, Revd. Nicola Vidamour, Revd. Paul Norris,
Revd. Charmaine Howard

Methodist Circuit (2) Lynn Castle; Marilyn Mahon, Don Mahon

Netherfield Partnership (corporate member) *Revd Ian Herbert*

Trustees Meeting:

Trustee of Trinity Centre	Andrew Buckley
Member of Trinity Management Committee	Ken MacLeod

Other Appointments and Representatives 2022-2023

Ministry Team

Revd Ian Herbert
Revd Paul Norris
Revd Charmaine Howard
Revd Nicola Vidamour

Other Ordained Ministers

Revd Christopher Bell

Preachers and worship leaders

Lynn Castle
Mike Davidge
Judy Rapp

URC Synod Representatives (appointed by local churches – 1 per church)

Pam Rowden (TF)

Mission Partnership Representatives (appointed by local churches – 2 per church)

No longer required.

**Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
of Woughton Parish on 6th April 2021
via Zoom because of the Covid-19 pandemic.**

Present: Paul Norris	BA	Kim Weston
LD	Mike Davidge	Lynn Castle
Iola Samuels	GM	David Hart
David Bird	MB	Mandy Heart
JF	OC	Nicola Vidamour
JS	RP	Ian Herbert
Don Mahon	Marilyn Mahon	BB
NB	Di Miller	Jean Mattinsley
John Howard	Charmaine Howard	RT

Apologies: BH, AN
SS

Rev Paul Norris led prayers.

Rev Ian Herbert in the chair for Items 1 & 2

1. Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- a) Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 28th October 2020 were proposed for approval by Jean Mattinsley and seconded by Lynn Castle. All in favour.
- b) Nominations for churchwardens. Nominations have been received for Jean Mattinsley and David Bird from St Mary's Church, John Howard from Woolstone Church and Iola Samuels from St Thomas' Church. These nominations were proposed by Kim Weston and seconded by NB. All in favour.
- c) Election of PCC members. Appendix A with corrections was proposed by Kim Weston and seconded by Lynn Castle. All in favour.
- d) The number of elected PCC members for the year 2021/22 to be decided. The meeting decided to keep the number at two from each congregation.
- e) Appointment of representatives for the Anglican Deanery Synod. Kim Weston and Di Miller are serving the current triennium. Don Mahon as the Parish treasurer is joining the Deanery Synod as the third representative from WEP.

2. Parochial Church Meeting

- a) Election of PCC secretary. Di Miller indicated a willingness to stand for one more year and was proposed by David Bird and seconded by Marilyn Mahon. All in favour.
- b) Proposal that the WEP Treasurer Don Mahon act as the Treasurer for the PCC for the year. Jean Mattinsley proposed, and Mike Davidge seconded this and all voted in favour.

Meeting ended at 7.50pm.

Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of Woughton Ecumenical Partnership held on 6th April 2021 via Zoom.

Present. 28 members of the Partnership were present online.
Apologies. There were three apologies recorded.

Mike Davidge in the Chair. Before the meeting began, Mike explained that there were insufficient numbers attending (6 short) to make the meeting quorate. The meeting voted to go ahead on that basis. In response to a later question, Mike replied that the significance of not being quorate meant that decisions taken at the meeting could be challenged and another ACM would need to be convened.

3. Annual Congregational Meeting.

- a) Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting held on 28th October 2020. Approval of these Minutes was proposed by Mike Davidge and seconded by Lynn Castle. All in agreement.
- b) Presentation of the Annual Report. Mike thanked everyone for their reports which showed how much effort had gone into keeping the Partnership life ticking over during the pandemic.

Mike asked a representative from the Team and each of the churches to pick out one special feature to high light from their report.

Rev Ian Herbert on behalf of the Team said that he had been most encouraged by the way that all the different talents and skills of the Team had been harnessed to support and encourage the members of the Partnership and a wider audience during the lock down periods. He pointed out particularly the specialist skills required to make the Vimeo videos each week to post on the website. He paid tribute and said we were all very grateful.

St Thomas' Church. Lynn Castle said that the church community were very grateful to Lola Samuels for offering to be the new churchwarden and WEP Trustee. She had stepped into the role with enthusiasm. The Zoom coffee mornings continue to work well.

Christ the Vine Community Church. Mandy Heart reported that Zoom activity has worked well. People have enjoyed new ways of doing things together.

Trinity Fishermead. The membership has been consulted about the possibility of a curate based at St Mary's Bletchley coming to work in the Woughton Parish. There has been a positive response. Rev Ian Herbert explained that this curate will be funded by St Mary's Bletchley but that it is still a matter under exploration and discussion by the Woughton Trustees.

Holy Trinity, Woolstone. John Howard reported that during this time of fearfulness and loss, the congregation have encouraged and supported each other.

St Mary's Woughton. Jean Mattinsley reported that there were two causes for joy in the last part of 2020. Finally, after three years of missed appointments and waiting, Wi-Fi was finally installed in the church which will enable internet connectivity and enhance worship. Thanks to Tim May for his help with achieving this outcome. Secondly the church has been protected from the threat of roots growing under the porch from the nearby cedar tree.

The Reports were proposed for acceptance by Mike Davidge and seconded by NB. All in favour.

- c) Presentation of the Accounts for 2020. Don Mahon reported that this year the accounts had not yet been signed off by the examiner because of Covid pressures. As soon as they have been approved, Don will send them to the Trustees and then they will be published in a Partnership document. He expressed his thanks to everyone who had responded to the appeal to give more and who have contributed generously, this has enabled the Partnership to have a deficit of £300 at the end of March 2021. He anticipated when we return to a more normal pattern of worship that plate giving should go up. A subcommittee of Trustees is due to meet to discuss the best way forward. Mike thanked Don and Marilyn for all their hard work in managing the finances of the Partnership.

The Finance Report was proposed for acceptance by Mike Davidge and seconded by David Bird. All in agreement.

- d) Appointment of the Independent Examiner. Don proposed that Christina Sabucido be appointed to this role again. This was seconded by Mike Davidge and all agreed. Thanks were expressed for all her hard work in this regard.
- e) Ex-Officio Trustees. Rev Ian Herbert, Rev Paul Norris, Rev Nicola Vidamour and Rev Charmaine Howard are ex-officio Trustees.
- f) Election of Trustees of the Woughton Ecumenical Partnership. The three-year period continues until 2022. The Trustees are; for Christ the Vine Community Church, David Hart; for Trinity Fishermead, Don and Marilyn Mahon; for Woolstone, John Howard; for St Mary's, Kim Weston and Di Miller and for St Thomas, Lynn Castle and Lola Samuels. Mike Davidge as Chair is a Trustee under the Constitution.
- g) Appointment of representatives to the Methodist Area. Marilyn Mahon and Lynn Castle were proposed by Di Miller and seconded by NB and the meeting agreed. Don Mahon as the WEP Treasurer is invited to join the Methodist Circuit meetings along with the other LEP Treasurers.
- h) Appointment of Representatives to the Netherfield Partnership. Mike Davidge proposed Rev Ian Herbert and Rev Charmaine Howard, seconded by Kim Weston and the meeting agreed.

4. This section of the agenda was postponed to the first meeting of the WEP Trustees.

AOB:

1. A question about the implications of not being quorate. See the beginning minute.
2. There was a question about the Trustees from each local church. It was confirmed that the Trustees are appointed to the whole Partnership, although it was two from each DCC and an extra Trustee as the Chair. At the moment, there are spaces at Christ the Vine and Woolstone Church.
3. Rev Nicola Vidamour confirmed the dates for her sabbatical in response to a question. They are 12th April to 2nd August 2021. She told the meeting that she will be spending time writing a book on Reflections on the Church's Year. Hopefully there will be the opportunities to make wider visits to family and friends after this very long time apart.

The Meeting ended at 8.20pm

Rev Ian Herbert closed with prayer.

Parochial Church Council Report 2021 -- Di Miller, PCC Secretary

The Parish has been deeply affected by the impact of the Covid 19 crisis on every aspect of life. We have managed to have meetings of the PCC via Zoom before the WEP meetings as usual, but this is very limiting. We have managed to hear from representatives from all the churches and the churchwardens from St Thomas', Christ the Vine, St Mary's, and Woolstones Church. We are pleased to report that David Hart and Mandy Heart for Christ the Vine Community Church and Mrs Lola Samuels for St Thomas' have joined the PCC. At various times in the past year the churches have been open for socially distanced worship but since the third lockdown in December/January 2021 the churches have been closed for services. The Team has managed to produce weekly video services for people to look at over the internet which have been much appreciated. With regard to distributing the Partnership Newsletter and other documentation, these having mostly been sent out via email by Tim May. Tim has also been personally delivering resources on a Saturday to those in the parish that do have online access, I would like to thank Tim for the extra effort he has given to ensure that these members are still able to feel involved in our weekly worship. I wish to indicate that I will be stepping down as PCC secretary at the end of this meeting.

In the past year at St Thomas' Stephen Roberts stepped down as churchwarden in June 2020 and since then Rev Nicola Vidamour has submitted reports of the issues relating to the church and churchyard to the PCC. In summary these have related to the issues concerning the large cracks in the wall of the chancel under the tower and lead flashings on the roof and these have been discussed with the Diocesan architect. These are serious problems which require expensive repairs. The churchyard has continued to be maintained and new LED lights have been fitted in the porch. Mrs Lola Samuels has volunteered to be the next churchwarden for St Thomas' Church.

At St Mary's Church, the problems of invasive tree roots from a nearby cedar tree needed to be tackled. This has involved the digging of a new trench to create a barrier to further growth. A Faculty application was granted for this work, and it has been done satisfactorily. The installation of broadband in the church has been a complicated story. A Faculty was granted but BT's sub-contractor Open Reach took a long time to come and do the work. When they did come, they dug the trench in the wrong place and fractured an electrical cable to the lych gate. Liability for this mistake was accepted and the cost of repair has been met. The cabling into the church has now been done and Wi-Fi is now present inside the church. During the year the north wall has continued to need a rebuild but the cost of this in the pandemic has pushed it down the priority list. It has been made safe for the time being. The tree pressing on to the east wall from the hotel side ultimately pushed the wall over and a temporary fence has been put up. The tree has now been cut down. The hotel ownership is uncertain at the present time so the plan for rebuilding the wall is on hold. Fund raising for the next stage of the audio-visual capability in the church is ongoing. The church clock has not worked at all in this last year and a solution to the problem is being worked on by the company Gillett and Johnson.

The Church Hall has continued as before. It can be used as a polling station but is otherwise not available for hire.

Christ the Vine Community Church is also owned by the Diocese. A decision was taken that boiler repairs were necessary. There were also plans for the Baptistry to put into use. Plans for a new ramp for the door on the east side of the building are also under discussion. The MK Winter Night Shelter has not been running this year. Services from the church have been live streamed through the lockdown time.

Within the Parish, the Fishermead Community Centre is negotiating the Community Asset Transfer which has not yet been completed. The new Trust will be managed by Trustees on behalf of the Diocese and the Residents' Association as a Community Resource. It was reported that complications of the lease are still holding things up but this was expected to be resolved.

The Community Church at Woolstone. The new kitchen was fitted in 2019 but owing to the pandemic has not been greatly used yet. The congregation is scattered but an effort has been made to stay in touch with people. Some socially distanced services were possible in 2021 but the church is now shut. The chancel was cleared of extra things which were not needed and is looking better.

February 2022
Di Miller
PCC Secretary

Annual Report and Accounts **Woughton Ecumenical Partnership** **Foreword**

This annual report reviews the life, ministry and activities of Woughton Ecumenical Partnership and its congregations in 2021. The Covid pandemic continued to have a major impact on our ministry, with churches closed or operating under restrictions about what we could do for much of the year. As in 2020, we owe much to our Ministry team and so many of our members who worked so hard to keep our Christian life and witness going with imaginative and compassionate responses to unpredictable changes.

Online video services continued when churches were closed and some of our churches have continued with these to provide opportunities to worship to those as yet unable to return to meeting in person. Email, phone, WhatsApp and Zoom groups continued to keep people in touch with one another and provide pastoral support when needed.

As restrictions eased towards the end of the year, it was good to see some of our important community actions able to return, including the Winter Night Shelter accommodation and ABC (the group for parents and toddlers) at Christ the Vine. Experience gained in 2020 working with Woughton Community Council on a food parcel scheme led to setting up a food larder scheme in Tinkers Bridge (with another one in planning for Fishermead).

At Christ the Vine, the Wellbeing Hub was set up, aiming to bring together local community and health groups to provide a welcoming and supportive meeting place in a café setting.

Although most of our churches' regular summer events were lost, a number were possible - an autumn flower festival (on the theme 'to live and work to God's praise and glory') and heritage weekend, harvest celebrations, the 25th anniversary of the opening of Christ the Vine Community Church, pumpkin carving, Remembrance Day services and many of the regular Christmas activities returned.

On the financial side, we started the year expecting to have to draw quite heavily on our reserves, but we ended the year with a small income surplus, thanks to generous giving from members throughout the Partnership. Staff costs are our biggest investment in mission. During the year the Trustees discussed the affordability of continuing with two full-time ministers and confirmed their commitment to maintain this level of staffing. We are so grateful to all who donate to keep our ministry running but we know the pressures on costs and income will continue with us. Our Treasurer Don Mahon, the district treasurers and the Trustees will continue to address this as a priority for us all as members so that we can take forward our mission in our communities.

We continued to discuss with St Mary's Bletchley a proposal that a Pioneer Minister could be placed within Woughton but have now paused this until later in 2022.

There are many challenges facing us but we can be confident that God goes ahead of us. Our ecumenical vision statement reminds us that, as members, we commit ourselves 'to work together in serving God's mission locally and beyond.' WEP's role is to support all of us in the part we can play in that mission as we 'seek to respond to the call of God through Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit.'

On behalf of the Trustees, I want to thank our Ministry team, our volunteer ministers (ordained and lay) and others who lead worship and all those in our churches who do so much to build our life together – those who have worked so hard in such difficult circumstances to maintain our church life and witness.

Mike Davidge
Chair of Trustees 2022

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Annual Report and Accounts 2021

1.	Reference and Administration Details:
1.1	Name: Woughton Ecumenical Partnership, abbreviated to WEP.
1.2	Address: Partnership Office, Christ the Vine Community Church, Jonathans, Coffee Hall, Milton Keynes MK6 5DE Tel 01908 392583. www.woughton.org
1.3	Trustees: Lynn Castle David Hart Mike Davidge John Howard Don Mahon Kim Weston Marilyn Mahon Rev Charmaine Howard Di Miller Rev Nicola Vidamour Rev Ian Herbert Iola Samuels Rev Paul Norris
1.4	Key Personnel: Chair: Mike Davidge Ministry Team: Rev Ian Herbert, Rev Charmaine Howard, Rev Paul Norris, Rev Nicola Vidamour Secretary: Di Miller Treasurer: Don Mahon WEP Administrator: Tim May
1.5	Principal Bankers: CAF Bank, Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and Central Board of Finance of the Church of England.
2.	Structure, Governance and Management:
2.1	Governing documents: Woughton Ecumenical Partnership (WEP) is established as a single congregation local ecumenical partnership. Its governing documents – the Constitution and Schedule – were approved and adopted at the inaugural congregational meeting on 18 October 2016. From this date, WEP replaced the former body known as Woughton Ecumenical Parish. As well as the governing documents, there is a Memorandum of Understanding made between the Bishop of Buckingham, the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Woughton and the Trustees of WEP. WEP is established as a charitable unincorporated association. The Charity Commission registered it as a charity on 28 March 2017 with Registered Charity Number 1172298.

	<p>A set of Standing Orders (SOs) has been approved by the Trustees. Each one covers a specific aspect of WEP policy. Standing Financial Instructions (SFIs) form part of the SOs. The SOs and SFIs have been drawn up to comply with the governing documents, relevant charity legislation and good practice as promulgated by the Charity Commission as regulator. The SOs all have scheduled review dates and the Trustees review each document as it falls due (or sooner if need arises). New SOs and SFIs are developed when need arises.</p>
2.2	<p>Appointment and training of Trustees:</p> <p>The Trustee Body consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to eleven Trustees elected by the Annual Congregational Meeting (normally for a term of three years) • Ex officio Trustees, being the ministers of the LEP for the time being • Not more than five co-opted Trustees appointed by the Trustees. <p>All current Trustees are either elected or ex officio.</p> <p>All Trustees have received the Charity Commission guide 'The essential trustee'. Formal training for Trustees is planned but to date none has taken place.</p>
2.3	<p>The organisational structure of WEP and how decisions are made:</p> <p>There are five Local Church Councils (LCCs) whose task is to maintain and develop the life and mission of their local church. The rules governing LCCs are contained in SO No. 8 Local Church Councils. Each church may nominate two Trustees to the Partnership. A Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are elected by the Trustees. Members of the Ministry Team are ex officio Trustees.</p> <p>The Trustees have delegated to the Ministry Team matters of ministry and spiritual/pastoral care.</p> <p>There is an Annual Congregational Meeting to receive the Report and Accounts and elect Trustees (if there is a vacancy or a Trustee's term is expiring). The normal business of the Partnership is conducted through regular meetings of the LCCs and the Trustees during the year.</p> <p>Membership data is set out in Appendix 1.</p>
2.4	<p>The relationship between WEP and Milton Keynes Mission Partnership:</p> <p>WEP was a member of Milton Keynes Mission Partnership throughout 2021. Mission Partnership seeks to advance the Christian faith by drawing together Christian communities from Milton Keynes and the surrounding areas to further the 'Five Marks of Mission' which have been adopted by the Forum of Churches Together in England. Each congregation in WEP appoints representatives to attend the Mission Partnership Assembly. Mike Davidge is a Trustee of WEP and until 18 December 2021 was a Trustee of Mission Partnership. Nicola Vidamour continued as a Trustee of WEP and a Trustee of Mission Partnership throughout 2021.</p>
2.5	<p>A statement of the major risks to which WEP is exposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate level of voluntary income to support activities contributing to WEP's objectives • Inability to find volunteers to lead activities essential to meeting WEP's objectives • Failure to comply with relevant legislation (of which Health and Safety, Discrimination, including Disability, Safeguarding, Data Protection, Charity and Employment Law are the principal items) • Lack of or inadequate insurance cover to meet all eventualities including loss or damage to buildings and assets or public and employer liability

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inappropriate words or actions of church officers and church members that damage WEP's reputation • Management shortcomings in strategy, organisation, leadership, decision making, or communications mean that WEP's objectives are not achieved. <p>The Partnership Trustees act to mitigate all risks.</p>
3.	WEP Aims and Objectives:
3.1	<p>Our purpose</p> <p>As set out in our Governing document, the purpose of the Charity is to advance the Christian faith in the Area of Benefit in accordance with the principles and practices of the Participating Churches.</p> <p>Our Ecumenical Vision Statement</p> <p>In the light of the prayer of Christ 'may they all be one... that the world may believe that you sent me...' (John 17.21) and the injunction to 'spare no effort to make fast with bonds of peace the unity which the Spirit gives' (Ephesians 4:3), members of WEP commit themselves to work together in serving God's mission locally and beyond.</p> <p>Members, drawn from the four participating denominations (The Church of England, The Methodist Church, The Baptist Union and The United Reformed Church) and from other Christian traditions, seek to respond to the call of God through Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>Our life together and our mission are shaped by our core values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritually alive; • Together in Christ; • Reaching out; • Welcoming all; • Using our gifts; • Being sustainable.
3.2	<p>Our Mission Objectives</p> <p>Each of our five local congregations gives expression to the above, in its worship, ministry and mission. Together across the Partnership we look to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide regular public worship for all who wish to attend. 2. Pray for the well-being of members, adherents and people and organisations in the community. 3. Provide opportunities for children, young people and adults to learn about the Christian faith and its key teaching. 4. Undertake mission activity including both evangelism and service as appropriate. 5. Engage with the local community and other agencies to work towards meeting the needs of the community. 6. Engage in pastoral work for the benefit of members and others. 7. Offer baptism, thanksgiving, naming and blessing, marriage and funeral services for members, adherents, and people in the wider community with appropriate preparation and follow-up. 8. Provide facilities and activities with a Christian ethos for the local community including the elderly, young and groups with special needs. 9. Support other charities in the United Kingdom and overseas. 10. Seek God's guidance and direction in all that we do.

Our objectives for 2022

District churches

- Each district church will challenge itself on how it contributes to achieving the ten Mission Objectives
- Each district church will continue to develop and review its own mission action plan (District churches may add their own specific objectives reflecting their mission and service.)

How did we do: The Covid epidemic and consequent lockdowns continued to have a significant impact on the life and work of all our district churches. Many activities, including worship services, community events and weddings and baptisms became impossible or had to be severely curtailed. Nevertheless, those of our churches where local circumstances allowed, made great efforts to keep some aspects of mission and ministry visible. Some churches were able to open to provide space for private prayer and reflection; Remembrance Sunday was observed; one church was able to organise a flower festival on the theme of 'Missed Celebrations', another organised a local 'Best Garden' community event. Our churches made great efforts to keep in touch with members and local communities, particularly those known to be vulnerable, through electronic media, by phone and personal visits where safe to do so.

The Partnership

- Support the Soup Run by making facilities available and encouraging participation
- Provide at least one night's accommodation a week for the Winter Night Shelter scheme
- Offer Easter Cracked and Christmas Cracked to all local schools with the appropriate year group
- Encourage members to take up Mission Partnership and other training courses and to explore more formal training for local ministry

How did we do: The Soup Run and the Winter Night Shelter did not operate during the year. The food parcel distribution scheme established in partnership with Woughton Community Council continued, providing regular deliveries to vulnerable and shut-in members of our communities. We were involved in establishing a food larder scheme in one part of our area (and another was at the planning stage). At Christ the Vine, the Wellbeing Hub was set up, aiming to bring together local community and health groups to provide a welcoming and supportive meeting place in a café setting. The Easter Cracked and Christmas Cracked events for local schools could not take place. Some members took advantage of on-line courses, provided both within WEP and externally.

Trustees

- Improve communication within the Partnership through the web site and newsletter and by encouraging cross-Partnership groups and events
- Provide stewardship support to district churches
- Introduce text and/or contactless giving to help raise funds for the Partnership
- Maintain the financial health of the Partnership
- Ensure that in all things we continue to operate in accordance with charity and other applicable laws and regulations

How did we do: The weekly newsletter and web site continue as sources of information, cross-Partnership groups and events were greatly restricted by Covid rules. Members responded with great generosity to maintain a sound financial position in the year and people were encouraged to use standing orders or bank transfers where possible. We introduced contactless giving on a pilot basis and direct online giving via the CAF Donate web site.

	<p>Our thanks go to the district church and Partnership treasurers for all their work to encourage good stewardship practices, but we know that financial challenges lie ahead and will require continued effort to manage. On applicable laws and regulations, the Trustees continue to give close regard to these. In 2021, we continued to review our own standing orders, including our safeguarding policy, to ensure they reflect good practice. Our planned work on developing strategy was disrupted by the succession of lockdowns.</p>
4.	Activity and Achievement Reports:
4.1	<p><i>Ministry Team 2021 Ian Herbert, Nicola Vidamour, Paul Norris, Charmaine Howard.</i></p> <p>2021 started with our churches remaining closed due to the ongoing pandemic. It was once again a challenging year for the Ministry Team as we continued to ensure resources were available to keep our churches connected with each other and the communities we serve. This was maintained by our online services through Zoom, Facebook, pre-recorded services, and transcripts being available, along with weekly resources being posted on the WEP website or being hand delivered.</p> <p>Our appreciation and thanks must go to all who have supported us in 2021. Revd. Chris Bell, Mike Davidge, John Howard, Lynn Castle, Judy Rapp, and David Hart who have supported our five churches by leading services and preaching when the churches were able to open. This ensured that we were able to maintain a weekly service in all five churches in the partnership.</p> <p>A note of special thanks must go to all the visiting Ministers who supported St Thomas' while Nicola was on three months sabbatical.</p> <p>Although our Pastoral work is shared with church members and does not exclusively fall on the shoulders of the Ministry Team, 2021 once again saw a significant increase in the Ministry Team's involvement with church members and residents living in our communities. Again, we found ourselves rearranging weddings, (some for the third time) postponing baptism and memorial services and rearranging where possible. 2021 continued with a high number of funerals and the pastoral care associated with the death of a loved one. The beginning of 2021 once again gave us the opportunity for the whole Partnership to come together for teaching and learning about the Christian faith, through online Bible Study groups, Sunday School, and our Lent reflections. The online Tuesday morning Bible Study and Prayer time hosted and led by Revd. Charmaine Howard, the Tuesday afternoon Sunday Sermon Reflection, hosted by Trinity, Fishermead and led by Revd. Chris Bell and a midweek Reflection led by Revd. Nicola Vidamour.</p> <p>Please read the reports from each of the churches if you would like to know more about what each church has been up to.</p> <p>Once the churches were able to open, we were faced with the challenge of ensuring a safe environment for all as several restrictions remained in place. These included wearing face masks, cleaning after every service, restricting the number of people at each service due to social distancing, ensuring there was a one-way system in place, no common cup for communion and no refreshments.</p> <p>Thank you for your patience, support, and help. Without you we would not have been able to ensure the wellbeing of all who attended our churches.</p> <p>2021 saw us once again celebrating public worship at our Easter and Christmas services in all five churches. Although numbers were lower than previous years.</p> <p>With the opening of the churches and the easing of restrictions the Ministry Team were once again able to re-connect with local schools, homes for the elderly, community projects, residents' associations, Mum's and Toddler groups, community councils and other organisations.</p> <p>See local church reports for details of the strong community links our churches have. Throughout 2021, Tim May our Partnership Administrator continued to support the Ministry Team by taking on the day-to-day administrative tasks. Tim has played his part in ensuring</p>

	<p>the weekly resources have been sent to Geoffrey as well as hand delivering to those who do not have email.</p> <p>The Parish has a long tradition of lay involvement. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have supported us by offering and exercising their gifts and skills. Without you we would not have been able to be as effective in our churches and communities as we have been.</p> <p>In 2021 we were able to take eight weddings, sixty-two funerals and fourteen interments of Ashes. Three of our church members were confirmed and we took ten baptisms. As we look to the future, we the Ministry Team, encourage you all to seek God's guidance on how you might be able to support the work of WEP in the local churches and communities we serve.</p> <p>Revd. Ian Herbert, Revd. Paul Norris, Revd. Charmaine Howard, Revd. Nicola Vidamour</p>
4.2	<p>Secretarial Report for WEP ACM 2022</p> <p>During this past year of 2021/22 WEP has been able to return to a more normal life gradually but as a Partnership we have continued to have the Trustees meetings on Zoom. We are not yet at full strength with the numbers of possible Trustees. The Annual Congregational Meeting was held via Zoom on 6th April 2021 and the Trustees have met six times. This included a Special Trustees meeting in July, which was requested by one of the Trustees. The Minutes of all these meetings are available to read in the Parish Office and online. Our individual churches have been able to have some face-to-face meetings of their councils. Services have been resumed in the churches at first cautiously, although some virtual streaming has also been offered.</p> <p>As the pandemic has had a big impact on the financial situation, it was agreed that WEP apply for a Small Society Lottery licence from MK Council which enables the selling of raffle tickets ahead of the day of the draw as a fund raiser. St Mary's particularly has made good use of this on two occasions.</p> <p>Tim May, Parish Administrator, has been working partly remotely and sometimes in the office. He has been compiling and sending out the Parish newsletter and Prayer Diary electronically and also paper copies for those who are not on email. Tim has delivered these for which we record our thanks. Tim has also offered his expertise through the year with PAT testing of appliances and risk assessments. Our thanks too for his help in collating this annual report. The web site continues to be a valuable resource for people to find out information regarding the Woughton Partnership. I wish to indicate that I will be stepping down as PCC secretary at the end of this meeting.</p> <p>Our prayers are now for us to work as a committed Partnership towards the future. We have renewed opportunities as the pandemic crisis has passed and we look for a new vision for growth and enthusiasm in serving God here in Woughton.</p> <p>Di Miller Secretary to WEP. February 2022</p>
4.3	<p>Christ the Vine Prayer and Worship</p> <p>This has been a year of ups, downs, and uncertainties. Coronavirus has continued to have significant impact on our lives and on the life of the church. We have been in and out of lockdown, with various tiers of restrictions imposed by law. However, we have maintained our church presence online - via Facebook and Vimeo - and from Easter we were able to meet in the church building again. A significant number of our people fall into the vulnerable category and so were not able to join us in the church building, however, they were able to worship with us, attend Bible Study and Prayers via Zoom. Our hybrid system of being a gathered church community in the building and online works very well and ensures that everyone is able to participate in church worship, discipleship, and fellowship. Inclusion is central to our believes</p>

and the use of technology has gone a long way to ensuring that those with visible and invisible disabilities and challenges are able to participate in prayer, worship, and church life. We intend to continue to use and develop technology to help us achieve our goal of becoming a truly inclusive church. Our provision of regular public worship for all who wish to attend has continued uninterrupted throughout the year as a result of offering service in the church building and on online, a number of people who are not members of Christ the Vine Church joined us for worship online throughout the year. We also found that a significant number of people viewed our Church Service videos on Vimeo.

We continue to encourage each other to spend time in daily prayer and to focus on praying for each other and together. Prayer Vine met for prayers on Thursday mornings on Zoom and used our WhatsApp groups to post prayer requests for ourselves, our communities and we continued to say the Lord's Prayer at midday. As we learn to live with coronavirus, praying together and for our communities is an area that we would like to continue to develop in the next year.

Our Sunday Worship was blessed by Soul Survivor Church Watford and SWW Baptist Association who granted permission for us to use their music videos in our worship. Over the last two years we have realised how important sung worship is to us as a church. And even when we were not able to sing in the building, we were able to listen and "sing in our heads". When restrictions were removed, we enjoyed worshipping freely with our voices raised in song. We were further blessed in this respect by Mike Baldwin who offered to lead our sung worship twice a month. We have appreciated his musical gifting as he led us into the presence of God through music and songs.

Discipleship

Study Vine is our Bible Study and Discipleship program. We have continued to meet on Zoom. We regularly have in the region of 14 people in attendance. For most of this year we have used the time to focus on the Bible passage that was read on the previous Sunday. We explored the themes and theology in greater depth. Using the Breakout rooms allowed us to move into small groups for discussion. We found this really useful as it gave space for everyone to speak and contribute to the discussions.

Our Advent and Christmas Bible Study was based on the book of Mark but our main focus this year was on what it means to be a Christian in our ordinary everyday lives. One of the resources we used was LICC Frontlines Series to help us explore our frontlines and the difference that we can make to the lives of other people that we meet regularly. In particular how we can show them the gospel through our daily interactions with them. We gained confidence in our ability to make a difference for the Kingdom.

Fellowship and Pastoral Care

This year we celebrated Christmas together as a church family. We all met for a Christmas meal at the Peartree Bridge. That was a special evening because it was the first time that the whole church had met together for table fellowship in over two years. We enjoyed the food, but we enjoyed each other's company so much more.

The pastoral groups have continued to provide support for each other throughout the year and we have also continued to provide pastoral support for members of the community who need it - perhaps through bereavement, ill health, mental health, family and relationship issues. This year we have mourned the loss of three more members of our church family. We have continued to offer pastoral support to their families and close friends.

Mission

Our Mission and Evangelism work continued. We worked with the local community including the Coffee Hall Residents Association and the Woughton Community Council to provide a day of celebration in the summer. This event was well attended with hundreds of children and families enjoying Face Painting, Magic Mike, a range of different Musicians, Crafts and numerous other activities. The church building and people were an integral part of the celebrations.

	<p>We worked with the WCC and the Royal British Legion to organise a community Remembrance Service. The service attracted hundreds of people outside the church - at the memorial - and about 100 people stayed for the church service which followed. This included the deputy Mayor and her husband. The church provided refreshments and a time of fellowship after the service.</p> <p>In addition to our very successful Easter Bonnet Competition and Easter Treasure Trail, we reclaimed All hallows Eve as a time when the light of Jesus overcomes all darkness. We held a Pumpkin Carving afternoon, where parents and children heard the story of Jesus bringing light and joy into the world. We used Scripture Union's Pumpkin Patch as the basis. This event was so successful that we had to run two sessions. 60 children plus their parents took part. We followed this up with a Light Party Trail.</p> <p>As reported last year, Christ the Vine continues to work in partnership with local groups to meet the needs of the community. This June we worked together to launch Grapevine Wellbeing Hub on Friday mornings because Wellbeing is one of the priority areas identified by the MK Council, NHS, and local groups. As part of the church mission plan, this collaboration shows signs of early success. Since June there has been about 25 regular attenders at Grapevine Wellbeing Hub and 5 people have joined the church as a direct result of this initiative. In September we opened the Baptismal pool and two people were baptised by immersion. One person was confirmed in November at the Ecumenical Confirmation Service.</p> <p>We continue to support MK Bridgebuilder Trust and Tear Fund, and we are saddened that we were not able to hold fund raising activities for them this May. However, we were able to host the Christmas Fair in December.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>It has been a challenging year, but we are spending time with God and each other to discern what God has planned for us as a church. We have taken comfort from God's promise to be with us wherever we go and have stepped out in faith with our new Mission initiatives. We are learning to be strong and courageous not only in our own discipleship, prayer, and worship, but also in looking for opportunities in our everyday lives to intentionally make and nurture new disciples for Jesus.</p> <p>Revd. Charmaine Howard</p>
4.4	<p>Annual Report – Holy Trinity, Woolstone</p> <p>2021 once again saw the pandemic affect church life, with us remaining closed, then opened, then having to close again as we followed the guidelines set out for public worship. We, as a church continued with our Sunday services. As we started to meet in person for public worship it was, of course, with restrictions in place, face coverings, socially distanced seating, no refreshments, individual cups for communion and cleaning the chairs before and after church.</p> <p>A huge thank you to John who set up and cleaned down before and after services, and a huge thank you to all for your patience and understanding in what has been and still is, in a lot of ways, a very difficult time.</p> <p>During 2021:</p> <p>For the first five months the Parish continued to offer weekly resources, recorded Sunday worship, live Zoom services from CTV and Trinity, and St Mary's and St Thomas' continued to be open for private prayer every weekend for two hours.</p> <p>During Lent 2021 a weekly reflection was hosted on Zoom, and it was wonderful to be open for services on Easter Sunday. Our Advent and Christmas services were able to go ahead, with our midnight communion service seeing 47 non-church members from the community in attendance. We have welcomed 2 new members into the fellowship, and occasionally see visitors at our services.</p>

	<p>I want to acknowledge here my thanks for the support and encouragement, we as church have received during 2021. To Sue, Sophie, and Judith, for leading us in our Sunday worship, to John and Judy for committing to lead us in worshipping and preaching the word.</p> <p>Friends, thank you for remaining faithful to Holy Trinity, it has been another tough year for many of us, we have lost loved ones, suffered sickness, felt fearful, lonely, and lost, so together let us continue to hold our church, our community, and our city in our prayers as we seek God's vision for us.</p> <p>In Christ</p> <p>Revd. Ian Herbert (Rector)</p>
4.5	<p>St Mary`s, Woughton on the Green Report by Kim Weston DCC Chair</p> <p>The District Church Council (DCC) has met 9 nine times over the past year, by Zoom, then Face to face when allowed. Each meeting starts with prayer lead by a Council member, as we commit our thoughts to God's will.</p> <p>Di Miller is our minute secretary. The minutes are for everyone to see, and a copy is in the church, an electronic copy is available on request for all members.</p> <p>RD continues to produce the weekly 'pew' sheet, which are emailed to members. It is an invaluable source of information. A few hard copies are available in church for visitors and those that don't have email access. This is the way for all church members to communicate with the wider church and Ruth will happily include information that you send her.</p> <p>The report that follows covers various aspects of church life and gives an indication of activity since January 2021, in what has been a second year of restrictions, we have been busy.</p> <p>Practical issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The clock was reinstalled has been working well, 99% of the time. • The churchyard is maintained by a small team led by BB. The memorial garden was tidied in the autumn after families were notified. We have established a valuable rapport with some families. As the weather improves, we will have another attempt at maintaining order, as we have had several internments of ashes and burials in the last few months. • BB our long serving Tower Captain resigned his post during the year, we are very grateful that he has served this church for so long, teaching many the skill of ringing and for his care for the bells, SH has taken over as Captain, but Brian can still be seen hanging on a rope. <p>Several general upkeep measures were needed, including removal of mould on internal walls, woodworm in vestry, guttering and roof work, electrical overhaul in tower and elsewhere in the church, one gas heater replaced, and others serviced, these are all essential to the maintenance of a safe environment, all the yearly checks where completed and action taken as needed</p> <p>Mission and Outreach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donations. It was decided by the DCC that as many people were feeling the pinch financially, personally and within the WEP Partnership, that we would not make any donations to outside charities as a church. We supported Link Romania shoebox appeal as usual, but this was a lot less than previous years • "Open for You" continued in a different format, at the beginning of the year with no refreshments or chat and just a time for quiet Prayer ,as restrictions lifted we started Open for You, it was a slow start ,but we now have some of our old followers back and new faces to, Saturday mornings we are open 10am till noon, we welcome people to have a cuppa and a chat even though the church has been pretty nippy

at times. Some of our old followers have been poorly and too unwell to attend but Norma and Jean keep in touch.

- The chancel is available for quiet prayer and the opportunity to light a candle.
- All of our other activities, e.g. Fund-raising events, the Summer Fayre and Christmas Bazaar, Old Woughton Parish Council meetings, Walkers' refreshments, remained closed until the summer. This was disappointing but understandable, but it was important to think of something to boost our resources, based on the success of the previous year's Flower show it was decided that a further similar event would take place in September, and was a great success community wise and financially. The same format was repeated in December and was again a success, made possible by the use of the Small Lottery license that WEP purchased.
- The Annual National Remembrance Service took place at the Village Memorial and the Two minutes silence was observed. Poppy wreaths were laid on behalf of the Church, Old Woughton Parish Council and by private individuals. Many local residents joined us observing social distancing. They were invited into church afterwards for private prayer and reflection.
- Guests next door. In late December a group of asylum seekers were moved into the Woughton House Hotel, as a church we rallied to support them with providing clothing, games, and sweets. These have been gratefully received.

Because of changes in the use and management of the hotel, the rebuilding of the east and north churchyard walls has not been carried out. Negotiations for both the repair of the walls and the carpark lighting are on-going with the new owners. Archdeacon's inspection was carried out by David Thom, Chairman of the Deanery in May 2021.

Marriage registers, half were deposited in the Aylesbury Archive and half at MK Registrar in accordance with the new marriage registration process.

- The Church Council and church members have continued to work well together and have managed to maintain the building and grow together spiritually.
- Our thanks to Paul for his continuing Ministry to us all, a change of service times and types was necessary and seems to have been working well, It is felt that the format now established will remain for the foreseeable future due to WEP only having 2 paid ministers for five churches
- You will be aware that the report does not include Children's Church or The Soup Run. These activities have not recovered from 2020, but we look forward to a time when they can restart and grow.
- A little later in the year than usual, David Bird and Jean Mattinsley were sworn in as Churchwardens at the Church of Christ the Cornerstone, Central Milton Keynes on 13 September 2021 by The Archdeacon of Buckingham, Venerable Guy Elsmore. Their legal responsibilities are to care for the church fabric and churchyard and welfare of the Incumbent.

Church Hall

- The title deeds for St. Mary's Church Hall were received from Oxford for checking. Inspection and two valuations complete. Next steps being reviewed by Revd. Ian Herbert and David Mason, Diocesan Buildings Officer.

Record of Occasional Offices Solemnized

Holy Matrimony - 4 Renewal of vows - 0

Baptisms - 4

Funerals - 3 in total x 2 with churchyard burial

Interment of cremated remains x 8

Minister's Report for 2022 ACM

I would describe 2021 as a three in one year!

The first part of the year was still dominated by Covid. WEP churches took it in turns to provide pre-recorded videos and we met on Zoom for "Coffee after Church" on Sundays. I am very grateful to everyone who took part in the videos - especially to our musicians and Harvey for the time and effort required to produce hymn recordings with sing-along lyrics! It was a joy to worship together in church on Easter Sunday and to sing *Thine be the Glory* in the churchyard at the end of the service, accompanied by William on the trumpet.

The second part of the year began shortly after Easter when I started a three-month sabbatical. St. Thomas' welcomed a variety of visiting preachers during that period. Janet Wootton received such rave reviews that she was invited back in October for the annual Methodist Thanksgiving Service for the ministry of local preachers and worship leaders. Iola had only recently taken on the role of church warden but did a fantastic job of keeping everyone informed and involved whilst I was away. She also had to deal with a lot of issues in the churchyard – both in response to the biodiversity project and the letters we had to put on graves which were breaching the regulations. Thank you, Iola!

The third part of the year began in July when Covid restrictions began to be eased – until the arrival of the Omicron variant in the late autumn! I have appreciated being able to attend the Tuesday coffee morning regularly – both when it was meeting in the church and now in the village-hall. The Saturday night quizzes have been great fun and it would be lovely to have more church people support these. I would like to pay tribute to Pat for the time and energy she puts into arranging these quizzes - as well as the regular concerts. New developments in the life of the church this year have been the Harvest Supper with home-grown entertainment; the monthly all-age worship which Lynn Castle and I have been leading together; and the monthly Monday hymn-singing sessions with friends from the Simpson Day Centre.

We have been glad to welcome new people into the life of the church and were also delighted to celebrate the confirmation of Peter and William T.

We have missed those who have not been able to come to church for health reasons and hope to see them again soon.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Nicola Vidamour
18th February 2022

Church Warden's report for St Thomas' Church Simpson ACM 6th March 2022.

Thank you all for supporting me during this "Covid Year". I am grateful to Rev Nicola for her guidance and support, Jane for her sterling work as Secretary and Ruth for producing the Newsletter.

As the year progressed, I began to feel part of the community of St Thomas. The DCC meetings were conducted via zoom, thankfully we can now meet properly together. It was wonderful to celebrate Easter together and to sing in the churchyard. Nicola's sabbatical absence proved to be an interesting time. She had planned superb people, all from very different backgrounds, to lead our worship each week.

The Churchyard

Trying to bring the Churchyard in line with Diocesan regulations has proved difficult. However, we have met and chatted to many of those who visit the graves of their loved ones. This is an ongoing project.

The Biodiversity project of the Churchyard led by Rebecca Hiorns was challenging. We found some beautiful wildflowers; small creatures and I must mention the "bee orchids". Just letting nature take its course upset some people and delighted others. Rebecca kindly wrote a report, this was circulated, and a copy was sent to the Arch Deacon of Oxford.

	<p>A huge amount of work has been carried out by levelling the far end of the Churchyard allowing space for 21 more graves.</p> <p>The Chancel – the large cracks in the walls.</p> <p>The initial investigative work is now complete. The Listed Place of Worship Grant Scheme reimbursed us for VAT of over £2.000. We were very fortunate to receive a grant from the Buckinghamshire’s Historic Church Trust. Pat H ran quizzes and concerts, and donations were received permitting us to pay this bill in full.</p> <p>Moving on</p> <p>We have welcomed new people into our church. It was a privilege to attend the confirmation of Peter and William T.</p> <p>On the second Monday of the month the local day centre for people with a dementing illness, their carers and members of our congregation, meet for hymns. Percussion instruments give everyone a chance to sing and contribute to the music. A Christingle Service was held in December for the Guides, Scouts Cubs, Brownies and Rainbows. Each person decorated their Christingle.</p> <p>This past year has been full of activity, new members and the making new friends. St Thomas’ Church has survived the pandemic successfully.</p> <p>Iola Samuels Church Warden 24th February 2022</p>
4.7	<p>Trinity Church, Fishermead</p> <p>2021 once again saw the pandemic affect church life with us remaining closed, then opened, then having to close again as we followed the guidelines set out for public worship. We, as a church continued with our online Sunday services and Marilyn continued to support our young people with online Sunday School. As we started to meet in person for public worship it was, of course, with restrictions in place, face coverings, socially distanced seating, no refreshments, individual cups for communion and cleaning the chairs before and after church. A huge thank you to all who helped with the set up and clean down before and after services, and a huge thank you to all for your patience and understanding in what has been and still is, in a lot of ways, a very difficult time.</p> <p>During 2021 we continued to be involved in delivering food parcels to those who had been shielding or who were unable to leave their homes because of the pandemic. We were also able to support five families who had fallen on hard times, giving us the opportunity to show the love of Christ in a real and practical way. Through this last year we have also been able to build on existing relationships within the community as well as foster new friendships.</p> <p>Working in partnership with the Trinity Centre we were able to secure a grant from Oxford dioceses to start an internet café in the Trinity Centre, this will be launched in the spring of 2022 along with a homework club run by Trinity church members.</p> <p>For the first five months the Parish continued to offer weekly resources, recorded Sunday worship, live Zoom services from CTV and Trinity, and St Mary’s and St Thomas’ continued to be open for private prayer every weekend for two hours.</p> <p>During Lent 2021 a weekly reflection was hosted on Zoom, and it was wonderful to be open for services on Easter Sunday. Our Advent and Christmas services were able to go ahead although numbers were lower.</p> <p>I want to acknowledge here my thanks for the support and encouragement we as church have received during 2021. To Don, Jill, and Pam for leading us in our Sunday worship, to Chris for committing to lead us in worshiping and preaching the word as well as leading us in our online Tuesday afternoon Bible reflection and first Sunday of the month evening prayer, to Ann for taking on the role of hospitality and refreshments.</p>

	<p>Friends, thank you for remaining faithful to Trinity, it has been another tough year for many of us, we have lost loved ones, suffered sickness, felt fearful, lonely and lost, so together let us continue to hold our church, our community and our city in our prayers as we seek God's vision for us.</p> <p>In Christ</p> <p>Revd. Ian Herbert (Rector)</p>
4.8	<p>The Soup Run:</p> <p>Due to Covid throughout 2021 - Nothing to Report</p>
4.9	<p>Marriage in the Parish</p> <p>Please refer to Ministers Report</p>
4.10	<p>Baptism and Thanksgiving Naming and Blessings:</p> <p>Please Refer to Ministers Report</p>
4.11	<p>Bereavement Care:</p> <p>Please refer to Ministers Report</p>
4.12	<p>Christian Aid</p> <p>Due to Covid throughout 2021 – Nothing to report</p>
4.13	<p>Adults, Babies and Children (ABC):</p> <p>No Report Received</p>
4.14	<p>Connect – No longer running</p>
4.15	<p>The Netherfield Partnership Limited (NP Ltd):</p> <p>NP Ltd is a Charitable Society for the Benefit of the Community registered under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014. WEP was a founder member in 1999 and is one of two corporate members, the other being Milton Keynes Council (MKC). The main activity of the Society is to manage the operation of the Farthing Enterprise Centre (FEC), which provides workshop/office units for new and start-up businesses, primarily for applicants from the Netherfield area, but also encompassing the Woughton Ward.</p> <p>The premises, formerly the Red Cross Centre, and owned by MKC, were refurbished under the “New Start for Netherfield” European Social Fund (ESF) Programme. This regenerated part of Netherfield and the Society was formed to run on from the ESF Programme. It has held a 17-year lease on the FEC premises which has just been renewed for a further 13 years.</p> <p>The 11 FEC units are occupied by a variety of businesses including a hairdresser, picture framer, tattooist, PC repairs and IT consultancy, accountancy and bookkeeping, healthcare professional's provider, fashion design and maker, and export /catalogue sales. Tenants benefit from managed units with Wi-Fi, and are subsidised through rents discounted below market levels, which are progressively raised as their businesses mature. A Training and Meeting Room is kept for hire and one unit is available for a Charity to occupy at a peppercorn rent. The Society is well established, and the financial model is robust, maintaining the Centre in excellent repair and funding sufficient reserves.</p> <p>Revd Ian Herbert and Revd Charmaine Howard are the WEP representatives on the management committee.</p> <p>Due to the Covid19 there have been no meetings to my knowledge.</p> <p>Revd Ian Herbert 2022</p>

4.16	<p>Webmaster's Report for 2022 AGM</p> <p>Because of the continuing Covid-19 lockdown from the beginning of the 2021 the website remained very active, with weekly updates to services and other arrangements. Obviously things slowed down gradually as the year progressed and have now settled back to pretty much as they were before the pandemic. As always, I have been grateful to all those who have provided content.</p> <p>When BA retired as Parish Administrator she handed over to me the management WEP's entries on the "A Church Near You" website. In order to reduce the effort of maintaining two websites I set things up so as to direct visitors to that site on to the WEP website.</p> <p>I have recently discovered that I no longer have access to the pages for St Thomas's, Trinity Fishermead and Christ the Vine on the "A Church Near You" website, because the log-in credentials have been changed. It is obvious that someone within WEP is curating those entries because the content is being updated.</p> <p>All enquiries have failed to discover who now has control over those entries and I have had no response from the managers of the domain. I would be very grateful for any help which anyone can offer with this.</p> <p>Geoffrey Miller, Webmaster</p>
4.17	<p>SAFEGUARDING REPORT FOR WEP</p> <p>WEP continue to follow the Methodist Safeguarding Policy which is available here: https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/18740/safeguarding_policy_procedures_and_guidance_for_the_methodist_church_sept_2020.pdf</p> <p>As this is a "live" document with constant updates (and also very long), printing is advised against, and the electronic version should always be read to ensure the most up to date version is being viewed. It provides a comprehensive set of operating procedures for all Safeguarding matters in relation to children, young people (under 18 years old) and vulnerable adults.</p> <p>Each May, the WEP Safeguarding Policy is updated and the revised version (Standing Order No 15) is approved by WEP. A new poster has been sent to all churches with the most up to date contact details, if you have not seen one, please let me know. It is a requirement that this is displayed in each of the Churches. The Partnership Policy is part of the wider national Policy.</p> <p>During the previous year Jo N stepped down as the Safeguarding Lead for WEP and as safeguarding officer for Christ the Vine, Rev Nicola Vidamour has been providing cover.</p> <p>Each church appoints its own, but WEP needs a lead.</p> <p>After much deliberation and conversation with Nicola, I offered to take on role and to work closely with her. I have held the role at St Mary's for a couple of years and was appointed in December 2021 by the Trustees. I have just completed the advance safeguarding module, which has highlighted some areas that over the next few months, I will be discussing with DCC's and church officers, as points for consideration and setting up meetings with leads for at least a yearly review of the systems they have in place.</p> <p>The register of who has had DBS checks and completed training, has been reviewed and it was not till later in the year that those who needed to have refreshers or do the foundation course under the Methodist Policy were able to attend and WEP was able to get most of their people updated.</p> <p>The Methodist Circuit had asked for a financial contribution from the LEP's to support the workload that falls on the Superintendent Minister and this was done last year.</p> <p>The MK Methodist Circuit Safeguarding Leads Meetings that commenced in 2018 have continued by Zoom initially, but I offered to attend in Nicola's place in September, as she was on leave, this was to be the first face to face meeting, for months, this meeting was a</p>

review of what had been occurring during the pandemic and a copy of the report of that meeting has been sent to the church leads, this meeting was worthwhile as networking is so much easier face to face and sharing ideas is always good.

There is still significant amount of work to do on risk assessments and implementing Safer Recruitment procedures and this is just not for employees this should be your volunteers as well.

Implementing the Safeguarding Policy is complex and challenging for all. We give thanks for all who are involved in this task and ask that this important work is held in your prayers to promote the well-being of the young and most vulnerable in our communities.

At all of the courses I have attended the one resounding comment is that Safeguarding **is every ones responsibility**, not just if you have a DBS or a cert. under your belt, none of us knows everyone's life story and so just "be kind" and remember you may hold the missing piece of the jigsaw.

Kim Weston WEP Safeguarding Lead

Revd, Nicola Vidamour WEP Safeguarding Lead

WEP ADULT MEMBERSHIP ROLL 2022 (2021 numbers shaded)

WEP ADULT MEMBERSHIP ROLL 2022 (2021 numbers shaded)							
Church	Anglican	Baptist	Methodist	URC	Ecumenical	Other	Totals
Christ the Vine	10	2	5	3	7	10	37
	10	2	5	3	7	10	37
St Thomas'	21	1	3	1	6	2	34
	21	1	3	1	8	5	39
St Mary's	48	2	4	4	0	12	70
	44	2	7	5	0	10	68
Trinity	6	5	5	0	3	16	35
	6	5	5	0	3	18	37
Woolstone	10	2	0	0	0	1	13
	17	3	1	1	0	0	22
Totals for 2022	95	12	17	8	16	41	189

Totals By Year	Anglican	Baptist	Methodist	URC	Ecumenical	Other	WEP Total
2022	95	12	17	8	16	41	189
2021	98	13	21	10	18	43	203
2020	100	13	21	10	18	41	203
2019	99	14	25	6	26	42	211
2018	99	13	20	7	30	47	216
2017	91	15	15?	5	30	39	194
2016	85	14	18	5	28	31	181
2015	86	20	19	7	29	28	189
2014	99	19	20	7	26	31	202
2013	92	16	25	5	27	28	193
2012	91	15	29	2	24	33	194
2011	99	14	25	3	27	32	200
2010	94	15	26	4	34	23	196
2009	100	15	24	2	31	30	202
2008	95	16	22	3	30	21	187
2007	88	18	27	1	28	16	178
2006	97	16	26	4	35	23	201

Appointments at Partnership Level 2020-21
Trustees of Woughton Ecumenical Partnership
and Woughton PCC Members 2021-22

Representing	WEP Trustee	WEP + PCC	PCC Member
Christ the Vine Community Church	David Hart		Mandy Heart
Woolstone Church		John Howard	
St Mary's Church	Kim Weston	Di Miller	David Bird
St Thomas' Church		Lynn Castle Iola Samuels	
Trinity Church	Marilyn Mahon	Don Mahon	
Team ex officio, other ex officio, co-opted		Revd. Paul Norris Revd. Ian Herbert Revd. Nicola Vidamour Revd. Charmaine Howard	Jean Mattinsley

Deanery Synod Representative

Di Miller, Kim Weston

Church Wardens

Christ the Vine Community Church
David Hart
Woolstone Church
John Howard
St Thomas' Church
Iola Samuels
St Mary's Church
Jean Mattinsley
David Bird

United Area Meeting

Lynn Castle; Marilyn Mahon

Netherfield Partnership
corporate member

Ian Herbert

Trustee of Trinity Centre

Andrew Buckley

Member of Trinity Centre
Management Committee

Ken MacLeod

Annual Accounts



2021

Baptist, Church of England,
Methodist
& United Reformed Church

5.

Financial Review:

5.1

Independent Examiner:



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's
report on the accounts**

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Woughton Ecumenical Partnership

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st December 2021

**Charity no
(if any)**

1172298

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 / 12 / 2021**.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

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

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

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (~~other than that disclosed below~~*) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Cristina Sabucido

Date:

29 April 2022

Name:

Cristina Sabucido

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

ACCA

Address:

3 Turners Mews

Neath Hill

MK14 6HH

IER

October 2018

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**Give here
brief details
of any items that
the examiner
wishes to disclose.**

5.2 **A statement of the principal financial policies including reserves:**

1 Principal accounting policies

Trustees' responsibility in relation to the financial statements

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- 1) select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- 2) make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- 3) state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- 4) prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Reserves policy

Only the general fund meets the Charity Commission's definition for reserves, resulting in reported reserves of £36,846 at 31 December 2021. The trustees seek to maintain reserves at not less than three months' general fund expenditure (i.e. £35,750 based on 2021 expenditure), believing that this provides a prudent buffer against unforeseen expenditure. Sudden serious income shortfall is not seen as a major risk as the majority of the Partnership's income is derived from a large number of donors as well as fees and premises lettings, none of which is individually significant. Although no single donor, on their own, is significant it should be noted that four Partnership couples deliver more than a fifth of total Partnership income.

1 Accounting policies

(a) Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102. In preparing the financial statements the Partnership follows best practice as set out in the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" effective January 2015.

(b) Basis of consolidation

These financial statements consolidate the financial results of the various activities of Woughton Ecumenical Partnership on a line-by-line basis. Certain of these activities are not directly managed by the trustees but delegated to groups within the Partnership. These activities have been accounted for as branches and the financial results shown within separate delegated funds.

(c) Incoming resources

Voluntary income is recognised when received. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Grants (including grants for the purchase of fixed assets) are recognised in full in the year in which they have been received. Each grant is disclosed within the category of income that is most appropriate to the activity it is intended to support.

Incoming resources from charitable activities is recognised when the activity giving rise to the income takes place.

Investment income is recognised on an accruals basis.

(d) Resources expended

Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis, inclusive of VAT which cannot be recovered.

Grants & donations payable are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which the Partnership decides they should be made. Accruals are made if the payment is not made until the

following year. In all cases where such accruals have been made, either the details of the grant or donation have been communicated to the beneficiary before the end of the year or the payment is the result of a specific appeal.

(e) Fund accounting

Charity law requires the net assets of the Partnership to be accounted for within a number of funds. The Partnership operates the following two types of funds.

Unrestricted general funds

These are funds that can be used in accordance with the Partnership's charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

- **General Fund**

This is the fund through which the normal operating activities of the Partnership are recognised.

- **Delegated funds**

With the exception of the URC Manse and Ministry Funds these funds are not directly managed by the trustees but by groups delegated to run and oversee these activities on behalf of the Partnership and its trustees.

The easing of restrictions has meant groups can resume operations but within the guidance prevailing at the time:

Adults, Babies and Children Group (ABC) resumed activities in March but the restrictions have prevented the Homeless Group (Soup Run) from providing their much needed support.

- **Designated Funds**

These are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects. Currently the Partnership has no plans that might require designations.

Restricted Funds

These are funds that can only be used for specific purposes within the Partnership's objects. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific projects or purposes.

These expendable funds are operated by the local church councils but overseen by the trustees or (where required by Church of England rules and mostly relating to building matters) the Parochial Church Council. The income and expenditure of these funds are shown in the Restricted Fund column of the financial statements.

There are a number of funds currently in operation in the Partnership with most operated by the churches.

Flood Relief: Following flooding in Coffee Hall a fund was set up to support those who would not have the ability to pay for the repair and recovery work. This is operated in partnership with the local Parish Council.

Christ the Vine currently have three funds.

Gift Day: Donations made specifically for local investment, mission and support to Christian charities.

Legacy: the church received a legacy from a former member for church purposes during 2021.

Boiler/Baptistry: The boiler needed urgent replacement during 2020. The Church Council took the opportunity to also install the pipework for the hot water supply to the baptistry. When the installation was completed, the cost was more than the funds that had been raised for the project. Sufficient funds were raised by the end of 2021.

St Mary's have received donations for specific major developments or repairs to the church building at Woughton on the Green. There are three ongoing funds with retained balances at the end of 2021. These were named as follows:

Audio: There were no purchases made during 2021 but gifts and donations continue to come in for the Audio Visual equipment.

	<p>Clock: a donation was originally made for the repair or replacement of the tower clock mechanism. There are continuing issues with the clock mechanism so some of the remaining fund has been used for the re-balancing and repair work. The original donors agreed that the funds remaining, following the mechanism installation, could be retained and used at the discretion of the Church Council.</p> <p>Fabric: the report on the church porch was received during 2021. The congregation continue to donate for the upkeep of the main church building, tower and churchyard.</p> <p>St Thomas' started a building fund in 2015 for the purposes of fabric and churchyard restoration. The funds have been generated through fundraising events, grant applications and donations. It was originally created to acquire a new noticeboard and repair the paths. The fund has generated cash with an increased vigour due to the subsidence that has exacerbated the gaps in the building particularly in the chancel roof.</p> <p>The legacy received specifically for local St Thomas' projects has not been used during 2021.</p> <p>Trinity received a gift, in 2016, to be used for local activities. The use is to be determined by the Church Council. The initiation of the digital deprivation project providing support to the residents of Fishermead was felt to meet the criteria set out by the donor so a grant has been made to aid the set up.</p> <p>The Baptist Association grant is still to be used. It is intended to proceed with the project for the young people of Fishermead when the pandemic permits the full resumption of the original objectives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endowments <p>These are permanent funds. The income and expenditure of these funds is shown in the Endowment Fund column of the financial statements.</p> <p>The Partnership currently has six separate permanent funds managed by CCLA. The income generated from these investments is allocated to the appropriate District in the Partnership in accordance with the Trust documents.</p>								
5.3	<p>Banking and accounting arrangements:</p> <p>The Partnership operates a number of bank accounts all managed centrally. The accounts used and their closing 2021 balances are:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="268 1137 746 1308"> <tr> <td>CAF</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£7,894</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CAF Gold</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£43,325</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Central Board of Finance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£70,094</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CCLA</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£22,704</td> </tr> </table> <p>All transactions were processed through these accounts or the petty cash floats held and operated by St Mary's, the Adults, Babies and Children Group and the Homeless Group.</p> <p>Detailed figures were presented to the trustees on a monthly basis.</p>	CAF	£7,894	CAF Gold	£43,325	Central Board of Finance	£70,094	CCLA	£22,704
CAF	£7,894								
CAF Gold	£43,325								
Central Board of Finance	£70,094								
CCLA	£22,704								
5.4	<p>General Unrestricted Fund outturn and budget:</p> <p>The Partnership initiated a number of appeals throughout 2021 to reduce or cancel the deficit predicted in the budget. The appeals were successful delivering a small General Fund surplus of £521. This is after the Christ the Vine plate giving from May to December has been removed. The church declared a restriction on this offertory without trustee approval so the giving is reported as a creditor in the accounts until the position has been clarified.</p> <p>Given the outstanding issue with Christ the Vine offertory the 2022 General Fund Budget cannot be completed. As well as restricting offertory Christ the Vine have submitted an ambitious set of plans. The Manse in Fishermead is predicted to deliver letting income for the entire year. Treating Christ the Vine offertory as returning to General Fund and incorporating the plans they have submitted the computations indicate that there will be a £19k deficit.</p> <p>As the budget has not been completed the Share apportionment of Partnership Ministry and overheads to the churches has not been finalised.</p>								
5.5	<p>A Report of Fund Raising Activity:</p> <p>In normal years the principle methods of raising funds are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Member's donations and, where appropriate, the recovery of tax. ○ Subscriptions and hire fees. 								

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A wide variety of fundraising events e.g., fetes, quizzes, tabletop sales etc. ○ Minor Grants to support specific Partnership activities. ○ Major Grants and special appeals to support specific significant Partnership projects or activities. ○ Fees from Funerals, Weddings & Thanksgiving, naming and blessings. ○ Interest from deposit accounts and dividends from investments.
5.6	<p>Investment Policies and Performance:</p> <p>To invest the unused Partnership funds in secure interest-bearing deposit accounts. To hold these and the Partnership investments in secure and ethical funds in accordance with the Trust Deeds.</p>
5.7	<p>Notes to the 2021 Accounts</p> <p>Partnership Unrestricted General Funds:</p> <p>Incoming Resources</p> <p>The Financial statements, in the Annual Report, only disclose the total of all funds operated by the Partnership in 2020. Space does not allow for the separate reporting of the prior year Unrestricted General Funds so the movements reported below cannot be extracted directly from the Financial Statements included in the Annual Report. The 2020 Unrestricted General Fund figures can be found in last year's Annual Report or on request from the Partnership Treasurer who can be contacted by email at treasurer@woughton.org.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. When compared to 2020, income from Donations and Legacies has increased by £23,654. Note 1 of the Financial Statements reports the breakdown of this income. <p>Tax Efficient Giving has risen by £15,285, collections qualifying for Small Donations have fallen by £82. Both of these movements have had a positive impact on the Gift Aid and Small Donations Scheme re-claims from HMRC rising by £3,714.</p> <p>The appeals promoted throughout 2021 delivered increased income across all categories of giving. The resumption of church services delivered an increase in plate giving but the removal of eight months of Christ the Vine offertory has adversely impacted what is reported.</p> <p>The restrictions on activities has meant there has been a reduced need to acquire Junior Church materials which has meant a reduction in the grant awarded by Chapmans Educational Foundation. There have only been small movements on the other items under this heading.</p> ii. Charitable activities have seen a rise of £14,372 from the 2020 performance. The breakdown of this income stream can be seen in Note 2 of the Financial Statements. There were fewer cancellations brought on by the Covid-19 crisis so Wedding fee income increased by £3,008. Funeral fees have also seen a rise increasing by £3,030 compared to the prior year. The addition of the manse letting income delivered the bulk of the £8,334 increase, compared to last year. iii. Other Trading Activity returned but in a limited way. The restrictions meant the major annual events could not resume but smaller events observing the prevailing guidance could. The outcome is an increase in Fundraising by £1,337 compared to 2020. The General Sales income increased moderately, up by £269 on the prior year. Further detail of this activity can be seen in Note 3. iv. Investments fell by £254 compared to the previous year. The interest rates on all deposits decreased rapidly towards the end of 2020. The pandemic continues to depress investment earnings. v. Other Income is predominantly delivered from a number of sources that do not easily fit the other revenue categories. There was only one small donation received for a good cause. <p>Resources expended</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Raising Funds costs are £267 more than 2020. The analysis of this expenditure can be seen in Note 5 of the Financial Statements. Fundraising Costs have increased by £1,038, compared to the prior year, due to the increased opportunity to stage events; Advertising & Promotion expenditure decreased by £344; only two churches distributed Christmas cards in 2021. There were no visits by the Diocesan architect in 2021 but independent valuers were called in to provide a market price for the Church Hall. This delivered a £427 reduction compared to the prior year.

- ii. Charitable Activities have increased by £1,097 between years. There have been several significant adverse and favourable movements under this heading. The breakdown of the activities can be seen under Notes 6a to 6d.
- iii. Ministry and Related Staff Costs (Note 6 Sub Note (a)) have fallen by £1,795 compared to 2020. The LEP Share and Clergy Expenses only increased £189; the manse was let in late 2020 and this has delivered a £2,484 favourable movement from the previous year. The easing of restrictions meant that attendances at seminars and courses could resume. There were two groups of Partnership members attended Safeguarding training in 2021. This delivered an adverse movement on Training of £500.
- iv. Employed Staff costs rose by £1,061 compared to the prior year. The Partnership follows the Living Wage Foundation announcements published in November each year. There were rate rises announced in both 2020 and 2021 and this is reflected in the increase. See Note 6 Sub Note (b).
- v. Premises and Other Resource Costs (Note 6 Sub Note (c)) are up by £984 from 2020. The most significant movements occurred on the following sub headings:

Premises running costs saw further savings and are down by £3,724 compared to 2020. The renewal of gas and electric contracts delivered considerable savings particularly at Christ the Vine. The Partnership also benefitted from the waiving of the share of utility costs at Woolstone. The level of stocks meant Premises cleaning also saw a saving compared to the previous year.

Maintenance is £2,478 higher than the prior year. The major movements came from the installation of a box covering the electrics at St Mary's following instructions from the the Archdeacon and extensive churchyard work at St Thomas'.

Partnership Administration is up by £1,137 on the prior year. The bulk of the adverse movement between years is the manse letting agent fees. This adverse movement was eased by the continued reduction in the use of photocopying.

Upkeep of Services/Centre Hire; compliant with prevailing guidance services resumed in April 2021. This meant that flowers and service elements were once again being purchased. The costs were also added to with the purchase of a Zoom license at Christ the Vine.

Insurance; the revised Woughton on the Green Church Hall arrangements delivered the bulk of the £252 increase in insurance costs.

Equipment & New Building Works is £490 higher than the previous year. The purchases are non-recurrent in nature so it is difficult to draw any conclusions from the movement. There was investment in catering equipment during the year which could have been a postponement from the prior year because of lockdowns.

There were reductions on the remaining categories in Sub Note (c) but not significant enough to comment on.
- vi. Grants and donations payable (Note 6 Sub Note (d)) were up by £847 compared to 2020. The easing of restrictions allowed for some fund-raising events to be staged during 2021. This delivered additional money for good causes. Churches continued to moderate their annual nominations to other charities.

General Fund:

The General Fund performance, by District, can be seen in the first section of Note 9. All of the churches responded to the appeals to varying degrees. However, Christ the Vine's reaction to the appeals was to place restrictions on their offertory. This has cancelled out the gifts made by individual members who responded positively to the appeals. The membership of the church opted to do this unilaterally without reference to or approval from the Trustees. The declarations are undated so it is unclear when members wanted their giving to be split. The preprinted forms referred to a meeting in April so all offertory subsequent to that month is being held as a creditor until the situation is resolved. Unlike 2020 the historic churches enjoyed a much better year with both hosting weddings as well as funerals. Both churches were very generous in their response to the appeals but St Mary's in particular. The rented churches also delivered surpluses. Woolstone benefitted from the waiving of their share of the building utility charges. There was a high number of Trinity members shielding for either work or health reasons which kept attendances low for much of the year. However, they also showed great generosity when the appeals were announced.

Partnership Groups:

The summary of Partnership Groups and Designations can be seen in the second section of Note 9 titled Delegated Funds.

ABC (Adults, Babies and Children Group) started meeting again from mid-March and have been meeting ever since observing the guidance appropriate to the times of their meetings.

The Homeless Group (the Soup Run) have not resumed operations. The activity reported is some catch up items and a gift towards a coffee machine.

Part of the income from the letting of the Manse has been set aside to meet the cost of the subsidence repairs and held under this heading.

Partnership Restricted Funds:

Boiler and Baptistry: The project finally received all the money needed to meet the cost of the boiler repair and baptistry installation in December.

Christ the Vine received a legacy to support the church. Given the donor has specified the gift be used for the church it has been treated as restricted.

St Mary's continue to receive gifts for the next phase of their Audio Visual installation.

St Mary's Fabric continues to receive regular gifts from supporters and, where appropriate, this is supplemented by the Gift Aid re-claim. The fund also receives money from a dedicated church box. Most recently the fund has been used to pay for the work on the tree root protection in the porch area.

St Thomas': Building; the work on the Chancel subsidence has commenced with architect and surveyor site visits, surveys, continuous monitoring and initial remedial work. The church has responded to this urgent work with a number of personal gifts, fundraising events and grant applications.

Trinity Church: Restricted; the church has become a partner in the Fishermead Digital Deprivation initiative and has made a gift towards the initial investment needed to get the project operational.

Investments:

The Partnership holds six permanent trust funds all managed by CCLA. Five are invested in the CBF Church of England Fund as income shares and one in the COIF Charities Investment Fund as income units. They are as follows:

The Woughton-on-the-Green Church House (127001608S) annual income from investments is used for Woughton Parish charitable purposes.

The Woughton-on-the-Green Church – Levi Trust (127001566S) is a fund applied in or towards an organist and tuning and minor repairs to the organ at St. Mary's Church, Woughton-on-the-Green.

The Dividends Received from (127002702S) Little Woolstones Church Hall, sold in 1984, are passed back to the DCC to be used by the local church.

The Dividends Received from (127002582S) Simpson Church Hall, sold in 1973, are passed back to the DCC to be used by the local church.

The Woughton-on-the-Green Church Trust (127002774S) is a fund received in respect of a Deed of Variation in 1992. The annual income from investments is to be used for the repair and upkeep of the fabric of St. Mary's Church, Woughton-on-the-Green.

The Dividends Received from Woughton-on-the-Green Church Trust (COIF - 546050001T) are passed back to the DCC of St. Mary's Church, Woughton-on-the-Green.

Woughton Ecumenical Partnership
Financial statements to the month ended 31 December 2021

Statement of Financial Activities 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Delegated funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Endowments 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Full Year funds 2020 £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	1	118,297	105	22,056	0	140,458	102,280
Charitable activities	2	19,221	5,816	0	0	25,037	4,849
Other trading activities	3	3,672	327	2,385	0	6,384	2,315
Investments	4	11	5	13	4,904	4,933	5,402
Other		45	0	0	0	45	260
Total		141,246	6,253	24,454	4,904	176,857	115,106
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	5	(2,402)	0	(238)	0	(2,640)	(2,189)
Charitable activities	6	(140,597)	(1,657)	(15,755)	(446)	(158,455)	(161,917)
Other		0	0	0	0	0	(250)
Total		(142,999)	(1,657)	(15,993)	(446)	(161,095)	(164,356)
Net gains/(losses) on investments					24,178	24,178	10,707
Net income/(expenditure)		(1,753)	4,596	8,461	28,636	39,940	(38,543)
Transfers between funds		2,274	(275)	0	(1,999)	0	0
Net movement in funds		521	4,321	8,461	26,637	39,940	(38,543)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		36,325	18,164	38,656	206,864	300,009	338,552
Total funds carried forward		36,846	22,485	47,117	233,501	339,949	300,009

Balance Sheet 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Delegated funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Endowments 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Full Year funds 2020 £
Fixed assets:							
Investments	12	0	0	0	192,911	192,911	168,733
Total fixed assets		0	0	0	192,911	192,911	168,733
Current assets:							
Debtors	7	6,177	5	523	0	6,705	1,156
Cash at bank and in hand		34,933	22,480	46,594	40,590	144,597	130,770
Total current assets		41,110	22,485	47,117	40,590	151,302	131,926
Liabilities:							
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	8	(4,264)	0	0	0	(4,264)	(650)
Net current assets or liabilities		36,846	22,485	47,117	40,590	147,038	131,276
Total assets less current liabilities		36,846	22,485	47,117	233,501	339,949	300,009
<i>Net asset or liabilities excluding pension asset or liability</i>		36,846	22,485	47,117	233,501	339,949	300,009
Total net assets or liabilities		36,846	22,485	47,117	233,501	339,949	300,009
The funds of the charity:							
Endowment funds	11				233,501	233,501	206,864
Restricted income funds	10			47,117		47,117	38,656
Unrestricted funds	9	36,846	22,485			59,331	54,489
Total unrestricted funds		36,846	22,485	0	0	59,331	54,489
Total charity funds		36,846	22,485	47,117	233,501	339,949	300,009

Notes

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Delegated funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Endowments 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Full Year funds 2020 £
Note 1: Donations and legacies						
Tax Efficient Giving	75,634	84	5,360	0	81,078	64,527
Small Donations	6,359	0	0	0	6,359	6,441
Gift Aid and Small Donation Re-Claim	20,506	21	1,340	0	21,867	17,756
Other Donations	11,993	0	1,054	0	13,047	10,206
Appeals	2,935	0	4,302	0	7,237	1,846
Grants	870	0	5,000	0	5,870	1,504
Legacies	0	0	5,000	0	5,000	0
Total Donations and legacies	118,297	105	22,056	0	140,458	102,280
Note 2: Charitable activities						
Funeral Fees	6,768	0	0	0	6,768	3,738
Wedding Fees	3,528	0	0	0	3,528	520
Building Hire	8,925	5,816	0	0	14,741	591
Total Charitable activities	19,221	5,816	0	0	25,037	4,849
Note 3: Other trading activities						
Fundraising	2,154	0	2,385	0	4,539	941
Subscriptions	0	327	0	0	327	125
General Sales	1,518	0	0	0	1,518	1,249
Total Other trading activities	3,672	327	2,385	0	6,384	2,315
Note 4: Investments						
Bank Interest	11	5	13	0	29	656
Investment Income from Endowments	0	0	0	4,904	4,904	4,746
Total Investments	11	5	13	4,904	4,933	5,402
Note 5: Raising funds						
Fundraising Costs	1,202	0	238	0	1,440	218
Advertising & Promotion	240	0	0	0	240	584
Grant Application & Professional Costs	960	0	0	0	960	1,387
Total Raising funds	2,402	0	238	0	2,640	2,189
Note 6: Charitable activities						
(a) Ministry and Related Staff Costs						
Mission Partnership LEP Share	91,443	0	0	0	91,443	90,751
Clergy Expenses	2,297	0	0	321	2,618	2,800
Manse Running Expenses	470	0	0	0	470	2,954
Training	500	0	0	0	500	489
	94,710	0	0	321	95,031	96,994
(b) Employed Staff						
	2021	2020				
Average number of part time staff	2	2				
Salaries & wages	14,341	13,368				
National insurance contributions	151	63				
	14,492	13,431				

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Delegated funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Endowments 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Full Year funds 2020 £
(c) Premises and other resource costs						
Premises running costs	7,778	0	0	0	7,778	11,502
Maintenance	4,514	291	1,920	0	6,725	8,466
Parish Administration	4,959	0	1,399	0	6,358	3,822
Upkeep of Services/Centre Hire	2,985	0	0	0	2,985	2,900
Insurance	7,371	0	0	0	7,371	7,119
Equipment & New Building Works	1,440	1,000	12,136	0	14,576	14,928
Junior Church, ABC & Youth	37	302	0	0	339	65
Pastoral Care/Homeless	54	64	0	125	243	631
	29,138	1,657	15,455	125	46,375	49,433
(d) Grants and donations payable						
Cancer Research	100	0	0	0	100	100
Fishermead Trinity Centre	0	0	300	0	300	0
Leaving Gift	25	0	0	0	25	0
Macmillan	0	0	0	0	0	63
MK-Act	232	0	0	0	232	500
MK Bridgebuilder Trust	156	0	0	0	156	128
MK Hospital Charity	0	0	0	0	0	250
MK Food Bank	20	0	0	0	20	0
MK MS Therapy Centre	0	0	0	0	0	285
RNLI	396	0	0	0	396	0
Royal British Legion	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salvation Army	91	0	0	0	91	0
Simpson Garden Group	413	0	0	0	413	0
Streetlight Trust	334	0	0	0	334	0
Tear Fund	67	0	0	0	67	172
Tinker's Bridge Rainbows	0	0	0	0	0	149
Wader Quest	323	0	0	0	323	0
Willen Hospice	0	0	0	0	0	312
Zimbabwe Housing Project	100	0	0	0	100	100
	2,257	0	300	0	2,557	2,059
Total Charitable activities	140,597	1,657	15,755	446	158,455	161,917
Note 7: Debtors						
Gift Aid tax recoverable	4,476	5	523	0	5,004	784
Small Donations recoverable	797	0	0	0	797	372
Amounts falling due within one year	904	0	0	0	904	0
	6,177	5	523	0	6,705	1,156
Note 8: Creditors						
Amounts falling due within one year	581	0	0	0	581	0
CVCC - Donations	2,838	0	0	0	2,838	0
Other creditors (Weddings)	845	0	0	0	845	650
	4,264	0	0	0	4,264	650

Note 9: Unrestricted funds

	Balance at 1st Jan 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31st Dec £	Net Movement £
Undesignated fund						
WEP General	41,027	16,089	(112,689)	78,899	23,326	(17,701)
Christ the Vine	6,055	9,388	(9,155)	(2,529)	3,759	(2,296)
Holy Trinity	(1,358)	3,752	(564)	(2,937)	(1,107)	251
St Mary's	(11,834)	59,341	(6,799)	(43,698)	(2,990)	8,844
St Mary's Church Hall	236	1,505	(2,287)	0	(546)	(782)
St Thomas	(2,197)	24,174	(9,514)	(9,196)	3,267	5,464
Trinity Church Fishermead	4,396	26,997	(1,991)	(18,265)	11,137	6,741
Parish General Funds	36,325	141,246	(142,999)	2,274	36,846	521
Delegated funds						
Adults, Babies and Children Group	1,237	327	(302)	0	1,262	25
Benevolent Fund	78	0	0	0	78	0
Homeless Group	5,211	107	(65)	(275)	4,978	(233)
WEP Property	2,204	0	0	0	2,204	0
URC Manse	0	5,816	(1,290)	0	4,526	4,526
Woolstone Chancel Trust	6,240	2	0	0	6,242	2
Youth Fund	3,194	1	0	0	3,195	1
Parish Delegated Funds	18,164	6,253	(1,657)	(275)	22,485	4,321
Parish General & Delegated Funds	54,489	147,499	(144,656)	1,999	59,331	4,842
WEP Suspense Accounts	650	14,061	(13,866)	0	845	195
	55,139	161,560	(158,522)	1,999	60,176	5,037

Note 10: Restricted funds

Christ the Vine: Gift Day	872	0	0	0	872	0
Christ the Vine: Boiler/Baptistry	(3,862)	3,898	0	0	36	3,898
Christ the Vine: Legacy	0	5,000	0	0	5,000	5,000
Coffee Hall: Flood Relief	1,230	0	0	0	1,230	0
St Mary's: AV	743	2,956	0	0	3,699	2,956
St Mary's: Clock	2,833	1	(174)	0	2,660	(173)
St Mary's: Fabric	29,281	2,823	(1,861)	0	30,243	962
St Thomas': Building	423	9,774	(13,658)	0	(3,461)	(3,884)
St Thomas': Legacy	5,029	2	0	0	5,031	2
Trinity Church: Projects	1,006	0	0	0	1,006	0
Trinity Church: Restricted	1,101	0	(300)	0	801	(300)
	38,656	24,454	(15,993)	0	47,117	8,461

Note 11: Endowments

Trust income retained	38,131	4,904	(446)	(1,999)	40,590	2,459
Total Endowment Investments	168,733	24,178			192,911	24,178
	206,864	29,082	(446)	(1,999)	233,501	26,637

Note 12: Investments

	Share Holdings Quantity	Value December 2021 £	Dividends Received £	Dividends Distributed £	Value December 2020 £
WotG Church House (127001608S)	4,889	114,491	2,905		100,162
WotG Levi Trust (127001566S)	818	19,156	486	(486)	16,759
Little Woolstones Church Hall (127002702S)	1,038	24,308	617	(617)	21,224
Simpson Church Hall (127002582S)	218	5,105	130	(130)	4,457
WotG Church Trust (127002774S)	181	4,239	108	(108)	3,701
WotG Church Trust (COIF) (546050001T)	1,245	25,612	658	(658)	22,430
	8,389	192,911	4,904	(1,999)	168,733

2021 Statement of cash flows

	Current Year Total funds £	Prior year Total funds £
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	8,894	(47,946)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	4,933	5,402
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		
Proceeds from sale of investments	0	0
Purchase of investments		
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	4,933	5,402
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	13,827	(42,544)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	130,770	173,314
Change in cash and cash equivalents due to exchange rate movements	0	0
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	144,597	130,770

2021 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	Current Year £	Prior Year £
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	39,940	(38,543)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	0	0
(Gains)/losses on investments	(24,178)	(10,707)
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(4,933)	(5,402)
Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets	0	0
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	0	0
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(5,549)	6,056
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	3,614	650
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	8,894	(47,946)

2021 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	Current Year £	Prior Year £
Cash in hand at close of year	144,597	130,770
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	0	0
Overdraft facility repayable on demand	0	0
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	144,597	130,770

Annual Accounts



2021

Baptist, Church of England,
Methodist
& United Reformed Church

5.

Financial Review:

5.1

Independent Examiner:



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's
report on the accounts**

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Woughton Ecumenical Partnership

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st December 2021

**Charity no
(if any)**

1172298

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 / 12 / 2021**.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

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

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

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (~~other than that disclosed below~~*) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date:

29 April 2022

Name:

Cristina Sabucido

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

ACCA

Address:

3 Turners Mews

Neath Hill

MK14 6HH

IER

October 2018

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**Give here
brief details
of any items that
the examiner
wishes to disclose.**

Woughton Ecumenical Partnership

Financial statements to the month ended 31 December 2021

Statement of Financial Activities 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Delegated funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Endowments 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Full Year funds 2020 £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	1	118,297	105	22,056	0	140,458	102,280
Charitable activities	2	19,221	5,816	0	0	25,037	4,849
Other trading activities	3	3,672	327	2,385	0	6,384	2,315
Investments	4	11	5	13	4,904	4,933	5,402
Other		45	0	0	0	45	260
Total		141,246	6,253	24,454	4,904	176,857	115,106
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	5	(2,402)	0	(238)	0	(2,640)	(2,189)
Charitable activities	6	(140,597)	(1,657)	(15,755)	(446)	(158,455)	(161,917)
Other		0	0	0	0	0	(250)
Total		(142,999)	(1,657)	(15,993)	(446)	(161,095)	(164,356)
Net gains/(losses) on investments					24,178	24,178	10,707
Net income/(expenditure)		(1,753)	4,596	8,461	28,636	39,940	(38,543)
Transfers between funds		2,274	(275)	0	(1,999)	0	0
Net movement in funds		521	4,321	8,461	26,637	39,940	(38,543)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		36,325	18,164	38,656	206,864	300,009	338,552
Total funds carried forward		36,846	22,485	47,117	233,501	339,949	300,009

Balance Sheet 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Delegated funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Endowments 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Full Year funds 2020 £
Fixed assets:							
Investments	12	0	0	0	192,911	192,911	168,733
Total fixed assets		0	0	0	192,911	192,911	168,733
Current assets:							
Debtors	7	6,177	5	523	0	6,705	1,156
Cash at bank and in hand		34,933	22,480	46,594	40,590	144,597	130,770
Total current assets		41,110	22,485	47,117	40,590	151,302	131,926
Liabilities:							
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	8	(4,264)	0	0	0	(4,264)	(650)
Net current assets or liabilities		36,846	22,485	47,117	40,590	147,038	131,276
Total assets less current liabilities		36,846	22,485	47,117	233,501	339,949	300,009
Net asset or liabilities excluding pension asset or liability		36,846	22,485	47,117	233,501	339,949	300,009
Total net assets or liabilities		36,846	22,485	47,117	233,501	339,949	300,009
The funds of the charity:							
Endowment funds	11				233,501	233,501	206,864
Restricted income funds	10			47,117		47,117	38,656
Unrestricted funds	9	36,846	22,485			59,331	54,489
Total unrestricted funds		36,846	22,485	0	0	59,331	54,489
Total charity funds		36,846	22,485	47,117	233,501	339,949	300,009

Notes

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Delegated funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Endowments 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Full Year funds 2020 £
Note 1: Donations and legacies						
Tax Efficient Giving	75,634	84	5,360	0	81,078	64,527
Small Donations	6,359	0	0	0	6,359	6,441
Gift Aid and Small Donation Re-Claim	20,506	21	1,340	0	21,867	17,756
Other Donations	11,993	0	1,054	0	13,047	10,206
Appeals	2,935	0	4,302	0	7,237	1,846
Grants	870	0	5,000	0	5,870	1,504
Legacies	0	0	5,000	0	5,000	0
Total Donations and legacies	118,297	105	22,056	0	140,458	102,280
Note 2: Charitable activities						
Funeral Fees	6,768	0	0	0	6,768	3,738
Wedding Fees	3,528	0	0	0	3,528	520
Building Hire	8,925	5,816	0	0	14,741	591
Total Charitable activities	19,221	5,816	0	0	25,037	4,849
Note 3: Other trading activities						
Fundraising	2,154	0	2,385	0	4,539	941
Subscriptions	0	327	0	0	327	125
General Sales	1,518	0	0	0	1,518	1,249
Total Other trading activities	3,672	327	2,385	0	6,384	2,315
Note 4: Investments						
Bank Interest	11	5	13	0	29	656
Investment Income from Endowments	0	0	0	4,904	4,904	4,746
Total Investments	11	5	13	4,904	4,933	5,402
Note 5: Raising funds						
Fundraising Costs	1,202	0	238	0	1,440	218
Advertising & Promotion	240	0	0	0	240	584
Grant Application & Professional Costs	960	0	0	0	960	1,387
Total Raising funds	2,402	0	238	0	2,640	2,189
Note 6: Charitable activities						
(a) Ministry and Related Staff Costs						
Mission Partnership LEP Share	91,443	0	0	0	91,443	90,751
Clergy Expenses	2,297	0	0	321	2,618	2,800
Manse Running Expenses	470	0	0	0	470	2,954
Training	500	0	0	0	500	489
	94,710	0	0	321	95,031	96,994
(b) Employed Staff						
	2021	2020				
Average number of part time staff	2	2				
Salaries & wages	14,341	13,368				
National insurance contributions	151	63				
	14,492	13,431				

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Delegated funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Endowments 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Full Year funds 2020 £
(c) Premises and other resource costs						
Premises running costs	7,778	0	0	0	7,778	11,502
Maintenance	4,514	291	1,920	0	6,725	8,466
Parish Administration	4,959	0	1,399	0	6,358	3,822
Upkeep of Services/Centre Hire	2,985	0	0	0	2,985	2,900
Insurance	7,371	0	0	0	7,371	7,119
Equipment & New Building Works	1,440	1,000	12,136	0	14,576	14,928
Junior Church, ABC & Youth	37	302	0	0	339	65
Pastoral Care/Homeless	54	64	0	125	243	631
	29,138	1,657	15,455	125	46,375	49,433
(d) Grants and donations payable						
Cancer Research	100	0	0	0	100	100
Fishermead Trinity Centre	0	0	300	0	300	0
Leaving Gift	25	0	0	0	25	0
Macmillan	0	0	0	0	0	63
MK-Act	232	0	0	0	232	500
MK Bridgebuilder Trust	156	0	0	0	156	128
MK Hospital Charity	0	0	0	0	0	250
MK Food Bank	20	0	0	0	20	0
MK MS Therapy Centre	0	0	0	0	0	285
RNLI	396	0	0	0	396	0
Royal British Legion	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salvation Army	91	0	0	0	91	0
Simpson Garden Group	413	0	0	0	413	0
Streetlight Trust	334	0	0	0	334	0
Tear Fund	67	0	0	0	67	172
Tinker's Bridge Rainbows	0	0	0	0	0	149
Wader Quest	323	0	0	0	323	0
Willen Hospice	0	0	0	0	0	312
Zimbabwe Housing Project	100	0	0	0	100	100
	2,257	0	300	0	2,557	2,059
Total Charitable activities	140,597	1,657	15,755	446	158,455	161,917
Note 7: Debtors						
Gift Aid tax recoverable	4,476	5	523	0	5,004	784
Small Donations recoverable	797	0	0	0	797	372
Amounts falling due within one year	904	0	0	0	904	0
	6,177	5	523	0	6,705	1,156
Note 8: Creditors						
Amounts falling due within one year	581	0	0	0	581	0
CVCC - Donations	2,838	0	0	0	2,838	0
Other creditors (Weddings)	845	0	0	0	845	650
	4,264	0	0	0	4,264	650

Note 9: Unrestricted funds

	Balance at 1st Jan 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31st Dec £	Net Movement £
Undesignated fund						
WEP General	41,027	16,089	(112,689)	78,899	23,326	(17,701)
Christ the Vine	6,055	9,388	(9,155)	(2,529)	3,759	(2,296)
Holy Trinity	(1,358)	3,752	(564)	(2,937)	(1,107)	251
St Mary's	(11,834)	59,341	(6,799)	(43,698)	(2,990)	8,844
St Mary's Church Hall	236	1,505	(2,287)	0	(546)	(782)
St Thomas	(2,197)	24,174	(9,514)	(9,196)	3,267	5,464
Trinity Church Fishermead	4,396	26,997	(1,991)	(18,265)	11,137	6,741
Parish General Funds	36,325	141,246	(142,999)	2,274	36,846	521
Delegated funds						
Adults, Babies and Children Group	1,237	327	(302)	0	1,262	25
Benevolent Fund	78	0	0	0	78	0
Homeless Group	5,211	107	(65)	(275)	4,978	(233)
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URC Manse	0	5,816	(1,290)	0	4,526	4,526
Woolstone Chancel Trust	6,240	2	0	0	6,242	2
Youth Fund	3,194	1	0	0	3,195	1
Parish Delegated Funds	18,164	6,253	(1,657)	(275)	22,485	4,321
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Coffee Hall: Flood Relief	1,230	0	0	0	1,230	0
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St Thomas': Legacy	5,029	2	0	0	5,031	2
Trinity Church: Projects	1,006	0	0	0	1,006	0
Trinity Church: Restricted	1,101	0	(300)	0	801	(300)
	38,656	24,454	(15,993)	0	47,117	8,461

Note 11: Endowments

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Purchase of property, plant and equipment		
Proceeds from sale of investments	0	0
Purchase of investments		
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Depreciation charges	0	0
(Gains)/losses on investments	(24,178)	(10,707)
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(4,933)	(5,402)
Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets	0	0
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	0	0
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(5,549)	6,056
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	3,614	650
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	8,894	(47,946)

2021 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	Current Year £	Prior Year £
Cash in hand at close of year	144,597	130,770
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	0	0
Overdraft facility repayable on demand	0	0
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	144,597	130,770

WOUGHTON ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

England & Wales - Charity number 1172298

Accounts

Annual Report and Accounts



Registered Charity no. 1172298



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
of the WOUGHTON ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP
Via Zoom Due to Covid
6th April 2021

Ecumenical Vision Statement For the Woughton Ecumenical Parish

In the light of the prayer of Christ 'may they all be one... that the world may believe that you sent me...' (Jn 17.21) and the injunction to 'spare no effort to make fast with bonds of peace the unity which the Spirit gives' (Eph 4:3), members of Woughton Ecumenical Parish commit themselves to work together in serving God's mission locally and beyond.

Members of the Parish, drawn from the four participating denominations (The Church of England, The Methodist Church, The Baptist Union and The United Reformed Church) and from other Christian traditions, seek to respond to the call of God through Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Our life together and our mission are shaped by our core values:

- Spiritually alive;
- Together in Christ;
- Reaching out;
- Welcoming all;
- Using our gifts;
- Being sustainable.

Each of our five local congregations gives expression to the above, in its worship, ministry and mission.

AGENDAS for
Annual Parochial Church Meeting of Woughton Parish,
Parochial Church Council of Woughton Parish,
Annual Congregational Meeting of Woughton Ecumenical Partnership,
And Meeting of the Woughton Ecumenical Partnership Trustees
At 7.30pm on Wednesday 6th April 2021
On Zoom

Prayers led by the Team.

Rev Ian Herbert in the Chair for items 1 and 2.

1. Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- a. Approval of Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting 28th October 2020
- b. Nominations for churchwardens
- d. Election of PCC members as nominated in Appendix A
- e. Decision on number of elected PCC members for the year 2021/22
- f. Appointment of Deanery Synod representative

2. Parochial Church Council Meeting

- a. Co-option of PCC member
- b. Election of PCC Secretary
- c. Proposal that the WEP Treasurer should act as the PCC Treasurer for the year

Mike Davidge in the Chair

3. Annual Congregational Meeting

- a. Approval of the Minutes of Annual Congregational Meeting of WEP held on 28th October 2020
- b. Presentation of the Report
- c. Presentation of the Accounts for 2020
- d. Appointment of the Independent Examiner
- e. Ex-officio Trustees
- f. Election of Trustees of the Woughton Ecumenical Partnership (two only required)
- g. Appointment of the Methodist Circuit Representative
- h. Appointment of a Representative to Netherfield Partnership.

Rev Ian Herbert in the Chair

4. Meeting of Trustees

- a. Election of the lay Chair, Secretary and Treasurer
- b. Election of Trustee for the Trinity Centre, Fishermead
- c. Election of the Member of the Trinity Centre Management Committee
- d. Date of next two meetings

Appendix A to the Agenda

Appendix B

Nominations for appointments at Partnership level 2021-2022

Annual Parochial Church Meeting:

PCC Members <i>all for one year</i> 2021-22	Lynn Castle (St T) Don Mahon (TF) Di Miller (St M)	
PCC Ex-Officio <i>to note</i>	Revd Ian Herbert, Revd Paul Norris,	
Church Wardens	<i>Christ the Vine</i> <i>St Mary's</i> <i>St Thomas'</i> <i>Woolstone</i>	Mandy Heart Jean Mattinsley, David Bird Iola Samuels John Howard
Deanery Synod Representatives		Di Miller, Kim Weston

Parochial Church Council:

Co-opt to PCC	Revd. Charmaine Howard Rev Nicola Vidamour
---------------	---

Annual Congregational Meeting:

WEP Trustees <i>For three years to 2024</i>	Iola Samuels (St T) ⁽²⁰²¹⁾
--	---------------------------------------

For information: <i>Continuing Trustees</i>	Lynn Castle (St T) ⁽²⁰¹⁹⁾ Mike Davidge ⁽²⁰¹⁹⁾ David Hart (CVCC) ⁽²⁰¹⁹⁾ Don Mahon (TF) ⁽²⁰¹⁹⁾ Marilyn Mahon (TF) ⁽²⁰¹⁹⁾ Kim Weston (St M) ⁽²⁰¹⁹⁾ Di Miller (St M) ⁽²⁰¹⁹⁾ John Howard (W) ⁽²⁰¹⁹⁾
---	---

<i>Ex-Officio Trustees</i>	Revd. Ian Herbert, Revd. Nicola Vidamour, Revd. Paul Norris, Revd. Charmaine Howard
----------------------------	--

Methodist Circuit (2)	Lynn Castle, Marilyn Mahon, Don Mahon
-----------------------	---------------------------------------

Netherfield Partnership (corporate member)	Revd Ian Herbert
--	------------------

Trustees Meeting:

Trustee of Trinity Centre	Revd. Ian Herbert
Member of Trinity Management Committee	Ken MacLeod

Other Appointments and Representatives 2021-2022

Ministry Team

Revd Ian Herbert
Revd Paul Norris
Revd Charmaine Howard
Revd Nicola Vidamour

Other Ordained Ministers

Revd Christopher Bell
Revd Paul Le Sueur

Preachers and worship leaders

Lynn Castle
Mike Davidge
Jeff Newall
Judy Rapp

URC Synod Representatives (appointed by local churches – 1 per church)

Vacant

Mission Partnership Representatives (appointed by local churches – 2 per church)

Mike Davidge (WEP)
Kim Weston (St M)
Lynn Castle (St T)
Don Mahon (TF)
Marilyn Mahon (TF)
Sophie Pond (W)

**Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
of Woughton Parish on 28th October 2020
via Zoom because of the Covid-19 pandemic.**

Present: Paul Norris Judy Rapp Barbara Albone
Lynn Davidge Mike Davidge Tim May
Lynn Castle James Clark Alison Statham
David Bird Miriam Bird Ian Bunning
Sue Newby John Forbes Ophelia Cole
Jill Strong Melania Hart David Hart
Sophia Pond Ken MacLeod Russell Howe
Don Mahon Marilyn Mahon Brian Baldwin
Norma Baldwin Kim Weston Jean Mattinsley
Stephen Roberts Charmaine Howard Pauline Ashton
Ray Pape Ayo Ogusanye Becci Herbert
Barry Messham Sue Messham Ian Herbert
Geoffrey Miller Anna Berridge Mandy Heart
John Howard Di Miller Jane Norton
Nicola Vidamour Aston

Apologies: Jennifer Harding Barbara Zimmer Lore Reynolds
Pauline Rudiger Eileen Roberts Angy Norris
John Castle Adam Carrivick Jeff Newall
Jo Newall

Rev Nicola Vidamour led prayers.

Rev Ian Herbert in the chair for Items 1 & 2

1. Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- a) Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 30th April 2019 were proposed for approval by Marilyn Mahon and seconded by Lynn Castle. All in favour.
- b) Nominations for churchwardens. Nomination forms have been received for Jean Mattinsley and David Bird from St Mary's Church. Forms are awaited from John Howard from Woolstone Church. These nominations were proposed by Paul Norris and seconded by Sophia Pond. All in favour.
- c) Election of PCC members. Appendix A with corrections was proposed by David Hart and seconded by Mandy Hart. All in favour.
- d) The number of elected PCC members for the year 2019/20 to be decided. The meeting decided to keep the number at two from each congregation.
- e) Appointment of representatives for the Anglican Deanery Synod. Kim Weston and Di Miller were nominated for the next triennium. Kim reported that the Understanding Mental Health group had met four times in the year and it was still ongoing. In addition Kim urged the members to use the Deanery website which is excellent.

2. Parochial Church Meeting

Extra item taken: Co-option of Rev Nicola Vidamour as a PCC member proposed by Ian Herbert and seconded by Becci Herbert. All in favour.

- a) Election of PCC secretary. Di Miller indicated a willingness to stand again and was proposed by Jean Mattinsley and seconded by Lynn Castle. All in favour.
- b) Proposal that the WEP Treasurer Don Mahon act as the Treasurer for the PCC for the year. Jean Mattinsley proposed, and John Howard seconded this and all voted in favour.

Meeting ended at 8pm.

**Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of Woughton Ecumenical
Partnership held on 28th October 2020
via Zoom because of the coronavirus pandemic.**

Present. 43 members of the Partnership were present online.

Apologies. There were a number of apologies recorded.

Mike Davidge in the Chair.

3. Annual Congregational Meeting.

- a) Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting held on 30th April 2019. Approval of these Minutes was proposed by Ian Herbert and seconded by David Hart. All in agreement with one correction at item 3c from 2016 to 2018.
- b) Presentation of the Annual Report. Mike highlighted how delighted the Partnership is to have two new members joining the Ministry team. They are Rev Nicola Vidamour and Rev Charmaine Howard. He reported that much has been happening in WEP and generally there have been valuable contributions made to the local community. Our central core theme of mission gives us a stimulus for prayer. One group meeting each week is the House of Prayer on a Tuesday led faithfully by Martin Lever.

Mike asked representatives from each of the churches to pick out 2 or 3 special areas of blessing, loss and challenge during the past year.

Christ the Vine Community Church reported that the service restart after lockdown was welcomed and the live streaming had been appreciated. About 20 people with social distancing were able to attend. Zoom meetings and also outdoor meetings had been possible. A Coffee Hall Best Gardens competition had been held which was a good thing to try even if there were only a few entries. Sadly, ABC has not been able to restart, and no winter night shelter participation is possible. Things to miss were the absence of refreshments after a service and not being able to sing in live worship.

Trinity Fishermead reported that they opened their doors for services on 23rd August at the changed time of 11am. They have worked hard to stay in touch with members via pastoral groups and a weekly prayer cycle for all members, distributed via email. Sunday afternoon tea has been shared via Zoom. The gardening effort in the front of the building is in abeyance with the Covid crisis. Prayers are offered for discernment for future ministry by the members.

Holy Trinity Woolstone. People were back inside the church at the beginning of August at the new time of 10am. Music has been provided by two members. For the Harvest Service fresh produce went to Willen Hospice and the dry goods to the Food Bank. They took a collection for Water Aid. There are plans for Remembrance Sunday and Christmas.

St Mary's Woughton. After the Quinquennial report following the ACM of 2019 there was much to do. Fundraising went well with a successful Strawberry Fayre, Christmas Bazaar and walker groups using the church frequently. All of these activities including weddings came to a sudden halt with the national lockdown during which time members stayed in touch with phone calls and emails. There have also been challenges in the churchyard with a troublesome tree finally pushing a boundary wall down. In early September the church opened for prayer on Saturday and Sunday and one service on a Sunday resumed with a rotation of family worship and Holy Communion at 10am. Up to 28 people attended these services although some vulnerable members continue to shelter at home. A Flower Festival was held in September taking its theme as "Missed Celebrations" at the time of the patronal festival. There were lots of visitors who donated generously to the church funds.

St Thomas' Simpson reported that they had welcomed Rev Nicola Vidamour as their minister warmly. There had been good communications with their members during lockdown but in September they were able to offer two short services every Sunday at 10am and 11am with good social distancing and using laminated service sheets. During this time Stephen Roberts had stepped down from the role of churchwarden. There were plans

for Remembrance Sunday and Christmas. Prayers are asked for their church family to grow and for Nicola's ministry.

The Reports were proposed for acceptance by Mike Davidge and seconded by David Bird. They were agreed.

- c) Presentation of the Accounts for 2019. Don Mahon reported that the year had finished with a small surplus in the general fund and money had been paid into the ministry fund. In 2020 the year of the Covid 19 pandemic the income has fallen away quite steeply, Fee income is much reduced as there have been very few weddings and funerals. There has been no fund raising on church premises and no plate giving. As a result, he estimates a reduction of £20,000 in lost income generating a corresponding deficit of £10,000. There was a discussion concerning the amount of the Parish Share and whether it can be reduced and how to boost the giving from the members which will be crucial in the future. The Finance Report was proposed for acceptance by Mike Davidge and seconded by David Bird. All in agreement. The meeting thanked Don and Marilyn Mahon for their hard work.
- d) Appointment of the Independent Examiner. Don proposed that Christina Sabucido be appointed to this role again. This was seconded by Norma Baldwin and all agreed.
- e) Ex-Officio Trustees. Rev Ian Herbert, Rev Paul Norris, Rev Nicola Vidamour and Rev Charmaine Howard are ex-officio Trustees.
- f) Election of Trustees of the Woughton Ecumenical Partnership. The three-year period continues until 2022. The Trustees are: for Christ the Vine Community Church, Mike Davidge and David Hart; for Trinity Fishermead, Don and Marilyn Mahon; for Woolstone, John Howard; for St Mary's, Kim Weston and Di Miller and for St Thomas, Lynn Castle.
- g) Appointment of representatives to the Methodist Area. Marilyn Mahon and Lynn Castle have been proposed by Mike Davidge and seconded by Nicola Vidamour and the meeting agreed. Don Mahon as the WEP Treasurer is invited to join the Methodist Circuit meetings along with the other LEP Treasurers.
- h) Appointment of Representatives to the Netherfield Partnership. Mike Davidge proposed Rev Ian Herbert and Rev Charmaine Howard, seconded by David Bird and the meeting agreed.

4. This section of the agenda was postponed to the first meeting of the WEP Trustees.

AOB. Rev James Whysall has retired from active ministry within WEP. Our great thanks to him for his devoted service to the Woughton Parish over many years.

The Meeting ended at 8.40pm

Rev Paul Norris closed with prayer and everyone said the Grace.

Parochial Church Council Report 2021

Di Miller, PCC Secretary

The Parish has been deeply affected by the impact of the Covid 19 crisis on every aspect of life. We have managed to have meetings of the PCC via Zoom before the WEP meetings as usual, but this is very limiting. We have managed to hear from representatives from all the churches and the churchwardens from St Thomas', Christ the Vine, St Mary's, and Woolstones Church. We are pleased to report that David Hart and Mandy Heart for Christ the Vine Community Church and Mrs Lola Samuels for St Thomas' have joined the PCC. At various times in the past year the churches have been open for socially distanced worship but since the third lockdown in December/January 2021 the churches have been closed for services. The Team has managed to produce weekly video services for people to look at over the internet which have been much appreciated. With regard to distributing the Partnership Newsletter and other documentation, these having mostly been sent out via email by Tim May. Tim has also been personally delivering resources on a Saturday to those in the parish that do have online access, I would like to thank Tim for the extra effort he has given to ensure that these members are still able to feel involved in our weekly worship.

In the past year at St Thomas' Stephen Roberts stepped down as churchwarden in June 2020 and since then Rev Nicola Vidamour has submitted reports of the issues relating to the church and churchyard to the PCC. In summary these have related to the issues concerning the large cracks in the wall of the chancel under the tower and lead flashings on the roof and these have been discussed with the Diocesan architect. These are serious problems which require expensive repairs. The churchyard has continued to be maintained and new LED lights have been fitted in the porch. Mrs Lola Samuels has volunteered to be the next churchwarden for St Thomas' Church.

At St Mary's Church, the problems of invasive tree roots from a nearby cedar tree needed to be tackled. This has involved the digging of a new trench to create a barrier to further growth. A Faculty application was granted for this work and it has been done satisfactorily. The installation of broadband in the church has been a complicated story. A Faculty was granted but BT's sub-contractor Open Reach took a long time to come and do the work. When they did come, they dug the trench in the wrong place and fractured an electrical cable to the lych gate. Liability for this mistake was accepted and the cost of repair has been met. The cabling into the church has now been done and Wi-Fi is now present inside the church. During the year the north wall has continued to need a rebuild but the cost of this in the pandemic has pushed it down the priority list. It has been made safe for the time being. The tree pressing on to the east wall from the hotel side ultimately pushed the wall over and a temporary fence has been put up. The tree has now been cut down. The hotel ownership is uncertain at the present time so the plan for rebuilding the wall is on hold. Fund raising for the next stage of the audio-visual capability in the church is ongoing. The church clock has not worked at all in this last year and a solution to the problem is being worked on by the company Gillett and Johnson.

The Church Hall has continued as before. It can be used as a polling station but is otherwise not available for hire.

Christ the Vine Community Church is also owned by the Diocese. A decision was taken that boiler repairs were necessary. There were also plans for the Baptistry to put into use. Plans for a new ramp for the door on the east side of the building are also under discussion. The MK Winter Night Shelter has not been running this year. Services from the church have been live streamed through the lockdown time.

Within the Parish, the Fishermead Community Centre has been granted a Community Asset Transfer i.e. a transfer of ownership. The new Trust will be managed by Trustees on behalf of the Diocese and the Residents' Association as a Community Resource. It was reported that complications of the lease is still holding things up but this was expected to be resolved.

The Community Church at Woolstone. The new kitchen was fitted in 2019 but owing to the pandemic has not been greatly used yet. The congregation is scattered but an effort has been made to stay in touch with people. Some socially distanced services were possible in 2020 but the church is now shut. The chancel was cleared of extra things which were not needed and is looking better.

February 2021-02
Di Miller
PCC Secretary

Annual Report and Accounts **Woughton Ecumenical Partnership** **Foreword**

This annual report reviews the life, ministry and activities of Woughton Ecumenical Partnership and its congregations in 2020. As we all know, this was a year unlike anything we had imagined, with our churches unable to hold services for much of the time, and even when we could do so, numbers were restricted. Many of our regular activities simply could not happen. But despite all this there have been things to celebrate. I want to thank our Ministry team and so many of our members who worked so hard to keep our Christian life and witness going with imaginative and compassionate responses to unpredictable changes.

Our Ministry team launched online video services and written materials for Sunday worship. Email, phone, WhatsApp and Zoom groups formed to keep people in touch with one another and provide pastoral support when needed.

Covid regulations put a stop to several of our important community actions, including the Soup Run, Winter Night Shelter accommodation and ABC (the group for parents and toddlers) at Christ the Vine. Ian Herbert, our Team leader, proposed a food parcel scheme to Woughton Community Council and then worked with the Council to establish regular deliveries of food and other supplies to the vulnerable and shut-in.

Although much was lost during the year, imaginative solutions meant we could still offer much to our communities. Zoom coffee mornings, Remembrance Sunday events, a gardens competition, a treasure hunt and a flower festival on the theme of 'Missed Celebrations' all helped to reach out to others.

On the financial side, closed churches meant loss of donations and fees. Our costs exceed our income and clearly this is not something we can sustain. We are so grateful to all who donate to keep our ministry running but circumstances now are such that we each need to ask ourselves whether we could give more. Our Treasurer Don Mahon, the district treasurers and the Trustees will continue to address this as a priority for us all as members so that we can take forward our mission in our communities.

During 2020 we have discussed with St Mary's Bletchley a proposal that a Pioneer Minister could be placed within Woughton. These discussions are continuing.

There are many challenges facing us and Covid has brought more but we can be confident that God goes ahead of us. Our ecumenical vision statement reminds us that, as members, we commit ourselves 'to work together in serving God's mission locally and beyond.' WEP's role is to support all of us in the part we can play in that mission as we 'seek to respond to the call of God through Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit.'

On behalf of the Trustees, I want to thank our Ministry team, our volunteer ministers (ordained and lay) and others who lead worship and all those in our churches who do so much to build our life together – those who have worked so hard in such difficult circumstances to maintain our church life and witness. We look forward in hope to our churches opening again when we can build anew on our call to mission.

Mike Davidge
Chair of Trustees 2021

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Annual Report and Accounts 2020

1.	Reference and Administration Details:
1.1	Name: Woughton Ecumenical Partnership, abbreviated to WEP.
1.2	Address: Partnership Office, Christ the Vine Community Church, Jonathans, Coffee Hall, Milton Keynes MK6 5DE Tel 01908 392583. www.woughton.org
1.3	Trustees: Lynn Castle David Hart Mike Davidge John Howard Don Mahon Kim Weston Marilyn Mahon Rev Charmaine Howard Di Miller Rev Nicola Vidamour Rev Ian Herbert Jo Newall (co-opted, 20 February to 10 September 2020) Rev Paul Norris
1.4	Key Personnel: Chair: Mike Davidge Ministry Team: Rev Ian Herbert, Rev Charmaine Howard, Rev Paul Norris, Rev Nicola Vidamour Secretary: Di Miller Trustee Treasurer: Don Mahon WEP Administrator: Tim May
1.5	Principal Bankers: CAFBank, Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and Central Board of Finance of the Church of England.
2.	Structure, Governance and Management:
2.1	Governing documents: Woughton Ecumenical Partnership (WEP) is established as a single congregation local ecumenical partnership. Its governing documents – the Constitution and Schedule – were approved and adopted at the inaugural congregational meeting on 18 October 2016. From this date, WEP replaced the former body known as Woughton Ecumenical Parish. As well as the governing documents, there is a Memorandum of Understanding made between the Bishop of Buckingham, the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Woughton and the Trustees of WEP. WEP is established as a charitable unincorporated association. The Charity Commission registered it as a charity on 28 March 2017 with Registered Charity Number 1172298. A set of Standing Orders (SOs) has been approved by the Trustees. Each one covers a specific aspect of WEP policy. Standing Financial Instructions (SFIs) form part of the SOs. The SOs and SFIs have been drawn up to comply with the governing documents, relevant charity legislation and good practice as promulgated by the Charity Commission as regulator. The SOs all have scheduled review dates and the Trustees review each document as it falls due (or sooner if need arises).
2.2	Appointment and training of Trustees: The Trustee Body consists of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to eleven Trustees elected by the Annual Congregational Meeting (normally for a term of three years) • Ex officio Trustees, being the ministers of the LEP for the time being. • Not more than five co-opted Trustees appointed by the Trustees. All current Trustees are either elected or ex officio. All Trustees have received the Charity Commission guide 'The essential trustee'. Formal training for Trustees is planned but to date none has taken place.

2.3	<p>The organisational structure of WEP and how decisions are made:</p> <p>There are five Local Church Councils (LCCs) whose task is to maintain and develop the life and mission of their local church. The rules governing LCCs are contained in SO No. 8 Local Church Councils. Each church may nominate two Trustees to the Partnership. A Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are elected by the Trustees. Members of the Ministry Team are ex officio Trustees. The Trustees have delegated to the Ministry Team matters of ministry and spiritual/pastoral care. There is an Annual Congregational Meeting to receive the Report and Accounts and elect Trustees (if there is a vacancy or a Trustee's term is expiring). The normal business of the Partnership is conducted through regular meetings of the LCCs and the Trustees during the year. Membership data is set out in Appendix 1.</p>
2.4	<p>The relationship between WEP and Milton Keynes Mission Partnership:</p> <p>WEP is a member of Milton Keynes Mission Partnership which seeks to advance the Christian faith by drawing together Christian communities from Milton Keynes and the surrounding areas to further the 'Five Marks of Mission' which have been adopted by the Forum of Churches Together in England. Each congregation appoints representatives to attend the Mission Partnership Assembly. Mike Davidge was a Trustee of WEP and a Trustee of Mission Partnership throughout 2020. Nicola Vidamour was a Trustee of Mission Partnership from 7 July 2020.</p>
2.5	<p>A statement of the major risks to which WEP is exposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate level of voluntary income to support activities contributing to WEP's objectives. • Inability to find volunteers to lead activities essential to meeting WEP's objectives. • Failure to comply with relevant legislation (of which Health and Safety, Discrimination, including Disability, Safeguarding, Data Protection, Charity and Employment Law are the principal items) • Lack of or inadequate insurance cover to meet all eventualities including loss or damage to buildings and assets or public and employer liability. • Inappropriate words or actions of church officers and church members that damage WEP's reputation. • Management shortcomings in strategy, organisation, leadership, decision making, or communications mean that WEP's objectives are not achieved. • The Partnership Trustees act to mitigate all risks.
3.	<p>WEP Aims and Objectives:</p>
3.1	<p>Our purpose</p> <p>As set out in our Governing document, the purpose of the Charity is to advance the Christian faith in the Area of Benefit in accordance with the principles and practices of the Participating Churches.</p> <p>Our Ecumenical Vision Statement</p> <p>In the light of the prayer of Christ 'may they all be one... that the world may believe that you sent me...' (John 17.21) and the injunction to 'spare no effort to make fast with bonds of peace the unity which the Spirit gives' (Ephesians 4:3), members of WEP commit themselves to work together in serving God's mission locally and beyond.</p> <p>Members, drawn from the four participating denominations (The Church of England, The Methodist Church, The Baptist Union, and The United Reformed Church) and from other Christian traditions, seek to respond to the call of God through Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Our life together and our mission are shaped by our core values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritually alive; • Together in Christ; • Reaching out; • Welcoming all; • Using our gifts; • Being sustainable.

3.2	<p>Our Mission Objectives</p> <p>Each of our five local congregations gives expression to the above, in its worship, ministry and mission. Together across the Partnership we look to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide regular public worship for all who wish to attend. 2. Pray for the well-being of members, adherents and people and organisations in the community. 3. Provide opportunities for children, young people and adults to learn about the Christian faith and its key teaching. 4. Undertake mission activity including both evangelism and service as appropriate. 5. Engage with the local community and other agencies to work towards meeting the needs of the community. 6. Engage in pastoral work for the benefit of members and others. 7. Offer baptism, thanksgiving, naming and blessing, marriage and funeral services for members, adherents, and people in the wider community with appropriate preparation and follow-up. 8. Provide facilities and activities with a Christian ethos for the local community including the elderly, young and groups with special needs. 9. Support other charities in the United Kingdom and overseas. 10. Seek God's guidance and direction in all that we do.
3.3	<p>Our objectives for 2020</p> <p>District churches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Each district church will challenge itself on how it contributes to achieving the ten Mission Objectives. ○ Each district church will continue to develop and review its own mission action plan (District churches may add their own specific objectives reflecting their mission and service.) <p><i>How did we do:</i> The Covid epidemic and consequent lockdowns had a significant impact on the life and work of all our district churches. Many activities, including worship services, community events and weddings and baptisms became impossible or had to be severely curtailed. Nevertheless, those of our churches where local circumstances allowed, made great efforts to keep some aspects of mission and ministry visible. Some churches were able to open to provide space for private prayer and reflection; Remembrance Sunday was observed; one church was able to organise a flower festival on the theme of 'Missed Celebrations', another organised a local 'Best Garden' community event. Our churches made great efforts to keep in touch with members and local communities, particularly those known to be vulnerable, through electronic media, by phone and personal visits where safe to do so.</p> <p>The Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Support the Soup Run by making facilities available and encouraging participation. ○ Provide at least one night's accommodation a week for the Winter Night Shelter scheme ○ Offer Easter Cracked and Christmas Cracked to all local schools with the appropriate year group. ○ Encourage members to take up Mission Partnership and other training courses and to explore more formal training for local ministry. <p><i>How did we do:</i> The Soup Run and Winter Night Shelter both had to shut down under Covid restrictions, but our Team Rector was able to establish a food parcel distribution scheme in partnership with Woughton Community Council, providing regular deliveries to vulnerable and shut-in members of our communities. The Easter Cracked and Christmas Cracked events for local schools could not take place. Some members took advantage of on-line courses, provided both within WEP and externally.</p>

	<p>Trustees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improve communication within the Partnership through the web site and newsletter and by encouraging cross-Partnership groups and events. ○ Provide stewardship support to district churches. ○ Introduce text and/or contactless giving to help raise funds for the Partnership. ○ Maintain the financial health of the Partnership. ○ Ensure that in all things we continue to operate in accordance with charity and other applicable laws and regulations. <p>How did we do: In response to lockdown, the Ministry team began producing online service videos and written worship material for each Sunday. These have helped to reinforce the sense that all of us are members of the Partnership, as well as our own district churches. The weekly Partnership newsletter was distributed by email and by hand for those members without email. Closure of our churches led to significant drops in income and efforts were made to encourage members to move to giving by standing order or direct bank transfer. Work continues on this. Our thanks go to the district church and Partnership treasurers for all their work to encourage good stewardship practices, but we know that financial challenges lie ahead and will require continued effort to manage. On applicable laws and regulations, the Trustees continue to give close regard to these. In 2020, we continued to review our own standing orders, including our safeguarding policy, to ensure they reflect good practice. Our planned work on developing strategy was disrupted by the succession of lockdowns.</p>
4.	<p>Activity and Achievement Reports:</p>
4.1	<p>Ministry Team 2020 - Ian Herbert, Charmaine Howard, Paul Norris and Nicola Vidamour:</p> <p>Our weekly Sunday worship was maintained in all five churches, until the closure of all places of worship due to the Corona virus in early March. 2020 has been a challenging time for the ministry team as we looked at how we were able to keep connected with our churches and to connect with the community throughout the Pandemic. Each member of the ministry team has and continues to play an important role in all that we are doing to reach all who attend one of the churches and the wider community. From online services through Zoom and Facebook to pre-recorded Videos with transcripts, weekly resources, reflections, funerals, and pastoral support to name but a few.</p> <p>Our appreciation and thanks must go to the Revd. James Whyshall who in May 2020 and after twenty years stepped back from Holy Trinity, Woolstone, Although James has stepped back, he has very kindly offered to support the Ministry team with the occasional service. We are grateful also to Revd Paul le Sueur who was taking services regularly at St., Thomas' but has now decided that he will not be renewing his license. We also extend our gratitude to the Revd. Chris Bell, Jeff Newall, Mike Davidge. John Howard, Lynn Castle, Judy Rapp & Pam Rowden who have continued to lead and preach at services when the churches have been open. They remain committed in ensuring that we will be able to maintain a weekly service throughout all our churches in the partnership as we move forward.</p> <p>Although our Pastoral work is shared with church members and does not exclusively fall on to the Ministry team, 2020 saw a significant increase in the ministry team's involvement with church members and residents. Working with those who had booked weddings, baptism, TNB in 2020, was a mammoth task as all but one wedding had to be postponed or was cancelled. All baptism's and TNB were also cancelled, and we saw an increase in funerals and the pastoral care associated with death of a loved one.</p> <p>There have been opportunities within the Partnership for teaching and learning about the Christian faith, including Bible study groups, Sunday schools, and our Lent reflections. Many of these opportunities have moved online during the year and this is something which we hope to continue.</p> <p>Please read the reports from the churches if you would like to know more about what each church has been up to.</p> <p>The ministry team have maintained involvement in the community including schools, homes for the elderly, community projects, residents' associations, regeneration work and buildings management groups. See local church reports for details of the strong community links with our churches.</p>

	<p>Tim May our Partnership Administrator has been able to relieve the ministry team of a significant amount of day to day administrative tasks. We have continued to review the processes, procedures and legal requirements of the Partnership, and Tim has played his part in ensuring the weekly resources have been sent to Geoffrey as well as hand delivering to those who do not have email.</p> <p>The parish has a long tradition of lay involvement. We would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have helped us and who exercise their own ministries by using their gifts and skills, without you we would not be able to be as effective in our communities as we have been.</p> <p>As we look to the future, we encourage you all to seek God's guidance on how you may also support the work of the Partnership, their local churches and the team.</p> <p>Yours in Christ</p> <p>Revd. Ian Herbert, Charmaine Howard, Revd. Paul Norris Revd. Nicola Vidamour</p>
4.2	<p>Secretarial Report for WEP ACM 2021</p> <p>This past year has been dominated by the pandemic which has affected every aspect of our parish life, including the postponement of the ACM which was only held on 28th October 2020 via Zoom. Tim May has been mostly working from home and occasionally going into the office. Again, my thanks to him for his help in collating the annual report booklet.</p> <p>The Trustees of the Woughton Partnership have met five times in the past year, only one of which was face to face as the lockdown started in March 2020. The Minutes of all meetings are available to read from the Parish Office and online. During the pandemic, the web site has been vital, and services have been recorded on Vimeo for downloading. Many members of the Woughton Ecumenical Partnership have been grateful for resources from the Team which have been provided during this time of isolation.</p> <p>With regard to distributing the Partnership Newsletter and other documentation, these having mostly been sent out via email by Tim May. Tim has also been personally delivering resources on a Saturday to those in the parish that do have online access, I would like to thank Tim for the extra effort he has given to ensure that these members are still able to feel involved in our weekly worship.</p> <p>Our prayers are for us to work together through the various challenges which Covid-19 has thrown up and for every member to be involved and interested in the work of God's Kingdom in this area.</p> <p>Di Miller Secretary to WEP.</p>
4.3	<p>Christ the Vine Community Church:</p> <p>It has been an unusual year for everyone. In some ways it has been worrying and frightening. We were thrust into the unknown world of Coronavirus and Lockdown. We heard again and again that we were living in "unprecedented" times. But by the grace of God and the love of our church community we continued to serve God, each other, and our communities. We strengthened our relationships in all three areas and continued our worship, discipleship, and mission.</p> <p>Prayer</p> <p>We continue to encourage each other to spend time in daily prayer, but our focus has been on praying together. We have been encouraged (and a number of us are now accustomed) to saying the Lord's Pray at midday each day, wherever we happen to be. We have also cultivated the habit of ending our morning Zoom meetings by saying the Lord's Prayer together. We regularly post prayer requests on our Church WhatsApp group. We are beginning to receive prayer requests from our church members and local communities, and we incorporate these into our Sunday worship and Prayer Vine. Prayer Vine is our weekly prayer meeting. This now takes place on Zoom and we have 7 regular attenders who offer prayers and intercessions for our communities, families, church, and world issues.</p> <p>Worship</p> <p>Initially, we worshipped together using written worship material produced by Christ the Vine Church. We started with Fruit of the Spirit and produced material to help us read and reflect on Scripture and to engage in creative prayer activities. To these we added short video services from Easter 2020 until the first lockdown eased. We reopened church for in person services in July 2020 and introduce live</p>

streaming as an option for those who were not able to attend church in person. We wanted to ensure that as many of our members as possible were able to enjoy gathering for worship as the body of Christ together, though socially and geographically distanced. We were more prepared for the second lockdown and so we moved our Church Services onto Zoom. We worked together to ensure that all our members (who wished to) had the technology, the ability, and the support to join each Zoom Service. As a result, our Services have been very well attended. We also posted our streamed and Zoom Services on our Facebook page. This enabled those who preferred not to Zoom or had missed the live Service to worship at home at a later time. As a result, our weekly Sunday Services have reached hundreds of people each week. We have a few regular attenders who have indicated their intention to attend in person services when the church building re-opens. We are currently devising a hybrid system that allows us to worship in person in the church building and at the same time, allow those at home to worship with us on Zoom. We plan to use this system on Easter Sunday.

Discipleship

Study Vine is our Bible Study and Discipleship program. We have flourished on Zoom. We regularly have 12 - 14 members in attendance and studied a wide range of topics including Fruit of the Spirit, Generous Living, Habakkuk, Colossians, Testify and Meals with Jesus. We have linked our study to the Sunday Service message to maintain continuity of learning and develop depth of understanding. Our Advent Reflections were based on "Because of Bethlehem" by Max Lucado. We used the videos to aid our discussions and explore the mystery and gift of our Saviour's birth. We used the video "He Chose the Nails" to guide our discussions and help us to prepare our hearts through Lent in readiness to receive again the joy of Easter.

Fellowship

Creative Vine began as a craft group that met weekly. During Lockdown, this group moved to Zoom. We are unable to share the same craft activity, but each person now brings their own craft - knitting, painting, sewing, jigsaws, poetry writing - and enjoy fellowship whilst they create at home. Cafe Vine continues online. This is a social time on Zoom. We enjoy coffee and chat about a range of subjects. We split into breakout rooms when the group gets too large so we can all get to speak! Throughout the pandemic, we have organised ourselves into pastoral groups. Each group has a leader who regularly contacts their team and offers love, encouragement, support and a listening ear. We have greatly valued this. When restrictions have allowed, we met in small groups in the park. When restrictions have not allowed, we met on Zoom enjoying quizzes and even a Pizza Party.

Mission

We have not been able to hold our usual Summer and Christmas Fairs. However, we have continued to engage with our communities throughout the pandemic. We joined the local community celebrating VE Day in our gardens and on video. We collected dried goods for our Harvest Festival and donated them to Foodbank. We were joined by the local Parish Council, the Mayor and the Royal British Legion for our Remembrance Day Service on video. Our Christmas Nativity Festival and Treasure Hunt had over 100 adults and children taking part and we raised £200 from our Christingle Service that was held on Zoom. We participated in a video that helped The Bridgebuilder Trust take the Christmas Story into schools. And we can also be seen wearing our Christmas jumpers on the videos that were circulated by the local Residents Association and the Parish Council. Our recent Easter Scavenger Hunt and Easter Bonnet Competition was attended by over 140 adults and children. It was great to see so many children and families out and about on the estate, engaging with the Easter Story. The pandemic has hit everyone really hard. During that time, we have lost four of our members. We remember with fondness Doreen Evans, Sonia Hale, Colin Elsey, and Domingo Ajayi who died during this year. Like their families and so many others in the country we have not had time to process our loss or come to terms with our grief. We have seen so many people in our communities suffering from anxiety, depression, and other mental health related issues. Indeed, mental health has been highlighted by the NHS and the Council as a priority for Milton Keynes. As part of our mission, we are partnering with local community groups and organisations to try to meet some of the needs of those suffering from mental health issues. Currently we are in the planning and discussion stages of setting up a Wellbeing Cafe Hub based at Christ the Vine Community Church in partnership with MK ROC, NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (Milton Keynes, Beds and Luton), Planting Up, Transition Town MK and Woughton Community Council.

Conclusion

It has been a challenging year in so many ways. We have learned to use technology in new and creative ways. We have adapted to new ways of being church and "doing" church. We have grown closer to each other through mutual support and encouragement in tough times. We have sought to bring our community to church by being church in our community. And we have done all this by relying on the faithfulness, love and mercy of our God who drew us to this passage that we have

	<p>adopted as our focus for the coming year. "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." {Joshua 1:9}</p> <p>Charmain Howard March 2021</p>
4.4	<p>Annual Report – Trinity Woolstone</p> <p>It seems strange to be writing this when we are still not meeting. It is almost exactly a year since the first lockdown began and although there was a brief period in the summer when we were able to meet while observing social distancing, it was all too brief.</p> <p>We have a small and elderly membership many of whom are extremely clinically vulnerable and therefore have been in isolation for the year. We have been keeping in touch on a weekly basis but very much look forward to when we can return to worshipping together in the church. During the lockdowns, the worship patterns have been varied: some have worshipped with the Diocese of Oxford, some with the weekly WEP service, some with the Zoom from Christ the Vine and some with services that they have found on-line. The challenge post lockdown will be to bring us back together as a gathered church.</p> <p>During the year, the church members have played their part in the maintenance and improvement of the building. The Chancel is now tidier and more attractive, the huge table has gone to be replaced by the earlier and smaller, altar table. The church records, kept above the kitchen, have been examined and either filed or thrown away. We are no longer keeping the minutes of PCC meetings from the last century! The church was opened for the annual Deanery cycle ride.</p> <p>The Rev James Whysall retired after 15 years service and we are so very grateful to him for his faithful service.</p> <p>We are excited by the challenges of the year to come and very much hope that this time next year, we will be able to report successful mission and growth.</p> <p>John Howard - Church Warden 3rd March 2021</p>
4.5	<p>St Marys Church Woughton on the Green Jan 2020 to Dec 2020</p> <p>It goes without saying, this has been a difficult year and one that has seen us having to embrace technology and work to ensure that all members of our congregation were kept in touch with.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Worship, Jan to March we used our usual rotation of services; traditional Communion, Café style, word, and worship at 9.45am and offered a Communion at 8.30am. We were able to have News Year Joy which is social event, and this was the last event before lockdown occurred then our services stopped completely in March. When lockdown 1 finished, we formed a Covid Task force and set about making the church safe for use, we were able to realign our seating to accommodate 30, with hand sanitizer, signing in book and 2 metres social distancing and set up a booking list and this worked well till lockdown 2 and then we closed again. • Open for You Jan to March took place on Saturdays with a welcome extended to all and refreshments served. Lockdown 1 saw this cease, but Open for you recommenced in Sept, and has now taken place every Saturday and Sunday 10am to 11 am with 2 stewards in place, it has a faithful group of participants and the time is appreciated. • The Bell ringers met till March and the bells have been almost silent since. The ringers meet on Thursday for zoom and are keen to return. • We had hoped to offer a Remembrance service, but this was curtailed as all were, but we laid wreaths and the Last Post etc was played over a phone and we were joined by villagers who also laid wreaths, and this was a poignant time of reflection in a socially distanced manner. • The church yard has been maintained and families have been very supportive of the management of the Memorial ash plots. • Occasional offices, we had no weddings, baptisms, or renewal of vows, we have had 2 burials and interment of 4 cremated remains. • Our DCC has met by Zoom since lockdown and we have been able to use Newsletters and pew sheets electronically to reach the congregation, if they have provided an email address, those that have not have their info delivered by Tim each week, for which we are very grateful. • The Quinquennial in 2019 gave recommendations, several of which were completed. • The porch floor was re-laid, during which roots were discovered, that had to be removed and a root barrier constructed and was completed in Nov 2020. • Minor repairs required in WC. The roof required some slate repairs.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East churchyard wall, early in the year, the tree that was leaning against from the hotel side was blown down taking the wall with it and the hotel has provided a temporary fence. The hotel is currently closed, and no further progress has been made. • Wi fi was eventually installed after 3yr wait, during the installation an electrical cable to lych gate was damaged and this was repaired at no cost to us. • The church hall has been maintained as required by Ecclesiastical Insurance company. • All our fund raising, Strawberry Fayre etc were cancelled and with a bit of initiative we have had cake, marmalade and chutney sales, card sales that have raised £600 for much need funds and a Flower festival in Sept that raised £500 + and was a good community event. • We supported 2 local Charities this year, Willen Hospice and The MK Hospital Cancer Centre. • We continue to pray for the world and our community and the Parish and play an active role in the video recording of weekly services. <p>We welcome a return to meeting and worshipping again but realise that our priority is safety for ourselves and the community that we serve Church.</p> <p>Kim Weston Chairman DCC.</p>
4.6	<p>Report for St Thomas's ACM 21st March 2021</p> <p>Introduction</p> <p>In early 2019 I started to attend fund raising concerts, events and services at St Thomas' Church and decided that I had found my new spiritual home. The congregation were warm and welcoming. In December 2020 I was invited to become the new Church Warden. After personal thoughts and prayers, I agreed. I was appointed in January 2021.</p> <p>The year 2020 has been difficult for everyone, but St Thomas' have celebrated services when possible, enjoyed online services and regular "after Church" zoom coffee meetings each Sunday. The Church has been opened on Saturday afternoons for private prayer. We all look forward to a more normal life within our Church for the rest of 2021.</p> <p>Investigative work to the Chancel</p> <p>St Thomas' requires some investigative and corrective work on the cracks in the walls of the Chancel. Quotes have been received for this work. Weldon Stone Company in Corby have quoted £12,387.50.</p> <p>This will require investigation into possible availability of funds for such restoration. When possible, we will also start fundraising.</p> <p>The Deanery inspection [January 2021] has been successfully completed by zoom. I have been acquainted with all the official records which have been well maintained. My thanks to the past Church Warden Stephen Roberts who left these records in good order. I have had a useful meeting with Tim May and am aware that the PAT testing needs updating, and the fire extinguishers need inspecting. These items are in hand.</p> <p>The Churchyard</p> <p>Unauthorised items on some graves have generated complaints. We are being guided, as to the way forward, by Archdeacon Guy Elsmore on this matter.</p> <p>Rebecca Hiorns is taking the lead for the Churchyard biodiversity group. We have a map of the Churchyard and are aware of the location of the "bee orchids". A small group are visiting the Churchyard, keeping records, and taking photographs so that we will have a pictorial record of the wildflowers.</p> <p>Iola Samuels 8th March 2021</p>
4.7	<p>Trinity Church 2021 WEP ACM Report</p> <p>The year started with the exiting news that Rev Ian Herbert was to have pastoral responsibility for Trinity after he and Rev Nicola Vidamour had gone through a period of discernment. We had been blessed with the care given to us by Rev Chris Bell since Heather's departure in August 2018 and we wish to express our sincere thanks to him for his love and care. Unfortunately, Chris was taken seriously ill in February and was undergoing treatment for the rest of the year. He recently shared the good news that he is free from cancer.</p> <p>Like the rest of the country, we were in lockdown from 15th March until we reopened for services for a short time from 23rd August until 1st November. We have managed to continue our mission with daily prayer cycle through weekly emails and the Pastoral Carers have kept in contact with the people on</p>

	<p>their lists. During the first lock down and after the second lock down some of us watched the Parish Videos and then started to join CVCC zoomed services. Since January we have had a Trinity zoom Service each week.</p> <p>Unfortunately, we have not been able to do all the things we intended to do during the year as the garden project had to be put into abeyance and it was not possible for the project with Jubilee Wood School to go ahead.</p> <p>We managed to get the Manse at 60 Padstow into a condition that enabled us to have it rented out. The Insurance Company is still monitoring the subsidence issue with the hope that it can be rectified this year.</p>
4.8	<p>The Soup Run:</p> <p>Due to Covid throughout 2020 - Nothing to Report</p>
4.9	<p>Marriage in the Parish</p> <p>General:</p> <p>2020 saw the postponement and cancellation of 21 weddings due to Covid19 and the restrictions put in place by the government and the denominations represented in WEP. However, 1 wedding in early March did go ahead. Although we were unable to meet with the wedding couples contact has been maintained throughout this exceedingly difficult year. 2021 is going to be a busy year, although we are still working with limited restrictions.</p> <p>As you know weddings offer opportunities for contact with people who do not normally attend church. It is where strong relationships can be built with the couple, and sometimes also with their family and friends. We encourage couples to attend Sunday services prior to their wedding, and it is pleasing that some continue to come afterwards. We encourage couples to see their marriage service as an act of worship and we give them a Bible.</p> <p>We encourage our congregations and members to pray for those getting married, having blessing or renewal of married services.</p> <p>Weddings involve a lot of work for quite a significant number of people, both ordained and lay. A huge thank you to all those who give their time as part of the WEP Wedding Team, from those who clean the church, act as vergers on the day, flower arrangers, bell ringers' musicians and those who support the ministers when couples book their wedding.</p> <p>Wedding Bookings:</p> <p>All wedding enquiries and bookings will continue to go through the office after which an appointments system is in place. Each session involves a member of the Ministerial Team and a lay administrator. However, due to the pandemic the ministry team have contacted each wedding couple by phone or Zoom.</p> <p>Marriage Preparation Group:</p> <p>Marriage preparation is undertaken by the minister officiating at the wedding.</p> <p>The Ministry Team 2021</p>
4.10	<p>Baptism and Thanksgiving Naming and Blessings:</p> <p>In 2020 due to the Covid19 restrictions there have been no Baptism's, Thanksgiving services or Blessings.</p> <p>We look forward to once again welcoming families and their guests into four of our churches, for infant baptism and TNB services. For some this will be their first time visiting our churches, whilst others may already be part of our church family. Baptisms are almost always part of a Sunday morning service, However, there are exceptions, whilst TNBs are often held on Saturday or Sunday afternoons.</p> <p>Baptism and TNB services and the associated preparation give an opportunity to share our faith and to encourage parents to consider their own faith journey. We give a children's Bible to each child, which we hope parents will enjoy reading with them. Our congregations and members are encouraged to pray for the children and their families.</p> <p>We thank our lay team, those who facilitate the services as stewards and musicians.</p> <p>The Ministry Team 2021</p>

4.11	<p>Bereavement Care:</p> <p>Total funerals taken in 2020 was 65, as well as 17 commendation and committals. However, with the introduction of GPDR, bereaved families, while grateful for the services taken by ministers, did not want their information held by WEP. But I can assure you that the ministers, where appropriate, are in contact with bereaved families.</p> <p>Although we were unable to hold a traditional memorial service it was felt by the Ministry team that we should offer a service of remembrance to the families of those who had died recently. So, on All Saints weekend St Thomas's was opened for "Light in the Darkness" from 2 - 4 on both days with half hour slots, for a short act of remembrance led by a member of the clergy.</p> <p>The Ministry Team 2021</p>
4.12	<p>Christian Aid</p> <p>Due to Covid throughout 2020 – Nothing to report</p>
4.13	<p>Adults, Babies and Children (ABC):</p> <p>Due to Covid throughout 2020 - Nothing to Report</p>
4.14	<p>Connect – No longer running</p>
4.15	<p>The Netherfield Partnership Limited (NP Ltd):</p> <p>NP Ltd is a Charitable Society for the Benefit of the Community registered under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014. WEP was a founder member in 1999 and is one of two corporate members, the other being Milton Keynes Council (MKC). The main activity of the Society is to manage the operation of the Farthing Enterprise Centre (FEC), which provides workshop/office units for new and start-up businesses, primarily for applicants from the Netherfield area, but also encompassing the Woughton Ward.</p> <p>The premises, formerly the Red Cross Centre, and owned by MKC, were refurbished under the "New Start for Netherfield" European Social Fund (ESF) Programme. This regenerated part of Netherfield and the Society was formed to run on from the ESF Programme. It has held a 17-year lease on the FEC premises which has just been renewed for a further 13 years.</p> <p>The 11 FEC units are occupied by a variety of businesses including a hairdresser, picture framer, tattooist, PC repairs and IT consultancy, accountancy and bookkeeping, healthcare professional's provider, fashion design and maker, and export /catalogue sales. Tenants benefit from managed units with Wi-Fi, and are subsidised through rents discounted below market levels, which are progressively raised as their businesses mature. A Training and Meeting Room is kept for hire and one unit is available for a Charity to occupy at a peppercorn rent. The Society is well established, and the financial model is robust, maintaining the Centre in excellent repair and funding sufficient reserves.</p> <p>Revd Ian Herbert and Revd Charmaine Howard are the WEP representatives on the management committee.</p> <p>Due to the Covid19 there have been no meetings to my knowledge.</p> <p>Revd Ian Herbert 2021</p>
4.16	<p>Webmaster's Report for 2021 AGM</p> <p>Since the last AGM we have been put back into lockdown, which meant that a number of changes to and expansions of the website were necessary. Hopefully, we are about to be able to resume regular worship in our churches, which will therefore require further work to update the information.</p> <p>The website will continue be used to provide the latest information about Church services as they resume, with whatever restrictions prove necessary. I look forward to receiving the information as it becomes available.</p> <p>The Ministry Team have produced regular worship resource material and video services, which have proved popular. Thanks to all of you.</p> <p>Geoffrey Miller, Webmaster 2021</p>

4.17 **SAFEGUARDING REPORT FOR WEP AGM 2021**

WEP continue to follow the Methodist Safeguarding Policy which is available here: https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/18740/safeguarding_policy_procedures_and_guidance_for_the_methodist_church_sept_2020.pdf

As this is a “live” document with constant updates (and also very long), printing is advised against and the electronic version should always be read to ensure the most up to date version is being viewed. It provides a comprehensive set of operating procedures for all Safeguarding matters in relation to children, young people (under 18 years old) and vulnerable adults.

Each May, the WEP Safeguarding Policy is updated and the revised version (Standing Order No 15) is approved by WEP. It is a requirement that this is displayed in each of the Churches along with a poster giving the relevant names and contact details for Safeguarding matters. The Partnership Policy is part of the wider national Policy.

During the year Jo Newall stepped down as the Safeguarding Lead for WEP and as safeguarding officer for Christ the Vine. We want to express our huge appreciation to Jo for the time and energy, skill and care which she has given to this role. Rev Nicola Vidamour has been providing cover, but we urgently need to appoint a new Safeguarding Lead. Each church appoints its own Safeguarding Officer. These are currently Kim Weston at St Mary’s, Ophelia Cole at Trinity, Alison Lucas at St Thomas’. There is no-one in place at Christ the Vine and Woolstone.

Six people from the Partnership had DBS Checks carried out in 2020. It was not possible to run Methodist safeguarding training because of the pandemic. Safeguarding training has to be renewed every four years and there are a significant number of people who will be due for this in the autumn of 2021.

The Methodist Circuit have asked for a financial contribution from the LEP’s to support the workload that falls on the Superintendent Minister.

The MK Methodist Circuit Safeguarding Leads Meetings that commenced in 2018 have continued during 2020. These offer valuable information exchange and guidance in the implementation of the complexities of Safeguarding Practice.

There is still significant amount of work to do on risk assessments and implementing Safer Recruitment procedures.

Implementing the Safeguarding Policy is complex and challenging for all. We give thanks for all who are involved in this task and ask that this important work is held in your prayers to promote the well-being of the young and most vulnerable in our communities. We all need to remember that “Safeguarding is Everybody’s Business” and underpins all our Partnership’s practices.

Nicola Vidamour
Interim WEP Safeguarding Lead

5. Financial Review:

5.1 Independent Examiner:



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of Woughton Ecumenical Partnership

On accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020 Charity no (if any) 1172298

Set out on pages 24 - 36 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 / 12 / 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

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

Independent examiner's statement I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
• the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed: [Signature] Date: 17 April 2021

Name: Cristina Sabucido

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): ACCA

Address: 3 Tumers Mews, Neath Hill, MK14 6HH

(if any):

Address:

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

A statement of the principal financial policies including reserves:

1 Principal accounting policies

Trustees' responsibility in relation to the financial statements

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- 1) select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- 2) make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- 3) state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- 4) prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Reserves policy

Only the general fund meets the Charity Commission's definition for reserves, resulting in reported reserves of £36,325 at 31 December 2020. The trustees seek to maintain reserves at not less than three months' general fund expenditure (i.e., £35,586 based on 2020 expenditure), believing that this provides a prudent buffer against unforeseen expenditure. Sudden serious income shortfall is not seen as a major risk as the majority of the Partnership's income is derived from a large number of donors as well as fees and premises lettings, none of which is individually significant. Although no single donor, on their own, is significant it should be noted that four Partnership couples deliver more than a fifth of total Partnership income.

1 Accounting policies

(a) Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102. In preparing the financial statements the Partnership follows best practice as set out in the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" effective January 2015.

(b) Basis of consolidation

These financial statements consolidate the financial results of the various activities of Woughton Ecumenical Partnership on a line-by-line basis. Certain of these activities are not directly managed by the trustees but delegated to groups within the Partnership. These activities have been accounted for as branches and the financial results shown within separate delegated funds.

(c) Incoming resources

Voluntary income is recognized when received. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Grants (including grants for the purchase of fixed assets) are recognized in full in the year in which they have been received. Each grant is disclosed within the category of income that is most appropriate to the activity it is intended to support.

Incoming resources from charitable activities is recognized when the activity giving rise to the income takes place.

Investment income is recognized on an accrual's basis.

(d) Resources expended

Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accrual's basis, inclusive of VAT which cannot be recovered.

Grants & donations payable are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which the Partnership decides they should be made. Accruals are made if the payment is not made until the following year. In all cases where such accruals have been made, either the details of the grant or donation have been communicated to the beneficiary before the end of the year or the payment is the result of a specific appeal.

(e) Fund accounting

Charity law requires the net assets of the Partnership to be accounted for within a number of funds. The Partnership operates the following two types of funds.

Unrestricted general funds

These are funds that can be used in accordance with the Partnership's charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

- **General Fund**

This is the fund through which the normal operating activities of the Partnership are recognized.

- **Delegated funds**

With the exception of the URC Manse and Ministry Funds these funds are not directly managed by the trustees but by groups delegated to run and oversee these activities on behalf of the Partnership and its trustees.

In 2020 the pandemic forced groups to cease operations but there was some limited activity on the following delegated funds:

Adults, Babies and Children Group (ABC) and the Homeless Group (Soup Run).

- **Designated Funds**

These are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects. Currently the Partnership has no plans requiring designations.

Restricted Funds

These are funds that can only be used for specific purposes within the Partnership's objects. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific projects or purposes.

These expendable funds are operated by the local church councils but overseen by the trustees or (where required by Church of England rules and mostly relating to building matters) the Parochial Church Council. The income and expenditure of these funds are shown in the Restricted Fund column of the financial statements.

There are a number of funds currently in operation at four of the churches in the Partnership.

Christ the Vine currently have three funds.

Gift Day: Donations made specifically for local investment, mission and support to Christian charities.

Flood Relief: Following flooding in Coffee Hall a fund was set up to support those who would not have the ability to pay for the repair and recovery work.

Boiler/Baptistry: The boiler needed urgent replacement during 2020. The Church Council took the opportunity to also install the pipework for the hot water supply to the baptistry. When the installation was completed the cost was more than the funds that had been raised for the project. Fundraising efforts continue to match the outlay.

St Mary's have received donations for specific major developments or repairs to the church building at Woughton on the Green. There are three ongoing funds with retained balances at the end of 2020. These were named as follows:

Audio: Further purchases were made during 2020 but gifts and donations continue to come in for the Audio-Visual equipment.

Clock: a donation was originally made for the repair or replacement of the tower clock mechanism. There are continuing issues with the clock mechanism so some of the remaining fund has been used for the re-balancing and repair work. The original donors agreed that the funds remaining, following the mechanism installation, could be retained, and used at the discretion of the Church Council.

Fabric: donations continue to be made for the upkeep of the main church building, tower, and churchyard.

	<p>St Thomas' started a building fund in 2015 for the purposes of fabric and churchyard restoration. The funds have been generated through fundraising events, grant applications and donations. It was originally created to acquire a new noticeboard and repair the paths. The fund has continued to generate cash, and this has been used for a number of repairs as they have been identified.</p> <p>The legacy received specifically for local St Thomas' projects has not been used during 2020.</p> <p>Trinity received a gift, in 2016, to be used for local activities. The use is to be determined by the Church Council. The gift was being used to raise the church profile. The pandemic has stalled the local activities the church commenced in 2019.</p> <p>The Baptist Association grant is still to be used. It is intended to continue with the project for the young people of Fishermead, but the pandemic and the availability of a suitable local space has prevented progress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endowments <p>These are permanent funds. The income and expenditure of these funds is shown in the Endowment Fund column of the financial statements.</p> <p>The Partnership currently has six separate permanent funds managed by CCLA. The income generated from these investments is allocated to the appropriate District in the Partnership in accordance with the Trust documents.</p>								
5.3	<p>Banking and accounting arrangements:</p> <p>The Partnership operates a number of bank accounts all managed centrally. The accounts used and their closing 2020 balances are:</p> <table data-bbox="247 873 734 1052"> <tr> <td>CAF</td> <td>£2,214</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CAF Gold</td> <td>£10,823</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Central Board of Finance</td> <td>£70,587</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CCLA</td> <td>£47,686</td> </tr> </table> <p>All transactions were processed through these accounts or the petty cash floats held and operated by St Mary's, the Adults, Babies and Children Group and the Homeless Group.</p> <p>Throughout 2020 a standard suite of monthly statements has been distributed to the Church Councils. This provided the Church Councils with the financial perspective of their church activities. The Church Councils also provided planned activities which they identified would have a financial impact.</p> <p>Detailed quarterly figures were presented to the trustees at the meeting immediately following the quarter end.</p>	CAF	£2,214	CAF Gold	£10,823	Central Board of Finance	£70,587	CCLA	£47,686
CAF	£2,214								
CAF Gold	£10,823								
Central Board of Finance	£70,587								
CCLA	£47,686								
5.4	<p>General Unrestricted Fund outturn and budget:</p> <p>The deployment of the full stipendiary ministry team and the impact of the pandemic has delivered a General Fund deficit of £8,941 after the full transfer from the Ministry Fund.</p> <p>The 2021 General Fund Budget predicts the full stipendiary team deployment continues. The Manse in Fishermead will deliver letting income during the year but the pandemic will adversely impact general donations. The computations indicate that, despite keeping expenditure to a minimum, there will be a £32,043 deficit.</p> <p>The budget has used the existing Share apportionment model to distribute the Partnership Ministry and overheads to the churches.</p>								
5.5	<p>A Report of Fund Raising Activity:</p> <p>In normal years the principle methods of raising funds are: Members donations and, where appropriate, the recovery of tax. Subscriptions and hire fees. A wide variety of fundraising events e.g., fetes, quizzes, tabletop sales etc. Minor Grants to support specific Partnership activities. Major Grants and special appeals to support specific significant Partnership projects or activities. Fees from Funerals, Weddings & Thanksgiving, naming and blessings. Interest from deposit accounts and dividends from investments.</p>								

5.6	<p>Investment Policies and Performance:</p> <p>To invest the unused Partnership funds in secure interest-bearing deposit accounts. To hold these and the Partnership investments in secure and ethical funds in accordance with the Trust Deeds.</p>
5.7	<p>Notes to the 2020 Accounts</p> <p>Partnership Unrestricted General Funds:</p> <p>Incoming Resources</p> <p>The Financial statements, in the Annual Report, only disclose the total of all funds operated by the Partnership in 2019. Space does not allow for the separate reporting of the prior year Unrestricted General Funds so the movements reported below cannot be extracted directly from the Financial statements included in the Annual Report. The 2019 Unrestricted General Fund figures can be found in last year's Annual Report or on request from the Partnership Treasurer who can be contacted by email at treasurer@woughton.org.</p> <p>i. When compared to 2019, income from Donations and Legacies has fallen by £13,557. Note 1 of the Financial statements reports the breakdown of this income.</p> <p>Tax Efficient Giving has fallen by £1,760, collections qualifying for Small Donations have also fallen by £9,604. Both of these movements have had a negative impact on the Gift Aid and Small Donations Scheme re-claims from HMRC falling by £2,871.</p> <p>There have been further Partnership members who have advised they no longer qualify to be part of the Gift Aid scheme. This has given rise to a further increase in Other Donations rising £1,047 compared to 2019.</p> <p>The church closures have meant there has been no need to acquire Junior Church materials which has meant a £350 reduction in the grant awarded by Chapmans Educational Foundation. There have only been small movements on the other items under this heading.</p> <p>ii. Charitable activities have seen a fall of £6,298 from the 2019 performance. The breakdown of this income stream can be seen in Note 2 of the Financial statements. The cancellations brought on by the Covid-19 crisis has seen Wedding fee income fall by £2,582. Funeral fees have also seen a fall dropping £2,887 compared to the prior year. The church closures have also impacted hire income with a fall of £829, compared to last year.</p> <p>iii. Other Trading Activity has also been impacted by the church closures. The closures have meant the recurring annual events had to be cancelled and the restrictions prevented the regular visits the historic churches enjoyed. The outcome is a Fundraising drop of £6,578 compared to 2019. The revised Church Hall arrangements delivered an increase in General Sales income, up by £128 on the prior year. Further detail can be seen in Note 3.</p> <p>iv. Investments fell by £72 compared to the previous year. The interest rates on all deposits decreased rapidly towards the end of 2020.</p> <p>v. Other Income is predominantly delivered from events raising funds for charities and other good causes. Again, the building closures prevented events of this nature being staged. This has delivered the bulk of the fall of £2,034 compared to 2019.</p> <p>Resources expended</p> <p>i. Raising Funds costs are £919 more than 2019. The analysis of this expenditure can be seen in Note 5 of the Financial statements. Fundraising Costs have decreased by £361, compared to the prior year, due to there being fewer events needing catering in 2020; Advertising & Promotion expenditure decreased by £107; community events, that the Partnership normally participate in, were cancelled due to Covid-19. Fewer churches requested Christmas cards in 2020. There were two visits by the Diocesan architect, in 2020, delivering a £1,387 increase compared to the prior year.</p> <p>ii. Charitable Activities have increased by £17,820 between years. The Free Church appointment having the greatest impact on the movement.</p> <p>iii. Ministry and Related Staff Costs (Note 6 Sub Note (a)) have increased by £38,750 compared to 2019. The £40,377 increase in Mission Partnership LEP Share comes from the Free Church appointment but, despite the increase to two full time stipendiary ministers, the lockdowns significantly impacted the number of services which delivered a Clergy expenses reduction of £1,892 compared to 2019; all manse costs have been gathered together under the Manse Running Expenses heading. The manse annual gas and electrical inspections</p>

were conducted in order to issue the Gas Safe and electrical circuit test certificates. This delivered an expenditure increase of £334 compared to 2019; there was no Training expenditure in 2020 which is a £69 reduction from the previous year.

iv. Employed Staff costs rose by £462 compared to the prior year. The Partnership follows the Living Wage Foundation announcements published in November each year. There were rate rises announced in both 2019 and 2020 and this is reflected in the increase. See Note 6 Sub Note (b).

v. Premises and Other Resource Costs (Note 6 Sub Note (c)) are down by £18,322 from 2019. The most significant movements occurred on the following subheadings:

Premises running costs are down by £1,836 compared to 2019. The catch up of missed charges at CVCC and St Mary's has increased the electricity charges, but the work done at St Thomas' to control its gas usage plus the building closures have significantly reduced the gas expenditure. Water charges have also come down particularly at CVCC. The purchase of sanitizer, dispensers, and antibacterial materials has added to premises cleaning costs.

Maintenance is £6,765 lower than the prior year. Although the annual servicing was carried out at the anniversary dates the crisis meant the risk of building or equipment failure was reduced but the installation of LED lights at St Thomas' was completed before the first lockdown.

Partnership Administration is down by £6,194 on the prior year. The bulk of the movement, between years, is the fees for the historic church quinquennial inspections carried out in May and June 2019. There has also been no need for printed orders of service or pew sheets which has delivered a considerable saving on photocopying and stationery.

Upkeep of Services/Centre Hire; services were severely disrupted by the lockdowns. This meant there was a reduced need for flowers and communion elements delivering a £558 reduction compared to the previous year.

Insurance; the revised Woughton on the Green Church Hall arrangements delivered the bulk of the £537 reduction in insurance costs.

Equipment & New Building Works is £1,927 lower than the previous year. There has been little need to invest in equipment or the buildings with the long periods of lockdown. There was an investment in equipment to aid the production of videos and Zoom broadcasts. There was also an architect visit to check on the subsidence issues at St Thomas'.

Pastoral Care/Homeless; only treasure hunt prizes were purchased in 2020. The restrictions meant there were no pastoral visits or support of the Bridgebuilder MOUSE booklets

There were reductions on the remaining categories in Sub Note (c) but non significant enough to comment on.

vi. Grants and donations payable (Note 6 Sub Note (d)) were down by £3,069 compared to 2019. The events, appeals or retiring collections raising money for charitable organizations were seriously impacted by the restrictions in 2020 and this has delivered the bulk of the fall. Churches also moderated their annual nominations to other charities.

General Fund:

The General Fund performance, by District, can be seen in the first section of Note 9. None of the churches were able to overcome the impact of the pandemic and deliver a surplus. The historic churches were particularly impacted being unable to host weddings, visitors, or annual events. The reduced number of services also impacted plate and envelope giving adding to the reported deficits. The building closures reduced the church running costs and this eased the final positions reported by the districts.

Partnership Groups:

The summary of Partnership Groups and Designations can be seen in the second section of Note 9 titled Delegated Funds.

The Ministry Fund is included in this section. As stated above the full accumulated amount was transferred to the General Fund to ameliorate the sharp increase in costs due to the return to a full stipendiary ministry team.

ABC (Adults, Babies and Children Group) were only able to meet to the beginning of March and, although the severity of the restrictions were eased during the year, have not been able to meet since. The financial statements reflect the reduced activity.

The Homeless Group (the Soup Run) had to cease operations when the social distancing restrictions came into force. The restrictions have meant the group have been unable resume even when the lockdowns were eased. The Partnership members who support the Soup Run have continued their regular donations despite the ceasing of operations.

Partnership Restricted Funds:

Boiler and Baptistry: The failure of the boilers, during the year, brought forward the planned replacement. The pipework to the baptistry was put in at the same time the new boilers were installed. The fundraising continues to match the costs incurred so far.

St Mary's Audio-Visual appeal continues. A deposit was paid on the visual system along with the radio microphone licenses in 2020.

St Mary's Fabric continues to receive regular gifts from supporters and, where appropriate, this is supplemented by the Gift Aid re-claim. The fund also receives money from a dedicated church box. The fund was used for the tree root protection to the porch.

Woughton Ecumenical Partnership

Financial statements to the month ended 31 December 2020

Statement of Financial Activities 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Delegated funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Endowments 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Full Year funds 2019 £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	1	94,643	485	7,152	0	102,280	128,048
Charitable activities	2	4,849	0	0	0	4,849	11,147
Other trading activities	3	2,066	125	124	0	2,315	10,249
Investments	4	265	87	304	4,746	5,402	5,530
Other		260	0	0	0	260	2,425
Total		102,083	697	7,580	4,746	115,106	157,399
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	5	(2,135)	0	(54)	0	(2,189)	(2,136)
Charitable activities	6	(139,500)	(12)	(20,642)	(1,763)	(161,917)	(154,506)
Other		(250)	0	0	0	(250)	0
Total		(141,885)	(12)	(20,696)	(1,763)	(164,356)	(156,642)
Net gains/(losses) on investments					10,707	10,707	24,783
Net income/(expenditure)		(39,802)	685	(13,116)	13,690	(38,543)	25,540
Transfers between funds		30,861	(28,921)	0	(1,940)	0	0
Net movement in funds		(8,941)	(28,236)	(13,116)	11,750	(38,543)	25,540
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		45,266	46,400	51,772	195,114	338,552	313,012
Total funds carried forward		36,325	18,164	38,656	206,864	300,009	338,552

Balance Sheet 2020

		Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Delegated funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Endowments 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Full Year funds 2019 £
Fixed assets:							
Investments	12	0	0	0	168,733	168,733	158,026
Total fixed assets		0	0	0	168,733	168,733	158,026
Current assets:							
Debtors	7	1,133	0	23	0	1,156	7,212
Cash at bank and in hand		35,842	18,164	38,633	38,131	130,770	173,314
Total current assets		36,975	18,164	38,656	38,131	131,926	180,526
Liabilities:							
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	8	(650)	0	0	0	(650)	0
Net current assets or liabilities		36,325	18,164	38,656	38,131	131,276	180,526
Total assets less current liabilities		36,325	18,164	38,656	206,864	300,009	338,552
<i>Net asset or liabilities excluding pension asset or liability</i>		36,325	18,164	38,656	206,864	300,009	338,552
Total net assets or liabilities		36,325	18,164	38,656	206,864	300,009	338,552
The funds of the charity:							
Endowment funds	11				206,864	206,864	195,114
Restricted income funds	10			38,656		38,656	51,772
Unrestricted funds	9	36,325	18,164			54,489	91,666
Total unrestricted funds		36,325	18,164	0	0	54,489	91,666
Total charity funds		36,325	18,164	38,656	206,864	300,009	338,552

Notes

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Delegated funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Endowments 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Full Year funds 2019 £
Note 1: Donations and legacies						
Tax Efficient Giving	60,349	79	4,099	0	64,527	69,699
Small Donations	6,441	0	0	0	6,441	16,489
Gift Aid and Small Donation Re-Claim	16,792	20	944	0	17,756	21,660
Other Donations	10,091	95	20	0	10,206	9,160
Appeals	720	1	1,125	0	1,846	1,760
Grants	250	290	964	0	1,504	4,280
Legacies	0	0	0	0	0	5,000
Total Donations and legacies	94,643	485	7,152	0	102,280	128,048
Note 2: Charitable activities						
Funeral Fees	3,738	0	0	0	3,738	6,625
Wedding Fees	520	0	0	0	520	3,102
Building Hire	591	0	0	0	591	1,420
Total Charitable activities	4,849	0	0	0	4,849	11,147
Note 3: Other trading activities						
Fundraising	817	0	124	0	941	8,406
Subscriptions	0	125	0	0	125	722
General Sales	1,249	0	0	0	1,249	1,121
Total Other trading activities	2,066	125	124	0	2,315	10,249
Note 4: Investments						
Bank Interest	265	87	304	0	656	916
Investment Income from Endowments	0	0	0	4,746	4,746	4,614
Total Investments	265	87	304	4,746	5,402	5,530
Note 5: Raising funds						
Fundraising Costs	164	0	54	0	218	635
Advertising & Promotion	584	0	0	0	584	1,501
Grant Application & Professional Costs	1,387	0	0	0	1,387	0
Total Raising funds	2,135	0	54	0	2,189	2,136
Note 6: Charitable activities						
(a) Ministry and Related Staff Costs						
Mission Partnership LEP Share	90,751	0	0	0	90,751	50,374
Clergy Expenses	2,800	0	0	0	2,800	4,692
Manse Running Expenses	2,954	0	0	0	2,954	2,620
Training	0	0	0	489	489	250
	96,505	0	0	489	96,994	57,936
(b) Employed Staff						
	2020	2019				
Average number of part time staff	2	2				
Salaries & wages	13,368	12,848				
National insurance contributions	63	122				
	13,431	12,970				

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Delegated funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Endowments 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Full Year funds 2019 £
(c) Premises and other resource costs						
Premises running costs	11,502	0	0	0	11,502	13,338
Maintenance	2,036	0	6,430	0	8,466	11,916
Parish Administration	3,822	0	0	0	3,822	10,271
Upkeep of Services/Centre Hire	2,613	0	287	0	2,900	3,171
Insurance	7,119	0	0	0	7,119	7,656
Equipment & New Building Works	950	0	13,925	53	14,928	29,994
Junior Church, ABC & Youth	53	12	0	0	65	568
Pastoral Care/Homeless	59	0	0	572	631	2,207
	28,154	12	20,642	625	49,433	79,121
(d) Grants and donations payable						
Cancer Research	100	0	0	0	100	0
Children's Society	0	0	0	0	0	291
Christian Aid	0	0	0	0	0	578
Embrace the Middle East	0	0	0	0	0	150
Hope Outreach UK	0	0	0	0	0	191
Macmillan	63	0	0	0	63	247
MAF	0	0	0	0	0	250
MK-Act	0	0	0	500	500	0
MK Bridgebuilder Trust	128	0	0	0	128	392
MK Food Bank	0	0	0	0	0	329
MK Hospital Charity	250	0	0	0	250	0
MK MS Therapy Centre	285	0	0	0	285	0
Salvation Army	0	0	0	0	0	122
St Martins Meals	0	0	0	0	0	250
St Thomas Aquinas	0	0	0	0	0	354
Streetlight Trust	0	0	0	0	0	320
Tear Fund	172	0	0	0	172	126
Tinker's Bridge Rainbows	0	0	0	149	149	0
Willen Hospice	312	0	0	0	312	0
Winter Night Shelter	0	0	0	0	0	679
Zimbabwe Housing Project	100	0	0	0	100	200
	1,410	0	0	649	2,059	4,479
Total Charitable activities	139,500	12	20,642	1,763	161,917	154,506
Note 7: Debtors						
Gift Aid tax recoverable	761	0	23	0	784	4,613
Small Donations recoverable	372	0	0	0	372	1,099
Other debtors (Diocesan Grant)	0	0	0	0	0	1,500
	1,133	0	23	0	1,156	7,212
Note 8: Creditors						
Other creditors (Weddings)	650	0	0	0	650	0
	650	0	0	0	650	0

Note 9: Unrestricted funds

	Balance at 1st Jan 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31st Dec 2020 £	Net Movement £
Undesignated fund						
WEP General	32,918	4,020	(113,398)	117,487	41,027	8,109
Christ the Vine	7,608	18,224	(11,957)	(7,820)	6,055	(1,553)
Holy Trinity	(462)	3,770	(1,119)	(3,547)	(1,358)	(896)
St Mary's	(1,865)	43,513	(5,530)	(47,952)	(11,834)	(9,969)
St Mary's Church Hall	0	1,518	(1,282)	0	236	236
St Thomas	243	12,763	(6,719)	(8,484)	(2,197)	(2,440)
Trinity Church Fishermead	6,824	18,275	(1,880)	(18,823)	4,396	(2,428)
Parish General Funds	45,266	102,083	(141,885)	30,861	36,325	(8,941)
Delegated funds						
Adults, Babies and Children Group	1,116	133	(12)	0	1,237	121
Benevolent Fund	78	0	0	0	78	0
Homeless Group	4,702	509	0	0	5,211	509
WEP Property	2,204	0	0	0	2,204	0
WEP Ministry Fund	28,921	0	0	(28,921)	0	(28,921)
Woolstone Chancel Trust	6,204	36	0	0	6,240	36
Youth Fund	3,175	19	0	0	3,194	19
Parish Delegated Funds	46,400	697	(12)	(28,921)	18,164	(28,236)
Parish General & Delegated Funds	91,666	102,780	(141,897)	1,940	54,489	(37,177)
WEP Suspense Accounts	0	5,988	(5,338)	0	650	650
	91,666	108,768	(147,235)	1,940	55,139	(36,527)

Note 10: Restricted funds

Christ the Vine: Gift Day	867	5	0	0	872	5
Christ the Vine: Flood Relief	1,223	7	0	0	1,230	7
Christ the Vine: Boiler/Baptistry	2,759	3,304	(9,925)	0	(3,862)	(6,621)
St Mary's: AV	4,098	986	(4,341)	0	743	(3,355)
St Mary's: Clock	2,816	17	0	0	2,833	17
St Mary's: Fabric	32,493	3,218	(6,430)	0	29,281	(3,212)
St Thomas': Building	421	2	0	0	423	2
St Thomas': Legacy	5,000	29	0	0	5,029	29
Trinity Church: Projects	1,000	6	0	0	1,006	6
Trinity Church: Restricted	1,095	6	0	0	1,101	6
	51,772	7,580	(20,696)	0	38,656	(13,116)

Note 11: Endowments

Trust income retained	37,088	4,746	(1,763)	(1,940)	38,131	1,043
Total Endowment Investments	158,026	10,707			168,733	10,707
	195,114	15,453	(1,763)	(1,940)	206,864	11,750

Note 12: Investments

	Share Holdings Quantity	Value December 2020 £	Dividends Received £	Dividends Distributed £	Value December 2019 £
WotG Church House (127001608S)	4,889	100,162	2,806		93,718
WotG Levi Trust (127001566S)	818	16,759	469	(469)	15,680
Little Woolstones Church Hall (127002702S)	1,038	21,224	596	(596)	19,898
Simpson Church Hall (127002582S)	218	4,457	125	(125)	4,179
WotG Church Trust (127002774S)	181	3,701	104	(104)	3,470
WotG Church Trust (COIF) (546050001T)	1,245	22,430	646	(646)	21,081
	8,389	168,733	4,746	(1,940)	158,026

The Woughton-on-the-Green Church House annual income from investments is used for the general activities of the Woughton Parish

The Dividends Received from Little Woolstones Church Hall and Simpson Church Hall investments are passed back to the respective DCCs to be used by the local churches.

The Woughton-on-the-Green Church Trust is a local charity and the annual income from investments is to be used for the repair and upkeep of the fabric of St. Mary's Church, Woughton-on-the-Green.

The funds are managed by CCLA on behalf of the Parish.

2020 Statement of cash flows

	Current Year Total funds £	Prior year Total funds £
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(47,946)	(5,733)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	5,402	5,530
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		
Proceeds from sale of investments	0	0
Purchase of investments		
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	5,402	5,530
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	(42,544)	(203)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	173,314	173,517
Change in cash and cash equivalents due to exchange rate movements	0	0
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	130,770	173,314

2020 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	Current Year £	Prior Year £
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(38,543)	25,540
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	0	0
(Gains)/losses on investments	(10,707)	(24,783)
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(5,402)	(5,530)
Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets	0	0
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	0	0
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	6,056	(727)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	650	(233)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(47,946)	(5,733)

2020 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	Current Year £	Prior Year £
Cash in hand at close of year	130,770	173,314
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	0	0
Overdraft facility repayable on demand	0	0
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	130,770	173,314

WEP ADULT MEMBERSHIP ROLL 2021 (2020 numbers shaded)

WEP ADULT MEMBERSHIP ROLL 2021 (2020 numbers shaded)							
Church	Anglican	Baptist	Methodist	URC	Ecumenical	Other	Totals
Christ the Vine	10	2	5	3	7	10	37
	14	2	5	3	7	10	41
St Thomas'	21	1	3	1	8	5	39
	20	1	3	1	8	5	38
St Mary's	44	2	7	5	0	10	68
	42	2	7	5	0	10	66
Trinity	6	5	5	0	3	18	37
	7	5	5	0	3	16	36
Woolstone	17	3	1	1	0	0	22
	17	3	1	1	0	0	22
Totals for 2021	98	13	21	10	18	43	203

Totals By Year	Anglican	Baptist	Methodist	URC	Ecumenical	Other	WEP Total
2021	98	13	21	10	18	43	203
2020	100	13	21	10	18	41	203
2019	99	14	25	6	26	42	211
2018	99	13	20	7	30	47	216
2017	91	15	15?	5	30	39	194
2016	85	14	18	5	28	31	181
2015	86	20	19	7	29	28	189
2014	99	19	20	7	26	31	202
2013	92	16	25	5	27	28	193
2012	91	15	29	2	24	33	194
2011	99	14	25	3	27	32	200
2010	94	15	26	4	34	23	196
2009	100	15	24	2	31	30	202
2008	95	16	22	3	30	21	187
2007	88	18	27	1	28	16	178
2006	97	16	26	4	35	23	201
2005	102	16	25	6	46	23	218

Appointments at Partnership Level 2020-21
Trustees of Woughton Ecumenical Partnership
and Woughton PCC Members 2020-21

Representing	WEP Trustee	WEP + PCC	PCC Member
Christ the Vine Community Church	Mike Davidge David Hart		
Woolstone Church		John Howard	Ken MacLeod,
St Mary's Church	Kim Weston	Di Miller	
St Thomas' Church		Lynn Castle	
Trinity Church	Marilyn Mahon	Don Mahon	
Team ex officio, other ex officio, co-opted		Rev. Paul Norris Rev. Ian Herbert Rev. Nicola Vidamour Rev. Charmaine Howard	Jean Mattinsley

Deanery Synod Representative Di Miller, Kim Weston and Barbara Zimmer

Church Wardens

Christ the Vine Community Church

Woolstone Church

John Howard

St Thomas' Church

St Mary's Church

Jean Mattinsley

David Bird

United Area Meeting

Lynn Castle; Marilyn Mahon

Netherfield Partnership
Corporate member

Ian Herbert

Trustee of Trinity Centre

Andrew Buckley

Member of Trinity Centre
Management Committee

Ken MacLeod